ARKANSAS REGISTER



Proposed Rule Cover Sheet

Secretary of State John Thurston 500 Woodlane, Suite 026 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094 (501) 682-5070 www.sos.arkansas.gov



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			
Contact E-mailSarah.Milligan@agfc.ar.gov			
Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division			

Name of Rule 13.03 – Shooting Radio Collared Bears Prohibited

Newspaper Name <u>Arkansas Democrat Gazette</u>

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

Final Date for Public Comment____June 30, 2022

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

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

13.03—Shooting Radio Collared Bears Prohibited

It is unlawful to hunt bears wearing a radio telemetry collar at any time.

EXCEPTION:

In compliance with Code 05.10.

PENALTY: Class 3

FINANCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

DEPARTMENT:Arkansas Game and Fish CommissionDIVISION:Wildlife ManagementPERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT:Brad CarnerTELEPHONE #:501-223-6352FAX #:EMAIL:Brad.Carner@agfc.ar.govSHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE:2022-2023 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 Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?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.

Current Fiscal Year	<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 removal of bear season restrictions regarding the harvest of bears with a collar. 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 legal bear harvest

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less

burdensome to small business? Yes:

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. <u>Thursday</u>, 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 <u>Wednesday</u>, 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 <u>https://www.agfc.com</u> 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 moderngun 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 <u>www.agfc.com</u>, 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