JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

March 10, 2008
RESUBMITTED: April 14, 2008

TO: Rebecca Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Deer Management Units Open to Antlerless Deer Hunting, Public and Private Land License Availability

Authority:

Under the authority of Section 3.102 of the Wildlife Conservation Order, authorized by Section 324.40107, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 of the Michigan Compiled laws, the Director may, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, identify deer management units requiring an application for an antlerless deer license and deer management units for over-the-counter sales of antlerless deer licenses.

Discussion and Background:

Upon recommendation from the Wildlife Division the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) establishes antlerless deer license quotas for both public and private land. The NRC has authorized the Director to establish either an application and lottery for antlerless deer licenses or the sale of antlerless deer licenses over the counter.

In many deer management units (DMU) the private land antlerless deer licenses quota is below the license demand. In 2007, private land antlerless deer licenses were sold over the counter on a first-come first-served basis. Ten DMUs sold out the first day (August 16) they were available and nine additional DMUs sold out within the first two weeks. A total of 35 DMUs sold out before opening day of the firearm deer season. Many individuals have commented that their inability to be at a license sales location the day licenses go on sale, or shortly thereafter, denies them the opportunity to acquire a private land antlerless license. Conducting an application and lottery for private land antlerless deer licenses will provide a more equitable distribution of these licenses. Any DMU that is undersubscribed will have the leftover private land antlerless licenses sold over the counter on a first-come first-serve basis.

The applications for public land antlerless licenses for many DMUs are less than the established quota. When a DMU is undersubscribed for public land antlerless licenses the remaining licenses remain unsold. The desired antlerless harvest will not be achieved with unsold public antlerless licenses. Selling leftover public land antlerless licenses over the counter on a first-come, first-served basis will help achieve the antlerless harvest on public land in those DMUs.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
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Authorization:

All antlerless deer licenses will be authorized through a lottery. If the quota for antlerless licenses exceeds the number of applicants, the leftover antlerless licenses will be sold over-the-counter. These licenses will become available at 10:00 a.m. the fourth Monday of September on a first-come, first-served basis at one antlerless license per hunter per calendar day until the quota is reached, or the season limit for antlerless licenses per person is reached.

Recommendation:

We recommend this memo supersede the August 16, 2004 letter entitled "Deer Management Units Open to Antlerless Deer Hunting, Public and Private Land License Availability," which limited the authorization to sell leftover public land antlerless licenses to the seven county bovine tuberculosis eradication zone and to DMUs in the western Upper Peninsula.

This item appeared in the March 31, 2008, calendar and is eligible for approval on May 8, 2008.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa
Chief Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

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Date Approved