

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

**SERIES 53
GENERAL TRAPPING RULE**

SUMMARY

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

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CIRCUMSTANCE

Series 53 is being amended to require the use of water-set, kill traps when trapping for beaver during the month of March.

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULE

Rule Title: Series 53, General Trapping Rule

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 Rule

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:**



ED HAMRICK, DIRECTOR

QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please include a copy of this form with each filing of your rule: Notice of Public Hearing or Comment Period; Proposed Rule, and if needed, Emergency and Modified Rule.)

DATE: July 19, 2001

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: *(Agency Name, Address & Phone No.)* BOC, DNR - Wildlife Resources Section

1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.

Charleston, WV 25305

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: General Trapping Rule

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation 20-1-7(30)

2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of Hearing or Public Comment Period:
June 15, 2001

b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?
No public hearing was held. There was a 30 day comment period which was also advertised in a Statewide News Release distributed June 22, 2001.

c. Date of Public Hearing(s) *or* Public Comment Period ended:
July 12, 2001

d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.

Attached 1 comment No comments received _____

- e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

N/A

- f. **Name, title, address and phone/fax/e-mail numbers** of agency person(s) to receive all *written correspondence* regarding this rule: (Please type)

Gordon Robertson, Deputy Chief

DNR Wildlife Resources Section

Capitol Complex, Bldg. 3, Room 842

Charleston, WV 25305

- g. **IF DIFFERENT FROM ITEM 'f'**, please give **Name, title, address and phone number(s)** of agency person(s) who wrote and/or has responsibility for the contents of this rule: (Please type)

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

- a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

N/A

b. Date of hearing or comment period:

N/A

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

N/A

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached N/A

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

**SERIES 53
GENERAL TRAPPING RULE**

§58-53-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- The purpose of this rule 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 Division of Natural Resources rule, 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. A trapper shall check and tend all traps each calendar day.

3.4. 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.

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

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

3.7. 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.

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

3.9. It is illegal to set or maintain spring pole snares.

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

3.11. 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 Subsection 3.12 of this rule.

3.12. The provisions of Subsection 3.11 of this rule 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.

3.13. It is illegal to set traps or snares within 50 feet of animal or bird carcasses, or parts thereof, unless the carcasses, or parts of the carcasses, are completely covered and concealed from sight.

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

3.15. 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.

3.16. If any person unintentionally traps and kills more than the limit fixed by the Division of Natural Resources rule, The Hunting and Trapping Regulations (Exempt Rule) (58 C.S.R.45), as a season possession limit, he or she shall (within twenty-four (24) hours after the trapping or killing) deliver the excess animals to a conservation officer.

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

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

3.19. Terrestrial snares shall be equipped with a relaxing type lock system with a breaking point of not greater than 350 pounds or a stop with a minimum loop diameter greater than or equal to 2 ½ inches. Set snares shall not have a loop diameter average greater than 15 inches. A trapper shall not use drags with terrestrial snares. He or she shall anchor them at the trap site.

3.20. All traps set during the month of March shall be underwater killer type traps for the taking of beaver.

West Virginia Trappers Association Incorporated

Established October 1968

Affiliated with

National Trappers Association Incorporated
Chapter 38 Fur Takers of America



President
Raymond Dishner
475 Wheeler Road
Rock, WV 24747
Phone (304)467-8893
Fax (304)467-8893

JUL 2001
Wildlife Resources
Deputy Chiefs
Office

Dear Sir;

Writing in concern of the Five proposed Legislative rule changes with the Secretary of State's Office. We approve all but the trapping rule we would like to see Snaring included. We trappers use a lot of snares on Beavers They are lighter and easier to carry. They are good doing damage control that is all going on in March.

Thanks A Lot

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond Dishner".

President of W.V.T.A.
Raymond Dishner

Help perpetuate the Nation's oldest industry, the "Fur Trade"
by buying, selling, and wearing "North American Produced Furs."



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Bob Wise
Governor

Ed Hamrick
Director

July 13, 2001

Mr. Raymond Dishner
475 Wheeler Road
Rock, WV 24747

Dear Mr. Dishner:

Thank you for taking the time to provide a written comment on the proposed Division of Natural Resources rule limiting traps set during the month of March to underwater "killer" type traps for beaver. Regarding your comment for damage control, trappers removing beaver as a result of a damage complaint from a landowner should contact the District Biologist concerning a special permit to use terrestrial snares for taking beaver during the month of March.

This proposed rule was overwhelmingly supported by conservation clubs across the state as well as by individuals who attended the 16 public meetings concerning rule changes. Based on the strong support for this proposal, it is the Division's intention to file the rule with the Legislative Rule Making Committee as submitted. Should the rule pass as submitted, the motor and wake restrictions will become effective in April of 2002.

Your interest in West Virginia's fish and wildlife is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon C. Robertson".

Gordon C. Robertson
Deputy
Wildlife Resources

cc: Curtis Taylor