



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Deer Regulatory Update: Open/Closed DMUs; Youth Hunting; Antlerless Limits;
Special Hunts
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2012
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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:

Open/Closed DMUs

This amendment establishes the open/closed status for antlerless deer license availability for each Deer Management Unit (DMU). The DMU is the regulatory unit for issuing antlerless deer licenses. The availability status of public land antlerless deer licenses and private land antlerless deer licenses must be determined prior to establishing the antlerless deer license quotas. The status of each DMU for both public land and private land antlerless deer licenses will be published in the 2012 Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest. This provides hunters with the information needed to make decisions regarding antlerless deer hunting opportunities. Antlerless deer license quotas recommendations will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission at the June meeting.

There are 84 DMUs recommended to be open for public land antlerless deer licenses, all of which would also be open for private land licenses, except DMU 145 (North Manitou Island). There are 89 DMUs plus the two multi-county units in the Lower Peninsula (DMU 486 and 487) that are recommended to be open for private land licenses.

Within the Upper Peninsula, deer populations continue to steadily increase following a third mild winter in a row. Four DMUs that were closed to all antlerless licenses last year are recommended to be open for private land this year, including 017 (Sault Ste Marie), 021 (Manistique Unit), 031 (Nissula Unit) and 036 (Amasa/Michigamme Unit). Two DMUs that were open to private land antlerless licenses but closed to public land antlerless licenses last year are recommended to be open for both private and public land licenses this year, including 152 (Gwinn Unit) and 252 (Rock Unit). Three DMUs that were closed to all antlerless licenses last year are recommended to be open for both private and public land this year, including 117 (Drummond Island), 121 (Bay De Noc Unit), and 149 (Round/Bois Blanc Island).

Within the Northern Lower Peninsula deer populations also continue to steadily increase following the third mild winter in a row. Eleven DMUs that were open to private land antlerless licenses only are recommended to be open for both private and public land this year including 005 (Antrim County), 010 (Benzie County), 015 (Charlevoix County), 028 (Grand Traverse County), 043 (Lake County), 045 (Leelanau County), 051 (Manistee County), 053 (Mason County), 057 (Missaukee County), 067 (Osceola County), and 083 (Wexford County). Four DMUs that were closed to all antlerless licenses last year are recommended to be open for both private and public land this year including, 016 (Cheboygan County), 040 (Kalkaska County), 069 (Otsego County) and 072 (Roscommon County).

These recommendations are based on the best available information to date. However, there are 19 DMUs that the Department feels warrant additional review and analyses as updated information from the 2011 hunter harvest survey becomes available. They include, 005 (Antrim County), 010 (Benzie County), 015 (Charlevoix County), 016 (Cheboygan County), 017 (Sault Ste. Marie Unit), 021 (Manistique Unit), 028 (Grand Traverse County), 036 (Amasa/Michigamme Unit), 040 (Kalkaska County), 043 (Lake County), 045 (Leelanau County), 051 (Manistee County), 053 (Mason County), 057 (Missaukee County), 067 (Osceola County), 069 (Otsego County), 072 (Roscommon County), 083 (Wexford County), and 117 (Drummond Island). Accordingly, the recommendations made for each of these DMUs may be revised on May 21, 2012.

Antlerless License Limits

Concerns have been expressed over the past several seasons regarding the potential for overharvest of deer on private lands where seasonal private land antlerless license purchase limits are most liberal. Specifically, regulations have allowed for the purchase of up to 5 antlerless licenses per day in deer management units 486 and 487 (which are open to private land only), until the quotas have been met. Historical data show that even when regulations allow for multiple purchases, less than 1% of all hunters that buy antlerless licenses purchase more than five in a season.

Thus these prior regulations pose no substantial risk for overharvest, allow private landowners the opportunity to determine appropriate harvest levels to meet their needs within the overall constraint set by the antlerless license quota, and reduce demands on private landowners and Department personnel for authorizing and tracking Deer Management Assistance Permits where additional harvest is warranted but otherwise restricted by antlerless purchase limits. The Department suggests that a season limit of five private land antlerless deer hunting licenses per hunter, while largely unnecessary, would still allow most management needs to be addressed while recognizing hunter concerns over the perceived potential for overharvest of deer.

Special Hunt Dates

Hunt dates for the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and for the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days have been revised according to the standard schedule

and are defined in **option 1** of this amendment.

Option 1

The Department recommends these revisions so that these hunting days continue to take place consecutively following the early antlerless firearm deer season and conclude before October 1, the beginning of archery season. In 2012, the hunt days would run from Thursday, September 20 through Monday, September 24 for early antlerless; Tuesday, September 25 through Friday, September 28 for youth early antlerless firearm; and Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30 for youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm.

Option 2

The second option regarding the availability and arrangement of these hunting days is based on feedback from some members of the deer hunting community concerned that September hunts produce substantial disruption to deer behavior into later hunting seasons. It is not clear that this is the case, particularly because the early antlerless firearm season and youth early antlerless firearm hunting days are only open in portions of the state, and fewer than 30,000 individuals participate in each of these seasons.

Option 2 would set the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and early antlerless firearm season to run on the same weekend, starting the Saturday following September 15. This timeframe would prevent the early antlerless season from opening when the season is too warm to comfortably hunt and process deer. These dates would also avoid conflicts with the opening of the small game season, eliminate the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days in DMU 486 (during which fewer than 5,000 individuals participated), and conclude further in advanced of the opening of the archery deer season.

Youth Hunters

In order to align with the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, hunting requirements for youth under 10 years old have been updated throughout the applicable deer regulations. The language has been revised to consistently assert that hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. Youth less than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public and private land or with a firearm on private land only.

North Manitou Island Hunt Period

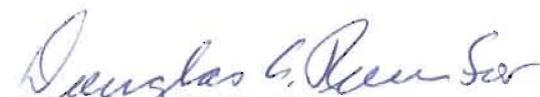
In 2011, 53 hunters were only able to harvest seven deer, three of which were antlered, during the nine-day firearm season for the North Manitou Island DMU. The Department recommends extending the season length and revising the dates in order to provide the opportunity for a more successful harvest and to provide greater accessibility to the island. A longer season will allow

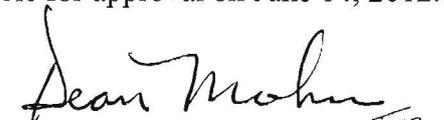
for the ferry to make more than one round trip to the island and also reduces the chance of one weekend of inclement weather eliminating opportunity for hunters. Hunters always have the option of using personal boats to travel to the island but most use the ferry instead. The Department also recommends extending the season further into November, without overlapping November 15, so that there will be more rutting activity with bucks. With the increase of animal activity, hunters will have more opportunity to harvest an antlered deer.

In 2012, the recommended season is from Saturday, October 27, to Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

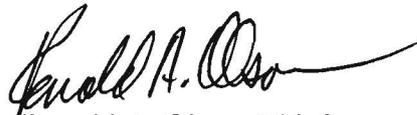
Recommendation:

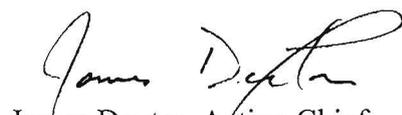
This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's April 2012 calendar and may be eligible for approval on June 14, 2012.


Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


Gary Hagler, Chief *For*
Law Enforcement Division


Bill O'Neill, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division


Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division


James Dexter, Acting Chief
Fisheries Division


Acting Natural Resources Deputy

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

Rodney A. Stokes, Director

Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 6 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 June 15, 2012, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.101 Deer hunting open seasons; type of deer that may be taken; carrying of firearms; season limit.

Sec. 3.101. (1) The open firearm deer season shall be from November 15 to November 30.

(2) The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 1 shall be a total of 10 days from the first Friday in December to nine days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 2 shall be a total of 10 days from the second Friday in December to nine days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 3 shall be a total of 17 days from the first Friday in December to 16 days thereafter.

(3) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510, a person hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured black-powder substitute, or a crossbow.

(4) The open bow and arrow season shall be from October 1 through November 14 and from December 1 through January 1.

(5) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510, during the open bow and arrow season, a person hunting deer with a bow and arrow or a crossbow shall not possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or any other firearm unless the person is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to firearm deer hunting.

(6) The late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Antrim, Alpena, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Oakland, Oceana, Oscoda, Ottawa, Presque Isle, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, and upon privately-owned lands within that portion of Newaygo county south of M-20, that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015, that portion of Arenac county within zone 3, and that portion of Arenac county east of M-65 within zone 2. Only a person possessing a valid antlerless deer license issued for the deer management unit in which they are hunting may take a deer during this season.

(7) The deer management assistance firearm hunt period shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon lands owned by federal, state, county, or local units of government, non-profit organizations, and other urban or suburban properties in zone 3. Only those areas with a wildlife division approved deer population management plan will be considered for issuance of these special deer management assistance permits. Only a person possessing a valid deer management assistance permit issued for this hunt period may take a deer with a firearm or a crossbow during this season.

(8) The season limit shall be 1 deer per firearm deer license, 1 deer per bow and arrow deer license, 1 deer per tag issued with a combination deer license, plus 1 deer per antlerless deer license.

(9) A person shall not purchase more than one firearm deer license or more than one bow and arrow deer license per calendar year.

(10) Except as provided by sections 3.101a, 3.101c and 3.101d, the kind of deer which may be taken during the respective open seasons for each combination of season and deer license type shall be as follows:

Type of license	Season in which used	Kind of deer that may be taken
Bow and arrow deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
Firearm deer license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season	Antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length, or antlerless deer in deer management unit 487
	Youth and 100% disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Regular	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer
	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season	Antlered deer, or antlerless deer in deer management unit 487
	Youth and 100% disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Restricted	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season	A deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length, or antlerless deer in deer management unit 487
	Youth and 100% disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length

~~(10)~~ **(11)** The early antlerless firearm deer season shall be a 5-day hunt starting on the third Thursday in September upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Iosco, Montmorency, Oceana, Oscoda, and Presque Isle counties and upon privately owned lands within zone 3, and upon privately owned lands within those portions of Bay, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, and Muskegon counties within zone 2, and upon privately owned lands within that portion of Arenac county east of M-65 within zone 2 and that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015. Only a person possessing a valid private land antlerless deer license issued for the deer management unit in which they are hunting **or a mentored youth hunting license** may take a deer during this season.

3.101e Youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.

Sec. 3.101e (1) The youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days shall be a 2-day hunt starting ~~the fourth Saturday~~ **on the Saturday following the fourth Thursday** in September.

(2) The youth early antlerless firearm hunting days shall be a 4-day hunt starting on the Tuesday ~~prior to the fourth Saturday~~ **following the third Thursday** in September within ~~dmu 041 and~~ dmu 486.

(3) Individuals wishing to participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A youth ~~10 through~~ 16 years of age ~~or less at the time of their hunt~~ **may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. Youth less than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public or private land or with a firearm on private land only.**

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A resident rated by the United States department of veterans affairs as individually unemployable may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(4) Individuals wishing to participate in the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days must be ~~10 to~~ 16 years of age ~~or less at the time of their hunt.~~ **Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. Youth less than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public or private land or with a firearm on private land only.**

(5) The following rules shall apply to a person taking deer on the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days:

(a) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter to go afield to hunt deer unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult ~~at least 18 years of age or older.~~ **Subject to section 43517, hunting by minor child, natural resource and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517. Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3) of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, natural resource and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510 and section 43517 hunting by minor child, natural resource and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517,** an adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter shall not possess or carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, **except as a qualified mentored youth hunting program mentor or a veteran with 100 percent disability may possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow if hunting under the authority of section 3.101e(2b).**

(b) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, local time.

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to persons participating in youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days.

(6) During the youth early antlerless firearm deer hunting days, **10- to 16-year-old hunters may take one antlerless deer for each antlerless deer hunting license they possess, valid for the unit in which they are hunting. Hunters under the age of 10 and licensed through the mentored youth hunting program may only take antlerless deer during this hunt.**

(7) During the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days a hunter may take one deer provided they possess a firearm or combination deer hunting license ~~or~~, an antlerless deer hunting license valid for the unit in which they are hunting, **or a mentored youth license**. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, during the youth and 100 percent disabled firearm deer hunting days a firearm or combination deer hunting license is valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer.

3.102 Antlerless deer license; validity; authority; types; restrictions; units.

Sec. 3.102. (1) Antlerless deer licenses are only valid in their specified deer management unit when the unit has a season open to the taking of deer. Antlerless deer licenses do not grant permission to hunt on private property without the permission of the owner. A person purchasing an antlerless deer license over the counter shall do so in person.

(2) Antlerless deer licenses shall only be valid for taking an antlerless deer.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the holder of a valid public land antlerless deer license shall only take a deer from publicly owned lands within the deer management unit specified on the antlerless deer license. Public land antlerless deer licenses shall not be valid on any privately owned lands except lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.51101 to 324.51120 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(4) The holder of a valid private land antlerless deer license shall only take a deer from privately owned lands within the deer management unit specified on the private land antlerless deer license. The private land antlerless deer license shall not be valid on publicly owned lands and lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.51101 to 324.51120 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(5) The deer management units, as defined in chapter XII, listed in section 3.105a are open to the taking of antlerless deer by public land antlerless deer license or private land antlerless deer license, or any combination.

(6) The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, may require an application to obtain an antlerless deer license or may issue antlerless deer licenses through the retail sales system on a first-come, first-served basis for use in designated deer management units.

(7) The director in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission may issue antlerless deer licenses through the retail sales system on a first-come, first-served basis for use in designated deer management units when the director determines that antlerless deer licenses remain unsold after the drawing, provided for in section 3.104, has been held or where such issuance is in the best interest of deer management. An application for the current year is not required to purchase an antlerless deer license that remains after the drawing, provided for in section 3.104, has been held.

(8) Requirements; restrictions for young hunters:

(a) ~~Young-h~~Hunters 10 to 16 years of age on or before the 4th Saturday in September may purchase 1 private or public land antlerless deer license, over the counter, on a first-come, first-served basis, during the application period for antlerless licenses for any deer management unit with antlerless licenses available.

(b) Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license shall be valid for any deer in any deer management unit, except during antlerless-only seasons.

(9) For deer management units 452, 486, 487, a person shall not purchase more than 5 antlerless deer hunting licenses per calendar day until the quota has been met. For all other deer management units a person shall not purchase more than 2 antlerless deer hunting licenses per calendar day until the quota has been met.

(10) For all deer management units except deer management units 486 and 487, a person may purchase up to a season limit of 5 private land antlerless deer hunting licenses per calendar day until the quota has been met.

3.105a Deer management units open to antlerless license quotas.

Sec. 3.105a (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section the status of each deer management unit for antlerless deer licenses shall be as follows:

DMU Number	DMU Name	Private Land License	Public Land License
001	Alcona County	Open	Open
003	Allegan County	Open	Open
004	Alpena County	Open	Open
005	Antrim County	Open	Closed Open
006	Arenac County	Open	Open
007	Big Bay Unit	Closed	Closed
008	Barry County	Open	Open
009	Bay County	Open	Open
010	Benzie County	Open	Closed Open
011	Berrien County	Open	Open
012	Branch County	Open	Open
013	Calhoun County	Open	Open
014	Cass County	Open	Open
015	Charlevoix County	Open	Closed Open
016	Cheboygan County	Closed Open	Closed Open
017	Sault Ste. Marie Unit	Closed Open	Closed
018	Clare County	Open	Open
019	Clinton County	Open	Open
020	Crawford County	Open	Open
021	Manistique Unit	Closed Open	Closed
022	Crystal Falls Unit	Open	Open
023	Eaton County	Open	Open
024	Emmet County	Open	Closed
025	Genesee County	Open	Closed
026	Gladwin County	Open	Open
027	Watersmeet Unit	Closed	Closed
028	Grand Traverse County	Open	Closed Open
029	Gratiot County	Open	Open
030	Hillsdale County	Open	Open
031	Nissula Unit	Closed Open	Closed
032	Huron County	Open	Open
033	Ingham County	Open	Open
034	Ionia County	Open	Open
035	Iosco County	Open	Open
036	Amasa/Michigamme Unit	Closed Open	Closed
037	Isabella County	Open	Open
038	Jackson County	Open	Open
039	Kalamazoo County	Open	Open
040	Kalkaska County	Closed Open	Closed Open
041	Kent County	Open	Open
042	Keweenaw Unit	Closed	Closed
043	Lake County	Open	Closed Open
044	Lapeer County	Open	Open
045	Leelanau County	Open	Closed Open
046	Lenawee County	Open	Open
047	Livingston County	Open	Open
048	Newberry Unit	Closed	Closed

050	Macomb County	Open	Open
051	Manistee County	Open	Closed Open
053	Mason County	Open	Closed Open
054	Mecosta County	Open	Open
055	Menominee Unit	Open	Open
056	Midland County	Open	Open
057	Missaukee County	Open	Closed Open
058	Monroe County	Open	Open
059	Montcalm County	Open	Open
060	Montmorency County	Open	Open
061	Muskegon County	Open	Open
063	Oakland County	Open	Open
064	Oceana County	Open	Open
065	Ogemaw County	Open	Open
066	Ontonagon County	Closed	Closed
067	Osceola County	Open	Closed Open
068	Oscoda County	Open	Open
069	Otsego County	Closed Open	Closed Open
070	Ottawa County	Open	Open
071	Presque Isle County	Open	Open
072	Roscommon County	Closed Open	Closed Open
073	Saginaw County	Open	Open
074	St. Clair County	Open	Open
075	St. Joseph County	Open	Open
076	Sanilac County	Open	Open
078	Shiawassee County	Open	Open
079	Tuscola County	Open	Open
080	Van Buren County	Open	Open
081	Washtenaw County	Open	Open
082	Wayne County	Open	Open
083	Wexford County	Open	Closed Open
115	Beaver Island	Open	Open
117	Drummond Island	Closed Open	Closed Open
121	Bay De Noc	Closed Open	Closed Open
122	Norway Unit	Open	Open
127	Ironwood Unit	Closed	Closed
131	Twin Lakes Unit	Closed	Closed
135	Tawas Unit	Open	Open
145	North Manitou Island	Closed	Open
149	Round/Bois Blanc Island	Closed Open	Closed Open
152	Gwinn Unit	Open	Closed Open
155	Gladstone Unit	Open	Open
162	South Newaygo Unit	Open	Open
173	Shiawassee Flats	Open	Open
174	St. Clair Flats	Open	Open
245	South Fox Island	Open	Open
249	Trout Lake Unit	Closed	Closed
252	Rock Unit	Open	Closed Open
255	La Branche Unit	Open	Open
262	North Newaygo Unit	Open	Closed
273	Shiawassee Unit	Open	Open
349	Engadine Unit	Closed	Closed
452	Core Area	Open	Open
486	SLP Multi-County Unit	Open	Closed
487	NLP Multi-County Unit	Open	Closed

3.110 North Manitou Island deer management unit, deer hunting seasons.

Sec. 3.110 (1) The open bow and arrow only deer hunting season shall be from October 1 through the last Friday of October within the North Manitou island deer management unit.

(2) The open firearm deer hunting season shall be ~~a total of 9 days from the last Saturday following the last Friday of in~~ October to ~~8 days thereafter~~ **November 13** within the North Manitou island deer management unit.

Issued on this 14th day of June 2012.

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

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 6 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 June 15, 2012, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.101 Deer hunting open seasons; type of deer that may be taken; carrying of firearms; season limit.

Sec. 3.101. (1) The open firearm deer season shall be from November 15 to November 30.

(2) The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 1 shall be a total of 10 days from the first Friday in December to nine days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 2 shall be a total of 10 days from the second Friday in December to nine days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 3 shall be a total of 17 days from the first Friday in December to 16 days thereafter.

(3) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510, a person hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured black-powder substitute, or a crossbow.

(4) The open bow and arrow season shall be from October 1 through November 14 and from December 1 through January 1.

(5) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510, during the open bow and arrow season, a person hunting deer with a bow and arrow or a crossbow shall not possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or any other firearm unless the person is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to firearm deer hunting.

(6) The late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Antrim, Alpena, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Oakland, Oceana, Oscoda, Ottawa, Presque Isle, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, and upon privately-owned lands within that portion of Newaygo county south of M-20, that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015, that portion of Arenac county within zone 3, and that portion of Arenac county east of M-65 within zone 2. Only a person possessing a valid antlerless deer license issued for the deer management unit in which they are hunting may take a deer during this season.

(7) The deer management assistance firearm hunt period shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon lands owned by federal, state, county, or local units of government, non-profit organizations, and other urban or suburban properties in zone 3. Only those areas with a wildlife division approved deer population management plan will be considered for issuance of these special deer management assistance permits. Only a person possessing a valid deer management assistance permit issued for this hunt period may take a deer with a firearm or a crossbow during this season.

(8) The season limit shall be 1 deer per firearm deer license, 1 deer per bow and arrow deer license, 1 deer per tag issued with a combination deer license, plus 1 deer per antlerless deer license.

(9) A person shall not purchase more than one firearm deer license or more than one bow and arrow deer license per calendar year.

(10) Except as provided by sections 3.101a, 3.101c and 3.101d, the kind of deer which may be taken during the respective open seasons for each combination of season and deer license type shall be as follows:

Type of license	Season in which used	Kind of deer that may be taken
Bow and arrow deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
Firearm deer license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season	Antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length, or antlerless deer in deer management unit 487
	Youth and 100% disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Regular	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer
	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season	Antlered deer, or antlerless deer in deer management unit 487
	Youth and 100% disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Restricted	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and black-powder firearms only season	A deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length, or antlerless deer in deer management unit 487
	Youth and 100% disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length

(10) (11) The early antlerless firearm deer season shall be a 5 2-day hunt starting ~~on the third Thursday in September~~ **the Saturday following September 15** upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Iosco, Montmorency, Oceana, Oscoda, and Presque Isle counties and upon privately owned lands within zone 3, and upon privately owned lands within those portions of Bay, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, and Muskegon counties within zone 2, and upon privately owned lands within that portion of Arenac county east of M-65 within zone 2 and that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015. Only a person possessing a valid private land

antlerless deer license issued for the deer management unit in which they are hunting or a mentored youth hunting license may take a deer during this season.

3.101e Youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.

Sec. 3.101e (1) The youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days shall be a 2-day hunt starting ~~the fourth Saturday in September~~ **the Saturday following September 15.**

~~(2) The youth early antlerless firearm hunting days shall be a 4 day hunt starting on the Tuesday prior to the fourth Saturday in September within dmu 041 and dmu 486.~~

~~(3)~~ (2) Individuals wishing to participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A youth ~~10 through~~ 16 years of age or less at the time of their hunt may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. **Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. Youth less than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public or private land or with a firearm on private land only.**

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A resident rated by the United States department of veterans affairs as individually unemployable may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

~~(4) Individuals wishing to participate in the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days must be 10 to 16 years of age at the time of their hunt.~~

~~(5)~~ (3) The following rules shall apply to a person taking deer on the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting ~~and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days:~~

(a) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter to go afield to hunt deer unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult ~~at least 18 years of age or older.~~ **Subject to section 43517, hunting by minor child, natural resource and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517. Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3) of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, natural resource and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510 and section 43517 hunting by minor child, natural resource and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517,** an adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter shall not possess or carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, except as a **qualified mentored youth hunting program mentor** or a veteran with 100 percent disability may possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow if hunting under the authority of section 3.101e(2b).

(b) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, local time.

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to persons participating in youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days ~~and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days.~~

~~(6) During the youth early antlerless firearm deer hunting days, hunters may take one antlerless deer for each antlerless deer hunting license they possess, valid for the unit in which they are hunting.~~

~~(7)~~ (4) During the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days a hunter may take one deer provided they possess a firearm or combination deer hunting license ~~or~~, an antlerless deer hunting license valid for

the unit in which they are hunting, **or a mentored youth license**. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, during the youth and 100 percent disabled firearm deer hunting days a firearm or combination deer hunting license is valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer.

3.102 Antlerless deer license; validity; authority; types; restrictions; units.

Sec. 3.102. (1) Antlerless deer licenses are only valid in their specified deer management unit when the unit has a season open to the taking of deer. Antlerless deer licenses do not grant permission to hunt on private property without the permission of the owner. A person purchasing an antlerless deer license over the counter shall do so in person.

(2) Antlerless deer licenses shall only be valid for taking an antlerless deer.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the holder of a valid public land antlerless deer license shall only take a deer from publicly owned lands within the deer management unit specified on the antlerless deer license. Public land antlerless deer licenses shall not be valid on any privately owned lands except lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.51101 to 324.51120 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(4) The holder of a valid private land antlerless deer license shall only take a deer from privately owned lands within the deer management unit specified on the private land antlerless deer license. The private land antlerless deer license shall not be valid on publicly owned lands and lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.51101 to 324.51120 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(5) The deer management units, as defined in chapter XII, listed in section 3.105a are open to the taking of antlerless deer by public land antlerless deer license or private land antlerless deer license, or any combination.

(6) The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, may require an application to obtain an antlerless deer license or may issue antlerless deer licenses through the retail sales system on a first-come, first-served basis for use in designated deer management units.

(7) The director in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission may issue antlerless deer licenses through the retail sales system on a first-come, first-served basis for use in designated deer management units when the director determines that antlerless deer licenses remain unsold after the drawing, provided for in section 3.104, has been held or where such issuance is in the best interest of deer management. An application for the current year is not required to purchase an antlerless deer license that remains after the drawing, provided for in section 3.104, has been held.

(8) Requirements; restrictions for young hunters:

(a) Young hunters 10 to 16 years of age on or before the 4th Saturday in September may purchase 1 private or public land antlerless deer license, over the counter, on a first-come, first-served basis, during the application period for antlerless licenses for any deer management unit with antlerless licenses available.

(b) Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license shall be valid for any deer in any deer management unit, except during antlerless-only seasons.

(9) For deer management units 452, 486, 487, a person shall not purchase more than 5 antlerless deer hunting licenses per calendar day until the quota has been met. For all other deer management units a person shall not purchase more than 2 antlerless deer hunting licenses per calendar day until the quota has been met.

(10) ~~For all deer management units except deer management units 486 and 487, a~~ A person may purchase up to a season limit of 5 private land antlerless deer hunting licenses ~~per calendar day~~ until the quota has been met.

3.105a Deer management units open to antlerless license quotas.

Sec. 3.105a (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section the status of each deer management unit for antlerless deer licenses shall be as follows:

DMU Number	DMU Name	Private Land License	Public Land License
001	Alcona County	Open	Open
003	Allegan County	Open	Open
004	Alpena County	Open	Open
005	Antrim County	Open	Closed Open
006	Arenac County	Open	Open
007	Big Bay Unit	Closed	Closed
008	Barry County	Open	Open
009	Bay County	Open	Open
010	Benzie County	Open	Closed Open
011	Berrien County	Open	Open
012	Branch County	Open	Open
013	Calhoun County	Open	Open
014	Cass County	Open	Open
015	Charlevoix County	Open	Closed-Open
016	Cheboygan County	Closed Open	Closed-Open
017	Sault Ste. Marie Unit	Closed-Open	Closed
018	Clare County	Open	Open
019	Clinton County	Open	Open
020	Crawford County	Open	Open
021	Manistique Unit	Closed-Open	Closed
022	Crystal Falls Unit	Open	Open
023	Eaton County	Open	Open
024	Emmet County	Open	Closed
025	Genesee County	Open	Closed
026	Gladwin County	Open	Open
027	Watersmeet Unit	Closed	Closed
028	Grand Traverse County	Open	Closed Open
029	Gratiot County	Open	Open
030	Hillsdale County	Open	Open
031	Nissula Unit	Closed Open	Closed
032	Huron County	Open	Open
033	Ingham County	Open	Open
034	Ionia County	Open	Open
035	Iosco County	Open	Open
036	Amasa/Michigamme Unit	Closed Open	Closed
037	Isabella County	Open	Open
038	Jackson County	Open	Open
039	Kalamazoo County	Open	Open
040	Kalkaska County	Closed Open	Closed-Open
041	Kent County	Open	Open
042	Keweenaw Unit	Closed	Closed
043	Lake County	Open	Closed Open
044	Lapeer County	Open	Open
045	Leelanau County	Open	Closed-Open
046	Lenawee County	Open	Open
047	Livingston County	Open	Open
048	Newberry Unit	Closed	Closed
050	Macomb County	Open	Open
051	Manistee County	Open	Closed Open
053	Mason County	Open	Closed Open

054	Mecosta County	Open	Open
055	Menominee Unit	Open	Open
056	Midland County	Open	Open
057	Missaukee County	Open	Closed Open
058	Monroe County	Open	Open
059	Montcalm County	Open	Open
060	Montmorency County	Open	Open
061	Muskegon County	Open	Open
063	Oakland County	Open	Open
064	Oceana County	Open	Open
065	Ogemaw County	Open	Open
066	Ontonagon County	Closed	Closed
067	Osceola County	Open	Closed Open
068	Oscoda County	Open	Open
069	Otsego County	Closed Open	Closed Open
070	Ottawa County	Open	Open
071	Presque Isle County	Open	Open
072	Roscommon County	Closed Open	Closed Open
073	Saginaw County	Open	Open
074	St. Clair County	Open	Open
075	St. Joseph County	Open	Open
076	Sanilac County	Open	Open
078	Shiawassee County	Open	Open
079	Tuscola County	Open	Open
080	Van Buren County	Open	Open
081	Washtenaw County	Open	Open
082	Wayne County	Open	Open
083	Wexford County	Open	Closed Open
115	Beaver Island	Open	Open
117	Drummond Island	Closed Open	Closed Open
121	Bay De Noc	Closed Open	Closed Open
122	Norway Unit	Open	Open
127	Ironwood Unit	Closed	Closed
131	Twin Lakes Unit	Closed	Closed
135	Tawas Unit	Open	Open
145	North Manitou Island	Closed	Open
149	Round/Bois Blanc Island	Closed Open	Closed Open
152	Gwinn Unit	Open	Closed Open
155	Gladstone Unit	Open	Open
162	South Newaygo Unit	Open	Open
173	Shiawassee Flats	Open	Open
174	St. Clair Flats	Open	Open
245	South Fox Island	Open	Open
249	Trout Lake Unit	Closed	Closed
252	Rock Unit	Open	Closed Open
255	La Branche Unit	Open	Open
262	North Newaygo Unit	Open	Closed
273	Shiawassee Unit	Open	Open
349	Engadine Unit	Closed	Closed
452	Core Area	Open	Open
486	SLP Multi-County Unit	Open	Closed
487	NLP Multi-County Unit	Open	Closed

3.110 North Manitou Island deer management unit, deer hunting seasons.

Sec. 3.110 (1) The open bow and arrow only deer hunting season shall be from October 1 through the last Friday of October within the North Manitou island deer management unit.

(2) The open firearm deer hunting season shall be ~~a total of 9 days~~ from the last Saturday following the last ~~Friday of~~ in October to ~~8 days thereafter~~ **November 13** within the North Manitou island deer management unit.

Issued on this 14th day of June 2012.

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

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director