

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 @ 12:30 p.m.

1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Jerry Munro, Commissioners Bryan Jones, William "Billy" Deviney, John C Stanley IV, and Charles Rigdon

Among the MDWFP staff attending were: Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Cook, Deputy Executive Director; Ramie Ford; Larry Castle; Jason Thompson; Ed Penny; Chad Dacus, Larry Pugh; Col. Steve Adcock; Jim Walker; and Doug Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Munro recognized the following visitor: Representative Scott Bounds, Chairman of the House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee.

MINUTES

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

TODAY'S AGENDA

No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Jones, today's agenda was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Beshears, Coffeeville, MS, Mississippi Fishermen's Association:

Mr. Beshears by email dated March 25, 2013, requested permission to appear before the Commission on behalf of the Mississippi Fishermen's Association. Mr. Beshears expressed his association's dissatisfaction with the change in pole restrictions at Sardis Lake from a five to a three pole limit. He added that the recent Public Notice of Intent F18-3424 did not have the pole changes listed; however, the Final had the three pole limitation addition. His discontent was the lack of notification of this change so that their concerns could be expressed. In the future, he requested that any changes from INTENT to FINAL be given notification to the public.

Dr. Sam Polles, Director of MDWFP, requested clarification from the staff as to what happened and the process. Ron Garavelli, Fisheries Bureau Director, confirmed that the Intent did not have

the pole change listed when presented to the Commission at the January 16 meeting. On January 31, the Fisheries Bureau held a Public Hearing at the Fish Hatchery in North Mississippi to inform the public of the changes in Public Notice of Intent F18-3424. Around 74 fishermen attended this meeting with a majority showing concern with the pole limit. Taking the public comments in consideration, the FINAL P.N. F18-3424 was changed from the five to three pole limit. After consulting with legal counsel about the change, the Fisheries Bureau was informed that rules can be submitted as “final, with changes” pending the thirty day period before the rule goes into effect. The FINAL was presented at the February 11, 2013 Commission Meeting with an explanation of the change in language from the Intent.

Chairman Munro and Dr. Polles thanked Mr. Beshears for his comments.

Mr. Beshears was informed that this rule will be brought up again at the December 2013, or January 2014, Commission Meeting and the Mississippi Fishermen’s Association will be welcome to make comments concerning Sardis at that time.

Mr. David Smith, President, Dog Hunter’s Association:

Mr. Smith presented to the Commission numerous concerns with citations being issued to hunters with dogs in the Homochitto National Forest. Also mentioned were the 2008 Travel Management Rules on all national forests which mandate road closings and, as explained by Mr. Smith, are a further hindrance for hunters with dogs.

ACTION: Dr. Polles informed Mr. Smith that MDWFP officers and U.S. Forest Service officers are present and willing to listen and talk with him and his constituents following the meeting. Dr. Polles stated that the right people are here today to help improve this situation. Mr. Smith agreed to the meeting. The Commission requested the staff report back to them following the meeting with Mr. Smith.

Chairman Munro addressed Mr. Smith and told him these issues are important to hunters with dogs as well as to the Commission. The Commission realizes that hunters with dogs have had to change the way they hunt but, most importantly, they can still hunt. The Commission works to make improvements and move forward. Mr. Smith agreed.

Jennifer Milton:

Ms. Milton stated that Mr. Smith had covered everything she had to say. Chairman Munro invited her to join Mr. Smith and law enforcement officials to discuss the hunter with dog issues following the Commission meeting.

Mr. Mickey Forman:

Mr. Foreman expressed several Caston Creek WMA concerns, including:

- Coyotes taking over the area;
- Less deer being harvested compared to earlier years;

- Control issues with muzzle loaders;
- Shortening the turkey season to restore good turkey hunts;
- Concern that the Commission has been misled by statements from Mr. Kylie Sparks that Caston Creek is mainly private property in order to promote “still hunting” only.

LICENSE SALES REPORT

Mr. Jason Thompson, License/Boat Registration Division Director, presented the License Sales Report for the month of March, 2013.

He reported the following cumulative sales:

- Revenue is up \$47,000 from this time last year.
- Resident License down
- Sportsman’s License up
- All Game and Fresh Water Fishing down – hoping to see a spike in Fresh Water Licenses due to a postcard sent out by Recreational Boating and Fishing Association to 15,000 anglers to renew their fishing licenses
- Other Licenses up

Mr. Thompson added that we are trending upward and each quarter is looking better than the last.

FISHERIES

PROPOSED Rule – 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3 Rule 2.1 – State Fishing Lakes, and Rule 2.2 - Community Assistance Program Lakes

Mr. Ron Garavelli, Fisheries Bureau Director, informed the Commission that MDWFP opted not to renew the lease on the Oktibbeha County Lake due to an increase in the rent. The changes in this Rule reflect the deletion of Oktibbeha County Lake.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the Proposed Rules were unanimously approved.

WILDLIFE

PROPOSED Wildlife Rules

Chad Dacus, Wildlife Bureau Director, presented the following Proposed Rules and included in the Commission notebooks a summary outlining the changes of each Rule for the 2013-2014 WMAs, White-tailed Deer, Wild Turkey, and Small Game. A copy of this summary entitled “Wildlife Rules, 2013-2014 Recommendations” has been attached to the April 17, 2013 minutes.

□ PROPOSED Rules:

- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap. 1 – WMA Regulations
 - Rule 1.2 – Non-state owned, Non-COE WMAs
 - Rule 1.7 – Canal Section WMA
 - Rule 1.12 – Mahannah WMA
 - Rule 1.16 – O’Keefe WMA
 - Rule 1.23 – Sunflower WMA
 - Rule 1.24 – Twin Oaks WMA
 - Rule 1.26 – Natchez State Park
 - Rule 1.28 – Black Prairie WMA
 - Rule 1.29 – Hell Creek WMA
 - Rule 1.32 – Tuscumbia WMA
 - Rule 1.37 – Sky Lake WMA
 - Rule 1.38 – Howard Miller WMA
 - Rule 1.40 – Charlie Capps WMA
 - Rule 1.41 – Indianola WMA
 - Rule 1.43 – Canemount WMA
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 2 – White-tailed Deer
 - Rule 2.2 – White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 3 – Wild Turkey
 - Rule 3.1 – Wild Turkey Seasons and Bag Limits
- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 4 - Small Game, Migratory Birds and Other
 - Rule 4.1 – Small Game Seasons and Bag Limits

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Proposed Rules listed above were unanimously approved.

Wildlife FINAL Rules

Chad Dacus presented the following FINAL Rules for approval. He stated that no changes had been made from the PROPOSED Rule and no negative comments had been received.

□ FINAL Rules:

- 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2 Chap 5 – Alligator
 - Rule 5.2 – Alligator Hunting on Private Waters
 - Rule 5.3 – Alligator Hunting of Public Waters

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Final Rules listed above were unanimously approved.

2013-2014 Dove Season Opening Date - Updates

Mr. Ed Penny, Chief Director of Conservation Programs, presented a revised Dove Season calendar. His recommendations were based on available dove band return and harvest data. This information was distributed to the Commission in a handout and inserted in their folders.

Mr. Penny informed the Commission that 90% of the dove harvest occurs during September and October. The recommended Dove season start date would be Sunday, September 1, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. and closing date would be Sunday, January 12, 2014, statewide. Dates from November and December were moved for a longer January season.

Discussion was entered into about pushing the Fish and Wildlife Service Mississippi Flyway Council into extending the season until the end of January.

Commissioner Jones requested one change in the Proposed Dove Season Calendar. He suggested that the North Region's October Dove calendar be moved up a week to Saturday, October 5.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Stanley, the 2013-14 Dove Season calendar was unanimously approved as presented with the exception of the North Region October calendar start date to be moved up a week to October 5 instead of October 12.

PARKS

PROPOSED Parks Rules

Mr. Ramie Ford, Director of Parks, presented the following PROPOSED Rules which reflect fee adjustments and a change in cancellation policy for state park reservations from 14 days to 7 days:

- PROPOSED Rules:
 - 40 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6 Chap 1 – General (fees and rules/regulations)
 - Rule 1.1 – State Park Fees
 - Rule 1.2 – General Rules for State Parks

Mr. Ford stated that Buccaneer State Park is near completion. Opening day will be either Memorial Day or June 15. Pictures of the park were distributed to the Commission.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the PROPOSED rules above were unanimously approved as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

At the March 19, 2013 Commission meeting Mr. Tommy Poirrier made a request to separate approximately 200 acres of an existing 700 acre family deer enclosure. The Commission postponed a decision at the March meeting until the MDWFP staff could take this under advisement with comments.

Larry Castle brought forward the staff recommendation to the Commission at the April 17 Commission meeting. Mr. Castle reported that Chris McDonald had visited and inspected the

site and that the habitat of any proposed smaller enclosures would be adequate to sustain the estimated number of deer inside the resulting enclosures. The staff recommended granting the Poirriers' request, contingent upon there being no breeding operations in the smaller of the two resulting enclosures, and no commercial hunting in the smaller enclosure, as such operations are prohibited in enclosures of less than 300 acres, per MISS. CODE ANN. §49-11-3.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Deviney and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the staff's recommendation to grant the Poirriers' request to divide their existing deer enclosure, was unanimously approved.

No other business was presented.

TENTATIVE MEETING DATE

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Hancock Bank, Waveland, MS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine the need for executive session. The Commission determined that executive session was needed to discuss budget line items affecting the continued employment of persons in specific positions, ongoing criminal investigations, and job performance of specific individuals in specific positions. Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Deviney, the Commission voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

Dr. Polles and senior staff addressed the Commission on the matters expressed above, and discussion followed. The discussions were for informational purposes only and no action was required of the Commission.

There was no further business for Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion made by Commissioner Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Commission voted unanimously to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Munro gaveled the meeting into adjournment.



Jerry Munro, CHAIRMAN

Date

John C Stanley IV, VICE-CHAIRMAN

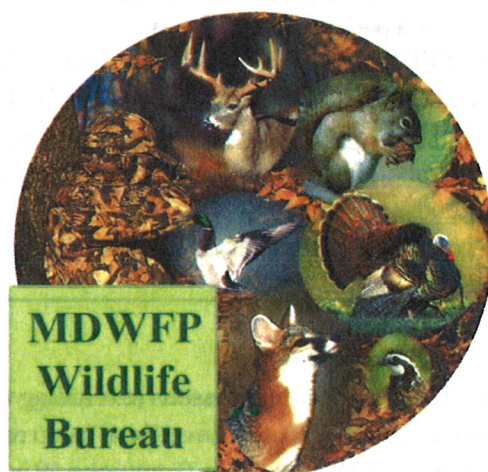
Date

Wildlife Rules

2013 – 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS

WMAs
White-tailed Deer
Wild Turkey
Small Game



MDWFP Commission Meeting

April 17, 2013

2013-14 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

WMA	Proposed Change(s)
<p>Non-State, Non-COE WMAs <i>Rule 1.1</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOG RESTRICITONS: Caston Creek WMA, Deer Hunting With Dogs Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permit numbers must be visually displayed on the back window of all vehicles in the hunting group. A window permit will be provided with each individual permit issued. Hunters may use the window permit or create their own provided the permit number is displayed using 3-inch, block numbers in contrast to the background. A permit number will be provided with each individual permit issued. Hunters must display this permit number using 3-inch, block numbers in contrast to the background color. ○ <u>An administrative review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials may, upon two (2) convictions or documented evidence of two (2) violations of this regulation, revoke the dog hunting permit for a period of Twenty (20) days open to hunting deer with dogs. Upon three (3) convictions or documented evidence of three (3) violations of this regulation, the dog hunting permit may be revoked for a period of one (1) year. Upon conviction or documented evidence of two (2) violations of this section, the dog hunting permit may be revoked by a review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials for a period of 20 days open to hunting deer with dogs. Upon the third conviction or documented evidence of a violation of this Public Notice, the dog hunting permit may be revoked by a review panel of MDWFP and U.S. Forest Service officials for a period of one (1) year.</u> • CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 36, will be enforced. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For additional information, contact the US Forest Service at (601) 965-1600. 2. <u>A violation of this Administrative Rule is also a violation of Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations and is a Federal Class B Misdemeanor with a maximum fine of up to \$5,000.</u> 23. Exceptions: Calhoun County, John Starr, and Wolf River.
<p>Canal Section WMA <i>Rule 1.7</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added DOVE season to table • HIGH WATER: <u>All</u> hunting seasons (excluding waterfowl season) are closed <u>for 24 hours</u> from south of Walker's Levee boat ramp road to north of Ironwood Bluff Road on the WMA when the 6:00 a.m. Tombigbee River gauge at Fulton reads 16.0 ft or higher. River gauge readings may be obtained by calling 888-771-4601 ext.1322 or from www.mdwfp.com/wma.
<p>Mahannah WMA <i>Rule 1.12</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar date changes • Added WATERFOWL YOUTH to table • LEGAL BUCKS: Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 16 inches OR one main beam length of at least 20 inches. For hunters 15 years of age or younger any antlered buck is a legal buck, <u>except that during the Archery/Youth Gun season (Dec. 31 – Jan. 13) a youth hunter must harvest a buck with an inside spread of at</u>

2013-14 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

WMA	Proposed Change(s)
	<p><u>least 16 inches OR one main beam length of at least 20 inches.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WATERFOWL: All waterfowl hunts, except for the waterfowl youth hunts, September teal season, and the post season light goose conservation order, are draw hunts only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts. Shooting hours end at 12:00 noon. Waterfowl hunters must check-out by 1:00 p.m. <u>except during the youth waterfowl hunt which shall run concurrent with the statewide waterfowl youth hunt.</u> No boats, blinds, or decoys are to be left out overnight.
O’Keefe WMA <i>Rule 1.16</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added YOUTH WATERFOWL to the table WATERFOWL: Waterfowl hunting closes at 12:00 noon. <u>Hunters must vacate the WMA by 1:00 p.m., except during the youth waterfowl hunt which shall run concurrent with the statewide waterfowl youth hunt.</u> Hunters may not leave the parking area prior to 5:00 a.m.
Sunflower WMA <i>Rule 1.23</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added YOUTH WATERFOWL to the table
Twin Oaks WMA <i>Rule 1.24</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar date changes Added YOUTH WATERFOWL to the table LEGAL BUCKS: Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 16 inches OR one main beam length of at least 20 inches. For hunters 15 years of age or younger any antlered buck is a legal buck, <u>except that during the Archery/Youth Gun season (Dec. 31 – Jan. 31) a youth hunter must harvest a buck with an inside spread of at least 16 inches OR one main beam length of at least 20 inches.</u>
Natchez State Park <i>Rule 1.26</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar date changes
Black Prairie WMA <i>Rule 1.28</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar date changes
Hell Creek WMA <i>Rule 1.29</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar date changes

2013-14 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS	
WMA	Proposed Change(s)
Tuscumbia WMA <i>Rule 1.32</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar date changes • Added YOUTH WATERFOWL to the table • WATERFOWL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. UNIT 1: Open with state seasons and bag limits. Shooting hours on Unit 1 are one-half hour before sunrise until 3:00 p.m., <u>except during the waterfowl youth hunt which runs concurrent with state seasons.</u> b. UNIT 2: Waterfowl hunting on UNIT 2 is by special permit only. All waterfowl hunts, except for the waterfowl youth hunts and the post season light goose conservation order, are draw hunts only. <u>The waterfowl youth hunt shall run concurrent with the statewide season.</u> You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts.
Sky Lake WMA <i>Rule 1.37</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar date changes • Added YOUTH WATERFOWL to the table • WATERFOWL: All waterfowl hunts, except for the waterfowl youth hunts, are draw hunts only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts. Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon. All hunt participants, spent shot shells, and equipment must be removed from the WMA by 1:00 pm. There are no waterfowl hunt units on Sky Lake, you may hunt anywhere on the WMA. Waterfowl hunting closes at 12:00 noon. All hunt participants, spent shot shells, and equipment must be removed from the WMA by 1:00 p.m., except during the youth waterfowl hunt which shall run concurrent with the statewide waterfowl youth hunt.
Howard Miller WMA <i>Rule 1.38</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHOOTING HOURS: Shooting hours for waterfowl end at 12:00 noon, <u>except during the waterfowl youth hunt which shall run concurrent with the statewide waterfowl youth hunt.</u>
Charlie Capps WMA <i>Rule 1.40</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHOOTING HOURS: Shooting hours for waterfowl end at 12:00 noon. Waterfowl hunters must check-out by 1:00 pm, <u>except during the youth waterfowl hunt which shall run concurrent with the statewide waterfowl youth hunt.</u> • FISHING: No fishing allowed until opened by subsequent public notice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Youth Fishing Day: June 29, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. until sunset. Open to youth 15 years of age and younger. All youth must be accompanied by a licensed angler 18 years of age or older. b. Open to fishing: July 1, 2013 c. No fishing from November 1 – February 15.

2013-14 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS	
WMA	Proposed Change(s)
	<u>d. Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset.</u> <u>e. Only bank fishing and non-motorized boats may be used.</u> <u>f. Daily Creel Limits:</u> <u>i. Largemouth bass: 5 per day. Must be at least fifteen (15) inches in length.</u> <u>ii. Crappie: 20 per day.</u> <u>iii. Bream: 100 per day.</u>
Indianola WMA <i>Rule 1.41</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to hunting. • Same regulations structure as Charlie Capps WMA.
Canemount WMA <i>Rule 1.43</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar date changes • Special Buck Tags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delete this section. • Scouting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scouting is allowed daily prior to Oct. + 4 and on Thursdays only during permitted deer hunts. Scouting is allowed on Mondays and <u>Friday prior the youth turkey hunt and</u> Thursdays only during permitted turkey hunts. Only those persons drawn to hunt will be allowed on the area during permitted hunts. <u>The WMA is closed to all access March 1 – 6; and March 10 – 12.</u> • Available Hunts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Archery (12, 3-day hunts). One less hunt than 2012-13. ○ Primitive Weapon (19, 3-day hunts). Two more hunts than 2012-13. ○ Youth Turkey (1, 2-day hunt). Same as 2012-13. ○ Turkey (14, 3-day). Same as 2012-13.

Statewide Season and Bag Limits	
Rule	Proposed Change(s)
White-tailed Deer Rule 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar date changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Season: Nov 9 – Jan 31 (Feb 15) ○ Early Primitive (Delta & Hills Zones): Nov 11 - 22 • Special Hunts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Statewide Special Deer Hunts (Hill, Delta, and Southeast Zones): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Special Archery/ Crossbow Hunt: November 1723, 20123 – January 1722, 20134 (Either sex on private land and open public land) ii. The Commission finds there is a surplus deer population in the State of Mississippi. These special deer hunts are established pursuant to the authority granted the Commission in Sections 49-7-37(2), (3), & (4), Mississippi Code of 1972. iii. All archery and primitive weapons hunters must wear hunter orange while these special hunts are in effect. Legal bucks and antlerless deer may be harvested during the Special Archery Hunt • Legal Weapons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archery: Longbows, recurves, and compound bows, and <u>crossbows</u>. There is no minimum or maximum draw weight. There is no minimum length arrow. Fixed or mechanical broadheads may be used. 2. Primitive Weapons: primitive firearms as defined in Part 4, Rule 1.3 of this title, and crossbows and <u>Archery as defined above.</u> 3. Gun: There are no caliber or magazine capacity restrictions on firearms. Crossbows and primitive <u>Primitive</u> firearms as defined in Part 4, Rule 1.3 of this title and Archery as defined above may be used during the gun seasons. • Hunting with Dogs on Homochitto National Forest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Permit numbers must be visually displayed on the back window of all vehicles in the hunting group. A window permit will be provided with each individual permit issued. 9. <u>A permit number will be provided with each individual permit issued. Hunters must display this permit number using 3-inch, block numbers in contrast to the background color. Hunters may use the window permit or create their own provided the permit number is displayed using 3-inch, block numbers in contrast to the background.</u>
Wild Turkey Rule 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed the year from date changes. This will limit the need to revisit this Rule every year. • Legal Weapons: Archery, <u>crossbows</u>, and shotguns with shot no larger than number two.

Statewide Season and Bag Limits	
Rule	Proposed Change(s)
Small Game <i>Rule 4.1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar date changes.

