**MICHIGAN RESOURCE STEWARDS POSITION ON REGULATORY CHANGES NEEDED TO INCREASE DOE HARVEST, REALOCATE BUCK HARVEST, AND INCREASE DEER HUNTING PARTICIPATION, DAYS AFIELD, AND HUNTER SATISFACTION**

Michigan Resource Stewards (MRS) support the following changes in deer hunting rules. These recommendations are intended to:

1. Reduce excess deer abundance and improve the sex ratio of the Southern Michigan deer herd through increased harvest of does.
2. Reduce the early season harvest of bucks and distribute buck harvest more fairly throughout the archery and firearm seasons.

We recommend that:

* Crossbow hunters be allowed to harvest two antlerless deer during the archery seasons.
* Crossbow and firearm hunters be allowed to harvest two deer of either sex plus one additional antlerless deer during the November firearm season. We recommend that crossbow harvest of bucks be limited to the firearm season because today’s high-tech crossbows are becoming increasingly similar to firearms in both lethality and function.
* Hunters using traditional longbows, recurves, or compound bows be allowed to take one antlerless deer in addition to two deer of either sex during all seasons.
* Hunters be required to harvest a doe before a second buck may be taken.
* Youth hunts be restricted to antlerless deer so these hunters of the future can appreciate first-hand the importance of harvesting antlerless deer.
* Extend the late archery season until at least January 15. This will provide more hunting opportunity and bring Michigan in closer alignment with neighboring Great Lake States.

MRS believes these changes will increase antlerless harvest, total deer harvest, and hunter days afield and will fairly allocate buck harvest among the archery, crossbow, and firearm seasons.

These rule changes should be supported by licensing modifications that will facilitate the gathering and analysis of important data on deer harvest and hunter days afield by each method of hunting, including traditional bowhunting, compound bowhunting, crossbow hunting, and firearm hunting.

Michigan Resource Stewards

April 24, 2024