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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Board of Wildlife Resources
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	4VAC15-40; 4VAC15-50; 4VAC15-70; 4VAC15-90, 4VAC15-240
VAC Chapter title(s)	Game: In General; Game: Bear; Game: Bobcat; Game: Deer; Game: Turkey
Action title	Harvest reporting requirements for certain game species
Final agency action date	May 25, 2023
Date this document prepared	June 2, 2023

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Currently, the department's harvest reporting regulations for certain game species are outlined in multiple chapters and multiple regulation sections in those chapters. These regulation amendments establish a new, single regulation section in Chapter 40 outlining requirements for reporting the harvest of certain game species and enable the repeal of eight (8) existing regulation sections (4VAC15-40-300, 4VAC15-50-81, 4VAC15-50-91, 4VAC15-70-70, 4VAC15-90-231, 4VAC15-90-241, 4VAC15-240-81, and 4VAC15-240-91). This action also establishes a requirement for reporting the harvest of gray foxes for which populations have declined significantly over the past few decades and updates the harvest reporting regulation section reference in those regulation sections that provide for elk hunting inside and outside the Elk Management Zone.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

The impetus for these regulatory amendments is the Board's biennial periodic review of its hunting, trapping, and wildlife-related regulations. Internal staff review and consideration of public input through the Board's regulation review and amendment process deemed these amendments advisable.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

The Board of Wildlife Resources adopted these final amendments to regulations found in 4VAC15-40; 4VAC15-50; 4VAC15-70; 4VAC15-90, 4VAC15-240 (Game: In General; Game: Bear; Game: Bobcat; Game: Deer; Game: Turkey) at its meeting held on May 25, 2023.