

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 18, 2013, 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 17, 2013, 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 18, 2013, 10:00 a.m. meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations previously considered at the March 21, 2013, 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 Trout Fishing and Turtle Harvest Restrictions Regulations Clarifications** – Language to be adopted for trout permit requirements and turtle harvest restrictions.
 - During the code book revision “waters from the state” was inadvertently deleted from the trout permit requirements.
 - A clarification is needed for commercial aquatic turtle harvest restrictions, which includes adding portions of Randolph County.
2. **Arkansas Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan** - Proposal of plan describing how federal, state and private entities will work together to prevent and control the spread of aquatic nuisance species within the state.
3. **2013-14 Statewide General Hunting Regulations and Seasons** - Adopt general hunting regulations for 2013-14 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 all states and Canadian Provinces to the carcass importation restriction list in code 05.26, by adding this language addendum S1.01 can be deleted. The lands between the Mississippi River levees in neighboring states of Tennessee and Mississippi will be excluded.
 - Eliminate adult mentors from possessing firearms for their hunting purposes during the special youth modern gun deer hunts.
 - Add “Private Land” to the antlerless only modern gun deer hunt.
 - Modify boundaries of deer zones 11 and 13.
 - Modify harvest strategy for deer zone 11 to allow doe harvest the entire muzzleloader and modern gun seasons.

- Add deer zone 3 to the Private Lands Antlerless Only Modern Gun Deer Hunt.
- Remove the Wildlife Importation permit, VS-127 form, and trailer sealing requirement from the live cervid importation code.
- Change archery season opening date in bear zone 2 to October 1 instead of September 15 (including WMAs in zone 2), and re-instate the quota of 150 in bear zone 2.
- Require nonresident bear hunters to purchase a nonresident annual all game license to harvest a bear.
- Insert language in the requirements for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer, Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort, and Game Bird Shooting Resort permits.
- Remove exception 4 from code 05.
- Implement standards for caging of non-native wildlife, require that male and female non-native wildlife be separated so as to prevent breeding, and require specific documentation of ownership.
- Add an exception to allow private inholdings on a WMA to participate in the Elk Management Assistance Program.
- Remove 2 pm curfew for EMAP private land elk hunt. Allow antlerless hunters to hunt all day and call the wildlife hotline at 7 pm each evening to determine if the antlerless quota has been filled. Bull hunters must stop hunting between the hours of 12 pm-2 pm and must call the wildlife hotline at 2 pm to determine if the bull quota has been met.
- Add crossbow as a legal method for harvesting elk.
- Clarify and revise the public land elk zones by adding the descriptions in the code which were established prior to the 1998.
- Change the season dates from September to mid-October for elk zones 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Clarify code 03.03 so that it doesn't seem like a trapping license is needed to hunt furbearers.
- Restore a reference to code 17.01 which outlines legal trapping methods that can be used to take nuisance furbearers under exception 3 to code 05.10.
- Remove exception 3 from Code 17.07.
- Restore requirement for non-resident trappers to report on their harvest.
- Remove exception 3 from addendum A1.05 that reference nuisance coyote.
- Clarify that bobcat and coyote seasons are closed during turkey and squirrel seasons only on WMAs where turkey or squirrel season is closed.
- Modify antler restrictions on *Dave Donaldson Black River WMA* from the 3 point rule to 15-inch inside spread or 18-inch main beam.
- Modify antler restrictions on *Dr. Lester Sitzes III, Hope Upland, McIlroy Madison County, Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain and Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMAs* from the three point rule to 12-inch inside spread or 15-inch main beam.

- Exempt youth hunters from antler restrictions on *Freddie Black Choctaw Island Deer Research Area WMA East Unit*.
- Decrease the deer bag limit from four to three deer during the modern gun youth permit hunt on *Freddie Black Choctaw Island Deer Research Area WMA East Unit*.
- Allow the use of any caliber weapon to take bobcat, fox and coyote during the bobcat, fox and coyote season on *Dardanelle and Ozark Lake WMAs*.
- Implement firearms restriction to shotguns only (.410 and larger) with slugs (no buckshot allowed) or muzzleloading rifles shooting a single projectile on *Frierson and Holland Bottoms WMAs*.
- Removing the firearm restrictions and allowing all legal modern guns during the modern gun youth permit hunt on *Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA*.
- Allow other seasons to remain open during the permit hunts on *DeGray Lake WMA*.
- Extend quail dog training from April 1 to April 15 on *J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA*.
- Adjust WMA deer bag limits to match up with surrounding zone bag limits and to align WMAs into four tiers. This includes *Bayou Meto, Beaver Lake, Bell Slough, Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita, Big Lake, Big Timber, Camp Robins SUA, Camp Robinson WMA, Casey Jones, Cherokee, Cove Creek Natural Area, Crossett Experimental Forest, Dardanelle, Dave Donaldson Black River, DeGray Lake, Devils Knob, Ed Gordon Point Remove, Ft. Chaffee, Foushee Cave Natural Area, Frierson, Frog Bayou, Greers Ferry, Harold E. Alexander, Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area, Howard Hensley Searcy County, J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA, Jamestown Independence County, Jim Kress, Jones Point, Lake Overcup, Loafer's Glory, McIlroy Madison County, Mike Freeze Wattensaw, Mt. Magazine, Nimrod Lloyd Millwood, Norfork Lake, Ozark Lake, Ozark National Forest, Petit Jean River, Piney Creeks, Poison Springs, Prairie Bayou, Rainey, River Bend, St. Francis National Forest, St. Francis Sunken Lands, Seven Devils, Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms, Sweden Creek Natural Area, Sylamore, Terre Noire, Trusten Holder, U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station, W. E. Brewer Scatter Creek, Wedington, White Rock and Winona WMAs*.
- Add a third modern gun special youth hunt on *Bearcat Hollow WMA*.
- Add an archery deer season on the *Devil's Eyebrow Unit on Beaver Lake WMA*.
- Change the deer modern gun youth permit hunt from the first weekend of muzzleloader to the weekend before deer muzzleloader on *DeGray Lake WMA*.
- Add a modern gun permit hunt on *Galla Creek WMA*.
- Move the modern gun mobility impaired permit hunt and the modern gun permit hunt dates on *Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area* later in the season.

- Add two youth permit hunts to *Holland Bottoms WMA*.
- Remove the permit requirement to harvest a doe with a firearm during the entire muzzleloader season and Nov. 9-10 and Dec. 26-28 on *Blue Mountain WMA*.
- Add a modern gun youth permit (20 permits) hunt on *Little Bayou WMA*.
- Remove the permit requirement from the youth hunt and add the second statewide youth hunt date on *Prairie Bayou WMA*.
- Add a modern gun mobility impaired permit hunt (6 permits) on *Wedington and White Rock WMAs*.
- Open archery bear season on *Cedar Creek and Iron Mountain Natural Area WMAs*.
- Open modern gun bear season for two days for deer permit holders only on *Galla Creek WMA*.
- Increase the turkey bag limit from one to two on *Buck Island WMA*.
- Eliminate the Bird Dog Training/Quail Hunting Permit that is currently required to hunt on *Big Timber WMA Upland Demonstration Area*.
- Allow raccoon hunting on *J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain WMA*.
- Allow trapping of furbearers on *Camp Robinson WMA*.
- A change to allow archery hunting for deer, and squirrel hunting on *Harris Brake WMA* seven days a week while staying consistent with statewide season and WMA boating restrictions.
- The *Conway George Unit on Sheffield Nelson Dagmar WMA* is closed to all trespassing, except for waterfowl hunting permit from the last day of the modern gun permit hunt to the last day of waterfowl season (including the special youth waterfowl hunt). Anyone entering the Conway George Unit during waterfowl season must be in possession of a Sheffield Nelson Dagmar WMA Conway George Unit Waterfowl Hunting Daily Use Permit, or be accompanied (in immediate proximity) by a permit holder in accordance with permit requirements. Waterfowl hunting permits will be allocated through an online drawing. All permits must be completed and returned to the collection box at the end of the hunt.
- Added a muzzleloader and modern gun deer permit hunt (20 permits per hunt) on *Benson Creek Natural Area WMA*.
- Add the word possess to code 20.05 and also add an exception to exclude hunters traveling to inholding property on a WMA.
- Open elk season on *Bearcat Hollow WMA*.
- Open squirrel hunting with dogs after the first nine days of modern gun deer season on *Big Timber, Casey Jones, Ozark National Forest, Piney Creeks and White Rock WMAs*.
- Add an alligator hunt by permit only on *Sulphur River WMA*.
- Change the checking hours for bear, deer and turkey from 24 to 12 hours.
- Modify the legal archery tackle to exclude arrowheads containing firearm ammunition.

- Modify the minimum archery poundage from 40 to 35 pounds.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office on or before April 11, 2013. 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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