

Use only for **FINAL** and **EMERGENCY RULES**



Revised 7/2015 to reflect new legislation passed in the 2015 Regular Session (Act 1258). This act changed the effective date from 30 days to 10 days after filing the rule.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

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.
7. 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/>.
 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/>.
- 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 (<https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/>) immediately upon rebanding.
- 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 <https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/>.
- 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 take 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 falconers to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding acquisition, transfer, and release or rebanding of a raptor:
- a. If a falconer acquires, transfers, rebands or microchips a raptor, or if a raptor in a falconer's possession is stolen, or if the raptor is lost to the wild and not recovered within 30 days, or if a falconer's raptor possessed for falconry dies, the falconer must report the change within 10 days by entering the required information in the electronic database at <https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/>.
- xv. 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.
- xvi. 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.
- xvii. 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:
 - 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.
- xviii. 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.

- xix. 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.
- xx. 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.
- xxi. 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 authorizes 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, 50 CFR 21, 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.
- xxii. 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:	<u>22-032</u>	SUBJECT:	<u>2022-23 General Hunting</u>
DATE PASSED:	<u>May 19, 2022</u>		<u>Regulations Approval</u>
PAGE <u>1</u> of <u>2</u> PAGES		LOCATION:	<u>Statewide</u>

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff have proposed the attached regulations for 2022-2023 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 19th day of May 2022, 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.

STAFF APPROVAL

Submitted by:

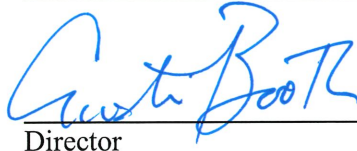


Brad Carner
Chief

Division:

Wildlife Management

Approved:



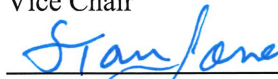
Director

COMMISSION APPROVAL

Bobby Martin
Chair



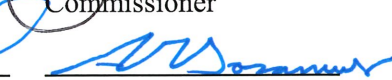
Bennie Wesphal
Vice Chair



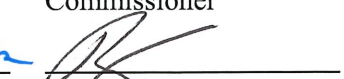
Stan Jones
Commissioner



J. D. Neeley
Commissioner

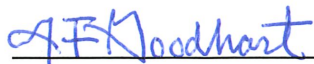



Anne Marie Doramus
Commissioner




Rob Finley
Commissioner

Approved:


Legal


Philip Tappan
Commissioner

Approved:


Fiscal

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: Brad Carner

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

EMAIL: Brad.Carner@agfc.ar.gov

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: 2022- 2024 Hunting Regulations.

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: ☐ No: ☒ X If "Yes", please explain:
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: NA

Next Fiscal Year: Unknown

Party Subject to Rule: Hunters

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: These are hunting regulation clarification. Potentially, there could be increased fines.

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: \$N/A

Financial Benefit to Agency: Clarification of regulations

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: N/A

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022, 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. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held in the Director's conference room throughout the day on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Little Rock Office Complex, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The AGFC Little Rock Office Complex currently is open to the public and COVID-19 guidelines recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health are applicable. The Commission meeting on April 21st will be live-streamed and a link for easy viewing access will be available on the agency website. Please visit the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at <https://www.agfc.com> for additional up-to-date details as the April meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the April 21, 2022 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the March 15-17, 2022 Commission Meetings, plus consideration of 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. **General Hunting and Miscellaneous Wildlife Regulations** – Propose general hunting regulations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 including, but not limited to, game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas (WMAs), weapon restrictions and other manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species. Changes to regulation include, but are not limited to:

Furbearer/Depredation

- Add exception for bobcat and otter pelt tagging requirement to allow bobcat and otter pelts to temporarily be shipped out of state for tanning without attaching a CITES tag.
- Reduce length of furbearer season for trapping muskrat on WMAs.
- Amend furbearing season trap restrictions to increase maximum size of foothold traps set on land (from 6" to 6¼").
- Revise Predator Control Permit requirements for taking bobcat, coyote, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox, or striped skunk on private land.
- Revise Depredation Permit requirements for consistency with Predator Control Permit requirements, including for taking of certain birds (House Sparrows, European Starlings, Rock Doves, etc.).

General

- Amend Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License requirements, including: remove references to a temporary internet license or confirmation code; and revise Non-Resident License requirements for hunting elk or alligator.

- Revise codes for listing WMAs for bear and wild turkey hunting seasons and limits, including remove from list those WMAs having “closed” seasons (only WMAs with “open” season will remain listed).
- Define types of killing devices and ammunition allowed for hunting crow.
- Provide exception for prohibited methods for hunting wildlife to allow certain live-cage-type traps for use in capturing nuisance animals.
- Amend aiding and abetting prohibition to indicate the penalty is the same as the violation committed by the person who was aided or abetted.
- Amend littering prohibition to prohibit discard of any game animal carcass within 50 yards of any stream, river, pond or lake.
- Establish or revise definitions of the following terms: “Conservation Buck Tag”; “Deer Management Assistant Program”; “Large Carnivore”; “Off Highway Vehicle”; “Personal Watercraft or Jet Boat”.
- Amend dog training restrictions on Camp Robinson Special Use Area, including: restrict dog use during reserved dog field trial events in reserved compartments, except dogs participating in the field trial event; and clarify number and types of dogs allowed to be trained.
- Amend big game checking requirements to require deer, adult turkey gobblers, or bear injured or killed by incidental contact (non-hunting activity such as vehicle accident) must be reported to the AGFC Radio Room and an official salvage tag number obtained before the animal or its parts may be possessed from the point of initial contact.
- Clarify color description for hunter orange / safety green clothing requirements.
- Revise camping restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property, including: require persons 16 years of age or older to obtain a 7-day camping permit for a fee of \$5.00, except that a daily camping permit for a fee of \$15.00 will be necessary for camping at Camp Robinson SUA; establish restrictions for large groups of 50 or more individuals; and adopt additional camping restrictions.
- Amend vehicle restrictions on WMAs, including: restrict use of off highway vehicles (OHVs), but making allowance for limited use of OHVs on certain days on designated open, maintained roads on Jack Mountain WMA.
- Amend prohibition of structures and personal property on WMAs to include prohibiting leaving any trail cameras or vehicles on a WMA, and allow a limited exception for trail cameras that have the owner’s name and address visibly and permanently affixed.
- Revise prohibition for skiing on lakes owned or controlled by the Commission to include jet boats.
- Revise prohibition for baiting or hunting over baited portions of WMAs to increase the penalty and delete exception for certain AGFC wildlife food areas.
- Amend season restrictions during permit hunts on WMAs, including: allow certain other hunting seasons to remain open during the permit hunts on Buffalo National River, Bearcat Hollow, and Gene Rush WMAs.
- Amend hunting season and limit restrictions for deer, bear, and wild turkey, including: establish open hunting seasons for Alum Fork Natural Area WMA in

Saline County and Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area WMA in Benton and Carroll Counties.

- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for deer hunting on various WMAs, including: Bearcat Hollow, Lee Creek, Wedington, and White Rock WMAs; adjust dates for start and close of archery deer season on Dardanelle WMA affecting Johnson County Waterfowl Rest Area; remove current archery deer permit requirement for Maumelle River WMA; remove permit requirements for Disabled Veteran deer hunts at Warren Prairie and Longview Saline Natural Area WMAs; add youth deer permit hunts at Camp Robinson Special Use Area, Harold E. Alexander/Spring River, and Greers Ferry Lake WMAs; remove current firearm restriction for modern gun deer permit hunt and add muzzleloader deer permit hunt at Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA; and add muzzleloader deer permit hunt at Stone Prairie WMA.
- Revise various regulations to remove existing designation for Ozark National Forest WMA and incorporate those lands into other adjoining cooperative WMAs.
- Amend dog restrictions on WMAs to allow use of dogs for squirrel hunting after first 9 days of modern gun deer season on Bearcat Hollow WMA.
- Delete restrictions for motorized vehicles on Commission-owned areas and consolidate with existing code for motorized vehicle restrictions on WMAs.
- Revise dates for horse and mule restrictions on certain Commission-owned and leased land WMAs and require 30 days' advance notice for large events to obtain a Special Use Permit.
- Amend codes for Maumelle River WMA, including: allow camping in designated areas only; prohibit removal of certain objects from the WMA without a permit; remove current boating/lake hours and horsepower restrictions; and clarify kayak-use areas.
- Establish dove permit requirements on certain WMAs, including: Camp Robinson Special Use Area; Dave Donaldson Black River; Shirey Bay/Rainey Brake; and Frog Bayou WMAs.
- Amend archery tackle restrictions to prohibit the use of archery equipment capable of holding and/or firing more than one arrow or bolt in succession or simultaneously without re-cocking the device, and allow limited exception during modern gun seasons for bear, deer, elk, and turkey.
- Amend existing firearms and weapons regulations to prohibit the use of blow guns and dart guns for hunting white-tailed deer, elk, bear, wild turkey or quail.
- Amend deer hunting regulations to add certain deer zones (created during 2019-20 regulation cycle) and clarify language for private lands antlerless-only modern-gun hunt and exception for retrieving wounded deer. Also create opportunity for hunters to earn a 3rd buck tag (Conservation Buck Tag).
- Revise tagging requirements for white-tailed deer and turkey to be properly tagged or checked immediately after harvest and before moving the animal.
- Amend prohibition for hunting wildlife or possessing a killing device in a state or national park to provide an exception for parks that participate in the AGFC Deer Management Assistance Program with an approved deer management plan.
- Increase fee for the Non-resident Guide Licenses for hunting and for fishing from \$150 to \$450.00.

- Adopt prohibition for any holder of a Guide License to be guiding another person while the licensed guide is intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic drug, barbiturate, or marijuana, with a Class 4 penalty for violation and suspension of hunting/fishing Guide Licenses as set forth in Codes 01.00-L and 01.00-K.

Wild Turkey

- Increase penalty for violation of hunting wild turkey by the aid of baiting.
- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for turkey hunting on various WMAs, including: Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita; Cut-Off Creek; Cypress Bayou; Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area; Dr. Lester Sitzes Bois D'Arc; Freddie Black Choctaw Island WMA Deer Research Area - East Unit; Longview Saline Natural Area; McIlroy Madison County; Petit Jean River; Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain; Stone Prairie; Sylamore; Trusten Holder; and Warren Prairie WMAs.
- Require a tag and notching system for turkey harvest.
- Reduce the bag limit for turkey to one bird limit.

Bear

- Amend bear season dates and limits, including: establish season framework for Bear Zones 3 and 4; modify archery and modern gun seasons for Bear Zones 1, 2, 5 and 5A; open bear archery season 10 days earlier in Bear Zones 1 and 2; and correct season dates for McIlroy Madison County WMA.
- Amend restrictions for selling wildlife to allow exception for legally harvested bear hide, skull, and claws as items that may be sold.

Elk

- Amend limit restrictions for elk hunting to reduce elk quotas, including number of public and private land elk tags.

Waterfowl

- Revise prohibition for killing devices and ammunition for hunting migratory game birds to indicate that certain non-toxic shot requirements apply to migratory waterfowl hunting only and increase the penalty for violation.
- Revise prohibition for use of non-toxic shot while hunting small game on certain WMAs to identify specific WMAs where it is unlawful to possess any shot other than federally-approved non-toxic shot while hunting migratory birds with shotguns.
- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for waterfowl hunting, including for: duck, coot, and merganser; Canada Goose; Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose; and White-fronted Goose; adjust dates for special youth waterfowl hunting and veteran and active duty military waterfowl hunting; adjust dates for nonresident waterfowl hunting permit requirements on WMAs; and restrict White-fronted Goose season to 74 days to run concurrently with duck season and with a 3-bird bag limit.
- Revise special usage restrictions on certain WMAs and lakes to extend "Common Restriction A" boat access restrictions to include the 7 days preceding the first day of the first segment of regular duck season; and include waterfowl hunting restrictions on Bell Slough, Ed Gordon Point Remove, Frog Bayou, Galla Creek, and Ozark Lake (Dyer Lake Unit) WMAs.
- Amend boat motor restrictions on certain WMAs to require all boats on "Common Restriction A" WMAs to operate only with motors that have factory exhaust systems

in place effective for the 2023-24 duck season. Outboard motors must not be ported to allow exhaust to evacuate above the water line at any point during operation.

Endangered Species / Captive Wildlife

- Amend Endangered Species List to add and remove various species, including: add Red Knot and Black Rail birds; revise Red-cockaded Woodpecker name; and remove Sprague's Pipit and Magazine Mountain shagreen snail.
- Revise Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit requirements, including remove current prohibition for hunting black bear at a permitted commercial wildlife hunting resort.
- Amend Wildlife Importation Permit requirements, including: clarify this permit is necessary for import of native aquatic turtles and alligators; require disease testing and control measures; allow wildlife to be transported through Arkansas as part of interstate commerce without having to obtain a permit; and require that animals must comply with requirements for proper cages, enclosures, pens, and security, and be kept in humane and healthy conditions.
- Revise provisions prohibiting possession of certain wildlife in captivity and relocate various provisions to other captive wildlife codes for clarity.
- Amend restrictions for possession of captive non-native wildlife to indicate requirements for possession of non-native wildlife pets and mirror existing exemptions found elsewhere in the Code Book.
- Amend existing captive wildlife possession requirements and permits to allow ratites (ostriches, emus, and rheas) to be kept in uncovered pens. Also include provisions authorizing special conditions to permits (Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort, Game Bird Shooting Resort, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer, Wildlife Importation, Wildlife Rehabilitation, and Venomous Reptile Permits) when deemed necessary by the Commission.
- Revise Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit requirements, including: prohibit renewal of a permit for species on the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species list if a current permit holder has not had any of those species in possession for more than one year; require that wildlife shall not leave the facility except upon sale, for veterinary care, or for exhibition; require that animals being exhibited must comply with requirements for proper cages, enclosures, pens, and security; allow accredited members of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries to keep large carnivores in exercise areas overnight; and prohibit permit holders with species included on the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List from selling to anyone in Arkansas that doesn't already possess such a permit or to those outside of Arkansas.
- Amend Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit requirements to remove captive-reared mallards from current list of species that may be released for hunting purposes, and allow limited exceptions for retriever training and field trial events.
- Amend prohibition for release of certain wildlife and requirements for Depredation Permits and Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits to restrict release of nuisance wildlife onto private land in the county of capture or adjacent to the county of capture.
- Amend requirements for certain captive wildlife permits to require a permit holder that does not renew his or her permit to have all remaining stock of animals that cannot be kept in accordance with applicable native or non-native pet regulations either sold to a legal buyer or euthanized prior to permit expiration.

- Amend restrictions for possessing native wildlife as pets to remove bobcat, coyote, gray fox, and red fox from current list of native species that may be captured by hand in the wild and kept as pets.
- Revise the Unrestricted, Permitted, and Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species Lists (Addenda R1.01, R1.02, and R1.03), reorganize by species types, and add new species to each of these lists. Also amend the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List bird selection to prohibit waterfowl without exceptions.
- Amend restrictions for bird dog training and retrieving dog training, and establish requirements for a Shoot-to-Kill Bird Dog Training Permit and a Game Bird Shoot-to-Kill Permit, including existing dog training restrictions and restrict the number of birds that may be kept at any one time to 100.
- Amend Conservation Education Permit requirements, including: require inspection of wildlife, facilities, books and records; and authorize immediate relocation of wildlife that is being given improper care or being kept in inhumane or unhealthy conditions.
- Amend Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit requirements, including: clarify landowner permission needed for all release sites; and require record keeping of the name and phone number of individuals submitting animals for rehab.
- Amend requirements for Falconry Permit to comply with federal falconry regulations required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chronic Wasting Disease

- Amend CWD Management Zone description, including: change status of Searcy County from a Tier 2 to Tier 1 and implement carcass movement restriction; add Ashley, Bradley, Randolph, and Union Counties to the Zone, each with Tier 2 status; and include new management requirements from the 2021-2025 CWD Management and Responsive Plan.
- Amend restrictions for deer season and limits, including revise harvest definitions within Ashley, Bradley and Union County portions of Deer Zone 12, and within Randolph County portion of Deer Zone 4.
- Amend restrictions for deer season and limits on WMAs, including revise harvest definitions for Robert L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA within Randolph County portion of Deer Zone 4 and Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA within Ashley and Union County portions of Deer Zone 12.

2. **General Fishing Regulations** – Propose miscellaneous fishing regulations, including, but not limited to:

- Define “Game Fish Parts” in the Definition of Terms.
- Establish that it is illegal to use “game fish parts” (which includes eggs and milt) and add an exception that commercially-prepared (i.e., cured) trout eggs will be allowed.
- Remove War Memorial Park Pond from the Family and Community Fishing Program Restrictions.

Sportfish

- Reinstate statewide crappie regulations on Bois d’Arc Lake.
- Implement catch and release only for all sportfish in Lake Monticello, including all creeks and ponds in its lakebed.
- Implement 13-inch minimum length limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass and remove length limit for Spotted Bass on Lake Norfolk.

- Increase the Lake Poinsett daily creel of Bream to the statewide limit of 50.
- Remove 13-16-inch slot length limit regulation for harvest of Largemouth Bass from Sugar Loaf Lake.
- Implement 10-inch minimum length limit for Crappie at Lake Erling.

Commercial Fishing

- Clarify that gill and trammel nets are the only legal commercial fishing gear on Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County).
- Establish special commercial fishing season on Long Slough Lake (Miller County), open noon November 1 until noon February 28 regardless of Sulphur River water level.
- Remove slat traps as a legal form of gear for fishing on Millwood Lake.

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- Require certain baitfish collection devices to be clearly labeled, in a durable manner.
- Allow recreational harvest of common snapping turtles and softshell turtles for personal consumption with a combined limit of six animals harvested per day.
- Create a new regulation specific to crayfish to establish harvest restrictions and type of gear that can be used to legally take crayfish, and close certain waters to harvest, including Eleven Point, South Fork Spring, Spring, and Strawberry Rivers.

Invasive Species

- Prohibit possession of invasive aquatic plant species on properties owned, managed, or controlled by the Commission.
- Add exception for possession of White Perch and Yellow Perch, and add White Perch and Marbled Crayfish to the list of Prohibited Species.
- Remove regulation for Transportation of Zebra Mussels Prohibited.
- Amend prohibition for possession of certain live carp to add exceptions for Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Black Carp to be possessed with a valid Conditional and/or Unlisted Species Permit.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 21, 2022 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 April 11, 2022. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office and at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

AUSTIN BOOTH, DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 19, 2022, 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. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held in the Director's conference room throughout the day on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Little Rock Office Complex, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The AGFC Little Rock Office Complex currently is open to the public and COVID-19 guidelines recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health are applicable. The Commission meeting on May 19th will be live-streamed and a link for easy viewing access will be available on the agency website. Please visit the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at <https://www.agfc.com> for additional up-to-date details as the April meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the May 19, 2022 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at Commission Meetings held on March 15-17, April 7, and April 20-21, 2022, plus consideration of 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. **General Hunting and Miscellaneous Wildlife Regulations** – Propose general hunting regulations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 including, but not limited to, game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas (WMAs), weapon restrictions and other manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species. Changes to regulation include, but are not limited to:

Furbearer/Depredation

- Add exception for bobcat and otter pelt tagging requirement to allow bobcat and otter pelts to temporarily be shipped out of state for tanning without attaching a CITES tag.
- Reduce length of furbearer season for trapping muskrat on WMAs.
- Amend furbearing season trap restrictions to increase maximum size of foothold traps set on land (from 6" to 6¼").
- Revise Predator Control Permit requirements for taking bobcat, coyote, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox, or striped skunk on private land.
- Revise Depredation Permit requirements for consistency with Predator Control Permit requirements, including for taking of certain birds (House Sparrows, European Starlings, Rock Doves, etc.).

General

- Amend Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License requirements, including: remove references to a temporary internet license or confirmation code; and revise Non-Resident License requirements for hunting elk or alligator.

- Revise codes for listing WMAs for bear and wild turkey hunting seasons and limits, including remove from list those WMAs having “closed” seasons (only WMAs with “open” season will remain listed).
- Define types of killing devices and ammunition allowed for hunting crow.
- Provide exception for prohibited methods for hunting wildlife to allow certain live-cage-type traps for use in capturing nuisance animals.
- Amend aiding and abetting prohibition to indicate the penalty is the same as the violation committed by the person who was aided or abetted.
- Amend littering prohibition to prohibit discard of any game animal carcass within 50 yards of any stream, river, pond or lake.
- Establish or revise definitions of the following terms: “Conservation Buck Tag”; “Deer Management Assistant Program”; “Large Carnivore”; “Off Highway Vehicle”; “Personal Watercraft or Jet Boat”.
- Amend dog training restrictions on Camp Robinson Special Use Area, including: restrict dog use during reserved dog field trial events in reserved compartments, except dogs participating in the field trial event; and clarify number and types of dogs allowed to be trained.
- Amend big game checking requirements to require deer, adult turkey gobblers, or bear injured or killed by incidental contact (non-hunting activity such as vehicle accident) must be reported to the AGFC Radio Room and an official salvage tag number obtained before the animal or its parts may be possessed from the point of initial contact.
- Clarify color description for hunter orange / safety green clothing requirements.
- Revise camping restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property, including: require persons 16 years of age or older to obtain a 7-day camping permit for a fee of \$5.00, except that a daily camping permit for a fee of \$15.00 will be necessary for camping at Camp Robinson SUA; establish restrictions for large groups of 50 or more individuals; and adopt additional camping restrictions.
- Amend vehicle restrictions on WMAs, including: restrict use of off highway vehicles (OHVs), but making allowance for limited use of OHVs on certain days on designated open, maintained roads on Jack Mountain WMA.
- Amend prohibition of structures and personal property on WMAs to include prohibiting leaving any trail cameras or vehicles on a WMA, and allow a limited exception for trail cameras that have the owner’s name and address visibly and permanently affixed.
- Revise prohibition for skiing on lakes owned or controlled by the Commission to include jet boats.
- Revise prohibition for baiting or hunting over baited portions of WMAs to increase the penalty and delete exception for certain AGFC wildlife food areas.
- Amend season restrictions during permit hunts on WMAs, including: allow certain other hunting seasons to remain open during the permit hunts on Buffalo National River, Bearcat Hollow, and Gene Rush WMAs.
- Amend hunting season and limit restrictions for deer, bear, and wild turkey, including: establish open hunting seasons for Alum Fork Natural Area WMA in

Saline County and Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area WMA in Benton and Carroll Counties.

- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for deer hunting on various WMAs, including: Bearcat Hollow, Lee Creek, Wedington, and White Rock WMAs; adjust dates for start and close of archery deer season on Dardanelle WMA affecting Johnson County Waterfowl Rest Area; remove current archery deer permit requirement for Maumelle River WMA; remove permit requirements for Disabled Veteran deer hunts at Warren Prairie and Longview Saline Natural Area WMAs; add youth deer permit hunts at Camp Robinson Special Use Area, Harold E. Alexander/Spring River, and Greers Ferry Lake WMAs; remove current firearm restriction for modern gun deer permit hunt and add muzzleloader deer permit hunt at Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA; and add muzzleloader deer permit hunt at Stone Prairie WMA.
- Revise various regulations to remove existing designation for Ozark National Forest WMA and incorporate those lands into other adjoining cooperative WMAs.
- Amend dog restrictions on WMAs to allow use of dogs for squirrel hunting after first 9 days of modern gun deer season on Bearcat Hollow WMA.
- Delete restrictions for motorized vehicles on Commission-owned areas and consolidate with existing code for motorized vehicle restrictions on WMAs.
- Revise dates for horse and mule restrictions on certain Commission-owned and leased land WMAs and require 30 days' advance notice for large events to obtain a Special Use Permit.
- Amend codes for Maumelle River WMA, including: allow camping in designated areas only; prohibit removal of certain objects from the WMA without a permit; remove current boating/lake hours and horsepower restrictions; and clarify kayak-use areas.
- Establish dove permit requirements on certain WMAs, including: Camp Robinson Special Use Area; Dave Donaldson Black River; Shirey Bay/Rainey Brake; and Frog Bayou WMAs.
- Amend archery tackle restrictions to prohibit the use of archery equipment capable of holding and/or firing more than one arrow or bolt in succession or simultaneously without re-cocking the device, and allow limited exception during modern gun seasons for bear, deer, elk, and turkey.
- Amend existing firearms and weapons regulations to prohibit the use of blow guns and dart guns for hunting white-tailed deer, elk, bear, wild turkey or quail.
- Amend deer hunting regulations to add certain deer zones (created during 2019-20 regulation cycle) and clarify language for private lands antlerless-only modern-gun hunt and exception for retrieving wounded deer. Also create opportunity for hunters to earn a 3rd buck tag (Conservation Buck Tag).
- Revise tagging requirements for white-tailed deer and turkey to be properly tagged or checked immediately after harvest and before moving the animal.
- Amend prohibition for hunting wildlife or possessing a killing device in a state or national park to provide an exception for parks that participate in the AGFC Deer Management Assistance Program with an approved deer management plan.
- Increase fee for the Non-resident Guide Licenses for hunting and for fishing from \$150 to \$450.00.

- Adopt prohibition for any holder of a Guide License to be guiding another person while the licensed guide is intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic drug, barbiturate, or marijuana, with a Class 4 penalty for violation and suspension of hunting/fishing Guide Licenses as set forth in Codes 01.00-L and 01.00-K.
- Amend Point System for Violation of Commission Regulations to indicate that, for the purpose of determining a person's eligibility for suspension or revocation under Code 01.00-L, the Commission will not consider violation points that have: (1) previously been counted and formed the basis for issuance of a suspension or revocation, or (2) expired.
- Amend prohibition for certain firearms during muzzleloading deer or bear seasons to allow buckshot No. 4 or larger to be fired from a muzzleloader, and allow limited use of blow guns and dart guns.
- Amend wildlife records requirements applicable to commercial facilities and taxidermists receiving, processing, or storing wildlife to omit "deer camps" from the list of entities required to maintain records of harvested wildlife for one year.

Wild Turkey

- Increase penalty for violation of hunting wild turkey by the aid of baiting.
- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for turkey hunting on various WMAs, including: Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita; Cut-Off Creek; Cypress Bayou; Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area; Dr. Lester Sitzes Bois D'Arc; Freddie Black Choctaw Island WMA Deer Research Area - East Unit; Longview Saline Natural Area; McIlroy Madison County; Petit Jean River; Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain; Stone Prairie; Sylamore; Trusten Holder; and Warren Prairie WMAs.
- Require a tag and notching system for turkey harvest.
- Reduce the bag limit for turkey to one bird limit.

Bear

- Amend bear season dates and limits, including: establish season framework for Bear Zones 3 and 4; modify archery and modern gun seasons for Bear Zones 1, 2, 5 and 5A; open bear archery season 10 days earlier in Bear Zones 1 and 2; and correct season dates for McIlroy Madison County WMA.
- Amend restrictions for selling wildlife to allow exception for legally harvested bear hide, skull, and claws as items that may be sold.

Elk

- Amend limit restrictions for elk hunting to reduce elk quotas, including number of public and private land elk tags.

Waterfowl

- Revise prohibition for killing devices and ammunition for hunting migratory game birds to indicate that certain non-toxic shot requirements apply to migratory waterfowl hunting only and increase the penalty for violation.
- Revise prohibition for use of non-toxic shot while hunting small game on certain WMAs to identify specific WMAs where it is unlawful to possess any shot other than federally-approved non-toxic shot while hunting migratory birds with shotguns.
- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for waterfowl hunting, including for: duck, coot, and merganser; Canada Goose; Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose; and White-fronted Goose; adjust dates for special youth waterfowl hunting and veteran and active duty military waterfowl hunting; adjust dates for

nonresident waterfowl hunting permit requirements on WMAs; and restrict White-fronted Goose season to 74 days to run concurrently with duck season and with a 3-bird bag limit.

- Revise special usage restrictions on certain WMAs and lakes to extend “Common Restriction A” boat access restrictions to include the 7 days preceding the first day of the first segment of regular duck season; and include waterfowl hunting restrictions on Bell Slough, Ed Gordon Point Remove, Frog Bayou, Galla Creek, and Ozark Lake (Dyer Lake Unit) WMAs.
- Amend boat motor restrictions on certain WMAs to require all boats on “Common Restriction A” WMAs to operate only with motors that have factory exhaust systems in place effective for the 2023-24 duck season. Outboard motors must not be ported to allow exhaust to evacuate above the water line at any point during operation.

Endangered Species / Captive Wildlife

- Amend Endangered Species List to add and remove various species, including: add Red Knot and Black Rail birds; revise Red-cockaded Woodpecker name; and remove Sprague’s Pipit and Magazine Mountain shagreen snail.
- Revise Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit requirements, including remove current prohibition for hunting black bear at a permitted commercial wildlife hunting resort.
- Amend Wildlife Importation Permit requirements, including: clarify this permit is necessary for import of native aquatic turtles and alligators; require disease testing and control measures; allow wildlife to be transported through Arkansas as part of interstate commerce without having to obtain a permit; and require that animals must comply with requirements for proper cages, enclosures, pens, and security, and be kept in humane and healthy conditions.
- Revise provisions prohibiting possession of certain wildlife in captivity and relocate various provisions to other captive wildlife codes for clarity.
- Amend restrictions for possession of captive non-native wildlife to indicate requirements for possession of non-native wildlife pets and mirror existing exemptions found elsewhere in the Code Book.
- Amend existing captive wildlife possession requirements and permits to allow ratites (ostriches, emus, and rheas) to be kept in uncovered pens. Also include provisions authorizing special conditions to permits (Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort, Game Bird Shooting Resort, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer, Wildlife Importation, Wildlife Rehabilitation, and Venomous Reptile Permits) when deemed necessary by the Commission.
- Revise Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit requirements, including: prohibit renewal of a permit for species on the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species list if a current permit holder has not had any of those species in possession for more than one year; require that wildlife shall not leave the facility except upon sale, for veterinary care, or for exhibition; require that animals being exhibited must comply with requirements for proper cages, enclosures, pens, and security; allow accredited members of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries to keep large carnivores in exercise areas overnight; and prohibit permit holders with species included on the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List from selling to anyone in Arkansas that doesn’t already possess such a permit or to those outside of Arkansas.

- Amend Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit requirements to remove captive-reared mallards from current list of species that may be released for hunting purposes, and allow limited exceptions for retriever training and field trial events.
- Amend prohibition for release of certain wildlife and requirements for Depredation Permits and Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits to restrict release of nuisance wildlife onto private land in the county of capture or adjacent to the county of capture.
- Amend requirements for certain captive wildlife permits to require a permit holder that does not renew his or her permit to have all remaining stock of animals that cannot be kept in accordance with applicable native or non-native pet regulations either sold to a legal buyer or euthanized prior to permit expiration.
- Amend restrictions for possessing native wildlife as pets to remove bobcat, coyote, gray fox, and red fox from current list of native species that may be captured by hand in the wild and kept as pets.
- Revise the Unrestricted, Permitted, and Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species Lists (Addenda R1.01, R1.02, and R1.03), reorganize by species types, and add new species to each of these lists. Also amend the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List bird selection to prohibit waterfowl without exceptions.
- Amend restrictions for bird dog training and retrieving dog training, and establish requirements for a Shoot-to-Kill Bird Dog Training Permit and a Game Bird Shoot-to-Kill Permit, including existing dog training restrictions and restrict the number of birds that may be kept at any one time to 100.
- Amend Conservation Education Permit requirements, including: require inspection of wildlife, facilities, books and records; and authorize immediate relocation of wildlife that is being given improper care or being kept in inhumane or unhealthy conditions.
- Amend Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit requirements, including: clarify landowner permission needed for all release sites; and require record keeping of the name and phone number of individuals submitting animals for rehab.
- Amend requirements for Falconry Permit to comply with federal falconry regulations required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chronic Wasting Disease

- Amend CWD Management Zone description, including: change status of Searcy County from a Tier 2 to Tier 1 and implement carcass movement restriction; add Ashley, Bradley, Randolph, and Union Counties to the Zone, each with Tier 2 status; and include new management requirements from the 2021-2025 CWD Management and Responsive Plan.
- Amend restrictions for deer season and limits, including revise harvest definitions within Ashley, Bradley and Union County portions of Deer Zone 12, and within Randolph County portion of Deer Zone 4.
- Amend restrictions for deer season and limits on WMAs, including revise harvest definitions for Robert L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA within Randolph County portion of Deer Zone 4 and Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA within Ashley and Union County portions of Deer Zone 12.

2. **General Fishing Regulations** – Propose miscellaneous fishing regulations, including, but not limited to:

- Define “Game Fish Parts” in the Definition of Terms.

- Establish that it is illegal to use “game fish parts” (which includes eggs and milt) and add an exception that commercially-prepared (i.e., cured) trout eggs will be allowed.
- Remove War Memorial Park Pond from the Family and Community Fishing Program Restrictions.
- Amend the definition of “Zone” in the Definition of Terms and provide that a zone can include individually designated creeks, lakes, rivers, streams, and other waterbodies; catch-and-release areas; special regulation areas; WMAs; and specific lands and waters described in Addendum Chapter E1.00.
- Adopt regulation establishing certain waters as zones and indicate that specific public waterbodies or areas on waters controlled by the Commission may be designated as separate zones for which the Commission may establish and apply fishing regulations.

Sportfish

- Reinstate statewide crappie regulations on Bois d’Arc Lake.
- Implement catch and release only for all sportfish in Lake Monticello, including all creeks and ponds in its lakebed.
- Implement 13-inch minimum length limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass and remove length limit for Spotted Bass on Lake Norfolk.
- Increase the Lake Poinsett daily creel of Bream to the statewide limit of 50.
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3. **Procedure for Conducting Commission Business** – Amend existing internal procedure for conducting Commission business to delete requirement that a minimum of two Commissioners must be physically present in a meeting room at the time of a Commission meeting, and permit all Commissioners to participate in public meetings conducted by way of telephone or video conference.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the May 19, 2022 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 May 9, 2022. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office and at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

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