Department of Natural Resources **Chapters:**

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: **6230, 6234**

FURBEARERS, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE GAME REFUGES, AND SMALL GAME

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

Department of Natural Resources

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: Furbearers, Wildlife Management Areas, State Game Refuges, and Small Game

6230.0200 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS.

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

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

[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]

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

[For text of item C, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 4a, see State Register, volume 50, page 1186]

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~the~~

(5) Hutchinson Wildlife Management Area in McLeod County ~~are closed to the hunting and trapping of all species~~.

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

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

(2) youth ages ten to 17 who are participating in the regular archery season. Youth may take one deer under this subitem but may not hunt during events for individuals with disabilities; and

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

Subp. 6. **Areas closed to hunting only.** The following wildlife management areas are closed to the hunting of all species:

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

~~C. Wesley E. Olson Wildlife Management Area in Big Stone County;~~

~~D.~~ C. Tom Cliff Wildlife Management Area in Waseca County;

~~E.~~ D. Somsen Wildlife Management Area in Brown County; and

~~F. that portion of the Perched Valley Wildlife Management Area located in Section 6, Township 112 North, Range 13 West, and Section 31, Township 113 North, Range 13 West, lying north and east of Highway 61; and~~

~~G.~~ E. Carl and Verna Schmidt and Bur Oak Wildlife Management Areas in LeSueur County.

[For text of subparts 7 and 8, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 9. **Areas closed to firearms deer hunting.** The Lake Blanche Wildlife Management Area in Otter Tail County, the Gordon W. Yeager Wildlife Management Area

in Olmsted County, the Bruce J. Schwartz Wildlife Management Area in Becker County, a portion of the Timber Lake Wildlife Management Area (as posted) in Jackson County, and a portion of the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area (as posted) in Dakota County are closed to firearms deer hunting. Small game taken by firearms on a portion of Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area in Dakota County that is posted with firearms restrictions may only be taken with shotguns using BBB or smaller diameter shot.

[For text of subpart 10, see Minnesota Rules]

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

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

[For text of item E, see State Register, volume 50, page 75]

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

(1) hunting deer during the archery deer season;

(2) hunting bear by special permit only; and

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

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

(1) hunting deer during the archery deer season;

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

(3) trapping by special permit only;

(4) hunting predators by special permit only; and

(5) hunting small game through November 30.

H. Swamp Lake Wildlife Management Area in Aitkin County and the adjoining Swamp Lake are closed to wild rice harvest.

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

[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of item B, see State Register, volume 50, page 75]

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

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

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

[For text of subpart 13, see Minnesota Rules]

6230.0295 VERMILLION HIGHLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.

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

[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]

B. pheasant and Canada goose hunting starting on the day following the close of the muzzleloader deer season through ~~the end of the respective statewide seasons~~ Sunday, December 20;

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

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

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

Subp. 2. [See repealer.]

6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.

[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]

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

A. small-game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest November 4 and after ~~the close of the 200 Series firearms deer season~~ November 22;

[For text of item B, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of items C and D, see Minnesota Rules]

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

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

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

[For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of item D, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of subpart 6, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 7, see State Register, volume 50, page 75]

[For text of subparts 8 to 10, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 11, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

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

[For text of subpart 13, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of subparts 14 to 20, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 21, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of subparts 22 to 32, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 33, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of subparts 34 to 40, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 41, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of subpart 42, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 43, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

[For text of subparts 44 to 47, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 48, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

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

A. trapping~~.~~; and

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

[For text of subparts 50 to 53, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 54, see State Register, volume 50, page 1506]

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. deer and bear hunting by archery; and

D. deer hunting by firearms.

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

[For text of subpart 64, see State Register, volume 50, page 75]

6234.0600 TAKING JACK RABBITS, COTTONTAIL RABBITS, AND SNOWSHOE HARES.

[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]

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

6234.1000 DESCRIPTION OF FURBEARER ZONES.

[For text of subparts 1 and 2, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 3. **North ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone.** That portion of the state lying ~~within~~ north of the following described boundary is known as the North ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone.

Beginning on ~~State Trunk Highway (STH) 200 at the west boundary of the state; thence along STH 200 to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to STH 73; thence along STH 73 to STH 27; thence along STH 27 to Interstate Highway 35 (I-35); thence along I-35 to the Carlton-Pine County line; thence east along the Carlton-Pine County line to the east boundary of the state; thence along the east, north, and west boundaries of the state to the point of beginning~~ Interstate Highway 94 (I-94) at the west boundary of the state; thence along I-94 to U.S. Highway 10; and thence along U.S. Highway 10 to the east boundary of the state.

Subp. 4. **South ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone.** That portion of the state lying outside of the North ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone is known as the South ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone.

[For text of subpart 5, see State Register, volume 49, page 1383]

6234.1100 TAKING MINK AND MUSKRATS.

Subpart 1. **Open season in North Furbearer Zone.** Mink and muskrats may be taken by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 26 to the last day in February in the North Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3.

Subp. 2. **Open season in South Furbearer Zone.** Mink and muskrats may be taken by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 30 to the last day in February in the South Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4.

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

6234.1200 TAKING RACCOON.

Subpart 1. **Open season.** Raccoons may be taken statewide with legal firearms, bow and arrow, and by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 22, except in the North ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone, as described in part 6234.1000,

subpart 3, where raccoon may be taken with legal firearms, bow and arrow, and by trapping beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 17. The season ends March 15.

[For text of subparts 2 and 3, see Minnesota Rules]

6234.1300 TAKING RED FOX AND GRAY FOX.

Subpart 1. **Open season.** Gray and red fox may be taken statewide with legal firearms, bow and arrow, and by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 22, except in the North ~~Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter~~ Furbearer Zone, as described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3, where gray and red fox may be taken with legal firearms, bow and arrow, and by trapping beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 17. The season ends March 15.

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

6234.1400 TAKING WEASELS, BADGER, AND OPOSSUM.

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

[For text of subpart 2, see Minnesota Rules]

6234.1600 TAKING BOBCAT.

Subpart 1. **Open season.** Bobcats may be taken with legal firearms, bow and arrow, and by trapping ~~from the first Saturday following Thanksgiving to the Sunday nearest January 6.~~ during the following seasons:

A. from Saturday, December 12, through Sunday, January 17, bobcats may be taken in the North Furbearer Zone as described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3; and

B. from Saturday, January 2, through Sunday, January 17, bobcats may be taken in the South Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4.

Subp. 2. [See repealer.]

Subp. 3. **Bag limits.** A person may not take more than five bobcats per season by either hunting or trapping or both, and only one of the five bobcats may be taken in the South Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4. A person may not possess more than five bobcats at a time, except that a person may possess additional pelts that the person lawfully took and registered during previous seasons.

[For text of subpart 4, see Minnesota Rules]

6234.1700 TAKING FISHER AND PINE MARTEN.

Subpart 1. **Open season.** Fisher ~~and~~ or pine marten may be taken by trapping ~~from the first Saturday following Thanksgiving to the Sunday nearest December 12.~~ during the following seasons:

A. from Saturday, December 12, through Sunday, December 20, fishers and pine marten may be taken in the North Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3; and

B. from Saturday, January 2, through Sunday, January 17, fishers may be taken in the South Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4.

Subp. 2. **Bag limits.**

A. The combined limit for fisher and pine marten is ~~five~~ two per season, in aggregate.

B. During the season described in subpart 1, item A, a person may not take more than ~~five~~ two fisher and pine marten, combined, per season or possess more than ~~five~~ two fisher and pine marten, combined, at a time~~, except that~~.

C. During the season described in subpart 1, item B, a person may not take more than one fisher. A fisher taken during this season is included in the statewide bag limit of two per season in combination with pine marten.

D. A person may possess additional pelts that the person lawfully took and registered during previous seasons.

[For text of subpart 3, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 4. [See repealer.]

6234.1900 TAKING BEAVER.

Subpart 1. **Open season and bag limits for beaver in North Furbearer Zone.** Beaver may be taken and possessed in the North Furbearer Zone, described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3, without limit by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 26 to May 15.

Subp. 2. **Open season and bag limits for beaver in South Furbearer Zone.** Beaver may be taken and possessed in the South Furbearer Zone, described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4, without limit by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 30 to May 15.

6234.2000 TAKING OTTER.

Subpart 1. **Open season for otter in North Furbearer Zone.** Otter may be taken by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 26 to ~~the Sunday nearest January 6 only~~ May 15, in ~~that portion of the state~~ the North Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3.

Subp. 2. **Open season and area for otter in South Furbearer Zone.** Otter may be taken by trapping from 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday nearest October 30 to ~~the Sunday nearest January 6~~ May 15, in the ~~remainder of the state~~ South Furbearer Zone described in part 6234.1000, subpart 4.

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

6234.2400 SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON USING SNARES.

[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 2. **Farmland Furbearer Zone restrictions.** In the Farmland Furbearer Zone, a person may use snares as follows:

A. from April 1 to the Friday nearest October 26, a person may not set, place, or operate any snare except as a water set ~~in that part of the Farmland Furbearer Zone lying within the North Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter Zone, described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3~~; and

B. from the Saturday nearest October 26 to March 31, a person may not set, place, or operate any snare on public lands, including on the surface of frozen water within public lands, on road rights-of-way, or in fence lines along road rights-of-way, except as a water set ~~in that part of the Farmland Furbearer Zone lying within the North Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter Zone, described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3;~~.

~~C. from April 1 to the Friday nearest October 30, a person may not set, place, or operate any snare except as a water set in that part of the Farmland Furbearer Zone lying outside the North Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter Zone, described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3;~~

~~D. from the Saturday nearest October 30 to March 31, a person may not set, place, or operate any snare on public lands, including on the surface of frozen water within public lands, on road rights-of-way, or in fence lines along road rights-of-way, except as a water~~

~~set in that part of the Farmland Furbearer Zone lying outside the North Mink/Muskrat/Beaver/Otter Zone, described in part 6234.1000, subpart 3.~~

[For text of subparts 3 to 7, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subparts 8 and 9, see State Register, volume 49, page 1383]

[For text of subparts 10 and 11, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subparts 12 and 13, see State Register, volume 49, page 1383]

6234.2600 REGISTERING AND VALIDATING PELTS.

[For text of subparts 1 and 2, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 3. **Registering pelts.** The pelt of each bobcat, fisher, pine marten, and otter must be presented, along with completed site validations for each fisher, pine marten, or otter, by the person taking it, to a state wildlife manager designee for registration before the pelt is sold and before the pelt is transported out of the state, but in no event more than 48 hours after the season closes for each species, respectively. The ~~entire carcass of bobcat and the~~ entire head of bobcat, pine marten, and fisher must be surrendered to the state wildlife manager designee. The pelt of bobcat, otter, fisher, and pine marten must have been removed from the carcass.

[For text of subparts 4 to 7, see Minnesota Rules]

REPEALER. Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0295, subpart 2; 6234.1600, subpart 2; and 6234.1700, subpart 4, are repealed. The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0200, 6230.0295, 6230.0400, 6234.0600, 6234.1000, 6234.1100, 6234.1200, 6234.1300, 6234.1400, and 6234.2400, published in the State Register, volume 50, page 45, July 21, 2025, are repealed.

EFFECTIVE PERIOD. The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts 6234.1600, 6234.1700, 6234.1900, and 6234.2000, expire May 29, 2027. The emergency amendments

to Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0200, 6230.0295, 6230.0400, 6234.0600, 6234.1000, 6234.1100, 6234.1200, 6234.1300, 6234.1400, 6234.2400, and 6234.2600, expire August 16, 2027. After the emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules again take effect, subject to any permanent rule amendments that have been adopted in the interim.