

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

FILED
1991 AUG 20 AM 9 29
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Department of Commerce, Labor
and Environmental Resources,
Division of Natural Resources

47

AGENCY: _____ TITLE NUMBER: _____

CITE AUTHORITY: West Virginia Code §§20-1-17(7) and 29A-1-3(c)

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE XX

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

West Virginia Code §29A-1-3(c)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X, NO _____

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 11

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Hunting and Trapping Regulations

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING ADOPTED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING ADOPTED: _____

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS August 20, 1991


J. Edward Hamrick III
Director

\$3.10

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

FILED

Rule Title: Hunting and Trapping Regulations

AUG 20 AM 9 42

Type of Rule: XX Legislative Interpretive

PROCEDURAL
SECRETARY OF STATE

Agency: Department of Commerce, Labor and Environmental Resources Division of Natural Resources.

Address: Building 3, State Capitol Complex, Charleston, West Virginia 25305

1. Effect of Proposed Rule	Increase \$	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR	
		Decrease \$	Current \$	Next \$	Thereafter \$
Personal Services					
Current Expense					
Repairs and Alterations			NO CHANGE		
Equipment					
Other					

2. Explanation of Above Estimates: These regulations establish the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight, and sex limits with respect to the hunting and trapping of wildlife in West Virginia. No new administrative expenditures are anticipated.

3. Objectives of These Rules: The objectives of this rule are to provide for the regulation of hunting and trapping within the boundaries of this State for the safety of the public and proper management of the State's wildlife resources.

4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government: No impact.

B. 1. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions: No impact.

- 2. Economic Impact on Specific Industries: No impact.
- 3. Economic Impact on Specific Groups of Citizens: No impact.
- C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large: No impact.



J. Edward Hamrick III
Director

Date: August 12, 1991

PREAMBLE TO A PROPOSED RULE CONCERNING
HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

STATE AGENCY: Department of Commerce, Labor and Environmental Resources, Division of Natural Resources.

REGULATIONS: Title 47, Series 11. "Hunting and Trapping Regulations"

AUTHORITY: West Virginia Code §20-1-17(7) and §29A-1-3(c).

ACTION: Today's filing repeals and replaces the existing Hunting and Trapping Regulations under 47 C.S.R. 11.

SUMMARY: The regulations being filed today are exempt from the legislative process under West Virginia Code §29A-1-3(c). They become effective upon filing. They will repeal and replace the existing Hunting and Trapping Regulations that were filed on August 13, 1990. The changes made to the regulations reflect the intent of the provision contained under West Virginia Code §29A-1-3(c) to only include the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight and sex limits with respect to the hunting and trapping of wildlife in West Virginia.

TITLE 47
LEGISLATIVE RULES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, LABOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SERIES 11
HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

§47-11-1. General.

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- These regulations establish the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight, and sex limits with respect to the hunting and trapping of wildlife in West Virginia.

1.2. Authority. -- West Virginia Code §20-1-17(7) and §29A-1-3(c).

1.3. Filing Date. -- August 20, 1991.

1.4. Effective Date. -- August 20, 1991.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. -- These regulations repeal and replace 47 C.S.R. 11 "Hunting and Trapping Regulations" that were filed on August 13, 1990 and became effective on August 13, 1990.

1.6. Seasons in General. -- All seasons, unless otherwise noted, are statewide and subject to change under the provisions of W. Va. Code §20-1-7(7). Opening and closing dates are inclusive and time periods are prevailing time unless otherwise noted in these regulations. Should an opening date fall on a Sunday, the season will open on the following Monday. If the last day of a season fall on a Sunday, the season will close on the preceding Saturday.

§47-11-2. Definitions.

2.1. All terms shall have the meaning prescribed in W. Va. Code §20-1-2 and Title 47, Series 11A (47 C.S.R. 11A).

§47-11-3. Deer Hunting Seasons.

3.1. Bucks-Only Deer Season. This season, for the firearms hunting of antlered deer, runs for thirteen (13) consecutive days commencing on the first Monday preceding Thanksgiving.

3.1.1. The bucks-only deer season is open in all counties except the following: Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming.

3.2. Antlerless Deer Season. This season, for the firearms hunting of antlerless deer, opens after the close of the bucks-only season and runs for the number of days and in counties or portions thereof designated by the Natural Resources Commission and

published annually by the director.

3.3. Archery Deer Season. This season opens on the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the last day in December.

3.3.1. During the archery deer season, both antlered and antlerless deer may be hunted statewide with a bow, except that only antlered deer may be hunted statewide with a bow during the bucks-only deer season.

3.4. Muzzle-Loading Firearms Deer Season. This season runs for six (6) consecutive days commencing on the third Monday in December.

3.4.1. Deer of either-sex may be taken during the six (6) day muzzle-loading firearms season in those counties or portions thereof, having a Class N antlerless season as designated by the Commission and published annually by the Director and antlered deer only may be taken in those counties having a bucks-only deer season.

3.5. No person may take more than six (6) deer in this State during a calendar year unless he holds a valid permit to kill deer causing damage to crops as provided under 47 C.S.R. 15A and 15B.

3.5.1. Deer taken during the open seasons established in Section 3 of these regulations may be a combination of the following:

3.5.1.a. One deer by bow during the archery deer season;

3.5.1.b. One antlered deer by either bow or firearm during the bucks-only deer season;

3.5.1.c. One antlerless deer by either bow or firearm during the antlerless deer season;

3.5.1.d. One deer by bow on a Class R or RR license during the archery deer season;

3.5.1.e. One antlered deer by either bow or firearm on a Class R or RR license during the bucks-only deer season; or one antlerless deer during the antlerless Class N season in counties, or portions thereof as designated by the Commission; or one deer of either-sex during the muzzle-loading firearms season in counties, or portions thereof, as designated by the Commission.

3.5.1.f. One deer by single-shot muzzle-loading rifle or pistol during the muzzle-loading firearms deer season.

3.6. No person may hunt deer between thirty (30) minutes after sunset and thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on the following day.

3.7. The hunting of all game species for which a legal hunting season is open is permitted during the muzzle-loading firearms deer season.

§47-11-4. Bear Hunting Seasons.

4.1. Firearms Bear Season. This season opens on the first Monday following the close of the bucks-only deer season and closes on the last day in December.

4.1.1. Except as provided in Section 4.3 of these regulations, the firearms bear season is open in the following counties: Grant, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, and Webster.

4.1.2. Except as provided in Section 4.3 of these regulations, the firearms bear season is open in the following portions of counties:

4.1.2.a. That portion of Greenbrier County lying north of U.S. Route 60 from the Fayette County line to County Route 9, north of county route 9 from U.S. Route 60 to U.S. Route 219, and east of U.S. Route 219 from County Route 9 to the Monroe County line.

4.1.2.b. That portion of Hampshire County lying south of U.S. Route 50.

4.1.2.c. That portion of Hardy County lying east of U.S. Route 220.

4.1.2.d. That portion of Monroe County lying east of U.S. Route 219.

4.1.2.e. That portion of Mineral County lying west of New Creek.

4.1.3. Except as provided in Section 4.3 of these regulations, the firearm bear season is open for one day beginning on the first Monday following the close of the bucks only deer season in the following counties: Boone, Kanawha, Fayette, Raleigh, and Nicholas.

4.2. Traditional Archery Bear Season. This season opens on the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the Saturday preceding the opening of the bucks-only deer season.

4.2.1. Except as provided in Section 4.3 of these regulations, the traditional archery bear season is open in those counties, or portions thereof, open to firearms bear hunting, and Boone, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Wayne, Preston, Upshur, Nicholas, Clay, Fayette, Raleigh, Wyoming, McDowell, and Mingo Counties.

4.3. The Cranberry Closed Area (known as Back Country) lying in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and Webster Counties is closed to all bear hunting.

4.3.1. The Cranberry Closed Area is bounded as follows: Starting at Dyer, the northern boundary proceeds along Forest Service Route 86 east to Forest Service Route 76 (the Black Mountain Road); then follows Forest Service Route 76 south to its intersection with Highland Scenic Highway (State Route 150); and 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; then follows Forest Service Route 76 north to Forest Service Route 101; and then follows Forest Service Route 101 north to Dyer.

4.4. No person may hunt bear between thirty (30) minutes after sunset and thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on the following day, except that hunting dogs may be trained on bear during these hours in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §20-2-5(26).

§47-11-5. Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons.

5.1. Early Fall Wild Turkey Season. This season runs for twenty-two (22) consecutive days commencing on the second Saturday after the opening of squirrel season, except as provided in Section 5.1.2 of these regulations.

5.1.1. The early fall wild turkey season is open in the following counties: Berkeley, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, and Webster.

5.1.2. In Preston County, the early fall wild turkey season runs for fifteen (15) consecutive days commencing on the second Saturday after the start of squirrel season.

5.2. Late Fall Wild Turkey Season. This season runs for six (6) consecutive days commencing on the Monday following the third Saturday in December.

5.2.1. The late fall wild turkey season is open in the following counties: Berkeley, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, and Webster.

5.3. Spring Wild Turkey Season. This season opens on the fourth Monday in April and runs for twenty-six (26) consecutive days thereafter and is open statewide for the hunting of bearded turkeys only.

5.4. No person may hunt wild turkey between one o'clock

postmeridian (1:00 p.m.) and thirty (30) minutes before sunrise during the spring wild turkey season.

§47-11-6. Wild Boar Hunting Seasons.

6.1. Early Firearms Wild Boar Season. This season runs for three (3) consecutive days commencing on the last Thursday in October.

6.1.1. The early firearms wild boar season is open in those counties, or portions thereof, designated by the Commission and published annually by the Director.

6.2. Late Firearms Wild Boar Season. This season runs for three (3) consecutive days commencing on the Thursday prior to the last Saturday in December.

6.2.1. The late firearms wild boar season is open in those counties, or portions thereof, designated by the Commission and published annually by the Director.

6.3. Archery Wild Boar Season. This season opens on the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the last day in December.

6.3.1. The archery wild boar season is open in those counties, or portions thereof, open to firearms wild boar hunting.

6.4. No person may hunt boar between thirty (30) minutes after sunset and thirty (30) minutes before sunrise.

6.5. Provided that a hunter uses a bow, the hunting of deer is permitted during the wild boar seasons in those counties, or portions thereof, designated by the Commission as boar hunting areas.

§47-11-7. Other Hunting Seasons.

7.1. Bobcat Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

7.2. Fox Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

7.3. Grouse Season. This season opens on the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the last day in February.

7.4. Hare Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in February.

7.5. Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, and Woodchuck Seasons. These seasons are open year-round.

7.6. Pheasant Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the first Saturday in January and is open for the hunting of cock birds only.

7.7. Quail Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day of February.

7.8. Rabbit Season. This season opens on the first Saturday November and closes on the last day of February.

7.9. Raccoon Season. This season opens on the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the last day of January.

7.9.1. Raccoon hunting is legal only during the eleven hour period beginning at six o'clock postmeridian (6:00 p.m.) and ending at five o'clock antemeridian (5:00 a.m.) on the following day.

7.10. Otter Season. Closed.

7.11. Squirrel Season. This season opens on the Saturday prior to the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the first Saturday in January.

\$47-11-8. Hunting Bag and Possession Limits.

8.1. Bear. The bag and possession limit is one (1) bear per calendar year.

8.2. Deer. The bag and possession limit is one (1) deer per day and six (6) deer per calendar year, as specified in Section 3.5 of these regulations.

8.3. Wild Boar. The bag and possession limit is one (1) boar per calendar year.

8.4. Wild Turkey. The bag and possession limit is two (2) turkeys per calendar year, only one of which may be taken during the fall wild turkey season. Two (2) bearded turkeys may be taken in the spring or one (1) bearded turkey may be taken in the spring and one (1) turkey of either sex may be taken in the fall. During the spring wild turkey season, only one (1) turkey may be taken per day.

8.5. Bobcat. The bag and possession limit is two (2) bobcats per day and two (2) bobcats per season.

8.6. Fox (Gray and Red Foxes). The bag and possession limit is twenty-five (25) foxes in aggregate per day and twenty-five (25) foxes in aggregate per season.

8.7. Grouse. The bag limit is four (4) grouse per day. The possession limit is sixteen (16) grouse after the third day of the

season.

8.8. Hare. The bag limit is two (2) hares per day. The possession limit is eight (8) after the third day of the season.

8.9. Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, and Woodchuck. There are no daily or season limits for opossum, skunk, weasel, and woodchuck.

8.10. Pheasant. The bag limit is two (2) pheasants per day and possession limit is two (2) pheasants.

8.11. Quail. The bag limit is seven (7) quail per day. The possession limit is twenty-one (21) quail after the second day of the season.

8.12. Rabbit. The bag limit is five (5) rabbits per day. The possession limit is twenty (20) rabbits after the third day of the season.

8.13. Raccoon. The bag limit during the eleven hour period beginning at six o'clock postmeridian (6:00 p.m.) and ending at five o'clock antemeridian (5:00 a.m.) on the following day is two (2) raccoons for one person or two (2) raccoons for a group of persons hunting as a party. The possession limit is twenty (20) raccoons per season (combined hunting and trapping). The daily bag limit of raccoon may be possessed for each day the season is open until the season limit is reached.

8.15. Squirrel (Fox and Gray Squirrels, including black and albino color phases). The bag limit is six (6) squirrels in aggregate per day. The possession limit is twenty-four squirrels in aggregate after the third day of the season.

§47-11-9. Trapping Seasons.

9.1. No traps may be set before eight o'clock antemeridian (8:00 a.m.) on the first day of a trapping season or either set or left set after noon on the last day of a trapping season.

9.2. Beaver Trapping Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in February.

9.3. Bobcat Trapping Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

9.4. Fisher Trapping Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

9.5. Fox Trapping Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

9.6. Mink Trapping Season. This season opens on the first

Saturday in November and closes on the last day in February.

9.7. Muskrat Trapping Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in February.

9.8. Raccoon Trapping Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

9.9. Otter trapping season. Closed.

9.10. Skunk, opossum, and weasel trapping season. This season opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on the last day in January.

§47-11-10. Trapping Bag and Possession Limits.

10.1. Beaver. The bag and possession limit is twenty-five (25) beavers per day and twenty-five (25) beavers per season.

10.2. Bobcat. The bag and possession limit is two (2) bobcats per day and two (2) bobcats per season.

10.3. Fisher. The bag and possession limit is one (1) fisher per day and one (1) fisher per season.

10.4. Fox (Gray and Red Foxes). The bag and possession limit is twenty-five (25) foxes in aggregate per day and twenty-five (25) foxes in aggregate per season.

10.5. Mink. There are no daily or season limits for mink.

10.6. Muskrat. There are no daily or season limits for muskrat.

10.7. Raccoon. The daily bag limit is two (2) raccoons. The possession limit is twenty (20) raccoons per season (combined hunting and trapping). The daily bag limit of raccoon may be possessed for each day the season is open until the season limit is reached.

10.8. Skunk, opossum, and weasel. There are no daily or season limits for these species.