ORDER OF RULEMAKING

By authority vested in the Conservation Commission under sections 40 and 45 of Art. IV, Mo. Const., the commission amends a rule as follows:

3 CSR 10-7.455 is amended.

This rule establishes the turkey hunting season, limits, and provisions for hunting and is exempted by sections 536.021, RSMo from the requirements for filing as a proposed amendment. The Department of Conservation amended 3 CSR 10-7.455 by establishing turkey hunting seasons.

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

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

(A) Spring Season. A person possessing the prescribed turkey hunting permit may take two (2) male turkeys or turkeys with visible beards from April 18 through May 8, 2022; provided only one (1) turkey may be taken before April 25, 2022, and only one (1) turkey may be taken per day. A turkey taken during a managed hunt will count towards an individual’s spring season bag limit. 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 except any person may carry concealable firearms, as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo, on or about his/her person while hunting. Firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife while hunting with an atlatl, bow, or crossbow.

(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 atlatls, 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 except any person may carry concealable firearms, as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo, on or about his/her person while hunting. Firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife while hunting with an atlatl, bow, or crossbow.

(D) Youth Spring Season. The two- (2-) day youth spring season will be from April 9 through 10, 2022. 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 before April 25, 2022. 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.

This amendment was filed December 10, 2021, becomes effective January 1, 2022.

This order of rulemaking will appear in the January 18, 2022, issue of the Missouri Register.

The following rule will appear in the January 29, 2022, update to the Code of State Regulations.
(1) Turkeys may be pursued, taken, killed, possessed, or transported only as permitted in this rule. 

  (A) Spring Season. A person possessing the prescribed turkey hunting permit may take two (2) male turkeys or turkeys with visible beards from April 18 through May 8, 2022; provided only one (1) turkey may be taken before April 25, 2022, and only one (1) turkey may be taken per day. A turkey taken during a managed hunt will count towards an individual’s spring season bag limit. 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 one-half (1/2) hour after sunset. 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 except any person may carry concealable firearms, as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo, on or about his/her person while hunting. Firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife while hunting with an atlatl, bow, or crossbow.

  (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 except any person may carry concealable firearms, as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo, on or about his/her person while hunting. Firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife while hunting with an atlatl, bow, or crossbow.

  (D) Youth Spring Season. The two- (2-) day youth spring season will be from April 9 through 10, 2022. 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 before April 25, 2022. 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 notching 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 or proper label 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 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 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 considered baited for ten (10) days following complete removal of the bait.

(4) Resident and nonresident landowners as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805 may obtain landowner turkey hunting permits from any permit vendor, but only after application to and approval by the department in accordance with 3 CSR 10-7.412.

  (A) Approved resident landowners may obtain the following permits at no-cost: one (1) Resident Spring Turkey Hunting Permit, one (1) Resident Landowner Archer’s Hunting Permit, and one (1) Resident Fall Turkey Hunting Permit.

  (B) Approved nonresident landowners may obtain the following permits at a reduced-cost: one (1) Nonresident Landowner Spring Turkey Hunting Permit, one (1) Nonresident Landowner Archer’s Hunting Permit, and one (1) Nonresident Landowner Fall Turkey Hunting Permit.

  (C) All landowner turkey hunting permits are valid only on qualifying property. Regardless of department approval to obtain or purchase landowner permits, all landowner turkey hunting permits are valid only if the holder is a resident or nonresident landowner as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805 at the time the permit is used.

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the seasons, methods, and limits for hunting wild turkeys.
(D) All landowners who take turkey on landowner permits may also purchase and fill other turkey hunting permits but must abide by seasons, limits, and restrictions.

(E) All landowners taking turkeys on a landowner turkey hunting permit shall report the turkeys through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System as required in this rule.

(5) Any person who kills or injures any wild turkey shall make a reasonable effort to retrieve the turkey and include it in his/her season limit.

(6) Turkeys (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 turkey, may be possessed, transported, and stored by anyone.

(7) 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 and times prescribed 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 as defined in this Code may take feral hogs on their own property at any time, by any method, and without permit.
