



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: October 29, 2025  
RESUBMITTED: November 10, 2025  
RESUBMITTED: December 15, 2025

**APPROVED**  
**January 14, 2026**  
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
*Brooke Parmelee*  
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Coyote Hunting and Trapping Season and Coyote Management Season  
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 of 2025

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

On October 9, 2025, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) read a resolution stating their intent to establish a coyote hunting and trapping season as a furbearer species and also a coyote management season to address interspecies conflict and overabundance on private and public lands. On November 6, 2025, the NRC clarified the intent of the resolution to:

- Prohibit coyote trapping on public lands or commercial forest lands open to hunting by the general public during the Management Season March 2 to October 14.
- Coyotes shall not be taken in state park and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.
- Allow either the use or proper disposal of coyote carcasses during the management season.

If approved, these regulations will have an effective date of March 1, 2026.

Furbearer regulations are on a two-year regulatory cycle that was agreed upon by the NRC and the Wildlife Division in 2014 in order to provide consistency in regulations. More consistent regulations provide for better understanding by hunters and trappers, as well as facilitate monitoring the impacts of regulation changes. A two-year cycle also allows more time to consider potential regulation changes. This order is being requested by the NRC outside of the agreed upon two-year regulatory cycle.

Coyote Hunting and Trapping Season

The resolution called for the following regulations for the coyote hunting and trapping season:

- Setting season dates from October 15 to March 1 annually
- Maintaining current hunting and trapping methods
- Continuing to allow non-lethal cable restraints on private lands from January 1 through March 1

- Prohibiting hunting with dogs from November 15 through 30
- Continuing to require coyote hunters and trappers to possess a base license and fur harvester license, except resident hunters are only required to possess a base license.
- Coyotes shall not be taken in state park and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.

### Coyote Management Season

The resolution called for the following regulations for the coyote management season:

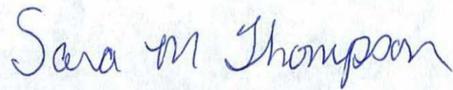
- Setting season dates from March 2 through October 14 annually
- Allowing for the lethal take of coyotes to address interspecies conflict and overabundance on private and public lands
- Allowing current hunting and trapping methods except non-lethal cable restraints are prohibited
- Prohibiting hunting with dogs from April 16 through July 7
- Disposing of carcasses either by burying completely or wrapping and disposing in a landfill
- Allowing private landowners to compost carcasses on their own lands, as allowed by local authority
- Requiring coyote hunters and trappers to possess a base license and fur harvester license, except resident hunters are only required to possess a base license.
- Prohibit coyote trapping on public lands or commercial forest lands open to hunting by the general public during the Management Season March 2 to October 14.
- Coyotes shall not be taken in state park and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.
- Allow either the use or proper disposal of coyote carcasses during the management season.

Coyote Hunting and Trapping Season and Coyote Management Season  
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 of 2025

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December 15, 2025

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information and consideration on December 11, 2025, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's December 2, 2025, and January 5, 2026, calendars and may be eligible for approval on January 14, 2026.



Sara Thompson, Chief  
Wildlife Division



Brandon Kieft, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief  
Forest Resources Division



Kristen Kosick, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



Randall M. Claramunt, Chief  
Fisheries Division



Jon Spieles, Chief  
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief  
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott  
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips  
Chief Administrative Officer

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



for

M. Scott Bowen, Director

Date: January 14, 2026

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER**

## **Amendment No. 10 of 2025**

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective March 1, 2026, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **3.609 Fox hunting and trapping and coyote hunting and trapping, seasons; use of snares, conditions; prohibited acts; exceptions.**

Sec. 3.609 (1) The open seasons for taking fox by trapping or hunting and coyote by trapping or hunting shall be October 15 to March 1.

(2) Notwithstanding other provisions of this order, a person may use a snare from January 1 to March 1 to take fox and coyote if, in addition to the other requirements of section 3.600, all of the following conditions are met:

(a) Snares shall not be placed on publicly owned land or commercial forest lands as defined by section 51101, Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being Section 324.51101 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(b) Snares shall be made of 1/16 inch or larger cable, with a maximum length of 60 inches, not including a cable anchor extension. Up to a 36-inch cable anchor extension may be used.

(c) The snare loop shall not exceed 15 inches in diameter.

(d) The top of the snare loop shall not be set more than 24 inches above the ground, or when the ground is snow covered, shall not be set more than 24 inches above the compacted snow in the person's footprint which has been placed beneath the snare with the full body weight of the person.

(e) All snares shall have a relaxing lock, defined as a snare lock that will allow the snare loop to loosen slightly to reduce the possibility of strangulation.

(f) All snares shall have a stop to prevent the loop of a snare from closing to a diameter less than 4 1/4 inches.

(g) All snares shall be equipped with a break-away lock system with a breaking point not greater than 285 pounds. Breakaway devices must be attached to the relaxing lock.

(h) Snares shall not have any type of drag attached and shall be affixed to a stake or other object of sufficient strength to hold a fox or coyote at the point of capture. A snare shall not be attached to a fence or set in a manner that would allow an animal captured in the snare to become entangled with a fence. Snares may be anchored to woody vegetation provided that it is clear of branches or stubs up to a height of 5 feet above the ground or compacted snow. Stubs and branches must be cut flush with the outer bark of the main stem. Snares may not be set in a manner that would allow a snared animal to be suspended with two or more feet off the ground.

(i) Snares shall be equipped with two swivels, one of which will be at the anchor point.

(j) Snares shall not utilize any type of spring pole, counterbalanced weight, spring, or other device to assist in closing the snare.

(k) Except as provided in section 3.607 for the taking of beaver, section 3.610 for the taking of nuisance coyote and sections 5.51 and 5.52 for the taking of other nuisance animals, snares shall not be placed,

used or carried afield, whether operable or inoperable, after the close of the fox and coyote trapping season.

(l) A resident possessing a base license may hunt coyote without securing a fur harvester's license.

(m) Coyotes shall not be taken in state park and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.

### **3.610 Repealed; Am. 10, 2025, Eff. March 1, 2026.**

Publishers note: The repealed section pertained to "Coyote hunting, open season; exceptions; fur harvester's license not required to hunt."

### **3.610a Coyote management, open season; fur harvester's license not required to hunt; methods of take, exceptions; disposal requirements.**

Sec. 3.610a (1) The statewide coyote management season on public and private lands shall be from March 2 to October 14.

(2) Resident hunters shall obtain a base license and nonresident hunters and resident and nonresident trappers must obtain a base license and fur harvester's license.

(3) An individual taking a coyote under this section must abide by all legal hunting and trapping methods and trap check requirements for coyotes as provided by this order or otherwise permitted by law, except:

(a) Non-lethal cable restraints are prohibited.

(b) The use of dogs for coyote hunting shall be prohibited from April 16 to July 7.

(c) Coyote trapping on public lands or commercial forest lands open to hunting by the general public is prohibited.

(4) A coyote taken during the management season shall be used or be disposed of by any of the following methods:

(a) Burying or composting pursuant to MCL 287.671.

(b) Wrapping and disposing of in a landfill in compliance with local ordinances.

(5) Coyotes shall not be taken in state park and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.

### **6.4 Hunting with dogs, unlawful acts.**

Sec. 6.4 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bear with dogs in zone 1 starting the Wednesday before the second Saturday in September through the Sunday following the second Saturday in September.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bear with dogs in zones 2 and 3 from the second Saturday in September through 1 day thereafter.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt coyote with the aid of dogs from April 16 through July 7 and November 15 through November 30.

(4) In zones 2 and 3 it shall be unlawful to take a bear without the aid of dogs starting the seventh day after the second Saturday in September through 3 days thereafter.

Issued on this 14th day of January, 2026.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. A. Humphries", written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Humphries, Chair  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Bowen", written in a cursive style.

M. Scott Bowen  
Director

*for*