

Furbearer & Small Game Nuisance Regulations



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Process

- Human-Wildlife Conflict Workgroup
 - Developed recommendations
- Furbearer Workgroup
 - Refined trapping methods
- NRC/Director



Wildlife Conservation Order

- Currently, nuisance language scattered throughout WCO
- Create new section within Chapter 5 (Special Permit Regulations) for nuisance language



Proposed Regulatory Changes

- Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property
- Removal of Beavers and Beaver Dams by Road, Drain, and Railroad Authorities



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Clarify when species can be taken without written permit
 - Current: Woodchuck, skunk, raccoon, and coyote can be taken if doing or about to do damage.
 - Unclear, interpreted differently
 - Proposed: Woodchuck, skunk, raccoon, and coyote can be taken if doing or physically present where it could imminently cause damage.



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Define “damage”
 - Current: damage is not defined, open to interpretation
 - Proposed: damage is physical harm to:
 - Forest products, roads, dams, buildings, orchards, apiaries, livestock, and horticultural or agricultural crops



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Allow additional species to be taken without written permit
 - Current: Woodchuck, skunk, raccoon, and coyote.
 - Proposed: Beaver, cottontail rabbit, coyote, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, ground squirrel, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red squirrel, skunk, weasel, and woodchuck.
 - Year-round hunting and trapping season: ground squirrel, opossum, red squirrel, weasel.
 - Beaver or muskrat are only doing damage if flooding or culvert blockage



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Allow trapping of additional species
 - Current: only hunting methods for cottontail rabbits, fox squirrels, gray squirrels, and woodchucks.
 - Municipal ordinance, safety zone, etc.
 - Proposed: allow trapping cottontail rabbits, fox squirrels, gray squirrels, and woodchucks with specific methods.
 - Live traps
 - Body-grip
 - Footholds



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Proposed cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and woodchuck trapping methods:
 - Live-restraining cage traps
 - Not designed to catch more than 1 animal at a time
 - Animal captured must be immediately released or killed
 - Trap must be tended daily statewide



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Proposed cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and woodchuck trapping methods:
 - Body-gripping or conibear type traps
 - No greater than 6.5 inches inside jaw hinges
 - Located inside of a building
 - In a hole in the ground that is covered and inaccessible from the surface
 - In a box or similar container with a maximum opening diameter of 3 inches



Wildlife Damage Control on Private Property

- Proposed cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and woodchuck trapping methods:
 - Foothold traps
 - In a box or similar container with a maximum opening diameter of 3 inches



Removal of Beavers and Beaver Dams by Road, Drain, and Railroad Authorities

- Current: entities must have written permit
 - Public safety, administrative burden
- Proposed: entities can remove beavers, dams, etc., that threaten infrastructure within right of ways without written permit
 - Valid base license and fur harvester license or nuisance animal control company
 - Otherwise legal trapping methods
 - Doesn't preclude EGLE authority



Thank you

