

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 501-382-3807 Legal Division

Name of Rule AI.01 – Deer Season And Limits

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing December 18, 19, & 20, 2022

Final Date for Public Comment January 19, 2022

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

SUMMARY

During the 2022 regulation cycle there were errors made in making code changes. The following changes are to correct those errors.

1. Code A1.01 Zone 9 deer bag limit was mistakenly placed in 2 places. The correct bag limit for Zone 9 is 4 deer.
2. Code C1.12 in the proposal listed below from the May 2022 regulation proposals it was inadvertently left out the clarification that this proposal limiting days would begin with the November 2023 season.

Proposal: Restrict waterfowl hunting on Bell Slough, Ed Gordon Point Remove, Frog Bayou and Galla Creek WMAs and the Dyer Lake Unit of Ozark Lake WMA to Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday only, with the exception of the last day of season.

Justification: Due to the increased popularity of waterfowl hunting and the additional hunting pressure applied to waterfowl using the areas, staff have noticed a drastic decline in waterfowl usage of the areas after the opening weekend of the season. It is our intent to increase waterfowl use – and, by extension, enhance the waterfowl hunting experience – of the areas by providing rest days during the hunting season. This proposal will be in effect starting with the 2023 season.

Code: C1.12

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: Luke Naylor

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

EMAIL: Luke.Naylor@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 Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?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 season access and date adjustments. 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 season access times

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

A1.01 – Deer Season And Limits

ARCHERY AND CROSSBOW

All deer zones: Fourth Saturday in September through the last day in February (Codes [06.04](#) – [06.05](#)).

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In compliance with WMA regulations (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- B. Urban Deer Permits (Code [15.05](#)).

MODERN GUN

Zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11: Second Saturday in November for 23 days.

Zones 4A, 5A, 14 and 15: Second Saturday in November for 30 days.

Zones 4 and 5: Second Saturday in November for 9 days.

Zones 9, 12 and 13: Second Saturday in November for 37 days.

Zones 16, 16A and 17: Second Saturday in November through Christmas Day.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In compliance with WMA regulations (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- B. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Deer Management Tags.
- C. Private Land CWD Management Tags.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MODERN GUN DEER HUNT

All deer zones: December 26-28, Annually.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. WMAs closed during modern gun deer season are excluded from the Christmas Holiday Deer Hunt (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- B. WMAs requiring a permit for the modern gun or muzzleloader deer season are excluded from the Christmas Holiday Deer Hunt (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- C. In compliance with applicable WMA regulations (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- D. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Deer Management Tags.
- E. Private Land CWD Management Tags.

SPECIAL YOUTH MODERN GUN DEER HUNT

All deer zones: First Saturday in November for 2 days and the first Saturday in January for 2 days.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In compliance with WMA regulations (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- B. WMAs requiring a WMA deer permit are closed to the Special Modern Gun Deer Youth Hunt (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- C. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Deer Management Tags.
- D. Private Land CWD Management Tags.

PRIVATE LAND ANTLERLESS DEER ONLY MODERN GUN DEER HUNT

All deer zones: December 29-31 Annually.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In compliance with regulations (Code [11.02](#)).
- B. In compliance with WMA regulations (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- C. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Deer Management Tags.
- D. Hunters using archery equipment may harvest bucks.
- E. Private Land CWD Management Tags.
- F. Hunters may only possess one type of weapon.

MUZZLELOADER

Zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11: Third Saturday in October for 9 days and second Saturday in December for 3 days.

Zones 4A, 5A, 14 and 15: Third Saturday in October for 9 days and third Saturday in December for 3 days.

Zones 9, 12, 13, 16, 16A and 17: Third Saturday in October for 9 days.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In areas open during regular gun deer seasons.
- B. In compliance with WMA regulations (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- C. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Deer Management Tags.
- D. Private Land CWD Management Tags.

LIMIT

Statewide seasonal limit of 6 deer, no more than 2 legal bucks using any legal method.

Zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13: Seasonal bag limit of 5 deer, no more than 2 antlered bucks. No more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 5 antlerless may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 antlered bucks and 3 antlerless deer may be taken with firearms. Zones 8 and 9 in Jackson and Independence County: Seasonal bag limit of 5 deer, no more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 5 antlerless deer may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 5 antlerless deer may be taken with firearms.

Zones 9, 14, 15, 16, and 16A: Seasonal bag limit of 4 deer, no more than 2 legal bucks. No more than 2 legal bucks or up to 4 does may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 legal bucks and 2 does may be taken with firearms. Zones 16A in Ashley County: Seasonal bag limit of 4 deer, no more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 4 antlerless deer may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 2 antlerless deer may be taken with firearms.

Zones 4 and 5: Seasonal bag limit of 3 deer, no more than 2 legal bucks. No more than 2 legal bucks or up to 3 does may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 legal bucks and 1 doe may be taken with firearms. Zone 4 in Jackson and Randolph County: Seasonal bag limit of 3 deer, no more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 3 antlerless deer may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 1 antlerless deer may be taken with firearms.

Zones 4A and 5A: Seasonal bag limit of 3 deer, no more than 2 legal bucks. No more than 2 legal bucks or up to 3 does may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 legal bucks or up to 2 does may be taken with firearms.

Zones 12 and 17: Seasonal bag limit of 5 deer, no more than 2 legal bucks. No more than 2 legal bucks or up to 5 does may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 legal bucks or up to 5 does

may be taken with firearms. Zone 12 in Ashley, Bradley and Union Counties: Seasonal bag limit of 5 deer, no more than 2 antlered bucks. No more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 5 antlerless deer may be taken with archery tackle. No more than 2 antlered bucks or up to 5 antlerless deer may be taken with firearms.

Youths 6 to 15 years of age hunting during the Special Youth Modern Gun Deer Hunt may harvest bucks or does during the first full weekend Saturday/Sunday in November for 2 days and the first Saturday in January for 2 days in accordance with the zone firearm bag limits.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Commission-registered deer camps that participate in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) receiving deer management tags and bonus deer on certain WMAs (Addendum [C1.01](#)) do not apply toward an individual seasonal limit.
- B. Subject to applicable limit restrictions on WMAs (Addendum [C1.01](#)).
- C. Private Land CWD Management Tags.

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 19, 2023, 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 throughout the day on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 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 Commission meeting on January 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 January meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the January 19, 2023 meeting will include 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:

- Clarify what to do with certain prohibited live carp when caught;
- Clarify list of waters where a trout permit is required to keep trout;
- Remove Lake Sylvia as an exception to the statewide daily limit for largemouth bass;
- Remove Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County) as an exception to the statewide daily limit for crappie;
- Remove Lake Austell (Cross County) and Lake Greenlee from the length limit restrictions on keeping largemouth bass;
- Remove Lake Charles from the length limit restrictions on keeping crappie;
- Clarify the deer season bag limits for Zone 9;
- Clarify the effective dates of waterfowl hunting restrictions on specific WMAs and lakes; and
- Correct a technical error in the spelling of Dyer Lake regarding waterfowl hunting restrictions on specific WMAs and lakes.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the January 19, 2023 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 January 9, 2023. 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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