



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER  
DIRECTOR

May 9, 2022

TO: Dan Eichinger, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Field Dog Trials and Dog Training Using Captive-raised Birds at the Ionia Recreation Area Prohibited

Authority

Under the authority of Section 40108, 1994 Public Act 451, MCL 324.40108, the Director may issue an interim order if "...the department determines that animals are at risk of being depleted or extirpated, or the animal is threatening public safety or inflicting damage to horticulture, agriculture, or other property." Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus is highly transmissible, can cause die-offs in large numbers of wild and domestic birds, and impacts economic trade. Movement and release of captive-raised birds could pose a substantial risk near commercial poultry operations.

Discussion and Background

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in several states, including Michigan, in both wild and domestic birds, with new cases reported at an alarming pace.

In poultry and captive-raised birds, the current virus is highly contagious and often fatal. The virus is present in bodily fluids such as saliva, nasal secretions, and feces and can be transmitted directly from an infected bird or indirectly through people or objects contaminated with virus particles (e.g., animal pens and cages, bedding, perches, feathers, food, water, clothing, footwear, vehicles).

Movement and release of captive-raised birds can increase disease spread and for this reason, activities such as dog training and field dog trials are considered high risk. In particular, these activities could pose a substantial risk near commercial poultry operations. According to the Michigan Surveillance and Response Plan for Avian Influenza in Free-Ranging Wildlife, the Resident Canada Goose Program will not allow Canada geese to be translocated to any sites that are within a 10-mile buffer of a domestic poultry operation. Considering the Department's moratorium on moving geese, we believe human movement of other birds within this radius would also be applicable, particularly when movement is directed toward state-owned and managed lands. The Ionia Recreation area is located within 10-miles of a commercial poultry operation. The Department recommends prohibiting all field dog trials and dog training activities using captive-raised birds at the Ionia Recreation Area from May 16 through July 31, 2022.

Captive bird situations, like field dog trials, may promote transmission, because of close contact among birds and caregivers and potential contact with wild birds and wild bird habitat. Some of the currently scheduled events would be using anywhere from 50 to 300 birds. Many of the birds that are used for these events are purchased out of state and transported into Michigan.

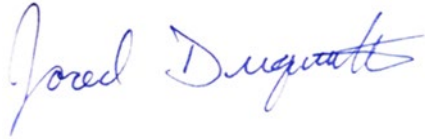
Field Dog Trials and Dog Training Using Captive-raised Birds at the Ionia Recreation Area  
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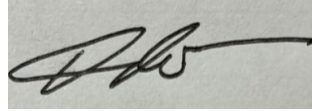
May 9, 2022

Recommendation:

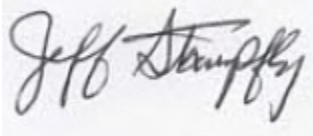
We recommend that this Interim Order be issued.



Jared Duquette, Chief  
Wildlife Division



David Shaw, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division



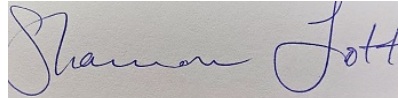
Jeff Stampfly, Chief  
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division



Shannon Lott  
Natural Resources Deputy

# **INTERIM ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

## **Amendment No. 1 of 2022**

Under the authority of section 40108, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40101, I HEREBY ORDER that effective May 16, 2022 and remaining effective until July 31, 2022, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **14.5 Dog training, unlawful acts.**

Sec 14.5 (1) It shall be unlawful for nonresidents to dog train on bear, bobcat, fox, coyote, raccoon, or opossum, except upon areas authorized in section 14.4 from April 16 to July 8; upon dog training areas established under Part 421 of 1994 PA 451, when participating in an authorized field dog trial, or when dog training on bear in Amasa, Bergland, and Carney BMUs.

(2) It shall be unlawful to begin to dog train on bear between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

(3) It shall be unlawful to dog train on bear or bobcat in an area where the state has not established an open season for those species at some time during the license year.

(4) It shall be unlawful to dog train on a captive, tethered, or caged bear.

(5) It shall be unlawful to dog train in state parks without permission of the land administrator.

(6) It shall be unlawful to dog train more than eight dogs on bear at any one time.

(7) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, it shall be unlawful for a person to possess a firearm other than a shotgun, pistol, or revolver or ammunition other than blank cartridges, while engaged in training dogs unless specifically authorized in writing by the director or by an authorized representative of the director.

(8) A person not listed as a field dog trial participant, or dog training in an area not open to nonresident training by subsection (1) shall carry proof of residency and shall produce proof of residency upon the demand of a conservation officer or other law enforcement officer.

**(9) A person shall not use captive-raised birds while training with a dog or participating in a field dog trial at the Ionia Recreation Area from May 16 through July 31, 2022.**

### **15.4 Field dog trial, unlawful acts.**

Sec. 15.4 (1) It shall be unlawful to conduct a field dog trial from April 16 through July 8 without maintaining a list of all trial participants at trial headquarters. The list shall be kept throughout the duration of the trial and shall be available for inspection at any time by any peace officer.

(2) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, it shall be unlawful for a person to possess a firearm other than a shotgun, pistol, or revolver or ammunition other than blank cartridges while engaged in field dog trials, unless otherwise specifically authorized in writing by the director.

**(3) A person shall not use captive-raised birds while training with a dog or participating in a field dog trial at the Ionia Recreation Area from May 16 through July 31, 2022.**

Issued on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Eichinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Eichinger  
Director