
TITLE 312 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Emergency Rule
LSA Document #22-227(E)

DIGEST

Temporarily amends [312 IAC 8-2-3](#) to remove the licensure requirement for a person to possess a handgun on a DNR 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 July 1, 2022.

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

- (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 being used in the lawful pursuit of either of the following:**
 - (A) A wild animal on a DNR property authorized for that purpose.**
 - (B) A groundhog as authorized under 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 DNR properties within any of the following:

- (1) A nature preserve or another 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 must 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 persons or property.**
- (3) Under a department permit that authorizes the discharge.**
- (4) As authorized at a shooting range.**
- (5) In the lawful pursuit of wild animals. The exception provided in this subdivision does not apply within two hundred (200) feet of any of 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 DNR 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 on any of the areas described in subsection (d) must do the following:

(1) Comply with all federal and state:

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

laws.

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

- (A) retain the permit and record card while in the field for the authorized date; and
- (B) as directed, return them 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 must 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 traps set forth in [IC 14-22-11-1](#).

(g) A person must not run dogs, except:

- (1) during the lawful pursuit of wild animals; or
- (2) as authorized by a license for field trials 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 field trial permit. Only dogs may be used during field trials on a DNR property, except where authorized by a license on a fish and wildlife property.

(h) A person must 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 must 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 must:

- (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 must shoot only at paper targets placed on target holders provided by the department. An authorized representative may approve the use of alternative targets on a supervised shooting range if the department determines a hazard to public safety would not result.

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

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

(6) A person must 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 must not be used on a shooting range.

(7) A person must 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 any of the following:

- (A) An entry fee.
- (B) Competition for any of 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 occurring 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 must not take a reptile or amphibian unless the person is issued a scientific purposes license under [312 IAC 9-10-6](#). Exempted from this subsection are:

(1) eastern snapping turtles;

(2) smooth softshell turtles;

(3) spiny softshell turtles;

(4) bullfrogs; and

(5) green frogs;

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

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

SECTION 2. This document shall expire July 1, 2023.

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