



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: May 16, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Antlerless Deer License Quotas
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 14 of 2011
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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 establishes the public land antlerless deer license quota and private land antlerless deer license quota for each Deer Management Unit (DMU) in the state.

Harvest estimates from the 2010 season were not available at the time that initial antlerless license quota recommendations were submitted, but will be consulted prior to final action to establish quotas. The preliminary estimates of the firearm harvest that were compiled as the season ended, deer pellet group and camp surveys in the Upper Peninsula (UP), and multiple-year trends in regional reports of deer-vehicle collisions, crop damage complaints, local indices and estimates, and staff observations provided perspective on status of regional deer populations.

The recommended antlerless deer license quotas for 2011 would provide a statewide total of 73,000 public land antlerless deer licenses, a slight increase from 2010, when 72,100 were offered. The recommended total of 684,700 private land antlerless deer licenses is a decrease from the 704,400 private land licenses which were available in 2010. The combined public and private land quota of 757,700 would be a decrease of 18,800 licenses from the quotas available in 2010. The most substantial difference is due to a recommended elimination of 18,100 private land antlerless licenses that were designated specifically for Kent County (DMU 041) last year. Kent County has been incorporated within DMU 486, the multi-county unit in southern Michigan, for allocation of private land antlerless licenses this year.

Upper Peninsula (UP)

Within the UP, deer populations continue to slowly increase following a second mild winter in a row, but numbers in many areas appear to remain below desired levels. Therefore, a conservative increase of only 1,100 antlerless licenses across the UP is recommended. Recommended changes for 2011 include closing Drummond Island (DMU 117) to both public and private land antlerless licenses, but opening private land antlerless harvest within the Gwinn and Rock units (DMUs 152 and 252, respectively), and increasing the private land antlerless quota for the LaBranche

unit of the central UP (DMU 255). These increases will better meet hunter demands, assist in balancing buck and doe harvest, and aid in addressing forest regeneration concerns. Only four additional UP DMUs will be open for antlerless harvest in the UP in 2011, and no changes are recommended in those units.

Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP)

Changes to antlerless license quotas are being recommended within 8 of the 36 DMUs of the NLP Region. The recommendations would result in an overall decrease of 2,300 antlerless licenses across the NLP. Increases are recommended for private land antlerless licenses in Benzie County (DMU 10) due to an elevated incidence in crop damage complaints, for public land antlerless quotas in Roscommon County (DMU 72) due to concerns regarding harvested oak stands failing to regenerate, and for both public and private land licenses for Beaver Island (DMU 115) due to public desire to balance buck and doe harvest in anticipation of a proposed antler point restriction. Fewer antlerless licenses are recommended for both public and private land in Crawford County (DMU 20) and for private land in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Leelanau Counties (DMUs 5, 15, 24, and 45, respectively) primarily due to reduced observations of deer by both field staff and the public. No changes are recommended for DMU 487, the multi-county unit through which private land licenses are allocated for Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda, Alcona, and Iosco Counties (DMUs 71, 60, 4, 68, 1, and 35).

Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP)

The most substantial difference recommended in southern Michigan is the elimination of 18,100 private land antlerless licenses that were designated specifically for Kent County (DMU 041) last year. Kent County has been incorporated within DMU 486, the multi-county unit in southern Michigan, for allocation of private land antlerless licenses this year. The only other change recommended for the Southwest Region is a reduction of 500 antlerless licenses from the private land quota for the north Newaygo County Unit (DMU 262). These changes would result in an overall reduction of 18,600 antlerless licenses compared 2010 quotas in the Southwest Region. In the Southeast Region, it is recommended that an additional 500 antlerless licenses be offered for public land within both Huron and Sanilac Counties (DMUs 32 and 76, respectively) to address concerns regarding impacts of deer herbivory on forest regeneration and mature forest understory on several game areas. This would result in an overall increase of 1,000 antlerless licenses compared to the 2010 quotas in the Southeast Region. No changes are recommended for DMU 486, the multi-county unit through which private land licenses are allocated for DMUs covering 35 counties plus southern Newaygo County within southern Michigan.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's June 2011 calendar and may be eligible for approval on July 7, 2011.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

James Dexter, Acting Chief
Fisheries Division

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.
Acting Natural Resources Deputy

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

Rodney A. Stokes, Director

Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 14 of 2011

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective July 8, 2011, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.105 Antlerless-only license quotas.

Sec. 3.105 (1) The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, may make appropriate minor changes to antlerless deer quotas established in 3.105(2) to meet disease control, population goal, or other management objectives.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the antlerless deer license quotas are as follows:

DMU	DMU Name	Public licenses	Private licenses	Total licenses
1	Alcona County	5,000	0	5,000
3	Allegan County	3,000	0	3,000
4	Alpena County	3,000	0	3,000
5	Antrim County	0	5,500 5,000	5,500 5,000
6	Arenac County	500	7,600	8,100
7	Big Bay Unit	0	0	0
8	Barry County	1,800	0	1,800
9	Bay County	200	0	200
10	Benzie County	0	200 300	200 300
11	Berrien County	200	0	200
12	Branch County	100	0	100
13	Calhoun County	100	0	100
14	Cass County	400	0	400
15	Charlevoix County	0	4,000 3,400	4,000 3,400
16	Cheboygan County	0	0	0
17	Sault Ste. Marie Unit	0	0	0
18	Clare County	900	9,200	10,100
19	Clinton County	1,200	0	1,200
20	Crawford County	1,200 600	1,500 700	2,700 1,300
21	Manistique Unit	0	0	0
22	Crystal Falls Unit	1,000	4,000	5,000
23	Eaton County	100	0	100

24	Emmet County	0	2,000 1,500	2,000 1,500
25	Genesee County	0	0	0
26	Gladwin County	1,200	8,900	10,100
27	Watersmeet Unit	0	0	0
28	Grand Traverse County	0	300	300
29	Gratiot County	1,600	0	1,600
30	Hillsdale County	400	0	400
31	Nisula Unit	0	0	0
32	Huron County	1,000 1,500	0	1,000 1,500
33	Ingham County	600	0	600
34	Ionia County	1,200	0	1,200
35	Iosco County	1,000	0	1,000
36	Amasa/Michigamme Unit	0	0	0
37	Isabella County	100	0	100
38	Jackson County	1,600	0	1,600
39	Kalamazoo County	900	0	900
40	Kalkaska County	0	0	0
41	Kent County	1,100	18,100 0	19,200 1,100
42	Keweenaw Unit	0	0	0
43	Lake County	0	3,000	3,000
44	Lapeer County	2,000	0	2,000
45	Leelanau County	0	300 200	300 200
46	Lenawee County	400	0	400
47	Livingston County	1,400	0	1,400
48	Newberry Unit	0	0	0
50	Macomb County	200	4,000	4,200
51	Manistee County	0	3,000	3,000
53	Mason County	0	5,000	5,000
54	Mecosta County	200	0	200
55	Menominee County	2,000	9,000	11,000
56	Midland County	1,500	0	1,500
57	Missaukee County	0	3,200	3,200
58	Monroe County	200	1,800	2,000
59	Montcalm County	1,500	0	1,500

60	Montmorency County	5,000	0	5,000
61	Muskegon County	800	0	800
63	Oakland County	2,500	0	2,500
64	Oceana County	500	4,500	5,000
65	Ogemaw County	1,000	7,000	8,000
66	Ontonagon County	0	0	0
67	Osceola County	0	5,000	5,000
68	Oscoda County	5,000	0	5,000
69	Otsego County	0	0	0
70	Ottawa County	400	0	400
71	Presque Isle County	4,000	0	4,000
72	Roscommon County	0 500	1,000	1,000 1,500
73	Saginaw County	200	0	200
74	St. Clair County	700	9,500	10,200
75	St. Joseph County	300	0	300
76	Sanilac County	1,500 2,000	0	1,500 2,000
78	Shiawassee County	200	0	200
79	Tuscola County	2,700	0	2,700
80	Van Buren County	200	0	200
81	Washtenaw County	1,500	0	1,500
82	Wayne County	100	1,200	1,300
83	Wexford County	0	3,400	3,400
115	Beaver Island	100 200	200 300	300 500
117	Drummond Island	100 0	100 0	200 0
121	Bay De Noc	0	0	0
122	Norway Unit	200	2,500	2,700
127	Ironwood Unit	0	0	0
131	Twin Lakes Unit	0	0	0
135	Tawas Unit	200	0	200
145	North Manitou Island	0	0	0
149	Round/Bois Blanc Island	0	0	0
152	Gwinn Unit	0	0 500	0 500
155	Gladstone Unit	400	3,000	3,400
162	South Newaygo County	500	0	500

173	Shiawassee Flats	0	0	0
174	St. Clair Flats	400	300	700
245	South Fox Island	0	0	0
249	Trout Lake Unit	0	0	0
252	Rock Unit	0	0 500	0 500
255	LaBranche Unit	400	1,000 1,300	1,400 1,700
262	North Newaygo County	0	3,000 2,500	3,000 2,500
273	Shiawassee Unit	1,400	0	1,400
349	Engadine Unit	0	0	0
452	Core Area	3,000	0	3,000
486	Southern Multi-County	0	500,000	500,000
487	Northern Multi-County	0	72,100	72,100
			704,400	776,500
	Total	72,100 73,000	704,400 684,700	776,500 757,700

Issued on this 7th day of July, 2011.

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

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director