



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

August 10, 2016

Mr. Richard F. Pershinske, Chair
Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council
1991 U.S. 41 South
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Dear Mr. Pershinske:

Thank you for your letter dated July 11, 2016 regarding the resolutions passed by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) at their June 16, 2016 meeting. We have greatly appreciated the time and effort that goes into each resolution and value the input of your group.

I have worked with our team to respond to each of your resolutions separately and have detailed that information below:

Resolution #1: The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR contact tribal natural resource departments, for those treaty areas in the Upper Peninsula, to request they consider voluntarily reducing the number of whitetail permits issued to tribal hunters.

The Parties to the 2007 Inland Consent Decree (State of Michigan, United States, Sault Tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Bands, Little River Band, Grand Traverse Band) established the Wildlife Technical Committee (WTC), comprised of a wildlife management staff representative from the state and each tribe, to facilitate government-to-government consultation regarding wildlife issues within the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. The committee conducts regularly scheduled meetings or conference calls.

The Department will utilize the WTC to share the public's concerns related to the U.P. deer herd, the state's management actions to restore deer numbers in the U.P. and to request the tribes to consider voluntarily reducing the number of deer permits issued to tribal hunters.

In addition, Mrs. Stacy Haughey, our U.P. Regional Coordinator, has reached out to Mr. Eric Clark, biologist for the Sault Ste. Marie tribe to see if he would be available to attend an upcoming meeting to provide additional information to the group.

Resolution #2: The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR identify and provide a method or "trigger" on timber harvesting certain lands adjacent to a deer yard when the winter index hits a certain level.

Currently, Department divisions work together to plan that timber harvests adjacent to deer yards occur during the winter season. We also have worked with our U.P. stakeholders to provide supplemental feeding opportunities when necessary. We should also ensure that the EUPCAC look to the recent efforts of the U.P. Habitat Workgroup who have been working diligently to enhance habitat opportunities.

Mr. Richard F. Pershinske
Page 2
August 10, 2016

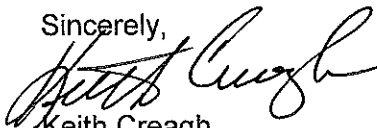
Resolution #3: The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR, thru the necessary channels, support the return of a bounty on coyotes.

Bounties have been demonstrated to be an unsuccessful way to reduce coyote numbers. Typically, bounties pay those that already intend to harvest coyotes and do not increase harvest. Instead, funds are reallocated from more beneficial programs such as habitat work which can positively impact wildlife populations. The Department does not support the use of bounties. However, the Department, at the request of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), has brought forward some proposed changes that would liberalize harvest opportunities for coyotes-allowing for greater options for those that have concerns about coyote populations to be able to address those concerns.

Resolution #4: The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR end all current whitetail hunting seasons in the Upper Peninsula as they currently exist and replace them with the following: 1) one season, 30 to 45 days long, ending on November 30th (the season can be divided up—bow, rifle, etc., within the 30 to 45 days); 2) all legal methods of take allowed; 3) bag/tag's as currently provided; 4) combo tags or single tags; 5) no change to APR's; 6) no doe hunting U.P.-wide; and 7) those areas encompassed within Delta, Menominee and Dickinson Counties under the direct control of the MDNR's biologists having the ability to issue DMAP's only in those areas.

In 2015, the NRC looked into many potential changes to the whitetails season similar to the suggestions below before they ultimately reduced antlerless opportunities for the 2015 season. All of the options they explored can be found at the following link: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/05WCO2015_Deer_Harvest_Reduction_Regulations_in_the_UP_Action_signed_489162_7.pdf. I have also copied the NRC Commissioners on this letter so they may look at your recommendations as well.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to our natural resources. We appreciate the work of the U.P. Citizens Advisory Councils and look forward to our continued dialogue on such important issues.

Sincerely,

Keith Creagh
Director
517-284-6367

cc: Natural Resource Commissioners
EUPCAC Council Members
Dr. William E. Moritz, Natural Resources Deputy, DNR
Mr. Dennis Knapp, Chief of Staff, DNR
Mr. Russ Mason, DNR
Mrs. Stacy Haughey, DNR