

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
April 24, 2018**

Bryan Burhans

Bryan Burhans
Executive Director

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

Timothy S. Layton, President
James R. Daley, Vice President
Stanley J. Knick, Jr., Secretary
Brian H. Hoover
Charlie E. Fox
Michael F. Mitrick

Approval of Minutes of Commission Meeting held January 30, 2018.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.4.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission proposed at its January 30, 2018 meeting to amend § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2018-2019 license year.

Action:

Draft

ANNEX "A"

(SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS TABLE)

2018-2019 OPEN HUNTING AND FURTAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT,
FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT
OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with or without the required junior license	Sept. 29	Oct. 13	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species)	Oct. 13 and Dec. 10 and Dec. 26	Nov. 24 and Dec. 24 and Feb. 28, 2019	6	18
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i>	Oct. 13 and Dec. 10	Nov. 24 and Dec. 24	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> – <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with or without the required junior license	Sept. 29	Oct. 13	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i>	Oct. 13 and Dec. 10 and Dec. 26	Nov. 24 and Dec. 24 and Feb. 28, 2019	4	12
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> – There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in the Hegin-Gratz or Franklin County wild pheasant recovery areas.				

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with or without the required junior license	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	2	6
WMUs 4E and 5A – <i>Male only</i>				
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 5B, 5C, and 5D - <i>Male or female</i>				
Central Susquehanna Wild Pheasant Recovery Area – <i>Male only</i>	As authorized by Executive Order			
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i>	Oct. 20	Nov. 24	2	6
	and			
WMUs 4E and 5A – <i>Male only</i>	Dec. 10	Dec. 24		
	and			
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 5B, 5C, and 5D - <i>Male or female</i>	Dec. 26	Feb. 28, 2019		
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i>	Oct. 13	Nov. 24	8	24
	and			
	Dec. 10	Dec. 24		
	and			
	Dec. 26	Feb. 28, 2019		
<i>Hare (Snowshoe Rabbits) or Varying Hare</i>	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2019	1	3
<i>Woodchuck (Groundhog)</i>	No closed season except during the regular firearms deer season(s). Hunting on Sundays is prohibited.		Unlimited	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Turkey, Fall - Male or Female</i>			1	1
WMU 2B (Shotgun, Bow & Arrow only)	Oct. 27 and Nov. 22	Nov. 16 and Nov. 24		
WMU 1B	Oct. 27	Nov. 3		
WMUs 1A, 2A, 4A and 4B	Oct. 27 and Nov. 22	Nov. 3 and Nov. 24		
WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4D and 4E	Oct. 27 and Nov. 22	Nov. 10 and Nov. 24		
WMU 2C	Oct. 27 and Nov. 22	Nov. 16 and Nov. 24		
WMU 5A	Nov. 1	Nov. 3		
WMU 5B	Oct. 30	Nov. 1		
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting			
<i>Turkey, Spring ¹ Bearded Bird only, Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with the required junior license	Apr. 20, 2019	Apr. 20, 2019	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring ¹ Bearded Bird only</i>	Apr. 27, 2019 and May 13, 2019	May 11, 2019 and May 31, 2019	1	2
			May be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
			May be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 703-712) as published in the *Federal Register* on or about February 28 of each year.

Exceptions:

(a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).

(b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Crow</i> (Hunting permitted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	July 1	Apr. 14, 2019		Unlimited
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i>	No closed season except during the regular firearms deer seasons.			Unlimited

FALCONRY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species)	Sept. 1	Mar. 30, 2019	6	18
<i>Quail</i>	Sept. 1	Mar. 30, 2019	8	24
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i>	Sept. 1	Mar. 30, 2019	2	6
<i>Cottontail Rabbits</i>	Sept. 1	Mar. 30, 2019	4	12
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i>	Sept. 1	Mar. 30, 2019	1	3
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant - Male and Female</i> - (Combined)	Sept. 1	Mar. 30, 2019	2	6

Migratory Game Bird - Seasons and bag limits shall be in accordance with Federal regulations.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Deer, Archery (Antlered & Antlerless)</i> ² With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 15 and Dec. 26	Nov. 24 Jan. 26, 2019	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Archery (Antlered & Antlerless)</i> ² With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Sept. 29 and Dec. 26	Nov. 10 Jan. 12, 2019	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only)</i> With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only)</i> Only Junior and Senior License Holders, ³ Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard	Oct. 18	Oct. 20	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Regular firearms (Antlered & Antlerless)</i> ² WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 26	Dec. 8	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Regular firearms (Antlered only)</i> ² WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Nov. 26	Nov. 30	One antlered deer.
<i>Deer, Regular firearms (Antlered & Antlerless)</i> ² WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</i> ² With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26	Jan. 12, 2019	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</i> ² With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 26, 2019	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

WHITE-TAILED DEER – (Continued)

Season	Species	First Day	Last Day	Limit
	<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties	Dec. 26	Jan. 26, 2019	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	<i>Deer, Antlerless</i> (Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County and New Cumberland Army Depot, York County and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County)	Hunting is permitted on days established by the United States Department of the Army.		An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

BLACK BEAR

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ⁴ WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 15	Nov. 24	1
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ⁴ WMU 5B	Sept. 29	Nov. 10	1
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ⁴ WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 29	Nov. 3	1
<i>Bear, Muzzleloader</i> ⁴ WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	1
<i>Bear, Special firearms</i> ⁴ Only Junior and Senior License Holders ³ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or in the United States Coast Guard, with required antlerless license WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D	Oct. 18	Oct. 20	1
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> ⁴ (Statewide)	Nov. 17	Nov. 21	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ⁴ WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D	Nov. 26	Dec. 1	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ⁴ WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 26	Dec. 8	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ⁴ WMUs 1B, 2C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Nov. 28	Dec. 1	1

ELK

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag⁵ and Special-License Tag⁵ (Antlered and Antlerless)</i>	Sept. 1	Nov. 10	1
<i>Elk, Regular⁵ (Antlered and Antlerless)</i>	Nov. 5	Nov. 10	1
<i>Elk, Extended⁵ (Antlered and Antlerless)</i>	Nov. 12	Nov. 17	1

FURTAKING - TRAPPING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 17	Jan. 6, 2019	Unlimited	
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 26	Mar. 31, 2019		
WMUs 1A, 1B and 3C (Combined)			20	40
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C and 5D (Combined)			20	20
WMUs 2G, 2H, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Combined)			5	5
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 21	Feb. 17, 2019	Unlimited	
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26	Feb. 17, 2019	Unlimited	
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i>				
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 15	Jan. 6, 2019	1	1
<i>Fisher, with required fisher permit</i>				
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 15	Dec. 26	1	1
<i>River Otter, with required otter permit</i>				
WMUs 3C & 3D	Feb. 16, 2019	Feb. 23, 2019	1	1

FUR TAKING - HUNTING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Coyote - (Outside of any big game season)</i>	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	
<i>Coyote - (During any big game season)</i>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	
<i>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel</i>	No closed season.			
<i>Raccoon and Fox</i>	Oct. 20	Feb. 16, 2019	Unlimited	
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 12, 2019	Feb. 6, 2019	1	1
<i>Porcupine</i>	Sept. 1	March 30, 2019	3	10

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

¹ Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in section 2709 of the act (relating to license costs and fees) may take a second spring gobbler during the hunting license year; all other persons, including mentored youth hunters, may take only one spring gobbler. A maximum of 2 spring gobblers per license year may be taken by any combination of licenses or exceptions for mentored youth.

² Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.

³ Includes residents and nonresident license holders who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for the license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

⁴ Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

⁵ Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.28.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018 meeting to amend § 141.28 (relating to wild pheasant recovery areas) to eliminate the Somerset Wild Pheasant Recovery Area (WPRA).

Action:

Draft

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter B. SMALL GAME

141.28. Wild pheasant recovery areas.

(a) *Definition.* For the purpose of this section, the phrase "wild pheasant recovery area" (WPRA) includes and is limited to the following geographic locations.

- (1) *Central Susquehanna WPRA.* Portions of ...
- (2) *Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA.* That portion of ...
- (3) *Franklin County WPRA.* That portion of ...

* * * * *

DRAFT

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Amend to 58 Pa. Code § 141.4.

Commentary:

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to amend Chapter 141, Appendix G (relating to hunting hours) to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2018-2019 hunting/trapping license year. The Commission also proposed to amend § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) by deleting the hunting hours closure of mourning dove season prior to noon during the first mourning dove season.

Action:

DRAFT

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.4. Hunting hours.

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and mammals may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

* * * * *

(4) Migratory birds may only be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset, except during the snow goose conservation season and the September resident goose season, when geese may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

* * * * *

DRAFT

(See Pennsylvania Meridian Map, Hunting Hours and
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Tables)

**HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1-7	5:09	9:02	Jan. 6 – 12	6:52	5:21
July 8 – 14	5:14	8:59	Jan. 13 – 19	6:51	5:24
July 15 – 21	5:19	8:54	Jan. 20 – 26	6:48	5:35
July 22 – 28	5:25	8:48	Jan. 27 – Feb. 2	6:43	5:44
July 29 – Aug. 4	5:32	8:41	Feb. 3 – 9	6:37	5:52
Aug. 5 – 11	5:39	8:32	Feb. 10 – 16	6:30	6:00
Aug. 12 – 18	5:45	8:23	Feb. 17 – 23	6:21	6:09
Aug. 19 – 25	5:52	8:13	Feb. 24 – Mar. 2	6:12	6:17
Aug. 26 – Sept. 1	5:58	8:02	Mar. 3 – 9	6:01	6:24
Sept. 2 – 8	6:05	7:51	Mar. 10 – 16 *Begins	6:50	7:32
Sept. 9 – 15	6:12	7:39	Mar. 17 – 23	6:39	7:39
Sept. 16 – 22	6:18	7:28	Mar. 24 – 30	6:28	7:46
Sept. 23 – 29	6:25	7:16	Mar. 31 – Apr. 6	6:17	7:54
Sept. 30 – Oct. 6	6:32	7:05	Apr. 7 – 13	6:05	8:01
Oct. 7 – 13	6:39	6:54	Apr. 14 – 20	5:55	8:08
Oct. 14 – 20	6:46	6:44	Apr. 21 – 27	5:44	8:15
Oct. 21 – 27	6:54	6:34	Apr. 28 – May 4	5:35	8:22
Oct. 28 – Nov. 3	7:02	6:26	May 5 – 11	5:26	8:29
Nov. 4 – 10 **Ends	6:10	5:25	May 12 – 18	5:19	8:36
Nov. 11 - 17	6:18	5:13	May 19 – 25	5:12	8:42
Nov. 18 – 24	6:26	5:09	May 26 – June 1	5:07	8:49
Nov. 25 – Dec. 1	6:33	5:06	June 2 – 8	5:04	8:54
Dec. 2 – 8	6:40	5:06	June 9 – 15	5:02	8:58
Dec. 9 – 15	6:45	5:05	June 16 – 22	5:02	9:01
Dec. 16 – 22	6:49	5:07	June 23 – 30	5:05	9:03
Dec. 23 – 29	6:52	5:10			
Dec. 30 – Jan. 5	6:53	5:15			
			*Daylight Saving Time Begins * -Ends**		

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE
2018-2019

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
Aug. 26 – Sept. 1	5:58	7:32	Dec. 23 – 29	6:52	4:40
Sept. 2 – 8	6:05	7:21	Dec. 30 – Jan. 5	6:53	4:45
Sept. 9 – 15	6:12	7:09	Jan. 6 – 12	6:52	4:51
Sept. 16 – 22	6:18	6:58	Jan. 13 – 19	6:51	4:54
Sept. 23 – 29	6:25	6:46	Jan. 20 – 26	6:48	5:05
Sept. 30 – Oct. 6	6:32	6:35	Jan. 27 – Feb. 2	6:43	5:14
Oct. 7 – 13	6:39	6:24	Feb. 3 – 9	6:37	5:22
Oct. 14 – 20	6:46	6:14	Feb. 10 – 16	6:30	5:30
Oct. 21 – 27	6:54	6:04	Feb. 17 – 23	6:21	5:39
Oct. 28 – Nov. 3	7:02	5:56	Feb. 24 – Mar. 2	6:12	5:47
Nov. 4 – 10**Ends	6:10	4:55	Mar. 3 – 9	6:01	5:54
Nov. 11 – 17	6:18	4:43	Mar. 10 – 16 *Begins	6:50	7:02
Nov. 18 – 24	6:26	4:39	Mar. 17 – 23	6:39	7:09
Nov. 25 – Dec. 1	6:33	4:36	Mar. 24 – 30	6:28	7:16
Dec. 2 – 8	6:40	4:36	Mar. 31 – Apr. 6	6:17	7:24
Dec. 9 – 15	6:45	4:35	Apr. 7 – 13	6:05	7:31
Dec. 16 – 22	6:49	4:37	*Daylight Saving Time Begins * Ends **		

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 141.43, 141.44, and 141.47.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to amend §§ 141.43, 141.44, and 141.47 (relating to deer, bear, and elk) to authorize the Statewide use of semiautomatic, centerfire shotguns to hunt for deer, bear and elk.

Action:

Draft

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter C. BIG GAME

§ 141.43. Deer.

* * * * *

(d) 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 rifle or handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

(ii) A manually operated or semiautomatic, centerfire shotgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

* * * * *

§ 141.44. Bear.

* * * * *

(c) Regular and extended firearms bear seasons.

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

(i) A manually operated, centerfire rifle or handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

(ii) A manually operated or semiautomatic, centerfire shotgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

* * * * *

§ 141.47. Elk.

(a) Permitted devices. It is lawful to hunt elk during the elk season with any of the following devices:

(1) A manually operated, centerfire rifle or handgun. The firearm must be a .27 caliber or larger firearm that propels single-projectile ammunition 130 grains or larger.

(2) A manually operated or semiautomatic, centerfire shotgun. The firearm must be a 12 gauge or larger firearm that propels single-projectile ammunition.

* * * * *

Draft

C. Create 58 Pa. Code § 141.29.

Commentary:

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to create § 141.29 (relating to hunting mourning doves over managed fields) to authorize the hunting and taking of mourning doves in areas where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as a result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed where grown. This authorization will not authorize the hunting of any other species in these managed areas.

Action:

Draft

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter B. SMALL GAME

§ 141.29. Hunting mourning doves over managed fields.

(a) *Limited hunting authorized.* Except as otherwise limited by subsection (b) below, in accordance with the authorization in 50 C.F.R. 20.21 (relating to what hunting methods are illegal), it is lawful to hunt mourning doves on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation. This authorization does not apply to any other species of wildlife.

(b) *Limited manipulation of crops authorized.* It is lawful to manipulate an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown no later than September 15 each license year. In such cases where the manipulation of natural vegetation or agricultural crops is not the result of a normal agricultural operation, the Commission may order the suspension of any further manipulation if the manipulation is causing conflict with other lawful hunting, public safety hazards or detrimental impacts to the health and welfare of any wildlife.

(c) *Definition.* For the purposes of this section, manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

D. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.1 and rescind §§ 147.681-147.686.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to amend § 141.1 (relating to special regulations areas) and rescind §§ 147.681-147.686 to eliminate the baiting permit and reporting requirements.

Action:

Draft

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.1. Special regulations areas.

* * * * *

(d) *Permitted acts.* It is lawful to:

* * * * *

(7) Hunt or take deer in the southeast special regulations area during regular open hunting seasons for white-tailed deer through the use of or by taking advantage of bait on private, township or municipal property only as set forth in this paragraph.

(i) *Purpose.* The purpose of this paragraph is to authorize eligible persons to hunt through the use of or otherwise take advantage of approved bait to enhance the harvest rate of white-tailed deer on private, township or municipal property within the southeast special regulations area where landowners have suffered material damage to their real property and traditional hunting and deer control methods have proven ineffective in controlling local deer populations.

(ii) *Operation.* Landowners and persons they permit to hunt on their property may hunt through the use of or otherwise take advantage of approved bait for the purpose of enhancing the harvest rate of white-tailed deer. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

(A) This authorization only applies during regular open hunting seasons for white-tailed deer in the affected portion of each wildlife management unit located on private, township or municipal property within the southeast special regulations area.

(B) A bait site may not be located less than 250 yards from any previously established bait site authorized under this paragraph.

(C) Approved bait may be distributed at each bait site by approved feeders from 2 weeks prior to the opening of the first white-tailed deer season through the close of the last white-tailed deer season within the applicable wildlife management unit.

(D) Approved feeders are limited to sealed, waterproof, automatic, mechanical feeders that are set to distribute bait up to a maximum of three times per day during legal hunting hours only. The feeder must be visibly tagged or labeled with the full name and address of the landowner or an individual authorized by the landowner to use or place the approved feeder.

(E) Bait accumulation at any one bait site may not exceed 5 gallons total volume at any given time.

(F) Approved bait is limited to shelled corn and protein pellet supplements.

(G) It is the sole responsibility of landowners and persons they permit to hunt on their property to ensure that the area bait site is in compliance with this paragraph prior to hunting in that area.

(H) The landowner and persons they permit to hunt on their property may not, under any circumstances, hunt, take, kill or harvest any game or wildlife other than white-tailed deer at the bait site or coming to and from the bait site.

(iii) Suspension. The Commission may suspend the operation of any bait site if one or more of the following conditions is determined to exist:

(A) The baiting activity is causing conflict with other lawful hunting.

(B) The baiting activity is causing public safety hazards.

(C) The operation of the baiting site is not in compliance with the requirements of this paragraph.

(D) The operation if the baiting site is detrimental to the health and welfare of any wildlife, including white-tailed deer.

(E) Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected within 10 air miles of the southeast special regulations area. This suspension may remain indefinitely until the Commission determines that resumption of baiting activities will not create an unreasonable future risk of spreading of the disease on the landscape.

(iv) *Violations.* Violations of this paragraph will be prosecuted under section 2308 of the act (relating to unlawful devices and methods).

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter R. DEER CONTROL

§§ 147.681-147.686. (Reserved).

E. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 147.316 and 147.317.

Commentary:

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to amend §§ 147.316 and 147.317 (relating to application; permit) to require junior hunters to obtain a free pheasant permit to hunt pheasants in this Commonwealth. The Commission also proposed to amend § 147.317 to exempt additional individuals from the pheasant permit requirement, including individuals currently exempted from licensure by statute and also individuals hunting and taking privately acquired propagated pheasants on private lands.

Action:

Draft

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

PHEASANT PERMIT

§ 147.316. Application.

(a) *Form and content.* Applications for pheasant hunting permits issued under this subchapter shall be made through the Commission or any of its authorized license-issuing agents on the appropriate form designated by the Commission for this purpose. Each application must include the applicant's name, address, date of birth and Commission-issued Customer Identification Number, and any other information required by the Commission.

(b) *Eligibility.*

(1) Adult pheasant hunting permit applications are available for submission by applicants in possession of a valid resident or nonresident adult or senior hunting license, or a valid mentored adult hunting permit. The fee for an adult pheasant hunting permit is \$25, plus any applicable transactional and issuing agent fees.

(2) Junior pheasant hunting permit applications are available for submission by applicants in possession of a valid resident or nonresident junior hunting license. There is no fee for a junior pheasant hunting permit.

§ 147.317. Permit.

(a) A pheasant hunting permit is required for any person to hunt or take pheasants by any means or manner or device, including the use of dogs, in this Commonwealth.

(b) A pheasant hunting permit shall be signed and carried on person when hunting or taking pheasants in this Commonwealth.

(c) This section and subchapter may not be construed to require a permit for individuals engaged in:

(1) Lawful pheasant hunting activities under a valid commercial or noncommercial regulated hunting grounds or special retriever training area permit issued under sections 2928 and 2942 of the act (relating to regulated hunting grounds permits; special retriever training areas).

(2) Lawful dog training activities under a valid dog training area, special retriever area, field dog trial or field dog trial for retrievers permit issued under sections 2941-2944 of the act.

(3) Lawful hunting of pheasants they have acquired and released on private lands not otherwise designated as cooperative access lands under sections 709 and 729 of

the act (relating to cooperative agreements relating to land; and public access projects). Any pheasants hunted, taken or possessed under this paragraph shall be banded, tagged, marked or receipted in accordance with the requirements of section 2930 of the act (relating to propagation permits).

Draft

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Create 58 Pa. Code § 135.183

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) proposed at its January 30, 2018, meeting to add § 135.183 (relating to archery ranges) to authorize the manners of usage of archery ranges established by the Commission.

Action:

Draft

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 135. LANDS AND BUILDINGS

Subchapter J. SHOOTING RANGES

§ 135.183. Archery ranges.

(a) *General provisions.* In addition to § 135.2 (relating to unlawful actions) the following provisions pertain to lands under Commission ownership, lease or jurisdiction designated as archery ranges:

(1) Archery ranges are open from dawn until dusk each day of the week.

(2) A range may be reserved for exclusive use by an organized group from January 1 through October 1. An application for a range reservation shall be made through the appropriate regional director or a designee at least 20 days in advance.

(3) An individual may not use the range during any period reserved by an organized group.

(4) An individual or an organized group using the range is responsible for keeping the area clean and free of debris, and may not discard, deposit, leave or throw litter except in approved refuse containers. Range users shall remove targets from range bales when shooting is completed and prior to leaving the range.

(5) The Commission is not responsible for anyone injured on the range. An individual using Commission-owned ranges does so at their own risk and assumes all responsibility for injuries to a person or property caused by or to them.

(6) When more than one person is using the range, a range officer shall be designated.

(7) An individual under 16 years of age may not use the range unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.

(8) The appropriate regional director or designee may close a range by posting signs to that effect. An individual or organized group may not use the range during a period when it is posted as closed.

(b) *Prohibited acts.* At an archery range located on land under Commission ownership, lease or jurisdiction, except when authorized by the appropriate regional director or a designee, it is unlawful to:

(1) Discharge a bow or crossbow from any location on the range other than an established shooting station on the firing line.

(2) Discharge a bow or crossbow at any target other than a paper target placed on a permanent target bale mounted by the Commission. Users are prohibited from intentionally shooting at or damaging the frames, stands or other structures constructed by the Commission to mount permanent target bales.

(3) Discharge any arrow or bolt equipped with a broadhead or other cutting device, except at a broadhead shooting station designated by the Commission.

(4) Be intoxicated, use or possess an intoxicating beverage or controlled substance on the range.

(5) Discharge a bow or crossbow more than six times successively if another person is using the range.

(6) Discharge a firearm or use firearm ammunition or other explosive materials.

(7) Operate, manipulate or discharge a bow or crossbow in negligent disregard for the safety of other persons present at or nearby the range. This is specifically intended to include loading a bow or crossbow, operating or manipulating a loaded bow or crossbow, or discharging a bow or crossbow anywhere on the firing range while another person is downrange.

(8) Use a Commission range in violation of any other requirement of this section or posted signage.

REAL ESTATE

A. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3729, State Game Land No. 217, Carbon County

Commentary: Wildlands Conservancy, Inc. is offering 428+/- acres of land in East Penn Township, Carbon County adjoining State Game Land No. 217 to the west and National Park Service property to the south (Exhibit RED 1). The option price is \$400 per acre to be paid with funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State Game Lands from previously approved projects. The property is located on the north slope of Blue Mountain, is forested with oak, poplar, maple, and white pine along the ridge and transitions into a savanna-type field of green briar and fern interspersed with trees at the lower elevations. Acquiring this property will resolve a long-standing boundary line dispute with the prior owners. Access is from Blue Mountain Road on the west and Sunset Road on the east.

Action:

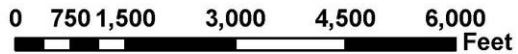
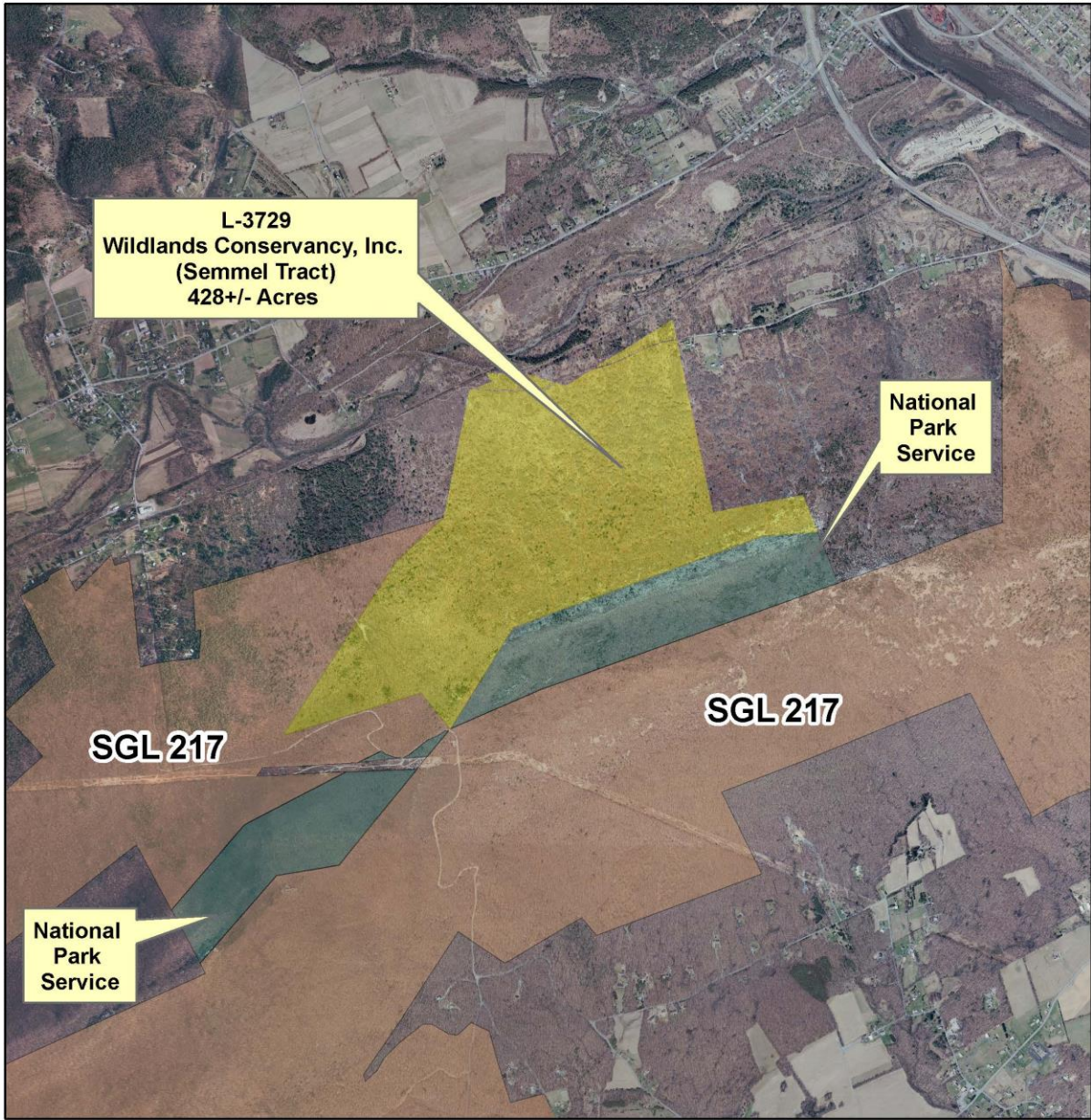


Exhibit RED 1
State Game Land No. 217

L-3729
 Wildlands Conservancy, Inc.
 (Semmel Tract)
 428+/- Acres

East Penn Township
 Carbon County
 Southeast Region

OIL/GAS & MINERALS

B. Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement Tract 223A-18, State Game Land No. 223, Greene County

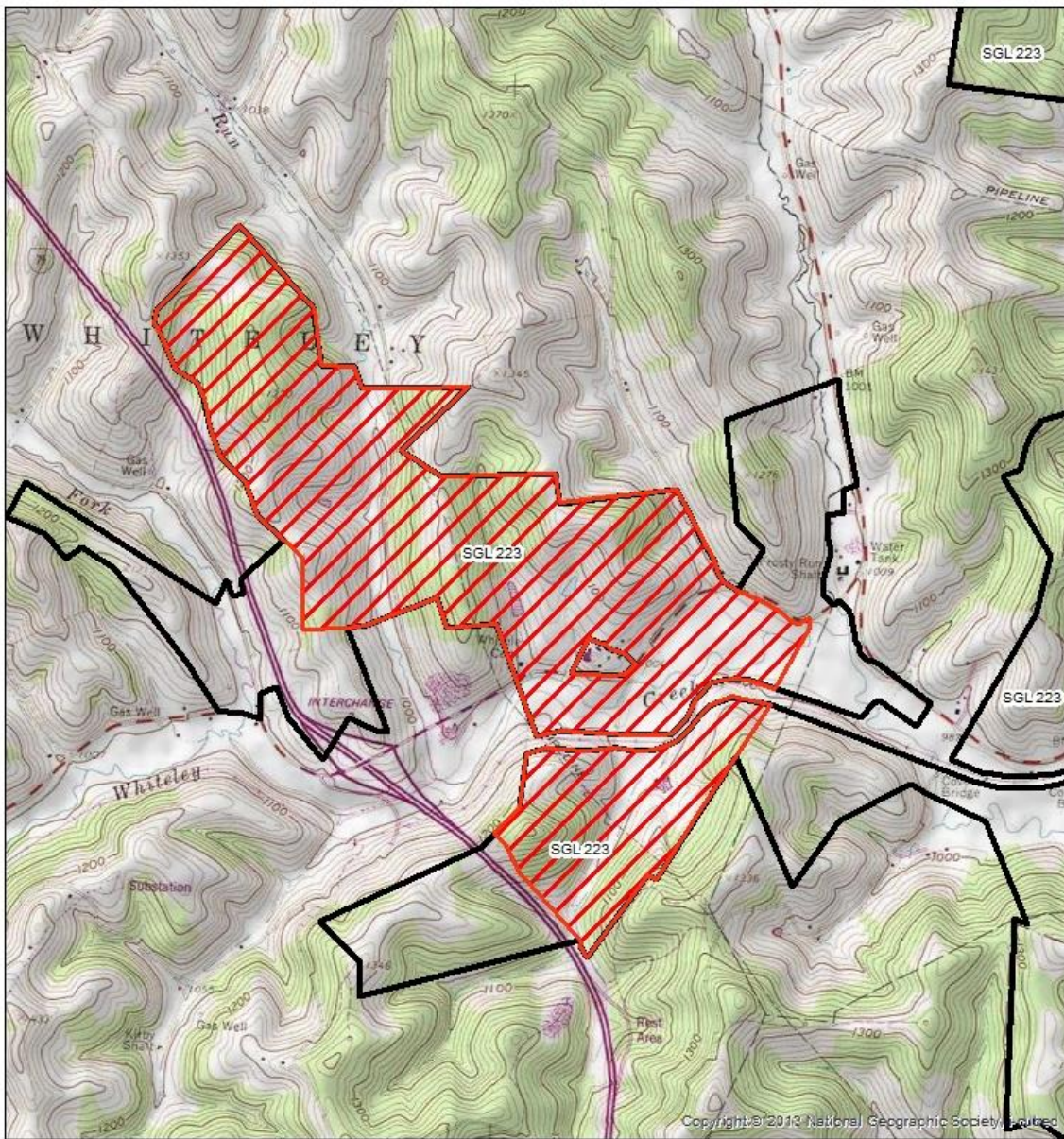
Commentary: Greyllock Production, LLC (Greyllock) requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a portion of State Game Land No. 223 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 724 surface acres (537.61 Oil/Gas acres) is located in Whiteley Township, Greene County (Exhibit OGM 1).

Greyllock has a strong privately owned oil/gas lease position surrounding this portion of State Game Land No. 223, has initiated unconventional well drilling and development in the vicinity of the proposed tract, and has the ability to unitize and develop the Commission's oil and gas reserves under the proposed tract by horizontal drilling with no surface use or disturbance to the game land. The OGM staff has negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Greyllock in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil and gas reserves and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land No. 223.



The terms of the Agreement are a five-year paid up Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Agreement, a \$4,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment and 18% royalty for all oil/gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract. The bonus payment of approximately \$2,150,440 may be deposited either into the Game Fund or into an interest bearing escrow account to be used for the future purchase of wildlife habitats, lands or other uses incidental to hunting, furtaking and wildlife resource management. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall be directly deposited into the Game Fund.

Oil and Gas development will be regulated by the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas Regulations and the Commission's Standard Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

Action:



Legend

-  Non-Surface Use Agreement Area
724 +/- Surface Acres
(net 537.61 +/- Oil/Gas Acres)
-  State Game Land No. 223

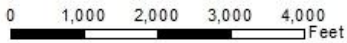


EXHIBIT OGM 1
State Game Land No. 223
Non-Surface Use
Oil & Gas Cooperative Agreement
Greylock Production, LLC
Tract 223A-18
537.61 +/- Oil/Gas Acres
 Whiteley Twp., Greene County
 Southwest Region

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Deer Allocations

Elk Allocations

Next Working Group Meeting - June 4, 2018

Next Commission Meeting - July 30-31, 2018

Executive Session, if necessary, will be held immediately following the close of the Commission Meeting.

Adjournment

Draft