

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