

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #5

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

AGENCY: BOC - DNR Wildlife Resources Section TITLE NUMBER: 58

CITE AUTHORITY: §20-1-7(30) and §29A-1-3(c)

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____
EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE _____ X _____

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
§29A-1-3(c)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES _____ X _____ NO _____

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 45

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Hunting and Trapping Rules

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**

September 1, 1999



John B. Rader, Director

**CIRCUMSTANCE AND SUMMARY FOR EXEMPT RULE
CONCERNING HUNTING AND TRAPPING**

AGENCY: Bureau of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources

REGULATION: Title 58, Series 45, Hunting and Trapping Rule

SUMMARY: Series 45 revises the current Hunting and Trapping rule which was made effective November 9, 1998. This rule prescribes the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight and sex limits with respect to the hunting and trapping of wildlife in West Virginia. The rule will become effective September 1, 1999. Revisions to this rule establish special youth deer hunting opportunities; extends the dates for the special urban deer hunts; revise bear hunting, wild boar, fox, quail and squirrel seasons. The rule also changes bag and possession limits for fox, quail and raccoon. Trapping seasons for fox and raccoon, as well trapping bag and possession limits for those species are changed.

CIRCUMSTANCE: This rule make changes in the seasons and bag limits of wildlife species hunted or trapped. The Natural Resources Commission revises these rules annually to reflect management measures for different species and to provide optimal recreational opportunity.

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULE

Rule Title: Series 45, Hunting and Trapping Rules

Type of Rule **Exempt** **Legislative** **Interpretive** **Procedural**

Agency Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section

Address Capitol Complex

Building 3, Room 842

Charleston, WV 25305

1. Effect of Proposed Rule

	ANNUAL			FISCAL YEAR	
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONAL SERVICES					
CURRENT EXPENSE					
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS					
EQUIPMENT					
OTHER					

2. Explanation of above estimates: There is no change anticipated to administrative expenditures as a result of this rule.

3. Objectives of these rules: These rules 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.

4. Explanation of overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government: No impact.

Rule Title: Series 45, Hunting and Trapping Rules

B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens: No impact

C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large: Hunting and fishing in West Virginia generates approximately \$707 million annually for the state's economy.

Date: _____

**Signature of Agency or
Authorized Representative:**



JOHN B. RADER, DIRECTOR

**TITLE 58
LEGISLATIVE RULE
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SERIES 45
HUNTING AND TRAPPING RULES
(EXEMPT RULE)**

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§58-45-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- These rules 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. -- W. Va. Code §§20-1-17(7) and 29A-1-3(c).

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~November 9, 1998~~ August 24, 1999

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~November 9, 1998~~ September 1, 1999

1.5. 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 rules. Should an opening date fall on a Sunday, the season will open on the following Monday. If the last day of a season falls on a Sunday, the season will close on the preceding Saturday.

§58-45-2. Definitions.

2.1. All terms shall have the meaning prescribed in W. Va. Code §20-1-2 and Title 58, Series 46 "Regulations Defining the Terms to be used Concerning all Hunting and Trapping Rules" (58 C.S.R. 46).

§58-45-3. 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, Wyoming and Wilson Cove Study Area in Hardy.

3.2. Class N Antlerless Deer Season. This season, for the firearms hunting of antlerless deer, runs for the number of days and in counties or portions thereof designated by the Natural Resources Commission and published annually by the Director.

~~3.2.1. Special Youth Class N Antlerless Deer Season. This one day (1) season for youth hunters, ages 10 to less than 15, will be held on the last Saturday in October on selected~~

~~wildlife management areas designated by the Natural Resources Commission and published annually by the Director. A designated number of free permits for selected wildlife management areas will be available and required in accordance with Title 58 Series 50.~~

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.

3.3.2. Special urban deer archery season. This season, which may be implemented within incorporated city limits, opens 14 days prior to the opening of the statewide deer archery season and closes on the last day in December ~~runs for 14 consecutive days~~. This special deer season will in no way supersede local regulations or community prohibitions on hunting.

3.3.2.a. During this special season, two deer may be taken which shall not apply to the regular archery deer season bag limit under Section 3.5. of these rules.

3.4. Muzzle-loading Firearms Deer Seasons. The early season runs for thirteen (13) consecutive days commencing on the Monday preceding Thanksgiving in the Wilson Cove Study Area in Hardy County and the late season runs for six (6) consecutive days commencing on the second Monday in December in all counties open to firearm deer hunting.

3.4.1. Wilson Cove Study Area. Antlered deer only may be taken within boundaries of the study area during the early thirteen (13) day muzzle-loading firearm season.

3.4.1.a. The Wilson Cove Study Area is approximately 5,200 acres located on the Wardenville Wildlife Management Area of the George Washington National Forest in Hardy County.

3.4.2. 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 Natural Resources 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 seven (7) deer in this State during a calendar year unless he holds a valid permit to kill deer causing damage to crops as provided under 58 C.S.R. 15.

3.5.1. Deer taken during the open seasons established in Section 3 of these rules 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 Class N antlerless deer season; except that two antlerless deer may be taken by bow or firearm in selected counties designated by the Natural Resources Commission and published annually by the Director. Only residents may hunt during the Class N antlerless deer season on Wildlife Management Areas designated by the Natural Resources Commission and published annually by the Director. Only one antlerless deer may be taken per Class N license;

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 Natural Resources Commission; or one deer of either-sex during the muzzle-loading firearms season in counties, or portions thereof, as designated by the Natural Resources Commission except as provided in Section 3.4.1 of these rules. A Class R or Class RR license is valid only on the day after the licensee has checked his or her first deer for the respective season with a conservation officer or an official game checking station; and

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.

3.8. Special Deer Season. This season which may be implemented within the boundaries of lands owned, operated, or controlled by the Federal or State government, opens 14 days prior to the opening of the statewide deer archery season and runs for 14 consecutive days. This special deer season will only be implemented when the resident deer population cannot be managed by general public hunting during the regular deer seasons for reasons of safety, security or other special circumstances, as recommended by the Wildlife Resources Section.

3.8.1. During this special deer season, two deer may be taken which shall not apply to the regular annual archery or firearms deer seasons bag limits under Section 3.5 of these rules.

3.9. Special Youth Deer Season. This one day (1) season for youth hunters, ages 10 to less than 15, will be held on the last Saturday in October on selected wildlife management areas designated by the Natural Resources Commission and published annually by the Director. A

designated number of free permits for selected wildlife management areas will be available and required in accordance with Title 58 Series 50.

3.9.1. During this special one day season only one (1) antlerless deer may be taken which will not apply to the regular deer firearms bag limit under Section 3.5 of these rules.

§58-45-4. Bear Hunting Seasons.

4.1. Firearms Dog Bear Season. Except as provided in Section 4.4 of these rules, the firearms dog bear season opens on the first Monday following the close of the bucks-only deer season and closes on the last day in December in the following counties or portions of counties: Boone; Fayette; Grant; Greenbrier; Hardy; Kanawha; Nicholas; Pendleton; Pocahontas; Randolph; Tucker; Webster; ~~that portion of Hampshire County lying south of U.S. Route 50; that portion of Hardy County lying east of U.S. Route 220; that portion of Barbour County lying east of Rt. 92; that portion of Mineral County lying west of New Creek; that portion of Monroe County lying east of Rt. 219; and that portion of Raleigh County west of I-77.~~

4.2. Firearms/no dogs bear seasons. Except as provided in Section 4.4 of these rules, the firearms no dogs bear season is open for three (3) days beginning on the first Monday following the close of the bucks-only deer season in the following counties: Braxton, Clay, ~~Hampshire (north of U.S. Rt. 50), Hardy (west of U.S. 220);~~ Mineral (east of New Creek), Logan and Upshur.

4.2.1. Except as provided in Section 4.1. and 4.2 of these rules, the firearms no dogs bear season is open for six (6) days beginning on the first Monday following the close of the bucks-only deer season in the following counties: ~~Barbour; Preston and Raleigh (east of I-77)~~ Hampshire (South of U.S. Rt. 50).

4.3. Archery/no dogs Bear Season. Except as provided in Section 4.4 of these rules, the archery/no dogs bear season opens on the Saturday nearest to October 15 and closes on the Saturday preceding the opening of the bucks-only deer season in those counties, or portions thereof, open to any firearms bear hunting, and Cabell, Calhoun, Gilmer, Jackson, Hampshire (North of U.S. Rt. 50), Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe (west of Rt. 219), Morgan, Raleigh (East of I-77), Roane, Summers, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

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

4.4.1. 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.

4.5. 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).

§58-45-5. 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 and 5.1.3 of these rules.

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.

5.1.3. Special Fall Wild Turkey Permit Season. This season, by permit only, opens on the second Saturday after the opening of squirrel season and runs for the number of days and in the counties or portions thereof designated by the Natural Resources Commission and published annually by the Director.

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-seven (27) 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.

§58-45-6. Wild Boar Hunting Seasons.

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

6.1.1. The early firearms wild boar season is open in those counties, or portions thereof, designated by the Natural Resources 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 fourth Monday in December.

6.2.1. The late firearms wild boar season is open in those counties, or portions thereof, designated by the Natural Resources 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 Natural Resources Commission as boar hunting areas.

§58-45-7. 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~~ February.

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, Coyote 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~~ first Saturday in January.

7.8. Rabbit Season. This season opens on the first Saturday in 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~~ February.

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~~ last day of January.

§58-45-8. 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 seven (7) deer per calendar year, as specified in Section 3.5 of these rules.

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)~~ thirty (30) foxes in aggregate per day and ~~twenty-five (25)~~ thirty (30) 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, Coyote and Woodchuck. There are no daily or season limits for opossum, skunk, weasel, coyote 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)~~ three (3) quail per day. The possession limit is ~~twenty-one (21)~~ nine (9) 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)~~ three (3) raccoons for one person or ~~two (2)~~ three (3) raccoons for a group of persons hunting as a party. The possession limit is thirty (30) per season. ~~except the daily bag limit for hunting is three (3) raccoons for one person or three (3) raccoons for a group of persons hunting as a party in Barbour, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Wood and Wetzel counties. The possession limit is twenty (20) raccoons per season except in Barbour, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Wood and Wetzel counties where the possession limit is thirty (30) 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.

8.14. 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 (24) squirrels in aggregate after the third day of the season.

§58-45-9. 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~~ February.

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~~ February.

9.9. Otter trapping season. Closed.

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

§58-45-10. Trapping Bag and Possession Limits.

10.1. Beaver. There are no daily or season limits for beaver.

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)~~ thirty (30) foxes in aggregate per day and ~~twenty-five (25)~~ thirty (30) 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. There is no daily bag limit for raccoons. The possession limit is ~~twenty (20)~~ thirty (30) raccoons per season, ~~except in Barbour, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Wood and Wetzel counties where the possession limit is thirty (30) per season (combined hunting and trapping).~~

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