

Antler Point Restriction Guidelines



Chad Stewart, Deer and Elk Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
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DNR/NRC Guidelines, Initiation, Evaluation, and Review of Mandatory APRs

- Identify four keys to successful implementation of APRs
 - Willingness of the sponsoring parties to coordinate and support public information meetings
 - Support from both landowners and hunters
 - Regulations understandable and enforceable
 - Sufficient trial period for the regulation to impact herd structure



History of APR workgroups

- First formed APR workgroup in 1998
 - Guidelines adopted from Georgia
 - Regulations must protect >50% of yearling bucks
- Second group revised the policy in 2010
- At the request of the NRC, a third group was developed and updated the document in 2019



APR Workgroup Participants

- Michigan Quality Deer Management Association
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- United Sportsmen Alliance
- Michigan Bow Hunters
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- UP Whitetails
- Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council
- Oakland Hunt Club
- Thumb Hunters for APRs
- Michigan DNR Wildlife Division
- Michigan DNR Law Enforcement Division
- Michigan State University



Group Recommendations

- Expanded APR exemptions for Junior hunters (10-16) and for all hunters who qualify for the Independence hunt, and for all apprentice license holders
 - All individuals exempt from mandatory APRs, including the 4 point rule on the restricted tag of the combination license during all hunting seasons
 - Passed by NRC



Group Recommendations

- Reduce the threshold for APR recommendation to the NRC from 66% to 60%
 - Recommendation should not be subject to error estimate (ex. 59% support +/- 2%)
 - Percentage support not renegotiated for 10 years
 - DMAP and Damage Permit holders included in survey
 - Survey population should come from previous years participants, not simply from the preceding year
 - To be determined by the survey specialist



Group Recommendations

- Group agreed that a management framework should be put in place to meet benchmarks
 - Felt that this would entail the development of another work group
 - Recommended to be installed at a later date



Workgroup Results Presented to NRC

Deer Regulation Recommendations

Ashley Autenrieth, Deer Biologist
Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
May 14, 2020

Antler Point Restriction Recommendations

- Topics Covered:
 - Simplify Antler Point Rule exemptions
 - Current APR exemptions are confusing and difficult to communicate
 - Desire to increase opportunities and success for novice hunters
 - Supported by APR work group

License Type	Current APR exemption	Proposed APR exemption
Mentored Youth (age 9 and younger)	Exempt	Exempt in all seasons, regions and licenses
Junior (age 10-16)	Exempt in Liberty season only	Exempt in all seasons, regions and licenses
Apprentice holders	Not exempt	Exempt in all seasons, regions and licenses

All group members supported simplifying exemptions. One group did not support APR exemptions on the restricted tag of the combination license



July 2020 Resolution

- Department's APR Guidelines
 - Stay at 66% percent approval rating until active research study is conducted in the CWD zone is concluded or for five years, whichever is longer
 - No new surveys related to APRs until CWD study is concluded, or five years, whichever is longer
 - DNR cannot revise guidelines without approval by NRC and proper public vetting, comments, transparency



Thank You

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