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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING



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Antler Point Restriction (APR) Proposals Work Group

BACKGROUND: Some hunters believe that the procedure for nominating and implementing Antler Point Restrictions (APRs) under the Quality Deer Management process adopted in 1999 is too cumbersome and inefficient. In addition, there is a need to publically evaluate the process to assure that it is consistent with the guidance provided in the recently completed Michigan Deer Management Plan and its explicit emphasis on regional deer management. Finally, reflecting changes in the capacity and funding available to the Wildlife Division, there is a need to assure that prescriptive requirements of the process for adopting APRs is not excessively burdensome or costly. For all of these reasons, the Wildlife and Fisheries Sub-Committee of the Natural Resources Commission has elected to form a work group to evaluate protocols formerly guiding the nomination, implementation, and evaluation of mandatory Antler Point Restriction proposals. This work group will be comprised of hunters and representatives of hunting organizations so that the experiences, ideas, and practical wisdom of this affected community are part and parcel of the deliberation.

CHARGE: Review the previously established process for nomination, implementation, and evaluation of Antler Point Restriction proposals. On the basis of that review, and after discussion with the Regional Deer Advisory Teams, bring forward recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission on necessary changes, if any, to the process and the resource-based reason(s) for the recommendations. In particular, the work group will consider whether revisions are warranted to the nomination and implementation process that requires:

- (a) Sponsoring organizations submit proposals to the Wildlife Division Management Unit Supervisor two (2) years prior to implementation;
- (b) Wildlife Division publically notices potential implementation for one (1) year with details printed in hunting and trapping digests;
- (c) Wildlife Division holds public meetings to obtain input on APR proposals;
- (d) Wildlife Division survey hunters and landowners in the potentially affected area one (1) year prior to implementation with the requirement that $\geq 50\%$ of those receiving a survey respond and that $\geq 66\%$ of hunters and landowners support the proposed APR regulation.

Further, the work group will consider whether revisions are warranted to the current implementation and evaluation process that requires:

- (a) Wildlife Division survey hunters and landowners in the affected area after five (5) years to determine whether $\geq 66\%$ of hunters and landowners support the implemented APR regulation;

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- (b) Wildlife Division compare biological data for the five-year APR restriction period with the five (5) years prior to the restriction.

Finally, the former process and any proposed changes to it should be subject to a thorough review of the cost for implementing and administering the process.

CHAIR: J. R. Richardson

TIMEFRAME: The first meeting of the workgroup will occur prior to or following the October meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. Subsequent meetings will occur until (at least) each of the six issues above are addressed with the expectation of recommendations, if necessary, to the NRC at their regularly scheduled meeting in May, 2011.

MEMBERSHIP: Members for the work group will be solicited from the public. Deer hunting groups with Memoranda of Understanding with the Wildlife Division specifically, will be invited to apply.