
TITLE 312 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Emergency Rule
LSA Document #23-525

DIGEST

Temporarily amends [312 IAC 8-2-3](#) to remove the licensure requirement for a person to possess a handgun on a department of natural resources property other than a reservoir owned by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and Falls of the Ohio State Park to reflect changes in Indiana law. Effective June 30, 2023.

SECTION 1. (a) A person may not possess a firearm or bow and arrows on a DNR property unless one (1) of the following conditions applies:

- (1) The firearm or bow and arrows are:**
 - (A) unloaded and uncocked; and**
 - (B) placed in a case or locked within a vehicle.**
- (2) The firearm or bow and arrows are possessed at, and of a type designated for usage on:**
 - (A) a rifle;**
 - (B) a pistol;**
 - (C) a shotgun; or**
 - (D) an archery;**range.
- (3) The firearm or bow and arrows are used in the lawful pursuit of the following:**
 - (A) A wild animal on a department property authorized for that purpose.**
 - (B) A groundhog as authorized by a license.**
- (4) The person possesses a handgun on a DNR property other than a reservoir owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Falls of the Ohio State Park.**

(b) Except as provided in subsection (a)(1) or (a)(4), a firearm or bow and arrows may not be possessed on a department property in any of the following locations:

- (1) A nature preserve or other property administered by the division of nature preserves unless hunting is authorized under subsection (d).**
- (2) A property administered by the division of state museums and historic sites.**
- (3) A campground.**
- (4) A picnic area.**
- (5) A beach.**
- (6) A service area.**
- (7) A headquarters building.**
- (8) A hunter check station.**
- (9) A developed recreation site.**

(c) A person may not discharge a firearm or bow and arrows on a DNR property except as follows:

- (1) As authorized for a law enforcement officer.**
- (2) In the lawful defense of a person or property.**
- (3) Under a department permit that authorizes the discharge.**
- (4) As authorized at a shooting range.**
- (5) In the lawful pursuit of a wild animal, except when the discharge occurs less than two hundred (200) feet from the following:**
 - (A) A campsite.**
 - (B) A boat dock.**
 - (C) A launching ramp.**
 - (D) A picnic area.**
 - (E) A bridge.**

(d) A person may hunt on the following department properties:

- (1) A state forest administered by the division of forestry, including a portion of a state forest that is a nature preserve.**
- (2) A reservoir property administered by the division of state parks and reservoirs.**
- (3) A wildlife area administered by the division of fish and wildlife, including a portion of a wildlife area that is a nature preserve.**
- (4) A nature preserve or another property administered by the division of nature preserves, if**

approved in a written authorization by:

- (A) the director of the division of nature preserves; and
- (B) the owner of the nature preserve, if the owner is other than the state of Indiana.

(e) A person hunting in an area described in subsection (d) shall do the following:

(1) Comply with all federal and state:

- (A) hunting;
- (B) trapping; and
- (C) firearms;

laws.

(2) In a fish and wildlife area and a reservoir property, obtain a one (1) day hunting permit and record from a checking station. The person shall:

- (A) retain the permit and record card while in the field for the authorized date; and
- (B) as directed, return the permit and record card to the department.

(3) Refrain from hunting on a nature preserve if prohibited by signage posted at the site.

(f) Unless otherwise posted or designated on a property map, a person may not place a trap except as authorized by a license issued for a property by an authorized representative. This license is in addition to the licensing requirement for a trap under [IC 14-22-11-1](#).

(g) A person may not run a dog, except:

- (1) during the lawful pursuit of a wild animal; or
- (2) as authorized by a license for a field trial or in a designated training area.

A property administered by the division of fish and wildlife may be designated for training purposes without requiring a license for a field trial. Only dogs may be used during a field trial on a department property, except where authorized by a license for a fish and wildlife property.

(h) A person may not construct or place a tree blind or other hunting blind except under [312 IAC 9-3-3](#) and [312 IAC 9-4-2](#).

(i) The following terms apply to the use of shooting ranges:

(1) A person may not use a shooting range unless the person is:

- (A) at least eighteen (18) years of age; or
- (B) accompanied by a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

(2) A person may:

- (A) register with the department; and
- (B) pay any applicable fees;

before using a shooting range.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a person may shoot only at paper targets placed on target holders provided by the department. An authorized representative may approve the use of an alternative target on a supervised shooting range if the department determines a hazard to public safety would not result.

(4) A person may fire downrange and take reasonable care to assure any projectile is stopped by the range backstop.

(5) Shot not larger than size six (6) must be used on a shotgun range.

(6) A person may not:

- (A) discharge a firearm using automatic fire;
- (B) use tracer, armor-piercing, or incendiary rounds;
- (C) play on, climb on, walk on, or shoot into or from the side berms; or
- (D) shoot at clay pigeons, except on a site designated for shooting clay pigeons.

Glass and other forms of breakable targets may not be used on a shooting range.

(7) A person shall dispose of the targets used by the person under section 2(a) of this rule [*sic*, [312 IAC 8-2-2\(a\)](#)].

(8) Permission must be obtained from the department in advance for a shooting event that involves the following:

- (A) An entry fee.
- (B) Competition for the following:
 - (i) Cash.
 - (ii) Awards.
 - (iii) Trophies.
 - (iv) Citations.

(v) Prizes.

(C) The exclusive use of the range or facilities.

(D) A portion of the event occurs between sunset and sunrise.

(9) On a field course, signs and markers must be staked. Trees must not be marked or damaged.

(j) A person may not take a reptile or an amphibian unless the person is issued a scientific purposes license under [312 IAC 9-10-6](#) except for the following:

(1) an eastern snapping turtle;

(2) a smooth softshell turtle;

(3) a spiny softshell turtle;

(4) a bullfrog; and

(5) a green frog;

taken under [312 IAC 9-5-6](#) from a department property where hunting or fishing is authorized.

(k) A person may not possess lead shot while hunting mourning doves on a department property.

SECTION 2. This document shall expire July 1, 2024.

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