

2016

HUNTING UPDATE

DEAR FRIEND:

There's no better way to spend a fall day than heading into the field and woods to take part in Michigan's proud hunting tradition. With a rich abundance of game animals and birds, there's something to interest every hunter!

As you plan your trip, I wanted to send along some legislative news, safety information and more in this hunting report. I hope it is useful to you.

Hunters are important to Michigan, contributing to wildlife management and conservation, as well as the economy. In fact, the sport generates \$2.3 billion annually for the state's economy.

I am committed to protecting your hunting and Second Amendment rights. As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns.

Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,



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HUNTING UPDATE

SUPPORTING CHARITABLE SPORTSMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Southwest Michigan sportsmen and women are among Michigan's greatest custodians of the state's world-class natural resources.

As a member of the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, I have seen how many of our sportsmen's organizations do much to conserve and preserve our great outdoors and provide valuable services to our communities.

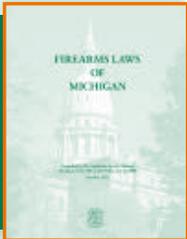
I co-sponsored legislation to add certain Michigan sportsmen's groups to the list of charitable organizations exempt from paying property taxes.

Senate Bill 570 would set an annual benchmark of 55 hours that the facilities of qualified sportsman's organizations must

be available for charitable activities in order to qualify for the exemption.

Some of the charitable work sportsmen's organizations do includes giving thousands of trees to conservation groups, providing outdoor magazine subscriptions for public schools, funding college scholarships and summer camps, and opening the facility for use by the Boy Scouts or other nonprofit conservation groups at no cost.

The bill would encourage more sportsmen's clubs to help their community and state through charitable work and enable those that already do claim the charitable exemption.



I am pleased to provide a publication in PDF format that contains the firearm laws of our state. In addition to state statutes, *Firearms Laws of Michigan* includes selected Michigan Attorney General Opinions that interpret various firearms laws. It also includes a listing of selected state administrative rules that regulate the use of firearms. You can find this resource at www.SenatorJohnProos.com under Publications.

PURE MICHIGAN THE HUNT OF A LIFETIME!



The Pure Michigan Hunt offers three lucky winners the opportunity to obtain licenses for spring and fall turkey, antlerless deer, bear, elk and first pick at a managed waterfowl hunt area, along with a prize package valued at over \$4,000. Applications for the 2017 drawing are \$5 each and available at license agent locations and online at www.mdnr-elastic.com until Dec. 31.

The 2016 drawing had a total of 35,336 applications, generating more than \$176,000 to help wildlife habitat restoration and improvements in Michigan. Find more information at www.mi.gov/pmh.



SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!

Michigan recorded no hunting fatalities last year — for the second season in a row.

There were 13 injury incidents reported for 2015, with 60 percent of those described as self-inflicted gunshot wounds. With nearly 651,600 base licenses sold during the 2015 season, Michigan's hunting incident rate per license stands at .002 percent.

Find more information on the 2015 hunting incidents report at www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers under Law Enforcement Reports.

PROTECTING HEALTH OF DEER HERD



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk and moose, is transmitted through direct animal-to-animal contact. The outbreak of CWD in the deer herd in south central Michigan has led state officials to issue special hunting rules in the CWD Core Area as well as a ban on baiting and feeding in the Core Area and the CWD Management Zone, currently including Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia and Shiawassee counties. Baiting and feeding activities increase CWD transmission.

I supported Senate legislation — now law — that extends the authority of the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders on baiting and feeding. That authority was set to expire at the start of the year. It's crucial that wildlife officials have all the tools necessary to help prevent the spread of this disease in Michigan's deer population.

Find more information on CWD, including status updates and regulations, at www.mi.gov/cwd.

DEER HUNTING UPDATE

A LOOK BACK AT 2015

In 2015, an estimated 607,113 hunters spent 8.7 million days afield. Those hunters harvested about 335,000 deer.

Statewide, 42 percent of hunters harvested a deer; about 12 percent harvested two or more deer. Less than 4 percent of hunters statewide harvested two antlered bucks.

Over 11 percent of the license buyers in 2015 were younger than 17 years old. About 185,632 hunters used a crossbow during the archery season and those hunters harvested nearly 66,000 deer.

*Michigan Deer Harvest Survey Report 2015 Seasons
Wildlife Report No. 3621 July 2016*

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2016 SEASON

EARLY ANTLERLESS FIREARM <small>(See Antlerless Deer Digest)</small>	Sept. 17-18
LIBERTY HUNT <small>(youth, hunters with disabilities, including 100% disabled veterans*)</small>	Sept. 17-18
INDEPENDENCE HUNT <small>(hunters with disabilities, including 100% disabled veterans*)</small>	Oct. 13-16
ARCHERY.....	Oct. 1-Nov. 14 & Dec. 1-Jan. 1
REGULAR FIREARM	Nov. 15-30
MUZZLELOADING	
Zones 1 & 2	Dec. 2-11
Zone 3	Dec. 2-18
LATE ANTLERLESS FIREARM <small>(See Antlerless Deer Digest)</small>	Dec. 19-Jan. 1

CLIP AND SAVE



SEN. JOHN PROOS HUNTING NEWSLETTER

** Check the 2016 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest for information on these special hunts and other notes.*

PRESERVING MICHIGAN'S HUNTING HERITAGE

New laws that took effect in February will help protect Michigan's wildlife resources.

Public Acts 187-189 of 2015 strengthen the penalties for poaching, purchasing or selling certain game or protected animals, including elk, bear, antlered white-tailed deer, moose, turkey, waterfowl and eagle in Michigan.

Tougher sanctions serve as a deterrent for continued poaching, helping to protect Michigan's wild game while supporting the rights of sportsmen and women who play by the rules.

Poaching violations can be reported by calling the Report All Poaching (RAP) line at 800-292-7800.

