

Commissioner Walters Amendment #2

Amendment to Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2025

I move to amend Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2025 to prohibit youth 16 years of age or less from taking antlered deer during the Liberty Hunt.

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, zone 2, and zone 3 shall be a total of 10 days from the first Friday in December to nine days thereafter.

(3) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, except as provided in subsection (5), an individual 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, muzzleloading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured blackpowder substitute, or a crossbow.

(a) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, except as provided in subsection (5), an individual hunting deer in the Lower Peninsula north of the limited firearms deer zone during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a weapon that is legal to possess or carry afield during the open firearm deer season.

(b) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, except as provided in subsection (5), an individual hunting deer in the Lower Peninsula south of the limited firearms deer zone during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a weapon that is legal to possess or carry afield during the open firearm deer season.

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

(a) Subject to all other provisions of this order, in the ~~urban~~ **January archery** deer management zone, as defined in chapter XII of this order, the open bow and arrow season shall be from October 1 through November 14 and from December 1 through January 31.

(5) Subject to section 43510(2) and (3), 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.43510, during the open bow and arrow season, as described in subsection (4), an individual hunting deer with a bow and arrow or a crossbow shall not possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or any other firearm unless:

(a) The individual is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to firearm deer hunting.

(b) The individual is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to the muzzleloading and black-powder firearms deer season in zone 2 and zone 3.

(c) An individual taking a deer under the terms and conditions of a disease control permit authorized under section 5.77 of this order may possess or carry a bow and arrow or crossbow, and a firearm, if applicable.

(6) An early antlerless firearm deer season shall be a two-day hunt starting the Saturday following September 15 upon public and privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Barry, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason,

Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford counties, upon **public and** privately owned lands within that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015, and upon **public and** privately owned lands within that portion of Leelanau county within deer management unit 045. Only an individual possessing a valid antlerless deer license, a mentored youth hunting license, a deer license, or a deer combination license may take a deer during this season. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license, deer license, or deer combination license shall be used to harvest an antlerless deer only.

(7) A late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from the Monday following the conclusion of the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms deer season through January 1 upon public and privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Antrim, Alpena, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford counties, upon **public and** privately-owned lands within that portion of Charlevoix county within deer management unit 015, and upon **public and** privately owned lands within that portion of Leelanau county within deer management unit 045. Only an individual possessing a valid antlerless deer license, a mentored youth hunting license, a deer license, or a deer combination license may take a deer during this season. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license, deer license, or deer combination license shall be used to harvest an antlerless deer only.

(8) 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 an individual 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.

(9) The season limit shall be 1 deer per deer license.

(10) Except as provided by subsection (12) and sections 3.101a, 3.101c, 3.101e, 3.101g, 3.101i, and 3.101k, the kind of deer which may be taken during the respective open seasons and zones for each combination of season and deer license, except antlerless deer license, shall be as shown in table 2:

TABLE 2
License, Season, Zone, Deer to be Taken

Type of license	Season in which used	Zone in which used	Kind of deer that may be taken
Deer license	Liberty hunt and independence hunt	Zones 1, 2, and 3	Antlerless or antlered deer subject to sections 3.101e and 3.101g and the following: (a) Antlered deer shall not be taken by youth 16 years of age or less during the Liberty hunt. Beginning with the 2025 deer hunting season, antlerless deer only. The provision for antlerless harvest only during the liberty and independence hunts will expire on July 12, 2029.
Deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Zone 1	Antlerless or an antlered deer, subject to the following:

			<p>(a) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 127, 066, 131, 042, 031, 007, and 048.</p> <p>(b) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 027, 036, 152, 252, 021, 349, 249, 149, 017, 117 after December 10.</p> <p>(c) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101a, 3.101c, and 3.101k.</p>
Deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Zones 2 and 3	<p>Antlerless or antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in section 3.101i.</p>
Deer license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and blackpowder firearms only season	Zone 1	<p>Antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101a, 3.101c, and 3.101k.</p>
Deer license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and blackpowder firearms only season	Zones 2 and 3	<p>Antlerless or antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in section 3.101i.</p>
Deer combination regular license	Liberty hunt and independence hunt	Zones 1, 2, and 3	<p>Antlerless or antlered deer, subject to sections 3.101e and 3.101g.</p> <p>Beginning with the 2025 deer hunting season, antlerless deer only. The provision for antlerless harvest only during the liberty and independence hunts will expire on July 12, 2029.</p>
Deer combination regular license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Zone 1	<p>Antlerless or an antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 127, 066, 131, 042, 031, 007, and 048.</p> <p>(b) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 027, 036, 152, 252, 021, 349, 249, 149, 017, 117 after December 10.</p> <p>(c) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101a and 3.101c.</p>
Deer combination regular license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Zones 2 and 3	<p>Antlerless or antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in section 3.101i.</p>
Deer combination regular license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and blackpowder firearms only season	Zone 1	<p>Antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in sections 3.101a and 3.101c.</p>
Deer combination regular license	Firearm deer season, muzzleloading and blackpowder	Zones 2 and 3	<p>Antlerless or antlered deer, subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) Antler point restrictions apply as provided in section 3.101i.</p>

	firearms only season		
Deer combination restricted license	Liberty hunt and independence hunt	Zones 1, 2, and 3	Antlerless or antlered deer subject to sections 3.101e and 3.101g and the following: (a) Antlered deer shall not be taken by youth 16 years of age or less during the Liberty hunt. Beginning with the 2025 deer hunting season, antlerless deer only. The provision for antlerless harvest only during the liberty and independence hunts will expire on July 12, 2029.
Deer combination restricted license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Zone 1	Antlerless or antlered deer, subject to the following: (a) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 127, 066, 131, 042, 031, 007, and 048. (b) Antlerless deer shall not be taken in DMUs 027, 036, 152, 252, 021, 349, 249, 149, 017, 117 after December 10. (c) Antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length.
Deer combination restricted license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Zones 2 and 3	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length.
Deer combination restricted license	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and blackpowder firearms only season	Zone 1	Antlered deer, subject to the following: (a) Antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length.
Deer combination restricted license	Firearm deer season or muzzleloading and blackpowder firearms only season	Zones 2 and 3	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length.
Mentored youth deer license	Liberty hunt	Zones 1, 2, and 3	Antlerless or antlered deer only , subject to sections 3.101e. and 3.101g. Beginning with the 2025 deer hunting season, antlerless deer only. The provision for antlerless harvest only during the liberty and independence hunts will expire on July 12, 2029.
Mentored youth deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons, firearm deer season, muzzleloading and blackpowder firearms only season	Zones 1, 2, and 3	Antlerless or antlered deer. Antler point restrictions do not apply.

(11) The director may authorize a disease management hunt lasting no longer than nine days between January 2 and March 31 where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet disease management objectives.

(12) Individuals possessing a deer license, deer combination regular license, or deer combination restricted license are exempt from antler point restrictions during all deer seasons as listed in table 2 if one of the following applies:

(a) The individual is a youth 16 years of age and younger. Individuals under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program.

(b) The individual is licensed under a base apprentice license.

(13) An extended late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from January 2 through the second Sunday in January upon public and privately owned lands within Allegan, Barry, Bay, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee, St. Clair (excluding deer management unit 174), Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, and deer management units 311, 312, and 332. Only an individual possessing a valid antlerless deer license, a mentored youth hunting license, a deer license, or a deer combination license may take a deer during this season. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license, deer license, or deer combination license shall be used to harvest an antlerless deer only. An individual may purchase up to a limit of 10 antlerless deer licenses for this season in addition to the season purchase limit described in section 3.102(8), however the bag limit for this season is 10 antlerless deer. An individual shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a weapon that is legal to possess or carry afield, or to take a deer with during the open firearm deer season for that respective county or deer management unit. This subsection shall sunset on the second Sunday in January of 2027.

3.101e Liberty hunt, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.

Sec. 3.101e (1) The liberty hunt shall be a 2-day hunt starting the second Saturday in September.

(2) Individuals wishing to participate in the liberty hunt shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A youth 16 years of age or less may participate in the liberty hunt. Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor.

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs may participate in the liberty hunt. Documentation from the United States department of veterans 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 liberty hunt. Documentation from the United States department of veterans affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(d) An individual is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt from a standing vehicle.

(e) An individual is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt using a laser sighting device.

(f) An individual is blind as defined by section 1 of 260 PA 1978, MCL 393.351.

(g) An individual is deaf as defined by section 2 of 72 PA 1978, MCL 408.202.

(3) The following rules shall apply to an individual taking deer on the liberty hunt:

(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 subject to section 43517 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43517. Subject to section 43510(2) and (3) of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43510 and

section 43517 of 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 an individual participating in the liberty hunt.

(4) **Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b),** ~~During the liberty hunt, an individual may take antlerless or antlered deer, except an individual shall not take more than one antlered deer,~~ provided they possess a deer license, deer combination license, an antlerless deer license valid for the unit in which they are hunting, or a deer license issued under the mentored youth license. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, licenses are valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer during the liberty hunt, except that an antlerless deer license is valid only for an antlerless deer.

(a) An individual shall not take more than one antlered deer.

(b) A youth 16 years of age or less shall not take antlered deer.

~~(5) Starting with the 2025 deer hunting season, during the liberty hunt, an individual may take antlerless deer, provided they possess a deer license, deer combination license, an antlerless deer license valid for the unit in which they are hunting, or a deer license issued under the mentored youth license. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, licenses are valid for an antlerless deer during the liberty hunt. The provision for antlerless harvest only during the liberty hunt will expire on July 12, 2029.~~