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Notice of Rulemaking Hearing

Hearings will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. § 4-5-204. For questions and copies of the notice, contact the person listed below.

Agency/Board/Commission:	Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission
Division:	
Contact Person:	Torrey S. Grimes, General Counsel Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Address:	TWRA Headquarters 5107 Edmondson Pike Nashville, TN
Zip:	37211
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Email:	Torrey.Grimes@tn.gov

Any Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (to review these filings) and may require aid to facilitate such participation should contact the following at least 10 days prior to the hearing:

ADA Contact:	Randi Tarpy, Chief of Human Resources
Address:	5107 Edmondson Pike Nashville, TN 37211
Phone:	615.781.6605
Email:	Randi.S.Tarpy@tn.gov

Hearing Location(s) (for additional locations, copy and paste table)

Address 1:	Tennessee Aquarium			
Address 2:	1 Broad Street			
City:	Chattanooga, TN			
Zip:	37402			
Hearing Date:	Friday, December 5, 2025			
Hearing Time:	9:00 AM	☐ CST/CDT	☒ X EST/EDT	

Additional Hearing Information:

Public Comment will be accepted in person on the day of the Hearing. Further, written public comments will be accepted until November 28, 2025, at the following email address. twra.rulescomments@tn.gov

Written public comment must include the following in the subject line: OHV RULE

Revision Type (check all that apply):

☒ Amendment
☒ New
☐ Repeal

Rule(s) (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate more than one chapter. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
1660-01-14	Rules and Regulations for Refuges, Wildlife Management Areas and Public Hunting Areas
Rule Number	Rule Title
1660-01-14-.10	State Operated Wildlife and/or Waterfowl Refuges
1660-01-14-.13	Hunting and Miscellaneous Uses of Wildlife Management Areas and Other Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Controlled Lands
1660-01-14-.14	Hunting and Miscellaneous Uses of Public Hunting Areas
1660-01-14-.15	Impact Permits for Use of Wildlife Management Areas

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
1660-01-28	Rules and Regulations Governing License and Permit Fees
Rule Number	Rule Title
1660-01-28-.13	Expiration of Licenses and Permits
1660-01-28-.14	North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Permits and Fees

Place substance of rules and other info here. Please be sure to include a detailed explanation of the changes being made to the listed rule(s). Statutory authority must be given for each rule change. For information on formatting rules go to <https://sos.tn.gov/publications/services/rulemaking-guidelines>.

Rule Amendment

Rule 1660-01-14-.10(1)(a) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- (a) The hunting, fishing, trapping, killing, taking, and/or the attempted taking of any species of wildlife is prohibited, except where specifically provided by proclamation.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 70-1-206, 70-4-107, and 70-9-105

Rule Amendment

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(1)(b) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- (b) Only guides approved by the WMA Manager will be allowed on quota or managed hunts. A guide may not carry a gun while guiding unless they possess a valid hunting license, appropriate species permit, quota permit if required for the hunt, and WMA Permit. When compartments are assigned by the WMA Manager, hunters and guides must remain in their assigned compartments.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(2) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

(2) Safety Rules

- (a) No person shall be in possession or under the influence of any illegal drug while on any Public Hunting Areas.
- (b) No person shall be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages while on Wildlife Management Areas, Refuges, or other Wildlife Resources Agency controlled lands, including while operating off-highway vehicles (OHVs), except as specifically permitted below:
 - 1. Alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages may be possessed and consumed only within campgrounds that are officially designated and maintained by the Wildlife Resources Agency or in camping areas as approved by the Area Manager;
 - 2. Alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages may be possessed by persons in transit to or from an authorized camping locations only while actively traveling directly to or from that location, however, in no event may an alcoholic beverage be open or consumed while in transit;
 - 3. Alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages may be possessed on public waters bordering or contained within Wildlife Management Areas, Refuges, or Agency controlled lands only when the person is not engaged in hunting or operating a motorized vehicle or vessel.
- (c) Target practice is prohibited except at ranges provided by the Wildlife Resources Agency or the USDA Forest Service. Safety Zones may be designated and posted by the Area Manager.
- (d) Safety Zones are defined as an area of protection which may have restricted hunting activities around dwellings, recreation areas, firing and archery ranges and roads.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(3)(c) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- (c) Any dog found running loose and unattended on Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency controlled lands will be impounded and the applicable procedures outlined in T.C.A. § 70-4-118 will be followed.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(5)(a) is amended by adding the phrase “or their designee” immediately after the phrase “Executive Director” and deleting the phrase “Regional Manager”.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(5)(b) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- (b) All motorized vehicles, including Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) operating on wildlife management areas and other Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency controlled lands must be muffler equipped to suppress noise and be spark arrestor equipped to prevent fires. Operation of motorized vehicles is confined only to roads and trails designated as open or as authorized by the Area Manager. Driving off road into woods, fields, or on foot trails or utility right-of-way is prohibited on all agency-owned wildlife management areas, and as noted on other areas. Motorized vehicles may be prohibited on any agency-owned wildlife management area if deemed necessary to protect wildlife, vegetation, and/or properties. On LBL, motorized vehicles are prohibited on all roads and trails not designated as open by signs and/or other appropriate methods.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(5)(d)(1) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- (1) Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are restricted to use on roads open to other motorized traffic, except in areas prohibited by state or federal statute or regulation. OHVs are further restricted to trails that are designated as open or as authorized by the Area Manager. Trails not marked as open are closed to all vehicular traffic.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(5)(e) is amended by deleting the last sentence and replacing it with the following:

Portable climbing devices or stands that do not injure trees are allowed.

Rule 1660-01-14-.13(5) is amended by adding a new subdivision (l)

- (l) Access to all caves on agency-controlled lands is closed unless designated as open. Certain cave activities (i.e. research, mapping) may be permitted through the agency’s Scientific Collection Permit program. A cave is defined as having one of the following measurements:
 - 1. A horizontal length of more than 50 feet,
 - 2. A total vertical extent of 40 feet, or
 - 3. A pit depth of 30 feet.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 70-1-206 and 70-9-105.

Rule Amendment

Rule 1660-01-14-.14(2)(a) is amended by deleting the phrase “any narcotic drug, barbiturate, or marijuana” and replacing it with “illegal drug”.

Rule 1660-01-14-.14(2)(b) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- (b) No person shall be in possession or under the influence of any alcoholic beverage while on any Public Hunting Area except as specifically permitted below:
 - 1. Alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages may be possessed and consumed only within campgrounds that are designated and maintained by the Wildlife Resources Agency or in camping areas approved by the Area Manager;
 - 2. Alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages may be possessed by persons in transit to or from an authorized camping locations only while actively traveling directly to or from that location, however, in no event may an alcoholic beverage be open or consumed while in transit;
 - 3. Alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages may be possessed on public waters bordering or contained within Public Hunting Areas only when the person is not engaged in hunting or operating a motorized vehicle or vessel.

Rule 1660-01-14-.14(3)(a) is amended by deleting the phrase “not designated as closed” in the second sentence and replacing it with the phrase “designated as open”.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 70-1-206 and 70-9-105.

Rule Amendment

Rule 1660-01-14-.15 is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

1660-01-14-.15 IMPACT AND OHV PERMITS FOR USE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS.

- (1) A High Impact Habitat Conservation Permit is required for riding hoofed animals and bicycling on designated wildlife management areas where allowed. Persons holding a valid hunting license with an appropriate WMA Permit and youths under age thirteen (13) are exempt.
- (2) An Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Permit is required for all OHV riding in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. At least one adult occupant of an OHV must possess the proper permit(s). A North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit is supplemental to all other licenses and permits.
- (3) An Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) is any vehicle capable of traveling off highways within the state. The term includes all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, dune buggies and other four-wheeled vehicles used for off-road activities.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 70-1-206, 70-2-225, and 70-9-105.

Rule Amendment

Rule 1660-01-28-.13 is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

1660-01-28-.13 EXPIRATION OF LICENSES AND PERMITS.

- (1) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 70-2-107, the traditional license year, beginning March 1 of each year and lasting until the last day of February the following year, is hereby abolished. An annual license system is established as set forth in paragraph (2).
- (2) Each license or permit issued under these rules must be dated when issued. Each license or permit issued under these rules is valid for twelve (12) months after the date of issuance, except for the following:
 - (a) Lifetime Sportsman Licenses (created under T.C.A. § 70-2-201), which is valid from the date of issuance until the death of the license holder;
 - (b) Resident Permanent licenses which are valid from the date of issuance until the death of the license holder or until they no longer meet residency or license eligibility requirements;
 - (c) Falconry permits, which expire on June 30 of the third year from the date of issuance;
 - (d) Permits issued to a successful hunt applicant, which are valid for the period specified on the quota permit;
 - (e) Short-term licenses or permits which are valid for the period specified on the license or permit;
 - (f) Short-term range permits (created under Rule 1660-01-28-.07 and -.08), which are valid for the period specified on the permit;
 - (g) Migratory Bird Permit (Harvest Information Program or "HIP"), which expires on June 30 of each year;
 - (h) Permits for Captive Wildlife, which expire on June 30 of each year;
 - (i) Licenses and Permits for Commercial Fishing which expire on June 30 of each year.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 70-1-206 and 70-2-107.

Rule Amendment

Rule 1660-01-28-.14 is created by adding the following as a new section:

1660-01-28-.14 OHV PERMITS - NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Description:

Non-Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit 1 Day*	\$ 50.00
Non-Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit 3 Day*	\$ 125.00
Non-Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit 7 Day*	
July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027	\$ 200.00
July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028	\$ 200.00

July 1, 2028, and after	\$ 250.00
Non-Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit Annual*	
July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027	\$ 300.00
July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028	\$ 400.00
July 1, 2028, and after	\$ 500.00
Non-Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit Guide**	\$ 1,000.00
North Cumberland OHV Sportsman Supplemental Riding Permit Annual*	\$ 40.00
Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit 1 Day*	\$ 20.00
Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit 3 Day*	\$ 50.00
Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit 7 Day*	\$ 100.00
Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit Annual*	
July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027	\$ 150.00
July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028	\$ 175.00
July 1, 2028, and after	\$ 200.00
Resident North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit Guide**	\$ 700.00

* A North Cumberland OHV Riding Permit is required for all OHV riding in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. A permit is required for at least one adult occupant of each OHV and as a supplement to all other licenses and permits. Annual and Lifetime Sportsman Licenses do not include OHV riding privileges on North Cumberland WMA.

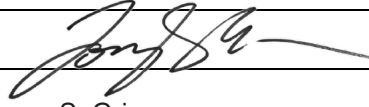
** A North Cumberland OHV Guide Permit is required if an individual accepts compensation for assisting others in OHV use while utilizing the North Cumberland trail system. The North Cumberland OHV Permit Annual is included in the North Cumberland OHV Riding Guide permit. Annual and Lifetime Sportsman License holders are not exempt from Guide Permit Requirements.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 70-1-206, 70-2-219, 70-2-225, and 70-9-105.

I certify that the information included in this filing is an accurate and complete representation of the intent and scope of rulemaking proposed by the agency.

Date: 10/09/2025

Signature: _____



Name of Officer: Torrey S. Grimes

Title of Officer: General Counsel, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

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Filed with the Department of State on: _____

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State