

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 10, 15, 17 and 19, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-1-06

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 23.09(2)(b), 29.014, 29.089(3), 29.091, 29.164(4)(b), 29.184(6) and 29.197(2), Stats., interpreting ss. 23.09(2)(b), 29.014, 29.089(3), 29.091, 29.164(4)(b), 29.184(6) and 29.197(2), Stats.

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

Annually the Department submits rule change proposals relating to hunting, trapping and game management. The statewide Spring Fish and Wildlife hearings held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will be the vehicle identified for citizen input. The proposed changes relate to hunting, trapping, permit and license issuance, dog training and use of public lands. Specifically, these proposals:

- Extend the closing date of the ruffed grouse season in Zone A from December 31 to January 31, thereby consolidating ruffed grouse hunting zones from 3 to 2.
- Expand the fall wild turkey hunting season from October 1-November 10 to the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Thursday immediately prior to the opening of the deer gun season. This would be the same as the early archery deer season dates.
- Create a 2-day youth turkey hunt on the weekend before the regular spring turkey season begins.
- Extend the ending of the spring wild turkey hunting hours from 5 p.m. to sunset.
- Prohibit possession of electronic turkey calling equipment while turkey hunting, and prohibit possession of electronic waterfowl calling equipment while waterfowl hunting.
- Create consistent standards for body-gripping type traps, where traps 75 square inches or larger would be illegal as dry land sets, traps between 60 and 75 square inches would be legal only when half of the trap is below water at all times, or when at least 5 feet off the ground, or when properly enclosed, and creating a maximum allowable height dimension of 7½ inches for dry land body-gripping traps.
- Issue turkey carcass tags remaining after the initial special license drawing over-the-counter at a rate of one carcass tag per customer per day.
- Change the “no dog training” period from April 15-July 31 to April 1-July 31.
- Change the minimum age of the Youth Learn to Hunt Program from age 11 to age 10 to be consistent with current department policy.
- Allow Class A bear licenses to be purchased up to the day prior to the bear season, and allow the purchase of a Class A bear license during the bear season, provided the license is not effective until 3 days after the date of purchase.
- Allow the use of rifles in Kewaunee County during the gun deer season.
- Create a limited entry 9-day shotgun deer gun season, followed by a 10-day muzzleloader season and late archery season at High Cliff State Park.
- Eliminate the Greenwood “No Entry Wildlife Refuge” in Waushara County.
- Require a pheasant stamp statewide for anyone who wishes to hunt pheasants.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearings, Natural Resources Board final adoption, followed by legislative review.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

None

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