



STATE OF MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 LANSING



RICK SNYDER
 GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAUGH
 DIRECTOR

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

A P P R O V E D
_____, 20
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fall Turkey Regulations and License Quotas
 Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 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 fall wild turkey season is designed to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in designated fall wild turkey management units to meet population goals recommended by local Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division personnel. These goals incorporate the social and biological carrying capacity within these turkey management units. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal.

The Department recommends that a total of 51,850 licenses be made available and approximately 44,943 square miles of area be open to fall turkey hunting. The Department further recommends that a total of 5,150 general licenses be made available through a lottery in management units: G, GB, GC, J, L, M, T, WA, and W. Units J, T, and WA were not open during the previous fall cycle. Based on recent turkey harvest statistics, population estimates, and feedback on hunting quality, Department experts and turkey management partners agree that these units can sustain a fall harvest. The Department recommends a general license quota of 200 for Unit T, 100 for Unit WA, and 1,500 for Unit J.

The Department does not recommend any changes to the private land license quotas or application process. Unit HA will continue to have a private land quota of 1,700, with the private land licenses being available initially through an application. Licenses in fall hunt unit YY, encompassing only private lands in southern Michigan and Beaver Island, may be purchased over the counter when leftover fall turkey licenses are made available for purchase. YY licenses do not require an application and will be sold until the 45,000 private-land only license quota is achieved for the unit.

The Department does not recommend any changes to the application process for limited-quota hunt units or leftover license sales. The division further recommends maintaining the one-license-per-day purchase limit for leftover licenses when available.

Based on the satisfaction of Michigan turkey hunters and the desire to maintain stability, these regulations are proposed to remain constant for a minimum of three years.

Technical wording changes are also proposed in several sections to maintain consistency throughout the Wildlife Conservation Order.

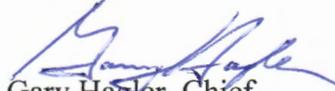
Turkey Management Unit H was omitted from the Wildlife Conservation Order due to a technical error. Unit H has been reinserted to preserve the definition and history of the unit. This is a technical change only, and no license quota has been assigned.

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. 5 of 2012

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:

3.300b Wild Turkey population, fall harvest quotas.

Sec. 3.300b (1) The quotas for general licenses valid on all private and public lands within the listed unit for the fall wild turkey hunt seasons defined in section 3.303 are as shown in table 8:

TABLE 8
Fall Wild Turkey General License Quotas per Unit

Open Unit	License Quota
A	0
D	0
E	0
G	200
GB	250
GC	200
H	0
HA	0
HB	0
J	1,500
L	1,000
M	1,500
Q	0
T	200
W	200
WA	100

(2) The quotas for private land only licenses for the fall wild turkey hunt seasons defined in section 3.303, are as shown in table 9:

TABLE 9
Fall Wild Turkey Private Land Only License Quotas per Unit

Open Unit	License Quota
A	0
D	0
E	0
G	0
GB	0
GC	0
H	0
HA	1,700
HB	0
J	0

L	0
M	0
Q	0
T	0
W	0
YY	45,000

(3) Each successful applicant may purchase the license for which they were selected. Unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license or a license for hunt unit YY the first week leftover licenses are available for purchase. After this one-week period, any hunter may purchase one remaining license per day until the quota is met for each hunt unit.

(a) Licenses for unit YY may be purchased over the counter with no application required when leftover licenses are made available for purchase.

(4) The wildlife division chief may recommend to the director the need for any appropriate changes in quotas based on experience with population densities, hunter satisfaction levels, hunter application rates, or hunter survey results. The director, in consultation with the natural resources commission, may make changes in quotas in a turkey management unit to address this new information.

3.301 Wild turkey hunting, unlawful acts; exceptions.

Sec. 3.301 (1) A person hunting wild turkey shall not use or possess afield an electronic device to simulate, replicate or imitate wild turkey calls or sounds, or an electronic, mechanical or live decoy. It shall be unlawful to use a dog to hunt wild turkey during the spring season. It shall be unlawful to take a wild turkey while the wild turkey is in a tree. It shall be unlawful to make use of bait to aid in the taking of a wild turkey. For the purposes of this regulation, "bait" means a substance composed of grain, fruit, vegetables, or other food placed to lure or entice wild turkeys. This does not apply to standing farm crops under normal agricultural practices, or other natural growing grains, fruits, or vegetables. For the purposes of this section, "mechanical decoy" means any device that by design or construction uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey except a wind sock or similar decoy body anchored at a fixed point into the ground and whose only motion is derived exclusively by power of the natural wind.

(2) A person 10 years of age and older may only take a wild turkey during the spring open season if the turkey has a beard and is taken within the unit and hunt period specified on the spring wild turkey license issued to that person. Youth under 10 years of age may hunt wild turkey subject to the mentored youth hunting program as described in section 2.14 of this order. A person shall not take or possess more than one bearded turkey during the spring wild turkey season.

(3) A person 10 years of age and older may only take a wild turkey during the fall open season if the turkey is taken within the unit and hunt period specified on the fall wild turkey license issued to that person. Youth under 10 years of age may hunt wild turkey subject to the mentored youth hunting program as described in section 2.14 of this order. A person shall not take or possess more than one turkey during the fall wild turkey season for each validation tag issued to that person.

3.302 Wild turkey; lawful possession; validation of license; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.302 (1) Immediately upon killing a turkey, a person shall validate their license by notching out the appropriate information as instructed on the license and shall securely attach the license around a leg of the bird.

(2) It shall be unlawful to possess or transport a turkey unless the turkey license is securely attached to a leg of the turkey and the appropriate information is notched on the turkey license.

(3) The holder of a private land turkey license shall only take a turkey on privately owned lands within the management unit and during the hunting period specified on the private land turkey license.

(3a) A private land turkey license is not valid on county, state, or federal lands unless used with permission on enclosed controlled-access military lands.

3.308 Wild turkey licenses, applications, availability; partner application provided; application deadline; unlawful act.

Sec. 3.308 (1) Applications for turkey licenses will be available one month prior to the application deadline. Only a person who will be 10 years of age or older during a hunt period for taking wild turkey may make application for that hunt period. Youth under 10 years of age may hunt wild turkey subject to the mentored youth hunting program as described in section 2.14 of this order.

(2) The nonrefundable application fee for a wild turkey license is \$4.00.

(3) An option to apply with one partner will be provided.

(4) Applications must be made on or before February 1 of the calendar year for which the applicant desires a spring wild turkey license.

(5) Applications must be made on or before August 1 of the calendar year for which the applicant desires a fall wild turkey license.

(6) It shall be unlawful for any individual to apply more than once per calendar year for a Michigan spring wild turkey hunting license.

(7) It shall be unlawful for any individual to apply more than once per calendar year for a Michigan fall wild turkey hunting license.

12.661 "Fall wild turkey management unit H" defined.

Sec. 12.661. "Fall wild turkey management unit H" means all of Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford counties.

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