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Hearing Date: 3 / 2 0 / 2 0 2 4

Today's Date: 3/22/2024

Agency: ODNR Division of Wildlife

Rule Number(s): 1501:31-1-02, 1501:31-3-05, 1501:31-7-02, 1501:31-7-05, 1501:31-7-06, 1501:31-13-01, 1501:31-13-02, 1501:31-15-01, 1501:31-15-02, 1501:31-15-06, 1501:31-15-10, 1501:31-15-11, 1501:31-15-13, 1501:31-15-15, 1501:31-15-16, 1501:31-15-17, 1501:31-15-18, 1501:31-15-20, 1501:31-15-21, 1501:31-15-22, 1501:31-16-01, 1501:31-19-02, 1501:31-19-03, 1501:31-23-01, 1501:31-23-02, 1501:31-37-01, 1501:31-37-02

If no comments at the hearing, please check the box. ☐

List organizations or individuals giving or submitting testimony before, during or after the public hearing and indicate the rule number(s) in question.

In-Person Comments:

Individual(s)/Organization(s)	Rule	Comments
Ben Taylor	1501:31-7-06	Thank you for hearing us out and revising the rule.
Luke Griffith	1501:31-7-06	Thank you for considering changes and pushing season dates back.
Marlin Watkins	1501:31-15-10	Applaud moving the season dates forward but losing hunting days. Asked agency to consider adding dates during Thanksgiving week.
Tony Miller	1501:31-15-18	Raccoon season should be moved earlier in the year to help reduce damage to corn once ears are growing.
Dave Linkhart, Ohio State Trappers Association	1501:31-15-18	Would like to see consistency with the wording of season dates within the rule. There is already opportunity to control nuisance raccoons and there is no value to raccoon fur that is harvested early. Advocate maintaining the current raccoon season.

Written Comments:

Individual(s)/Organization(s)	Rule	Comments
Not Applicable		

Consolidated Summary of Comments Received

Hearing Summary Report

Please review all comments received and complete a consolidated summary paragraph of the comments and indicate the rule number(s).

Five people testified at the public hearing. Three of the five expressed appreciation for the adjustments to hunting seasons. One person asked the agency to consider adding fall turkey dates during the week of Thanksgiving. One person asked for the raccoon season to be moved earlier, while another asked that the current raccoon season be maintained.

Incorporated Comments into Rule(s)

Indicate how comments received during the hearing process were incorporated into the rule(s). If no comments were incorporated, explain why not.

Comment Received	Rule	How Incorporated
Thank you for adjusting the proposed rule.	1501:31-7-06	Initial comments were used to adjust the season dates and revise this rule proposal prior to the public hearing. Comments provided at the hearing were not incorporated.
Season is shorter, consider additional turkey hunting dates during the week of Thanksgiving.	1501:31-15-10	<p>This comment was not incorporated. According to Healy and Powell (1999), the means of controlling fall hen harvest rate include limiting hunter numbers, limiting season length, adjusting season timing in relation to other game species, and/or restricting hunting implements. The current fall season proposal does not restrict the number of hunters or implements.</p> <p>However, it is proposed to shorten the fall season, which Healy and Powell (1999) suggest has been effective at reducing harvest and permitting continued population growth. The current proposal also moves the fall season dates away from popular hunting periods for other species, specifically deer.</p> <p>Adding dates that include Thanksgiving would counteract shortening the season and the timing of those proposed dates would fall during periods of high hunter participation.</p>
Open raccoon season earlier to mitigate crop damage / Do not	1501:31-15-18	This comment was not incorporated in the rule

Hearing Summary Report

open raccoon season earlier		proposal. Raccoons can already be killed any time of year when they are a nuisance or damaging property, including crops. A comment was also received that advocated for maintaining the current season because the fur of raccoons taken earlier has no value.
Would like to see more consistent language for season dates.	1501:31-15-18	This comment was not incorporated because it does not have a substantive impact on the rule. While this is proposed as a new rule, it adopts the previous framework for these seasons that is familiar to hunters and trappers.