



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

December 12, 2017

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Disease Management Firearm Deer Hunt for Certain Lands in Ionia and Montcalm Counties

Authority:

The Department may issue orders under Part 401 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994 designating the kind 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:

From 2015 to 2016, a total of four deer (in DeWitt, Eagle, and Watertown townships) in Clinton County tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). In Ingham County, five deer from Meridian Township tested positive from 2015 to 2016; since then, no deer from Ingham County have tested positive for CWD.

In Montcalm County, a total of 17 deer from the following townships are suspected or confirmed to be positive for CWD: Cato, Douglass, Fairplain, Maple Valley, Montcalm, Pine, Reynolds, Sidney and Winfield. In Kent County, three CWD-positive deer were found in Nelson and Spencer townships. This is the first year any CWD-suspect free-ranging deer were found in Montcalm or Kent counties.

Accordingly, the Department recommends establishing a disease management firearm deer hunt on public and private lands in Northern Ionia County and Eastern Montcalm County from January 4 through January 7, 2018, and January 11 through January 14, 2018 in order to better facilitate surveillance and control measures and to increase available samples of free-ranging white-tailed deer. The disease management firearm deer hunt is recommended to take place in the following townships: Otisco, Orleans, Ronald, North Plains, Keene, Easton, Ionia, and Lyons in Ionia County and Day, Ferris, Evergreen, Crystal, Bushnell, and Bloomer in Montcalm County.

The following measures are recommended:

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- Licenses, including a deer license, combination deer license, private-land antlerless deer license for DMU 354 or DMU 419, or a public-land antlerless deer license for DMU 354 or DMU 419 are valid.
  - Antlerless deer may be tagged using the deer license or combination deer license.
  - There are no antler point restrictions.
  - Antlerless deer licenses are only valid for the tagging of an antlerless deer.
- Mandatory sample submission.
- All rules and regulations for the firearm deer season apply except as otherwise stated.

Administrative:

The Department recommends extending the purchase date for licenses valid in DMU's 354 and 419 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



Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division



Deb Begalle, Chief  
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



Jim 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 12, 2017.



Keith Creagh, Director

12/12/17

Date