

## LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 26, 2012, at the Little Rock Office Complex, #2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. At that time, regulations and business pertaining to the operation of the Game and Fish Commission and other fiscal and administrative matters will be considered and acted upon, and all interested persons are invited to attend. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held throughout the day on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the same location, and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Items on the agenda for the April 26, 2012, 10:00 a.m. meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations previously considered at the March 29, 2012, Commission Meeting, plus various Hunting and Fishing Regulations, and regulations pertaining to the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including, but not limited to:

1. **2012-13 Statewide General Hunting Regulations and WMA Seasons** – Adopt general hunting regulations for 2012-13 including, but not limited to, game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas, weapon restrictions and other manner-of-taking-game requirements for deer, alligator, elk, turkey, bear, quail, squirrel, rabbit, and fur bearing animals. Changes to general hunting regulation include, but are not limited to:
  - Add antlerless-only hunt to Deer Zones 1, 1A, 2, 3, 6, and 8.
  - Eliminate doe days and allow harvest of one doe with firearms in Deer Zones 2, 3, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A and 10. Also, raise bag limit from three deer to four deer, including no more than two bucks or up to four does (only one doe with firearms).
  - Increase bag limit from three deer to four deer, including no more than two bucks or up to four does (up to two does with firearms) in Deer Zones 9, 16 and 16A.
  - Add Missouri to list of states for Carcass Importation Restriction.
  - Revise early modern gun doe-only hunt to become an antlerless hunt, allowing legal harvest of bucks with less than 2 inches of antler.
  - Clarify that archery hunters may harvest bucks during special modern gun antlerless season.
  - Allow harvest of does during Christmas modern gun hunt in Deer Zones 2, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A and 11.
  - Allow harvest of up to four does with firearms in Deer Zone 13.
  - Amend definition of a legal buck in Deer Zones 16, 16A and 17 to both antlers under two inches (button buck), or an inside spread at least 15 inches, or at least one main beam 18 inches or longer.
  - Move deer archery season opener to fourth Saturday in September 2013.
  - Move early deer antlerless season opener to second Saturday in October 2012.
  - Continue conservative turkey hunting season structure and provide later opening date for spring 2013 turkey season.

- Amend turkey firearms season on W.E. Brewer Scatter Creek WMA to have two 3-day permit hunts with 12 permits per hunt.
- Clarify existing code to clarify restrictions regarding private possession of alligators as pets and prohibit use of all electronic calls for alligator scouting and hunting.
- Remove two-day modern guns season of September 15-16 for Bear Zone 2.
- Provide two elk hunting seasons (Sept. 24-28 and Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 2012). The second season is tentative.
- Create Elk Management Assistance Program (EMAP).
- Require all public land elk applicants have a valid hunting license at time of the sign up, except youths and lifetime license holders.
- Provide three on-site draw elk permits at the Buffalo River Elk Festival in Jasper.
- Change penalty for taking or possessing elk from a Class 1 to a Class 2.
- Increase bag limit for squirrel from 8 to 12 and possession limit from 32 to 48.
- Eliminate Live Fox and Coyote Permit requirement in conjunction with requiring fox pens to obtain Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permits.
- Remove armadillo from list of nuisance game animals exempted from Depredation Permit requirements.
- Restore language to the definition of “endangered species” allowing for listing of notice species by the Commission as endangered, and add “harass” to list of activities that cannot be done to endangered species.
- Remove redundant language regarding weapons legal for taking of bobcat, fox, and coyote.
- Require non-native wildlife be kept in humane and healthy conditions.
- Add species listed as injurious wildlife by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list of species prohibited from import into Arkansas.
- Restore option for mountain lions to be kept under a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit.
- Require captive born wildlife pets be kept in cages as secure as those required for wild-caught pets, and prohibit future take of wild deer as personal pets, plus include language requiring humane care of wildlife pets.
- Increase maximum size of body-gripping traps in water sets from 10 to 11 inches, and specify how foot-hold trap size is measured in water sets.
- Restore trapping to list of methods specifically prohibited for taking hogs on WMAs.
- Change amount of experience needed to apply for a General Class Rehabilitation Permit from 250 hours to two years.
- Revise endangered species list by species group and remove references to “threatened” species. Also, remove gray wolf, Florida panther, and eskimo curlew and add whooping crane, piping plover, alligator, spectacled mussel, rabbitsfoot mussel, and Neosho mucket.
- Add definition of “harass”.

- Revise waterfowl hunting codes establishing access time restrictions on WMAs to clarify that morning-only access applies from first day of the first segment to the last day of the last segment of regular duck season.
- Revise language regarding the bays open for duck hunting on Craig D. Campbell Lake Conway Reservoir.
- Remove duck virus enteritis testing requirement for captive-reared mallard importation from captive wildlife/importation codes and clarify which permits are necessary for importing and holding captive mallards.
- Add AGFC land surrounding the Lake Frierson State Park in Greene County as a wildlife management area (WMA) to be known as Frierson WMA and provide season dates and bag limits for deer and turkey the same as surrounding Deer Zone 5 and Turkey Zone 5.
- Add into WMA system for 2012-2013 hunting seasons framework: (1) Buck Island in Mississippi River near Helena; (2) Longview Saline Natural Area (Ashley County); (3) Bearcat Hollow (Newton and Searcy Counties); (4) Lake Overcup (Conway County); and (5) Foushee Cave Natural Area (Independence County).
- Revise codes for Blue Mountain, Caney Creek and Muddy Creek WMAs to allow archery hunters to take a doe during muzzle-loader and modern gun deer hunts.
- Increase number of doe quota permits for Muddy Creek WMA for firearms seasons from 60 to 100 permits.
- Add mobility-impaired permit hunt for Nimrod Lloyd Millwood WMA (November 6-7, 2012).
- Revise bag limit to one doe (total) for muzzleloader and modern gun deer seasons on Cherokee, Jamestown Independence County, Jim Kress and Rainey WMAs.
- Increase deer bag limit on Greer's Ferry WMA to 3 deer (no more than 2 bucks) and increase the bag limits for both the Mobility Impaired Permit Hunt and the Muzzleloader Youth Permit Hunt to 3 deer (no more than two bucks).
- Remove permit requirement for the youth modern gun deer hunt on Galla Creek WMA.
- Revise code for Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA to change from current two 2-day gun hunts (one deer bag limit) to one 5-day gun hunt (two deer bag limit); re-implement the "earn- a-buck" regulation (i.e. must harvest a doe before harvesting a buck) for the permit hunt; and increase buck antler restrictions to 15 inch inside spread or 18 inch main beam length.
- Revise code for Harold E. Alexander Spring River WMA to reduce deer bag limit from three deer (no more than two bucks) to three deer (no more than one buck); reduce number of permits for both muzzleloader and modern gun permit hunts from 250 to 200 permits; change muzzleloader and modern gun permit hunt dates; and implement antler restrictions of 12 inch inside spread or 15 inch main beam length for bucks.
- Revise code for Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain WMA to increase deer bag limit from two deer (no more than one buck) to three deer (no more than one

buck); and increase bag limit for muzzleloader and modern gun permit hunts from one deer (buck or doe) to two deer (one buck and one doe).

- Revise codes for Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain WMA and Harold E. Alexander Spring River WMA to restrict quail hunting season to two hunts (December 15-17 and January 4-6) with a daily bag limit of four birds (all day hunting allowed).
- Revise code for Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA to remove restricting bobcat and coyote hunting when other seasons are open; and close WMA to trespassing (except in designated parking areas and boat launch ramps) from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. during duck season.
- Revise code for Camp Robinson WMA to allow firearms of any caliber to be used during entire coyote, fox and bobcat seasons.
- Revise code for Hope Upland and Grandview Prairie WMAs to allow bobcat and coyote hunting when other small game hunting is allowed.
- Revise code for Bayou Meto WMA, Trusten Holder WMA, and Cut-Off Creek WMA to change antler restriction for legal buck definition so that buck must have both antlers under two inches (button buck), or an inside spread at least 15 inches, or at least one main beam 18 inches or longer.
- Revise code for Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA to change antler restriction for legal buck definition so that buck must have both antlers under two inches (button buck), or an inside spread at least 12 inches, or at least one main beam 15 inches or longer.
- Revise code for Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA and U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA to change legal buck definition so that there is “no antler restrictions”.
- Revise code for Sheffield Nelson Dagmar, Henry Gray Hurricane Lake and St. Francis National Forest WMAs to change antler restriction for legal buck definition so that buck must have both antlers under two inches (button buck), or an inside spread at least 15 inches, or at least one main beam 18 inches or longer.
- Revise code for U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA to change bag limit during muzzleloader and modern gun permit hunts to include three deer (no more than one buck and two does).
- Revise code for DeGray Lake WMA to include exception for possession of loaded firearms during special deer and waterfowl hunts within boundaries of Lower DeGray Lake Waterfowl Rest Area; and remove current mobility impaired muzzleloader hunt and add a youth modern gun deer hunt to be conducted by USACE staff.
- Revise code for Little Bayou and Crossett Experiment Forest WMAs to remove fox, coyote and bobcat seasons.
- Revise code for Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain WMA to provide turkey archery season.
- Revise codes for Ozark National Forest, Piney Creek and White Rock WMAs to prohibit use of dogs to hunt squirrels during firearms deer seasons.
- Increase amount of all leased land hunting permits from \$20 to \$40.

- Revise codes for Shirey Bay Rainey Brake, Henry Gray Hurricane Lake, Trusten Holden, Moro Big Pine Natural Area, Rick Evans Grandview Prairie, McIlroy Madison County, Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain, Dave Donaldson Black river, Mike Freeze Wattensaw, Freddie Black Choctaw, Hope Upland, H.E. Alexander Spring River, Sheffield Nelson Dagmar, Bayou Meto, Dr. Lester Sitzes, III Bois'd Arc and Ed Gordon Point Remove WMAs (Sweet 16 WMAs) to require a free WMA permit.
  - Modify the opening/closing gauges for Flood Prone Zone F.
  - Amend various codes to make clarifications and correct minor errors that occurred when adoption of new AGFC Code Book and Addendum took place in August of 2011.
  - Add "portable hunting stand" to definition of terms.
  - Require persons to immediately report any hunting-related accident to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and add a definition of "Hunting Incident".
  - Adopt code to prohibit disposal of wildlife carcasses within 50 yards of any county or Forest Service road, state highway, cemetery, creek, stream, pond or lake.
  - Amend existing code requiring certain persons to possess a valid hunter education certificate to include an exception to allow hunters to carry any state-issued hunter education certification card.
  - Amend existing codes for Selling Wildlife Restrictions to allow certain exceptions for animal hides, mounts, bones, and antlers so long as a written bill of sale is maintained as proof of legal sale and acquisition.
2. **Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact** - Adopt new and amended regulations for Arkansas to join interstate compact with approximately 37 other states to enhance compliance with the hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife laws of member states by, among other things, requiring each member state to recognize certain convictions and license suspension actions occurring in the other member states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects must submit comments in writing to this office on or before April 19, 2012. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office or through a written request mailed to the address below.

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