

# Citizen Resolution # 250123



## **Alternative to every weekday noon closure of pheasant hunting hours on state properties**

Pheasant hunting hours within the boundaries of 21 state properties were decreased in 2020 from 2:00 p.m. closure to 12 p.m. (noon) closure on weekdays from Oct. 17–Nov. 3. The noon closure creates public safety problems by heavily concentrating hunters and shooting on these properties, especially during weeks closest to the opening of pheasant season and on weekends since the majority of hunters are unable to hunt during the week with the daily early closing time.

Additionally, the noon closure restricts hunting opportunity during fall afternoons when conditions are often perfect for pheasant hunting.

The change from a daily 2:00 p.m. closure to a 12:00 p.m. closure was made to allow safe release of the pheasants by DNR staff and give pheasants a resting period before being pursued by hunters.

However, this change has increased public safety concerns and significantly reduced afternoon hunting opportunity.

An alternative to every weekday noon closure of pheasant hunting on state properties would be to close at noon for only two weekdays for pheasant releasing and allow hunting until the normal close of hunting hours the other three weekdays. This alternative balances safety for both DNR staff and hunters, allows increased afternoon hunting opportunity during the week, and gives released pheasants a resting period.

The two days per week for the noon closure would be determined for each property by the DNR.

**Would you support the alternative of noon pheasant hunting hour closure on two weekdays and extension of hunting hours until the normal closing time three weekdays on state properties where the current pheasant hunting closure is noon on every weekday?**

Additional Information provided by author:

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