

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
December 12, 2014  
Division: Wildlife

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:172**

**Regular or Emergency: Regular**

**Proposed Recommendation:** Crossbow Exemptions for Senior License Holders

**Justification:**

Allow Senior License holders (65 and older) to use crossbows during the entire deer archery season without acquiring a crossbow exemption permit.

**Effective Date: Immediately**

<b>Action Requested of Commission:</b>	<b>Action Taken by Commission:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Motion made by:</b> _____	
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b> _____	
<b>Action:    Approved    Denied    Referred back to Committee</b>	

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
December 12, 2014  
Division: Wildlife

**Regulation Number:** 301 KAR 2:176      **Regular or Emergency:** Regular

**Proposed Recommendation:** Modification of 301 KAR 2:176 - Deer Control Tags and Destruction Permits

**Justification:** Modify 301 KAR 2:176 to establish the procedures for the designee appointment process, and create a timeline for the approval or denial of a designated shooter by the commissioner.

**Effective date:** April/May, 2015

<b>Action Requested of Commission:</b>	<b>Action Taken by Commission:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
Other: _____	Other: _____

**Motion made by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action:**    Approved    Denied    Referred back to Committee

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**December 12, 2014**  
**Division: Wildlife**

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:178**

**Regular or Emergency: Regular**

**Proposed Recommendation: 2015 – 2016 Deer Hunting on WMAs and Other Public Areas**

**The Wildlife Division recommends the following changes for each WMA:**

**1. Clay WMA**

- Open under statewide regulations for the December muzzleloader deer hunting season.

**Justification:** Given additional doe harvest is needed on the area, staff feel opening for the late muzzleloader season strikes a good balance between staff time to monitor gates, getting more deer taken off the area, and providing additional hunting opportunity to muzzleloader hunters.

**2. Dewey Lake WMA**

- Open for Archery and Crossbow seasons only for deer hunting on the two new tracts.

**Justification:** Due to the new agreement with the Corp of Engineers (COE) for Dewey Lake WMA an additional 300 acres was added to the agreement; however, the COE asked that these new areas be limited to bow only for deer hunting. These 2 additional tracts are located: (1) on the western side of the lake, north of the Terry Boat Ramp or the junction of Rts. 302 and 3051, and (2) on the eastern side of the lake, north of the ridge that begins across the lake from the Terry Ramp, and extends east to the WMA outer boundary.

**3. Yatesville Lake WMA**

- Allow either sex deer to be harvested during the opening weekend of modern firearms season

**Justification:** Based on regional staff observations, deer are abundant on the WMA. Hunting pressure on the WMA has declined in recent years likely due to greater abundance of deer in more southern counties where many of the hunters on the area have traditionally come from. The WMA can sustain doe harvest, and hunting pressure would not be overwhelming opening weekend. Staff believes pressure may actually be greater on the WMA if the either sex days occurred later in the gun season when many of the nearby zone 4 counties would be closed to deer hunting.

**4. Veterans WMA**

- Create an antlerless only quota hunt during the first weekend in December.

- Allow hunters to get a single preference point for each female deer checked in (up to 4) during the firearms quota hunt in November.

**Justification:** Deer surveys and a herd health check performed in 2012 indicate an extremely high deer population level on this property, and habitat improvement projects are being impacted due to deer damage. Regional staff has requested this additional hunt to help manage the antlerless deer on the property. The hunt will be a staffed quota hunt to collect biological data to help monitor the population. The recommended point system is used at Clay and Taylorsville WMA and regional staff report the reward of additional points is popular with hunters and provides a nice incentive to harvest female deer in places where a reduction in the herd is needed.

#### 5. Kentucky River WMA

- Create a quota hunt during the first weekend in November.

**Justification:** With the addition of the Boone tract, the property now totals 3,555 acres. The WMA is in a zone 1 county for deer hunting. The current deer population on the property is high and can sustain a firearms quota hunt. The hunt will be a staffed quota hunt to collect biological data to help monitor the population.

#### 6. Marion County WMA

- Remove the quota gun hunt and designate it as open under statewide regulations for deer hunting.

**Justification:** Hunter participation and the show-up rate have been extremely low. A survey was conducted on the drawn hunters in 2011 and 2012. The survey indicated that the hunters were very dissatisfied in their quality of the hunt, the area was not overcrowded, and it had poor access. Due to all these factors regional staff have asked that the quota hunt be removed and open it under statewide regulations for deer hunting.

#### 7. Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area

- Remove the first quota gun hunt in November.

**Justification:** Regional staff has indicated that participation is low for the first quota gun hunt. The quota gun hunt in December will double in size to accommodate for loss of the first hunt. The December quota gun hunt also corresponds with firearms hunting on the adjacent property of Ft. Knox Military Installation.

#### 8. Higginson-Henry WMA

- Allow crossbow hunting

**Justification:** Higginson & Henry WMA is currently the only WMA in the state that doesn't allow crossbow hunting. The deer herd is at a level where it can handle the additional pressure.

#### 9. Lake Barkley WMA

- Open the Duck Island tract under statewide regulations for the early muzzleloader deer season.

**Justification:** Regional staff identified the need to harvest more deer on the tract. During the last few growing seasons, the farmers leasing the agricultural rights to the property have experienced significant deer damage due to an over-populated herd.

**10. West Kentucky WMA**

- Clean-up item: Remove the number of spots for the open January quota hunt.
- Allow hunters to get a single preference point for each female deer checked in (up to 4) during the firearms quota hunt in November.

**Justification:** The number of quota hunt participants on our WMAs needs to be increased or decreased some years based on the deer herd, habitat modifications and hunting pressure. West KY WMA is currently the only quota hunt that sets the number of hunters in regulations, all other quota hunts are decided annually by regional and deer program staff. The point system is used at Clay and Taylorsville WMA and regional staff report the reward of additional points is popular with hunters and provides a nice incentive to harvest female deer in places where a reduction in the herd is needed.

**11. Ballard WMA**

- Allow hunters to get a single preference point for each female deer checked in (up to 4) during the firearms quota hunt in November.

**Justification:** This same system is used at Clay and Taylorsville WMA. Regional staff report the reward of additional points is popular with hunters and provides a nice incentive to harvest female deer in places where a reduction in the herd is needed.

**12. Redbird WMA**

- Open for the first weekend of modern firearms season under statewide regulations.

**Justification:** All firearms hunting opportunity was removed starting in the 2013 season due to lower deer densities. Local hunters have expressed the desire to allow buck only hunting for the first weekend of modern firearms season. This would be the only firearms opportunity on the area for the entire season.

**Effective Date: June, 2015**

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Motion made by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action:**    **Approved**      **Denied**      **Referred back to Committee**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
December 12, 2014  
Division: Wildlife

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:172                      Regular or Emergency:**

**Proposed Recommendation: 2015 – 2016 Deer Hunting Season, Zones and Requirements**

**The Wildlife Division recommends the following changes:**

**1. Change the following counties from a zone 2 to a zone 1:**

- Hopkins
- Larue
- Green
- Nelson
- Bullitt

**Justification:** Deer population estimates for each county have reached a level where more antlerless deer need to be harvested in order to control the population. Over the last few years there has been an increase in the number of crop depredation tags issued in the counties as well.

**2. Change the following counties from a zone 3 to a zone 2:**

- Grayson
- Ohio
- Breckinridge
- Meade

**Justification:** Deer population estimates for each county have reached a level where more antlerless deer need to be harvested in order to control the population. Many of these counties were reduced to zone 3 back after the EHD outbreaks in 2007 and 2010. Population levels have recovered since these outbreaks and are at or over pre-2007 estimates.

**3. Change the following county from a zone 2 to a zone 3:**

- Allen

**Justification:** The deer population estimate for the county has been slowly decreasing over the last few years and has reached a level to which their needs to be a reduction in the harvest.

Effective date: June, 2015

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
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Motion made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Action:   Approved    Denied    Referred back to Committee

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
December 12, 2014  
Division: Wildlife

**Regulation Number:** 301 KAR 2:132

**Regular or Emergency:**

**Proposed Recommendation:** 2015 – 2016 Elk Management Recommendations

**The Wildlife Division recommends the following changes:**

**1. Open the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA to elk hunting**

- The Wildlife Division recommends re-opening the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA to elk hunting.

**Justification:** This area is currently closed because it was deemed an elk restoration area. KDFWR relocated approximately 50 elk to the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA in 2010 in an effort to establish a herd on this piece of formerly vacant habitat. The Corrigan Tract was closed to elk hunting to allow the herd to grow to a level that could sustain a limited harvest. Recent population surveys suggest that this herd is now large enough to sustain limited hunting pressure.

**2. Create a Limited Entry Area around the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA**

- The Wildlife Division recommends the creation of a Limited Entry Area around the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA.

**Justification:** Population surveys indicate the elk herd on the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA can sustain hunting pressure, but it will be important to avoid overharvest of this relatively young herd in the coming years. The creation of an LEA around this elk herd will allow KDFWR to better manage harvest levels. This LEA would consist of approximately 64,000 acres, approximately 40,000 acres of which would be open to public hunting (Corrigan WMA and Kentucky Ridge State Forest). The new LEA shall be called Middlesboro Limited Entry Area.

**3. Create a Limited Entry Area around the Czar Hunting Access Area**

- The Wildlife Division recommends the creation of a Limited Entry Area around the Czar Hunting Access Area.

**Justification:** This newly acquired property has easy access and readily available elk herd. The creation of an LEA will prevent over/under harvest on this public land. The new LEA shall be called Prestonsburg Limited Entry Area.

**4. Expand the Hazard Limited Entry Area**

- The Wildlife Division recommends the expansion of the Hazard Limited Entry Area.

**Justification:** Due to the recent addition of a new tract of Wells Hunting Access Area, the Hazard LEA should be expanded to encompass this new area. The property has easy access and a readily available elk herd. The expansion of this LEA will prevent over/under harvest on this public land.

#### **5. Remove Caney Limited Entry Area**

- The Wildlife Division recommends removal of the Caney Limited Entry Area, thus opening this area to elk hunters drawn for At-large tags.

**Justification:** Caney LEA was created to prevent overharvest of the elk herd from property in and adjacent to Consol WMA. Review of elk herd distributions, available hunter access, and hunter success rates on the area lead us to conclude the additional level of protection offered by a LEA is not necessary.

#### **6. Removal of North/South At-large Division**

- The Wildlife Division recommends combining the North At-large Area and South At-large Area into a single At-large Area.

**Justification:** During the 2013-2014 season, 76 hunters switched areas. So far, 36 hunters (33 hunters from SAL to NAL and 3 hunters from NAL to SAL) have switched between the 2 at large areas for the 2014-15 season. Elk Program staff do not feel that either area was exposed to undue hunting pressure as a result of these moves. The removal of the North/South line will simplify our elk hunter's experience without adversely affecting the resource.

#### **7. Allow Fully Concurrent Archery and Crossbow Seasons for Elk Hunting**

- The Wildlife Division recommends elk hunters be permitted to use either conventional archery equipment or crossbow equipment throughout the entire elk archery season.

**Justification:** Research from the bull elk ecology project has demonstrated levels of wounding loss in the Kentucky elk herd. Archery wounding loss accounted for over 10% of all bull mortality recorded throughout the study. Elk program staff feel that allowing hunters to use crossbows throughout the elk archery season would likely decrease the archery wounding loss rate since crossbows may prove more efficient than conventional archery equipment in the hands of individuals with little elk hunting experience. There is also a desire within the elk hunting community to see this change implemented. The recent KDFWR survey of elk hunting guides demonstrated that the licensed guides support fully concurrent seasons for conventional archery and crossbow equipment for elk season.

#### **8. Move the Dates of the Second Cow Firearms Season**

- The Wildlife Division recommends moving the dates of the second firearm season from starting on the third Saturday in December to starting on the first Saturday in January (January 2, 2016).

**Justification:** The second cow firearm season has traditionally fallen over the week of Christmas. The timing of this hunt often conflicts with pre-existing plans and results in a loss of hunting opportunity, especially for hunters living outside the elk restoration zone.

**9. Modification of the Tagging Requirement**

- The Wildlife Division recommends the modification of the tagging requirement to allow hunters to remove the hide or head from the carcass before checking.
- The Wildlife Division recommends the creation of a proof of sex requirement on a carcass if the carcass has been cut into pieces, deboned, and/or the hide or head has been removed.

**Justification:** Many elk hunters harvest an elk in a place where there is no cell phone service to telecheck an elk. In many cases elk hunters must quarter, remove the hide and remove the head in order to get the animal out. Requiring hunters to telecheck before this can be accomplished puts an undue burden on some elk hunters. Elk hunters would still be required to telecheck the animal before midnight of the day the animal is recovered.

The proof of sex requirement insures that if an animal is taken, law enforcement can correctly identify the sex of the animal. It can become difficult to determine the sex of the animal if the carcass is allowed to be deboned, quartered, and/or the hide and head removed. The requirement for proof of sex would be: Antlered elk: head with antlers attached to carcass; or testicle, scrotum, or penis attached to the carcass. Antlerless elk: Head, udder, or vulva attached to carcass. If the carcass is cut into pieces or deboned, evidence of sex needs to be attached to a quarter or another major part of the carcass. All portions must be transported together.

**Effective date: May, 2015**

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
Other: _____	Other: _____

**Motion made by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action:    Approved    Denied    Referred back to Committe**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**December 12, 2014**  
**Division: Wildlife**

**Regulation Number: 301 KAR 2:132**

**Regular or Emergency:**

**Proposed Recommendation: Landowner Voucher Permit System**

**Landowner Voucher Permit System-** The below items are sideboards for the proposed landowner voucher permit system. This is a new system designed to increase elk hunting access. This system should open up more land for elk hunting, yet provide another means for landowners in the elk zone to receive a tag for providing elk hunting opportunity.

- **Landowner Info**
  - 100 acre minimum
  - Landowner provides a copy of the deed and possibly a map of land
  - Can be lessee of the property, as long as they provide the above info and a signed copy of the lease agreement with the landowner
  - Date of enrollment - Feb 1-Jun 1
  - Landowner/lessee will set number of hunters, by weapon type (KDFWR will provide recommendations)
  - Guiding can be allowed on property with landowner approval
- **Point System**
  - 2 pt for bull, 1 pt for cow if we want to focus on large landowners
  - 20 points gets 1 voucher elk tag
  - Special Commission and landowner tags don't count towards points
- **Voucher System**
  - Online, real time database that only drawn hunters can see
  - First come, first serve basis
  - Landowner maintains the right to give additional permission to other elk hunters, but only those through the online system are eligible to generate points
- **Tag Info**
  - Transferrable
  - Either sex
  - Tag issued for following hunting season once 20 points have been reached
  - Tag good for any land the landowner/lessee owns or leases
  - Tag recipient information provided to KDFWR by Aug 15
- This system does not modify or change the current landowner cooperators elk permit system that is currently in place in 301 KAR 2:132

Effective date: May, 2015

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
Other: _____	Other: _____

Motion made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Action:    Approved    Denied    Referred back to Committee

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
December 12, 2014  
Division: Wildlife

Regulation Number: none Regular or Emergency: Regular

Proposed Recommendation: Elk Tag recommendation

Although no regulation action is needed, the Wildlife Division will provide an elk tag recommendation for the 2015 hunting season.

Effective Date:

Action Requested of Commission:	Action Taken by Commission:
<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> File the Regulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Motion made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: Approved Denied Referred back to Committee