

### Instructions:

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT  
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

**Certification Statement:** As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

(signature)

(date)

Andrea Shortsleeve, Interim Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Secretary, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Coversheet
- ☐ Adopting Page
- ☐ Economic Impact Analysis
- ☐ Environmental Impact Analysis
- ☐ Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- ☐ Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- ☐ Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ☐ ICAR Minutes
- ☐ Copy of Comments
- ☐ Responsiveness Summary

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule**

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

25P012

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

4. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

*(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).*

Name: Hannah Smith

Agency: Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Telephone: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250

E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>

5. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

*(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).*

Name: David Sausville

Agency: Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 111 West Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

Telephone: 802-879-5699 Fax: 802-828-1250

E-Mail: david.sausville@vermont.gov

6. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

*(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?)* No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

*(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).*

10 V.S.A. §4082(a), 10 V.S.A. §4084

8. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

10 V.S.A. §4082(a) states that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board is authorized to adopt rules "for the regulation of fish and wild game and the taking thereof" and that the rules "shall be designed to maintain the best health, population, and utilization levels of the regulated species . . . In addition, under 10 V.S.A. §4084, the Board has broad authority to establish: seasons; possession limits; territorial limits; the manner and means of taking any species; reporting and tagging of game; and restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity, or other physical characteristics of a species.

9. THE FILING HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

10. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE.

11. SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE NOT RAISED FOR OR AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

12. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED COPIES OF ALL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND SYNOPSES OF ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED.

13. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE AGENCY'S DECISION TO REJECT OR ADOPT THEM.

14. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The proposed rule amendments extend the fall archery season to begin on October 1, and extend until the Friday prior to the regular deer season. The rule also makes technical corrections to clarify the type of license required during each turkey season.

15. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:

The rule is necessary to increase access to hunting opportunities including opportunities for opportunistic take by archery deer hunters, and to help better manage the State's turkey population. The change to the fall archery season dates is proposed in response to a petition submitted to the Board. The extended season is intended to coincide with the deer archery season, providing additional opportunities for archers to harvest turkeys with minimal to no effect on turkey populations. The proposed extension of the fall archery season is consistent with the 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan, which considers liberalizing fall hunting opportunities in accordance with public preference when there will be no adverse impact to population levels.

**16. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:**

The rule is within the Board's authority, increases hunter opportunity, and does not undermine the health and abundance of turkey in Vermont.

**17. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:**

Hunters, Department staff including Wardens.

**18. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an economic impact. Archery hunters will benefit from increased opportunities to harvest turkeys during the fall season, but hunter participation and demographics are not expected to change as a result of these rule amendments.

**19. A HEARING WAS HELD.**

**20. HEARING INFORMATION**

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION.

Date: 5/6/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Winooski Middle and High School, 60 Normand St., Winooski VT

Zip Code: 05404

URL for Virtual:

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Date: 5/8/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Springfield High School, 303 South St.,  
Springfield VT

Zip Code: 05156

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

**21. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING):**

5/25/2025

**KEYWORDS (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE  
SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).**

Turkey

Fall season

Turkey season

archery season

hunting



## Adopting Page

### Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule**

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

SOS Log #20-036 (12-010-036), Turkey Seasons, effective date October 15, 2020.

## Economic Impact Analysis

### **Instructions:**

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

*LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:*

Hunters participating in the fall turkey and deer archery seasons will be impacted as the proposed extended fall turkey season will coincide with the deer archery season, allowing for increased opportunities for turkey hunting, and increased opportunities for opportunistic take of turkeys by archery deer hunters. The economic impact on hunters will be negligible.



4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

*INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:*

The proposed rule amendments will not have an impact on schools.

5. ALTERNATIVES: *CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.*

The proposed rule amendments will not have an impact on schools.

6. IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:

*INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):*

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an impact on small businesses.

7. SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE: *EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.*

The rule does not impose requirements on small businesses and there are no anticipated burdens or costs to small businesses to comply with the proposed rule change.

8. COMPARISON:

*COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:*

In the alternative, no change to the fall turkey season would not result in an an economic impact.

9. SUFFICIENCY: *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The analysis reviewed all relevant information. Given that the rule extends the dall archery season but does not otherwise modify the opportunities or methods of

turkey hunting, the economic impact is expected to be negligible.

## Environmental Impact Analysis

### **Instructions:**

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact the emission of greenhouse gases.

#### 4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact water quality.

#### 5. LAND: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*

the proposed rule amendments will not impact land use.

6. **RECREATION:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS RECREATION IN THE STATE:*

The proposed rule amendments will increase fall archery hunting opportunities for turkey.

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact climate in the state.

8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

none.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The analysis is based on an assessment of all available information, including archery harvest data collected between 2014 and 2023, and archery harvest data from extended season Wildlife Management Units. Based on the Department's data, the fall harvest typically reflects summer species productivity, and increasing hunter opportunities has not resulted in an increase in harvest. The rule proposes changes to the length of the fall archery season, but does not change means of take or modify the approach to turkey management, and is not expected to have an environmental impact, including an impact on turkey populations.

## Public Input Maximization Plan

### **Instructions:**

Agencies are encouraged to hold hearings as part of their strategy to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of rules. Please complete the form below by describing the agency's strategy for maximizing public input (what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public).

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

**1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:**

**10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule**

**2. ADOPTING AGENCY:**

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

**3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE, LISTING THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:**

The Board meetings regarding all rulemaking are open to the public and the public is allowed to comment at every Board meeting. The Board votes to initiate the rulemaking process before filing with ICAR, votes after the public comment period, and then again before final adopted rules are filed with the Secretary of State. The public is free to comment to individual Board members and to the Department at any time during the rulemaking process. In addition, the board will hold two public hearings on the rule in additional hearings held early in the public comment period, and have a public comment period that exceeds thirty days. The proposed rule language was posted on the Board's rulemaking website on February 22nd, and the Department will publicize the rule amendments in social media and press releases.

**4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:**

## Public Input

Board members, Department staff including wardens and biologists, and the Vermont Bowhunters Association, who petitioned for the change to the fall archery season.

**TITLE 10 APPENDIX**  
**CHAPTER 1. GAME**  
**Subchapter 1. General Provisions**

**§ 22. Turkey Seasons**

**1.0 Authority**

1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(a). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and fur-bearing animals in this State is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the State requires a constant and continual vigilance.

1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the turkey flock.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes daily, season and possession limits for game, territorial limits, and the manner and means of taking; to establish territorial limits for the taking of turkeys; and to establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity or other physical distinction.

2.0 Purpose The purpose of this regulation is to establish seasons for the taking of turkeys, to establish open Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) for the taking of turkeys, to establish methods of taking turkeys and to establish limits on the number of turkeys to be taken.

**3.0 Definitions**

3.1 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

3.2 "Crossbow" means a device consisting of a bow mounted to a rigid stock for discharging bolts or arrows and having a mechanical means to hold and release the drawn string, which must be fired from the shoulder. A bolt means a short projectile for a crossbow that resembles an arrow and has a head that measures no less than 7/8 inch at its widest point. A crossbow shall have a minimum pull of 125 pounds, a working mechanical safety and a stock no less than 23 inches in length.

3.3 "Legal means" means the taking of a turkey by shotgun, crossbow, or archery equipment in conformance with Section 6 of this rule.

3.4 "Novice" means a person who obtained their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

3.5 "Wildlife Management Unit" (WMU) means one of 21 geographical areas in Vermont for which big game regulations may vary.

3.6 "Youth" means a person who is 15 years of age or younger.

#### 4.0 Spring Season

4.1 Dates: May 1, through May 31, inclusive.

4.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to twelve noon.

4.3 Legal turkey: Only wild turkeys with beard(s).

4.4 Bag Limit: Two bearded wild turkeys per person per season.

4.5 Open WMUs: Open statewide

4.6 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a turkey license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

#### 5.0 Fall Season.

5.1 Dates and Open WMU's.

(a) Bow and Arrow, and crossbow only:

i. Dates: From October 1 to Friday prior to the regular deer season

ii. Open WMUs: Open Statewide

(b) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: Nine consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q and their respective subunits:.

(c) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: For 16 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: subunits: WMUs F, K, and N and their respective subunits:.

5.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.



5.3 Legal Turkey: Any wild turkey.

5.4 Bag limit: One turkey per person.

5.5 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a turkey license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

6.0 Legal Method of Taking:

6.1 Only a shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow may be used.

6.2 Only number 2 or smaller size shot shall be used or possessed.

6.3 An arrowhead must be at least 7/8th of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

6.4 Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. A person taking a turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow may carry a handgun in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), however, that person may not use the handgun to take turkey.

6.5 No person shall use dogs in the spring, nor electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives during either season.

6.6 Any person wishing to hunt turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner.

6.7 Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4705.

7.0 Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend

7.1 Youth turkey hunting weekend shall be the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of spring turkey season on May 1. Legal shooting hours shall be one half hour before sunrise until 5 p.m. Persons aged 15 or under holding a free youth turkey hunting weekend license shall be entitled to take wild turkey during these dates.

7.2 Legal Turkey: Only bearded turkeys may be taken.

7.3 Bag limit: One bearded turkey per youth. A youth may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

7.4 To participate in the youth turkey hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a youth turkey hunting weekend license.

7.5 The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

7.6 No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

#### 8.0 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend

8.1 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend; This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4908 and section 7.1 of this rule.

8.2 Limit: One bearded turkey per novice. A novice may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

8.3 To participate in the novice turkey hunting weekend, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a novice turkey hunting weekend license and follow the requirements of youth turkey hunting weekend.

8.4 The novice must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice under this section shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

8.5 No novice shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

**TITLE 10 APPENDIX  
CHAPTER 1. GAME  
Subchapter 1. General Provisions**

**§ 22. Turkey Seasons**

**1.0 Authority**

1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(a). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and fur-bearing animals in this State is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the State requires a constant and continual vigilance.

1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the turkey flock.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes daily, season and possession limits for game, territorial limits, and the manner and means of taking; to establish territorial limits for the taking of turkeys; and to establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity or other physical distinction.

2.0 Purpose The purpose of this regulation is to establish seasons for the taking of turkeys, to establish open Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) for the taking of turkeys, to establish methods of taking turkeys and to establish limits on the number of turkeys to be taken.

**3.0 Definitions**

3.1 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

3.2 "Crossbow" means a device consisting of a bow mounted to a rigid stock for discharging bolts or arrows and having a mechanical means to hold and release the drawn string, which must be fired from the shoulder. A bolt means a short projectile for a crossbow that resembles an arrow and has a head that measures no less than 7/8 inch at its widest point. A crossbow shall have a minimum pull of 125 pounds, a working mechanical safety and a stock no less than 23 inches in length.

3.3 "Legal means" means the taking of a turkey by shotgun, crossbow, or archery equipment in conformance with Section 6 of this rule.

3.4 "Novice" means a person who obtained their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

3.5 "Wildlife Management Unit" (WMU) means one of 21 geographical areas in Vermont for which big game regulations may vary.

3.6 "Youth" means a person who is 15 years of age or younger.

#### 4.0 Spring Season

4.1 Dates: May 1, through May 31, inclusive.

4.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to twelve noon.

4.3 Legal turkey: Only wild turkeys with beard(s).

4.4 Bag Limit: Two bearded wild turkeys per person per season.

4.5 Open WMUs: Open statewide

4.6 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a turkey license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

#### 5.0 Fall Season.

5.1 Dates and Open WMU's.

(a) Bow and Arrow, and crossbow only:

i. Dates: From ~~the 1st Saturday in~~ October 1 to ~~the Friday prior to the regular deer season inclusive~~ beginning of the shotgun/bow and arrow/crossbow season.

ii. Open WMUs: Open Statewide

(b) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: Nine consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q and their respective subunits:.

(c) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: For 16 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: subunits: WMUs F, K, and N and their respective subunits:.

5.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

5.3 Legal Turkey: Any wild turkey.

5.4 Bag limit: One turkey per person.

5.5 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a turkey license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

6.0 Legal Method of Taking:

6.1 Only a shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow may be used.

6.2 Only number 2 or smaller size shot shall be used or possessed.

6.3 An arrowhead must be at least 7/8th of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

6.4 Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. A person taking a turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow may carry a handgun in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), however, that person may not use the handgun to take turkey.

6.5 No person shall use dogs in the spring, nor electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives during either season.

6.6 Any person wishing to hunt turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner.

6.7 Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4705.

7.0 Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend

7.1 Youth turkey hunting weekend shall be the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of spring turkey season on May 1. Legal shooting hours shall be one half hour before sunrise until 5 p.m. Persons aged 15 or under holding a free youth turkey hunting weekend license shall be entitled to take wild turkey during these dates.

7.2 Legal Turkey: Only bearded turkeys may be taken.

7.3 Bag limit: One bearded turkey per youth. A youth may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

7.4 To participate in the youth turkey hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a youth turkey hunting weekend license.

7.5 The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

7.6 No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

#### 8.0 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend

8.1 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend; This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4908 and section 7.1 of this rule.

8.2 Limit: One bearded turkey per novice. A novice may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

8.3 To participate in the novice turkey hunting weekend, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a novice turkey hunting weekend license and follow the requirements of youth turkey hunting weekend.

8.4 The novice must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice under this section shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

8.5 No novice shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.



## INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (ICAR) MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Location:** March 10, 2025, virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:** Chair Nick Kramer, Diane Sherman, Jared Adler, Jennifer Mojo, Michael Obuchowski and Natalie Weill

**Members Absent:** Nicole Dubuque and John Kessler

**Minutes By:** Melissa Mazza-Paquette

- 2:00 p.m. meeting called to order, welcome and introductions.
- Review and approval of [minutes](#) from the February 10, 2025 meeting.
- Agenda approved as drafted apart from moving the Supervised Billing proposed rule to be presented first.
- No public comments made.
- Presentation of Proposed Rules on pages 2-6 to follow.
  - 1) Supervised Billing, Agency of Human Services, page 2
  - 2) 10 V.S.A. App. § 17, Rule governing the importation and possession of cervids from chronic wasting disease endemic areas and captive hunt or farm facilities, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 3
  - 3) 10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 4
  - 4) 10 V.S.A. App. § 33, Moose Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 5
  - 5) 10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 6
- Other business: Revisit 2024 draft ICAR guidance document after legislative session. A suggested subcommittee of Diane, Natalie and John could incorporate any necessary edits as an outcome of a publicly warned future meeting.
- Next scheduled meeting is April 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- 3:11 p.m. meeting adjourned.

**Proposed Rule:** Supervised Billing, Agency of Human Services

**Presented By:** Grace Johnson

Motion made to accept the rule by Mike Obuchowski, seconded by Jared Adler, and passed unanimously except for Natalie Weill who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #7: Consider rewording – potentially removing the first sentence and including the appropriate statute.
  - b. #8: Distinguish this proposed rule as one of a larger subset known as the Health Care Administrative rules and this rule is on supervised billing and clarifies what it does.
  - c. #12: Explain why there isn't an impact.
2. Economic Impact Analysis, #3: Coincide with #10 of the Proposed Filing – Coversheet and provide clarification that there aren't additional costs due to it already being in practice.

DRAFT



**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 17, Rule governing the importation and possession of cervids from chronic wasting disease endemic areas and captive hunt or farm facilities, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith and Nick Fortin

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #8: Remove ‘technical correction’ language if appropriate.
  - b. #9: Insert a parenthetical reference (CWD) for ‘chronic wasting disease’.
  - c. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah’s comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Economic Impact Analysis #5: Capitalize ‘the’.
3. Environmental Impact Analysis #6: Include any applicable positive impacts.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it’s the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.

**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith and Toni Mikula

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah’s comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Economic Impact Analysis #9: Correct spelling of ‘dall’ to ‘fall’.
3. Environmental Impact Analysis:
  - a. #5 and #8: Change case of first word to uppercase.
  - b. #9: Include clarification around harvest data. Add a period at the end of the last sentence.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it’s the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.

DRAFT

**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 33, Moose Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources,  
Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #8: Correct spelling of 'langauge'.
  - b. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah's comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Economic Impact Analysis: For consistency, choose to use either "nominal" or "negligible" if the intent is to quantify as too small to be measurable or meaningful.
3. Environmental Impact Analysis #8: Include any potential favorable impacts.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it's the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.

DRAFT

**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #8: Spell out 'WMU' before parenthetical.
  - b. #12: Include 'favorably' when referring to 'should reasonably impact business...'.
  - c. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah's comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it's the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.
3. Scientific Information Statement #5: Include an option to obtain a hard copy as well.

DRAFT

# **Responsiveness Summary**

for

Public Comments Received  
on proposed changes to

## **10 App. V.S.A. § 22**

## **Turkey Management Rule**



Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
Agency of Natural Resources  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208  
802-828-1000

## Introduction

On February 19, 2025, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) presented proposed changes to 10 App. V.S.A. § 22 and other big game rules to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board (Board). The Board gave initial approval to the proposed changes and voted to begin rulemaking. Following review by the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules on March 10<sup>th</sup>, notice of the draft rule was posted by the Secretary of State on March 27, 2025.

The proposed change to 10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Management Rule, was to extend the statewide archery only season to align with the deer archery season. Current archery season runs from the first Saturday in October until the Friday before the start of the regular turkey season. Under the proposal, archery season would begin October 1 and run until the Friday before the start of the regular deer season.

VFWD began accepting public comment immediately following the February 19 Board meeting, and comments were due by May 25, 2025. This provided 95 days for the public to comment, including 60 days after the rule was published by the Secretary of State. Additionally, VFWD held 5 public hearings at the dates and locations listed below. These hearings were combined with annual hearings required by 10 V.S.A. § 4081 and 10 App. V.S.A. § 2b to maximize public participation.

- March 17, Mt. Anthony Union High School, Bennington, VT
- March 18, Lakes Region High School, Orleans, VT
- March 20, Union 32 Middle & High School, Montpelier, VT
- May 6, Winooski Middle & High School, Winooski, VT
- May 8, Springfield High School, Springfield, VT

Approximately 295 members of the public participated in these hearings. Comments on this rule were provided by 162 hearing participants (see **Appendix A**). An additional 38 comments were received by email (see **Appendix B**).

The VFWD has prepared this responsiveness summary to address the comments that were received on the draft Turkey Management Rule. The Department took comments on proposed changes to the deer and moose and cervid import rules concurrently with the turkey rule. Some commenters specifically referred to these rules, but many expressed wide support or opposition without specifying which proposed rule change they were referring to. Below is a general breakdown of comments. Individual comments are provided in the appendices.

## Emailed Comments

The Department took comments on proposed changes to the deer and moose and cervid import rules concurrently with the turkey rule; the four rules were noticed separately by the Secretary of State, but the comment period ran for the same time period. Some commenters specifically referred to these rules, but many expressed wide support or opposition without specifying which proposed rule change they were referring to. Of the 38 email comments received, only 15 were interpreted as having a position on the turkey rule.

**General Support:** Seven emailed comments expressed general support for all of the rule changes proposed, without specifically referring to the turkey rule.

**General Opposition:** Four comments expressed opposition to hunting in general, without specifically referring to the proposed changes to the turkey rule.

**Correction of published shot sizes:** Two comments pointed out that in the published proposed rule change, legal shot size was stated as being between size 2 and 8.

**Response:** When drafting the proposed rule change, an old template of the turkey rule was used, which still contained the outdated restriction on shot size. This was corrected as soon as we were made aware of it and the correct rule language was published to both the Agency's and the Secretary of State's website.

**Unclear:** One comment was incoherent, and their position on the turkey rule could not be determined.

**Specific support:** One comment expressed support for the turkey rule change specifically.

Most of the balance of the comments referred only to the deer and/or moose rule changes, so it was presumed that there was no comment on the turkey rule.

## Public Meeting Comments

At the public meetings, participants were asked their thoughts on the proposed turkey rule change.

**Support:** One hundred and forty-two responses expressed support for the proposed rule change.

**Opposition:** Five responses expressed opposition to the proposed rule change.

**Unclear:** Six responses were unclear on their position.

**Increase harvest:** Twelve responses referred only to increasing the harvest of turkeys. These were generally assumed to be supportive of the proposed rule change.

**Response:** It is anticipated that the increased opportunity to harvest a fall turkey during the archery season will result in a very modest increase in annual harvest.

**Other seasons:** Eight commenters referred only to changes that they would like to see to the spring season or the fall regular season, including changes in dates and bag limits.

**Response:** The spring season and fall regular season are not currently being proposed for changes. Maintaining the current dates of the spring and fall regular seasons is consistent with the Department's Big Game Management Plan, which prioritizes quality spring hunting, and liberalizing fall hunting opportunities in accordance with public preference.

**No response:** Seventy-one attendees left the field blank.



## **Appendix A: Public Hearing Feedback**

### **Bennington:**

- Number that left question blank/no comment: 21 out of 64
- Yes/Support (x21 similar responses)
- Hunt turkeys in the fall.
- Sounds good- Support for having spring season 2nd weekend of April.
- Looks good, like it.
- All for it, Earlier opportunity, I would archery hunt them.
- More turkeys.
- Sounds fine, okay.
- I like the idea of harvesting turkey for the first part of bow season.
- Should “kill” more of them.
- Excellent change – Finally!
- Allow a longer spring season, start mid-April when the gobblers start. Harvest one hen in the spring.
- Aligning archery seasons makes sense.
- No issues.
- Okay with proposals but want 2 turkeys to be allowed in the fall.
- I agree with extending the season.
- Shoot turkeys year-round like woodchucks.
- Don t think it will make that much of a difference.
- Full archery season is a good idea.
- Need turkey numbers reduced significantly.
- Extend the season.

### **Orleans:**

- Number that left question blank/no comment: 17 out of 51
- Yes/Support (x 23 similar responses)
- Don t change things. (x2 similar responses)
- Expand Turkey archery season.
- We have too many Turkeys/we need to kill more Turkeys. (x4 similar responses)
- Extend shotgun season in the fall.
- Put them on the table.
- Consider having a longer season.
- Kill them all.

### **East Montpelier:**

- Number that left question blank/no comment: 12 out of 58
- Looks good/Support (x35 similar responses)
- Simplifies reg = Good, curious about population over the years.

Suspect it ll increase harvest, curious how tags will change.

- Assuming this would increase overall harvest. Would you regulate tags to accommodate for this increase?
- Curious as to the population dynamics behind this change. Has there been an increase in population/decrease in harvest?
- I appreciate the opportunity to take a turkey through the deer archery season.
- How many turkeys in state? Approve of rc. lllll lllll l, Increase # turkeys can shoot in spring. ll bag limit. More participation in spring – increase # of permits. Like to see bag limit of ll in fall. Not many hunting in fall – need to increase opportunity. Bring back December opportunity?
- I think this is a logical change to achieve harvest goals. Turkey numbers are very healthy in VT.
- It won't affect the population.
- I think it is a good idea to have the seasons match.
- I think it is a good idea to overlap deer and turkey archery season.
- I believe this will create opportunity.
- Good, I would like to see more hen tags.

#### **Winooski:**

- Number that left question blank/no comment: 12 out of 40
- General Support (22 x similar responses)
- I might buy a tag.
- No, deer hunters and turkey hunters will be at odds, they will “mess up” the other's hunt.
- Good-There are healthy turkey populations statewide.
- Habitat Management
- No
- I think it is a good idea get more people into turkey.

#### **Springfield:**

- Number that question left blank/no comment: 9 out of 34
- General Support (9 x similar responses)
- Better season potential and thin out turkey that feed in deer habitat.
- Go for it! 2 fall birds??
- Kill them, to many eating to much deer food.
- I think it would be good and easier for hunters.
- Add to the limit.
- Shoot more turkey.
- Doesn't matter to most of us because we don't really hunt them with a bow.
- Would be helpful, should go back to 2 turkeys in the fall.
- Shoot a lot more of them.
- Good. Have shot gun open earlier and last longer.
- Spring turkey needs to be earlier. With mild winters, they are starting the breeding season way earlier.

- I think turkey hunting in the spring earlier than May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Longer early spring season.
- Makes for more opportunity to have successful hunting experience.
- Leave the same.
- Gives working people more time to hunt.

## Appendix B: Other Feedback

**From:** Matthaues Yers <matthauesarchery@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 2, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Regulations

[You don't often get email from matthauesarchery@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for taking the time to summarize and propose the new deer, turkey, and moose regulations.

I want to offer my support of the science based changes in regulations for deer and turkey management. I fully support the harvest of does during the regular season. The areas I hunt are over browsed and successional growth suffers from this. With this regulation, is there a reason why increasing the APR would not also be an effective management tool?

Thank you

**From:** Seth Clifford <ccliffor@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 8:07 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Changes to Deer, Moose and Turkey Hunting Regulations

[You don't often get email from ccliffor@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Greetings,

I write to express my support for science based management of our wildlife and the setting of hunting seasons and bag limits proposed by the professional biologist working for the VDFW. It is in the best interest of the state to place management decisions in the hands of professionals who have the expertise and knowledge necessary to make management decisions in the best interest of wildlife without emotional or political influence. Management of natural resources must be made based on the best available science and not for emotional or political reasons.

Thank you for your consideration,

Seth Clifford  
Starksboro, VT  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** emitt759 <emitt759@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 7:26 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I just read the States proposal for some deer, turkey and moose changes. I agree with them. One thing is apparent to me. People may buy hunting licenses, but they don't actually hunt much. I've see fewer hunters in the last 20 years. Again, I like the idea of two bucks a season. One must be taken with bow.

Steve

Addison Vt.

**From:** Jeremy Ayotte <jayotte2011@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** day, February 28, 2025 1:35 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Turkey, moose and deer

You don't often get email from jayotte2011@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.** To Whom It May Concern: Turkeys, Under "TITLE 10 APPENDIX CHAPTER 1. GAME Subchapter 1. General Provisions § 22. Turkey Seasons", it states "6.2 Only number 2 through number 8 shot shall be used or possessed." I would remind the board that a lot of people I know hunt with .410 use #9 shot with TSS loads. Current Vermont Law states, "only number 2 and smaller shot shall be used or possessed." Error or a change? 4.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to twelve noon. QUESTION? Why can't we hunt till 5 pm? All other sections I agree with in regards to changes for turkeys. 10 V.S.A. Appendix §17 Cervid Carcass Importation Rule – Annotated. I totally agree! Moose, Regarding # 1. Updating language related to permit allocations to veterans and the auction so it is consistent with statute. This rule hasn't been updated since statute was changed in 2019. I agree. # 2. Adding language to allow Special Opportunity Permit holders to choose to hunt during the archery season with a gun. This is in response to a petition requesting this change. This is accomplished by creating a "Special Opportunity Season" solely for these permit holders that is concurrent with the archery season, avoiding complications of allowing guns to be used during an archery season. I disagree with # 3. Extending the length of the regular season from six days to nine days. I agree with. DEER, 3.4 3 "Bait": For the purposes of this regulation, 'bait' is defined as any animal, vegetable, fruit or mineral matter placed with the intention of attracting wildlife. Natural and artificial scents and lures that are not prohibited under Section 14 of this regulation and are not designed to be consumed by eating or licking shall not be bait for the purposes of this rule. Will this change the use of food plots where vegs and or fruit is grown for animal use only? If this passage ends food plots then no I don't agree. 4.3 No person may purchase or possess more than two antlerless deer permits at one time, only one of which may be acquired pursuant to subsection 4.2(a) or (b) of this section. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit for an individual wildlife management unit at one time. A person may purchase additional antlerless deer permits after the person has harvested an antlerless deer. I disagree with is section. (b) A person shall be allowed to take one additional buck, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer, provided they have: (1) Purchased a second buck tag, (2) Previously taken and reported an antlerless deer in the current year, and (3) Previously taken and reported an antlered buck in the current year that had at least one antler with 3 or more antler points. 5.2 No person shall take deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A § 4082 (c). Will this extra buck tag

be allowed by any methods? So, If I shoot an antlerless deer and then shoot a deer with three points on one side during muzzleloaders would I be able to buy another buck tag for the muzzleloader season? Erase muzzleloaders and replace with bow or compound. Same rules apply? Or was this for regular deer season only? All other measures that the board has come forward with regarding deer management for 2026 I agree with. Thank you for your time, Sincerely, Jeremy Ayotte Fletcher Vermont

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**From:** Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System <[unityconnection@nwncloud.com](mailto:unityconnection@nwncloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 1:30 PM  
**To:** [svt36fw.mainline@nwncloud.com](mailto:svt36fw.mainline@nwncloud.com)  
**Subject:** Message from WIRELESS CALLER (+1 [REDACTED])

Changes for deer, moose, and turkey hunting

I'm all for it. I haven't hunted in a couple years because I have been hospitalized twice for tick bites. It would certainly increase the chance of getting a deer. Moose I would love to hunt, but not myself. Would go with my brother in law. Of course lottery online, take a chance that you'd wind up getting a license.

Claudia

**From:** April Ossmann <ossmannapril@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 10:38 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** I Support the Proposed Changes to Hunting Regs in VT

You don't often get email from ossmannapril@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I support the proposed changes to hunting regulations in Vermont:

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing changes to a slate of hunting regulations, including for [white-tailed deer](#), [moose](#) and [turkey](#). The agency is also proposing updates to its rules around [transporting wild game meat into the state](#).

The changes were put forward by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board — a 14-member panel appointed by the governor, which has the final say for regulations for hunting, fishing and trapping — with support from agency biologists.

[https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2025-02-27/state-proposes-updates-deer-moose-turkey-hunting-regulations?mc\\_cid=776bdd6408&mc\\_eid=35b0b2f944](https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2025-02-27/state-proposes-updates-deer-moose-turkey-hunting-regulations?mc_cid=776bdd6408&mc_eid=35b0b2f944)

Thank you for the good work; we have too many deer.

Sincerely,  
April Ossmann

White River Jct, VT 05001

**From:** Michael Sivalis <campbell.pass.vt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:52 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Changes to Deer, Moose and Turkey Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from campbell.pass.vt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I'm writing to express my frustration with the new proposals. This to me just seems like a way for hunters to extend their season and shoot more animals. I don't see the "science" behind this proposal. As a land owner who doesn't currently post their land, I can assure you that if this goes through I will be posting.

- Mike Sivalis (Bethel VT)



**From:** Michael Baker <[brownturd17@icloud.com](mailto:brownturd17@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 2:38 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <[ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Public Hearings

You don't often get email from [brownturd17@icloud.com](mailto:brownturd17@icloud.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

There are not enough deer in Vermont now... so why are you doing this??? Let's kill more Turkeys and bear!! This is unthinkable! Is this the end of deer hunting or what? The population has never been this low!! Kill em all...  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Brett Ladeau <[longbeardfreak@gmail.com](mailto:longbeardfreak@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 1:13 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Windsor <[ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed rule for turkey

[You don't often get email from [longbeardfreak@gmail.com](mailto:longbeardfreak@gmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Nick,

I noticed the proposed rule for the changes in turkey hunting show an outdated rule restricting shot size from 2-8 shot. However, the current rule shows 2 and smaller. I believe this was changed back on 2020. Just wanted to bring this to your attention to share with the rest of the board.

Thanks, Brett Ladeau

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Sue Wilbert <luvmy91stang50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 7:59 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** No

You don't often get email from luvmy91stang50@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I'm writing you on response to your proposal absolutely no more hunting we have enough you need to work on no more hound and barbaric leg hold traps we no longer need to support that so hunters make money off of death or before a child get hurts.. if out dogs have to be leashed and control so don't there digs it's the law why is ok for one and not another no excuses law is the law maybe looking into a law suit against these unleashed uncontrol dogs is in need ... our animal population is on a down ward a climb and fast inhavent seen one deer all winter on my drives to my favorite places to watch them ..andnthats your fault.. stop the killing .. enough is enough already .. maybe we also meaning us the ppl need to start going home land owner and help [them.post](#) there land no more hunting and maybe even have them that have snowmobile trails close them to if you pass anymore hunting and let dog hunting and leg hold traps keep going. When a dog chases a poor racoon or bear it's last moments alive are horrible and in fear what's wrong with you ppl your just plain murders your a shame to treat our precious wildlife this way they are alive like u and have feelings family love playful .and you just snuff them out with no remorse.. Im.ashame of Vermont you can do better ..no more hunting ...our animals our aprt of our eco system and each one has a purpose that ppl are not needed....STOP THE KILLING LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE..

SIGN THE PPL.FOR BETTER FIR THE ANIMALS

**From:** Matthew Lynde <lyndematthew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 5:29 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment

You don't often get email from lyndematthew@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To whom this concerns,

I am writing In support of all proposed changes presented at the public hearings as well as I support to extend the late muzzleloader season having it start the Monday following the close of the regular rifle season extending it by 5 days it's my understanding there was already a petition for this with 350 signatures and I would like to be added to that. Thank you for working hard to conserve our hunting and fishing heritage.

Thank you,  
Matthew Lynde  
Halifax,Vt

**From:** asp123@myfairpoint.net  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 2:22 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment

[You don't often get email from asp123@myfairpoint.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please have understanding for how wild animals have to live these days and please do not allow hunters to kill animals just for the "fun" of it...these animals are struggling to survive with harsh weather, encroachment on their terrain increasing, and now people have to shoot them? There is plenty of meat for sale in the supermarket...I vote to stop harming the wildlife in Vermont permanently....Ann Picard, E Fairfield, VT

**From:** Kevin Hawley <khawley8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:05 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Support proposed changes

You don't often get email from khawley8@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I think your changes make sense. I do not feel the need to attend a public comment session as I have no questions or concerns.

Thank you  
Kevin Hawley  
Jericho VT

**From:** Kaylee Szymanski <kszymanski@nwtf.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Wild Turkey Comment Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** VT Wild Turkey Reg Changes Letter of Support\_NWTF.pdf

You don't often get email from kszymanski@nwtf.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good Afternoon,

Please accept the attached letter from the Vermont State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for comment on the proposed wild turkey regulation changes. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our thoughts.

Thank you,  
Kaylee



**Kaylee Szymanski**  
Certified Wildlife Biologist®  
District Biologist - CT, MA, ME, NH, RI & VT

**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
770 Augusta Rd, Edgefield, SC 29824  
mobile: (203) 228-1708

**From:** Clark, Andrew  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 17, 2025 8:09 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Change the 2 Bird Limit back to 1 Bird in Spring

I've hunted Turkeys in Vermont for several years and I'm seeing a serious decline in the number of Birds. I really think the state should go back to a 1 bird limit. I'm not seeing Birds or hearing them in half the places I used to anymore. I think it may have a lot to do with all the wet springs were having. The hatches are not surviving therefore the birds that are here are older Mature Toms. Usually I see a lot of Jakes in areas but not so much the past 4 seasons.

**From:** Sent: To: Cc:  
**Subject:** Emily Grube <mooresorchard@gmail.com> Thursday, May 15, 2025 6:39 AM ANR - FW Public Comment jmajor@leg.state.vt.us; AClarkson@leg.state.vt.us; rwhite@leg.state.vt.us; hsurprenant@leg.state.vt.us Hunting regulations [You don't often get email from mooresorchard@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>] **EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.** Good Morning: I would like to make the following comments on changes to Vermont Hunting regulations: 1. All hunting, turkey, bear, deer should not be allowed without written permission by the landowner. In many states, hunting on private land is restricted without written permission from the landowner. That should be Vermont policy as well. 2. Both your spring and fall turkey seasons are too long. One week would be adequate. 3. Combining the antlerless season with the antlered season is crazy. If it were not dangerous enough to work in the woods or anywhere for that matter, let's make regulations such that the hunter doesn't even have to look to see what he is shooting at. 4. Hunting season in the fall,

September 1 to mid December is too long as well. We don't need two muzzleloader seasons. No one hunts bear in September. I wish to explain why my land will now be posted for the near future and perhaps beyond. This spring during youth turkey season when hunters are to seek permission to hunt turkey, my daughter found in the morning a flailing half dead turkey in her horse pasture. This pasture is within 300 feet of my home and no one had asked to hunt. During the beginning of regular turkey season two hunters called in turkeys to my cattle pasture, shot two, shooting toward the cattle and when asked if they had permission to hunt and why were they in my pasture, they were rude and informed me that they were going to call the game warden because I was menacing their hunt. REALLY I have in the past had hunters drive across my agricultural fields when they are wet or dry, take pot shots at geese when my cattle are in the same fields, leave my gates in pastures that are in use open and drive through my temporary fences in the fall letting my cattle out of their pasture and into the town highway. It would seem to me that if I am supporting this hunting venture by keeping open fields with a desirable food source, logging in the woods that gives regrowth for deer to browse in the winter and supplying habitat for game, I should at least be given the consideration of having hunters ask permission to hunt. I am not against hunting. Given the taxes that I pay each year for the privilege of farming and working the land, I should not be abused by hunters in this way. For now, the 1000 plus acres that my family owns will be posted and those people that I know and respect will be allowed to hunt if they ask and the others will either be poachers or stay off and there will be some of both. I have now reached the breaking point. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Emily. Grube Pomfret Vermont



May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department,

On behalf of the Vermont State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF-VT) we would like to express our support for the proposed changes to Vermont's fall archery wild turkey season regulations. As hunters, conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts we appreciate the state's efforts to manage the wildlife resources responsibly while also offering improving opportunities for ethical and effective archery hunting.

The proposed adjustments of, opening October 1<sup>st</sup> and running through the Friday before the regular deer season, reflect a thoughtful balance between wildlife management and public interest. The proposed adjustment would restore the overlap that used to occur before the 2020 deer regulation changes. This not only increases hunter opportunity and flexibility but also streamlines the regulations by creating a more consistent and predictable fall season structure.

Thank you for your continued efforts to manage our state's wildlife and for your continued efforts to balance access, opportunity, and conservation. We support the proposed regulation changes and appreciate the opportunity to share our input.

Yours in Conservation,

*Brett Ladeau*

Brett Ladeau,  
President, NWTF-VT