



Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

A Weekly Column for the
Week of Dec. 1, 2008

Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793

Proposed Conservation Changes Prompt Response from Missourians

The Missouri Conservation Commission approved some significant changes earlier this year that will affect thousands of Missouri hunters and fishermen. These changes, which will become effective July 1, 2009, will affect our state's youth, seniors, college students, landowners, general residents, non-residents, and special-permit purchasers. The 28th Senate District is loaded with hunting and fishing opportunities and I wanted to make sure that all my constituents have an opportunity to enjoy the many outdoor recreational opportunities found within our district and state.

The idea for the permit changes resulted from the Conservation Department's Regulations Committee — not the Legislature. The Conservation Committee conducted a year-long review of sport permit regulations, and then approved the final draft of the proposed changes at their October 31 meeting.

Included among the most talked-about proposed changes is increasing the acreage necessary for property owners to receive no-cost deer and turkey permit privileges from five acres to 80 contiguous acres. This proposed change could affect more than 75,000 landowners in our state.

Other recommendations approved by the committee include:

- Creating a "landowner registry" for property owners seeking no-cost permits.
- Modifying most sport-permit fees — increases of two to three dollars each are likely.
- Establishing a 50 percent discounted price for resident and non-resident youth on deer, turkey, and trout permits and eliminating permits for youth antlerless hunting.
- Eliminating non-resident landowner reduced-priced hunting permits.
- Allowing "Forever" permits for seniors who hunt small game and fish.
- Approving non-resident college and technical school students to purchase resident permits.
- Requiring that age 6 be the minimum age for obtaining deer and turkey permits.

Conservation officials say that the changes are aimed at simplifying the permit structure, making age and hunter education requirements more consistent, and encouraging greater participation by younger outdoor participants. I wanted to bring these changes to your attention and let you know how to provide feedback to the Department of Conservation.

Because these proposed changes directly affect the citizens of the 28th Senate District, I urge you to voice your views on these recommendations. To make a comment, you can log on to www.mdc.mo.gov or write to: Missouri Department of Conservation, Attn: Assistant Director David Erickson, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (**no later than Dec. 17**).

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

