

# 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](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)



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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

Contact E-mail Sarah.Milligan@agfc.ar.gov

Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

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Name of Rule 19.04 – Camping Restrictions

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing May 29, 30, 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.

1. **Proposal:** To clarify the correct code that was approved in the summary in May but accidentally omitted in the code.

**Justification:** This is a legal requirement for the approved code change.

**Code:** 19.04

**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 Camping on WMA 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 Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?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 What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any **party** subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule?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 and non-consumptive users

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: These are WMA regulations and 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: WMA user regulations and clarifications

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

## 19.04 -- Camping Restrictions

It is unlawful on Commission-owned or controlled property to:

- A. Camp or use any campsite more than 14 consecutive days;
- B. Allow a camp to remain unoccupied for more than 48 consecutive hours;
- C. Camp in areas other than designated camping areas;
- D. Cause any disturbance after 10 p.m.; ~~or~~
- E. Camp or use any campsite for more than 30 days total during a calendar year.
- F. Camp on Commission-owned property without a valid camping permit or valid hunting or fishing license for each individual 16 years of age or older permit is available online only and must be present for inspection at the campsite.
- G. Camp during a permit hunt without first obtaining a permit for the hunt.
- H. Campsites not to exceed 25 persons without a Special Use Permit from the area manager which must be applied for 30 days prior to the activity. Groups of 50 or more must have the Wildlife Division Chief Approval with a 60 day notice.
- I. Camp at Camp Robinson SUA headquarters campsite without first obtaining a Camping Permit. Permit is available online only and must be available at the campsite;
- J. Camp on Poison Springs WMA without a permit from the Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture Division of Forestry;
- K. Camp on U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA;
- L. Camp on USDA Forest Service Cooperative WMAs without complying with applicable Forest Service Regulations; or
- M. Camp on Jack Mountain without a permit from the Ross Foundation.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- ~~A. A permit from the Arkansas Forestry Commission is required to camp on Poison Springs WMA.~~
- ~~B. Camping is prohibited on the U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA.~~
- ~~C. Campers on USDA Forest Service Cooperative WMAs must comply with applicable Forest Service regulations.~~
- D. Camping is restricted to 7 consecutive days per month in any of the Headquarters Campsite on Camp Robinson SUA, unless the campsite is reserved for a special event. Special event participants may camp for the term of the event, even if it is longer than 7 consecutive days.
- ~~E. Camping is prohibited on Maumelle River WMA. Camping on Maumelle River WMA is allowed in designated areas only.~~
- ~~F. When camping with a WMA permit holder.~~
- G. Gene Rush during Elk permit hunts.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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