

2019 Michigan Hunting Digest

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Rules apply From August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020

Changes:

- New Regulations in the Upper Peninsula Core CWD Surveillance Area, see pgs. 48-50.
- New Antler Point Restrictions see pgs. 42-43 and 48- 49.
- NEW: Pheasant hunting endorsement and release locations, see pg. 55.
- NEW: Bovine TB testing quotas, see pg. 58.
- All fur harvesting information is found in the current-year Fur Harvester Digest.

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

Download @ Michigan.gov/DNRDigests

To receive hunting application reminders via text message, text, "MIDNR HUNTAPP" to "468311"

[Graphic: Pheasant on cover page looking off to the side]

[Graphic: Michigan DNR logo]

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[Graphic: Antlered Deer grazing in a field]

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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 Michigan.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:

Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.

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 based on 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.

YOU HELP PROTECT MICHIGAN’S WILD PLACES. Your licenses provide over \$62 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands and waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl and other game species have been preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Michigan Wildlife Council HereForMiOutdoors.org

[Graphic: Elk standing in a wooded area looking off to the side of the camera]

[Graphic: Pure Michigan logo]

Stay on top of the latest news from the Michigan DNR! Visit us at Michigan.gov/DNR to sign up for e-mail updates!

Season Dates and Bag Limits

Species	Bag Limit	Area	Season Dates (dates listed may be hunted)	Notes
Cottontail Rabbit and/ or Snowshoe Hare	Daily: 5 Possession: 10	Statewide	Sept. 15-Mar. 31	
Coyote	No Limit	Statewide	Year- Round (See pg. 57 for details)	For fur harvesting regulations for coyote, opossum, skunk and weasels, please see the current year Fur Harvester Digest. Woodchuck, raccoon, coyote, skunk, house sparrows and starlings may be taken without a license if doing or about to do damage on private property by the property owner or designee.
Crow	No Limit	Statewide	Aug. 1- Sept. 30 and Feb. 1- Mar. 31	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.
Early Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	See pg. 40 for open DMU's	Sept. 21-22	
Deer Liberty Hunt	1	See pgs. 29 and 33	Sept. 14-15	Deer and deer combo licenses are valid for an antlered or antlerless deer during this season. See pgs. 29 and 33-34 for restrictions.
Deer Independence Hunt	1	See pg. 34	Oct. 17-20	Deer and deer combo licenses are valid for an antlered or antlerless deer during this season. See pgs. 29 and 33-34 for restrictions.
Deer Archery	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1- Jan. 1	See pgs. 42-43 and 48-49 for antler point restriction regulations statewide. For counties with an extended archery season, see pg. 47.
Deer Regular Firearm	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Nov. 15-30	See pgs. 42-43 and 48-49 for antler point restriction regulations statewide.
Deer Muzzleloading	1 per kill tag	Zone 1, 2 & 3	Zone 1 & 2: De. 6-15 Zone 3: Dec. 6-22	See pgs. 42-43 and 48-49 for antler point restriction regulations statewide.
Late Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	See pg. 41 for DMU's	Dec. 23- Jan. 1	

Pheasant (male only)	Daily:2 Possession: 4	Zone 1 & 3 see pg. 54	Zone 1: Oct. 10-31 Zone 2 & 3: Oct. 20- Nov. 14 Zone 3: Dec. 1- Jan. 1	
Quail	Daily: 5 Possession: 10	See pg. 52	Oct. 20- Nov. 14	Special rules for Ionia and Highland field trial areas. See State Parks and Recreation Areas section on pg. 14
Ruffed Grouse	Zone 1 & 2: daily 5/ possession 10 Zone 3: daily 3/possession 6	Zone 1, 2 & 3	Sept. 15- Nov. 14 and Dec. 1- Jan. 1.	
Sharp- tailed Grouse	Daily: 2 Possession: 4 Season: 6	Zone 1 see pg. 56	Oct. 10-31	
Squirrel Fox and Gray (black phase included)	daily: 5 possession: 10	Statewide	Sept. 15- Mar. 31	
Woodcock	Daily: 3 Possession: 9	Statewide	Sept. 21- Nov. 4	Shotguns must be plugged so they are capable of holding no more than three shells. See pgs. 52-53 for stamp and HIP requirements
Opossum, Porcupine, Weasel, Red Squirrel, Skunk, Ground Squirrel, Woodchuck, Russian Boar, Feral Pigeons, Starlings, and House Sparrows.	No Limit	Statewide	Year-round with a valid Michigan hunting license.	For fur harvesting regulations for coyote, opossum, skunk and weasels, please see the current year Fur Harvester Digest. For more information on Russian boar, see pg. 64. Woodchuck, raccoon, coyote, skunk, house sparrows and starlings may be

				taken without a license if doing or about to do damage on private property by the property owner or designee.
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Limited License Hunts

Species	Approx. availability of species-specific hunting digests.	Application Period
Bear	End of April	May 1- Jun. 1
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 Applications for limited-license hunts may be purchased during the designated application period from license agents or online at mdnr-eligence.com .
Reserved Waterfowl	Beginning of July	Aug. 1-28
Pure Michigan Hunt	N/A	Mar. 1-Dec. 31
Spring Wild Turkey	End of December	Jan. 1- Feb. 1

For season information and license costs, see species-specific hunting digests, which are published separately from this digest. View digests at: Michigan.gov/DNRDigests.

All hunting and trapping regulations for furbearing species are now found in the current-year Fur Harvester Digest. View all digests at Michigan.gov/DNRDigests.

License Types and Fees

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 Michigan.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 2020 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 2020 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 2020 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, 2019. Applications cost \$5 each. Drawing results will be posted at Michigan.gov/PMH on January 21, 2020. Visit Michigan.gov/PMH for complete list of sponsors and prizes.

License Types and Fees by Age

License Type	Cost Age: up to 9 For complete information on Youth Hunting, see pgs. 27-30	Cost Junior Age: 10-16 For complete information on Youth Hunting, see pgs. 27-30	Cost Resident Age: 17+	Cost Nonresident Age: 17+ Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase resident licenses.	Resident Senior Age: 65+
DNR Sportscard	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Mentored Youth License	\$7.50	-	-	-	-
Base License (valid as small game license); see pg. 41) Valid through March 31,2020. 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 the	-	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$151.00	\$5.00

Small game 3-day Nonresident	-	-	-	\$50.00	-
Small game 5-day Nonresident	-	-	-	\$80.00	-
Hunt Fish Combo (includes base license, deer combo, and all species fish license.) 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 the	-	-	\$76.00	\$266.00	\$43.00
Deer (one kill tag)	-	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$8.00
Deer Combo (two kill tags)	-	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$190.00	\$28.00
Antlerless Deer License	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00 Nonresident first antlerless deer license is \$20; additional antlerless deer licenses are \$170 each.	\$20.00

Lost Licenses

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 Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety.

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 an active duty 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. 52. Additional licenses are required to hunt other species, except a resident possessing a base license may hunt coyote (see pg. 57). Hunters are always encouraged to carry their base license 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).

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.

[Graphic: Pure Michigan Hunt Add- Apply Today for a multi-species hunt & prize package valued at over \$4,000! 3 winners receive elk, bear, antlerless deer, spring & fall turkey licenses, and a pick at a reserved waterfowl hunt! \$5.00 per application. Michigan.gov/PMH

[When and Where to Hunt](#)

[Zones](#)

[Hunting and Trapping](#)

Hunting and Trapping Michigan is divided into Hunting and Trapping Zones 1-2-3; see map below. Zone 1 includes all the Upper Peninsula. The dividing line between Zones 2 and 3 is from the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Muskegon Lake easterly on Memorial Drive to Ruddiman Drive to Lake Avenue, easterly on Lake Avenue to M-120 in North Muskegon, northeasterly on M-120 to M-20, easterly on M-20 to US-10, easterly on US-10 to Garfield Road in Bay County, northerly on Garfield Road to Pinconning Road, easterly on Pinconning Road to Seven Mile Road, northerly on Seven Mile Road to Lincoln School Road (County Road 25) in Arenac County, northerly on Lincoln School Road to M-61, easterly on M-61 to US-23, easterly on US-23 to center line of AuGres River, southerly along center line of AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, easterly 90 degrees east for 7 miles into Saginaw Bay, then northerly 78 degrees east to the International Boundary. Exception: The waterfowl hunting zone lines differ from those above. Refer to the current-year Waterfowl Digest for waterfowl zone descriptions.

Limited Firearm Season

Michigan is divided into a northern zone and a southern limited firearm deer zone (see map on pg. 12), where only shotguns, certain firearms, and certain handguns may be used for deer hunting (see pg. 20). The dividing line between the northern zone and the southern limited firearm deer zone is as follows: starting at a point on the Lake Michigan shoreline directly west of M-46, then easterly to M-46, then easterly along M-46 to US-131 at Cedar Springs, southerly on US-131 to M-57, easterly on M-57 to Montcalm Road on the Kent-Montcalm county line, southerly on Montcalm Road and the Kent-Ionia county line to M-44, easterly on M-44 to M-66, northerly on M-66 to M-57, easterly on M-57 to M-52 near Chesaning, northerly on M-52 to M-46, easterly on M-46 to M-47, northerly on M-47 to US-10 west of Bay City, easterly on US-10 to I-75, northerly on I-75 and US-23 to Beaver Road (about 1 mile north of Kawkawlin), easterly to Saginaw Bay, north 50 degrees east to the International Boundary.

[Graphic: State of Michigan graphic with zone 1,2, and 3 defined]

Hunting Hours

Shown is a map of the hunting-hour time zones. Actual legal hunting hours for bear, deer, fall wild turkey, furbearer, and small game for Time Zone A are shown in the table at right. Hunting hours for migratory game birds are different and are published in the current-year Waterfowl Digest. To determine the opening (a.m.) and closing (p.m.) time for any day in another time zone, add the minutes shown below to the times listed in the Time Zone A Hunting Hours Table. 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.

[Graphic: State of Michigan graphic with zone 1,2, and 3 defined]

Time Zone A. Hunting Hour for Bear, Deer, Fall Wild Turkey, Furbearers, and Small Game

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time). For hunt dates not listed in the table, please consult your local newspaper.

Note:

- Woodcock and the early teal hunting season hours are sunrise to sunset.
- Spring turkey hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset. See the current-year Spring Wild Turkey Digest for legal hunting hours.
- Waterfowl hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the teal season. See the current-year Waterfowl Digest for legal hunting hours.
- For nighttime hunting of furbearers, see the current-year Fur Harvester Digest.

Date	Sept. A.M.	Sept. P.M.	Oct. A.M.	Oct. P.M.	Nov. A.M.	Nov. P.M.	Dec. A.M.	Dec. P.M.
1	6:27	8:37	6:59	7:44	7:35	6:56	7:12	5:31
2	6:28	8:35	7:01	7:42	7:37	6:55	7:13	5:30
3	6:29	8:33	7:02	7:41	6:38	5:53	7:14	5:30
4	6:30	8:32	7:03	7:39	6:39	5:52	7:15	5:30
5	6:32	8:30	7:04	7:37	6:40	5:51	7:16	5:30
6	6:33	8:28	7:05	7:36	6:42	5:50	7:17	5:30
7	6:34	8:26	7:06	7:34	6:43	5:49	7:18	5:30
8	6:35	8:25	7:07	7:32	6:44	5:46	7:19	5:30
9	6:36	8:23	7:08	7:31	6:45	5:45	7:20	5:30

10	6:37	8:20	7:10	7:29	6:47	5:44	7:20	5:30
11	6:38	8:18	7:11	7:27	6:48	5:43	7:21	5:30
12	6:39	8:16	7:12	7:26	6:49	5:42	7:22	5:30
13	6:40	8:15	7:13	7:24	6:50	5:41	7:23	5:30
14	6:41	8:13	7:14	7:22	6:52	5:40	7:24	5:30
15	6:42	8:12	7:15	7:21	6:53	5:40	7:24	5:30
16	6:43	8:09	7:16	7:19	6:54	5:39	7:25	5:31
17	6:44	8:08	7:18	7:18	6:55	5:38	7:26	5:31
18	6:45	8:06	7:19	7:16	6:57	5:37	7:26	5:31
19	6:46	8:05	7:20	7:14	6:58	5:36	7:27	5:32
20	6:47	8:04	7:21	7:13	6:59	5:36	7:27	5:32
21	6:48	8:02	7:22	7:11	7:01	5:35	7:28	5:33
22	6:49	8:00	7:22	7:11	7:02	5:34	7:28	5:22
23	6:51	7:58	7:25	7:08	7:03	5:34	7:29	5:34
24	6:52	7:56	7:26	7:07	7:04	5:33	7:29	5:34
25	6:53	7:55	7:27	7:05	7:05	5:33	7:29	5:35
26	6:54	7:53	7:28	7:04	7:06	5:32	7:30	5:36
27	6:55	7:51	7:30	7:03	7:07	5:32	7:30	5:36
28	6:56	7:49	7:31	7:01	7:09	5:31	7:30	5:37
29	6:57	7:48	7:32	7:00	7:10	5:31	7:30	5:38
30	6:58	7:46	7:33	6:59	7:11	5:30	7:31	5:38
N/A	N/A	N/A	7:35	6:57	N/A	N/A	7:31	5:39

Public Lands

Hunting and Trapping in State Parks and Recreation Areas

State Parks are closed to hunting unless opened by law (Michigan.gov/DNRLaws). State Recreation Areas are open to hunting unless closed by law. Approximately 92 percent of State Park and State Recreation Area lands are open to hunting. Contact the individual park or recreation area for hunting information specific to that location. 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.
- Trap within 50 feet of the mowed portions of developed areas within State Recreation Areas. Contact individual Parks or Recreation Areas for current trapping regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to trapping.
- 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.
- 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 Recreation Area headquarters for field trial dates. Camping is allowed only on designated campsites. To make camping reservations, go to midnrreservations.com. Michigan residents can 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 Michigan.gov/RecreationPassport or call 517-284-7275.

Out-of-state registered vehicles will require a daily (\$9) or annual (\$33) 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 More Public Lands at Michigan.gov/MIHunt, that identify all lands that are open to public hunting in Michigan. Hunters can click on a 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 Michigan.gov/MIHunt.

[Graphic: Mi-Hunt logo]

[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. Any activities other than the acts of fishing, hunting, and trapping, require landowner permission. Leaving anything unattended, other than traps, also requires landowner permission. In addition, hunters may not build structures, or construct blinds other than with natural materials found onsite. The use of nails, bolts or tree steps is not allowed. The cutting of shooting lanes or destruction of brush, trees, or other vegetation is prohibited. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. Descriptions of land in the CF program are available on the DNR website at [Michigan.gov/ CommercialForest](http://Michigan.gov/CommercialForest), click "Commercial Forest Program Maps". CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at Michigan.gov/MIHunt. If you have questions about this program or specific CF parcels, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR, Forest Resources Division, at 517-284-5849, DNR-Forestry@Michigan.gov, or P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909.

[Hunting Access Program \(HAP\) Properties](#)

HAP provides private land hunting opportunities for hunters. The DNR leases lands from private landowners to allow public hunting. 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 has since expanded throughout the state and is now one of the oldest dedicated private-lands public access programs in the nation. Private landowners determine if all hunters, or youth and apprentice hunters only, may hunt on their property. They also determine if hunters may harvest deer only, turkey only, small game only, elk only, sharp-tailed grouse only, all legal species, or a combination of any of these options. Property owners specify the maximum number of hunters allowed on the land at any one time. HAP lands can only be used for hunting purposes by

members of the public; no other activities or recreation are permissible. For further details, visit Michigan.gov/HAP. Aerial photographs of HAP farms can be viewed on the DNR’s interactive mapping tool, Mi-HUNT, [Michigan.gov/ MIHunt](http://Michigan.gov/MIHunt)

[Graphic: HAP Logo]

[Hunting Access Program](#)

[Hunting on HAP Lands](#)

Hunters utilizing HAP properties are guests of the landowner. Respect for the landowner and landowner’s privacy is vital; use registration service types provided. Appropriate conduct is expected and helps ensure a good experience for both hunters and landowners. All rules and regulations enforced by the DNR apply while hunting on HAP lands. Lands enrolled in HAP are available each day on a first-come, first-served basis, and hunters must register at each property headquarters to hunt for that day. To help hunters locate and scout HAP lands, aerial photographs of HAP properties are available on the DNR’s interactive hunting map application, (Michigan.gov/MIHunt), and on the HAP webpage, at Michigan.gov/HAP.

[Graphic: Mi-Hunt logo]

[Steps for hunting HAP lands](#)

1.Find a current listing of enrolled HAP lands at Michigan.gov/HAP. Listings can also be acquired by visiting a DNR Customer Service Center (locations on back of digest), or by calling (517) 284-9453 to receive a copy by mail. Listing information for each property includes:

Landowner Name	Last name, first name
Township/ Sections	Township and section
Headquarters	Where hunters register to hunt
Habitat Type (Including species commonly found)	WW= Wetlands (ducks, geese) FW= Forest (deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey) FA= Grasslands and brush (pheasant, rabbit, deer) CC= Crop lands
Service Type	Self-service box or mandatory check-in
Hunters Allowed	Maximum number of hunters allowed at one time
Hunt Type	Youth and apprentice hunting only (up to two licensed adults may accompany each youth or apprentice hunter) All legal hunting, deer hunting only, turkey hunting only, elk hunting only and small game hunting only For Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) Only SG = Small game hunting only (includes sharp-tailed grouse) S = Sharp-tailed grouse only Note: EUP lands are not open for big game species.

2.If hunting antlerless deer on HAP lands, a private-land antlerless deer license for the appropriate Deer Management Unit (DMU) can be used. When purchasing a private-land antlerless deer license for HAP land use, the phone number (999)999-9999 should be used.

3. Register at headquarters each time before hunting by providing name, complete mailing address, species hunted, and time spent hunting (starting and ending times). Individuals accompanying a hunter, but who themselves will not be hunting, should not register. Registration service types include:

- Self-service box - Located near headquarters sign; contains folder with registration forms and property information. Please respect landowner privacy; do not contact.
- Mandatory check-in - Register directly with the landowner.

HAP Rules and Regulations

- Before hunting, verify hunting seasons, hunt type(s), and hunt dates.
- Lands are closed during the summer.
- Hunting is the ONLY activity allowed on HAP lands.
- Do not trespass onto adjacent properties.
- Hunters must follow all individual landowner rules as described in the registration folder.
- Every individual hunter (whether hunting or scouting) must register before hunting. See property list for maximum number of hunters allowed.
- Up to two licensed adults may accompany each youth or apprentice hunter.
- Private-land hunting rules apply to HAP lands.
- Hunters are only allowed to hunt during seasons listed for each HAP land.
- Only species listed under "hunt types" may be harvested at each HAP land.
- Driving on HAP lands is prohibited without landowner permission.
- Do not block drives or lanes. Park in designated area when provided by landowner.
- Use of ORVs is prohibited without landowner permission.
- Hunting in or damaging standing crops is prohibited.
- Permanent blinds, tree stands, or nails/screws are prohibited. Temporary structures only.
- Use of permanent blinds, tree stands, or nails/screws in trees is prohibited.
- Clean up after yourself; littering is prohibited.

Got Land? GET PAID! Enrolling Property in HAP

Landowners who enroll their property receive payment for allowing public hunting on their lands.

Eligible lands must be located within HAP-eligible areas. Landowners are free from liability as stated in Public Act 451 Of 1994: "A cause of action shall not arise for injuries to persons hunting on lands leased under HAP unless the injuries were caused by the gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of the owner, tenant, or lessee." Interested landowners with a minimum of 40 acres may obtain an application and details on the program by contacting the DNR HAP coordinator at DNR-HAP@Michigan.gov or 517-284-4741.

[Graphic: HAP bulletin]

When and Where to Hunt

Safety Zones Around Buildings

No person may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence or cabin, or any barn or other building used in connection with a farm operation, without obtaining the written permission of the owner, renter 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. 68.

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 or on any property that is fenced or enclosed. 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.

Equipment Regulations

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. 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 Shinning

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 another 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 the Fur Harvester Digest for nighttime hunting equipment 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 another device capable of shooting a projectile. It is a violation of federal law to shine at any time on any national wildlife refuge (see pg. 66). 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

Some roads may be closed to ORV use; check Michigan.gov/DNRLaws 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 current-year Fur Harvester Digest 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 December 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). Crossbows

may be used during the Dec. 1 – Jan. 1 late archery season in the UP Core CWD Surveillance Area, see pg. 50. 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 unloaded and uncocked, enclosed in a case, or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road, or street.
- Note: A crossbow is considered uncocked when it is not in the cocked position and unloaded when a bolt is not in the flight groove. A bow is considered uncocked when the bow is not in the drawn position and unloaded when an arrow is not nocked. 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 pgs. 23-24. 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. 31. 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.

Pneumatic Guns

Pneumatic guns, 'air guns', are considered firearms for hunting purposes. Pneumatic guns must meet firearm requirements for season, species hunted, and zone you are hunting in.

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. 21). 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. (Exception: in the CWD Management Zone and Core CWD Area muzzleloader season is open to all legal firearms, see pgs. 44 – 45.) Only certified hunters with a disability may use a crossbow or a modified bow during the muzzleloading season in the Upper Peninsula, except in the UP Core CWD Surveillance Area where crossbows may be used. 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 pgs. 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 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.
- Elk hunters may place constructed ground blinds on state lands in elk management units open to elk hunting for which they have an elk license beginning August 15. Blinds must be removed

within five days of an elk being harvested, or within five days after the close of the elk 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
Deer	\$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
Elk & Moose	\$5,000 per animal + additional if antlered. Antlered elk: 8-10 pts. an additional \$250 each pt., 11+ pts. an additional \$500 for each pt. Antlered moose: an additional \$5,000.	5-90 days	1 st offense: 15 years 2 nd offense: Life
Bear	\$3,500 per animal	5-90 days	Current year + 3 years 1st offense: additional 2 years 2nd offense: additional 7 years
Owl, Eagle, & Hawk	\$1,000 - \$1,500 per animal	5-90 days	-
Wild Turkey	\$1,000 per animal + additional \$1,000 for bearded turkey	5-90 days	5 years
Waterfowl	\$500 per animal	5-90 days	-

Youth Hunting

Youth 9 years of Age and Younger with a Mentored Youth License

Youth 9 years of age and younger may hunt as part of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. Mentored Youths must always 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. See pg. 28.

- Youth may hunt using archery, crossbow, or firearm equipment.
- Youth may also fur harvest on public lands and private or Commercial Forest lands.
- Youth residents, 8 years of age or older, may obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher. See the current-year Fur Harvester Digest for season dates and regulations for harvest of these species.

[Graphic: three boys showing off their waterfowl harvest]

Youth 10-16 years of age with an Apprentice License

- Those who are NOT hunter safety certified may hunt as an apprentice hunter. Apprentice hunters must always hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice, and must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. See pg. 8.
- Youth may hunt using archery, crossbow, or firearm equipment.
- Youth may hunt on public lands and private or Commercial Forest lands for: Small Game, Waterfowl, Turkey, Deer, Bear, and Elk.
- Youth may also fur harvest on public lands and private or Commercial Forest lands. ♦ Youth residents, 8 years of age or older, may obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher. See the current-year Fur Harvester Digest for season dates and regulations for harvest of these species.

Youth Hunting 10-16 years of age with a Regular License

- Those who ARE hunter safety certified may hunt using the appropriate regular license. Youth may hunt using archery, crossbow, or firearm equipment. See chart below for additional restrictions based on the type of land the youth will be hunting.

Species	Public Land	Private or Commercial Forest Lands
Small Game and Waterfowl	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old	Yes
Turkey	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old	Yes
Fur harvester	Yes; Youth residents, 8 years of age or older, may obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher. See the current-year	Yes; Youth residents, 8 years of age or older, may obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher. See the current-year

	Fur Harvester Digest for season dates and regulations for harvest of these species.	Fur Harvester Digest for season dates and regulations for harvest of these species.
Deer	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old.
Bear	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old.
Elk	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old	Yes; Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old.

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. It also allows the mentored youth hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk, and fall turkey. 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 Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting for complete rules and restrictions. The MYH license and kill tags shall remain valid for the duration of the license year, even if the mentored youth turns 10 years old during the year. Mentored youth hunters may also purchase additional hunting licenses such as antlerless deer, bear, and fall turkey.

Junior Antlerless Deer Hunting License

Young hunters, up to 16 years of age, may purchase one junior antlerless deer license over the counter July 15 - Aug. 15. 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, up to 16 years of age, can purchase resident licenses. Also see the current-year Antlerless Deer Digest.

Liberty Hunt- Youth

This firearm deer hunt will take place on private or public lands statewide in Michigan open to firearm deer hunting Sept. 14-15, 2019. Youth 16 years of age or younger may participate in this hunt in addition to eligible hunters with disabilities (see pg. 33). Youth 10-16 years of age may hunt with archery equipment, crossbow, or firearm, 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. In areas of the Upper Peninsula where baiting is LEGAL, youth hunters participating in the Liberty Hunt may bait September 9 through September 15.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend

The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend is Sept. 21-22, 2019. 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 Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders for more information on managed waterfowl hunting areas, and Michigan.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.

[Graphic: Youth hunter holding up waterfowl]

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).

Hunters with Disabilities

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. 8 for details. Additional resources for hunters with disabilities are available through Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors; visit 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 or visit Michigan.gov/DNRAccessibility. 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. Visit Michigan.gov/DNRAccessibility.

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

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. 26 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. 14-15, 2019. Individuals with qualifying disabilities, as stated below, may participate in this hunt in addition to youth 16 years of age and younger (see pg. 29). 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. In the CWD Management Zone, Core CWD Area, and Upper Peninsula Core CWD Surveillance Area, hunters with disabilities who meet the requirements listed below may use single-bite baits during the Liberty Hunt. Single bite baits are defined as shelled corn, nuts, beet pulp, deer feed or pellets, or wheat or other grain. In all other areas, hunters with disabilities may use any food type. Hunters with disabilities may begin baiting on September 9 and continue through Sept. 15 for the Liberty Hunt. All bait must be removed from the bait site by the final day of the season (Sept. 15). 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. For more information on baiting and feeding, please see pgs. 44 and 50-51. To qualify an individual must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability, or a resident 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. 17-20, 2019. 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. In the CWD Management Zone, Core CWD Area, and Upper Peninsula Core CWD Surveillance Area, hunters with disabilities who meet the requirements listed below may use single-bite baits during the Independence Hunt. Single bite baits are defined as shelled corn, nuts, beet pulp, deer feed or pellets, or wheat or other grain. In all other areas, hunters with disabilities may use any food type. 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. For more information on baiting and feeding, please see pgs. 44 and 50-51. To qualify an individual must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability, or a resident 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.

[Graphic: Deer standing in field looking off in the distance]

Deer Hunters. Your actions matter!

- Keep Michigan wildlife healthy for current and future generations.
- Help slow the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to new areas.

What can you do?

- Keep hunting.
- Get your deer checked. Find locations at mi.gov/deercheck.
- Avoid long-distance movements with your deer carcass.
- Handle and dispose of your carcass in a responsible manner.
- If you hunt out-of-state, only bring back allowed cervid parts.
- Stay up to date with the latest regulations, especially if hunting in or near CWD area.

To learn more about CWD visit Michigan.gov/CWD

[Graphic: DNR logo]

[Graphic: Ad for Vortex optics, picture of binoculars]

Let Jay's outfit you with the latest vortex optics! Clare & Gaylord

Jay's Sporting Goods www.jayssportinggoods.com We Buy firearms (cash or credit) Free scope mounting with any new scope or firearm purchase.

[Graphic: \$20.00 gift care graphic for every \$100.00 spent on vortex optics. Expires 12/31/19. Code: HutRegVortex19]

[Graphic: Ad for GreenStone Farm Credit Services, deer in forest looking off past camera]

Bag some hunting land

Capture the land you've been hunting for! We offer a variety of affordable loans for recreational land of any size. Call us today to learn more! 800-444-3276 www.greenstonefcs.com

[Graphic: Ad for White tail properties, picture of forest aerial shot]

We Sell Land whitetailproperties.com

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAND SPECIALIST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUYING AND SELLING HUNTING, RANCH, FARM AND TIMBERLAN

EDMUND NOGASKI Broker, Northern MI (231) 330-4107 SHAWN KELLEY Agent, Southeast MI (586) 292-1812

JEFF CHILMAN Agent, North Central MI (989) 205-2355 TONY HANSEN Agent, Southwest MI (269) 420-9510

JUSTIN OLK Agent, West Central MI (616) 648-6156 MICHAEL TURNER Agent, Eastern MI (989) 305-9683

CHUCK KEEFER Agent, Central MI (989) 600-4112 SHAD WOODRUFF Agent, North Central MI (989) 330-4032

Deer

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). There is a 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 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 the CWD Management Zone, Core CWD Area, 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. 42-43 and 48-49.

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 CWD Management Zone, Core CWD Area, 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. 42-43 and 48-49.

Antlerless Deer Hunting License

An antlerless deer license entitles residents and nonresidents, to take an antlerless deer within the deer management unit (DMU) specified on the license. Hunters of any age may apply for or purchase antlerless deer licenses, including young hunters licensed under the mentored youth program. License availability is limited by antlerless deer license quotas established for each DMU. Hunters may apply for

one license through the drawing (July 15 – Aug. 15), or wait to purchase leftover licenses after the drawing, if available. Quotas are available at Michigan.gov/Deer.

There are two types of antlerless deer hunting licenses:

1. A public-land antlerless deer license is valid for taking antlerless deer from public lands (including state, federal, and county lands) and required to hunt Commercial Forest lands (see pg. 15).
2. A private-land antlerless deer license is valid for taking antlerless deer from privately owned lands, with permission of the landowner. The phone number of the landowner is required. When purchasing a private-land antlerless deer license for use on Hunter Access Program (HAP) lands only, use phone number 999-999-9999. Junior antlerless deer licenses (pg. 29) are not subject to license quotas but are only available in DMUs where regular antlerless licenses are available. Some DMUs have an early and/or late antlerless season, see pgs.40-41.

[Leftover Antlerless Licenses](#)

All remaining antlerless deer licenses will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. This includes quota limited licenses that remain after the drawing, as well as licenses for DMUs with unlimited antlerless deer licenses. There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any DMU. Leftover licenses will be sold until license quotas are met in each DMU. Current leftover license availability may be viewed at Michigan.gov/Deer.

[Purchase Limits for Private-Land Antlerless Deer Licenses](#)

An individual may purchase up to a season limit of 5 private-land antlerless deer licenses statewide, with the following exceptions:

- For DMU 487, an individual may purchase a total of 10 private-land antlerless deer licenses per season.
- Refer to pgs. 44-45 for license purchase limits in DMUs affected by CWD.

[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 the CWD Management Zone, Core CWD Area, DMU 452, and DMU 487 to take an antlerless deer.

[Early and Late Antlerless Firearm Season](#)

Hunters must possess a private-land antlerless deer license issued for the DMU upon which they are hunting, or a Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit valid for that DMU. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth license must be used to harvest an antlerless deer during the antlerless-only seasons. All hunters are required to wear hunter orange and must have permission from the landowner or leaseholder before hunting on private land. The telephone number of the private landowner is required to acquire a private-land antlerless deer license. Early Antlerless Firearm Season: Sept 21-22
Open on private lands only

- All the Upper Peninsula is closed to the early antlerless firearm season.

[Graphic: image of State of Michigan with a legend for early and late antlerless firearm counties]

Late Antlerless Firearm Season: Dec. 23, 2019 – Jan. 1, 2020

- Open on private lands only
- All the Upper Peninsula is closed to the late antlerless firearm season.

Deer Cooperator Patches

Cooperator patches are used as an incentive for successful hunters to bring their deer to DNR offices and other check stations. A deer head (antlers must still be attached on bucks) or entire carcass must be presented to receive a patch. Visit Michigan.gov/DeerCheck for the final list of 2019 deer check stations. Hunters are urged to call ahead to confirm hours and days of operation.

Deer-Lower Peninsula

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 charts on pg. 43 to see the type of deer you may harvest in each season based on your license.

[Graphic: Antler point restriction key and map. Complex graphic. For more information please call 517-284-9453.]

Baiting and Feeding Prohibitions for Deer and Elk

BAITING AND FEEDING IS BANNED IN THE ENTIRE LOWER PENINSULA.

Exception: Hunters with Disabilities who meet specific requirements may use bait in areas where baiting is banned during the Liberty and Independence Hunts only. See pgs. 33 – 34.

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.

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.

NOTE: You can use food-scented materials- whether composed of natural or synthetic materials- made inaccessible for consumption by deer and placed in a manner to prohibit physical contact with deer. (Examples: oil-based attractants, scented wicks, etc.) Other urine-based scents are legal, such as mock scrapes, drag ropes, wicks, etc. provided these products have the Archery Trade Association (ATA) symbol marked on the packaging or bottle.

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.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone

The CWD Management Zone includes Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, and Shiawassee counties.

In the CWD Management Zone:

- There is a 40% discounted private land antlerless license for purchase in the CWD Management Zone; however, this license will expire on November 3, 2019.
- There is a purchase limit of 10 private-land antlerless licenses per hunter in the CWD Management Zone.
- Muzzleloader season is open to all legal firearms; regular firearm equipment rules apply.
- Carcass Transportation:

- A harvested deer cannot be possessed or transported outside of this area unless:
- It is deboned meat, quarters or other parts of a cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, antlers attached to a skull or skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth, or a finished taxidermist mount, OR
- The hunter has presented the head at a designated drop off location within 24 hours after killing the deer.
- A hunter in the CWD Management Zone can take an entire carcass INTO the Core CWD Area with no restrictions.
- A hunter outside the CWD Management Zone can bring an entire carcass INTO the CWD Management Zone with no restrictions.

Core CWD Area

The Core CWD Area includes Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Newaygo counties. In the Core CWD Area:

- There is a 40% discounted private land antlerless license for purchase in the CWD Management Zone; however, this license will expire on November 3, 2019.
- There is a purchase limit of 10 private-land antlerless licenses per hunter in the Core CWD Area.
- Muzzleloader season is open to all legal firearms; regular firearm equipment rules apply.
- Carcass Transportation:
 - A harvested deer cannot be possessed or transported outside of this area unless:
 - It is deboned meat, quarters or other parts of a cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, antlers attached to a skull or skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth, or a finished taxidermist mount, OR
 - The hunter has presented the head at a designated drop off location within 24 hours after killing the deer.
 - A hunter in the Core CWD Area may not take a deer into the CWD Management Zone unless it fulfills one of the two items above.
 - A hunter outside the Core CWD Area can bring an entire carcass into the Core CWD Area with no restrictions.

APR Field Study in the Core CWD Area

The Natural Resources Commission requested that the DNR evaluate the impact of antler point restrictions within the five-county Core CWD Area on prevalence and spread of chronic wasting disease, increasing antlerless harvest, and decreasing deer population beginning with the 2019 deer season. For this field study, the five-county Core CWD Area was divided in half. In Mecosta, Montcalm, and Ionia counties, only bucks with at least four points on one antler can be taken with a valid license. In Newaygo and Kent counties, any buck with an antler greater than three inches in length can be taken with a valid license. The data collected will be able to provide estimates on deer abundance and sex/ age ratio changes, factors that are likely to contribute to the overall CWD spread. Additionally, deer harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter perceptions of APRs will be assessed. However, due to the relatively low CWD prevalence rates currently observed and the historically slow spread of the disease on the landscape, the study cannot provide estimates on the prevalence and spread of CWD. The DNR has partnered with the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center at Michigan State University to conduct this research. At the end of the project (Fall 2023), the results along with conclusions and management recommendations will be presented to the Commission. Recommendations will include

the efficacy of APR regulations as a tool for managing the prevalence and spread of CWD. Additional information on this study available at Michigan.gov/CWD.

Special Deer Hunts

Fort Custer Training Center

Information on hunts sponsored by the training center can be found at fortcusterhunt.org.

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.

Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area

Contact the DNR Field Office at 1570 Tower Beach Rd., Pinconning, MI 48650, 989-697-5101.

Fish Point Wildlife Area

Contact the DNR Field Office at 7750 Ringle Rd., Unionville, MI 48767 989-674-2511.

(DMU 145) North Manitou Island Hunts

Deer licenses are available for the archery season from Oct. 1-27, 2019, for the muzzleloading and regular firearm season from Oct. 28 - Nov. 4, 2019. There is a \$50 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 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. Contact: DNR Customer Service Center, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601; 231-775-9727.

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 Michigan.gov/Deer from Jul. 15 – Aug. 15 and will be selected by random drawing. It costs \$5 to apply. Contact local area office for area specific details.

(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; 989-865-6211 or 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 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. 22 for equipment regulations.

[Graphic: profile of archery hunter pulling back on bow.]

Deer-Upper Peninsula

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 charts on pg. 49 to see the type of deer you may harvest in each season based on your license.

[Graphic: Antler point restriction key and map. Complex graphic. For more information please call 517-284-9453.]

Core CWD Surveillance Area

Core CWD Surveillance Area is that area of Delta, Dickinson, and Menominee counties bounded by a line beginning in Dickinson county at the junction of the centerline of highway US-141 and highway US-2 (shared road segment) with the centerline of the Menominee river (a coincident line with the county boundary and the state boundary with Wisconsin) located northwest of the city of Iron Mountain, then westerly (about 1 mile) along the centerline on US-141/ US-2 to the intersection with state highway M-95, northerly on M-95 to highway M-69 near the town of Randville, southeasterly on M-69 into Delta county to highway US-41 and highway US-2 (shared road segment) located west of the town of Bark River, southwesterly and westerly on US-41/US-2 into Menominee county where US-41 and US-2 diverge (US-41 heads southerly and US-2 heads westerly) near the town of Powers, continue on US-41 southerly into the town of Carney to county road G-18, westerly on G-18 to the junction of G-18 with the centerline of the Menominee river and the county/state boundary, northerly and northwesterly upstream along the Menominee river and county/state boundary, into Dickinson county along that river-centerline/county/state boundary to the point of beginning.

- No antler point restrictions on the deer license or deer combo license regular and restricted tag.
- Antlerless deer may be harvested during the archery season with a deer or deer combo license.
- Crossbows are allowed during the late archery season.
- Baiting and Feeding is banned.

◇ Exception: Hunters with Disabilities who meet specific requirements may use bait in areas where baiting is banned during the Liberty and Independence Hunts only. See pgs. 33–34.

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.

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.

NOTE: You can use food-scented materials- whether composed of natural or synthetic materials- made inaccessible for consumption by deer and placed in a manner to prohibit physical contact with deer. (Examples: oil-based attractants, scented wicks, etc.) Other urine-based scents are legal, such as mock scrapes, drag ropes, wicks, etc. provided these products have the Archery Trade Association (ATA) symbol marked on the packaging or bottle.

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.

In the rest of the Upper Peninsula, the following baiting regulations 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.
- In the rest of the Upper Peninsula, the following feeding 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.

Top Five Citations Issued in 2018

Illegally take/possess turkey – out of season

Illegally take/possess deer – closed firearm season

Hunt/trap wild animal without a valid license

Enter lands of another without consent (recreation trespass) Baiting in a closed area

Baiting violation penalties may include 5 to 90 days in prison, \$50 to \$1000 in fines and possible hunting license revocation.

REPORT ALL POACHING (RAP) CALL OR TEXT: 800-292-7800 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

[Waterfowl](#)

[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.

[Graphic: Wetland Wonders Ad]

HUNT & WIN For contest details and hunt area information visit: Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders

[Small Game and Upland Game Birds](#)

[Small Game Hunting](#)

A base hunting license entitles you to hunt rabbit, hare, squirrel (fox and gray, (black phase included)), pheasant (a free pheasant endorsement is required, see pg. 55), ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodchuck, woodcock (a free woodcock stamp is required, see below), quail, crow, coyote (see pg. 57) 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. 21 – Nov. 4. All woodcock hunters must have a valid base license and a free woodcock stamp, available from all license agents or online at mdnr-elicense.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.

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 more Pheasants?

[Graphic: Ad for Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative.]

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 Morgan Warda, Wildlife Cooperative Coordinator, at Mwarda@mucc.org, or by calling 517-346-6454.

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 Michigan.gov/DNRLaws for the complete detailed definition of this and other unit boundaries.

[Graphic: Image for Zone 1 (UP) Pheasant Management Unit: Oct. 10-31. For more information call 517-284-9453.]

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.

[Graphic: Image for December Pheasant Management Unit: Dec. 1- Jan. 1. For more information call 517-284-9453.]

Pheasant Endorsement

Pheasant hunters will need a free pheasant/sharp-tailed grouse endorsement on their hunting license. Anyone hunting pheasants will need this endorsement except those hunting pheasant only on hunting preserves.

Pheasant Hunting Initiative

The Michigan Legislature passed Public Act 618 of 2018, which appropriated \$260,000 from the general fund to the DNR for a pheasant release program during fall 2019 and 2020. The pheasant releases are

being done in partnership with the Michigan Association of Game Breeders and Hunting Preserves. Association members will be releasing the birds on a weekly basis at the designated game areas. Rooster pheasants will be released outside legal shooting hours beginning on October 19, 2019, and ending November 10, 2019, for the October/November release period. For the December release period birds will be released beginning after legal shooting hours on November 30, 2019 and ending December 27, 2019. Pheasant releases this year will take place on 11 different state game areas:

- Bay County: Pinconning SGA.
- Cass County: Crane Pond SGA.
- Clinton County: Rose Lake SGA.
- Lapeer County: Lapeer SGA.
- Monroe County: Erie and Pointe Mouillee SGAs.
- Saginaw County: Crow Island SGA.
- Sanilac County: Minden City SGA.
- St. Clair County: St. Johns Marsh SGA.
- St. Joseph County: Leidy Lake SGA.
- Van Buren County: Cornish SGA.

One-time recruitment events

Allegan State Game Area (Allegan County)

- November 2, 2019
- Allegan State Game Area, Fennville Farm Unit Managed Hunt Area, Fennville, MI
- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Learn to Hunt Pheasant Mentored Hunt
- Registration and additional details available at Michigan.gov/Hunting
- Shiawassee State Game Area (Saginaw County)
- December 14, 2019
- Shiawassee State Game Area, St. Charles, MI
- 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Learn to Hunt Pheasant Mentored Hunt
- Registration and additional details available at Michigan.gov/Hunting

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-elicence.com, is required in addition to a valid base license for those hunting sharp-tailed grouse.

[Graphic: Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Unit. Call 517-284-9453 for more information.]

[Fur Harvesting](#)

Fur Harvester License

A valid base license is needed to purchase a fur harvester license. The fur harvester 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.

Fur harvester license is available for purchase and valid from May 1, 2019 - April 20, 2020.

- Youth 9 and younger may trap furbearers as licensed through the Mentored Youth Hunting Program (see pg. 28).

- For fur harvesting seasons and regulations, please see the current-year Fur Harvester Digest. Digests are available at Michigan.gov/DNRDigests.

Coyote Hunting At-A-Glance

Unit	Hunting Season	Bag Limit
Statewide	Year-round	none

Licenses

- Residents may HUNT coyote with a base license. EXCEPTION: Residents hunting coyote Nov. 10 - 14 must have a fur harvester license and are limited to the use of a .22 or smaller rimfire.
- Residents trapping coyotes must have a fur harvester license.
- Non-residents must have a fur harvester 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 year-round.

Equipment

- Centerfire rifles may be used 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.
- Electronic calls, mouth calls, or other types of game calls or predator calls may be used. Mechanical/ electronic decoys may be used.
- Raised platforms (tree stands) may be used to hunt coyotes during daylight hours with a bow and arrow, crossbow, .22 or smaller rimfire, shotgun or centerfire rifle. Coyotes may NOT be hunted from a tree stand at night. For nighttime hunting regulations see the current year Furharvester digest.

Wildlife Diseases

Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

To maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife at Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Since the initial finding of CWD on May 20, 2015 free ranging deer in Clinton, Dickinson, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent and Montcalm counties have been positively confirmed with CWD. Please visit Michigan.gov/CWD for more information on CWD and the latest news and testing updates. See pgs. 44-45 and 48-50 for important regulations pertaining to CWD.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

DNR works in partnership with the MI Department of Agriculture & Rural Development to establish surveillance quotas in order to detect changes in the occurrence of bovine TB in free-ranging white-tailed deer within the historic range for the disease and adjacent counties. Head submission by hunters is critical in meeting these quotas and managing the disease in deer and cattle.

- At least 300 heads collected from each of the following counties annually: Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon.
- At least 2,800 heads collected annually from Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties combined.
- Hunters are asked to submit deer carcasses with chest lesions suspicious for TB from anywhere in the state.

- Go to Michigan.gov/DeerCheck to find check station locations and hours. Hunters may check their deer or elk TB lab results at Michigan.gov/DNRLab. To learn more about bovine TB in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/BovineTB.

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 Michigan.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 Michigan.gov/WDM. You may also contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-648-6942 or visit Michigan.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 Michigan.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 Michigan.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 Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases for more information.

[Graphic: Fight Wildlife Disease Check Your Deer Ad.]

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: Michigan.gov/DeerCheck

General Information

Additional Hunting Rules

It is unlawful to:

- Assist a tribal member engaged in treaty-authorized hunting unless the nontribal 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 watercraft, 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. See current year Fur Harvester Digest for trapping regulations.
- 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 Michigan.gov/Camping 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.
- Possess and use natural cervid urine-based lures and attractants while hunting or trapping game species. Exception: Synthetic cervid urine-based lures or attractants or natural cervid urine-based lures or attractants that are labeled with the official ATA (Archery Trade Association) Seal of Participation are legal.

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 Core CWD Area

(Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Newaygo counties):

A harvested deer cannot be possessed or transported outside of the Core CWD Area unless:

- It is deboned meat, quarters or other parts of a cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antlerless, antlers attached to a skull or skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth, or a finished taxidermist mount, OR
- The hunter has presented the head at a designated drop off location within 24 hours after killing the deer.

Deer Harvested in the CWD Management Zone

(Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, and Shiawassee counties):

A harvested deer cannot be possessed or transported outside of the CWD Management Zone unless:

- It is deboned meat, quarters or other parts of a cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antlerless, antlers attached to a skull or skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth, or a finished taxidermist mount, OR
- The hunter has presented the head at a designated drop off location within 24 hours after killing the deer. A hunter in the CWD Management Zone can take an entire carcass INTO the CWD Core Area with no restrictions.

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. A hunter outside the CWD Management Zone or Core CWD Area can bring an entire carcass INTO the CWD Management Zone or Core CWD Area with no restrictions.

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.

Transportation of Roadkill Deer

It is unlawful to possess the carcass or parts thereof, of a roadkill deer outside of the county where the deer was killed by collision with a motor vehicle except for deboned meat, quarters or other parts of the cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antler, antlers attached to the skull or skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth, or a finished taxidermist mount as part of the department's efforts to respond to and manage CWD in the state. Roadkill salvage permit application available at [Michigan.gov/RoadKillPermit](https://www.michigan.gov/RoadKillPermit).

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 517-3365030 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 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. Visit Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits.

[Importation Bans](#)

It is unlawful to bring live raccoon, skunk, wild rabbit or hare, Russian boar, 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 threatened or endangered species without an approved permit from the DNR Permit Specialist.

[Rehabilitation](#)

A permit is required to rehabilitate a wild animal in Michigan. It is unlawful to possess a live bat, skunk, mute swan, Russian boar, moose, or elk. Contact the Wildlife Division Permit Specialist, Casey Reitz at 517-284-6210 or 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 Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits or contact Casey Reitz at 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 Russian boar and Ear-Tagged Cervids](#)

Hunters are encouraged to report all Russian boar seen or taken, online at Michigan.gov/FeralSwine or by calling 517-284-4725. Russian boar 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. For more information on how to identify Russian boar sign, go to Michigan.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

Dogs may be trained on game species that can be hunted with dogs from July 8 through April 15. This is statewide in areas open to hunting or on private land. Some lands are not open to dog training and are posted that way. During the closed season of April 16 through July 7, dog training is only allowed under a special permit issued by the Wildlife Division Permit Specialist. The only dog training permits issued during the closed season are only for fox hound training in Zone 3 (see pg. 11) or private land special dog training areas. For additional information on dog training or hunting with dogs, visit the DNR website or contact Casey Reitz at 517-284-6210 or 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 Michigan.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.

Report fish and wildlife observations online at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField.

National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas

Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are open to public hunting except where prohibited.

National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) are closed unless expressly permitted.

General Restrictions

All State laws apply to National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lands. This is not a complete listing of regulations. Additional regulations can be found in 50 CFR.

- The distribution of feed or bait or hunting over bait is prohibited. This includes salts and minerals.
- No permanent stands are permitted. Also prohibited are the use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree, into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all NWRs and WPAs except on designated parking areas, access roads, and public roads.
- Camping, campfires, and overnight parking are prohibited. Exception: Seney NWR does allow camping with a permit, available at the refuge office, during the deer firearm season.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Cutting, mowing, sawing, digging, collecting, injuring, or removing vegetation is prohibited.
- Animals cannot be introduced, liberated, or placed on NWR lands.
- The use of artificial light to spot, locate, or take any wild animal is prohibited.

Specific Restrictions

Please consult the appropriate NWR office for refuge specific regulations.

[Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge](#)

9311 Groh Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138, 734-365-0219. Limited small game, waterfowl, and deer hunting are allowed as shown on maps available at refuge parking areas or online at

www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river

[Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Managed by Seney NWR, 906586-9851. Open for deer and bear hunting. The use of dogs to hunt black bear is prohibited. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/harbor_island

[Huron National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Managed by Seney NWR, 906-586-9851. Closed to hunting. www.fws.gov/refuge/huron

[Kirtland Warbler Wildlife Management Area](#)

Managed by Seney NWR, 906-586-9851. Parcels of property occupied by the Kirtland's warbler are closed to all entry during the bird's breeding season (May 1st – August 15th). Closed parcels will be posted. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/kirtlands_warbler

[Michigan Islands National Wildlife](#)

Managed by Seney and Shiawassee NWRs. Closed to public access. More information is available online at www.fws.gov/refuge/michigan_islands

[Michigan Wetland Management District](#)

2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI 48823, 517-351-6236. Hunting information is available online at www.fws.gov/refuge/michigan_wmd

[Seney National Wildlife Refuge](#)

1674 Refuge Entrance Road, Seney, MI 49883, 906-586-9851. Refuge specific regulations apply. See www.fws.gov/refuge/Seney/visit/hunting

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

6975 Mower Rd, Saginaw, MI 48601, 989-777-5930. Refuge specific regulations apply. See www.fws.gov/refuge/Shiawassee/visit/visitor_activities/hunting

[Graphic: Hunter with do Waterfowl Hunting in a lake]

Hunting on national Forest Lands (www.fs.fed.us)

All state laws apply to National Forest (NF) lands; however, additional federal regulations also apply. For a complete listing 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 always be attended 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 or 906-428-5800;

Huron-Manistee NF: www.fs.usda.gov/main/hmn or 231-775-5023;

Ottawa NF: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ottawa or 906-932-1330.

[Graphic: Coupon for 20% off one hunting item at Meijer.]

Excludes hunting licenses, clearance, home delivery and store pickup purchases.

Coupon good 8/1–12/31/19. Limit one item and coupon per transaction.

Present to cashier prior to purchase. Not to be combined with other discount coupons.

[Graphic: 100 years of Elk in Michigan license plate.]

Celebrate 100 years with an Elk license plate. Learn more at Michigan.gov/Elk

[Graphic: Hunter sitting with prize buck. Ad for Whitetails Unlimited.]

“Celebrate the deer hunting tradition by attending a whitetails unlimited event near you.” ~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson and co-host of Michael Waddell’s Bone Collector TV Show. For information, please call Michigan field directors Jim Kurdziel 231-578-5667, or Jason Maraskine 989-859-9489. www.whitetailsunlimited.com

[Graphic: Ad for Guns Galore.]

Guns, Ammunition, Reloading Supplies. Michigan’s firearms dealer since 1971. 1-year layaway available. House calls for collections. Trade ins Welcome. Buy, Sell or Trade. Guns Galore. 1414 N. Leroy St. Fenton MI, 48430. 810-629-5325. www.gunsgalore.net

[Graphic: Ad for Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger.]

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger is dedicated to helping feed families in your community. Consider donating a deer to Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger. Each deer will provide over 125 meals. Interested in donating? To find a processor near you or to learn about other ways you can help, visit sportsmenagainsthunger.org

[Graphic: Ad for Federal Premium.]

THIS HUNTING SEASON JOIN SPORTSMEN ACROSS MICHIGAN AND REACH FOR THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY IN AMMUNITION. GET YOUR DEAL TODAY AT FEDERALPREMIUM.COM/MICHIGAN

Need Information?

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

Baraga CSC

427 US-41 North Baraga, MI 49908

906-353-6651

Bay City CSC

3580 State Park Drive Bay City, MI 48706

989-684-9141

Cadillac CSC

8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601

231-775-9727

Crystal Falls Field Office

1420 W. US-2 Crystal Falls, MI 49920

906-875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC

1801 Atwater St. Detroit, MI 48207

313-396-6890

Escanaba CSC

6833 US-2 41 & M-35 Gladstone, MI 49837

906-786-2351

Gaylord CSC

1732 W. M-32 Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Lansing CSC

4166 Legacy Parkway Lansing, MI 48911
517-284-4720

Marquette CSC

1990 US-41 South Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Naubinway Field Office

PO Box 287 W11569 US 2E. Naubinway, MI 49762
906-477-6048

Newberry CSC

5100 M-123 Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Norway Field Office

520 W. US-Hwy 2 Norway, MI 49870
906-563-9247

Plainwell CSC

621 N. 10th St. Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon CSC

I-75 & M-18 South, 8717 N. Roscommon Rd. Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Sault Ste. Marie Field Office

PO Box 798 2001 Ashmun Sault St. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-6161

Traverse City CSC

2122 South M-37 Traverse City, MI 49685
231-922-5280

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division 525 W. Allegan Street P.O. Box 30444
Lansing, MI 48933 517-284-WILD (9453) Contact hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 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
Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife
Follow us on Youtube at youtube.com/MichiganDNR

Direct DNR website URLs

Hunting: Michigan.gov/Hunting
Trapping/Fur Harvesting: Michigan.gov/Trapping

Pure Michigan Hunt: [Michigan.gov/ PureMichiganHunt](https://michigan.gov/PureMichiganHunt)

DNR Digests and Guides: [Michigan.gov/ DNRDigests](https://michigan.gov/DNRDigests)

Mi-HUNT: [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://michigan.gov/MiHunt)

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: [Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders](https://michigan.gov/WetlandWonders)

Invasive Species: [Michigan.gov/ InvasiveSpecies](https://michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies)

Shooting Ranges: [Michigan.gov/ ShootingRanges](https://michigan.gov/ShootingRanges)

Emerging Diseases: [Michigan.gov/ EmergingDiseases](https://michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases)