

Protected Wildlife

Eagles, hawks, owls, spruce grouse, flying squirrels, wolverines, wolves, lynx, moose, cougars, cub bears and sow bears accompanied by cubs may not be taken at any time. For more information on control of wolves, see page 38. All nongame birds are protected, except starlings, house sparrows and feral pigeons.

Ground Blinds on Public Land

A ground blind means a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising the user or occupant for the purpose of taking an animal. Any ground blind on public land that does not meet the requirements of either Type 1, 2 or 3 described below is an illegal ground blind.

Exception: See the 2012-2013 Waterfowl Hunting Digest for regulations on waterfowl hunting blinds.

Only the following types of ground blinds are legal on public land:

Type 1 (Portable Ground Blind). This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt. Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and also must be removed daily. No identification is required. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 12).

Type 2 (Dead Natural Materials Ground Blind). This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead natural materials found in the area of the blind except that a hunter may add netting, cloth, plastic or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt.

These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners (nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 12).

Type 3 (Constructed Ground Blind). This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2, including portable ground blinds, if not removed daily.

Bear hunters may place constructed ground blinds on state lands in bear management units open to bear hunting for which they have a bear license beginning Aug. 10 in Zone 1 units and beginning Aug. 17 in Zone 2 units. Blinds must be removed within five days of a bear being harvested, or within five days of the end of the bear season for which the hunter has a license.

Constructed ground blinds on all Zone 1 and Zone 2 public lands for deer hunting shall remain legal from Nov. 6 to the end of the annual deer season. In addition to criminal penalties, any constructed blind found on public land prior to Nov. 6 or after the end of the annual deer season will be considered abandoned.

The name and address of the person placing a constructed ground blind on public land must be permanently attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind. These blinds are not legal on state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 12). Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind.

It is unlawful to use an illegal ground blind, regardless of who placed it on public land.

Note: If a person's Type 3 ground blind has been permitted to be placed on land administered by a local public agency (city, township, county), the local agency will establish the length of time that a blind may be placed on its property.

Hunters with disabilities — Please see page 35 for use of ground blinds on public land by hunters with disabilities.

Additional Hunting Rules

It is illegal to:

- Assist a tribal member engaged in treaty-authorized hunting unless the non-tribal member assisting: 1) has a state license for that activity and complies with all state laws including season dates covering that activity, or 2) is the spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or sibling of the tribal member who is present during the activity, and as long as such assistance by the family member does not include using a firearm, crossbow or bow.
- Hunt or pursue wild animals or birds from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, motorboat, personal water craft, ORV or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat. Exceptions: See 2012-2013 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest; special permits may also apply.
- Set fires to drive out game.
- Use snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls, deadfalls, spears, drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, ferrets, weasels or mechanical devices other than firearms, crossbows, bows and arrows, or slingshots to take wild birds or animals, except as provided by trapping rules or special permit.
- Buy or sell game, except as provided by the Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3.
- Destroy the identity of game or evidence of the sex of game while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.
Exception: See Transportation of Game, page 19, for deer, bear and elk.
- Hunt from a tree, raised platform or scaffold with a firearm.
Exceptions: See page 32 for rules when hunting bear, deer, fox and coyote. Also see 2012-2013 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest for waterfowl hunting blind regulations.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances.
- Use cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets. A silencer or similar apparatus on a firearm is illegal.
- Camp on state land without a permit. Permits are free and are available online at www.michigan.gov/stateforestcampgrounds or at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas.
- Make use of a dog in hunting deer or elk except that a dog may be used to locate a down or mortally wounded deer or elk if the dog is kept on a leash and no persons in attendance possess a firearm, crossbow or bow.
Exception: If accompanied by a licensed dog tracker, a hunter may possess a firearm, a cocked crossbow, or a bow with nocked arrow, only at the time and point of kill. If the tracking is done at night, artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand, or on the person, may be used. A dog that barks while tracking the deer shall not be used on public lands.
- Harm or harass a deer or bear when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other waterbody.
- Kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag.
- Shoot reptiles and amphibians with a firearm (including spring, air or gas propelled).

Hunting on National Forest Lands (www.fs.fed.us)

All state laws apply to National Forest lands; however, additional federal regulations also apply.

Wheeled Motor Vehicle Use: A free Motor Vehicle Use Map that shows designated roads and trails open for motorized travel, including off-road vehicles, is available at Forest Service offices as well as online.

- Leaving equipment unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited.
- Cross-country travel off designated routes is prohibited.
- Driving a motorized vehicle cross-country to blinds or to retrieve game is illegal. Exception: Personal assisted mobility devices
- Both state and federal laws governing off-road vehicle use must be followed.

Camping: Camping in developed recreation areas is limited to 14 consecutive days, and camping in dispersed areas is limited to 16 consecutive days.

Don't forget:

- Leaving camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours in a developed recreation area is prohibited.
- Campfires must be attended at all times and extinguished completely when you leave.
- Campers/trailers on National Forest land must be properly licensed or registered.

Blinds: The Michigan law regarding hunting blinds, tree stands, and raised platforms applies on National Forest lands. Failure to remove ANY type of blind, structure, equipment or trash will result in a fine and removal, destruction, impoundment and/or seizure of any abandoned or illegally placed item.

- Cutting of branches or limbs for shooting lanes or to construct blinds is prohibited.

Additional Information:

- Constructing or maintaining any food plot or any artificial garden to attract wildlife is prohibited.
- Blocking gates or road access is prohibited.
- Dragging forest roads is prohibited.
- Discharging a weapon within 150 yards of a building, campsite or occupied area or across or on a National Forest road or body of water is prohibited.
- Guiding on National Forest land requires a federal special use permit.

For additional information: Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI)

This initiative is a grass-roots conservation program designed to facilitate a revitalization of Michigan pheasants through a cooperative neighborhood partnership approach. The initiative has the potential to change small game hunting opportunities, increase wildlife populations, improve hunter satisfaction and help Michigan's economy. The focus of the initiative is the restoration of pheasants and habitat. Pheasants rely on high-quality grassland and agricultural areas for adequate cover and food resources.

Primary partners include Pheasants Forever, DNR, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, local Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, Michigan State University, National Wild Turkey Federation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

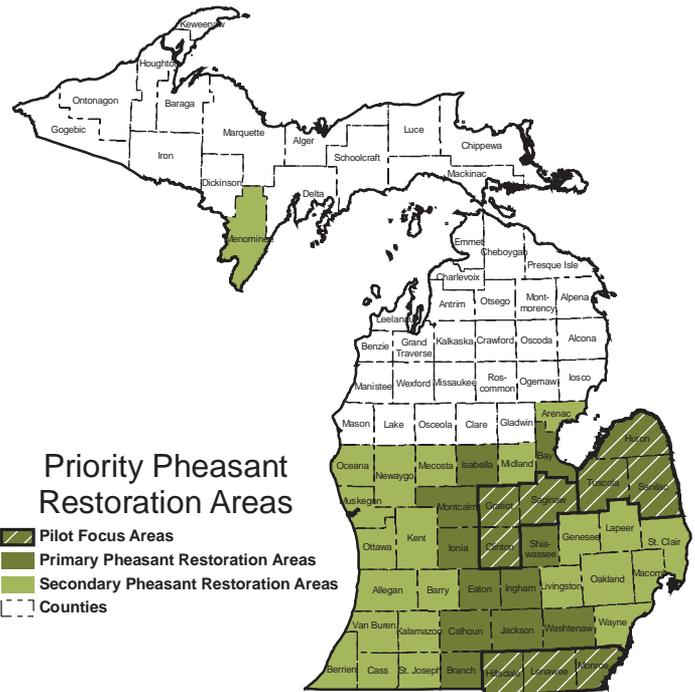
The early emphasis is focused on three pilot areas, including: Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties; Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe counties; and Gratiot, Saginaw and Clinton counties. Other counties will be added with the formation of more MPRI cooperatives. The long-term goal is to restore pheasant habitat on 15 to 30 percent of the landscape within these "pheasant recovery areas", utilizing both private and public land. The success of the program is based on a coalition of people working together in their community to improve pheasant habitat on the ground.

Professional staff from local conservation districts and DNR wildlife biologists will provide technical assistance and advice to cooperatives on habitats and habitat improvement. Staff will also assist cooperatives in identifying federal, state and private assistance for funding or implementing habitat projects.

As cooperatives achieve the desired habitat goals, wild bird releases in cooperative areas may occur to jump-start pheasant recovery and initiate natural population growth. Project success will be evaluated through population monitoring and assessment in the cooperative.

As part of the initiative, the DNR will be expanding opportunities for public hunting on private lands through the Hunting Access Program (HAP). Reaching out to youth about pheasant hunting is also a priority of the initiative. Conservation partners will promote youth events that teach pheasant biology and habitat needs and provide an opportunity to share pheasant hunting heritage with others.

To find out more about participating in the MPRI, forming your own neighborhood cooperative, or joining a cooperative, please contact your local wildlife biologist or visit www.michigan.gov/pheasant.



Introduce Her to the Outdoors!

Want your wife, sister, daughter or friend to join you on your next adventure in Michigan's great outdoors? The DNR's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman can teach her the skills she needs to start enjoying:

- hunting • shooting sports
- fishing • kayaking
- many other outdoor activities



www.michigan.gov/bow

Information for Hunters with Disabilities

Information and applications for all of the following are available at DNR Operations Service Centers (see page 7) or online at www.michigan.gov/hunting.

Hunters who are Legally Blind

Legally blind hunters may use laser sighting devices to take game, subject to all other regulations, with a firearm or crossbow if all the following conditions are met:

- The person is accompanied by a sighted person who is at least 18 years of age;
- The sighted person possesses proof of a current or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety class;
- The legally blind person possesses the appropriate hunting license and proof of impairment in the form of a Secretary of State ID card. No permit is necessary for this accommodation.

Resident Veterans with Disabilities

- A resident of Michigan who has been determined by the **U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs** to be permanently and totally disabled (for a disability other than blindness) is eligible to purchase senior hunting and trapping licenses from any license agent. A letter from the Veterans Administration stating the person is totally and permanently disabled and eligible for veterans benefits at the 100 percent rate is required. Documentation of eligibility from the Veterans Administration shall be in the possession of a veteran using these licenses.
- A veteran who has been determined to have a 100 percent disability or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs may participate in the Youth Firearm and 100 Percent Disabled Veteran Firearm Deer Hunting Days, Sept. 22-23, 2012, on all lands in Michigan. Documentation from the Veterans Administration shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt. Eligible hunters with a firearm or combination license may take an antlered or antlerless deer during this special two-day season. All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

Crossbow Permits for Hunters with Disabilities

A person with a disability may apply for a crossbow permit. A physician can automatically certify a hunter as eligible for a crossbow permit if the hunter:

- has an amputation involving body extremities required for stable function to use conventional archery equipment, or
 - has a spinal cord injury resulting in permanent disability to the lower extremities, leaving the applicant permanently non-ambulatory, or
 - has a permanent wheelchair restriction.
- If none of the above criteria apply, physicians, physical therapists or occupational therapists can certify hunters who fail:
- a functional draw test that equals 35 pounds of resistance and involves holding it for four seconds, or
 - a manual muscle test involving the grading of shoulder and elbow flexion and extension, or
 - an impaired range-of-motion test involving the shoulder or elbow.

In addition, a physician can recommend a crossbow permit for other temporary or permanent disabilities, such as neuromuscular conditions. For more information and an application, call 517-373-1204.

Modified Bow Permit

A person with a temporary or permanent disability who has the full use of only one arm may apply for a modified bow permit. This permit allows modifications to a compound bow, including the addition of an overdraw lock device. This modification may not convert a compound bow into a crossbow. For more information, go to www.pcba-inc.org/.

Permit to Hunt from a Standing Vehicle

A person who, due to injury, disease, amputation or paralysis, is permanently disabled and unable to walk, may apply for a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle. This permit allows a person to hunt, and shoot from, a parked motor vehicle or ORV. Subject to all other regulations including buck limits and antler-point restrictions, this permit also entitles the holder to take a deer of either sex under any valid deer license.

Hunters Using ORVs

Those holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle or those with disabilities hunting while using an off-road vehicle (ORV) may display an orange flag to identify themselves as hunters with disabilities.

Special Disabled Firearm Hunt

Those who meet one of the eligibility requirements below may hunt deer on private land in a special firearm season from Oct. 18-21, 2012:

- Persons who have been issued permits to hunt from a standing vehicle.
- Persons who are legally blind.
- Veterans who have a 100 percent disability or are classified as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Permit to Hunt Using a Laser Sighting Device

Hunters with other permanent disabilities may apply to the DNR Law Enforcement Division for a permit to use a laser sighting device with a firearm or crossbow to take game. Subject to all other regulations, a permittee may take game with the use of a laser sighting device only if accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age who is licensed to hunt the same game (other than an apprentice license). For application information, please call 517-373-1230.

Use of Ground Blinds on Public Land by Hunters with Disabilities

Any person who has been issued a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle, or who has been issued a disabled person parking permit by the Secretary of State, or who meets the disability standards set forth in the Michigan Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Law, may use a constructed ground blind on public land. If the constructed ground blind is left overnight on public land, the following conditions must be met:

- The blind is placed on public land no earlier than 10 days prior to the hunting season for which it is used and is removed at the end of the season for which it is used.
- The disabled person has attached, etched, engraved or painted his or her name and address on the blind.
- Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the bark of a tree and must be removed with the blind.
- A non-disabled person can assist a disabled person in constructing a legal blind on public land.

See "Note" on page 33 for removal exemption of ground blinds on local public agency lands.

Use of Personal Assistive Mobility Device (PAMD)

An individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair or PAMD may use such equipment anywhere foot travel is allowed on public land. Areas that prohibit the use of motorized vehicles are not off-limits to PAMDs. Individuals should use caution where the landscape is uneven or offers other safety concerns.

Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife to www.michigan.gov/wdm or contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030, or visit the nearest DNR Operations Service Center. Hunters may check their deer or elk CWD and TB lab results at www.michigan.gov/dnrlab.

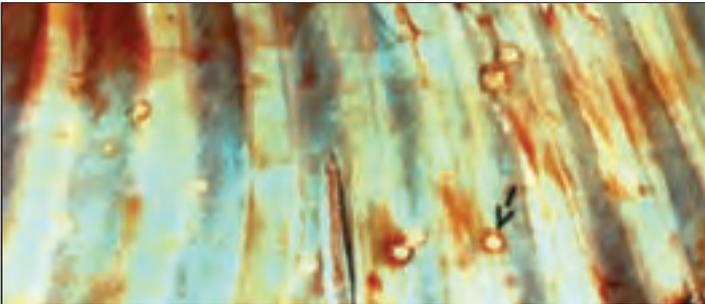
Bovine Tuberculosis

In 2011, bovine tuberculosis (TB) was found in 17 wild white-tailed deer from five counties in Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle. Statewide 6,021 deer were tested. Since 1995, a total of 705 deer have been found positive from 195,063 deer sampled in Michigan.

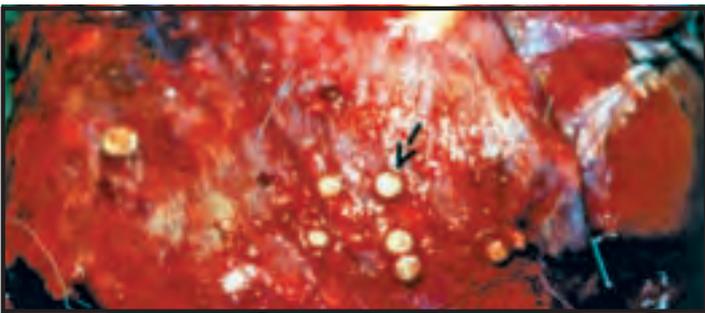
The DNR is urging hunters to submit their deer's head for TB testing if it was harvested in the following twelve counties: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon. Hunters are asked to submit deer carcasses with chest lesions suspicious for TB from anywhere in the state. The list of deer check stations is available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/deer.

As a part of Michigan's strategy to eliminate TB in deer and elk, hunting regulations in the six-county area (DMU 487), which includes Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle counties, have been designed to reduce the deer population, which will help decrease possible transmission of the disease.

Baiting deer and elk also remains illegal in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties, and within the townships of Oscoda, Plainfield, Wilber, AuSable, and Baldwin in Iosco County.



Tuberculosis-infected deer may have multiple pea-sized tan or yellow lumps on the inside of the ribcage (above)...



... or on the lungs (above). The lesions may be different shapes and sizes than shown.

What Hunters Should Look for When Field Dressing Deer

Deer with severe TB may have tan or yellow lumps lining the chest wall and in the lung tissue (see photos above). If you see a deer with this type of infection, please contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined. Hunters taking deer in any of the counties listed above should turn in the deer's head for testing whether these signs of infection are present or not. For more information on bovine TB in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/bovinetb.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a disease of the nervous system that was first diagnosed at a research facility in Colorado in 1967. CWD has been diagnosed in captive and wild mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose. CWD in deer, elk and moose is characterized by emaciation, drooling, behavioral abnormalities and death. Currently, there is no reliable live-animal testing available for diagnosing CWD, nor is there a treatment available. According to public health officials, there is no evidence that CWD can be naturally transmitted to humans, or to animals other than deer, elk and moose.

Michigan is taking several steps to address CWD in the state:

- A surveillance and response plan has been developed and revised in 2012 to address the finding of CWD-positive captive or free-ranging cervid in Michigan.
- Hunters harvesting deer and elk in CWD states are restricted as to what game parts can be imported into Michigan.
- Michigan has been conducting CWD testing of deer, elk and moose since 1998.
- There is a current moratorium on the importation of captive cervids (deer, elk and moose).

Although there is no evidence that CWD affects humans, the DNR advises hunters who take deer originating from states or provinces where CWD has been found to take these safety precautions:

- Minimize handling brain or spinal cord tissues.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals.

Michigan CWD Surveillance

A total of 35,764 free-ranging deer, elk and moose have been tested for CWD in Michigan and all have tested negative. However, one privately owned (captive) white-tailed deer in Kent County was diagnosed with CWD in August 2008.

2012 CWD Surveillance Goals

The DNR will continue identifying and testing free-ranging cervids statewide that have been observed showing symptoms consistent with chronic wasting disease (CWD) including emaciation, behavioral changes, drooling, incoordination, loss of fear and death. If a deer, elk or moose is observed exhibiting symptoms of CWD, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or the nearest DNR Operations Service Center. After hours, reports should be made to the DNR RAP Line at 800-292-7800.

Hunters Importing Deer, Elk or Moose

Hunters importing harvested free-ranging deer, elk or moose from Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta or Saskatchewan are restricted to bringing into Michigan only deboned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides cleaned of excess tissue or blood, upper canine teeth or a finished taxidermic mount.

If your deer, elk or moose is sampled for CWD testing, wait for the test results before eating the meat. If you are notified by another state or province that a deer, elk or moose you brought into Michigan tested positive for CWD, you must contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab within two business days (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 517-336-5030 and provide details.

Any changes to importation regulations will be posted at www.michigan.gov/cwd. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture may have regulations on importation from Canada. Contact them at 301-734-3277.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is an acute, infectious, often fatal disease contracted by wild ruminants but most commonly affecting white-tailed deer. The EHD virus is classified as an Orbivirus. EHD is transmitted via the bite of an infected insect of the genus *Culicoides* which include midges, gnats and other biting flies. The disease cannot be transmitted from one animal to another by direct contact, and it is not transmissible to humans. EHD typically is detected in deer in late summer and early fall, and sick and dead deer are often found near water.

Deer infected with the virus appear lethargic, disoriented, lame and unresponsive to humans. As the disease progresses, the deer may have blood-tinged discharge from the nose and mouth along with sores in the mouth and a swollen tongue. Deer usually develop a high fever (they seek out water to decrease their body temperature -- that is why they are found near or in water), and the vascular system is affected. Hemorrhages are commonly present throughout the viscera, and blood is found in the body cavities.

EHD occurs annually in many states across the U.S. and has occurred annually in southern Michigan since 2008. EHD outbreaks in Michigan may cause clusters of deer deaths in very localized areas. However, they rarely result in any significant declines in overall deer numbers. Die-offs in Michigan have been reported in the following years:

Year	Counties with Reported Mortality	Estimated Number of Deer Involved in Die-off
1955	Lake, Manistee, Muskegon, Saginaw	100
1974	Arenac, Gratiot, Ingham, Iosco, Mecosta	100
2006	Allegan	50-75
2008	Macomb, Oakland	150-200
2009	Livingston	300-450
2010	Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Van Buren	1,025
2011	Cass, St. Joseph	300

Precaution about Lead in Venison

Deer that are shot with rifle bullets containing lead, particularly copper-jacketed and hollow-point bullets, can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt.

Lead can be harmful to humans, even in very low amounts. Children under seven years old and pregnant women are at the greatest risk from lead exposure.

The following suggestions can minimize potential exposure to lead in venison:

- Remind your meat processor to, or if you process your own venison, trim a generous distance away from the wound channel and discard any meat that is bruised, discolored or contains hair, dirt or bone fragments.
- Avoid consuming internal organs.
- Practice marksmanship and outdoor skills to get closer, cleaner, lethal shots away from major muscle areas (don't shoot running deer).
- Consider alternative non-lead ammunition such as copper or others that have high-weight retention.

If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure, call the Michigan Department of Community Health at 800-648-6942.

Dioxin Advisory Information

Health risk assessors from the DNR and the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) have determined that samples of wild game taken in 2003, 2004 and 2007 from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contain high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like

compounds in muscle meats, skin and other consumable portions. Eating deer, turkey, squirrel, wood duck or Canada geese that contain dioxin at these levels could result in adverse health effects, particularly for children and women of childbearing age. Due to dioxin levels found in wild game, Health Advisories issued by DCH in 2004 and 2008 provide species-specific recommendations for deer, turkey, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. Specific information can be found at www.michigan.gov/dioxin.

Precautions When Handling and Processing Deer and Other Wild Game

- Hunters should not handle or consume deer or other wild animals that appear sick or act abnormally, regardless of the cause.
- Always wear heavy rubber or latex gloves when field dressing deer or other wild game.
- Keep a separate set of tools to use only for butchering deer.
- If intestinal contents contact meat, consider the meat contaminated; cut off and discard affected area.
- Proper carcass care in the field is vital to preserving wild game. Big game animals should be field dressed immediately to cool the carcass and then hung by the head to allow the body cavity to drain thoroughly. In warm weather carcass-cooling can be hastened and maintained with bags of ice. For big game animals, ice bags can be placed directly into the body cavity. Unlike venison, bear are marbled with fat and can spoil quickly at temperatures above 40 degrees. Venison can survive for several days at temperatures as high as 50 degrees as long as the carcass is kept out of the sun and protected from flies. Placing the carcass into a cheesecloth game bag or applying a liberal application of black pepper to the body cavity will discourage fly contamination.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling meat.
- Thoroughly clean equipment and work areas; then sanitize with a 50/50 solution of household chlorine bleach and water after processing. Wipe down counters and let them dry; soak knives for one hour.
- Dispose of the hide, brain and spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, bones and head in a landfill or in your normal garbage pickup.

Safety Practices When Cooking Wild Game

The Michigan Department of Community Health recommends proper food safety practices when cooking venison, as well as any other meat or poultry. Thoroughly cooking meat is important to reduce the likelihood of any bacterial disease. All meat, including venison, should be cooked until the meat is no longer pink and the juices run clear. If cooked according to the guidelines below, the likelihood of any disease transmission to individuals consuming this meat is extremely small.

Use a meat thermometer to cook meat to proper internal temperatures (minimum 165° for all types of meat from ground or fresh venison, 170° for the breast of game birds and waterfowl, and 180° for the whole bird), as this will help ensure harmful bacteria are killed and meat is not overcooked. The color of meat is an unreliable indicator of proper preparation.

For jerky, steam, boil or roast meat to 165°F using a meat thermometer prior to dehydrating. Dry at 130°-140°F until thoroughly dry. Jerky is properly dried when it cracks on bending but doesn't break.

For more information on venison field dressing, meat preparation and recipes, see the DNR publication *How to Field Dress a White-Tailed Deer*, available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/deer.

The Impacts of Predators on Deer in the Upper Peninsula

White-tailed deer provide food, sport, income and viewing opportunities to Upper Peninsula (UP) residents and visitors. In some areas, deer overabundance results in damage to farm crops, deer-vehicle accidents, and suppression of forest vegetation. Historically, deer abundance in the UP has been affected by the intensity of timber harvesting and winter severity. Although these factors still exert a strong influence on deer populations, the role of predation is getting more attention by both sportspersons and deer managers.

Deer survival is influenced by many factors including disease, predation, weather and hunter harvest. In the UP, deer survival is especially influenced by winter food supply and cover. Predators also play a role in the survival of deer, particularly fawn survival during the spring and summer. Some predators are able to take deer of any age, while other predators are able to catch fawns only during the first couple weeks of life. Research is being conducted in the UP to better understand the impact of predation on deer, while also determining how predation is influenced by winter weather and deer habitat conditions.

The research project will occur in a low snowfall zone, mid-snowfall zone, and high snowfall zone in the UP. The objectives of this long-term research study are to: 1) estimate survival and sources of mortality of fawns and does; 2) estimate fawn mortality due to specific predators; 3) estimate home range size, movements and habitats used by deer and predators; 4) estimate abundance of deer, black bear, bobcats, coyotes and wolves in the study area; and 5) improve understanding of predator/prey interactions to enhance wildlife management.

Additional information about this research project can be found at www.fwrc.msstate.edu/carnivore/predatorprey.

Wolf-Dog Conflicts

Wolves, like most members of the wild canid family, are territorial. Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur during the bear training and hunting seasons, which overlaps with the time wolf pups are using homesites. Wolf pups remain at these homesites until they are ready to travel with the adults -- usually in early fall.

Dogs used for hunting bear are at risk of being attacked by wolves because they: (1) traverse large areas, which increases their chance of coming near or encountering a homesite; (2) are released at bear bait sites that also may be used by wolves; (3) bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and (4) are some distance from the hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

Avoiding Potential Problems

To minimize the conflict between wolves and dogs it is best to avoid areas of recent wolf activity. Wolves will concentrate much of their activity around the den and homesites. These sites often are not used from year to year and can change throughout the summer. Homesites usually are forest openings or edge areas and often are near water. They can be identified by the concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting beforehand and look for wolf sign before releasing your hounds. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bear bait site, and make sure wolves have not been using the bait. If wolf sign, and particularly the sign of wolf pups is evident, move to another area before releasing your dogs.

What You Can Do

1. Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation.
2. Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks.

3. Consider adding bells or beepers to dog collars - some hunters have reported this can reduce wolf attacks.

For information on hunting dog conflicts with wolves, contact the Marquette Operations Service Center at 906-228-6561.

To report a dog depredation, call the Report All Poaching hotline: 800-292-7800.

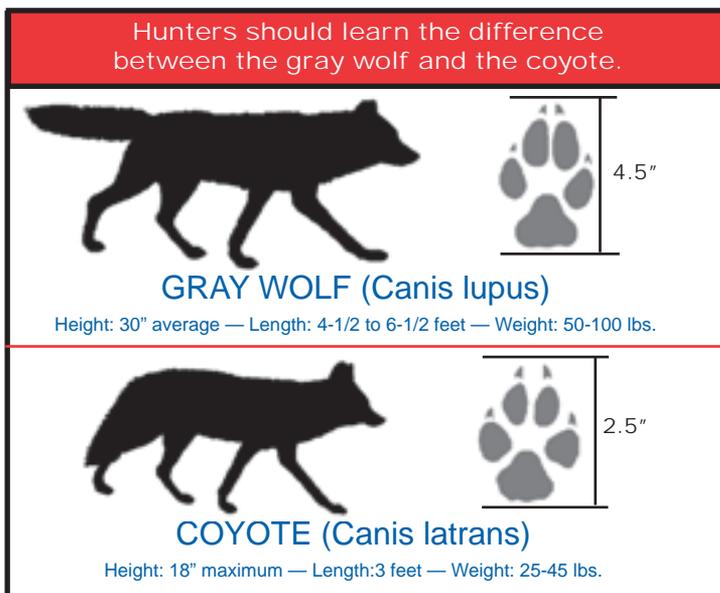
Lethal Control of Wolves by Dog Owners

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed wolves in the western Great Lakes region from the federal endangered species list on January 27, 2012. As a result, management authority over wolves in Michigan has been returned to the DNR, putting the state's 2008 Wolf Management Plan into effect. Wolves remain a protected, nongame species in Michigan, but state management will afford more options when dealing with wolves preying on livestock or dogs.

The DNR is available to help livestock and dog owners with wolf depredation issues and can aid citizens with a variety of approaches, including technical support, non-lethal and lethal methods. For assistance, please call DNR wildlife biologist Brian Roell at the Marquette DNR Operations Service Center at 906-228-6561.

A wolf that is merely present near a dog does not authorize the use of lethal control. Dog owners who use lethal means to kill a wolf or wolves in the act of preying upon their dog must observe the following guidelines:

1. The owner of a dog or his/her designated agent may use lethal means to kill a wolf that is in the act of preying upon (killing/injuring) the owner's dog.
2. Report the taking of a wolf to the DNR as soon as practical, but no later than 12 hours after the incident.
3. If lethal means are used to kill a wolf, a person shall not move or disturb the dead wolf, or the area where lethal means were used, until a DNR official is present. The person who used lethal means to kill a wolf must produce the dog that was attacked for inspection by DNR officials.
4. A DNR official will respond to the scene where lethal means were used to kill a gray wolf no later than 12 hours after notification.
5. The owner of the dog or his/her designated agent may report the taking of a wolf by using the Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline at 1-800-292-7800.



Hunter Education Promotes Our Wildlife Heritage

Michigan has a long, rich tradition of hunting. In Michigan, hunting contributes to wildlife management and conservation, provides a positive family experience and increased recreational opportunity, and is good for the economy.



Safe hunting begins with hunter education, and Michigan's hunter education program has had a dramatic impact on reducing hunting incidents in our state. According to the International Hunter Education Association, young hunters, when accompanied by responsible adults or mentors who have been a part of the

youngster's education, are some of the safest individuals afield.

Hunter education courses teach new hunters responsibility, ethics, firearm safety, wildlife conservation and wildlife identification, game care, survival and first aid. In addition to safety, hunter education courses stress ethics, and the instructors work diligently to plant the seeds of sportsmanship in each student. Most courses are offered year-round throughout the state, though most occur during August, September and October. The typical course consists of two sessions with a total class time of 10 to 12 hours.

Students also can use the Internet to complete a part of their hunter education course. The online course can be found on the DNR's hunter education website at www.michigan.gov/huntereducation.

The DNR is striving to recruit the most qualified instructors available and provide them with the best materials and training necessary to conduct hunter education courses throughout the state. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer instructor, please write to: Hunter Education Program, Law Enforcement

Division, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30031, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-335-3418. You also can visit our hunter education web page at www.michigan.gov/huntereducation.



If our young people can learn to be responsible hunters, negative public attitudes toward hunting that grew from past mistakes may change, and private lands now open to hunting may remain open. It is the careful and courteous hunter who is helping preserve our hunting heritage for future generations.

Tips for asking permission to hunt on private land:

1. State law requires you obtain written or verbal permission from the landowner. Only the landowner can give hunting permission.
2. Obtain permission to hunt several farms. This assures you of a place to hunt if others are using the property or the landowner is not home.
3. Always obtain permission well in advance of the time you plan to hunt. Plan your visit early in the evening when the landowner, especially if a farmer, is likely to be home. If you will scout the area before hunting season, also request permission for that time.
4. Ask for permission by yourself or with one other person; do not take your hunting party up to the door. When approaching the landowner or family for permission, NEVER carry your gun and keep any dogs in your vehicle.
5. If you cannot visit the landowner, write an appropriate and friendly letter. Do not stick a note on the door. Your letter may request a date/time to talk in person, or you can make arrangements by mail or telephone. Do so at the landowner's preference.
6. Be prepared to provide your name and contact information and the dates and times when you would like to hunt a described portion of their land (e.g., the back 40 acres of the woods and cropland). Landowner may limit party size, ORVs or more.
7. Ask if there are crop fields or areas of the farm that should not be hunted.
8. Never shoot near farm buildings or where any people or livestock are living. Observe all safety zone areas – 450 feet from possibly inhabited structures.
9. Leave any gates you encounter the way you found them. If a gate is open, leave it open after you pass through. If a gate is closed, close it after you pass through.
10. Do not leave any trash. If you find litter already there, pick it up.
11. When the hunt is over, always thank landowners. They then will know that you have left the farm and will not worry about you being lost or stuck on their property.
12. Offer landowners a portion of your harvest off their land, such as a portion of venison once your game is cleaned (or butchered). This gesture will help your relationship with the landowner. It also may help provide others with hunting opportunities from this landowner, and it helps build a positive image of hunting.

For more information on hunting on private land, see the DNR website for details on the Hunting Access Program, the Commercial Forest Act Lands Program and other resources.

Public Hunting Lands Maps Available Online

Looking for a place to hunt? The DNR has created a new collection of maps at www.michigan.gov/gohunt that identify all lands that are open to public hunting in Michigan.

Hunters can click on a particular county and see not only the state forest, wildlife management, and parks and recreation lands open to hunting that are administered by the DNR, but also all federal lands as well as private lands that are open to the public through the Hunting Access Program (HAP) or the Commercial Forest Act (CFA).

It is the responsibility of the users of these maps to be aware of all regulations relevant to their hunting activities and hunting locations. These maps show approximate boundaries of lands open to public hunting. They are designed to be used for planning purposes only, and not for legal boundary determinations. There may be small areas, which are closed to hunting, found within the shaded boundaries of areas which are shown as open to hunting. These maps are not to be used as a sole source for determining if an area is open to hunting, and not all lands depicted on these maps are open for all hunting seasons or for all game species.

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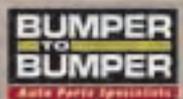
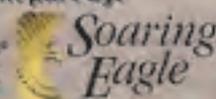


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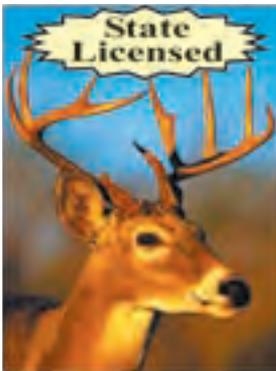
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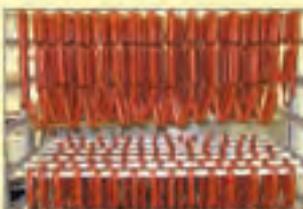
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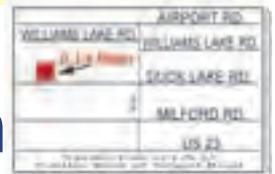
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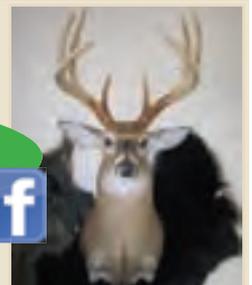


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The "mechanical advantage" of recurve limbs.

Let-off, the mechanical advantage afforded by compound technology, is important to "vertical" bows where the archer must physically hold the bowstring while shooting. With crossbows, because there is no such holding, this mechanical advantage becomes a mechanical disadvantage. The "wheels" represent only more parts to break or things to go wrong without offering any substantive function. In fact, it's just the opposite, the time-tested and proven recurve limbs on an **Excalibur** Crossbow offer numerous advantages over wheeled counterparts.

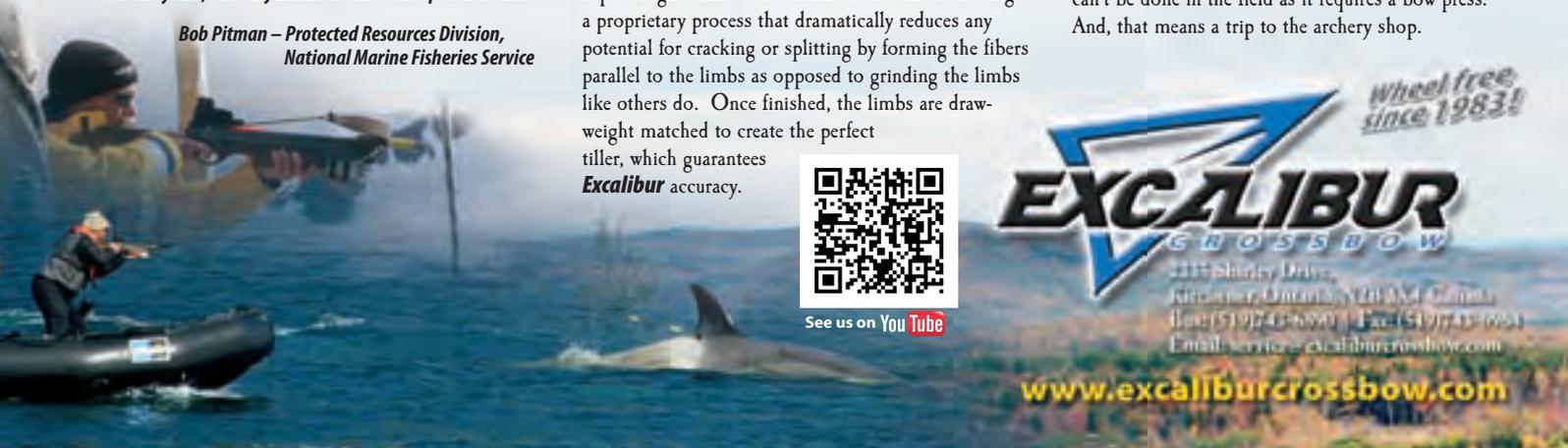
RELIABILITY

Those who shoot crossbows for a living choose Excalibur and recurve limbs for their reliability and durability.

If you want to know how a product performs over the long haul, ask those who use it in the most grueling situations. In the case of crossbows, ask killer whale researcher Bob Pitman, who uses a crossbow day after day to tag killer whales...

"We work off small boats in Antarctica and use crossbows to attach satellite tags to killer whales for scientific research. We need a crossbow that we can rely on; one that can take a pounding in the launch and stand up to the salt spray and freezing cold, every day, for weeks on end. We have tried several different brands over the years, but only Excalibur has been up to the task."

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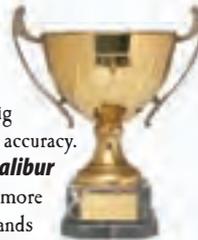


ACCURACY

Three times more wins than all other brands combined.

Crossbow competitions are a big deal in Europe. They shoot for accuracy. In the last 20 major events, **Excalibur** has won 15. That's three times more wins than all other crossbow brands combined. Why? It's the recurve limbs.

The wheels on other crossbows create synchronization issues. Issues that even elite shooters obviously can't overcome. And issues that are known to get worse over time. So, don't take a chance. Choose the technology that the best shooters in the world have proved to be the most accurate. That's **Excalibur's** recurve limbs!!



LIGHTWEIGHT DESIGN

Fewer parts and streamlined design mean less weight to carry through the woods.

Yet another advantage of **Excalibur's** recurve limb design is less weight. With fewer parts and a sleek, streamlined design, you'll find an **Excalibur** Crossbow to be a pleasure to hunt with, because it's simply more manageable without compromising anything when it comes to performance.



Excalibur Equinox shown

DURABILITY

There are over 250,000 fiberglass strands in an Excalibur recurve limb!

Excalibur's signature recurve limbs are made up of over 250,000 individual strands of premium glass fiber, which stretch longitudinally through the blank, and super tough resins. The blanks are hot-molded using a proprietary process that dramatically reduces any potential for cracking or splitting by forming the fibers parallel to the limbs as opposed to grinding the limbs like others do. Once finished, the limbs are draw-weight matched to create the perfect tiller, which guarantees **Excalibur** accuracy.



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There is a misnomer that recurve crossbows lack the power to hunt the biggest big game. While we suspect this myth comes from equating recurve crossbows to recurve vertical bows, the fact is, **Excalibur** Recurve Crossbows are as, or more powerful than wheeled crossbows. Just ask those who hunt oversized animals like the bear, elk and lion pictured here.



SPEED

Faster than the majority of compound crossbows – without sacrificing accuracy!

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