

Hunters must take more responsibility



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Hunting seasons have begun, and again we remind everyone:

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within one-fourth mile of any residence, cabin, lodge, or building.

It is unlawful for a person to camp within one-fourth of a natural or man-made waterhole containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonable available water.

To give a general idea of the distance to those more used to thinking in blocks than miles, one-fourth mile is sometimes described as four city blocks.

Covers wide range

Game and Fish Department regulations cover pursuing, shooting, hunting, fishing, trapping, killing, capturing, snaring,

bians, crustaceans, and soft-shelled turtles.

Trapping regulations are set annually and are covered in an Arizona Trapping Regulation pamphlet.

A valid Arizona trapping license is required for taking specified furbearers and predators by trap.

Traps must be plainly marked with the name, address or registered number of the owner, and these markings must be filed with the Department. All traps must be inspected daily.

A separate Arizona Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet covers season dates, bag limits and regulations.

It is illegal to take a game mammal, bird, or fish and know-

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or netting wildlife, or the placing or using of any net or other device or trap in a manner that may result in the capturing or killing of wildlife.

Also, they regulate the possession, transportation, and exportation and importation of live wild birds and mammals, and the carcasses of them.

License provisions: "Anyone 14 or older hunting animals or birds in Arizona must have in his possession either a Class G general hunting license or a Class F combination hunting and fishing license. Appropriate licenses, tags, and permits are required of all persons taking big game."

There is no open season in Arizona on yellow mud turtle, flat-tailed horned lizard, gila monster, rock rattlesnake, twin-spotted rattlesnake, and ridge-nosed rattlesnake. These, as well as the desert tortoise are protected by law and officially listed as "threatened" wildlife by the Game and Fish department.

None may be killed or exported from the state. (Nor may horned lizards or chuckwallas; this includes the eggs.)

Since they do not do well in environments outside their native range, it is probable that most of them taken from Arizona will die.

A valid Class G hunting or Class F combination license is required for taking reptiles other than soft-shelled turtles.

Specific seasons, bag limits and special rules are covered in a separate Arizona Reptile Regulations pamphlet.

License needed

A valid Arizona fishing license is required for taking all aquatic wildlife including fish, amphibians,

The don'ts

1. Break or remove any lock or cut any fence to gain access.

2. Intentionally or wantonly destroy, deface, injure, remove or disturb any building, sign, equipment, marker or other property.

3. Harvest or remove any vegetative or mineral resources or object of antiquity, historic, or scientific interest.

4. Appropriate, mutilate, deface or destroy any natural feature, object of natural beauty, antiquity, or other public or private property.

5. Dig, remove, or destroy any tree, cactus or wildflower.

6. Gather or collect renewable or non-renewable resources for the purpose of sale or barter.

7. Drive or operate motorized vehicles or otherwise conduct himself in a manner that may result in unnecessary frightening or chasing of domestic livestock

or wildlife or that unnecessarily endangers the lives and safety of others.

Must stay on roads

It is unlawful to utilize vehicular travel on state lands except on existing roads.

Of course, all non-hunters are also expected to obey these rules and laws.

These are just a few of the regulations summarized in the 16-page booklet "Arizona Hunting Regulations."

Remember: 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, come out and join your local organizations and "PUT A LID ON LITTER."

The next meeting of the Cave Creek Improvement Association's Conservation Committee will be Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Cave Creek School. Everyone is welcome.

Jo Walker