



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

June 25, 2009

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director
INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission
SUBJECT: Antlerless Deer License Fees

Authority:

The fee for an antlerless deer hunting is established in Part 435, Hunting and Fishing Licensing, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.43526, as \$15.00 for residents and \$138.00 for non-residents, with an application fee for antlerless deer hunting licenses not to exceed \$4.00. The Director is authorized in Section 43521 of Part 435 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 expressed the opinion that the difference in cost for antlerless and antlered deer licenses devalues antlerless deer. Proponents of balancing age and sex ratios among deer have been particularly critical of button bucks being tagged with antlerless deer hunting licenses, which are purchased at a lower cost than licenses for antlered deer. These proponents feel that button bucks should be valued the same as antlered bucks since they will be antlered bucks in the future.

In addition, at the request of hunters, the Natural Resource Commission has changed some deer management unit (DMU) boundaries. These changes will increase convenience for hunters using private-land antlerless deer licenses in the southern Lower Peninsula and in a six-county area of the Northeast Lower Peninsula. Antlerless licenses for these areas 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.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • Timothy L. Nichols • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (517) 373-2329

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!

For residents, the fee for an antlerless deer license shall be \$15.00, and for nonresidents the fee shall be \$138.00, except for DMUs 001 (Alcona County), 004 (Alpena County), 035 (Iosco County), 041 (Kent County), 060 (Montmorency County), 068 (Oscoda County), 071 (Presque Isle County), 135 ((Tawas Unit), 452 (Core Area), and DMU 487 (Northeast Lower Peninsula multi-county unit). For these excepted units where disease management encourages the harvest of additional antlerless deer, the fee shall be discounted by 40 percent, resulting in fees of \$9.00 for residents and \$82.80 for nonresidents.

Hereby rescinded is the portion of the May 11, 2009, letter entitled, "Antlerless Deer License Fees," which established the fee of \$10.00 for a resident antlerless deer hunting license, and \$100.00 for a non-resident antlerless deer hunting license for DMUs 001(Alcona County), 004 (Alpena County), 035 (Iosco County), 041 (Kent County), 060 (Montmorency County), 068 (Oscoda County), 071 (Presque Isle County), 135 (Tawas Unit), 452 (Core Area), and DMU 487 (Northeast Lower Peninsula multi-county unit).

Recommendation:

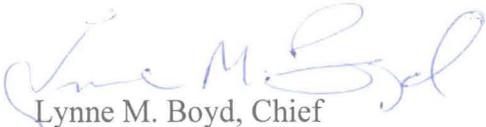
We recommend the fee of antlerless deer licenses be approved as described in the Discussion and Background above.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



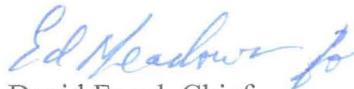
Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy



David Freed, Chief
Office of Land and Facilities

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved