



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

June 11, 2020

TO: Daniel Eichinger, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Eliminating the Discounted Private Land Antlerless Deer License that Expires the First Sunday in November in the CWD Management Zone

Authority:

The fee for an antlerless deer license is established in Part 435, Hunting and Fishing Licensing, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.43527a, as \$20 for a resident and \$20 for the first antlerless deer license purchased by a nonresident. The fee for an additional nonresident antlerless deer license is \$170. The application fee for antlerless deer hunting licenses may not exceed \$5. The fees for hunting and fishing licenses may be discounted by the Department in accordance with Section 43521 of Part 435. The Department is authorized to discount licenses to achieve a harvest or management objective for that species.

Discussion and Background:

In 2015, the Department began discounting antlerless deer licenses by 40 percent (from \$20 to \$12) in chronic wasting disease (CWD) affected areas to increase samples of free-ranging deer and to increase antlerless deer harvest. In August of 2018, the Department created a private land antlerless deer license that expired the first Sunday in November to keep a consistent approach with the Department’s CWD management actions. The Department discounted the fee by 40 percent and therefore, established the fee of \$12 for a resident and nonresident. In 2019, the Department reauthorized this license in order to continue with CWD management. After further review and discussion, the Department will discontinue the license for future deer hunting seasons.

Issues Pros and Cons

There was a lot of confusion from hunters and retailers about where and when the license was valid. In addition, there was not enough communication to hunters as to the reason why there was an expiring discounted license that was only valid in the CWD Management Zone. Discontinuing the license will reduce confusion and provide simplicity in regulations.

Some hunters may be upset that there is no longer a discounted license. The initial change may cause confusion, but the Department will continue effective communications and customer service related to the changes.

Biological

The Department does not expect a biological impact.

Social

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According to the 2018 Michigan Deer Harvest Survey, 40% of hunters supported this license.

Economic

In 2018, 7,436 hunters purchased 9,276 discounted antlerless licenses. The Department expects that the license was underutilized which may have resulted in a decrease of license sales.

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Hereby rescinded is the portion of the July 15, 2019 letter entitled, "Discounted Private Land Antlerless Deer License that Expires the First Sunday in November in the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone," which established the discounted fee for the private land antlerless deer license that expired the first Sunday in November in the CWD Management Zone.

Recommendation:

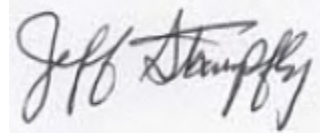
We recommend eliminating the discounted private land antlerless deer license that expires the first Sunday in November in the CWD Management Zone.



Daniel Kennedy, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery Stampfly, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division



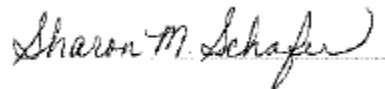
Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Kristin Phillips, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Sharon Schafer, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Mark Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer



Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation with an effective date of June 11, 2020.

Daniel Eichinger, Director

Date