

**Resolution #11**  
**Requires 2/3rd Majority**

**Submitted by:** Rob Miller, MUCC Wildlife Chair  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** June 22, 2019 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **EXPANDED HUNTING OPPORTUNITY WHILE MANAGING FOR A BALANCED DEER HERD**

**WHEREAS,** Our current deer hunting regulations offer either a single buck tag or a combo tag which allows for two bucks.

**WHEREAS,** Arguably our deer herd is out of balance with the buck-doe ratio being very heavy with does

**WHEREAS,** There is and has been for some time a collaborative effort to revert to the pre-1986 one buck license. (Eon Green on line petition 2016 which gathered over 10,000 signatures in support)

**WHEREAS,** There is a growing trend for Michigan Hunters to travel out-of- state in search of their deer hunting opportunities which equates to much lost revenue to the State of Michigan.

**WHEREAS,** The current "combo" license allows the take of two bucks with exceptions allowed while utilizing archery equipment to allow 1 buck 1 doe or even 2 does with 100% archery equipment.

**WHEREAS,** Michigan comes from a long culture of not shooting does which shows in our current deer herd with the large imbalance in most areas.

**WHEREAS,** the current system requires extra effort from any sportsmen to acquire the legal means (tags) to harvest a doe with a gun.

**WHEREAS,** Michigan has been making efforts with heavy support of sportsmen to increase the age structure and quality of our deer herd in many Deer Management Units (DMUs) throughout this state.

**WHEREAS,** This resolution as detailed below does not "take away" opportunity but rather "adds" opportunity with a high chance of helping to strengthen our herd while being able to harvest venison.

NOW,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) to:

- 1) Change the current definition of combo tag to read valid for the take of one buck and one doe or two bucks with any legal method;
- 2) continue to allow a combo buck tag option in areas that would otherwise not allow the take of a doe with any means (such as archery);
- 3) Make available in all other areas either the new combo or single buck tag.
- 4) Maintain hunter supported additional requirements in DMUs that have supported such. (Such as APRs)

In areas of special management needs such as disease areas or high-density areas additional tags can be made available per DNR recommendations or mandates