

# Deer Regulation Recommendations

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# Background

- Major emphasis on simplifying deer regulations
- Provide expanded opportunities for most hunters
  - Concern for “overharvest” throughout much of Michigan waning
    - 1998: ~837,000 hunters; ~598,000 deer harvested
    - 2018: ~554,000 hunters; ~361,000 deer harvested
    - 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



# Expanded opportunities in Liberty/Independence Hunts

- Individuals who are deaf now eligible to participate in these hunts
  - If they receive information through lip reading, sign language, finger spelling, or reading, they will qualify



# Antler Point Restriction Policy Changes

- Meeting held September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019:
  - Professionally facilitated meeting
    - Attendees from DNR, Farm Bureau, Michigan Bow Hunters, MUCC, Oakland Hunt Club, Thumb Hunters for APRs, QDMA, West UP CAC, United Sportsmen's Alliance, and UP Whitetails
  - Topics Covered
    - How to simplify exemptions for APRs?
    - What supporting percentage should trigger a Departmental recommendation from the survey?
    - Can a management framework be developed that includes comprehensive deer management considerations?



# 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



# Antler Point Restriction Policy Changes

- Topics Covered
  - What supporting percentage should trigger a Departmental recommendation from the survey?
    - For APR implementation, surveys must now obtain a 60% support level rather than a 66% level.
      - Support percentage to be maintained for at least 10 years.
  - Ten-year moratorium on failed initiatives.
  - A percentage of survey respondents must include DMAP and Crop Damage permit holders from affected areas.
  - Survey respondents and how many years to query hunters will be determined by DNR survey specialist and deer program.
  - Consensus reached by all members.



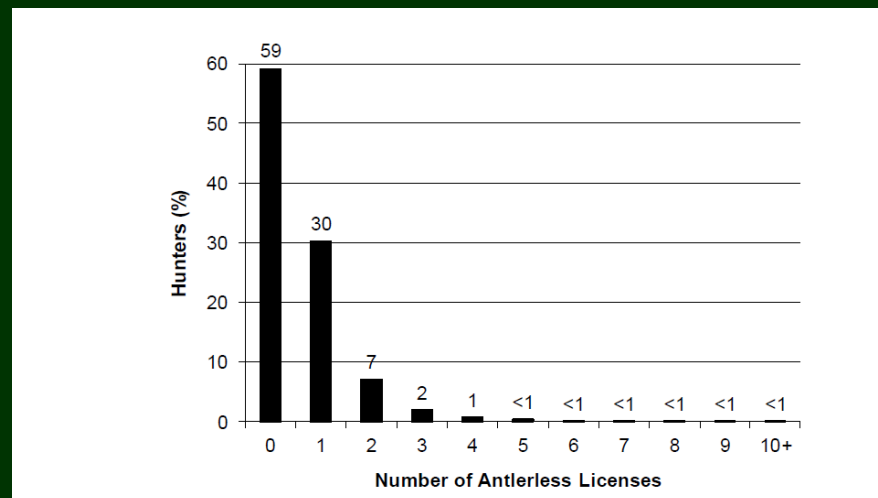
# Antler Point Restriction Policy Changes

- Topics Covered
  - Can a management framework be developed that includes comprehensive deer management considerations?
    - Group agreed to having some management framework in place that includes benchmarks or metrics.
    - Agreed other representation is needed.
    - Delayed action for a future work group
    - Consensus reached by all members



# Standardized Private Land Antlerless limits

- Recommendation:
  - Standardized private land antlerless caps
    - Recommend 10 private land antlerless licenses across all DMUs; currently 5 except in disease areas
    - Better allows hunters to control deer without need for biologists to issue DMAPS to hunters who need more than 5 licenses



2018 Deer Harvest Survey (Frawley)





# Hunter Orange on Occupied Ground Blinds

- Recommendation:
  - Require ground blinds to have 144 square inches of orange visible from 360 degrees while deer hunting
    - Applicable on all hunting lands
    - When orange is required (not early archery)
    - Wearing hunter orange can substitute, if visible
    - Not applicable to elevated stands and blinds

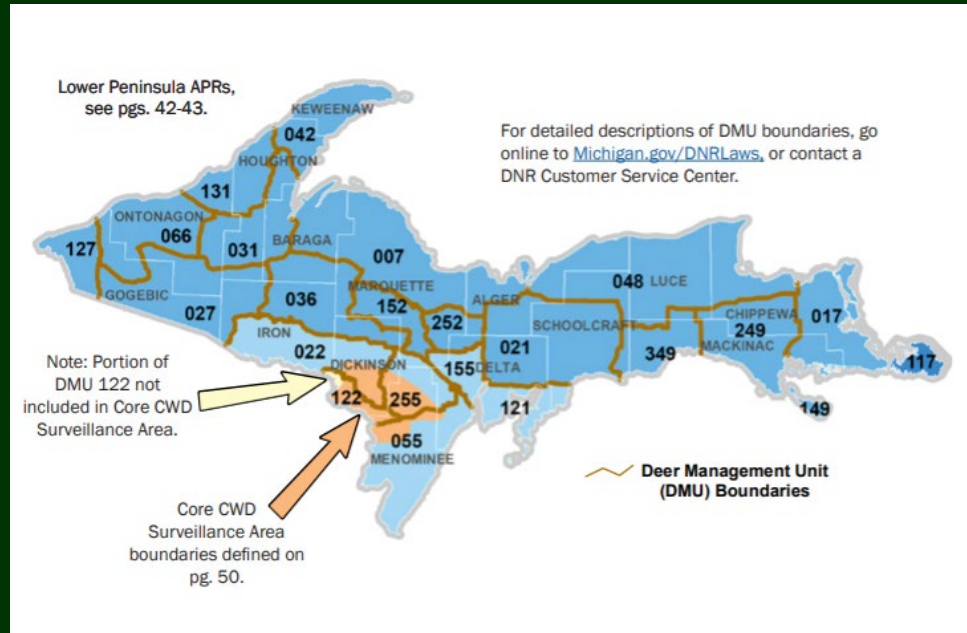


# Eliminate Single-Bite Bait Language

- Recommendation:
  - Standardize baiting language for the Liberty and Independence seasons
    - Baiting allowed in Liberty and Independence hunts for qualified individuals (6 days)
    - Decision made to allow single-bite baits in disease management units
    - No evidence that single bite baits are more effective at slowing transmission
    - Confusing to hunters



# UP Quota Changes



## UP Antlerless Deer License Quota Recommendations

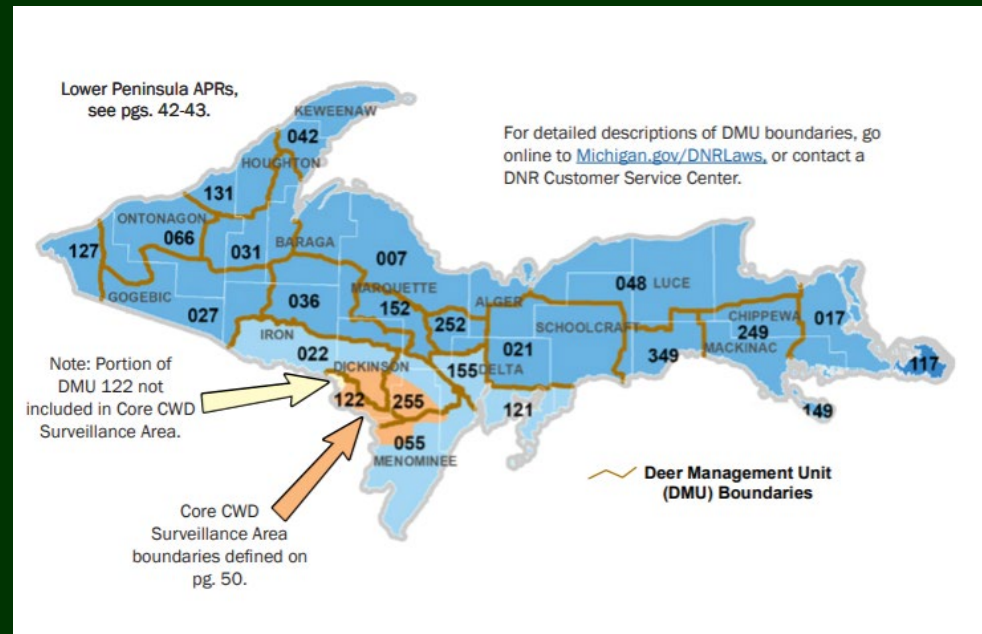
	2019			2020 (recommended)		
DMU	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
121	480	800	1,280	500	800	1,300
122	240	1,000	1,240	300	1,000	1,300
155	360	1,800	2,160	400	1,800	2,200
Totals	1,080	3,600	4,680	1,200	3,600	4,800



# UP Deer/Combo License Changes

## Recommendation:

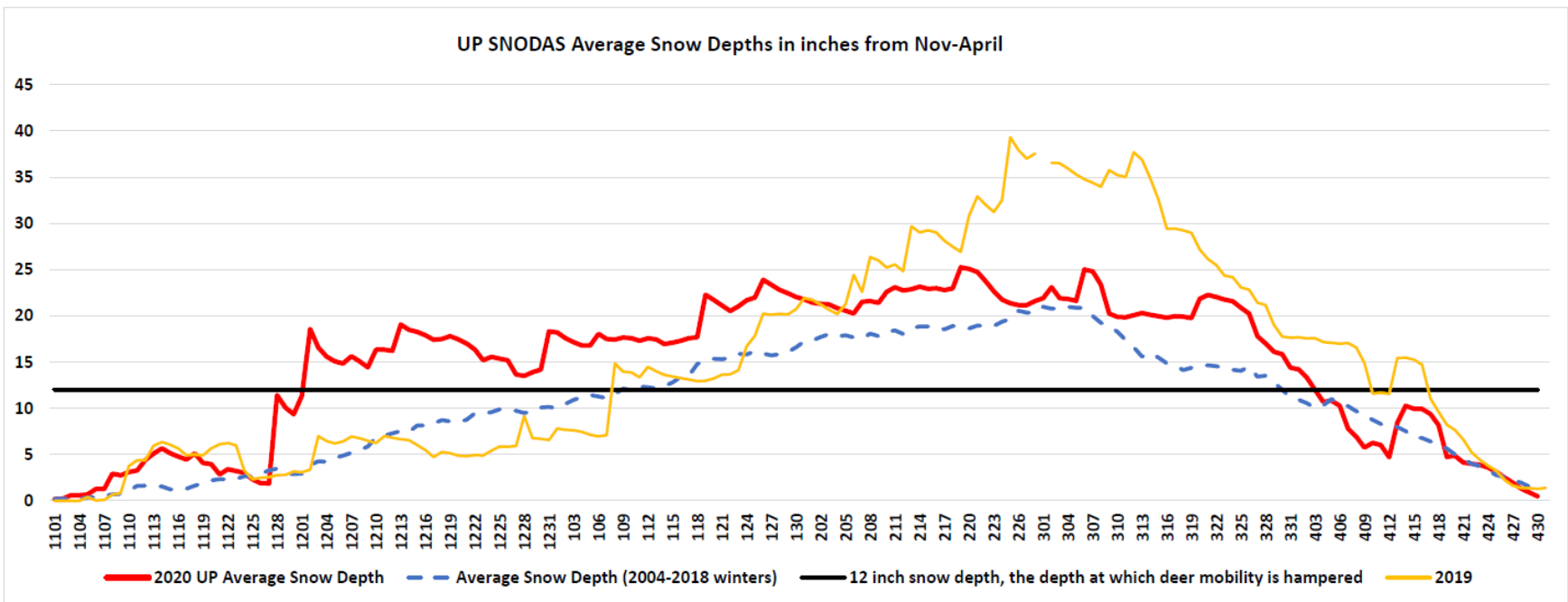
- Resume antlerless option for archery across UP



Current regulations throughout most of UP



# UP Deer Trends



# UP Deer Trends

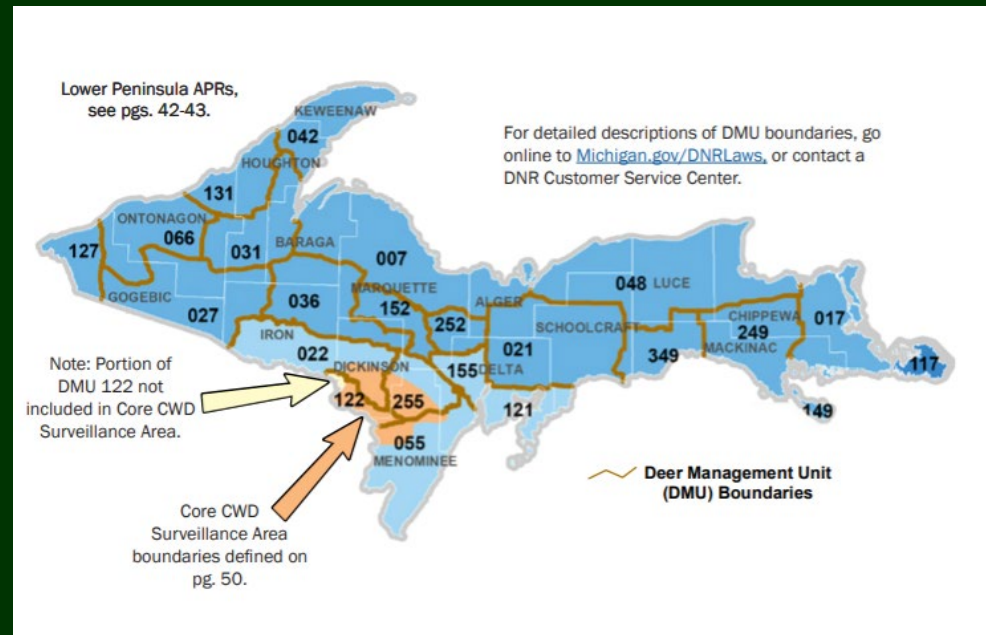
Upper Peninsula Harvest Trends (2010-2018)		
Year	Antlered	Antlerless
2010	30,603	11,615
2011	30,044	13,356
2012	35,974	13,474
2013	28,914	11,312
2014	19,462	6,469
2015	17,051	2,826
2016	20,010	2,571
2017	30,520	4,760
2018	30,535	4,896



# UP Deer/Combo License Changes

## Recommendation:

- Resume antlerless option for archery across UP
- Remove APR in DMU 122 outside of CWD core



## Current regulations throughout most of UP





# UP Deer/Combo License Changes

- Last year
  - Partial reinstatement of antlerless opportunities last year
  - APRs removed in most of DMU 122 last year

		Seasons		
		Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader
<b>Deer License</b>		 or 		
<b>Deer Combo License</b>	Regular Tag	 or 		
	Restricted Tag	 or 		
<b>Deer License</b>		 or 		
<b>Deer Combo License</b>	Regular Tag	 or 		
	Restricted Tag	 or 		

Proposed regulations throughout most of UP (except Drummond Island)





*It's time for the intermission!*



*Let's grab ourselves a snack!*



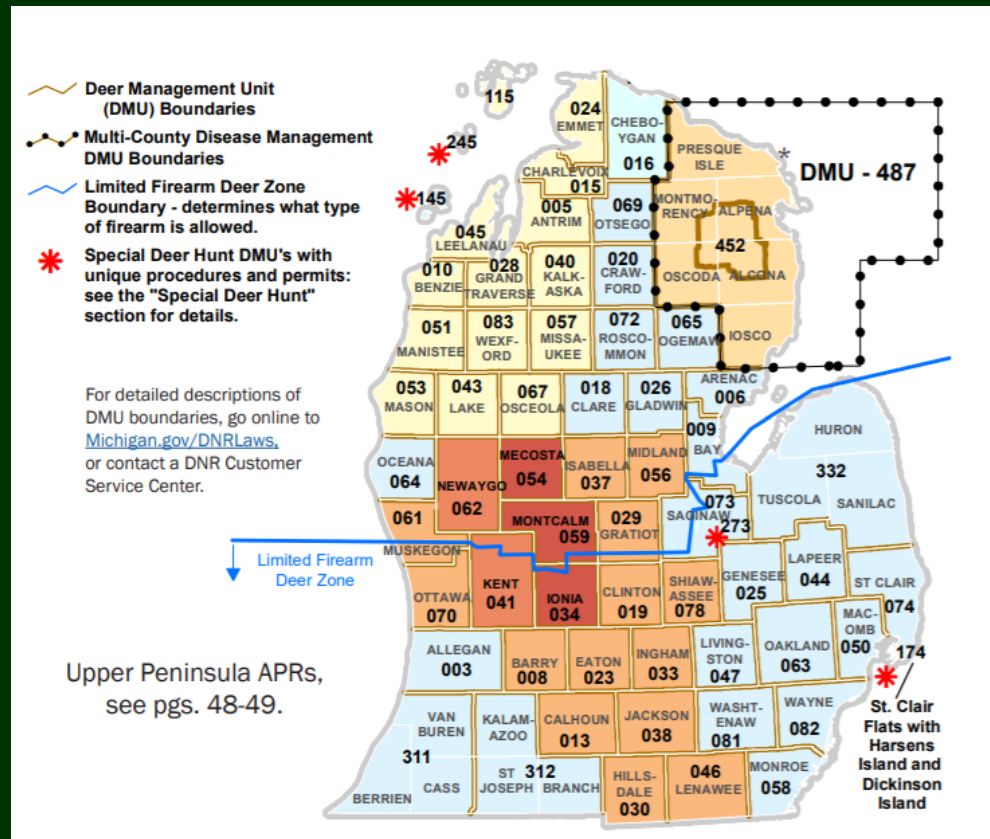
# LP Quota Changes

- Increases to public land on 23 DMUs
- Increases to private land on 12 DMUs
- Increases represent:
  - changes in management philosophy
    - ex. Allegan County and EHD recovery
  - meeting demand
    - ex. Newaygo County sells out all public applications, but about  $\frac{1}{4}$  fail to purchase their successful draw



# LP Deer/Combo License Changes

- Recommendation:
  - Allow antlerless deer to be taken during firearms/muzzleloader seasons
  - Maintain APRs based on support from previous surveys
  - Maintain experimental regulations for CWD

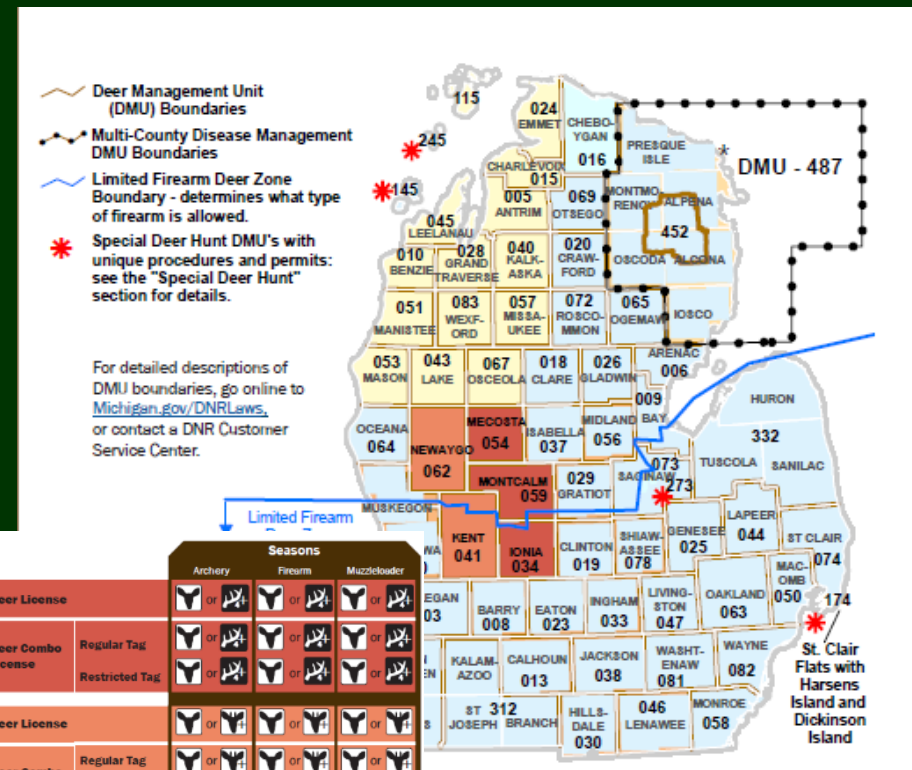


Current regulations throughout LP



# LP Deer/Combo License Changes

- Simplifies regulations for hunters
- Long-term, will slow the decline of antlerless harvest associated with fewer hunters
- Anticipate decreased antlerless and deer license purchases
  - Increased combo license purchases



Proposed map (2020)

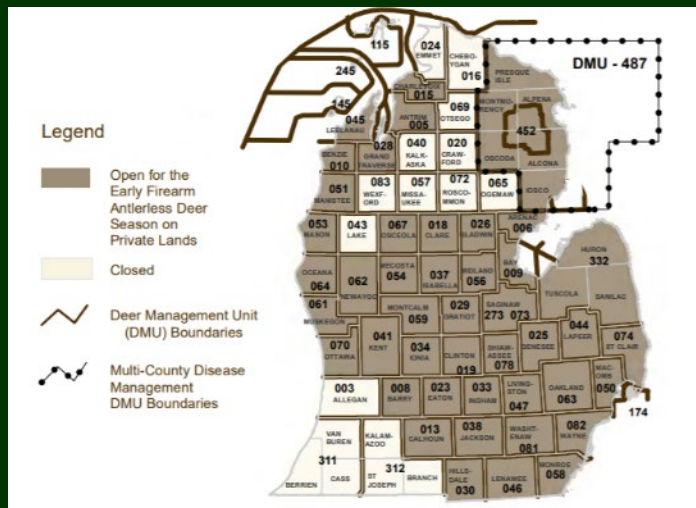
		Seasons		
		Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader
Deer License				
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag			
	Restricted Tag			
Deer License				
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag			
	Restricted Tag			
Deer License				
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag			
	Restricted Tag			



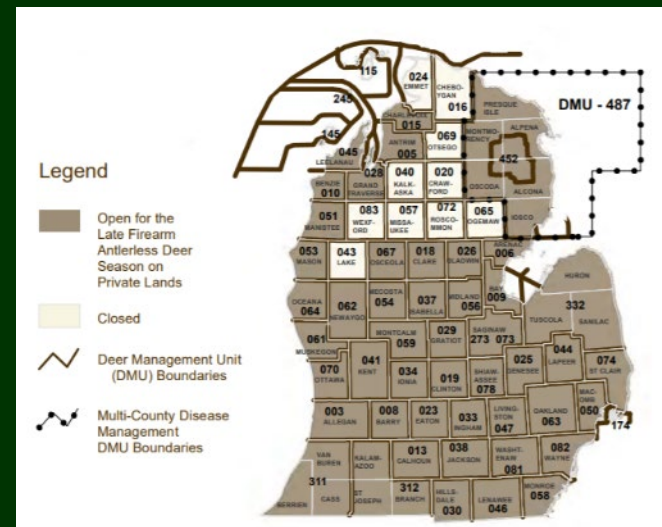


# Early/Late Antlerless Seasons

- Recommendation:
  - Open entire LP to early and late antlerless firearm season.
  - Mainland DMU's only; islands still closed



## 2019 Early Antlerless Season



## 2019 Late Antlerless Season



# Early/Late Antlerless Season License Eligibilities

- Recommendation:
  - Allow antlerless deer to be taken on a deer/combo license during early and late antlerless seasons
  - Currently allowed in disease areas
  - Provides consistency across all areas where seasons are allowed

		Seasons			Early/Late Antlerless
		Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Deer License		 or 	 or 	 or 	
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	 or 	 or 	 or 	
	Restricted Tag	 or 	 or 	 or 	

Season (2018)	Antlerless Success	Participants	Antlerless Harvest
Archery	13.2%	294,730	43,235
Firearms	12.8%	483,341	65,824
Muzzleloader	10.8%	137,634	15,339
Late Antlerless	26.0%	57,973	16,167



# Muzzleloader & Late Antlerless Season Date Changes

- Recommendation:
  - Change dates of muzzleloader and late antlerless seasons
    - Shorten muzzleloader season to 10- day season
    - Late antlerless begins Monday after muzzleloader concludes
    - Provides consistency across all regions
    - Expands late antlerless in NLP
    - Shortens MZ in SE and SW, but expands late antlerless in both

For 2020 season (with existing regulations)

Current Season Dates (2020)	Muzzleloader	Late Antlerless
NLP	Dec 4-13	Dec 21-Jan 1
SW	Dec 4-20	Dec 21-Jan 1
SE	Dec 4-20	Dec 21-Jan 1

For 2020 season (with proposed change)

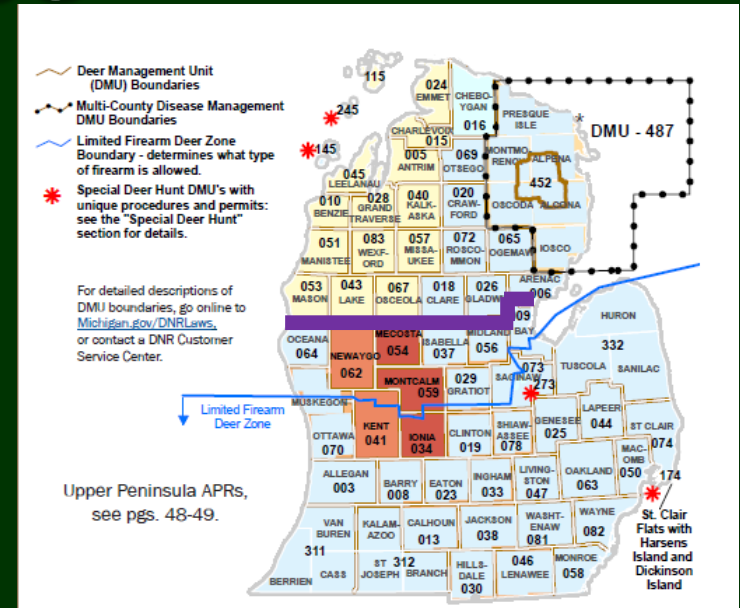
Proposed Season Dates (2020)	Muzzleloader	Late Antlerless
NLP	Dec 4-13	Dec 14-Jan 1
SW	Dec 4-13	Dec 14-Jan 1
SE	Dec 4-13	Dec 14-Jan 1



# Muzzleloader Season Changes

## Recommendation

- Convert muzzleloader season to allow all legal firearms in the SLP
  - Legal firearms currently allowed in CWD MZ
  - Originally proposed to be more inclusive, increase harvest and participation
  - Proved confusing for hunters county by county



Seasons (2017-2018)	Hunters (2017)	Hunters (2018)	Antlerless Harvest (2017)	Antlerless Harvest (2018)
Archery	88,837	83,843	12,772	9,768
Firearms	124,472	117,573	16,282	18,794
Muzzleloader/ Firearms	38,687	40,870	3,749	5,775
Late Antlerless	19,189	22,530	6,044	6,168

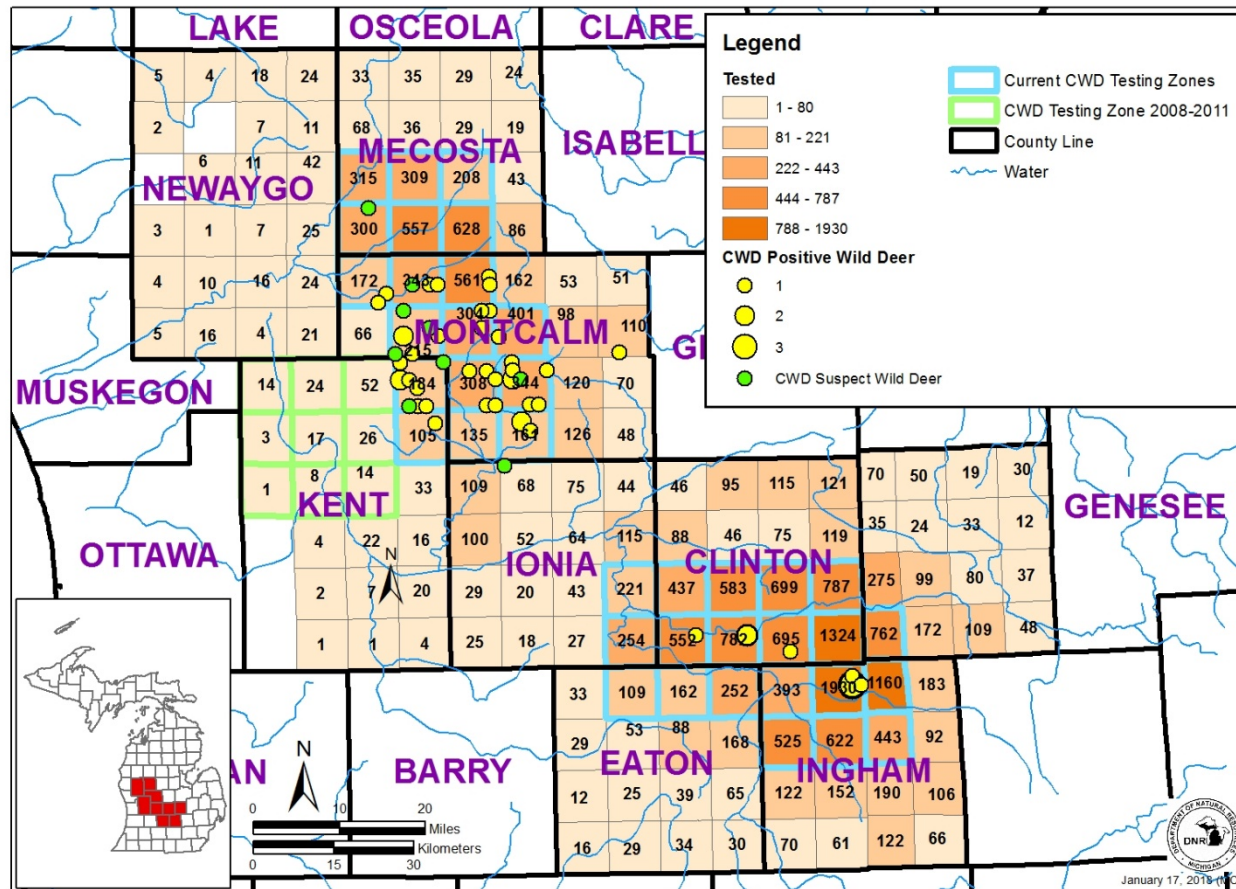
CWD Management Zone (2017-2018)





# Carcass Movement Restrictions

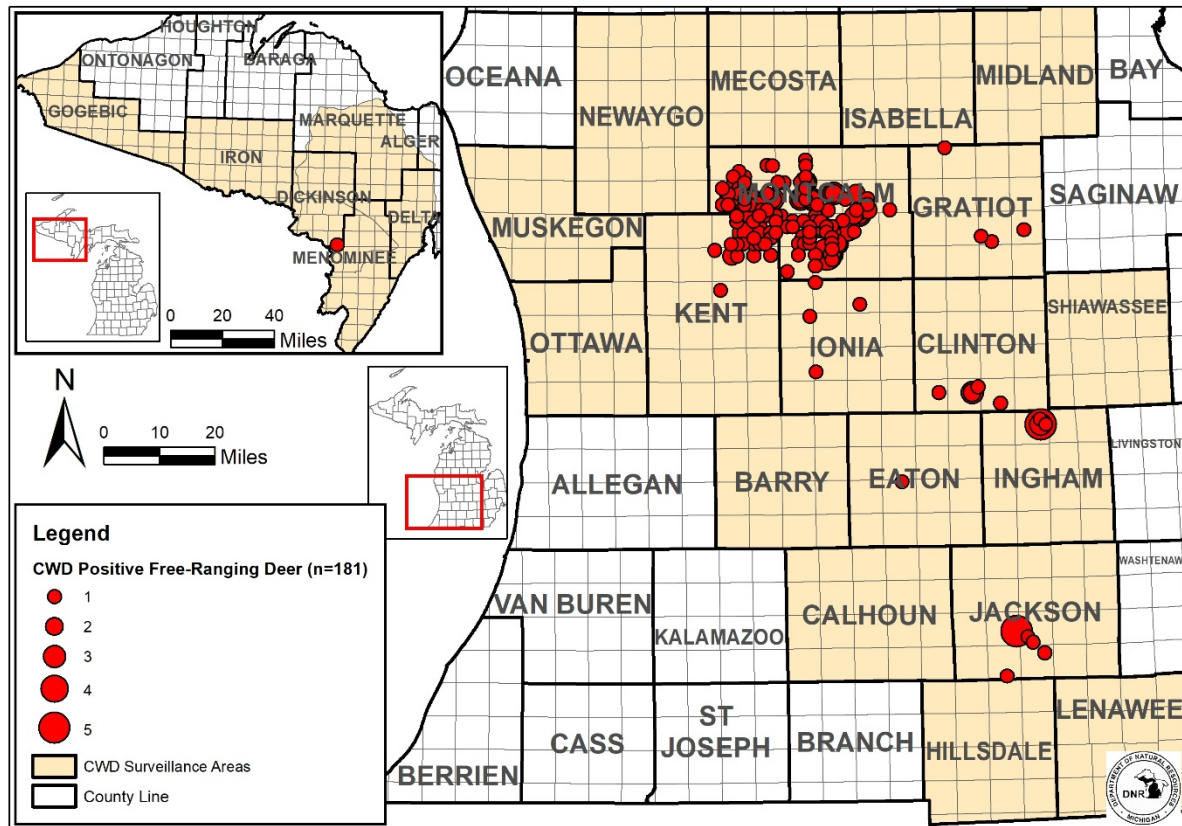
Wild White-tailed Deer Tested for CWD  
2015 - January 16, 2018



# Carcass Movement Restrictions

## Free-ranging White-tailed Deer Positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Michigan

as of January 22, 2020



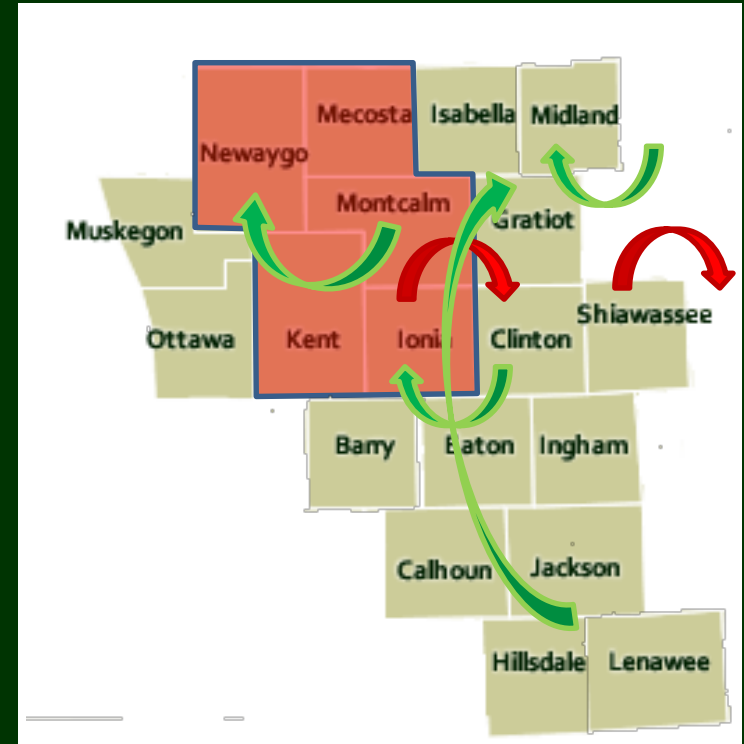
January 22, 2020 (MC)



# Carcass Movement Restrictions

## Recommendations:

- Current carcass movement restriction is confusing, difficult to enforce with current language, and continues to allow for high risk movement

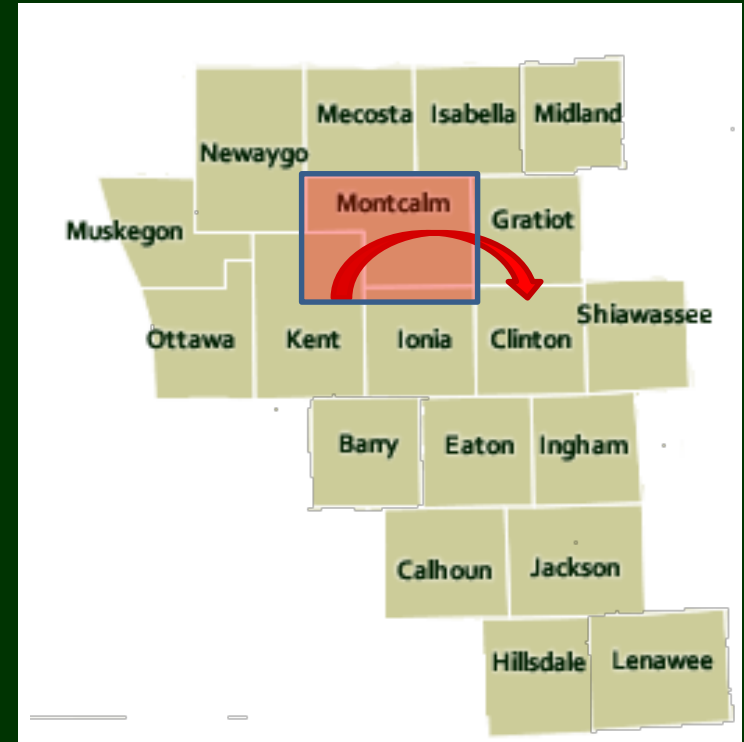


Green: permitted movements under current guidelines  
Red: restricted movements under current guidelines



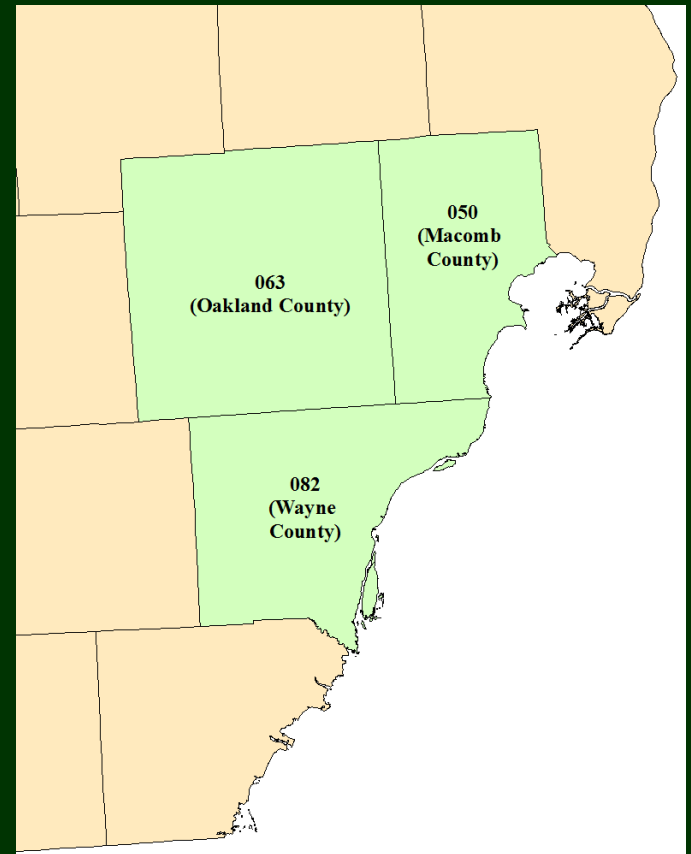
# Carcass Movement Restrictions

- Recommendations:
  - Surveillance informs management; restriction now scaled to areas where CWD is widespread
  - Carcass movement restriction reduced to all of Montcalm County, and parts of Kent and Ionia Counties
  - Only low-risk material can be removed from this area (deboned meat, quarters, etc)
    - Unless animal is brought to taxidermist or processor for disposal
  - No longer need to present deer at a check station



# Continue Extended Urban Archery Opportunities

- Continue Expanded Urban Archery for 1 more year
  - Three-year pilot expired on January 31, 2020
  - Continue archery season through January 31, 2021 in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties
  - Discuss expanded archery as part of upcoming discussions



# Thank You

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