

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

Form #2

Do Not Write In This Box

FILED

MAY 29 1 44 PM '98

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: BUREAU OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TITLE NUMBER: 58

RULE TYPE: LEGISLATIVE CITE AUTHORITY: 20-1-7(30)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 53

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: GENERAL TRAPPING REGULATIONS

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

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON July 1, 1998 AT 4:30 p.m. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

GORDON ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CHIEF
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION
ROOM 842, BLDG. 3, CAPITOL COMPLEX
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.


JOHN B. RADER, DIRECTOR

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$2.60

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

**SERIES 53
GENERAL TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

CIRCUMSTANCE

Series 53 is being amended to revise the general trapping regulations to provide for the legal use of terrestrial relaxing lock snares.

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

**SERIES 53
GENERAL TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

SUMMARY

Series 53 outlines the means by which trapping in West Virginia should be conducted.

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULE

Rule Title: Series 53, General Trapping Regulations

Type of Rule X **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	0	0	0	0	0
CURRENT EXPENSE	0	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0

2. Explanation of above estimates: none

3. Objectives of these rules: To outline the means by which trapping in West Virginia should be conducted.

4. Explanation of overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government: none


Rule Title: Series 53, General Trapping Regulations

B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens: None

C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large: None.

Date: _____

**Signature of Agency or
Authorized Representative:**



JOHN B. RADER, DIRECTOR

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

**SERIES 53
GENERAL TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

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§58-53-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- The purpose of these regulations is to establish standards that must be complied with when trapping wildlife or furbearing animals within the boundaries of this State.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §20-1-7(30).

1.3. Filing Date. --

1.4. Effective Date. --

§58-53-2. Definitions.

2.1. All terms have the meaning prescribed to them in the Regulations Defining The Terms To Be Used Concerning All Hunting and Trapping Regulations (58 C.S.R. 46).

§58-53-3. General Trapping Rules.

3.1. Trapping is prohibited in State parks and wildlife refuges, in safety zones in State forests, and in safety zones in State Wildlife Management Areas.

3.1.1. Federal regulations prohibit trapping in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and on federally-owned land within the boundaries of the New River Gorge National River.

3.2. A trapping permit is required for State Wildlife Management Areas. This permit may be obtained from the district game biologist in the district in which the State Wildlife Management Area is situated.

3.3. All traps set during the month of February must be water sets only for the taking of beaver, mink, or muskrat.

3.4. A trapper must check and tend all traps each calendar day.

3.5. Foot snares are legal when the snare loop is at and horizontal to ground level and does not exceed six and one-half (6 1/2) inches in diameter.

3.6. It is illegal to use or set deadfalls for taking wildlife.

3.7. It is illegal to set or maintain any trap or trapping device on human foot trails or livestock paths.

3.8. It is illegal to set or use traps with an open jaw spread of more than six and one half (6 1/2) inches unless the trap is used under water for beaver.

3.9. It is illegal to use conibear or mohawk type traps for terrestrial trapping. Trappers may use conibear or mohawk type traps in water sets.

3.10. It is illegal to set or maintain ~~body gripping snares or spring pole snares for terrestrial trapping.~~ Trappers may use neck or body-gripping snares in water sets.

3.11. It is illegal to use steel jaw traps with any teeth on or attached to them.

3.12. It is illegal to set or maintain any trap, trap set, or snare upon any tree, post, or other natural or man-made object at any point more than three (3) lineal feet from the surface of the earth (whether the surface is water, soil, or rock) measured at a right angle from the surface to the trap or trap set, except as provided in Section 3.13 of this regulation.

3.13. The provisions of Subsection 3.12 of this regulation do not apply to traps or trap sets that are set or maintained on natural earthen mounds, such as ant hills or muskrat houses, that were constructed without human assistance.

3.14. It is illegal to set traps or snares within 50 feet of use animal or bird carcasses, or parts thereof, ~~to lure an animal to a trap set~~ unless the carcasses, or parts thereof, are completely covered and concealed from sight.

3.15. It is illegal to take beaver, fisher, mink, or muskrat by any means other than by trap.

3.16. It is illegal for a person to have in his or her possession an untagged bobcat, or fisher hide, or parts thereof, longer than thirty (30) days following the close of the respective trapping season.

3.17. Should any person unintentionally trap and kill more than the limit fixed by The Hunting and Trapping Regulations (Exempt Rule) (58 C.S.R.45), as a season possession limit, he or she must within twenty-four (24) hours thereafter deliver the excess animals to a conservation officer.

3.18. Each trapper must present bobcat or fisher pelts to an official game checking station or a representative of the Department Division within thirty (30) days after the close of the trapping season for that animal. A tag provided by the division must be affixed to each bobcat or fisher pelt and remain attached to the skin until the skin has been sold, tanned, or mounted.

3.19. It shall be legal to use snares for the purpose of taking furbearing animals and coyotes. A snare is defined as a trap and all regulations pertaining to traps and trap sets shall apply to snares. All snares must be made of multiple strand twisted steel cable.

3.20. Terrestrial snares must be equipped with a relaxing type lock system with a breaking point of not greater than 350 pounds and a loop diameter average of not greater than 15 inches. The use of drags is not permitted with terrestrial snares; they must be anchored at the trap site.