

Proposed Resolution #A
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: George Lindquist, Region 1 Director, Steve Dey, Vice President

Proposed: December 7, 2024 CPB Meeting

Title: DNR do more to manage wildlife in the Upper Peninsula

1. **WHEREAS:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Resource Division is
2. currently revising its State Forest Management Plan, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** While we appreciate past efforts by the DNR to enhance wildlife habitat,
4. particularly regarding Deer, these efforts have not been sufficient to stem the decline of this
5. iconic species, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** More action is urgently needed to acquire, develop, and maintain critical
7. habitat areas and provide better food and shelter to stabilize deer populations, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** With the increasing impacts of climate change, we are likely to see more
9. extreme weather patterns, ranging from mild to severe winters, necessitating action not
10. only in Deer Wintering Complexes but across the broader landscape. There is a need to
11. preserve and develop stands of hemlock, cedar, and other quality cover to allow migrating
12. Deer to spend more time dispersed, reducing pressure on core wintering areas, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has lost approximately 97% of its hemlock component since the
14. mid-1800s, largely due to commercial forest owners cutting hemlock in favor of more
15. profitable species like maple. The Upper Peninsula may be one of the few remaining
16. regions in the eastern U.S. where hemlock can survive, as it has the extreme cold
17. necessary to limit the spread of pests such as the hemlock woolly adelgid, even with
18. climate change, and;
19. **WHEREAS:** Data from the Special Analysis Units in the proposed plan suggest that Deer
20. bring more economic benefit to the state and local economies than all the other special
21. units combined, and;
22. **WHEREAS:** The previous State Forest Management Plan did not adequately address
23. wildlife habitat, particularly concerning Deer in the Upper Peninsula, and;
24. **WHEREAS:** The Deer herd in the Upper Peninsula has been on the decline for the past 20
25. years, NOW;
26. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That MUCC strongly recommend that wildlife

27. management, with a particular focus on Deer, be given greater priority in the new State
28. Forest Management Plan, especially within the Special Analysis Unit for Deer Wintering
29. Complexes. MUCC urges that the necessary resources be allocated to acquire, maintain,
30. and improve critical habitats across the Upper Peninsula, with an emphasis on
31. developing and maintaining high-quality cover areas that benefit Deer as well as other
32. wildlife species, and;
33. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That hemlock be recognized for the valuable wildlife tree
34. that it is and that increased efforts be made to protect and restore hemlock and cedar
35. where possible.