

Antler Point Restriction Process



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Quality Deer Management

Antler Point Restrictions in Context

“Quality Deer Management (QDM)... typically involves the protection of young bucks... combined with an adequate harvest of female deer to maintain a healthy population in balance with existing habitat conditions and landowner desires.”

(www.qdma.com/corporate/mission)



Quality Deer Management

Antler Point Restrictions in Context

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**Antler Point Restriction (APR):
one tool to address one
component of QDM**

(www.qdma.com/corporate/mission)



Antler Point Restrictions

- 1999 Michigan APR proposal guidelines
- Natural Resources Commission (NRC) retains full authority over implementation
- Some proposals divisive; process labor-intensive
 - Moratorium established April 2006
- 2010–2011: NRC APR workgroup
 - Process revised & re-initiated



Antler Point Restrictions

- An APR is understandable and enforceable
 - Protection of young bucks (at least 50% required) can be predicted
- Unique process to provide direct opportunity to engage regulations-setting
 - Process does not alter antlerless regulations or crop damage permits



Proposal Process

- Submission and review
 - Sponsoring organization submits to Wildlife Division
 - Proposal critique by Wildlife and Law Divisions
 - NRC advised of progress
- Public notice and information
 - Public meetings hosted by sponsoring organization, attended by Wildlife Division staff
- Survey of public support



Implementation

- Survey of support: requirements for recommendation
 - Minimum 50% response and 66% support
 - Support to maintain measured after 5 years
- Biological evaluation
 - Biological concerns would preclude recommendation to implement or maintain
 - Compare 5 years under restriction to 5 years prior to restriction
 - To date, any statistical changes after APR have been small



APR Surveys:

Lessons learned from prior surveys

- 17 APR surveys were completed
- Landowner and hunter opinions similar (landowners more supportive)
- Survey outcome would have not changed if only one group had been surveyed



Table 1. Proportion of landowners and deer hunters supporting antler-point restrictions, summarized by evaluation area.

Evaluation area	Support (%)			Outcome
	Landowners	Hunters	Difference	
Delta and Marquette	73%	68%	4%	Same
Dickinson, Menominee, & Iron	80%	71%	9%*	Same
Huron, Sanilac, & Tuscola	39%	36%	2%	Same
Leelanau	66%	63%	3%	Same
Chippewa & Mackinac	57%	53%	4%	Same
Iosco	81%	74%	8%*	Same
South Fox Island	100%	74%	26%*	Same
Iosco	59%	57%	2%	Same
Mason	47%	49%	-1%	Same
Montcalm	44%	40%	3%	Same
Drummond Island	77%	81%	-4%	Same
Clare	56%	57%	-1%	Same
Chippewa & Mackinac	59%	58%	1%	Same
Upper Peninsula	63%	61%	3%	Same
Dickinson, Iron, & Menominee	76%	74%	2%	Same
Alger, Delta, Dickinson, & Marquette	60%	52%	8%*	Same
Leelanau	72%	72%	0%	Same

*Non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals indicated estimates differed significantly between landowners and hunters (P<0.005).

APR Surveys:

Sources of survey sample for prior surveys

- Hunter sample: DNR database
 - Prior deer harvest survey respondents
- Landowner sample: county tax assessors
 - Created list of individual landowners of private noncommercial parcels ≥ 5 Acres



Final NRC Decisions

8 December 2011

- Revise materials, open process for proposals
- Initiate evaluation of Northwest Lower Peninsula proposal
- Consider just 1/region/year; Wildlife Division reports proposals intended to evaluate to NRC
- Retain 66% margin of support, with only “yes” and “no” survey responses
- Charge for estimated survey cost
- Eliminate landowner sampling, but provide opportunity for input via email

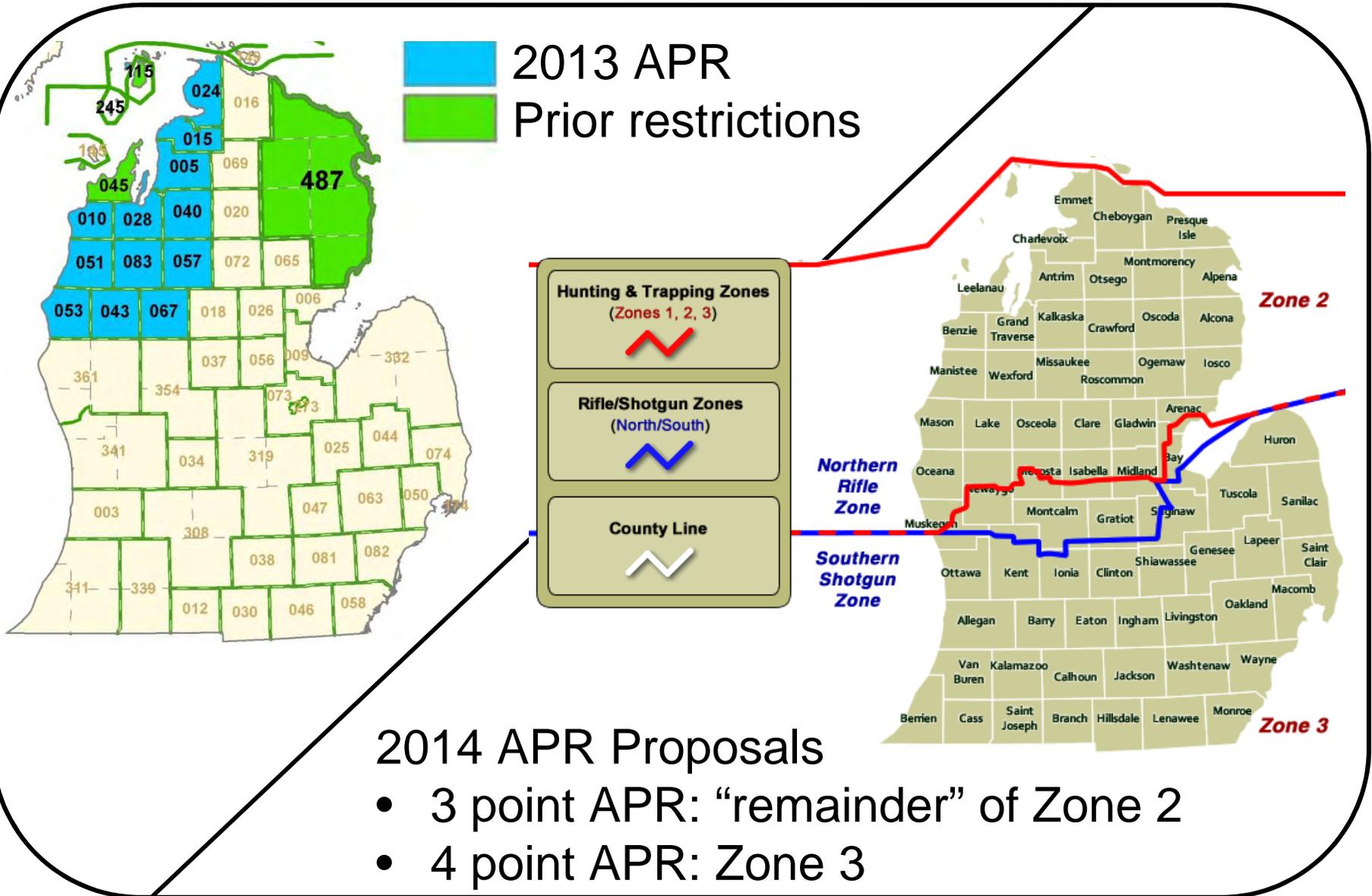


Units Under APR Regulations

- Areas implemented prior to formal process:
3 of 4 remain under a restriction
 - Drummond Island (117)
 - South Fox Island (245)
 - Portion of Iosco Co (135)
- Areas implemented following formal process:
2 of 3 remain under a restriction
 - Norway (122)
 - Leelanau (045)
- Areas implemented during re-initiation:
 - Beaver Island (115) through Wildlife Certification
 - 12 Northwest counties under new process



Lower Peninsula APR Proposals



Thank You!



www.michigan.gov/deer