

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

1. Type of Estimate and Analysis ☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected	2. Date September 9, 2025
3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable) NR. Ch. 10, Game and Hunting	
4. Subject Revising sharp-tailed grouse management zones	
5. Fund Sources Affected ☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEG-S	6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected
7. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule ☒ No Fiscal Effect ☐ Increase Existing Revenues ☐ Increase Costs ☐ Decrease Costs ☐ Indeterminate ☐ Decrease Existing Revenues ☐ Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget	
8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply) ☐ State's Economy ☐ Specific Businesses/Sectors ☐ Local Government Units ☐ Public Utility Rate Payers ☐ Small Businesses (if checked, complete Attachment A)	
9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1). \$ 0	
10. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals Be \$10 Million or more Over Any 2-year Period, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(2)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule The current sharp-tailed grouse management zones are the game management units that were also the deer units prior to 2015. Today, sharp-tailed grouse populations are more fragmented and tied to habitat in specific places than when these zones were initially established. In 2024, the Natural Resources Board approved a new sharp-tailed grouse management plan. This plan recognizes that sharp-tailed grouse mainly exist in areas where we currently have managed habitat. This is because land use changes have made it so that sharp-tailed grouse are only found on those managed habitats. The current management zones no longer accurately depict where sharp-tailed grouse are located. The proposed zones will be more specific to the habitats that the sharp-tailed grouse occupy. Current rules establish that the annual harvest quotas are set based on three factors: estimated size and distributions of the population, trends in harvest and hunter success rates, and a cap of no more than 25% of the projection population. The sharp-tailed grouse management plan identifies additional criteria that should be considered when the setting harvest quota. This includes population indices, metrics, and other information to best assess population status by zone. These new factors will not be a substantial departure from how the previous quota was set but will instead take in additional considerations. These metrics indicate that the harvest will not approach 25% of the sharp-tailed grouse population.	
12. Summary of the Businesses, Business Sectors, Associations Representing Business, Local Governmental Units, and Individuals that may be Affected by the Proposed Rule that were Contacted for Comments. A notice for solicitation of comments on this analysis will be posted on the department's website in September 2025 and various interest groups may be contacted. No fiscal effects on small businesses, their associations, or local governments are anticipated.	
13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA. A notice for solicitation of comments on this analysis will be posted on the department's website during a 10 day period in September 2025.	
14. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred) These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have an economic and fiscal effect on the private sector or small businesses. These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.	

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15. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule

Changing the management zone boundaries will allow the department to adapt sharp-tailed grouse harvest quotas to the population levels within those localized areas. These changes will primarily impact sharp-tailed grouse hunters and will offer a better-quality hunt for individuals who are issued a sharp-tailed grouse permit.

16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The long range implications of this rule proposal will be the same as the short term impacts. These proposals will contribute to providing good opportunities for hunting sharp-tailed grouse and maintenance of the economic activity generated by people who participate in that activity.

17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

States possess inherent authority to manage the wildlife resources located within their boundaries, except insofar as preempted by federal treaties and laws, including regulations established in the Federal Register. None of these rule changes violate or conflict with the provisions established in the Federal Code of Regulations.

18. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

Michigan has a single unit open to hunting sharp-tailed grouse. This unit is found in the Upper Peninsula. Their season runs from October 10-31. Minnesota has two sharp-tailed grouse hunting zones that are open to hunting. These zones are very large in size. The northwest zone has an abundance of birds and there is a daily bag limit with the season running from September 13 – November 30. The east-central zone borders Wisconsin. This zone has fewer birds, and the season is currently closed. Illinois and Iowa do not have a sharp-tailed grouse season.

19. Contact Name Scott Karel	20. Contact Phone Number 608-206-0222
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