

# **MUCC Conservation Policy Board Meeting**

March 7, 2020  
Ashley Sportsman's Club



**Proposed Resolutions**

**Proposed Resolution #H**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Further Measures to Facilitate the Elimination of Feral Swine

1 **WHEREAS**, the elimination of feral swine in the state of Michigan has made great strides since their  
2 designation as an invasive species as witnessed by the lack of many reports in the Lower Peninsula; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, the prevention of stocking fenced facilities with European wild boar, an action supported by  
4 advocacy and policy from Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), has been primarily responsible  
5 for the discontinuance of escapees providing the continued presence of feral swine on the landscape; and  
6 **WHEREAS**, in the past two years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health  
7 Inspection Service's Wildlife Services Program has reported the presence of feral swine with a domestic  
8 genetic backgrounds; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, the origins of these pigs is unknown, there is the possibility that they were escapees from  
10 game ranch facilities and/or backyard swineherds, but, regardless they have the potential to provide a  
11 continuation of the feral swine population as this species easily adapts to the feral situation; NOW,  
12 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC advocate for all strains of swine to be banned from  
13 game preserves for the purposes of hunting and be it further resolved that MUCC encourage the  
14 microchip identification of any pig that is not raised in an enclosed, confined pork production facility.

**Proposed Resolution #Q**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Limiting January Archery Hunts

1 **WHEREAS**, the state of Michigan has a finite amount of land accessible to hunting of all kinds and  
2 methods; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, certain types of hunting conflict in method and manner, creating conflicts between hunting  
4 parties; and

5 **WHEREAS**, hunters are increasingly stretched thin by competing priorities in the field; and  
6 **WHEREAS**, small game hunting is an important part of Michigan’s outdoor heritage; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, archery deer hunting can conflict with the interest of small game hunters; and  
8 **WHEREAS**, archery whitetail seasons are currently open for more than 90 days of each year; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, January hunting may facilitate the unintentional harvest of bucks after they have shed their  
10 antlers, thereby reducing the quality of deer in the herd; NOW,  
11 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs will work with the  
12 Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Commission to limit January archery  
13 hunts outside of urban metropolitan areas including, but not limited to, Wayne, Oakland & Macomb  
14 Counties.

**Proposed Resolution #R**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Feral Cats as an Invasive Species

1 **WHEREAS**, millions of free-roaming and feral cats (*Felis catus*) exist on the landscape as non-native,  
2 obligate predators and as such, cause considerable damage to wildlife populations killing several  
3 hundreds of millions (birds, small mammals, amphibian, reptiles and fish); and  
4 **WHEREAS**, this represents a significant threat to the biodiversity/stability of ecosystems; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, even a house cat allowed outside to roam and not in need of food will still hunt and kill  
6 several animals each and every day; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, most of free-roaming and feral cats suffer the verisimilitudes of lives lived outdoors  
8 (disease, weather extremes, starvation, trauma) and cannot be considered as being treated humanely and  
9 live shorter brutal lives as a result; and  
10 **WHEREAS**, these feral cats represent a human public health hazard as they carry several zoonotic  
11 diseases such as toxoplasmosis, rabies, Francisella tularensis (trichinpsis), Yersinia pestis (plague),  
12 Microsporium canis (ringworm), and fleas carrying typhus, not to mention diseases they can transmit to  
13 other cats (FeLV, FIV, FRDC); and

14 **WHEREAS**, current statutory status does not discriminate between feral and responsibly owned cats (but  
15 merely as “domestic” which does not accurately describe the feral situation), and the eradication of feral  
16 cats by the general public is considered a felony; NOW,  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will promote  
18 the designation of feral cats as an invasive species and thereby subject to regulation as such; and  
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will support research into possible oral contraceptive  
20 methods to decrease the population and the resultant mortality of wildlife species; and  
21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC oppose Trap Neuter and Release programs and educate the  
22 public of the threat to public health and our wildlife resources of this invasive species and the inhumane  
23 practice of releasing neutered cats back into feral colonies.

#### **Proposed Resolution #S**

**Submitted by:** Jack Ammerman, Michigan Gun Owners  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Rescind Outdated MUCC Policy AC740676 and AC760676 Regarding Firearm  
Transportation in a Vehicle

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) passed two resolutions in 1976 to require that  
2 all guns be encased, and the case be inaccessible when being transported in a motor vehicle and all guns be  
3 locked in the trunk when being transported in a motor vehicle; and  
4 **WHEREAS**, based on the rise of SUV and pickup truck sales the majority of vehicles driven on Michigan’s  
5 roads no longer have separated trunks; and  
6 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has language that allows for various  
7 legal alternatives to transporting firearms in a trunk (hunting and trapping digest page 21); and  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Legislature has since passed laws allowing firearms to be transported uncased  
9 in the passenger area of the vehicle; and  
10 **WHEREAS**, MUCC supports the safe handling of firearms; and  
11 **WHEREAS**, twenty-five states allow firearms to be transported uncased in a vehicle; and  
12 **WHEREAS**, transporting an unloaded firearm inside the vehicle has not been documented as a safety issue  
13 in any of the states in our nation that allow it; NOW,

14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs' (MUCC) outdated  
15 policy that all firearms being transported in a motor vehicle must be encased and the case positively secured  
16 from access to vehicle occupants, policy AC740676 be rescinded; and  
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MUCC's outdated policy that all firearms being transported in  
18 a motor vehicle must be in the trunk of a vehicle, policy AC770676 be rescinded.

**Proposed Resolution #T**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Chelsea Rod & Gun Club  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Reduced Youth Hunting Fees

1 **WHEREAS**, the number of deer hunters in Michigan has been in steady decline since 1998. Down 21%  
2 through 2018 (Detroit Free Press); and  
3 **WHEREAS**, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is reporting 2019 unique hunting  
4 license sales are down 3% from 2018 and unique sales have been in steady decline for many years; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, MDNR depends on hunting and fishing license revenues to fund many different programs  
6 and operations; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, recruitment of youth hunters is vital to preserving the hunting culture and traditions in 21<sup>st</sup>  
8 century Michigan; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, the cost of hunting licenses to families with one or more youth hunters may be prohibitive in  
10 many instances; NOW,  
11 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs use its influence to urge  
12 the Michigan DNR and the state legislature to reduce hunting license fees for youth hunters under the age  
13 of 16 to a level equal to or less than the fees paid by senior hunters.

**Proposed Resolution #U**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Jack Ammerman, Michigan Gun Owners  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Work to change language in MCL that puts Michigan hunters and shooters in jeopardy of committing a crime

1   **WHEREAS**, Michigan statute regulates activities of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts; and  
2   **WHEREAS**, under part 401, Wildlife Conservation, of the NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
3   ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (MCL 324.40111) it is unlawful for a hunter or target shooter  
4   to have an uncased firearm “in or upon” a vehicle; and  
5   **WHEREAS**, most Michigan hunters and target shooters rely on a vehicle during hunting and target  
6   shooting activities; and  
7   **WHEREAS**, whether loaded or unloaded, leaning a shotgun, rifle, or handgun on an open tailgate or using  
8   a truck’s hood as a bench rest during target shooting can lead to fines, confiscation or both; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, individuals that violate this section of law are guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by  
10   imprisonment for not more than 90 days, and/or a fine of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$2000.00, along  
11   with the cost of prosecution; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, it is far easier for hunters and target shooters to utilize the bumper, tailgate or hood of a  
13   vehicle than it is to lean their firearm against the closest tree to the parked vehicle during a break; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, Michigan allows certain individuals to carry loaded weapons in vehicles, whether stationary  
15   or moving; and  
16   **WHEREAS**, other states have recently removed similar language from their laws so that it is no longer a  
17   crime to lean a firearm on a non-moving vehicle; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, safely leaning or resting a shotgun, rifle, or handgun on a vehicle (tailgate, hood, etc.) or up  
19   against a non-moving vehicle is not a safety hazard resulting in innocent shooters and hunters being cited  
20   for unintentional violations; NOW,  
21   **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) recognizes  
22   leaning or placing a firearm on a non-moving vehicle should not be a crime

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with the Michigan Legislature to actively pursue a  
24 change in Michigan statute removing the prohibition concerning placement of firearms upon non-moving  
25 vehicles.

**Proposed Resolution #V**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Dawn Levey, Region 5 Executive Board member  
**MUCC Region:** 5  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Recess in K-5 Schools

1 **WHEREAS**, outdoor play is an important part of childhood and is the first step to developing  
2 the next generation of conservationists; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, many schools are limiting or eliminating recess time for children k-5 deeming  
4 it is not instructional time and substituting it for standardized test preparation; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, studies indicate that outdoor play is vital to a child’s overall development  
6 and learning; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, learning includes improved spatial recognition, understanding environmental tendencies like  
8 the changing of leaves and watching the changes in flora; improves physical and social development;  
9 encourages the use of the imagination; reduces screen time; contributes to cognitive and social/emotional  
10 development; increases attention spans; and happiness/stronger immune system; NOW,  
11 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan  
12 State Legislature and the Michigan Department of Education to educate and encourage the development of  
13 standards and curriculum to maintain designated time during the school day for outside play/recess for the  
14 wellbeing of Michigan’s greatest natural resource, its children.

**Proposed Resolution #W**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Tim Muir, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Work with the MDNR to align free fishing weekend with Father’s Day

1 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to increase participation in fishing and the outdoors; and

2 **WHEREAS**, moving free fishing weekend to Father’s Day would satisfy all three R’s (Recruit, Retain, and  
3 Reactivate) of the R3 program; and

4 **WHEREAS**, this would create opportunities for family members of multiple generations to reconnect, and  
5 spend quality time together outdoors; and

6 **WHEREAS**, moving free fishing weekend would also be useful to various clubs and groups to schedule  
7 outings designed around family participation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Father’s Day is the third Sunday in June, a day on which fathers are particularly honored by  
9 their children; and

10 **WHEREAS**, for example in 2020 Father’s day is June 21<sup>st</sup> and Free Fishing weekend is one week earlier  
11 on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; and

12 **WHEREAS**, fishing is on a downward trend with license sales down every year with a 2.5% decrease  
13 from 2017 (1,134,421) to 2018 (1,105,345) and over a 3% decrease in the ten year period ending in 2018;

14 NOW,

15 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with and  
16 request from the MDNR that future free fishing weekends be aligned with Father’s Day in an effort to  
17 increase participation in fishing.

**Proposed Resolution #X**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Bruce Levey, MUCC Region 9  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Hunter Orange

1 **WHEREAS**, for the same reason that all stop signs are red; and

2 **WHEREAS**, for the same reasons as all traffic lights have the same color configuration (i.e. red above  
3 yellow above green); and

4 **WHEREAS**, the current hunter orange is not broken and does not need fixed; and

5 **WHEREAS**, it is not reasonable to believe that people are not joining in, or just staying home, because  
6 they feel the need to wear colors other than hunter orange; NOW,



7 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work to establish a  
8 policy that “Hunter Orange” be the only color that is to be used as a safety color for hunting in the state  
9 of Michigan.

**Proposed Resolution #Y**  
**Requires Majority**

**Submitted by:** Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Preservation of Hunting Contests

1 **WHEREAS**, organized hunting contests are prevalent across Michigan in various forms, such as rabbit  
2 round-ups, squirrel hunts, youth small game events, hunting retriever trials, and predator calling contests.

3 **WHEREAS**, these events are generally put on by local sportsmen’s clubs, churches, and non-profit  
4 organizations in order to introduce youth to hunting, encourage families to spend time afield, and encourage  
5 good sportsmanship & camaraderie among sporting communities; and

6 **WHEREAS**, these events are often focused on youth, can aid in hunter retention, and rekindle a love of  
7 small game hunting in adults; and

8 **WHEREAS**, local economies are benefitted by the increased business they bring in (restaurants, fuel,  
9 supplies, etc.); and

10 **WHEREAS**, organized events can be a good starting point to get people introduced to the outdoors, as well  
11 as habitat improvements such as “rabbitat”; and

12 **WHEREAS**, certain contests can encourage harvest of animals that are overpopulated or causing duress to  
13 other wildlife species, such as deer yards, ground nesting birds, and non-game, rare, & endangered species;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, coyote populations are expanding into urban areas increasing negative human/wildlife  
16 encounters, including increased attacks on pets; NOW,

17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) should defend  
18 hunting contests such as small game round ups, buck poles, and predator contests as legal hunting

19 opportunities that promote the benefits of R3, reinforcing the social and community aspects of hunting, as  
20 well as the economic benefits to local economies; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC should work with member clubs to educate on best  
22 management practices for public relations/communications on these contests to the non-hunting public to  
23 ensure that public perception of hunters remains neutral to positive; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC should support use of fur as a legitimate use of wildlife  
25 management and that these contests should be encouraged to utilize the fur and wild game to its fullest  
26 extent.

**Proposed Resolution #Z**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Dean Hall, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** A Resolution to Propose a State Tax Credit for the Donation and Processing of  
Legally Harvested Deer to Feed the Hungry of Our State

1 **WHEREAS**, Sportsmen and Sportswomen as well as non-hunters in the state of Michigan have supported  
2 the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) organization and its program since its inception in 1991;  
3 and,

4 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is one of the founding groups who fostered  
5 the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger organization and continues to be involved and represented on the  
6 board of directors for the MSAH; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the MSAH is providing ground venison to state recognized Non-Profit Food  
8 Banks, Shelters and Pantries providing food assistance to the hungry of the state of Michigan through  
9 donated deer from hunter and deer management programs and the processing of those deer by MSAH  
10 participating processors in the MSAH network; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, the hunters donating their harvested deer to the MSAH program receive no compensation for  
12 their generosity; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, the wild game processors working with the MSAH receive only \$1.35 per processed pound  
14 of venison they produce for the MSAH program due to budgeted funds available to pay for their processing  
15 work through the Sportsmen Against Hunger Fund controlled by the state of Michigan in which voluntary

16 donations are collected at the point of Hunting/Fishing/permit sales to pay for the processing of the deer;  
17 and,  
18 **WHEREAS**, from 1991 to 2019 an estimated 706,005 pounds of ground venison has been provided to  
19 Michigan based non-profit food banks, shelters and pantries to create up to 2,984,020 hot and high in protein  
20 meals through the combined effort of the MSAH and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
21 (MDNR); and,  
22 **WHEREAS**, to offer an incentive to a hunter as well as a Michigan wild game processing facility working  
23 with a state charitable organization like the MSAH engaged in the donation and processing of, legally  
24 harvested deer during a hunting season for their generosity would be fair AND increase deer donations to  
25 feed the hungry of our state; NOW,  
26 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, let it be resolved that MUCC support legislation to create a state  
27 tax credit per each deer legally harvested during a hunting season by a hunter and donated to a charitable  
28 organization like the MSAH that is engaged in the distributing wild game processed at a Michigan  
29 Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) or United States Department of  
30 Agriculture (USDA) inspected and approved participating wild game processors in our state; and,  
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MUCC support legislation to also create a tax credit per each donated  
32 and legally harvested deer that is processed into ground venison burger by a processor to feed the states  
33 hungry through working with a charitable organization like the MSAH that is engaged in the distributing  
34 wild game processed at an MDARD or USDA inspected wild game processor to feed the hungry of our  
35 state through state of Michigan recognized non-profit food banks, shelters and  
36 pantries.

**Proposed Resolution #AA**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Zach Snyder, Individual Member  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Allow hunters one leftover spring turkey tag.

1 **WHEREAS**, the current regulations allow for hunters to only purchase one spring turkey tag; and,  
2 **WHEREAS**, during the 2019 spring season, there were 19,618 unpurchased turkey tags; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, the amount of leftover tags from the 2019 spring turkey season potentially left \$294,270 on  
4 the table that could have been otherwise utilized for conservation; and,  
5 **WHEREAS**, currently the regulations already allow for unsuccessful applicants, and the general public to  
6 purchase one leftover spring turkey tag; and,  
7 **WHEREAS**, allowing the purchase of one additional tag would further increase opportunity afield and  
8 generate more conservation dollars; and,  
9 **WHEREAS**, allowing hunters to purchase leftover spring turkey tags for areas outside of their original  
10 hunt zone for a separate hunt period would encourage travel to other hunting zones, generating tourist  
11 revenue in areas one would not typically frequent; and,  
12 **WHEREAS**, license quotas are set by biologists based upon population survey results for a maximum  
13 potential harvest number; NOW,  
14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan  
15 Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission to allow spring turkey  
16 hunters the opportunity to purchase one leftover turkey tag in addition to their already purchased tag when  
17 leftover tags become made available to the general public, for a hunt period and hunt unit different from  
18 their originally purchased tag.

**Proposed Resolution #AB**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Joe Sommers, U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County  
**MUCC Region:** 1  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** A Resolution to Clarify ATV Helmet Laws

1 **WHEREAS**, new helmet laws in Michigan state that a person who rides a motorcycle, moped, UTV,  
2 does not have to wear a helmet; NOW,  
3 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs shall work with the  
4 Michigan Legislature and Michigan Department of Natural Resources to change necessary state  
5 regulations such that the rider, driver or occupant of an ATV, quad or 4-wheeler not be required to wear a  
6 helmet

**Proposed Resolution #AC**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Leonard Shaner, MUCC Member  
**MUCC Region:** 7  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Michigan Hunter Quiet Time

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has had a long and wonderful history of deer hunting, and as this tradition  
2 continues each November this special time has been defined by friends and family getting together for  
3 some quiet time in the outdoors; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in some instances quiet time is being disturbed by logging operations that have been  
5 permitted on state forest land during the firearm deer season seriously compromising peace and  
6 tranquility the hunting public is seeking; and

7 **WHEREAS**, logging on State forest takes place in State Forest Lands because private lands are not  
8 available at this time of year due to the owners wanting to enjoy the peace and quiet and an undisturbed  
9 hunt; and

10 **WHEREAS**, logging operations cause noise and use restrictions due to heavy equipment operation and  
11 people working, thereby interfering with the hunting public attempting to use the state forest. In addition,  
12 these actions destroy roads making them impassable and unusable with anything other than heavy  
13 equipment; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has seen a decline in deer hunting license sales in the past several years, operating  
15 heavy logging equipment during the firearm deer season does not help attract new hunters to our state or  
16 the retention of current hunters. Most people do not come to the Northern Forest to hear heavy equipment  
17 ruin from dawn to dusk; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the State Forest constitute public lands and are in fact owned by the citizenry of the state,  
19 and the conditions of logging contracts should be stipulated on their behalf; NOW,

20 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) remain an advocate  
21 for the Hunter and the use of State Forest lands for people to enjoy this time of year. To this end, MUCC  
22 should work with the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division and the Wildlife Division to  
23 modify logging permits so as to close all state forest to logging operations during the firearm deer season

24 to allow hunters to enjoy the peace and quiet of State Forest lands without interference of logging  
25 companies and their employees.

**Proposed Resolution #AE**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Ron Launstein, MUCC Member  
**MUCC Region:** 7  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** One Buck Rule

1 **WHEREAS**, while antler point restrictions have shown good results in some areas, this regulatory  
2 mechanism is not a correct method by which to balance the herd, as it does not apply pressure on the doe  
3 population correctly and it may pressure the deer genetics in the wrong way; and,  
4 **WHEREAS**, a one buck rule is superior to APR regulations; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, a one buck license has broad and varied benefits for this state, for businesses, and for the  
6 citizens of the state; and,  
7 **WHEREAS**, a one buck rule would help to address the doe population by promoting the harvesting of  
8 does for meat and to help balance the statewide deer herd, ensuring that trophy buck management and  
9 QDM moves ahead; and,  
10 **WHEREAS**, a one buck rule would lead to deer management for high quality hunting experiences,  
11 including increasing antler size in deer; and  
12 **WHEREAS**, a one buck rule would help address both the chronic wasting disease issue and over  
13 population issues in the state of Michigan; and,  
14 **WHEREAS**, many hunters leave the state of Michigan annually to pursue whitetail deer and seek a  
15 quality hunting experience outside of the state; and  
16 **WHEREAS**, a higher quality deer herd in the state of Michigan might help to retain hunters who  
17 currently travel out of state to hunt whitetail deer and spend their recreational dollars; and,  
18 **WHEREAS**, a higher quality deer herd will increase the value of the license for residents and non-  
19 residents, benefiting everyone in the state, including the automotive insurance industry and the Michigan  
20 Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); and,

21 **WHEREAS**, a one buck license structure will be superior for everyone including the state, the  
22 landowners, farmers, business owners and quality deer managers, and it will help to control CWD,  
23 balance the herd, and meet the needs of meat, trophy hunters and conservationists alike.  
24 **WHEREAS**, it is believed that this state, sportsmen, conservationists, landowners, QDMA's, and  
25 insurance industry will see a huge impact on the deer herd statewide in less than 3 years; NOW,  
26 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will work with  
27 MDNR and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to pursue a deer license structure that  
28 would change the combo license to include: (1) buck or either sex tag and (1) doe license at the same cost  
29 as it is at the time of this passage; and,  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for a license package that would continue to  
31 allot a number of doe permits suggested by MDNR and approved by the NRC; and,  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will not advocate for a change to the license structure that  
33 will negatively impact MDNR's license revenue stream.

**Proposed Resolution #AF**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Michigan Bear Hunters Association  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Supplemental Bear Feeding to Mitigate Nuisance Complaints

1 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Bear Hunters Association is committed to growing the bear population in  
2 Michigan; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, most bear nuisance complaints occur in April, May and June; and  
4 **WHEREAS**, scientific studies from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho affirm the efficacy of supplemental  
5 feeding of bears in the spring to significantly reduce damage to Douglas Fir timber; and  
6 **WHEREAS**, supplemental feeding in the woods would help to keep bears from scavenging near homes,  
7 orchards, apiaries, farms, and becoming a problem; and  
8 **WHEREAS**, since bait barrels are legal on state-owned lands, they could be utilized to avoid the feeding  
9 of other species such as wolf and deer and could be strategically placed in areas of historically high  
10 nuisance complaints; NOW,

11 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the  
12 Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Commission to allow supplemental feeding of  
13 bears to begin April 1.

**Proposed Resolution #AG**

**Submitted by:** Erik Schnelle, State Council President, Quality Deer Management Association  
**MUCC region:** 9  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board meeting  
**Title:** Enhanced Deer Management for Herd Health & Hunter Recruitment, Retention  
& Reactivation

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan hunters are harvesting a higher percentage of yearling bucks than surrounding  
2 states and harvesting fewer does per buck than hunters in surrounding states, resulting in an unbalanced  
3 herd age and sex ratios and high deer densities in many areas of Michigan; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Deer biologists, including Michigan’s John Ozoga, have documented numerous biological  
5 benefits of more balanced deer herd age and sex ratios; and,

6 **WHEREAS**, Deer hunters are highly motivated by the opportunity to see more bucks and opportunity to  
7 harvest larger bucks when hunting; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Numbers of Michigan hunters have been in steady decline for over 15 years; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 report titled “Understanding Barriers to Hunter Retention in Michigan” based upon  
10 focus groups and surveys of 32,000 Michigan hunters documented “that great majorities would hunt the  
11 same amount or more if antler point restriction’s (APR’s) were implemented” that support for APR’s is  
12 strongest amongst younger hunters and that a take home message is “When and where they do not  
13 conflict with biological management objectives, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
14 should consider expanding APR’s”; and

15 **WHEREAS**, every MDNR survey since 2012 has shown clear majority hunter support for implementing  
16 antler point restrictions, and in the Northwest 12 antler point restriction counties support was 78% after 4  
17 years of implementation; and

18 **WHEREAS**, biologists have previously recommended implementing regulations to protect the majority  
19 of yearling bucks in the bovine tuberculosis (bTB) area and have implemented regulations protecting the



20 majority of yearling bucks on an experimental basis in select counties in the chronic wasting disease  
21 (CWD) area.; and

22 **WHEREAS**, In Michigan & Wisconsin, yearling bucks are infected with CWD at similar low rates as  
23 yearling does, and at much lower rates than 2.5 and older does and bucks. (Michigan MDNR CWD  
24 surveillance data and Gear et al. “Demographic Patterns and Harvest Vulnerability of Chronic Wasting  
25 Disease Infected White-Tailed Deer in Wisconsin”); and

26 **WHEREAS**, The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in its *Technical Report on Best Management*  
27 *Practices for Prevention, Surveillance, and Management of Chronic Wasting Disease* states “Focusing  
28 harvest of sufficient intensity on the segment of the population most likely to be infected could help  
29 reduce disease prevalence and subsequent transmission (e.g., Potapov et al. 2016). Exploiting potential  
30 biases in removal of infected animals via harvest (e.g., Conner et al. 2000) also could be used to enhance  
31 the efficacy of harvest as a control strategy (Wild et al. 2011).” (Mature animals are considered to be 3.5  
32 and older); NOW,

33 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) shall  
34 support the education of hunters and the use of hunter-landowner cooperatives to achieve more balanced  
35 deer herd age and sex ratios, in part, by protecting the majority of yearling bucks.

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, shall support existing  
37 and future research into Chronic Wasting Disease management strategies.

**Proposed Resolution #AH**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Numerous Region 5 Clubs  
**MUCC region:** 5  
**Proposed:** March 7, 2020 Conservation Policy Board meeting  
**Title:** Voluntary QDM/APR

1 **WHEREAS**, it has been the position of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) to simplify  
2 hunting regulations to recruit and retain hunters in the State of Michigan; and

3 **WHEREAS**, with the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and other diseases of concern in the  
4 whitetail deer population; and,

5 **WHEREAS**, there is debate on how to maintain a healthy deer herd and which gender is more likely to  
6 spread the disease and the practice of quality deer management and/or antler point restrictions is also  
7 debatable in the conservation community; and

8 **WHEREAS**, not all Michigan deer hunters are trophy hunters and the opportunity to make a mistake a  
9 field which could lead to hunters having to make a choice between being issued a violation or leaving a  
10 harvested deer; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, it is important to maintain a working relationship with the agriculture community and  
12 property owners who allow hunting on their property who request that hunters shoot all legal deer they  
13 are licensed to take on their property; NOW,

14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC support voluntary quality deer management and/or  
15 antler point restrictions in the State of Michigan; allowing land owners and hunters to make the informed  
16 decisions that meet their hunting philosophies.