

Falconry Regulations



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Background

- The sport of taking game and unprotected species by means of a trained raptor
- Practices covered in falconry regulations are:
 - Live take of raptors from the wild for falconry use
 - Care of birds used in falconry
 - Training and permitting required of falconers
- 131 licensed falconers in MI



Background

- USFWS authorized states to issue falconry permits without requiring federal approval
- Department is required to implement federal falconry regulations within WCO
- Department has authority to implement more restrictive regulations



Regulatory Cycle

- 3-year regulatory cycle
 - Administrative change the falconry permit program
 - No recommended biological changes



Current Requirements

- 3 classes of permit: Apprentice, General, or Master
- Federal regulations require an apprentice to have a letter from a sponsor agreeing to assist in learning about falconry
- Michigan regulations require submission of a sponsorship agreement
 - Agreement between sponsor and apprentice stating expectations and conditions of both the apprentice and sponsor



Recommendation

- If a sponsorship agreement is terminated, the apprentice has 30 days to find a new sponsor
 - Must provide notification and submit new sponsorship agreement
 - Falconry activities are suspended until new sponsor is secured
 - Raptors in possession beyond 30 days must be lawfully released or transferred



Recommendation

- No biological impact
- Indiana and Illinois have similar regulations for the withdrawal of a sponsorship
- Michigan Hawking Club supports this recommendation



Thank You

