



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

LANSING

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DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: March 9, 2009
RESUBMITTED: April 6, 2009

<u>A P P R O V E D</u>
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MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Deer Management Unit Boundary Changes
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2009

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

This amendment proposes to consolidate most of the Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP) counties into one large unit for private-land antlerless deer hunting licenses and six northeast Michigan counties where bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been documented in deer into a large deer management unit for private-land antlerless licenses. It also proposes to create four deer management units (DMU) from two existing DMUs elsewhere in the state.

To harvest an antlerless deer, the appropriate antlerless license for each DMU hunted is required. Antlerless licenses are not transferable to a different DMU. Creating multi-county DMUs will allow greater flexibility for the hunter with a private-land antlerless deer license and provide for increased success.

The proposed multi-county DMU in the SLP will include all of Mecosta, Muskegon, Isabella, Midland, and Bay counties, plus all DMUs in Zone 3, with the exception of Kent, St. Clair, Macomb, Wayne, and Monroe counties. Private-land antlerless deer license availability exceeds demand throughout the SLP and the counties where TB is documented. Creating multi-county DMUs will not impact private-land antlerless deer license availability. The flexibility of a multi-county DMU provides the opportunity for additional antlerless harvest on private land and may facilitate deer management in these counties.

The proposed multi-county DMU in northeastern Lower Michigan will include Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle counties.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

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The proposed multi-county private-lands DMU will not eliminate the existing DMUs. The existing DMUs will be utilized to establish public land antlerless deer license quotas so as to maintain some control over antlerless deer harvest on public lands.

Deer Management Unit 049, along Lake Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, has substantial differences in habitat and deer densities within its boundaries. The eastern portion of DMU 049 is primarily state and federal forest land; the western portion of DMU 049 is primarily agricultural private land. Dividing DMU 049 into two different DMUs (DMU 249 and DMU 349) will allow targeting antlerless deer in DMU 349, primarily agricultural with a significantly higher number of deer, while not impacting the deer population in DMU 249, primarily forested land with much lower deer numbers.

Similarly, DMU 062 (Newaygo County) also has substantial differences in habitat and deer densities. Dividing DMU 062 into two different DMUs (DMU 162 and DMU 262) will allow a more aggressive antlerless deer harvest to target a herd reduction in DMU 162, the agricultural portion with the better soils, The availability of antlerless deer licenses will be substantially less in DMU 262, which has poorer soils and where deer herd reduction is not desired.

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Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on April 2, 2009, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's March 23, 2009 calendar and may be eligible for approval on May 7, 2009.

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

David Freed
Land and Facilities Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 6 of 2009

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective May 8, 2009, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

12.49 "Deer management unit 349 (Engadine unit)" defined.

Sec. 12.49. "Deer management unit 349 (Engadine unit)" means that area of Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties bounded by a line beginning in Lake Michigan due south of the Lake Michigan shoreline at Seul Choix point in Schoolcraft county, then northerly from said shoreline to county road 431, northerly on county road 431 to county road 432, northwesterly on county road 432 to highway US-2 near the city of Gulliver, northeasterly on highway US-2 to highway M-77, northerly on highway M-77 to county road 436 (also known as H-42 or Curtis road), easterly on county road 436 into Mackinac county, easterly on Curtis road to Sandtown road in the town of Curtis, easterly on Sandtown road to highway M-117, northerly on M-117 to highway M-28, easterly on M-28 through Luce county to Borgstrom road, southerly on Borgstrom road into Mackinac county and passing the west side of town of Garnet, continuing southerly on Borgstrom road to highway US-2, continue due south from intersection of Borgstrom road and US-2 to the lakeshore of Lake Michigan (short distance along the east-side line of section 29, T43N R8W), due south into Lake Michigan then running along the Lake Michigan shoreline including all offshore islands in those counties to the point of beginning.

12.49b "Deer management unit 249 (Trout lake unit)" defined.

Sec. 12.49b. "Deer management unit 249 (Trout lake unit)" means that area of Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties bounded by a line beginning in Lake Michigan due south from intersection of Borgstrom road and US-2 just north of the Lake Michigan shoreline, then due north (short distance along the east-side line of section 29, T43N R8W) to said intersection northerly along Borgstrom road to highway M-28 in Luce county, easterly on M-28 into Chippewa county to Tilson road (east side of section 19, T46N R02W) located southwest of town of Brimley, southerly on Tilson road to the combined highway M-48/Mackinac trail (no turn, road name change) at the town of Rudyard, southerly on highway M-48/Mackinac trail to the split of highway M-48 and Mackinac trail, easterly on highway M-48 to highway I-75, southerly on I-75 into Mackinac county to highway M-134, easterly on M-134 to the Pine river, downstream along the center of the Pine river to its mouth in Lake Huron (section 10, T42N R03W), due south into Lake Huron then southerly in Lake Huron along the shore, including any offshore islands in those counties south of the defined shoreline, to the center of the straits of Mackinac into Lake Michigan, then northerly and easterly along the shore, including any offshore islands south of the defined shoreline, to the point of beginning while excluding those portions defined in section 12.49a as deer management unit 149.

12.62 "Deer management unit 162 (south Newaygo county)" defined.

Sec. 12.62. "Deer management unit 162 (south Newaygo county)" means all of Newaygo county south of highway m-20.

12.62A "Deer management unit 262 (north Newaygo county)" defined.

Sec. 12.62a. "Deer management unit 262 (north Newaygo county)" means all of Newaygo county north of highway m-20.

12.486 "Deer management unit 486 (southern Lower Peninsula multi-county)" defined.

Sec. 12.486. "Deer management unit 486 (southern Lower Peninsula multi-county)" means all of Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Washtenaw counties, plus deer management unit 162 (south Newaygo county).

12.487. “Deer management unit 487 (northeast Lower Peninsula multi-county)” defined.

Sec. 12.487. “Deer management unit 487 (northeast Lower Peninsula multi-county) means all of Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle counties.

Issued this 7th day of May, 2009.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Proposed 2009 Deer Management Units (DMUs)

