



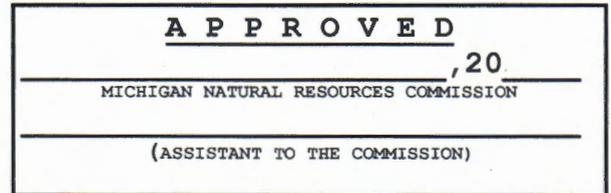
RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: March 18, 2013
RESUBMITTED: April 15, 2013



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Hunting Access Program Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2013

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:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Division (WLD) places a high priority on providing outdoor recreation through public lands and leased private lands for public access hunting. Michigan's Hunting Access Program (HAP) was created in 1977 to increase public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan where 97% of the land base is in private ownership. Under HAP, the Division leases private lands for the purpose of public hunting. Providing access to quality hunting lands close to urban centers is a key component to providing additional hunting opportunities, as well as attracting new and retaining current hunters.

Within five years of the program's initiation, the HAP had grown to over 790 leased farms covering 188,000 acres, but since 1982 the number of farms and acres has declined to the present-day program of less than 50 farms with less than 8,000 acres enrolled. By using funds from a the new federal Voluntary Public Access – Hunter Incentive Program grant, the WLD has increased HAP enrollment and hunting opportunities to 153 farms and over 17,000 acres. However, the WLD has received complaints from registered HAP landowners regarding hunters not following program rules and DNR Law Enforcement Division (LED) personnel having limited ability to enforce program rules that are not regulations. Accordingly, WLD and LED are proposing adding program-specific requirements, conditions for use, and prohibited activities to the Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO).

Specifically, this order is intended to ensure that hunters are communicating with landowners, respecting landowner property, using only portable blinds, and adhering to hunt-type designations.

Hunting Access Program Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2013
Page 2
April 15, 2013

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on April 11, 2013, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's March 2013 calendar and may be eligible for approval on May 9, 2013.



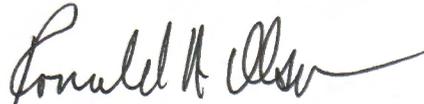
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 4 of 2013

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 10, 2013, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

2.15 Hunting access program; requirements, conditions for use, prohibited activities.

Sec. 2.15 (1) The hunting access program (HAP) is established in accordance with MCL 324.43556.

(2) A person hunting on designated HAP lands, who is not the landowner or lease holder, shall not do any of the following:

(a) Fail to comply with all rules listed in the landowner's registration folder.

(b) Hunt without first registering at the designated headquarters or service station for the applicable HAP lands prior to each hunt.

(c) Hunt in other than the "hunt type" designation as listed in HAP materials provided by the department.

(d) Hunt during a season not listed in HAP materials and other provisions in this order.

(e) Park in an area without permission from the landowner.

(3) A person hunting on designated HAP lands, who is not the landowner or lease holder, shall not do any of the following activities without landowner permission:

(a) Drive on HAP lands or use any wheeled or tracked vehicle.

(b) Block a drive or lane.

(d) Hunt in or damage standing crops.

(e) Use a blind that is affixed or attached to any tree or other natural feature using nails, screws, bolts, lag screws, wire, rope, or any other device or fastener made by a person.

Issued on this 9th day of May, 2013.

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

J. R. Richardson, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh
Director