



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

December 15, 2017

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Private-Land Disease Management Firearm Deer Hunt for Certain Lands
in Alpena County

Authority:

The Department may issue orders under Part 401, Wildlife Conservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, designating the type of deer that may be taken and the geographic area in which a license is valid, when advisable in managing deer. A disease management deer hunt may be established in accordance with Section 3.101 of the Wildlife Conservation Order. The Director is authorized to establish a disease management deer hunt lasting no longer than nine days between January 2 and March 31 where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet disease management objectives.

Disease Management Firearm Deer Hunt for Certain Lands in Alpena County:

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that is close to being eradicated in the United States, but still poses a significant risk to domestic livestock, wildlife, companion animals, and humans throughout the world. The Department is a part of the Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Project (Project) involving a multi-agency team of experts from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Michigan State University (MSU), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In April of 2017, the Project hosted a public meeting for citizens in Alpena and Alcona counties in order to discuss the 70th livestock infected herd in the area and to educate attendees regarding the importance of biosecurity to stop the spread of the disease. Over 300 free-ranging, white-tailed deer have been tested for TB in Alpena County in 2017 and five have been confirmed as positive for the disease.

Accordingly, the Department recommends establishing a disease management firearm antlerless deer hunt on private land only in a certain area of Alpena County from January 4 through January 7, 2018 and from January 11 through January 14, 2018 in order to help manage the free-ranging deer population. The disease management firearm deer hunt is recommended to take place in the area of Alpena County south of M-32.

The following measures are recommended to be established:

- Licenses, including a deer license, combination deer license, or a private-land antlerless deer license for DMU 487 are valid.
 - Only antlerless deer may be tagged.
- All rules and regulations for the firearm deer season apply.
- Disease Control Permits will be provided to landowners.

Administrative:

The Department recommends extending the purchase date for licenses valid in DMU 487 to January 14, 2018.

Recommendation:

We recommend the disease management firearm deer hunt be established as described above.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

for DB



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Kristin Phillips, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division

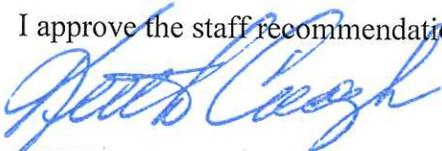


Bill O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy



Mark Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendation with an effective date of December 15, 2017.



Keith Creagh, Director

December 15, 2017

Date