

MEMO

TO: Larry D. Voyles, Director

FROM: Bob Broscheid, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division *BB*

PRESENTER: Eric S. Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief

TITLE: Request to Adopt Commission Order 43: Reptiles

DESCRIPTION: The Commission will be asked to vote to adopt Commission Order 43: Reptiles, establishing open areas, season dates, and bag and possession limits for 2009 and 2010, as proposed by the Department.

DATE: September 25, 2008

Summary:

From May through August 2008, the Department solicited recommendations from staff, stakeholders, and government agencies for proposed changes to Commission Order 43: Reptiles.

The Department received no recommendations.

The Department recommends the following with regard to Commission Order 43 for 2009 and 2010:

1. Update the effective dates of the commission order.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends the Commission VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 43: REPTILES, ESTABLISHING OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR 2009 and 2010, AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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Commission Order 43: Reptiles

Statewide - As defined in ARSS§17-101, excluding wildlife areas not opened for hunting (R12-4-802).

Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting, fishing, or trapping under ARSS§17-303, 304, or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801-803.

Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles
A. Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009	(1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 5, and 6	All reptiles, except those named in Subsections B, C, D, and E
Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2010			
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Four (4) per year or in possession of each species live or dead.			

B. Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009	(1, 2, 5, 9)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 5	<i>Lichanura trivirgata</i> (rosy boa), <i>Senticolis triaspis</i> (green ratsnake), <i>Lampropeltis pyromelana</i> (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (milksnake; except no open season in Cochise County).
Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2010			
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Two (2) per year or four (4) in possession of each species live or dead.			

C. Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009	(1, 2, 5, 9)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 5	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> (Eastern fence lizard), <i>Tamtilia hobartsmithi</i> (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: <i>Callisaurus</i> (zebra-tailed lizard), <i>Aspidoscelis</i> (whiptails), <i>Coleonyx</i> (banded gecko), <i>Cophosaurus</i> (greater earless lizard), <i>Holbrookia</i> (lesser earless lizard), <i>Urosaurus</i> (tree lizard), <i>Uta</i> (side-blotched lizard), <i>Hypsiglena</i> (nightsnake), <i>Leptotyphlops</i> (threadsnares), and <i>Sonora</i> (groundsnake)
Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2010			
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.			

D. Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009	(1, 5, 7, 8, 9)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 5, and 8	<i>Apalone spinifera</i> (spiny softshell), <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)
Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2010			
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited dead.			

E. There is no open season on *Phrynosoma mcallii* (flat-tailed horned lizard), *Heloderma suspectum* (Gila monster), *Crotalus lepidus* (rock rattlesnake), *Crotalus pricei* (twin-spotted rattlesnake), *Crotalus willardi* (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; Cochise County only), *Sistrurus catenatus* (massasauga), *Thamnophis eques* (Mexican gartersnake), *Thamnophis rufipunctatus* (narrow-headed gartersnake), *Gopherus agassizii* (desert tortoise), and *Terrapene ornata* (ornate box turtle); see Notes 3 and 4.

- Notes:
1. A hunting or combination license is required for take of reptiles other than softshell turtles. Reptiles may be taken day or night. See R12-4-304 for restrictions on the use of artificial light. By law, softshell turtles are considered aquatic wildlife and a fishing or combination license is required for take. Methods of take are prescribed at R12-4-313(E).
 2. Per R12-4-404, progeny of lawfully held reptiles other than desert tortoises may, for twelve months from date of hatching or birth, be held in captivity in excess of the stated limits. Before or upon reaching twelve months of age, such progeny must be disposed of by gift to another person or as directed by the Department.
 3. Per R12-4-407.1, desert tortoises legally held prior to April 28, 1989, may be possessed, transported and propagated. Possession limit is one desert tortoise per person. Progeny of lawfully held desert tortoises may, for twenty-four months from date of hatching, be held in captivity in excess of the stated limit. Before or upon reaching twenty-four months of age, such progeny must be disposed of by gift to another person or as directed by the Department.
 4. The possession limit for massasaugas legally held prior to January 1, 1989, when season closure went into effect, is four (4) per person. The possession limit for Mexican gartersnakes, narrow-headed gartersnakes, and ornate box turtles legally held prior to January 1, 2005, when season closure went into effect, is four (4) per person. See Note 2.
 5. The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation, the Yuma Proving Ground, and Camp Navajo control access to hunting on their installations.
 6. Chuckwallas (genus *Sauromulius*) may not be taken within the boundaries of Phoenix South Mountain Park.

7. The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation controls access to the taking of aquatic wildlife on its installation.
8. Turtles may not be taken at any time (or during periods specified) within the following areas:
 - (1) Posted boundaries of State or Federal hatcheries, except for Arizona Game and Fish Department sponsored fishing clinics.
 - (2) Posted boundary of the Region I regional headquarters in Pinetop.
 - (3) The Colorado River one-half mile upstream and one-half mile downstream from its confluence with the Little Colorado River.
 - (4) That portion of the Little Colorado River lying within the Grand Canyon National Park.
 - (5) Lee Valley Creek above Lee Valley Lake.
 - (6) Gap Creek between Honeymoon Cabin and its confluence with the Verde River.
 - (7) Mineral Creek in Apache County upstream of the Apache-Stigraeves National Forest Boundary.
 - (8) Posted areas immediately above the dams at Upper Lake Mary, Alamo Lake and Lake Mead.
 - (9) Posted areas immediately below Davis, Hoover, Glen Canyon, Waddell (Lake Pleasant), Roosevelt, Horse Mesa and Mormon Flat dams.
 - (10) Posted, Spawning Pond Number 1 and Spawning Pond Number 2 located along the Salinity Canal north of Yuma.
 - (11) The Luna Lake Wildlife Area from April 1 through July 31.
 - (12) Posted portions of Alamo Lake.
 - (13) Posted portions of the Tonto Arm of Roosevelt Lake from January 1 through February 15 and from November 15 through December 31.
 - (14) Posted portions of Mitty Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.
 - (15) Posted portions of Becker Lake are closed to all public entry from December 15 through June 15.
 - (16) Posted portions of Lake Mead.
 - (17) Posted portions of Powers Butte Wildlife Area are closed to entry for the purpose of taking wildlife.
 - (18) Posted portions of Bog Hole Wildlife Area.
 - (19) Posted portions of Lake Havasu.
 - (20) Posted portions of Cienega Creek in Pima County.
 - (21) Aravaipa Creek in Pinal and Graham counties.
 - (22) Sycamore Creek in Santa Cruz County.
 - (23) Cibola Lake from the first Monday in September (Labor Day) through March 15.
 - (24) Posted portions of Martinez Lake from October 1 through March 1.
 - (25) Posted in accordance with and pursuant to ARS 17-303 and 304.
9. The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermillion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to the take of wildlife as permitted by Monument regulations.