



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

AGENDA

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

**Special Meeting**  
September 3, 2009

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Carl G. Roe  
Executive Director



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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

A Special Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Roll Call of Commissioners

Gregory J. Isabella, President  
James J. Delaney, Jr., Vice President  
Ronald A. Weaner, Secretary  
Thomas E. Boop  
David W. Schreffler  
David J. Putnam  
Robert W. Schlemmer  
Ralph A. Martone

## **BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

### **ADOPTED RULE MAKING**

A. Adoption of proposed amendments to §§139.4, 141.43 and 141.44.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its July 9, 2009 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §§139.4, 141.43 and 141.44 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year; deer; and bear) to resume restrictions on crossbow usage during archery deer and archery bear seasons to only persons possessing a valid disabled persons permit, reauthorize the lawful use of crossbows during the muzzleloading deer seasons and create a two week crossbow deer season that is shorter but runs concurrent with the early deer archery season.

Recommendation: This is a Commissioner directed agenda item.

Action:

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**CHAPTER 139. SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS**

§139.4. Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

(See Seasons and Bag Limits Table)

**2009-2010 OPEN HUNTING AND FUR TAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT,  
FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT  
OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHITE-TAILED DEER**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<i>Deer, Crossbow (Antlered &amp; Antlerless)</i> <sup>2</sup> <i>(Statewide)</i>	Oct. 3	Oct. 16	One antlered and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING**

**Subchapter C. BIG GAME**

§141.43. Deer.

(a) *Archery deer season.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), it is lawful to hunt deer during the archery deer season with any of the following devices:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) *Prohibitions.* While hunting deer during the archery deer season, it is unlawful to:

\* \* \* \* \*

(iii) Except in Wildlife Management Units 2B, 5C and 5D, hunt or take deer with a crossbow without a valid disabled persons permit.

(b) *Crossbow deer season.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* It is lawful to hunt deer during the crossbow deer season with any of the following devices:

(i) *A bow and arrow.* A bow must have a peak draw weight of at least 35 pounds. An arrow must be equipped with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3 inches in length.

(ii) *A crossbow and bolt.* A crossbow must have a peak draw weight of at least 125 pounds. A bolt must be equipped with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3 inches in length.

(2) *Prohibitions.* While hunting deer during the crossbow deer season, it is unlawful to:

(i) Use or possess a firearm, except a person may possess certain firearms during the crossbow deer season under the authorizations of section 2525 of the act (relating to possession of firearm for protection of self or others).

(ii) Use a device not provided for in the act or in this subsection.

(c) *Flintlock muzzleloading deer season.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* It is lawful to hunt deer during the flintlock muzzleloading deer season with any of the following devices:

(i) *A muzzleloading firearm.* The firearm must be an original or similar reproduction of muzzleloading firearm manufactured prior to 1800. The firearm's ignition mechanism must consist of a hammer containing a naturally occurring stone that is spring propelled onto an iron or steel frizzen which, in turn, creates sparks to ignite a priming powder. The firearm must have open sights and be a .44 caliber or larger single-barrel long gun or a .50 caliber or larger single-barrel handgun that propels single projectile ammunition.

(ii) *A crossbow and bolt.* A crossbow must have a peak draw weight of at least 125 pounds. A bolt must be equipped with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3 inches in length.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) *Muzzleloading deer season.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* It is lawful to hunt deer during the muzzleloading deer seasons with any of the following devices:

(i) *A muzzleloading firearm.* The firearm's ignition mechanism must consist of a percussion cap, primer or flintlock fired design. The firearm must be a .44 caliber or larger single-barrel long gun or a .50 caliber or larger single-barrel handgun that propels single projectile ammunition.

(ii) *A crossbow and bolt.* A crossbow must have a peak draw weight of at least 125 pounds. A bolt must be equipped with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3 inches in length.

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) *Regular and special firearms deer seasons.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* It is lawful to hunt deer during the regular and special firearms deer seasons with any of the following devices:

(i) A manually operated, centerfire firearm.

(ii) A bow and arrow as permitted under subsection (a)(1)(i).

(iii) A crossbow and bolt as permitted under subsection (a)(1)(ii).

(iv) A muzzleloading firearm as permitted under subsection (c)(1) or (d)(1).

(2) *Prohibitions.* While hunting deer during the regular and special firearms deer seasons, it is unlawful to:

(i) Use or possess multiple projectile ammunition or ammunition other than required by section 2322(a)(4) of the act.

(ii) Use a device not provided for in the act or in this subsection.

(f) *Cooperating while hunting during any deer season.* Holders of any of the appropriate licenses or stamps may cooperate while hunting antlered or antlerless deer if pertinent provisions of the act and this section are met.

(g) *.22 caliber or less rimfire required for furbearers.* When using a firearm only a rimfire rifle or handgun .22 caliber or less may be used to dispatch legally trapped furbearers during the regular or special firearms deer seasons.

§141.44. Bear.

(a) *Archery bear season.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), it is lawful to hunt bear during the archery bear season with any of the following devices:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) *Prohibitions.* While hunting bear during the archery bear season, it is unlawful to:

\* \* \* \* \*

(v) Except in Wildlife Management Units 2B, 5C and 5D, hunt or take bear with a crossbow without a valid disabled persons permit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Adjournment