

**December, 2011 NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION (NRC) MEETING**

**For legislative issues go to Lansing Watch  
on our web page.  
(saginawfieldandstream.com)**

**Deer license sales were down about 1%  
with the kill tags down about 1.5% which  
would indicate a reduction in harvest.  
However, based on deer check station data  
for the firearm season only as compared to  
the same data last year, the UP was up  
14.3%, the northern lower was up 18.4%  
and the southern lower was down 9.4%.  
The word on the street is far more varied  
than what I have heard in prior years. The  
main thrust is a lack of deer in general.**

**The youth mentor program is expected to  
be finalized in January. Briefly the mentor  
must be a licensed hunter, the youth must  
be within arms length with a gun or bow fit  
to their size and be licensed. The youth  
may take any two deer in any season --  
that will cause consternation in some  
areas. This effort has been criticized on a  
number of levels. Let there be no question  
as to the necessity of early exposure to  
hunting being the base for the future. It  
works elsewhere.**

**Conservation officers in the field number  
130. That's down from 190 in 1998. There  
is another 45 sergeants, lieutenants,  
detectives, specialists, etc supporting the  
field officers. Of all the DNR operations, I  
think this is most indicative of the need for  
a stable, inflation proof source of funding.  
The CO's cover the entire state and half of  
the adjoining Great Lakes. That leaves a  
lot of room for the violators.**

**If you site, shoot or run over wild hogs, the  
DNR needs to know. This is not a sport,  
they is vermin and we need to do all we  
can to eradicate them.**

**Jim De Clerck**