

Safe hunting is no accident.

The DNR requires all first-time hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 to take a hunter safety course. Classes are held in every county and in most communities at least once each year. Part of the course can be taken online. Information on classes can be found on the DNR website: www.michigan.gov/huntereducation.

Be a safe and responsible hunter!

Tagging Big Game and Furbearers

Immediately after killing a deer, bear, elk or turkey, you must validate your kill tag and fasten it to the antler, lower jaw or lower leg in such a manner that the tag remains securely attached to the animal. Do not stick or wrap the kill tag to the antler of a deer or to the leg of a turkey.

The best way to attach a kill tag is to lay a strong piece of wire or cord across the sticky side of the kill tag so the tag can be folded in half. Tie the wire or cord to the animal. Make sure the kill tag is completely legible and visible for inspection.

The kill tag must remain attached until you process or butcher the animal, or the animal is accepted for processing and recorded by a commercial processor or taxidermist.

Note: If the antlers or head are returned to the person submitting the animal to the commercial processor, the kill tag shall accompany the head or antlers.

Immediately after taking a bobcat, otter, fisher or marten, you must validate your kill tag and fasten it in such a manner that the tag remains securely attached to the animal. For details on furbearer kill tags and proper placement, see page 21. Make sure the kill tag is completely legible and visible for inspection.

It is unlawful to tag an animal you did not legally kill.

Control of Certain Nuisance Species

Hunters are encouraged to shoot feral swine year-round with any valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license. Feral swine can be taken on public land and, with permission, on private land. Hunters who shoot a feral swine are asked to submit parts of the animal to a DNR office for disease testing. If you see feral swine please record the date, time, precise location and number of swine observed and provide that information to Michelle Rosen at rosenm@michigan.gov or 517-336-5030.

Any ear-tagged cervids (members of the deer and elk family) found outside of a fence of a registered cervidae facility for more than 48 hours may be taken by hunting during designated deer and elk seasons if the individual has a valid hunting license.

All exotic cervids, including all white cervids, found outside of a fence of a cervidae facility for more than 48 hours may be taken by hunting year-round if the individual has a valid hunting license.

Tracking Wounded Animals with Dogs

A licensed deer, elk or bear hunter, if accompanied by a certified dog tracker, shall not have a live round in the chamber, a cocked crossbow, or a bow with a nocked arrow, except at the time and point of kill of the wounded deer, elk or bear. For dog tracker certification requirements see WCO 2.1(a).

Artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand or on the person may be used.

Restrictions on Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles

At all times it is illegal to operate an off-road vehicle (ORV) on public lands in the Lower Peninsula not posted open. Snowmobiles and ORVs are prohibited at any time on state game areas or state parks and recreation areas unless posted open.

Time Restrictions—It is illegal to operate an ORV or a snowmobile between the hours of 7 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. on any area open to

public hunting during the Nov. 15-30 firearm deer season.

Exceptions: The time restrictions on the use of ORVs and snowmobiles do not apply during an emergency or while traveling to and from a permanent residence or hunting camp that is otherwise inaccessible by a conventional wheeled vehicle.

The time restrictions on the use of ORVs also do not apply to those retrieving a legally taken deer, to private landowners and their invited guests, to motor vehicles licensed under the Michigan Vehicle Code operating on roads capable of sustaining automobile traffic, to a person with a disability using a designated trail or forest road for hunting or fishing purposes, or to a person with a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

All state parks and recreation areas are closed to hunting from April 1 through Sept. 14, except in areas designated open during the early Canada goose season and spring wild turkey season. Contact the individual park for hunting information.

Quail may be harvested only by field trial participants in the Highland and Ionia Recreation Area field trial areas on days with authorized field trials. Contact the area headquarters for field trial dates.

There is no trapping within 50 feet of the mowed portions of specific areas within state park and recreation areas. Check with the park headquarters for current trapping regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to trapping.

It is illegal to target shoot in a state park or recreation area, except on a designated shooting range at Bald Mountain, Island Lake, Ortonville and Pontiac Lake recreation areas.

To make camping reservations, go to www.midnrreservations.com or call 1-800-44-PARKS. Michigan residents have the opportunity to buy a Recreation Passport for \$10 when renewing their vehicle registration with the Secretary of State. The \$10 Recreation Passport gives you access to all 101 state parks and recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, and all DNR-administered boat launches in Michigan. For Michigan registered vehicles, the Recreation Passport replaces the daily (\$6) or annual (\$24) motor vehicle permit or boating access permit. Camping fees remain in effect. For more information go to www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport or call 517-373-9900.

Out-of-state registered vehicles will require a daily (\$8) or annual (\$29) fee to enter any state park or DNR-administered boat launch.

Help Feed the Hungry in Your Community



Tell your license agent you want to make a monetary donation to Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger or donate venison at one of the registered processors. Visit the website for more information.

www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org

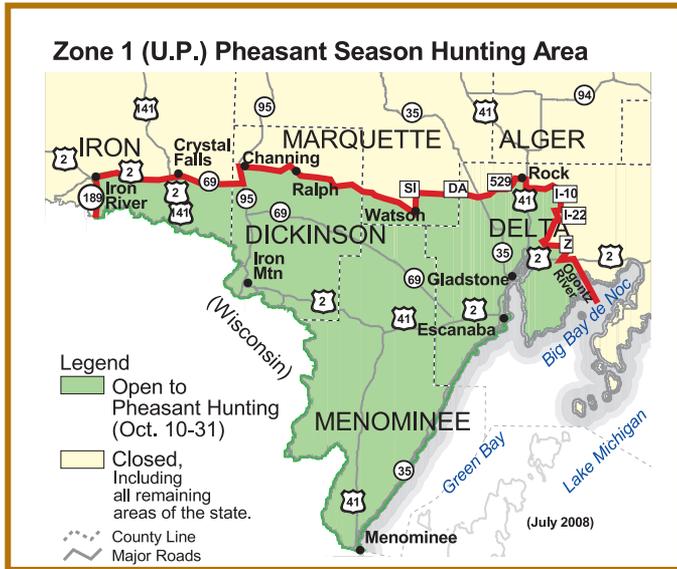


Small Game

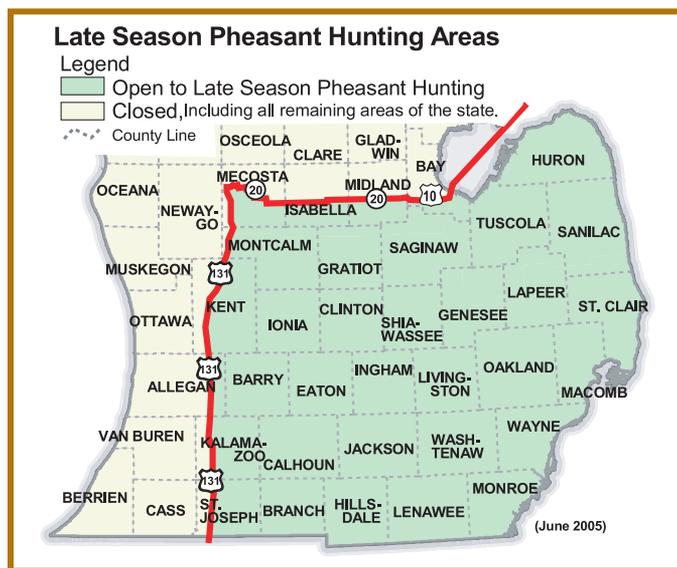
A small game license entitles you to hunt rabbit, hare, squirrel (fox and gray), pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodcock (HIP endorsement required), quail, crow, coyote (applies to Michigan residents only) and waterfowl (with a federal waterfowl stamp and Michigan waterfowl hunting license, if age 16 or older) during the open season. Opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, ground squirrel and woodchuck also may be taken year-round with a valid hunting license. No license is required for a resident, resident's spouse or resident's children to hunt small game on the enclosed farmlands where they live, except a federal waterfowl stamp and state waterfowl license are required to hunt waterfowl.

Pheasant

The area open to pheasant hunting Oct. 10-31 in Zone 1 (U.P.) includes all of Menominee County and portions of Delta, Dickinson, Iron and Marquette counties. See the DNR website for the complete detailed definition of this and other unit boundaries.



In addition to the October and November pheasant hunting seasons, the green shaded area shown below is open to pheasant hunting Dec. 1-Jan. 1 for the taking of male pheasants.



Game Bird Hunting Preserves

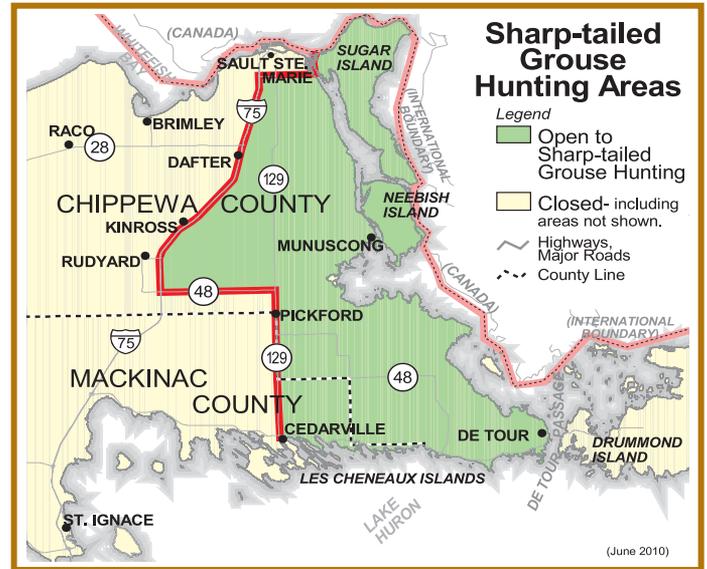
All persons hunting on a licensed game bird hunting preserve must have a current Michigan small game license or game bird hunting preserve license.

Quail

Quail can be hunted only in Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Montcalm, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. All other counties are closed to quail hunting. Please see the State Parks and Recreation Areas section for the restrictions at Highland and Ionia Recreation Area on page 17.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

The area open to sharp-tailed grouse hunting Oct. 10-Oct. 31 in Zone 1 (U.P.) includes the green shaded area shown below. See the DNR website for the complete detailed definition of this boundary. **A free sharp-tailed grouse stamp, available from all license agents or online at www.michigan.gov/hunting, is required in addition to a valid small game hunting license for those hunting sharp-tailed grouse.**



Migratory Game Birds

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

If you are planning to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you must have a Harvest Information Program endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: "Migratory Bird Hunter—YES," is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. There is no cost for this endorsement. If the agent fails to ask you the HIP question, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:

- Ask the agent to reissue the license.
- Visit the DNR e-license website at www.mdnr-elicence.com and go to the small game category, then choose the free "HIP Survey Migratory Bird" item.
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center (see page 7).

If you purchase a waterfowl hunting license the HIP endorsement is automatically included. It must be added by the agent if you are purchasing a small game license and plan to hunt woodcock. Those who hunt migratory birds without this endorsement can be fined.

Woodcock and Waterfowl Leg-band Reporting

Every hunter can promote sound woodcock and waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded birds harvested, including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival and migration routes. To report bands go online to www.reportband.gov, call 800-327-BAND, or write: USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708-4037.

Early September Canada Goose Hunting

Dates: Sept. 1-10 in the Upper Peninsula and Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties (except areas noted below). Sept. 1-15 in the Lower Peninsula except Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties (except areas noted below).

Daily Limit: 5 Canada geese daily.

Possession Limit: 10 Canada geese.

Hunting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (see below).

Open Hunt Areas: Statewide, excluding some wildlife areas and portions of some state parks and recreation areas. See map below and additional information that follows.

(1) All or portions of the following areas are open Sept. 1-10:

Port Cresent S.P. Sleeper S.P.

(2) Portions of the following areas are open Sept. 1-15:

Bald Mountain R.A.	Lake Hudson R.A.	Proud Lake R.A.
Bay City R.A.	Mitchell S.P.	Rose Lake W.R.A.
Brighton R.A.	Negwegon S.P.	Sleepy Hollow S.P.
Grand Mere S.P.	Ortonville R.A.	Thompson's Harbor S.P.
Highland R.A.	Pinckney R.A.	Waterloo R.A.
Holly R.A.	Pontiac Lake R.A.	Wetzel R.A.
Ionia R.A.		

(3) All or portions of the following areas are open Sept. 7-10:

Brimley S.P.	Laughing Whitefish	Porcupine Mountains S.P.
Craig Lake S.P.	Falls S.S.	Tahquamenon Falls S.P.
Fayette S.P.	McLain S.P.	Van Riper S.P.
Indian Lake S.P.	Palms Book S.P.	Wagner Falls S.S.

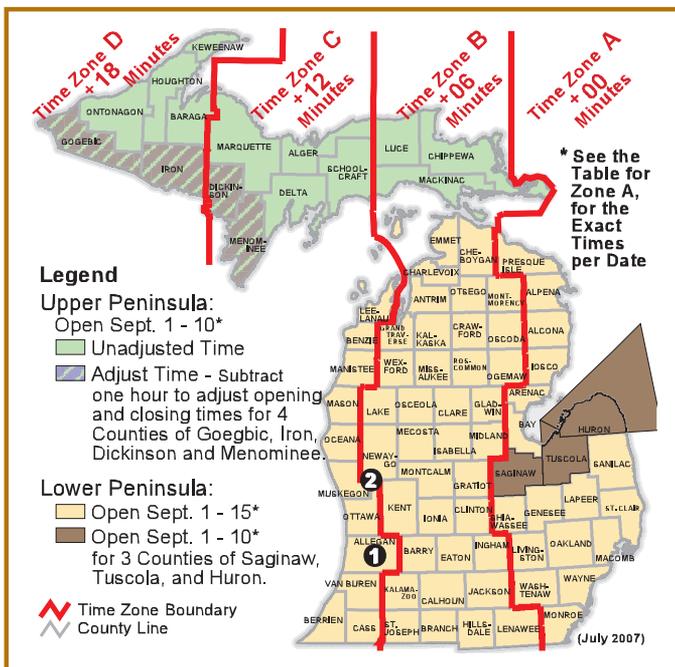
(4) All or portions of the following areas are open Sept. 7-15:

Cheboygan S.P.	Ludington S.P.	Sterling S.P.
Fisherman's Island S.P.	Metamora-Hadley R.A.	Sturgeon Point S.P.
Fort Custer R.A.	Rifle River R.A.	Wilderness S.P.
Hoelt S.P.	Seven Lakes S.P.	Yankee Springs R.A.
Island Lake R.A.	Silver Lake S.P.	
Leelanau S.P.	South Higgins Lake S.P.	

State Parks (S.P.), Scenic Sites (S.S.), Recreation Areas (R.A.) and Wildlife Research Areas (W.R.A.)

Contact your local DNR Parks and Recreation or Wildlife office for information. Note: The early September season is closed within the following management units (see map below):

- 1 Fennville farm unit of the Allegan SGA.
- 2 The Muskegon county wastewater system management unit.



ZONE A HUNTING HOURS		SEPT. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
AM		6:28	6:29	6:30	6:31	6:32	6:33	6:34	6:35	6:36	6:37	6:39	6:40	6:41	6:42	6:43
PM		8:05	8:04	8:02	8:00	7:59	7:57	7:55	7:53	7:52	7:50	7:48	7:46	7:45	7:43	7:41

Waterfowl

Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

In addition to a small game license, all waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase a Michigan waterfowl license. For information on waterfowl seasons, bag limits and other regulations, see the 2012-2013 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest (available Sept. 15) and the 2012 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt brochure (available Aug. 1).

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

This stamp is required for all waterfowl hunters 16 and older, including people hunting on their own enclosed farmland. Federal waterfowl stamps are not required for hunting woodcock, rails and snipe. The federal stamp must be signed across its face with your name in ink. The stamps are available at post offices and some Michigan license agents or go to www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

Townships with Hunting Restrictions

Townships or parts of townships in these counties are closed to hunting or restricted to types of firearms or the discharge of firearms as posted: Alcona, Arenac, Barry, Berrien, Crawford, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Iosco, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Oakland, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne. These areas are posted with the restrictions. For descriptions, contact the appropriate township clerk or township police department.

Safety Zones Around Buildings

Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person, including archery and crossbow hunters, may hunt or discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow in a safety zone, or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird within a safety zone, without the written permission of the owner or occupant of the property. The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities or the discharge of firearms, crossbows or bows for any non-hunting purpose.

Transportation of Game

You may transport your own and another person's lawfully taken game. You cannot destroy the identity or evidence of the sex of any bird or animal, except for processed or butchered deer, bear and elk as noted below. If you are transporting migratory birds, one fully feathered wing must be left on the bird. If transporting another person's migratory birds, they must be tagged with the person's name, signature and home address, and the number of birds by species, dates of kill and small game license number.

If you butcher your deer, elk or bear, or have the animal butchered by a commercial processor before going home, the head of the animal, along with the kill tag or seal, must accompany the butchered animal during transport.

Exception: If you submit the head for TB or CWD testing, you must have the kill tag and disease tag receipt in your possession. Nonresidents may need to comply with restrictions in other states for importing game taken in Michigan (see Hunters Importing Deer, Elk or Moose on page 36).



Ready for hunting season?
 Looking for a place to shoot?

Check out Michigan's quality shooting ranges – including six DNR ranges – at www.michigan.gov/shootingranges

Private Lands Open to Public Hunting

Commercial Forest (CF) Lands

Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing and hunting. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner's discretion. The CF lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing or hunting. The owner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Other than foot access for the acts of hunting or fishing, activities such as (but not limited to) camping, leaving anything unattended (e.g. bait, blinds, traps, etc.), and damaging or injuring vegetation (e.g. cutting/ nailing), require the landowner's permission. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/gohunt, under "Where Can I Hunt?" If you have questions about this program or specific CF lands, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest Resources Division, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-373-1275.

Select Privately Owned Lands

Hunting rights have been purchased by the state of Michigan for various privately owned lands. These lands are open to public hunting. Registration is not required, but all applicable laws still apply. For additional information and a complete legal description of these parcels, refer to the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/gohunt.

Hunting Access Program (HAP)

Michigan's Hunting Access Program (HAP) was created in 1977 to increase public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan, where 97 percent of the land base is in private ownership. This program is now one of the oldest dedicated private lands public access programs in the nation. Providing access to quality hunting lands close to urban

centers is a key component to offering additional hunting opportunities, as well as attracting new and retaining current hunters.

HAP provides financial incentives to landowners in southern Michigan who allow hunters access to their lands. Using funds from a federal grant, the DNR plans to significantly expand HAP. To encourage landowner participation in HAP, landowners can now select from a variety of hunting options, including allowing all hunting, youth and apprentice only, small game only, deer only and/or turkey only. For any license type, HAP lands are considered private lands. For further details consult the *Public Hunting on Private Lands 2012-2013* digest, which is available at DNR offices and license agents. An updated list of HAP farms, including aerial photographs, is available on the HAP website: www.michigan.gov/hap. Maps of HAP farms can also be found on the Mi-HUNT website at www.michigan.gov/mihunt.

All hunting rules apply, including the following HAP rules:

- All hunters must register daily at HAP farm headquarters.
- Hunt only species (hunt types) and seasons as listed in the *Public Hunting on Private Lands 2012-2013* digest.
- No driving on HAP lands without landowner permission.
- Park in designated areas when provided by landowner.
- No ORV's without landowner permission.
- Do not block drives or lanes without landowner permission.
- No hunting in or damaging standing crops.
- No permanent blinds, tree stands or nails/screws in trees.
- No littering.
- Follow all individual landowner rules as described in registration folder.

Hunters Helping Landowners

Recently, legislation was signed that created the Hunters Helping Landowners Program, which directs the DNR to develop a program where hunters could voluntarily enroll and indicate two counties where they would like to hunt antlerless deer on private lands. Upon request from landowners wishing to participate in this program, the DNR will provide a list of volunteer antlerless deer hunters. For more information about this program or to enroll as a volunteer hunter, please visit www.michigan.gov/hhl.

Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting

Only raccoon, opossum, coyote and fox may be hunted at night. The following regulations apply:

Species (Type)	Open Season	Legal Type of Hunting	Legal Artificial Light ^A	Legal Devices ^B
Raccoon (Regular)	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	With the aid of a call. With dogs, firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except when taking raccoon in tree.	Only lights similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person. (Flashlights, portable battery-powered spotlights and headlamps, and similar portable lights designed to be carried in the hand or on the person are legal.) The use of natural light, including night vision optics and scopes, is legal.	Only a bow and arrow, crossbow, .22 or smaller caliber rimfire rifle or handgun, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot, slug, ball or cut shell.
Raccoon (Damage Control)	July 15 - Sept. 30 and Feb. 1 - March 31	Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with the aid of a call. With dogs, firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except when taking raccoon in tree.		
Opossum	Sept. 15 - March 31	With the aid of a call; with dogs, firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except at point of kill.		Same as above except no rifles or handguns from Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 in Shotgun Zone.
Fox and Coyote (See note below)	Oct. 15 - March 1	With game or predator call only. Firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.		
Coyote (Damage Control)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 14 and March 1 - March 31	Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with game or predator call only; firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.		

Note: After fox season closes (March 1) hunting hours for coyote return to the regular hunting hours for small game (see page 10).

^AAn artificial light, including laser sights, of the type described above may be mounted on a person's clothing or firearm. Spotlights powered by vehicle batteries, floodlights, vehicle headlights and other artificial lights not similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person are illegal.

^BAll hunters using a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire to take a furbearing animal, day or night, from Nov. 10 - Nov. 14, must have a fur harvester license.

Fur Harvester License

All persons who hunt and trap furbearing animals, including those who trap or hunt on their own enclosed farmland or private property, must have a valid fur harvester license. This license allows you to hunt fox, bobcat, coyote or raccoon, and trap badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, weasel, mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk or opossum.

Exception: See footnotes 1, 5 and 10 in table on page 22.

Persons 17 years of age and older must possess a valid fur harvester license. A junior resident fur harvester-trap only license is available to youth 10 to 16 years old without hunter safety training. Youth under 10 years old may trap furbearers as licensed through the Mentored Youth Hunting Program (see page 13).

Nonresident Fur Harvester License

Nonresidents may hunt and trap furbearing animals only from Nov. 15 through the regular season closing dates (except for beaver and otter; see map on page 26 for nonresident season dates). A nonresident cannot purchase a license before Nov. 15. Residents of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the province of Ontario cannot purchase a Michigan nonresident fur harvester license.

Furbearer Kill Tags

A person who intends to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher or marten must request and shall be issued free kill tags for these species. These tags are available Sept. 15 through the last day of the hunting and trapping season for that furbearer. Kill tags will be available from license agents or by contacting any DNR Operations Service Center. **A person who kills a bobcat, otter, fisher or marten shall immediately validate the tag and attach the tag to the hide from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw.** Those under eight years of age may not obtain a kill tag for bobcat, otter, fisher or marten. The kill tag must be replaced by an official DNR seal for registration. See Furbearer Registration, page 27.

Because of the change in stock for the new license year beginning March 1, 2013, otter tags for 2012-2013 will be available only from Sept. 15, 2012 to March 1, 2013. After March 1, individuals who have not obtained their '12-'13 otter kill tags should contact a DNR Operations Service Center to request tags.

Federal Regulations

All out-of-state shipments of raw hides or furs must be plainly marked on the outside of the package as to the contents. If you wish to export bobcat, otter or bear hides from the United States, you need a federal permit. For details, contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-358-2104.

Bait

Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed as bait, only during the open season for those animals or birds. Other game, protected animals, birds or deer parts from taxidermy operations may not be used as bait. Your bait should be placed where it is not visible by hawks, owls and eagles.

Incidental Catches

Trappers occasionally trap nontargeted species. Because it is unlawful to possess animals out of season or those which are protected species, the following procedure allows trappers to help the DNR collect and utilize the biological data available through carcass examination and ensure that pelts are put to good use. Trappers must:

- Immediately release live protected animals from the trap. Help may be available for advice on the release of endangered species.
- If the animal is dead or dies in the attempt to release it, attach a Michigan incidental seal to the animal before removing it from the trap. Then transport the carcass in an open manner to the nearest DNR office. The carcass must be surrendered. Michigan incidental seals are available from DNR offices. **All incidental seals remain the property of the DNR and must be returned by May 1 each year.**

Live Traps

As a substitute for foothold traps, trappers may use live traps capable of taking only one animal at a time within 450 feet of an occupied dwelling and associated buildings during the legal time for trapping the target animal. Live traps must be checked daily. Any animal captured in a live trap must be immediately killed or released; it is illegal to take these game animals or protected animals live from the wild. It also is illegal to hold these animals in captivity.

Special Management Areas

A special permit is required to trap in the management areas listed below, and trapping season closure dates may vary. Contact area headquarters for details.

- Muskegon State Game Area. Trapping permits are required for beaver and otter and are available at the game area headquarters.
- Poel Island Waterfowl Refuge, Grand Haven State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Muskegon State Game Area headquarters.
- Fish Point State Wildlife Area. Trapping permits are available at the wildlife area headquarters.
- Nayanquing Point and Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Areas. Trapping permits are available at the Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area headquarters.
- Shiawassee River State Game Area. Trapping permits may be obtained at the St. Charles field office. Trapping permits for the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge may be obtained from the refuge manager.
- Tobico Marsh Unit of Bay City Recreation Area. Trapping permits are available at the headquarters.
- Pte. Mouillee State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the game area headquarters.
- Crow Island State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Bay City Operations Service Center.
- Harsens Island, St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area. Trapping permits are available at the wildlife area headquarters.
- State Parks and Recreation Areas. Check with the park headquarters for current trapping regulations and any restrictions prior to trapping.

DNR Offers Trapper Education Program

The DNR, in cooperation with state trapping organizations, has developed a trapper education program that will help individuals acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become successful, responsible trappers.

The program is designed to educate our state's youth and other interested individuals about one of the oldest wildlife management tools – trapping. The basic content for the trapper education student manual, which is about 180 pages, was developed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, who, in turn, provided it to state agencies for state-specific modifications tailored to reflect Michigan conditions and regulations. The Michigan trapper education manual covers basic techniques with a focus on the responsible treatment of animals, legal methods, safety, selectivity and ethical behavior.

DNR personnel and representatives from the trapping community, including representatives from the Michigan trapping associations and independent trappers, have worked cooperatively on the program. Classes feature classroom work as well as hands-on training experiences. To find more information on classes currently offered in your area, please visit the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/trapping and click on Michigan Trapper Education.

Fur Harvester Trapping and Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	AREA	SEASON DATES					NOTES
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
Trapping Seasons							
Muskrat & Mink	Zone 1	Oct. 25 - Mar. 1					
	Zone 2	Nov. 1 - Mar. 1					
	Zone 3	Nov. 10 - Mar. 1					
Raccoon	Zones 1 & 2	Oct. 15 - Jan. 31					1
	Zone 3	Nov. 1 - Jan. 31					
Fox & Coyote	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1					1, 9
Bobcat	Units A & B	Dec. 1 - Feb. 1					2, 10
	Units C & D	Dec. 10 - 20					
Badger	Zones 1 & 2	Oct. 15 - Nov. 14					3 & 8
	Zone 3	Nov. 1 - Mar. 1					
Fisher/Marten	Zone 1	Dec. 1 - 15					6, 10, 11
Beaver & Otter	Units A, B & C	See page 26					10 (Otter)
Hunting Seasons ⁷							
Bobcat	Units A, B & C	Jan. 1 - Feb. 1					2, 10
	Unit D	Jan. 1 - Mar. 1					
Gray & Red Fox	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1					4
Raccoon	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31					1, 4
Coyote	Statewide	Jul. 15 - April 15					1, 4, 5

Fur Harvester Rules

- Trappers are legally required to check restraining-type traps and non-lethal cable restraints at least once each day in Zones 2 and 3 and at least once within each 48-hour period in Zone 1. It is highly recommended that trappers in Zone 1 check restraining-type traps and cable restraints daily.
- Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed as bait, only during the open season for those animals or birds. See Bait section on page 21.
- Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1-Nov. 9 in the Shotgun Zone during the open season for all species **except** no rifles may be used for deer, turkeys and migratory game birds. See page 20 for Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting restrictions.

It is illegal to:

- Use any kind of a trap other than a foothold, body-gripping or conibear-type trap unless specifically otherwise provided.
- Use a foothold trap with a jaw spread exceeding a number 2 foothold trap when taking mink or muskrat.
- Use snares or live traps. Exceptions: See Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations on page 26, Live Traps on page 21 and Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints on page 27.
- Use a trap with teeth or serrations.
- Use or have in possession or transport in an area frequented by wild animals a catching device of any kind without permanent etching or a metal tag bearing the user's name and address or Michigan driver license number. Exception: See Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations on page 26.
- Set a steel trap within 50 feet of any water in Zone 1 before Oct. 25, before Nov. 1 in Zone 2 or before Nov. 10 in Zone 3, unless a duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap for raccoon is used, or a body gripping or conibear trap that is

1. Raccoon and coyote may be taken on private property by a property owner or designee all year if they are doing or about to do damage on private property. A license or written permit is not needed.
2. Season bag limit for bobcat is two per person; only one bobcat may be taken in Units C or D combined; and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. The trapping season in bobcat Units C and D is on private lands only, using foothold traps only.
3. The season bag limit for badger is one per person. Badgers do not require registration.
4. See Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting on page 20 for specific regulations governing the hunting of these species at night.
5. Residents possessing a valid small-game license may hunt coyote during the established season.
6. Combined bag limit of one fisher OR one marten.
7. No closed season on opossum, weasel or skunk.
8. In Zone 1, badger may be trapped only in Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee and Ontonagon counties, and Alger and Delta counties west of federal forest highway 13.
9. See Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints on page 27 for regulations governing the trapping of fox and coyote.
10. This species requires a free kill tag. See Furbearer Kill Tags on page 21 for details.
11. Fisher and marten are open in Zone 1 excluding Drummond Island.

placed four feet or more above the ground. See page 12 for the hunting and trapping zone map.

- Molest or disturb or set a trap in the internal compartment of any structure such as a lodge, hut, push-up, house, hole, nest, burrow or den of a badger, beaver, mink, muskrat or raccoon, whether occupied or not, or molest or destroy a beaver dam, except under a DNR Wildlife Damage Investigation and Control Permit.
- Set a trap on a beaver dam or lodge unless the trap is submerged below the water.
- Transport or possess live game taken from the wild, except under a rehabilitation permit or as specified in a DNR Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control Permit.
- Stake, put out or set a catching device at any time before the day the open season begins.
- Use a multiple catch or colony trap except for taking muskrats, provided the trap is completely submerged. Colony traps must be constructed of steel and be no larger than eight inches high, eight inches wide and 36 inches deep. (Nuisance control operators MAY use colony traps for muskrats and other species.)
- Bring a live raccoon or skunk into Michigan.
- Shoot a muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, fisher or marten, except under DNR permit. Coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger may be killed in traps by furtakers using .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms, except for junior fur harvesters with trap-only licenses.
- Use a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm to dispatch coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger from Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 in the Shotgun Zone unless the firearm is loaded at the point of kill only.
- Trap any species within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Trap Selectivity

The following regulations were developed to help improve the selectivity of dryland body-gripping traps in an effort to reduce the take of non-target animals. Although the set regulations on this page are required only on public land, these sets also may be useful to private-land trappers. Selective trapping techniques are essential for maintaining trapping opportunity in Michigan. Trappers are encouraged to use the most selective trapping techniques possible.

Dryland and Surface Ice Public Land Body-Gripping Trap Regulations:

Body-gripping traps less than 5.5 inches inside the jaw hinges may be set without restrictions if used according to other regulations. All legal body-gripping traps of any size may be used if they are four or more feet off the ground without set restriction.

Body-gripping traps set on dryland or on ice on public lands without the use of bait, lure or attractant must be no greater than 6.5 inches inside the jaw hinges (160s) and only may be set such that no part of the body-gripping surface is more than eight inches above the ground (Figure 1).

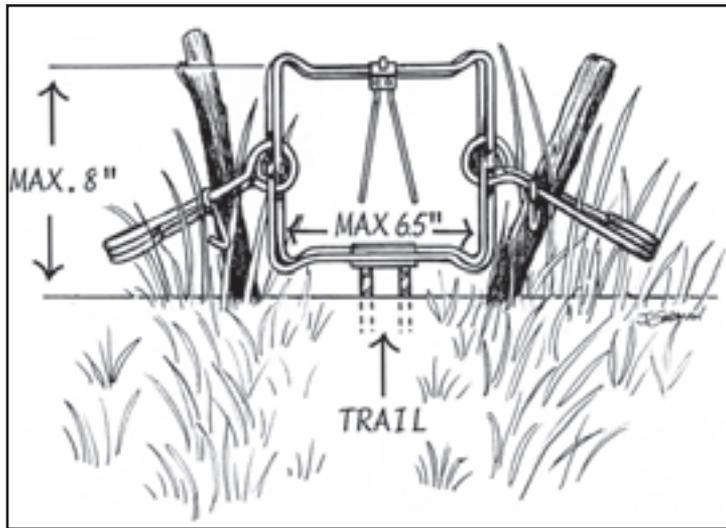


Figure 1

Body-gripping traps 5.5 inches to 7.5 inches inside the jaw hinges (160s and 220s) set on dryland or on ice with the use of bait, lure or other attractants may be used only in the following manner:

In a container of the following design:

- opening height six inches or less
 - eight-inch minimum spring trap placement slots
 - trap trigger recessed minimum of six inches
- See Figures 2 and 3.

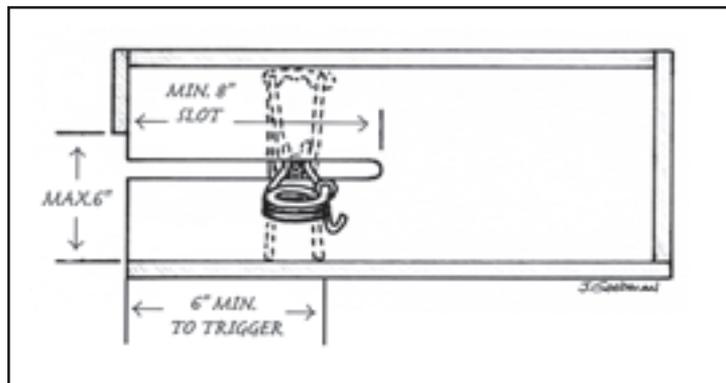


Figure 2

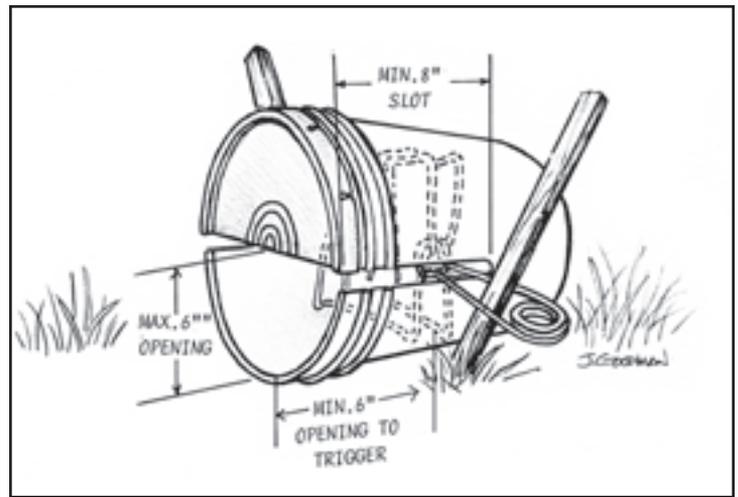


Figure 3

In a container of the following design:

- only one entrance, facing the ground
 - container set so entrance is no more than six inches from ground
 - trap trigger recessed minimum of four inches
- See Figure 4.

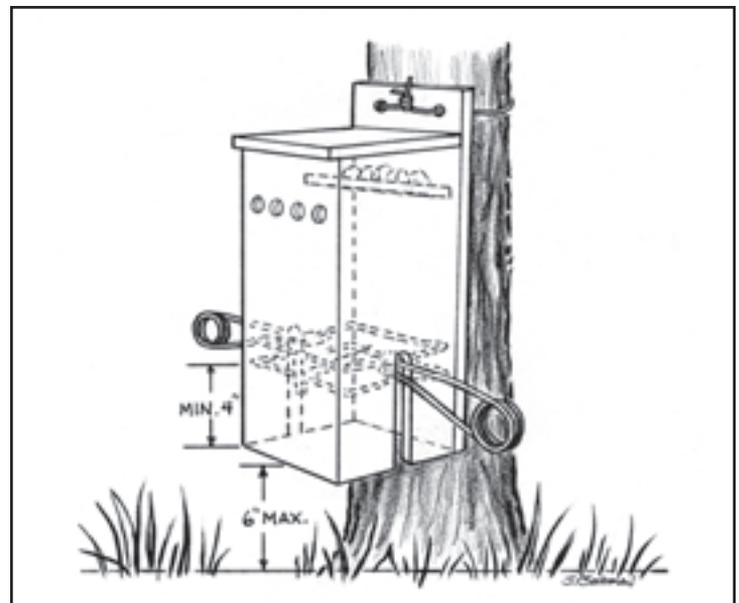


Figure 4

Dryland and Surface Ice Private Land Body-Gripping Trap Regulations

It is unlawful to set a body-gripping or conibear-type trap larger than 7.5 inches in width (as measured inside the jaw hinges) on drylands that are privately owned, or over frozen submerged privately owned bottomlands unless the trap is four or more feet above dry ground or the frozen surface of ice. See above for regulations for body-gripping traps on publicly owned lands.

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Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations

Statewide Season Limits

Beaver: No limit

Otter: Three per person. Only two may be taken from Unit B, and only one from Unit C. Also see Note 3 below.

In addition to the general fur harvester rules on page 22, the following regulations apply to beaver and otter trapping:

- Only foothold, body-gripping or conibear-type traps may be used for taking beaver and otter. Traps with teeth are illegal. **Exception:** See below for use of snares to take beaver.
- A catching device of any type must have a permanent etching or metal tag bearing the user's name and address or Michigan driver license number. If one or more snares are attached to a pole, both the snare and the uppermost end of the pole need a metal tag.
- Snares may be used for taking beaver in water or under ice, statewide. Snares must be made of 1/16-inch or larger cable. Snares not under ice must have a loop which is at least half submerged and be set in a fashion to hold the beaver completely submerged. Snares shall be removed and made inoperative within 24 hours after the close of the beaver season.
- Up to 10 muskrat pelts may be legally taken in beaver or otter sets.

Notes:

1. The beaver and otter trapping season in Unit A extends through April 30 on designated trout streams only. For a list of these streams in the Upper Peninsula, see Fisheries Order FO-210.08 at www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws.

2. The Gladwin Field Dog Trial Area is closed to trapping except for beaver and otter trapping, which is permitted from Nov. 15, 2012 through March 15, 2013.

3. Fur harvesters must purchase a new license after March 31. The season limit for otter does not change with the purchase of a new license. Otter taken between April 1 - April 30, 2013 count against the 2012-2013 otter season bag limit. A free otter kill tag is required. See Furbearer Kill Tags on page 21.

Beaver and otter trapping are closed in the following areas:

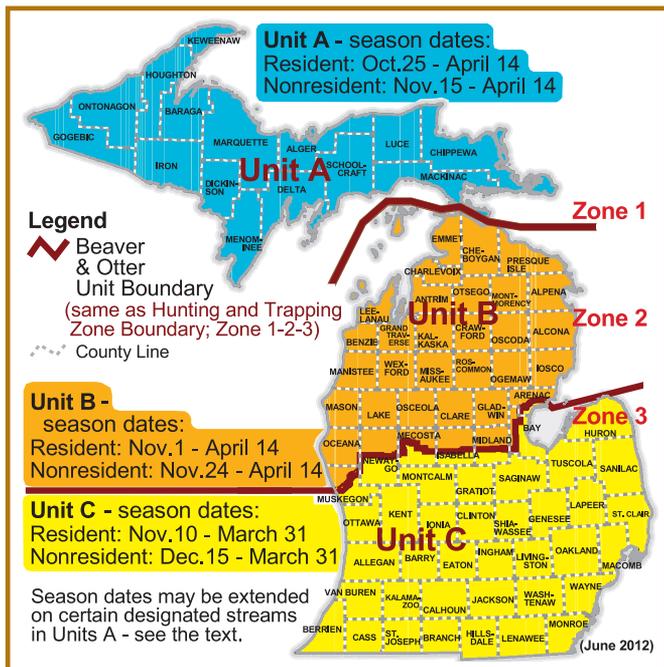
Alger: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Benzie: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Leelanau: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Schoolcraft: Seney National Wildlife Refuge, closed to otter trapping. Contact the refuge on possible beaver trapping.

Also see Special Management Areas on page 21.

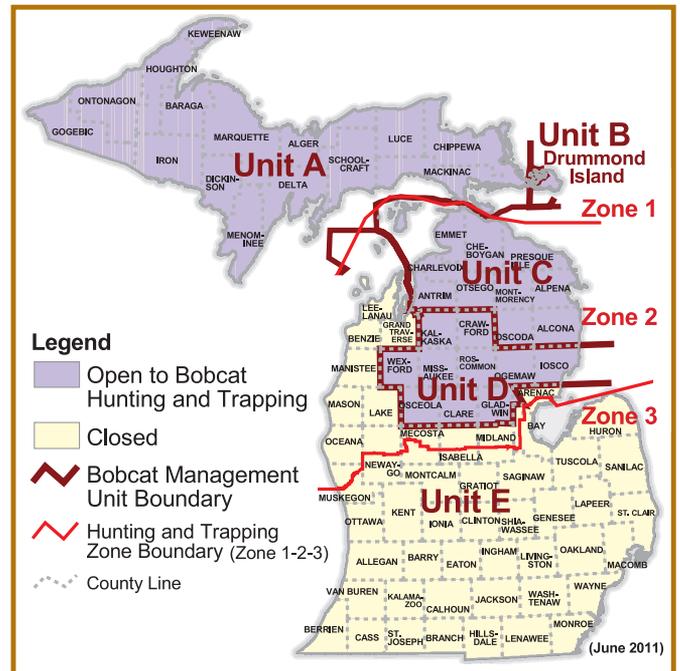


Bobcat Units and Bag Limits

Unit A includes all of the Upper Peninsula, except Drummond Island. Unit B is Drummond Island. Unit C includes Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Unit D includes Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon and Wexford counties, and Arenac County north of M-61 and west of I-75. Unit E includes remainder of Zone 2 and all counties in Zone 3.

Bag Limits: The season bag limit for bobcat is two per person; only one bobcat may be taken in Units C or D combined; and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. A free kill tag is required (see page 21).

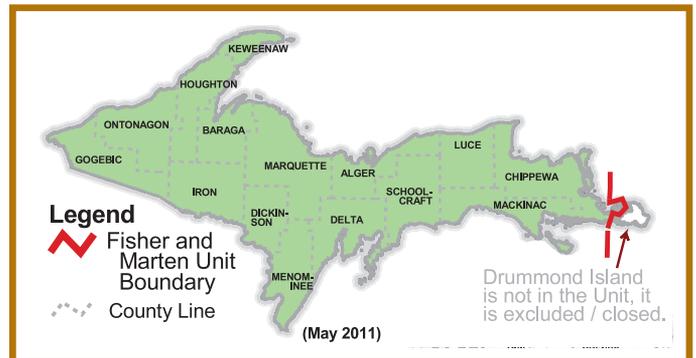
Bobcat Hunting with Dogs: A fur harvester license is required by any individual in possession of a firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow who accompanies a licensed bobcat hunter during the hunt. This license also is required by the owner of any dog chasing or locating bobcat on a hunt.



Fisher and Marten Open Area and Bag Limit

The fisher and marten open area includes all of Zone 1, except Drummond Island.

Bag Limit: The season limit is one marten per person OR one fisher per person. Note: A free kill tag is required for fisher and marten. See page 21.



Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints

Non-lethal cable restraints may be used from Jan. 1 through March 1 to take fox and coyotes, provided:

- Cable restraints are not placed on publicly owned land or commercial forest lands (page 20).
- All cable restraints in possession or carried afield must have a metallic identification tag affixed with the owner's or user's name and address or Michigan driver license number.
- Steel cable 1/16-inch or larger is used.
- The cable restraint loop does not exceed 15 inches in diameter.
- The top of the loop is not placed more than 24 inches above the ground. In snow, 24 inches is measured from the compacted snow in a trapper's footprint established by the full body weight of the trapper.
- Cable restraints are equipped with a relaxing lock. A relaxing lock is defined as a lock that allows the loop to loosen slightly to reduce the possibility of strangulation. Cable restraints also must be equipped with a stop to prevent the loop from closing to a diameter less than 4¼ inches. Regulations on loop size and relaxing lock are designed to prevent the accidental loss of domestic animals and other nontarget species.
- Cable restraints are equipped with a breakaway locking system with a breaking point not greater than 285 pounds. The breakaway device must be attached to the relaxing lock.
- Cable restraints are affixed to a stake or object sufficient to hold a fox or coyote. It is illegal to use any type of drag.
- Cable restraints are equipped with two swivels, including one swivel at the anchor point.
- Spring poles, counterbalanced weights, springs or other similar devices are not used to close the cable restraint.
- Cable restraints may be up to 60 inches in length, not including a cable anchor extension. The cable anchor extension may be up to 36 inches in length.
- Cable restraints are not attached to a fence or set in a manner that would allow an animal to become entangled in a fence.
- Cable restraints may be anchored to woody vegetation provided that the stem is free of branches and stubs to a height of five feet above the ground or compacted snow. Branches and stubs must be cut flush with the outer bark of the stem.
- Cable restraints may not be set so that a restrained animal is suspended with two or more feet off the ground.

Note: Dogs and other domestic animals caught in cable restraints, body-gripping or conibear-type traps should be reported to the DNR Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Information on safely removing dogs from traps may be found on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/trapping under Related Resources.

Furbearer Registration

A person taking a bobcat, fisher, marten, otter or incidental catches must present the animal at a DNR office for registration. See the table below for registration dates. Furtakers must register their own take. It is unlawful to register the take of another person. Operations Service Centers will be, and other DNR offices may be, open during normal business hours. **Hunters and trappers are strongly encouraged to call ahead to determine availability of DNR personnel or to make arrangements to register animals outside normal working hours on an appointment basis.**

The DNR will attach an official seal to the pelt of each animal. This seal replaces the furbearer kill tag that was attached to the hide immediately after harvest (see Furbearer Kill Tags section on page 21). The location of take, date of harvest and manner of harvest will be recorded when the animal is sealed. The skull will also be collected to determine the sex, age and physical condition of the specimen. Skulls will be retained and will not be returned. Requiring skulls from all species ensures tooth samples are undamaged for aging and adequate material is available for DNA analysis. In addition, the DNR is developing new population estimation techniques for furbearer species. These new techniques require precise sex and age information, which will be obtained from skulls.

Seals may be removed by a licensed taxidermist upon acceptance and recording of the specimen. Otherwise, seals shall not be removed until the pelt is processed or tanned, nor shall a person possess or transport a raw, unsealed hide after the required registration date for each animal. A person may not buy or sell a bobcat, fisher, marten or otter pelt without a DNR seal unless the pelt has been processed or tanned.

Animals should be skinned prior to registration. The pelt and carcass or skull should be brought in to a local DNR office for registration.

Species	What is required for registration?	What will be kept from each specimen?	When must I register?
Bobcat	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	Bobcat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trapping Season Units A and B, on or before Feb. 11, 2013 Units C and D, on or before Dec. 30, 2012 • Hunting Season Units A,B and C, on or before Mar. 11, 2013 Unit D, on or before Feb. 11, 2013 Fisher and Marten: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on or before Dec. 19, 2012 Otter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on or before May 3, 2013
Fisher	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	
Marten	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	
Otter	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	
Incidental catches*	The entire carcass and pelt.	The entire carcass and pelt.	See page 21 for details.

*Includes wolves, lynx, and over-harvest of badger, bobcat, fisher, marten and otter.



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Firearm, Crossbow and Bow and Arrow Rules

Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1-Nov. 9 in the Shotgun Zone during the open season for all species **except** no rifles may be used for deer, turkeys and migratory game birds. See page 20 for Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting restrictions.

The rules listed below may not apply to those having a concealed pistol license or those specifically exempt by law from a concealed pistol license and who carry their handgun in accordance with their license or exemption.

Shell Capacity for Shotguns and Centerfire Rifles

It is unlawful to hunt with a semi-automatic shotgun or semi-automatic rifle that can hold more than six shells in the barrel and magazine combined unless it is a .22 caliber rimfire. Fully automatic firearms are illegal. All shotguns used for migratory game birds (including woodcock) must be plugged so the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.

Crossbows

Any licensed hunter who has obtained a free crossbow stamp can hunt with a crossbow during any season in which a firearm is allowed, for both big and small game, **except** hunters in the Upper Peninsula may not use a crossbow or a modified bow during the Dec. 1 - Jan. 1 late archery deer season and Dec. 7-16 muzzleloader deer season, unless the hunter is disabled and has a crossbow permit or special permit to take game with a modified bow.

Any licensed hunter may use a crossbow throughout the archery deer season in the Lower Peninsula (Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1) and during the early archery deer season in the Upper Peninsula (Oct. 1 - Nov. 14). Crossbow use is not allowed in the Red Oak Unit during the archery-only bear season (Oct. 5-11) except for certified hunters with a disability.

The DNR may issue a crossbow permit or a special permit to take game with a modified bow to a person with a valid hunting license to take a deer during an open deer season, if the person is certified as having **permanent or temporary** disability, as defined in Wildlife Conservation Order 5.95, which renders a person unable to use conventional archery equipment. Hunters may use a modified bow where crossbows are legal. A modified bow is a bow, other than a crossbow, that has been physically altered so that it may be held, aimed and shot with one arm.

When hunting deer, bear, elk and turkey, crossbow hunters must use only arrows, bolts and quarrels with a broadhead hunting type of point not less than 7/8 of an inch wide with a minimum of 14 inches in length. For hunter orange clothing requirements, see page 32.

Archery Deer Seasons

During the archery deer seasons, it is illegal to carry afield a pistol, revolver or other firearm while bow hunting for deer.

Exceptions: This prohibition does not apply to pistols carried under authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exception from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. However, a concealed pistol license does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

November 10-14

It is unlawful to carry afield or transport any rifle (including rimfire) or shotgun if you have buckshot, slug, ball loads or cut shells.

Exception: You may transport a firearm to your deer camp or to a target range during this period if the firearm is properly transported.

A resident who holds a fur harvester license may carry a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm while hunting furbearers or checking a trap line during the open season for hunting furbearers or trapping furbearing animals. You also may target shoot on your own property provided there is no attempt to take game.

November 15-30 Firearm Deer Season

It is illegal for a person taking or attempting to take game to carry or possess afield a centerfire or muzzleloading rifle, a crossbow, a bow and arrow, a centerfire or black powder handgun, or a shotgun with buckshot, slug or ball loads or cut shells, unless you have in your possession a 2012 firearm deer, combination deer or antlerless deer license for the appropriate DMU, with an unused kill tag issued in your name, or a 2012 firearm deer, combination deer or antlerless deer license for the appropriate DMU issued in your name with an unused Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit kill tag or an unused managed deer hunting permit.

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

During the December muzzleloading seasons, muzzleloading deer hunters can carry afield and use only a crossbow (except in the Upper Peninsula) or a muzzleloading rifle, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a black powder handgun loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute. Only certified hunters with a disability may use a crossbow or a modified bow during the muzzleloading season in the Upper Peninsula.

All Firearm Deer Seasons-Rifle Zone (See page 12)

In the rifle zone, deer may be taken with handguns, rifles, crossbows, bows and arrows, shotguns and muzzleloading firearms including black powder handguns. It is legal to hunt deer in the rifle zone with any caliber of firearm except a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire (rifle or handgun). During the firearm deer seasons, a firearm deer hunter may carry afield a bow and arrow, crossbow and firearm. **Exception:** See Muzzleloading Deer Seasons for restrictions during this season.

All Firearm Deer Seasons-Shotgun Zone (See page 12)

In the shotgun zone, all hunters afield from Nov. 15-30, and all deer hunters in this zone during other deer seasons, must abide by the following firearm restrictions or use a crossbow or a bow and arrow. Legal firearms are as follows:

- A shotgun may have a smooth or rifled barrel and may be of any gauge.
- A muzzleloading rifle or black powder handgun must be loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute.
- A conventional (smokeless powder) handgun must be .35 caliber or larger and loaded with straight-walled cartridges and may be single- or multiple-shot but cannot exceed a maximum capacity of nine rounds in the barrel and magazine combined.

During the firearm deer seasons, a firearm deer hunter may carry afield a bow and arrow, crossbow and firearm. **Exceptions:**

- See Muzzleloading Deer Seasons above for restrictions during this season.
- From Nov. 15-30, a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or handgun may be used to kill a raccoon while hunting raccoons with dogs between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- A .22 caliber or smaller rimfire may be used to dispatch coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger from Nov. 15-30 in the Shotgun Zone provided the firearm is loaded at the point of kill only.

License Requirement–Possession of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows and Arrows

Those taking or attempting to take game and in possession of a firearm, crossbow, slingshot or bow and arrow must have the appropriate hunting license with them and the identification used to purchase that license and exhibit both upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any other law enforcement officer. Those using a crossbow must obtain a free crossbow stamp annually.

A hunting license is not required when target practicing or sighting-in a firearm at an identifiable, artificially constructed target, and there is no attempt to take game.

Transporting Firearms, Crossbows, and Bows and Arrows

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, moving or is on private or public property. Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel, and all arrows must be in a quiver when a hunter is afield outside the legal hunting hours.

At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle, including snowmobiles:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.
- Crossbows, slingshots and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.

At all times, when carried in or on an off-road vehicle (ORV):

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured keylocked trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows, slingshots and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung.

At all times, when carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine.
- Firearms may not be loaded.

Exception: See the 2012-2013 Waterfowl Hunting Digest, under the Joint State-Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations section.

Exception: These rules do not apply to a pistol carried under authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exception from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. See Statewide Handgun Regulations below.

A percussion cap muzzleloading longarm is considered unloaded if the percussion cap is removed. A flintlock muzzleloading longarm is considered unloaded if the cock is left down and the pan is open. Black powder handguns must be transported as stated above. A muzzleloading firearm that has an electric ignition system is considered unloaded if the battery is removed.

Statewide Handgun Regulations

The rules listed below may not apply to those having a concealed pistol license (CPL) or specifically exempt by law from a CPL and carrying their handgun in accordance with their license or exemption.

- A person must be at least 18 years of age to hunt with (possess) a handgun.
- Handguns cannot be borrowed or loaned to another person other than provided for under the CPL.
- While in the field, handguns must be carried in plain view. Carrying a handgun in a holster in plain view is permitted.
- You may transport your registered handguns while in route to and from your hunting or target shooting area; however, handguns, including BB guns larger than .177 caliber and all pellet guns, must be unloaded and in a closed case designed for the storage of firearms and cannot be readily accessible to any occupant of the vehicle.
- It is a crime for certain felons to possess firearms, including rifles and shotguns, in Michigan.
- Nonresidents must have a CPL or a license to purchase, carry or transport issued by their home state in their possession in order to legally carry or transport a handgun in Michigan.

For more information regarding statewide handgun regulations, obtaining a CPL, or concealed weapons and firearms laws, contact your local police department.

Artificial Lights and Shining

It is illegal to use an artificial light (including vehicle headlights) to locate wild animals at any time during November and all other days of the year between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. It is illegal to use an artificial light on a highway or in a field, wetland, woodland or forest while having in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm or other device capable of shooting a projectile.

Exception: This prohibition does not apply to pistols carried under the authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exemption from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. This does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

An artificial light may be used from Nov. 1-30 on property you own or property owned by a member of your immediate family if you do not have in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm or other device capable of shooting a projectile.

It is a violation of federal law to shine at any time on any national wildlife refuge.

Deer hunters may use an artificial light one hour before and one hour after shooting hours while carrying an unloaded firearm or bow and arrow when traveling on foot to or from their hunting location.

See Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting on page 20, for artificial light regulations when hunting raccoon, opossum, fox and coyote at night.

Persons not possessing a firearm or bow and arrow while traveling on foot may use lights during dog training or field trials to follow dogs chasing raccoon, opossum or fox. A lighted pin sight on a bow or a scope with illuminated crosshairs may be used to hunt game during legal hunting hours.

Note: If you are using an artificial light to locate game, you must immediately stop your vehicle when signaled by a uniformed officer or marked patrol vehicle.

Hunting and Trapping within a Road or Railroad Right-of-Way

You may hunt and trap within a road right-of-way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner. Railroad rights-of-way are private property. Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor. You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass. Also see the Hunting on National Forest Lands section on page 34.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

Michigan is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, an agreement whereby participating states share information about fish and game violators and honor each other's decision to deny licenses and permits.

Poachers beware. If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked in Michigan, you may lose your privileges in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. **Note:** If your license is revoked in any of these states it also may be in Michigan.

Failure to comply with the terms of a wildlife-related citation may result in license suspension in participating states.

Hunter Orange Clothing Requirements

You may not hunt with any device, or trap with any firearm, on any lands during daylight hunting hours from Aug. 15-April 30 unless you wear a hat, cap, vest, jacket or rain gear of highly visible orange color, commonly referred to as hunter orange. When hunting in any season with a license that authorizes the use of a firearm, you must wear hunter orange except as noted below. During the November firearm deer season, this law applies to all deer hunters, including those hunting with a bow and arrow. The garment featuring hunter orange must be the outermost garment and must be visible from all sides. Camouflage orange garments, with 50 percent or more of the surface in hunter orange, are legal.

Exception: This law does not apply to persons hunting waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, or to persons engaged in the sport of falconry. It does not apply to archery or crossbow bear hunters or to persons who are stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote or fox. Archery and crossbow deer hunters also are not required to wear hunter orange except during the youth firearm seasons, early antlerless firearm and the November firearm deer season.

Hunters, Do NOT Move Firewood

Hunters can help stop the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Michigan by leaving firewood at home and buying it after they reach their destination. Moving firewood can spread EAB and puts Michigan's 700 million ash trees at risk. A quarantine is in place which prohibits the movement of all non-coniferous (hardwood) firewood out of quarantined areas. The movement of non-coniferous firewood into the Upper Peninsula is illegal. For more information, visit www.emeraldashborer.info or call the EAB hotline at 866-325-0023.

Dog Training

You may train dogs on wild animals only from July 8 - April 15.

Exception: Michigan residents may train dogs on fox on state lands in Zone 3 (see page 12) under special permit. For additional information on dog permits, contact Casey Reitz at 517-373-9329 or e-mail reitzc@michigan.gov. See the 2012 Michigan Bear Hunting Digest for dog/bear training restrictions.

For information on how to release dogs from traps or snares go to www.michigan.gov/trapping and look under Related Resources.

Important Live Animal Restrictions

Live Animals — It is illegal to possess live game or protected animals taken from the wild except under a permit issued by the DNR.

Importation Bans — It is illegal to bring live raccoon, skunk, wild rabbit or hare, feral swine, wild turkey or wild turkey hybrid or their eggs, or mute swan or their eggs into Michigan. It is illegal to import or possess a lynx or cougar without an endangered species permit. There is a moratorium on importing deer and elk into Michigan.

Rehabilitation — A permit is required to rehabilitate a wild animal in Michigan. It is illegal to possess a live bat, skunk, mute swan, feral swine, moose or elk. It also is illegal to rehabilitate a deer unless the origin of the deer is confirmed to be from outside Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Rehabilitated raccoons must be released in the same county where captured, or they must be euthanized.

Commercial Hunting Guides on Public Land

In 2012, all commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are also required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/wildlifepermits or contact Casey Reitz at reitzc@michigan.gov or (517) 373-9329 for more information.

Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a federal special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any NF office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; or Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Raised Platforms and Tree Stands

The following persons may hunt from a raised platform or tree stand:

- All bow and crossbow hunters.
- Bear and deer hunters when using a firearm.
- Fox and coyote hunters from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

All other firearm hunters are prohibited from using a raised platform or tree stand. A raised platform means a horizontal surface constructed or manufactured by a person that increases the field of vision of a person using the horizontal surface beyond the field of vision that normally would be attained by that person standing on the ground.

If you hunt on public land, your tree stand must be portable and your name and address must be affixed in legible English that can be easily read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts; however, a "T" bolt or similar device supplied by a tree stand manufacturer can be used.

Screw-in tree steps are illegal on public lands. It is illegal to use any item that penetrates through the bark of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree. Scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps and any other device to assist in climbing a tree cannot be placed on public lands any earlier than Sept. 1, and must be removed by March 1. A permanent raised platform or tree stand may be used for hunting on private land with the permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to use an illegal tree stand, scaffold, step, etc., regardless of who placed it on public lands. Your name on a tree stand or ground blind on public land does not guarantee exclusive use.

Mandatory Penalties for Certain Hunting Violations

Violation of permits, season, bag limits, shooting hours and methods of taking game	\$50 to \$500 fine and/or up to 90 days in jail.
Illegal taking/possession of deer, bear or wild turkey	\$200 to \$1,000 fine and 5 to 90 days in jail, restitution of \$1,500 for bear, \$1,000 for deer/turkey, plus revocation of hunting licenses for remainder of year convicted, plus next three consecutive years.
Illegal use of artificial light with bow and arrow, crossbow, or firearm	\$100 to \$500 fine and/or 90 days in jail, plus revocation of hunting licenses for remainder of year convicted, plus next consecutive year.
Carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs	\$500 fine and/or up to 93 days in jail.
Multiple offender: Three convictions within preceding five years	\$500 to \$2,000 fine and 10 to 180 days in jail.