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WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
Department of Natural Resources

Chapter 20-1
Series IV
(1968)

Subject: 1968-69 Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Section 1. Definition of Terms Used

1.01. Possession limit--means game which is in any way under the control of the hunter. Example: the total of all game in a car, trunk, home freezer, commercial food locker, or any other storage method or place.

1.02. Aggregate--means the total bag or possession limit of any similar kind of game animals or birds. Example: the possession limit for squirrels is 12, after the first day. This could be four gray squirrels, four fox squirrels, and four black squirrels; or any combination of 12 squirrels, but not more than a total of six per day, nor more than a total of 12 in possession.

1.03. Resident--means any person who is a citizen of the United States and who has resided continuously in the State of West Virginia for a period of six months. (Absentee ownership of land in West Virginia does not constitute legal residence.) Residency must be immediately prior to buying license.

1.04. Non-resident--means any person, regardless of age or other status, who does not meet the requirements for a resident.

1.05. Concurrent hunting--hunting of other species during deer gun season.

Section 2. General Hunting Laws and Regulations

2.01. No hunting on State Parks.

2.02. No person may legally take under any conditions more than one deer per calendar year.

2.03. No person shall hunt deer with a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball. Any rifle using center-fire ammunition may be used for hunting deer. The use of muzzle loading rifles is permitted for hunting deer.

2.04. No person shall hunt deer between sunset and sunrise, or kill or wound any deer while the deer is in any stream, lake or pond.

2.05. It shall be unlawful at any time for any person or persons to throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light, from any vehicle, on any animal or game bird, or attempt to do so, while having in their possession or under their control, or in any vehicle or conveyance in which they may be traveling, a cased or uncased firearm or other implement whereby any wild animal or wild bird could be killed, even though such animal be not shot at, injured or killed.

2.06. Obtain written permission before hunting on private land.

2.07. It shall be illegal for any person to have in his possession a loaded firearm or a firearm from the magazine of which all shells and cartridges have not been removed, in or on any vehicle or conveyance, or its attachment, within the state, except as may otherwise be provided by law or regulation.

2.08. After a person has killed a deer, he shall not participate further in the hunt if he has a gun or bow in his possession.

2.09. Any hunter under 15 must be accompanied by a licensed adult.

2.10. No Sunday hunting, except that raccoon hunting may be continued until 5:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.

2.11. A National Forest Hunting License (Class I) is required in addition to other licenses when hunting on National Forest Lands.

2.12. No warming or other fires permitted on lands belonging to others without written permission of owners.

2.13. It is illegal to smoke game from trees, dens, rocks, or other cover.

2.14. It is illegal to carry an uncased gun in a vehicle between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. from September 30 to July 1. From July 2 to September 29 it is illegal between 8:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

2.15. No person may legally take more than one bear per calendar year.

2.16. No dog training permitted on game birds and game animals from May 1 to August 15 except with written permission of landowner; provided organized groups may be permitted to hold field trials with a permit and under the supervision of a representative of the Department of Natural Resources.

Section 3. General Firearms Regulations

3.01. All seasons, unless otherwise stated, are statewide. The opening and closing dates shall be inclusive, except as noted under exceptions.

3.02. All hunting with firearms and bow shall be unlawful from October 1, 1968 through October 11, 1968, except that it is legal to hunt squirrels during this period in the following counties: Boone,

Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Raleigh, Wayne and Wyoming. It is also legal to hunt doves, rails, and snipe, as specified in the regulations.

3.03. All hunting, except for deer, shall be prohibited during the first three days of deer gun season in all territories having a firearms deer season.

3.04. Concurrent Hunting During Deer Firearms Season.

(a) No hunting of wild turkey or bear during deer firearms season.

(b) Small game hunting permitted, beginning November 28.

(c) Hunting of small game as noted will be permitted statewide, provided shotguns only are used.

(d) Shot smaller than #4 and slugs may be carried with a shotgun prior to killing a deer.

(e) After killing a legal deer, a successful hunter shall not be afield with solid ball ammunition in his possession, or with shot shells containing larger than #4 shot.

3.05. Only deer having one or both antlers three inches in length above the hair will be legal game, during bucks only hunting season.

3.06. Spring Gobbler Season.

(a) Shooting hours will be 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

(b) No hunters allowed in the woods after 12:00 noon.

(c) No electronic calling devices or dogs may be used.

3.07 Raccoon Hunting.

(a) Legal only from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily.

Section 4. Hunting Seasons

4.01. Squirrels - Gray, Black, Albino and Fox - October 12, 1968 - January 4, 1969. September 14, 1968 - January 4, 1969 - Only in the following counties: Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Raleigh, Wayne and Wyoming.

4.02. Ruffed Grouse (native pheasant) - October 12, 1968 - February 22, 1969.

4.03. Wild Turkey - October 12, 1968 - November 23, 1968 - Only in the following counties: Berkeley, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas East of State Route #20, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker and Webster.

October 12 - October 26, 1968: Only in Barbour, Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Nicholas between U.S. Route #19 and State Route #20, Preston, Ritchie, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Wirt and Wetzel Counties.

May 5, 1969 - May 10, 1969 - Spring Gobbler Season.

4.04. Bobwhite Quail - November 9, 1968 - January 25, 1969.

4.05. Ring-Necked Pheasant (either sex) - November 9, 1968 - January 4, 1969.

4.06. Cottontail Rabbit - November 9, 1968 - February 22, 1969.

4.07. Varying Hare - November 9, 1968 - February 22, 1969.

4.08. Raccoon Hunting - Open 6:00 p.m., October 12, 1968 - Closing January 26, 1969 at 5:00 a.m.

4.09. Black Bear (Adult Animals Only) - Firearms Season, November 4, 1968 - November 9, 1968; December 16, 1968 - December 28, 1968 - Only in

the following counties: Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Monroe, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker and that part of Webster, east of Routes 20 and 15. An exception to this is: the following area known as the "Back Country" and lying in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and Webster Counties, is closed to all bear hunting.

The closed portion of these counties is an area bounded as follows: Starting at Dyer on Forest Service Route #86, the boundary proceeds along Forest Service Route #86 east to Forest Service Route #76 (the Black Mountain road); then the boundary follows Forest Service Route #76 (the Black Mountain road) south to the intersection with the Highland Scenic Highway (State Route #150); the line then follows State Route #150 to State Route #39. The southern boundary of the closed area follows State Route #39 to the Nicholas County line; then proceeds north following the Nicholas County line to Forest Service Route #76; it then follows Forest Service Route #76 north to Forest Service Route #101. The boundary then follows Forest Service Route #101 north to Dyer.

4.10. Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Opossum, Woodchuck or Groundhog - Continuous open season.

4.11. Elk and Otter - No open season.

4.12. Song and Insectivorous Birds: No open season (English Sparrow, European starling, crow and cowbird open year-round.) No open season on hawks and owls other than the Cooper's hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk and Goshawk.

4.13. Migratory Game Birds - Rails - September 21, 1968 - November 29, 1968; Snipe - September 21, 1968 - November 9, 1968; Gallinules - October 12, 1968 - December 20, 1968. (See Federal Regulations.)

4.14. Mourning Dove - 12:00 noon September 2 through November 10, 1968.

Note: Mourning dove shooting permitted from 12:00 noon to sunset EST only; by Federal Regulation.

4.15. Woodcock - September 21, 1968 - September 28, 1968; October 12, 1968 - December 7, 1968.

4.16. Ducks - October 12, 1968 - October 19, 1968. (See State Migratory Bird Regulations for second part of split season.)

4.17. Geese - October 12, 1968 (See State Migratory Regulations for closing date.)

4.18. Deer - Gun - November 25, 1968 - December 7, 1968. (See map for various seasons).

Section 5. Hunting Bag and Possession Limits

5.01. Deer. One per day, one per season with gun or bow.

5.02. Squirrels. Gray, Black, Albino and Fox: Six in aggregate of all species per day. Possession limit is 12 after first day.

5.03. Ruffed Grouse (native pheasant). Four per day. Possession limit is 8 after first day.

5.04. Wild Turkey. Bag and possession limit: One turkey of either sex in fall season; one bearded turkey in spring season.

5.05. Bobwhite Quail. Seven per day, 14 in possession after first day.

5.06. Ring-Necked Pheasant (either sex) Two per day, two per season.

5.07. Cottontail Rabbit. Five per day, possession limit 10 after first day.

5.08. Varying Hare. Two per day, possession limit four after first day.

5.09. Raccoon - Bag limit during any 11-hour period beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 a.m. is two raccoons for one person or group of persons as a party and 20 per season.

5.10. Black Bear - One adult bear by means of gun or bow. Adults weigh 80 pounds or more.

5.11. Mourning Dove - Daily bag limit 12, possession limit of 24 after first day.

5.12. Ducks - (See Federal Regulations.)

5.13. Geese - (See Federal Regulations.)

5.14. Woodcock - Daily bag limit 5, possession limit of 10 after first day.

5.15. Wilson's Snipe - Daily bag limit 8, possession limit 16 after first day.

5.16. Gallinules - Daily bag limit 15, possession limit 30 after first day.

5.17. Rails - Daily bag limit 25, possession limit 25 after first day.

Section 6. General Bow and Arrow Hunting Regulations

6.01. A long bow may be substituted for a gun during any season for which firearms are lawful; unlawful to have both gun and bow in the field together; hunting with crossbow is illegal.

6.02. Arrows must have at least two sharp cutting edges measuring more than three-fourths of an inch in width, to hunt turkey, bear or deer.

6.03. Unlawful to use arrow with explosive head or shaft.

6.04. Unlawful to shoot across public highway, from aircraft, motor driven watercraft, motor vehicle or other land conveyance.

6.05. Unlawful to hunt on Sunday except for legal aquatic life.

6.06. For bow and arrow fishing, a resident is required to have a

fishing license; a nonresident is required to have a nonresident bow or gun hunting license or a nonresident bow only hunting license.

Section 7. Bow and Arrow Hunting Seasons

7.01. Deer - Bow and Arrow - October 12, 1968 - December 31, 1968.

Deer of either sex, except that deer to be hunted with bow during the firearms deer season shall be the same as for the firearms deer season. Statewide, except that hunting is forbidden on (1) all state parks and game refuges; (2) Harpers Ferry National Monument; (3) all safety zones on state forests and public hunting areas and grounds. All refuges are appropriately marked with official Department signs.

7.02. Bear - Bow and Arrow - October 12, 1968 - December 31, 1968 - Adult bear only (80 pounds or more). The exception noted under 4.09 pertains to bow hunting of bear.

Section 8. General Trapping Regulations

8.01 It shall be unlawful to set or maintain more than eight beaver traps or trap sets in counties with season bag limits.

8.02 It shall be unlawful to set or maintain traps, having a jaw spread of more than 4-3/4 inches when open, in or adjacent to any stream inhabited by beavers except during the beaver trapping season. All traps set within an area three feet in diameter shall constitute one trap set. It shall be unlawful: (1) to trap, except on one's own lands, without first having obtained the written permission of the landowner as required by law; (2) to trap within 15 feet of the waterline of any beaver house; or (3) to destroy, disturb, or in any manner interfere

Exception: Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties - Daily limit (10), season limit (10).

Section 11. Controlled Public Hunting Areas

11.01. Rules and regulations governing hunting and trapping on state-owned and leased lands shall be as follows:

(a) Bluestone Reservoir Public Hunting Area: Hunting and trapping on adjacent lands, except as follows: Woodchuck or groundhog season, October 12, 1968 through January 4, 1969. A free permit to trap furbearers available at area office, Indian Mills. It is unlawful to have a rifle on the area at any time.

(b) McClintic Wildlife Station: Hunting as on adjacent lands, except as follows: Waterfowl hunting only in accordance with the special rules set up for the station. A free permit to hunt, available at the area checking station, is required. Checking station will open at 7:00 a.m. Trapping by permit from area manager.

(c) Elk River and Corps of Engineer Property (at Sutton Reservoir, under control of Game and Fish Division), Fork Creek, Big Ugly, Cornstalk, Nathaniel Mountain, Short Mountain, Pleasants Creek, Sleepy Creek, Lewis Wetzel, Hughes River, Laurel Creek, Plum Orchard, Williams River, Brooke County Cooperative (written permission of landowner required), Public Hunting and/or Fishing Areas: Hunting as on adjacent lands. No permit is required to hunt. Trapping only under permit which is available from the office of the District Game Manager.

(d) State Forests (Greenbrier, Cabwaylingo, Camp Creek, Cooper's Rock, Kanawha, Kumbrabow, Panther, Cal Price and Seneca): Hunting as on adjacent lands, except as noted below. A free permit available from the forest superintendent is required to hunt or trap on all state forests, except Cal Price. Raccoon trapping season closed on all state forests.

with the beaver dam, house or burrow while trapping; (4) to have in possession an untagged beaver hide, or part thereof, between March 25, 1969 and November 8, 1969. All beaver must be tagged prior to selling the pelt. Tags may be obtained from the Department, including its district conservation officers, and game checking stations.

8.03. All traps used for taking game or fur-bearing animals shall be marked with a durable plate or tag, attached to the trap, chain or set, bearing the owner's name and address.

Section 9. Trapping Seasons

9.01. Raccoon Trapping - No traps shall be set before 8:00 a.m., November 9, 1968 or either set or left set after 12:00 noon, February 22, 1969.

9.02. Mink and Muskrat Trapping - No traps shall be set before 8:00 a.m., November 9, 1968, or either set or left set after 12:00 noon, February 22, 1969.

9.03. Beaver Trapping - No traps shall be set before 8:00 a.m., November 9, 1968, or either set or left set after 12:00 noon, February 22, 1969.

Exception: Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties - 8:00 a.m., December 23, 1968, through 12:00 noon, February 22, 1969.

Section 10. Trapping Bag and Possession Limits

10.01. Raccoon - Daily (any 24-hour period) and seasonal bag limits for raccoon trapping shall be the same as for hunting.

10.02. Mink and Muskrat - No limit.

10.03. Beaver - Daily limit (15) season limit (15).

