

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

**6230, 6234,
6236**

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE GAME REFUGES, SMALL GAME, AND
FALL WILD TURKEY**

PUBLISHED 08-07-2023

EFFECTIVE 08-07-2023

EXPIRES 02-28-2024 (6234.1600, 6234.1700, 6234.2000, 6236.0700)

and 08-15-2024 (6230.0200, 6230.0295, 6230.0400, 6234.0600, 6234.1400)

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to Wildlife Management Areas, State Game Refuges, Small Game and Fall Wild Turkey.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: Wildlife Management Areas,**
1.3 **State Game Refuges, Small Game, and Fall Wild Turkey**

1.4 **6230.0200 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

1.5 *[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.6 Subp. 4. **Areas with hunting, trapping, and firearms restrictions.** The Bayport
1.7 Wildlife Management Area in Washington County, the Hastings Wildlife Management
1.8 Area in Dakota County, and the Raguet Wildlife Management Area in Scott and Carver
1.9 Counties are:

1.10 *[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.11 B. closed to the possession of firearms unless unloaded and contained in a case,
1.12 except that shotguns with only ~~No. 4 buckshot~~ BBB-sized shot or smaller diameter shot
1.13 may be used during the small game season in posted areas; and

1.14 *[For text of item C, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.15 Subp. 5. **Areas closed to hunting and trapping.**

1.16 A. The following wildlife management areas are closed to hunting and trapping
1.17 all species:

1.18 (1) Boerner Wildlife Management Area in Sibley County, ~~the;~~

1.19 (2) Buelow Wildlife Management Area in Steele County, ~~the;~~

1.20 (3) Bryson Wildlife Management Area in Freeborn County, ~~the;~~

1.21 (4) Chapa-Kak-Say-Za Wildlife Management Area in Steele County; ~~and~~

1.22 ~~the~~

1.23 (5) Hutchinson Wildlife Management Area in McLeod County ~~are closed to~~

1.24 ~~the hunting and trapping of all species.~~

2.1 B. The Sand Prairie Wildlife Management Area in Sherburne County is closed to
2.2 ~~the~~ hunting and trapping of all species, except for:

2.3 (1) hunting by individuals with disabilities participating in a special hunt;

2.4 (2) youth ages ten to 17 who are participating in the regular archery season.

2.5 Youth may take one deer under this subitem but may not hunt during events for individuals
2.6 with disabilities; and

2.7 (3) youth up to age 17 during the spring turkey season.

2.8 *[For text of subparts 6 to 8, see Minnesota Rules]*

2.9 **Subp. 9. Areas closed to firearms deer hunting.** The Lake Blanche Wildlife
2.10 Management Area in Otter Tail County, the Gordon W. Yeager Wildlife Management Area
2.11 in Olmsted County, the Bruce J. Schwartz Wildlife Management Area in Becker County,
2.12 a portion of the Timber Lake Wildlife Management Area (as posted) in Jackson County,
2.13 and a portion of the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area (as posted) in Dakota County
2.14 are closed to firearms deer hunting. Small game taken by firearms on a portion of Gores
2.15 Pool Wildlife Management Area in Dakota County that is posted with firearms restrictions
2.16 may only be taken with shotguns using BBB or smaller diameter shot.

2.17 *[For text of subpart 10, see Minnesota Rules]*

2.18 **Subp. 11. Areas with other restrictions.**

2.19 *[For text of items A to D, see Minnesota Rules]*

2.20 *[For text of item E, see State Register, volume 47, page 852]*

2.21 F. The Sandstone Wildlife Management Area in Pine County is open for:

2.22 (1) hunting deer during the archery deer season;

2.23 (2) hunting bear by special permit only; and

3.1 (3) hunting and trapping all other species by legal means during designated
3.2 seasons.

3.3 G. The Hampton Woods Wildlife Management Area in Dakota County is open
3.4 as posted for:

3.5 (1) hunting deer during the archery deer season;

3.6 (2) hunting turkey during the spring and fall turkey seasons;

3.7 (3) trapping by special permit only;

3.8 (4) hunting predators by special permit only; and

3.9 (5) hunting small game through November 30.

3.10 Subp. 12. **Sanctuary areas open ~~to hunting~~.** The following sanctuary areas of wildlife
3.11 management areas posted with "Wildlife Sanctuary Do Not Trespass" signs are open ~~for~~
3.12 ~~hunting~~ as specified:

3.13 *[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]*

3.14 *[For text of item B, see State Register, volume 47, page 852]*

3.15 C. The posted sanctuary within the Ricehaven Wildlife Management Area in St.
3.16 Louis County is open:

3.17 (1) May 1 through September 14 to wild rice harvesting during the wild rice
3.18 season, canoeing, and bird-watching; and

3.19 (2) November 25 through May 15 for hunting and trapping any species for
3.20 which there is an open season.

3.21 *[For text of subpart 13, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.1 **6230.0295 VERMILLION HIGHLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.**

4.2 Subpart 1. **Hunting.** The Vermillion Highlands Wildlife Management Area located
4.3 in Dakota County is closed to all hunting and trapping except:

4.4 *[For text of items A and B, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.5 C. trapping beginning January 1 by special permit only; ~~and~~

4.6 D. hunting predators beginning January 1 by special permit only; and

4.7 ~~D.~~ E. spring turkey hunting.

4.8 Subp. 2. [See repealer.]

4.9 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

4.10 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.11 Subp. 2. **Bemidji Game Refuge, Beltrami County.** The Bemidji Game Refuge in
4.12 Beltrami County is open to:

4.13 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest November
4.14 4 and after ~~the close of the 200 Series firearms deer season~~ November 19;

4.15 *[For text of items B to D, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.16 *[For text of subparts 3 and 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.17 Subp. 5. **Clay County Game Refuge, Clay County.** The Clay County Game Refuge
4.18 in Clay County is open to:

4.19 A. ~~prairie chickens~~ small-game hunting except ducks and geese during the regular
4.20 duck season;

4.21 *[For text of items B to D, see Minnesota Rules]*

4.22 *[For text of subparts 6 to 11, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.1 Subp. 12. **Fish Lake-Ann River Game Refuge, Kanabec County.** The Fish Lake-Ann
5.2 River Game Refuge in Kanabec County is open to all hunting and trapping, ~~except waterfowl.~~

5.3 *[For text of subparts 13 to 48, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.4 Subp. 49. **Warroad Game Refuge, Roseau County.** The Warroad Game Refuge in
5.5 Roseau County is open to:

5.6 A. trapping; and

5.7 B. hunting for deer by archery as described in part 6232.0600.

5.8 *[For text of subparts 50 to 54, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.9 Subp. 55. **Collegetown (St. John's) Game Refuge, Stearns County.** The Collegetown
5.10 (St. John's) Game Refuge in Stearns County is open to archery deer hunting and firearms
5.11 deer and bear hunting during the established seasons, by written permission of the landowner.

5.12 *[For text of subparts 56 to 60, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.13 Subp. 61. **St. Cloud Game Refuge, Stearns County.** The St. Cloud Game Refuge
5.14 in Stearns County is open to taking deer and bear by archery.

5.15 Subp. 62. **Hagali-Rice Game Refuge, Beltrami County.** The Hagali-Rice Game
5.16 Refuge in Beltrami County is open to:

5.17 A. small-game hunting, except waterfowl, beginning November 1 through the
5.18 end of the respective seasons;

5.19 B. trapping beginning November 1 through the end of the respective seasons;

5.20 C. deer and bear hunting by archery; and

5.21 D. deer hunting by firearms.

6.1 Subp. 63. Butterball and Little Rice Game Refuges, St. Louis County. The
 6.2 Butterball and Little Rice Game Refuges in St. Louis County are open November 25 through
 6.3 May 15 for trapping any species for which there is an open season.

6.4 **6234.0600 TAKING JACK RABBITS, COTTONTAIL RABBITS, AND SNOWSHOE**
 6.5 **HARES.**

6.6 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.7 Subp. 2. **Bag limits.** A person may not take more than ten cottontail rabbits,~~jack~~
 6.8 ~~rabbits,~~ and snowshoe hares, combined, per day or possess more than 20 cottontail rabbits;
 6.9 ~~jack rabbits,~~ and snowshoe hares, combined, at a time. A person may not take more than
 6.10 one jack rabbit per day or possess more than three jack rabbits, combined, at a time.

6.11 **6234.1400 TAKING WEASELS, BADGER, AND OPOSSUM.**

6.12 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Long-tailed weasels, short-tailed weasels, badgers, and
 6.13 opossums may be taken statewide ~~with~~ by legal firearms, bow and arrow, and ~~by~~ trapping
 6.14 from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 22, except in the North
 6.15 Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter Zone as described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3, where ~~badger~~
 6.16 ~~and opossum~~ long-tailed weasels, short-tailed weasels, badgers, and opossums may be taken
 6.17 ~~with~~ by legal firearms, bow and arrow, and ~~by~~ trapping beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the
 6.18 Saturday nearest October 17. The season ends March 15.

6.19 *[For text of subpart 2, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.20 **6234.1600 TAKING BOBCAT.**

6.21 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Bobcats may be taken with legal firearms, bow and arrow,
 6.22 and by trapping from ~~the first~~ Saturday following Thanksgiving, December 9, to ~~the~~ Sunday
 6.23 ~~nearest,~~ January ~~6~~ 14.

6.24 *[For text of subparts 2 to 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

7.1 **6234.1700 TAKING FISHER AND PINE MARTEN.**

7.2 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Fisher and pine marten may be taken by trapping from ~~the~~
7.3 ~~first Saturday following Thanksgiving, December 9,~~ to the Sunday nearest, December 12
7.4 17.

7.5 Subp. 2. **Bag limits.** The combined limit for fisher and pine marten is ~~five~~ two per
7.6 season, in aggregate. A person may not take more than ~~five~~ two fisher and pine marten,
7.7 combined, per season or possess more than ~~five~~ two fisher and pine marten, combined, at
7.8 a time, except that a person may possess additional pelts that the person lawfully took,
7.9 tagged, and registered during previous seasons.

7.10 *[For text of subparts 3 and 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

7.11 **6234.2000 TAKING OTTER.**

7.12 Subpart 1. **Open season for otter in North Zone.** Otter may be taken by trapping
7.13 from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 26 to ~~the~~ Sunday nearest, January ~~6~~ 14,
7.14 only in that portion of the state described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3.

7.15 Subp. 2. **Open season and area for otter in South Zone.** Otter may be taken by
7.16 trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 30 to ~~the~~ Sunday nearest, January
7.17 ~~6~~ 14, in the remainder of the state described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4.

7.18 *[For text of subparts 3 and 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

7.19 **6236.0700 FALL TURKEY SEASON.**

7.20 *[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

7.21 Subp. 4. **Open areas.** Wild turkey permit areas are open for the fall turkey season as
7.22 prescribed by the commissioner. Turkey licenses are valid ~~for taking turkeys only in the~~
7.23 ~~wild turkey permit area specified on the license~~ statewide. The following wild turkey permit

8.1 areas are open for the 2023 fall season: 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510,
8.2 511, and 512.

8.3 *[For text of subpart 5, see Minnesota Rules]*

8.4 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, part 6230.0295, subpart 2, is repealed. The expedited
8.5 emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0200, 6230.0295, 6230.0400,
8.6 6234.0600, and 6234.1400, published in the State Register, volume 47, page 231, September
8.7 12, 2022, are repealed.

8.8 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts
8.9 6230.0200, 6230.0295, 6230.0400, 6234.0600, and 6234.1400, expire August 15, 2024.
8.10 The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts 6234.1600, 6234.1700,
8.11 6234.2000, and 6236.0700, expire February 28, 2024. After the expedited emergency
8.12 amendments expire, the permanent rules again take effect, subject to any permanent rule
8.13 amendments that have been adopted in the interim.