Chapter I

Title and Definitions

1.1 Short title.

Sec. 1.1 This order shall be known and may be cited as "the wildlife conservation order."

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 1, 1994, Eff. Sep 1, 1994; Am. 9, 1995, Eff. Jan 1, 1996.

1.2 Definitions.

Sec. 1.2 (1) Definitions in part 3 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.301; part 401, wildlife conservation, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40101 to 324.40119; and part 435, hunting and fishing licenses, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43501 to 324.43561, and in this order shall have the same meanings in this order. Additional definitions for terms used in this order are as defined in this section.

(2) “Advanced illness” means a medical or surgical condition with significant functional impairment that is not reversible by curative therapies and that is anticipated to progress toward death despite attempts at curative therapies or modulation, the time course of which may or may not be determinable through medical prognostication.

(3) “Antlered deer” means a deer having at least 1 antler that extends 3 inches or more above the skull. For the purposes of determining if an antler extends 3 or more inches above the skull, the measurement shall be taken on the longest antler beginning at the line where the antler and pedicel join, along the back of the antler, following the curve, if any, to the tip of the longest antler point. For the purposes of this section, “pedicel” means the bone of the skull to which the antler is attached.

(4) “Antlerless deer” means a deer without antlers or a deer with antlers where the longest antler extends less than 3 inches above the skull.

(5) “CWD management zone” means an area defined in chapter XII of this order subject to Michigan’s surveillance and response plan for chronic wasting disease.

(6) “Core CWD area” means an area defined in chapter XII for the control and surveillance of chronic wasting disease.

(7) “Deer and elk feeding” shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40102 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40102.

(8) “Feed” shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40102 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40102.

(9) “Game” means any animal designated as game under the authority of section 40110 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40110, and any of the following animals: badger, bear, beaver, bobcat, brant, coot, coyote, crow, deer, duck, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, fox, geese, hare, Hungarian partridge, marten, mink, moose, muskrat, opossum, otter, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, ruffed grouse, sharptailed grouse, skunk, snipe, sora rail, squirrel, Virginia rail, weasel, wild turkey, wolf, woodchuck, and woodcock. “Game” does not include privately owned cervidae species located on a cervidae livestock facility registered under 2000 PA 190, MCL 287.951 to 287.969.

(10) “Migratory game bird” means a bird as defined by 50 C.F.R. §20.11 (1988).

(11) “Modified bow” means a bow, other than a crossbow, that has been physically altered so that the bow may be held, aimed, and shot with one arm.

(12) “New world camelids” means animals belonging to the genus llama and vicuna of the family camelidae of the order artiodactyla including, but not limited to, the llama, alpaca, vicuna, and guanaco.

(13) “Physical therapist” means the same as defined in article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17801.

(14) “Physician” the same as defined in article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17001.

(15) “Raptor” means any bird species of the orders strigiformes, accipitriformes, and falconiformes.

(16) “Residence” shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40103 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40103.

(17) Repealed; Am. 6, 2026, Eff. May 24, 2026.

Publishers Note: The repealed section pertained to the “limited firearms deer zone.” The limited firearms deer zone was repealed effective September 12, 2026.

(18) “Waterfowl hunting north zone” or “north zone” means all of the Upper Peninsula.

(19) “Waterfowl hunting middle zone” or “middle zone” means that area of the Lower Peninsula located north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line in Lake Michigan, directly due west of the mouth of Stoney creek in section 31, T14N R18W, Oceana county, then proceed easterly and southerly along the centerline of Stoney creek to its intersection with Scenic drive, southerly on Scenic drive to Stoney lake road in section 5, T13N R18W, Oceana county, easterly on Stoney lake road then both west and east Garfield roads (name change only; not an intersection) then crossing highway US-31 to state highway M-20 (north of the town of New Era; also locally named Hayes road) in section 33, T14N R17W, Oceana county, easterly on M-20 through Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties to highway US-10 business route in the city of Midland, easterly on US-10-BR to highway US-10 at the Bay county line, easterly on US-10 then crossing US-75 to state highway M-25 (west of the town of Bay City), easterly along M-25 into Tuscola county then northeasterly and easterly on M-25 through Tuscola county into Huron county, turning southeasterly on M-25 (near the town of Huron city; also locally named north Shore road) to the centerline of Willow creek in section 4, T18N R14E, Huron county, then northerly along the centerline of Willow creek to the mouth of Willow creek into Lake Huron, then directly due east along a line from the mouth of Willow Creek heading east into Lake Huron to a point due east and on the Michigan/USA-Canadian border.

(20) “Waterfowl hunting south zone” or “south zone” means all of that area of the Lower Peninsula south of the line described in middle zone.

(21) “Zone 1” means all of the Upper Peninsula.

(22) “Zone 2” means all of that part of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the MichiganWisconsin boundary line due west of the Lake Michigan shoreline which is north of Muskegon lake and due west of the western terminus of memorial drive at Scenic drive in Muskegon county, then easterly to said western terminus of memorial drive at Scenic drive, easterly on memorial drive to Ruddiman drive, northeasterly on Ruddiman drive to lake avenue, northeasterly on lake avenue to highway M-120 (also known as Holton road) in North Muskegon, northeasterly and then northerly on highway M-120 to highway M-20, easterly on highway M-20 to highway business route US-10 in the city of Midland, easterly on combined highway M-20 and highway business route US-10 to highway US-10 at the Midland-Bay county line, easterly on highway US-10 to Garfield road in Bay county, northerly on Garfield road to Pinconning road, easterly on Pinconning road to seven mile road, northernly on seven mile road to the Bay-Arenac county line (where seven mile road changes name to Lincoln school road), northerly on Lincoln school road (also known as county road 25) in Arenac county to highway M-61, easterly on highway M-61 to highway US-23, northeasterly then easterly on highway US-23 to the center line of the Au Gres river, southernly along the center line of the Au Gres river to Saginaw bay of Lake Huron, easterly 90° east for 7 miles into Saginaw bay, then northernly 78° east (dividing Arenac county islands from Huron county islands) to the international boundary line between the United States and the dominion of Canada.

(23) “Zone 3” means all that part of the Lower Peninsula south of the line described in zone 2.

(24) “Skull cap” means any part of the skull that includes the pedicel and the antlers originating from the frontal bones, that has been removed from the rest of the skull of the animal.

(25) “Core CWD surveillance area” means an area defined in chapter XII for the surveillance of chronic wasting disease.

(26) “Fixed shotgun shell” means a self-contained shotgun shell consisting of the case, primer, propellant charge, and projective or projectiles.

(27) “Developmental disability” means that term as defined in section 100a of the mental health code, 16 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1100a.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 3, 1997, Eff. Jun 1, 1997; Am. 10, 2001, Eff. Jul 1, 2001; Am. 8, 2002, Eff. Jun 8, 2002; Am. 13, 2013, Eff. Jul 12, 2013: Am. 6, 2014, Eff. June 13, 2014; Am. 9, 2015, Eff. Aug. 14, 2015; Am. 12, 2018, Eff. Aug. 10, 2018; Am. 7, 2019, Eff. July 12, 2019; Am. 4, 2020, Eff. Apr. 17, 2020; Am. 1, 2021, Eff. Mar. 12, 2021; Am. 7, 2024, Eff. Aug. 8, 2024; Am. 8, 2024, Eff. Sept. 12, 2024; Am. 6, 2026, Eff. May 24, 2026.