

Proposed Resolution #J
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, Michigan State Council – National Deer Association
Proposed: December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: MUCC Support For DMU Antlerless Harvest Goals

1. **WHEREAS:** under-harvesting or overharvesting antlerless deer can have a damaging effect on
2. deer herds, deer hunting and wildlife habitat, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** achieving an appropriate level of antlerless harvest is necessary to responsibly
4. manage deer densities, deer health and wildlife habitat quality, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** the appropriate level of antlerless harvest will vary for every DMU in the state of
6. Michigan, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** harvest goals are widely used and a successful tool for managing wildlife and
8. fisheries, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has successfully implemented a mandatory reporting system for deer that
10. enables hunters to track harvest in near real-time throughout the deer seasons and alert hunters
11. on progress toward goal achievement via email, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has a need to harvest more antlerless deer in many parts of the state yet
13. 75% of the state's hunters won't shoot an antlerless deer, only 17% of the states hunters take one
14. antlerless deer and 8% of Michigan's hunters take more than one antlerless deer, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Antlerless harvest has declined by about 28% over the last 20 years, NOW;
16. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR and NRC to implement annually
17. adjusted DMU level antlerless harvest goals, educate and inform hunters regarding those goals,
18. provide in-season information to hunters on goal achievement, and in cases of significant
19. overharvest allows for the closing of seasons or limitation of additional harvest.