

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife will conduct a public administrative hearing on April 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road Columbus, OH 43229-6693. For the reasons set forth below, the hearing will be closed to in-person attendance from the public. A link will be provided on the Division of Wildlife's website that will allow the public to live-stream the hearing and provide comments on the rule package.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the adoption, amendment and rescission of Administrative Code rules concerning the harvest, possession, management and protection of ginseng and the taking, possession, management and protection of wild and captive held animals that are the responsibility of the Division of Wildlife.

The proposed rules include but are not limited to the establishment of open and closed seasons, sportfishing, methods of taking, bag and possession limits, management of endangered species, administration of division owned, administered, and leased lands, special permits, sport fishing regulations, ginseng regulations, reptile and amphibian licensing and permit regulations. Wild animals include mollusks, crustaceans, aquatic insects, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, wild birds, wild quadrupeds, and all other wild mammals.

An electronic copy of the proposed rule is available at the Ohio Legislative Services Commission's internet website at: <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/> or, at the Division of Wildlife's internet website at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/> A paper copy of the full text of the proposed Rules or a copy of this public notice may be obtained by written request from: The Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Building G-3, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693. A self-addressed envelope should accompany each request.

The full text of proposed regulations is available for review in the office of the Chief of the Division of Wildlife and in the six wildlife district offices in Akron, Athens, Columbus, Findlay, Sandusky, and Xenia. However, those offices may be closed due to the Governor's Directive on Covid-19. Therefore, the public is strongly encouraged to

obtain an electronic copy of the proposed rules using the links above or by contacting the Division of Wildlife at 614-265-6300.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code, and Ohio Revised Code 1531.08. Interested persons will have the opportunity to give testimony for or against the proposed rules. Pursuant to the Governor's Directive, the Division of Wildlife is taking precautions in the interest of public health and safety and closing the hearing to in-person attendance. Therefore, in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Division of Wildlife will provide the opportunity to any person affected by the proposed action of the agency to:

1. Submit their position, arguments, or contentions as formal testimony in writing from April 13, 2020 through the date of the hearing. This testimony may be submitted to: The Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Building G-3, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693 or to the following email address mail to: Wildlife.lawproposals@dnr.state.oh.us
2. Utilize a call-in number or link to the live-stream broadcast and participate telephonically or electronically in the hearing. This call-in number will be posted at the Division of Wildlife's internet website at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/> for a minimum of 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.
3. Present their position, arguments, or contentions orally utilizing a telephonic platform. This call-in number will be posted at the Division of Wildlife's internet website at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/> for a minimum of 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.

A person who presents a position or arguments or contentions in writing before or after the hearing or participates telephonically is not required to appear at the hearing.