TITLE 312 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Emergency Rule
LSA Document #19-326(E)

DIGEST

Temporarily amends 312 IAC 9 to govern noncommercial hunts at specified state parks. Under IC 14-22-6-13, the director finds white-tailed deer have caused, and will continue to cause, measurable damage to the ecological balance within these properties, and the ecological balance within these properties will not be maintained unless action is taken to control their populations. Effective June 26, 2019.

SECTION 1. **(a) Notwithstanding 312 IAC 9-2-11, 312 IAC 8-2, and any other provision governing hunting a wild animal within a state park, individuals qualified under this SECTION may hunt white-tailed deer on November 18 through November 19, 2019, and December 2 through December 3, 2019, at the following sites:**

(1) Cave River Valley Natural Area.
(2) Chain O'Lakes State Park.
(3) Charlestown State Park.
(4) Clifty Falls State Park.
(5) Fort Harrison State Park.
(6) Harmonie State Park.
(7) Indiana Dunes State Park.
(8) McCormick's Creek State Park.
(9) Ouabache State Park.
(10) Pokagon State Park.
(11) Prophetstown State Park.
(12) Shakamak State Park.
(13) Spring Mill State Park.
(14) Summit Lake State Park.
(15) Tippecanoe River State Park.
(16) Trine State Recreation Area.
(17) Whitewater Memorial State Park.

(b) In order to apply for a license under this SECTION, an individual must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by November 18, 2019, and possess one (1) of the following:

(1) A valid resident license to take deer issued pursuant to IC 14-22-12-1.
(2) A lifetime comprehensive hunting license issued pursuant to IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4), before its repeal.
(3) A lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license issued pursuant to IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5), before its repeal.

(c) All eligible applicants under this SECTION will be entered into a random drawing. In order for an applicant to qualify for a license, an application must be submitted online at https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/5834.htm before August 26, 2019. The department shall begin accepting online applications starting July 15, 2019.

(d) Individuals may apply as a single applicant. Up to three (3) individuals may be submitted as a unit on one (1) application so that all or none of the applicants will be selected to participate in the hunt. The submission by an individual of more than one (1) application per period disqualifies the individual (and any other individual submitting as a unit with the individual) from participating in the drawing. For the purposes of this subsection, one (1) period is November 18 through November 19, 2019, and the other period is December 2 through December 3, 2019.

(e) The drawing described in this SECTION shall be conducted on a random basis. Applicants can check the results of the drawing after August 30, 2019, online at https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/5834.htm.

(f) Each individual issued a license under this SECTION may be randomly assigned to specific management units with designated parking assignments. Each license holder must comply with any requirements set forth in the assignment. Each license holder must check-in and check-out at a designated area upon each arrival and departure to or from the property.

(g) The form of the license under this SECTION shall be as determined by the department. Each participant in the hunt must possess evidence of the license as specified by the department at all times while participating in the management hunt.

(h) Shooting hours will start thirty (30) minutes prior to sunrise, and conclude at 4:00 p.m. EST (3:00 p.m. CST).

(i) Individuals participating in a management hunt on a site identified in this SECTION must wear hunter orange that meets the specifications set forth in IC 14-22-38-7 at all times, including:
(1) a hat or cap; and
(2) a vest, coat, jacket, or coveralls.

(j) During the hunt, an individual must not take more than the following:
(1) Three (3) total deer.
(2) Included among the total deer taken, there must not be more than one (1) antlered deer.

(k) A deer taken under this SECTION does not apply to any bag limit for taking deer established by 312 IAC 9.

(l) All deer must be delivered to a designated check station within the state park.

(m) Notwithstanding subsections (n) and (o), an individual must not enter a state park described in this SECTION during the following periods from:
(1) 8:00 p.m. EST (7:00 p.m. CST) on Sunday, November 17 through 8:00 a.m. EST on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.
(2) 8:00 p.m. EST on Sunday, December 1 through 8:00 a.m. EST (7:00 a.m. CST) on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.

(n) An individual participating in the management hunt shall enter a state park only at a site designated by the department.

(o) In order to enter a state park, an individual must be one (1) of the following:
(1) An individual granted a license under this SECTION.
(2) A representative of the media.
(3) An employee of the department.
(4) Another individual with credentials supplied by the department.

(p) Except for Clifty Falls State Park, Fort Harrison State Park, and Trine State Recreation Area, deer may be taken only by firearms meeting the specifications set forth at 312 IAC 9-3-3. At Clifty Falls State Park, Fort Harrison State Park, and Trine State Recreation Area, deer may only be taken by bows and arrows and crossbows meeting the specifications set forth at 312 IAC 9-3-3.

(q) Only non-penetrating tree stands are permitted at any property and ground blinds are prohibited at all firearms properties. Ground blinds as defined at 312 IAC 9-1-7.6 and meeting specifications set forth at 312 IAC 9-2-15 are permitted at archery properties (Clifty Falls State Park, Fort Harrison State Park, and Trine State Recreation Area).

(r) An individual participating in the management hunt shall not possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any site designated in SECTION 1(a) *[subsection (a)]* **during the period for which they were drawn.**

SECTION 2. This document expires January 1, 2020.

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