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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

March 17, 2009

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Antlerless Deer License Fees – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

Section 43526, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.43526, established the fee for an antlerless deer hunting license to be \$15.00 for residents and \$138.00 for non-residents and established an application fee for antlerless deer hunting licenses not to exceed \$4.00. Section 43521 of Part 435 authorized the Director to discount the price of antlerless deer hunting licenses in specific areas to help achieve the harvest of antlerless deer.

Discussion and Background:

During recent years some hunters have criticized the Department for establishing the price of antlerless deer hunting licenses lower than the price for hunting licenses that are valid for antlered bucks. They feel that the difference in price devalues antlerless deer. Proponents of balancing age and sex ratios among deer have been particularly critical because button bucks may be tagged with antlerless deer hunting licenses which can be purchased for a lower price than licenses that are valid for antlered deer. They feel that button bucks should be valued just as much as antlered bucks because they will be antlered bucks in the future. In addition, at the request of hunters, the Department is requesting changes in deer management unit (DMU) boundaries that will increase convenience for hunters using private-land antlerless deer licenses in the southern Lower Peninsula, and both public and private-land antlerless licenses in a five-county area of the northeast Lower Peninsula because those licenses will be valid for much larger areas. This will enable hunters to hunt in multiple counties without the necessity of purchasing an antlerless deer hunting license for each county they hunt in.

Wildlife Conservation Order Section 5.110 establishes the price of deer management assistance permits (DMA) and managed deer hunt permits (MDH) as the same fee as an antlerless deer hunting license.

For residents, the fee shall be \$15.00, and for nonresidents, the fee shall be \$138.00, except for DMU 041 (Kent County) and DMU 487 (northeast Lower Peninsula multi-county unit). For DMU 041 (Kent County) and DMU 487 (northeast Lower Peninsula multi-county unit), both

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units where disease management encourages the harvest of additional antlerless deer, the fee shall be \$10.00 for residents and \$100.00 for nonresidents.

This memo rescinds the portion of the August 29, 2008 letter entitled, "Antlerless Deer License Fees," which established the fee for a resident antlerless deer hunting license, DMAs, MDHs at \$10.00, while also establishing a resident antlerless deer hunting license fee of \$3.00 for DMU 041 (Kent County). This memo also rescinds the portion of that same August 29, 2008 letter, which established the fee for a nonresident antlerless deer hunting license at \$100.00 and a nonresident antlerless deer hunting license for deer management unit 041 (Kent County) at \$30.00.

Recommendation:

We recommend the fee of antlerless deer licenses be approved as described in the Discussion and Background portion of this memo.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Armind S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

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Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

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Date Approved