

## **APPENDIX C: Summary of Comments received via Mail or Email during Public Comment Period (Feb. 17, 2009-Dec. 23, 2009)**

A public-comment period followed a series of eight public meetings that were held throughout the state. This process allowed people to mail or email their comments to the DNR regarding the development of the Deer Management Plan. From February 17 through December 23, 2009, the DNR received comments from 88 individuals that specifically addressed development of a deer management plan:

- Open archery season September 1.
- No antler restrictions in Delta County because it gives the impression hunters are just after antlers. If there are restrictions, they should not apply to youth. Last minute rule changes show lack of planning and create confusion.
- The deer herd is too small in DMU 083. Buck:doe ration has improved significantly. Land is suitable for a larger herd. Allow herd to recover when considering antlerless license quotas.
- One buck limit with six-point minimum for first deer, and eight-point for second.
- Few deer on public land in Roscommon, Ogemaw and Crawford counties.
- Improve buck quality. Rifle season is too long.
- Need better leadership from DNR.
- Lift the ban on baiting. The state is loosing hunters to other states.
- Need more antlerless licenses for public land. Supports the baiting ban. Enforce mandatory deer check. Implement earn-a-buck type regulations.
- Need to increase antlerless harvest. Antler point restrictions on both buck tags.
- Implement regulations designed to increase age and size of bucks.
- Allow baiting in the northern counties.
- Consider implementing earn-a-buck and antler point restrictions.
- Implement earn-a-buck and antler point restrictions.
- We have the right number of deer but need better quality.
- Too many deer in Michigan.
- Have a season where only does can be harvested.
- Public land in zone 2 has been abused and over hunted.
- Most parts of the state have an unbalanced buck:doe ratio and more does need to be harvested in many areas. Implement one buck limit.
- Implement earn-a-buck regulations. Get rid of crossbows.
- One buck limit. Harvest more does.
- Michigan is known for its high deer population, but management should focus on quality deer as well. One buck limit.
- Few quality bucks in Michigan. One buck limit and antler point restrictions. Keep Michigan hunters in the state.
- One buck limit.
- Enforce mandatory deer check. Promote deer hunting in Michigan.
- Ban baiting statewide. Opening day should be a Saturday. Improve buck:doe ratio by implementing a one buck limit.
- Improve quality of deer by enforcing antler point restrictions.

- Antlerless licenses should be two-for-one for non-resident hunters or discount second antlerless license.
- One buck limit. Shorten firearm season to one week. Raise license fees for non-residents.
- Survey hunters regarding deer management regulations.
- Lift the ban on baiting. Don't overreact to CWD.
- Don't cater to special interest groups or organizations.
- Expand crossbow seasons and zones.
- Maintain crossbow regulations.
- Youth hunt should be for antlerless deer only.
- Implement earn-a-buck and antler point restriction regulations.
- The current management program is good, but implement earn-a-buck type regulations.
- Use automated phone system for deer check.
- Implement earn-a-buck regulations. Youth hunt should be archery only. Increase non-resident license fees. Antler point restrictions for combo license.
- Lift the baiting ban to help the economy.
- Implement antler point restrictions and shoot more antlerless deer.
- Youth hunt prevents mature bucks from breeding.
- Provide more information on deer harvest.
- Not enough deer in Alcona County.
- Too few deer in Bay County and deer have become nocturnal.
- Buck:doe ration is imbalanced. Implement earn-a-buck regulations.
- Deer Management Units should be counties. Implement antler point restrictions, mandatory deer check, and earn-a-buck regulations.
- Buck:doe ratio is way off.
- Maintain baiting ban as a matter of principle.
- Sell deer baiting licenses. Implement mandatory deer check.
- There are 76 days of archery hunting, and only 16 for rifle, this is not fair. Increase deer license sales by advertising in surrounding states.
- Need better access, better deer management and better forest management on State Game Areas.
- Implement earn-a-buck regulations and tougher restrictions on buck harvest. Gun season should not be in the middle of the rut.
- Implement Quality Deer Management principles including antler point restrictions and earn-a-buck. Move opening day to Dec 1.
- Declining deer in northern and central Michigan. No quality deer. Implement antler point restrictions, better doe management. Allow limited baiting.
- There are fewer and fewer deer in Michigan. Reduce the amount of hunts. Get rid of the youth season.
- Implement antler point restrictions.
- Implement earn-a-buck regulations for 2 years.
- Deer population is down in the UP, need to manage wolf population.
- Winter is tough on deer in the UP and wolves need to be controlled.

- Issue more doe tags and less buck tags.
- Need higher quality deer. Listen to hunters not insurance agents.
- Too many antlerless permits given to farmers. Native Americans are harvesting too many deer. Baiting helps deer make it through the winter. Bovine Tb and CWD aren't that big of a problem.
- Archery license should be one doe or one buck. Implement antler point restrictions on firearm license. No more doe permits.
- No early season, no buck harvest under 6 points unless age 10-16 or 67+. Implement bag limits: one buck or doe with archery license and one buck and two does with firearm.
- Wolves are reducing the deer herd in the UP.
- Too many deer seasons. Deer and bear seasons shouldn't overlap.
- Deer populations are too low in the Mancelona area.
- Baiting ban should be for the entire state.
- Number of hunters in Michigan is decreasing. Too many antlerless licenses given out in Mecosta County.
- Long seasons and a firearm season during the peak of breeding season reduce the health of the trophy buck population.
- Too many wolves in the UP. Antlerless licenses should be free for at least five years. Implement antler point restrictions. Conservation Officers aren't friendly and helpful.
- Not enough deer.
- Wolves are decimating the deer population.
- Need an option on the harvest survey to add comments. Differences throughout areas of the state require different management. Wolf populations are too high. Deer populations are out of control in Southern Michigan. Implement earn-a-buck regulations.
- Too many deer taken by tribal members. They should have the same regulations as everybody else.
- Implement earn-a-buck and antler point restrictions. Buck tag for button bucks.
- No deer in the Watersmeet area.
- Herd does not have diverse age structure. Seasons are too long. Implement antler point restrictions.
- Michigan has poor quality whitetails. Implement antler point restrictions. One buck per year per hunter. Unlimited does per hunter within the quota. Increase cost of buck license. Youth hunt and early antlerless seasons should be combined.
- Lottery system for buck tags. One buck rule, no spikes. Two years of no bucks.
- Average hunters were not represented on the Deer Advisory Team. Some people just love to eat venison and spend time in the woods hunting.
- Too many antlerless tags and seasons. Limit hunters to one buck every 2 years.
- Too many antlerless licenses.
- DNR has destroyed the deer herd.
- Restrict the type and quantity of bait instead of eliminating it.
- Whoever pays for deer management (hunters) should get the most say.
- Wolves have decimated deer in Central UP. Winter can't take all the blame.