



WILD ANIMAL HUNTING PRESERVE REQUIREMENTS

The laws governing this license may change periodically. License holders are required to maintain a knowledge and understanding of all laws pertaining to this license and to comply with all requirements contained in the laws. The most up-to-date version of the law can be found at codes.ohio.gov/.

DEFINITION

“Wild animal hunting preserve” means an area of land where game, captive white-tailed deer, and nonnative wildlife other than game birds, are released and hunted as authorized by the wild animal hunting preserve license obtained under 1533.721 of the Ohio Revised Code.

GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

1. New wild animal hunting preserve license cost: \$1,000.00. Renewal licenses cost: \$200.00. Preserves that contain only captive white-tailed deer: After the initial license fee, there is no renewal cost.
2. The license will expire on the thirtieth (30) day of April each year. Preserves that contain only captive white-tailed deer - the initial license does not expire.
3. New permits will only be approved from January 1-March 31 of each year.
4. Licensee must own or lease preserve land.
5. The preserve shall be one contiguous block of land.
6. Minimum preserve size: 80 acres.
7. Wild animal hunting preserves shall not be located within 1500 feet of another such preserve.
8. Preserve must be surrounded by an approved fence as currently specified in 1533.731 of the Ohio Revised Code.
9. The boundaries of the preserve must be posted with signs prescribed by the Division of Wildlife. Signs must be posted at intervals of no more than 400 feet.
10. Licensee is responsible to drive all existing white-tailed deer from the preserve enclosure before license will be issued.
11. Wild white-tailed deer that cannot be driven from the enclosure may be killed only after approval has been given from a Division of Wildlife officer or representative.
12. No propagated wild animals or nonnative wildlife shall be released into the enclosure before the hunting preserve license is issued.
13. All game and nonnative wildlife, except white-tailed deer, released on a wild animal hunting preserve shall be identified with a tag that shall bear upon it a symbol identifying the preserve. Captive white-tailed deer must be tagged according to Ohio Department of Agriculture standards.
14. An Ohio Department of Agriculture license is also required for wild animal hunting preserves that have captive white-tailed deer.
15. Propagated game, captive white-tailed deer, and nonnative wildlife, approved by the chief of the Division of Wildlife may be hunted between one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset without regard to sex, bag limit, or open season. Other wild animals can be hunted on the preserve only during the open seasons for that species.
16. Game birds may not be hunted on the preserve unless the preserve is also licensed as a commercial bird shooting preserve.
17. No game or nonnative wildlife on the federal or state endangered species list, no bears native to North America, and no large carnivores of the family Felidae shall be released for hunting or hunted in any wild animal hunting preserve in this state.
18. No animals can be hunted immediately after being released into the shooting preserve.
19. A hunting license is not required to hunt for game, captive white-tailed deer, and nonnative wildlife released on the wild animal hunting preserve.
20. A list of all wild animal hunting preserves may be obtained from the Division of Wildlife by contacting any district office.
21. For additional information visit wildohio.com or contact the wildlife district office in your area or the wildlife officer assigned to the county where you live.



SIGN REQUIREMENTS:

1. Lettering and layout as shown here:
2. Dimensions: 10 inches by 14 inches minimum.
3. Material: Durable, weather resistant
4. Posting: place signs no more than 400 feet apart and at least four feet above the ground.

Sections of the Ohio Revised Code dealing with Wild Animal Hunting Preserves

Up-to-date laws can be found at: codes.ohio.gov/

1533.721 Wild animal hunting preserve license - conditions.

(A) Except as otherwise provided by division rule, no person shall offer for hunting or hunt any nonnative wildlife except in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve. No person shall operate a wild animal hunting preserve without first obtaining a wild animal hunting preserve license issued by the chief of the Division of Wildlife under this section.

(B) Application for a wild animal hunting preserve license shall be made on a form prescribed by the chief and shall be accompanied by a license application fee of \$1,000.00. The application shall contain a list of which species of game and nonnative wildlife are to be released for hunting in the preserve and any other information required by the chief.

(C) The chief, upon payment of the application fee, shall issue to the applicant a wild animal hunting preserve license if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The operation of the wild animal hunting preserve does not conflict with a prior reasonable public interest;

(2) The proposed wild animal hunting preserve meets the requirements established in division (A) of section 1533.731 of the Ohio Revised Code;

(3) The applicant is the owner or lessee of the land described in the application and maintains his status as the owner or lessee of the land until the license expires.

(4) The proposed wild animal hunting preserve has been inspected by a representative of the Division of Wildlife to ensure that all wild deer have been removed from the proposed wild animal hunting preserve before any game or nonnative wildlife are released into the preserve.

(D) Prior to an inspection of a proposed wild animal hunting preserve for purposes of division (C)(4) of this section, an applicant for a wild animal hunting preserve license shall remove all wild deer from the proposed preserve using a method that is approved by the chief. All wild deer that cannot be removed from the proposed wild animal hunting preserve shall be killed, and the applicant shall submit a restitution fee in accordance with section 1531.201 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(E) Inspection of a proposed wild animal hunting preserve shall be conducted and approval or disapproval of an initial license for such a preserve shall be made between the first day of January through the last day of March of the year in which the applicant first intends to operate the preserve.

(F) Upon receipt of the initial license for a wild animal hunting preserve, receipt of a license under section 943.03 or 943.031 of the Ohio Revised Code, and a demonstration to the chief or the chief's designee that each captive white-tailed deer held by the licensee was legally acquired, the licensee may place all of the licensee's deer in the wild animal hunting preserve. A wild animal hunting preserve licensee holding captive white-tailed deer in the preserve shall comply with this chapter and Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code, division rules, sections 943.20 to 943.26 of the Revised Code, and rules adopted under section 943.24 of the Revised Code.

(G)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (G)(2) of this section, all licenses issued under this section shall expire on the thirtieth (30) day of April of each year. Any license holder wishing to own or operate a wild animal hunting preserve in the year following the expiration of the license shall submit a license renewal form prescribed by the chief and include an annual renewal fee of \$200.00.

(2) A license issued under this section for a wild animal hunting preserve in which only captive white-tailed deer are kept does not expire unless the license is revoked by the chief under division (H)(2) of this section.

(H)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(2) of this section, and in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Ohio Revised Code, the chief may suspend or revoke a wild animal hunting preserve license if the chief finds that the license holder has violated or is violating this chapter or Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code or any division rule.

(2) The chief, with approval of the director of agriculture, may suspend or revoke a wild animal hunting preserve license issued to a person who also has been issued a valid license for that preserve under section 943.03 or 943.031 of the Ohio Revised Code in the person fails to comply with this chapter and Chapter 1531. of the Revised Code, division rules, sections 943.20 to 943.26 of the Revised Code, and rules adopted under section 943.24 of the Revised Code.

(I) This section does not authorize the hunting of game birds in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve unless the licensee also possesses a valid commercial bird shooting preserve license issued under section 1533.72 of the Ohio Revised Code for the same land for which the wild animal hunting preserve license was issued.

1533.731 Wild animal hunting preserves-regulations.

(A) No wild animal hunting preserve shall be less than 80 acres in area. Each such preserve shall be in one continuous block of land, except that the block of land may be intersected by highways or roads. No wild animal hunting preserve shall be located within 1,500 feet of another such preserve or of a commercial bird shooting preserve licensed under section 1533.72 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The boundaries of each wild animal hunting preserve shall be clearly defined by posting, at intervals of not more than 400 feet, with signs prescribed by the Division of Wildlife. Each wild animal hunting preserve shall be surrounded by a fence at least eight feet in height, with a minimal deviation not to exceed 4 percent, that is constructed of a woven wire mesh, or such other enclosure approved by the chief of the Division of Wildlife.

(B)(1) Except as provided in divisions (B)(2) and (3) of this section, game and nonnative wildlife that have been approved by the chief for such use and that have been legally acquired or propagated under the authority of a propagating license issued under section 1533.71 of the Ohio Revised Code, or propagated within the confines of a licensed wild animal hunting preserve may be released and hunted within the confines of the licensed wild animal hunting preserve between one-half hour sunrise and one-half hour after sunset, without regard to sex, bag limit, or open season, by hunters authorized by the holder of the wild animal hunting preserve license to hunt on those lands. The chief shall establish, by rule, the allowable methods of taking game and nonnative wildlife in a wild animal hunting preserve.

(2) No game or nonnative wildlife on the federal endangered species list established in accordance with the "Endangered Species Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 884, 16 U.S.C.A. 1531, as amended, or the state endangered species list established in rules adopted under section 1531.25 of the Ohio Revised Code, no bears native to North America, and no large carnivores of the family Felidae shall be released for hunting or hunted in any wild animal hunting preserve in this state.

(3) No person shall release for hunting or hunt within a wild animal hunting preserve any game or nonnative wildlife not listed in the application for a license for that preserve.

(C) Unless otherwise specified by division rule, all game and nonnative wildlife released on a wild animal hunting preserve shall be identified with a tag that shall bear upon it a symbol identifying the preserve.

(D) No person shall remove living game or nonnative wildlife from a wild animal hunting preserve unless the game or nonnative wildlife are being transferred to another wild animal hunting preserve in accordance with rules adopted by the director of agriculture under section 943.24 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(E) The holder of a wild animal hunting preserve license shall keep a record of all animals that have been released into the preserve. The record shall include all of the following:

- (1) The date on which each animal was released into the preserve;
- (2) The number of each species of animals;
- (3) The number of males and females of each species of animals;
- (4) The name and address of each person from whom each animal was obtained.

The licensee shall record in a manner specified by the division the name and address of each person that takes any game or nonnative wildlife from the preserve. The licensee shall maintain those records for a period of two years and make them available for inspection by the division at all reasonable times in conjunction with an active criminal investigation.

(F) In addition to complying with the requirements established by division (E) of this section, the holder of a wild animal hunting preserve license who has captive white-tailed deer in the preserve shall keep a record of all known escapes of those deer, deaths of those deer that were not a result of hunting, and laboratory results for testing for chronic wasting disease of those deer that is required by section 943.21 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules adopted under section 943.24 of the Revised Code.

(G) For the purposes of division (B) of section 1533.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, the owner or operator of a wild animal hunting preserve shall furnish each person who takes any game or nonnative wildlife from the preserve a certificate bearing a description of the animal, the date the animal was taken, and the name of the preserve.

(H) The holder of a wild animal hunting preserve license prominently shall display the license at the place of business that is specified in the license.

(I) The chief shall adopt rules under section 1531.10 of the Ohio Revised Code that provide for the safety of the public and for the protection of the game and nonnative wildlife to be hunted in a wild animal hunting preserve prior to their release in the preserve.

(J) No holder of a wild animal hunting preserve license shall violate this chapter or Chapter 1531. of the Ohio Revised Code or any division rule.

(K) This section does not authorize the hunting of game birds in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve unless the licensee also possesses a valid commercial bird shooting preserve license issued under section 1533.72 of the Ohio Revised Code for the same land for which the wild animal hunting preserve license was issued.

(L) A person may hunt game and nonnative wildlife in a licensed wild animal hunting preserve without obtaining a hunting license otherwise required by section 1533.10 of the Revised Code or a deer permit otherwise required by section 1533.11 of the Revised Code.

1533.74 Tag or seal required for animals sold for food.

No game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals held under the authority of a license issued under section 1533.71, 1533.72, or 1533.721 shall be sold for food unless the carcass of each game bird, game quadruped, or fur-bearing animal is tagged with a suitable tag or seal approved by the Division of Wildlife. Game birds, game quadrupeds, and fur-bearing animals so killed and tagged may be possessed, bought, or sold at any time. Common carriers shall receive and transport game birds, game quadrupeds, and fur-bearing animals so tagged, but to every package containing them shall be affixed a tag or label upon which shall be plainly printed or written the name of the person to whom the license was issued, the name of the person to whom they are to be transported, the number of game birds, game quadrupeds, or fur-bearing animals contained in the package, and a statement to the effect that they were killed and tagged in accordance with sections 1533.71 to 1533.79 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The chief of the Division of Wildlife may adopt rules under section 1531.10 of the Ohio Revised Code necessary to administer this section.

This section and rules adopted pursuant to it do not apply to meat that has been inspected by the Department of Agriculture under Chapter 918. of the Ohio Revised Code and rules adopted under it and that has been marked with an official inspection mark, stamp, or brand pursuant to that inspection.

1533.79 Control or eradication of parasites and diseases.

(A) The chief of the Division of Wildlife may adopt, amend, and rescind such rules as the chief considers necessary to control or eradicate parasites and diseases of domesticated or semi-wild game birds, game quadrupeds other than captive white-tailed deer, fur-bearing animals, or nonnative wildlife on the lands subject to sections 1533.70 to 1533.80 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(B) This chapter and Chapter 1531. of the Ohio Revised Code and division rules do not supersede the authority of the director of agriculture under Chapter 941. of the Revised Code to prevent the spread of dangerously contagious or infectious diseases and to provide for the control and eradication of such diseases.

Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-9-07 Wild animal hunting preserves.

(A) Methods of take

(1) It shall be unlawful to take any game, captive white-tailed deer, or nonnative wildlife from a wild animal hunting preserve by any method other than hunting:

- (a) with a gun;
- (b) with a gun and a dog;
- (c) with a bow and arrow;
- (d) with a bow and arrow and dog;
- (e) with a gun that is 10 gauge or smaller;
- (f) by falconry as defined in Ohio Administrative Code

1501:31-1-01 (DD)

(B) It shall be unlawful to place any type of game, captive white-tailed deer, or nonnative wildlife in a wild animal hunting preserve which would not contain the animal and allow the animal to escape into the wild.

(C) It shall be unlawful to release any game, captive white-tailed deer, or nonnative wildlife from a cage or holding pen and immediately shoot or attempt to take said game, captive white-tailed deer, or nonnative wildlife.

(D) It shall be unlawful to release any game, captive white-tailed deer, or nonnative wildlife on a wild animal hunting preserve which is untagged or improperly tagged.

(E) It shall be unlawful to transport or possess any game, captive white-tailed deer, or nonnative wildlife taken from a wild animal hunting preserve without a tag as described in division (C) of section 1533.731 of the Ohio Revised Code except captive white-tailed deer must be tagged according to rules adopted under section 943.24 of the Revised Code.

(F) It shall be unlawful for the holders of a wild animal hunting preserve license to fail to keep accurate daily records of the information required by 1533.731 (E) and (F) of the Ohio Revised Code. All required information shall be recorded on forms supplied by the Division of Wildlife or the Ohio Department of Agriculture or in any manner that documents the required information and is available for review and inspection.

(G) Escaped game, captive white-tailed deer or nonnative wildlife

(1) It shall be unlawful for the operator of a wild animal hunting preserve to fail to notify by telephone the chief of Division of Wildlife or his agent the of the escaped of any game, captive white-tailed deer or nonnative wildlife within 24 hours of becoming aware of the escape.

(2) It shall be unlawful for the operator of a wild animal hunting preserve to fail to immediately, upon becoming aware on an escape of any game, captive white-tailed deer or nonnative wildlife, make repairs to the enclosure to prevent additional escapes of any game or nonnative wildlife.

(H) It shall be unlawful to fail to clearly define the boundaries of each wild animal hunting preserve enclosure with signs. The signs must:

- (a) be constructed of a durable, weather resistant material;
- (b) be at least 10 inches by 14 inches in size;
- (c) read "Licensed Hunting Preserve", in English;
- (d) be placed at a height, above the ground, of no less than four feet;
- (e) be secured to the outside of the fenced enclosure;
- (f) be placed along the perimeter of the fenced enclosure, at intervals that do not exceed 400 feet.

(I) All definition set forth in rule 1501:31-1-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code shall apply to this rule.

The licenses for captive white-tailed deer required by the Ohio Department of Agriculture can be obtained by calling (614) 728-6220.

WILDLIFE DISTRICT OFFICES



Division of Wildlife Headquarters
 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
 Columbus 43229-6693
 (614) 265-6300 (Voice)
 1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay-TDD)
 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)

Wildlife District One
 1500 Dublin Road
 Columbus 43215
 (614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two
 952 Lima Avenue
 Findlay 45840
 (419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three
 912 Portage Lakes Drive
 Akron 44319
 (330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four
 360 E. State Street
 Athens 45701
 (740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five
 1076 Old Springfield Pike
 Xenia 45385
 (937) 372-9261