



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

June 3, 2013

Senator Edward Meyer
Representative Linda M. Gentile
Regulations Review Committee, Room 1800
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Amendments to Hunting Regulations: Sections 26-16-3a, 26-27b-1, 26-48a-3, 26-48-7, 26-49-2, 26-52-1, 26-55-3, 26-66-1, 26-66-2, 26-66-3, 26-66-4, 26-66-5, 26-66-12, 26-66-14, 26-86a-1, 26-86a-2, 26-86a-4 and 26-86a-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is also proposing to add new subsections 26-16-3a(g), 26-55-3(g), 26-55-3(h), 26-66-14(d), 26-86a-2(i), 26-86a-4(b) and 26-86a-4(c).

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile:

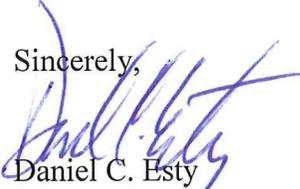
Pursuant to section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I submit the proposed regulation for your consideration and approval.

The proposed amendments are intended to: allow DEEP to close portions of wildlife management areas to mountain biking by posting of signs when necessary; adjust the Migratory Bird Stamp fee and validation dates to be consistent with Connecticut General Statutes 26-27b and accommodate the automated licensing system; adjust the Harvest Information Permit (HIP) fee to be consistent with CGS 26-48a and changes in issuing procedures; change procedures for tagging game birds taken at regulated private shooting preserves, dog training areas and shooting field trials and eliminate agency-supplied tags for those activities; adjust shooting field trial permit fees to be consistent with CGS 26-52; add a possession limit on snapping turtles and spotted turtles; allow use of crossbow equipment for hunting, remove obsolete specifications for crossbow arrows and amend the definition of a loaded crossbow to be consistent with CGS 53a-217e(2); exempt coyote or fox hunters from the fluorescent orange clothing requirement except during the firearms deer or fall firearms turkey seasons; remove restrictions on the use of crossbows on state-owned lands; shorten the two-week hunting closure in October and allow coyote hunting during the closed period; extend the hunting closure during the spring turkey season for consistency with season extension; remove redundant language regarding minimum distances between waterfowl hunting parties; adjust the regulated crow season; provide alternative methods for reporting coyote or fox taken by hunting; increase youth turkey hunter training opportunities from two days to seven days on state and private land; adds crossbows to list of bow and arrow equipment used for turkey hunting; allow dogs to be used for hunting turkeys during the fall firearms season on private lands; make technical changes to scientific nomenclature for Wood Turtles and provide protection for Spotted Turtles; establish seasons, bag limits, legal methods and gear restrictions for the taking of Snapping Turtles; add

muzzleloaders to the list of hunting implements in reference to mandatory deer check station requirements; clarify the provision regarding the issuance of firearms permits on state-owned lands; clarify provision regarding issuance of replacement antlerless deer tags and make provisions for such tags on designated state lands when required to meet management objectives; allow use of muzzleloaders during the shotgun/rifle deer season; remove the three shell limitation for shotgun deer hunting on private lands and add electronic ignition muzzleloaders for the purpose of defining a loaded firearm; and increase youth deer hunter training opportunities from two days to seven days on state and private land.

If there are any questions regarding this proposal, please contact Robert LaFrance, the Department's Legislative Liaison at Robert.lafrance@ct.gov or 860-424-3401. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Esty
Commissioner

DCE/WAH/eh
Enclosure