

**OPERATING POLICY FOR FIELD TRIALS/HUNT TESTS ON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE PROPERTIES**

Field trials/hunt tests may be conducted only on the following DNR properties:

Division of State Parks: All reservoir properties except for Hardy Lake and Raccoon Lake. No field trials may be conducted on Hardy Lake or Raccoon Lake.

Division of Fish and Wildlife: Pigeon River, Winamac, and Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area; Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area for retriever trials only. No field trials/hunt tests may be conducted on any other DNR Fish and Wildlife Area.

Division of Forestry: All state forests except Selmier State Forest, Covered Bridge State Forest, Deam Lake State Recreation Area, Starve Hollow State Recreation Area, Salamonie River and Francis Slocum State Forest

Division of Outdoor Recreation: Interlake State Recreation Area and Redbird State Recreation Area

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the operating procedure for the conduct of any dog "field trial or hunt test" on land managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of State Parks, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Outdoor Recreation. This policy is intended to provide opportunities for all types of sporting dog field trials/hunt tests to be held on the above listed properties.

Horses are only authorized on designated DNR properties in accordance with 312 IAC 8-2-6. Horses are not allowed on the properties listed in this document for use in field trials with the exception of Interlake State Recreation Area.

II. Definitions:

The definitions set forth in this paragraph apply throughout this policy:

"Department" means the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

"Division" means the Divisions of State Parks, Forestry, Outdoor Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources

"Field Trial" as defined in IC 14-8-2-89, means "a trial of sporting dogs under field conditions where dogs chase or pursue wild animals under specified rules of national or regional recognized hunting dog associations approved by the director." It is an organized activity using a bird dog, retriever, versatile dog, coon dog, squirrel dog, or rabbit dog for which an entry fee is charged, where persons compete for a cash award, trophy, citation, prize or "points" by a sanctioning national or regional hunting dog association. Dogs normally compete against other dogs entered in the same trial.

“Shoot to retrieve trial” means a field trial held under field conditions where a dog normally points game, may be required to be steady to “wing and shot” and retrieves downed game at the command of the handler.

“Hunt Tests” means a field trial where the dog competes and is judged against a set of standards as opposed to other dogs.

III. Requirements

A. An application for a Field Trial Permit (State form #27022) must be submitted by the sponsor to the Division of Fish & Wildlife at least 10 days before the scheduled event in accordance with 312 IAC 9-10-7.

B. In addition to the field trial permit, a Special Event Permit must be secured for any part or portion of a field trial that will be held on a DNR property (owned, leased, or controlled by the DNR) pursuant to 312 IAC 8-2-15. Any special needs and plans for the event need to be addressed in the Special Event Permit, and the field trial/hunt test can be conducted only in accordance with the Field Trial Permit and Special Event Permit.

C. The applicant must meet with the property manager or his/her designee and submit the Application for Special Event Permit (State Form 15228) at least 30 days in advance to address any special needs or requirements with the appropriate fee. See Exhibit A for standard Special Event Conditions. The activities under the permit must conform to all state and federal laws and be conducted in accordance with the conditions set forth in the grant agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for properties acquired, developed, or managed using money from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act or Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Division of Fish & Wildlife:

- Field trials and hunt tests (other than for retrievers) may be held only at the Fish and Wildlife Areas listed in this policy and in designated areas as authorized on the Special Event Permit approved by the property for that trial/test during the following dates: between February 1 and April 15 (dogs other than retrievers); retriever trials and hunt tests may be conducted only between February 1 and April 15 and from August 15 through September 30.
- No trial/hunt test may use more than 100 acres, or exceed two days in length. No fish and wildlife area may host field trials on more than 10 days annually.
- Field trials and hunt tests must not conflict with the management of the property for quality hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational shooting opportunities, including the federal grant conditions for restoration,

conservation, management, and/or enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats managed with Federal Aid funds.

Division of State Parks:

- Field trials and hunt tests on the reservoir properties listed in this policy may be held only between February 1 and April 15 and from August 15 through September 30 in designated areas as authorized on the Special Event Permit approved by the property for that trial/test.
- Field trials and hunt tests must not conflict with the mission of the Division to manage and interpret the properties' unique natural, wildlife, and cultural resources using the principles of multiple use and preservation and with the federal grant conditions for restoration, conservation, management, and/or enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats managed with Federal Aid funds.

Division of Forestry:

- Field trials and hunt tests on the State Forest properties listed in this policy may be held only between February 1 and April 15 and from August 15 through September 30 in designated areas as authorized on the Special Event Permit approved by the property for that trial/test.
- Field trials and hunt tests must not conflict with the mission of the Division of Forestry to manage the properties for recreation, timber production, watershed protection, and fish and wildlife conservation and protection.

Division of Outdoor Recreation:

- The property manager for the State Recreation Area listed in this policy may authorize field trials or hunt tests on any date in designated areas as authorized on the Special Event Permit approved by the property for that trial/test.
- Field trials/hunt tests must minimize negative impacts on wildlife and primary management activities such as off- road vehicle recreation.

C. A game animal shall not be released to enhance the success of the field trial unless authorized by the field trial permit. An importation permit issued under IC 14-22-25 must accompany any game bird imported into the state to be released. For a shoot to retrieve field trial, bagged game must be retrieved and disposed of off the DNR property by the permit holder. Only captive reared mallard ducks, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants, or chukar may be released. All birds released must be banded with a standard metal or plastic leg band. Every effort must be made by the field trial/hunt test participants to remove all released birds during the conduct of the event.

IV. Event Conditions & Responsibilities

A. A permit holder must not set up a gate or charge admission on the property for participation in a field trial. Neither shall a permit holder receive a portion of the gate receipt. Any arrangements for food, drinks, or other related services must be made with the division's central office before the field trial. Concession fees will be paid to the

division when a concession is granted. The only concessions which may be granted are for the following:

- (1) food and drink service
- (2) any other purpose approved by the division

B. The permit holder is responsible for each of the following:

- (1) to obtain necessary permits and to pay all fees and charges
- (2) to police the immediate vicinity of the trial headquarters or staging area, ponds and trial/test fields used
- (3) to provide officials needed to supervise the conduct of contestants and spectators and to run the trials/tests
- (4) to provide the property manager with a list of officials, the number of entries and the braces or series to be run. An authorized representative of the permit holder must meet with the property manager before the field trial/hunt test is held.

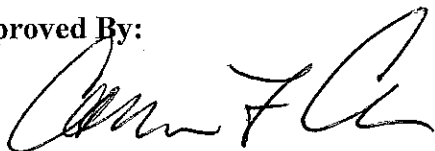
C. The department is responsible for each of the following:

- (1) the determination of trial dates, areas, issuance of permits and number of trials in any one area
- (2) the selection of any additional supervisory personnel determined by the department to be needed

D. The participants in a field trial must display fair play and sportsmanship at all times. A permit may be revoked in accordance with IC 4-21.5, if in the opinion of the department, the trial/test participants violate a condition of the field trial permit or Special Event Permit or violate a state or federal law. In addition, the division may deny another field trial or special event permit in accordance with IC 4-21.5 to a permit holder who violates this policy.

E. The director may, pursuant to IC 4-21.5, restrict, suspend, or revoke a permit issued in accordance with this policy.

Approved By:



Cameron F. Clark
Director
Department of Natural Resources

9-29-16
Date

EXHIBIT A

Special Event Permits include, but are not limited to, the following conditions:

The Permittee must comply with the administrative rules set forth in 312 IAC 8, General Property Regulations, and other applicable laws and regulations.

The contemplated use of the land area shall be without cost, expense, or obligation on the part of the State of Indiana and/or the DNR.

No permanent facilities or structures of any kind shall be constructed, erected, or maintained. Temporary facilities or structures as authorized in this permit.

There shall be no unauthorized interference with, nor any attempt made to forbid, the full use of facilities, land or water, by the public.

Any interference with, damage to, or littering of property under the control of the State of Indiana and or DNR due to the event herein granted shall be promptly corrected by the permittee to the satisfaction of the Property Manager.

Fifteen (15) days before the activities are commenced, the Permittee shall file with the DNR a certificate of insurance from an Indiana insurance company or a company authorized to do business in Indiana. The DNR may accept an insurance binder. The certificate of insurance or insurance binder shall evidence that the Permittee has obtained an irrevocable general liability insurance policy providing for a limit of not less than \$700,000 for all damages arising out of injury to or destruction of property in any one occurrence, for a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 for injury to or death of one (1) person in any one (1) occurrence and not less than \$2,000,000 for injury or death of all persons in that occurrence, with the DNR listed as additional insured. The DNR may require additional amounts of coverage based upon the event.

The Permittee agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the DNR, its officials, employees, and agents from all claims, suits, and costs, including court costs, attorney's fees, and other expenses due to loss, damage, injuries, or other casualties of any kind arising directly or indirectly from the subject matter of the Permit, whether due in whole or in part to the negligence of the Permittee and its subcontractors or to the negligence of the DNR.

This permit does not give any property rights, either in real estate or material, or in any way contemplate exclusive use and such use will not in any way prevent, interfere, or deny the public use and enjoyment of the area.