

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Transmittal Sheet

Use only for **FINAL** and **EMERGENCY RULES**



Secretary of State

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094

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www.sos.arkansas.gov



For Office

Use Only:

Effective Date _____ Code Number _____

Name of Agency _____

Department _____

Contact _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

Statutory Authority for Promulgating Rules _____

Rule Title: _____

Intended Effective Date

(Check One)

Date

☐

Emergency (ACA 25-15-204)

Legal Notice Published _____

☐

10 Days After Filing (ACA 25-15-204)

Final Date for Public Comment _____

☐

Other _____

(Must be more than 10 days after filing date.)

Reviewed by Legislative Council _____

Adopted by State Agency _____

Electronic Copy of Rule e-mailed from: (Required under ACA 25-15-218)

Contact Person

E-mail Address

Date

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

I Hereby Certify That The Attached Rules Were Adopted
In Compliance with the Arkansas Administrative Act. (ACA 25-15-201 et. seq.)


Signature

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Title

Date

C1.12 Special Usage Restrictions on Certain WMAs and Lakes

A. Restrictions Common to Multiple Listed WMAs and Lakes:

1. Common Restriction A:

- i. From the Saturday before the first day of the first segment of the regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season:

- a. No boats allowed all day.

- ii. During regular duck season open days:

- a. No entry or access is allowed from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. (except in designated campsites, parking areas, boat launch ramps and designated boat staging areas); and

- b. No boats are allowed from 1 p.m. until 4 a.m. (Central Time) except boats may be launched after 2 a.m. under the limited condition that any such boat must remain physically occupied at all times while kept in boat staging areas between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

- c. On Dave Donaldson Black River and George H. Dunklin Jr. Bayou Meto WMAs, no boats are allowed from noon until 4 a.m. (Central Time) except boats may be launched after 2 a.m. under the limited condition that any such boat must remain physically occupied at all times while kept in boat staging areas

As of May 22, 2024,
between 2 a.m. and 4
a.m.

- iii. During regular duck season splits:
 - a. No boats allowed all day.
- iv. During the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during the special youth/veteran waterfowl hunt:
 - a. No entry or access is allowed from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. (except in designated campsites, parking areas, boat launch ramps and designated boat staging areas); and
 - b. No boats are allowed from 6:30 p.m. until 4 a.m.
- v. Non-motorized boat access to designated water trails is allowed from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season.

B. Restrictions on Specific WMAs and Lakes:

- 1. **George H. Dunklin Jr. Bayou Meto:**
Common Restriction A applies. Boats are prohibited on the Government Cypress Greentree Reservoir. Boating access is allowed from noon until 6:30 p.m. during regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from the Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season at the following waterbodies:
 - i. Mulberry Access, to include all of the Salt Bayou Ditches to the confluence of Little Bayou Meto
 - ii. Buckingham Flats Access to include Big Bayou Meto, and Cannon Brake Access to include Little Bayou Meto only on the Cannon Brake Impoundment

As of May 22, 2024
iii. Cox Cypress and Grand
Cypress Lake

2. **Bell Slough:** Common Restriction A applies. Only open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts.
3. **Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita:** Common Restriction A applies except within the Ouachita River. Use of boats for fishing and non-hunting activities are allowed.
4. **Big Lake:** Common Restriction A applies. Mallard Lake is closed to all hunting except for the special early teal season; fishing and non-hunting activities are allowed. Boating access is allowed from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during the regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from the Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season at the following waterbodies:
 - i. The north/south ditch, all lateral ditches, and borrow pits.
5. **Brewer Lake, Cypress Creek, and Cedar Creek:** Closed to waterfowl hunting.
6. **Camp Robinson WMA:** Common Restriction A applies. Only open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed on the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts.
7. **Cane Creek Lake (Lincoln County):** Waterfowl hunting ends at noon.
8. **Coal Pile Lake:** Closed to all hunting. Fishing and non-hunting activities are allowed.

As of May 22, 2024

9. **Cut-Off Creek:** Common Restriction A applies. Travel by boat is limited to Cut-Off Creek.
10. **Cypress Bayou:** Common Restriction A applies.
11. **Dardanelle:** Waterfowl hunting is not allowed on that part of Big Spadra and Little Spadra creeks lying north of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, east of Crawford Street, south of I-40, and west of Arkansas Highway 103. Dogs, hunting, or trapping devices are prohibited on Johnson County WRA.
12. **Dave Donaldson Black River:** Common Restriction A applies except within the Black River. Lake Ashbaugh and Hubble Lake are closed to all hunting, except both are open for the special early teal season; fishing and non-hunting activities are allowed. Boating access is allowed from noon until 6:30 p.m. during the regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from the Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season at the following waterbodies:
 - i. Little River
 - ii. Reyno Canal Access
 - iii. Winchester Canal Access
13. **DeGray Lake:** All weapons are prohibited on Lower DeGray Lake WRA except by permitted participants of special hunts and bowfishing on the lake.
14. **Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois d'Arc:** Common Restriction A applies.
15. **Earl Buss Bayou DeView:** Common Restriction A applies. Lake Hogue is closed to all hunting except for the special early teal season; fishing and non-hunting activities are allowed. Boating access is allowed only from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from the Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season at the following waterbodies:
 - i. Thompson Tract boat ramp to include boat run

- As of May 22, 2024
- ii. North Oliver Campground
primitive boat access to
include the natural slough
 - 16. **Ed Gordon Point Remove:** Common Restriction A applies. Effective November 1, 2023: Only open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts.
 - 17. **Frog Bayou:** Common Restriction A applies. Effective November 1, 2023: Only open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts.
 - 18. **Galla Creek:** Common Restriction A applies. **Exception:** Arkansas River Cutoff west of Flag Lake Road. Effective November 1, 2023: Only open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts.
 - 19. **Harris Brake:** Common Restriction A applies except within Harris Brake Lake. Open to waterfowl hunting only Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last segment of regular duck season. Only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed for hunting. Harris Brake Lake is open to Canada goose hunting September 1-15.
 - 20. **Henry Gray Hurricane Lake:** Common Restriction A applies except

As of May 22, 2024
within the White River and Little Red
River.

- i. When the main road gate at Mitchell Corner is closed, boating access is allowed from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from the Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season at the following waterbodies:
 - a. Glaise Creek (to include Glaise Creek access trail #2 from Mitchell Corner north boat ramp to the creek channel) from the WMA northern boundary to the main water-control structure at Whirl Lake
 - b. Whirl Lake access, to include Whirl Creek
- ii. When the main road gate at Mitchell Corner is open, boating access is allowed from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during regular duck season open days, all day during regular duck season splits, and all day from the Monday before the first segment of regular duck season until the first day of the first segment of regular duck season at the following waterbodies:
 - a. Big Bell Lake (to include Little Bell Lake)
 - b. Big Hurricane Lake (to include Little Hurricane Lake)
 - c. Bollie Pond
 - d. Glaise Creek
 - e. Honey Lake
 - f. Mallard Lake
 - g. Whirl Lake
 - h. Willow Pond.

21. **Craig D. Campbell Lake Conway Reservoir:** Closed to waterfowl hunting, except on the Caney Creek, Dix Creek, Palarm Creek, and Pierce

- As of May 22, 2024
- Creek bays outside posted buffer zones. Waterfowl hunting ends at noon.
23. **Lake Catherine:** It is unlawful to hunt migratory waterfowl from a watercraft or other floating device or from within 1,000 feet of any residence, dwelling or occupied structure.
 24. **Lake Hamilton:** It is unlawful to hunt migratory waterfowl from a watercraft or other floating device or from within 1,000 feet of any residence, dwelling or occupied structure.
 25. **Lake Overcup:** Waterfowl hunting ends at noon.
 26. **Maumelle River:** Closed to waterfowl hunting. All boating activities and access are prohibited in the Restricted Area Zone 1 on the east end of Lake Maumelle as marked by buoy lines. No hunting, camping or other access is allowed on any island on Lake Maumelle.
 28. **Nimrod Lloyd Millwood:** Common Restriction A applies within the greentree reservoir/special regulatory area.
 29. **Ozark Lake:** Dyer Lake Units open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last day of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts.
 30. **Petit Jean River WMA:** Common Restriction A applies. Only open to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season east of Hwy 7. Waterfowl hunting west of Hwy 7 is allowed all days of the week from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season until the next-to-last day of the last segment of regular duck season. All-day hunting is allowed the last day of the last segment of regular duck season and during special youth waterfowl and veteran and military hunts. **EXCEPTION:** Common

As of May 22, 2024
Restriction A does not apply to the
following waterbodies:

- i. Keeland Lake
- ii. Club House Pond
- iii. Lily Pad Pond
- iv. Kingfisher Lake
- v. Petit Jean River within the
boundaries of the WMA

31. **Rex Hancock Black Swamp:**

Common Restriction A applies except
within the Cache River. Boating access
is allowed from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
during regular duck season open days,
all day during regular duck season
splits, and all day from the Monday
before the first segment of regular
duck season until the first day of the
first segment of regular duck season at
the following waterbodies:

- i. Gregory Access (from County
Road 758) down the ditch to
the Cache River
- ii. Float Road Access (from
County Road 752) down the
marked trail to the Cache
River
- iii. Cache River within the
boundaries of the WMA

32. **Rick Evans Grandview Prairie:**

Waterfowl hunting closed on all lakes
and ponds.

33. **Seven Devils:** Common Restriction A
applies.

34. **Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek**

Bottoms: Common Restriction A
applies. The Jim Sullivan Youth
Waterfowl Unit is closed to all access,
except for youth waterfowl hunting
permit holders during youth waterfowl
permit hunts, from the last day of the
modern gun permit hunt to the last day
of waterfowl season (including the
waterfowl special youth hunt).

35. **St. Francis National Forest:**

Waterfowl hunting ends at noon.

36. **St. Francis Sunken Lands:** The
Snowden Field Waterfowl Rest Area
levee is open to foot traffic around the
north end of the unit.

37. **Sheffield Nelson Dagmar:** Common
Restriction A applies. The Conway
George Tract is closed to all access,
except for waterfowl hunting permit
holders. Boating access is allowed from
1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during regular
duck season open days, all day during
regular duck season splits, and all day

As of May 22, 2024
from the Monday before the first
segment of regular duck season until
the first day of the first segment of
regular duck season at the following
waterbodies:

- i. Robe Bayou Access to include
from the WMA northern
boundary to the low water
crossing at Interstate 40
 - ii. Gator Pond Access to include
only the open water pond area
and not flooded timber
38. **Shirey Bay Rainey Brake:** Common
Restriction A applies except within the
Black River. Boating access is allowed
from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. during
regular duck season open days, all day
during regular duck season splits, and
all day from the Monday before the
first segment of regular duck season
until the first day of the first segment
of regular duck season at the following
waterbodies:
- i. Shirey Bay, Horseshoe Lake,
and Hill Slough
 - ii. Diversion ditch from County
Road 317 to the diversion
ditch water-control structure
 - iii. **EXCEPTION:** Fishing and
non-hunting activities are
allowed on Shirey Bay,
Horseshoe Lake, and Hill
Slough.
39. **Sulphur River:** Common Restriction A
applies except within the Sulphur River
or Mercer Bayou.
40. **Tommy L. Sproles Lake Pickthorne:**
Closed to waterfowl hunting.

EXCEPTION: Commission staff, volunteers, and
participants during Commission-sponsored mentored
hunt programs.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO:	<u>24-010</u>	SUBJECT:	<u>2024-25 General Hunting, Fishing,</u>
DATE PASSED:	<u>May 16, 2024</u>		<u>and Captive Wildlife Regulations</u>
PAGE <u>1</u> of <u>2</u> PAGES		LOCATION:	<u>Statewide</u>

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff have proposed the attached package of General Hunting, Fishing, and Captive Wildlife regulations for 2024-2025; **and**

WHEREAS, the General Hunting and Captive Wildlife regulations for 2024-2025 include changes to game hunting seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas, boating access, weapon restrictions, captive wildlife, and manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species; **and**


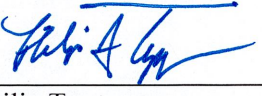
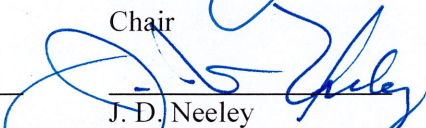
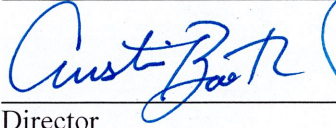
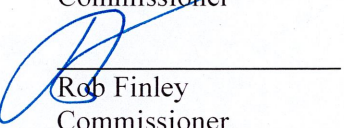
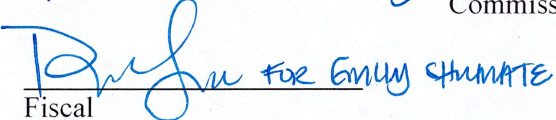
WHEREAS, the General Fishing regulations for 2024-2025 include changes to recreational sport fishing, commercial fishing, and spearfishing seasons, daily catch limits, possession limits, length limits, slot limits, license and permit requirements, and manner-of-taking requirements for game fish, rough fish, bait fish, commercial fish, minnows, turtles, crayfish, alligator, American Eel, bullfrogs, aquatic nuisance species, and other aquatic species; **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, Commission staff, and the Regulations Committee, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that all of the attached regulations promote sound fish and wildlife conservation and management, are consistent with Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution, and should now be approved for application statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED this 16th day of May 2024, that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby approves and adopts the attached package of 2024-2025 General Hunting, Fishing, and Captive Wildlife regulations, which shall all become effective on July 1, 2024, except as otherwise stated therein or as follows. The Addenda N1.01 and N1.02 changes related to the North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater) and Lakes Conway, Pickthorne, and Wilhelmina shall become effective on June 1, 2024. The revised Codes 03.06, 03.14, 03.15, 5.17, 9.01, 12.01, 12.03, 25.01, 25.02, 26.02, 26.05, 26.13, 26.14, 26.17, 26.21, 26.25, 26.31, 28.01, 29.01, 30.01, 30.02, 30.08, 30.22, 35.13, 35.14, and 39.04, and revised Addenda A1.10, I1.03, J1.01, J1.02, J1.03, J1.04, N1.01 (all other changes), N1.02 (all other changes), and N1.03, shall become effective on January 1, 2025. The Addendum 01.00-C changes to definitions related to fish or turtles and Addendum D1.01 changes related to the Resident Recreational Netting Permit and the Special and Commercial Fishing Section also shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

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.

	<u>STAFF APPROVAL</u>	<u>COMMISSION APPROVAL</u>	
Submitted by:	 Tommy Laird and Luke Naylor, Chiefs	 Stan Jones Chair	 Philip Tappan Commissioner
Division:	Fisheries and Wildlife	 J. D. Neeley Vice Chair	 Bill Jones Commissioner
Approved:	 Director	 Anne Marie Doramus Commissioner	 Brandon Adams Commissioner
Approved:	 Legal	 Rob Finley Commissioner	
Approved:	 Fiscal		

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

(Attach additional pages if needed)

DEPARTMENT: Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

DIVISION: Wildlife

PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT: Sandee Schultz

TELEPHONE #: 501-382-9092

FAX #:

EMAIL: sandee.schultz@agfc.ar.gov

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: C1.12 Special Usage Restrictions on Certain WMAs and Lakes

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?

Yes: No: ☒ X

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

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
Total	\$	

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
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: \$ 0

Next Fiscal Year: \$ 0

Party Subject to Rule: Hunters in Arkansas

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: changes clarify, open additional hunting opportunity and restrict hunting in some places

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: \$ 0

Next Fiscal Year: \$ 0

Financial Benefit to Agency:

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:

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts:

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Arkansas Game & Fish Headquarters located at 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, April 10, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Game & Fish Headquarters located at 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on April 11 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 meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the April 11, 2024 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that will be considered at the March 20-21, 2024 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. **General Hunting and Miscellaneous Wildlife Regulations** – Propose general hunting regulations for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 including, but not limited to, game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas (WMAs), weapon restrictions and other manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species. Changes to regulations include, but are not limited to:

Furbearer/Depredation

- Clarify which Commission-owned properties are open to hunting and trapping.
- Specify that striped skunks are not subject to wanton waste restrictions on wildlife.
- Specify that the requirements to possess another's wildlife are met by current fur dealer reporting requirements.
- Add an exception that would allow raccoon, opossum, or bobcat to be taken at night with the use of any caliber of rifle in accordance with a Predator Control Permit.
- Clarify that otter and bobcat tagging requirements apply to pelts or carcasses.
- Specify that only live red fox, gray fox, and coyote can be sold with a Live Fox and Coyote Permit.
- Clarify depredation permit information and requirements. Specify that nuisance birds, deer, and elk cannot be live captured and moved by the public.
- Authorize riding horses on Commission-owned WMAs for coon hunting or other purposes that are deemed to be appropriate and not in conflict with the agency's management of resources, permit hunts, etc.

Captive Wildlife

- Clarify that game birds are covered under Game Bird Shooting Resorts code and not under Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort code.
- Clarify who needs to register animal sales with the agency.

- Add an exception for customers with fewer than 100 Bobwhite Quail for personal consumption that will not be moved off the property and that are either from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or an NPIP flock.
- Combine similar codes to reduce confusion and number of regulations.
- Clarify the requirement for movement of wildlife across the state.
- Clarify that any non-prohibited species that is permitted can be imported with a Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Clarify that sanctioned field trials require a special permit letter from the Chief of Wildlife Management, not a shoot-to-kill permit.
- Update the details of CWD testing requirements for Commercial Hunting Resort Requirements.
- Update the Captive Wildlife Species Lists for those species that have been evaluated since the past regulation cycle.
- Clarify that unlisted species are prohibited until evaluated.
- Adjust reporting requirements to semi-annual reporting.
- Clarify that a current and valid veterinarian exam form is required.
- Clarify rules for exhibition of imported wildlife.
- Make a declaration of the agency's right to inspect wildlife being imported into the state.
- Revise code to reflect that shoot-to-kill bird dog training permits are valid from date of issuance to December 31 of that calendar year.
- Add an annual reporting requirement for Venomous Reptile Possession Permit.
- Add a stipulation that you must be an Arkansas resident to apply for a Conservation Education Permit.
- Clarify that permits are required for breeding, sale, and importation of certain species.
- Clarify process of interim approvals for captive wildlife species list and handling of species not listed.
- Adjust fees of various captive wildlife permitting to account for inflation, to include, but not limited to: Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit, Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit, and Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Allow temporary exhibits of prohibited species for display, education, or conservation purposes to those with USDA permits.
- Remove requirement of Wildlife Importation Permit for Game Bird Shooting Resorts while ensuring birds are obtained from an NPIP source or a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permittee.
- Allow for the revocation of Wildlife Importation Permits if requirements are not met.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- Remove regulation regarding geocaching permits on WMAs because geocaching has since been prohibited.
- Affirm the prohibition of non-permit holders being on WMAs during permit hunts.
- Revise the end date for quail and rabbit dog training on WMAs from April 1 to March 31.
- Define camping to clarify that parking vehicles, boats, etc. in WMA parking lots for extended periods of time is camping and is prohibited outside designated camping areas.
- Allow tree hooks to be used on WMAs.
- Specify that all dog training and field trial activities on a WMA require a hunting license.
- Remove the unnecessary exception that allows for waterfowl retrievers to be used during open migratory bird seasons as these dogs are already allowed.
- Remove references to Ozark National Forest WMA as this WMA no longer exists.

- Expand incidental take of feral hogs on WMAs during open deer, elk, and bear seasons with weapons allowed during those seasons.
- At Camp Robinson SUA:
 - Add muzzleloader permit deer hunt.
 - Add early permit youth deer hunt.
 - Open waterfowl season.
- At Bell Slough WMA:
 - Add early permit youth deer hunt.
 - Add late youth modern gun deer hunt.
- At Stone Prairie WMA:
 - Add late youth modern gun deer hunt.
- At Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA:
 - Move modern gun permit deer hunt to statewide opener for gun season.
 - Move deer muzzleloader season up one week to match regular muzzleloader season.
 - Add early permit youth modern gun deer hunt.
 - Change the late youth modern gun deer hunt to an open youth modern gun deer hunt.
- At Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA:
 - Require that the head from all does harvested be left at the WMA work center for verification of harvest.
 - Clarify that access restrictions do not apply to Lake Cargile.
- At J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA:
 - Allow trapping with enclosed pull-activated or “dog proof” type traps.
 - Move the modern gun deer permit hunt from the second Wednesday in November to the second Thursday in November.
 - Allow hunting of Mourning, White-Winged and Eurasian Collared Dove while field trials are in progress.
 - Allow walk-in hunting of small game (rabbits and squirrel), migratory birds and archery deer while field trials are in progress.
- At Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois D’Arc WMA:
 - Modify dates of muzzleloader permit hunt to no longer overlap with modern gun youth hunt.

Deer/Elk

- Allow the use of rifles which fire straight-walled cartridges .30 caliber and larger in Deer Zones 4 and 5 for modern gun deer season.
- Remove private lands antlerless-only modern gun hunt.
- Limit the bull elk harvest to one bull per landowner property during the private land elk hunt.
- Modify the public land elk hunt quota to issue 6 either-sex and 12 antlerless elk permits while closing Elk Zone 1 to hunting.
- Modify the private land elk hunt quota to 6 bulls and 12 antlerless elk.
- Allow spears for deer, elk, and bear hunting.
- Adjust buck deer restrictions on Big Lake (Mississippi County) and Harold E. Alexander/Spring River (Sharp County).

Turkey

- Prohibit the use of electronic decoys for hunting wild turkeys.
- Require Non-Resident Lifetime License Holders to add a no-cost turkey hunting permit to their license before turkey hunting in Arkansas.
- Create a mandatory no-cost resident turkey tag product that is required to hunt wild turkeys in Arkansas, and require all Resident Hunting License Holders and Resident Lifetime License Holders who hunt turkey to manually add this to their license each year.
- Open Camp Robinson SUA to spring turkey hunting by permit and manage permit hunt in combination with Stone Prairie WMA.
- Add a hybrid permit hunt on R.L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA.

Migratory Birds

- Include boat motor exhaust restrictions on the Cache River, Dale Bumpers White River, Felsenthal, and Overflow National Wildlife Refuges.
- Allow the taking of Egyptian geese and their eggs.
- Require hunters to have a federal migratory bird hunting stamp to harvest light geese during snow goose season.
- Clarify that the light goose conservation order is exempt from proof of Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration.
- Clarify that geese may be harvested during any open youth and veteran/military hunt with bag limits.
- Implement a waterfowl draw permit hunt on portions of Frog Bayou WMA.
- Clarify the rules of waterfowl permit hunts.
- Remove requirements for boat motors at Frog Bayou WMA as boat motors are not allowed on Frog Bayou.
- Clarify non-resident waterfowl hunting permit requirements.
- Allow non-resident duck hunters to purchase up to ten (10) three-day non-resident WMA waterfowl hunting permits throughout the regular duck season.
- Clarify the rules of veteran/military waterfowl hunts.
- Propose 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 duck season dates.
- Restrict access times at Nimrod Lloyd Millwood WMA Special Regulatory Area.
- Allow non-motorized boat access to all designated water trails.
- Establish a 25-shell limit for waterfowl hunters on all WMAs with a waterfowl-hunting focus, with an exception during special youth waterfowl hunts.
- Restrict waterfowl hunting east of Hwy 7 at Petit Jean River WMA to Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, and the last day of duck season.
- Revise the end date on early Canada goose season from September 15 to October 15.
- Allow an electronic copy of the federal migratory bird hunting stamp to be valid for the entirety of waterfowl season.
- Clarify that the prohibition of guiding waterfowl hunters exists on both Commission-owned or -controlled WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges.
- Clarify resident/non-resident eligible hunting days for landowners owning inholdings on WMAs.

Miscellaneous

- Define the term “hunting assistance” and clarify that individuals with a suspended hunting license cannot provide “hunting assistance.”
- Clarify what anatomical parts of wildlife are legal to sell and which parts are illegal to sell.

- Define the term “customer identification (CID)” and allow CID numbers to be used as a method of labeling personal items (tree stands, trotlines, etc.) and tagging harvested game.
- Increase violation points for obstructing hunting, fishing, or trapping.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting over bait.
- Clarify that wildlife baiting prohibitions apply to Federal lands in addition to state-owned WMAs.
- Reduce the violation for failing to label or remove a tree stand every 7 days from Class 2 to Class 1.
- Increase the number of days a tree stand can remain in one location from 7 days to 14 days to match regulations on Federal lands.
- Create consistency in the penalty for road hunting by making all road hunting violations Class 3.
- Extend WMA-entry restrictions for boating violations to National Wildlife Refuges.
- Restrict individuals with revoked/suspended hunting and/or fishing licenses from being able to mentor or assist youths in hunting and fishing-related activities.
- Clarify legality of waterfowl hunting on Lake Catherine and Lake Hamilton.
- Clarify the term “written permission” and when written permission is required.
- Clarify rules regarding hunting from a vessel so that it is clearly prohibited with an exception for alligator and waterfowl.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting from a vessel by making all violations Class 3.
- Modify verbiage regarding dogs chasing wildlife for “pleasure” to dogs chasing wildlife for “training.”
- Modify requirements for tracking wounded game.
- Remove code requiring individuals to immediately disclose the possession of a concealed handgun.
- Reduce handgun restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property or while hunting, fishing, or trapping on private property.
- Reinstate the ban on harvesting a collared bear.
- Allow use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for wildlife surveys on private lands and for game recovery if equipped with thermal capabilities.
- Require that dogs not under physical restraint and used for pursuing wildlife be equipped and monitored with devices (e.g. collars) that allow remote tracking and behavior correction.

2. **General Fishing Regulations** – Propose miscellaneous fishing regulations, including, but not limited to:

Alligator

- Remove alligator farmer and dealer permit regulations.
- Remove alligator hunter radio room call requirement.
- Clarify rules regarding non-residents hunting alligators on private lands in zones where alligator hunting is allowed.

American Eel

- Add American Eel to the list of sportfish with a creel limit of 2.

Bass

- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Barnett (White County) from 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Brewer from a 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Cane Creek Lake from statewide regulations to a 15 inch minimum length limit.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Poinsett to allow a daily limit of 10, only 1 of which may be larger than 16 inches.
- Remove the Smallmouth Bass special regulation areas on Crooked Creek.
- Remove Redeye Bass from the Black Bass definition.
- Implement a Bass Management Assistance Program and Permit which aims to provide technical assistance with black bass management for private landowners with lakes and ponds 10 acres or greater in size. The permit would allow private lake or pond owners to legally harvest above Arkansas's black bass daily and possession limits as long as they comply with the terms and provisions of the permit.

Blue Sucker

- Add Blue Sucker to the list of rare species illegal to possess by Commercial Fishers.

Bullfrog

- Modify current hunting season to begin after breeding season (late May) while reducing daily bag and possession limits to allow more breeding adults to survive for reproduction.

Catfish

- Modify catfish hogging and noodling season based on openness of waterbody to commercial fishing versus geographic location. Waterbodies that are not open to commercial fishing are generally less productive and can benefit for postponing hogging and noodling until after catfish have had the opportunity to spawn.

Commercial Fishing

- Modify commercial fishing fee structure to reflect two separate user groups (for-profit & personal use). Create a recreational netting permit (RNP) to provide an opportunity for recreational netters to keep fish for personal use. The new RNP would permit harvesting commercial fish species and three daily limits of catfish with netting gear on waters open to commercial fishing while prohibiting the sale of catch. The RNP permit would not have any reporting requirements.
- Decrease the commercial tackle checking rule for SNS (e.g. gill nets, trammel nets, and seines) & TL (e.g. trot lines, limb lines, snaglines, throw lines, and set hooks) gear from 48 hours to 24 hours while increasing HN (e.g. hoop nets) and FS (e.g. fiddler nets and slat traps) to 72 hours.
- Prohibit the overland transport of commercially-harvested fish alive in water.

Crappie

- Set Crappie daily limit on Lake Poinsett.

Crayfish

- Modify importation restrictions on crayfish to minimize impacts to interstate commerce.

Paddlefish

- Establish Paddlefish Snagging Season below Houseman Access on White River to Missouri State Line.

- Implement a 34 inch minimum length limit for Paddlefish during new snagging season on the White River below the Houseman Access downstream to the Missouri State Line and in the current snagging area below Beaver Dam.
- Establish Paddlefish Permit System & Tagging Requirements for Upper White River above Beaver Lake with a 2 fish annual limit.

Tournaments

- Implement fishing tournament registration to improve agency's knowledge of such tournaments to help with management efforts on the waterbodies where these tournaments occur.

Trout

- Modify special regulations for Cutthroat Trout on the North Fork White River.
- On the Beaver, Bull Shoals, Norfork, and Greers Ferry, and Spring River Tailwaters, prohibit the nighttime harvest of any fish other than Rainbow Trout.

Miscellaneous

- Modify definitions for bait fish, game fish, rough fish, and disabled angler.
- Modify the prohibited aquatic species list and clarify that it applies to more than just Live Fish Trade regulations.
- Restore statewide game fish regulations for Mercer Bayou beginning January 1, 2025.
- Reduce use of unused passive gear, clarify the number of hooks that may be used on various types of passive gear, and add additional methods of labeling fishing devices.
- Differentiate violations for non-residents illegally possessing a resident hunting license from non-residents illegally possessing a resident fishing license. A non-resident illegally possessing a resident fishing license would be a Class 2 offense.
- Require unattended portable live bait containers to be labeled.
- Shift Mattocks Park Lake, Lake Village Community Fishing Pond, Mom's Lake, Monticello High School Pond, Mike and Janet Huckabee Youth Fishing Pond, Monticello High School Pond, and Walnut Ridge City Lake from the Family Fishing Program Restrictions to the Community Fishing Program Waters Restrictions.
- Increase the spearfishing limits on currently legal species from half the daily limit to full daily limit.
- Require resident and non-resident hunting and fishing guides to carry in their possession proof of \$100,000 general liability insurance.
- Redefine the downstream boundary of the Beaver Tailwater.
- Remove game fish daily limit exceptions from Lake Poinsett while establishing a crappie daily limit of 15 fish.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 11, 2024 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 April 1, 2024. 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.

If you need assistance to participate in this public meeting due to a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact AGFC's ADA Coordinator in Human Resources

at 501-382-3813 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request an accommodation. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your request.

AUSTIN BOOTH, DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 16, 2024, at the El Dorado Union County Chamber of Commerce located at 111 W. Main St., El Dorado, AR 71730. 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, May 15, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at El Dorado Union County Chamber of Commerce located at 111 W. Main St., El Dorado, AR 71730. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on May 16th 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 meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the May 16, 2024, meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the April 10-11, 2024, 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. **General Hunting and Miscellaneous Wildlife Regulations** – Adopt general hunting regulations for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 including, but not limited to, game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas (WMAs), weapon restrictions and other manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species. Changes to regulations include, but are not limited to:

Furbearer/Depredation

- Clarify which Commission-owned properties are open to hunting and trapping.
- Specify that striped skunks are not subject to wanton waste restrictions on wildlife.
- Specify that the requirements to possess another's wildlife are met by current fur-dealer reporting requirements.
- Add an exception that would allow raccoon, opossum, or bobcat to be taken at night with the use of any caliber of rifle in accordance with a Predator Control Permit.
- Clarify that otter and bobcat tagging requirements apply to pelts or carcasses.
- Specify that only live red fox, gray fox, and coyote can be sold with a Live Fox and Coyote Permit.
- Clarify Depredation Permit information and requirements. Specify that nuisance birds, deer, and elk cannot be live-captured and moved by the public.
- Authorize riding horses on Commission-owned WMAs for coon hunting or other purposes that are deemed to be appropriate and not in conflict with AGFC's management of resources, permit hunts, etc.

Captive Wildlife

- Clarify that game birds are covered under Game Bird Shooting Resorts code and not under Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort code.

- Clarify who needs to register animal sales with AGFC.
- Add an exception for persons with fewer than 100 Bobwhite Quail for personal consumption that will not be moved off the property and that are either from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or an NPIP flock.
- Combine similar codes to reduce confusion and number of regulations.
- Clarify the requirement for movement of wildlife across the state.
- Clarify that any non-prohibited species that are permitted can be imported with a Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Clarify that sanctioned field trials require a special permit letter from the Chief of Wildlife Management, not a Shoot-to-Kill Permit.
- Update the details of CWD testing requirements for Commercial Hunting Resort Requirements.
- Update the Captive Wildlife Species Lists for those species that have been evaluated since the past regulation cycle.
- Clarify that unlisted species are prohibited until evaluated.
- Adjust reporting requirements to semi-annual reporting.
- Clarify that a current and valid veterinarian exam form is required.
- Clarify rules for exhibition of imported wildlife.
- Make a declaration of AGFC's right to inspect wildlife being imported into the state.
- Revise code to reflect that Shoot-to-Kill Bird Dog Training Permits are valid from date of issuance to December 31st of that calendar year.
- Add an annual reporting requirement for Venomous Reptile Possession Permit.
- Add a stipulation that a person must be an Arkansas resident to apply for a Conservation Education Permit.
- Clarify that permits are required for breeding, sale, and importation of certain species.
- Clarify process of interim approvals for captive wildlife species list and handling of species not listed.
- Adjust fees of various captive wildlife permitting to account for inflation, to include, but not limited to: Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit, Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit, and Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Allow temporary exhibits of prohibited species for display, education, or conservation purposes to those with USDA permits.
- Remove requirement of Wildlife Importation Permit for Game Bird Shooting Resorts while ensuring birds are obtained from an NPIP source or a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permittee.
- Allow for the revocation of Wildlife Importation Permits if requirements are not met.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- Remove regulation regarding Geocaching Permits on WMAs because geocaching activity has been prohibited.
- Affirm the prohibition of non-permit holders being on WMAs during permit hunts.
- Add muzzleloader permit deer hunt at Camp Robinson SUA.
- Add early permit youth deer hunt at Camp Robinson SUA and Bell Slough WMA.
- Add late youth modern gun deer hunt at Stone Prairie WMA and Bell Slough WMA.
- Move modern gun permit deer hunt at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA to statewide opener for gun season.
- Move deer muzzleloader season at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA up one week to match regular muzzleloader season.

- Create an early permit youth modern gun deer hunt at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA.
- Switch the late youth modern gun deer hunt to an open youth modern gun deer hunt at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA.
- Open waterfowl season on Camp Robinson SUA.
- Require that the head from all does harvested at Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA be left at the WMA Work Center for verification of harvest.
- Revise the end-date for quail and rabbit dog training on WMAs from April 1 to March 31.
- Add and/or amend definitions for multiple terms, including “Big Bore Air Rifles”, “Camping”, “Chase for Training”, “Customer Identification Number”, “Disabled”, “Hunt or Hunting”, and “Hunting Assistance”.
- Clarify that access restrictions do not apply to Lake Cargile at Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA.
- Allow trapping with enclosed pull-activated or “dog proof” type traps on J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA.
- Move the modern gun deer permit hunt at J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA from the second Wednesday in November to the second Thursday in November.
- Allow hunting of Mourning, White-Winged and Eurasian Collared Dove at J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA while field trials are being conducted.
- Allow walk-in hunting of small game (rabbits and squirrel), migratory birds and archery deer while field trials are in progress at J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA.
- Modify dates of muzzleloader permit hunt to no longer overlap with modern gun youth hunt at Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois D’Arc WMA.
- Allow tree hooks to be used on WMAs.
- Specify that all dog training and field trial activities on a WMA require a hunting license.
- Remove the unnecessary exception that allows for waterfowl retrievers to be used during open migratory bird seasons as these dogs are already allowed.
- Remove references to Ozark National Forest WMA, as this large geographic area has been redesignated.
- Remove restrictions for motion decoys (including spinning-wing decoys) for waterfowl hunting on AGFC-owned WMAs.

Deer/Elk

- Allow the use of rifles that fire straight-walled cartridges .30 caliber and larger in Deer Zones 4 and 5 for modern gun deer season.
- Remove private lands antlerless-only modern gun hunt.
- Limit the bull elk harvest to one bull per landowner property during the private land elk hunt.
- Modify the public land elk hunt quota to issue 6 either-sex and 12 antlerless elk permits while closing elk zone 1 to hunting.
- Modify the private land elk hunt quota to 6 bulls and 12 antlerless elk.
- Allow spears for deer, elk, and bear hunting.
- Adjust buck deer restrictions on Big Lake (Mississippi County) and Harold E. Alexander/Spring River (Sharp County) within Mississippi and Sharp Counties.
- Allowing weapons capable of firing straight-walled ammunition statewide during all muzzleloader seasons. Certain weapon restrictions will apply.

- Implement a 3-day velvet buck archery hunt the first Saturday in September for 3 days on private lands and AGFC-owned and leased-land WMAs.
- Limit nonresident deer hunting with dogs to the last 9 days of modern gun deer season - excluding the Christmas modern gun deer hunt - with a one-deer bag limit.

Turkey

- Prohibit the use of electronic decoys for hunting wild turkeys.
- Require Non-Resident Lifetime License Holders to add a turkey hunting permit at no-cost to their license before turkey hunting in Arkansas.
- Create a mandatory no-cost resident turkey tag product that is required to hunt wild turkeys in Arkansas, and require all resident hunting license holders and resident lifetime license holders who hunt turkey to manually add this to their license each year.
- Open Camp Robinson SUA to spring turkey hunting by permit and manage permit hunt in combination with Stone Prairie WMA.
- Add a hybrid permit hunt on R.L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA.

Migratory Birds

- Include boat motor exhaust restrictions on the Cache River, Dale Bumpers White River, Felsenthal, and Overflow National Wildlife Refuges.
- Allow the taking of Egyptian geese and their eggs.
- Require hunters to have a federal migratory bird hunting stamp to harvest light geese during snow goose season.
- Clarify that the light goose conservation order is exempt from proof of Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration.
- Clarify that geese may be harvested during any open youth and veteran/military hunt with bag limits.
- Implement a waterfowl draw permit hunt on portions of Frog Bayou WMA.
- Clarify the rules of waterfowl permit hunts.
- Remove requirements for boat motors at Frog Bayou WMA as boat motors are not allowed on Frog Bayou.
- Clarify non-resident waterfowl hunting permit requirements.
- Allow non-resident duck hunters to purchase up to ten (10) three-day non-resident WMA waterfowl hunting permits throughout the regular duck season.
- Clarify the rules of veteran/military waterfowl hunts.
- Propose 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 duck season dates.
- Restrict access times at Nimrod Lloyd Millwood WMA Special Regulatory Area.
- Allow non-motorized boat access to all designated water trails.
- Establish a 25-shell limit for waterfowl hunters on all WMAs with a waterfowl-hunting focus with an exception during special youth waterfowl hunts.
- Restrict waterfowl hunting east of Hwy 7 at Petit Jean River WMA to Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, and the last day of duck season.
- Revise the end date on early Canada goose season from September 15th to October 15th.
- Allow an electronic copy of the federal migratory bird hunting stamp to be valid for the entirety of waterfowl season.
- Clarify that the prohibition of guiding waterfowl hunters exists on both Commission-owned or controlled WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges.
- Clarify resident/non-resident eligible hunting days for landowners owning inholdings on WMAs.

- Reduce the daily bag limit for mallard hens from two to one per day.
- Modify white-fronted goose season to be 69 days and reduce daily bag limit to two per day.

Miscellaneous

- Define the term “hunting assistance” and clarify that individuals with a suspended hunting license cannot provide “hunting assistance.”
- Clarify what anatomical parts of wildlife are legal to sell and which parts are illegal to sell.
- Define the term “customer identification (CID)” and allow CID numbers to be used as a method of labeling personal items (tree stands, trotlines, etc.) and tagging harvested game.
- Increase violation points for obstructing hunting, fishing, or trapping.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting over bait.
- Clarify that wildlife baiting prohibitions apply to Federal lands in addition to state-owned WMAs.
- Reduce the violation for failing to label or remove a tree stand every 7 days from Class 2 to Class 1.
- Increase the number of days a tree stand can remain in one location from 7 days to 14 days to match regulations on Federal lands.
- Create consistency in the penalty for road hunting by making all road hunting violations Class 3.
- Extend WMA-entry restrictions for boating violations to National Wildlife Refuges.
- Restrict individuals with revoked/suspended hunting and/or fishing licenses from being able to mentor or assist youths in hunting and fishing-related activities.
- Clarify legality of waterfowl hunting on Lake Catherine and Lake Hamilton.
- Clarify the term “written permission” and when written permission is required.
- Clarify rules regarding hunting from a vessel so that it is clearly prohibited with an exception for alligator and waterfowl.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting from a vessel by making all violations Class 3.
- Modify verbiage regarding dogs chasing wildlife for “pleasure” to dogs chasing wildlife for “training.”
- Modify requirements for tracking wounded game.
- Remove code requiring individuals to immediately disclose the possession of a concealed handgun.
- Reduce handgun restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property or while hunting, fishing, or trapping on private property.
- Require resident and nonresident hunting guides to carry in their possession proof of \$100,000 general liability insurance.

2. **General Fishing Regulations** – Propose miscellaneous fishing regulations, including, but not limited to:

Alligator

- Remove alligator farmer and permit regulations to close the loop hole that would allow someone to purchase this permit to possess a crocodilian as a pet.
- Remove alligator hunter radio room call requirement.

- Clarify rules regarding nonresidents hunting alligators on private lands in zones where alligator hunting is allowed.

American Eel

- Add American Eel to the list of sportfish with a creel limit of 2 fish.

Bass

- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Barnett (White County) from 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Brewer from a 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Cane Creek Lake from statewide regulations to a 15 inch minimum length limit.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Poinsett to allow a daily limit of 10, only 1 of which may be longer than 16 inches.
- Remove the Smallmouth Bass special regulation areas on Crooked Creek.
- Remove Redeye Bass from the Black Bass definition.
- Implement a Bass Management Assistance Program & Permit which aims to provide technical assistance with black bass management for private landowners with lakes and ponds ten acres or greater in size. The permit would allow private lake or pond owners to legally harvest above Arkansas's black bass daily and possession limits as long as they comply with the terms and provisions of the permit.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Pickthorne to allow a daily limit of 2, only 1 of which may be longer than 21 inches.

Beaver Tailwater Boundary

- Redefine the downstream boundary of the Beaver Tailwater.

Blue Sucker

- Add Blue Sucker to the list of rare species illegal to possess by Commercial Fishers.

Bullfrog

- Modify current hunting season to begin after breeding season (June 1-Dec. 31) and maintain 18 frog daily limit.

Catfish

- Modify catfish hogging and noodling season based on openness of waterbody to commercial fishing versus geographic location. Waterbodies that are not open to commercial fishing are generally less productive and can benefit for postponing hogging and noodling until after catfish have had the opportunity to spawn.

Commercial Fishing

- Modify commercial fishing fee structure to reflect two separate user groups (for-profit & personal use). Create a recreational netting permit (RNP) to provide an opportunity for recreational netters to keep fish for personal use. The new RNP would permit harvesting commercial fish species and three daily limits of catfish with netting gear on waters open to commercial fishing while prohibiting the sale of catch. The RNP permit would not have any reporting requirements.
- Prohibit the transport of live commercial fish in water.

Crayfish

- Modify importation restrictions on crayfish to minimize impacts to interstate commerce.

Paddlefish

- Establish Paddlefish Snagging Season below Houseman Access on White River to Missouri State Line.
- Implement a 34 inch minimum length limit for Paddlefish during new snagging season on the White River below the Houseman Access downstream to the Missouri State Line and in the current snagging area below Beaver Dam.
- Establish Paddlefish Permit System & Tagging Requirements for Upper White River above Beaver Lake.

Tournaments

- Implement fishing tournament registration to improve agency's knowledge of such tournaments to help with management efforts on the waterbodies where these tournaments occur.

Trout

- Modify special regulations for Cutthroat Trout on the North Fork White River.
- Adopt restriction for only Rainbow Trout to be harvested from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise (no other trout species permitted during those times).

Miscellaneous

- Modify definitions for bait fish, game fish, rough fish, and disabled angler.
- Modify the prohibited aquatic species list and clarify that it applies to more than just Live Fish Trade regulations.
- Restore statewide game fish regulations for Mercer Bayou beginning January 1, 2025.
- Reduce use of unused passive gear, clarify the number of hooks that may be used on various types of passive gear, and add additional methods of labeling fishing devices.
- Differentiate violations for nonresidents illegally possessing a resident hunting license from nonresidents illegally possessing a resident fishing license. A nonresident illegally possessing a resident fishing license would be a Class 2 offense.
- Require unattended portable live bait containers to be labeled.
- Shift Mattocks Park Lake, Lake Village Community Fishing Pond, Mom's Lake, Monticello High School Pond, Mike and Janet Huckabee Youth Fishing Pond, Monticello High School Pond, and Walnut Ridge City Lake from the Family Fishing Program Restrictions to the Community Fishing Program Waters Restrictions. Craighead Forest Park Fishing Pond to remain listed under the Family Fishing Program Restrictions.
- Increase the spearfishing limits on currently legal species from half the daily limit to full daily limit.
- Allow use of nets (up to 5 nets) for holders of a recreational fish netting license.
- Decrease the passive tackle requirements for TL (e.g. trot lines, limb lines, snaglines, throw lines, and set hooks) gear from 48 hours to 24 hours.
- Remove game fish size restrictions and daily limits on Lake Conway and Lake Wilhelmina (to apply during the planned renovation process at each lake).
- Require resident and nonresident fishing guides to carry in their possession proof of \$100,000 general liability insurance.
- Increase fees for various licenses and permits, including fee for Resident Guide Fishing License, Resident Commercial Fishing Permit, and Resident Commercial Fishing Helper's Permit.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the May 16, 2024 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 May 6, 2024. 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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