

ODNR Division of Wildlife
Proposed OAC Rule Changes
Effective July 1, 2015 (Unless otherwise noted)

1501:31-5-02 Use of outboard motors and power boats on wildlife areas

It is proposed to amend this rule to make adjustments to the list of lakes and reservoirs controlled by the Division where watercraft with motors may be operated.

It is proposed that the following areas be removed from the list of lakes where it is permitted to operate a watercraft with an electric motor only. These areas will be included in the list of areas where the operation of watercraft with any motor is permitted but at idle speed only and without creating a wake: Aquilla Lake Wildlife Area in Geauga county, New Lyme Lake in Ashtabula county, Ross Lake Wildlife Area in Ross county, Shreve Lake in Wayne county, Spencer Lake in Medina county, and Tycoon Lake Wildlife Area in Gallia county.

In addition, it is proposed to remove the following areas from the list of lakes where watercraft may be operated only with motors less than ten horsepower. These areas will be included in the list of areas where the operation of watercraft with any motor is permitted but at idle speed only and without creating a wake: lakes on the; La Su An Wildlife Area in Williams county, Resthaven Wildlife Area in Erie county, Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot county, Oxbow Lake Wildlife Area in Defiance county, Fulton Ponds Wildlife Area in Fulton county, Aldrich Pond Wildlife Area in Sandusky county, Wayne R. Carr Lake in Paulding county and Wingfoot Lake in Portage county.

It is further proposed that Oxbow Lake and Lake La Su An be removed from the list of lakes where it is permitted to operate a watercraft with a motor less than ten horsepower at any speed and all other motors at idle speed only. These lakes will be included in the list of areas where watercraft with any motor must be operated at idle speed only without creating a wake.

It is further proposed to allow the operation of watercraft with any motor at idle speed only and without creating a wake on the following list of waters: Lake McKarns in Williams county, Barton Lake in Williams county, Spencer Lake in Medina county, and Shreve Lake in Wayne county.

1501:31-7-03 Migratory game bird possession limits.

It is proposed to amend this rule by exempting mourning doves from the requirement to have a fully feathered wing or head attached to the bird while transporting it. This amendment will provide consistency with rule 1501:31-7-05(C) and the Federal regulations regarding the possession of mourning doves.

1501:31-9-01 Special regulations applying to all properties owned, leased, or under control of the Division of Wildlife

It is recommended that this rule be amended to prohibit the hunting of both wild birds and deer by the use of baiting or hunting on or over a baited area on any wildlife area. The current baiting regulation only applies to wild birds.

1501:31-9-02 Regulations governing camping on certain Division of Wildlife areas.

It is proposed to amend this rule by clarifying that it shall be unlawful for any person to build or use an open fire in the areas open to camping, except in designated places as posted.

It is further recommended that this rule be amended to allow for camping within twenty five posted designated camping areas from October 9, 2015 to December 7, 2015 at Woodbury Wildlife Area in Coshocton county. All persons camping must possess a valid Ohio hunting license, fishing license or fur taker permit. Persons may only use one camp site, have no more than two vehicles parked at the camp site, and follow any posted rules.

1501:31-9-04 Field trials

It is proposed that the reference to the "Division of Water" be removed from this rule. Restructuring within the Department of Natural Resources resulted in the elimination of this Division.

1501:31-9-06 User fee schedule

It is proposed that this rule be amended to remove the reference to "electrical outlet plugs" from the list of items that a person is entitled to use when issued a field trial permit at Tri-Valley Wildlife Area. This facility is not designed for or capable of providing electric service outside of the buildings.

1501:31-13-07 Special fishing regulations for water areas owned or controlled by the Division of Wildlife.

It is recommended that this rule be amended by rescinding the reference to Medina Lake. This area is owned by the City of Medina and the fishing agreement between the City and the Division has expired.

1501:31-15-02 General hunting and trapping provisions

It is recommended that this rule be amended to remove the prohibition of using a gun equipped with a silencer or muffler to take or attempt to take a wild bird or wild quadruped. This activity will be permitted as outlined in Ohio Revised Code 1533.04, as enacted in House Bill 234.

It is further proposed to clarify the language in this rule prohibiting the “use of any aircraft” to include the use of drones for hunting or to aid in the hunting of any wild bird or wild quadruped.

1501:31-15-10 Wild turkey regulations.

It is recommended that the dates for turkey season be updated for the 2016 youth and spring seasons. It is proposed that youth turkey season be held April 16 and 17, 2016 and that spring turkey season be held April 18 through May 15, 2016.

1501:31-15-11 Deer regulations

It is proposed to amend this rule by changing the deer season dates as follows:

- Eliminate the “antlerless only deer muzzleloading season” in October.
- The “youth deer gun season” will be October 10 and 11, 2015.
- Add two additional days of “deer gun season” on December 26 and 27, 2015. Hunting of small game in season will be permitted on these dates.
- The “muzzleloading season” will be from the first Saturday after New Year’s Day through the following Tuesday, January 2-5, 2016.

It is proposed that the bag limit for deer is reduced from 9 deer to 6 deer per license year, excluding deer taken from any Division of Wildlife administered or authorized controlled hunt.

It is proposed that the county bag limits for deer be the following:

- Decreased bag limit from 4 deer to 2: Montgomery and Warren counties.
- Decreased bag limit from 3 deer to 2: Athens, Belmont, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Coshocton, Erie, Fairfield, Gallia, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Miami, Monroe, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pickaway, Preble, Sandusky, Shelby, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Vinton, Washington, and Wood counties.
- No change in the bag limit of 2 deer: Auglaize, Darke, Fayette, Hancock, Madison, and Mercer counties.

- Decreased bag limit from 4 deer to 3: Brown, Clermont, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, and Stark counties.
- No change in the bag limit of 3 deer: Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Licking, Lorain, Logan, Marion, Medina, Paulding, Pike, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Seneca, Trumbull, Union, Wayne, Williams and Wyandot counties.
- No change in the bag limit of 4 deer: Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, and Summit counties.
- Antlerless tags may be used only in the following counties: Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Portage, Stark, and Summit counties and only until November 29, 2015.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to allow the use of the .450 Marlin cartridge rifle during the firearms season for deer.

1501:31-15-17 Seasons for game birds, game quadrupeds and furbearing animals

It is recommended that this rule be amended to allow “bona-fide not-for-profit organizations” to receive a permit from the Chief to conduct a special hunt for deer on a public hunting area as described in rule 1501-31:15-04, only when authorized by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.

It is proposed that the season dates for crows be changed to open on June 5, 2015 and close March 5, 2016, then reopen June 3, 2016 and close on March 4, 2017.

It is proposed that the season for hunting pheasant and chukar partridge be extended for one week to the second Sunday in January.

1501:31-16-01 Wildlife minimum values

It is proposed to re-evaluate the value of a bobcat based on the scoring criteria as set forth in Ohio Revised Code. Bobcats were removed from the threatened species list in Ohio. The proposed minimum restitution value for bobcat is \$500.00. Several other species are being re-evaluated using the scoring criteria.

It is further proposed to re-evaluate the value of a Peregrine falcon based on the scoring criteria as set forth in Ohio Revised Code. Peregrine falcon will be removed from the threatened species list in Ohio effective July 1, 2015. The proposed minimum restitution value for Peregrine falcon is \$750.00

It has been proposed to amend this rule and list values for additional species of wild animals based upon scoring criteria as set forth in Ohio Revised Code and recommendations by wildlife management staff. The minimum restitution value for the following waterfowl species; American Black Duck, Canvasback, Mallard hen, Northern Pintail, Redhead, and Scaup is proposed to be

established at \$250.00. The minimum restitution value for the mute swan is proposed to be established at \$20.00.

1501:31-19-02 Cervidae carcass regulations.

This rule restricts the importation of certain deer parts to Ohio from areas where Chronic Wasting Disease has been found. It is proposed that this rule be amended to prohibit the movement of certain deer parts from areas within Ohio where Chronic Wasting Disease has been identified. These areas are listed on WildOhio.gov, as provided for in the rule.

1501:31-21-02 Duck blind permit requirements

It is recommended that this rule be modified to allow persons to use and maintain waterfowl hunting blinds on Grand Lake St. Mary's at blind locations 7, 8,9,10,11,12,13, and location 90 if attached to a stake, until the second Sunday of December. All blinds will be required to be removed on or before the second Sunday of December. This modification will allow for additional days to hunt waterfowl and maintain the reduction of blind debris washing away from blind locations.

1501:31-23-02 Species designated as threatened.

It is recommended that the Rufa Red Knot be added to the list of wild animals listed as threatened in Ohio due to a change in its federal status.

It is further recommended that the Peregrine falcon be removed from the list of wild animals listed as threatened in Ohio. The Ohio Peregrine falcon population has been stable for the past five years.