

2018 Proposed Policy Resolutions

Interim Resolution #01 Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Region 1 Policy Board Member Tim Kobasic on behalf of the Hiawathaland Trail Association and Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

MUCC Region: 1 and 2

Passed: September 23, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting and October 18, 2017 Executive Board as interim policy

Title: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADEQUATELY FUND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, MAINTAIN NATIONAL FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND REDUCE TORT LIABILITY

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the National Forest System was created by the Land Revision Act of 1891, which was signed
2 under the presidency of Benjamin Harrison; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, there are 155 National Forests containing almost 190 million acres of land; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, land management of these areas focuses on conservation, timber harvesting, livestock grazing,
5 watershed protection, wildlife, and recreation; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, there are management decision conflicts between conservationists and environmentalists, and
7 natural resource extraction companies and lobbies, over the protection and/or use of National Forest lands;
8 and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, these conflicts center on endangered species protection, logging of old-growth forests, intensive
10 clear cut logging, undervalued stumpage fees, mining operations and mining claim laws, and logging/mining
11 access road-building within National Forests; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) is charged with the
13 management responsibilities of the National Forests; and
14
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 (P.L. 94-588) is a United States federal
17 law that is the primary statute governing the administration of national forests and was an amendment to the
18 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974; and
19 **WHEREAS**, the NFMA called for the management of renewable resources on national forests lands; and
20 **WHEREAS**, the objectives of the NFMA include requirements for the US Forest Service to develop plans for
21 national forests from permanent damages; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Congress requires the USFS in conjunction with other applicable agencies, to thoroughly,
23 research, and plan for the nation's renewable resource use, the current demand, anticipated demands, and
24 environmental and economic impacts; and
25 **WHEREAS**, the ability for the USFS to fulfill its statutory requirement is paid for through funding
26 appropriations controlled by Congress; and
27 **WHEREAS**, in 1986, the cost of fire suppression throughout the national forests consumed approximately
28 15% of the USFS total budget; and
29 **WHEREAS**, due to the annual increases of incidences of forest fires throughout the national forests, the cost
30 of fire suppression to date now consumes an average of 56% of the USFS total budget; and
31 **WHEREAS**, the negative impact in the loss of funding for the operation of the USFS has caused reduction in
32 services that include forest management, education and outreach, recreation, and especially road maintenance;
33 and
34 **WHEREAS**, staffing reductions within some of the national forests have reached epic proportions (i.e.
35 Hiawatha National Forest is at 45%) which further complicates their abilities to perform statutory obligations.
36 NOW,
37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support an initiative for the
38 United States Congress to amend the budget process used to fund the United States Forest Service operations
39 to offset the extraordinary costs being incurred with fire suppression and assure committed budget line items
40 to maintain fundamental services; and

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress pass legislation that will assure indemnification of the USFS
42 and sponsor organizations from liability under Tort Law to reduce litigation from the inherent risks from
43 outdoors activity by those who use the national forests for recreation; and
44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress assure that all national forests, parks and national
45 monuments remain intact and also continue to allow public access.

Proposed Resolution #02
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan Quality Deer Management Association and Rob Miller
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS (APR) INITIATIVE ACCELERATION**

1 **WHEREAS**, Both Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) are now established deer
2 diseases in the State of Michigan with increasing prevalence rates, and we must act now to fight the further
3 spread of these diseases and to keep them at low prevalence rates; and
4 **WHEREAS**, Deer hunting in the State of Michigan is +/- a \$2.6 billion-dollar industry; and
5 **WHEREAS**, Our deer herd is out of balance with its habitat, our deer harvest is unbalanced with far more
6 bucks being harvested than does. As a result, in many areas of Michigan our deer herd has many more does
7 than bucks, and those does are on average much older than the bucks, creating high disease risk, high
8 population density, and causing excessive habitat and agricultural damage; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The State of Michigan is losing hunters and not recruiting enough young hunters; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Antler point restrictions (APR) have strong majority support from hunters state wide in every
11 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) survey since 2012 (57% support with only 16% against in the DNR
12 2016 harvest survey); and
13 **WHEREAS**, In the Northwest APR counties, APR regulations have led to an increased doe harvest of 13%
14 and in the 2016 harvest survey gained 77% support from hunters in the area; and

15 **WHEREAS**, In the R3 (recruitment, retention, and reactivation) study commissioned by the Natural
16 Resources Commission (NRC) and DNR, Antler Point Restrictions were the change most cited by all hunters
17 when asked what regulatory change would lead them to hunt more, with younger hunters the strongest
18 supporters of the change; and

19 **WHEREAS**, There are proven biological benefits of a more balanced harvest and herd. (reduced dispersal,
20 shorter, more intense, and synchronized rut, and increased natural selection for more genetically fit males
21 (larger body size & antlers). NOW,

22 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) advocate for
23 acceleration of Antler Point Initiative process to take no more than a calendar year from initiation to
24 regulation change and more quickly when practical; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APR initiative process should be conducted at no cost to the
26 sponsoring sportsmen's groups.

Proposed Resolution #03
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Diane Konneck
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF WAKE BOATS**

1 **WHEREAS**, it is becoming more common to see a surfer or wake boarder riding a wave being produced
2 by a boat, and

3 **WHEREAS**, some of this activity is taking place on small to medium inland lakes in Michigan, and

4 **WHEREAS**, The waves produced to support this activity are larger and create more energy than any
5 wave produced naturally, even in the strongest winds or storms, and

6 **WHEREAS**, these waves are producing inordinate amounts of damage to on shore and near shore
7 structures such as docks, sea walls, beaches and swim platforms, and people have been knocked down or
8 off docks and swim platforms, and

9 **WHEREAS**, the propulsion units on wake boats that have the ability to pump water in and out of a boat
10 are very disruptive to plant and animal life on the lake bottoms in shallow areas.

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
12 legislature, Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission to create regulations
13 restricting the use of boats that produce a wake large enough to support surfing and wake boarding to the
14 larger lakes (example: 2000 acres), areas further from shore than the current rules allow (example: 1000
15 ft.).

Proposed Resolution #04
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and Rob Miller
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **MUCC WORKING CLOSELY WITH DNR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CWD, TB, AND OTHER DISEASES.**

1 **WHEREAS**, Both Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) appear to be established
2 diseases in the state of Michigan; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Deer hunting in the State of Michigan is +/- a \$2.6 billion-dollar industry; and

4 **WHEREAS**, There is no known cure for CWD; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) 2017 convention passed unanimously two
6 resolutions in regards to this issue, #13. Bringing Cervid Carcasses into Michigan From Other States and #14
7 Captive Cervid Regulation Reform.

8 **WHEREAS**, the MUCC 2017 Convention passed unanimously a resolution regarding funding of the
9 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) #12, Unfunded Mandates on the DNR. NOW,

10 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC bring to the forefront the above-mentioned resolutions and
11 work with the DNR to enforce the above as well as find alternate funding than fish and wildlife funds to
12 combat these diseases; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all the below points be considered:

- 14 • MUCC stay on top of the education of members by use of magazine, website, email and or whatever
15 they have available to both educate as well as promote hunter involvement in cooperation with the
16 DNR while combatting these diseases.
- 17 • MUCC support additional harvest of does in the effected DMU's, may be late season, reduced doe tag
18 cost or other means.
- 19 • MUCC support the implementation of Antler Point Restrictions (APR's) being put in place to help
20 promote the take of does and maintaining a balanced herd.
- 21 • MUCC continue to support baiting bans in all disease areas and per DNR recommendations.
- 22 • MUCC works with other organizations such as the Michigan QDMA in combining resources to help
23 the DNR and NRC with this disease and management issue.

Proposed Resolution #05
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Saginaw Field and Stream Club
MUCC Region: 6
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting and amended March 10, 2018
Title: **LINE 5 AND ALTERNATIVES TO UNDERWATER PIPELINES**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Line 5 pipeline consists of two parallel pipelines 4.09 miles long underneath the Straits
2 of Mackinac, was built in 1953 and runs from Superior, Wisconsin, through northern Michigan and
3 ultimately crossing the St. Clair River at Sarnia, Ontario and is currently operated by Enbridge Inc., and
4 **WHEREAS**, Enbridge is also the company that operated the pipeline that ruptured and spilled over
5 840,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River in 2010, and
6 **WHEREAS**, there are numerous places along the underwater section of the pipeline where protective
7 coating is missing, and for much of the history of the pipeline until recently, numerous sections of pipe
8 were not properly supported on the Lake Michigan lakebed – where it gets stressed by currents, and
9 **WHEREAS**, a recent 2017 National Wildlife Federation (NWF) report revealed that the land-based
10 sections of Line 5 have leaked 29 times since 1968, spilling over 1 million gallons of oil; and

11 **WHEREAS**, a 2016 University of Michigan study estimates an oil spill in the Straits could cover a
12 segment as large as 20 percent (150 miles) of 700 miles of shoreline potentially at risk from a spill and
13 impact a 17,000-square mile spill zone; and
14 **WHEREAS**, at risk are the fish and wildlife of the Great Lakes, the drinking water relied upon by
15 citizens, and the region’s recreation and tourism economy which supports Michigan’s way of life; and
16 **WHEREAS**, the agreement between the State of Michigan and Enbridge Energy Company dated
17 November 27, 2017 was not executed with any other concerned group participation. **NOW**,
18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with
19 National Wildlife Federation and the appropriate decision makers to make every effort to protect the
20 Great Lakes and its tributaries from any potential oil spill, including serious consideration of alternatives
21 to pipelines across or below the Great Lakes.

Proposed Resolution #06
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Millard H. Holton, MUCC Individual Member
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **COMBINE BOTH OF THE SPRING TURKEY SEASON IN HUNT UNIT ZZ INTO ONE SIX-WEEK SEASON**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Early Spring Turkey Season, Hunt Unit ZZ, Hunt Number 301, usually
2 encompasses the later part of April and a few days of early May for a total of 14 days; and
3 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Late Spring Turkey Season, Hunt Unit ZZ, Hunt Number 234, is held during the
4 last four weeks of May; and
5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Fall Turkey Season, Hunt Unit YY, has recently been expanded to include 60
6 days, starting on September 15 and ending November 14 where up to 60 turkeys of either sex can be
7 harvested; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Hunt Units ZZ and YY consist of the 38 most southern Counties of the Lower Peninsula; and

9 **WHEREAS**, most of the State's turkey populations are found in Hunt Units ZZ and YY; and
10 **Whereas**, Hunt Units ZZ and YY are private land hunts only with the exception of Fort Custer, therefore
11 hunter pressure and overcrowding can be controlled by the land owner; and
12 **WHEREAS**, hunting seasons are designed to control the amount of hunters allowed to enter a designated
13 hunting area at one time in order to prevent overcrowding, as well as to protect the resource from over
14 harvesting; and
15 **WHEREAS**, a few decades ago we had far more hunters than we had most game animals, however that
16 problem has nearly been reversed for most species at the present time; and
17 **WHEREAS**, only 80% of persons purchasing a Spring Turkey License ever go afield to exercise their right to
18 hunt turkeys; and
19 **WHEREAS**, most Turkey Seasons in Michigan have shown a steady decrease in the amount of licenses sold
20 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that "family commitments" and
21 "time constraints" are major contributors to the decline in license sales for the ZZ hunt seasons; and
22 **WHEREAS**, due to the short, spring days, most working hunters, as well as students are limited to only four
23 weekend days afield at best, during the 14-day early season; and
24 **WHEREAS**, the early, 14-day season in Hunt Unit ZZ, experiences dramatic shifts from year-to-year, in the
25 type of weather patterns hunters encounter, i.e., driving rains, gale type winds, sleet, extreme cold, and snow,
26 as well as, a few days of sunshine; and
27 **WHEREAS**, the spring turkey hunts feature the added challenge of being able to call in a gobbling, strutting,
28 displaying trophy; an experience like no other; and
29 **WHEREAS**, inclement weather combined with strong winds make it nearly impossible to use a turkey call
30 effectively; and
31 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recently reduced the offered license quota for
32 the Early Turkey Season in Hunt Unit ZZ from 65,000 to 35,000, and still there are "leftover licenses"
33 available; and

34 **WHEREAS**, combining the two Spring Turkey Seasons in Hunt Units ZZ would lead to increased turkey
35 license sales along with a desired rise in recruitment of new hunters, as well as a retention of the current
36 hunters who are pressured to pursue competing activities, and
37 **WHEREAS**, allowing one, six week long, spring turkey season with over the counter license sales would
38 provide a lot of expanded hunting opportunities during a period of time that is crowded with numerous
39 competing events; and
40 **WHEREAS**, the short, early, Spring Turkeys Seasons are competing with all the other spring activities, such
41 as, little league baseball, fishing seasons, graduations, open houses, gardening, farming duties, spring
42 vacations, Holidays, church attendance and numerous other events; and
43 **WHEREAS**, in discussions with DNR personnel reference combining the Two spring turkey seasons in Hunt
44 Unit ZZ, there has never been any scientific reasons presented for opposing the merger of these seasons; and
45 **WHEREAS**, based on the previously offered 65,000 desired license sales, there should be little if any harm to
46 the turkey population or natural resources by combining the Hunt Unit ZZ turkey seasons. NOW,
47 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
48 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and frame a Wildlife
49 Order that would combine the two existing Hunt Unit ZZ turkey seasons into one, thereby increasing hunting
50 opportunities, as well as recruiting and retaining more hunters.

Proposed Resolution #07
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: George Lindquist, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 1
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting and amended March 10, 2018
Title: **DAILY PERCH HARVEST RULES TO BE EXPANDED**

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted Fisheries Order 206, which
2 governs special fishing regulations for coolwater species on select lakes; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the current law authorizes the Director of the Department to provide for better protection
4 and preservation of fish, game and birds; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the regulations contained in Order 206 are more restrictive than the general hook-and-line
6 regulations that were needed to improve upon the ability of the Department to protect and enhance
7 populations of sport fish in certain lakes; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Lake Gogebic was added to protect large yellow perch from Order 220 to Order 206; and

9 **WHEREAS**, large yellow perch are highly pursued by anglers, and prized when harvested; and

10 **WHEREAS**, surveys indicate that nearly half of the yellow perch sport angling harvest in Lake Gogebic
11 consists of fish over 10 inches in size; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, local angling groups and residents requested that the Department consider reducing
13 the daily possession limit to help protect and instill stewardship for this population; and

14 **WHEREAS**, this resulted in a 25 fish daily possession limit on yellow perch with no more than five fish
15 12 inches or greater; and

16 **WHEREAS**, perch fishing is a great way to introduce others, including children, to fishing so those that
17 desire more than 25 fish could be encouraged to introduce others to the opportunities of perch fishing.

18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
19 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to make those
20 regulations for yellow perch in Lake Gogebic a rule for state inland lakes and elsewhere determined to be
21 appropriate.

Proposed Resolution #08
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Charles Felcyn, Paw Paw Conservation Club

MUCC Region: 7

Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting. *Maker proposed a substitute for the Wildlife Committee on March 24, 2018 (see Comments booklet for substitute)*

Title: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BUCK TAGS PER HUNTER TO ONE PER YEAR

1 **WHEREAS**, reducing the number of buck tags per hunter to one per year could be accomplished without
2 losing revenue; and

3 **WHEREAS**, this could be potentially done by having the combination license include one antlered deer
4 and one antlerless deer tag and eliminating the single deer tag; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Michigan will still get the license dollars if everyone has to purchase a \$40 combo tag
6 versus the \$20 single deer tag; and

7 **WHEREAS**, doe tags would then be available to all hunters instead of just a few people getting more
8 than one; and

9 **WHEREAS**, this would help disperse doe harvest more evenly across the landscape and there would be
10 more of an incentive to harvest a doe rather than settle on a small buck; and

11 **WHEREAS**, extra doe tags could be issued after a two-year trial period in areas with high deer numbers
12 or disease; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this potential new license structure could eliminate the need for antler point restrictions;

14 **NOW**

15 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
16 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to simplify and
17 restructure the deer combo license to include one buck tag and one doe tag.

Proposed Resolution #09
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: UP Whitetails of Marquette County
MUCC Region: 1
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **IMPROVING NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LAND**

1 **WHEREAS**, the current law states that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to keep land
2 under its control open to hunting unless it determined that it should be closed to hunting because (1) public

3 safety; (2) fish or wildlife management concerns; (3) homeland security concerns; or (4) other legal
4 requirements; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Department is required to manage land under its control to support and promote hunting
6 opportunities to the extent authorized by law; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Department is required to manage land under its control to prevent any net decrease in the
8 acreage of such land that is open to hunting; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the “no-net-loss” provision also requires the state to open additional lands to hunting if it closes
10 land currently open to hunting; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the current law does not acknowledge where the additional lands must be compensated, such as
12 within the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Zones 1 (all of the Upper Peninsula), 2 (Lower Peninsula
13 Northwest Michigan), and 3 (Lower Peninsula Southeast Michigan); and

14 **WHEREAS**, these requirements do not apply to private land that qualifies as “commercial forestland” for
15 certain tax incentives; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Department shall submit a report to the Legislature detailing the location and acreage of
17 land under its control (except for commercial forestland) that is closed to hunting during the previous year
18 ending March 1, and the reason for closure, and the location and acreage of land under its control (except for
19 commercial forestland) that it opened to hunting during the previous year to compensate for the land that was
20 closed.

21 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
22 Michigan Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission
23 (NRC) to continue to ensure that the amount of public land available to hunters does not decrease in the
24 future; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should land under the control of the DNR close to hunting,
26 compensation of additional land will be opened within the same region it was closed, to ensure fair
27 opportunities to hunters within the designated regions.

Proposed Resolution #10
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Leonard Shaner, Huron Pointe Sportsmen’s Association
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **CHANGE OPENING DAY OF FIREARM DEER SEASON TO THE SATURDAY CLOSEST TO NOVEMBER 15TH**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has long enjoyed a rich and storied deer hunting tradition; and
2 **WHEREAS**, this hunting heritage has historically been defined as a special time for family and friends, as
3 well as an introduction of young hunters to this tradition; and
4 **WHEREAS**, changing education, employment, economic, social and cultural conditions within the State
5 have contributed to a steady decline in younger (Millennials) adult hunter participation; and
6 **WHEREAS**, this decline has also had an adverse economic impact on businesses which have traditionally
7 been dependent on the firearm deer season; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has long advocated for increasing participation
9 of early career people and youth; and
10 **WHEREAS**, after peaking at nearly 800,000 firearm deer hunters in 1998, the number of firearm deer hunters
11 has declined, in a fairly steady fashion, to about 530,000 in 2015 which averages about 2% decline per year;
12 and
13 **WHEREAS**, there would be three weekends during the firearm deer season each year; and
14 **WHEREAS**, there would likely be more hunters in the field with a Saturday opening day which would likely
15 increase the number of deer taken early in the firearm season which could have a positive impact on the
16 spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD); and

17 **WHEREAS**, other Great Lakes states have recognized the benefits of changing the opening date of their
18 firearm deer season to a Saturday; and
19 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has historically concluded that changing
20 the opening of the firearm season to the Saturday closest to the 15th of November would not adversely impact
21 the wildlife resource. NOW,
22 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) urge the DNR and
23 other appropriate public entities to examine the economic, social, natural resource, and hunter recruitment
24 implications that would result from a change in the opening day of Michigan’s firearm deer season to that
25 Saturday closest to the 15th of November, and should such a review result in a recommendation to make this
26 change, that MUCC would support such an initiative.

Proposed Resolution #11

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC At Large Director
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1 **WHEREAS**, the DNR has created comprehensive management plans targeting various species, including
2 bear, elk, wolf, and deer.
3 **WHEREAS**, several states, including those located in the upper Midwest and northeastern United States,
4 have a comprehensive moose management plan.
5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Moose Advisory Council was established and tasked by Public Act 366 of 2010
6 with the development of a comprehensive moose management plan and their report of September 2011 made
7 recommendations for the establishment of a plan along the guidelines of the North American Model of
8 Wildlife Management
9 **WHEREAS**, the Council’s White Paper of February 2011 outlined a management plan contingent upon many
10 factors impacting the sustainability of the species population

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
12 to create a comprehensive moose management plan understanding the need for an increased commitment of
13 funds and personnel to work to ensure a vibrant, sustainable moose population supporting hunting as a
14 management tool understanding the many complicating factors in consideration.

Proposed Resolution #12

Submitted by: Charles Felcyn, Paw Paw Conservation Club
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **CENTER FIRE CHANGES TO MICHIGAN’S LIMITED FIREARM ZONE**

1 **WHEREAS**, Indiana has been using center fire rifles in the entire state the last two hunting seasons
2 without a major safety problem occurring; and
3 **WHEREAS**, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has left out certain calibers such as the .270
4 caliber, the 45-70 and others; and
5 **WHEREAS**, here in Michigan, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) adopted several calibers of
6 rifles using straight-walled cartridges in 2014 for the limited firearm deer zone (formerly the shotgun
7 zone), which was reauthorized in 2017; and
8 **WHEREAS**, most modern muzzleloaders have a 200-yard range which are allowed in the limited firearm
9 deer zone in Michigan as well; and
10 **WHEREAS**, current regulations in Michigan for the rest of the state should apply to the limited firearm
11 deer zone. **NOW**
12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
13 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission to change Michigan’s
14 limited firearm deer zone to have the same firearm restrictions and regulations as the rest of Michigan.

Proposed Resolution #13

Submitted by: David Van Lopik, Sport Shooting Committee Chair
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **FIREARMS EDUCATION AND SAFETY**

1 **WHEREAS**, many public schools do not have a firearms safety program or hunter education safety
2 program available.

3 **WHEREAS**, many public schools do not allow firearms or conservation clubs to hold extracurricular
4 classes in firearms safety or hunter safety at their facilities.

5 **WHEREAS**, many public schools do not allow any advertisements, flyers, posters or other information
6 about firearms safety programs or hunter safety programs on public school property.

7 **WHEREAS**, it has been proven that classes and programs in firearms safety and hunter education safety
8 have reduced, and in some cases eliminated firearms related hunting deaths.

9 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Club believes firearm safety instruction and hunter
10 safety instruction are an integral part of safely handling a firearm and promoting firearms safety.

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State
12 Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts (ISD's), and local school districts to provide
13 access to promoting, advertising and providing information about firearm safety classes and hunter
14 education classes at local, regional and state facilities and other range facilities open to the public.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State
16 Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts (ISD's) and local school districts to ensure each
17 student has the opportunity to attend a firearms safety course within the public school system, or on the
18 public school grounds or alternate non-profit facility or sportsman's club.

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State
20 Legislature and Department of Education to ensure the above goals of providing each student an
21 opportunity to access a firearms safety or hunter education safety class.

Proposed Resolution #14
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tim Dusterwinkle, Michigan Bear Hunters Association
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **BOBCAT LICENSE**

1 **WHEREAS**, when the 2013 hunting and fishing license package was adopted, there was a desire to make it
2 simple, fair, and efficient; and

3 **WHEREAS**, there was discussion that any additions or changes should wait until it was up for
4 reauthorization prior to the 5-year sunset, and

5 **WHEREAS**, under a bill adopted in 2016, the sunset clause was removed and thus the license restructuring is
6 permanent unless changed again by legislation; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the bobcat is currently legal game under the fur harvesters license, but a separate, free bobcat
8 kill tag must be requested prior to the start of the trapping season by November 30; and

9 **WHEREAS**, about 6,000 bobcat kill tags are issued to hunters and trappers on average each year with about
10 700 harvested and each must be registered; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there is growing interest in the pursuit of bobcats, including by hunters with commercial guides,
12 which may be impacting the population in some areas; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the bobcat should be on a separate license, recognizing it as the premier game species that it is.

14 **NOW,**

15 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
16 Michigan Legislature to create a stand-alone bobcat license for a reasonable fee that will recognize bobcats as
17 a valuable game species and recoup some of the Department of Natural Resources costs for their
18 management.

Proposed Resolution #15

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past-President
MUCC Region: 4
Passed: December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **MICHIGAN ARCTIC GRAYLING STOCKING INITIATIVE RESOLUTION**

1 **WHEREAS**, native Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) were believed to have been extirpated in
2 Michigan in the 1930's and,

3 **WHEREAS**, the extirpation of Arctic Grayling is believed to have occurred due to the degradation of
4 habitat and unsustainable harvest and,

5 **WHEREAS**, all prior attempts to plant Arctic Grayling in Michigan have been unsuccessful, and

6 **WHEREAS**, Michigan now enjoys a restored trout fishery which is among the most highly regarded
7 in the nation, and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has announced an Arctic
9 Grayling stocking initiative which lacks a clear public or stakeholder engagement process for the
10 selection of water bodies and watersheds for planting, and

11 **WHEREAS**, the decline of Arctic Grayling in other states could potentially result in a changed legal
12 status of the species such as listing under the Endangered Species Act, and

13 **WHEREAS**, many of Michigan's watersheds continue to undergo fisheries habitat restoration which
14 could be impacted by the presence of a species which may become subject to federal protections
15 elsewhere, and

16 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC and its partners work with the MDNR to assure that
17 introduction of Arctic Grayling to Michigan rivers and streams will only be done if the following
18 conditions are met:

19 1) The management of Michigan's existing fisheries will not be affected by a change of legal status
20 of Arctic Grayling such as designation as "threatened" or "endangered" under the terms of the
21 Endangered Species Act elsewhere in the United States.

22 2) The planting of Arctic Grayling will only occur in those water bodies and watersheds where support
23 exists from stakeholder groups and a surveyed majority of responding anglers who use areas proposed for
24 stocking, and
25 3) If the funding for an Arctic Grayling planting program is confirmed to be sustainable and will not
26 undermine existing fisheries programs or staffing requirements in Michigan.

Proposed Resolution #16
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tim Dusterwinkle, Michigan Bear Hunters Association
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **PROTECTING LIVESTOCK FROM BEAR DEPREDATION**

1 **WHEREAS**, privately-owned captive cervid (deer and elk) are considered “livestock” within state law in
2 Michigan; and
3 **WHEREAS**, owners of livestock have the ability to kill an animal that is chasing, attacking, injuring or
4 killing their livestock; and
5 **WHEREAS**, bears are natural predators for fawns, so they are attracted to cervid operations; and
6 **WHEREAS**, bears are primarily attracted to captive cervid facilities due to year-around feeding practices;
7 and
8 **WHEREAS**, there is no law requiring cervid operations to protect their “livestock” from bears; and
9 **WHEREAS**, electric fence has been found to be an effective deterrent of bears. NOW,
10 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
11 Michigan Legislature to amend state law to require electric perimeter fence on privately-owned cervid
12 operations to deter bears and other species such as coyote and wolf.

Proposed Resolution # 17
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MUCC Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **ORV USE IN THE STATE FOREST**

1 **WHEREAS** Act 288 of 2016 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to inventory all forest
2 roads and
3 **WHEREAS** the DNR is required to determine the forest roads that would be open to Off-Road Vehicle
4 (ORV) use by the public and
5 **WHEREAS** the inventory of the northern lower peninsula is complete and 6000 miles of forest roads are now
6 open to ORV use and
7 **WHEREAS** the State forest is certified for sustainable forest management and
8 **WHEREAS** forest certification requires the DNR to remediate ORV damage in the state forest and
9 **WHEREAS** no additional money is earmarked for ORV damage remediation and ORV enforcement for the
10 substantial increase in roads approved for ORV use. **NOW,**
11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC should urge the DNR to develop an annual public report
12 that provides data on ORV damage, enforcement activity and accidents in the state forest; and
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MUCC should request that the DNR not allow any additional
14 expansion of forest roads open to ORV use until the ORV report is posted for public review and evaluated
15 related to the DNR’s compliance with forest certification criteria, the ability of the DNR to mitigate resource
16 damage and that funding for ORV enforcement due to the expansion of ORV use on forest roads is adequate.

Proposed Resolution #18
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Sam Morello, Michigan Bow Hunters Association
MUCC Region: 9
Proposed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **PRIMITIVE ARCHERY SEASON EXTENSION FROM ONE DAY AFTER
THE LIBERTY HUNT THROUGH JANUARY 31ST**

1 **WHEREAS,** The impact on the resource would be very minimal due to the level of success with these
2 primitive archery weapons historically has been low: and

3 **WHEREAS**, This hunting method & weapons can be used in more urban areas to control deer due to their
4 limited range: and

5 **WHEREAS**, The primitive equipment be limited are hand held and hand drawn longbow, recurve bow, and
6 self-bow, using only wooden arrow shafts, tipped with fixed blade or stone tips only.

7 No mechanical string release, no bow mounted sights or bow mounted optics allowed; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The hunting method requires more time afield than modern archery equipment to be
9 successful; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Primitive Archery equipment was the only equipment allowed at the time Michigan first
11 allowed archery hunting. **NOW**,

12 **THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
13 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) to allow a
14 Primitive Archery equipment Season with a start date being the first day following the Liberty Hunt
15 and continue the season until January 31 the following year.

Proposed Resolution #19

Submitted by: MUCC Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee

Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting

Title: **ESTABLISH DESIGNATED WATER TRAILS PROGRAM**

1 **WHEREAS** Michigan has over 3000 miles of water trails on the Great Lakes, inland lakes, and rivers, and

2 **WHEREAS** water trails provide a great opportunity to attract tourists, promote healthy lifestyles, and grow

3 local and regional economies, and

4 **WHEREAS** the authority for establishing a designated water trails program is provided through PA 451 of
5 1994, and

6 **WHEREAS** the development of a designated trails system is recommended in the “Michigan Statewide
7 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan”, “Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Land
8 Strategy” and the “Michigan Parks and Recreation Division Strategy”, and

9 **WHEREAS** an August 18, 2016 draft “Michigan’s Policy on State Water Trails Designation” provides the
10 information needed to create a program to formally designate water trails and

11 **WHEREAS** a Designated Water Trails Program would provide standardized criteria for designated water
12 trails that provide a level of expectation related to facilities and amenities such as access, signage, restrooms
13 and rest areas. **NOW**

14 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC should urge the Department of Natural Resources to
15 finalize the draft “Michigan’s Policy on State Trails Designation” and implement the designation Program.

Proposed Resolution #20
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Daniel L. McMaster, Shiawassee Conservation Association
MUCC Region: 6
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **WANTON AND WASTE LAW PERTAINING TO WHITETAIL DEER**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan does not have a true wanton waste law pertaining to whitetail deer; and

2 **WHEREAS** two thirds of states in the country have wanton waste laws that pertain to wildlife; and

3 **WHEREAS** Michigan currently has a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) crisis and a deer carcass should not
4 be left on the ground and should be disposed of properly; and

5 **WHEREAS** Michigan continues to have a population in need of food assistance; and

6 **WHEREAS** Michigan has several meat processors who take whole deer or partial deer and process at no cost
7 to the hunter and distribute the meat to food banks and food networks.

8 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC work with Quality Deer Management Association
9 (QDMA), Whitetails Unlimited (WTU), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Natural Resources
10 Commission (NRC), and the legislature to create and adopt wanton waste legislation pertaining to whitetail
11 deer; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a wanton waste law
13 will require a hunter to make a reasonable attempt to retrieve rear hindquarters, front shoulders, back loins
14 (back straps), and neck portions of a deer. In addition, the carcass shall disposed of properly and not left in
15 the field.

Proposed Resolution #21
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tim Muir, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting
Title: **WORK WITH THE DNR TO EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE DETROIT RIVER AND
LAKE ST. CLAIR BY CONSTRUCTING A PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS SITE ON BELLE
ISLE.**

1 **WHEREAS**, Belle Isle is a 982-acre island in the Detroit River, managed by the Michigan Department
2 of Natural Resources (MDNR) as a State Park; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The Lake St. Clair Walleye Association has collected and given to the MDNR and Belle Isle
4 conservancy more than 4,500 signatures in an informal petition of support for a boating access site on Belle
5 Isle; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The Detroit River is a year-round world class fishing destination and Lake St. Clair is one of the
7 most heavily utilized lakes in the Michigan; and

8 **WHEREAS**, there are no publicly owned boating access sites on the north end of the Detroit River; and

9 **WHEREAS**, There are only two privately owned boating access sites on the north end of the Detroit river
10 that provide public use, these existing sites have safety of use and security issues, a common concern and
11 problem amongst anglers; and

12 **WHEREAS**, it is not uncommon to wait over two hours and have to park on unsecured city streets to launch
13 a boat and fish the Detroit River in the spring or drive many miles downriver to access the river; and

14 **WHEREAS**, night fishing is very popular on the river and safety and security of property is a significant
15 concern; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Tournament-friendly boat launch facilities have a proven track record in other states of
17 attracting more fishing tournaments of all sizes along with more non-tournament anglers who have learned of
18 the quality of fishing through the value-added marketing efforts of tournament organizations; and

19 **WHEREAS**, A tournament-friendly boat launch is defined as a public boating access site with at minimum 8
20 two sided launch docks, restrooms, and parking for at least 100 vehicles with trailers; and

21 **WHEREAS**, a quality tournament-friendly boating access site will draw people from within the state and
22 from outside the state to Belle Isle, providing an increased positive economic impact for not only the MDNR,
23 but also the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan as experienced by communities in other states that have
24 built tournament-friendly launches - one major fishing tournament can bring a direct economic impact during
25 the event up to \$1.5 Million or more; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the MDNR and Belle Isle Conservancy have allocated \$75,000 for a feasibility study for the
27 construction of a public boating access site on Belle Isle or nearby Milliken State Park; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The current FY18 capital improvement budget for Belle Isle Park is ~\$1.25 million per the
29 Belle Isle Strategic Management Plan Draft (Dec 4, 2017) for a total of ~\$6.25 million of capital
30 improvement funds outlaid from FY18-FY22, these dollars are planned for investment on Belle Isle to
31 upgrade and/or repair the island's infrastructure; additionally, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund
32 monies have been invested in Belle Isle these investments should be protected and maximized for continued
33 recreation and enjoyment; and

34 **WHEREAS**, there was a previous resolution that passed in 2015 concerning supporting the MDNR in the
35 pursuit of public improvements, including a boating access site on Belle Isle; and
36 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) reaffirm its
37 commitment to expanding fishing opportunities on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair by encouraging and/or
38 supporting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Belle Isle Conservancy, and Belle Isle Park
39 Advisory Committee with the construction of a tournament friendly, 24 hour a day boating access site on
40 Belle Isle; and
41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MDNR work with fishing tournament organizations and local
42 fishing conservation clubs to review and consider the positive local economic benefits associated with
43 building tournament-friendly boating access sites which are capable of hosting organized fishing events such
44 as fishing tournaments and local fishing derbies.

Proposed Resolution #22

Submitted by: MUCC Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee

Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting

Title: **ESTABLISH WORK ORDERS TO REQUIRE PARKS TO CO-OPERATE WITH
OTHER DIVISIONS ON HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

1 **WHEREAS** the different divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources share expertise in the
2 management of wildlife habitat, and
3 **WHEREAS** State Recreation Areas' and State Parks' lands are the habitat of the wildlife therein, and
4 **WHEREAS**, Within Michigan State Recreation Areas, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
5 (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is required to co-manage the habitat of the area with the DNR
6 Wildlife Division; and
7 **WHEREAS**, the DNR Forest Resources Division (FRD) has additional expertise on forest management that
8 should also be utilized; and
9 **WHEREAS** the PRD is mainly interested in the maintenance of human requirements in their operations, and

10 **WHEREAS** cooperative management by all of the divisions would best serve the habitat management for the
11 wildlife. NOW,
12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
13 Michigan Department of Natural Resources to establish work orders to require the Parks and Recreation
14 Division to cooperate with the other divisions of the DNR to address the needs for managing wildlife habitat
15 located within the State Parks and State Recreation Areas.

Proposed Resolution #23
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan Resource Stewards

Passed: March 10, 2018 Conservation Policy Meeting

Title: RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LAND

1 **WHEREAS:** Michigan is blessed with a rich abundance of public land including the largest state forest
2 system east of the Mississippi River, and
3 **WHEREAS:** These public lands provide habitat for a great variety of wildlife, which poll after poll shows is
4 of critical importance to Michigan citizens, and
5 **WHEREAS:** Michigan citizens enjoy a multitude of activities on public land including hunting, fishing,
6 boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing,
7 mushrooming, berry-picking, birding, ORV adventures, horseback riding, and other activities too numerous to
8 list, and
9 **WHEREAS:** Studies have proven numerous health benefits from outdoor activity including longer lives from
10 outdoor exercise and the fact that children do better socially, academically, and cognitively when they have
11 opportunities to engage in unstructured outdoor play, and
12 **WHEREAS:** The ability to engage in these and other activities represents a birthright and a priceless heritage
13 that benefits the health and welfare of Michigan citizens as documented in many studies, and

14 **WHEREAS:** Public land benefits Michigan’s economy through our estimated \$22 billion annual return from
15 tourism, \$20 billion from forest products on DNR-administered public land; \$5 billion from hunting and
16 fishing, and other benefits not yet quantified, and

17 **WHEREAS:** Property with access to public land generally sells at a premium, and

18 **WHEREAS:** The economic benefits and jobs created thanks to our public lands are not very thoroughly
19 studied and not always given appropriate recognition, and

20 **WHEREAS:** The Department of Natural Resources is working with Michigan State University and others to
21 study the value of and value added to Michigan’s economy by public land, and

22 **WHEREAS:** Such studies are important in documenting the importance of public land in economic terms and
23 helping the public and policy makers understand the importance of public land to Michigan citizens and our
24 economy, especially the Michigan Legislature which is charged by our Constitution with protecting our
25 natural resources and requiring reports on public land, and

26 **WHEREAS:** The loss or diminishment of our public land base would lead to irreparable damage to the
27 quality of life enjoyed in Michigan and to our economy. NOW,

28 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the
29 Michigan Resource Stewards (Stewards) to urge our legislature, advocacy groups and policy makers at all
30 levels to support the efforts of the DNR, MSU and others to thoroughly document the value and value added
31 to our economy by public land, and

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That MUCC and the Stewards call upon our legislature, advocacy groups
33 and policy makers at all levels to acknowledge the multiplicity of health benefits, social benefits and other
34 intangible benefits that accrue to Michigan citizens because of our public lands, and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That MUCC and the Stewards call upon the Legislature to assist the DNR
36 in documenting the above referenced values of public land pursuant to the charge given to the Legislature in
37 the Michigan Constitution, Article X, Section 5, to “require annual reports as to such lands from all
38 departments having supervision or control thereof...” and

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That MUCC and the Stewards call upon the Legislature to protect and
40 maintain our public lands, pursuant to the charge in Article IV, Section 52 of the Michigan Constitution to
41 “provide for the protection of the air, water and other natural resources of the state from pollution impairment
42 and destruction,” and

43 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** That MUCC and the Stewards assert that protecting our public land
44 heritage in Michigan is of paramount importance to our citizens for health, quality of life and prosperity,
45 today and for the future.