

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
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Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

Contact Person Sarah Milligan

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Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

Name of Rule 06.04 – Archery Tackle Restrictions

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing May 29, 30, and 31, 2022

Final Date for Public Comment June 30, 2022

Location and Time of Public Meeting 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock AR 72205, 9:00 a.m.

REGULATION CHANGES

1. **Proposal:** Allow the take of radio collared bears.

Justification: With the new Bear Zone 3 and 4 season starting in the fall of 2022, female age at mortality information is needed to properly model population information. Female age at mortality is a key component used in black bear population modeling, so in order to assess harvest rates and determine population growth rates, we must collect this information. Protecting a certain segment of females does not allow us to gather the information needed.

Code: 13.03

CODE CHANGES

06.04 – Archery Tackle Restrictions

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- A. Archery equipment is limited to the following:
 1. Compound bows, ~~crossbow~~, longbow and recurve bows. ~~Longbows 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; or
 8. Blow guns and dart guns.
 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 shot.

EXCEPTION:

1. Small game may be hunted using arrowheads less than 7/8 inch in width.
2. Equipment defined in 6.04 B.9 may be used during modern gun seasons for bear, deer, elk, and turkey.

PENALTY: Class 1

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

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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
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