

Deer Regulation Recommendations

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Background

- Provide expanded opportunities for declining hunter base
 - Have lost ~300,000 hunters over the past 20 years
 - We will lose >100,000 hunters over next decade
 - Only ~15% of hunters take 2 or more deer; only 4% of hunters take 3 or more deer
- Emphasis on simplifying deer regulations



Topics in Current Order

- Eligibility for deaf individuals in Liberty/Independence hunts
- Antler Point Restriction exemptions
- Standardized private land antlerless limits
- Orange on ground blinds
- Standard baiting regulations during Liberty/Independence hunts
- Quota changes



Topics in Current Order

- Resume antlerless opportunities for archers in the UP
- Remove APRs from remainder of DMU 122
- Allow antlerless take during firearms/muzzleloader season with deer/combo
- Early/late antlerless seasons in LP
- License eligibilities in early/late antlerless season



Topics in Current Order

- Muzzleloader/Late Antlerless season changes
- Equipment use in Muzzleloader season
- Carcass movement restrictions
- Continued expansion of late archery in 3 counties



Responses to Questions



Question 1:

- Should the UP regulations be different East and West of US 41?
 - Antlerless archery harvest
 - 2012-14: ~5,200 (avg) 2015: ~760
 - 2018: ~1,270 2019: ~1,720
- Regulation resumption translates to ~3,000-3,500 antlerless deer
 - Regulation applied to ~13,000+ square miles
 - <1 deer per 4 square miles



Question 2:

- Can you consider removal of APR on combo tag and allow crossbows in late archery in the UP?
 - Department is discussing UP management framework currently for 2021



Question 3:

- Should the muzzleloader season still be called muzzleloader season?
 - Department would consider clarifying descriptive language if regulation is passed



Question 4:

- Can you examine quotas for public land antlerless licenses and consider expansion to increase opportunity and disease surveillance?
 - Public land currently sells out for all 6 open units
 - Department is discussing UP management framework currently for 2021



Question 5:

- What are harvest results from CWD-APR experimental area?
 - 2018 (Non-APR)*
 - Antlered: 9,275
 - Antlerless: 7,777
 - Total: 17,052
 - Hunters: 29,519
 - Antlerless/Antlered: 0.83
 - 2019 (Non-APR)*
 - Antlered: 9,895 (+6.7%)
 - Antlerless: 8,200 (+5.4%)
 - Total: 18,095 (+6.1%)
 - Hunters: 27,971
 - Antlerless/Antlered: 0.83

* Estimates subject to additional analysis



Question 5:

- What are harvest results from CWD-APR experimental area?

- 2018 (APR)*

- Antlered: 12,727

- Antlerless: 10,091

- Total: 22,818

- Hunters: 33,204

- Antlerless/Antlered: 0.79

- 2019 (APR)*

- Antlered: 9,476 (-25.5%#)

- Antlerless: 11,230 (+11.3%)

- Total: 20,706 (-9.3%)

- Hunters: 31,379

- Antlerless/Antlered: 1.19

* Estimates subject to additional analysis

Significant difference from 2018



Thank You

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Hunter Orange Requirement for Ground Blinds on Public and Private Lands

June 11, 2020
Lt. Thomas R. Wanless



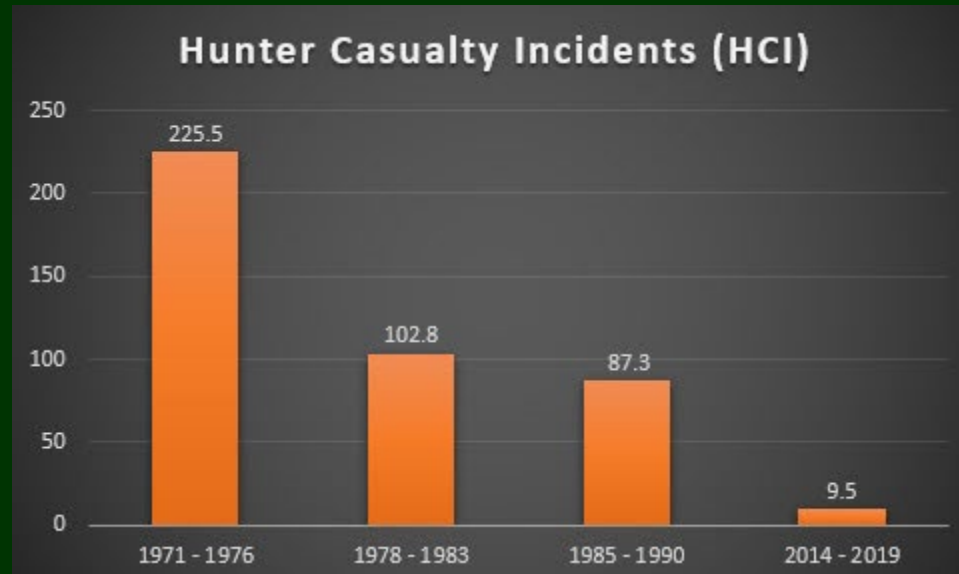


Hunter Orange

- Hunter Orange was required in 1977 on public lands
- In 1984 it was modified to include all lands open to hunting
- Hunter Casualty Incidents (HCI) significantly dropped after each of those law changes for hunter orange
- Hunter Orange is one of the two primary reasons HCIs remain extremely low today



Hunter Orange Impact on HCIs





Safety Concern

- The purpose of Hunter Orange is to be seen by others as a human being or something other than game
- Ground blinds are designed to conceal the hunter from the quarry
- An individual wearing hunter orange outerwear stands out in the natural environment
- A hunter can see another individual in hunter orange so long as their view of that individual is not obstructed
- An enclosure such as a ground blind would obstruct the hunter's view of the individual wearing hunter orange



Hunter Orange on Blinds in Other States

State	Hunter Orange Required on Ground Blinds	Public Land	Private Land
Ohio	No	N/A	N/A
Minnesota	No	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes**	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes
* Or within 15 feet of the blind			
** Or within 25 feet of the blind			





Hunting Incidents

International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Hunting Incident Database

Search Criteria – 2010 to Current while Deer Hunting

- Shooter failed to ID target - 90 incidents
- Shooter failed to look beyond target - 68 incidents
- Victim out of site of shooter - 99 incidents
- Swinging on game - 46 incidents

Results

- 303 total incidents with one of the above as the “Major Factor”
- 12 were from Michigan (3.9%)
- Cannot confirm whether the victim was in a blind or not due to data collection





Hunting Incidents

State of Michigan Hunting Incident Database

Search Criteria – 2010 to Current

- Same as we used for IHEA database.

Results

- 12 out of 53 Deer Hunting HCIs (22.6%) involved at least one of the search criteria
- 3 of the 12 HCIs confirmed victim was in a blind
 - All on private land
 - 2 ground blind
 - 11-15-2010 Newaygo County, Non-Fatal
 - 11-16-2011 Mecosta County, Fatal
 - 1 elevated blind
 - 11-26-2016 Branch County, Fatal



Points of Interest

- The safety of all individuals is a priority for the department
- There is not a lot of data out there specific to injury/death when the innocent victim was in an enclosure (blind)
- With record low HCIs it is hard to have any data to support more regulations
- This is a proactive approach to avoid a tragedy
- Needed on all lands
 - Recreational Trespass is one of the major complaints in hunting.
 - Recreational Trespass is done on private property
 - This is a safety concern





Thank You

Lt. Thomas R. Wanless

