



## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION POLICY

### **2502 – Field Dog Trials (Revised: 09/12/2013)**

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#### ***Supersedes:***

No. 2502 – Trials – Field Dog, dated January 1, 1978.

#### ***Issue/Purpose:***

The use of state land for organized recreational events may be authorized while recognizing that all public lands are the property of the people of the state. The purpose of this policy is to determine the proper authorization of field dog trials, including the use of live game, while ensuring animal welfare and human health and safety.

#### ***Definitions:***

“Field dog trial” shall have the meaning defined in the Wildlife Conservation Order section 15.2.

#### ***Policy:***

The Natural Resources Commission recognizes that trials and contests regarding the competitive performance of field hunting dogs is a recreational activity enjoyed by a substantial number of persons.

The Natural Resources Commission further supports the administration of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ program for designating field dog trial areas and for authorizing field dog trials on public and private land in accordance with 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.42104 and as provided for in Chapter XV of the Wildlife Conservation Order.

The Natural Resources Commission believes it is valuable to protect nesting birds by prohibiting field dog trials during specific times of the year and by designating specific field dog trial areas.

In addition, the Natural Resources Commission recognizes that native game birds are the property of the people of the state. Person’s conducting a field dog trial shall only use birds that are not native to Michigan, excluding pheasants, and birds that are not easily confused with native Michigan game birds. Live birds, fox, or raccoon that are used during a field dog trial shall be treated in a humane manner and not subjected to undue stress or rough treatment. If a live fox or raccoon is used during a field dog trial, the animal shall not come into direct contact with the dogs.

The Department may establish field trial areas on public land if not in significant conflict with dedicated uses. Such events on public land shall be subject to all policies, rules and regulations that apply to other organized events held on public lands.

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***Related Reference:***

The Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO) – [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10366\\_37141-120756--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10366_37141-120756--,00.html)

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994 – <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-451-of-1994>

**2502 – Field Dog Trials** is hereby approved.

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J.R. Richardson, Chair

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Effective Date