

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
John Thurston
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094
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Name of Department _____

Agency or Division Name _____

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

Contact Person _____

Contact E-mail _____

Contact Phone _____

Name of Rule _____

Newspaper Name _____

Date of Publishing _____

Final Date for Public Comment _____

Location and Time of Public Meeting _____

Proposed Change: Modify the existing code that prohibits possession of a firearm while archery or crossbow hunting bear, deer, or turkey, to allow legally possessed handguns. Modify the existing code that prohibits possession of a firearm while archery or crossbow hunting bear, deer, or turkey, to allow person tracking wounded big game to possess a firearm legal for the hunting season.

Justification: Firearms prohibited while archery or crossbow hunting

Codes affected: 06.05

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

(Attach additional pages if needed)

DEPARTMENT: Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

DIVISION: Wildlife Management Division

PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT: Sandee Schultz

TELEPHONE #: 501-382-9092 **FAX #:** **EMAIL:** sandee.schultz@agfc.ar.gov

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: 06.05 Firearms Prohibited While Archery or Crossbow hunting

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 Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?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: N/A 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	\$
Special Revenue	\$
Other (Identify)	\$
Total	\$

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$
Federal Funds	\$
Cash Funds	\$
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 What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any **party** subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule?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: N/A

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: N/A

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: None

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less burdensome to small business? Yes: No: ☒

Why were such alternatives not proposed:

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts: N/A

06.05 Firearms Prohibited While Archery or Crossbow Hunting

It is unlawful to have a firearm in one's immediate possession while hunting bear, deer or turkey with archery tackle.

EXCEPTIONS:

A. Legal firearms when and where a firearms bear or deer season is open.

~~B. In compliance with Code 05.19~~

C. Hunters of a deer camp enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program who has been issued an Unrestricted Weapon Antlerless Permit or Management Buck Permit may hunt deer in compliance with the terms of the Permit.

~~D. Persons tracking wounded big game in compliance with Code 08.09.~~

~~E. Persons with a legally possessed handgun.~~

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 20, 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, June 19, 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 June 20th 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 June 20, 2024 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the May 15-16, 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 Regulations** – Adopt general hunting regulations for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Changes to regulations include, but are not limited to:
 - Modifying the existing codes to reduce the bag limit to one turkey for nonresident youth.
 - Modify the existing code that prohibits possession of a firearm while archery or crossbow hunting bear, deer, or turkey, to allow legally possessed handguns.
 - Modify the existing code that prohibits possession of a firearm while archery or crossbow hunting bear, deer, or turkey, to allow person tracking wounded big game to possess a firearm legal for the hunting season.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the June 20, 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 June 10, 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