



**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**NATALIE E. TENNANT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

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OFFICE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

**FORM 6 -- NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED  
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY **Natural Resources**

RULE TYPE **Legislative** AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE **Yes** TITLE-SERIES **58-47**

RULE NAME **Prohibitions When Hunting and Trapping**

CITE AUTHORITY **20-1-7(30)**

HOUSE OR SENATE BILL NUMBER  
**SB 202**

SECTION  
**64-10-1(a)**

PASSED ON  
**03/11/2016**

THIS RULE IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS RULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON THE  
FOLLOWING DATE

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016**

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

**Yes**

**Joshua L Jarrell -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in  
accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.**



Title-Series: 58-47



Rule Id: 9877



Document: 27484

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

**SERIES 47  
PROHIBITIONS WHEN HUNTING AND TRAPPING**

**§58-47-1. General.**

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- This rule establishes prohibitions in the pursuit or taking of wildlife within the boundaries of this State.

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

1.3. Filing Date. -- April 20, 2016.

1.4. Effective Date. -- April 20, 2016.

**§58-47-2. Definitions.**

2.1. "Bow" means a longbow, recurved bow, or compound bow that is hand-held, hand-drawn and held at full draw without the aid of any mechanical device. Triggering devices or release aids are legal.

2.2. "Modified Bow" means a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that has been modified or manufactured to hold the bow at full draw to accommodate a physical impairment of the user.

2.3 "Trap" is a device that is used to catch and hold animals. A trap may be legally used during the trapping season to catch fur-bearing animals and coyotes. The term includes leg foot hold traps, killer type or body gripping traps, box traps, encapsulating traps and snare. Legal and illegal traps are further defined in the Division's Rule, General Trapping, 58CSR53.

2.4. All other terms in this rule have the meaning prescribed in the Code of State Rules, §58-46, Defining The Terms Used In All Hunting and Trapping, 58CSR46.

**§58-47-3. Prohibitions.**

3.1. Hunting 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.a. Federal regulations prohibit hunting in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

3.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of W. Va. Code §20-2-5(2), woodchucks may be controlled by digging them out, cutting them out or smoking them out on private land by the landowner, his or her resident children or resident parents, or a bona fide resident tenant.

3.3. Except as provided in Subdivisions 3.3.a and 3.3.b of this rule, it is illegal to use poisons, chemicals, or explosives in taking any furbearing animal, game animal, game bird, protected bird, or protected mammal.

3.3.a. Woodchucks may be controlled by poison, chemicals or explosives on private land by the landowner, his or her resident children or resident parents, or a bona fide resident tenant during the period commencing each year on April 1 and ending on September 30.

3.3.b. Redwing blackbirds, grackles, pigeons, starlings, brownheaded cowbirds and English sparrows may be controlled by chemicals registered with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the United States Environmental Protection Agency when prescribed and authorized by the director in writing. Authorized users shall follow avicide label instructions and take all possible precautions in order to protect nontarget species of wildlife.

3.4. It is illegal to hunt from, or by means of, a motorized watercraft unless the motor has been completely shutoff and the watercraft's progress from the motor has ceased.

3.5. It is illegal to use or possess a fully automatic rifle, fully automatic shotgun, or a fully automatic pistol while hunting or pursuing wildlife at any time.

3.6. It is illegal to catch, capture, take, or kill, or attempt to do so, by seine, net, bait, trap, deadfall, snare, or like device of any kind, any bear, migratory bird, protected bird, protected mammal, or wild boar.

3.6.a. The Director considers an area to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait.

3.7. It is illegal for a person to have in his or her possession solid ball ammunition or shotshells containing shot larger than No. 4 during the muzzleloading season, except for a person legally hunting bear or legally hunting deer with a muzzleloader firearm. The use of .22 caliber rimfire for small game hunting is legal during the muzzleloading season.

3.7.a. Persons legally hunting waterfowl during the muzzleloader deer season may possess nontoxic shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot, but may not possess solid ball ammunition.

3.8. It is illegal to use any solid ball ammunition during the two week bucks only deer season in those counties that are closed to bucks only hunting.

3.9. It is illegal to hunt between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise with a pistol, revolver or rifle larger than .22 caliber centerfire, a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or a shotgun using shot shells larger than #2 shot.

3.10. It is illegal to use tree stands, except for portable tree stands, on public lands.

3.11. It is illegal to transport or possess wildlife or parts of wildlife, which were killed by another hunter unless the wildlife is accompanied by a paper or tag filled out in plain English bearing the following information from the hunter that killed the wildlife: The hunter's signature, address, hunting license number (if required), game tag number (if required), the date of kill, the species, and the number, and/or quantity of wildlife.

3.12. It is illegal for any person to feed bears at any time.

3.13. It is illegal to shoot at wildlife with either a bow, crossbow or firearm after alighting from a motor vehicle along any public road or highway, unless the shooter is at least 25 yards from the motor vehicle.

3.14. It is illegal to take, or attempt to take, any deer, bear or boar by the aid or use of any electronic call.

3.15. It is illegal for any person to use a modified bow for the purpose of hunting or fishing unless he or she possesses a special permit to do so issued by the director. A person may apply for a special permit on forms issued by the Division. These forms shall include a section for a licensed physician to certify that the applicant requires a modified bow.

3.15.a. The physician's examination and certification shall be completed within the six months immediately preceding the date of the application.

3.15.b. The applicant shall authorize, by written release, his or her medical provider to disclose to the director of the Division of Natural Resources and the medical provider shall, upon receipt of the written release, disclose to the director of the Division of Natural Resources, that portion of the applicant's medical records which substantiates the applicant's physical impairment qualifying the applicant for the issuance of a special permit for use of a modified bow. The director shall: restrict access to medical records submitted to him or her; maintain the records in a secure locked cabinet; and not share this information with other federal, state or local agencies or entities, or any register or data bank.

3.15.c. This special permit shall be accompanied by a valid resident or non-resident statewide hunting and/or fishing license unless otherwise exempted from the license requirements as provided in Chapter 20 of the W. Va. Code.

3.16. It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land between September 1 and December 31 and during the spring gobbler seasons.