



Frequently Asked Questions

Upper Peninsula (U.P.) Deer Regulations

Background: Deer Regulations are set on a multiple-year cycle. The deer regulations were updated in 2014 and set for a three-year term. Due to a decline in the deer population in the Upper Peninsula and concerns by hunters, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Wildlife Division brought forward six potential regulation options to be considered mid-cycle during the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting that took place on May 7, 2015. These options were discussed, and the NRC narrowed its consideration down to two regulatory options for discussion and potential action at the June 11, 2015 meeting. At the June 11, 2015 meeting, the NRC decided to *eliminate the antlerless option during archery season for hunters using a deer or deer combination license in the U.P.*

The following is a list of frequently asked questions for the 2015 U.P. Deer Regulations (please note these new regulations only apply to the U.P. (Zone 1) :

When will the new regulations begin?

The regulation will go into effect for the 2015-2016 season.

How will these new regulations help the deer population in the U.P.?

There have been roughly 5,000-6,300 antlerless deer harvested with archery equipment in the U.P. each year over the past 4 years. This option would offer protection to antlerless deer, which would reduce harvest of potentially reproductive deer going into next year.

Do these new regulations effect the firearm or muzzleloading deer season?

No, the restriction does not affect the firearm or muzzleloading deer seasons.

What does this mean for archery hunters?

Hunters in the U.P. cannot harvest antlerless deer during archery season unless hunting in a deer management unit (DMU) open to antlerless deer hunting and using a valid antlerless deer license. Please see the antlerless deer digest for more information by clicking [here](#).

How does this affect my deer license?

If you are hunting in the U.P. with your deer license during archery season, you may not harvest an antlerless deer unless you have an antlerless license or you are participating in the mentored youth program. Otherwise, you may only harvest one deer that has at least one antler 3 inches or longer. In DMU 122 you must harvest a deer with at least 3 points on one side and in DMU 117 you must harvest a deer with at least 2 points on one side.

How does this affect my deer combination license?

If you are hunting in the U.P. with your combination license during archery season, you may only harvest an antlered deer with 3 or more points on one side on your regular tag and an antlered deer with 4 or more points on one side with your restricted tag (The points must be at least 1 inch long).

Can I hunt a deer in the U.P. with my antlerless deer hunting license?

You may only harvest an antlerless deer in the U.P. if you have a private-land antlerless license in DMUs 055, 122, and 155. Please see the antlerless deer digest for more information by clicking [here](#).

Does this affect the junior antlerless deer hunting license?

You may only use the junior antlerless deer hunting license for private-land antlerless hunting in DMUs 055, 122 and 155. Please see the antlerless deer digest for more information by clicking [here](#).

Does this affect the deer license given in the mentored youth program?

No, a hunter hunting with a mentored youth deer license is valid for any deer in any deer management unit. Antler Point Restrictions do not apply.

Can I still use my private-land antlerless license?

Yes, deer may be hunted with private-land antlerless deer licenses in DMUs 055, 122, and 155.

Can I hunt antlerless deer on Commercial Forest Reserve land?

No. Antlerless deer hunting is not allowed on Commercial Forest Reserve, federal, state or county-managed lands in the U.P. in 2015. Hunting antlerless deer in the U.P. is only allowed on private land within DMUs 055, 122 and 155.

Do antler point restrictions still apply in the U.P. during archery season?

Yes, antler point restrictions still apply during the archery season in the U.P. for hunters not hunting with a mentored youth license.

What are the antler point restrictions for the deer license?

You may harvest an antlered deer with at least one antler 3 inches or longer unless you are hunting in DMU 122 or DMU 117 which both have specific antler point restrictions. In DMU 122 you must harvest a deer with at least 3 points on one side and in DMU 117 you must harvest a deer with at least 2 points on one side.

What are the antler point restrictions for the deer combination regular tag?

You may only harvest an antlered deer with 3 or more points on one side, that are at least 1 inch long. You may not harvest an antlerless deer.

What are the antler point restrictions for the deer combination restricted tag?

You may harvest an antlered deer with 4 or more points on one side, that are at least 1 inch long. You may not harvest an antlerless deer.

Do antler point restrictions apply for the mentored youth deer license?

No, antler point restrictions do not apply for a hunter hunting with a mentored youth license. You may shoot an antlered deer, at least one antler 3 inches or longer.

How do the new regulations apply to veterans with disabilities?

You may harvest an antlered deer in the U.P., subject to all regulations including antler point restrictions, unless hunting during the Liberty Hunt or Independence Hunt. Hunters participating in the Liberty Hunt or Independence Hunt may harvest an antlerless or antlered deer and antler point restrictions do not apply.

Do I still get to use my disability bow permit in the U.P.?

Yes, you may still use your disability bow permit in the U.P. during late archery season, but you may only shoot an antlered deer, subject to all regulations including antler point restrictions.

Can I still harvest an antlerless deer under my permit to hunt from a standing vehicle?

Yes, this permit entitles a hunter to harvest a deer of either sex under any valid deer license; subject to all other regulations including buck limits and antler point restrictions.

Do these new regulations apply to Drummond Island?

Yes, you may not harvest an antlerless deer with your deer license or deer combination license on Drummond Island. You may only harvest an antlered deer with 2 or more points on one side with your deer license, an antlered deer with 3 or more points on one side with your deer combination regular tag and an antlered deer with 4 or more points on one side with your deer combination restricted tag.

Are tribal hunters affected by the new regulations?

Tribal hunters are not affected by the new regulations. Regulations approved by the NRC are separate from tribal regulations. Additionally, surveys have shown that about 90% of tribal hunters take 2 or fewer deer during a hunting season, so further restricting harvest will have a minimal effect.

Will the license fees change regarding the new regulations?

No. All license fees will remain the same.

What do I do if I've already bought a 2015 deer license?

The DNR encourages hunters to hunt in the Lower Peninsula if they are hoping to harvest an antlerless deer. For more information on potential hunting locations please check out Mi-Hunt by clicking [here](#).

Can I get a refund for my deer or deer combination license?

Yes, deer and deer combination licenses can be returned for a refund and new licenses can be purchased prior to the start of the deer seasons. After September 20, 2015, the licenses are considered "used" and cannot be returned. To learn more about the process for returning licenses, contact DNR licensing staff at 517-284-6057 or MDNR-E-License@michigan.gov.