

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

06.04 Archery Tackle Restrictions

- A. Archery equipment is limited to the following:
 - 1. Compound bows, longbow and recurve bows with a draw weight of 35 pounds or more.
 - 2. Crossbows with a functional mechanical safety device and a draw weight of 125 pounds or more.
- B. It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with any of the following archery tackle:
 - 1. A longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow with a draw weight of less than 35 pounds;
 - 2. A crossbow without a functional mechanical safety device or with a draw weight of less than 125 pounds;
 - 3. Arrows with an arrowhead width of less than 7/8 inch when open;
 - 4. Arrows or arrowheads containing poisons or chemicals;
 - 5. Arrowheads containing firearm ammunition;
 - 6. Arrows propelled from a compressed air system;
 - 7. Arrows propelled by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant;
 - 8. Blow guns or dart guns; or
 - 9. Longbows, compound bows or crossbows capable of firing or holding ready-to-fire more than one arrow or bolt simultaneously or in succession without the string being re-cocked between shots.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Small game may be hunted using arrowheads less than 7/8 inch width.
- B. Equipment defined in Code 6.04(B)(9) may be used during the modern gun season for bear, deer, elk and turkey.

PENALTY: Class 1

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO: _____ SUBJECT: Additional 2022-23 General Hunting
 DATE PASSED: June 30, 2022 Regulations
 PAGE 1 of 1 PAGES LOCATION: Statewide

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff have proposed the attached additional regulations for the 2022-2023 Hunting Seasons, including adoption of certain archery tackle restrictions and camping restrictions, and deletion of an existing prohibition for hunting radio-collared bears; **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 30th day of June 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

COMMISSION APPROVAL

Submitted by: 
 Luke Naylor
 Chief


Division: Wildlife Management

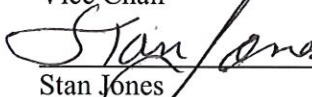
Approved: 
 Director

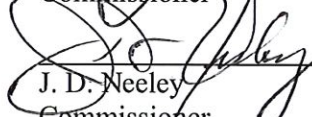
Approved: 
 Legal


Approved: 
 Fiscal

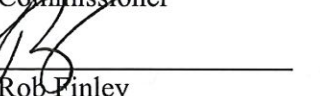

 Bobby Martin
 Chair



 Bennie Wespha
 Vice Chair


 Stan Jones
 Commissioner


 J. D. Neeley
 Commissioner


 Anne Marie Doramus
 Commissioner


 Rob Pinley
 Commissioner


 Philip Tappan
 Commissioner

FINANCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

DEPARTMENT: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
DIVISION: Wildlife Management
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT: Brad Carner
TELEPHONE #: 501-223-6352 **FAX #:** 501-223-6452
EMAIL: Brad.Carner@agfc.ar.gov
SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations.

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?
Yes: No:
2. Do you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibitive? Yes: No: 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 clarification of the existing archery codes. 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 archery equipment

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, June 30, 2022, at the United States Marshals Museum, 789 Riverfront Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72901. 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 throughout the day on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the United States Marshals Museum. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings and COVID-19 health guidance provided by the Arkansas Department of Health will be applicable. The Commission meeting on June 30th 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 June meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the June 30, 2022 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the May 18-19, 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. **Miscellaneous General Hunting and Fishing Regulations** - Amend existing Commission regulations including, but not limited to:
 - Temporarily suspend game fish daily limits on Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi County to allow the harvest of all fish beginning on July 1, 2022 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2022. The regulation amendments will temporarily suspend enforcement of game fish limits during a USFWS lake-drawdown restoration project so that the public may harvest all fish prior to their loss due to water drainage and hot temperatures. Beginning 12:00 a.m. October 1, 2022, the original regulations for game fish limits for Big Lake shall be fully in effect and enforceable.
 - Amend archery tackle restrictions, including: adopt limitations to allow use of certain bows capable of firing or holding ready-to-fire more than one arrow or bolt in succession or simultaneously without the string being re-cocked between shot; and eliminate current exception for certain archery tackle during modern-gun seasons for bear, deer, elk, and turkey.
 - Delete existing regulation that prohibits shooting radio-collared bears. In order to properly assess bear harvest rates and determine population growth rates, the prohibition is no longer necessary.
 - Clarify May 2022 revisions to camping restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property to indicate that a person holding a valid hunting or fishing license does not need the required camping permit.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the June 30, 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 June 20, 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