

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Amendment)

301 KAR 2:140. Requirements for wild turkey hunting.

RELATES TO: KRS 150.010, 150.170, 150.175, 150.305, 150.360, 150.990

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025(1), 150.390(1)

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, pursuant to statutory authority to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 150 as established in KRS 150.025 and as an independent department of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12 as established in KRS 150.021(1), promulgated by the Commissioner with approval of the Commission in accordance with KRS 150.010(1), does hereby certify this administrative regulation is promulgated in compliance with Section 8 of 2025 RS HB6.

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations to establish open seasons for the taking of wildlife, to regulate bag limits and methods of take, and to make such requirements apply to a limited area. KRS 150.390(1) requires that wild turkeys shall not be taken in any manner contrary to any provisions of KRS Chapter 150 or Title 301 KAR. This administrative regulation establishes legal methods of take and checking and recording requirements for wild turkey hunting.

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Adult" means an individual who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (2) "Archery equipment" means a long bow, recurve bow, or compound bow incapable of holding an arrow at full or partial draw without aid from the archer.
- (3) "Arrow" means the projectile fired from a bow or crossbow.
- (4) ~~[(1)]~~ "Baited area" means an area where feed, grains, or other substances capable of luring wildlife~~[wild turkeys]~~ have been placed.
- (5) "Bonus bird" means a wild turkey that does not count toward a statewide season bag limit as established in Section 6.
- (6) ~~[(2)]~~ "Crossbow" means a bow capable of holding an arrow at full or partial draw without human aid.
- (7) ~~[(3)]~~ "Fall turkey permit" means a permit that, in conjunction with appropriate licenses, seasons, and methods, allows a hunter to take~~[harvest]~~ up to the fall season bag limit of wild turkeys.
- ~~[(4)]~~ ~~["Junior turkey permit" means a permit that, in conjunction with appropriate licenses, seasons, and methods, allows a youth hunter to harvest one (1) turkey during a license year.]~~
- (8) "KDSS" means the Kentucky Direct Sales System.
- (9) "License year" means the period from March 1 through the last day of February.
- (10) "Special Area" means a tract of land listed in Section 6 where requirements for wild turkey hunting may differ from those established in this administrative regulation.
- (11) ~~[(5)]~~ "Spring turkey permit" means a permit that, in conjunction with appropriate licenses, seasons, and methods, allows a hunter to take~~[harvest]~~ up to the spring season bag limit of wild turkeys.
- (12) "Statewide wild turkey hunting requirements" means season dates, bag limits, and other requirements for wild turkey hunting established in this administrative regulation.
- (13) "Wild turkey" means the species Meleagris gallopavo.
- (14) "Wildlife Management Area" or "WMA" means a tract of land:

- (a) Controlled by the department through ownership, lease, license, or cooperative agreement; and
- (b) That has "Wildlife Management Area" or "WMA" as part of its official name.
- (15) ~~[(6)]~~ "Youth" means a person under the age of sixteen (16) by the day of the hunt.
- (16) "Youth turkey permit" means a permit that, in conjunction with appropriate licenses, seasons, and methods, allows a youth hunter to take one (1) wild turkey during a license year.

Section 2. License and Wild Turkey Permit Requirements.

- (1) Unless exempted by KRS 150.170, a person sixteen (16) years of age or older hunting wild turkeys shall carry a valid:
 - (a) Kentucky hunting license; and
 - (b) Spring turkey permit during a spring season; or
 - (c) Fall turkey permit during a fall season.
- (2) Unless exempted by KRS 150.170, a youth hunting wild turkeys shall carry a valid:
 - (a) Kentucky Youth Hunting License; and
 - (b) Youth turkey permit during a spring or fall season.
- (3) A person who is accompanying or calling a wild turkey for a legal hunter shall not be required to possess a hunting license or turkey permit.

~~[Section 2.] [Wild Turkey Season Dates and Bag Limits.]~~

- ~~[(1)] [A person shall only take a wild turkey during the seasons established in:]~~
- ~~[(a)] [301 KAR 2:142;]~~
- ~~[(b)] [301 KAR 2:144; and]~~
- ~~[(c)] [301 KAR 2:111.]~~
- ~~[(2)] [A person shall not harvest more than the established bag limits, pursuant to:]~~
- ~~[(a)] [301 KAR 2:142;]~~
- ~~[(b)] [301 KAR 2:144; and]~~
- ~~[(c)] [301 KAR 2:111.]~~

Section 3. Spring Seasons, Dates, Bag Limits, and Season-Specific Restrictions.

- (1) Spring seasons and dates. A person shall only take a wild turkey during:
 - (a) A statewide youth-only spring season, when a youth may hunt wild turkeys for two
 - (2) consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday in April;
 - (b) A statewide general spring season, when a youth or person sixteen (16) years of age or older may hunt wild turkeys for twenty-three (23) consecutive days beginning on the Saturday closest to April 15; and
 - (c) Other spring season dates on Special Areas as established in Section 6.
- (2) Bag limits. A person shall not take more than the following bag limits during the spring turkey season:
 - (a) A person sixteen (16) years of age or older hunting wild turkeys shall not take more than:
 - 1. One (1) male wild turkey per day statewide;
 - 2. One (1) male wild turkey per WMA per season; and
 - 3. Two (2) male wild turkeys per season statewide, except for bonus birds as established in Section 6.
 - (b) A youth hunting wild turkeys shall not take more than:
 - 1. One (1) wild turkey that is male or has a visible beard per day statewide;
 - 2. One (1) wild turkey that is male or has a visible beard per WMA per season; and
 - 3. Two (2) wild turkeys that are male or have visible beards per season statewide, except for bonus birds as established in Section 6.
- (3) Hunter restrictions during spring seasons.

- (a) A person sixteen (16) years of age or older hunting wild turkeys shall not take a female wild turkey during a spring season.
- (b) In an area open to wild turkey hunting and where wild turkeys are reasonably expected to occur, a person shall not mimic the sound of a wild turkey from:
 - 1. March 1 until the opening of the youth wild turkey season; and
 - 2. The close of the youth wild turkey season and the opening of the statewide wild turkey season.
- (c) A person shall not use a dog to aid in taking a wild turkey during a spring season.
- (d) A person shall not hunt or take wild turkeys:
 - 1. On a baited area; or
 - 2. For thirty (30) days after the bait has been removed from a baited area.
- (e) A field shall be considered a baited area if grain, feed, or other substance grown on the field is removed and later returned to the field. [License and Wild Turkey Permit Requirements. Unless exempted by KRS 150.170, a person hunting a wild turkey shall possess proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license and a valid:]
- ~~[(1)] [Spring turkey permit during the spring season;]~~
- ~~[(2)] [Fall turkey permit during a fall season; or]~~
- ~~[(3)] [Junior turkey permit, if applicable.]~~

Section 4. Fall Seasons, Dates, Bag Limits, and Season-Specific Restrictions.

- (1) Fall seasons and dates. A person shall only take a wild turkey during:
 - (a) A statewide fall archery season open from the first Saturday in September through the third Monday in January;
 - (b) Two (2) statewide fall crossbow seasons open:
 - 1. From October 1 through the end of the third full weekend in October; and
 - 2. From the second Saturday in November through December 31; and
 - (c) Two (2) statewide fall shotgun seasons open:
 - 1. For seven (7) consecutive days beginning the fourth Saturday in October; and
 - 2. For seven (7) consecutive days beginning the first Saturday in December.
 - (d) Other fall season dates established in Section 5 for WMAs or in Section 6 for Special Areas.
- (2) Bag limits. A person shall not take more than the following bag limits for the fall turkey season, except as established in Section 5 for WMAs or in Section 6 for Special Areas:
 - (a) One (1) wild turkey per day statewide.
 - (b) Two (2) wild turkeys in total across all statewide fall seasons per license year, of which only:
 - 1. One (1) shall have a visible beard at least three (3) inches long; and
 - 2. One (1) shall have no visible beard or a beard less than three (3) inches long.
- (3) Equipment restrictions during fall seasons. A person shall only use the following to take a wild turkey during fall seasons:
 - (a) During a fall archery season, archery equipment may be used to take a male wild turkey.
 - (b) During fall crossbow seasons, crossbows and archery equipment may be used to take a male wild turkey.
 - (c) During fall shotgun seasons:
 - 1. Shotguns, crossbows, and archery equipment may be used to take a male wild turkey.
 - 2. Shotguns may be used to take a female wild turkey.
- (4) Hunter restrictions during fall seasons.
 - (a) A person may use dogs to aid in taking a wild turkey during any fall season.

(b) A person shall not take a female wild turkey using archery equipment or a crossbow during any fall season.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (4)(d) of this section, a person shall not hunt or take wild turkeys:

1. On a baited area;
2. For thirty (30) days after the bait has been removed from a baited area; or
3. Within 600 feet of a baited area.

(d) A field shall be considered a baited area if grain, feed, or other substance grown on the field is removed and later returned to the field.

(e) The take restrictions established in subsection (4)(c) of this section shall not apply:

1. To bona fide agricultural practices;
2. To crop manipulation for a wildlife management purpose; or
3. Across property boundaries. [Harvest Recording.]

~~[(1)]~~

~~[(a)] [Immediately after harvesting a wild turkey, and prior to moving the carcass, a person shall record in writing on one (1) of the items established in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the:]~~

- ~~[1.] [Species taken;]~~
- ~~[2.] [Date taken;]~~
- ~~[3.] [County where taken; and]~~
- ~~[4.] [Sex of the wild turkey.]~~

~~[(b)] [A person who has harvested a turkey shall record the information established in paragraph (a) of this subsection on:]~~

- ~~[1.] [The hunter's log section on the reverse side of a license or permit;]~~
- ~~[2.] [A hunter's log printed from the Internet;]~~
- ~~[3.] [A hunter's log available from any KDSS agent; or]~~
- ~~[4.] [An index or similar card.]~~

~~[(2)] [A person shall retain and possess the completed hunter's log while the person is in the field during the current hunting season.]~~

Section 5. Wildlife Management Area Requirements.

(1) Unless specified in this section, statewide wild turkey hunting requirements shall apply to WMAs.

(2) Ballard Wildlife Management Area. A person shall not hunt wild turkeys during fall shotgun, crossbow, or archery seasons.

(3) Barren River WMA. On the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose Island, and Grass Island, a person:

- (a) Shall not use a breech-loading shotgun to hunt or take a wild turkey;
- (b) May use a muzzle loading shotgun or crossbow during a fall shotgun season; and
- (c) May use a crossbow during the fall archery season.

(4) Higginson-Henry WMA. A person shall not use a shotgun to hunt or take a wild turkey.

(5) Livingston County WMA. Statewide spring wild turkey seasons are open to youth only.

(6) Pioneer Weapons WMA. A person:

- (a) Shall not use the following to take a wild turkey during a spring season:
 1. A breech-loading shotgun; or
 2. A scope or optical enhancement; and
- (b) May use a crossbow to take a wild turkey during the fall archery wild turkey season.

(7) Robinson Forest WMA. A person shall not hunt wild turkeys on the main block of the WMA unless participating in a department-authorized hunt.

(8) Swan Lake Unit of Boatwright Wildlife Management Area. A person shall not hunt wild turkey during fall shotgun, crossbow, or archery seasons.

(9) West Kentucky WMA. A person shall not hunt wild turkeys during all statewide spring wild turkey seasons on tracts marked with the letter "A". ~~[Checking a Wild Turkey.]~~

~~[(1)] [A person shall check a harvested wild turkey by:]~~

~~[(a)] [Completing the telecheck process after calling (800) 245-4263 or completing the check-in process on the department's Web site at fw.ky.gov.]~~

~~[1.] [Before midnight on the day the wild turkey is recovered; and]~~

~~[2.] [Prior to processing the carcass; and]~~

~~[(b)] [Writing the check-in authorization number on the hunter's log as established in Section 4 of this administrative regulation.]~~

~~[(2)] [A person shall:]~~

~~[(a)] [Not knowingly provide false information in completing the hunter's log, checking a wild turkey, or creating a carcass tag; or]~~

~~[(b)] [Check a wild turkey before transporting it out of Kentucky.]~~

~~[(3)] [If a hunter transfers possession of a harvested wild turkey, the hunter shall attach to the carcass a hand-made tag containing:]~~

~~[(a)] [A valid confirmation number;]~~

~~[(b)] [The hunter's name; and]~~

~~[(c)] [The hunter's telephone number.]~~

Section 6. Special Area Requirements.

(1) Unless specified in this section, statewide wild turkey hunting requirements shall apply to the areas listed.

(2) Except on the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Jefferson National Forest, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, and Hidden Valley Training Area, on the areas listed in this section, a hunter shall:

(a) Obtain any necessary permits from the area before hunting wild turkeys;

(b) Not hunt wild turkeys except on assigned hunting dates;

(c) Remain in assigned areas; and

(d) Follow all applicable federal-, local-, or area-specific requirements.

(3) Bluegrass Army Depot, Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Campbell Military Reservation, Fort Knox Military Reservation, Green River National Wildlife Refuge, Hidden Valley Training Area, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center may permit:

(a) Spring wild turkey hunting for up to twenty-three (23) days between the last Saturday in March and the second Sunday in May;

(b) Fall shotgun wild turkey hunting from October 15 through January 31; and

(c) Fall archery or crossbow wild turkey hunting from the first Saturday in September through the third Monday in January.

(4) A wild turkey taken on the following areas shall be considered a bonus bird:

(a) Bluegrass Army Depot;

(b) Fort Campbell; and

(c) Fort Knox.

(5) Specific requirements for wild turkey hunting apply to the following areas:

(a) Bluegrass Army Depot. A person shall not:

1. Use bait, feed, minerals, or other attractants.

2. A wild turkey taken at the Bluegrass Army Depot shall be a bonus bird that shall not count toward a hunter's statewide bag limit.

(b) Daniel Boone National Forest and Jefferson National Forest. A person shall not use bait, feed, minerals, or other attractants.

(c) Fort Campbell.

1. A wild turkey taken at Fort Campbell shall be a bonus bird that shall not count toward a hunter's statewide bag limit.

2. A person may take one (1) white turkey of either sex during open Fort Campbell hunting seasons.

3. Statewide and post limits and tagging requirements shall not apply to white turkey.

(d) Fort Knox Military Reservation. A wild turkey taken at Fort Knox shall be a bonus bird that shall not count toward a hunter's statewide bag limit.

(e) Hidden Valley Training Area. A person shall not:

1. Hunt wild turkeys; or

2. Use bait, feed, minerals, or other attractants.

(f) Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

1. A person shall not take more than:

a. One (1) wild turkey of either sex during deer archery season; and

b. One (1) wild turkey with a visible beard during the spring wild turkey quota hunt.

2. Quota hunters shall:

a. Apply in advance at Land Between the Lakes; and

b. Abide by the shooting hours of one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

3. A person taking a wild turkey shall:

a. Check the carcass as required by the USDA Forest Service;

b. Affix a Land Between the Lakes game check card as required by the USDA Forest Service; and

c. Not use bait, feed, minerals, or other attractants.

(g) Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge. A person shall not take more than one (1) wild turkey. [Weapon and Ammunition Restrictions.]

~~[(1)] [A person shall only use for the purpose of taking a wild turkey:]~~

~~[(a)] [A crossbow or archery equipment loaded with a non-barbed broadhead that has a minimum cutting diameter of seven-eighths (7/8) inch, whether:]~~

~~[1.] [Expandable; or]~~

~~[2.] [Non-expandable; or]~~

~~[(b)]~~

~~[1.] [A .410 shotgun or larger, but no larger than a ten (10) gauge shotgun; and]~~

~~[2.] [A shell containing shot of size no larger than number four (4).]~~

~~[(2)] [A crossbow shall be equipped with a working safety device.]~~

Section 7. Equipment Restrictions.

(1) A person shall only use for the purpose of taking a wild turkey:

(a) A crossbow or archery equipment loaded with a non-barbed broadhead that has a minimum cutting diameter of seven-eighths (7/8) inch, whether expandable or non-expandable; or

(b) A shotgun:

1. No smaller than .410 but no larger than a ten (10) gauge; and

2. That fires a shell containing shot no larger than number four (4).

(2) A crossbow shall be equipped with a working safety device. [Hunter Restrictions.]

~~[(1)] [A person shall not hunt wild turkeys on a baited area or by the aid of baiting:]~~

~~[(a)] [While bait is present; or]~~

~~[(b)] [For thirty (30) days after the bait has been removed.]~~

~~[(2)] [A person may hunt wild turkeys on an area where grain, feed, or other substance exists as the result of:]~~

~~[(a)] [A bona fide agricultural practice; or]~~

~~[(b)] [Manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose.]~~

~~[(3)] [A field shall be considered baited if grain, feed, or other substance grown on the field is removed and later returned to the field.]~~

~~[(4)] [A person hunting wild turkeys:]~~

~~[(a)] [May use a hand or mouth-operated call; and]~~

~~[(b)] [Shall not:]~~

~~[1.] [Use a dog to aid in taking a wild turkey during the spring season;]~~

~~[2.] [Hunt from a boat;]~~

~~[3.] [Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device;]~~

~~[4.] [Use a live decoy; or]~~

~~[5.] [Harvest a roosting turkey.]~~

~~[(5)] [In an area open to wild turkey hunting and where wild turkeys are reasonably expected to occur, a person shall not mimic the sound of a wild turkey from:]~~

~~[(a)] [March 1 until the opening of the youth turkey season; and]~~

~~[(b)] [The close of the youth turkey season and the opening of the statewide turkey season.]~~

~~[(6)] [While hunting wild turkeys, a youth with a firearm shall be accompanied by an adult who can immediately take control of the firearm.]~~

Section 8. Hunter Restrictions.

(1) A person shall only hunt wild turkeys from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(2) A youth hunting wild turkeys with a shotgun shall be accompanied by an adult who can immediately take control of the shotgun.

(3) A person shall not hunt or take wild turkeys:

(a) From a boat;

(b) With the aid of or while in possession of an electronic or digital calling device;

(c) With the aid of a live decoy; or

(d) When wild turkeys are roosting.

(4) A person may hunt wild turkeys with the aid of a hand or mouth-operated call.

Section 9. Harvest Recording.

(1) Immediately after taking a wild turkey, and before moving the carcass, a person shall record in writing the:

(a) Species as "wild turkey" or "turkey";

(b) Date when the wild turkey was taken;

(c) County where the wild turkey was taken; and

(d) Sex of the wild turkey taken on one (1) of the following:

1. The hunter's log section on the reverse side of the license or permit;

2. The hunter's log produced in a hunting guide;

3. A hunter's log printed from the internet;

4. A hunter's log available from any KDSS agent; or

5. An index or similar card.

(2) A person shall retain and possess the completed hunter's log while hunting during the current season.

Section 10. Checking a Wild Turkey.

(1) A person shall check a wild turkey:

(a) Before midnight on the day the wild turkey was recovered;

(b) Before processing the carcass;

- (c) By either:
 - 1. Calling "Telecheck" at (800) 245-4263 to provide the requested information by telephone; or
 - 2. Logging into "My Profile" on the department's website at fw.ky.gov to provide the requested information online.
- (2) A person who has checked in a wild turkey shall record the check-in confirmation number on the hunter's log.
- (3) If a hunter transfers possession of a wild turkey, or if the wild turkey is out of the hunter's possession, the hunter shall attach to the carcass a hand-made tag containing:
 - (a) The confirmation number;
 - (b) The hunter's name; and
 - (c) The hunter's telephone number.
- (4) . A person shall:
 - (a) Not knowingly provide false information while:
 - 1. Completing the hunter's log;
 - 2. Checking a wild turkey; or
 - 3. Creating a carcass tag; and
 - (b) Check a wild turkey before transporting it out of Kentucky.

RICH STORM, Commissioner

APPROVED BY AGENCY: September 11, 2026

FILED WITH LRC: September 14, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on November 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at KDFWR Administration Building, 1 Sportsman Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing was received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through November 30, 2026. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Sportsman Lane, (502) 564-3400, fax: (502) 564-0506, email: fw.publicaffairs@ky.gov

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact Person:Jenny Gilbert, **Phone:** 502-564-3400, **Email:** fw.publicaffairs@ky.gov

Subject Headings:Fish and Wildlife, Hunting, Conservation

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:

This regulation establishes season dates, bag limits, shooting hours, and other requirements for wild turkey hunting in Kentucky.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

To regulate wild turkey hunting for the effective management of wild turkeys in Kentucky.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations establishing hunting seasons, bag limits, and the methods of taking wildlife, including wild turkeys. KRS 150.390(1) prohibits a person from taking, pursuing, or molesting a wild turkey in any manner contrary to the provisions of Chapter 150 or its administrative regulations.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

This administrative regulation will assist in administering the above statutes by defining the seasons, bag limits, and methods of taking wild turkeys in Kentucky.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:

This amendment will consolidate language from three (3) other regulations for consistency and simplicity for future amendments, including 301 KAR 2:111, 2:142, and 2:144, each of which carry definitions and specific requirements. Definitions are added for consistency with other regulations and to constitute changes, such as what constitutes a legal wild turkey. For spring turkey season, take of female turkeys with a visible beard (hereafter "bearded hens") is made illegal except for youth hunters. For fall turkey seasons, take of any female turkey with archery equipment or crossbow is made illegal. This amendment also accommodates the addition of Green River National Wildlife Refuge to the list of "Special Areas" where turkeys may be hunted per federal or local requirements.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:

This amendment is necessary to enact changes to turkey hunting regulations.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

See 1(c) above.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

See 1(d) above.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?No.

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:

All hunters that pursue wild turkeys during the spring hunting season will be affected by this regulatory amendment. In 2026, there were approximately 80,000 licensed turkey hunters in Kentucky. All hunters that pursue wild turkeys during fall archery and crossbow turkey hunting seasons will be affected by this regulatory amendment. The number of fall turkey archery and crossbow hunters is unknown. We do know that in 2025, there were approximately 199,089 license holders eligible to have fall turkey hunted, of which approximately 20% (27,437) reported in surveys that they fall turkey hunted.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

Adult spring wild turkey hunters will no longer be allowed to take bearded hens, but a subset of them will have the opportunity to hunt turkeys at Green River National Wildlife Refuge per federal requirements. All fall turkey hunters will no longer be allowed to take bearded hens with archery or crossbow equipment, but a subset of them will have the opportunity to hunt turkeys at Green River National Wildlife Refuge per federal requirements.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):

There will be no additional costs to those identified in question (4).

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):

In theory, turkey hunters could possibly realize some small level of localized turkey population growth resulting from increased survival of female turkeys via the two female-turkey-related regulations changes being made. On average, fewer than 300 bearded hens get taken by hunters legally, statewide, and annually, and fewer than 400 female turkeys are taken by bow and crossbow statewide. Combined, this level of hunter take -- less than 1% of the female turkey population removed each year -- does not constitute a significant effect on the turkey population or future opportunities for Kentucky turkey hunters. The effect of adding Green River National Wildlife Refuge to the list of Special Areas regulated will be to add hunting opportunities, but only for youth, senior, and disabled hunters.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially:

This administrative regulation change will result in no initial change in administrative cost to the Department.

(b) On a continuing basis:

There will be no additional cost on a continuing basis.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment:

The source of funding is the State Game and Fish Fund.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

It will not be necessary to increase any other fees or increase funding to implement this administrative regulation.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:

No new fees will be established.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?

No. Tiering was not used because all persons who hunt wild turkeys are required to abide by the same requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation:

KRS 150.025(1), 150.390(1).

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act:

Not applicable (N/A)

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):

No local entities will be impacted.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):

N/A.

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A.

For subsequent years:N/A.

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a)

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:

In spring seasons, all turkey hunters pursue male wild turkeys (hereafter "gobblers") because of gobbling and strutting behaviors, which bearded female turkeys do not exhibit. For the past 5 years, fewer than 300 hunters per year have taken a bearded hen turkey, and in practically all such cases, take was incidental to hunters's™ pursuit of gobblers. Making take of bearded hens illegal will not limit the number of spring turkey hunters, therefore there will be no fiscal impact. In fall seasons, approximately 20,000-30,000 hunters hunt turkeys. The number of them that hunt using each of the legal equipment types (shotgun, archery, crossbow) is unknown. However, KDFWR data show that fewer than 400 turkeys per year are taken with a bow or crossbow statewide. For comparison, 80,000-100,000 license holders hunt turkeys during the spring season and take 30,000-35,000 male wild turkeys. Thus, making the take of female turkeys with a bow or crossbow in fall illegal will have little if any fiscal impact on license sales. The addition of Green River National Wildlife Refuge will add turkey hunting opportunity, but only for youth, senior, and disabled hunters. Thus, this is unlikely to result in an appreciable increase in the number of hunting licenses sold.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

KDFWR take and survey data on license sales and hunter participation, no personally identifiable information, and hunting requirements published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):

These regulation changes will not have a "Major economic impact".

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

Experience of KDFWR staff.