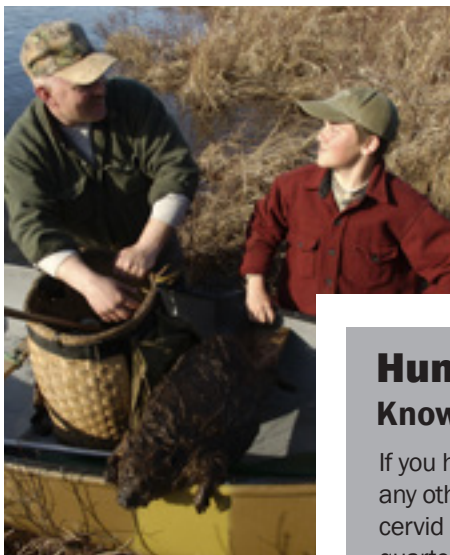




2017

# MICHIGAN HUNTING AND TRAPPING DIGEST

— Rules apply from August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2018—



## Hunting out of Michigan? Know before you go! (NEW)

If you harvest a deer, elk, moose, or other cervid in any other state, you can only bring back the following cervid parts into Michigan: hides, deboned meat, quarters or other parts of the cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, finished taxidermy products, cleaned teeth, antlers, or antlers attached to a skullcap cleaned of brain and muscle tissue.

**#mihealthydeer #UPcwdFree**

### NOTICE

- New Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Regulations.  
See pgs. 38-41 and 62-63.
- Fur harvester licenses valid May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018.  
See pg. 46. All fur harvester kill tags available May 1, 2017.
- All waterfowl hunting information is in the current-year *Waterfowl Hunting Digest*.

Download @  
[mi.gov/dnrdigests](http://mi.gov/dnrdigests)



**RAP (Report All Poaching) Call or Text 800-292-7800**

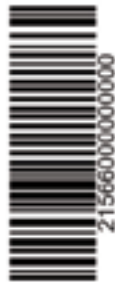
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## MICHIGAN WILDLIFE COUNCIL

When you buy a hunting license, you're paying for more than just a piece of paper. You are helping to conserve Michigan's wildlife, public lands and waters.

Your license dollars are the largest source of funding for conservation. So thanks to you, Michigan's wildlife and natural resources will continue to thrive so they are here for generations.

Brought to you by the Michigan Wildlife Council - dedicated to sharing the story of how hunters and anglers contribute to Michigan's natural resources, economy and outdoor heritage.

To learn more, visit:

**HereForMiOutdoors.org**



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

...

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish. The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information visit [mi.gov/nrc](http://mi.gov/nrc).

...

**NOTICE:** This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: [mi.gov/dnr/laws](http://mi.gov/dnr/laws)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

## Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits 2017 - 2018

Species	Bag Limit	Area	Season Dates (dates listed may be hunted)	Notes	Definitions and Notes
Cottontail Rabbit and/or Snowshoe Hare	daily: 5 possession: 10	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Mar. 31		<b>DEFINITIONS:</b>  <b>Daily bag limit</b> means the maximum number of game birds or animals of a single species or combination of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season.  <b>Possession limit</b> means the maximum number of game birds or animals of a single species, or a combination of species, permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in Michigan.  <b>NOTES:</b>  1. Crows may be taken outside the open season during hunting hours in compliance with federal regulations, if these birds are causing a nuisance or creating a health hazard.  2. See pg. 32-33 and 38-40 for antler point restriction regulations statewide.  3. Shotguns must be plugged so they are capable of holding no more than three shells. See pg. 42 for stamp and HIP requirements.  4. Deer and deer combo licenses are valid for an antlered or antlerless deer during this season. See pgs. 27 and 30 for restrictions.  5. Special rules for Ionia and Highland field trial areas. See State Parks and Recreation Areas section on pg. 14.  6. For opossum nighttime hunting see pg. 48.  7. Applications for limited-license hunts may be purchased during the designated application period from license agents or online at <a href="http://mdnr-elastic.com">mdnr-elastic.com</a> .  8. For more information on Feral Swine, see pg. 64.  9. For counties with an extended archery season, see pg. 35.
Crow	No Limit	Statewide	Aug. 1 - Sept. 30 and Feb. 1 - Mar. 31	1	
Deer					
Early Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	See current-year <i>Antlerless Deer Digest</i>	Sept. 16-17		
Liberty Hunt	1	See pgs. 27 and 30	Sept. 16-17	4	
Independence Hunt	1	See pg. 30	Oct. 19-22	4	
Archery	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1	2,9	
Regular Firearm	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Nov. 15-30	2	
Muzzleloading	1 per kill tag	Zone 1 & 2 Zone 3	Dec. 1-10 Dec. 1-17	2	
Late Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	See current-year <i>Antlerless Deer Digest</i>	Dec. 18 - Jan. 1		
Pheasant (male only)	daily: 2 possession: 4	Zone 1 see pg. 45 Zone 2 & 3 Zone 3 see pg. 45	Oct. 10-31 Oct. 20 - Nov. 14 Dec. 1 - Jan. 1		
Quail	daily: 5 possession: 10	See pg. 43	Oct. 20 - Nov. 14	5	
Ruffed Grouse	daily 5/ possession 10 daily 3 / possession 6	Zone 1 & 2 Zone 3	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	daily: 2 possession: 4 season: 6	Zone 1 see pg. 44	Oct. 10-31		
Squirrel, Fox and Gray (black phase included)	daily: 5 possession: 10	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Mar. 1		
Woodcock	daily: 3 possession: 9	Statewide	Sept. 23 - Nov. 6	3	
Opossum, Porcupine, Weasel, Red Squirrel, Skunk, Ground Squirrel, Woodchuck, Feral Swine, Feral Pigeons, Starlings, and House Sparrows	No Limit	Statewide	Year-round with a valid Michigan hunting license, woodchuck and skunk may be taken without a license if doing or about to do damage on private property by the property owner or designee.	5,6,8	
Limited License Hunts	Approximate Availability of Species-Specific Hunting Digests		Application Period		
Bear	For season information and license costs, see species-specific hunting digests, which are published separately from this digest. <b>View digests at:</b> <a href="http://mi.gov/dnrdigests">mi.gov/dnrdigests</a>	End of April	May 1 - Jun. 1	7	
Elk		End of April	May 1 - Jun. 1		
Fall Wild Turkey		End of June	July 1 - Aug. 1		
Antlerless Deer		Beginning of July	July 15 - Aug. 15		
Reserved Waterfowl		Beginning of July	Aug. 1-28		
Pure Michigan Hunt			Mar. 1 - Dec. 31		
Spring Wild Turkey		End of December	Jan. 1 - Feb. 1		



## Fur Harvester Seasons and Bag Limits 2017 - 2018

Species	Bag Limit	Area	Season Dates	Notes
<b>Hunting Seasons</b>				
<b>Bobcat</b>	See pg. 51	Units A,B, & C Unit D Units E & F	Jan. 1 - Mar. 1 Jan. 1 - Feb. 1 Jan. 1 - Jan. 11	6,9
<b>Coyote</b>	No limit	Statewide	Year-round	1,2, 3,9
<b>Fox Gray and Red</b>	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1	2,9
<b>Raccoon</b>	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	1,2,9
<b>Trapping Seasons</b>				
<b>Badger</b>	1 per person	Zones 1 & 2 Zone 3	Oct. 15 - Nov. 14 Nov. 1 - Mar. 1	4,9
<b>Beaver</b>	No Limit	Units A, B, & C	See pg. 52	9
<b>Bobcat</b>	See pg. 51	Units A & B Units C, D, E, & F	Dec. 1 - Feb. 1 Dec. 10-20	6,8 9
<b>Coyote and Fox Gray and Red Fox</b>	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1	1,5,9
<b>Fisher/Marten</b>	1 fisher <b>or</b> 1 marten per person	Zone 1	Dec. 1-15	6,7, 9
<b>Muskrat and Mink</b>	No limit	Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3	Oct. 25 - Mar. 1 Nov. 1 - Mar. 1 Nov. 10 - Mar. 1	9
<b>Otter</b>	See pg. 52	Units A,B, & C	See pg. 52	6,9
<b>Raccoon</b>	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 31	1,9

### NOTES:

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. Nighttime season dates are same as daytime. See pg. 48 for specific regulations governing hunting these species at night.
3. A fur harvester license is not required for a resident with a base license to hunt coyote.
4. In Zone 1, badger may be trapped by residents only in Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee and Ontonagon counties, and Alger and Delta counties west of the Federal Forest Highway 13. Badgers do not require registration.
5. See Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints on pg. 50 for regulations governing the trapping of fox and coyote.
6. This species requires a free kill tag. See Furbearer Kill Tags on pg. 49 for details.
7. Fisher and marten are open in Zone 1, excluding Drummond Island.
8. Bobcat units C, D, E, & F are open to public and private land but limited to foothold traps only.
9. For nonresident fur harvesting regulations, see pg. 46. There is no nonresident season for badger, bobcat, fisher, marten or otter.

## Hunter Education Program (Hunter Safety)

Michigan has a long, rich tradition of hunting. In Michigan, hunting contributes to wildlife management and conservation, provides a positive family experience and increased recreational opportunity, and is good for the economy.

Safe hunting begins with hunter education. Michigan's hunter education program has had a dramatic impact on reducing hunting incidents in our state. Courses are offered year-round throughout the state, though most occur during August, September and October. The typical course consists of two sessions with a total class time of 10-12 hours. Students also can use the Internet to complete a part of the hunter education course. The online course can be found at [mi.gov/huntereducation](http://mi.gov/huntereducation).

If you are interested in becoming a hunter education instructor, please write to: Hunter Education Program, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30031, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-284-6055.

## Pure Michigan Hunt

Three lucky hunters will be selected for the 2018 Pure Michigan Hunt (PMH). Winners may purchase one elk, bear, antlerless deer, spring turkey, fall turkey and base hunting license at the total cost of \$3. PMH winners may also participate in one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area. Also, winners will receive a prize package valued at over \$4000, and can optionally transfer their PMH hunting opportunities to other individuals. Non-residents are not eligible to purchase the PMH elk license.

Each PMH license is valid for the applicable 2018 species hunting season and may be used in any open hunt area for that species, except bear hunting on Drummond Island. Licenses will be subject to all 2018 hunting regulations.

Individuals who have received an elk license through a prior elk drawing are eligible to apply for the PMH. Purchase of PMH licenses does not affect a hunter's eligibility to apply for or purchase other hunting licenses, and will not affect bear preference points or weighted elk chances the hunter has earned. PMH applicants must be at least 10 years old and eligible to purchase regular (non-apprentice) hunting licenses.

Hunters may purchase as many PMH applications as they wish until Dec. 31, 2017. Applications cost \$5 each. Drawing results will be posted at [mi.gov/pmh](http://mi.gov/pmh) on Jan. 22, 2018. Visit [mi.gov/pmh](http://mi.gov/pmh) for complete list of sponsors and prizes.

# L I C E N S E   T Y P E S   A N D   F E E S

## License Types and Fees by Age

License Type	Cost				
	<sup>1,2</sup> Age: Up to 9	<sup>1</sup> Junior <sup>1</sup> Age: 10-16	<sup>1</sup> Resident Age: 17+	<sup>3</sup> Nonresident <sup>3</sup> Age: 17+	<sup>1</sup> Resident Senior Age: 65+
<b>DNR Sportcard</b>	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
<b>Mentored Youth License</b>	\$7.50	--	--	--	--
<b>* <sup>5</sup> Base License (valid as small game license; see pg. 42) - Valid through March 31, 2018</b>	--	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$151.00	\$5.00
<b>Small game 7-day Nonresident</b>	--	--	--	\$80.00	--
<b>*Hunt/Fish Combo</b> (includes: base license, deer combo, and all species fish license)	--	--	\$76.00	\$266.00	\$43.00
<b><sup>2</sup>Fur Harvester -</b> <sup>4</sup> Valid through April 30, 2018	--	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$6.00
<b>Deer (one kill tag)</b>	--	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$8.00
<b>Deer Combo (two kill tags)</b>	--	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$190.00	\$28.00

\* One dollar from each of these licenses will be used to educate the public on the benefits of hunting, fishing, and trapping in Michigan, and the impact of these activities on the conservation, preservation and management of the state's natural resources.

<sup>1</sup> For complete information on Youth Hunting, see pgs. 25-27.

<sup>2</sup> Must be a resident, 8 years of age or older, to obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher. These kill tags are available beginning May 1. See pg. 49 for details.

<sup>3</sup> Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase resident licenses.

<sup>4</sup> Must purchase 2017 base license by Feb. 28, 2018 in order to purchase a fur harvester license in March or April 2018.

<sup>5</sup> The 2018 base license is available for purchase beginning March 1, 2018.

### Lost Licenses

#### All Hunting and Fishing Licenses

- If originally purchased at a license agent or on E-license, you may visit a license agent and have your license(s) reprinted. (\$3 for non-kill tag replacement and full price for kill tag replacement). You must provide the identification number used to purchase the original license.
- If originally purchased online, you received an e-mail containing a PDF file of printable licenses, including your base license. Save your PDF so it can be reprinted if misplaced.

For a replacement **Michigan hunter safety certificate**, visit [mi.gov/recreationsafety](http://mi.gov/recreationsafety).

Call 517-284-6057 for licensing assistance.

## U.S. Military Personnel

Hunting license fees are waived for **full-time, federal, active-duty** U.S. military personnel who have maintained resident status, except for hunting licenses obtained through a drawing. The individual must present military ID, leave papers, duty papers, military orders, or other evidence verifying that he/she is a member of the military, along with a valid Michigan driver's license or voter registration card.

## Michigan Veterans with Disabilities

A resident veteran with a disability is eligible to obtain any hunting license that does not require a separate application free of charge if one of the following conditions is met:

- The person has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100-percent rate, for disabilities other than blindness.
- The person has been rated by United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable.

**Documentation of eligibility from the Veterans Administration stating either of the above conditions shall be in the possession of a veteran when obtaining free licenses and while afield.**

## Base License

All hunters are required to have a base license before purchasing other licenses. The base license provides funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land, and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The base license is valid for hunting small game; see pg. 42. Additional licenses are required to hunt other species, except a resident possessing a base license may hunt coyote without securing a fur harvester license. Hunters are encouraged to carry their base license at all times when hunting. A base license is not required to purchase a fishing license or limited-license hunt applications.

## Apprentice Hunting

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice (APC) license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. Additional licenses are required to hunt big game and waterfowl. The base apprentice license is available to both residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. **"Accompanied by"** requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

## 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.

### To Purchase a License

You must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid **Michigan driver's license**.
- State of **Michigan ID card** (issued by the Secretary of State).
- **DNR Sportcard** (issued through license agents or at [mdnr-elicense.com](http://mdnr-elicense.com)). If the information on your DNR Sportcard from a previous year is still accurate, you should continue to use it.

**All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960** must present their hunter safety certificate or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) to purchase their licenses.

Hunters must possess qualifying credentials and/or identification that may be required for certain license purchases.

**When hunting or trapping, you must carry your license and present upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.**

- It is unlawful to use another person's hunting license or kill tag.

**To qualify for any adult resident hunting or fur harvester license, you must meet one of the following criteria:**

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license. "Resident" status can only be claimed in one state.
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university and reside in the state during the school year.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

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



The hunting hours listed in the table reflect Eastern Standard Time, with an adjustment for daylight saving time. If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson, or Menominee counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.

## 13

## Public Lands

### Hunting and Trapping in State Parks and Recreation Areas

State parks are closed to hunting unless opened by law ([mi.gov/dnrlaws](http://mi.gov/dnrlaws)). State Recreation Areas are open to hunting unless closed by law. All or portions of 38 state parks are open to hunting. Portions of 16 state recreation areas are closed to hunting. Contact the individual park or recreation area for hunting information.

It is unlawful to use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol to take an animal during nighttime hours in any state park or state recreation area.

Within the established season, 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.

Trapping within 50 feet of the mowed portions of developed areas within state recreation areas is prohibited. Contact individual parks or recreation areas for current trapping regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to trapping.

It is unlawful to target-shoot in a state park or recreation area, except on designated shooting ranges located at Algonac State Park and Bald Mountain, Island Lake, Ortonville and Pontiac Lake Recreation Areas.

Camping is allowed only on designated campsites. To make camping reservations, go to [midnrreservations.com](http://midnrreservations.com). Michigan residents have the opportunity to buy a Recreation Passport for \$11 when renewing their vehicle registration with the Secretary of State. The Recreation Passport gives you access to all 103 state parks and recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, and all DNR-administered boat launches in Michigan. Camping fees remain in effect. For more information visit [mi.gov/recreationpassport](http://mi.gov/recreationpassport) or call 517-284-7275. Out-of-state registered vehicles will require a daily (\$9) or annual (\$32) fee to enter any state park or DNR-administered boat launch site.

### Finding Public Hunting Lands Online

Looking for a place to hunt? The DNR has created a collection of maps under *Related Resources* at [mi.gov/mihunt](http://mi.gov/mihunt), that identify all lands that are open to public hunting in Michigan. Hunters can click on a particular county and see not only the state forest, wildlife management, and parks and recreation lands open to hunting that are administered by the DNR, but also all federal lands and private lands that are open to the public through the Hunting Access Program (HAP) or the Commercial Forest Act (CFA). It is the responsibility of the users of these maps to be aware of all regulations relevant to their hunting activities and hunting locations. These maps show approximate boundaries of the lands open to public hunting.

There is also an interactive map application called Mi-HUNT, which helps you plan your hunting, trapping, and outdoor recreation adventures — now compatible with mobile devices and smart phones. Check it out at [mi.gov/mihunt](http://mi.gov/mihunt).



## 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, hunting, and trapping. To hunt all species except antlerless deer on CF land, hunters must possess licenses which are valid for private land hunting. To hunt antlerless deer on CF land, hunters must possess a public-land antlerless deer license. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner's discretion. CF landowners are not required to identify the property as CF, and CF land 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, etc.), and damaging or injuring any 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 [mi.gov/commercialforest](http://mi.gov/commercialforest). CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at [mi.gov/mihunt](http://mi.gov/mihunt). If you have questions about this program or specific CF parcels, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest Resources Division at 517-284-5900, [DNR-Forestry@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Forestry@michigan.gov), or P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909.

### Hunting Access Program (HAP) Properties

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. For further details, visit [mi.gov/hap](http://mi.gov/hap) or consult the *Public Hunting on Private Lands Digest*, which is available at DNR offices and license agents. Aerial photographs of HAP farms can be viewed on the DNR's interactive mapping tool, Mi-HUNT, [mi.gov/mihunt](http://mi.gov/mihunt).



## **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 may hunt with a firearm 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 lawful discharge of firearms for any non-hunting purpose.

## **Hunting and Trapping Within a Road Right-of-way 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 pg. 66.

## **Float Hunting**

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowner(s) bordering the waterway and their invited guests. You must secure permission from the landowner before float hunting or setting traps along those waterways that are protected by the recreational trespass law. You may float hunt and trap on and along waterways that are surrounded by public land and open to hunting.

## **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, Mackinac, Manistee, 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.

## **Trespassing on Private Land**

Trespassing is unlawful and erodes support for recreational hunting. Written or verbal permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you hunt on any farm lands or connected woodlots or on any posted private land. Hunters are required to produce their hunting license to landowners upon request. If you wound an animal or bird and it runs or flies onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission of the landowner and would be subject to prosecution. A person not possessing a firearm, unless previously prohibited by the landowner, may enter on foot upon the property of another person for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. The person shall not remain on the property beyond the reasonable time necessary to retrieve the dog.

## Hunter Orange Clothing Requirements

A person shall not take game during the established daylight shooting hours from Aug. 15 through April 30 unless the person wears a cap, hat, vest, jacket, or rain gear of hunter orange. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange. The garments that are hunter orange shall be the hunter's outermost garment and shall be visible from all sides of the hunter. Check [mi.gov/dnr/laws](http://mi.gov/dnr/laws) for possible changes to color clothing requirements that occurred after the printing of this digest.

**Exception:** This does not apply to a person engaged in the taking of deer with a bow or crossbow during archery deer season, a person taking bear with a bow or crossbow, a person engaged in the taking of turkey, crow or other migratory birds other than woodcock, a person engaged in the sport of falconry, or a person who is stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote, or fox.

## Artificial Lights and Shining

It is unlawful 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 unlawful 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.

### Exceptions:

- 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.
- Nighttime furbearer hunting of raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote. See pg. 48 for artificial light regulations.

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. Those 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.

## Restrictions on Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) & Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles and ORVs are prohibited at any time on state game areas or state parks and recreation areas unless posted open. Some roads may be closed to ORV use; check [mi.gov/dnr/laws](http://mi.gov/dnr/laws) or contact the nearest DNR office for closures.

**Time Restrictions**—It is unlawful 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 to the following:

- During an emergency.
- While traveling to and from a permanent residence or hunting camp that is otherwise inaccessible by conventional wheeled vehicle.
- To remove legally harvested deer, bear, or elk. An individual shall not operate an ORV at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour and the individual must use the most direct route that complies with all ORV restrictions.
- 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.
- To a person with a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle.

## Rifles in the Limited Firearm Deer Zone

Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1 – Nov. 9 in the Limited Firearm Deer Zone (see pg. 11) during the open season for all species, **except** deer, turkey, and migratory game birds. See pg. 48 for nighttime furbearer regulation restrictions.

## Shotguns and Centerfire Rifles - Shell Capacity

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 or smaller rimfire. Fully automatic firearms are unlawful. 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

A crossbow may be used 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. 1-10 muzzleloader deer season, unless the hunter is disabled and has a crossbow permit or special permit to take game with a modified bow (see pg. 28).

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).

When hunting deer, bear, elk, and turkey, crossbow hunters must use only arrows, bolts, and quarrels at least 14 inches in length and tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inches wide.

## Transporting Firearms, Crossbows, and Bows and Arrows

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, or moving. 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, muzzleloaders, and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle on private or public property, whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, or moving.
- Crossbows, slingshots, and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road, or street.

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 key-locked 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 all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine.

**Exception:** See the current-year *Waterfowl 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 Handgun Regulations - Statewide on pg. 21.

**Exception:** A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a Personal Assistive Mobility Device if the action is open. See pg. 28.

**Note:** Muzzleloading firearms are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or priming powder is removed from the pan, or when the battery is removed on electronic systems. The ball and powder can remain in the barrel.

## Airbows

It is unlawful to hunt using an airbow during any season for any species in Michigan.

## Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Seasons - Bringing Equipment Afield

See pgs. 46-57.

## Deer Seasons - Bringing Equipment Afield

### Archery Deer Seasons

During the archery deer seasons, it is unlawful to possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or other firearm while bow hunting for deer. **Exception:** This prohibition does not apply to the following:

- An individual who is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is in an area open to firearm deer hunting during the early and late antlerless season, liberty hunt, independence hunt, and the Nov. 15-30 firearm deer hunt.
- An individual who is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is in an area open to the muzzleloading deer season in zone 2 or zone 3.
- 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 (see pg. 19). 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 or trapping furbearing animals. You also may target shoot on your own property provided there is no attempt to take game.

### All Firearm Deer Seasons - Limited Firearm Deer Zone (See pg. 11)

In the Limited Firearm Deer 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.

- A firearm deer hunter may carry afield a bow and arrow, crossbow and firearm.  
**Exceptions:** See Muzzleloading Deer Seasons below.
- A .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges with a min. case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches.
- A .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol charged only from an external high-compression power source.

### **All Firearm Deer Seasons - North of Limited Firearm Deer Zone** (See pg. 11)

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 north of the limited firearm deer 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 below.

### **Firearm Deer Season**

It is unlawful for a person taking or attempting to take deer 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 name and possession a current-year:

- Deer, deer combo, or antlerless deer license for the appropriate DMU, **or**
- Deer, deer combo, or antlerless deer license for the appropriate DMU **with** an unused Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit kill tag, or an unused managed deer hunting permit.

During firearm deer season, those using archery equipment must follow all firearm regulations.

### **Muzzleloading Deer Seasons**

An individual hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm during the muzzleloading deer season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a crossbow, muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, 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. See "Archery Deer Seasons" for possession and carry of firearms during the coinciding late archery deer season.

### **Handgun Regulations - Statewide**

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 or 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 en 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, in the barrel and magazines, 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 ammunition and 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.

### Raised Platforms and Tree Stands

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

- Bow and crossbow hunters (all species).
- Bear, deer, and elk hunters when using a firearm.
- Small game (**except** migratory bird) hunters using a shotgun only.
- 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 it 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, Michigan driver License number, or DNR sportcard number 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. A fall arrest system is recommended.

Screw-in tree steps are illegal on public lands. It is unlawful 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.

## Ground Blinds on Public Land

A ground blind means a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or



manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising the user for the purpose of taking an animal. Any ground blind on public land that does not meet the requirements of either Type 1, 2, or 3 described below is an unlawful ground blind. See pg. 60-61, Additional Hunting Rules, for cutting-lane information. **Exception:** See the current-year *Waterfowl Digest* for regulations on waterfowl hunting blinds.

**Only the following three types of ground blinds are legal on public land:**

**Type 1 (Portable Ground Blind):** This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt (if you wish to leave your blind out overnight, see type 3 below).

Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and also must be removed daily. No identification is required. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see pg. 11).

**Type 2 (Dead Natural Materials Ground Blind).** This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead and natural materials found on the ground in the area of the blind, except that a hunter may add netting, cloth, plastic, or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt.

These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued, or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners (nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks, and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see pg. 11).

**Type 3 (Constructed Ground Blind).** This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2, including portable ground blinds, if not removed daily.

- Bear hunters may place constructed ground blinds on state lands in bear management units open to bear hunting for which they have a bear license beginning Aug. 10 in Zone 1 units and beginning Aug. 17 in Zone 2 units.

Blinds must be removed within five days of a bear being harvested, or within five days of the end of the bear season for which the hunter has a license.

- Deer hunters may place constructed ground blinds on all Zone 1 and Zone 2 public lands from Sept. 1 to the end of the annual deer season. In addition to being subject to criminal penalties, any constructed blind found on public land prior to Sept. 1 or after the end of the annual deer season will be considered abandoned.

The name and address, Michigan driver License number, or DNR sportcard number of the person placing a constructed ground blind on public land must be permanently attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind. These blinds are not legal on state game areas, state parks, and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see pg. 11). Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind. It is unlawful to use an illegal ground blind, regardless of who placed it on public land.

**Note:** If a person's Type 3 ground blind has been permitted to be placed on land administered by a local public agency (city, township, county), the local agency will establish the length of time that a blind may be placed on its property.

#### Mandatory Penalties for Certain Hunting Violations

Species	Fine	Jail	Revocation of License
<b>Deer</b>	\$1,000 per animal + additional \$1,000 if antlered AND one of the following: 8-10 points - \$500 each point 11+ points - \$750 each point	5-90 days	Current year + 3 years AND if antlered: 1st offense: additional 2 years 2nd offense: additional 7 years
<b>Elk &amp; Moose</b>	\$5,000 per animal + additional if antlered. See notes 1 & 2		1st offense: 15 years 2nd offense: Life
<b>Bear</b>	\$3,500 per animal		Current year + 3 years 1st offense: additional 2 years 2nd offense: additional 7 years
<b>Owl, Eagle, &amp; Hawk</b>	\$1,000 - \$1,500 per animal		--
<b>Wild Turkey</b>	\$1,000 per animal + additional \$1,000 for bearded turkey		5 years
<b>Waterfowl</b>	\$500 per animal		--

#### Notes

- Antlered elk: 8-10 pts. an additional \$250 each pt., 11+ pts. an additional \$500 for each pt.
- Antlered moose: an additional \$5,000.

**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. **Unlawful 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.

## Youth Hunting (16 Years of Age and Younger)

- Youth 9 years of age and younger may hunt as part of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program; see pg. 26.
- Youth 10-16 years of age, and who are hunter safety-certified, must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older to hunt, unless:
  - The youth is hunting on land upon which a parent or guardian is regularly domiciled;
  - The license is not an apprentice license; AND
  - The youth is at least 14 years of age and not using a firearm to hunt deer, bear, or elk.
- Youth 10-16 years of age, and who are NOT hunter safety-certified, may hunt as an apprentice hunter; see Apprentice Hunting on pg. 9.



Nonresidents up to 16 years of age may purchase resident and junior licenses. Nonresident youth are not eligible to apply for a Michigan elk license.

By Age, Species Youth Can Hunt with Appropriate Licenses	Age: 9 and younger	Age: 10-13	Age: 14-16
<b>Small Game and Waterfowl</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Turkey</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Fur harvester</b>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes
<b>Deer</b>	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes
<b>Bear</b>	--	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes
<b>Elk</b>	--	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Youth may hunt:

- Private or Commercial Forest lands using archery, crossbow, or firearm equipment.
- Public land using archery or crossbow equipment only.

<sup>2</sup> Youth residents, 8 years of age or older, may obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher.

## Mentored Youth Hunting (MYH) Program

The MYH Program allows youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience, and possesses a valid Michigan license to hunt other than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall), deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species. The mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow, or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the youth hunter must be within arm’s length of the mentor at all times. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the youth. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the youth hunter while in the field.

A deer kill tag issued with the mentored youth license is valid for any deer in any deer management unit, except for units open during an antlerless-only season, when only an antlerless deer may be taken. Antler point restrictions do not apply. See [mi.gov/mentoredhunting](http://mi.gov/mentoredhunting) for complete rules and restrictions.

Mentored youth hunters who turn 10 years of age have the following options for hunting the remainder of the year:

- Continue hunting with MYH licenses only, **or**
- Upgrade their MYH license to a base junior (JR) license or a base junior apprentice (JR APC) license, and purchase additional hunting licenses such as antlerless deer, bear, and fall turkey. This free upgrade can be obtained at any license agent or online at [mdnr-elicense.com](http://mdnr-elicense.com). The MYH license and kill tags shall remain valid after the purchase of any additional licenses.

## Junior Antlerless Deer Hunting License

Young hunters, 9-16 years of age, may purchase one junior antlerless deer license over the counter July 15 - Aug. 15; however, a youth 9 years of age must be 10 by Sept. 23, 2017 to purchase this license. No application fee or drawing is required. This license is available only in Deer Management Units (DMUs) with a quota for antlerless licenses. This license may be purchased for either public or private land, not both. A public-land antlerless deer license is required to hunt antlerless deer on Commercial Forest land. Nonresidents, 10-16 years of age, are allowed to purchase resident licenses. Also see the current-year *Antlerless Deer Digest*.

### Be Aware

**Growers are using public lands to grow illegal marijuana.  
If you come upon a marijuana grow site, back out and  
call 1-800-235-HEMP (4367).**

## Liberty Hunt - Youth



This firearm deer hunt will take place on private or public lands statewide in Michigan open to firearm deer hunting Sept. 16-17, 2017. Youth 16 years of age or younger may participate in this hunt in addition to eligible hunters with disabilities (see pg. 30). Youth younger than 14 years of age may hunt with archery equipment and crossbow on public or private land, or with a firearm on private land or commercial forest lands only, regardless of license used. For youth 10-16 years of age, valid licenses include a deer, deer combo, or an antlerless deer license. Hunters 9 years of age and younger must be licensed through the Mentored Youth Hunting Program and accompanied by a qualified mentor.

During this hunt, a deer or deer combo license may be used for an antlered or antlerless deer. Antler point restrictions do not apply. An antlerless deer license or deer management assistance (DMA) permit may also be used to take one antlerless deer only, if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. **The bag limit for this season is one deer.** All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

## Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend



The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend is Sept. 9-10, 2017. The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend is statewide for properly licensed youth 16 years of age and younger. Youth 10-16 years of age must have a junior base license and be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone 18 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian. Youth who are hunting with a junior base apprentice license must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older who possesses a non-apprentice base license and waterfowl license. Youth under 10 years of age must also be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age, and the youth and adult must meet all provisions of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. Ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens may be harvested; accompanying adults are not permitted to harvest these species during the hunt unless hunting during the September portion of the Canada goose hunting season. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular waterfowl hunting season. See the current-year *Waterfowl Digest*.

## Youth Waterfowl Hunting on Managed Waterfowl Areas



There are seven premier managed waterfowl hunting areas in Southern Michigan that offer first-class waterfowl hunting opportunities, including youth hunting opportunities. Several areas offer opening-day afternoon youth hunts, as well as other youth priority draws during the season. Opening weekend hunts are by reservation only at several areas. Visit [mi.gov/wetlandwonders](http://mi.gov/wetlandwonders) for more information on managed waterfowl hunting areas, and [mi.gov/waterfowl](http://mi.gov/waterfowl) for more details on waterfowl hunting regulations. Refer to the current-year *Waterfowl Digest* for youth hunting details, daily shooting hours, daily limits, and species restrictions.

## Michigan Veterans with Disabilities

A resident veteran with a disability is eligible to obtain any hunting license that does not require a separate application free of charge if conditions are met; see pg. 9 for details. Additional resources for hunters with disabilities are available through Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors; visit [www.miofo.org](http://www.miofo.org) for details.

## Disability Bow Permits for Hunters with Disabilities

Those with a temporary or permanent disability that affects their ability to use a conventional bow may apply for a disability bow permit. A physician can automatically certify a hunter as eligible for a disability bow permit if the hunter has an amputation involving body extremities required for stable function to use conventional archery equipment, or has a spinal cord injury resulting in permanent disability to the lower extremities, leaving the applicant permanently non-ambulatory, or has a permanent wheelchair restriction.

If none of the above criteria apply, physicians, physical therapists, or occupational therapists can certify hunters who fail a functional draw test that equals 35 pounds of resistance and involves holding it for four seconds, or a manual muscle test involving the grading of shoulder and elbow flexion and extension, or an impaired range-of-motion test involving the shoulder or elbow. In addition, a physician can recommend a disability bow permit for other temporary or permanent disabilities, such as neuromuscular conditions. For more information and an application, call 517-284-6057.

Disability bow permits are required for using a crossbow or modified bow during late archery season in the Upper Peninsula.

## Permit to Hunt from a Standing Vehicle

A person who, due to injury, disease, amputation or paralysis, is permanently disabled and unable to walk, may apply for a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle. This permit allows a licensed hunter to hunt, and shoot from, a parked motor vehicle, ORV, or Personal Assistive Mobility Device. Subject to all other regulations, including buck limits and antler-point restrictions, this permit also entitles the holder to take a deer of either sex under any valid deer license.

### Use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV)

Those holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle or those hunting with disabilities while using an ORV may display an orange flag to identify themselves as hunters with disabilities.

### Use of Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (PAMD)

An individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair or PAMD, and who has a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle, may use such equipment anywhere foot travel is allowed on public land. Areas that prohibit the use of motorized vehicles are not off-limits to PAMDs. Individuals should use caution where the landscape is uneven or presents other safety concerns.

## Hunters who are Legally Blind

Legally blind hunters may use laser-sighting devices to take game, subject to all other regulations, with a firearm or crossbow if all the following conditions are met:

- The person is accompanied by a sighted person who is at least 18 years of age and possesses proof of a current or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety class;
- The legally blind person possesses the appropriate hunting license and proof of impairment in the form of a Secretary of State ID card. No permit is necessary for this accommodation.

## Permit to Hunt Using a Laser Sighting Device

Hunters with other permanent disabilities may apply to the DNR Law Enforcement Division for a permit to use a laser-sighting device with a firearm or crossbow to take game. Subject to all other regulations, a permittee may take game with the use of a laser sighting device only if accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age who is licensed to hunt the same game (other than an apprentice license). For application information, please call 517-284-6000.

## Use of Ground Blinds on Public Land by Hunters with Disabilities

Any person who has been issued a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle, a permit to hunt with a crossbow, or a disabled person parking permit by the Secretary of State, or who meets the disability standards set forth in the Michigan Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Law, may use a constructed ground blind on public land. A non-disabled person can assist a hunter with a disability in constructing a legal blind on public land (see note on pg. 24 for removal exemption of ground blinds on local public lands). If the constructed ground blind is left overnight on public land, the following conditions must be met:

- The blind is placed on public land no earlier than 10 days prior to the hunting season for which it is used and is removed at the end of the season for which it is used.
- The hunter with a disability has attached, etched, engraved or painted his or her name and address, Michigan driver License number, or DNR sportcard number on the blind.
- Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the bark of a tree and must be removed with the blind.
- It is unlawful to cut branches, limbs, trees, or other vegetation for shooting lanes or to construct blinds.

## Liberty Hunt - Hunters With Disabilities

This firearm deer hunt will take place statewide on private or public lands in Michigan open to firearm deer hunting Sept. 16-17, 2017. Individuals with qualifying disabilities, as stated below, may participate in this hunt in addition to youth 16 years of age and younger (see pg. 27).

During this hunt, a deer or deer combo license may be used for an antlered or antlerless deer. Antler Point Restrictions do not apply. An antlerless deer license or deer management assistance permit may be used to take one antlerless deer only, if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. **The bag limit for this season is one deer.** All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

To qualify an individual must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability, or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt from a standing vehicle.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt using a laser-sighting device.
- Be blind. "Blind" means an individual who has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction, or has a limitation of his or her field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance not greater than 20 degrees, as determined by the Commission for the Blind.

## Independence Hunt

This firearm deer hunt will take place on private lands, and some public lands requiring an access permit (contact local offices to find out if they participate), from Oct. 19-22, 2017.

During this hunt, a deer or deer combo license may be used for an antlered or antlerless deer. Antler Point Restrictions do not apply. An antlerless deer license or deer management assistance permit may be used to take one antlerless deer only, if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. **The bag limit for this season is one deer.** All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

To qualify an individual must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability, or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt from a standing vehicle.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt using a laser-sighting device.
- Be blind. "Blind" means an individual who has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction, or has a limitation of his or her field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance not greater than 20 degrees, as determined by the Commission for the Blind.

## White-tailed Deer

**Antlered:** a deer having at least one antler that extends 3 inches or more above the skull.

**Antlerless:** a deer without antlers, or antlers extending less than 3 inches above the skull.

**Antler Point Restriction (APR)** is a tool used to protect an age class of bucks from being harvested in order to graduate them to the next age class by only allowing hunters to harvest bucks with a certain number of antler points on a side.

**Hunters must choose at the time of purchase if they want the opportunity to harvest one or two antlered deer (except DMU 117). Hunters wishing to harvest only one antlered deer can purchase a single deer license (one kill tag).**

**Hunters wishing to harvest two antlered deer must purchase a deer combo license (two kill tags).**

## Deer License

A deer license may be used to harvest an antlered deer. This tag is not valid for the early/late antlerless firearm seasons unless used on private lands in DMU 333, DMU 419, DMU 452, and DMU 487 to take an antlerless deer. Those who purchase a single deer license may not purchase a second single deer license or the deer combo license. To see how this license may be used in each deer season, see pgs. 32-33, 38-40.

## Deer Combo License

Residents and nonresidents can purchase only one deer license with two kill tags (regular and restricted) for use during the firearm, muzzleloading, and archery seasons. These tags are not valid for the early/late antlerless firearm seasons unless used on private lands in DMU 333, DMU 419, DMU 452, and DMU 487 to take an antlerless deer. A hunter can use both kill tags in the firearm seasons, both in the archery season, or one in each season. To see how these tags may be used in each deer season, see pgs. 32-33, 38-40.

## Antlerless Deer Hunting License

This license entitles hunters 10 years of age and older to harvest an antlerless deer within the DMU specified on the license. Hunters may apply for a private-land OR public-land antlerless deer license from July 15 - Aug. 15 or wait to purchase leftover licenses after the drawing where available. Licenses will be sold until the quota is met in each DMU. A public-land antlerless deer license is required to hunt antlerless deer on Commercial Forest land. For youth hunting opportunities and information about the **junior antlerless deer hunting license**, see pg. 26. For additional details on antlerless deer hunting, see the current-year *Antlerless Deer Digest*.

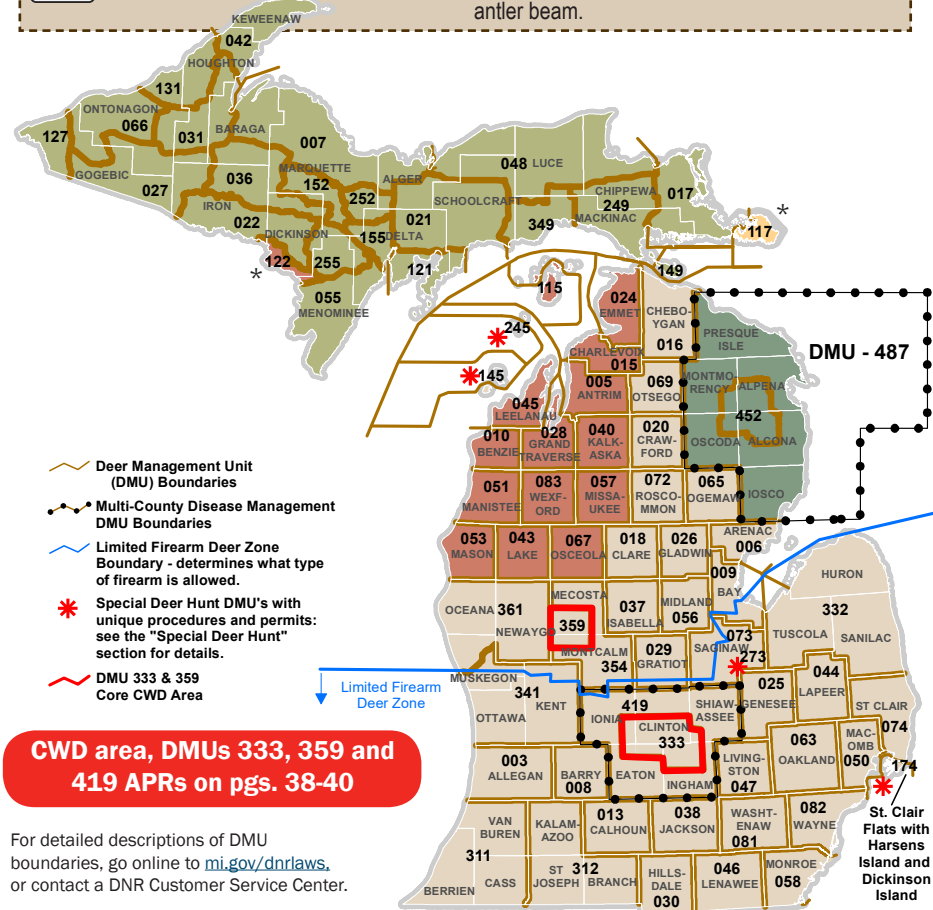
- Antlerless deer licenses can be purchased without, or in addition to, other deer licenses. The telephone number of the private landowner is required for a private-land antlerless deer license. Those hunting HAP lands use the phone number 999-999-9999.
- Some DMUs have an early and/or late antlerless season. See the current-year *Antlerless Deer Digest*.

## Antler Point Restrictions (APR)

APRs vary throughout the state based on the type of deer license and the hunting location. Use the map and chart on these two pages to find the APR for your desired hunt.

1. On the map, locate the DMU(s) you wish to hunt.
2. Match the color of your desired DMU(s) to the color(s) in the chart to the right to see the type of deer you may harvest in each season based on your license.

### Antler Point Restriction Key



		Seasons		
		Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader
Deer License				
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag			
	Restricted Tag			
Deer License		or		
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	or		
	Restricted Tag	or		
*In DMU 122, antlerless deer may NOT be harvested using a deer or deer combo licenses during the archery seasons.				
Deer License		or		
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	or		
	Restricted Tag	or		
Deer License		or	or	or
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	or	or	or
	Restricted Tag	or	or	or
Deer License				
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag OR Restricted Tag	or	or	or
*DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.				

Statewide: Limit of two antlered deer (exception: limit of ONE in DMU 117). When harvesting two antlered deer, one antlered deer must have at least four or more points on one side.

## Deer Cooperator Patches

Cooperator patches are used as an incentive for successful hunters to bring their deer to DNR offices and other check stations. Mandatory testing is required of all deer harvested in DMU 333 and DMU 359. A deer head (antlers must still be attached on bucks) or entire carcass must be presented to receive a patch. Visit [mi.gov/deer](http://mi.gov/deer) for the final list of 2017 deer check stations. Hunters are urged to call ahead to confirm hours and days of operation. The last day for deer check is Jan. 5, 2018.

## Deer Management Assistance (DMA) Permits

DMA permits may be used to take antlerless deer only on the property for which they have been issued and adjacent private property with permission of the landowner. Deer taken with DMA permits do not count against a hunter's license purchase limit. DMA permits are not stand-alone licenses. You must purchase an appropriate deer license for the season in which you are hunting.

## Tagging Option for Antlerless Deer Hunters

Antlerless deer hunters with a valid unused license for an antlered deer, and an unused antlerless license for the DMU in which they are hunting, may tag a male antlerless deer with the antlered deer license kill tag. Both licenses must be in the hunter's possession at the time of harvest. All deer must be immediately tagged.

**Note:** antlered deer licenses are not valid for the early/late antlerless deer firearm seasons unless used on private lands in DMU 333, DMU 419, DMU 452, and DMU 487 to take an antlerless deer.

## Deer Carcass Disposal

Dumping of deer carcasses or other wild animals is unlawful, can spread disease, and may result in a ticket. Hunters who process their deer should properly dispose of all parts. The hide, brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, bones, and head should be disposed of in an approved landfill.

## Special Deer Hunts

**Fort Custer Training Center** - Information on hunts sponsored by the training center can be found at [fortcusterhunt.org](http://fortcusterhunt.org) or contact Brian Huggett at [huggettb@michigan.gov](mailto:huggettb@michigan.gov) or 269-731-6570. Freedom Hunt application deadline is Oct. 1, 2017.

**Harsens Island** - Contact the DNR Field Office at St. Clair Flats DNR Wildlife Field Office at 1803 Krispin Road, Harsens Island, MI 48028, (810) 748-9504.

**(DMU 145) North Manitou Island Hunts** - Deer licenses are available for the archery season from Oct. 1-27, 2017, for the muzzleloading and regular firearm season from Oct. 28 - Nov. 4, 2017. There is a \$25 application fee. Contact the Park Headquarters, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630; 231-326-4741, or at [www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe) for more information.

**(DMU 245) South Fox Island Deer Hunting** - Individuals do not need to obtain a special permit to hunt deer on South Fox Island. The archery season is from Oct. 1-28 and firearm season is from Oct. 29 - Nov. 26. Antlered deer must have at least one antler three inches or longer.

### **Reserved Public-Land Deer Hunts**

A limited number of reserved deer hunting permits are available by lottery for the following state and federal public lands. Some hunts are restricted to hunters with disabilities; verify before you apply. Hunters may apply for a reserved hunting permit [mi.gov/deer](http://mi.gov/deer) from Jul. 15 - Aug. 15 and will be selected by random drawing. It costs \$5 to apply.

**(DMU 082) Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge** - 9311 Groh Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138; phone: 734-692-7649. Antlerless deer hunting only, with archery equipment only. Some hunts are reserved for hunters with disabilities.

**(DMU 038 & 081) Sharonville State Game Area** - 13578 Seymour Road, Grass Lake, MI 48290; (517) 522-4097. All hunts are reserved for hunters with disabilities.

**(DMU 273) Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge** - 6975 Mower Rd., Saginaw, MI 48601; (989) 777-5930. General and youth hunts available. Some hunts are reserved for individuals who are incapable of movement without the use of a mobility adaptive device.

**(DMU 273) Shiawassee River State Game Area** - 225 E. Spruce St., St. Charles, MI 48655; (989) 684-9141. General and youth hunts available.

### **Urban Deer Management Zone for Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties**

The archery season will extend until January 31, 2018 for Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties in order to manage ongoing human-deer conflicts. Licenses including a deer license, deer combination license, or an antlerless deer license, are valid during the extended season. All rules and regulations for the archery season apply. See Archery Deer Seasons on pg. 20 for equipment regulations.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS  
TO HUNT AND TRAP

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Consider donating a deer  
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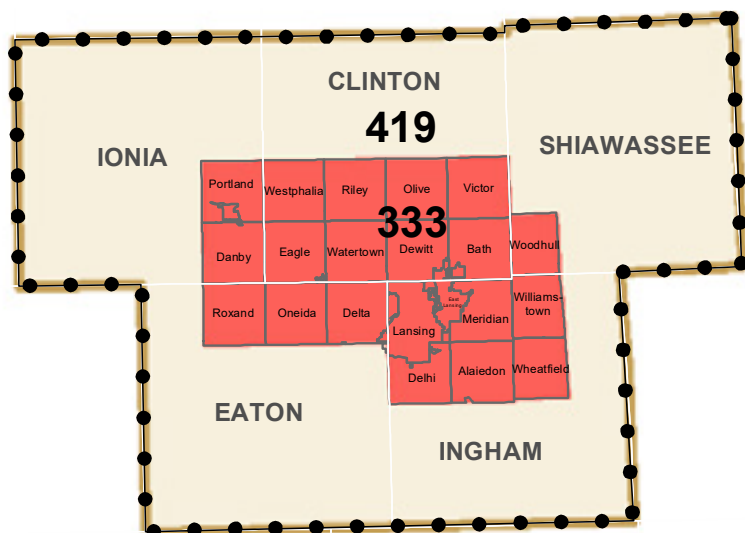
## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance

**Core CWD Area - DMU 333** consists of Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Delhi, Alaiedon and Wheatfield townships in Ingham County; DeWitt, Bath, Watertown, Eagle, Westphalia, Riley, Olive and Victor townships in Clinton County; Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County; Oneida, Roxand and Delta townships in Eaton County; and Portland and Danby townships in Ionia County.

### In DMU 333, the following apply:

- Feeding and baiting of deer is banned.
- Unlimited antlerless deer hunting licenses available and discounted 40 percent for both residents and nonresidents.
- No APR Restrictions. See below and page 40.
- Antlerless deer may be tagged using the deer or deer combo license(s) during the early antlerless, late antlerless, firearm and muzzleloader seasons, as shown below and in the chart on page 40.
- **Mandatory deer check.** Visit [mi.gov/deercheck](http://mi.gov/deercheck) for deer check locations.
- If a deer is taken within DMU 333 the hunter must present the head at a mandatory DNR check station within the business hours of the next 72 hours after killing the deer.
- Road-kill deer can be picked up with a salvage tag, the deer head must be submitted for testing within 72 hours of pick up.

## DMU 333 and 419



**CWD Management Zone - DMU 419** consists of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, and Shiawassee counties, except what is defined as DMU 333. In DMU 419, the following apply:

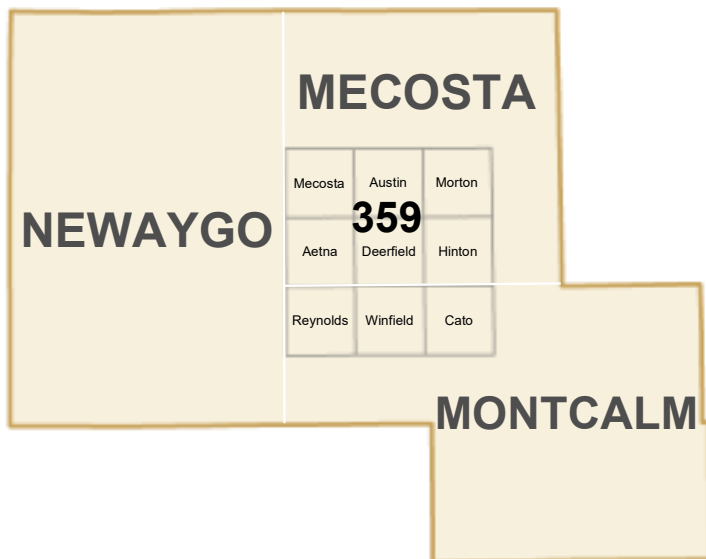
- Feeding and baiting of deer is banned.
- Early and late antlerless season open.
- Antlerless deer licenses are discounted 40 percent for both residents and nonresidents.

.....

**Core CWD Area - DMU 359** consists of Mecosta, Austin, Morton, Hinton, Aetna, and Deerfield townships in Mecosta County, and Cato, Winfield, and Reynolds townships in Montcalm County. In DMU 359, the following apply:

- **Mandatory Deer Check.** Visit [mi.gov/deercheck](http://mi.gov/deercheck) for deer check locations.
- If a deer is taken within DMU 359 the hunter must present the head at a mandatory DNR check station within the business hours of the next 72 hours after killing the deer.
- Road-kill deer can be picked up with a salvage tag, the deer head must be submitted for testing within 72 hours of pick up.































## DMU 359



**See page 62 for transportation of game from DMUs 333 and 359.**

## Deer & Deer Combo License Use for DMUs 333, 359, and 419

1. On the map on pgs. 38-39, locate the DMU(s) you wish to hunt.
2. Check the chart below to see the type of deer you may harvest in each season based on your license.

		Seasons		
		Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader
<b>Deer License</b>		 or 	 or 	 or 
<b>Deer Combo License</b>	<b>Regular Tag</b>	 or 	 or 	 or 
	<b>Restricted Tag</b>	 or 	 or 	 or 
<b>Deer License</b>		 or 		
<b>Deer Combo License</b>	<b>Regular Tag</b>	 or 		
	<b>Restricted Tag</b>	 or 		

### Antler Point Restriction Key



Antlerless Deer



At least one antler  
3 inches or longer



2 or more points\* on one side



3 or more points\* on one side



4 or more points\* on one side

\* A legal point must be at least 1 inch long as measured from its tip to the nearest edge of the antler beam.

# CWD

CHRONIC WASTING  
DISEASE

## Do Your Part *Understand CWD*



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a central nervous system disease found in cervids (deer, elk, and moose). This disease is contagious and always fatal, and has been found in Michigan. Help the DNR know the extent of this and other wildlife disease, such as bovine tuberculosis, have your deer checked!



## FIGHT Wildlife Disease *Check Your Deer*

If you're a successful hunter, bring your deer head or entire deer carcass to a DNR check station, provide some information, and receive a "thank you" patch.

Visit a DNR Check Station before bringing a potentially sick deer home!

Locations found at: [mi.gov/deercheck](https://mi.gov/deercheck)



[mi.gov/cwd](https://mi.gov/cwd)

#mihealthydeer #UPcwdFree



## Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older must purchase a Michigan waterfowl hunting license in addition to a valid base license, including those hunting on their own enclosed farmland. Purchase of a waterfowl license includes registration with the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP). Youth waterfowl hunters under 16 years of age do not need a waterfowl license, but must still register with HIP.

**For all waterfowl hunting information see current-year *Waterfowl Digest*.**

### MICHIGAN WETLAND WONDERS CHALLENGE



## HUNT & WIN

For contest details and hunt area information visit:  
[mi.gov/wetlandwonders](http://mi.gov/wetlandwonders)

## Small Game Hunting

A base hunting license entitles you to hunt rabbit, hare, squirrel (fox and gray, (black phase included)), pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodchuck, woodcock (a free woodcock stamp is required, see below), quail, crow, coyote (applies to Michigan residents only) and waterfowl (with a federal waterfowl stamp and Michigan waterfowl hunting license, if 16 years of age or older) during the open season for each species (see pg. 4-5). **A base license is required to hunt small game on your own enclosed farmlands where you live** (except for woodchuck that are doing or about to do damage). Nonresidents not hunting waterfowl may choose to purchase the seven-day small game license instead of an annual base license.

## Quail

Quail may be hunted from Oct. 20 – Nov. 14 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 on pg. 14 for the restrictions at Highland and Ionia Recreation Area.

## Woodcock

Woodcock may be hunted statewide from Sept. 23 – Nov. 6. All woodcock hunters must have a valid base license and a free woodcock stamp, available from all license agents or online at [mdnr-elicence.com](http://mdnr-elicence.com). The woodcock stamp includes registration with the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program

(HIP). Hunters will be asked HIP survey questions regarding their migratory bird harvest during the previous year, and the HIP endorsement "Migratory Bird Hunter" will be printed on their woodcock stamp. A current-year HIP endorsement must be carried when hunting migratory birds (woodcock, ducks, geese, snipe, rails, etc).

Hunters can promote sound woodcock management by promptly reporting all banded birds harvested, including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival, migration routes and contribution to the state harvest from different breeding grounds. To report bands, go online to [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov), or write USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708-4037.

### Game Bird Hunting Preserves

A hunting license is not required to hunt farm-raised game birds on a licensed game bird hunting preserve. However, to take wild game species on a game bird hunting preserve, hunters must have all appropriate licenses, including a federal duck stamp if applicable, and follow state laws governing the hunting of each species.



## Want a balanced deer herd?

**Connect with neighbors and state land managers to collaboratively manage wildlife and habitat in your area today!**

Learn more about starting a cooperative by contacting Anna Mitterling, Wildlife Cooperative Coordinator, at [amitterling@mucc.org](mailto:amitterling@mucc.org), or by calling 517-346-6454.



## Want more pheasants?





# 18

locations  
across Michigan's  
Upper and  
Northern Lower  
Peninsula to  
explore and hunt!

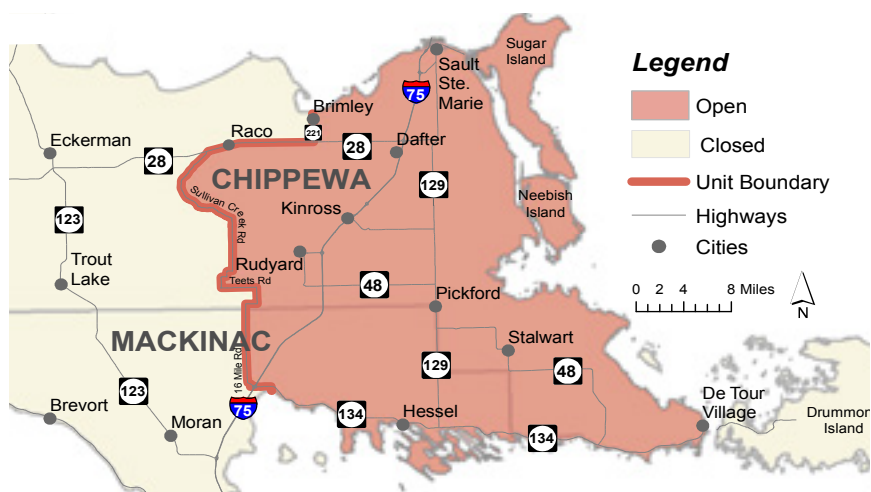
Visit  
[mi.gov/gems](http://mi.gov/gems)  
for maps and  
details.



## Sharp-tailed Grouse

The area open to sharp-tailed grouse hunting Oct. 10-31 in Zone 1 (UP) includes the area shown below. Visit 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 [mdnr-elicense.com](http://mdnr-elicense.com), is required in addition to a valid base license for those hunting sharp-tailed grouse.

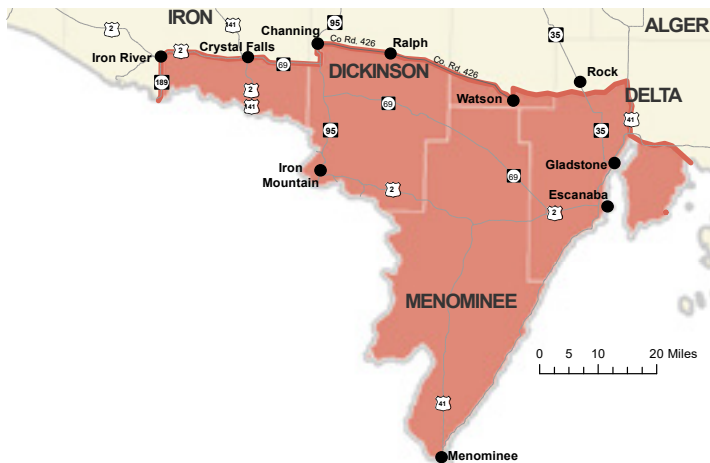
### Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Unit



## Pheasant

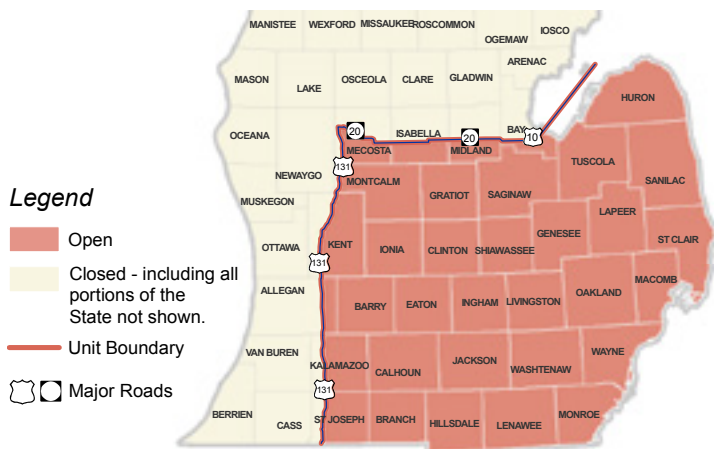
The area open to pheasant hunting Oct. 10-31 in Zone 1 (UP) includes all of Menominee County and portions of Delta, Dickinson, Iron and Marquette counties. See the DNR website at [mi.gov/dnr/laws](http://mi.gov/dnr/laws) for the complete detailed definition of this and other unit boundaries.

### Zone 1 (UP) Pheasant Management Unit: Oct. 10-31



Zones 2 and 3 (the lower peninsula) are open Oct. 20-Nov. 14 to pheasant hunting. The area shown below is open to pheasant hunting Dec. 1 - Jan. 1 for the taking of male pheasants.

### December Pheasant Management Unit: Dec. 1 - Jan. 1



## Fur Harvester License

A valid base license is needed to purchase a fur harvester license. This license allows residents to hunt fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, and trap badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, weasel, mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk, and opossum. Note: Residents who intend to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten must have kill tags for these species (see pg 49). **Exception:** See footnotes 1, 3, and 9 in table on pg. 6.

- **Fur harvester license available for purchase and valid from May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018.**
  - **Note:** If fur takers do not purchase their 2017 base license by Feb. 28, 2018, they cannot purchase a furharvester license in the months of March or April 2018.
- Youth 9 and younger may trap furbearers as licensed through the Mentored Youth Hunting Program (see pg. 26).

## Nonresident Fur Harvesting

- Nonresidents may not harvest bobcat, otter, fisher, marten, or badger.
- Nonresident season in Unit A for trapping beaver begins Nov. 15, Unit B for trapping beaver begins Nov. 24, and Unit C for trapping beaver begins on Dec. 15 (see pg. 52).

## DNR Offers Trapper Education Program

For information on classes currently offered in your area, please visit the DNR website at [mi.gov/trapping](http://mi.gov/trapping) and click on Michigan Trapper Education.

## Fur Harvester Rules

- Trappers are legally required to check traps set in a manner to hold animals alive 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 traps daily.
- Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1 - Nov. 9 in the limited firearm deer zone during the seasons for all furbearer species open to take with a firearm. See pg. 48 for nighttime furbearer regulation restrictions.
- 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.
- Live game taken from the wild may not be transported or possessed, except under a Department or federally issued permit.

### It is unlawful 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. **Exceptions:** See Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations on pg. 52. and winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints on pg. 50.
- 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, Michigan driver license number, or DNR sportcard number. **Additional tagging requirement:** See Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations on pg. 52.
- Set a steel trap within 50 feet of any water before Oct. 25 in Zone 1, 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 placed 4 feet or more above the ground. See pg. 11 for the hunting and trapping zone map.
- Molest 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 and Nuisance Animal Control Permit.
- Set a trap on a beaver dam or lodge unless the trap is: submerged below the water; a duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap which by construction will selectively capture raccoon; a body-gripping trap 5 inches or less in width as measured inside the jaw hinges; or a body-gripping trap less than 8 inches above the ground at the highest point, and set in a way that does not use bait, lure or attractant to entice an animal, and the trap is between 5 inches and 6 and one half inches as measured inside the jaw hinges.
- 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 8 inches high, 8 inches wide and 36 inches deep. (Nuisance control operators MAY use colony traps for muskrats and other species.)
- Shoot a muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, fisher or marten, except under DNR permit. However, coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger may be killed in traps by fur takers using .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms.
- Use a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm to dispatch coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger from Nov. 15-30 in the limited firearm deer 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.

Use of Wild Game as Bait when Trapping

Trappers may use the parts of game animals as bait if:

- The game used as bait was lawfully trapped or hunted and if it is the open season for the game being used as bait; or
- Some game killed as the result of a motor vehicle collision may be used as bait. Visit [mi.gov/dnr](http://mi.gov/dnr), click Hunting and Trapping, then “Road-kill Salvage Instructions” for complete information.

Nighttime Furbearer Regulations 

The following nighttime hunting regulations apply to raccoon, opossum, fox (red and gray), and coyote.

Species	Bag Limit	Area	Season Dates
Hunting Seasons (same as daytime)			
Coyote	No limit	Statewide	Year-round
Fox Gray and Red	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1
Opossum	No limit	Statewide	Year-round
Raccoon	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31

- Artificial lights are permissible during the open season of take for the target species.
  - Only the use of artificial lights, similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person, such as flashlights, portable battery-powered spotlights, and headlamps, may be used.
- A licensed individual may travel afoot with **ONLY**: a bow and arrow; a crossbow; a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller; a shotgun with loads other than buckshot larger than size 3, slug, or cut shell; a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol .269 caliber or smaller.
- Nighttime hunters must use a game call or predator call, or use the aid of dogs.
- Dogs cannot be used Apr. 16 - Jul. 7.
- When hunting with dogs, an individual may only possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with a nocked arrow at the point of kill.
- All fur harvesters using a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire to take a furbearing animal, day or night, from Nov. 10-14, must have a fur harvester license.
- Limited Firearm Deer Zone restrictions must be followed from Nov. 15-30. See pg. 20.
- Raccoons, skunks, and coyotes may be taken year-round, using otherwise lawful hunting or trapping methods, on private property and with landowner permission when doing or about to do damage. A license or written permit is not needed.

## Furbearer Kill Tags

Residents with a fur harvester license, who intend to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten must request free kill tags for these species. Those under 8 years of age may not obtain a kill tag for these species. **Kill tags are available May 1 through the last day of trapping season for fisher, marten, and otter. Bobcat kill tags are only available through Nov. 30.** Kill tags will be available from license agents or by contacting any DNR Customer Service Center. A person who harvests 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. The kill tag must be replaced by an official DNR seal for registration. See Furbearer Registration, pg. 54.

**Furharvester licenses are now valid May 1, 2017 – Apr. 30, 2018. HOWEVER,** to purchase a 2017 furharvester license AFTER Feb. 28, 2018, you must have purchased a 2017 base license. If you do not purchase a 2017 base license by Feb. 28, 2018, you cannot purchase a fur harvester license in March or April 2018.

## Coyote Hunting FAQs



### Can I use a centerfire rifle to hunt coyotes?

You may use a centerfire rifle to hunt coyotes during regular daytime hunting hours statewide. Centerfire rifles or centerfire pistols .269 caliber or smaller MAY be used at night. **Exception:** Centerfire rifles and centerfire pistols may NOT be used in state park or recreation areas statewide, or on any public land in the Limited Firearms Deer Zone. For additional firearm restrictions, see pg. 18.

### Can I hunt coyotes from a treestand?

Coyotes may be hunted from a raised platform (treestand) during daylight hours with a bow and arrow, crossbow, .22 or smaller rimfire, shotgun or centerfire rifle. Coyotes may not be hunted from a treestand at night. See pg. 22 for information about treestand placement on public lands.

### Can I use electronic calls or mechanical/electronic decoys?

Yes, electronic calls, mouth calls, or other types of game calls or predator calls may be used. Mechanical/electronic decoys may be used.

### What license do I need?

Residents may HUNT coyote with a base license. Residents trapping coyotes must have a furharvester license. Non-residents must have a furharvester license to hunt or trap coyotes. Coyotes doing or about to do damage to private property on private land may be taken by the owner or designee without a license.

### Do I need to wear Hunter Orange to hunt furbearers?

Hunter Orange is required during daylight shooting hours from August 15 through April 30, except when stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote, or fox. Hunter Orange is NOT required during daylight shooting hours from May 1 through August 14. Hunter Orange is NOT required year round when nighttime hunting. Check [mi.gov/dnr](http://mi.gov/dnr) laws for possible changes to color clothing requirements that occurred after the printing of this digest.

## Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints



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

- Cable restraints are not placed on publicly owned land or Commercial Forest lands.
- All cable restraints in possession or carried afield must have a metallic identification tag affixed with the owner or user's name and address, Michigan driver license number, or sportcard 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.
- 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 unlawful 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 5 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.

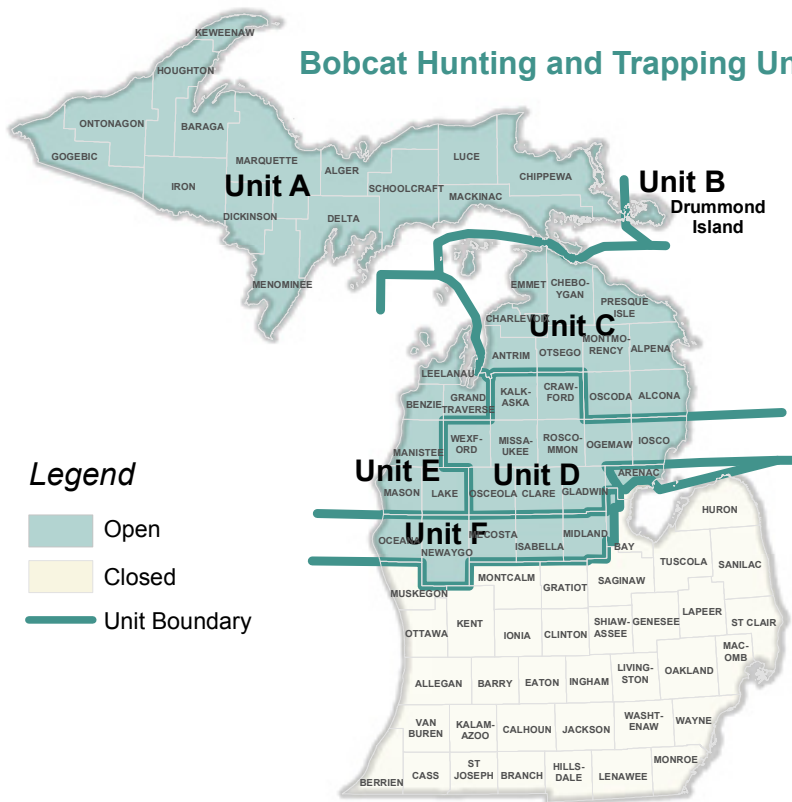
**Note:** Dogs and other domestic animals caught in cable restraints, body-gripping, or conibear-type traps should be reported to the DNR Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Find information on safely removing dogs from traps at [mi.gov/trapping](http://mi.gov/trapping) under Related Resources.

## Bobcat Units and Bag Limits

**Bag Limits:** The season bag limit for bobcat is two per resident; only one bobcat may be taken in Units C, D, E, and F combined; and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. A free kill tag is required (see pg. 49).

**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.

### Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Units



**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 Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, and Mason counties. **Unit F** all of Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Newaygo, and Oceana counties, and those portions of Arenac and Bay counties that are in zone 2 except that portion of Arenac county west of highway I-75 and north of highway M-61.

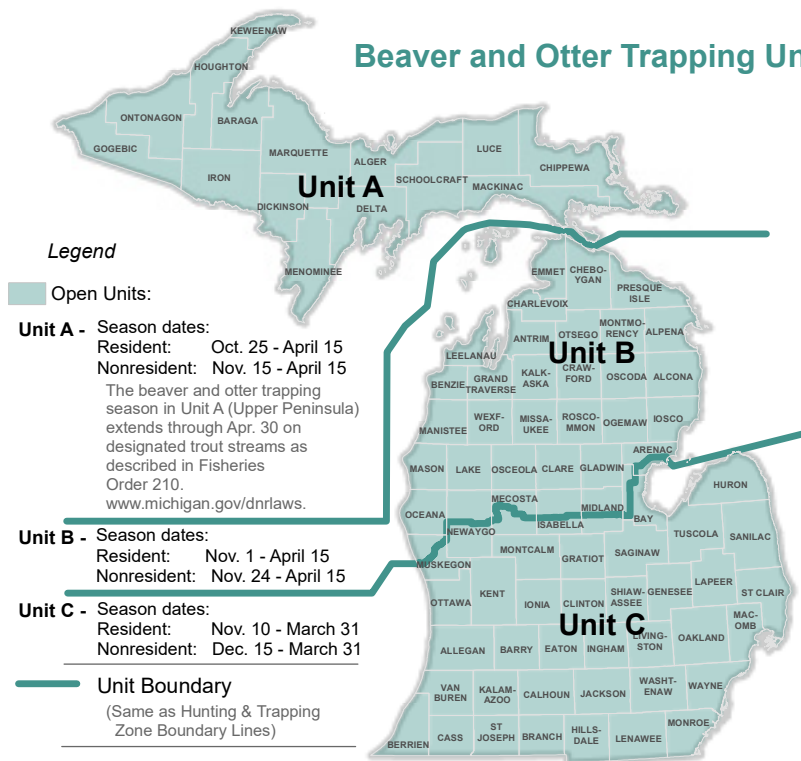
## Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations



### Statewide Season Limits

**Beaver:** No limit

**Otter:** Three per resident. Only two may be taken from Unit B, and only one from Unit C.



### 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 Public Land Trapping Areas on pg. 55.**

In addition to the fur harvester rules on pgs. 46-47, 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 unlawful. **Exception:** 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.

- A catching device of any type must have a permanent etching or metal tag bearing the user's name and address, Michigan driver license number, or DNR sportcard number. If one or more snares are attached to a pole, both the snare(s) and the uppermost end of the pole need a metal tag.
- Up to 10 muskrat pelts may be legally taken in beaver or otter sets.
- See Furbearer Kill Tags on pg. 49.



## What To Do When You Have an Incidental Catch

Trappers occasionally trap non-target species. It is unlawful to possess animals out of season, animals over the bag limit, or to trap non-game protected species. The following procedure is required for non-game protected species and those furbearers with a bag limit (bobcat, badger, fisher, marten, and otter) 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.
- 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.**

## Shipping Hides and Furs

All out-of-state shipments of raw hides or furs must be plainly marked on the outside of the package as to the contents. To export bobcat, otter, or wolf hides from the U.S., you need federal approval. For details, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-358-2104 or [managementauthority@fws.gov](mailto:managementauthority@fws.gov).

## 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. **Fur takers must register their own take.** It is unlawful to register the take of another person. Animals should be skinned prior to registration. The pelt and skull should be brought in to a local DNR office for registration. DNR Customer 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.

The DNR will attach an official seal to the pelt of each animal. This seal replaces the furbearer kill tag (see Furbearer Kill Tags section on pg. 49). 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 and age 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. New population estimations require precise sex and age information, which will be obtained from skulls. Ages for bobcat, fisher, and marten can be found at [mi.gov/dnr/lab](http://mi.gov/dnr/lab).

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.

Species	Required for Registration	What will be kept from each specimen?	When must I register?
<b>Bobcat</b>	skull and pelt for sealing	skull	Trapping Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units A and B, on or before Feb. 11, 2018</li> <li>Units C, D, E, &amp; F on or before Dec. 30, 2017</li> </ul> Hunting Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units A, B, and C, on or before Mar. 11, 2018</li> <li>Unit D, on or before Feb. 11, 2018</li> <li>Units E and F, on or before Jan. 21, 2018</li> </ul>
<b>Fisher</b>	skull and pelt for sealing	skull	on or before Dec. 20, 2017
<b>Marten</b>	skull and pelt for sealing	skull	on or before Dec. 20, 2017
<b>Otter</b>	skull and pelt for sealing	skull	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units A &amp; B on or before Apr. 25, 2018</li> <li>On designated trout streams in Unit A on or before May 3, 2018</li> <li>Unit C, on or before Apr. 10, 2018</li> </ul>
<b>Incidental catches*</b>	entire carcass and pelt	entire carcass and pelt	See pg. 53 for details

\*Includes over-harvest or out-of-season catch of badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, otter, and all protected nongame species.

## Special Public-Land Trapping Areas

A special permit is required to trap in the management areas listed below. 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 Customer 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.

Trappers are encouraged to report nutria that they have seen or trapped using the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network online reporting tool at <http://www.misin.msu.edu/report/>. Nutria are approximately twice the size of a muskrat with a heavy, scaly round (as opposed to compressed like muskrat) rat-like tail, long white whiskers and large, orange teeth. Although nutria have not yet been discovered in Michigan, they could cause damage to wetlands if they become established.

## Live Restraining Cage Traps

As a substitute for foothold traps, trappers may use live restraining cage traps capable of taking only one animal at a time. Live restraining cage traps must be checked daily statewide. Any animal captured in a trap must be immediately killed or released; it is unlawful to take, or hold in captivity, live game or protected animals from the wild. Traps must have a permanent etching or a metal tag bearing the user's name and address, Michigan driver license number, or DNR sportcard number.

## Dryland Body-Gripping Traps

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. Find information on safely removing animals from traps at [mi.gov/trapping](http://mi.gov/trapping) under Related Resources.

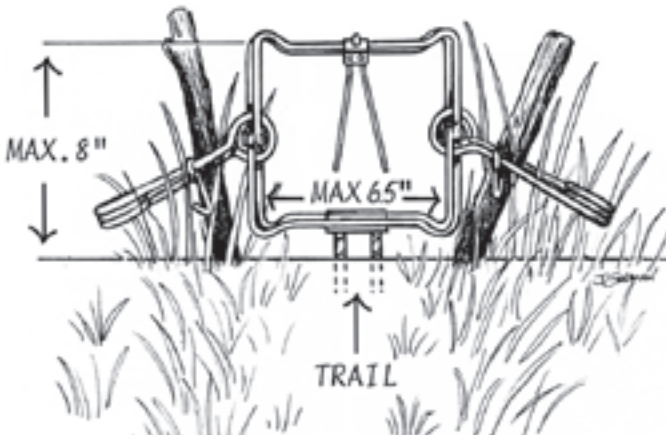
### 1. Private Land Dryland and Surface-Ice Body-Gripping Traps

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 4 or more feet above dry ground or the frozen surface of ice.

### 2. Public Land Dryland and Surface-Ice Body-Gripping Traps

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 4 or more feet off the ground without set restriction.

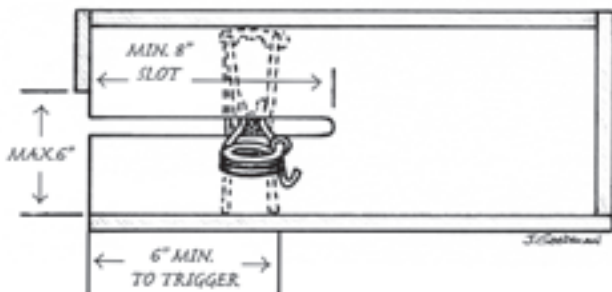
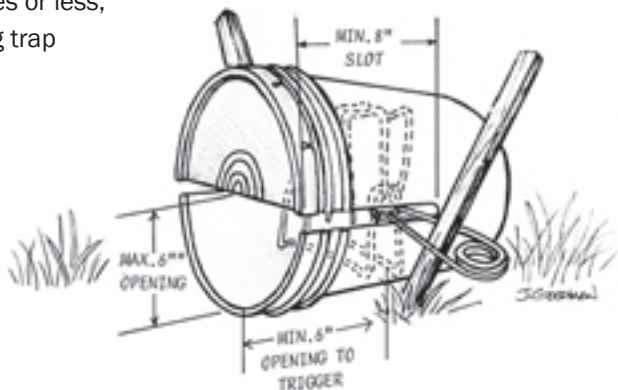
Body-gripping traps set on dryland or on ice on public lands without the use of bait, lure, or attractant must be no greater than 6.5 inches inside the jaw hinges (160s) and only may be set such that no part of the body-gripping surface is more than 8 inches above the ground (see figure below).



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:

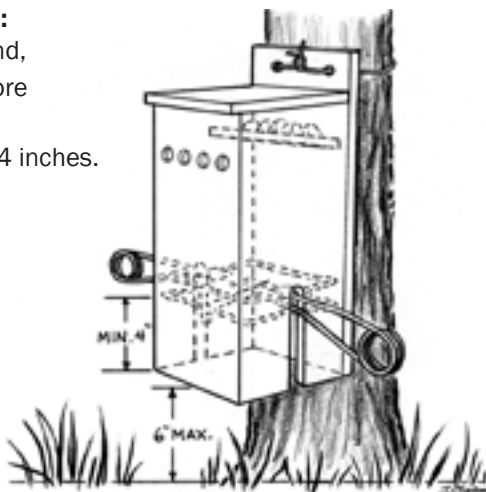
**In a container of the following design:**

- Opening height 6 inches or less,
- 8-inch minimum spring trap placement slots,
- Trap trigger recessed minimum of 6 inches.



**In a container of the following design:**

- Only one entrance facing the ground,
- Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground,
- Trap trigger recessed minimum of 4 inches.



## Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife at [mi.gov/wildlifedisease](https://mi.gov/wildlifedisease).

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Since the initial finding of CWD on May 20, 2015, eight additional free-ranging deer were positively confirmed with CWD. Five, including the first, were found in Meridian Township (Ingham County); one in Dewitt Township (Clinton County); one in Eagle Township (Clinton County); and two in Watertown Township (Clinton County). In addition, two white-tailed deer were submitted for monitoring by a Privately-Owned cervid (POC) facility in Mecosta County were positively confirmed with CWD on January 17, 2017. See pages 38-41 and 62-63 for more on CWD and importation restrictions. Please visit [mi.gov/cwd](https://mi.gov/cwd) for more information and for possible changes to disease-responsive regulations that occurred after the printing of this digest.

## Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

In 2016, bovine tuberculosis (TB) was found in 29 wild white-tailed deer from seven counties in Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda, Presque Isle, and Roscommon. Statewide 12,139 deer were tested. Since 1995, a total of 821 deer have been found positive from 230,503 deer sampled in Michigan. For more information on bovine TB in Michigan, visit [mi.gov/bovinetb](https://mi.gov/bovinetb).

Hunters are asked to submit deer carcasses with chest lesions suspicious for TB from anywhere in the state. The list of deer check stations is available on the DNR website at [mi.gov/deer](https://mi.gov/deer). If you see a deer with this type of infection, please contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined. Hunters may check their deer or elk TB lab results at [mi.gov/dnrlab](https://mi.gov/dnrlab).



## FIGHT Wildlife Disease

### Check Your Deer

If you're a successful hunter, bring your deer head or entire deer carcass to a DNR check station, provide some information, and receive a "thank you" patch.

Visit a DNR Check Station before bringing a potentially sick deer home!

Locations found at: [mi.gov/deercheck](https://mi.gov/deercheck)

## Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

EHD is an acute, infectious, often fatal disease contracted by wild ruminants but most commonly affecting white-tailed deer. For more information, visit [mi.gov/emergingdiseases](http://mi.gov/emergingdiseases).

## Precaution about Lead in Game Meat

Wildlife shot with bullets or pellets containing lead can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt. Lead can be harmful to humans and wildlife, even in very low amounts. If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure from lead shot or lead fragments, call the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or find information at [mi.gov/wdm](http://mi.gov/wdm). You may also contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-648-6942 or visit [mi.gov/mdhhs](http://mi.gov/mdhhs).

## Dioxin Advisory Information

Health risk assessors from the DNR and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services determined that samples of wild game taken in 2003, 2004, and 2007 from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contain high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in meats, skin, and other consumable portions. Eating deer, turkey, squirrel, wood duck, or Canada geese that contain dioxin at these levels could result in adverse health effects, particularly for children and women of childbearing age. Specific information can be found at [mi.gov/dioxin](http://mi.gov/dioxin).

## Precautions Handling and Processing Game

Keep yourself and others healthy by taking care of your harvested meat. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends proper food safety practices when cooking venison, as well as any other meat or poultry. For more information on venison field dressing, meat preparation and recipes, see the DNR publication *How to Field Dress a White-Tailed Deer*, available at [mi.gov/deer](http://mi.gov/deer).

## Avian Influenza

Avian influenza is caused by viruses that infect both wild and domestic birds. In the U.S., dabbling ducks are the most commonly infected wild species, but geese, swans, shorebirds and other species can also sometimes be infected. Currently, the DNR does not anticipate any serious impacts to Michigan's waterfowl populations. Visit [mi.gov/emergingdiseases](http://mi.gov/emergingdiseases) for more information.

## Additional Hunting Rules

### It is unlawful to:

- Assist a tribal member engaged in treaty-authorized hunting unless the non-tribal member assisting: 1) has a state license for that activity and complies with all state laws, including season dates covering that activity, or 2) is the spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, or sibling of the tribal member who is present during the activity, and as long as such assistance by the family member does not include using a firearm, crossbow, or bow.
- Hunt or pursue wild animals or birds from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, drone, motorboat, personal water craft, ORV, or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat. **Exceptions:** See current-year *Waterfowl Digest*; special permits may also apply.
- Set fires to drive out game. Use snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls, deadfalls, spears, drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, ferrets, weasels, or mechanical devices other than firearms, crossbows, bows and arrows, or slingshots to take wild birds or animals, except as provided by trapping rules or special permit.
- Buy or sell game, except as provided by the Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3.
- Destroy the identity of game or evidence of the sex of game while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle. **Exception:** See Transportation of Game, pg. 62, for deer, bear, and elk.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances.
- Use cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets.
- Camp on state land without a permit. Permits are free and are available online at [mi.gov/stateforestcampgrounds](http://mi.gov/stateforestcampgrounds) or at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, and some state game areas.
- Make use of a dog in hunting deer or elk, except that a dog may be used to locate a down or mortally wounded deer or elk if the dog is kept on a leash and those in attendance do not possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow. **Exception:** If accompanied by a licensed dog tracker, a hunter may possess a firearm, a cocked crossbow, or a bow with nocked arrow, only at the time and point of kill. If the tracking is done at night, artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand, or on the person, may be used. A dog that barks while tracking the deer shall not be used on public lands.
- Harm or harass a deer, bear, or elk when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake, or other water body.
- Kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag.
- Shoot reptiles, amphibians, and songbirds with a firearm (including spring, air, or gas propelled).

- Cut branches, limbs, trees, or other vegetation for shooting lanes on public land.
- Block any gate, road, or trail on public land.

## Baiting and Feeding Prohibitions for Deer and Elk

**Bait** means a substance composed of grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or other food materials, which may lure, entice, or attract deer as an aid in hunting.

**Baiting is illegal** in DMU 333 and DMU 419, as well as Alcona, Alpena, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Shiawassee counties.

**In the rest of Michigan, the following rules apply:**

- Baiting may occur only from Sept. 15 - Jan. 1.
- Bait volume at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons.
- Bait dispersal must be over a minimum 10-foot by 10-foot area.
- Bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- To minimize exposure of deer to diseases that may be present, the DNR recommends not placing bait or feed repeatedly at the same point on the ground, and only baiting when actively hunting.

**Feed** means a substance composed of grain, mineral, salt, fruit, vegetable, hay, or other food material, that may attract deer or elk for any reason other than hunting.

**Feeding of any kind is illegal** in DMU 333, DMU 419 and DMU 487.

**In the rest of Michigan, the following rules apply:**

- Feed volume at any residence cannot exceed two gallons.
- Feed may be no more than 100 yards from a residence on land owned or possessed by that person.
- Feed must be scattered on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- Feed must be at least 100 yards from any area accessible to cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae.

**Food plots** — naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops, or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be bait or feed. Constructing or maintaining any food plot or any artificial garden to attract wildlife on public land is prohibited.

### Tagging Big Game

Immediately after killing, and before field-dressing or moving a deer, bear, elk, or turkey, you must validate your kill tag and fasten it to the animal. 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's antler, lower jaw, or lower leg in such a manner that the tag remains securely attached. Do not stick or wrap the kill tag directly onto an antler of a deer or to the leg of a turkey. 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.

### Transportation of Game

**Deer harvested in a Core CWD Area (DMU 333 or DMU 359)** - The head of all hunter-harvested deer originating from a Core CWD Area must be presented within the business hours of the next 72 hours after harvest to a DNR deer check station established within a Core CWD Area. The head must be surrendered to the DNR for CWD testing, along with any other material requested by the DNR, and affixed with a CWD survey tag. The hunter will retain at least a portion of the CWD survey tag, may retain the antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue from a head that is submitted to the DNR, and shall dispose of unused parts in a landfill. After the head has been presented for mandatory deer check, the carcass may be taken to a licensed processor or taxidermist or to the hunter's home for storage and processing.

**Statewide** - 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 process your deer, elk, or bear, or have the animal processed by a commercial processor before going home, the head of the animal, along with the kill tag or seal, must accompany the processed 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.

## Hunters Importing Deer, Elk, or Moose

**Free-ranging deer, elk, moose, or other cervids hunted within another state or province may only have the following parts brought into Michigan:** hides, deboned meat, quarters or other parts of the cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, finished taxidermy products, cleaned teeth, or antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue. Hunters bringing an entire head, carcass, or other prohibited parts into Michigan will be subject to penalties such as fines, jail time, and revocation of licenses. In addition, the illegally imported cervid will be confiscated.

If you are notified by another state or province that a deer, elk, moose, or other cervid you brought into Michigan tested positive for CWD, you must contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab within two business days (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 517-336-5030 and provide details. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture may have regulations on importation from Canada; contact them at 301-851-3300.

## Commercial Processor Registration

Commercial processors who accept wild game for processing and storage are now required to register with the DNR. Registration is free. To register, please visit [www.michigan.gov/wildlifepermits](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlifepermits).

## Protected Wildlife

Eagles, hawks, owls, spotted fawns, spruce grouse, flying squirrels, wolverines, lynx, moose, cougars, cub bears, and sow bears accompanied by cubs may not be taken at any time. All nongame birds are protected, except starlings, house sparrows, and feral pigeons.

## Important Live Animal Restrictions

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

**Importation Bans** — It is unlawful 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 unlawful 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 unlawful to possess a live bat, skunk, mute swan, feral swine, moose, or elk. Contact the Wildlife Division Permit Specialist, Casey Reitz at 517-284-6210 or [reitzc@michigan.gov](mailto:reitzc@michigan.gov) for regulations regarding the rehabilitation of deer.

## Commercial Hunting Guides on Public Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, visit the DNR website at [mi.gov/wildlifepermits](http://mi.gov/wildlifepermits) or contact Casey Reitz at [reitzc@michigan.gov](mailto:reitzc@michigan.gov) or 517-284-6210 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.

## Shooting Feral Swine and Ear-Tagged Cervids

Hunters are encouraged to report all feral swine seen or taken, online at [mi.gov/feralswine](http://mi.gov/feralswine) or by calling 517-284-4725. Feral swine can be taken on public land by anyone possessing a valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license, or on private land with the landowner's permission. Hunters who shoot a feral swine are asked to submit parts of the animal to the DNR for disease testing. For more information on how to identify feral swine sign, go to [mi.gov/feralswine](http://mi.gov/feralswine).

All exotic cervids, including all white cervids, that do not bear visible identification, 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. To report escaped cervids, call 517-284-9453.

## 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 pg. 11) under special permit. For additional information on dog permits, contact Casey Reitz at 517-284-6210 or [reitzc@michigan.gov](mailto:reitzc@michigan.gov). See the current-year *Bear Digest* for dog/bear training restrictions. For information on how to release dogs from traps or snares go to [mi.gov/trapping](http://mi.gov/trapping) and look under Additional Resources.

## 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 Wildlife Conservation Order 2.1(a). Artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand or on the person may be used. Individuals interested in becoming a tracker can contact the DNR Law Enforcement Division at 517-284-6000.

## Wolf/Dog Conflicts

Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes, and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur where dogs are trained or used for bear hunting, which overlaps with the time wolf pups are using homesites.

Dogs used for hunting are at risk of being attacked by wolves because they: (1) traverse large areas, which increases their chance of encountering wolves; (2) may be released at bear bait sites that also may be used by wolves; (3) bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and (4) are some distance from hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

### Avoiding Potential Problems

To minimize the conflict between wolves and dogs, it is best to avoid areas of recent wolf activity. Wolves will concentrate much of their activity around the den and homesites. These sites may vary from year to year and can change throughout the summer. Homesites usually are forest openings or edge areas and often are near water. They can be identified by the concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting beforehand and look for wolf sign before releasing hounds. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bear bait site, and make sure wolves have not been using the bait. If wolf sign, particularly the sign of wolf pups, is evident, move to another area before releasing dogs.

### What You Can Do:

1. Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation.
2. Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks.
3. Consider adding bells or beepers to dog collars - this may reduce wolf attacks.

**For information on hunting dog conflicts with wolves, contact the Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-228-6561.**

**To report a dog depredation, call the  
Report All Poaching hotline: 800-292-7800.**

At the time the digest was printed, use of lethal control of wolves in the act of depredation is not authorized. Because the federal listing status has changed, and may continue to change, please contact a DNR office to inquire about current rules regarding lethal take of wolves if in the act of preying upon a dog.

## Hunting on National Forest Lands ([www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us))

All state laws apply to National Forest (NF) lands; however, additional federal regulations also apply. For a complete listings of regulations see 36 CFR 261.

**Wheeled Motor Vehicle Use:** A motor vehicle use map that shows designated roads and trails open for motorized travel, including ORVs, is available at Forest Service offices as well as online (see website below).

- Both state and federal laws governing ORV use must be followed.
- Leaving equipment unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited.
- Cross-country travel off designated routes is prohibited.
- Driving a motorized vehicle cross-country to blinds or to retrieve game is unlawful. **Exception:** Personal assisted mobility devices.

**Camping:** Camping in developed NF recreation areas is limited to 14 consecutive days, and camping in dispersed areas is limited to 16 consecutive days.

Leaving camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited.

- Campfires must be attended at all times and extinguished completely when you leave.
- Campers/trailers on NF land must be properly licensed or registered.
- Camping within 200 feet of any body of water is prohibited except at designated sites.
- Camping within National Wild and Scenic River corridors is restricted to designated campgrounds or campsites.
- Do not leave litter or refuse behind. You are responsible for the sanitary disposal of all body parts from fish and game that you harvest.

**Blinds:** The state law regarding hunting blinds, tree stands, and raised platforms applies on National Forest lands. Failure to remove ANY type of blind, structure, equipment, or trash will result in a fine and removal, destruction, impoundment and/or seizure of any abandoned or unlawfully placed items.

- Cutting of branches or limbs for shooting lanes or to construct blinds is prohibited.

### Additional Information:

- Constructing or maintaining any food plot or any artificial garden to attract wildlife is prohibited.
- Blocking gates or road access is prohibited.
- Discharging a weapon within 150 yards of a building, campsite, or occupied area or across or on a NF road or body of water is prohibited.
- It is illegal to damage any natural feature or other property of the United States. You may not cut live trees for any purpose.
- Guiding on NF land requires a federal special use permit.

**Contact:** Hiawatha NF: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hiawatha](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hiawatha) or 906-428-5800;  
Huron-Manistee NF: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/hmn](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/hmn) or 231-775-5023;  
Ottawa NF: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ottawa](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ottawa) or 906-932-1330.

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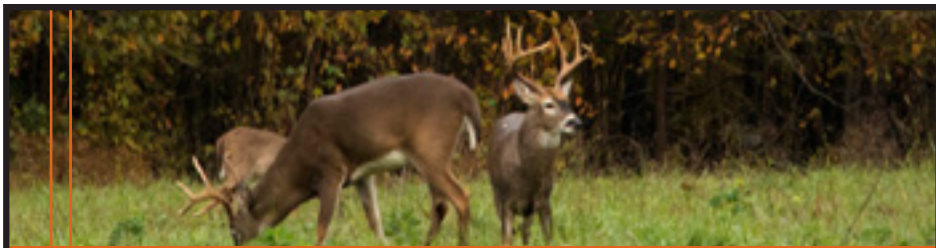
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# Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online at [mi.gov/dnr](http://mi.gov/dnr).  
Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

<b>Baraga CSC</b> 427 US-41 North Baraga, MI 49908 906-353-6651	<b>Gaylord CSC</b> 1732 W. M-32 Gaylord, MI 49735 989-732-3541	<b>Plainwell CSC</b> 621 N. 10th St. Plainwell, MI 49080 269-685-6851
<b>Bay City CSC</b> 3580 State Park Drive Bay City, MI 48706 989-684-9141	<b>Lansing CSC</b> 4166 Legacy Parkway Lansing, MI 48911 517-284-4720	<b>Roscommon CSC</b> I-75 & M-18 South, 8717 N. Roscommon Rd. Roscommon, MI 48653 989-275-5151
<b>Cadillac CSC</b> 8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601 231-775-9727	<b>Marquette CSC</b> 1990 US-41 South Marquette, MI 49855 906-228-6561	<b>Sault Ste. Marie Field Office</b> PO Box 798 2001 Ashmun Sault St. Marie, MI 49783 906-635-6161
<b>Crystal Falls Field Office</b> 1420 W. US-2 Crystal Falls, MI 49920 906-875-6622	<b>Naubinway Field Office</b> PO Box 287 W11569 US 2E. Naubinway, MI 49762 906-477-6048	<b>Traverse City CSC</b> 2122 South M-37 Traverse City, MI 49685 231-922-5280
<b>Detroit Metro CSC</b> 1801 Atwater St. Detroit, MI 48207 313-396-6890	<b>Newberry CSC</b> 5100 M-123 Newberry, MI 49868 906-293-5131	
<b>Escanaba CSC</b> 6833 US-2 41 & M-35 Gladstone, MI 49837 906-786-2351	<b>Norway Field Office</b> 520 W. US-Hwy 2 Norway, MI 49870 906-563-9247	

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**  
**Wildlife Division**  
**525 W. Allegan Street**  
**P.O. Box 30444**  
**Lansing, MI 48933**  
**517-284-WILD (9453)**  
**Contact hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The State of Michigan allows appropriate advertising in its annual hunting and trapping digest to reduce the cost of printing. Many states have adopted a similar strategy. Promotional advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**Helpful URLs:**  
Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/michigandnr](http://facebook.com/michigandnr)  
Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/mdnr\\_wildlife](http://twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife)  
Follow us on Youtube at [youtube.com/MichiganDNR](http://youtube.com/MichiganDNR)

**Direct DNR website URLs:**  
Hunting and Trapping: [mi.gov/hunting](http://mi.gov/hunting)  
Pure Michigan Hunt: [mi.gov/pmh](http://mi.gov/pmh)  
DNR Digests and Guides: [mi.gov/dnrdigests](http://mi.gov/dnrdigests)  
Mi-HUNT: [mi.gov/mihunt](http://mi.gov/mihunt)  
Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: [mi.gov/wetlandwonders](http://mi.gov/wetlandwonders)  
Invasive Species: [mi.gov/invasives](http://mi.gov/invasives)  
Shooting Ranges: [mi.gov/shootingranges](http://mi.gov/shootingranges)  
Chronic Wasting Disease: [mi.gov/cwd](http://mi.gov/cwd)  
Emerging Diseases: [mi.gov/emergingdiseases](http://mi.gov/emergingdiseases)