# Rules of Department of Conservation
## Division 10—Conservation Commission
### Chapter 7—Wildlife Code: Hunting: Seasons, Methods, Limits

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Title 3—DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Division 10—Conservation Commission
Chapter 7—Wildlife Code: Hunting: Seasons, Methods, Limits

3 CSR 10-7.405 General Provisions

PURPOSE: This rule requires any person engaged in hunting or pursuing wildlife to possess the prescribed permit.

(1) Any person while hunting or while using dogs or birds of prey in pursuit of wildlife in any manner, including training, shall have on his/her person the prescribed permit, temporary permit authorization number(s) or evidence of exemption. The temporary permit authorization number(s) and picture identification must be carried at all times while hunting until the actual permit(s) is received. Wildlife may not be held alive under hunting permits.

(2) There shall be no closed season or limits on house sparrows or European starlings.

(3) No person shall take or attempt to take any wildlife from or across a public roadway with a firearm, bow, or crossbow.

(4) Wildlife, except waterfowl, may not be pursued or taken while trapped or surrounded by floodwaters or while fleeing from floodwaters or fire.

(5) Wildlife, except raccoons or other furbearing animals when treed with the aid of dogs, may not be searched for, harassed, or disturbed in any manner with the aid of an artificial light, headlight, or spotlight from any roadway, whether public or private, or in any field, woodland, or forest, by any person acting either singly or as one (1) of a group of persons. This section shall not apply to the use of a light by a landowner or lessee as defined by this Code on property under his/her control.


3 CSR 10-7.410 Hunting Methods

PURPOSE: This rule prescribes the methods by which wildlife may be hunted.

(1) Wildlife may be hunted and taken only in accordance with the following:

(A) Motor-Driven Air, Land, or Water Conveyances. No person shall pursue, take, attempt to take, drive, or molest wildlife from or with a motor-driven air, land, or water conveyance at any time. Except as provided in 3 CSR 10-7.431, motor boats may be used if the motor has been completely shut off and its progress therefore has ceased.

(B) Artificial Light. No person shall throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light on any highway or roadway, whether public or private, or in any field, woodland, or forest for the purpose of spotting, locating, or attempting to take or hunt any game animal, except raccoons or other furbearing animals when treed with the aid of dogs, while having in possession or control, either singly or as one (1) of a group of persons, any firearm, bow, or other implement whereby game could be killed.

(C) Night Vision and Thermal Imagery Equipment. No person may possess or control night vision or thermal imagery equipment while acting singly or as one (1) of a group of persons while in possession of any firearm, bow, or other implement whereby wildlife could be killed or taken.

(D) Dogs. Dogs may be used during the prescribed open seasons to chase, pursue, or take wildlife (except beaver, deer, mink, muskrat, river otter, and turkey). All dogs used to hunt, chase, or pursue wildlife shall wear a collar while hunting that contains the full name and address, Conservation Number, or complete telephone number of the owner, except this provision does not apply to dogs used by waterfowl and game bird hunters. Furbearers, squirrels, and rabbits may not be chased, pursued, or taken with dogs during daylight hours of the November portion of the firearms deer season in Butler, Carter, Dent, Iron, Madison, Oregon, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, and Wayne counties.

(E) Dogs (Training). For training dogs, wildlife (except deer, turkey, mink, muskrat, river otter, and beaver) may be chased, but not captured or killed. No person, acting singly or as one (1) of a group, may possess or use a firearm while training dogs during the closed seasons, except that a pistol with blank ammunition may be used during daylight hours only. Training dogs shall include any act of allowing dogs to chase wildlife or to teach dogs to hunt wildlife.

(F) Falconry. Birds of prey of designated types may be used to pursue and take wildlife within the specified seasons and bag limits. Birds of prey may be possessed or used only by holders of a falconry permit.

(G) Firearms. Firearms may be used to take wildlife (except beaver, mink, muskrat, river otter, turtles, and fish) during the open seasons, with the following limitations: For hunting game birds (except the crow), pistols, revolvers, and rifles may not be used. Except for hunting deer, any shotgun having a capacity of more than three (3) shells must have the magazine cut off or plugged with a device incapable of removal through the loading end, so as to reduce the capacity to not more than three (3) shells in magazine and chamber combined. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

(H) Special Firearms Provision. During the November portion and the antlerless portion of the firearms deer season in counties open to deer hunting, other wildlife may be hunted and feral hogs may be taken only with a pistol, revolver, or rifle firing a rimfire cartridge .22 caliber or smaller or a shotgun and shot not larger than No. 4, except that waterfowl hunters, trappers, landowners on their land, or lessees on land upon which they reside may use other methods as specified in subsection (1)(G) of this rule.

(I) Bows, Crossbows, and Atlatl. Bows, crossbows, and atlatl may be used to take wildlife during the prescribed hunting seasons. Arrows, bolts, and darts containing any drug, poison, chemical, or explosive are prohibited, but illuminated sights, scopes, and quickpoint sights may be used. Hand-held string releasing mechanisms are permitted with bows.

(J) Slingshot. Slingshots may be used to take wildlife (except deer and turkey) during the prescribed hunting seasons.

(K) Cage-Type Trap. Groundhogs, rabbits, and squirrels may be taken by cage-type trap, the opening of which may not exceed one hundred forty-four (144) square inches, during the open hunting season, at any hour, by the holder of a hunting permit. Cage-type traps shall be plainly labeled on a durable material with the user’s full name and address or Conservation Number and shall be attended daily.

(L) Electronic Calls. Electronic calls may be used to pursue and take crows and furbearers, but without the aid of an artificial light or night vision equipment. Electronic calls or electronically-activated calls may not be used or possessed while hunting other species of wildlife except as specifically authorized.

(M) No person shall place or scatter grain or other food items in a manner that subjects
any hunter to violation of baiting rules, as defined by federal regulations and in 3 CSR 10-7.431 and 3 CSR 10-7.455 of this Code.

(N) Wildlife Retrieval. Any person while hunting who kills or injures any wildlife shall make a reasonable search to retrieve the wildlife and take it into his/her possession; however, this does not authorize trespass.

(O) Any properly licensed person with disabilities, as defined in this Code, may hunt and take wildlife from a stationary vehicle, provided while hunting s/he carries a physician’s statement provided by the department and signed by a licensed physician which certifies the person has either a permanent or temporary disability which qualifies him/her to hunt from a stationary vehicle. Printed copies of the physician’s statement form can be obtained from the Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 and online at www.missouriconservation.org. This disabled person shall provide a copy of the signed physician’s statement to the department within ten (10) days of receiving the exemption.

(P) Hunter Orange. During the youth, November, and antlerless portions of the firearms deer hunting season, all hunters shall wear a cap or hat and a shirt, vest, or coat having the outermost color commonly known as hunter orange which shall be plainly visible from all sides while being worn. Camouflage orange garments do not meet this requirement. This requirement shall not apply to migratory game bird hunters, to hunters using archery methods while hunting within municipal boundaries where discharge of firearms is prohibited, to hunters on federal or state public hunting areas where deer hunting is restricted to archery methods, or to hunters in closed counties during the antlerless portion of the firearms deer hunting season.

(Q) Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting. Except as otherwise permitted in this Code, wildlife may be taken only in the immediate physical presence of the taker and may not be taken by use of computer-assisted remote hunting devices.

(R) Wildlife may not be hunted, pursued, or taken with the use of poisons or tranquilizing drugs.


Op. Atty. Gen. No. 5, Turner (11-6-69). It is within the authority of the Conservation Commission to promulgate rules regarding the method and manner taking all wildlife, including predatory animals.

3 CSR 10-7.411 Exemptions for Persons with Disabilities

(Rescinded March 1, 1999)


3 CSR 10-7.415 Quail: Seasons, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open season and limits for quail hunting.

(1) Quail may be taken from November 1 through January 15. Daily limit: eight (8) quail; possession limit: sixteen (16) quail.

(2) Youth at least six (6) but not older than fifteen (15) years of age may take quail during the last full weekend of October. Daily limit: eight (8) quail; possession limit: sixteen (16) quail.


3 CSR 10-7.417 Ruffed Grouse: Seasons, Limits

(Rescinded August 30, 2010)

3 CSR 10-7.420 Rabbits: Seasons, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open season and limits for rabbit hunting.

(1) Cottontail and swamp rabbits may be taken between sunrise and sunset, from October 1 through February 15. Daily limit: six (6) rabbits; including no more than two (2) swamp rabbits; possession limit: twelve (12) rabbits; including no more than four (4) swamp rabbits.

(2) No jackrabbit shall be killed at any time except in accordance with 3 CSR 10-4.130.


3 CSR 10-7.425 Squirrels: Seasons, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open season and limits for squirrel hunting.

Squirrels may be taken from the fourth Saturday in May through February 15. Daily limit: ten (10) squirrels; possession limit: twenty (20) squirrels.


3 CSR 10-7.427 Groundhogs: Seasons, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open season and limits for groundhog hunting.

Groundhogs (woodchucks) may be taken, possessed and sold in any numbers from the day following the prescribed spring turkey hunting season through December 15. Groundhog pelts may be possessed and sold throughout the year in accordance with 3 CSR 10-10.768.


3 CSR 10-7.430 Pheasants: Seasons, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open season and limits for pheasant and gray partridge hunting.

(1) Male pheasants may be taken from November 1 through January 15. Daily limit: two (2) male pheasants; possession limit: four (4) male pheasants.

(2) Youth at least six (6) but not older than fifteen (15) years of age may take male pheasants during the last full weekend of October. Daily limit: two (2) male pheasants; possession limit: four (4) male pheasants.

(3) A foot or the fully feathered head must be left attached to all pheasants during transport and storage.


3 CSR 10-7.431 Deer Hunting Seasons: General Provisions

PURPOSE: This rule establishes general provisions for hunting deer.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: The secretary of state has determined that the publication of the entire text of the material which is incorporated by reference as a portion of this rule would be unduly cumbersome or expensive. This material as incorporated by reference in this rule shall be maintained by the agency at its headquarters and shall be made available to the public for inspection and copying at no more than the actual cost of reproduction. This note applies only to the reference material. The entire text of the rule is printed here.

(1) The current Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet is hereby incorporated in this Code by reference. This booklet is published annually in August by, and a printed copy can be obtained from, the Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 and is also available online at www.missouriconservation.org. This rule does not incorporate any subsequent amendments or additions.

(2) Deer shall mean white-tailed deer and mule deer. Antlered deer shall mean deer with at least one (1) antler at least three inches (3") long, except as provided in 3 CSR 10-7.435. Deer may be pursued, taken, killed, possessed, or transported only as permitted in this Code.

(3) Persons hunting or pursuing deer must possess a prescribed deer hunting permit. Resident landowners and lessees can qualify for no-cost permits.

(4) Deer may be pursued or taken only from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(5) Deer Hunting Methods.

(A) Archery: longbows, recurve bows, compound bows, crossbows, and atlatl.

(B) Muzzleloader: muzzleloading or cap-and-ball firearms, .40 caliber or larger, not capable of being loaded from the breech.

(C) Any legal method: archery and muzzleloader methods; atlatl; shotguns; handguns or rifles firing expanding-type centerfire ammunition; and air-powered guns, .40 caliber or larger, charged only from an external high compression power source (external hand pump, air tank, or air compressor).

(D) Prohibited, in use or possession:

1. Methods restricted by local ordinance;
2. Self-loading firearms with capacity of more than eleven (11) cartridges in magazine and chamber combined with the exception of concealed firearms carried by persons issued a valid concealed carry permit and any qualified...
(6) A person may take only two (2) antlered deer during the archery and firearms deer hunting seasons combined, with no more than one (1) antlered deer taken during the firearms deer season. Only one (1) antlered deer may be taken during the archery deer season prior to the November portion of the firearms deer hunting season. Deer taken at managed deer hunts are not included in this limit.

(7) Deer may not be hunted, pursued, taken, or killed—
(A) While in a stream or other body of water;
(B) From a boat with a motor attached;
(C) With the aid of a motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft;
(D) With the aid of dogs, in use or possession;
(E) With the aid of artificial light or night vision equipment;
(F) Within any area enclosed by a fence greater than seven feet (7') in height that could contain or restrict the free range of deer. Exceptions are provided in other rules or by written authorization of the director; and
(G) With the aid of bait (grain or other feed placed or scattered so as to constitute an attraction or enticement to deer). Scents and minerals, including salt, are not regarded as bait; however, mineral blocks with food additives are prohibited. An area is considered baited for ten (10) days following complete removal of bait. A person shall be in violation of this provision if they take or attempt to take deer by the aid of bait, where the person knows or reasonably should know the area is or has been baited. It is illegal to place bait in a way that causes others to be in violation of the baiting rule.

(8) During the firearms deer hunting season and during managed firearms deer hunts on those areas where such hunts are held, all persons hunting any game, and also adult mentors accompanying them, must wear a cap or hat and a shirt, vest, or coat of the color commonly known as hunter orange, which must be plainly visible from all sides. Camouflage orange garments do not meet this requirement. The following are exempt from this requirement:
(A) Migratory game bird hunters;
(B) Archery permittees during the alternative methods portion;
(C) All hunters in counties closed during the antlerless portion;
(D) Hunters using archery methods while hunting within municipal boundaries where discharge of firearms is prohibited;
(E) Hunters on federal or state public hunting areas and during managed hunts where deer hunting is restricted to archery methods; and
(F) Hunters of small game and/or furbearers during the alternative methods portion.

(9) Hunters who kill or injure a deer must make a reasonable effort to retrieve and tag it, but this does not authorize trespass.

(10) Hunters who take a deer shall void their permit immediately by notching the month and date of harvest and shall keep the deer separate or distinctly identifiable from deer taken or possessed by another. When the deer is not personally attended and prior to reporting through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System, the voided permit shall be attached to the deer. Deer may be possessed and transported only by the taker until reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System. All deer taken shall be accurately reported by the taker or in the taker’s immediate presence through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System by 10:00 p.m. on the day taken. The Telecheck confirmation number shall be recorded immediately on the deer hunting permit. The deer shall remain intact or as a field-dressed carcass until the deer is reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System. All deer shall be reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System prior to processing or being removed from the state. After reporting through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System, deer may be possessed, transported, and stored by anyone who has labeled with the permit or any label that includes the full name and address of the taker, date taken, and Telecheck confirmation number.

(11) Deer (or parts thereof) reported in accordance with established procedures, when labeled with the full name and address of the taker, the date taken, and the Telecheck confirmation number of the deer, may be possessed, transported, and stored by anyone. Commercially processed deer meat may be donated to not-for-profit charitable organizations under guidelines established by the director.


3 CSR 10-7.432 Deer: Archery Hunting Season

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the archery deer hunting season, limits, and provisions for hunting.

(1) The archery deer hunting season is September 15 through January 15, excluding the November portion of the firearms deer hunting season. Use archery methods only; firearms may not be possessed with the following exceptions (Firearms possessed under these exceptions may not be used to take wildlife while archery hunting. Proof of this exception must be carried while hunting.):
(A) Any person who has been issued a valid concealed carry permit and such permit has not been suspended, revoked, canceled, or denied may carry concealed firearms on or about his/her person while hunting; and
(B) Any qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer as defined in the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (18 USC 926B or 18 USC 926C) may carry concealed firearms on or about his/her person while hunting.

(2) Archery Deer Hunting Permits.
(A) Resident or Nonresident Archer’s Hunting Permit. Valid for two (2) deer statewide, except that only one (1) antlered deer may be taken prior to the November portion of the
firearms deer hunting season.

(B) Resident or Nonresident Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit. Valid for
one (1) antlerless deer in any open county. Persons may purchase and fill any number
of these permits, where valid. A Nonresident Archer’s Hunting Permit must be purchased
before purchasing Nonresident Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits.

AUTHORITY: sections 40 and 45 of Art. IV, Mo. Const. and section 252.040, RSMo
Amended: Filed May 21, 2007, effective July 1, 2007. Amended: Filed April 30, 2008,
effective July 1, 2008. Amended: Filed April 21, 2009, effective July 1, 2009. Amended:
26, 2015, effective July 30, 2015.


3 CSR 10-7.433 Deer: Firearms Hunting Season

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the firearms deer hunting seasons, limits, and provisions
for hunting.

(1) The firearms deer hunting season is comprised of five (5) portions.

(A) Youth portions: October 28 through 29, 2017, and November 24 through 26,
2017; for persons at least six (6) but not older than fifteen (15) years of age; use any legal
deer hunting method to take one (1) deer statewide during the October 28 through 29,
2017; portion; use any legal deer hunting method to take deer statewide during the
November 24 through 26, 2017, portion.

(B) November portion: November 11 through 21, 2017; use any legal deer hunting
method to take deer statewide.

(C) Antlerless portion: December 1 through 3, 2017; use any legal deer hunting method
to take antlerless deer in open counties.

(D) Alternative methods portion: December 23, 2017, through January 2, 2018; use
muzzleloader and archery methods, crossbows, atlatl, handguns, and air-powered guns
as defined in 3 CSR 10-7.431 to take deer statewide.

(2) Firearms Deer Hunting Permits.

(A) Resident or Nonresident Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit: valid for one (1)
deer statewide, except that only antlerless deer may be taken during the antlerless portion
of the season.

(B) Resident or Nonresident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit: valid for
one (1) antlerless deer in any open county. Persons may purchase any number of these
permits and fill them where valid. A Nonresident Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit
must be purchased before purchasing Nonresident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Per-
mits.

(3) Other wildlife may be hunted during the firearms deer hunting season except as fur-
ther restricted in this section—

(A) During the November portion statewide and the antlerless portion in open
counties, other wildlife (except furbearers) may be hunted only with pistol, revolver,
or rifle firing a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire cartridge, or a shotgun and shot not larger
than No. 4; except that waterfowl hunters, trappers, or landowners on their land or
lessees on land upon which they reside may use other methods as specified in 3 CSR 10-
7.410(1)(G);

(B) During the November portion statewide and the antlerless portion in open
counties, furbearers may be hunted within the established furbearer hunting seasons
during daylight hours using any legal deer hunting method by persons holding an unfilled
Firearms Deer hunting permit, and—

1. A Resident Small Game Hunting Per-
mits; or

2. A Nonresident Furbearer Hunting
and Trapping Permit;

(C) Furbearers may not be chased, purs-
ued, or taken with the aid of dogs during
daylight hours from November 1 through the
end of the November portion statewide and
the antlerless portion in open counties; and

(D) Squirrels and rabbits may not be
chased, pursued, or taken with the aid of
dogs during daylight hours of the November
portion in Butler, Carter, Dent, Iron, Madi-
son, Oregon, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, and
Wayne counties.

(4) Feral hogs may be taken in any number
during the firearms deer hunting season as follows:

(A) Hunters must possess a valid small
game hunting or unfilled firearms deer hunt-
ing permit and abide by the methods of pur-
suit allowed for deer as well as any other
restrictions that may apply on specific public
areas;

(B) During the November portion
statewide and the antlerless portion in open
counties—

1. Firearms deer permits may only use
methods allowed for deer;

2. Small game permits may only use
pistol, revolver, or rifle firing a .22 caliber or
smaller rimfire cartridge, or a shotgun with
shot not larger than No. 4; and

3. Dogs may not be used;

(C) During the youth and alternative
methods portions—

1. Deer permits may only use meth-
ods allowed for deer; and

2. Small game permits may only use
methods allowed for small game;

(D) Resident landowners and lessees on
qualifying land are not required to have any
permit and may use any method to take feral
hogs throughout the year.

AUTHORITY: sections 40 and 45 of Art. IV, Mo. Const. and section 252.040, RSMo 2016.*
Original rule filed April 29, 2004, effective May 15, 2004. Amended: Filed June 8, 2005,
effective July 15, 2005. Amended: Filed May 23, 2006, effective July 1, 2006. Amended:
Filed May 21, 2007, effective July 1, 2007. Amended: Filed April 30, 2008, effective July 1,
Filed April 30, 2011, effective March 1, 2011. Amended: Filed March 12, 2012, effective
2012, effective Nov. 30, 2012. Amended: Filed May 31, 2013, effective July 1, 2013. Amend-
ed: Filed Sept. 27, 2013, effective March 1, 2014. Amended: Filed April 18, 2014, effective
Amended: Filed March 14, 2016, effective Sept. 30, 2016. Amended: Filed May 19, 2017,
effective June 1, 2017.


3 CSR 10-7.434 Deer: Landowner Privi-
leges

PURPOSE: This rule establishes season lim-
its and provisions for landowners.

(1) Resident landowners and lessees as out-
lined in the Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Reg-
ulations and Information booklet can obtain
no-cost deer hunting permits from any permit
vendor.
(A) Those with five (5) or more continuous acres can each receive one (1) Resident Landowner Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit, one (1) Resident Landowner Archer’s Hunting Permit, and, if property is in a county in which Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits can be used, two (2) Resident Landowner Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits.

(B) In addition to the permits listed in subsection (1)(A), those with seventy-five (75) or more acres located in a single county or at least seventy-five (75) continuous acres bisected by a county boundary can receive a maximum of two (2) Resident Landowner Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits. Landowners with at least seventy-five (75) acres in more than one (1) county must comply with landowner antlerless deer limits for each county.

1. Resident landowners and lessees of at least seventy-five (75) acres may receive one (1) no-cost Landowner Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit in the counties of: Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Christian, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Iron, Lawrence, Madison, Maries, McDonald, Mississippi, New Madrid, Newton, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, Stoddard, Texas, Wayne, Webster, and Wright.


(2) All landowner deer hunting permits are valid only on qualifying property.

(3) All landowners and lessees who take deer on landowner permits may also purchase and fill other deer hunting permits but must abide by seasons, limits, and restrictions. A landowner or lessee may take only two (2) antlered deer during the archery and firearms deer hunting seasons combined, with no more than one (1) antlered deer taken during the firearms deer season and only one (1) antlered deer may be taken prior to the November portion of the firearms deer hunting season.

(4) Persons defined as landowners include:
(A) General partners of partnerships;
(B) Officers of resident or foreign corporations;
(C) Officers or managing members of resident limited liability companies; and
(D) Officers of benevolent associations organized pursuant to Chapter 352 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.


PURPOSE: This rule establishes special deer harvest limits and restrictions for certain counties.

(1) Only antlerless deer and antlered deer with at least one (1) antler having at least four (4) antler points may be taken in the counties of Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barton, Bates, Buchanan, Caldwell, Camden, the portion of Cass County not included in the Kansas City urban zone, Clark, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Lewis, Lincoln, Maries, Marion, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Nodaway, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, the portion of Platte County not included in the Kansas City urban zone, Pulaski, Ralls, Ray, Saline, Vernon, and Worth. No other antlered deer may be taken.

(A) An antler point is at least one inch (1”) long from base to tip.
(B) The end of the main beam is a point.

(2) These special provisions apply to all deer hunting seasons and permittees, except during the youth portions of the firearms deer hunting season.

Chapter 7—Wildlife Code: Hunting: Seasons, Methods, Limits

3 CSR 10-7.436 Deer: Managed Hunts

PURPOSE: This rule establishes general provisions for managed deer hunts.

Additional deer may be taken at special managed deer hunts established annually by the department. A person may apply for and participate in only one (1) managed deer hunt during a permit year except that persons permanently confined to a wheelchair may participate in more than one (1) hunt. Persons selected to participate must purchase a Resident or Nonresident Managed Deer Hunting Permit and abide by rules established for the hunt.


3 CSR 10-7.437 Deer: Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit Availability

PURPOSE: This rule establishes deer harvest limits by county.

(1) Archery Deer Hunting Season.
   (A) Resident and Nonresident Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits are not valid in the counties of: Butler, Dunklin, Iron, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Reynolds, and Scott.

(2) Firearms Deer Hunting Season.
   (A) Resident and Nonresident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits are not valid in the counties of: Butler, Carter, Dunklin, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Reynolds, Scott, Stoddard, and Wayne.

   (B) Only one (1) Resident or Nonresident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit per person may be filled in the counties of: Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Bates, Bollinger, Buchanan, Caldwell, Camden, Cape Girardeau, the portion of Cass County not included in the Kansas City urban zone, Christian, Clark, Clinton, Dallas, Daviess, DeKalb, Dent, Douglas, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Howard, Jasper, Johnson, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Maries, Marion, McDonald, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Newton, Nodaway, Perry, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, the portion of Platte County not included in the Kansas City urban zone, Pulaski, Ralls, Ray, Ripley, Saline, Shannon, Texas, Vernon, Webster, Worth, and Wright.

   (C) Only two (2) Resident or Nonresident Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits per person may be filled in the counties of: Adair, Barry, Barton, Benton, Boone, Callaway, the portion of Cass County included in the Kansas City urban zone, Carroll, Chariton, Cedar, Clay, Crawford, Cole, Cooper, Dade, Gasconade, Greene, Franklin, Hickory, Howell, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Oregon, Osage, Ozark, the portion of Platte County included in the Kansas City urban zone, Polk, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington.


3 CSR 10-7.438 Deer: Regulations for Department Areas

PURPOSE: This rule incorporates deer hunting on department areas into Chapter 7.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: The secretary of state has determined that the publication of the entire text of the material which is incorporated by reference as a portion of this rule would be unduly cumbersome or expensive. This material as incorporated by reference in this rule shall be maintained by the agency at its headquarters and shall be made available to the public for inspection and copying at no more than the actual cost of reproduction. This note applies only to the reference material. The entire text of the rule is printed here.

Deer may be hunted on lands owned or leased by the department and on lands managed by the department under cooperative agreement as authorized in the current Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, which is incorporated in this Code by reference. This booklet is published annually in August by, and a printed copy can be obtained from, the Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 and is also available online at www.missouriconservation.org. This rule does not incorporate any subsequent amendments or additions.


3 CSR 10-7.440 Migratory Game Birds and Waterfowl: Seasons, Limits

PURPOSE: The Department of Conservation is authorized to select waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits within frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The seasons and limits selected are intended to provide optimum hunting opportunity consistent with the welfare of the species.

(1) Migratory game birds and waterfowl may be taken, possessed, transported, and stored only as provided in federal regulations and this Code.

(2) The head or one (1) fully feathered wing must remain attached to all waterfowl while being transported from the field to one’s home or a commercial preservation facility.

(3) Seasons and limits are as follows:
   (A) Mourning doves, Eurasian collared-doves, and white-winged doves may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from September 1 through November 29. Limits: fifteen (15) doves daily in the aggregate; forty-five (45) in possession;
   (B) Sora and Virginia rails may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from September 1 through November 9. Limits: twenty-five (25) rails daily in the aggregate; seventy-five (75) in possession;
   (C) Woodcock may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from...
October 15 through November 28. Limits: three (3) woodcock daily; nine (9) in possession;

(D) Wilson’s snipe may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from September 1 through December 16. Limits: eight (8) snipe daily; twenty-four (24) in possession;

(E) Blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon teal may be taken from sunrise to sunset from September 24 through October 31. Limits: six (6) teal daily in the aggregate; eighteen (18) in possession;

(F) Waterfowl Zones: The North Zone shall be that portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to U.S. Hwy. 63; north on U.S. Hwy. 63 to U.S. Hwy. 24; west on U.S. Hwy. 24 to Mo. Hwy. 10; west on Mo. Hwy. 10 to U.S. Hwy. 69; north on U.S. Hwy. 69 to Mo. Hwy. 116; west on Mo. Hwy. 116 to U.S. Hwy. 59; south on U.S. Hwy. 59 to the Kansas border. The South Zone shall be that portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 53, north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border. The Middle Zone shall be the remainder of Missouri not included in other zones;

(G) During years when the federal framework prescribes a sixty- (60-) day duck season, the North Zone season will open on the first Saturday in November, the Middle Zone season will open on the Saturday nearest November 6 for seven (7) days, close for five (5) days, and then re-open for fifty-three (53) days, the South Zone season will open on Thanksgiving Day for four (4) days, close as long as necessary, and remain open until the last Sunday in January (as late as the federal framework allows). During years when the federal framework prescribes a forty-five- (45-) day duck season, the North Zone season will open on the second Saturday in November, the Middle Zone season will open on the Saturday nearest November 15, and the South Zone season will open on the Saturday nearest December 10, close December 20-25, and then re-open on December 26 through the last Sunday in January (as late as the federal framework allows). During years when the federal framework prescribes a thirty- (30-) day duck season, the North Zone season will open on the Saturday nearest November 14, the Middle Zone season will open on the Saturday nearest November 19, and the South Zone season will open on the Saturday nearest December 15, close December 19-25, and then re-open on December 26 through the Sunday nearest January 20 (as late as the federal framework allows). A person possessing the appropriate state and federal permits may take ducks in accordance to the season lengths, bag limits, and species-specific opening and closing dates established annually by the Conservation Commission;

(H) Ducks and coots may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as follows:

   1. Ducks and coots may be taken from November 4, 2017, through January 2, 2018, in the North Zone; from November 4, 2017, through November 10, 2017, and November 16, 2017, through January 7, 2018, in the Middle Zone; and from November 23, 2017, through December 26, 2017, and December 4, 2017, through January 28, 2018, in the South Zone; and

   2. Duck and coot limits are as follows:

   (i) The daily bag limit of ducks is six (6) and may include no more than four (4) mallards (no more than two (2) of which may be female), three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, two (2) hooded mergansers, three (3) scaup, one (1) mottled duck, two (2) canvasbacks, and two (2) black ducks. The possession limit is eighteen (18), including no more than twelve (12) mallards (no more than six (6) of which may be female), nine (9) wood ducks, six (6) redheads, six (6) hooded mergansers, nine (9) scaup, three (3) pintails, three (3) mottled ducks, six (6) canvasbacks, and six (6) black ducks. The daily limit of coots is fifteen (15) and the possession limit for coots is forty-five (45);

   (ii) Geese may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as follows:

   1. Blue, snow, and Ross’s geese may be taken from November 11, 2017, through February 6, 2018, statewide;

   2. White-fronted geese may be taken from November 11, 2017, through February 6, 2018, statewide;

   3. Canada geese and brant may be taken from October 7, 2017, through October 15, 2017, and from November 11, 2017, through February 6, 2018, statewide;

   4. Goose limits are as follows: The daily bag limit is three (3) Canada geese and brant in aggregate, twenty (20) blue, snow, or Ross’s geese, and two (2) white-fronted geese, statewide. The possession limit is nine (9) Canada geese and brant in aggregate and six (6) white-fronted geese. There is no possession limit for blue, snow, and Ross’s geese;

   (J) Ducks, geese, brant, and coots may be taken by youth hunters fifteen (15) years of age or younger from October 28, 2017, through October 29, 2017, in the North Zone; from October 28, 2017, through October 29, 2017, in the Middle Zone; and from November 18, 2017, through November 19, 2017, in the South Zone. The daily and possession limits for ducks, geese, and coots are the same as during the regular duck, goose, and coot hunting seasons. Any person fifteen (15) years or younger may participate in the youth waterfowl hunting days without permit provided they are in the immediate presence of an adult eighteen (18) years of age or older. If the youth hunter does not possess a hunter education certificate card, the adult must be properly licensed (i.e., must meet any permit requirements that allow small game hunting) and have in his/her possession a valid hunter education certificate card unless they were born before January 1, 1967. The adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days;

   (K) Shells possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide, and for other wildlife as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

   (L) Persons who possess a valid Conservation Order permit may chase, pursue, and take blue, snow, and Ross’s goose from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as follows:

   1. Doves may be taken from September 1 through December 16 from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily limit: three (3) doves; possession limit: two (2) doves annually by the Conservation Commission; and

   2. Goose limits are as follows:

   (M) Migratory game birds, to include only doves, ducks, mergansers, and coots, may be taken by hunters with birds of prey as follows (See 3 CSR 10-9.442 for additional provisions about falconry including season lengths and limits for wildlife other than migratory game birds. See 3 CSR 10-9.440 for falconry permit requirements):
Crows: Seasons, Methods, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the open seasons, methods and limits for crow hunting. Crows may be taken in any numbers by shotgun, rifle, handguns, archery and falconry from November 1 through March 3.


3 CSR 10-7.441 Crows: Seasons, Methods, Limits

3 CSR 10-7.442 Falconry
(Moved to 3 CSR 10-9.442)

3 CSR 10-7.445 Bullfrogs and Green Frogs: Seasons, Methods, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the season, methods, and limits for hunting frogs.

Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken from sunset, June 30 through October 31, by the holder of a hunting permit with a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, bow, crossbow, atlatl, or by hand or handnet. An artificial light may be used. Daily limit: eight (8) frogs in the aggregate; possession limit: sixteen (16) frogs in the aggregate. Only the daily limit of frogs may be possessed upon the waters and banks thereof where daily limits apply. (See 3 CSR 10-6.615 for taking frogs by fishing methods.)


3 CSR 10-7.450 Furbearers: Hunting Seasons, Methods

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the seasons and methods for hunting furbearers.

(1) Badger, bobcat, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk may be taken in any numbers by hunting from November 15 through January 31. Pelts of furbearers may be possessed, transported, consigned for processing, and sold only by the taker with a valid permit throughout the year, except that bobcats or their pelts shall be delivered by the taker to an agent of the department for registration or tagging before selling, transferring, tanning, or mounting, but not later than April 10. Furbearers may be purchased and sold only under provisions of this rule, Chapter 10, and 3 CSR 10-4.135. No person shall accept payment for furbearers taken by another.

(2) Tagged bobcats or their pelts may be possessed by the taker throughout the year and may be sold only to a licensed taxidermist, tanner, or fur dealer as provided in Chapter 10. It shall be illegal to purchase or sell untagged bobcats or their pelts. After tanning, pelts may be possessed, bought, or sold without permit. Skinned carcasses of legally taken furbearers may be sold by the taker throughout the year.

(3) Coyotes, except as otherwise provided in this section, may be taken by hunting, and pelts and carcasses may be possessed, transported, and sold in any numbers throughout the year.

(A) Coyotes may not be chased, pursued, or taken during daylight hours from April 1 through the day prior to the beginning of the prescribed spring turkey hunting season.

(B) During the prescribed spring turkey hunting season coyotes may be taken using any legal spring turkey hunting season method by persons holding an unfilled Spring Turkey Hunting Permit; and

1. A Resident Small Game Hunting Permit;

2. A Nonresident Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Permit.

(4) No furbearers may be chased, pursued or taken during daylight hours with the aid of dogs from November 1 through the prescribed November portion of the firearms deer hunting season, during the Antlerless portion of the firearms deer hunting season in counties open to deer hunting or with firearms from a boat at night.

(5) The dens or nests of furbearers shall not be molested or destroyed.


3 CSR 10-7.455 Turkeys: Seasons, Methods, Limits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the seasons, methods, and limits for hunting wild turkeys.

(1) Turkeys may be pursued, taken, killed, possessed, or transported only as permitted in this rule.

(A) Spring Season. Spring season annually will begin on the third Monday in April. A person possessing the prescribed turkey hunting permit may take turkeys according to the season length and bag limit established annually by the Conservation Commission. Turkeys may be taken only by shotgun, with shot no larger than No. 4, atlatl, crossbow, or bow; without the use of dogs, bait, electronic calls, or live decoys; from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT). Possession of electronic calls or shotshells loaded with shot larger than No. 4 is prohibited while hunting turkeys.

(B) Fall Firearms Season. Fall season annually will be October 1 through October 31. A person possessing the prescribed turkey hunting permit may take two (2) turkeys of either sex during the season. Turkeys may be taken only by shotgun, with shot no larger than No. 4, atlatl, bow, or crossbow; without the use of dogs, bait, electronic calls, or live decoys; from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset in all counties except: Dunklin, McDonald, Mississippi, New Madrid, Newton, Pemiscot, and Scott. Possession of electronic calls or shotshells loaded with shot larger than No. 4 is prohibited while hunting turkeys. A person, while in the act of pursuing or hunting turkey on a fall firearms permit, shall not have both a firearm, and an atlatl, bow, or crossbow on his/her person with the following exceptions (Firearms possessed under these exceptions may not be used to take wildlife while hunting with an atlatl, bow, or
crossbow. Proof of this exception must be carried while hunting.):

1. Any person who has been issued a valid concealed carry permit and such permit has not been suspended, revoked, canceled, or denied may carry concealed firearms on or about his/her person while hunting; and

2. Any qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer as defined in the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (18 USC 926B or 18 USC 926C) may carry concealed firearms on or about his/her person while hunting.

(C) Fall Archery Season. A person possessing the prescribed archer’s hunting permit may take two (2) turkeys of either sex from September 15 through January 15, excluding the dates of the November portion of the firearms deer season. Turkeys may be taken only by atlatl, bows, and crossbows; without the use of dogs, bait, electronic calls, or live decoys; from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset. Possession of electronic calls is prohibited while hunting turkeys. An archer, while in the act of pursuing or hunting turkey on an archer’s permit, shall not have a firearm on his/her person with the following exceptions (Firearms possessed under these exceptions may not be used to take wildlife while hunting with an atlatl, bow, or crossbow. Proof of this exception must be carried while hunting.):

1. Any person who has been issued a valid concealed carry permit and such permit has not been suspended, revoked, canceled, or denied may carry concealed firearms on or about his/her person while hunting; and

2. Any qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer as defined in the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (18 USC 926B or 18 USC 926C) may carry concealed firearms on or about his/her person while hunting.

(D) Youth Spring Season. The two- (2-) day youth spring season will begin annually on the Saturday nine (9) days prior to the Monday opening of the spring season, except that when the youth season would overlap with Easter weekend the season will open on the Saturday prior to Easter weekend. Any person possessing the prescribed turkey hunting permit and who is at least six (6) but not older than fifteen (15) years of age on the opening day of the youth spring season may take only one (1) male turkey or turkey with visible beard during the youth spring season. A turkey harvested during the youth spring season will count towards an individual’s spring season bag limit; individuals hunting under the prescribed turkey hunting permit may not harvest a second bird during the first week of the spring season. Turkeys may be taken only by shotgun with shot no larger than No. 4, atlatl, crossbow, or bow; without the use of dogs, bait, electronic calls, or live decoys; from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset. Possession of electronic calls or shotshells loaded with shot larger than No. 4 is prohibited while hunting turkeys.

(2) Hunters who take a turkey shall void their permit immediately by notifying the month and date of harvest and shall keep the turkey separate or distinctly identifiable from turkeys taken or possessed by another. When the turkey is not personally attended and prior to reporting through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System, the voided permit shall be attached to the turkey. Turkeys may be possessed and transported only by the taker until reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System. All turkeys shall be accurately reported by the taker or in the taker’s immediate presence through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System by 10:00 p.m. on the day taken. The Telecheck confirmation number shall be recorded immediately on the turkey hunting permit. The head and plumage of the turkey shall remain intact until the turkey is reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System. All turkeys shall be reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System prior to processing or being removed from the state. After reporting through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System, turkeys may be possessed, transported, and stored by anyone when labeled with the permit or any label that includes the full name and address of the taker, date taken, and Telecheck confirmation number.

(3) Bait shall mean grain or other feed placed or scattered so as to constitute an attraction or enticement to turkeys. An area shall be marked to designate the limits of the bait.

(4) A resident landowner or lessee as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805, possessing a landowner permit may take feral hogs on their own property at any time and without permit. Feral hogs may be taken in any number during the spring firearms turkey season and youth spring season only by the holder of a valid unused turkey hunting permit and only by methods prescribed in Chapter 7 for taking turkeys. During the fall firearms turkey season, feral hogs may be taken only by the holder of a valid, unused turkey hunting permit or a small game hunting permit and only by methods prescribed in Chapter 7 for taking wildlife and without the use of bait. Other restrictions may apply on public lands. Resident landowners or lessees as defined in this Code may take feral hogs on their own property at any time, by any method, and without permit.
