



## F1.07 Falconry Permit Requirements

- A. Permits or legible copies of them must be in a falconer's immediate possession when trapping, transporting, working with or flying falconry raptors, both in and outside of Arkansas, except when the falconer is at the location of his/her falconry facilities.
- B. Permits issued by the Commission will be at a level commensurate with the falconer's ability and experience as follows:
  - 1. Apprentice Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements:
    - i. An Apprentice falconer applicant must be at least 14 years of age. If the apprentice is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must sign his/her application and be legally responsible for his/her activities.
    - ii. An Apprentice Class falconer applicant must have a letter from a Master or General Falconer who is at least 18 years old and has at least two years' experience at the General Falconer level and a state falconry permit stating that he or she will sponsor the applicant and serve as his/her mentor.
    - iii. An Apprentice applicant will not be issued a permit until the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the following requirements:
      - a. Must pass a written falconry examination administered by the Commission with a score of at least 80 percent.
      - b. Must possess an Arkansas hunting license.
      - c. Must have their falconry facilities and equipment pass inspection by an employee of AGFC.
    - iv. Apprentice falconers may possess no more than 1 raptor for use in falconry.
    - v. Apprentice falconers may possess a wild-caught raptor of the following species: Red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, Red-shouldered hawk, Great horned owl, or Harris's hawk.
    - vi. Apprentice falconers are required to capture the hawk themselves; the raptor may not be transferred to them by another falconer.
    - vii. Apprentice falconers may not possess a raptor taken from the wild as a nestling and may not possess a bird that is imprinted on humans.
  - 2. General Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements:
    - i. General Class falconers must be at least 16 years of age. General Class falconers that are 16 or 17 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign their falconry application and be legally responsible for their activities.
    - ii. Apprentice Class falconers can move to General Class by submitting a document from a General Falconer or Master Falconer (preferably his/her sponsor) to the AGFC Falconry Program Coordinator stating that the apprentice has practiced falconry with wild raptor(s) at the Apprentice Falconry level or equivalent for at least two years, including maintaining, training capture, release and flying and hunting the raptor(s) for at least four months each year. The letter must state the number of months and days that the Apprentice falconers possessed a falconry raptor.
    - iii. Apprentice class falconers may not substitute any falconry school program or education to shorten the period of two years at the Apprentice Level.
    - iv. General Class falconers may take and possess any species of Falconiform or Strigiform except a golden eagle, a bald eagle a white-tailed eagle or a Steller's sea eagle. General falconers may possess

- captive bred individuals and hybrids of the species that General Class falconers are allowed to possess.
- v. General Class falconers may possess no more than 3 raptors.
3. Master Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements: Master Class falconers must have practiced falconry with their own raptors(s) at the General Falconer level for at least 5 years.
- i. General Class falconers can move to Master Class by submitting a document in writing to AGFC's Falconry Coordinator requesting to be moved to Master Class status. The request must include the species and number of months and years that the General Class falconer possessed each raptor during his/her General Class period.
  - ii. Master Class Falconers may take and possess any species of Falconiform or Strigiform except a bald eagle. Master Class falconers may take and possess a golden, eagle, a white-tailed eagle or a Steller's sea eagle only if he/she possesses a Falconry Eagle Permit. Master Class falconers may use captive bred individuals and hybrids of the species Master falconers are allowed to possess.
  - iii. Master Class falconers may possess no more than five wild raptors (including golden eagles if the Master Class falconer has a Falconry Eagle Permit).
  - iv. Master Class falconers may possess any number of captive bred raptors, however, the falconer must train them in the pursuit of wild game and use them in hunting.
4. Falconry Eagle Permit Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements.
- i. Master Class falconers may take and possess golden, eagles, white-tailed eagles or a Steller's sea eagles when issued an Arkansas Falconry Eagle Permit. Master Class falconers will be issued an Arkansas Eagle Falconry Permit when the Master Class falconer has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the following requirements.
    - a. A list of qualifications and experience in handling large raptors, including information about the species the applicant has handled and the type and duration of the activity in which the applicant gained the experience submitted in writing to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
    - b. At least two letters of reference from people with experience handling and/or flying large raptors such as eagles, ferruginous hawks, goshawks, or great horned owls. Each must contain a concise history of the author's experience with large raptors, which can include but is not limited to the handling of raptors held by zoos, rehabilitating large raptors, or scientific studies of involving large raptors. Each letter must also assess the applicant's ability to care for eagles and fly them in falconry and must be submitted to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
  - ii. A golden eagle, white-tailed sea eagle, or Steller's sea eagle possessed by a Master falconer with a Falconry Eagle permit will count as one of the raptors in that falconer's total wild bird possession limit as a master falconer.
  - iii. Master Class falconers with a Falconry Eagle Permit may take one or two golden eagles from the wild according to both federal regulations and the regulations of the state in which the eagle is taken.
  - iv. Master Class falconers with an Eagle Permit may take, transport or possess up to three eagles including golden eagles, white-tailed eagles and/or Steller's sea eagles. Each eagle a Master falconer possesses

- counts as a bird included under the Master falconer's wild bird possession limit. Master falconers in possession of eagle(s) must follow all federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to eagles.
5. Eligibility Requirements to obtain falconry permit for individuals with falconry experience who are new residents in the United States.
    - i. Applicant must pass a written falconry examination administered by the Commission with a score of at least 80 percent and must provide written documentation of falconry experience including species of raptors flown and game taken and must have their falconry facilities and equipment pass inspection by an employee of AGFC.
    - ii. The Arkansas Falconry Coordinator will assign a falconry Class level commensurate with the new resident falconer's experience.
  6. Eligibility requirements to obtain falconry permit for individuals with falconry experience who are not U.S. Residents.
    - i. A visitor to Arkansas from outside of the United States may qualify for a one year renewable Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit at the level appropriate for his/her experience according to the following requirements:
      - a. The visitor must take the written test, Arkansas Falconry Examination, and pass with a score of 80 or higher; the visitor must provide a written letter detailing the visitor's falconry experience which the Commission's Falconry Coordinator will use to assign the level of Apprentice, General or Master falconer to the temporary falconry permit; and the visitor must have his facilities pass inspection in order to possess birds for falconry.
      - ii. Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Temporary Falconry Permit may not take a bird from the wild for use in falconry.
      - iii. Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit may fly raptors held for falconry by a permitted Arkansas falconer.
      - iv. Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit may use any bird for falconry that he/she possesses legally in their country of origin for that purpose, provided that import of that species in the U.S. is not prohibited and provided that he/she has met all permitting requirements in their country of residence.
      - v. Holders of a temporary falconry permit must also have a current Arkansas Non-Resident Annual Small Game Hunting License.
      - vi. A holder of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Temporary Falconry Permit may transport registered raptors and must follow federal regulations and possess the necessary federal permits to import or export raptors to and from the United States. Unless the permit holder has the necessary federal permits to bring a raptor into the United States and leave it in the U.S., he/she must take raptors brought into the country for falconry out of the country when he/she leaves.
      - vii. If a raptor brought into the United States and Arkansas dies or is lost in the state, the visitor must report the loss to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator before leaving the state or country.
      - viii. When flown free, any bird brought to this country temporarily must have two functioning radio transmitters attached to the bird which will enable the falconer to locate it.
      - ix. A holder of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Falconry Permit must comply with all Commission regulations and the falconry regulation in the states where he/she wishes to conduct falconry or through which he/she will travel with the falconry bird.

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Additional Requirements regarding falconry permits including Reinstatement of lapsed falconry permit and residency requirements.

- i. If a previously licensed falconer's permit has lapsed for fewer than five years, his/her permit may be reinstated at the level they held previously if they provide the Commission's falconry Coordinator with proof of their certification at that level and their facilities must pass inspection by an AGFC employee.
  - ii. If a previously licensed falconer's permit has lapsed for more than five years, they must pass the Arkansas Falconry written exam by correctly answering 80 percent of the questions and their facilities must pass inspection by an AGFC employee and they must provide written documentation of the class (Apprentice, General, Master) at which they were last permitted or licensed and for which they want their permit issued.
  - iii. If a permitted falconer resides for part of a year in another state, the falconer must contact that state to determine if they need to obtain a falconry permit from that state.
  - iv. If a falconer lives for more than 120 consecutive days in a state, territory of tribal land other than their Arkansas residence, their falconry facilities in that second state must meet Arkansas standards.
8. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding facilities and care.
- i. Falconry Facility Requirements: Conditions for Facilities maintained on property owned or controlled by the falconer.
    - a. The Commission must be notified in five days of a change of location of a permittee's falconry facilities and a falconer must have new facilities inspected in 30 days of a change of location.
    - b. Birds must be kept in humane and healthful conditions, protected from the environment, predators and domestic animals.
    - c. An indoor facility must have a suitable perch for each raptor, at least one opening for sunlight and must provide a healthy environment.
    - d. Untethered raptors may be housed together if they are compatible with each other.
    - e. Each raptor must have an area large enough to allow it to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings or bate (attempt to fly when tethered) without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors. It must be large enough to insure that tethered birds cannot strike the enclosure when flying from the perch.
    - f. Each raptor must have a pan of clean water available at all times.
    - g. An indoor facility must be large enough to allow easy access for the care and feeding of raptors kept there and must have flooring that allows drainage, does not retain moisture and allows for sanitary maintenance activities.
    - h. If raptors housed in an indoor facility are not tethered, all walls that are not solid must be protected on the inside. Suitable materials may include vertical bars spaced narrower than the width of the smallest raptor housed in the enclosure or heavy duty netting.
    - i. Acceptable indoor facilities include shelf perch enclosures where raptors are tethered side by side. Other innovative

housing systems are acceptable if they provide the enclosed raptors with protection and provide healthy feathers and fresh air.

- j. Falconry raptors may be kept inside the falconer's place of residence if a suitable perch or perches are provided. The residence's windows or other openings do not need to be modified. Raptors kept in a residence must be tethered when they are not being moved into or out of the location in which they are being kept.
  - k. All falconers in possession of falconry raptors must have and maintain jesses or the materials and equipment to make jesses appropriate for the size raptor in their possession, leash and swivel, bath container, and scales or balances appropriate for weighing raptors in the falconers' possession (scales for kestrels must weigh in increments of one grams or less).
  - l. Falconry raptors may be kept outside in the open if they are under watch, such as by the falconer or a family member at any location or, for example by a designated individual in a weathering yard at falconry meet.
  - m. Permittees must keep all facilities and equipment at or above these standards at all times.
- ii. Falconry Facility Requirements: Conditions for facilities maintained on property not owned or controlled by the falconer.
    - a. Regardless of location, a falconer's facilities must meet all the requirements listed for facilities on property owned or controlled by the falconer.
    - b. Falconer must submit a dated statement to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator showing that the falconer or the property owners (if the falconer's facilities are on property not owned or leased by the falconer) agrees that the falconry facilities, equipment, and raptors may be inspected without advance notice by Commission personnel at any reasonable time of day.
  - iii. Transportation Facilities: Conditions for care and facilities for transporting raptors.
    - a. When transporting a raptor, using a raptor for hunting or for temporary housing when away from home a falconer is required to have a suitable perch and protect the raptor from extreme temperatures, wind, and excessive disturbance.
    - b. A "giant hood" or similar container is acceptable for transporting or housing a raptor when away from home.
  - iv. Temporary Facilities: Conditions for temporary care and facilities for raptors.
    - a. A falconer may house a raptor in temporary facilities for no more than 120 consecutive calendar days if the bird has a suitable perch and is protected from predators, domestic animals, extreme temperatures, wind, and excessive disturbance.
  - v. Conditions for Care of Falconry Raptors by Another Falconry Permittee: Another falconry permittee may care for a falconer's raptor or raptors at the falconer's facilities or at the other permittee's facilities for up to 120 consecutive calendar days provided the following conditions are met:
    - a. The other permittee must have a signed and dated statement from the falconer authorizing the other falconry permittee the

- temporary possession of the falconry raptor(s). This written statement must include information about the time period for which the other falconry permittee will keep the raptor(s) and state what he or she is allowed to do with the raptor(s). If the other falconry permittee caring for the raptor(s) holds the appropriate level falconry permit, he/she may fly the falconer's raptors in whatever way the falconer authorizes, including hunting.
- b. The written authorization to the other falconry permittee from the falconer must be accompanied by a copy of FWS form 3-186A that shows the falconer as the authorized possessor of each of the falconry raptor(s).
  - c. The raptor(s) must remain on the falconer's permit and will not count against the possession limit of the other falconry permittee caring for the raptors.
- vi. Conditions for Care of Falconry Raptors by a Person who does not have a falconry permit: A person who does not have a falconry permit may care for a falconer's raptor(s) at the falconer's facilities for up to 45 consecutive calendar days provided the following conditions are met:
- a. The person(s) caring for the raptors may not fly them for any reason.
  - b. The raptors must remain in the falconer's approved facilities.
  - c. The raptors must remain on the falconer's permit.
- vii. Permit Requirements: It shall be unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding taking and possession of raptors from the wild:
- a. Falconers may take no more than 2 raptors from the wild each 365 consecutive day period beginning on the date the falconer took the first bird to use in falconry.
  - b. If a falconer transfers a bird that he/she took from the wild to another falconer in the same year in which it was captured, the bird will count as one of the raptors the falconer is allowed to take from the wild that year; it will not count as a capture by the recipient, although it will always be considered a wild bird.
  - c. Falconers may not intentionally capture a raptor species that their classification as a falconer does not allow them to possess for falconry. Raptors captured by falconers who are not allowed to possess that species or age group must be immediately released.
  - d. Raptors must be taken only in a humane manner. Any device used to take birds of prey shall be labeled with the name, address and phone number of the falconer, and must be attended to continually by the falconer. No eggs may be taken from raptor nests.
  - e. Falconers must immediately release any bird captured unintentionally.
  - f. Falconers may recapture a lost falconry bird for which he/she has submitted a Form 3-186A at any time the recapture will not count as taking a bird from the wild.
  - g. Falconers may recapture a raptor wearing falconry equipment or a captive-bred raptor at any time--even if that falconer is not allowed to possess that species of raptor. The bird will not count against the falconer's possession limit nor their capture from the wild limit. The falconer must report the recapture of the bird to

the Commission's Falconry Coordinator no more than five working days after the recapture and return the recaptured falconry bird to the person who lost it if that person legally possessed it. Disposition of a bird whose legal possession cannot be determined will be at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.

- h. Peregrine falcons banded with a Federal Bird Banding laboratory band may not be taken from the wild, however other raptors banded with a federal bird banding lab may be taken if the falconer is authorized to take that species.
- i. If a falconer captures a peregrine falcon that has a colored alphanumeric research band on it or a research marking attached to it, it must be immediately released.
- j. Passage peregrine falcons may be taken from September 20 through October 20 by an Arkansas resident falconer or non-resident falconer with a non-resident hunting license who has been issued an Arkansas Passage Peregrine Falcon Permit by the Commission in accordance with requirements stated on that permit.
- k. If a falconer captures a raptor that has a transmitter attached to it, the falconer has up to 30 days to contact the researcher to determine if he/she wishes to replace the transmitter or its batteries. If the researcher wishes to do so or to have the transmitter removed, the researcher or his/her designee can make the change or allow the falconer to do so before the falconer releases the falcon.
- l. If a falconer captures a raptor wearing a seamless metal band, a transmitter, or any other item identifying it as a falconry bird, the falconer must report the capture of the bird to the Commission's falconry Coordinator no more than five working days after the capture. The falconer must return the bird to the person who lost it, however, if that person cannot possess the bird or does not want to possess it, the falconer may keep it. Disposition of a bird whose legal possession cannot be determined will be at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator. During the time period when a falconer keeps a bird for return to the person who lost it, the bird will not count toward the falconer's possession limit or his/her limit on take of birds from the wild, as long as the falconer reports the bird to the Commission in 5 working days of capture.
- m. If a falconer captures a raptor with a band other than the Federal Bird Banding Lab aluminum band, research marking or transmitter attached to it, the falconer must report the band numbers and all other relevant information to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory in five working days. If the bird is wearing a transmitter, the falconer may contact the researcher to determine if he/she wishes to replace it. The falconer is authorized to possess the bird for up to 30 days until the researcher or his/her designee does so, or until the falconer replaces it himself. Disposition of the bird will be at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator. Temporary possession will not count against the falconer's possession limit.
- n.



General and/or Master Class falconers may remove nestlings from a nest or aerie in accordance with the following:

1. Take of a raptor from the wild must be reported in five days from the date at which take occurred by entering the required information in the electronic database at <https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/> or by submitting a paper Form 3-186A to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
  2. A falconer present at the capture site, even if another person captures the bird for him/her, is considered the person who removes the bird from the wild and is responsible for filing a Form 3-186A.
  3. If the falconer is not at the immediate location where the bird is taken from the wild, the person who removes the bird from the wild must be a General or Master falconer and must report taking of the bird. If that person then transfers the bird to the falconer, both must file a Form 3-186A reporting the transaction no later than five days after the transfer. The bird will count as one of the two raptors the person who took it from the wild is allowed to capture in any year. The bird will not count as a bird the falconer took from the wild. The person who takes the bird from the wild must report the take even if he or she promptly transfer the bird to another falconer.
  4. If a falconer has a long-term or permanent physical impairment that prevents him/her from attending the capture of a species for falconry, a general or Master Falconer may capture the bird for the impaired falconer. The impaired falconer must file a Form 3-186A reporting take of a wild bird and the bird counts against the impaired falconer's total take of wild raptors for the year.
- o. Goshawks, Harris hawks, peregrine falcons, and gyrfalcons captured from the wild or acquired from a rehabilitator must be banded with a permanent non-reusable numbered U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band provided to AGFC by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife; or implanted with an ISO-compliant microchip. Band numbers and or microchip information must be reported to both AGFC's Falconry Coordinator and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when the acquisition of the bird is reported by the falconer no later than 10 days after acquisition.
1. **EXCEPTION:** If a falconer documents that a raptor's health or injury problems are caused by the band, that documentation must be submitted to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator who will issue an exemption to the requirements for that raptor. The falconer must keep a copy of the exemption paperwork on his person when transporting or flying that raptor. If that bird is wild caught goshawk, Harris's hawk, peregrine falcon, or gyrfalcon, the band must be replaced with an ISO-compliant microchip provided to the falconer through the Commission by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- p. A raptor captured from the wild may not be banded with a seamless numbered band.
- q.

- Falconry bands may not be altered, defaced or counterfeited; however removal of the rear tab on a band on a raptor taken from the wild, and smoothing the surface without affecting the integrity of the band or the numbering on it is permissible.
- r. Take of eyas (nestling raptors incapable of flight) birds is allowed between January 1 and August 1 of each year.
  - s. Take of passage (raptors fledged from the nest but less than 1 year of age) is allowed from June 15 through March 1.
  - t. Take of raptors from the wild must be reported in 5 days from the date at which take occurred by entering the required information in the electronic database at <https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/> or by submitting a paper Form 3-186A to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
- viii. Permit Requirements: It shall be unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding possession of raptors bred in captivity:
- a. Falconry raptors bred in captivity must be banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seamless band or be micro-chipped.
  - b. If the seamless band is removed or lost, the falconer must report it and request a replacement band from AGFC no less than 10 days after the band is removed or lost.
  - c. The required information must be reported electronically (<http://permits.fws.gov/186A>) immediately upon rebanding or microchipping or by submitted federal Form 3-186-A to the AGFC Falconry Coordinator.
- ix. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding possession of raptors transferred from migratory bird rehabilitators.
- a. Falconers may acquire a bird for falconry from a federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator if the falconer is permitted to possess that species of bird for falconry. Acquisition of a bird from a rehabilitator will count as one of the raptors the falconer is permitted to take from the wild. Transfer to the falconer is at the discretion of the permitted rehabilitator. Falconer must report acquisition of the bird using the required reporting procedures.
- x. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding record keeping:
- a. Falconers must keep copies of all database submissions, including electronic and paper submissions, documenting take, transfer, loss, release, rebanding and/or microchipping of each falconry raptor until five years after the falconer has transferred or lost the bird, or the bird dies.
  - b. All raptors acquired and disposed of must be reported in 5 days of the date when transaction or transition occurred by entering the required information in the electronic database at <http://permits.fws.gov/186A> or by submitting a paper Form 3-186A to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
- xi. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding the theft of a falconry bird:
- a. If a raptor possessed under a falconry permit is stolen, the falconer must report the theft to the Commission's Falconry

Coordinator and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Law Enforcement office in 5 working days of the theft of the bird.

- xii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Selling or Trading Raptors held under a Falconry Permit:
- a. Falconers may sell, purchase, barter, trade, and/or offer for sale, or purchase captive-bred raptors marked with seamless metal bands to other falconry permittees who are authorized to possess them.
  - b. Falconers may not purchase, sell, trade or barter wild raptors; they can only transfer them to another falconer or to a recipient who possesses the necessary federal and state permits for that activity.
  - c. Wild-caught falconry raptors may be transferred to a raptor propagation permit only after the bird has been used in falconry for at least two years or for one year for sharp-shinned hawks, Cooper's hawks, merlins, and American kestrels.
  - d. Wild caught raptors that are less than two years of age or for one year for sharp-shinned hawks, Cooper's hawks, merlins, and American kestrels, may be transferred to another permit type if the bird has been injured and a veterinarian or permitted migratory bird rehabilitator has determined that the raptor can no longer be flown for falconry. Falconer must provide a copy of the Form 3-186A documenting the acquisition of the bird by the propagators to the Federal Migratory Bird Permit office that administers the other permit type.
  - e. Falconers may transfer captive-bred falconry raptors to another type of permit if the holder of the other permit type is authorized to possess the bird. Falconers must report the transfer on a Form 3-186A within 5 days of the transfer.
  - f. A surviving spouse, executor, administrator or other legal representatives of a deceased falconry permittee may transfer any bird held by the permittee to another authorized permittee in 90 days of the falconer's death. After 90 days, the disposition of a bird held under the permit is at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
  - g. Falconers may use raptors held under a falconry permit in raptor propagation if the falconer or the person overseeing the propagation has the necessary permits if the following requirements are met:
    1. If the bird will be used for propagation for fewer than 8 months a year, the falconer does not need to transfer the raptor from his permit.
    2. If the raptor is used for propagation for more than 8 months per year, the bird must be transferred to a federal propagation permit and banded as required by federal raptor propagation regulations.
- xiii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Taking of Prey by Falconry Raptors:
- a. Falconers may take wildlife only within the specific seasons and bag limits, except that squirrels and rabbits may be taken

- outside of the specified hunting season by falconry birds with a daily limit of 1 game mammal per raptor per day.
- b. If a falconry bird kills a prey animal that was not the falconer's intended prey, and if that kill was outside of the animal's legal open hunting season, the falconers may allow their falconry raptor to feed on the incidental kill but the falconer may not take the animal into possession.
  - c. Falconers must ensure that their activities do not cause the take of a federal listed threatened or endangered species. "Take" under the federal Endangered Species Act means "to harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct. "Harass" in this Act means any act that may injure wildlife by disrupting normal behavior including breeding, feeding or sheltering. "Harm" in this Act means an act that actually kills or injure wildlife. Falconers must report the location of the take of any federally listed threatened or endangered species to the state's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services field office.
  - d. Falconry take of bird species for which a federal depredation order is in place is permitted. Falconers may use their falconry raptors to take any species listed in 50 CFR 21, 50 CFR 23, 50 CFR 44, or 50 CFR 45 at any time in accordance with the conditions of the depredation order, however, the falconer may not be paid for doing so.
- xiv. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Release of Falconry Birds into the Wild and Falconry Training Techniques:
- a. The use of acceptable falconry training or conditioning practices includes but is not limited to, tame-hacking, the use of creance flying, lures, balloons or kites, flying falconry birds at pen-raised birds or birds not covered by the Migratory Treaty Act.
  - b. Hacking of Falconry Raptors: General and Master Class falconers may condition raptors for falconry with the following requirements:
    - 1. The raptor the falconer hacks must be a species the falconer is allowed to possess and counts against the falconer's possession limit.
    - 2. A hybrid raptor may be hacked if the raptor wearing two functioning radio transmitters.
    - 3. Hacking a raptor may not occur near a nesting area of a federally threatened or endangered bird species or in any location where the raptor is likely to harm a federally listed threatened or endangered species that might be disturbed or taken by the hacked falconry bird.
  - c. Falconers may only release back to the wild in Arkansas, wild caught raptors native to the state. Non-native raptor species, hybrid raptor species, and raptors bred in captivity may not be released back to the wild in Arkansas. Wild-caught raptors must be released at an appropriate time of year and an appropriate location and any and all bands and falconry equipment must be removed from the raptor prior to its release.
  - d.

When flown free, hybrid falcons must have at least two functioning radio transmitters attached to it to assist the falconer in locating the bird.

- xv. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding migratory bird feather and carcass possession:
- a. A falconer may possess flight feathers for each species of raptor he/she currently and previously held on his/her permit for imping purposes.
  - b. Falconers may give and/or receive feathers for imping from other permitted falconers, federally permitted wildlife rehabilitators, or federally permitted raptor propagators in the United States.
  - c. Flight feathers for imping may not be purchased, sold, or bartered.
  - d. Falconers may donate feathers, except golden eagle feathers, to any person or institution with a permit to possess them or to anyone exempt from permit requirements under [50 CFR 21.12](#).
  - e. If a falconer's permit expires or is revoked, the falconer must burn, bury or otherwise destroy imping feathers in their possession or donate the feathers to any person or institution with a permit to possess them or to anyone exempt from permit requirements under [50 CFR 21.12](#).
  - f. Master Falconers in possession of a golden eagle must gather primary and secondary flight feathers and retrices from molted by their golden eagle(s) and store them for imping or send them to the National Eagle Repository.
  - g. Carcasses of falconry birds that die while in the falconer's possession may be burned, buried or otherwise destroyed and disposed of in 10 days of death or 10 days of necropsy by a veterinarian, or donated to any person or institution with a permit to possess them or donated to anyone exempt from permit requirements under [50 CFR 21.12](#)
  - h. Carcasses of euthanized raptors must be disposed of in a manner that will prevent scavenger from feeding on them. Flight feathers may be retained for imping purposes.
  - i. **EXCEPTIONS:**
    - a. Carcasses of golden eagles must be sent to the National Eagle Repository.
    - b. Banded or microchipped falconry birds that die while in the falconer's possession maybe kept by the falconer so that the feathers are available for imping or the falconer may have the body mounted by a taxidermist and the mount used in educational programs. Bands must remain on the body and microchips must be left in place.
- xvi. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Raptors Injured Due to a Falconer's Trapping Efforts:
- a. If a raptor is injured during trapping, a falconer must either:
    1. Put the injured bird on his/her falconry permit and follow procedures outlined for reporting take of a bird from the wild falconry. The bird will count towards the falconer's possession limit. The falconer must have the

- injured bird treated by a veterinarian or a permitted migratory bird rehabilitator, and the falconer is responsible for the costs of care and rehabilitation of the bird; OR
2. Give the bird directly (within 24 hours) to a veterinarian or permitted migratory bird rehabilitator. The bird will not count against the falconer's take or possession limits; however, the falconer is responsible for the costs of care and rehabilitation of the bird.
- xvii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding assistance in the rehabilitation of raptors to prepare them for release according to the following requirements:
- a. A General or Master Class falconer may assist a federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator to condition a raptor in preparation for its release to the wild only if the falconer has a letter or form from the rehabilitator identifying the bird and explaining that the falconer is assisting in its rehabilitation.
  - b. The falconer does not have to meet the rehabilitator facility guidelines and may keep the rehabilitating raptor in his/her approved falconry facilities.
  - c. The rehabilitating raptor will remain on the rehabilitator's permit and will not be added to the falconer's permit.
  - d. The falconer must return any such bird that cannot be permanently released to the rehabilitator for placement in the 180-day timeframe in which the rehabilitator is federally authorized to possess this bird unless the issuing office authorized the rehabilitator to retain the bird longer than 180 days.
  - e. The falconer must coordinate with the rehabilitator and release all releasable raptors to the wild or return them to the rehabilitator for release in the 180 day timeframe in which the rehabilitator is federally authorized to possess this bird, unless the issuing office authorized the rehabilitator to retain the bird longer than 180 days, or unless the rehabilitator transfer the bird to the falconer you to hold under his/her falconry permit.
- xviii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Use of Falconry Raptors in Abatement and Education Activities:
- a. Falconers may use raptors possessed on their falconry permits in conservation education program presented in public venues follow without first obtaining a federal Education Permit if they abide by the following requirements:
    1. Raptors used in the program must be on their falconry permit and used primarily for falconry.
    2. Apprentice falconers presenting educational programs must be under direct supervision of a General or Master Class falconer.
    3. If a fee is charged for presentation of a conservation education program, the fee may not exceed the amount required to recoup the falconer's cost of presenting the program.
    4. The presentation is required to address falconry and conservation education and may also include

- information about the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds.
5. The falconer is responsible for all liability associated with his/her conservation education activities.
  6. Falconers may allow photography, filming or other such uses of his/her falconry raptors to make movies or other sources of information on the practice of falconry or on the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and/or migratory birds however the falconer may not be paid for doing so.
  7. Falconers may not use their falconry raptors in movies, commercials or other commercial ventures that are not related to falconry.
- b. A Master Class falconer may conduct abatement activities with his/her falconry birds if the falconer has first obtained a federal Special Purpose Abatement permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  - c. A General Class falconer may conduct abatement activities only as a sub permittees of the holder of the federal Abatement permit and both Master and General Class falconers must follow the conditions of the said permit.
- xix. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for falconers holding a permit issued by another state to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Non-resident falconers hunting and taking raptors in Arkansas:
- a. Non-resident falconers with a Non-Resident Small Game Hunting License may take game in Arkansas according to state and federal regulations.
  - b. Non-resident falconers with a non-resident Arkansas Small Game Hunting License may take 1 legal raptor per year in Arkansas provided the state of their residence reciprocates such approval for Arkansas falconers and the taking of a legal raptor by a non-resident must comply with Arkansas regulations.
- xx. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding taking falconry raptors to another country for use in falconry activities:
- a. An Arkansas falconry permit authorized the falconer to export and import to another country, without additional migratory bird import/export permits, the raptors the falconer legally possesses for falconry. The falconer must meet any federal requirements in 50 CFR 14 Part B and may need additional permits listed in 50 CFR 15, 50 CFR 17, and [50 CFR 23.](#)
  - b. Unless the falconer has the necessary permits to export raptors from the U.S. the falconer must bring any raptor taken out of the country for falconry back to the U.S. upon his/her return. Each raptor must be covered by a CITES certificate of ownership and the falconer must have full documentation of the lawful origin of each raptor and each raptor must be identifiable with a permanent non-reusable U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band, seamless leg band or implanted microchip for identification.
  - c. If the raptor dies or is lost, the falconer is not required to bring it back but it must be reported immediately upon the falconers

return to the U.S. according to state and federal CITES regulations.

xxi. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding facility inspection and permit revocation.

- a. Any person issued a Falconry Permit under this Code chapter shall allow entry, at any reasonable hour, to employees or agents of the Commission upon the premises where the permitted activity is conducted. Commission employees or agents may enter such premises to inspect the facility, any and all records associated with the activities relating to the permit, and any birds kept under the authority of the permit.
- b. Permits may be revoked by this Agency for failure to comply with the terms of the permit or with the terms of this Commission Code Section.
- c. Persons in violation of the terms of this permit, violation of the Commission Code, or upon conviction of associated regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shall be notified in writing of such violations and shall have 20 days to respond with just cause as to why their permit should not be suspended or revoked.
- d. If, at the end of the 20-day period, just cause has not been given, this Agency may suspend or revoke any existing permit held by the violator and may refuse to issue any future permit. Such suspension, revocation or refusal to issue a future permit shall be in addition to any criminal charges that may be filed.
- e. Upon revocation, the permit holder must legally transfer or release all falconry raptors in the time designated in the revocation, not to exceed 60 days, and failure to do so shall result in the Commission taking action, per Commission policy, at the permit holder's expense



**Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO:	20-021	SUBJECT:	2020-2021 General Hunting
DATE PASSED:	May 21, 2020		Regulations Approval
PAGE <u>1</u> of <u>1</u> PAGES		LOCATION:	Statewide

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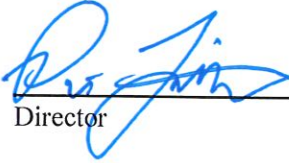
**WHEREAS,** the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff have proposed the attached regulations for 2020-2021 Hunting Seasons, including game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas, boating access, weapon restrictions, captive wildlife, and manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species; **and**

**WHEREAS,** the attached regulations have been communicated through a variety of media avenues to sportsmen and the general public throughout the state for review and comment for at least the past 30 days; **and**

**WHEREAS,** after carefully considering the recommendations of the Director and Commission staff, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that the attached regulations promote sound wildlife conservation and management and are consistent with Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution and that these regulations should now be approved for application statewide.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** this 21st day of May 2020, that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby approves and adopts the attached regulations, which shall become effective immediately upon public filing or as soon thereafter as possible.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Commission staff is authorized to proceed with legally certifying and filing the attached regulations with the Secretary of State, State Library, and Bureau of Legislative Research, and incorporating them into the Commission Code Book and Addendum.

	<u>STAFF APPROVAL</u>	<u>COMMISSION APPROVAL</u>
Submitted by:	Brad Carner Chief	<u>Ken Reeves</u> Ken Reeves by C.C. Chairman
Division:	Wildlife Management	<u>Stan Jones</u> Stan Jones by C.C. Commissioner
Approved:	 Director	<u>Andrew Parker</u> Andrew Parker by C.C. Vice Chairman
Approved:	Legal	<u>J.D. Neeley</u> J.D. Neeley by C.C. Commissioner
Approved:	Fiscal	<u>Joe Morgan</u> Joe Morgan by C.C. Commissioner
		<u>Bobby Martin</u> Bobby Martin by C.C. Commissioner

**FINANCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY**  
(Attach additional pages if needed)

**DEPARTMENT:** Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**DIVISION:** Wildlife Management

**PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT:** Mark Hutchings/Matthew Warriner

**TELEPHONE #:** 501-223-6352 **FAX #:** 501-223-6452

**EMAIL:** mark.hutchings@agfc.ar.gov / matthew.warriner@agfc.ar.gov

**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE:** 2020-2021 Hunting, WMA, Captive Wildlife and Miscellaneous Regulation Proposals.

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?  
Yes: X No:

2. Do you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibitive? Yes: X No: If "Yes," please explain: the financial impact of many of the regulation changes is not easily quantifiable due to the nature of the proposed changes.

3. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a **federal** rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation. Please indicate if the cost provided is the cost of the program.

<u>Current Fiscal Year</u>		<u>Next Fiscal Year</u>	
General Revenue	\$	General Revenue	\$
Federal Funds	\$	Federal Funds	\$
Cash Funds	\$	Cash Funds	\$
Special Revenue	\$	Special Revenue	\$
Other (Identify)	\$	Other (Identify)	\$
Total	\$	Total	\$

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any **party** subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? (Estimated cost includes fees, administrative penalties, reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs associated with compliance.) Identify the **party** subject to the proposed rule, and explain how they are impacted.

**Current Fiscal Year:** N/A

**Next Fiscal Year:** Unknown

Amend existing and adopt new regulations including:

- Adopt a quota system for alligator hunting on private lands - Alligator Zones 1, 2 and 3
- Increase bear quota in Bear Zone 1 (Ozarks) from 340 to 500
- Reduce the Public Land Elk Quota by 3 either sex and 3 antlerless permits
- Reduce the Private Land Elk Quota from 12 bulls to 10 bulls and from 40 antlerless elk to 25
- Require all Deer, Turkey, Bear, Alligator, and Elk to be checked within 12 hours from the time of harvest

- Require all hunters (including youth) to obtain a Customer Identification Number (CID) in order to check game or apply for permit hunts
- Simplify turkey regulations by reducing the number of turkey zones from 18 to 2 zones (by county)
- Restrict the harvest of bearded hens
- Reduce bag limits for wild turkeys on all Wildlife Management Areas from 2 to 1 legal turkey
- Allow hunters to harvest only 1 turkey during the first seven days of the season and establish a 1 bird bag limit during the special youth turkey hunt.
- Move turkey season to the third Monday in April, and extend season length in proposed Zone 2 to 21 days with a 2 bird bag limit. Proposed Zone 1 will retain the conservative 9 day season and 1 bird bag limit.
- Create a youth and regular permit turkey hunt on Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area
- Create a new youth permit turkey hunt on Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMA
- Combine Deer Zones 8 and 8A
- Combine Deer Zones 1A, 6, and 6A
- Combine Deer Zones 4 and 4B and align modern gun deer season with zone 4B (extending from 2 days to 9 days)
- Combine Deer Zones 5 and 5B and align modern gun deer season with Zone 5B (extending from 4 days to 9 days)
- Increase bag limits for Deer Zones 3,6,6A,7,8,8A,10,11, and 13 from 4 deer to 5 deer
- Reduce the aggregate bag limit in Deer Zone 12 and Deer Zone 17 from six deer to five deer
- Create a new muzzleloader deer hunt at Bell Slough WMA
- Create a new modern gun mobility impaired hunt for deer and bear on Bearcat Hollow WMA
- Change the current December Special Modern Gun Youth Hunt on Bearcat Hollow WMA to a regular three day muzzleloader hunt
- Add a new Modern Gun Youth Permit Hunt on Stone Prairie WMA (to coincide with statewide youth season)
- Remove permit requirements for youth deer hunts on Ed Gordon and Hope Upland WMAs
- Open a new Youth Deer Hunt on the following 18 WMAs: Bell Slough, Benson Creek Natural Area, Cattail Marsh, Cut Off Creek, Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois D' Arc, Earl Buss Bayou De View, Ethel, George H. Dunklin Jr. Bayou Meto, Henry Gray Hurricane Lake, McIlroy Madison County, Rex Hancock Black Swamp, Ring Slough, Robert L. Hankins Mud Creek, Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain, Sheffield Nelson Dagmar, Two Bayou Creek, Village Creek and Whitehall
- Move the current Private Lands Antlerless-only Modern Gun Hunt from the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October to December, and reduce it from a 5 day hunt to a 3 day hunt (Dec. 29-31) statewide
- Clarify that a lesser weapon may be used during the private land antlerless modern gun deer hunt. Hunter orange still required and only one weapon of choice allowed
- Increase the number of days antlerless deer may be taken on Piney Creeks and Sylamore WMAs and change the bag limit on Muddy Creek and Mt. Magazine WMAs to allow one antlerless deer with muzzleloader or one antlerless first two days of modern gun season.

- Move the Modern Gun Deer Permit Hunt on Cypress Bayou WMA from the fourth Friday in November to the second Saturday in November for 5 days
- Provide an annual Disabled Veterans Modern Gun Hunt on Longview Saline and Warren Prairie WMAs
- Add Independence and Jackson County to the CWD Management Zone
- Remove antler restrictions on the following WMAs in Independence and Jackson Counties to comply with CWD Management Zone regulations: Cherokee, Foushee Cave, Jamestown, and Village Creek WMAs
- Open Wylie Cox Field trial Area (140 ac.) on Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA by removing SUA status and adjust the regulations to be consistent with the remainder of the WMA.
- Create a new leased land WMA at Winona to be named Cedar Mountain WMA.
- Include Camp Robinson WMA in the spinning wing decoys restrictions
- Clarify that an electric bicycle is considered a motorized vehicle and must adhere to motorized vehicle restrictions on WMAs
- Remove firewood restrictions on all Commission-owned WMAs
- Open Bobcat, coyote, and fox hunting with shotguns and rimfire rifles at Little Bayou and Crossett Experimental Forest WMAs
- Allow for applications for new fur dealer permits to be denied if they failed to provide a report the previous year.
- Move the last day of muskrat trapping season from March 31 to February 28
- Change furbearer ammunition restrictions on private lands to only apply to raccoon, opossum, and bobcat being hunted at night.
- Require holders of a wildlife depredation or predator control permit and their designees, to purchase a valid hunting license.
- Exclude bats from the list of species that can be killed when a nuisance except for when rabies testing is needed.
- Add the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis Lucifgus*) as a state listed endangered species.
- Edit some of the wording in the season dates for code clarification and correction of errors made during the electronic conversion of codebook.
- Add USFWS Special Purpose Abatement requirements to falconry code.
- Remove 7 species of federally protected birds from the exceptions list of birds that are not protected
- Allow non-resident falconers with a non-resident hunting license to apply for an Arkansas Passage Peregrine Falcon Permit. Also update the falconry data entry website to new web address.
- Increase Quail Habitat Stamp price from \$4.50 to \$9.50
- Re-establish the annual dove season opening date as the first Saturday in September
- Clarify dates for non-resident waterfowl hunters on WMAs
- Reduce the Scaup daily limit from 2 to 1
- Propose two options for white-fronted goose season; either 74 days (current structure) with a 3 bird bag limit or 88 days with a 2 bird bag limit
- Clarify that the Salt ditches on Bayou Meto WMA adhere to Common Restriction A.
- Implement permitted waterfowl hunting on the Red Cut Slough tract at Cypress Bayou WMA during the regular duck season.
- Allow all day waterfowl hunting on WMAs on the last day of regular duck season and

during the special youth/veteran waterfowl hunts.

- Modify Common Restriction A to restrict boat access all day on 21 WMAs for 5 days before waterfowl season and during waterfowl splits. Add Cypress Bayou WMA and 5 additional water bodies on Petit Jean River and Dave Donaldson Black River WMAs and remove 2 from Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA from the exceptions in Common Restriction A.
- Clarify and update definitions relating to captive game birds and Shoot-to-Kill Bird Dog Training permit.
- Clarify exception relating to field trials and eliminate exception relating to USDA Wildlife Exhibition permits.
- Clarify that non-native birds be kept in buildings or covered pens. And clarify what constitutes proof of ownership.
- Clarify which species of quail and pheasant may be released in accordance with certain permits and clarify what methods of confinement for birds are adequate.
- Clarify that the exception from the Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit regulations, allowing for the sale of up to 20 individual animals per year of species on the Permitted Species List, does not apply to certain species for which Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permits are restricted.
- Eliminate Mountain Lion Permit.
- Eliminate certain redundant language in the Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit code.
- Eliminate redundant language in the Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit code.
- Update reasons for suspension or revocation of Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permits to match language used as reasons for denial of new permit applications.
- Modifying Wildlife Importation Permit requirements to allow those importing birds to provide proof of participation in the National Poultry Improvement Program by the out-of-state facility to satisfy disease testing requirements and to require those importing venomous reptiles into Arkansas for temporary exhibition follow certain caging requirements.
- Clarify that rules regarding temporary display of venomous reptiles in F1. (C) (4) may also apply to individuals without permits. Update terms for suspension or revocation.
- Clarify that captive born native species of birds being kept as pets be kept in buildings or covered pens. Clarify the use of tongs and snake hooks would be allowed to hand capture native wildlife and clarify what constitutes proof of legal possession of captive born native wildlife pets.
- Clarify that holders of the Conservation Education Permit must conduct at least 20 hours of conservation education each year to be eligible for renewal. Update terms for permit suspension or revocation to match terms for which initial application would have been denied.
- Add 3 bird species and 81 reptile species to Addendum R1.01 – Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species that upon staff review do not appear to be inherently dangerous and pose no significant risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, agriculture, and can be safely confined in a humane manner.
- Add 4 bird species and 31 mammal species to Addendum R1.02 – Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List that upon staff review appear to pose a moderate but manageable risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, or agriculture, such that they warrant further restriction or oversight.

- Add 30 mammal, 5 reptile and 123 amphibian species to Addendum R1.03 --Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List to prohibit the breeding, sale or importation of these species. Importation, breeding and sale of these species (as well as blackbuck antelope black-tailed prairie dogs) will be allowed for those permitted by the required dates.
- Add capybara, nilgai, aoudad sheep, oryx, kudu, lechwe, ibex, jaguar, leopard, snow leopard, hippopotamus, warthog, rhinoceros, newts and fire salamanders, and large Asian and African pythons to Addendum F1.03 for the purpose of prohibiting the sale of these species to only persons who possess a current Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit for the respective species or to buyers outside of Arkansas.
- Add a disease testing requirement in Addendum F1.04 – Wildlife Importation Permit Requirements for brindled gnu which is being proposed to be permitted for importation, breeding and sale.
- Extend deadline to apply for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permits for those animals that do not meet standard documentation requirements and the deadline by which a Venomous Reptile Permit has to be obtained for those possessing these medically significant venomous species to July 1, 2021. Also extend deadline to July 21, 2021 for certain caging, facility and transport requirements for those with medically significant venomous reptiles kept under the native wildlife pet code.
- Authorize transfer of un-releasable wild animals from rehabilitators to holders of a Commission-issued Conservation Education Permit.
- Add exceptions for possession of certain threatened and endangered species to the Commission’s endangered species code.
- Limit the amount of time that holders of Live Fox and Coyote Permits may keep live-caught animals to 30 days or less prior to sale and restrict sales to fox pen owners only.
- Clarify within the Wildlife Breeder/Dealer regulation that a Live Fox and Coyote Permit is needed to sell live fox and coyote.
- Reduce the time for Venomous Reptile Permit holders to correct caging problems from 30 days to 10 days.
- Clarify warning sign requirements for permanent and temporary venomous reptile enclosures.

Party Subject to Rule: hunters, trappers and persons engaged in captive wildlife related activities will be primarily subject to these rules.

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: The proposed changes, as listed above, will effect parties subject to the regulations as categorized to liberalize or expand opportunity (26%); clarify existing code (33%); simplify or reduce regulations (15%) and restrictions (26%).

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the **agency** to implement this rule? Explain the financial benefit to the agency from implementing this rule.

**Current Fiscal Year:** N/A

**Next Fiscal Year:** Unknown

Financial Benefit to Agency: Increase to price of Voluntary Quail stamp from \$4.50 to \$9.50 could result in increased revenue for habitat management

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less burdensome to small business? Yes: No: X

Why were such alternatives not proposed: N/A

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts: Regulations vary greatly among states.



Chris Colclasure  
Deputy Director

## Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Pat Fitts  
Director

Chris Racey  
Deputy Director

James F. Goodhart  
General Counsel

Christian N. Parks  
Assistant General Counsel

John P. Marks  
Sr. Assistant General Counsel  

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Phone: 501-223-6327

Rob Brown  
Assistant General Counsel  

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Fax: 501-223-6463

May 28, 2020

Ms. Kayla Sansom, Rules & Regulation Filing  
Office of the Arkansas Secretary of State  
500 Woodlane Drive, Room 26  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Regulation Adopted on May 21, 2020

Dear Ms. Sansom:

Attached please find a link to the 93 regulations approved by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission on April 23, 2020. Also included for each individual regulation is the required transmittal sheet, and applicable Financial Impact Statement and the signed Minute Order. The Commission respectfully requests that these regulation become effective 10 days after filing.

Notices for the proposed regulations were published in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on March 22, 23, and 24, 2020, and April 19, 20, and 21, 2020.

Hard copies of the approved regulations will be in the mail in the next day or so. **Kindly notify April Soman at [april.soman@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:april.soman@agfc.ar.gov) to confirm receipt of both the electronic submission and hard copies.** Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me at (501) 223-6327 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

James F. Goodhart  
General Counsel

JFG/as  
Enclosures  
cc: register@sos.arkansas.gov

2 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205 • www.agfc.com  
Phone (800) 364-4263 • (501) 223-6300 • Fax (501) 223-6448

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*The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's mission is to conserve and enhance Arkansas's fish and wildlife and their habitats while promoting sustainable use, public understanding and support.*