

Regulation changes recommended for the NELP, provided to the NRC by The Concerned Sportsmen of Michigan, for consideration as alternatives to the proposed APR's in the TB Zone.

1. Remove current HC regulations.
2. Remove the 4 pt. APR on the restricted portion of the Combo license. This would create regulations consistent with those in the CWD containment zone.
3. Create a bonus DMAP antlerless tag, valid for selected townships, within DMU 452, where TB positive clusters historically appear, attached to both the single antlered license purchase and the combo license. This is similar to a program that Wisconsin has had some success with, where they include two free bonus antlerless tags with each antlered license, in some disease containment zones.
4. Implement a "disease reduction" late firearms season on private land within DMU 452, allowing unused licenses to be used on either bucks or does, to run for the first two weeks of January.
5. Launch an educational campaign for the hunting public to re-enforce the scientific basis for the baiting ban in the TB zone and couple that with similar educational efforts directed towards private land managers, cautioning them of the dangers resulting from establishing food plots, mineral licks and man made watering holes, as part of land management improvement efforts, in areas where communicable disease is a concern. All of those activities tend to focus deer in un-natural concentrations and increase both deer to deer contact and contact with potentially contaminated soil, which facilitates environmental transmission. In 2007, the DNR included similar concerns about the planting of root crops in food plots in a letter to NELP land owners, this type of educational campaign, based on science, should be expanded.
6. Continue to allow firearms hunters to use either of the combo tags to harvest antlerless deer with firearms or with single antlered tags within the TB zone.
7. Change the requirements for habitat improvement grants funded with MDNR resources, located with DMU 452, to improvements that focus on expanding natural food sources (planting native forbs, etc.) or timber improvement and prohibit grant funding from being used for projects that include supplemental feeding in the form of food plots.
8. Educate the public on the benefits of harvesting male fawns. The DNR has engaged in a successful campaign to educate hunters on how to identify male fawns in the hunting guide, which has been effective in helping to reduce Button Buck harvest over the last several years. That campaign has run it's course and it needs to be replaced with a similar educational campaign that educates hunters to the threat posed by yearling male dispersal in disease containment zones and which encourages hunters to include male fawns when making antlerless harvest decisions.
9. Increase out of season targeted sharpshooting in areas where historical clusters of bTB positive deer occur and in the immediate vicinity of any farms with herds testing positive for bTB.