

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT**
and
MICHIGAN HUNTERS ALLIANCE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby entered into by and between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, hereinafter referred to as the MDNRE, and the Michigan Hunters Alliance, hereinafter referred to as the MHA, collectively referred to as the Parties.

A. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the MDNRE and the MHA. This framework provides for jointly planning and accomplishing mutually beneficial projects and activities that maintain and enhance Michigan's wildlife resources.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS.

The MDNRE is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of Michigan's natural resources for current and future generations. Furthermore, the MDNRE has a public trust responsibility for the management of all wildlife species and populations. Primary legal authority for wildlife management and regulation comes from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994. Part 401 of Public Act 451 gives authority to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the DNRE Director to issue orders (Wildlife Conservation Order) specific to wildlife management and hunting.

Michigan Hunters Alliance is a non-profit organization that is committed to preserving, protecting and promoting hunting in the State of Michigan. Our goal is to work with hunters and the MDNRE in order to make a positive impact on hunting in this State. We are dedicated to the continued protection of hunter's rights and the right to hunt. Michigan Hunters Alliance believes in quality wild-game management and is committed to making positive changes to bring about the best possible habitat for our wild-game animals. Representing all hunters in this State, regardless of game species or hunting type.

In consideration of the above premises, the Parties agree as follows:

C. MDNRE SHALL:

1. Provide leadership for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects or research efforts approved by all parties of this MOU and developed subsequent to this agreement.
2. Participate in projects or research efforts with the MHA. Examples of these efforts may include: on-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement projects (e.g. wildlife food plots, prescribed burning, winter range evaluation, etc.); deer habitat research projects; and educational programs.
3. Manage white-tailed deer populations following the guidelines outlined in the Michigan Strategic Deer Management Plan.
4. Advocate appropriate consideration of wildlife resources and proper management, particularly white-tailed deer and enhancement of associated habitat, in State and private forestry program delivery and related private landowner assistance activities and initiatives.
5. Advise the MHA on the administration of natural resources management programs affecting public and private lands.

D. MICHIGAN HUNTERS ALLIANCE SHALL:

1. Participate in the development and execution of projects or research efforts approved by all parties to this MOU. Projects may include habitat, education and/or deer management efforts.
2. Disseminate information concerning the planning, management, and conservation of white-tailed deer and other natural resources.
3. Provide information as appropriate to the MDNRE related to the needs and concerns of MHA members regarding the management of Michigan's natural resources.
4. Establish, implement, and conduct informational and educational programs oriented toward natural resources conservation, hunter safety and ethics, and landowner assistance.
5. Work with MDNRE staff to identify preferred harvest strategies to achieve desired regional antlered and antlerless deer harvest goals.

E. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA):** Any information furnished to the MDNRE under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C 552).
2. **MODIFICATION:** Modification within the scope of the MOU shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.
3. **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES:** This MOU in no way restricts the MDNRE or the MHA from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
4. **COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE:** This MOU is executed as of the last date shown below and expires no later than December 31, 2014, at which time it is subject of review and renewal, or expiration.
5. **TERMINATION:** Either party(s), in writing, may terminate the MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
6. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS:** The principal contacts for this MOU are:

MDNR Contact	Cooperator Contact
Rebecca A. Humphries	Michael Strunk
Michigan DNRE	Michigan Hunters Alliance
Director	President
Stevens T. Mason Building	2358 Allerton Rd
Post Office Box 30028	Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Lansing, MI 48909-7528	
Phone: (517) 335-4873	Phone: (248) 892-8909
FAX: (517) 373-6705	
E-Mail: humphrir@michigan.gov	E-Mail: mike@mi-hunters.org

MDNR Project Contact	Cooperator Project Contact
Russ Mason	Jason Blitchok
Michigan DNR-Wildlife Division	Michigan Hunters Alliance
Chief	Vice – President
Stevens T. Mason Building	2985 Auten Rd
P.O. Box 30444	Ortonville, MI 48462
Lansing, MI 48909-7944	
Phone: (517) 373-9311	Phone: (248) 613-0839
FAX: (517) 373-6705	
E-Mail: masonr2@michigan.gov	E-mail: jason@mi-hunters.org

7. MEETINGS: Meetings or teleconferences will take place periodically to discuss and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial projects and activities.
8. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES: By signing below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document are representatives of the cooperator and are authorized to act in their respective areas for matter related to this MOU.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this MOU.

Russ Mason
Chief,

MDNRE-Wildlife Division

Date

Rebecca Humphries
Director,

Michigan Department of
Natural Resources and
Environment

Date

Jason Blitchok
Vice-President,

Michigan Hunters Alliance

Date

Michael Strunk
President,

Michigan Hunters Alliance

Date