

Program: Wildlife Management

Subject: Bird Dog Training Licensing Process Improvement

Length of Public Review Input Period: 21 Days

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The training of bird hunting dogs is a popular activity in Wisconsin. To make bird dog training more accessible to trainers, the Department is improving the licensing process and opening additional lands to dog training.

The bird dog training license will now allow a bird dog trainer to train a dog on any designated dog training grounds on state properties, or on private land with landowner permission. Previously, dog trainers were required to obtain individual permits for each property on which they wished to train their dogs.

The department also plans to open new areas to dog training. There are currently two classes of dog training grounds in Wisconsin. Class 1 dog training grounds are posted, marked or designated department lands, specifically identified in Wisconsin Administrative Code, where bird dog training is authorized year-round. These include training grounds at the Richard Bong State Recreation Area, the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern and Ottawa Units, the George Mead Wildlife Area, the Lower Wisconsin Riverway – Mazomanie Unit and the Pine Island Wildlife Area. Dog trainers may use horses where approved by the department.

Class 2 dog training grounds are those department lands not identified in the code but that are approved by the department. The department is establishing additional Class 2 dog training grounds on state owned properties to increase opportunities for hunting dog owners to train their dogs on state land. Eventually, the department hopes to establish at least one Class 2 dog training ground in counties of the state where public demand exists and there are adequate state lands.

Bird Dog Training Licensing Process Improvements

The training of bird hunting dogs is a popular activity in Wisconsin. To make bird dog training more accessible to trainers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is improving the licensing process and opening additional lands to dog training.

As authorized by state code, the department allows trainers to train bird hunting dogs on state properties. However, a bird dog training license is required for dog training on state lands as well as on private land. The license application process is being simplified to provide improved customer service.

The bird dog training license will now allow a bird dog trainer to train a dog on any designated dog training grounds on state properties, or on private land with landowner permission. Previously, dog trainers were required to obtain individual permits for each property on which they wished to train their dogs.

A bird dog training license allows the trainer to possess and use the following live captive-bred species for dog training purposes on designated public lands or on private lands with permission of the landowner: bobwhite and other quail species of the subfamily *odontophorinae*, gray partridge (Hungarian), chukar, and red-legged partridge, mallard duck, bred in captivity, ring-necked and Reeves pheasants.

The DNR has established new dog training Web pages (www.dnr.wi.gov, keyword "dog training") which contains information regarding the new licensing process, property maps identifying dog training locations and the simplified application form. The improved application process will start on June, 2015. Applicants will be able to complete the application on their computer, print the completed form and take it to the nearest Department Service Center for approval and to receive their leg bands. Applications will also be accepted by mail.

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Below is a listing of state properties with existing dog training grounds that property managers have approved for bird dog training through the current licensing process, and a listing of proposed bird dog training grounds on department properties.

The proposed bird dog training grounds identified below are not expected to have a significant impact on the property since there is little or no facility development (i.e. parking lots, roads, etc.) needed to access these areas. Also, many of the sites have served as dog training grounds under the former licensing process.

State Properties with Existing Dog Training Grounds (by County)

Calumet County

- Brillion Wildlife Area

Columbia County

- Pine Island Wildlife Area (Class 1)
- Duck Creek Public Hunting Ground

Dane County

- Mazomanie Unit (Class 1) – Lower Wisconsin Scenic Riverway
- Deansville Wildlife Area

Dodge County

- Horicon Wildlife Area

Douglas County

- Douglas County Wildlife Area

Fond du lac County

- Eldorado Wildlife Area

Grant County

- Boscobel Unit - Lower Wisconsin Scenic Riverway

Jefferson County

- Jefferson County Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area
- Lake Mills Wildlife Area

Kenosha County

- Richard Bong state Recreation Area (Class 1)

Kewaunee County

- Buzz Besadny Fish & Wildlife Area

La Crosse County

- La Crosse River Scattered Wetland Area

Manitowoc County

- Collins Marsh Wildlife Area

Marathon County

- George Mead Wildlife Area (Class 1)

Marinette County

- Green Bay West Shores - Pestigo Harbor Unit

Outagamie County

- Lower Wolf River Bottoms – Herb Behnke Unit

Portage/Waupaca Counties

- Radley Creek Fishery Area

Racine County

- Tichigan Marsh Wildlife Area

St. Croix County

- Casey Lake Wildlife Area
- Willow River Wildlife Area

Shawano/Waupaca Counties

- Navarino Wildlife Area

Sheboygan County

- Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit (Class 1)
- LaBudde Creek fishery Area

Waukesha County

- Kettle Moraine State Forest – Ottawa Unit (Class 1)
- Vernon Wildlife Area

Walworth County

- Troy Habitat Area

Waushara County

- Poysippi Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area

Winnebago County

- Rat River Wildlife Area

State Properties with Proposed Dog Training Grounds (by County):

Adams County

- Leola Wildlife Area (Staples Parcel)

Barron County

- Galbraith Extensive Wildlife Habitat

Burnett County

- Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

Chippewa County

- Tom Lawin Wildlife Area

Crawford County

- Kickapoo River Wildlife Area – Bell Center Unit

Door County

- Gardner Wildlife Area
- Mud Lake Wildlife Area

Dunn County

- Dunnville Wildlife Area
- Big Beaver Creek Wildlife Area

Green Lake & Marquette Counties

- White River Marsh Wildlife Area

Jackson County

- South Beaver Creek Wildlife Area

Juneau County

- Union Center Public Hunting Grounds

Langlade County

- Ackley Wildlife Area

Marathon County

- Konkol Property

Pepin County

- Waterville Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area

Polk County

- Omer Springs Fisheries Area

Price County

- Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area

Taylor County

- Pershing Wildlife Area

Trempealeau County

- Lakes Coulee Wildlife Area

Washburn County

- Bean Brook Fishery Area

Washington County

- Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area
- Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area

For additional information please contact:

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