

LEGAL NOTICE

A public meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Friday, June 24, 2016, 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.

Items on the agenda for the June 24, 2016 meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations previously considered at the May 19, 2016 and/or June 16, 2016, Commission Meetings, 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:

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Regulations – Consider proposed regulations for management of Chronic Wasting Disease affecting white-tailed deer, elk, and other cervids. New regulations and changes to existing wildlife regulations include, but are not limited to:

- Amend existing regulation prohibiting the hunting of certain wildlife over bait to make it unlawful to place or deposit foodstuffs, scent lures, grains, minerals, pelletized feed, or other materials for the purpose of hunting, attracting, or enticing wildlife, with certain exceptions, including allowing restricted use of bait for: deer and elk hunting from October 1- December 31 annually, statewide; hunting bear, furbearers, and quail; fishing; and control of nuisance wildlife.
- Amend existing regulation for definition of terms to add definition for “Feeding Wildlife”.
- Amend existing regulation prohibiting the feeding of certain wildlife to make it unlawful to place or deposit foodstuffs, scent lures, grains, minerals, pelletized feed, or other materials for the purpose of baiting, feeding, hunting, attracting, or enticing wildlife, with certain exceptions, including allowing: incidental feeding within active livestock operations; bird feeding; limited feeding by hand; crops planted as food plots for wildlife; grain scattered or distributed as a result of normal agricultural, gardening, or soil stabilization practices; baiting for AGFC-approved management, research, or control of wildlife; and baiting for fishing.
- Adopt new regulation to prohibit possession or use of deer scents and lures that contain natural deer urine or other biofluids taken from deer after a certain date (proposed effective date: January 1, 2017).
- Amend existing regulation for Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit requirements to clarify that no permit can be issued for rehabilitation of cervid species (including white-tailed deer or elk) or black bears.
- Adopt new regulation to establish a CWD Management Zone consisting of all counties where CWD has been detected, plus any county in close proximity to a CWD-positive sample collection site. If any portion of a particular county is within the buffered area where a CWD-positive sample has been collected, the entire county will be subject to inclusion in the CWD Management Zone.
- Amend existing regulations to establish a Private Land CWD Management Program and allow private landowners to harvest deer additive to their respective zone deer bag limits.

(This will enable landowners to harvest additional deer from their property to reduce deer density and slow the spread of CWD).

- Amend existing regulation prohibiting importation of cervid carcasses, parts, and products to prohibit movement of certain portions of cervid carcasses located within the CWD Management Zone. (This will allow only deboned meat, cleaned skull plates, hides, teeth and taxidermy products to be transported out of the CWD Management Zone).
- Amend existing regulation for elk season and limits to establish a Core Elk Management Zone consisting of all lands in Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Searcy Counties, and establish a Statewide Elk Management Zone consisting of all private lands within the state, except excluding all lands in Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Searcy Counties. Also, increase the antlerless elk quota on private lands within the Core Elk Management Zone under the Elk Management Assistance Program.
- Amend existing regulation for big game checking requirements to require hunters to collect and submit samples taken from all harvested elk to AGFC for CWD testing.
- Amend existing regulations for legal buck deer requirements and buck deer restrictions on certain WMAs to allow harvested antlerless bucks to be checked as antlerless deer in zones with special CWD management regulations. (Harvest of these antlerless deer will not count towards a hunter's buck bag limit).
- Amend existing regulation for deer season and limits to increase bag limits for deer in Deer Zones 1 and 2.
- Amend existing regulation for deer season and limit restrictions on WMAs to extend deer seasons, remove antler restrictions, and/or increase bag limits on certain WMAs, including Bearcat Hollow, Buffalo National River, Gene Rush, Ozark National Forest, Piney Creeks, Sweden Creek Natural Area and White Rock WMAs.
- Adopt new regulation to establish definition for "Non-commercial White-tailed Deer Hunting Enclosure Permit" and prohibit hunting white-tailed deer held captive, enclosed or confined for non-commercial purposes without first obtaining such a permit (applicable to high-fenced facilities).

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the June 24, 2016, meeting (preferably by 4:30 p.m. on the day before). Any request to make an oral presentation at the meeting should be submitted in writing to this office on or before June 14, 2016. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office, at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

MIKE KNOEDL, DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205