


WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

TED WILL
DIRECTOR

June 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: TED WILL 

SUBJECT: **NOTICE AND SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in the Game and Fish Code (Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Secs. 27-1-4, 27-3-24, 27-3-25, and 27-3-40), the Board of Natural Resources proposes to amend Department of Natural Resources rules governing the hunting of game animals and game birds. The proposed rules (copy attached hereto), when adopted, will amend Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations.

SYNOPSIS AND MAIN FEATURES

The purpose of hunting regulations is to manage Georgia's game birds and game animals according to sound principles of wildlife management and to meet public objectives for use of these renewable natural resources. Changes to the existing rules are responsive to the passage of House Bill 167, which authorized fluorescent pink hunting outer garments.

This notice and synopsis of the proposed rule, together with an exact copy of proposed rule, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of all these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division web page (www.gohuntgeorgia.com). Please call Paige Gurley at (706) 557-3350 to request a copy.

The public may submit comments on these proposed amendments electronically by email through the Division website, by telephone (706-557-3350) or by submitting written statements, before close of business on July 25, 2025. Written statements should be mailed to the attention of Dr. Tina Johannsen at:

Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Game Management Section
2067 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

The Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and related comments received on August 26, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the DNR Boardroom, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA 30334. Please bring this notice to the attention of interested acquaintances.

TW/klj

Attachment: Proposed Amendments

Public Participation Plan for Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to Subject 391-4-2 (Required Clothing on WMAs)

Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, are being considered. These amendments include changes responsive to the passage of House Bill 167 during the 2025 legislative session, which authorized fluorescent pink hunting outer garments. Public input is an important component of the decision-making process. The plan for receiving and considering public input includes publicly noticing the proposed amendments and the acceptance and consideration of written, verbal, and electronic comments.

WRD staff will brief the Board of Natural Resources on the proposed amendments in draft form. The proposed amendments will be publicly noticed as required under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), O.C.G.A. §50-13-4, will be forwarded to legislative counsel, and mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to submit written comments to WRD by mail or electronically. Following the public notice, the Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and related comments received at its meeting on August 26, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the DNR Boardroom, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Schedule for Public Participation for Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to Subject 391-4-2

Description of Action	Action Date
Present proposed amendments to Board's Wildlife Resources' Committee	06/24/2025
APA notice distributed, posted on website and provided to legislative counsel	06/26/2025
Deadline for submitting comments on proposed amendments	07/25/2025
Final approval of amendments by Board of Natural Resources	08/26/2025

SUBJECT	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT REGULATION	CHANGE	JUSTIFICATION
Rule 391-4-2-.04. Required Clothing				
Hunter Pink	Add daylight fluorescent pink for required outer garment	Hunters must wear 500 inches of daylight fluorescent orange during deer and bear firearms and primitive weapons hunts on WMAs.	Required clothing may be orange or pink.	This change is in response to HB 167, which added daylight fluorescent pink as an option for hunters' required outer garment instead of orange.
Rule 391-4-2-.67. Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas				
Hunter Pink	Add daylight fluorescent pink for required outer garment	Hunters must wear 500 inches of daylight fluorescent orange when small game hunting during deer or bear firearms or primitive weapons on WMAs or when participating in the May coyote season on public lands.	Required clothing may be orange or pink.	This change is in response to HB 167, which added daylight fluorescent pink as an option for hunters' required outer garment instead of orange.

(STRIKETHROUGH VERSION)

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

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391-4-2-.04	Required Clothing
391-4-2-.67	Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

Rule 391-4-2-.04. Required Clothing

It is unlawful for any person to hunt deer or bears or for any person to accompany another person hunting deer or bears during firearms and primitive weapons deer or bear seasons unless each person shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink material as an outer garment. This also includes any deer or bear firearms and primitive weapons hunt on a wildlife management area, or any other hunt so designated in 391-4-2-.70 or 391-4-2-.71 regardless of state season. Such clothing must be worn above the waistline and may include a head covering.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-25, 27-3-40.

Rule 391-4-2-.67. Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) During small game hunts, hunters may hunt any small game in season subject to state seasons, regulations and bag limits except as may otherwise be provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70 and:

(a) The daily bag limit on fox squirrels is 1 per hunter.

(b) The daily bag limit on bobwhite quail is 3 per hunter, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(c) During a quota hunt for any species, only drawn hunters and their party members may hunt.

(2) Sign-in is not required for small game hunting (including migratory birds) unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(3) Small game and furbearer hunting are not allowed during quota hunts unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(4) Small game hunters hunting on dates concurrent with deer and bear primitive weapons or firearm hunts must wear fluorescent orange or pink as specified in Rule 391-4-2-.04, except for dove hunters hunting on managed dove fields, furbearer hunters hunting at night, and waterfowl hunters hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments or other water bodies.

(5) Only waterfowl hunting can take place on managed impoundments during waterfowl hunting dates. Waterfowl on all

other WMA locations may be taken any day of the waterfowl seasons whenever the area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.

(6) On quota waterfowl hunts, hunters must hunt from assigned areas. Shooting hours begin in accordance with applicable federal regulations and end at 12:00 noon except that on the last Saturday of the season, hunters may shoot until sunset.

(7) No night hunting is allowed on any WMA except for raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat on open dates. Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken at night, with small game weapons, while hunting raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat. Centerfire weapons may not be used for hunting at night on WMAs.

(8) Raccoon, opossum, fox and bobcat may be hunted within statewide seasons during small game and furbearer dates, unless otherwise specified.

(9) Permitted alligator hunters may hunt during day or night on open small game and big game dates unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(10) Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during all hunts but weapon types are restricted to only those weapons allowed for the game species in season. Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during small game season with any weapon legal for small game except that centerfire rifles may not be used, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(11) Special coyote season:

(a) May 16-May 31 on department managed WMAs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Not open on State Parks, Voluntary Public Access Areas, or federal lands unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(b) Hunters may use any weapon legal for small or big game unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(c) Hunters and any person accompanying a hunter afield shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight

fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink material as an outer garment above the waistline.

(d) Night hunting is prohibited.

(e) Feral hogs may not be taken unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(f) Dogs may not be used to hunt hogs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Where allowed, hunting dogs must be marked with the hunter's name and a valid telephone number.

(g) Hogs must be killed immediately upon capture.

(12) Unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, small game may be taken on WMAs by permitted falconers at any time during the state falconry season pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-3-15 except during any quota big game or small game hunts for which the falconer has not been drawn.

(13) Centerfire rifles may be used for fox and bobcat during daylight hours from December 1 through the last day of February only if a non-quota big game season is open on the area, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-24.

(EXACT COPY)

**RULES
OF
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**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
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