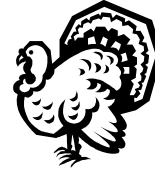


From the Plymouth Service Center
The Woodchucks



To
Sheboygan County Conservation Association
October 19, 2011

From the Front Line: Cheryl

From Fish Management: Travis

- Visit the Fisheries Webpage for hot topics and upcoming events: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/>

From LE: Joe, Mark, and Mike

2011 Fisheries/Wildlife Housekeeping rules finalized

Seasons, bag limits, firearms, trapping included in pending changes

By Tom Van Haren, Warden and Natural Resources Policy Officer, Thomas.vanharen@wisconsin.gov

The Fisheries Spring Hearing Rule and the Wildlife Management Housekeeping Rules have emerged from the legislative review process and prepped to take effect in the coming months.

Highlights of the Fisheries Spring Hearing Rule changes which take effect Nov. 1, 2011 are:

- **Fishing Refuges - A year-round fish refuge in the Milwaukee River** is created within the fish-way at the Thiensville-Mequon dam near river mile 20 in Ozaukee County. This 750 ft. fish-way is comprised of a series of pools and riffles that allow fish migration around the dam.
- **New urban fishing ponds** are named: Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond (Sheboygan County).

Highlights of the Wildlife Spring Hearing Rule changes which take effect Nov. 1, 2011 are:

- **Extends each of the six consecutive spring turkey hunting seasons by two days beginning with the 2012 Spring Turkey Seasons.** Each of the 6 time periods will continue to begin on a Wednesday but instead of closing on the following Sunday, each time period will run from Wednesday thru the following Tuesday. The 2 year sunset of the trial period for the fall turkey hunting season running until the end of December has been removed and will now be permanent.
- **Allows the use of rifles for firearm deer hunting in all of Waupaca County.**
- **Allows firearm deer hunting at Copper Falls State Park during the traditional nine day and muzzleloader only seasons.**
- **Extends the archery deer hunting season to include and run concurrent with the traditional November nine day gun deer season statewide.** Still closed on the Friday before (Nov. 18th)

- Allows landowners lessees or occupants of private land or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant to **shoot a cougar that is in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal** and requires that the shooting be reported within 24 hours and the carcass of the cougar be turned over to the department.
- Requires that, if asked, **bear hunters must provide carcass samples** to the department at the time of harvest registration for purposes of research. Currently it is only voluntary.

*Highlights of the **wildlife housekeeping rule** changes which take effect Nov. 1, 2011 are:*

Van Haren (09-22-2011).

I just became aware that the 2011 Wildlife Housekeeping rule order has not completed legislative review just yet. A public hearing has now been scheduled in the Assembly on this rule order. Therefore we do not know if any changes may still be requested or what the actual effective date will be.

Please disregard the information provided below in the previous e-mail. I will notify you again later when we do have a final rule.

Sorry for any confusion this may have created.

- **Animal part or animal byproduct definition** has been amended to clarify the department's intent and current interpretation that it applies to all baiting and feeding rules, and not just to deer. Additionally, a note has been added to clarify that **milk** (which would include products made from milk such as cheese) is not considered to be a part of an animal carcass or an animal byproduct for the purposes of the baiting and feeding rules. - - 2
- **Carcass definition** in NR 10 and NR 19 have been amended slightly to clarify that the dead body of any animal (not just wild animals), may not be used as bait for hunting purposes. A note also was added to these definitions to clarify that milk is not considered to be a part of an animal carcass or an animal byproduct for the purposes of the baiting and feeding rules.
- **CWD Gun & Archery Deer Registration** deadline has been changed to be the same as the statewide Archery registration deadline, which is 3 days after the date of kill, or by 5 p.m. the day after the season ends, whichever is sooner.
- **10 Gauge Shotgun** maximum gauge rule for hunting migratory birds has been amended to allow the use shotguns with larger bores that are equipped with a chamber insert for firing 10 gauge shot shells. This rule also clarifies that no shot shells larger than 10 gauge may be possessed while hunting migratory birds and that crossbows can be used for migratory birds if the person is otherwise authorized to hunt with a crossbow.
- **Pre-season staking of trap site** locations on DNR-owned and managed lands restriction has been further clarified under NR 45. This change was made at the request of the public through the spring hearing process to address complaints of trappers who place out stakes to mark and attempt to reserve locations they plan to trap later when the season actually opens. It is already not legal to place out traps or bait prior to the open season. It is also already not legal to place or store personal property on DNR lands unless removed daily by 11p.m. This rule change clarifies that trap stakes placed out prior to the season fall within this restriction.

From Wildlife: Dale, Missy, Dan, Ed, Kelly, and Dustin

- **Voluntary Public Access (VPA) update** - As of this week, 2,738-acres in the Plymouth area have been enrolled in the VPA program. Most of those acres are former leased Public Hunting Ground (PHG) parcels located around Adell Wildlife Area. Others are new acres that are located near other DNR-managed lands in Sheboygan, Calumet, and Manitowoc Counties and were signed-up as the result of a letter writing campaign. Staff have been posting these parcels,

updating property maps for the DNR "VPA" internet page, and negotiating new leases. Much like the leased Public Hunting Ground (PHG) program, the "VPA" program leases land from private landowners for public access (including hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation) for up to 3-years. Maps of these leased parcels are available on the DNR's VPA website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/vpa.htm>.

- **Sheboygan Marsh** water level continues to rebound after the summer drawdown. The current level is within 12-inches of the top of the dam. The level will continue to rise, but will probably not recover to the full level for several more weeks. After the 2002 drawdown, it took 8-inches of rain and 47-days to refill the marsh. The lower levels will continue to hinder water access to certain areas of the marsh for the next few weeks of the deer hunting season and the waterfowl hunting seasons.
- The **pheasant season** opener saw heavy hunter use on all public hunting grounds in the area. Stocking by DNR and SCCA occurs on Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit, Nichols Creek Wildlife Area, and Adell Wildlife Area. DNR will stock about 2800 pheasants on these properties through the week of the muzzleloader deer hunting season.