

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

2017 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

1. 800:10-1-3. Additional definitions

- Add definition for OLAP - walk-in fishing areas and stream access means bodies of water designated as such under a lease agreement through the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) between the Department and the private landowner. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing private lands for public access, and existing rules may not specifically apply to this program. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

2. 800:10-1-4. Size limits on fish

- Set largemouth bass size limit on Bull Lake (soon to be open to public, Vinita, OK) at one (1) largemouth bass greater than 16 inches (>16"). Statewide bag limit of six (6) largemouth bass per day applies. Rules will establish management for a trophy bass fishery.

3. 800:10-3-5. Use of bow and arrow, grabhooks, gigs, spears, and spearguns, snagging, noodling and netting

- Close snagging from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in the areas east of I-35 and north of I-40 except the Miami City Park from the south boat ramp to the 125 Highway bridge which shall remain open. Rule change will allow law enforcement to consolidate efforts into all critical areas to protect paddlefish from illegal commercialization, exploitation and over harvest.

4. 800:10-5-3. Designated trout areas

- Allow the use of artificial baits and treble hooks with barbs when using hooks 3/0 or larger when fishing for species other than Rainbow and Brown Trout in the lower Illinois river trout stream below Tenkiller Dam. The use of natural bait is currently allowed with a barbed 3/0 hook or larger. Multiple hook lures are also allowed if they are barbless. This rule change will make the use of artificial or natural bait with multiple barbed hooks 3/0 or larger legal in this area.

5. 800:10-5-6. Lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams

- Add Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) regulations for walk-in fishing area and stream access. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing lands for public access. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

6. 800:20-2-3. Introduction of Aquatic Organisms [NEW]

Subchapter 2: ~~Fish~~ Fish Introductions Of Aquatic Organisms In Waters Of The State

- Re-name subchapter 2 to be more general for the introductions of aquatic organisms into the Waters of the State and add new section making it illegal to stock any aquatic organisms into Waters of the State without ODWC permission. Changes will ultimately restrict the stocking of non-native aquatic organisms into the Waters of the State.

7. 800:25-3-2. Areas open to archery equipment and shotgun with pellets only

Lake Texoma

Rule change would increase acreage available for public hunting opportunities. Specific changes include:

- Increase the acreage in the Willow Springs Area from 60 to 160 acres.
- Delete 100-acre unit on the north side of Alberta Creek. This area will be part of a new 550-acre archery only unit.
- Add 100-acre unit in the Buncombe Creek West Area.
- Add 12-acres to the 500-acre unit southwest of McLaughlin Creek Area and change the name designation to McLaughlin Creek Southwest Area, a 512-acre unit.
- Add 170-acres of hunting opportunity in the Oakview North Area.
- Open area north of Newberry Creek to same as statewide hunting rules.
- Delete 1000-acre unit in the Lakeside area. Add 650-acre unit in the Lakeside West and South Area. (330-acres will be opened to hunting under 800:25-3-5.)
- Delete 800-acre unit west of Platter. (Area will be opened to hunting under 800:25-3-5.)
- Add 420-acre unit in the Lebanon Area.
- Add 130-acre hunting unit in the Caney Creek Area

8. 800:25-3-3. Areas open to archery equipment only

Lake Texoma

Rule change increases archery hunting opportunity. These changes will simplify the hunting regulations in this area. Specific changes include:

- Add 100-acre unit in the Willafa Woods Area.
- Add 550-acre unit area in the Albert Creek Area (combines 3 existing units).
- Add 60-acre unit in the Colbert Boat Club Area
- Add 40-acre unit in the Oak Hills Area.
- Add 50-acre unit in the Buncombe Creek South Area.

9. 800:25-3-5. Areas open to archery equipment and all legal firearms other than centerfire rifles and handguns

Rule change increases acreage available for public hunting opportunities.

- Add new section for the following Lake Texoma Areas:
- Add 800-acre unit in the Platter Flats Area.
- Add 330-acre unit in the Streetman East Area.
- Add 400-acre unit in the Newberry Creek South Area.
- Add 220-acre unit in the Enos East Area.
- Add 115-acre unit in the Island View East Area.
- Add 350-acre unit in the Buncombe Creek East Area.

10. 800:25-7-3. General Provisions

- Allow deer hunters the use of a leashed tracking dog to help locate downed deer after obtaining game warden permission and having no means of take on person while tracking. Use of an unleashed dog to track is prohibited.

11. 800:25-7-31. Taking Provisions

- Restrict peregrine take by non-resident falconers to no more than 50% of the number allowed by US Fish and Wildlife Service. This rule change will ensure that at least one half of peregrine take opportunity in Oklahoma is by resident falconers.

12. 800:25-7-47. General provisions for antelope - archery

- Exempts persons with a current valid Oklahoma Land Access program (OLAP) permit from written landowner permission requirement when hunting on actively enrolled OLAP properties. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing private lands for public access. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

13. 800:25-7-56. General provisions for elk

- Exempts persons with a current valid Oklahoma Land Access program (OLAP) permit from written landowner permission requirement when hunting on actively enrolled OLAP properties. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing private lands for public access. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

14. 800:25-7-86.1. Camp Gruber Training Center (CGTC)

The purpose of the following changes are to edit and clarify wording of the memorandum of understanding between the Wildlife Department and Oklahoma Military Department.

- Adjust turkey season dates to 3rd Saturday in April through May 6.
- Open gate #6 for hunting access and alter gate closing times to start at 10 p.m.
- Set designated season on Hunt Areas #4 and #6, west of Hwy 10. Open October 1 through Martin Luther King Day, the 2-day youth spring turkey season, and same as statewide season dates for spring turkey season.

15. 800:25-7-97. Fobb Bottom WMA

- Close squirrel, common snipe and woodcock during first nine days of deer gun season. This rule change is intended to make hunting regulations consistent and reduce confusion for hunters.

16. 800:25-7-108. Hickory Creek WMA

These rule changes are intended to make hunting regulations consistent and reduce confusion for hunters. Specific changes include:

- Close predator/furbearer calling during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- Open deer archery season same as statewide season dates.

17. 800:25-7-120. Love Valley WMA

These rule changes are intended to make hunting regulations consistent and reduce confusion for hunters. Specific changes include:

- Close predator/furbearer calling during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- Open deer archery season same as statewide season dates.

18. 800:25-7-180. General Provisions for OLAP walk-in hunting areas [NEW]

800:25-7-181. OLAP walk-in hunting areas, seasons, and equipment restrictions [NEW]

800:25-7-182. OLAP wildlife-viewing areas, seasons, and equipment restrictions [NEW]

- Creates new rules specific to lands leased under the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) for walk-in hunting access and wildlife-viewing access. These rules add definitions specific to OLAP and create and allow enforcement of rules of use and behavior on walk-in areas allowing hunting access and wildlife-viewing access that are leased/administered under OLAP. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing private lands for public access. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

19. 800:25-9-12. General Antelope Regulations

- Exempts persons awarded an antelope permit through the Controlled Hunt Program and with a current valid Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) permit from written landowner permission requirement when hunting on actively enrolled OLAP properties. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing private lands for public access. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

20. 800:25-37-12. General Provisions

800:25-37-13. Exemptions

800:25-37-14. Specific Provisions

800:25-37-16. Feral Swine Night Shooting Exemptions [NEW]

- Following Governor's Executive Order 2016-16, add rules to allow landowners and their designees to shoot feral hogs at night. New rule will simplify exemption process.

21. 800:25-40-1. Purpose [NEW]

800:25-40-2. Definitions [NEW]

800:25-40-3. Qualifications and enrollment procedures [NEW]

800:25-40-4. Lease agreement [NEW]

800:25-40-5. Compensation [NEW]

800:25-40-6. Landowner responsibilities [NEW]

800:25-40-7. Department responsibilities [NEW]

800:25-40-8. Permit holder responsibilities [NEW]

800:25-40-9. Liability protection for private landowner [NEW]

800:25-40-10. Right to deny access [NEW]

800:25-40-11. Prohibited activities [NEW]

- Creates new rules specific to lands leased under the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP). These rules will deal with both program administration, as well as create and allow enforcement of rules of use and behavior on all lands leased/administered under OLAP. OLAP is a new program aimed at leasing private lands for public access. New rules specific to OLAP are necessary to administer the program and enforce regulations.

22. 800:30-1-8. Language, disorderly assemblage, noise or other disruptive acts

- Prohibit intoxicating beverage or low-point beer on shooting range parking areas due to safety concerns .

23. 800:30-1-14. Firearms

- Allow suppressors on Department managed lands.

24. 800:30-1-16. Shooting ranges

- Allow suppressors at shooting ranges owned or managed by the Department of Wildlife.