

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #4

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF RULE MODIFICATION OF A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: Division of Natural Resources TITLE NUMBER: 58

CITE AUTHORITY WV Code 20-5-2

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

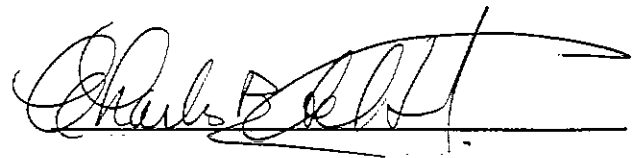
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 31 (formerly Series 5)

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Public Use of West Virginia State Parks,
State Forests, and State Wildlife Management Areas Under the Division
of Natural Resources

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

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE, FOLLOWING REVIEW BY THE LEGISLATIVE RULE
MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS A RESULT OF REVIEW AND COMMENT
BY THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE. THE ATTACHED MODIFICATIONS ARE
FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.



TITLE 58
LEGISLATIVE RULE
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SERIES 31
PUBLIC USE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE PARKS,
STATE FORESTS, AND STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
UNDER THE DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

§58-31-1. General.

1.1 Scope. -- This legislative rule governs the public use of West Virginia state parks, state forests, and recreation areas in state wildlife management areas under the jurisdiction and management of the Division of Natural Resources. This rule shall not be construed to include the state forests or state wildlife management areas, or any areas or facilities in the state forests or state wildlife management areas, under the jurisdiction and management of the Department of Agriculture or other sections of the Division of Natural Resources, respectively. This rule is necessary to provide for public health, safety and welfare; to protect state property; and to assure state recreational area guests of a safe, beneficial and enjoyable experience.

1.2 Authority. -- W.Va. Code 20-5-2

1.3 Filing Date.

1.4 Effective Date.

1.5 This rule repeals and replaces Division of Natural Resources' Rule Governing Public Use of West Virginia State Parks, State Forests, and State Wildlife Management Areas, 58 CSR 5.

§58-31-2. General Rules Governing Public Use of State Parks, State Forests, and Recreational Areas in State Wildlife Management Areas under the Division of Natural Resources.

2.1 No person shall cut, deface, destroy, or drive any object into any tree, shrub, rock, sign, building or other structure or object in a state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area. This subsection does not apply to the erection of temporary blinds or tree stands in state wildlife management areas.

2.2 No person shall remove any man-made or natural object, material, substance, plant, animal or historical or archeological relic or artifact from a state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area, except those legally acquired through hunting and fishing in accordance with W. Va. Code §20-2-1 et seq. or upon proper authorization in writing by the Chief of Parks and Recreation, Division of Natural Resources.

2.3. Fires may be lighted only in fireplaces, fire rings or grates provided by the State or in places designated by the area superintendent. Those persons responsible for a fire shall extinguish it completely before leaving it. Ashes, charcoal briquets and other materials used for a fire shall be left in the fireplace, fire ring, grate or place designated for the fire, or be deposited in a trash container or a container provided specifically for that purpose but only after they are extinguished. The materials shall not be strewn over the ground.

2.4. No person shall attempt to or hunt, catch, capture, take, kill, trap, pursue or have in his or her possession any animal, except as provided in W. Va. Code §20-2-1 et seq. Hunting is prohibited in all state parks; however, legally authorized hunting is permitted in state forests, and state wildlife management areas.

a. No person shall attempt to feed, or feed, any animal in a state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area, except a pet they own, or as part of a wildlife management program officially approved by the state agency having lawful jurisdiction over the program.

2.5. Loud or excessive noise, demonstrations, disturbances, disorderly conduct, profanity, public drunkenness, and the possession or use of controlled substances is prohibited.

2.6. Swimming is prohibited in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas, except in places designated for that purpose.

2.7. Recreational activities including, but not limited to, rock climbing, rappelling, hang gliding, parachuting, parasailing, skydiving, spelunking and other like or similar recreational activities that require a high degree of specialized training and equipment are permitted, except where they are prohibited by posted signs. Persons who intend to participate in any such activity shall register at the area superintendent's office before engaging or participating in it and specify where it will take place. Participants in such activities assume full responsibility and liability for any risk or injury related to the activity. Scenic rocks, overlooks and vistas are for providing scenic beauty and aesthetic benefit for guests; therefore, they shall not be used for, or disfigured by, any such recreational activity. This subsection does not apply to golf, skiing, horseback riding, hunting or fishing.

2.8. Garbage, waste, bottles, cans, paper, junk, or any other trash or refuse shall not be dumped, deposited or strewn within the boundary of any state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area.

2.9. Lodge rooms, cabins, campsites, picnic shelters, swimming pools and beaches, or any other facility shall not be subleased by guests or patrons.

2.10. It is unlawful for any person not to pay the rental, charge or fee for any facility, service, activity or good he or she uses or purchases in a state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area.

2.11. Only registered lodge, cabin, and camping guests, licensed hunters, and fishermen

while hunting or fishing and persons who have authorized, legitimate business in a state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area are permitted on the premises between the closing hour of 10:00 P.M. and the opening of 6:00 A.M. during which hours the premises are closed to the general public.

2.12. Dogs and cats are the only pets permitted in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas; however, they are prohibited in state park and state forest cabins and the areas immediately around them, in state park lodges, and in swimming pool and beach swimming areas. In and around campgrounds, picnic areas, playgrounds and other similar intense public use areas, they shall be restrained at all times on a sturdy leash not to exceed ten feet in length and their owner or master shall clean up the pet's excreta, keep it quiet and from disturbing other guests, and is responsible for all damages it causes.

2.13. Explosives, incendiaries, flammables and other dangerous substances are prohibited in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas.

2.14. Uncased firearms, uncased bows and uncased arrows are prohibited in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas, and on state trails, except:

a. When the area is open for hunting (hunting is prohibited in state parks) or when a registered park or forest guest has the written permission of the area superintendent to carry them in a case from his or her lodge room, cabin or campsite to open hunting areas, or to an officially designated rifle, pistol, skeet, trap, target or shooting range;

b. Area superintendents may authorize their use in historical reenactments and plays; and

c. The Chief of Parks and Recreation, Division of Natural Resources, may authorize their use for a limited period in conjunction with recreational and arts and crafts programs.

2.15. The Division of Natural Resources assumes no responsibility for any personal property. If personal property is abandoned or left unattended by park guests more than forty-eight (48) hours, it will be removed from the public use area and disposed of according to law.

2.16. Hawking, peddling, soliciting, begging, advertising, or carrying on any business or commercial enterprise is prohibited in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas without the written permission of the Director of the Division of Natural Resources.

2.17. Fishing and boating are permitted in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas only in accordance with state law, fishing and boating rules promulgated under the law, and rules publicly posted in those areas.

2.18. The speed limit for motor vehicles is thirty (30) miles per hour in state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas, except where a lower speed limit is posted. All traffic laws, signs and directions shall be strictly observed. Driving of motor vehicles in any

manner that creates a nuisance to any guest by repetitive or continuous cruising or operation is prohibited.

2.19. Motor vehicles including, but not limited to, trail bikes, motorbikes, snowmobiles, and all terrain vehicles may be operated only on public roads usable by automotive vehicles, and on trails and areas designated for their use by the area superintendent by posted signs. It is unlawful for any unauthorized motor vehicle to go beyond a gate, cable, or other obstruction, or to proceed beyond any sign prohibiting such travel. All person operating motor vehicles in state recreational areas shall obey and comply with all applicable state laws and rules.

a. Mountain and trail bicycles may be operated only on public roads, trails and other readily recognizable passageways such as logging roads and oil or gas well roads. They shall not be operated on horseback riding trails when they are open and operating as horseback riding trails, nor shall they be operated on any trail or road where their use is prohibited by posted signs.

"Mountain and trail bicycles" means any devices designed for operation on mountains and trails having two tandem wheels and pedals for propelling it by human power.

2.20. No person may operate a vehicle in a manner so as to harass, chase or annoy any person or animal.

2.21. No person shall have in his or her possession beer, wine, liquor, and all other alcoholic beverages within the boundaries of all historical, day use and natural area state parks, which are Beartown, Berkeley Springs, Carnifex Ferry Battlefield, Cass Scenic Railroad, Cathedral, Chief Logan, Droop Mountain Battlefield, Fairfax Stone Historic Monument, Little Beaver, Pinnacle Rock, Point Pleasant Battle Monument, Prickett's Fort, Valley Falls, and Watters Smith Memorial, the Greenbrier River Trail and the North Bend Rail Trail; in the following vacation parks: Audra, Babcock, Camp Creek, Moncove Lake, Tomlinson Run except in reserved picnic shelters, in all boat launch ramp parking areas within the boundary of Bluestone State Park, and in all of Hawks Nest State Park except the lodge; in all state forests, which are Cabwaylingo, Calvin Price, Coopers Rock, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Kumbrabow, Panther, and Seneca; in the following state wildlife management areas: Berwind Lake, Big Ditch Lake, Bluestone, Laurel Lake, Pleasant Creek, Plum Orchard Lake, and Teter Creek Lake; and in those state park areas where they are prohibited by posted signs: **Provided**, That any person, group or association sponsoring a private party at the restaurant at Chief Logan State Park or the multi-purpose log barn at Prickett's Fort State Park may provide beer, wine, liquor and all other alcoholic beverages for guests at the private party as long as the party is not open to the general public.

2.22. No person may operate a motor driven vehicle on the Greenbrier River Trail or the North Bend Rail Trail, except: (a) those persons who have a vested right of ingress to and egress from the trail; (b) those persons who are authorized by the Director of the Division of Natural Resources to use them in the management, construction, maintenance and operation of the trail and its facilities; or (c) to fight forest fires and handle other emergencies.

2.23. State park and forest or other public land area foundations may apply for and be awarded 50% matching grants of up to \$7,500 per project as part of an "adopt a state park or forest program" for maintenance and improvement projects approved by the Chief of Parks and Recreation. To qualify, a chartered foundation must formally adopt the area for which it was created and for which it is working. A foundation may adopt a park, forest or recreation area with the approval of the Director of the Division of Natural Resources.

2.24. Any person may be evicted from a state park, state forest, or state wildlife management area for any breach of this rule, or for the breach of any other rule which is in effect governing their use. All rentals, charges and fees are forfeited upon an eviction.

2.25. With prior authorization of the Director of the Division of Natural Resources any individual or group may have free use of a picnic shelter for one day during each calendar year or have free use of a cabin for one week during each calendar year in exchange for donation of materials and labor for the construction of the cabin or picnic shelter. The design and construction of the cabin or picnic shelter must be in accordance with Division standards and specifications. A group is defined as a family, business, corporation or non-profit organization whose by-laws are registered with the Secretary of State. The group shall designate a contact person who is responsible for securing the picnic shelter or cabin reservation each year. The non-transferrable fee waiver expires when the amount of the donation equals the loss of revenue from the fee waiver or until the individual dies or the group ceases to exist. The Director shall determine the donation value by the cost of materials and labor donated and shall divide that value by the standard rental fee charged at the time construction is completed to determine the expiration date of the fee waiver with the Director being the sole judge of the value of donated labor. Construction of cabins is restricted to state parks or state forests which already have cabins. Individuals or groups who are eligible for this fee waiver may make reservations for the use of a picnic shelter or cabin one week in advance of established reservation policies.

§58-31-3. Enforcement of Rules Governing Public Use of State Parks, State Forests, and Recreation Areas in State Wildlife Management Areas under the Division of Natural Resources and Penalties.

3.1. Responsibility for enforcing the rules.

It is the duty and responsibility of Conservation Officers, Special Conservation Officers, and the superintendents, assistant superintendents and managers of state parks, state forests, and state wildlife management areas to enforce all of the provisions of this rule.

3.2. Violation of rules and penalties.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this rule is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished in accordance with W. Va. Code §20-7-9.



FILED

SEP 13 2 41 PM '95

West Virginia Legislature
Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Room MB47-State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 347-4840

Senator Mike Ross, Co-Chair
Delegate Vickie Douglas, Co-Chair

September 11, 1995

Debra A. Graham, Counsel
Joe Altizer, Associate Counsel
Marie Nickerson, Admr. Assistant

NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN BY LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

TO: Ken Hechler, Secretary of State, State Register

TO: Mr. Charles B. Felton, Jr., Director
Division of Natural Resources
Bldg. 3, Room 837
Charleston, WV 25305-0668

FROM: Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee

PROPOSED RULE: Rules Governing Public Use of WV State Parks, State
Forest, State Wildlife Management Areas Under
Division of Natural Resources

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The Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee recommends that the West Virginia Legislature:

1. Authorize the agency to promulgate the Legislative Rule
 - (a) as originally filed
 - (b) as modified by the agency
2. Authorize the agency to promulgate part of the Legislative rule; a statement of reasons for such recommendation is attached.
3. Authorize the agency to promulgate the Legislative rule with certain amendments; amendments and a statement of reasons for such recommendation is attached.
4. Authorize the agency to promulgate the Legislative rule as modified with certain amendments; amendments and a statement of reasons for such recommendation is attached.
5. Recommends that the rule be withdrawn; a statement of reasons for such recommendation is attached.

 X

Pursuant to Code 29A-3-11(c), this notice has been filed in the State Register and with the agency proposing the rule.

cc: Cordie Hudkins
Ken Caplinger
Doug Baker