



STATE OF MICHIGAN



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 9, 2009
RESUBMITTED: March 9, 2009

<p><u>A P P R O V E D</u></p> <p>_____, 20____</p> <p>MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION</p> <p>_____ (ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)</p>

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Field Trial Area Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2009

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 Department recognizes that a primary part of its mission is to provide diverse outdoor recreational opportunities for visitors to Michigan state parks and recreation areas. In our efforts to serve a diverse recreational user base, conflicts appear between user groups. This amendment is an endeavor to mitigate conflicting user group activities in the field trial areas of Highland and Ionia Recreation Areas.

For years, field dog trialers have complained that individuals have hunted the quail placed for the specific purpose of dog training prior to and during sanctioned field trial events. Certain individuals have walked through the middle of a trial event, hunting the planted quail, with little regard for the dog training activity. Due to these conflicts in user group activities, verbal and potentially dangerous physical altercations have ensued.

This proposal is intended to better manage the use of the facilities to accommodate different activity groups, and to provide for safe recreational opportunities amongst the hunters utilizing the Department's lands and facilities. It is neither our intention, nor desire to eliminate hunting activities in Michigan state recreation areas.

This proposal recommends that on days when sanctioned trial events are occurring, quail may only be harvested by field trial participants, as authorized by the field trial lease, on the Highland and Ionia Recreation Area's designated field trial grounds.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

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Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on March 5, 2009, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's February 23 and March 23, 2009 calendar, and is being submitted for action at the April 2, 2009 Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

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

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 3 of 2009

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 April 3, 2009, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

8.18 Highland and Ionia field dog trial area, hunting restrictions.

Sec. 8.18. Quail may be harvested only by field trial participants, as authorized by the field trial lease, in the Highland and Ionia recreation area field trial areas, as described in section 15.2, on days with authorized field trials during the open dates for quail hunting, as described in section 3.504.

Issued this 2nd day of April, 2009.

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

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director