

# New Jersey Hunting & Trapping Digest

August 2023

Explore  
Interactive  
WMA Maps

page 21

NEW: Furbearer  
Sighting Survey

page 68



A Summary of Regulations  
and Wildlife Management Information  
[NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)







# Hunting safely means staying away from utility equipment.

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Assunpink Wildlife Management Area,  
Monmouth County

Jonathan Carlucci/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

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## This Is Not the Full Law

**THIS IS NOT THE FULL LAW.** The information in this *Digest* is based on N.J.S.A. Title 23, Title 13:1B-34 and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5. The amended regulations are known as the Game Code and implement the statute laws. Consult NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement for further details. See *Law Enforcement Conservation Police Contacts*, page 16 for regional Law Enforcement offices. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal documents.



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NOV-DEC: Mon-SAT 9am-8pm SUN 9am-7pm

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NJDEP Fish & Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The *Digest* is available at license agents and NJ Fish & Wildlife offices. Information may be reprinted with permission. Subscriptions are not available. This *Digest* is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; www.jfgriffin.com. Partial funding for the Digest is provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program.

**Cover photo** North American River Otter on the Paulinskil River in Blairstown, NJ.  
(Photo © Pat Plunkett)

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## Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Wildlife  
MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • NJFishandWildlife.com

## New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife

### Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

### Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.



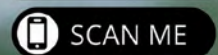


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# Assistant Commissioner's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



The 2023–24 hunting season has been generating great excitement across the Garden State. The New Jersey hunter can find seasons open across nine months of the year, with small game and fall bow beginning in some areas in mid-September and spring turkey hunting extending into May. This, coupled with over 800,000 acres of state-owned open space, makes for incredible hunting opportunities for both resident and non-resident hunters.

The dedicated staff of the NJ DEP Fish and Wildlife have worked hard throughout the year to ensure the access points are well maintained and habitats are well managed across our Wildlife Management Area system. Finding your next hunting spot is now easier than ever with our “New Jersey Wildlife Management Area Explorer.” This app is accessible from your computer or mobile device and is an easy way to find parking areas, public shooting ranges, boat ramps and other key features on Wildlife Management Areas. If you’re a pheasant or quail hunter, you’ll find the “Upland Bird – Interactive Map” a useful tool to identify stocking locations and stocking dates. Visit the app at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/maps/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/maps/).

This year let’s all make a goal to spend more time afield. NJDEP Fish and Wildlife can help with a few programs designed to make hunting new areas easy. Our Tuckahoe managed waterfowl hunt offers new and experienced waterfowl hunters the

opportunity to hunt the waterfowl impoundment system on the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area. See page 65 of this digest for details on how you can enter the lottery for this hunt.

How about trying a new deer zone this year? Our multi-zone deer permits provide a low-cost way for you to try new zones in Regulation Set 7 and 8. By purchasing a multi-zone permit, hunters get a permit that covers all the zones in regulation set 7 or 8 (each regulation set must be purchased separately). More information on this offering is available on page 38.

Since your goal is to spend more time outside this year, consider sharing your experience and knowledge with someone who has never hunted or trapped before. Our New Jersey Apprentice Hunting License makes it easy to bring first time hunters into the field (see pages 8 & 13 for more information). An Apprentice Hunting License allows any age-appropriate person to try shotgun or archery hunting, before completing a Hunter Education Course. The apprentice hunter must be with a mentor hunter as a hunting companion. Visit our website ([njfishandwildlife.com](http://njfishandwildlife.com)) for more information on how this program makes it easy for first-time hunters to get started.

The content in the 2023–24 Hunting & Trapping Digest is packed with important information to keep you safe and legal while you are in the field this season. Whether you’re accessing this information online or from a hard copy of the digest, it is your responsibility to know the regulations and to follow hunting and trapping safety practices. Time outside is always time well spent. Get out there, have fun, be safe, and teach others! 🍷

**Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner NJDEP Fish & Wildlife**







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# Mentored Hunting

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

## Become an R3 Mentor!

R3 stands for **Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation.**

This nationwide initiative is generating new participation in hunting and the shooting sports, welcoming new and former hunters and shooters while addressing the declining numbers as many older participants leave these activities. The R3 effort will help create the next generation of conservationists while stabilizing critical wildlife conservation funding.

**Will you be part of the solution?**

### R3 Mentor Program

NJ Fish & Wildlife's R3 Program is actively seeking volunteer hunting and target shooting mentors. Mentors must show safe, ethical and responsible use of archery and firearm equipment in the pursuit of game species and/or recreational shooting programs.

#### Mentor roles include:

- ♦ Assisting one-on-one with prospective novice hunters and target shooters.
- ♦ Sharing knowledge and experience at skill-based clinics, seminars, and workshops.
- ♦ Participating at field-to-fork style programming.

Questions about the **R3 Mentor Program** and application requests can be directed to [r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov](mailto:r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov).



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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This guide is also available online at

[eRegulations.com](http://eRegulations.com)





# Welcome to Hunting in New Jersey

## Welcome to Hunting in the Garden State!

New Jersey offers sportsmen and sportswomen incredible opportunities to participate in their favorite outdoor activity. For hunters, this means more than a hundred days of deer hunting, including seasons for bow, shotgun and muzzleloading rifle, and some of the best small game, upland bird and waterfowl hunting on the east coast! For those looking for a place to hunt, New Jersey has hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands open to hunting. This includes more than 360,000 acres in 122 wildlife management areas statewide specifically managed to conserve and enhance wildlife populations and provide for wildlife-oriented recreation.

Getting started hunting in New Jersey has never been easier and NJ Fish & Wildlife has made significant changes in many of our programs to help you get out in the field. These changes include a Hunter Education program that includes a free online course; an improved electronic license sales system providing more options and easier use; an Apprentice License that provides the opportunity to actively participate by hunting with a licensed

hunter before you take the required hunter education course, and programs, workshops and mentoring opportunities through the Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) program.

Never hunted before? Here's how to start.

### Complete a Hunter Education Course

A hunter education course must be completed if a person has never had a hunting license or has no record of a previous license or completion of hunter education from New Jersey or another state. Visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunted.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunted.htm) to learn all about New Jersey's Hunter Education program and how to take the free online HunterCourse.com Interactive Hunter Education Course. Information about signing up for the live-fire session after successful completion of the online course is also found there. Remember to print your online course completion voucher and bring it with you to the in-person, live-fire field session.

### Purchase Your Hunting License

After completing the Hunter Education program and receiving your certification, you will be ready to purchase a hunting license! First time hunting license purchasers can buy their license one of two simple ways:

1. In-person at a license agent. License agent information can be found on page 13 of this Digest and on the NJ Fish & Wildlife website. Be sure to bring your Hunter Education Course Completion Card and driver license (if you are of age) when purchasing your license.
2. Online. After our Hunter Education staff enters your information electronically, you will receive an email confirmation to allow you to purchase your license from the comfort of your home.

Remember, always keep your hunting license in a safe place and take it with you whenever you go hunting. Your hunting license must be displayed on your outer clothing whenever you are afield.

### More Information

Visit [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) for more information about hunting in New Jersey and follow NJ Fish & Wildlife on Facebook at [facebook.com/NewJerseyFishandWildlife](https://facebook.com/NewJerseyFishandWildlife) and on Instagram at [instagram.com/NewJerseyFishandWildlife](https://instagram.com/NewJerseyFishandWildlife). Also check out the NJ Hunting & Trapping Explorer app at [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt) for interactive maps and specific hunting and trapping zone information.



# Hunter Requirements

## LICENSE, PERMIT & STAMP INFORMATION



Bill Klimas

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Licenses

Possession of a valid Hunting License is required to hunt and must be visibly displayed on outer clothing not covered by a pack or harness.

License Type / Fee	Requirements	How to Obtain
<b>Youth Licenses (Ages 10–16)*</b> – License valid through Dec. 31 of the year youth turns 16. Farmer exemption also applicable to youth farmers; see pg. 70		
<b>Bow &amp; Arrow: Free</b> <b>Firearm: Free</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be at least 10 years of age to obtain, regardless of residency.</li> <li>Hunters over 10 years and under 14 years must be accompanied by licensed adult (age 21+).</li> <li>Hunters over 10 years and under 14 years require permission from parent or legal guardian to obtain either license.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the HunterCourse.com online program, pass written test and print completion voucher.</li> <li>Register for a specific date/time mandatory live-fire Hunter Education session at NJFishandWildlife.com/hunteredregistration.htm. For questions, call the Hunter Education office at (856) 629-0552.</li> <li>Present Hunter Education course completion card at any license agent.</li> </ul>
<b>Resident Licenses</b> – Licenses valid through Dec. 31.		
<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident (Age 16–64): \$31.50</li> <li>Sr. Resident (65+): \$16.50</li> </ul> <b>Firearm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident (16–64): \$27.50</li> <li>Sr. Resident (65+): \$15.50</li> </ul> <b>All-Around Sportsman</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combines Resident Firearm, Bow &amp; Arrow, and Fishing Licenses: \$72.25</li> <li>With Buddy Fishing License: \$62.25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be NJ resident for at least 6 months or be on active military duty.</li> <li>Required when hunter turns 17 and annually thereafter.</li> <li>A "Buddy" All-Around license requires your friend (age 16–64 who has not purchased any type of fishing license since 2010) to purchase a year-long fishing license in the same transaction when you purchase your All-Around Sportsman License.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A first-time license must be obtained from a license agent by showing appropriate Hunter Education course completion card(s) obtained as above, or with prior resident licenses from any state.</li> <li>All subsequent licenses can be purchased at any license agent or online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>
<b>Apprentice Licenses</b> – Licenses valid through Dec. 31.		
<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident (Age 14–64): \$31.50</li> <li>Sr. Resident (65+): \$16.50</li> <li>Non-Resident (14+): \$135.50</li> </ul> <b>Firearm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident (18–64): \$27.50</li> <li>Sr. Resident (65+): \$15.50</li> <li>Non-Resident (18+): \$135.50</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old to obtain firearm license and 14 years for bow.</li> <li>Hunter Education NOT required.</li> <li>MUST hunt under direct supervision and guidance of hunting mentor.</li> <li>Mentor must be at least 21 and possess a valid license.</li> <li>Mentor may only supervise ONE apprentice at a time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com.</li> <li>Lifetime limit of two apprentice licenses per type.</li> </ul> <p>Also, Apprentice hunters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May hunt with air gun, bow, or shotgun ONLY.</li> <li>NOT valid for coyote or fox, and deer during the deer Muzzleloader Season.</li> <li>CANNOT use an Apprentice License as proof of passing Hunter Education course to purchase a regular license.</li> </ul>
<b>Disabled Veterans (DV) Hunting Licenses</b> – Licenses valid through Dec. 31. (see additional information on pg. 14)		
<b>Free (each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All resident hunting licenses with exception of Buddy All-Around and Buddy Fishing Licenses</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident and Sr. Resident Apprentice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proof from VA of service-connected disability of any degree.</li> <li>Proof of honorable discharge (DD-214 or similar).</li> <li>NJ Driver License or other proof of residency.</li> <li>Appropriate Hunter Education course completion card(s).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same requirements, restrictions, etc. as Apprentice Licenses above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible veterans must initially be certified by NJFW staff. See page 14 or visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information/ for how to apply or for more information.</li> <li>Once certified, veterans obtain licenses at license agents or at NJFishandWildlife.com.</li> </ul>
<b>National Guard (NJNG)</b> – Licenses valid through Dec. 31.		
<b>Free (each)</b> All resident or non-resident hunting licenses with exception of Buddy All-Around and Buddy Fishing Licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be active NJNG member who has completed Initial Active Duty Training.</li> <li>Appropriate Hunter Education Course Completion Cards or prior hunting license from former state of residence.</li> <li>Confirm you are active in the NJDMAVA system. Call (609) 530-6866.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Guard members must be certified by DMAVA, see page 14 for details. Certifications are only valid for six months at a time. Available at all license agents; see page 13.</li> </ul>

License table continued on page 10.





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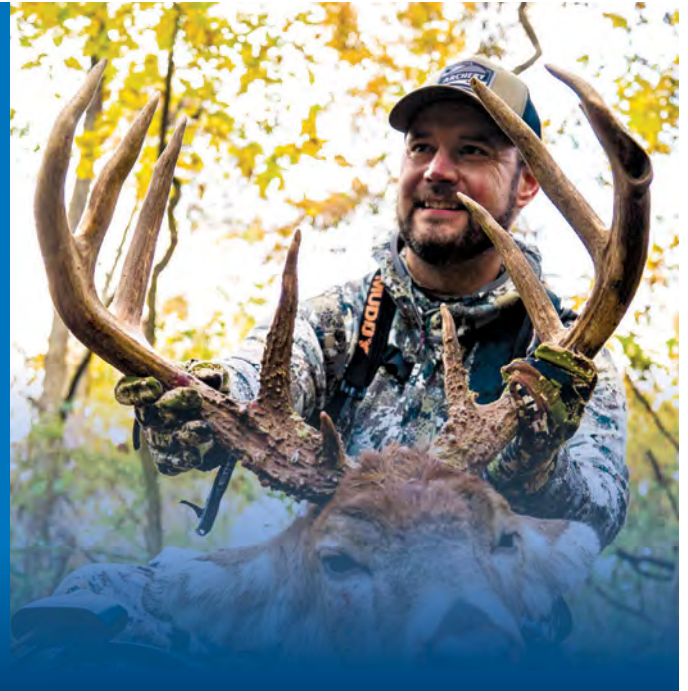


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# Hunter Requirements

## LICENSE, PERMIT & STAMP INFORMATION

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Licenses (continued from page 8)

License Type / Fee	Requirements	How to Obtain
<b>Non-Resident Licenses – Licenses valid through Dec. 31.</b>		
<b>Non-Resident Bow &amp; Arrow</b> • Non-Resident (Age 16+): \$135.50  <b>Non-Resident Firearm</b> • Non-Resident (Age 16+): \$135.50 (Apprentice Licenses, see page 8)  <b>Non-Resident 2-Day Small Game Firearm</b> • Non-Resident (Age 16+): \$36.50 (Not valid to hunt deer or turkey) Valid through the day after issuance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-resident of NJ or NJ resident for less than six months.</li> <li>• Required in the year hunter turns 17 and annually thereafter (for year long licenses).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A first-time license must be obtained from a license agent by showing appropriate Hunter Education course completion card(s) obtained as described under Youth Licenses (page 8), or with prior resident license(s) from any state. See License Information on page 13 for more details.</li> <li>• All subsequent licenses can be purchased at any license agent or online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>
<b>Special One-day Firearm – for use on commercial preserves only. Must be purchased from Commercial Preserve, not available online.</b>		
<b>Resident or Non-Resident</b> • Age 16+: \$12.50 Expires at the end of the day issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have passed appropriate Hunter Education course in NJ or state of residence.</li> <li>• Valid for harvesting any species covered by the preserve license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid for only for commercial shooting preserves</li> <li>• May be obtained on-site at participating commercial preserves.</li> <li>• Show proof of Hunter Education course or prior resident hunting license from any state.</li> </ul>
<b>Farmer License Exemption (see additional information on page 70)</b>		
<b>Farm</b> - must meet qualifications under NJ Farmland Assessment Act of 1964. See <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf">www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No license or rifle permit required for Occupant Farmer or immediate family member<sup>1</sup> hunting farm on which the farmer or immediate family member RESIDE.</li> <li>• Must have a Conservation Identification (CID) number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers who purchased any license or permit since 2006 should already have a CID number.</li> <li>• If not, follow the instructions on page 70 under <b>CID Requirement</b> to create a profile.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Immediate family members are defined further on pg. 70 under Farmer Regulations.

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Management Hunts (Eight (8) points or less, scoring less than 140")	<b>\$2400</b> trophy fee
Gold Hunt — Any Buck in the Preserve Over 200", Fully-Guided, Sept. – Jan.	<b>\$6400</b> trophy fee
Guided Turkey Hunts	<b>\$300</b> per day

Any Buck in the Preserve Under 200", Semi-Guided	
September	\$4400 trophy fee
October	\$3900 trophy fee
November	\$3400 trophy fee
December	\$2900 trophy fee
January	\$2400 trophy fee

Hunts are \$250 per day (2 day minimum).  
If successful, a trophy fee will be charged  
based on the type of hunt selected in  
addition to the daily fee.



Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Permits (Free to DV, NJNG)

Permit Type / Fee	Requirements	How to Obtain
<b>Rifle Permit – Valid July 1–June 30</b>		
<b>Youth</b> (Age 10–16): \$6* <b>Adult</b> (16+): \$10.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have passed a Hunter Education course from any state that includes rifle.</li> <li>Apprentice License holders may not purchase rifle permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Permits</b>		
<b>Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader, or Permit Shotgun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth (Age 10–16): \$12*</li> <li>Adult (16+): \$28</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antlerless, zone-specific permits valid only in the Deer Management Zone and for the duration of the hunting season specified on the permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antlerless, Antlered, and DRS Multi-Zone permits available at license agents or online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> <li>Special Areas may have specific qualifying criteria - hunter has responsibility to arrange for property access before buying any permit.</li> </ul>
<b>DRS Multi-Zone Permit (Permit Bow, Muzzleloader, or Shotgun)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth: \$24*</li> <li>Adult: \$56</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid only for the Regulation Set (Set 7 <b>OR</b> 8) and duration of season specified for antlerless deer. (See pg. 38 for more information)</li> </ul>	
<b>Antlered Buck Permit</b> Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader, or Permit Shotgun season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth: \$12*</li> <li>Adult: \$28</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid in any zone for which hunter has an antlerless zone-specific permit or DSR Multi-Zone Permit.</li> </ul>	
<b>Turkey Permits (Fall/Spring) – Valid for Specific Periods</b>		
<b>Youth</b> (Age 10–16): \$12* <b>Adult</b> (16+): \$21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid only in the Hunting Area and for the duration of the hunting period, specified on the permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall permits available at license agents or online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> <li>An application must be made for Spring Permits only at any license agent or online.</li> </ul>
<b>Coyote &amp; Fox Permit – Valid Jan. 2–Mar. 15</b>		
Age 10+: \$2 Apprentice License holders may not hunt for coyote or fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit required when using certain firearms and ammo or to hunt these species at night.</li> <li>Not available for purchase until mid-Dec. when new hunting license are available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>

\* NOTE: All youth permits can be purchased provided the hunter's youth license is still valid. Youth licenses are valid until the end of the calendar year in which the youth turns 16.

**41st Annual Old Time**      **7am-5pm Saturday • 7am - 4pm Sunday**      **FREE ADMISSION • RAIN OR SHINE**

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- Hunting & Fishing Gear
- Collectables • Duck Boats
- Hunting Guide Services
- Demonstrations • Music & Food
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**FOR FREE SHUTTLE BUS PARKING**  
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## CONTESTS

- Decoy Carving
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*including the NJ State Duck Calling Championship & cash prize for 1st place from NJ Waterfowlers*
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- Hunting Retriever
- Boat Building
- Model Boats
- Youth Contests
- Art & Photo
- Skeetshoot from a Sneakbox
- Archery



For more information, contest rules or past winners please visit the  
**Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation**


www.OceanCountyParks.org under *Programs: Special Events* or call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085





### Permits and Stamps (Free to DV, NJNG)

Permit / Stamp Type / Fee	Requirements	How to Obtain
<b>Pheasant &amp; Quail Stamp</b> – Valid through Dec. 31		
Age 16+: \$40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required on all properties where NJ Fish &amp; Wildlife releases pheasant or quail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>
<b>HIP Certification</b> – Valid Sept. 1–Apr. 15		
Age 10+: \$2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All hunters, including Apprentice License holders, must obtain HIP certificate before hunting ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe or gallinules.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>
<b>NJ Waterfowl Stamp (Age 16+)</b> – Valid July 1–April 15		
Resident: \$10 Non-Resident: \$15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both state <b>and</b> federal stamps are required—even for 16-year-olds still hunting on a youth license—to hunt brant, ducks and geese.</li> <li>Both stamps must be signed in ink.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com</li> </ul>
<b>Federal Migratory Bird Hunting &amp; Conservation Stamp</b> – Valid July 1–June 30		
Age 16+: \$25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both state <b>and</b> federal stamps are required—even for 16-year-olds still hunting on a youth license—to hunt brant, ducks and geese.</li> <li>Both stamps must be signed in ink.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Federal Stamp may be purchased at some post offices and online at fws.gov/service/buy-duck-stamp-or-e-stamp</li> </ul>
<b>Farmer Permits</b>		
Qualified farmers are eligible for free deer and turkey hunting permits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a Conservation Identification (CID) number.</li> <li>Permit(s) must be visibly displayed on outer clothing and not covered by a pack or harness while hunting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New farmers should apply June 1–Aug. 1 at county ag extension offices or online at <a href="http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/information-for-farmers/">dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/information-for-farmers/</a> under Farmer Certification Application for Deer and Turkey permits.</li> <li>Once approved, you may claim your farmer permit at any license agent.</li> </ul>
<b>Duplicate or Lost License / Permit</b>		
\$2 each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be purchased online or replaced at any license agent. (See page 13)</li> </ul>	



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## Licenses

See *Hunting Licenses and Permits Information* on page 8 for license and permit types, fees, requirements and additional information on how to buy. You must have a current NJ license to hunt or trap. The minimum age to hunt is 10 and to trap is 12. Hunting licenses are valid for the calendar year and expire on Dec. 31 regardless of purchase date.

New hunters and new-to-NJ hunters must go in person to a license agent unless they are certain that their hunter education/proof of prior license has already been added to their profile in the license system. For new hunter education students, this can take 2–3 days after successful completion of the live-fire field session.

All hunters and trappers **must visibly display their license on their outer clothing** (not covered by a pack or harness) and must show their license to any law enforcement officer or any person requesting to see it. Farmers hunting their own land must also display any deer season permit.

**Do NOT heat laminate the durable license or permit. High temperature will destroy these waterproof, heat-sensitive documents.**

## Apprentice License

The Apprentice Hunting License allows any age-appropriate U.S. citizen to try shotgun (18 years or older) or archery hunting (14 years or older) before completing a Hunter Education Course. Apprentice Hunters **MUST** hunt under the direct supervision and guidance of a hunting mentor, hunting together as a unit in the same location. Mentors must be 21 years of age or older and must possess a valid New Jersey Hunting License for the hunting method (bow or firearm) being used.

**Apprentice hunters must adhere to hunting laws and regulations, and must purchase all hunting permits, stamps, or the HIP certification, as required.**

Apprentice Licenses are available at license agents and online. Apprentice license holders are **NOT** eligible for a Rifle Permit, Coyote Permit, or Muzzleloader Deer Permit and may not hunt with any type of rifle. Apprentice hunters may not hunt for coyote or fox. An air gun is not considered a rifle.

Individuals are limited to two apprentice licenses per type per lifetime. Due to New Jersey Firearm ID Card regulations, Firearm Apprentice Licenses are limited to individuals 18 years of age and older. An Archery Apprentice License holder must be 14 years of age or older. Regular fees apply. There are no free youth apprentice licenses.

## Hunter and Trapper Education Requirements

New Jersey requires that everyone, age 10 and above, applying to hunt with a firearm or bow must show a previous resident license of the appropriate type from this or any state, or a course completion card from the appropriate hunter education course to obtain a regular license, see Apprentice License exemption, above. Anyone, age 12 and above,

## Where To Buy Your License & Permits

### IMPORTANT!

Licenses and permits can be purchased online at any time day or night at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm).

Want to make your purchase at a license agent? Locate one directly through the Fishing & Hunting License Agent Locator application or directly at [NJFishandWildlife.com/dfwlicenseagents](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/dfwlicenseagents).

You can also find a listing by county at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/license-agents/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/license-agents/)



applying to trap furbearing animals must show a previous resident trapping license from this or any state, or a trapper education course completion card.

All hunter education students must first complete the HunterCourse.com online program ([huntercourse.com/usa/newjersey/](http://huntercourse.com/usa/newjersey/)), which covers both firearm and bow, then pass the 100-question test. Print your home study voucher.

Next, students must register for a specific date/time at one of the mandatory live-fire sessions listed on the Hunter Education Registration Site (a registration code is not required): [NJFishandWildlife.com/huntereducationregistration.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/huntereducationregistration.htm).

Students must register for each discipline (firearm or bow) separately and for different times. Do not register for two sessions in the same time slot. Students must bring their home study voucher to the live-fire session. For more information, visit [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/hunter-education/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/hunter-education/). Any questions, please email [NJHunterEd@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NJHunterEd@dep.nj.gov) or call the Hunter Education office at (856) 629-0552. Trapper Education courses are offered in the spring and in the fall. To enroll in a trapper education course, go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/).

## License Purchase Requirements

To purchase a hunting or trapping license, you must have:

1. A resident hunting or trapping license from any state, or a Hunter or Trapper Education Course Completion Card unless purchasing an Apprentice License. (See Apprentice License)
2. U.S. citizens must provide their Social Security Number. Non-citizens must provide their passport, visa, green card, or non-U.S. driver license. Driver licenses are required for everyone 18 and older when using the online license system.
3. A completed Child Support Certification. (must be completed annually.)
4. New residents and new customers should be prepared to show proof of residency. One must be a resident of NJ for six months prior to purchasing a resident license. Residents of New Jersey must provide one of the following forms of identification:
  - » N.J. Driver License
  - » N.J. Voter Registration Card
  - » N.J. Non-driver photo ID issued by the N.J. Motor Vehicle Commission

## Child Support Certification Requirement

The Child Support Program Improvement Act requires NJ Fish & Wildlife to collect and maintain Social Security numbers and child support obligation certification for all license applications. Certifications must be completed prior to a customer's first purchase each license year regardless of whether the purchase is made online or at a license agent. If your first purchase of the year is at a License Agent then the customer must be present to complete the Child Support Certification in person. The online child support certification allows an individual to complete the form from the privacy of their home. Once done, the certification remains valid for the calendar year in which the certification was completed. When the child support form is completed online the customer does not need to be present at the license agent for a purchase to be made on or for their behalf.

## Antlered Buck Permit Deadlines!

All deer permits may be purchased beginning **Sept. 11, 2023** through the last day of the season for that zone. **RECOMMENDATION:** Purchase your Antlered Buck Permit and zone-specific permit(s) for each season in the same transaction. Hunters who initially purchase only an antlerless, zone-specific permit before the season opens should remember the following deadlines:

- Antlered Buck Permits for Permit Bow Season must be purchased by **Oct. 28** at 11:59 p.m.
- Antlered Buck Permits for Permit Muzzleloader Season must be, purchased by **Nov. 27** at 11:59 p.m.
- Antlered Buck Permits for the Permit Shotgun Season must be purchased by **Dec. 13** at 11:59 p.m.

For hunters who do not purchase any antlerless, zone-specific deer permit until *after* the season opens, an Antlered Buck Permit may be purchased only *with* the initial antlerless zone-specific permit. There will be no other chance to purchase an Antlered Buck Permit.



### Purchasing Online

ALL online purchases:

- ♦ Print from home on plain paper. (Credit card and convenience fees apply.)
- ♦ Are valid immediately.
- ♦ Have free unlimited home reprints.
- ♦ Allow for ordering on green, durable stock for \$2. Every purchaser of a Firearm or All-Around license will automatically be sent a durable stock license by mail at no additional cost. The PDF paper license for Firearm and All-Around licenses is a temporary license only and will not be able to be reprinted after the temporary term ends. If a Firearm or All-Around license is lost, customers must purchase a duplicate which cost \$2 each. Duplicates will also generate a new temporary PDF print-at-home license and a new durable stock, green copy will be sent in the mail.

### Purchasing at a License Agent

License agents can create customer profiles and add hunter education and/or prior hunting license information on profiles. If making your first purchase at a license agent, please bring all documents required (listed on page 13) with you to the store.

When licenses are purchased at a license agent customers can walk out of the store with their purchases in hand. Items are printed on durable stock and a copy of your receipt is able to be emailed to you for your records. In the event you lose any purchase that was made at a license agent you will

be charged \$2 for duplicates regardless of where you make your duplicate purchase. (See page 13 for information on agent locations.)

### Purchasing for More Than One Person

The license system allows for transactions to contain purchases for more than one customer at a time. License agents are able to do this provided each individual in the group is either present or has already completed their Child Support Certification online.

A person may purchase a permit for an absent hunter only when the following conditions are met:

1. The absent hunter has already completed a Child Support Certification (see page 13) online or at a license agent AND
2. The buyer shows the absent hunter's valid hunting license and identifying information (date of birth and Conservation ID Number or Social Security Number). License photocopies not accepted

Online, one person must login, add items to the shopping cart for one person and then click the 'Add Profile' button to add an additional customer profile to the transaction. **It is important that each customer already have a completed profile and completes their Child Support Certification PRIOR to starting this process.** Each individual included in the transaction will have the ability to access their items by logging into their own account.

### Non-resident Licenses

Non-residents must show either a resident license from their state or proof of successfully completing an appropriate hunter education course to obtain a license to hunt or trap in New Jersey. Non-immigrant aliens who temporarily import firearms to the United States must first obtain an application for the permit from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). For importation of firearms, use form ATF Form 5330.3A. The approval may take up to 12 weeks. Contact ATFs New Jersey field office at (609) 989-2155 or download forms from their website at [www.atf.gov/firearms/firearms-forms](http://www.atf.gov/firearms/firearms-forms). For more information on non-resident hunting, go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/buy-a-license/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/buy-a-license/).

### One-day License

**A one-day license is valid for hunting on a licensed commercial shooting preserve only.** This license may be obtained at the shooting preserve and is valid only on the day issued for the species covered by the preserve's license. Hunter Education requirements still apply.

### Lost Licenses

A license, permit, or stamp can be replaced at any license agent or at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Internet license sales site, [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm). A \$2 fee is charged for each duplicate license/permit. Items that were initially purchased online can be reprinted for free. Reprints

## Disabled Veteran Licenses, Stamps, & Permits

### Free hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and permits are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purposes of this program, legislation defines eligible disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

**New applicant disabled veterans may obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps by mailing their application to the address listed. NJ Fish & Wildlife offices will no longer accept Disabled Veteran Certifications in person.** For more information and updates, go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information/).

Applications for disabled veteran certification and your first disabled veteran license may be made via the mail by sending the application and all required documentation to:

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife  
Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing  
MC 501-03, PO Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. Disabled Veteran status does not give preferential treatment in any lottery. For questions call (609) 292-2965.

### Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to be certified for disabled veteran status in our license system.
2. Applicant must provide a hunter education (archery, firearm, shotgun or rifle) course certificate applicable to the license for which he or she is applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or Rifle Permit. Resident licenses from other states issued to hunters in New Jersey will be accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
3. See page 65 for Veteran Related events.



Regulations in **red** are new this year.

are PDFs that will print on plain paper. Reprints can be found by logging into your profile online, then clicking the 'Reprint Licenses' button. In the case of All-Around and Firearm licenses, temporary PDFs are only able to be reprinted during their term of validation, otherwise the customer must click on 'Purchase Duplicate Licenses' button and pay the \$2 duplicate fee for a new temporary PDF to be generated and a new durable stock copy to be printed and mailed.

## Farmer License Exemption

See *Farmer Hunting and Permit Information*, page 70.

## Military Licenses, Active Duty

Any person on active duty in the United States armed services, regardless of their current residency, may buy a New Jersey resident hunting license. Service personnel may obtain an Apprentice License (see pg. 13) or present a previous resident license (from this or any state) of the appropriate type or show proof to the license agent of successful completion of the appropriate hunter education course along with proof of your current active-duty status in the armed services.

## New Jersey National Guard Licenses

New Jersey National Guard personnel in good standing are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. These privileges are available at all license agents; however, hunters and anglers should first confirm with the DMVA office to ensure they are certified in that system. The NJNG will only certify individuals for six months at a time. Call (609) 530-6866, e-mail robert.greco@dmva.nj.gov or write to: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco, NJ DMAVA, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

## Revocation of Licenses

Anyone convicted of a second fish and game violation, in this or any other state, within a period of five years will have their New Jersey hunting and fishing privileges revoked for a minimum of two years.

Certain violations carry greater periods of revocation, ranging from three years to lifetime revocation. **Two convictions of any wildlife management area regulation will result in a five-year revocation** of all sporting privileges. Two convictions of the following will result in lifetime revocation: safety zone violation, causing damage to real or personal property and negligent use of a firearm or bow. NJ Fish & Wildlife may revoke any special use permit or other authorization granted by NJ Fish & Wildlife (excluding hunting or fishing licenses, which are revoked under statutory authority) for violation or due cause. See page 17 for New Jersey's participation in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

## Rifle Permits

All persons in possession of a rifle (modern or muzzleloading rifle **including a smoothbore muzzleloader firing a single projectile**) while hunting or trapping must have a valid Rifle Permit. See the specific regulations for each game or furbearing animal for the specific rifles allowed. A Rifle Permit is not required for hunting with an air gun. Initial Rifle Permit applicants must be at least 10 years old and have successfully completed the Firearms or (now discontinued) Rifle Hunter Education Course or have a resident license or Hunter Education card from any state that includes use of a rifle. See page 11 for Rifle Permit fees.

- ♦ Rifle Permits may be purchased at license agents or at NJ Fish & Wildlife's Internet license sales site. Rifle Permits are valid for all ages of permit holders.
- ♦ Rifle Permits are valid from July 1–June 30.

## Permits to Shoot from a Standing Vehicle for Hunters with Permanent Disabling Conditions

A permit to hunt or shoot on private property from a standing vehicle that is parked off the road may be issued to licensed hunters who:

1. Have a permanent or irreversible physical disability that limits their ambulatory ability,
2. Suffer from cardiovascular disease and are classified as Class 3 or 4 heart patients according to American Heart Association standards, or
3. Suffer from chronic lung disease.

This permit will be issued if the need is certified by a licensed physician or chiropractor. The application period is Jan. 1 to Aug. 31 of each year.

Individuals hunting with a permit to hunt or shoot from a motor vehicle must mark the vehicle from which they are hunting either with handicapped license plates issued by the Motor Vehicle Commission or by displaying a notice provided by NJ Fish & Wildlife in the rear window of this vehicle.

For more information call (609) 292-1473. Submit application to: NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Handicapped Permits, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or downloaded directly from our

website: [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/information-for-hunters-with-disabling-conditions/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/information-for-hunters-with-disabling-conditions/).

## Deer Road-kill Permits

Deer accidentally killed by motor vehicles may be possessed only for private consumption by obtaining a free permit from the local police department or from a NJ Fish & Wildlife regional law enforcement office (see pg. 16). The permit authorizes only possession of the meat and is valid only for 90 days. The possession of all other parts such as antlers, under terms of this permit, is expressly prohibited. Wrapped venison packages must be labeled with the permit number.

## Tracking Dog Permits, Certification

NJ Fish & Wildlife may issue permits to dog handlers who possess a certified tracking dog for the daytime or nighttime search and recovery of deer lost by a hunter during any legal deer hunting season. Minimum certification: UBT-1 from United Blood Trackers, Inc., or the equivalent from another recognized tracking dog organization. A photo of each certified dog must accompany the application. Each handler must possess a valid New Jersey hunting license for the current year. For more information on obtaining a permit, go to: [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/certified-deer-tracking-dog-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/certified-deer-tracking-dog-information/). See also *Dogs, Hunting and Training*, page 23.



Casey Florek's canine tracking partner, Mac, recovered this buck during the 2022 Fall Bow season for a hunter in Middlesex County.

## Know the Deadline to Claim Your Permit!

### Claim your permit by 11:59 p.m. on these dates:

- Beaver/otter permit claim deadline: Nov. 26, 2023
- Spring turkey permit claim deadline: March 20, 2024

**IMPORTANT: Check your permit award status in your customer profile; don't rely on e-mail or postcard notification. There is only a short window to claim the awarded permit(s). You MUST claim your permit BEFORE the claim period has ended! Unclaimed permits become available for over-the-counter sales. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Check your application status online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm).





Keith Griglak/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

CPO Brice Paey addressing a northern region Hunter Education class.

### Law Enforcement and Regulation Information



**For regulation questions, contact a New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office that serves the county where you hunt or fish.**

- **Northern Region — (908) 735-8240**  
(Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — (609) 259-2120**  
(Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — (856) 629-0555**  
(Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — (609) 748-2050**  
(coastal and bay areas)
- **To report violations anonymously call Operation Game Thief — (855) OGT-TIPS**

After business hours, contact the 24-hour DEP Action Line at (877) WARN-DEP or (877) 927-6337.

# Interstate Deer Poaching on Christmas Day, 2020

On Christmas Day of 2020 a caller contacted the NJDEP's 24-hour call center, 877-WARN-DEP, to report potential illegal deer hunting. The witness observed two hunters with two large bucks on a boat at the Farnsworth Ave Boat Ramp in Bordentown. There is no deer hunting on Christmas Day in New Jersey or Pennsylvania.

Working off the information provided by the witness, Central Region Officers obtained a search warrant for the address associated with the boat's owner.

The officers served the warrant and interviewed the suspect. It was then determined that the suspect and a friend had shot both deer on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River on Christmas morning. They became nervous after encountering the witness and dumped both deer off the side of the road shortly after.

The officers were able to recover the discarded deer and gather enough evidence to provide to the Pennsylvania Game Commission Wardens for their illegal hunting case.

The New Jersey cases were heard in the Bordentown Municipal Court in 2022. The first suspect, who had prior convictions for illegal deer hunting, received a \$1700 fine and a three-year license suspension. The second suspect, who had a prior conviction for hunting without a license, received a \$300 fine and a three-year license suspension. Both were convicted of hunting violations in Pennsylvania as well.



NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement

Conservation Police Officer Salvatore Garofalo with the two Pennsylvania bucks illegally transported to and dumped in New Jersey.



### HUNTERS: Know Before You Go!

**Two separate fish and wildlife convictions for violating any New Jersey saltwater, freshwater, trapping or hunting law within a five-year period will cause you to lose your hunting and fishing privileges for two-to five-years!** This means convictions for taking under-sized or over limit striped bass in Marine waters can prevent you from hunting!

**Wildlife management area violations** such as possession of alcohol, swimming, ATV use and illegal dumping also fall under fish and wildlife offenses and can result in license revocation.

**Don't take a chance on losing your license because you heard the wrong information!** If you have any questions regarding hunting or fishing regulations, please call your regional Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office before going in the field.

The overwhelming majority of New Jersey hunters, trappers and anglers are ethical, law abiding citizens with a low tolerance for those not willing to follow the laws. If you see a violation occurring, report it immediately by calling 1-(877) WARN-DEP.



CPO Allen Suttron/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

CPO Cowan Sikora investigates a case of taking trout over the daily limit at Silver Lake, Hardyston Township, April 2023.

### Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New Jersey is member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, a multi-state agreement designed to 1. enhance protection of wildlife resources in member states, 2. provide equal treatment of non-resident hunters/anglers/trappers, and 3. improve compliance with citations or summonses issued for wildlife violations.

**Responsible hunters and anglers want wildlife violators removed from the population of ethical sporting enthusiasts.**

Under the Compact, information about suspension of sporting license privileges for people convicted of wildlife violations in New Jersey will be shared with participating Compact states. The other Compact member states determine if the individual would also be suspended according to their own state laws.

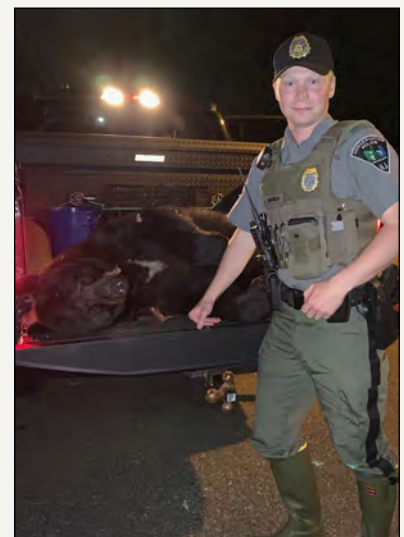
Similarly, New Jersey will be provided with information on individuals suspended for convictions under the law of all Compact states. When reviewed, if the violation(s) would lead to suspension under New Jersey's laws, that individual's privileges will also be suspended in New Jersey.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If an individual has a wildlife license or privilege suspension in any Compact state, **it is the individual's responsibility to first contact the licensing authority in the state where they intend to hunt, fish, trap, harvest shellfish or otherwise take or possess wildlife to determine their eligibility before purchasing any license or engaging in those activities.**

Under New Jersey law, two convictions of any violation of the fish and game laws of this **or any other state** within five years will result in a two-year hunting and fishing license suspension.

Individuals with wildlife violation convictions or license suspensions received outside of New Jersey may call the Compact Administrator at (609) 259-3347 to determine his or her license eligibility in New Jersey.

*For more information on the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, including which states are members, consult the Fish and Wildlife's website at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/the-interstate-wildlife-violator-compact/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/the-interstate-wildlife-violator-compact/)*



CPO Adam Merritt/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

CPO Jack Sikora investigates the closed season killing of a black bear, April 2023.



# Take A Kid Hunting



Keith Griglak/NJDEP Fish and Wildlife

## Deer, Waterfowl, and Turkey Youth Hunt Days

Take this great opportunity to introduce youths to hunting!

All youth hunters must have a valid youth hunting license. See *Youth Licenses*, page 8.

♦ **Supervision:** The youth hunter **MUST** be under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm or bow and arrow license corresponding to the season hunted. Direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and the adult mentoring hunter set up together at the same location, hunting as a

unit, not hunting independently. The adult does not need a zone or area permit to supervise, only their valid license. The adult **CANNOT** hunt on any youth days but may call for the youth. **Youth hunters do not need a harvest number to report harvests during youth hunts or non-permit deer seasons.**

For additional harvest reporting requirements, see page 32.

### YOUTH DEER HUNTING

See table below.

Samantha Rubsam, mentored by her father, harvested her first deer during the 2023 winter archery season with a crossbow. Samantha's special dad and daughter moment will last a lifetime!



Matt Rubsam

### TAKE A KID HUNTING!

<b>Who can hunt?</b>	Youth hunters aged 10 to 16, accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age with valid license appropriate to firearm used. Youth farmers are exempt from the license requirement when hunting on the property on which they reside. Properly licensed adult <b>MUST</b> be set up together with Youth Hunter (same tree, blind, etc). <b>Direct supervision only.</b> See <i>Youth Licenses</i> , page 8. <b>ADULTS MAY NOT HUNT ON DESIGNATED YOUTH DAYS</b>		
<b>What do I need?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A valid Youth Hunting License (see <i>Youth Licenses</i>, page 8.)</li> <li>• A valid Rifle Permit if using a muzzleloader (adult also; see <i>Permits</i>, page 11)</li> <li>• A HIP Number if hunting waterfowl</li> <li>• A Youth Turkey Permit if hunting Youth Turkey Day (see <i>Permits</i>, page 11)</li> </ul> <b>Seasons are open Statewide unless otherwise noted.</b>		
	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Bag Limits</b>	<b>Report Your Harvest</b>
<b>Deer</b>	September 23, 2023	1 deer, either sex ARCHERY ONLY	<b>Antler Point Restrictions and Earn-A-Buck regulations do not apply.</b> Fill in Deer Transportation Tag, page 29, or hand-made card with same info prior to using Automated Harvest Report System.
	November 18, 2023	1 deer, either sex SHOTGUN or MUZZLELOADER ONLY	
<b>Waterfowl</b>	NORTH Zone – Youth ONLY, Oct. 7, 2023	Bag limits: same as during regular season except 2 scaup. See page 62 for details.	See pages 61–65 for all waterfowl hunting requirements. For FAQs on youth hunts, go to <a href="http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/special-youth-and-veterans-active-military-waterfowl-hunting-days-faqs/">dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/special-youth-and-veterans-active-military-waterfowl-hunting-days-faqs/</a> .
	SOUTH Zone – Youth ONLY, Oct. 14, 2023		
	COASTAL Zone – Youth ONLY, Oct. 28, 2023		
	Statewide – Youth Feb. 3, 2024		
<b>Turkey</b>	April 20, 2024	1 male turkey	Fill out Turkey Transportation Card on Permit prior to using Automated Harvest Report System to check-in bird. If no bird is taken this day, Youth Permit may be used during Hunting Period Y.

### YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING

See table, left.

Youth days allow mentors to introduce young hunters to the ethical use and stewardship of waterfowl, and to encourage youngsters and adults to experience the outdoors together. Alexia Ford smiling ear to ear as she proudly displays her first duck, a beautiful hen wood duck.



Mike Ford

### YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING

See table, left.

11 year old Ellie House was able to connect with her first turkey on youth day. She sat with her father, while he worked the hen calls, and her mother sat behind them with a gobble call. It was mid-morning and the group of turkeys were active and interested. Ellie sat still as a hen and smaller tom passed by. She waited for the perfect moment and with one shot she harvested this big tom.



Cliff Goodwin

# WMA Youth Pheasant Hunt Days

All youth hunters must have a valid youth hunting license. See *Youth Licenses*, page 8.

» Nov. 4 and Nov. 6–10 Rain or Shine!

The NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's R3 and Hunter Education Program's Take a Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt will allow properly licensed and supervised youth hunters (see table, below) to hunt any of the 10 stocked wildlife management areas (WMAs) on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Monday–Friday, Nov. 6–10.

In a cooperative effort between the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, volunteer hunting mentors with trained bird dogs will guide youth hunters on a Saturday, Nov. 4 pheasant hunt. This experience will increase the young hunters' opportunity for harvesting a pheasant in a setting which encourages responsible and safe hunting practices.

All guided morning hunt participants must pre-register and be accompanied to the check-in by a parent or guardian who are welcomed and

encouraged to follow the hunters through the fields. All pre-registered hunters will receive an information packet. One guided hunt session will be offered, starting at 7 a.m.

A limited number of youth hunters will be allowed on each WMA during the guided morning hunts. To register, go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/youth-pheasant-hunt-registration-form/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/youth-pheasant-hunt-registration-form/) and select one WMA where you wish to hunt. For each WMA, when registration reaches capacity, the WMA will disappear from the online registration and the youth will need to select one of the remaining options. **Priority will be given to first time participants.** Register early; spaces fill quickly!

Online registration for the Nov. 4 guided youth hunt opens Sept. 5 and closes Oct. 15. **Late registrations will not be accepted.** Pheasant hunt information will be emailed to registered youth hunters during the open registration period. For questions, email [R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov](mailto:R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov).



David Stommer

Youth hunter enjoying his time in the field. Come join the outdoor experience of NJ's Take a Kid Pheasant Hunting Program!

## Selected Wildlife Management Areas for Youth Pheasant Hunting

WMA	Guided AM Nov. 4 only	Open 1 PM Nov. 4	Open All Day Nov. 4	Open All Day Nov. 6–10
Whittingham	•	•		•
Black River	•	•		•
Flatbrook			•	•
Clinton	•	•		•
Assunpink	•	•		•
Colliers Mills	•	•		•
Glassboro			•	•
Milville	•	•		•
Peaslee	•	•		•
Winslow	•	•		•

**Guided, Morning Hunt:** pre-registration required.

**Open, Afternoon Hunt:** Any properly licensed and supervised youth hunter (see *Who can hunt?* top of table, page 18) will be permitted to hunt on the listed WMAs on November 4 from 1 p.m. until sunset. **No registration required.**

**Open, All Day Hunt:** Any properly licensed and supervised youth hunter (see *Who can hunt?* top of table, page 18) will be permitted to hunt on the listed WMAs on Nov. 4 and Nov. 6–10 from 8 a.m. until sunset. **No registration required.**

## Semi-wild Preserves Youth Upland Bird Hunt Day

All youth hunters must have a valid youth hunting license. See *Youth Licenses*, page 8.

» Saturday, November 4, 2023

Properly licensed and supervised youth hunters (see *Who can hunt?* top of table, page 18) are permitted to hunt on licensed semi-wild hunting preserves for pheasant, quail and/or partridge on Saturday, November 4 from 8 a.m. to sunset. Take advantage of this great opportunity for hunters belonging to semi-wild preserves to introduce youth hunters to upland bird hunting without competition from adult hunters who may not hunt on this day.

## Veteran / Active Military Waterfowl Hunts

Veterans and Active Military are welcome during two statewide, Veterans/Active Military Hunting Days on Nov. 4, 2023 and Feb. 3, 2024.

See page 65 for details.



## Instructors NEEDED!

### Become an instructor with NJ Fish & Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the live-fire test after first having completed the online portion.

**Call (856) 629-0552**

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or complete the application form at: [dep.nj.gov/njfw/wp-content/uploads/njfw/Hunter-Ed-Instructor-App.pdf](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wp-content/uploads/njfw/Hunter-Ed-Instructor-App.pdf)





### Public Hunting Lands

To find endless statewide hunting opportunities for small game, deer, turkey, pheasant, migratory birds and more, check this link!

- [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/where-to-go/](https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/where-to-go/)

For additional NJ public hunting lands, turn to these Digest pages:

Public Deer Hunting Lands, pages 40–43

Public Turkey Hunting Lands, page 52



### Hunting & Trapping Explorer!

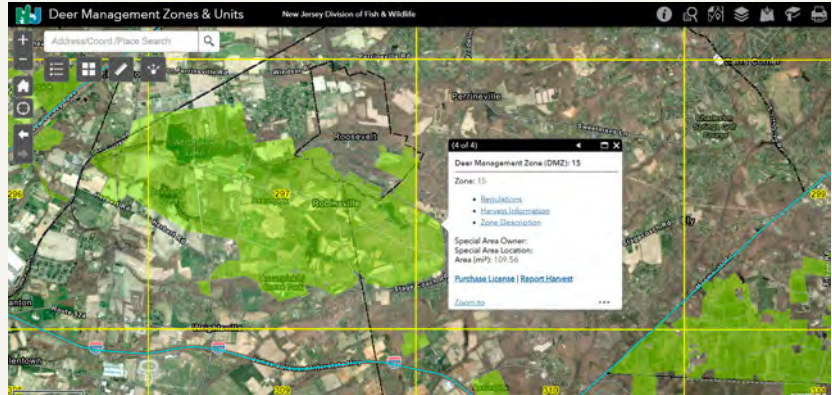


Before heading to your hunting location, use the online **Hunting & Trapping Explorer** to confirm zone boundaries and to determine your hunting zone/area, unit, township and county. This will speed your harvest reporting after a successful hunt!

It's easy, fast and accurate! See page 32 for harvest reporting details.

#### Hunting & Trapping Explorer

Scan this code or visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](https://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt).



## National Wildlife Refuges: 2023–24 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below. Baiting and Sunday hunting are prohibited on all National Wildlife Refuges. Visit the **refuge website** to confirm that access is open. In addition to required state licenses, hunters must purchase a Refuge hunt permit(s) at <https://wallkillriver.recaccess.com> (Discounts for Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass and youths with a valid New Jersey youth hunting license).

#### Cape May NWR

24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
(609) 463-0994; [www.fws.gov/refuge/cape\\_may/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/cape_may/)

- ♦ Deer—Contact Cape May NWR.
- ♦ Migratory game birds on refuge lands north of Rt. 550 or west of Rt. 47
- ♦ Turkey, rabbit, and squirrel hunting in select areas only.

Refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

#### Great Swamp NWR

32 Pleasant Plains Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
(973) 425-0215 ext. 1; <https://greatswamp.recaccess.com/>

- ♦ Deer—See Special Areas Information; page 43.

#### Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

800 Great Creek Rd., Oceanville, NJ 08231-0072;  
(609) 652-1665; [www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin\\_b\\_forsythe/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/)

- ♦ Deer—Contact Edwin B. Forsythe NWR.
- ♦ Waterfowl and rail.
- ♦ Spring Turkey and squirrel hunting in select areas only.

Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge website, or through the mail. An Annual Refuge Hunting Permit is required to hunt all seasons. Go to <https://forsythe.recaccess.com/#> to buy a permit. Interactive and hard copy maps and information can be obtained on the refuge website.

#### Supawna Meadows NWR

c/o Cape May NWR, 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210, (609) 463-0994; [www.fws.gov/refuge/supawna\\_meadows/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/supawna_meadows/)

- ♦ Deer—Contact Supawna Meadows NWR.
  - ♦ Migratory Birds
  - ♦ Small Game
- Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

#### Wallkill River NWR

1547 County Rt. 565, Sussex, NJ 07461-4013; (973) 702-7266;  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/wallkill\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/wallkill_river/)

- ♦ Deer—Contact Wallkill River NWR.
- ♦ Migratory Birds
- ♦ Turkey, spring and fall (THA 5)
- ♦ Small game—squirrel and rabbit only
- ♦ Additional hunting opportunities
  - » **Hunters with Disabling Conditions:** A Disabled Hunter Area exists at 119 Owens Station Rd. Sussex, NJ (see map on Refuge website). Hunters must possess a valid NJ Permit to Hunt or Shoot from a Stationary Vehicle in addition to the Disabled Refuge Hunt Permit.
  - » **Mentored Hunts:** The refuge partners with the National Wild Turkey Federation to offer mentored hunts for youth, women and disabled hunters. Registration is required and space is limited. Contact the refuge for dates and details. 🗨️

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Ranges

- ♦ All WMA regulations apply.
- ♦ All ranges, with the exception of the Black River range, are open 8 a.m. to sunset.
- ♦ At least one member of the shooting party must have a current, valid New Jersey hunting license in possession. Apprentice Firearm Licensees must be accompanied by a holder of a regular, current and valid NJ firearm hunting license, over the age of 21.
- ♦ **Shotgun range:** fine shot only. No buckshot or rifled slugs.
- ♦ **Archery range:** target tips only. No broadheads are to be shot into archery backstops provided by Fish and Wildlife. Broadheads may be used only with user-supplied bag, foam, 3-D or hay targets.
- ♦ **Muzzleloader range:** muzzleloading firearms, shotguns (rifled slug, buckshot), modern rimfire rifles (.17 and .22 caliber) and air guns in calibers legal for hunting in New Jersey are allowed.
- ♦ No handguns are allowed on Fish and Wildlife ranges. Centerfire rifles are permitted at the Flatbrook, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Stafford Forge and Millville ranges only.

### Range Descriptions

Range Designation	Allowable Firearm/Archery Equipment	Shot/Projectile Type	Target Type
Archery Range	Crossbow, Compound, Recurve, and Long Bows	Field Tip Only	Bag Target, provided by NJFW
		Broadhead	Bag, foam, 3-D or hay target, provided by user
Shotgun Range	All gauges legal for hunting in NJ	Fine Shot Only	Clay birds, patterning boards
Muzzleloader Range	Muzzleloader and Shotgun	Rifle/Sabot Slugs, Buckshot, Fine Shot	Paper targets, Patterning Boards
	Rimfire Rifles (.17 and .22 Caliber)	Rimfire ammunition	Paper Targets
	Air guns (.177 and .22 Caliber)	Pellet	Paper targets
Centerfire Rifle Range	Centerfire Rifle ≤ .30 Caliber	Single projectile (e.g. 308, 30-06, 300 Winmag)	Paper targets
	Muzzleloader and Shotgun	Rifle/Sabot Slugs, Buckshot, Fine Shot	Paper targets, Patterning Boards
	Rimfire Rifles (.17 and .22 Caliber)	Rimfire ammunition	Paper targets
	Air guns (.177 and .22 Caliber)	Pellet	Paper targets

### Ranges by Region

County	Wildlife Management Area	Archery Range	Shotgun Range	Muzzleloader Range	Centerfire Rifle Range**	Location
<b>Northern Region</b>						
Hunterdon	Clinton	✓	✓		✓ (100 Yards)**	Rt. 173 W, Clinton
Morris	Black River	✓	✓*			Rt. 513 (Dover-Chester Rd.), Chester
Sussex	Flatbrook	✓	✓		✓ (75 Yards)**	Rt. 615, Layton
Warren	Pequest	✓				Pequest Rd., Oxford
<b>Central Region</b>						
Monmouth	Assunpink	✓	✓*			Imlaystown-Hightstown Rd., Upper Freehold Twp.
	Turkey Swamp	✓*				Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.
Ocean	Colliers Mills	✓			✓ (100 Yards)**	Off Colliers Mills and Hawkin Rds., Jackson Twp.
	Stafford Forge	✓	✓		✓ (100 Yards)**	Off Rt. 539, south of Warren Grove, Little Egg Harbor Twp.
<b>Southern Region</b>						
Atlantic	Makepeace Lake		✓	✓ (100 Yards)		Elwood-Weymouth Road, Weymouth
Gloucester	Winslow	✓				Piney Hollow Rd., Monroe Twp.
Cape May	Tuckahoe	✓				Off Tuckahoe Rd. (Rt.631), Tuckahoe
Cumberland	Millville	✓	✓		✓ (50 and 200 Yards)**	Ackley Rd. (Rt. 718), Millville

\* See range-specific restrictions below. \*\* Muzzleloaders can be used on centerfire rifle ranges.

### Range-specific Restrictions

#### NORTHERN REGION

##### Morris County

##### BLACK RIVER WMA

- Shotgun: Closed weekends from the third Saturday in May through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, as well as on Christmas and Easter. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during this summer period, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the rest of the year. Hunter Education classes are not affected by range hours.

#### CENTRAL REGION

##### Monmouth County

##### ASSUNPINK WMA

- Shotgun range is restricted to the use of non-toxic shot; no lead shot is allowed.

##### TURKEY SWAMP PARK

- Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.
- Archery (Special regulations apply; call 732-842-4000.)

#### STATEWIDE CENTERFIRE

##### RIFLE RANGE RULES (INCLUDES MAKEPEACE LAKE):

- All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from base to bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25-yard increments at the range. This minimum target height requirement eliminates the risk of ricochet to ensure all projectiles are collected in the final berm.

### WMA Maps

Explore the diverse array of resources at New Jersey's Wildlife Management Areas. Click on any interactive map of the 122 WMAs throughout the state. Each feature displays more information within the popups. You can obtain information on infrastructure assets such as shooting ranges, dog training areas, boat ramps, fishing access sites, roads, parking areas and more.





### SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

**NEW JERSEY HUNTERS** enjoy many types of hunting, numerous days afield and generous bag limits. But development and other human encroachment on the forests and fields of the Garden State has changed both wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for hunters.

#### What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- ♦ The firearm SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied. For bowhunters, the SAFETY ZONE around buildings is 150 feet **but remains 450 feet from a school playground**. See *Safety Zone*, page 24.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE is the place where you, the hunter or trapper, cannot carry a loaded firearm or nocked arrow unless you have written permission in hand.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE was established by legislation in 1946 as an area to place some physical distance, a buffer, between hunters and homeowners.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE could be land where there is suitable wildlife habitat for adaptable species, like the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and Canada goose.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE is not a magic shield and cannot stop a misdirected projectile from entering the area around a home.

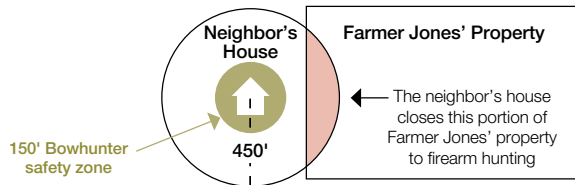
#### What can you do to heighten your SAFETY ZONE awareness?

1. Post SAFETY ZONE signs.
2. Talk with landowners.
3. Scout hunting property annually to be aware of new construction or other changes.
4. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
5. Know the law. Know the land.



Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. Always be a responsible hunter. Always be aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of good conduct learned at your hunter education course are called into practice every time you hunt.

Take special care hunting on “high visibility” property, habitat where our adaptable wildlife species—especially white-tailed deer—are flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. Hunting these special areas carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions. See page 37 for Hunt SMART card. 🦌



### Archery Equipment

“Bow” means any long bow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow **capable of firing a single projectile only**. Hand-held release devices are permitted. Air bows are not legal for hunting.

All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds at the archer’s draw length, except compounds, which must have a minimum peak draw weight of 35 pounds and crossbows which must have a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds. Crossbows must have a minimum stock length of 25 inches.

Crossbows are legal for bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows are permitted for hunting migratory birds. See below for restrictions when taking game birds in flight.

All arrows used for hunting deer, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck must be fitted with an edged head of well-sharpened metal and a minimum width of 3/4 inches.

New Jersey does not regulate arrow/bolt length or weight, broadhead cutting edge length or bow sight magnification.

Arrows fitted with heads other than specified for deer, turkey, coyote, fox or woodchuck may be carried in the woods and fields during the small game season or other seasons which overlap with the bow and arrow deer season except that for taking game birds in flight, arrows equipped with an edged head are prohibited. Also, flu flu arrows are required for taking game birds in flight because

the arrow is designed to fly only a short distance. For the purpose of discharging a cocked crossbow, hunters may carry a judo point, target point or blunt. Canada geese and turkeys which are not in flight may be taken with standard fletched arrows and an edged head as described above.

### Archery Hunting

Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on private land and state wildlife management areas. See *Safety Zones*, page 24.

#### It is unlawful to:

- ♦ Use or possess a poison- or drug-containing arrow, dart or device or one with an explosive tip.
- ♦ Use an edged head for taking game birds in flight.
- ♦ Use a bow one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise during any hunting season.
- ♦ Discharge a bow from any vehicle, including ATVs, moving or stationary.
- ♦ Discharge a bow on or across a highway or road.
- ♦ Have both a bow and a firearm in possession or under control while hunting.
- ♦ Transport a cocked crossbow in, or on, a motor vehicle or ATV.
- ♦ Cast or project a visible beam or spot onto a game animal.

### Baiting

No person shall hunt, shoot or attempt to take any game species from a tree stand or in a structure within 300 feet of a baited area **except for deer**. Hunters targeting deer while elevated in a standing tree or in

## HUNTER ALERT — Multi-barrel Bows NOT Allowed for Hunting in NJ

Currently, at least one manufacturer of modern archery equipment is marketing a crossbow with two barrels capable of firing two bolts in rapid succession, much like a multi-barreled shotgun. NJ Fish & Wildlife has been contacted by sportsmen about the legality of such a weapon for hunting in New Jersey.

NJ Fish & Wildlife and the Fish and Game Council (Council), after much consideration of the original spirit and intent of the archery season, concern for safety in the most populous state in the country and current regulatory language, has determined that archery equipment with multiple barrels — or any bow capable of shooting more than a single projectile — **is not in agreement with current regulations. Therefore, multi-barreled bows are not allowed for use in New Jersey for the purpose of hunting. The Council plans to codify the ban on multi-barrel bows in amendments to the 2025 Game Code.**

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

a structure of any kind may be within any distance of a baited area. A baited area means where agricultural products, salt or edible lures are placed for the purpose of enticing animals. (NJSA 23:4-24 et seq.)

Growing crops and unharvested crops are not considered baiting nor feeding game birds or game animals.

On national wildlife refuges and national recreation areas, no person shall distribute bait and/or hunt over bait.

## Concealing Wildlife Identity

The removal of the skin or feathers or mutilation of any wild bird or mammal in the woods or fields for the purpose of concealing sex or identity is illegal.

## Deer Carcass Ban

- ♦ Hunters are banned from bringing a whole carcass from any member of the Cervid family such as deer, elk, moose, and caribou (reindeer) into New Jersey from ANY other state or country.
- ♦ Hunters are banned from bringing a nontaxidermied head of any member of the Cervid family harvested into New Jersey from ANY other state or country.
- ♦ ONLY boned-out meat, cleaned skullcaps and hides, shed antlers, and clean upper canine teeth of any member of the Cervid family may be brought into New Jersey. See CWD information on page 44.

## Deer Lures Ban

No cervid-derived urine or glandular secretion lures may be sold, possessed or used. Synthetic lures and natural lures derived from species other than cervids are permitted. See CWD information on page 44.

## Dogs, Hunting and Training

Allowing dogs to run at large is prohibited. Persons may train dogs without firearms in daylight at any time except during any open firearm deer season.

No person shall train a dog for hunting raccoon or opossum on WMAs other than during the periods of Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 and from Mar. 1 to May 1. Dog training hours shall be one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

It is illegal to use dogs to pursue or run deer or to track wounded deer. However, a hunter may use the services of a dog handler in possession of a valid NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-issued Tracking Dog Permit with a certified tracking dog for the search and recovery of deer lost during any deer hunting season. See page 15 for certification requirements. Find a dog tracker here: [dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/trackingdogpermittees.pdf](http://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/trackingdogpermittees.pdf)

## Delaware River, Hunting

Hunting on the Delaware River is restricted by state boundaries. A valid hunting license and any appropriate permit/stamp is required for your location.

## Drones, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Drones or unmanned aircraft are prohibited for the purposes of hunting or trapping and may not be used to harass, scout, drive, track, retrieve or rally wildlife.

## Falconry

No person shall use a raptor for hunting without a falconry permit and a valid hunting license. No person under 14 years of age may hunt by means of a raptor. Hunting migratory birds with raptors on Sunday is prohibited.

Falconry permits will be issued only to persons who pass a comprehensive examination and who can provide proper facilities for housing a raptor.

Beginning falconers must be sponsored by an experienced falconer.

No person shall possess a firearm while hunting with raptors.

For additional information call (908) 735-6938.

## Firearms and Missiles

For the purpose of hunting in New Jersey, firearms refer to a shotgun, muzzleloader (rifled or smooth-bore), air gun and modern rifle. See sections on specific game animals for permitted firearms and ammunition.

### It is unlawful to:

- ♦ Possess or use silencer or noise suppressor on any firearm (NJSA 2C:39-1 g.)
- ♦ Have both a firearm and bow in possession or under control while hunting.
- ♦ Possess or discharge a loaded firearm from in, or on, any vehicle, moving or stationary, including ATVs. **Such possession is considered proof of pursuing or taking wildlife.**
- ♦ Transport an uncased firearm in or on a motor vehicle or ATV.
- ♦ Discharge a firearm on or across a highway or road.
- ♦ Cast or project a visible beam or spot onto a game animal.
- ♦ Hunt for or shoot any wildlife by aid of a light, except when hunting raccoon/opossum or when hunting coyote/fox during the Coyote-Fox Special Permit Season.
- ♦ Hunt or shoot with the aid of a light attached to or carried in a vehicle.
- ♦ Use "smart" rifles or guns equipped with any target tracking system, any electronically-controlled, electronically-assisted or computer-linked trigger or a ballistics computer.
- ♦ Be in the woods or fields with a firearm except during prescribed hunting seasons.
- ♦ Possess in the woods or fields shot larger than #4 fine shot except for hunting deer, waterfowl, woodchuck (farmers only) and coyote/fox during the Coyote-Fox Special Permit Season. This shall not apply to the lawful use of ammunition for air guns; see *Air Guns*, below.
- ♦ Use rimfire or centerfire rifles to hunt deer.
- ♦ Use a shotgun capable of holding more than three

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shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading except for during the September Canada Goose Season (see page 61) and during a Light Goose Conservation Order season, if any.

### Air Guns

"Air gun" means any shoulder-mounted firearm which by the force of a spring, air or other non-ignited compressed gas expels a missile or projectile and has a rifled or smooth barrel, using ammunition no smaller than .177 caliber and no larger than .22 caliber producing projectile velocities of not less than 600 feet per second measured at the muzzle. Title 2C:39-1 f classifies air guns as a firearm. **Air gun BBs are not legal for hunting.** Air guns are now legal for taking cottontail rabbit, hare and gray squirrel. A Rifle Permit is not required.

**IMPORTANT:** See *Firearms and Missiles*, above, for the law regarding silencing mechanisms that also apply to air guns.

### Muzzleloaders

It is unlawful to use smokeless powder in a muzzle-loader while hunting. Only black powder or black powder equivalents, such as Pyrodex and Triple Se7en, may be used to hunt with a muzzleloading firearm.

Properly licensed and permitted hunters 10 years and older may hunt with a muzzleloading rifle. A valid Rifle Permit must be possessed while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle. Permitted action types include percussion, flintlock and inline. Electronic ignitions are not legal. For muzzleloader barrel types and legal hunting ammunition, see regulations for each game species.

It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle on WMAs except when hunting deer, during the Coyote-Fox Special Permit Season or Muzzleloader Squirrel Season.

### Rifles, Modern

A valid Rifle Permit must be in possession while hunting with a modern rifle.

Some modern rifles are allowed when hunting certain wildlife. See *Firearms, Bows, and Ammo for Small Game Hunting*, page 58. **NO rifle woodchuck hunting on wildlife management areas or state parks, forests and recreation areas.** Small game hunting with centerfire rifles is limited to not larger

than .25 caliber for coyote and fox and .25 caliber or larger for woodchuck. See page 58.

A modern rifle magazine need not be pinned (plugged) but may be loaded with no more than three cartridges. Rifle permit holders of all ages may hunt with all rifle types as allowed by New Jersey laws.

### Shotguns

Shotguns larger than 10-gauge are prohibited for hunting. Shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shells except for September Canada goose hunting and during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order (see page 65). For information on legal shot sizes, see regulations for each game species to be hunted.

### Hunter Harassment

It is illegal to obstruct or attempt to obstruct or annoy a person lawfully taking wildlife as per N.J.S.A. 23:7A-1 et seq. This includes making loud noises or gestures designed to disturb, alarm, drive, attract or affect the behavior of wildlife.

### Hunter Orange

**Firearm hunters must wear a cap made of solid daylight fluorescent orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while engaged in hunting.** A camo-orange hat alone is not adequate. This applies to all persons while hunting with a firearm for deer, rabbit, hare, squirrel, coyote, fox, railbirds and game birds including while in a tree stand. See exceptions below along with ground blind hunting hunter orange requirements.

**Wearing a hunter orange hat is mandatory when firearm hunting for small game on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant or quail.** See list of stocked WMAs, page 55.

**Ground blind hunter orange display:** All firearm and archery deer hunters utilizing a ground blind when a firearm deer season is open must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides or within five feet outside the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the ground, whichever is higher. Whenever archery and firearms seasons occur at the same time, bowhunters in tree stands also should consider wearing hunter orange.

**Exceptions:** The hunter orange law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote/fox (during the special permit season) or woodchuck, nor bowhunters except a bowhunter using a deer decoy must wear hunter orange, as above, while transporting a decoy into or out of the woods. During the Six-day Firearm Deer Season, it is recommended that bowhunters wear hunter orange.

### National Wildlife Refuges and Recreation Areas

#### Specifically prohibited:

- ♦ distributing and/or hunting over bait
- ♦ permanent tree stands or screw-in steps
- ♦ possession of a loaded firearm while on any publicly traveled roadway within the area.
- ♦ trapping (Delaware Water Gap NRA)
- ♦ Sunday hunting.

### Property Damage

Do not hunt in unharvested crops unless first obtaining permission from the owner. Anyone causing damage to cultivated crops orchards, fences, buildings or livestock may be arrested. Violators are liable for a fine up to \$2,000 and restitution to the property owner in addition to the loss of hunting privileges for five years.

### Safety Zones

No firearm hunter or trapper may hunt or carry a loaded firearm within 450 feet of a school playground or any building (even if unoccupied) without written permission, in possession, from the landowner or lessee.

No **bowhunter** may hunt or carry a nocked arrow within 450 feet of a school playground, or within 150 feet of a building (even if unoccupied) without written permission, in possession, from the landowner or lessee. Persons authorized to bow hunt within 150 feet of a building must hunt from an elevated position to shoot down toward the ground.

**Note:** persons authorized to hunt or trap with a firearm within 450 feet or with a bow within 150 feet of a building must be in possession of that written permission while hunting or trapping. Shooting into a safety zone is prohibited. (See *Safety Zone Awareness*, page 22, for diagram and safety zone explanation.)

### Stands and Blinds on State Parks, Forests

The State Park Service has modified its policy on the use of hunting tree stands and ground blinds on state parks, forests and recreation areas where hunting is allowed. To view the updated policy, visit the State Park Service website at [NJParksandForests.org/stand-blind\\_policy.htm](http://NJParksandForests.org/stand-blind_policy.htm). See page 40 for more information.

### Safety Tips for Crossbow Shooting Success

- Keep fingers and thumb low on the crossbow forearm, below the rail; the flight path of string and cable can cause serious injury.
- Never cock a crossbow while in a tree stand, except for crank-type models.
- Before shooting, check that bow limbs will hit nothing when they flex forward during the release. Crossbow limbs store enough energy to knock a hunter to the ground should the bow contact the tree or your stand.

To see all **10 Safety Tips for Crossbow Shooting Success**, scan this QR code or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/crossbow\\_safety\\_tips.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/crossbow_safety_tips.htm).



Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Sunday Hunting

No person may hunt with firearms or carry a gun in the woods or fields or on the waters on Sunday except on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands for the purpose of shooting stocked game or when using a .22 rifle for dispatching trapped animals.

**Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on state wildlife management areas and private property.**

Persons are allowed to hunt raccoon or opossum on Sunday mornings only between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and one hour before sunrise during the prescribed season.

### Trespass Law

Hunters and trappers must have permission (oral or written) from the landowner or lessee prior to entering either posted lands or agricultural lands (which are **not** required to be posted).

Hunters must obtain permission to enter **posted land** and agricultural land to recover deer. Hunters and trappers may not enter unposted land after having been forbidden to trespass by the owner, lessee or occupant either by verbal notice or when the land has been conspicuously posted with intervisible signs displayed not fewer than ten to a mile along the exterior boundaries and at all roads, trails and rights-of-way entering such land.

If a hunter or trapper is charged with trespass, they must provide documentation of written permission in court for their defense. See page 37 for the Hunt/Trap SMART Courtesy Card.

### Wanton Waste of Game

It is unlawful for any hunter who kills or wounds any white-tailed deer, wild turkey, rabbit, squirrel, pheasant, quail, partridge or waterfowl to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve and lawfully take into possession that animal. It is unlawful for any hunter to harvest any game animal and remove from the carcass the head, hide or antlers and leave the edible portions of the carcass and meat to waste except for a furbearer, crow or woodchuck. See *Edible Portions Guide* on pages 39 and 56.

It is unlawful for any person to dispose of a game mammal, game bird or wildlife carcass or its parts along or upon a public right-of-way or road or on public or private property without the permission of the owner or tenant or on any wildlife management area or state park. Make every effort to retrieve your harvested game. Entrails may be left discreetly in the field or bagged and properly disposed of in your household trash. Consume all edible portions.

### Wildlife, Possession, Sale

No person shall have in possession a deer, migratory game bird or turkey that they did not kill unless it has a label bearing the name, address, phone number, CID and permit numbers of the person who killed the deer, migratory game bird or turkey.

Parts of deer possessed, other than shed antlers, must be from lawfully harvested deer. Proof of lawful harvest (Confirmation Number or seal) should be retained for verification. Road-killed deer with a permit are intended only for consumption; antler possession from these deer is not legal.

It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or have in possession any wild bird other than a game bird. The sale of wild birds or game animals or parts is prohibited except as described in N.J.S.A. 23:4-27. For more specific information, refer to our website, NJFishandWildlife.com. No one may rob a bird's nest.

All nongame mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians are protected. Penalties for taking these species range from \$250–\$5,000.

The sale of wild birds and game animals or parts is prohibited in New Jersey with the following exceptions: legally trapped furbearers may be sold plus the sale of white-tailed deer hides, tails and the lower portion of the legs is legal. For questions, contact a regional NJ Fish & Wildlife law enforcement office (see page 16 or 80).

Bobcat pelts from animals legally harvested in other states may be possessed or sold provided a CITES tag from the state of harvest is attached. Fishers legally harvested in other states may be possessed or sold.

### Wildlife, Protected

There is no open season for wild bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, bobcat, mourning dove, sandhill crane, king rail or fisher. For more information about bobcat (including incidentally trapped) and fisher, see page 67.

See also *Wildlife, Possession and Sales*, above.

### Youth Hunters

A youth hunter is the possessor of a youth hunting license who is at least age 10. Youth licenses are free to youths ages 10–16 upon completion of a hunter or trapper education course. Youth hunters receive a course completion card at the course. See *Hunter and Trapper Education Requirements*, page 13; *Youth Licenses*, page 8. Visit the Take a Kid Hunting section and special youth hunt days, pages 18–19.

Youth hunter status continues until Dec. 31 of the year in which the youth turns 16. Youth hunters age 10 through 13 **MUST** hunt under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm or bow and arrow license corresponding to the season hunted. Direct supervision means both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit, not hunting independently. See also *Youth Licenses*, page 8.

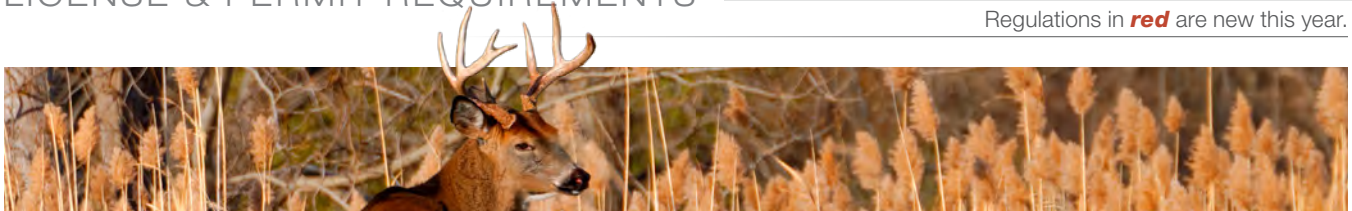
### Specifically Prohibited

- Carrying a loaded firearm within 450 feet, or a nocked arrow within 150 feet of a building or within 450 feet of any school playground (whether or not occupied) is prohibited, except the owner or lessee of a building and persons specifically authorized by him in writing may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet or a bow within 150 feet of the building. **Note:** persons authorized to hunt with a firearm within 450 feet or with a bow and arrow within 150 feet of a building must be in possession of that written permission while hunting. (See page 22 for diagram with complete safety zone explanation. See also *Safety Zone*, page 24.)
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow on or across highways or roads.
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow from a motor vehicle, including ATVs.
- Sights which project a spot or light onto the game animal.
- Hunting for or shooting any wildlife by aid of a light, except when hunting raccoon, opossum or when hunting coyote/fox during the Coyote–Fox Special Permit Season.
- Hunting or shooting with the aid of a light attached to or carried in a vehicle.
- On national wildlife refuges, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait. Also, no Sunday hunting on these lands.
- Hunting with arrows, darts or any other device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal.
- Possessing a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Possession of a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle is considered proof of pursuing or taking of wildlife.
- Transporting an uncased firearm in or on a motor vehicle or ATV or transporting a cocked crossbow in or on a motor vehicle or ATV.
- Shooting into a squirrel's nest.
- The removal of the skin or feathers or mutilation of any wild bird or mammal in the woods or fields for the purpose of concealing sex or identity is illegal.

#### In the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the following apply:

- Baiting is prohibited.
- No permanent tree stands or screw-in steps are permitted.
- You cannot possess a loaded firearm while on any publicly traveled roadway within the area.
- Trapping is prohibited.
- No Sunday hunting.





### What Do I Need to Deer Hunt in NJ?

A hunting license is required for all seasons. Permit Bow, Shotgun and Muzzleloader seasons also require an antlerless zone-specific permit and antlered buck permit. See page 37.

Season	Hunting License	Zone-Specific Antlerless Permit	Antlered Buck Permit	Rifle Permit	Notes
Fall Bow	2023 Bow & Arrow, All-Around, Apprentice Archery, or Youth Archery	—	—	No	
Permit Bow	2023 Bow & Arrow, All-Around, Apprentice Archery, or Youth Archery	Yes (zone or regulation set-specific)	Yes, if hunting for Antlered Bucks. See <b>Notes</b> .	No	For use <b>ONLY</b> in Zones where you possess a zone-specific antlerless permit
Youth Days	See Youth Day regulations on page 8				
Permit Muzzleloader	Valid 2023 or 2024 Firearm, All-Around or Youth Firearm	Yes (zone or regulation set-specific)	Yes, if hunting for Antlered Bucks. See <b>Notes</b> .	Yes	For use <b>ONLY</b> in Zones where you possess a zone-specific antlerless permit. Rifle Permit required.
Six-Day Firearm	Valid 2023 Firearm, All-Around, Apprentice Firearm, or Youth Firearm	—	—	Yes, if using muzzleloader	Hunters with a valid Bow License AND a Firearm or All-Around License may use a bow during Six-day firearm.
Permit Shotgun	Valid 2023 or 2024 Firearm, All-Around, Apprentice Firearm, or Youth Firearm	Yes (zone or regulation set-specific)	Yes, if hunting for Antlered Bucks. See <b>Notes</b> .	No	For use <b>ONLY</b> in Zones where you possess a zone-specific antlerless permit
Winter Bow	2024 Bow & Arrow, All-Around, Apprentice Archery, or Youth Archery	—	—	No	

**NOTE:** All hunting licenses are valid for the calendar year; deer permits are valid for the 2023–2024 deer seasons.

FARMERS are not required to purchase a hunting license for the farm on which they reside but must still report all harvested deer. See page 70 for more information.



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## Deer Hunting Definitions and Concepts

Term	Definition	Example/Explanation
Antlered Deer	Any deer with at least one antler 3 inches or greater	Adult buck, spike 3 inches or greater, or broken rack 3 inches or greater
Antler Point	Any point at least one inch in length	Measured from tip of point to its base line
Antlerless Deer	Any female deer or any male deer with antlers measuring less than 3 inches	Doe, button buck, shed buck or spike measuring less than 3 inches
Antlered Buck Permit	An optional permit purchased in conjunction with an Antlerless Permit in order to harvest one Antlered Buck. Permit is specific to weapon type license and season (Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun).	Valid in any zone in which an Antlerless or DRS Permit (see below) has been purchased for a permit season.
Antlerless Deer Permit	A permit purchased for a specific zone in order to harvest Antlerless Deer. Permit is specific to weapon type license and season.	Required for the Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons.
Antler Point Restriction Zone	A Deer Management Zone where only antlered deer with at least one antler having a minimum of 3 points on one side may be harvested.	Applies to Zones: 3, 9, 13, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 47, 63 and 67. Does not apply to youth hunters during the Youth Archery Day or the Youth Firearm Day.
Baiting	Placing agricultural products, salt or other edible lure in the woods, field or wetlands to attract a game animal to approach closer to a hunter. Baiting for deer is legal except where prohibited by the landowner.	Corn, mineral supplements or apple scented grain blends are examples of bait.
Cervid	Any member of the deer family (Cervidae)	Including white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, reindeer, caribou, moose, fallow deer, muntjac, wapiti, red deer, roe deer, etc.
Deer Regulation Set (DRS) Multi-Zone Permit	Available for Regulation Set 7 <b>OR</b> 8 ONLY. A \$56 season-specific antlerless permit valid for ALL zones within Regulation Set 7 <b>OR</b> 8 for the season specified	For the price of 2 regular zone permits, a DRS Multi-Zone Permit enables you to hunt antlerless deer in six zones in Set 7 <b>OR</b> nine zones in Set 8 for a specific season. A hunter may still purchase an antlerless permit for a specific zone for \$28 if they choose. NOTE: a season antlered buck permit is still required to hunt antlered deer.
Legal Deer Hunting Hours	Half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset	See <i>Sunrise and Sunset</i> table, page 75
Lures, Deer-Derived	Products derived from deer urine, deer gland secretions or tissues, or other bodily fluid or biological material from deer.	No person shall possess or use natural deer lures.
Regulation Set	A group of deer management zones with the same season dates and bag limits. Reg Sets are numbered 0 through 8 (most restrictive to most liberal).	Example: Reg Set 0 includes DMZs 21, 23, 24, 34, 43, 45, and 46.
Special Area Zone	Military bases, Federal installations, specific public and/or privately owned land requiring special access or not open to the general public.	Includes Zones: 37, 38, 39, 53, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, and 68. See pages 41-43 for more information.
Spotlighting	Spotlighting deer during darkness from a vehicle is illegal while in possession of a weapon capable of killing deer, whether the weapon is cased, uncased, or in a locked compartment.	This does not apply to the regular use of headlights when traveling in a normal manner on public or private roads.
Sunday Hunting	Archery Hunting for Deer ONLY. Archery hunting for deer is allowed only on WMAs and private property.	Sunday deer hunting is not allowed on state parks and forests.



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### Firearms, Bows, and Ammunition Legal for Deer Hunting

Weapon	Season(s)	Weapon Type	Gauge, Caliber or Draw Weight	Projectile(s)	Firearm Sights; Bow releases	Weapon Transportation
Bow	Fall Bow, Permit Bow, Winter Bow	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow.	35 pounds pull at archer's draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow) or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow)	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4". Only bows capable of firing a single projectile may be used.	Handheld release devices are permitted. <b>Prohibited:</b> Any sight or device that casts a beam of light upon the deer; multi-barrel bows.	All bows <b>MUST</b> be uncocked or uncocked.
	Six-day Firearm	Bowhunters must possess both a Firearm and a Bow and Arrow license OR an All-Around license to use a bow during the Six-day Firearm Season.				
Muzzleloader	Permit Muzzleloader	<b>Muzzleloader:</b> rifle or smoothbore, single-barrel, single-shot. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted. Electronic ignitions are not legal. Double-barrel firearms prohibited.	<b>Rifle:</b> not less than .44 caliber <b>Smoothbore:</b> not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	Must be loaded with a single projectile only	Telescopic sights permitted. Only black powder or black powder equivalents may be used.	Muzzleloader <b>MUST</b> be cased and unloaded while being transported in or on vehicles, including ATVs and UTVs. Unloaded means percussion cap has been removed or powder is emptied from the pan and frizzen is covered.
	Six-day Firearm	<b>Muzzleloader:</b> single-shot, single barrel rifle OR single or double-barrel smoothbore shotgun. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted. Electronic ignitions are not legal.	<b>Muzzleloading rifle:</b> single shot not less than .44 caliber <b>Smoothbore:</b> single or double-barrel not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge			
	Permit Shotgun	<b>Muzzleloader:</b> single or double-barrel smoothbores only (no rifles.) Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted.	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge	<b>Buckshot:</b> sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36") or a single projectile		
Shotgun	Six-day Firearm	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells	<b>Slugs:</b> lead, lead alloy or copper rifled slug or sabot slug. <b>Prohibited:</b> Pumpkin Balls <b>Buckshot:</b> sizes not smaller than #4 (0.24") nor larger than #000 (0.36")	Telescopic sights permitted. Shotgun must have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or a scope affixed if hunter is hunting with, or in possession of, slugs.	Shotgun <b>MUST</b> be cased and unloaded while being transported in or on vehicles, including ATVs and UTVs
	Permit Shotgun	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore		Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells		

### Antlered Buck Permit Deadlines!

All deer permits may be purchased beginning **Sept. 11, 2023** through the last day of the season for that zone. **RECOMMENDATION:** Purchase your Antlered Buck Permit and zone-specific permit(s) for each season in the same transaction. Hunters who initially purchase only an antlerless, zone-specific permit before the season opens should remember the following deadlines:

- Antlered Buck Permits for Permit Bow Season must be purchased by **Oct. 28** at 11:59 p.m.

- Antlered Buck Permits for Permit Muzzleloader Season must be, purchased by **Nov. 27** at 11:59 p.m.
- Antlered Buck Permits for the Permit Shotgun Season must be purchased by **Dec. 13** at 11:59 p.m.

For hunters who do not purchase any antlerless, zone-specific deer permit until *after* the season opens, an Antlered Buck Permit may be purchased *only with* the initial antlerless zone-specific permit. There will be no other chance to purchase an Antlered Buck Permit.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Six-day Firearm Deer Season

**Dec. 4–9, 2023 and Dec. 9–14, 2024**

(Season always opens the second Monday after Thanksgiving.)

#### Supplemental Harvest Log

As many zones have generous season limits for antlerless deer, this tag can be used to record additional antlerless harvests if you already filled the spaces on the green antlerless tag that is attached to your license or permit. Make sure to verify the bag limit for the season and zone you are hunting in before harvesting another deer.

**This harvest log should be kept on your person in your license holder with your green license and permits/tags**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CID: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone:	Date of Harvest:	Season of Harvest:	Gender:	Confirmation Number:

(Antlerless genders are: Does, button bucks, male deer with antlers <3", and shed antlers)

#### Deer Transportation Tag

##### ATTACH THIS TAG TO DEER BEFORE MOVING

Complete this card and affix to carcass immediately upon recovering your deer. Record Confirmation Number on this tag after reporting your harvest; fill in everything else immediately upon harvest. Except in those DMZs where 2 deer may be taken at a time, Confirmation Number must be obtained and recorded before continuing to hunt where bag limit has not been reached.

**Youth & Farmers:** Record your deer harvest information here prior to using the Automated Harvest Report System for deer taken during the Fall Bow, Six-day Firearm, Winter Bow, or Youth Hunt Day seasons.

**This tag stays with the carcass until it is butchered/taxidermied.**

To report your deer, call (855) I HUNT NJ or (855) 448-6865 or [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Harvest: \_\_\_\_\_ Season of Harvest: \_\_\_\_\_

Deer Mgt Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Deer Mgt Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Sporting Arms Used:

Shotgun    Muzzleloader    Compound Bow    Cross Bow    Recurve Bow

If Antlerless, Circle Gender:

Doe                      Button Buck                      Male Deer with Antlers  
Less than 3"                      Shed

If Antlered, Circle Gender:

Male with Antlers Greater Than 3"                      Antler Points - Right: \_\_\_\_\_  
Broken Antlers                      Antler Points - Left: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Attention Deer Hunters

Please be sure to include the Deer Management Unit (DMU) when reporting your harvest through the AHRs. If you need help determining your DMU please call 609-223-6072, email us at [NJDEER@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NJDEER@dep.nj.gov), or use the Hunting Explorer at [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt)

### WARNING: Tree Stand Hunters

Avoid placing treestands in or near ash trees weakened by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. Beetle damage is not always evident although a tree's structural integrity might already be weakened. Evaluate any tree carefully but note that ash trees may die quickly, concealing their risky status. For more info and ash tree ID tips, visit [nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html](http://nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html).





### Deer Hunting Regulations

- ♦ **Legal Hunting Hours:** one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset
- ♦ **Harvest Report Requirement:** To be legal, all deer harvested **must** be reported using NJ Fish & Wildlife's Automated Harvest Report System at (855) 448-6865 or [NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm). Hunters will be assigned a Confirmation Number which must be kept with the deer and its parts.

### Deer Management Zone Boundaries

- ♦ Deer management zone (zone) boundary descriptions are available by scanning this QR code with your mobile device or by visiting our website at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/deer-management-zone-descriptions/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/deer-management-zone-descriptions/). Review the map on page 33 for general zone borders and corresponding Regulation Set.
- ♦ For quicker results, use the *Hunting & Trapping Explorer* at [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt) with simple instructions above the Explorer's map to determine the deer management zone (zone), county, township and deer management unit (unit) where you hunt. *Write down all this information and keep it accessible while in the field* for when you report your deer harvest.



### Licenses and Permits

- ♦ See *License, Permits and Stamps*, page 8, for details and Hunter Education requirements.
- ♦ Additional hunting licenses may NOT be purchased in order to harvest additional deer.
- ♦ Although hunters may purchase deer permits for multiple zones, they may purchase only **one** zone-specific ANTLERLESS permit **per zone** for each permit season (bow, shotgun, muzzleloader).
- ♦ Antlered Buck Permits may be used **ONLY** in a zone for which you possess an antlerless, zone-specific permit or DRS Multi-Zone Permit for the specified season. You may only buy one antlered buck permit per season.

### Bag Limits

- ♦ For all seasons (except Six-day Firearm), properly licensed and permitted hunters are limited to taking one antlered buck per season, regardless of the number of antlerless, zone-specific permits purchased, when applicable. **NOTE:** if two antlered deer are taken during the Six-day Firearm Season, the Permit Shotgun buck stub is no longer valid.
- ♦ Bag limits for the Fall Bow and Winter Bow (both non-permit) seasons are as prescribed for each zone (see *Archery Deer Hunting Seasons* table, page 34) except that once a hunter has met the bag limit in a given regulation set, he or she may not harvest additional deer from any zone in that regulation set or in an identical or more restrictive

(lesser bag limit) regulation set. However, the hunter may subsequently hunt in a zone with a more liberal (greater) antlerless bag limit as described in the regulations.

### Firearms, Ammunition

- ♦ See page 28 for *Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Deer Hunting*.
- ♦ While deer hunting with a shotgun, it is illegal to have in possession any ammunition not authorized for deer hunting.
- ♦ The use of centerfire and rimfire firearms for deer hunting is prohibited.
- ♦ When hunting during the overlapping firearms seasons for deer, and when in possession of the proper permits for the current seasons, hunters may carry the firearms legal for the current seasons. For example, when Six-day Firearm and Permit Muzzleloader seasons overlap, a hunter may be in possession of a shotgun and either a muzzleloading rifle or smoothbore muzzleloader. Only one muzzleloading rifle or smoothbore muzzleloader may be in possession while deer hunting, but not both simultaneously.

### Blinds and Tree Stands

- ♦ All firearm and archery deer hunters utilizing a ground blind when an archery and firearm deer season are open at the same time, must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind

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Regulations in **red** are new this year.

and visible from all sides or within five feet outside the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the ground, whichever is higher. During these overlapping seasons, bowhunters in tree stands also should consider wearing hunter orange. In addition, **firearm hunters must always use hunter orange on a ground blind**, except while turkey and waterfowl hunting.

- ♦ A *ground blind* is defined as a temporary, man-made structure used for the purpose of concealing from sight a person who is hunting. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.
- ♦ To view the New Jersey State Park Service updated policy on stands and blinds, visit: [NJParksandForests.org/stand-blind\\_policy.htm](http://NJParksandForests.org/stand-blind_policy.htm).

### Decoys and Electronic Devices

- ♦ Persons may hunt with the aid of deer decoys statewide in those zones open for deer hunting only during the Fall Bow, Permit Bow and Winter Bow seasons. When carrying or moving deer decoys for the purpose of hunting, persons must wear a fluorescent hunter orange hat or outer garment consisting of at least 200 square inches of fluorescent hunter orange material, which shall

be visible from all sides as currently required for firearm deer hunting.

- ♦ It is unlawful to hunt for deer with the aid of an electronic calling device or any device that casts a beam of light upon the deer.

### Incidental Coyote/Fox Opportunity

- ♦ Properly licensed deer hunters may legally harvest coyotes or fox incidental to legal deer hunting during the **Six-day Firearm, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun** seasons only if the coyote or fox is encountered *before* the hunter has taken the season bag limit of deer. Incidental hunting of coyote or fox while deer hunting may resume the following day, provided that the season remains open and the season bag limit of deer has not been reached.
- ♦ **Only applicable projectiles used for deer hunting** may be used to take coyote and fox while deer hunting in the seasons listed.
- ♦ Coyote **MUST** be reported using the AHR system; gray fox should also be reported. To report harvest, call 1 (855) 448-6865 or visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm) with mobile device or computer.



## Deer Love New Jersey Apples!

**Apples are a favorite feed source among New Jersey deer. Buy direct from the farmer!**



For information on local New Jersey apple farmers offering deer feed, contact the New Jersey Apple Industry Advisory Council at 609-913-6515.

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## Deer Harvest Trends in New Jersey

### New Jersey deer hunters harvested 38,324 deer during the 2022–23 seasons.

The harvest for this year's deer season is 4% higher than the 36,787 deer taken in 2021–22. The antlerless portion of the 2022–23 harvest was 22,035 deer, up 5.5% from 2021–22. The antlered portion of the 2022–23 harvest was 16,289 deer, up 2.5% from 2021–22.



## Certified Tracking Dogs Speed Recovery of Your Harvest

### Responsible hunters strive to make that perfect shot. Afterwards, tracking conditions can sometimes be challenging.

To speed recovery of your harvest, call in the skills of a certified tracking dog. These trained dogs and their handlers have an impressive track record at finding difficult-to-recover deer while supporting the conservation ethic by which hunters live. Don't hesitate to utilize this option if the need arises!

To locate a tracking dog visit [dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/trackingdogpermittees.pdf](http://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/trackingdogpermittees.pdf)



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### I Harvested a Deer, Now What??

**Congratulations on a successful hunt! The completion of any successful deer hunt requires three things:**

- ♦ Filling out and attaching a Deer Transportation Tag to your harvest before moving the deer.
- ♦ Reporting your harvest through the Automated Harvest Report System and receiving a Confirmation Number.
- ♦ Recording your harvest on the green tag attached to your license or permit.

**NOTE:** If you don't recover your deer or are unable to access the AHRS by the designated times on the day of harvest, call the nearest NJ Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office and leave a message (see page 80) Please leave your name, CID number, phone number, and a brief message explaining your situation. Then report your deer the next day. Your harvest is not legal until you receive a Confirmation Number from the AHRS.

### Step 1: Complete Your Deer Transportation Tag

**DO NOT MOVE THE DEER UNTIL you fill out a deer transportation tag and attach to deer!**

Tags are located on pg. 29 and can be cut out, photocopied or you can create your own.

**In zones where two deer may be taken at a time, each deer must have its own transportation tag with the following information:**

- A.** Name
- B.** CID#
- C.** Date of Harvest
- D.** Season of Harvest
- E.** Deer Management Zone, County, Township, and Deer Management Unit
- F.** Confirmation # after reporting the harvest.
- G.** Type of Weapon Used
- H.** Antlered or Antlerless Category
- I.** If Antlered, record Right and Left Antler points

**Attach the tag to the deer**

You may now remove the deer from the field.

### Step 2: Report Your Harvest

**Report your harvest and receive a confirmation number...**

**Use the AHRS by visiting:**  
[NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs.htm)



You can use your smart phone or computer. You will need the last four digits of your SSN or your Driver License number to access your account.

**OR**

**Call in your harvest in at:**  
 (855) 1 HUNT NJ or (855) 448-6865



Have your CID number ready and verify that they are reporting your deer on the correct tag.

**Record your Confirmation Number on your green Antlerless/Buck Tag.**

**Keep these tags attached to your license/permit**

**\* Retain your Confirmation Number for as long as the deer or its parts are in your possession.**

### Step 3: Keep a Record of Your Harvest(s)

Throughout the seasons it is important to keep an annual record or log of deer harvested and corresponding confirmation numbers. Use the green tag attached to your license/permit. Do NOT separate the "tag" from your license. For each harvest, record the information identified below including the confirmation number. A Supplemental Harvest Log is provided on page 29 in the event you fill the spaces on the tag attached to your license.

**Be sure to keep a record of your harvests with you at all times when hunting.**

**NOTE:** A hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer — or produce records relating to the location of the head such as the butcher or taxidermist who has possession of the deer's head — upon request by a Conservation Police Officer within 48 hours after a deer harvest is reported.

**For Antlered Deer:**

- A.** Fill in the ZONE
- B.** Fill in the DATE of harvest (If late recovery, use the date the deer was shot)
- C.** Fill in POINTS ON RIGHT SIDE AND LEFT SIDE if it's a buck
- D.** If you are reporting the deer in the field, once completed, fill in the confirmation number.

**For Antlerless Deer:**

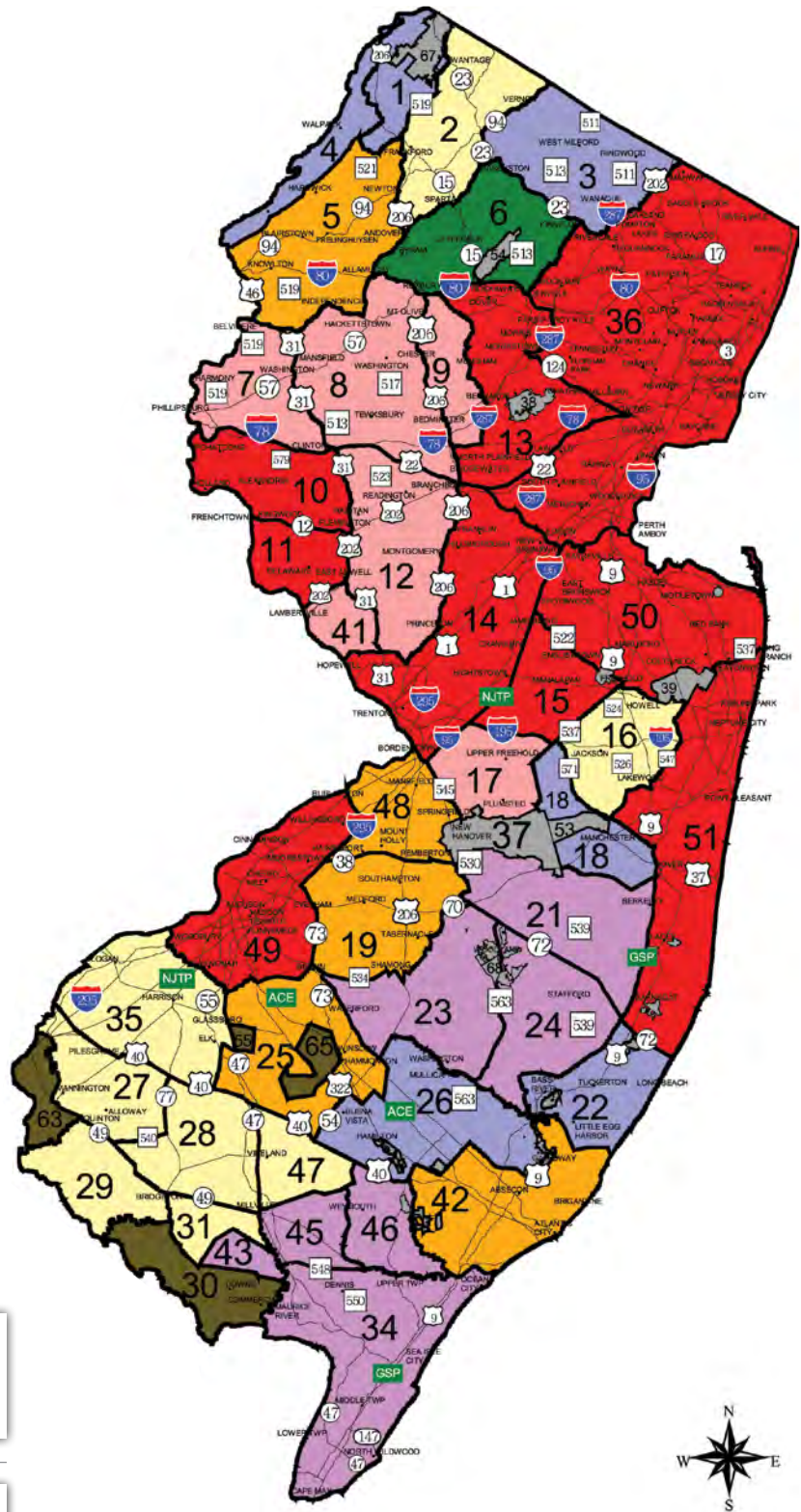
- A.** Fill in the ZONE
- B.** Fill in the DATE of harvest (If late recovery, use the date the deer was shot)
- C.** Fill in SEX OF DEER (Doe, Button Buck, Shed or Male deer with antlers less than 3 inches)
- D.** If you are reporting the deer in the field, once completed, fill in the confirmation number.

There is room for two deer on the antlerless tag, if additional deer are harvested use the Supplemental Harvest Log found on page 29.

## 2023–24 NJ Deer Season Regulation Sets Reference Chart

Zone	For seasons and bag limits, see information beginning on page 34.	Zone	For seasons and bag limits, see information beginning on page 34.
1	Regulation Set # 2	36	Regulation Set # 8
2	Regulation Set # 5	37	Special Area Hunting Season
3	Regulation Set # 2	38	Special Area Hunting Season
4	Regulation Set # 2	39	Special Area Hunting Season
5	Regulation Set # 6	40	Zone is not designated
6	Regulation Set # 4	41	Regulation Set # 7
7	Regulation Set # 7	42	Regulation Set # 6
8	Regulation Set # 7	43	Regulation Set # 0
9	Regulation Set # 7	44	Zone is not designated
10	Regulation Set # 8	45	Regulation Set # 0
11	Regulation Set # 8	46	Regulation Set # 0
12	Regulation Set # 7	47	Regulation Set # 5
13	Regulation Set # 8	48	Regulation Set # 6
14	Regulation Set # 8	49	Regulation Set # 8
15	Regulation Set # 8	50	Regulation Set # 8
16	Regulation Set # 5	51	Regulation Set # 8
17	Regulation Set # 7	52	Zone is not designated
18	Regulation Set # 2	53	Special Area Hunting Season
19	Regulation Set # 6	54	Special Area Hunting Season
20	Zone is not designated	55	Regulation Set # 3
21	Regulation Set # 0	56*	Zone is not designated
22	Regulation Set # 2	57*	Zone is not designated
23	Regulation Set # 0	58*	Zone is not designated
24	Regulation Set # 0	59	Zone is not designated
25	Regulation Set # 6	60	Zone is not designated
26	Regulation Set # 2	61	Special Area Hunting Season
27	Regulation Set # 5	62	Zone is not designated
28	Regulation Set # 5	63	Regulation Set # 3
29	Regulation Set # 5	64	Special Area Hunting Season
30	Regulation Set # 3	65	Regulation Set # 3
31	Regulation Set # 5	66	Special Area Hunting Season
32	Zone is not designated	67	Special Area Hunting Season
33	Zone is not designated	68	Special Area Hunting Season
34	Regulation Set # 0	70*	Zone is not designated
35	Regulation Set # 5		

\* Formerly designated as a Special Area under the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR. See page 43 for details.



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for the detailed deer management zone boundary descriptions or go to our website at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/deer-management-zone-descriptions/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/deer-management-zone-descriptions/)



**NOTE:** Map is for reference only. Use a county map while following zone boundary descriptions referenced by the QR code or see Hunting & Trapping Explorer at [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt).





### Archery Deer Seasons 2023–24

Sunday deer hunting ONLY legal for Archery deer seasons and only on WMAs and private property.

**Hunting hours:** half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset. **NOTE:** only ONE antlered buck per season per hunter is allowed.

**Special Area Zones 37, 38, 39, 53, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, and 68:** see pages 41–43 for details.

\* Any antlered deer taken in zones marked with an asterisk must have at least 3 antler points on one side of rack.

Season	Regulation Set		Zones	Dates	Bag Limits	Additional Information
Fall Bow	7	8	7, 8, 9*, 10, 11, 12, 13*, 14, 15, 17, 36, 41, 49, 50, 51	Sept. 9–Sept. 29, 2023: <b>Must take ONE Antlerless Deer FIRST before pursuing an Antlered Buck</b> (Does not apply to Youth License Holders)	Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	<b>Deer MUST be tagged immediately.</b> <b>All harvests must be reported by 8 p.m. on day of harvest.</b> <b>Deer must be reported prior to pursuing additional deer, except in zones where it is legal to take two deer at a time.</b>
	6		5, 19, 25, 42, 48		9 antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	
	5		2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023: <b>First deer can be of either sex</b>	5 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	4		6		Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered	
	3		30*, 55, 63*, 65	Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023	2 antlerless <b>OR</b> 1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	2		1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26		1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	0		21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46		1 deer only (may be either sex)	
Youth Day Archery	ALL		ALL Zones Listed in Fall Bow above	Sept. 23, 2023	1 deer only (may be either sex)	<b>Must be accompanied by licensed, non-hunting adult.</b> Earn-A-Buck and Antler Point Restriction regulations DO NOT apply. (See page 18 for details.)
Permit Bow	8		10, 11, 13*, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51	Oct. 28–Dec. 24, Dec. 26–Dec. 31, 2023	Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	<b>To harvest an antlered deer, a Buck Permit - Bow is also required.</b> Buck Permit is valid in any zone for which hunter has a zone-specific Archery Permit or DRS Multi-Zone Permit. <b>Only 1 buck is permitted.</b> <b>Deer MUST be tagged immediately.</b> <b>All harvests must be reported by 7 p.m. on day of harvest.</b> <b>Deer must be reported prior to pursuing additional deer, except in zones where it is legal to take two deer at a time.</b>
	7		7, 8, 9*, 12, 17, 41		Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	
	6		5, 19, 25, 42, 48		9 antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	
	5		2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	Oct. 28–Nov. 26, 2023	5 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	4		6		Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered	
	3		30*, 55, 63*, 65		2 antlerless <b>OR</b> 1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	2		1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26		1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	0		21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46		1 deer only (can be either sex)	
Winter Bow	7	8	7, 8, 9*, 10, 11, 12, 13*, 14, 15, 17, 36, 41, 49, 50, 51	Jan. 1–Feb. 17, 2024	Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	<b>Deer MUST be tagged immediately.</b> <b>All harvests must be reported by 7 p.m. on day of harvest.</b> <b>Deer must be reported prior to pursuing additional deer, except in zones where it is legal to take two deer at a time.</b>
	6		5, 19, 25, 42, 48	Jan. 1–Jan. 31, 2024	9 antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	
	5		2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*		5 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	4		6		Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered	
	3		30*, 55, 63*, 65		2 antlerless <b>OR</b> 1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	2		1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26		1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	0		21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46		1 deer only (can be either sex)	

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

## Firearm Deer Seasons 2023–24

No Sunday Hunting for deer during any firearm season.

**Hunting hours:** half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset. Coyote and fox may be harvested incidentally while hunting for deer during firearm seasons except for Youth Day.

**Special Area Zones 37, 38, 39, 53, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, and 68:** see pages 41–43 for details.

\* Any antlered deer taken in zones marked with an asterisk must have at least 3 antler points on one side of rack.

Season	Regulation Set	Zones	Dates	Bag Limits	Additional Information
<b>Youth Day Firearm</b>	ALL	ALL Zones Listed Below	Nov. 18, 2023 (See page 18 for details.)	1 deer only (can be either sex)	<b>Must be accompanied by licensed/permitted, non-hunting adult.</b> Antler Point Restriction regulation DOES NOT apply. (See page 18 for details.)
<b>Permit Muzzleloader</b>	<b>8</b>	10, 11, 13*, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51	<b>Antlerless Only:</b> Nov. 20–22, 24 and Dec. 4–9, 2023 <b>Either Sex:</b> Nov. 27–28; Dec. 11, 12, 16–23, 26–30, 2023; Jan. 1–Feb. 10, 2024	Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	To harvest an <b>antlered deer</b> , a <b>Buck Permit — Muzzleloader</b> is also <b>required</b> . Buck Permit is valid in any zone for which hunter has a zone-specific Muzzleloader Permit. <b>Only 1 buck is permitted.</b>  <b>Deer MUST be tagged immediately and reported by 7 p.m. on day harvested. Any coyote harvested must be reported by 8 p.m. Reporting of gray fox harvests requested.</b>  <b>Deer harvest must be reported prior to pursuing additional deer, except in zones where it is legal to take two deer at a time.</b>
	7	7, 8, 9*, 12, 17, 41	<b>Antlerless Only:</b> Dec. 4–9, 2023 <b>Either Sex:</b> Nov. 27–28; Dec. 11, 12, 16–23, 26–30, 2023; Jan. 1–Feb. 10, 2024		
	6	5, 19, 25, 42, 48	Nov. 27–28; Dec. 11, 12, 16–23, 26–30, 2023; Jan. 1–31, 2024	9 antlerless deer and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	
	5	2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	Nov. 27–28; Dec. 11, 12, 16–23, 26–30, 2023; Jan. 1–5, 2024	5 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	3 4	6, 30*, 55, 63*, 65		2 antlerless <b>OR</b> 1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	2	1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26	Nov. 27–28; Dec. 11, 12, 16–23, 26–30, 2023	1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	0	21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46	Nov. 27–28; Dec. 16–23, 26–30, 2023	1 deer only (can be either sex)	
<b>Permit Shotgun</b>	<b>8</b>	10, 11, 13*, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51	<b>Antlerless Only:</b> Nov. 20–22, 24 and Dec. 4–9, 2023 <b>Either Sex:</b> Dec. 13–15, 2023; Jan. 6–Feb. 10, 2024	Unlimited antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	To harvest an <b>antlered deer</b> , a <b>Buck Permit — Shotgun</b> is also <b>required</b> . Buck Permit is valid in any zone for which hunter has a zone-specific Shotgun Permit. <b>Only 1 buck is permitted</b> , see exception below. <b>Note: Shotgun Buck Permit becomes VOID if 2 antlered deer were harvested during Six-day Firearm Season.</b>  <b>Deer MUST be tagged immediately and reported by 7 p.m. on day harvested. Any coyote harvested must be reported by 8 p.m. Reporting of gray fox harvests requested.</b>  <b>Deer harvest must be reported prior to pursuing additional deer, except in zones where it is legal to take two deer at a time.</b>
	7	7, 8, 9*, 12, 17, 41	<b>Antlerless Only:</b> Dec. 4–9, 2023 <b>Either Sex:</b> Dec. 13–15, 2023; Jan. 6–Feb. 10, 2024		
	6	5, 19, 25, 42, 48	Dec. 13–15, 2023; Jan. 6–31, 2024	9 antlerless and 1 antlered (2 deer may be taken at a time)	
	5	2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	Dec. 13–15, 2023; Jan. 13–20, 2024	5 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	3 4	6, 30*, 55, 63*, 65		2 antlerless <b>OR</b> 1 antlerless and 1 antlered	
	0 2	1, 3*, 4, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 34*, 43, 45, 46	Dec. 13–15, 2023	1 deer only (can be either sex)	
<b>Six-day Firearm</b>	ALL	ALL zones listed above	Dec. 4–9, 2023	2 antlered deer Only 1 buck at a time may be taken. Once harvest of first antlered deer is reported, the hunter may pursue a second antlered deer.	<b>NOTE: If 2 bucks are harvested, the buck bag limit for the Permit Shotgun Season becomes ZERO.</b>  <b>Deer MUST be tagged immediately and reported by 7 p.m. on day harvested. Any coyote harvested must be reported by 8 p.m. Reporting of gray fox harvests requested.</b>





**NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION  
OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS**

# Annual Convention and Awards Banquet

## March 1–2, 2024

**Crowne Plaza Princeton Conference Center, Plainsboro, NJ**

Friday, March 1, 2024, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. & Saturday, March 2, 2024, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Awards Ceremony Dinner on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Join us for science-based wildlife management and hunting/fishing/trapping-related presentations and interactive discussions, as well as the 2024 Garden State Deer Classic and Skillful Angler Awards!

This 2-day event is co-hosted by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., and its affiliates and the New Jersey Sportsmen's Wildlife Foundation.



For details, go to [www.njsfsc.org](http://www.njsfsc.org)

## Hunters Helping the Hungry

Hunters Helping the Hungry, an organization that has enabled hunters to provide over two million servings of tasty and nutritious venison to feed New Jersey families since 1997, needs some help from the public to cover the costs of professional meat processing.

The program, which donated 31,911 pounds of venison (127,644 servings from 1,050 hunter-provided deer) to food banks and charitable organizations last year alone, operates with limited funding. Butchers who participate in the Hunters Helping the Hungry program receive \$100 to process the donated deer. Due to recommendations from our friends at the NJ Farm Bureau working with the NJ Dept. of Agriculture, HHH was awarded a grant that allows us to waive the hunter's portion of the processing fees for hunter-donated deer weighing 50 lbs. or more (dressed hanging weight) for the entire 2022–23 season, and will continue to waive this fee for the 2023–24 season. The hunter's fee for deer weighing under 50 lbs. (dressed hanging weight) is \$50.

Hunters should check on funding availability before harvesting a deer intended for donation by visiting the website below.

Anyone interested in making a charitable contribution to offset the program's meat-processing costs can visit our website at [HuntersHelpingTheHungry.org](http://HuntersHelpingTheHungry.org) to donate securely through PayPal or send a check payable to: Hunters Helping the Hungry, P.O. Box 587, Lebanon, NJ 08833.



Scan the QR code for more information about the HHH program

### Participating Butchers Include (listed north to south):

#### Sussex County

- Newton High School, Newton  
(973) 383-7573 x243 *Call first for instructions*

#### Hunterdon County

- Game Butchers  
The Person Family, Lebanon (908) 735-4646
- Hunterdon Deer Butcher (908) 797-2315  
51 Old Franklin School Rd., Pittstown
- Bishop's Market  
Whitehouse Station (908) 534-9666
- V. Roche & Son, LLC Meat Processing  
9 High St., Whitehouse Station (908) 534-2006

#### Mercer County

- The Valley Butcher  
Pennington (609) 947-2235

#### Salem County

- The Buck Stop, (856) 794-1281  
989 Alvine Rd., Pittsgrove

#### Camden County

- Bringham Fine Meats/Catering  
Berlin (856) 767-0110

We are always looking for butchers to participate in our program, so please contact us through the website [HuntersHelpingTheHungry.org](http://HuntersHelpingTheHungry.org). Also check our website, as the list of butchers may change periodically.

**Butchers may not accept donated deer during the Six-day Firearm Buck Season, decided by individual butchers on a day-to-day basis, so they can accommodate their regular customers. Hunters should contact the butcher in advance.**

For upcoming fundraising events such as sporting clay shoots, a golf outing, and a 3-D archery shoot, visit [HuntersHelpingTheHungry.org](http://HuntersHelpingTheHungry.org)

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

## Deer Permit Information

Farmer deer permit information is detailed in the *Farmer Regulations* on page 70. Farmers purchasing non-farmer permits should also read this deer season permit section, below.

Purchasing requirements and procedure see page 13.

- ♦ A permit is required to hunt during the Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader, and Permit Shotgun deer seasons.
- ♦ The zone-specific deer permit is valid only for antlerless deer in the season specified. Hunters are limited to purchasing one antlerless permit per zone per permit season.
- ♦ Deer Regulation Set (DRS) Multi-Zone Antlerless Permit. This season-specific, regulation set-specific, antlerless permit is available for Regulation Sets 7 OR 8 only and allows the hunter to hunt antlerless deer within any of zones in the Regulation Set and season specified. See DRS Multi-Zone Permits page 38.
- ♦ Only one Antlered Buck Permit per permit season may be purchased (i.e., one Antlered Buck Bow Permit, one Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit, and one Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit). Buck permits are valid in any zone for which the hunter has a valid antlerless zone-specific permit or DRS Multi-Zone Permit. Buck permits **must** be purchased by specific dates; see callout on page 28 for **important** buck permit rules.
- ♦ Regardless of the number of zone-specific antlerless permits in possession, hunters are limited to taking **ONLY** one buck during each of the permit seasons **ONLY** after first purchasing a Buck Permit for that season.
- ♦ Deer permits are valid for the duration of the specified zone's permit season, **including when that season extends into the 2024 calendar year**, and are non-transferable and non-refundable.
- ♦ Muzzleloader season permits are not valid unless accompanied by a valid Rifle Permit while hunting.
- ♦ It is illegal to use a permit for a zone, season or hunter other than those named on the permit.

Deer permit violations are subject to a fine of \$100–\$1,000 for each offense.

- ♦ The cost per permit [Antlerless (zone-specific) Deer Permit or Antlered Buck Permit] is \$28 for adults and \$12 for youths; the cost for a DRS Multi-Zone Permit is \$56 for adults and \$24 for Youths.
- ♦ Permits are available online at NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm or at license agents (information on page 13). Special Areas deer permit information is as listed under each Special Area; see pages 41–43. Special Areas include federal military installations, certain state and county parks, and national wildlife refuges. Special Area zones include: 37, 38, 39, 53, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, and 68.

### Buying A Permit at A License Agent

- ♦ Hours of operation and types of payment accepted vary according to license agent. Be prepared.
- ♦ To purchase a permit a hunter must present their valid, current year's hunting license.
- ♦ A person may purchase a permit for an absent hunter only when the following conditions are met:
  - 1) The absent hunter has already completed a Child Support Certification (see page 13) online or at a license agent and
  - 2) The buyer shows the absent hunter's valid hunting license and identifying information (date of birth and Conservation ID Number or Social Security Number). License photocopies not accepted.
- ♦ The hunter is responsible to know in what zone and season he or she wants to hunt.
- ♦ Hunters are urged to review their permit before leaving the license agent.
- ♦ Once a permit fee is paid and the buyer leaves the store, there will be no returns, exchanges, or refunds. No exceptions.
- ♦ **Permits purchased online** will print as PDF documents. Hunters may use those afield or may purchase duplicates printed on durable material. If purchased, the duplicate durable license copy will arrive in 7–10 business days. Additional fees apply.

## Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

### HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

#### Visitor's Copy — Not Transferable

I request permission to enter your property for the following purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow)

of buildings:  Yes  No

Landowner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Landowner Copy

Permission given to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Make \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Lic. No. \_\_\_\_\_ No. in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Other licenses, tag no. \_\_\_\_\_

Permission dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow)

of buildings:  Yes  No



### Deer Regulation Set (DRS) Multi-Zone Permit for Deer Reg Sets 7 OR 8

**Regulation Set 7 Deer Management Zones:**  
7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 41

**Regulation Set 8 Deer Management Zones:**  
10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51

DRS (Deer Regulation Set) Multi-Zone Permits are currently available for Regulation Set 7 OR Regulation Set 8. While they are separate permits, you can purchase both and have access to 15 zones for the season you select! Hunters can purchase a DRS Permit for each of the permit seasons: **Permit Bow, Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader**. For your DRS Permit, pick the Regulation Set you want to hunt (either for Regulation Set 7 OR Regulation Set 8) then pick the permit season you want to hunt. For \$56 (\$24 for youths) you can now hunt any zone within your chosen Regulation Set for that specific season!

For example, if you normally hunt Zone 9 (Reg Set 7) during the Permit Bow season, with a DRS Multi-Zone Bow Permit, you can now hunt antlerless deer during the Permit Bow season in any or all of the zones within Regulation Set 7. (Zones 7, 8, 9, 12, 17 and 41) That's access to 6 zones for the price of 2!

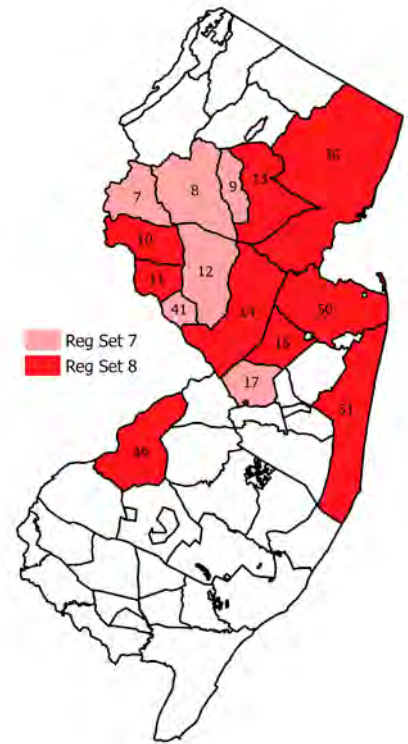
#### Perks of the DRS Permit:

- ♦ Multiple zones for the price of 2
- ♦ Try new hunting locations within one regulation set at a reduced cost
- ♦ All zones within Regulation Sets 7 and 8 have an unlimited antlerless bag limit

**Buck permits are still required to pursue or take an antlered deer.** Buck permits remain unchanged and are valid for use with any zone-specific season antlerless permit or a Multi-Zone Regulation Set Permit. Only one buck may be taken per season regardless of the number of zones hunted.

The purchase of a *DRS Multi-Zone Permit* is optional — hunters may still choose to purchase a single zone permit for \$28.

See pg. 33 for *Map App and Zone Boundary Descriptions link*.



### ALL Deer Permit Sales

Sales for **all** Deer Permits begin at 10 a.m. on **MONDAY, Sept. 11, 2023** and continue until each season ends. Some permit seasons run through Feb. 10, 2024. Permit sales include those for Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun seasons plus Antlered Buck Permits. See deer regulation tables, pages 34–35. Buck permits **must** be purchased by specific deadlines; see callout on page 28 for **important** buck permit rules.

### Warning to Violators

**Be advised:**  
Two violations of wildlife management area regulations will result in loss of all sporting licenses and privileges for a period of five years.



## Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

I agree to conduct myself safely, responsibly and lawfully, respecting the landowner, property, and others using it. I accept the responsibilities which are part of the activities which I pursue. I agree to comply with the instructions of the landowner while on this property.

I understand that the laws of New Jersey absolve the landowner from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, and certain other activities, except in the case of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of hazards.

Signed (visitor) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



This card provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife



### HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

I hereby give permission to: (visitor's name) \_\_\_\_\_

to enter my property for the purpose listed on the reverse side of this card. He/she has agreed to act safely, responsibly, and lawfully and to accept responsibility for his/her actions.

Signed (landowner, lessee, or operator) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



Outdoor Recreation on Private Property is a Privilege — NOT A RIGHT



Regulations in **red** are new this year.

## Edible Portions Guide

Edible portions do not include meat from the head or neck; meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones, or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased or scavenged carcasses. See *Wanton Waste of Game*, page 25.

### For white-tailed deer:

- Front quarters to the knee
- Hind quarters to the hock
- Backstrap/tenderloin — the meat along the backbone, between the front and hind quarters



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## Public Hunting Land – Deer

New Jersey has more than 750,000 acres of state land available to the deer hunter. This list is arranged by deer management zone for public land open to deer hunting that do NOT require additional ACCESS permits or registration to hunt. Generally, only areas with 100 acres or more of upland habitat are listed. Updates since last year are noted below in **red**. See pg. 43 for additional deer hunting opportunities that require registration or additional access permits. To find additional public lands to hunt or trap use the Hunting and Trapping Explorer.

- ♦ Maps on NJ Fish & Wildlife hunting land, Wildlife Management Areas: [dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-management-areas/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-management-areas/)
- ♦ Maps on NJ Parks and Forestry hunting land: [NJParksandForests.org/parks/sps\\_hunting\\_maps.html](http://NJParksandForests.org/parks/sps_hunting_maps.html)

See additional deer hunting opportunities on pg. 41–43

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 1

- Bear Swamp WMA
- Flatbrook—Roy WMA
- Hainesville WMA
- Stokes State Forest

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 2

- Kittatinny Valley State Park
- Paulinskill WMA
- Wawayanda State Park

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 3

- Abram Hewitt State Forest
- Hamburg Mountain WMA
- Long Pond Ironworks State Park
- Norvin Green State Forest
- Ramapo Mountain State Forest
- Ringwood State Park
- Wawayanda State Park

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 4

- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Flatbrook—Roy WMA
- Stokes State Forest
- Walpack WMA
- Worthington State Forest

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 5

- Beaver Brook WMA
- Columbia WMA
- Honey Run WMA
- Jenny Jump State Forest
- Paulinskill WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Swartwood State Park
- Trout Brook WMA
- White Lake WMA
- Whittingham WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 6

- Allamuchy Mountain State Park
- Berkshire Valley WMA
- Fanny State Park
- Hamburg WMA
- Rockaway River WMA
- Sparta Mountain WMA
- Weldon Brook WMA
- Wildcat Ridge WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 7

- Buckhorn Creek WMA
- Clinton WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 8

- Allamuchy Mountain State Park
- Black River WMA
- Hacklebarney State Park

- Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Rockport WMA
- South Branch WMA
- Voorhees State Park

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 9

- Black River WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 10

- Alpha Grasslands WMA
- Clinton WMA
- Lockatong WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pohatcong WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 11

- Lockatong WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 12

- South Branch WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 13

- Berkshire Valley WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 14

- Assunpink WMA
- Pigeon Swamp State Park

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 15

- Assunpink WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 16

- Butterfly Bogs WMA
- Colliers Mill WMA
- Turkey Swamp WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 17

- Colliers Mills WMA
- Pleasant Run WMA
- Prospertown Lake WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 18

- Colliers Mills WMA
- Manchester WMA
- Whiting WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 19

- Medford WMA
- Pemberton Lake WMA (Archery ONLY)
- Wharton State Forest

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 21

- Double Trouble State Park
- Forked River Mountain WMA
- Greenwood Forest WMA
- Lebanon State Forest

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 22

- Bass River State Forest
- Swan Bay WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 23

- Wharton State Forest

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 24

- Bass River State Forest
- Penn State Forest
- Stafford Forge WMA
- Swan Bay WMA
- Warren Grove Recreation Area
- Wharton State Forest

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 25

- Cedar Lake WMA
- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Penbryn Pond WMA
- Wharton State Forest
- White Oak Branch WMA
- Winslow WMA
- Upper Great Egg Harbor Greenway

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 26

- Absecon WMA
- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Hammonton Creek WMA
- Makepeace Lake WMA
- Port Republic WMA
- Swan Bay WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 27

- Salem River WMA
- Thundergut Pond WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 28

- Buckshutem WMA
- Elmer Lake WMA
- Parvin State Park
- Rainbow Lake WMA
- Union Lake WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 29

- Cohansey River WMA
- Gum Tree Corner WMA
- Mad Horse Creek WMA
- Maskells Mill Pond WMA
- Stowe Creek State Park

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 30

- Bear Swamp Natural Area (closed Jan. 15–Aug. 1)
- Dix WMA
- Egg Island WMA
- Fortescue WMA
- Heislerville WMA
- Millville WMA
- Nantuxent WMA
- New Sweden WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 31

- Clarks Pond WMA
- Cohansey WMA
- Millville WMA
- Buckshutem WMA
- New Sweden WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 34

- Beaver Swamp WMA
- Belleplaine State Forest
- Cape Island WMA
- Cox Hall Creek WMA
- Cape May Coastal Wetlands WMA
- Dennis Creek WMA
- Heislerville WMA
- Higbee Beach WMA
- Tuckahoe WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 35

- D.O.D. Ponds WMA
- Elmer Lake WMA
- Featherbed Lane WMA
- Harrisonville Lake WMA
- Logan WMA
- Mantua WMA
- Raccoon Creek WMA
- Salem River WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 41

- Alexauken Creek WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 42

- Absecon WMA
- Port Republic WMA
- Tuckahoe WMA

Use the Hunting & Trapping Explorer to help identify these and other opportunities:

[NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt)



### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 43

- Millville (Bevan) WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 45

- Menantico Ponds WMA
- Millville WMA
- Peaslee WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 46

- Gibson Creek WMA
- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Maple Lake WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
- Peaslee WMA
- Tuckahoe WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 47

- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Peaslee WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 49

- Andaloro WMA
- Mantua Creek WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 51

- Allaire State Park
- Manasquan River WMA
- Manahawkin WMA
- Upper Barnegat Bay WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 53

- Manchester WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 55

- Glassboro WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 63

- Abbotts Meadow WMA (Open for Bow and Arrow seasons ONLY on the old Salem Country Club property.)
- Salem River WMA

### DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE 65

- White Oak Branch WMA
- Winslow WMA

## Hunting in NJ State Parks and Forests

Visit [njparksandforests.org](http://njparksandforests.org) for information regarding hunting opportunities and rules, regulations and policies within NJ State Parks and Forests.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

## All Special Areas

**Special Area Deer Management Zones are properties which have their own zone designation.** All Special Area Permits go on sale on a first-come, first-served basis at 10 am on **Monday, September 11, 2023.** Refer to specific areas for the closing deadline since permit sales for certain special areas are available only for a limited time.

## County Lands

### Atlantic County Park System (Zone 61)

**Permits for Zone 61 will be available for sale until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2023.** Permits will be available for sale at all license agents and online over the Internet. For more information on deer hunting Atlantic County Park, contact (609) 625-8219 or at: <https://www.atlantic-county.org/parks/dmz61.asp>

**Permit Bow Season:** Oct. 28–Dec. 24 and Dec. 26–31, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Muzzleloader Season:** Nov. 27–28; Dec. 11, 12, 16–23, 26–30, 2023; Jan. 1–5, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Six-day Firearm Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Please note:** Hunting during the Six-day Firearm Season on Atlantic County Park property (Zone 61) is NOT open to all hunters. **ONLY** hunters with a current, valid Zone 61 Permit Shotgun Season permit may hunt the property during Six-day Firearm Season. **Bag limit:** two antlered deer. However, if a hunter harvests two antlered deer, they forfeit the opportunity to harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Shotgun Season. Only one buck may be taken at a time.

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Dec. 4–9, and 13–15, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. However, for hunters who harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, the bag limit in the Permit Shotgun Season is restricted to unlimited antlerless deer only. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–31, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Please note: Hunting during the Winter Bow Season on Atlantic County Park property (Zone 61) is NOT open to all hunters, **ONLY** to hunters that had a valid 2023 Zone 61 bow permit. Two deer may be taken at one time.

## State Parks and Forests

### High Point State Park (Zone 67)

Permits will be available for sale at all license agents and online over the Internet. For more information on deer hunting High Point State Park, including a map of the areas open to hunting, contact the office at 1480 Rt. 23 South in Sussex (973) 875-4800 or visit the website at [NJParksandForests.org/parks/highpointstatepark.html](http://NJParksandForests.org/parks/highpointstatepark.html).

**Permit Muzzleloader Season:** Nov. 6–9 and 13–16, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. The hunter's first deer must be antlerless. Successful hunters may then harvest an antlered deer if in possession of an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit. Any antlered deer taken in Zone 67 must have at least one antler with three antler points.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–31, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Any antlered deer taken in Zone 67 must have at least one antler with three antler points. Two deer may be taken at one time. Only those portions of Zone 67 that are south and west of Rt. 23 will be open for the winter bow season.

### Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Zone 64)

**Permits for Zone 64 will be available for sale until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2023.** Permits will be available for sale at all license agents and online over the Internet. For more information on deer hunting Monmouth Battlefield State Park, contact (732) 462-9616 or at: [NJParksandForests.org/parks/monbat.html](http://NJParksandForests.org/parks/monbat.html).

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Six-day Firearm Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Bag limit:** two antlered deer. Only one buck may be taken at a time.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–Feb. 17, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

## Federal Installations

### Earle Naval Weapons Station Depot (Zone 39)

Earle NWS is open **ONLY** to civilian employees or military personnel assigned to the base. Hunters wishing to hunt Zone 39 must have approval from the administrative authority of Earle NWS (Zone 39) before purchasing a Zone 39 permit. For more information, contact Kevin O'Connor at (732) 866-2014.

**Fall Bow Season:** Sept. 9–29, 2023, first deer must be antlerless. Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023, antlered or antlerless. **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Bow Season:** Oct. 28–Dec. 24, 26–31, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Six-day Firearm Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Bag limit:** two antlered deer. However, if a hunter harvests two antlered deer, they forfeit the opportunity to harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Shotgun Season. Only one buck may be taken at a time.

**Permit Muzzleloader:** Nov. 27–Dec. 2 and 11–31, 2023, and Jan. 1–Feb. 10, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Dec. 2, 4–9, 16, 23, and 30, 2023, and Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27, and Feb. 3 and 10, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. However, for hunters who harvest two deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, the bag limit in the Permit Shotgun Season is restricted to unlimited antlerless deer only. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–Feb. 17, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

### Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (Zone 66)

The Technical Center is open to deer hunting through a cooperative agreement between the FAATC, Fish and Wildlife, and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (NJSFSC). Membership in the NJSFSC is required. Hunters wishing to hunt Zone 66 must have approval from the administrative authority of FAA Technical Center (Zone 66) before purchasing a Zone 66 Permit. For more information, call (609) 485-4928.

**Fall Bow Season:** Sept. 9–29, 2023; First deer must be antlerless. Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023; antlered or antlerless deer. **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer.

**Permit Bow Season:** Oct. 28–Dec. 24 and Dec. 26–31, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer.

**Permit Muzzleloader Season:** Nov. 25–Dec. 2 and Dec. 8 and 9, 2023, and Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Nov. 25–Dec. 2 and Dec. 8 and 9, 2023, and Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. However, for hunters who harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, the **Bag limit** in the Permit Shotgun Season is restricted to unlimited antlerless deer only. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–31, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer.

### Dix-McGuire section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, U.S. Air Force (Zone 37)

The Dix-McGuire section (Zone 37) is open **ONLY** to those with authorization to access the



base. Hunters wishing to hunt Zone 37 must have approval from the administrative authority of Dix-McGuire (Zone 37) before purchasing a Zone 37 permit. For more information, contact Natural Resources at 609-754-1847 or 732-323-2911.

**Fall Bow Season:** Sept. 9–29, 2023, first deer must be antlerless. Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023, antlered or antlerless deer. **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Bow Season:** Oct. 28–Dec. 24 and Dec. 26–31, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Six-day Firearm Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Bag limit:** two antlered deer. However, if a hunter harvests two antlered deer, they forfeit the opportunity to harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Shotgun Season. Only one buck may be taken at a time.

**Permit Muzzleloader Season:** Nov. 27–30 and Dec. 1, 2, 11–23, 26–30, 2023, and Jan. 2–6, 2024; **Bag limit:** two deer; one may be antlered only for hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit.

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Dec. 23, 26, and 27, 2023; **Bag limit:** two deer, one may be antlered only for hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit. However, for hunters who harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm

Season, the bag limit in the Permit Shotgun Season is restricted to two antlerless deer only.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 2–Feb. 17, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

### Lakehurst section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, U.S. (Zone 53)

The Lakehurst section (Zone 53) is open ONLY to those with authorization to access the base. Hunters wishing to hunt Zone 53 must have approval from the administrative authority of Lakehurst (Zone 53) before purchasing a Zone 53 permit. For more information, contact Natural Resources at 609-754-1847 or 732-323-2911.

**Fall Bow Season:** Sept. 9–29, 2023, first deer must be antlerless. Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023, antlered or antlerless deer. **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Bow Season:** Oct. 28–Dec. 24 and Dec. 26–31, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Six-day Firearm Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Bag limit:** two antlered deer. However, if a hunter harvests two antlered deer, they forfeit the opportunity to harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Shotgun Season. Only one buck may be taken at a time.

**Permit Muzzleloader Season:** Nov. 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, and Dec. 1, 2, 11–23, 26–31, 2023 and Jan. 1–13, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer.

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Dec. 4–9, 13, 14, and 15, 2023, and Jan. 6–13, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. However, for hunters who harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, the bag limit in the Permit Shotgun Season is restricted to unlimited antlerless deer only.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–Feb. 17, 2024; **Bag limit:** two deer—only one may be antlered.

### Picatinny Arsenal (Zone 54)

Picatinny Arsenal (Zone 54) is open ONLY to active duty or retired military personnel and Picatinny Arsenal federal civilian employees or retirees only. Hunters wishing to hunt Zone 54 must have approval from the administrative authority of Picatinny (Zone 54) before purchasing a Zone 54 permit. For more information, contact Brad Garie at (973) 724-3594 or Conservation Law Enforcement Officer James Opalecky at (973) 724-8647.

**Fall Bow Season:** Sept. 30–Oct. 27, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and one antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

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## How Far Can Your Firearm Shoot?



### 12 gauge maximum distances for shot sizes:

No. 6 .....	708 feet or 236 yards
No. 0 .....	1,845 feet or 615 yards
No. 00 .....	1,895 feet or 632 yards
Slug, 1 oz .....	3,780 feet or 1,260 yards

Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Inc.  
Safety Series, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, CT 06878

- Distances above are with barrel held at an elevated angle for maximum trajectory. Always consider the angle of your barrel when shooting.
- Never shoot at or over the crest of a hill.
- All distances are approximate and can vary depending on the shot-gun's gauge/choke and ammunition used.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

**Permit Bow Season:** Oct. 28–Dec. 24, 26–31, 2023; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Bow Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Six-day Firearm Season:** Dec. 4–9, 2023; **Bag limit:** two antlered deer. However, if a hunter harvests two antlered deer, they forfeit the opportunity to harvest an antlered deer during the Permit Shotgun Season. Only one buck may be taken at a time.

**Permit Muzzleloader Season:** Nov. 27 and 28, Dec. 11–31, 2023, and Jan. 1–6, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Muzzleloader Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Permit Shotgun Season:** Dec. 4–9 and 16, 2023 and Jan. 6, 8–13, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer. In addition, hunters who purchase an Antlered Buck Shotgun Permit may harvest ONE antlered deer. However, for hunters who harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, the bag limit in the Permit Shotgun Season is restricted to unlimited antlerless deer only. Two deer may be taken at one time.

**Winter Bow Season:** Jan. 1–31, 2024; **Bag limit:** unlimited antlerless deer and ONE antlered deer. Two deer may be taken at one time.

## Special Areas - National Wildlife Refuge Areas and Other Public Lands

### Great Swamp NWR (Zone 38)

Great Swamp hunters must possess a Zone 38 permit. **Permits will be available for sale until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.** Hunters must have approval and refuge hunt permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Go to <https://greatswamp.recaccess.com>. For more information contact Jared Green at (978) 440-0280.

**Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun Season (concurrent):** Nov. 1–4, 2023. On Oct. 28 (Saturday), hunting is only for youths who possess a valid New Jersey Youth hunting license and a Zone 38 permit from NJ Fish and Wildlife plus a refuge hunt permit (no fee). Youths must be accompanied by a licensed but non-hunting adult who is at least 21 years of age. **Bag limit:** two deer—either one antlerless and one antlered or two antlerless deer. Hunters must purchase an Antlered Buck Permit to harvest ONE antlered deer.

### Franklin Parker Preserve & Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve (Zone 68)

Hunters must possess proper Zone 68 permits. Seasons and bag limits for Regulation Set #6 apply. For more information, contact [njconservation.org/deer-management/](http://njconservation.org/deer-management/).

## Hunting & Trapping Explorer

Before heading out to hunt, use the online **Hunting & Trapping Explorer** to determine your hunting zone, unit, township and county and to confirm your zone boundaries. This will speed your harvest reporting after a successful hunt!



It's easy, fast and accurate! See page 32 for harvest reporting details.

**Please Note:** Not all land highlighted in green is publicly accessible or huntable. Please contact the landowner/manager for more information.



### Hunting & Trapping Explorer

Scan this code or visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt).

## Additional Deer Hunting Opportunities on Public Lands

Areas listed below **require additional access permits and/or registration.** Contact the property manager directly for more information.

**NOTE:** Sunday hunting is archery *only* and **ONLY** on private land and state WMAs. For municipal properties not listed, contact the municipality directly.

<b>Natural Lands Trust</b>
Many Natural Lands Trust preserves are open for deer hunting. To hunt select Natural Lands Trust preserves, apply online at: <a href="http://nj.gov/dep/njnit/deerhunting.htm">nj.gov/dep/njnit/deerhunting.htm</a>
<b>State Parks and Forest Properties</b>
<b>Cheesequake State Park (Zone 50)</b> Park access permit is required. For more information: (732) 566-2161 or email <a href="mailto:Cheesequake@dep.nj.gov">Cheesequake@dep.nj.gov</a>
<b>D &amp; R Canal State Park, Delaware Township Hunting Areas (Zone 11)</b> For more information: (609) 397-2949; <a href="http://state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/drcanal.html">state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/drcanal.html</a>
<b>D &amp; R Canal State Park, Six-Mile Run Reservoir (Zone 14)</b> Park access permit required. For more information: (609) 924-5705; <a href="http://state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/drcanal.html">state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/drcanal.html</a>
<b>Rancocas State Park (Zone 48)</b> Open for Bow and Arrow Seasons Only. For more information: <a href="http://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/rancocasstatepark.html">nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/rancocasstatepark.html</a>
<b>Round Valley Recreation Area (Zone 12)</b> For more information: (908) 236-6355
<b>Spruce Run Recreation Area (Zone 7)</b> Open for Bow and Arrow Seasons Only. For more information: (908) 638-8572
<b>Washington Crossing State Park (Zone 41)</b> Park access permit required. Open for Bow and Arrow Seasons Only. For more information: (609) 737-0623
<b>County Land</b>
<b>Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation:</b> Park access permit required. For more information: (908) 782-1158; <a href="http://co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm">co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm</a>
<b>Mercer County Parks:</b> Park access permit required. For more information: (609) 303-0706; <a href="http://mercercountyparks.org">mercercountyparks.org</a>
<b>Middlesex County Park System:</b> Park access permit required. For more information: (732) 745-8278
<b>Monmouth County Park System:</b> Park access permit required. For more information: (732) 842-4000; <a href="http://monmouthcountyparks.com">monmouthcountyparks.com</a>
<b>Morris County Park System:</b> Park access permit required. For more information: (973) 326-7622; <a href="http://morrisparks.net/deer/index.asp">morrisparks.net/deer/index.asp</a>
<b>Ocean County Parks Department:</b> For more information: (732) 506-9090; <a href="http://planning.co.ocean.nj.us/natlands.htm">planning.co.ocean.nj.us/natlands.htm</a>
<b>Federal (National Wildlife Refuge-NWR) Land</b> (Baiting is prohibited on all National Wildlife Refuges)
<b>Edwin B Forsythe NWR (Zones 22, 24, 26, 42, and 51)</b> Federal access permit required. For more information: (609) 652-1665; <a href="http://fws.gov/refuge/edwin-b-forsythe">fws.gov/refuge/edwin-b-forsythe</a>
<b>Wallkill River NWR (Zone 2)</b> Federal access permit required. For more information: (973) 702-7266; <a href="http://www.fws.gov/refuge/wallkill_river/">www.fws.gov/refuge/wallkill_river/</a>
<b>Additional Public Land</b>
<b>Bayside PSEG Tract (Zone 29)</b> For more information: (888) MARSHES; <a href="http://www.pseg.com/environment/estuary">www.pseg.com/environment/estuary</a>
<b>Lizard Tail Swamp (Zone 34)</b> Access permit required. For more information: (908) 879-7262
<b>Newark Watershed (Zones 3 and 6)</b> Watershed access permit required. For more information: (973) 697-1724 or (973) 697-1758



# CWD

## Chronic Wasting Disease

### What Is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a progressive and fatal neurologic disease affecting members of the Cervid family such as deer, elk, moose, and caribou (reindeer). CWD is caused by an infectious protein called a prion. CWD is always fatal with no treatment currently available.

### How Is CWD Spread?

- CWD is transmitted directly by animal-to animal contact or indirectly by contact with a contaminated environment. Congregating deer around food sources greatly increases the risk of spread where CWD is known to exist.
- CWD can be spread by the natural movement of infected animals or by humans moving live, infected, captive deer or carcass parts of infected deer.
- CWD prions are shed from the infected animals in saliva, blood, feces, and urine.

- Prions have been found throughout the body of infected deer, particularly in the brain, eyes, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils, and lymph nodes.

- Prions are shed before the animals appear sick and are known to remain infectious in the environment for decades where they bind to soil and plants.

### What Does CWD Infection Look Like?

- CWD is only symptomatic in older deer but all adult deer are susceptible. CWD-infected symptom-free deer are more likely to die from deer-vehicle collisions, predation, hunters, pneumonia or other illness, or parasites than healthy deer.
- Late-stage symptoms include: Emaciation, excessive salivation, lack of muscle coordination, difficulty in swallowing, excessive thirst, excessive urination, an exaggerated wide posture, may stagger and carry the head and ears lowered, dull expression, and loss of fear of humans.

## NJ Taking Action to Prevent CWD

### What is New Jersey Doing to Prevent CWD?

- Banned the importation of any live cervid into New Jersey since 2002. Limited the movement of captive cervids.
- Banned the importation of **whole** hunter-killed carcasses.
- Banned the use, sale and possession of deer-derived scents, lures and deer semen. Only synthetic scents or natural lures made from species not in the deer family are legal for hunting in New Jersey.

### Why is this helpful?

- CWD continues to be found at captive cervid facilities in increasing numbers.
- Many states have reported CWD cases and this is an effort to keep New Jersey CWD free.
- The infectious prions which cause CWD are found in urine, and any exposure has the potential of spreading the disease. Urine for natural lures is collected from captive deer in catch pens that contaminate urine with feces and saliva which also contain prions.

## Regulations to Stop the Spread of CWD

### Whole Deer Carcass Ban

- Hunters are banned from bringing a whole carcass from any member of the Cervid family such as deer, elk, moose, and caribou (reindeer) into New Jersey from ANY other state or country.
- Hunters are banned from bringing a nontaxidermied head of any member of the Cervid family into New Jersey from ANY other state or country.
- **ONLY** boned-out meat, cleaned skullcaps and hides, shed antlers, and clean upper canine teeth of any member of the Cervid family may be brought into New Jersey.

### Deer-Derived Scent And Lure Ban

- Lures and scents made from deer are banned for sale, possession, and use while hunting in New Jersey, including deer urine and deer glandular secretions, as infectious prions that cause CWD can be found in these fluids.
- **ONLY** synthetic scents or natural lures made from species not in the deer family are legal for deer hunting in New Jersey.
- Many synthetic products are readily available at sporting goods stores and online retailers. Hunters must use these products as part of New Jersey's effort to keep CWD out of the state.

## Keep NJ CWD-Free

### If you see a deer showing CWD symptoms while out hunting:

- ✓ Immediately contact Fish and Wildlife for further instruction. Take photos/videos if possible.
  - » FW Wildlife Health: 908-735-6398
  - » FW Deer Biologists: Statewide 609-223-6072; North 908-735-7040; South 856-875-6418
  - » FW Law Enforcement: Northern 908-735-8240; Central 609-259-2120; Southern 856-629-0555
- ✓ If instructed by Fish and Wildlife, shoot the deer and note the exact location, if possible with a GPS waypoint.
- ✓ Place your shot in the vital organs as the head is needed for testing. Do not field dress the deer.

### When hunting in other states, bring home **ONLY**:

- ✓ Cut and wrapped meat (either commercially or privately)
- ✓ Deboned meat (meat with bones removed)
- ✓ Hides with no head attached
- ✓ Finished taxidermy heads
- ✓ Antlers with no attached tissue
- ✓ Clean skulls or skull plates with no attached lymphoid or brain tissue (skull plates, antlers or skulls from which residual brain tissue has been removed should be soaked in a 30 percent bleach solution for 15 minutes to destroy the prions.)
- ✓ Upper canine teeth (also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories)

### When hunting in other states, **DO NOT** bring home:

- ✗ Whole carcass from any member of the Cervid family such as deer, elk, moose, and caribou (reindeer)
- ✗ Nontaxidermied head of any member of the Cervid family

**If you are a nonresident hunter, be sure to check your home state's CWD rules and regulations regarding importation and transportation of a harvested deer from another state.**



# SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

**T**he target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



[NSSF.ORG](http://NSSF.ORG)





**\*UPON PUBLICATION OF THE 2022 COMPREHENSIVE BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE NJ REGISTER, THE 2023 BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASON WILL FOLLOW THE REGULATIONS ON PAGES 46–48.\***

**A CURRENT AND VALID** archery or firearm or all-around sportsman hunting license and a Black Bear Hunting Permit is required to hunt black bear. See Black Bear Management Zone page 48; see also *Black Bear Hunting Permits* this page.

Youth hunters aged 10 through 13 on or before October 8, 2023, must be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult (21 years of age or older) while bear hunting. The adult must also possess a black bear hunting permit. Direct supervision means the youth hunter and the supervising adult are together at the same location. The youth hunter may not hunt independently of the adult.

The Black Bear hunting season consists of two separate segments, Segment A in October, and Segment B in December. In total, a hunter with valid permits may harvest up to two bears, one in each segment. The season bag limit is one bear per permit, but only one bear may be taken per

segment, regardless of the number of permits the hunter holds.

**Apprentice License holders may NOT hunt black bear.** The skills necessary to hunt black bear are not commensurate with an introductory hunting experience as the apprentice license program is intended to provide.

### Black Bear Hunting Permits

Permits are valid for the entire black bear hunting season, including Segment A in October and Segment B in December. A hunter may not possess more than two unfilled permits at any time during the entire season; these permits must be for different zones.

If no bear is taken during Segment A, the permit(s) is still valid for hunting in Segment B. If a hunter harvests a bear during Segment A, that permit is no longer valid, though the hunter may purchase a permit for that same zone to use during Segment B, if available when permit sales re-open on Nov. 1. Hunters who purchase only one permit prior to the end of Segment A, and **do not harvest a bear** during Segment A, may continue to use that permit during Segment B, plus may purchase a second permit after Nov. 1 for a different zone.

Hunters who purchase two permits prior to the end of Segment A and **do not fill either permit during Segment A** may NOT purchase a third permit when permit sales reopen in November.

**Permit sales are broken into two periods: 10 a.m. on Sept. 11–Oct. 14 and again beginning at 10 a.m. on Nov. 1 until the end of**

**the season or until permit quotas are reached.** Hunters are strongly urged to purchase permits during the early sales period. Permits can be purchased at licenses agents or online.

### Black Bear Hunting Regulations

- **Cubs under 75 pounds live weight, and adults in the company of cubs weighing less than 75 lbs live weight may NOT be harvested.**
- **No person shall attempt to take or kill a black bear or have in their possession or control any firearm, bow or other weapon of any kind within 300 feet of a baited area.** On National Wildlife Refuges and at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is prohibited. Hunters should also check with the landowner or administrative agency before placing bait on any hunting area.
- **Firearm black bear hunters must wear a hat of solid fluorescent orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while bear hunting.** If hunting from a blind, 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material must be atop or adjacent to the blind, as specified under Hunter Orange, page 24. During the last three days of Segment A, bowhunters in tree stands should consider wearing hunter orange.
- **It is illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bears.**
- **Allowable hunting methods: stand hunting, still-hunting, or drive hunting.**
- **It is illegal to take or attempt to take a bear in a den structure.**



JeffCrawn.com

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

## Black Bear Hunting Seasons 2023–2024

- Both a valid firearm or archery or all-around sportsman hunting license and bear hunting permit are required to hunt black bears. Bear hunting permits are specific to a bear management zone.
- There is a physical bear check requirement (there is no Automated Harvest Report System for black bears). See below for information on checking a harvested black bear.
- See page 46 for information on obtaining a Black Bear Hunting Permit.

Season Segment	Season Dates	Hunting Hours	Authorized Weapon Types / Harvest Reporting
<b>Segment A - Black Bear Hunting Season</b>			
Segment A	Mon., Oct. 9– Sat., Oct. 14, 2023	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	<b>Archery:</b> Mon., Oct. 9–Sat., Oct. 14, 2023 <b>Archery/Muzzleloader:</b> Thurs., Oct. 12–Sat., Oct. 14, 2023. (Muzzleloader rifle legal during the last three days of Seg A plus all of Seg B). <b>Harvest Reporting:</b> By 9 p.m. on the day of harvest. <b>See additional regulations below.*</b>
<b>Bag Limit:</b> One bear, >75 lbs live weight			
<b>Segment B - Black Bear Hunting Season</b>			
Segment B	Mon., Dec. 4– Sat., Dec. 9, 2023	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	<b>Shotgun/Muzzleloader:</b> Mon., Dec. 4–Sat., Dec. 9, 2023 <b>Harvest Reporting:</b> By 7 p.m. on the day of harvest. <b>See additional regulations below.*</b>
Segment B Extension (If authorized. Notification of this will be made on Monday, Dec. 11)	Wed., Dec. 13– Sat Dec., 16, 2023	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	<b>Shotgun/Muzzleloader:</b> Wed., Dec. 13–Sat., Dec. 16, 2023 <b>Harvest Reporting:</b> By 7 p.m. on the day of harvest. <b>See additional regulations below.*</b>
<b>Bag Limit Segment B including Extension:</b> One bear, >75 lbs live weight			

\* **Black Bear Hunting Regulations for Segment A, Segment B, and Segment B Extension:**

- **Hunters may not attempt to take or kill a black bear weighing less than 75 lbs (live weight), or less than 50 lbs dressed.**
- **Hunters may not attempt to take or kill a black bear that is in the presence of cub(s) weighing less than 75 lbs.**
- **Hunters may not attempt to take or kill a black bear or possess a weapon within 300 ft. of a baited area when hunting black bears.**
- Only one muzzleloader may be in possession while bear hunting.
- While bear hunting, a weapon may not be in possession within 300 feet of a baited area.
- Firearm bear hunters are required to wear 200 square inches of fluorescent hunter orange while bear hunting. Bowhunters in tree stands should consider wearing hunter orange during the last three days of Segment A.
- All firearm bear hunters utilizing a ground blind must follow fluorescent orange requirements pertaining to hunting from a ground blind as specified under **Hunter Orange, page 24.**

## After Harvesting a Bear – Mandatory Bear Check Requirement

Properly licensed hunters who harvest a black bear shall immediately complete and affix to the bear hide the “Black Bear Transportation Tag” from their Black Bear Hunting Permit. Information to report, on the black bear transportation tag shall include hunter’s name, address, and Conservation ID number; date and time of kill; nearest road; county and municipality of kill; and the sex of the black bear. When field dressing a black bear, leave the sex organs intact, attached to the body. **A harvested black bear may be quartered and brought out of the field in sections.** Hunters shall surrender the black bear transportation tag and will be issued a legal possession seal. Bears **MUST** be brought to a designated black bear check station on the day harvested.

Any legally killed black bear recovered too late to be brought to a designated black bear check station by closing time on the date of the kill must be reported immediately by telephone to the Northern Region Office, Bureau of Law Enforcement (908) 735-8240. Hunters must leave their name, address, and a telephone number where they can be reached.

The hunter will be contacted with instructions for the bear to be registered and to receive a legal possession seal. To protect the meat from spoilage, the hunter may retain only the head and hide for checking the next day. Note: within 48 hours after a bear is checked, a hunter may be required to produce the meat of the bear or produce records relating to the location of the meat, such as a butcher shop, upon request of a conservation police officer. After Saturday during the regular season segments or Saturday during a season extension (if announced), hunters reporting a bear harvest via the Law Enforcement recorder will be contacted by a Fish and Wildlife biologist on Sunday to legally check the bear and to collect biological data.

For locations and hours of mandatory Black Bear Check Stations and additional information regarding bear hunting in New Jersey visit [dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/bear-hunting-season-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/bear-hunting-season-information/)

## Mandatory Black Bear Check Stations

In the event of a season extension, bear check station information will be announced on Fish and Wildlife’s website [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) and sent out through email and text message.

### Hours

**Segment A:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Segment B:** noon to 7 p.m.

### Warren County

- ♦ **Pequest Wildlife Management Area**  
605 Pequest Road, Oxford

### Morris County

- ♦ **Black River Wildlife Management Area\*** (Segment A only)  
275 North Road, Chester
- ♦ **Green Pond Golf Course**  
714 Green Pond Rd, Rt. 513, Rockaway

### Sussex County

- ♦ **Flatbrook Roy WMA\*\***  
Rt. 615 (Walpack Rd.), Sandyston
- ♦ **Whittingham WMA**  
148 Fredon-Springdale Rd., Newton

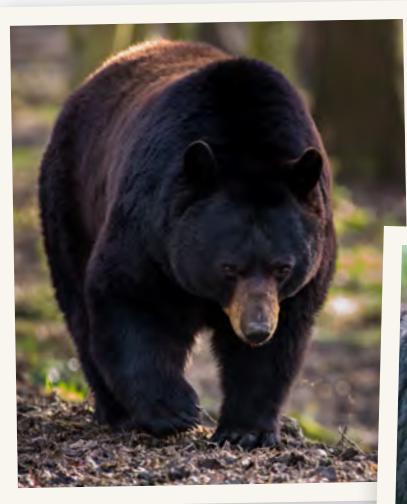
\* Operating Opening Day and Saturday during Segment A only.

\*\* Operating all week during Segment A plus operating only on Opening Day and Saturday during Segment B.



### Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Black Bear Hunting

Weapon	Segment	Weapon Type	Gauge, Caliber or Draw Weight	Projectile(s)	Firearm Sights, Bow Releases	Weapon Transportation
Bow	Segment A: October 9–14, 2023	Long, recurve, compound, or crossbow. <b>Only bows capable of firing a single projectile may be used.</b>	35 pounds of pull at draw length (long and recurve) or peak weight (compound) or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow)	Well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4"	Handheld release devices are permitted. <b>Prohibited:</b> Any sight or device that casts a beam of light	All bows <b>MUST</b> be uncocked or uncocked.
Muzzleloader (must also have Rifle Permit)	Segment A: October 12–14, 2023 and all of Segment B and Extension	Single-barrel, single shot flintlock, percussion, or in-line rifle	Not less than .44 caliber	Single projectile	Telescopic sights permitted. <b>Prohibited:</b> Modern smokeless powder.	<b>MUST</b> be cased and unloaded while being transported in or on vehicles, including ATVs and UTVs. Unloaded means percussion caps is removed or powder emptied from the pan and frizzen is covered.
Shotgun	Segment B and Extension	Rifled bore; not capable of holding more than 3 slugs	Not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge	Lead, lead alloy, or copper or sabot slug only	Telescopic sights permitted. Must have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or an affixed scope.	<b>MUST</b> be cased and unloaded while being transported in or on vehicles, including ATVs and UTVs



### Black Bear Season Extension

In the event of a season extension, bear check information will be announced via news release, placed on Fish and Wildlife’s social media pages and website, and sent out through email and text message.



### Black Bear Management Zones

Map for general reference only.



**Be The First To Know!  
Get on the List**

**The Hunting & Trapping e-mail list, that is.**

This **FREE** service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other wildlife-related news. And there are nine other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey’s fish and wildlife resources.

**Sign up today.**

Visit NJ Fish & Wildlife’s website:  
[dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/email-lists/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/email-lists/)

Visit us on social media  



For a complete description of the Black Bear Management Zones, scan this QR code or see Fish and Wildlife’s bear management zone webpage at [NJFishandWildlife.com/bearzonemap.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/bearzonemap.htm).



### What do I need to hunt Turkey in NJ?

Season	Hunting License	Turkey Permit	Non-electronic Calling Device*	Hunter Orange	Report Harvest
Fall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not Required	Yes
Spring	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not Required	Yes

\* Calling device MUST be in possession

### Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Turkey Hunting

Weapon Type	Gauge, Caliber or Draw Weight	Projectile(s)	Weapon Transportation
<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow.	35 pounds pull at archer's draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow) or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow)	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4"	All bows MUST be uncocked or uncocked
<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel	Not smaller than 20 gauge and not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than three shells	No shot larger than #4 fine shot or smaller than #7 1/2 fine shot	Shotgun MUST be cased and unloaded while in or on a vehicle, including ATVs and UTVs

### Stalking Turkeys is Illegal

Use of a hand-held decoy or a turkey tail-on-a-stick as camouflage to sneak up on a turkey, including practices known as fanning and reaping, is prohibited. In New Jersey, stalking of wild turkeys is illegal, both for personal safety and ethical reasons.

### Youth Turkey Hunt Day

**April 20, 2024**

(See page 18 for information)

### Turkey Hunting Seminars

The latest turkey hunting techniques are presented at several turkey hunting seminars sponsored by NJ Fish & Wildlife or wildlife conservation organizations. These seminars focus on how to set up, calling techniques and key safety information for turkey hunters. New turkey hunters are especially encouraged to join us at a seminar. Check our website for seminars scheduled during March or April.



National Wild Turkey Federation



### Turkey Hunting Seasons 2023–24

There is NO Sunday hunting for turkey. See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 24.

Season/ Period	Season Dates	Hunting Hours	Bag Limit	Regulations
<b>2023 Fall, Either Sex Turkey Season</b>				
Period N	Oct. 28 and Oct. 30–Nov. 4, 2023	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	1 turkey (either sex) per permit Only one turkey may be taken per day regardless of the number of permits held. <b>Report Harvest by 7 p.m. on the day of harvest.</b>	Chasing or driving turkeys to put them in range of hunters is prohibited, though flocks may be rushed for the purpose of scattering during the fall season only. Dogs allowed during the fall only. <b>See additional regulations below.*</b>
<b>2024 Spring Gobbler Season</b>				
Youth Turkey Hunting Day (ages 10–16)	April 20, 2024	½ hour before sunrise to noon	1 male turkey per permit (No bearded hens) Only one turkey may be taken per day regardless of the number of permits held. <b>Report Harvest by 3 p.m. on the day of harvest.</b>	On Youth Turkey Hunting Day, the youth hunter (aged 10–16) must be under the direct supervision of a properly-licensed, non-hunting adult (21 or older).
Period Y (ages 10–16)	Apr. 20–May 12, 2024	½ hour before sunrise to noon	1 male turkey per permit (No bearded hens) Only one turkey may be taken per day regardless of the number of permits held. <b>Report Harvest by 3 p.m. on the day of harvest; beginning May 13 by 9 p.m. on the day of harvest.</b>	For the remainder of the turkey season, a youth hunter aged 10–13 must be under the direct supervision of a properly-licensed adult (21 or older). Period Y permit is valid throughout the Spring Gobbler Season in the designated Turkey Hunting Area until a male turkey is harvested. Chasing or driving turkeys to put them in range of hunters is prohibited. Calling or stand-hunting only. <b>See additional regulations below.*</b>
	May 13–May 24, 2024	½ hour before sunrise to sunset		
Period A (M–F)	Apr. 22–26, 2024	½ hour before sunrise to noon		
Period B (M–F)	Apr. 29–May 3, 2024			
Period C (M–F)	May 6–10, 2024			
Period D (M–F)	May 13–17 and May 20–24, 2024	½ hour before sunrise to sunset		
Period E (Saturdays)	Apr. 27; May 4, 11, 18, 2024	½ hour before sunrise to noon On May 18 only: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset		

**\* Additional Turkey Hunting Regulations for both Fall and Spring Seasons:**

- Artificial decoys may be used; electronically-operated decoys are prohibited.
- Stalking a turkey is not legal.
- The use of a hand-held decoy or tail as camouflage to sneak up on a turkey (fanning/reaping) is prohibited.
- The maximum group size while turkey hunting is five hunters.
- While turkey hunting, a weapon may not be in possession within 300 feet of a baited area.
- You may hunt turkey from a blind or tree stand.
- Turkey hunters may harvest coyotes incidentally prior to harvesting their daily bag limit of turkey. Report coyote harvest by phone (1-855-448-6865) or online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm)

### Turkey Permits

A valid NJ hunting license and turkey permit is required to hunt turkey. Both are available online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm) or at license agents. (Use this license agent locator at [NJFishandWildlife.com/dfwlicenseagents](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/dfwlicenseagents).) Turkey permits are specific to the season (fall or spring), hunting period and Turkey Hunting Area (THA). See the turkey regulation chart above for season and timeframes.

#### Fall 2023 Turkey Permits

Fall turkey permits are available on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023. There is no lottery for fall turkey permits. Permits for specific areas (THAs) are available until the permit quota is reached or the season ends.

#### Spring 2024 Turkey Permits

Spring turkey permits are initially allocated by two separate lotteries, Lottery 1 and Lottery 2. Hunters

who apply for permits in a lottery have a much greater chance of receiving their desired area and period choices than hunters who wait for over-the-counter sales of leftover permits. A non-refundable \$2 application fee is charged for each lottery application. The following are the important deadlines and dates for the Spring Turkey Lottery, Award Pickup, and Over the Counter Sales of Leftover and unclaimed licenses.

- **Application Period: January 25–February 22.**
- **Award notifications: Begin when the lottery is held, on or before February 26.**
- **Permit pickup: begins February 26. All permits awarded in the lottery must be claimed by 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2024.** Unclaimed awarded permits will be redistributed during over-the-counter sales. Application fee(s) will not be refunded for unclaimed permits.
- **Over-the-counter sale of leftover permits: 10 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2024** until permits sell out or the season ends, whichever occurs first.

#### Application Process

Apply at a license agent or online. Have your Conservation ID number (CID) available. Hunters may file only one application which allows for up to two permits, one from each part of the spring turkey lottery. Hunters have the option to enter up to three choices for each part, Lottery 1 and Lottery 2. If you will accept a permit only for one particular hunting area and period, then complete only a first-choice selection. Entering a second or third choice is optional and may be left blank.

**Carefully consider your area/period requests for each lottery!** If you request the same turkey hunting area and period in Lottery 1 and Lottery 2, you might receive two permits for the identical area and period combination. Any choice entered for Lottery 2 should be different than your choice(s) for Lottery 1 to prevent receiving two permits for the exact same area/hunting period. Permits will not be exchanged if you receive the permits requested on your application.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

**There is no requirement to select a second or third choice; these are optional.** When an applicant's first choice cannot be filled, the computer will check for the second choice listed. If this selection is also sold out, the computer will check for a third choice listed. Lottery 1 and Lottery 2 are completely random and each lottery awards only ONE permit — not three. Your chance of winning a permit in the lottery depends on the number of applicants and the permit quota (number available) which is displayed on our website.

**Hunters who win a permit in both lotteries MUST claim BOTH awarded permits.**

### Permit Application via the Internet— Before You Start, have ready your:

- Conservation ID number (CID).
- Hunting area number with season time period.
- Payment as credit card or e-check with checkbook and bank routing number.

Enter information carefully. Each step allows for making corrections. **Once a transaction is complete, there will be NO refunds or exchanges.**

Permit applicants will have the opportunity to edit their application at any time during the permit application period. *Remember, entering a second and third choice is NOT required;* those may be left blank if a hunter will only accept a permit for one specific turkey hunting area and period.

Applicants are responsible to make their application choices carefully. When the process is complete, print the confirmation page or note the transaction number for your records.

### Permit Application at License Agent Locations— Know Before You Go

- Know your Conservation ID number (CID#) or Social Security Number and date of birth (DOB).
- Know your desired time period and hunting area. The store proprietor or clerk is not responsible to know the hunting area for your hunting property. Be sure to review the map and hunting area descriptions at home before you arrive at the license agent. See [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt) for interactive hunting area maps.
- To speed your transaction, write down your information (CID, DOB, first, second and third choices) and hand it to the license agent.
- **NOTE:** Agents are not able to print a receipt. It's important to have the clerk orally verify your application choices and to provide your transaction number. Keep this transaction number; it can be helpful should a problem occur with your application.
- Types of payments accepted vary between license agents. Learn this in advance, then have the correct payment ready when you arrive.

### LOTTERY 1

- Selects applicants from the spring season Lottery 1.
- All youth applicants aged 10 to 15 (16 for those still eligible to hunt using their Youth License) are guaranteed to receive their first-choice permit request in the first lottery for the spring Period Y season. Youth permits are not counted among the

permit season quotas. Period Y Permits are also available during the over-the-counter sales period.

- Hunters possessing a *Permit to Shoot from a Standing Vehicle* are guaranteed one Lottery 1 permit for spring Turkey Season only. Any additional permit purchased is taken from the available permit quota and is not guaranteed.

### LOTTERY 2

- Assigns unissued Lottery 1 permits (leftover) to applicants who applied for a permit in the Lottery 2.
- Youth permit requests for Lottery 2 are not guaranteed. A youth's second permit (or more) is valid only for the one designated hunting period A, B, C, D or E.

### LOTTERY RESULTS

Applicants will be notified of their results. Those who select email notification are reminded to set your junk/spam folder to accept this notification. **IMPORTANT: the notification may fail to arrive due to email issues (email filters, data storage capacity) or postcard delivery delays. It is the customer's responsibility to know the deadlines and check their profile or contact NJ Fish & Wildlife if they are unsure of their award status.**

### CLAIMING YOUR LOTTERY PERMIT

Lottery permit winners may claim their permit(s) at any license agent or online. See the lottery permit claim dates callout box below, right for spring turkey permits. At the time of application, the hunter paid only the non-refundable \$2 application fee; the balance of the actual permit fee must still be paid. Internet-claimed permits are subject to an additional convenience fee.

### PURCHASING UNCLAIMED LOTTERY OR NON-LOTTERY PERMITS

Leftover (unclaimed) lottery permits and nonlottery permits are available at license agents and online. During every transaction there are several opportunities to review your information for accuracy. A complete review at each step will allow you to make corrections, if necessary. Note: Once a purchase transaction is complete there will be NO refunds or exchanges.

**IMPORTANT:** If a hunter is awarded permits from both Lottery 1 and Lottery 2, the hunter must claim (purchase) both permits, even if they are for the same area/hunting period. **If both permits are not claimed, the hunter may only choose not to claim any awarded permit.** The hunter can then attempt to purchase permits during over-the-counter sales on April 1, 2024, sold first-come, first-served.

For information on permits for disabled veterans, see the callout box on page 14. For information on farmer turkey permits, see page 70.

## Turkey Hunting Areas

Map for general reference only. For a complete description of the Turkey Hunting Area boundaries, scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt).



## Spring Turkey Permits

- Application Period January 25–February 22, 2024.
- Award notifications will begin when the lottery is held, and permit pickup begins **February 26, 2024.**
- Permits must be claimed by 11:59 pm on **March 20, 2024.** Unclaimed awarded permits will be redistributed in the over-the-counter sale.

**Over-the-counter sale of leftover permits: 10 a.m. MONDAY, March 25, 2024** until permits sell out or the season ends, whichever occurs first.

**IMPORTANT:** Check your permit award status in your customer profile in the Electronic Licensing Systems; do not rely on e-mail or postcard notification. There is only a brief period to claim the awarded permit(s).

You **MUST claim your permit BEFORE the claim period has ended!** Unclaimed permits become available for over-the-counter sales. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**



### Public Turkey Hunting Land in New Jersey

New Jersey has more than 750,000 acres of state land available to the turkey hunter. This list is arranged by turkey hunting area for public land open to turkey hunting.

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 1

- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Flatbrook-Roy WMA
- Hainesville WMA
- Stokes State Forest

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 2

- Bear Swamp WMA
- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Flatbrook-Roy WMA
- Paulinskill WMA
- Stokes State Forest
- Swartswood State Park
- Trout Brook WMA
- Walpack WMA
- White Lake WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 3

- Columbia WMA (partial)
- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Worthington State Forest

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 4

- Allamuchy Mountain State Park
- Beaver Brook WMA
- Columbia WMA (partial)
- Honey Run WMA
- Jenny Jump State Forest
- Stephens State Park
- Whittingham WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 5

- Kittatinny Valley State Park
- Paulinskill WMA
- Walkkill River NWR

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 6

- Abram Hewitt State Forest
- Hamburg Mountain WMA
- Long Pond Ironworks State Park
- Norvin Green State Forest
- Ramapo Mountain State Forest
- Ringwood State Park
- Wawayanda State Park

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 7

- Berkshire Valley WMA
- Fanny State Park
- Hamburg Mountain WMA
- Rockaway River WMA
- Sparta Mountain WMA
- Weldon Brook WMA
- Wildcat Ridge WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 8

- Alpha Grasslands WMA
- Buckhorn Creek WMA
- Clinton WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Pohatcong Creek WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 9

- Black River WMA
- Hacklebarney State Park

- Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA

- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Rockport WMA
- South Branch WMA
- Voorhees State Park

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 10

- Black River WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 11

- Alexauken Creek WMA
- Lockatong WMA
- Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park (bow only)
- South Branch WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 12

- Assunpink WMA
- Turkey Swamp WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 14

- Brendan T. Byrne State Forest
- Colliers Mills WMA
- Double Trouble State Park
- Forked River Mountain WMA
- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR (Spring)
- Greenwood Forest WMA
- Manasquan WMA
- Manchester WMA
- Medford WMA
- Pleasant Run WMA
- Prospertown Lake WMA
- Whiting WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 15

- Penbryn WMA
- Wharton State Forest
- Winslow WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 16

- Absecon WMA
- Bass River State Forest
- Hammonton Creek WMA
- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR (Spring)
- Makepeace Lake WMA
- Penn State Forest
- Port Republic WMA
- Stafford Forge WMA
- Warren Grove Recreation Area
- Wharton State Forest

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 20

- Abbotts Meadow WMA
- Cohanse River
- Elmer Lake WMA
- Featherbed Lane WMA
- Gum Tree Corner WMA
- Harrisonville Lake WMA
- Mad Horse Creek WMA
- Maskells Mill Pond WMA
- Raccoon Creek WMA
- Salem River WMA
- Thundersgut Pond WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 21

- Buckshutem WMA
- Cedar Lake WMA

- Clarks Pond WMA
- Cohanse River WMA
- Dix WMA
- Egg Island WMA
- Glassboro WMA
- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Millville WMA
- Nantuxent WMA
- New Sweden WMA
- Parvin State Park
- Union Lake WMA
- White Oak Branch WMA
- Winslow WMA

#### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 22

- Beaver Swamp WMA
- Belleplain State Forest
- Cape Island WMA
- Cape May NWR
- Cape May Wetlands WMA
- Cox Hall WMA
- Dennis Creek WMA
- Gibson Creek WMA
- Great Egg Harbor WMA
- Hammonton Creek WMA
- Heislerville WMA
- Higbee Beach WMA
- Makepeace Lake WMA
- Maple Lake WMA
- Menantico Ponds WMA
- Peaslee WMA
- Tuckahoe WMA

## Turkey Harvest Tag and Report Requirements

### Mandatory Harvest Tagging and Reporting—(1-855-448-6865) or online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm)

1. Hunters **must** tag their turkey immediately upon harvest and before moving the turkey. Fill out the Wild Turkey Transportation Card (part of your permit) except the Confirmation Number which will be assigned automatically when the turkey is reported. Attach the Wild Turkey Transportation Card to the turkey. The tag must include the hunter's CID, date and Turkey Hunting Area (THA) of harvest.
2. Record the turkey's sex, age and take measurements of the beard and longer spur, if applicable. Measure before starting the harvest report process to have your answers ready. See sexing, aging and measuring wild turkeys at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/ahrs-turkey/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/ahrs-turkey/).
  - » Use a ruler, tape measure or a dollar bill (which is 6 inches in length) to determine if the beard is less than, equal to or greater than 6 inches in length. Measure the beard from the skin at its base to the end of the longest filament.
  - » Additionally, measure the longest spur to determine if the spur is less than, equal to or greater than 1/2 inch. Measure the spur from the very base where it meets the leg scales to the very tip.
3. Report your harvest via the Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS) (by phone or online as printed on every hunting license and permit.) **Upon reporting, you will receive a Confirmation Number. Record the assigned Confirmation Number on your Turkey Harvest Report Card.** Retain the Confirmation Number as long as the turkey or its parts are in possession. If you incorrectly report your harvest please call NJ Fish & Wildlife at 609-223-6048 or email [NJTurkey@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NJTurkey@dep.nj.gov).

If unable to access the Automated Harvest Reporting System by the designated time, the turkey shall be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest NJ Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office listed on page 18. You must continue to call the AHRS until you receive a Confirmation Number for that turkey.

**REGARDLESS of how many turkey permits are purchased, a hunter may only harvest ONE turkey per day.**



# New Jersey Department of Corrections

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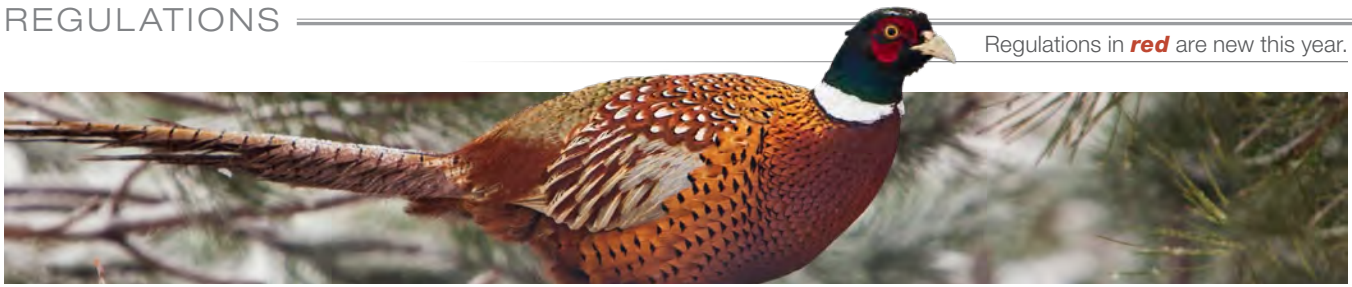
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### What Do I Need to Hunt Upland Game Birds in NJ?

Area	Hunting License	Pheasant/Quail Stamp	Hunter Orange	Report Harvest
Stocked WMAs	Yes	Yes	Orange Hat* required Firearm	No
Delaware Water Gap NRA	Yes	Yes	Orange Hat* required Firearm	No
Semi-Wild and Commercial Preserves	Yes	No	Yes, except hunting mallards	No, but birds must be tagged.

\* A SOLID hunter orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail-stocked WMA. (See page 55.)

### Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Upland Game Birds

Weapon Type	Gauge, Caliber or Draw Weight	Projectile(s)	Weapon Transportation
<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow capable of firing a single projectile only	35 pounds pull at archer's draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow) or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow).	Arrow or bolt with flu flu fletching and using blunt, field, or judo points	All bows <b>MUST</b> be uncocked or uncocked
<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel	Not larger than 10 gauge or smaller than .410 caliber and capable of holding no more than three shells.	No shot larger than #4 fine shot	Shotguns <b>MUST</b> be cased and unloaded while in or on a vehicle, including ATVs/UTVs.

### Upland Game Bird Seasons 2023–24

No Sunday hunting except commercial and semi-wild hunting preserves.

Species	Season	Hunting Hours	Bag Limit
<b>Bobwhite quail (wild), Ruffed grouse</b>	Closed statewide		Stocked quail may be taken at Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs identified below and on commercial and semi-wild hunting preserves
<b>Bobwhite quail (stocked)</b>	Nov. 11, 2023 at 8 a.m.–Jan. 31, 2024 <b>Closed Dec. 4–9 &amp; 13, 2023</b>	Nov. 11 only: 8 a.m. – ½ hr after sunset. All other dates: Sunrise – ½ hr after sunset	4 quail May be taken <b>only</b> at: Greenwood Forest WMA, Peaslee WMA ONLY. Pheasant & Quail Stamp required.
<b>Chukar partridge, Hungarian partridge, Pheasant</b>	Nov. 11, 2023 at 8 a.m.–Feb. 19, 2024 <b>Closed Dec. 4–9 &amp; 13, 2023</b>	Nov. 11 only: 8 a.m. – ½ hr after sunset. All other dates: Sunrise – ½ hr after sunset	7 partridge, 2 pheasant See Pheasant Stocking schedule on page 55.
<b>Youth Upland Bird Day</b> Pheasant For properly licensed Youth hunters, under direct supervision of licensed, non-hunting adult (21 or older)	Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023	7 a.m. start (Guided) 1 p.m. start (Open hunt)	2 pheasant See Youth Pheasant Hunt Day Information on page 20.
<b>Youth Pheasant Days</b> For properly licensed Youth hunters, under direct supervision of licensed, non-hunting adult (21 or older)	Nov. 6–10, 2023	Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	2 pheasant See Youth Pheasant Hunt Days Information on page 20.
<b>Commercial Shooting Preserves</b> Pheasant/Quail/Partridge/Mallard*	Sept. 1, 2023–May 1, 2024	Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	No limit Must be tagged prior to transport off Commercial Preserve Sunday Hunting Allowed
<b>Semi-Wild Preserves</b> Pheasant/Quail/Partridge*	Nov. 11, 2023 at 8 a.m.–March 15, 2024	Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	No limit Must be tagged prior to transport off semi-wild area Sunday Hunting Allowed
<b>Crow</b>	Aug. 14, 2023–Dec. 2, 2023 Dec. 11, 2023–March 16, 2024 (Mon., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. only) <b>8 a.m. start Nov. 11, 2023 on Stocked WMAs</b>	Sunrise–½ hr after sunset	No limit
<b>Woodcock</b>	See <b>Other Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons</b> table on page 63. HIP Certificate Required (\$2)		

Dogs are allowed when hunting pheasant, quail, partridge, crow and woodcock.

\* Species restricted to those approved on Commercial/Semi-Wild license.

## PHEASANT AND QUAIL STOCKING SCHEDULE

### Pheasant Stocking Schedule 2023

Birds stocked the evening prior to the hunting dates listed below. Pheasant & Quail Stamp required in addition to hunting license.

Northern Region	County	Dog Training Area*	Saturday 11/11	Tuesday 11/14	Thursday 11/16	Saturday 11/18	Tuesday 11/21	Thursday 11/23	Saturday 11/25	Thursday 11/30	Tuesday 12/12	Saturday 12/16	Tuesday 12/19	Thursday 12/21	Saturday 12/23	Thursday 12/28	Saturday 12/30	Season Total
Berkshire Valley	Morris	No	80	50	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Black River	Morris	Yes	290	170	170	260	170	260	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	2,850
Clinton	Hunterdon	Yes	340	200	200	300	200	300	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	3,340
Delaware Water Gap N.R.A.	Sussex/Warren	No	530	320	320	470	320	470	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	5,310
Fiatbrook	Sussex	No	350	210	210	310	210	310	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	3,490
Pequest	Warren	Yes	290	170	170	260	170	260	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	2,850
Walpack	Sussex	No	80	50	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Whittingham	Sussex	Yes	280	170	170	250	170	250	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	2,820
<b>Central Region</b>			<b>11/11</b>	<b>11/14</b>	<b>11/16</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>11/21</b>	<b>11/23</b>	<b>11/25</b>	<b>11/30</b>	<b>12/12</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>12/19</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>12/23</b>	<b>12/28</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assumpink	Monmouth	Yes	540	320	320	480	320	480	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	5,340
Colliers Mills	Ocean	Yes	330	200	200	300	200	300	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	3,330
Greenwood (Howardsville Section)	Ocean	No	80	50	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Manahawkin	Ocean	No	80	50	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Manasquan	Ocean	Yes	190	110	110	170	110	170	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	1,850
Medford	Burlington	No	140	80	80	130	80	130	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	1,360
Stafford Forge	Ocean	Yes	270	160	160	240	160	240	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	2,670
Fort Dix	Ocean	No	60	0	0	50	50	60	0	0	70	60	0	0	0	0	0	350
<b>Southern Region</b>			<b>11/11</b>	<b>11/14</b>	<b>11/16</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>11/21</b>	<b>11/23</b>	<b>11/25</b>	<b>11/30</b>	<b>12/12</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>12/19</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>12/23</b>	<b>12/28</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dix	Cumberland	No	210	130	130	190	130	190	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	2,150
Glassboro	Gloucester	Yes	170	100	100	150	100	150	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,670
Heislerville	Cumberland	No	80	50	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Mad Horse	Salem	No	150	90	90	140	90	140	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	1,510
Millville	Cumberland	Yes	570	340	340	510	340	510	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	5,670
Nantuxent	Cumberland	No	190	110	110	170	110	170	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	1,850
Port Republic	Atlantic	No	80	50	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Tuckahoe	Cape May	Yes	180	110	110	160	110	160	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	1,820
Winslow	Camden	No	230	140	140	210	140	210	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	2,330
<b>Statewide Totals</b>			<b>5790</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>5170</b>	<b>3480</b>	<b>5180</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3500</b>	<b>3490</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>3430</b>	<b>57480</b>

### Quail Stocking Schedule 2023

Statewide	Dog Training Area*	Saturday 11/11	Tuesday 11/14	Thursday 11/16	Saturday 11/18	Tuesday 11/21	Thursday 11/23	Saturday 11/25	Thursday 11/30	Tuesday 12/12	Saturday 12/16	Tuesday 12/19	Thursday 12/21	Saturday 12/23	Thursday 12/28	Saturday 12/30	Season Total
Greenwood	Ocean	No	600	280	260	400	280	400	280	260	400	260	400	280	280	400	5,500
Peaslee	Cumberland	No	600	280	260	400	280	400	280	260	400	260	400	280	280	400	5,500

Maps showing the areas to be stocked with pheasants during the small game season can be found at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/pheasant-quail-stocking-maps/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/pheasant-quail-stocking-maps/)  
 \* WMAs with dog training areas receive 20 chukar each week (Saturdays), for four weeks prior to Youth Pheasant Day for dog training purposes.



### Pheasant and Quail Stamp

Anyone aged 16 and over (except 16-year-olds who are still eligible to use their youth firearm license) hunting or possessing pheasant (or quail only on Greenwood Forest or Peaslee WMAs) on the following designated wildlife management areas must have in possession a current Pheasant and Quail Stamp:

Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Dix, Flatbrook, Glassboro, Greenwood Forest, Howardsville, Heislerville, Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Millville (Bevan), Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Rockport, Stafford Forge, Tuckahoe (MacNamara), Walpack, Whittingham and Winslow. The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is also a designated pheasant and quail stamp area. Pheasant and quail stamps are valid for the calendar year, January–December. Quail may be hunted or possessed **ONLY** on Peaslee or Greenwood Forest WMAs.

### Pheasant and Quail Stocking Maps

Scan this QR code or follow the link for maps of the pheasant and quail stocked fields for each stocked WMA.

**Go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/pheasant-quail-stocking-maps/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/pheasant-quail-stocking-maps/)**



New Jersey Pheasant and Quail Stocked Areas



### Areas Open to Quail Hunting

**The statewide quail hunting season is closed except at Peaslee WMA and Greenwood Forest WMA where NJ Fish & Wildlife will provide hunters and falconers the opportunity to hunt for quail.**

No person may release quail for dog training purposes on the following WMAs: Buckshutem, Dix, Egg Island, Fortescue, Millville (Bevan), Nantuxent, New Sweden and Stafford Forge.

See *Upland Game Bird Seasons* chart, page 54 for season dates and bag limits. Exception: This statewide closure does not apply to certain semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves that were permitted to stock quail during the 2009–10 season, the only ones that may continue to stock quail.

### Ruffed Grouse Season Closed

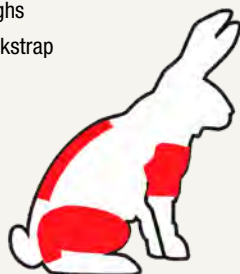
Ruffed grouse rely on young forest habitat which currently comprise only 5% of state forest lands. This lack of habitat has caused grouse populations to decline below the level necessary to support a hunting season. In an effort to reduce the decline, the grouse hunting season is closed statewide. No exceptions.

### Edible Portions Guide

Edible portions do not include meat from the head or neck; meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones, or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased or scavenged carcasses. See *Wanton Waste of Game*, page 25.

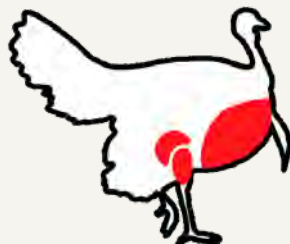
#### For rabbit and squirrel:

- Front shoulders
- Thighs
- Backstrap



#### For game birds such as turkey:

- breast, legs and thighs

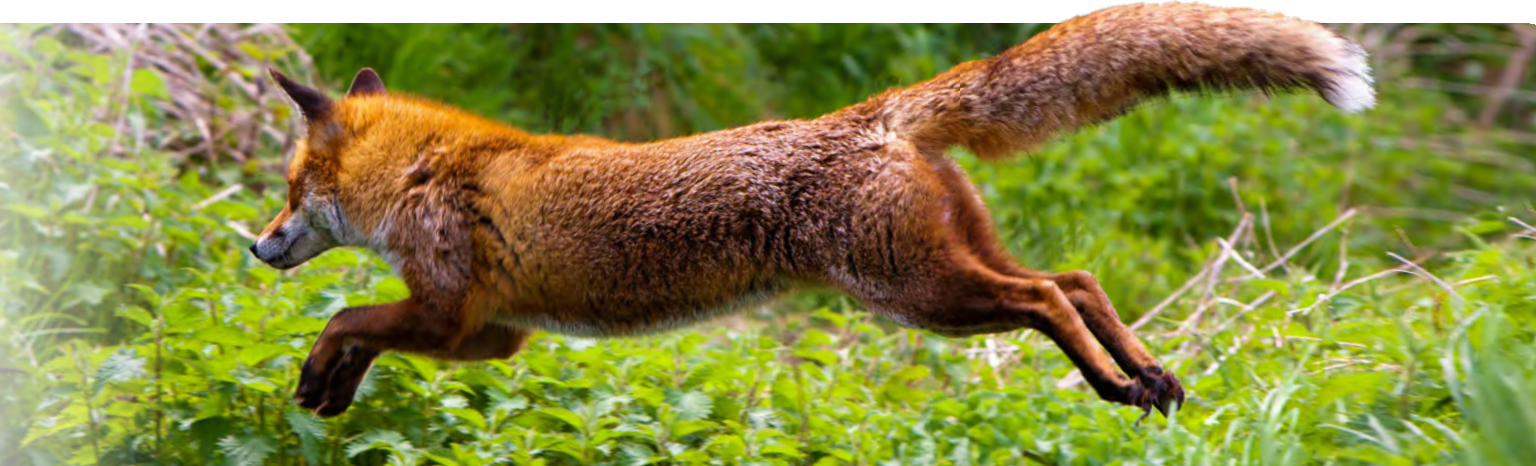


#### For game birds other than turkey:

- breast



Regulations in **red** are new this year.



### Coyote, Fox Seasons 2023–24

Sunday Hunting Prohibited. See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

#### Regular Season (Hunting license required; no permit needed.)

Season	Weapon	Bag Limit/Reporting
<b>Sept. 30–Nov. 10, 2023</b> ½ hr. before sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	<b>Bow Only</b> 35 lbs. pull/peak wt. or crossbow (75 lbs. pull wt.) using well-sharpened broadheads (min. 3/4" width).	No daily or seasonal bag limit <b>Harvest Reporting of Coyote is REQUIRED by 8 p.m. on the day of harvest.</b> Reporting of Gray Fox is also requested.
<b>Nov. 11, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024</b> ½ hr. before sunrise–½ hr. after sunset (except 8 a.m. start on Nov. 11)	<b>Bow</b> (see details above) or <b>Shotgun</b> 10–20 ga. using shot size up to #4 fine shot.	

**Hunter Orange\***: Required when shotgun hunting.

**Method**: On the ground, elevated, or in man-made structure

**Manner**: Running with hounds, stalking or stand and call.

**Predator call**: Manual or electronic; use optional

**Dogs**: Allowed Nov. 11, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024 (except Dec. 4–9 & 13, 2023)

**Decoys**: Allowed (No live decoys)

**Bait**: Min. 300' when in tree stand/ground blind. Baiting not allowed on National Wildlife Refuges

\* A SOLID Hunter Orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail stocked WMA (see page 55).

#### Special Permit Season - Daytime and limited shotgun-only night hours (Hunting License AND \$2 Permit Required)

Season	Weapon	Bag Limit/Reporting
<b>Jan. 1–Mar. 15, 2024 (Day)</b> ½ hr. before sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	<b>Bow</b> (see <b>Bow Only</b> , above) or <b>Shotgun</b> 10–20 ga. using BB to #3 buckshot ONLY. or <b>Rifle</b> (Rifle Permit Required). <b>ML rifle or single-barrel smoothbore</b> , .44 cal. minimum. <b>Centerfire rifle</b> (.17–.25 cal.) using hollow or soft point bullets (max. 80 grain). <b>Rimfire</b> (.17–.22 cal.) using hollow or soft point bullets (max. 50 grain).	No daily or seasonal limit <b>Harvest Reporting of Coyote is REQUIRED by 8 p.m. on the day of harvest.</b> Reporting of Gray Fox is also requested.
<b>Jan. 1–Mar. 15, 2024 (Night)</b> Hunting with aid of light allowed. ½ hr. after sunset–½ hr. before sunrise	<b>Shotgun Only</b> 10–12 ga. using shot size #4 fine to 'T' ONLY.	

**Hunter Orange\***: Optional under Special Permit Provisions

**Method**: On the ground, elevated, or in man-made structure

**Manner**: Standing and calling only

**Predator call**: Must possess manual or electronic call

**Dogs**: Prohibited

**Decoys**: Allowed (No live decoys)

**Bait**: Use Prohibited while hunting with a Special Permit.

\* A SOLID Hunter Orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail stocked WMA (see page 55).



### Firearms, Bows and Ammo for Small Game Hunting

Hunters may NOT possess both a firearm and bow & arrow while hunting any game bird or animal. See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

	Weapon Specifications	Species	License, Permit, Stamp Required
Air gun	.177 to .22 caliber Having a non-ignited compressed gas expulsion with a minimum muzzle velocity of 600 fps Using wadcutter, domed or pointed or hollow point pellets ONLY Spherical BBs NOT permitted	Rabbit, squirrel, hare, jackrabbit, opossum, raccoon Dispatching trapped furbearers other than muskrat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Firearm Hunting License or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Trapping License when required.</li> </ul>
Modern Rifle - Centerfire	.25 caliber or smaller Using max. 80 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption.</li> <li>Valid Rifle Permit.</li> <li>Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with this weapon.</li> </ul>
	.25 caliber or smaller Using hollow point, soft point bullets or expanding lead core bullets (any grain weight) <b>Larger than .25 caliber</b> Using max. 80 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Woodchuck <b>Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all state WMAs, state parks, forests and recreation areas</b>	
Modern Rifle - Rimfire	.22 caliber or smaller Using max. 50 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Trapping License when required.</li> <li>Valid Rifle Permit.</li> <li>Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with this weapon.</li> </ul>
	Any caliber Using max. 50 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Woodchuck <b>Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all state WMAs, state parks, forests and recreation areas</b>	
	.22 caliber Using .22 short ammo	Opossum, raccoon Dispatching trapped furbearers except muskrat.	
Muzzleloading Rifle	.36 caliber or smaller Single-barrel, single-shot rifle firing a single projectile	Gray Squirrel (See Squirrel ML Rifle Season Zones call-out box on p. 60)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption.</li> <li>Valid Rifle Permit.</li> <li>Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with this weapon.</li> </ul>
	.44 caliber or larger Single-barrel, single-shot rifle or smoothbore firing a single (round ball or conical) projectile	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	
	Any caliber single-barrel, single-shot rifle firing a single (round ball or conical) projectile	Woodchuck <b>Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all state WMAs, state parks, forests and recreation areas</b>	
Shotgun (including smoothbore muzzleloaders)	Not larger than 10 gauge Using shot size not larger than #4 fine	All small game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Firearm Hunting License or meet Farmer License Exemption.</li> <li>Pheasant &amp; Quail Stamp on select WMAs. see pg. 55</li> <li>HIP Certificate (required for woodcock).</li> </ul>
	10-20 gauge Using shot size not smaller than "BB" or larger than #3 Buck. Pellets must be lead or a tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid.	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, <b>daylight</b> hrs. only)	
	10 or 12 gauge Using shot size not smaller than #4 fine or larger than "T"	Coyote/Fox (Special Permit Season, <b>nighttime</b> hrs. only)	

#### Firearms Specifically Prohibited:

- Any firearm capable of firing more than 3 rounds without reloading when hunting any species listed above (shotgun capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged; modern rifles may not be loaded with more than 3 rounds).
- Any firearm having an electronic ignition system. Any firearm equipped with a silencer or noise suppressor.
- "Smart rifles and guns" equipped with any target tracking system; electronically-controlled, electronically-assisted, or computer-linked trigger; or ballistics computer.

	Weapon Specifications	Species	License, Permit, Stamp Required
Bow & Arrow	<b>Minimum 35 lbs. draw weight (longbow, recurve) or 35 lbs. peak weight (compound) or 75 lbs. draw weight (crossbow)</b>		
	Using arrow/bolt with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard fletching</li> <li>Well-sharpened metal edge head (min. width 3/4")</li> </ul>	Coyote, fox, hare, rabbit, squirrel, woodchuck and non-flying game birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Archery Hunting License or meet Farmer License Exemption</li> <li>Pheasant &amp; Quail Stamp on Stocked WMAs when hunting for these species</li> </ul>
Using arrow/bolt with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flu-flu fletching</li> <li>Blunt, field or judo point</li> </ul>	Game birds in flight		

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Small Game Mammal Seasons 2023–24

No Sunday hunting except for opossum and raccoon; see below. See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

A SOLID hunter orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail stocked WMA (see page 55).

Season	Weapon Type	Bag Limits	Manner & Method
<b>Gray Squirrel — Muzzleloading</b>			
Sept. 30–Nov. 10, 2023; Jan. 6–Feb. 24, 2024 Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Muzzleloading Rifle Not larger than .36 caliber (Designated zones only — see map, page 60.)	Daily bag limit of 5 No season limit.	<b>Hunter Orange:</b> Required. <b>Rifle Permit:</b> Required. <b>Dogs:</b> Allowed. <b>Sunday Hunting:</b> Prohibited. <b>Restricted:</b> To designated areas only (see map page 60).
<b>Gray Squirrel, Hare, Jackrabbit, Rabbit</b>			
Sept. 30, 2023–Feb. 24, 2024 8 a.m. start on Nov. 11, 2023 Closed Dec. 4–9 & 13, 2023 Sunrise–½ hr after sunset	Air Gun, Bow, or Shotgun	5 squirrel, 1 hare or jackrabbit, and 4 cottontail. No season limit.	<b>Hunter Orange:</b> Required when hunting with firearm. <b>Dogs:</b> Allowed. <b>Sunday Hunting:</b> Prohibited.
<b>Opossum and Raccoon (Night Hunting)</b>			
Oct. 2, 2023–Mar. 1, 2024; Closed Dec. 4–9 & 13, 2023 1 hr. after sunset–1 hr. before sunrise	Air Gun, .22 cal. rifle, or Shotgun	No daily or seasonal bag limits	<b>Hunter Orange:</b> Encouraged, but not required. <b>Dogs:</b> Allowed. <b>Sunday Hunting:</b> 12:01 a.m. to 1 hr. before sunrise only. <b>Portable Lights:</b> Allowed.
<b>Woodchuck</b>			
Mar. 1, 2023–Feb. 24, 2024 8 a.m. start Nov. 11, 2023 Closed Dec. 4–9 & 13, 2023 Mar. 1, 2024–Feb. 22, 2025 8 a.m. start Nov. 9, 2024 Closed Dec. 2–7 & 11, 2024 Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Bow or Shotgun	No daily or seasonal bag limits	<b>Hunter Orange:</b> Encouraged with shotgun, but not required. <b>Dogs:</b> Allowed. <b>Sunday Hunting:</b> Prohibited
Mar. 1–Sept. 27, 2023 Mar. 1–Sept. 25, 2024 Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Modern or Muzzleloading Rifle (Valid Rifle Permit required)	No daily or seasonal bag limits.	<b>Hunter Orange:</b> Encouraged, but not required. <b>Dogs:</b> Allowed. <b>Sunday Hunting:</b> Prohibited Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all State WMAs, Parks and Forests & Recreation Areas.

### Small Game Hunting

#### PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS

There are a variety of public lands on which to hunt — municipal, county, state and federal. It is the hunter's responsibility for contacting the applicable landowner to clarify areas open for hunting prior to arriving on-site.

Most wildlife management areas, and select state parks, forests, and recreation areas are open to licensed hunters without requiring written permission. Some areas within specific properties may be closed.

A list of state WMAs with regulations and a link to PDF maps can be found at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-management-areas/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-management-areas/).

A list of state park and forest lands open for hunting with links to hunting maps can be found at [nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/sps\\_hunting\\_maps.html](http://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/sps_hunting_maps.html). Hunters may be required to obtain a special permit for some species on certain properties.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. There are five national wildlife refuges in New Jersey. Hunting opportunities may be limited to select wildlife species and may vary by refuge. Links to refuges in our state

can be found at [fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=NJ](http://fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=NJ). Click on the refuge you are interested in to see specific regulations and requirements.

Commercial shooting preserves provide hunters interested in pursuing game birds with another option. Depending on their specific license, hunters may pursue species such as mallards, partridge (chukar and/or Hungarian), pheasant and quail on a fee basis.

#### SMALL GAME SUNDAY HUNTING

Small game hunting on Sunday is **prohibited**, except:

- ♦ On properly licensed semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves, and only for those species covered by their license.

- ♦ When opossum or raccoon hunting on Sunday mornings only between midnight and 1 hour before sunrise.

#### WANTON WASTE

It is unlawful for any hunter that kills or wounds any gray squirrel, hare, or rabbit, chukar or Hungarian partridge, pheasant, quail or woodcock to not make a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and take it into possession. See *Wanton Waste of Game*, page 25.

### Firearm Ammunition Legal for Hunting Coyote and Fox in New Jersey

Scan this QR code or visit us at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/types-of-ammunition-legal-for-hunting-coyote-and-fox-with-a-firearm/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/types-of-ammunition-legal-for-hunting-coyote-and-fox-with-a-firearm/) for a reference chart useful for coyote-fox hunting during seasons that overlap other game species.







## Upland Game

### Bobcat (Closed)

The season for hunting bobcat is closed statewide. If you see a live bobcat or capture an image on your trail camera, please complete the NJ Wildlife Tracker survey at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife-tracker-app/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife-tracker-app/). If you find one dead on the road, please call (877) 927-6337 to report the carcass location.

### Bobwhite Quail (Closed)

The season for hunting wild bobwhite quail is closed statewide. Pen-raised quail may only be hunted at Greenwood Forest and Peaslee WMA and on properly licensed commercial and semi-wild shooting preserves.

No person may release bobwhite quail on Buckshutem, Dix, Egg Island, Fortescue, Millville (Bevans), Nantuxent or New Sweden WMAs (all in Cumberland County), or on Stafford Forge WMA in Ocean County.

If you encounter a bobwhite or capture an image on your trail camera, please complete and submit a sighting report at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/upland-game-bird-survey/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/upland-game-bird-survey/). A report can also be filed with the eBird app.

### Ruffed Grouse (Closed)

The season for hunting ruffed grouse is closed statewide. If you encounter a grouse or capture an image on your trail camera, please complete and submit a brief sighting report (see bobwhite quail, above). You may also file a report with the app eBird.

### Coyote and Fox Hunting

See *Coyote, Fox Seasons* table on page 57 for dates, hunting methods and permitted weapons. The general hunting season begins when the fall bow deer season opens statewide and runs through March 15. The Special Permit Season overlaps the general coyote and fox season from January 1 through March 15. All harvested coyotes *must* be reported, and NJ Fish & Wildlife would appreciate reports of gray fox as well via the Automated Harvest Report System. Red fox cannot be reported via the AHRS at this time. To report a harvest:

- ♦ By phone, call (855) 448-6865 or by mobile device

or computer, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm) by 8 p.m. of the harvest date.

- ♦ If unable to access the Automated Harvest Reporting System by the designated time, the coyote shall be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest NJ Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement office listed on pages 16 & 80. You must continue to attempt accessing the Automated Harvest Report System until you report that coyote harvest.

### SPECIAL PERMIT COYOTE AND FOX SEASON

A separate \$2 permit is required and may be purchased at license agents or online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm) beginning when the 2024 license year sales start, on December 1. A valid hunting license is required to purchase a special permit. The special permit season is for stand hunting and calling in predators.

You do not *need* to purchase a special permit to hunt coyote and fox if you are only bowhunting or wish to chase these animals with hounds. However, the special permit does allow the hunter to use weapon types not available to the traditional small game hunter. The special permit allows predator hunters to:

- ♦ Use larger shot sizes ("BB" to #3 Buck) in 10–20 gauge shotguns during daylight.
- ♦ Hunt at night with 10–12 gauge shotgun using #4 fine to "T" shot.
- ♦ Use certain small caliber modern rifles or a muzzleloading rifle during daylight (use requires a valid Rifle Permit).
- ♦ Hunt for canines without wearing hunter orange.

When hunting under the provisions of the special permit, you must also have a manual or electronic predator call. **Baiting and using dogs is prohibited under the permit provisions.**

### Coyote and Fox, Incidental Harvest by Turkey or Deer Hunters

Turkey hunters may take the opportunity to harvest coyote only (fox harvest is prohibited) during any turkey season; however, the hunter **may not**:

- ♦ Have any type of coyote call in their possession.
- ♦ Have any coyote decoys.
- ♦ Take any action intended to attract a coyote.

Deer hunters may, during any firearm deer season, take the opportunity to harvest coyote or fox with weapons and ammunition normally restricted to hunting deer, **unless**:

- ♦ You are hunting from a tree stand or other structure within 300 feet of a baited area. (Also applies to bowhunters.)
- ♦ You have taken the season bag limit of deer.

Regardless of whether you are hunting canines, deer or turkey – **all coyote harvests must be reported by 8 p.m.** on the day of harvest via the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS) either:

- ♦ By phone by calling (855) 448-6865; or
- ♦ Via mobile device or computer at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm).

### HARVEST REPORTING TIP

Be prepared to provide the harvest location details which are identical to those for reporting a deer harvest (DMZ, county and township). The required harvest reporting information for coyote and fox may change after this Digest is printed. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Although not required, please **also report any harvest of GRAY fox** on the day of harvest via the AHRS (see above). Red fox cannot be reported at this time.

## Squirrel Muzzleloading Rifle Season Areas

For a complete description of the squirrel hunting areas, scan this QR code with your mobile device or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt).



Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### New Jersey Migratory Bird Regulations

Species or Season	Hunting Hours	Maximum Shot Shell Capacity of Firearm <sup>A</sup>	Nontoxic Shot	Electronic Calls	HIP Certification	NJ Stamp Certification	Federal Stamp
Ducks, brant, mergansers, coot, 'Regular and Special Winter Season' Canada goose, and 'Regular Season' light geese.	1/2 hr before sunrise to sunset <sup>B</sup>	3	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
September Canada goose	1/2 hr before sunrise to 1/2 hr after sunset	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Light Goose Conservation Order <sup>C</sup>	1/2 hr before sunrise to 1/2 hr after sunset	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rails, gallinule, snipe	1/2 hr before sunrise to sunset	3	Y	N	Y	N	N
Woodcock	Sunrise to sunset	3	N <sup>D</sup>	N	Y	N	N
Crows	Sunrise to 1/2 hr after sunset	3	N <sup>D</sup>	Y	N	N	N

**A** Includes chamber and magazine combined.

**B** For example, if sunrise is 6:30 AM and sunset is 5:00 PM, hunting hours for these species is 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**C** Conservation Order Permit (\$2) also required. Available through Internet sales site.

**D** Although not required, hunters are encouraged to use nontoxic shot.

### Major Changes for the 2023–24 Season

- The Canada goose bag limit is increased to 3 birds in the North and South Zones. The bag limit remains at 2 Canada geese in the Coastal Zone.
- The mallard bag limit is increased to 4 birds (no more than 2 hens).
- The brant bag limit is reduced to 1 bird. Hunters should carefully check season dates for brant while duck hunting.
- Hooded mergansers remain part of the aggregate bag limit of 5 mergansers.
- Sea ducks can only be hunted when the regular duck season is open in each zone and are included with the bag limit of 6 ducks.

### Waterfowl Stamps

Both the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Certification and Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) are required for all waterfowl hunters 16 years and older and must be signed in ink. New Jersey Stamp Certifications are available from license agents and from the Licenses and Permits button on NJ Fish & Wildlife's website. Federal stamps are available from some U.S. post offices and online at [www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php).

### Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All hunters, including Apprentice License holders, must obtain a HIP certification **before** hunting ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe or gallinules. Hunters may purchase a HIP certification from a License Agent or Online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm). Both methods allow hunters to go hunting immediately after registering.

HIP certification should be carried in the hunter's license holder and are valid from Sept. 1 to April 15 the following year. Information collected for HIP is confidential and used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys.

### New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic

Every year, experienced waterfowlers throughout New Jersey join together dedicating their time and energy to present the **New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic**—an all day, free seminar covering “everything you ever wanted to know” about the traditions of waterfowl hunting in New Jersey. This year is no exception!

Forty years ago, the clinic began as an opportunity to introduce young people to the world of waterfowl hunting. However, with the growing interest among men and women, as well as youths, the event has been transformed into an opportunity for anyone 10 and up to spend a fun and interesting day learning about waterfowling!

Our full-day clinic covers waterfowling from A to Z, and includes bird identification, decoys, calling, guns and ammo, boats, safety, laws and ethics, do's and don'ts, clothing and camo, and even a demonstration by working retrievers! The value of the day is priceless! It's a unique chance to ask any question you've ever had about the sport—to be answered by the most experienced waterfowlers in New Jersey. Our instructors have a combined 300 years of experience!

- **Free breakfast and lunch for all attending!**
- **Date:** Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023
- **Location:** Tip Seaman Park, Tuckerton, NJ
- **Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Please **register in advance** by calling Marty Kristiansen at (732) 977-5648 so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you'll join us this year and share our enthusiasm for all that is waterfowling!





### Migratory Bird Seasons, 2023–24

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits <sup>1</sup>
<b>North Zone</b>		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coot	Oct. 14–Oct. 21 Nov. 11–Jan. 11	Ducks: 6 in aggregate; see Duck Limits* below; Mergansers <sup>2</sup> : 5 Coot: 15
Scaup	Oct. 14–Oct. 21 Nov. 11–Dec. 19	1
	Dec. 20–Jan. 11	2
Brant	Nov. 11–Nov. 25 Dec. 23–Jan. 11	1
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 18–Nov. 25 Dec. 16–Jan. 29	3
Youth-only Waterfowl Day	Oct. 7	See footnote <sup>3</sup>
<b>South Zone</b>		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coot	Oct. 21–Oct. 28 Nov. 18–Jan. 18	Ducks: 6 in aggregate; see Duck Limits* below; Mergansers <sup>2</sup> : 5 Coot: 15
Scaup	Oct. 21–Oct. 28 Nov. 18–Dec. 26	1
	Dec. 27–Jan. 18	2
Brant	Oct. 21–Oct. 28 Nov. 18–Dec. 14	1
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 18–Nov. 25 Dec. 16–Jan. 29	3
Youth-only Waterfowl Day	Oct. 14	See footnote <sup>3</sup>
<b>Coastal Zone</b>		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coot	Nov. 9–Nov. 11 Nov. 23–Jan. 27	Ducks: 6 in aggregate; see Duck Limits* below; Mergansers <sup>2</sup> : 5 Coot: 15
Scaup	Nov. 9–Nov. 11 Nov. 23–Jan. 4	1
	Jan. 5–Jan. 27	2
Brant	Nov. 23–Dec. 2 Dec. 14–Jan. 6	1
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 9–Nov. 11 Nov. 23–Jan. 27	2
Youth-only Waterfowl Day	Oct. 28	See footnote <sup>3</sup>
*Ducks Limits – 6 ducks in aggregate and may not include more than:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black duck - 2</li> <li>Blue-winged teal - 6</li> <li>Bufflehead - 6</li> <li>Canvasback - 2</li> <li>Gadwall - 6</li> <li>Goldeneye - 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green-winged teal - 6</li> <li>Mallard - 4 (including no more than 2 hens)</li> <li>Pintail - 1</li> <li>Redhead - 2</li> <li>Ring-necked duck - 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ruddy duck - 6</li> <li>Scaup - See above.</li> <li>Sea ducks - 4 (but not more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders [no more than 1 hen eider]).</li> <li>Shoveler - 6</li> <li>Wigeon - 6</li> <li>Wood duck - 3</li> <li>Whistling duck - black-bellied or fulvous in aggregate - 1</li> </ul>

1 **Possession Limits:** three times the daily limit for all species during each of the corresponding seasons. Exceptions: light geese and crows have no possession limit.  
2 **Mergansers** including common, red breasted and hooded, in aggregate. Merganser limits are in addition to duck limits.

3 Includes ducks, geese, brant, merganser, coot and gallinule. Bag limits are same as allowed in regular season in each zone except scaup which is 2 scaup per day.  
4 Light geese include greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese

### Migratory Bird Zones

All migratory bird zones are described in detail at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/migratory-bird-hunting-zones-and-closure-areas/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/migratory-bird-hunting-zones-and-closure-areas/)



### Hunters: Report Banded Birds

Hunters who recover banded migratory birds are asked to report the band number to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), Washington, D.C. Banding data plays a critical role in migratory bird harvest management. There are two ways to report bands:

1. **Online:** ReportBand.gov
2. **Write:** to the address inscribed on the band.

Online reporting provides instant access to the original banding information including the species, sex, location, date and age of the bird at banding. Band reporters will be able to print a certificate of appreciation on their home computer which will include information about the bird which had been banded.

When contacting the BBL, be prepared to provide: band number, date the bird was recovered, exact location of the bird's recovery as well as nearest town, and method of recovery, e.g., shot or found dead. Hunters may keep the bands.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Special Sea Duck Area

Waters of the Atlantic Ocean seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines (jetty and inlet mouths). For more detailed information see: [njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb6f4b9488d94933bbce24b0fc800760](http://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb6f4b9488d94933bbce24b0fc800760). To aid in safety and to conserve birds, crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the Special Sea Duck Area only.



### Special Winter Canada Goose Season Hunting Areas

The two hatched areas are open to hunting. Scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit [njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4bc7b1944d9f46239c6f926a3c780048](http://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4bc7b1944d9f46239c6f926a3c780048) for detailed Special Winter Canada Goose Season hunting areas and all migratory bird hunting zone boundaries.



### Waterfowl Blinds

No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on these WMAs:

1. Assunpink
2. Black River
3. Colliers Mills
4. Hainesville
5. Tuckahoe
6. Manahawkin
7. Stafford Forge
8. Whittingham
9. Beaver Swamp
10. Sedge Island
11. Salem River
12. Prospertown
13. Paulinskill

Any blind used on these WMAs must be portable and completely removed by day's end. Blinds remaining on WMAs are subject to confiscation and disposal by Fish and Wildlife.

### Migratory Bird Statewide Seasons

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits <sup>1</sup>
Canada Geese (September Season)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15
Light Geese - Regular Season <sup>4</sup>	Oct. 17–Feb. 15	25, singly or in aggregate
Light Geese - Conservation Order <sup>4</sup>	Feb. 16–Apr. 6	No limit
Rail (Sora, Clapper and Virginia) and Gallinule	Sept. 1–Nov. 21	Sora & Virginia rail: 25 total or aggregate; Gallinule: 1; Clapper rail: 10
Snipe	Sept. 9–Jan. 11	8
Crow	Aug. 14–Dec. 2 Dec. 11–Mar. 16 Mon., Thur., Fri., Sat. Only	No limit
Youth and Veterans/Active Military Day	Feb. 3	See footnote <sup>3</sup>
Veterans/Active Military Only Day	Nov. 4	See footnote <sup>3</sup>

- 1 **Possession Limits:** three times the daily limit for all species during each of the corresponding seasons. Exceptions: light geese and crows have no possession limit.
- 2 **Mergansers** including common, red breasted and hooded, in aggregate. Merganser limits are in addition to duck limits.

- 3 Includes ducks, geese, brant, merganser, coot and gallinule. Bag limits are same as allowed in regular season in each zone except scaup which is 2 scaup per day.
- 4 Light geese include greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese

### Other Migratory Bird Seasons

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Hunting Hours	Daily Bag Limits <sup>1</sup>
Woodcock - North Zone	Oct. 14–Oct. 28 Oct. 31–Nov. 25	Sunrise to sunset	3
Woodcock - South Zone	Nov. 11–Dec. 2 Dec. 14–Jan. 2	Sunrise to sunset	3
Sea Ducks (Black, Surf and White-winged Scoter; Long-tailed Duck and Eider only)	Same as ducks by zone. Crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the Special Sea Duck Area ONLY.		Not more than 4 sea ducks (not more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks or 3 eiders [no more than 1 hen eider]), within total bag of 6 ducks.
Canada Geese (Special Winter Season Areas) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Jan. 30–Feb. 15	½ hr before sunrise to sunset	5
Swans, harlequin duck, king rail, sandhill crane and mourning dove	Closed		None

- 1 **Possession Limits:** Three times the daily limit for all species during each of the corresponding seasons. Exceptions: light geese and crows have no possession limits.



### Summary of Federal Regulations

The following is a synopsis of Federal Regulations that pertain to the hunting of migratory game birds. More information can be found at: [dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/waterfowl\\_federal\\_regs.pdf](http://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/waterfowl_federal_regs.pdf) or by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Office at (908) 787-1321.

#### No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- ♦ By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. **Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. **Baited area** means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.
- ♦ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- ♦ With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. **Exceptions: In New Jersey, shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells are permitted during the September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.**
- ♦ From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- ♦ From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;

- ♦ From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased. Exception: crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the Special Sea Duck Area.
- ♦ By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- ♦ By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. **Exceptions: In New Jersey, hunters can use electronic calls during: crow season, September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.**
- ♦ By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

**Tagging requirement**—No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

**Custody of birds of another**—No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**Species identification requirement**—No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while

being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

### New Jersey State Regulations

State laws and regulations may be more stringent but not more lenient than those prescribed in federal regulations (50 CFR Part 20). See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

#### Restrictions:

- a. **Migratory bird hunting is not permitted on Sunday in New Jersey.**
- b. No person may take rails or snipe while possessing shot other than non-toxic shot.
- c. The starting time to hunt waterfowl on opening day of pheasant season (Nov. 11, 2023) is 8 a.m. on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant and quail except the tidal waters or marshes of those WMAs. See page 55 for pheasant and quail stocked WMAs. The starting time to hunt waterfowl on opening day of the pheasant season conforms to the regular start time (e.g. 1/2 hr. before sunrise) on private land, tidal marshes, WMAs not stocked with pheasant and quail, and the tidal marsh portions of pheasant and quail stocked WMAs.
- d. There shall be **no open season** for hunting any game birds or animals including migratory waterfowl:
  - » In or on the shores of the Shark River in Monmouth County.
  - » In that portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to Route 70 bridge.
  - » On Herring Island and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to adjacent shoreline of Mantoloking Boro, Ocean County.
  - » On Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.R. bridge.
  - » On the **non-tidal portions** of Cox Hall Creek WMA in Cape May County.
  - » In the waters or shoreline of Barnegat Inlet westward from the COLREGS Demarcation Line; to the north end of Broadway in Barnegat Light; then northwest to Red Buoy 14 in the channel (39.763783 N; 074.109283 W); then

### Nontoxic Shot Regulations

In New Jersey, no person may take ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, snipe or moorhens while possessing shot other than approved non-toxic shot which includes: steel, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-iron-nickel-tin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-polymer, bismuth-tin, copper-clad iron, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron, corrosion-inhibited copper shot, and tungsten-tin-bismuth shot types. Shot size may not exceed Size T (0.200 inch) for waterfowl. See [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-20#p-20.21\(j\)\(1\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-20#p-20.21(j)(1)) for more information. For crows and woodcock, shot size may not exceed Size #4 and although lead shot is permitted, hunters are encouraged to use non-toxic shot.

### Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Youth hunters must possess a valid Youth Firearms License—OR be less than 16 years of age and qualified to hunt without a license under the farmer license exemption (see page 10)—to hunt the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days as detailed on page 18.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

northeast to the westernmost section of rock jetty at Island Beach State Park.

**These areas are also explicitly mapped in the Hunting & Trapping Explorer:**

[NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt)

- e. It is unlawful for any person to leave the edible portions (defined as the breast meat) of migratory birds (excepting crows) to waste. Edible portions (see illustration, page 56) do not include meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera.
- f. Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by state boundaries and restricted to respective state seasons.
- g. Permanent blinds may not be constructed on some state wildlife management areas.
- h. Arrows with flu-flu type fletching are required for taking *flying* game birds. Arrows with edged heads are prohibited for taking *flying* game birds.

## Spring Light Goose Conservation Order

The NJ Light Goose Conservation Order Permit will be available January 2024 ONLY from the Internet sales site. As part of the permit process, hunters will be required to report their activity and harvest as requested on the permit. Check NJ Fish & Wildlife's website in late winter for more details.

**Falconry**—Special season dates and bag limits apply. Contact Fish and Wildlife at (908) 735-6938.

## Veterans/Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days

**Nov. 4, 2023 — Statewide Veterans & Active Military Day**

**Feb. 3, 2024 — Statewide Joint Veterans & Active Military and Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed states to choose special hunting days for Veterans and Active Military personnel in recognition of their service to our country. Waterfowl hunting outside the regular season is allowed on the day(s) officially designated as "Veterans/Active Military Waterfowl Day." New Jersey has two Veterans/Active Military Hunting Days, one of which runs concurrent with a special Youth Hunting Day.

Active Military includes members of Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves (other than active duty for training). Veterans includes those who served in the active military, naval or air service and who were discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. Participants in Veterans/Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days must carry while hunting one of the documents which applies to their status to be eligible to participate:

1. Active military identification card
2. Copy of honorable discharge certificate DD-214

Participants must have a hunting license, HIP certification, and state and federal duck stamps. Bag limits for these days include ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and gallinules. **Bag limits are the same as those allowed in the regular season in each zone except the scaup limit is 2 per day.**



### FAQs for special Veteran/Active Military and Youth Hunt days:

[dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/special-youth-and-veterans-active-military-waterfowl-hunting-days-faqs/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/special-youth-and-veterans-active-military-waterfowl-hunting-days-faqs/)

## Tuckahoe WMA Managed Waterfowl Hunt

As part of NJ Fish & Wildlife's R3 Program's initiative to Recruit, Retain and Reactivate hunters, a plan was presented to implement **the State's first managed waterfowl hunts** at the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area (WMA). In September of 2019, the Fish and Game Council approved this new opportunity on the heels of a cooperative, five-year habitat restoration project that was completed during the winter of 2017-18. Due to a delay from Covid-19, the program was started in the fall of 2021.

Managed waterfowl hunting opportunities are a common practice across the country that seek to maximize waterfowl use and provide a quality hunting experience. This is done by providing an attractive forage base for waterfowl and reducing the disturbance waterfowl experience by limiting hunting pressure.

### The objectives of this plan are to:

- 1) Improve the overall quality of waterfowl hunting at the Tuckahoe WMA impoundments.
- 2) Provide an opportunity for newly recruited or less experienced waterfowl hunters.
- 3) Provide new and improved experiences for current waterfowl hunters.
- 4) Provide an opportunity that alleviates access and overcrowding constraints that negatively impact waterfowl hunters' experiences.

### How to Apply:

A lottery application process will be in effect to access hunting blinds and delineated hunting zones established at the three Tuckahoe impoundments. There will be NO FEE associated with the application process. A decoy loaner program will be available for those new to waterfowl hunting, as needed. A current license, HIP Certification, and state and federal stamps are required.

For more information please visit [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/tuckahoe-wildlife-management-area-managed-waterfowl-hunt/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/tuckahoe-wildlife-management-area-managed-waterfowl-hunt/) or email [tuckahoewmafowl@dep.nj.gov](mailto:tuckahoewmafowl@dep.nj.gov)





### Trapping Licenses and Permits<sup>1</sup>

- Most licenses and permits may be purchased at license agents or online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm).
- Possession of a valid Trapping License is required to trap and must be openly displayed on back and cannot be covered by a pack or harness.
- **Must also carry Snare Course Completion Card<sup>1</sup> whenever using any cable restraint.**

License or Permit Type / Fee	Requirements	How to Obtain
<b>Youth Trapping</b> Age 12–15: Free Valid through Dec. 31 the year youth turns 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be at least 12 years of age to obtain, regardless of residency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass an approved Trapper Education course (See the Trapper Education webpage <a href="http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/">dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/</a> for more information).</li> <li>• Present course completion card at any license agent.</li> </ul>
<b>Resident Trapping</b> Age 16+, including active military, regardless of residency: \$32.50 Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be NJ resident for at least 6 months or active military stationed in NJ.</li> <li>• Required in the year license holder turns 17, and annually thereafter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A first-time license must be obtained from a license agent by showing a Trapper Education course completion card, or with a prior resident trapping license from any state.</li> <li>• All subsequent licenses can be purchased at any license agent or online (web address above table).</li> </ul>
<b>NJ National Guard Resident Trapping</b> Free Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must active NJNG member who has completed Initial Active Duty Training.</li> <li>• Confirm you are active in the system (call (609) 530-6866).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available at all license agents</li> </ul>
<b>Disabled Veteran Resident Trapping</b> Free Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of service-connected disability (&gt;10%) from VA.</li> <li>• Proof of honorable discharge (DD-214 or similar).</li> <li>• NJ Driver License or other proof of residency.</li> <li>• Trapper Education Course Completion Card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible veterans must initially be certified by submitting application and required documentation via U.S. mail to NJ Fish &amp; Wildlife, MC 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton NJ 08625-0420. For more info, see <a href="http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information/">dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information/</a>.</li> <li>• Once certified, veterans can obtain license at license agents or online (web address above table).</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Resident Trapping</b> Age 16+: \$200.50 Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-resident of NJ or NJ resident for less than 6 months</li> <li>• Required in the year holder turns 17, and annually thereafter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A first-time license must be obtained from a license agent by showing a Trapper Education Course Completion Card, or with a prior resident trapping license from any state.</li> <li>• All subsequent licenses can be purchased at any license agent or online (web address above table).</li> </ul>
<b>Farmer License Exemption</b> <b>Farm</b> – must meet qualifications under NJ Farmland Assessment Act of 1964. See <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf">www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No license or rifle permit required for farm property on which you reside.</li> <li>• Must be immediate family member* and reside on the farm.</li> <li>• Must have a Conservation Identification (CID) number.</li> <li>• Must have Snare Course Completion Card to use cable restraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you purchased any license since 2006, you should already have a CID number.</li> <li>• If not, click on the <b>Licenses &amp; Permits button</b> at <a href="http://NJFishandWildlife.com">NJFishandWildlife.com</a> and follow instructions to complete a profile. Choose the option to <b>Print an Identification Card</b>. A card will print with your 9-digit CID.</li> </ul>

\* Immediate family members are defined further on 70 under Farmer Regulations.

<b>Special Beaver Trapping Permit:</b> \$17 <b>Beaver Damage Control Permit:</b> \$17 (during open season only) <b>Special Otter Trapping Permit:</b> \$2 Permit valid Dec. 26–Feb. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have a valid license or meet Farmer Exemption to use any Special or Damage Permit during the prescribed open season.</li> <li>• May be used only in Management Zone specified on permit.</li> <li>• Beaver Damage Control Permits are issued at the discretion of New Jersey Fish and Wildlife and may only be used at the location specified on the permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply Oct. 1–31 at any license agent or online at <a href="http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm">NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm</a>. Permit issued through lottery.</li> <li>• To review, change or check application, go to <a href="http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm">NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm</a>.</li> <li>• Check permit award status in your profile.</li> <li>• Unclaimed permits become available for over-the-counter sale. Trappers may purchase multiple Special Beaver Permits, but may only have one Special Otter Permit.</li> </ul>
<b>Rifle Permit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth<sup>2</sup>: \$6</li> <li>• Adult: \$10.50</li> </ul> Required to use .22 cal. and .22 cal. short ammo to dispatch trapped animals, except muskrat <sup>3</sup> . Permit valid from July 1 to June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful completion of a Firearm Hunter Education Course which includes use of rifle.</li> <li>• Possession of written landowner permission to use firearm for dispatch within any safety zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase at any license agent or online (web address above table).</li> <li>• Use the Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card on pages 37–38.</li> </ul>
<b>Duplicate or Lost License / Permit</b> \$2 each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be purchased or replaced at any license agent or online (web address above table).</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> New trappers, farmers or older trappers needing Snare Course Completion Card will have to pass an approved Trapper Education course. (See the Trapper Education webpage [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/) for more information).

<sup>2</sup> Trappers under age 14 using any firearm must be accompanied by, and under direct supervision of, a properly licensed adult (21 or older).

<sup>3</sup> Use of an air gun does not require a Rifle Permit.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

### Trapping Seasons 2023–24

No trap or trap stake may be set prior to 6 a.m. on any opening day.

Species	Season	Bag Limit(s) and Additional Information
<b>Beaver*</b> Permit required (see page 66). Maximum of 5 traps per day per zone, regardless of number of permits you have for the same zone.	Dec. 26, 2023–Feb. 9, 2024 in zones 1–30 (see map), <b>except:</b> Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on stocked WMAs*	8 per Special Permit 10 per Damage Permit All captures must tagged immediately. All beaver pelts must be brought to an official check station on Sat., February 24, 2024 (see your instruction packet). In addition to the mandatory check station, trappers are encouraged to report their beaver harvest using the Automated Harvest Report System.
<b>Otter*</b> Permit required (see age 66) Up to 3 otter traps per day	Dec. 26, 2023–Feb. 9, 2024 in zones 1–30 (see map), <b>except:</b> Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on stocked WMAs*	1 per Season Otter carcass must be surrendered to Fish and Wildlife. All captures must tagged immediately upon taking possession. Otter pelt and carcass must be brought to an official check station on Sat., February 24, 2024 (see your instruction packet). In addition to the mandatory check station, trappers are encouraged to report their otter harvest using the Automated Harvest Report System.
<b>Coyote*, Gray fox*, Red fox*</b>	Nov. 15, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024 Statewide, <b>except:</b> Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on stocked WMAs*	No daily or seasonal limit <b>Coyote harvest must be reported by 8 p.m. on the day of harvest via the Automated Harvest Report System.</b> <b>Reporting of Gray Fox is also requested</b>
<b>Mink, Muskrat, Nutria</b>	<b>North Zone</b> Nov. 15, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024 <b>South Zone</b> Dec. 1, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024	No daily or seasonal limit See map below, right for Mink, Muskrat, and Nutria zones
<b>Opossum*, Raccoon*, Striped skunk*</b>	Nov. 15, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024 Statewide, <b>except:</b> Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on stocked WMAs*	No daily or seasonal limit
<b>Weasels</b> Long-tailed, short-tailed	Nov. 15, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024 Statewide	No daily or seasonal limit
<b>Bobcat, Fisher</b>	<b>Closed statewide</b> No take is allowed	<b>If you find a bobcat or fisher in your trap, do not disturb the set; immediately call (877) 927-6337 to report capture, and await Fish and Wildlife's Response Team.</b>

\* No traps may be set for beaver or otter, and no cable restraint may be set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon or skunk on any portion of stocked WMAs until 6 a.m. on January 1. (For a list of stocked WMAs, see page 55.) **Trapping is prohibited at all times within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

- Traps in tidal waters must be checked once per day, all others must be checked once every 24 hours.
- Report harvest of beaver, otter and coyote using Automated Harvest Reporting System at (855) 448-6865 or [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm). Please also report **gray fox**.

#### Beaver and River Otter Trapping Zones

Mandatory pelt registration:  
Feb. 24, 2024 (9 a.m.–noon)

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

**Season Dates:**  
Dec. 26–Feb. 9 except  
Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on select WMAs\*  
(See WMA list this page, above.)

**Number of Traps Allowed:**  
Beaver—5 per zone per day  
Otter—3 per day

**Bag Limits:**  
Beaver—8 per permit  
Otter—1 per season  
Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

All otter carcasses must be surrendered to the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife.

[NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt)

#### Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping Zones

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

**North Zone:**  
Nov. 15–Mar. 15

**South Zone:**  
Dec. 1–Mar. 15

No daily or seasonal bag limit for these species.

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

Report any nutria harvest to a NJDEP Fish and Wildlife Office.

[NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt)



### Trapping Regulations

See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

Anyone applying for a trapping license must show a previous resident trapping license from this or any state or a Trapper Education Course Completion Card. Trapper Education courses are offered in the spring and fall. To enroll in a Trapper Education Course, go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/). See page 66.

The trapping license (including farmers) must be visibly displayed on outer clothing (not covered by a pack or harness) while trapping. In addition to a Trapping License, additional permits may be required depending on the furbearer to be trapped. A Rifle Permit is required when using a .22 caliber rifle to dispatch trapped animals other than muskrat.

See 2023–24 *Trapping Seasons* table on page 67 for seasons and bag limits.

The following wildlife management areas are closed to all beaver and otter trapping as well as for using cable restraints for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk until 6 a.m. on Jan. 1: Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood Forest (incl. Howardsville tract), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Whittingham and Winslow. Cage traps and encapsulating traps may be used on these WMAs beginning at 6 a.m. on Nov. 15.

### Firearms

Licensed trappers may use a firearm to dispatch any captured furbearer except muskrat. Youth trappers under age 14 using any firearm to dispatch, must be accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of, a properly licensed adult, 21 or older. Trappers must carry written permission from the landowner or lessee to possess a loaded firearm within any 450-foot safety zone.

#### Permitted firearms include:

- ♦ Air gun (.177 to .22 caliber) having a minimum muzzle velocity of 600 fps and using wadcutter, domed or pointed or hollow point pellets only. (Spherical BBs not allowed.) Use of an air gun does not require the possession of a Rifle Permit.
- ♦ Rimfire (.22 caliber) rifle using .22 short cartridge only. Possession of a valid Rifle Permit is required when using any rimfire rifle.

### Harvest Reporting

All coyote harvests must be reported by 8 p.m. via the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS), either online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm) or by phone at (855) 448-6865. The location data collected is similar to that used in reporting a deer harvest (DMZ, county, township). Fish and Wildlife requests trappers to report all harvests of **gray fox** via the AHRS as with for coyote (see above). Red fox cannot be reported at this time.

### Report All Furbearer Sightings

Furbearer species sightings are important to NJ Fish & Wildlife to estimate abundance and distribution

of various furbearing mammals. Please report all sightings to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/furbearer-survey/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/furbearer-survey/).

### Beaver and Otter Lottery, Permits

**Application period:** Oct. 1–31; may only apply for one beaver and/or one otter permit. Trappers who will only accept a permit for one zone should not fill in second or third choices. Successful beaver applicants are given the first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zone. **Permit award notification will begin on or before Nov. 2, 2023. Award pickup will begin November 2, 2023. Permits MUST be claimed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023.** Unclaimed permits will be sold over the counter, first-come, first-served. Application fees for unclaimed permits are not refunded. **Over-the-counter permit sales begin 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023 at all license agents and online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm).** For permit availability, see website above.

Beaver and otter permit holders will receive a packet regarding mandatory otter carcass surrender, check-in station date and locations, and Fish and Wildlife staff contacts if you wish to check your catch before the actual registration date. Please remember to:

- ♦ Report your harvest daily via the AHRS (online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm) or by phone at (855) 448-6865).
- ♦ Make every attempt to properly flesh and stretch all pelts.
- ♦ Bring your otter carcass. If you caught an otter while beaver trapping but didn't have an otter permit, the entire animal must be surrendered, pelt on.

### Legal Trap Types

- All trap sets must be tagged either with trapper's name and address, trap ID number or trapper's CID.
- Tags on beaver and otter sets must be clearly visible above the water or ice.
- Relaxing lock for cable restraints are those that stop tightening when the animal stops pulling against the restraint. Cam-locks and spring-assisted locks are prohibited.

Trap Type	Target Species	Specifications	Notes
Body-gripping Trap	Mink, muskrat, nutria	Max. jaw spread of 6"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jaw spread measured across trigger of set trap to inner edges of jaws.</li> <li>• Must be completely set below water, or at below mean high tide in tidal areas.</li> </ul>
	Beaver*, otter*	Max. jaw spread of 10"	
Cable Restraint Trap Trappers must also carry their Snare Certification Card when trapping with any cable restraint. All natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used while using cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view when placed within 30' of the set.	Beaver*, otter*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specifications when set submerged underwater.</li> <li>• If not submerged, same specifications as for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk (see below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average loop diameter may not exceed 12" in diameter.</li> <li>• Distance from the walking surface to the top of the loop may not exceed 24".</li> </ul>
	Coyote*, fox*, opossum*, raccoon*, skunk*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made of aircraft cable or crucible wire between 5/64" and 3/16" in diameter.</li> <li>• Must be equipped with a swivel, a <b>relaxing lock</b> (see above), and a deer stop 6" from the end of the loop.</li> </ul>	
	Mink, muskrat, nutria • Must be set within 50' of mean high water line. Weasel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64 or 1/16" in diameter.</li> <li>• Must be equipped with a swivel.</li> </ul>	
Cage Trap	Beaver*, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter*, raccoon, skunk, weasel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the appropriate size trap and bait for your target species.</li> <li>• Canines are reluctant to enter cage traps.</li> </ul>	
Encapsulating Trap (aka, dog-proof or species-specific trap)	Opossum, raccoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trigger and restraining mechanism must be enclosed in a housing.</li> <li>• Access to the trigger is through a single opening only.</li> <li>• The opening shall not exceed 2" in diameter, measured diagonally.</li> <li>• The trigger can only be activated by a pulling force.</li> <li>• The trap must have a swivel-mounted anchoring system.</li> </ul>	
Steel-jawed Leghold Trap	Coil-spring and longspring traps are prohibited in N.J. No person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale, possess, import or transport any animal trap of the steel-jaw leghold type; nor shall any person use, take or attempt to take any animal by means of a steel-jaw leghold trap.		

\* See *Furbearer Trapping Seasons*, page 67, for trap restrictions on Stocked WMAs. **Trapping prohibited at all times within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:** alcoholic beverages, camping, geocaching, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, dumping, fires, metal detecting, swimming, picnicking, airsoft or paintball gunning, and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles known as drones.

Wildlife management area (WMA) regulation violations carry penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

For special WMA permits that allow for activities otherwise prohibited on WMAs, write to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or [dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/).

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit (or other authorization) for violation or due cause.

## Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit (for the waterbodies listed below), or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license with your Conservation ID number clearly displayed. For privacy, all other personal information may be blacked out. Boat ramp maintenance permit fee: \$15 at license agents or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site. More information at: [dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/).

Persons 70 years and older do not need a boat ramp maintenance permit or a license but must affix to their window proof of age such as a former license displaying the date of birth.

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Round Valley Angler Access | 5. Mad Horse Creek  |
| 2. Assunpink                  | 6. Union Lake       |
| 3. Dennis Creek               | 7. Menantico Ponds  |
| 4. Tuckahoe                   | 8. Prospertown Lake |

## Dog Training, Exercising and Hunting

A person may exercise or train dogs only in designated dog training areas from May 1 to Aug. 31, inclusive, and only on the following select WMAs:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Assunpink      | 7. Manasquan       |
| 2. Black River    | 8. Millville       |
| 3. Clinton        | 9. Pequest         |
| 4. Colliers Mills | 10. Stafford Forge |
| 5. Glassboro      | 11. Tuckahoe       |
| 6. Hainesville    | 12. Whittingham    |

All dogs must be properly licensed. Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30.

Any person releasing partridge or pheasant for dog training must have a game bird receipt in their possession. Additional regulations involving the use of pigeons, the use of firearms, frozen game birds, the use of call-back pens and the release of fox, raccoon, rabbit and hare apply. For maps showing dog training areas on these select WMAs, go to [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/)

**dog-training-exercising-hunting-on-wildlife-management-areas/**. For more information call (609) 984-0547.

## Field Trials

A permit to conduct a field trial on a wildlife management area may be obtained by contacting Fish and Wildlife at (609) 259-2132 or [dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-management-area-permits/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/wildlife-management-area-permits/).

## Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach WMA is closed to hunting from Sept. 1 until 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 11, 2023.

## Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from NJ Fish & Wildlife online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm). Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding group permits, call (609) 259-2132.

## Hunting Regulations

**Firearm hunting on wildlife management areas on the day prior to the opening of the regular small game season for pheasants and quail is allowed.**

The quail season is closed statewide with the exception of the Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs. See *Areas Open to Quail Hunting*, page 56.

It is legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber rimfire short cartridges for hunting raccoon and opossum and for dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat on WMAs.

For coyote and fox hunting: the use of .17 and .22 caliber rimfire or .17 through .25 caliber centerfire rifle ammo is allowed on WMAs. See *Small Game ammo chart* on page 58 for additional restrictions.

The use of air guns to hunt rabbit and squirrel is allowed on WMAs. See *Air Guns* page 24, and *Small Game Mammal Seasons* table, page 59.

Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, are not allowed for hunting woodchucks on WMAs.

## Motor Vehicles and Other Forms of Conveyance

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on any WMA. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

All motor boats must be properly registered and have all the required safety equipment. (See *Outboard Motors*, below.)

**The use of dog sleds, dog carts, off road vehicles, ATVs, trail bikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all WMAs unless authorized by NJ Fish & Wildlife. E-bikes are allowed up to 750 watts. For mountain bike and paddleboard regulations, visit [dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/wildlife-management-area-regulations/).**

## Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds on WMAs with the exception of Union Lake where an outboard motor, not exceeding 9.9 hp, may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

All titled boats must also be registered. Any boat mechanically propelled, regardless of length, must be registered. All boats greater than 12 feet, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered. A boat license and New Jersey boat safety certificate are required to operate a power vessel on non-tidal waters of New Jersey. A boat license is not required for non-powered vessels.

## Restricted Hours

Wildlife management areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities. Special permission may be granted for NJ Fish & Wildlife-approved activities.

## Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, airgun (.177 and .22 caliber), rimfire rifle (.22 and .17 caliber), and centerfire rifle up to and including .30 caliber shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to regulations posted at the training area. See *WMA Ranges*, page 21.

WMA ranges types, statewide:

- ♦ **Shotgun Range:** for use with clay birds and patterning of fine shot;
- ♦ **Archery Range:** approved backstops at select ranges, no broadheads allowed unless a user brings their own target;
- ♦ **Muzzleloader Rifle Range:** for sighting in with shotgun slugs or buckshot, .17 or .22 caliber rimfire rifles, air guns and muzzleloaders; no other firearms allowed.
- ♦ **Centerfire Rifle Range:** See page 21 for ranges and requirements to sight in with shotgun slugs or buckshot, .17 or .22 caliber rimfire and air guns, muzzleloader and centerfire rifles up to and including .30 caliber. No other firearms allowed.

## Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or Drones

The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone is prohibited on WMAs. A UAV is computer-controlled for nearly their entire flight either autonomously or remote-controlled by a pilot and has the capacity for autonomous flight and navigation. See *Drones*, page 23, for additional regulations.

## Waterfowl Blinds

All waterfowl hunting blinds, except for those blinds constructed by NJ Fish & Wildlife for agency-sanctioned waterfowl hunting program, on state WMAs, including those constructed by a hunter, shall be available for public use on a first-come, first-served basis. No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on any of the following WMAs:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Assunpink      | 8. Whittingham   |
| 2. Black River    | 9. Beaver Swamp  |
| 3. Colliers Mills | 10. Sedge Island |
| 4. Hainesville    | 11. Salem River  |
| 5. Tuckahoe       | 12. Prospertown  |
| 6. Manahawkin     | 13. Paulinskill  |
| 7. Stafford Forge |                  |

Any blind used in these WMAs must be portable and shall be completely removed at the day's end.





## Farmer Regulations

See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

### Farmer License Exemption

Farmers and the immediate members of their family who also reside on the farm may hunt, trap and fish on the farm without being licensed or possessing a valid rifle permit. This exemption does not apply to a tenant or employee who is not an immediate family member. **All fish and wildlife laws and regulations, season dates and bag limits that apply to the hunting and fishing seasons also apply to farmers.** All harvest tagging and reporting requirements apply; use self-made tags where appropriate.

### Definitions

- ♦ **Farm** – must meet qualifications under NJ Farmland Assessment Act of 1964. See [www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf).
- ♦ **Farmer Exemption** – A farmer and members of the immediate family who also reside on the farm may hunt, trap, and fish on the farm without being licensed or possessing a valid rifle permit. This exemption does not apply to a tenant or employee who is not an immediate family member.
- ♦ **Immediate Family** – includes the spouse, mother, father, parent, child, grandchild, stepchild, stepparent, legal guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, great grandparent, brother, sister, stepsister, stepbrother, brother-in-law and sister-in-law of the farm owner or lessee *who reside on the farm*. All hunting, fishing and trapping laws must be followed.

### CID Requirement

All farmers hunting deer must have a Conservation Identification Number (CID). Farmers who already receive free farmer deer or turkey permits, and farmers who have purchased a hunting license/permit and/or freshwater fishing license since 2006 already have an assigned, permanent CID.

Register for a free CID# online at the link below. No purchase is required but you must create a profile in our online license sales site. From our homepage at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com), click on the **Licenses & Permits** button to enter our License Sales Site. Follow the instructions to create a profile. Your 9-digit CID will display on screen once your profile has been completed.

**Farmers must follow all the same harvest reporting regulations as for non-farmers. Occupant farmers who are exempt from the license requirement will not have tags for Fall Bow, Six-Day Firearm or Winter Bow seasons.** Immediately upon harvest, make a paper tag or use the Deer Transportation Tag on page 29. When reporting your **occupant farmer** deer harvest, select the **'I am a farmer without tags'** option. For harvest reporting information on deer, see page 32; for turkey, see page 52. To report a deer harvest, call (855) 448-6865 or online at [NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm).

### Hunting Permits for Farmers

The occupant of a farm may allow his or her dog to run at large on land he or she occupies, except while any deer season is open.

Farmers must possess the appropriate permit to legally hunt the farm during any hunting or trapping season which requires a permit. **Permits are provided free to all qualified farmers**

**for the following seasons:** Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun deer seasons; the spring and fall Turkey Permit seasons. Sunday bowhunting for deer is legal only on state wildlife management areas and private property.

### Farmer Application period: June 1–August 31.

New farmers must submit an application to obtain free turkey, deer permits. Applications are available on our website at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/information-for-farmers/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/information-for-farmers/) under Farmer Certification Application for Deer and Turkey Permits. Print out both pages and use the instruction sheet to fill out the application. Applications are also available at your local county agricultural extension office.

Once approved, farmers may claim their farmer permits online (self-print on plain paper) or at any license agent. The dates when permits will become available are listed below.

### Farmer Deer Permits

- ♦ Farmers may claim deer permits beginning **MONDAY, Sept. 11, 2023 at 10 a.m.** at any license agent or via the internet sales site.
- ♦ Approved farmers are eligible for one free antlerless bow, shotgun, and muzzleloader permit and one free Antlered Buck Permit for each of the three permit seasons. **If a farmer claims their FARMER Buck Permit, they cannot purchase a regular Antlered Buck Permit.** Likewise, if a farmer first purchases an Antlered Buck Permit, the farmer cannot claim a Farmer Buck Permit. The Antlered Buck Permit is valid for any zone in which the farmer has an antlerless zone-specific permit for the season.
- ♦ Two types of farmer permits—occupant and non-occupant farmer as identified below—allow the applicant to decide for which permit it is easiest to qualify. Farmers who must change the occupancy status for their deer permit should call (609) 292-1473.
- ♦ Farmers may also purchase regular deer permits in addition to the free farmer permits. If hunting elsewhere from the farm on which you reside, a valid hunting license is required. See *Deer Permit Information*, page 37.

### OCCUPANT FARMER DEER PERMITS

- ♦ Applicants must be the owner, lessee or members of the immediate family who reside on the farm property. Land must be at least five acres, tax assessed as farmland. Occupant permits are valid only on the farm property where the applicant resides.

### NON-OCCUPANT FARMER DEER PERMITS

- ♦ Applicants are not required to live on the farm property. Farmer(s) and immediate family may qualify, up to a total of five people. Must actively till at least 30 acres of land which is tax-assessed as farmland. Woodlots do not qualify.
- ♦ To apply for leased farmland, *a copy of all leases authorizing the agricultural and hunting uses of the land must be attached to the application.*
- ♦ Non-occupant permits are valid only on private land within the deer management zone designated on the permit and are not valid on public lands within that zone.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

- ♦ An applicant who lives on a farm and actively tills at least 30 acres may apply either as an occupant or a non-occupant.
- ♦ A valid hunting license must be in possession in order to claim Non-occupant Farmer Permits.

### Farmer Turkey Permits

Farmers may claim fall season turkey permits beginning MONDAY, Sept. 11, 2023 at 10 a.m. at any license agent. Farmer Turkey Permits are only for Occupant Farmers on their farm property. Farmers may claim 2024 spring season turkey permits beginning MONDAY, March 25, 2024 at 10 a.m. If you experience a problem obtaining the fall permit at a license agent, call (609) 292-1473.

Fall Turkey Season is now open in all Turkey Hunting Areas. Farmers may also purchase regular turkey permits in addition to the free farmer permits.

### Wildlife Damage Management Options for Farmers

See [NJFishandWildlife.com/farmer.htm#damage](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/farmer.htm#damage).

**Noise Cannons:** Farmers experiencing losses to deer and other wildlife can apply for a permit to use a noise cannon. Noise cannons can be an LP exploder, acetylene exploder, carbide exploder,

or any other mechanical device approved by Fish and Wildlife to scare or repel birds, deer or other wildlife. Interested farmers should contact the regional NJ Fish & Wildlife law office (page 16 & 80) for information and permit application.

### Damage Permits for Deer, Black Bear, Turkey, Geese

For farmer deer management options, see [dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/farmer-deer\\_brochure.pdf](http://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/farmer-deer_brochure.pdf).

Farmers experiencing deer damage may apply for a Deer Depredation Permit which allows for the take of deer outside of the normal hunting season. See [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/farmer-depredation-permit-information/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/farmer-depredation-permit-information/).

Farmers experiencing black bear damage, contact the NJ DEP Hotline toll-free at 1 (877) 927-6337 (1-877-WARNDEP).

Farmers experiencing damage from wild turkeys should contact USDA Wildlife Services. See contact information under Resident geese.

Resident geese are classified as a migratory game bird and are protected by federal law. Farmers experiencing damage to crops due to resident geese may apply for a permit to manage them by

contacting the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the following address:

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services  
140-C Locust Grove Rd.  
Pittstown, NJ 08867  
(908) 735-5654  
fax: (908) 735-0821

### Wildlife Damage Other Than Deer, Black Bear, Turkey, Geese

Farmers and immediate family, their lessees occupying or farming their land or their farming employees may kill squirrel, raccoon, opossum, skunk, weasel, crows, woodchuck, gray fox, red fox or coyote on farm property at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. However, they must use legal firearms, ammunition and are subject to state law and local ordinance.

For woodchuck only, shot not larger than #4 Buckshot may be used to control woodchucks causing damage.

A regional Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office must be notified within 24 hours of killing a coyote. See Telephone Directory page 80.



**United Bowhunters  
of New Jersey**

*Working to protect the environment through renewable and natural resource conservation.*

Contact Jack Spoto, President  
(973) 820-3364  
Email: [jack.spoto@ubnj.org](mailto:jack.spoto@ubnj.org)  
Visit our website:  
[www.ubnj.org](http://www.ubnj.org)

Please Print Clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership: \* \$25/yr. Includes membership card, four issues of *Tracks & Trails*, decal and eligibility for contests, trophies and prizes.  
**\*Required for UBNJ special hunts**

Family Membership: \$40/yr. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership for the member, spouse and each child under the age of 16.  
List names of family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Membership: \$15/yr. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership for youth up to age 16.

Life Membership: \$400 single payment. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership.

Sponsoring Membership: \$100/yr.

For clubs and organizations, contact UBNJ for details.  
Check One:  
New Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the UBNJ Protect our Rights Fund.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: UBNJ Membership, P.O. 57, Spotswood, NJ 08884.  
Please allow 6 – 8 weeks to receive membership ID.**



**NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION  
OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS**

**If you care about:**

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

**Then get involved!**

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions,

**Membership:**  
\$40 Includes monthly e-newsletter and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send with your check or money order to:  
NJSFSC • PO Box 884 • Eatontown, NJ 07724  
Join online at  
[www.njsfsc.org](http://www.njsfsc.org)



# 2024 Garden State Deer Classic

### March 1–2, 2024

The 2024 Deer Classic & Skillful Angler Award ceremonies will be held during the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs Annual Convention.

**Crowne Plaza Princeton Conference Center in Plainsboro, NJ**

Friday, March 1, 2024, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. & Saturday, March 2, 2024, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the Awards Ceremony Dinner on Saturday at 5 p.m.

*Includes a Youth Division!  
See page 73.*



**See New Jersey’s most outstanding white-tailed deer from 2022–23.**

Awards dinner and ceremony on Saturday at 5 p.m.

**Applications must be received by Nov. 1, 2023 to enter a deer harvested during last year’s 2022–23 hunting seasons. No Exceptions!**

To locate an official measurer to score your white-tail, visit our website at [dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/deer\\_scorers.pdf](http://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/deer_scorers.pdf).

Deer will not be measured at the Deer Classic.

**See entry details on page 73.**

**Brought to you by:**

- NJDEP Fish & Wildlife
- NJ Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs
- United Bowhunters of New Jersey
- NJ Outdoor Alliance — Environmental Projects



## PHEASANTS • CHUKARS

### Sept. 1, 2023–April 30, 2024

*Licensed N.J. Commercial Preserve*



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**342 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Rd, West Amwell Township  
Hunterdon County, NJ  
[www.HuntsFamilyPreserve.com](http://www.HuntsFamilyPreserve.com)**

Regulations in **red** are new this year.



New Jersey's Outstanding Deer Program showcases the fine quality deer produced in the Garden State while recognizing the hunters who harvested them with a bow, crossbow, shotgun or muzzleloading rifle. Our Program follows the measuring standards developed by the Boone and Crockett Club. This scoring system gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points, mass and symmetry.

Joining the program's regular Open Division is a **Youth Division** for hunters ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all **Antler** categories and a reduction in the **Weight** category requirements by 10 or 20 pounds for doe and buck, respectively. (See table below for minimum entry requirements.)

**Legally harvested deer must be taken under the Boone and Crockett-defined rules of fair chase.** Deer taken from enclosed hunting lands are not eligible.

**Applications are due Nov. 1 — NO EXCEPTIONS.** No entry fee.

All deer must be scored by an official measurer. Visit our website at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/outstanding-white-tailed-deer-program/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/outstanding-white-tailed-deer-program/) for program background, rules, score/entry forms plus a **list of official measurers**. (See page bottom at *Entering the Outstanding Deer Program*.)

**Don't wait** for the approaching deadline to schedule with an official measurer. Racks waiting at the taxidermy shop can be "borrowed" for scoring then returned to the taxidermist for mounting. A rack is easier and safer to transport and measure than a mount. **Ask your taxidermist to have the mount completed by Jan. 31 to be ready for the March Deer Classic.** (See page 72.)

**Weight** categories recognize exceptional body size as determined by the **field-dressed weight, all vitals removed**. See chart for minimum eligible weights. Bucks must be weighed on a certified scale† (no truck scales\*\*) with the weighmaster's signature on a letterhead receipt or on the entry form, available on our website. Does must be weighed either on a NJ Fish & Wildlife regional office scale or on a certified scale with signature proof, as above.

Any properly licensed hunter, resident or non-resident, is eligible to enter their deer **harvested from the previous year's hunting seasons**. Deer must be taken in accordance with New Jersey wildlife laws and regulations.

Official entry consists of the **original** score sheet, hunter information page plus a clear photo of the hunter with their deer, preferably a field photo from the day of harvest. Forms with instructions are available on [dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/entering-the-outstanding-white-tailed-deer-program/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/entering-the-outstanding-white-tailed-deer-program/).

For questions, email NJ Fish & Wildlife at [NJDeerClassic@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NJDeerClassic@dep.nj.gov). **Qualifying entries for deer harvested during the 2023–24 hunting seasons will be recognized at the 2025 Garden State Deer Classic.**

Join NJ Fish & Wildlife in celebrating New Jersey's outstanding white-tailed deer at the March NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Annual Convention in Plainsboro. See ad on page 72 for more information.

The table at right lists the top-scoring deer and the hunters who harvested them during the 2021–22 deer hunting seasons, not the most recent 2022–23 hunting seasons. Current season harvests will be honored at the 2025 Deer Classic and printed in next year's *2025 Hunting & Trapping Digest*.

### 2023 Garden State Deer Classic Winners\*

	Rank	Name	Score/Weight	DMZ	Hometown
Youth Division	<b>Youth – Typical Crossbow</b>				
	1st	Delaney Canup	122 7/8	30	Cedarville
	<b>Youth – Typical Muzzleloader</b>				
	1st	Cole DelPalazzo	121 0/8	19	Hainesport
	<b>Youth – Typical Shotgun</b>				
	1st	Brody Chojnacki	135 6/8	46	Jupiter, FL
Open Division	<b>200 Pound Buck – Crossbow</b>				
	1st	Glenn F. Campbell	212	35	Sewell
	<b>Typical Archery</b>				
	1st	Anthony Kimbrell	140 7/8	42	Oceanville
	2nd	Ryan Hagerly	140 1/8	7	Stewartsville
	3rd	Clinton Miller	135 3/8	49	Marlton
	<b>Non-typical Archery</b>				
	1st	James Choyinski	147 5/8	49	Glendora
	<b>Typical Crossbow</b>				
	1st	Randall Wetzel	128 5/8	65	Hammononton
	2nd	Edward H. McCay, Jr.	126 3/8	23	Hammononton
	3rd	Karl D. Zschack	125 7/8	10	Pittstown
	<b>Non-typical Crossbow</b>				
	1st	Matthew Scapellato	136 3/4	46	Millville
	<b>Typical Muzzleloader</b>				
1st	Joe String	146 6/8	35	Riverton	
2nd	Jason DelPalazzo	139 0/8	19	Hainesport	
3rd	Gregory Klawitter	136 7/8	34	Dorchester	
<b>Typical Shotgun</b>					
1st	Edward Mayer, Jr.	125 2/8	5	Great Meadows	
<b>Non-typical Shotgun</b>					
1st	Chris Giberson	155 6/8	18	Smithfield	

\* For deer harvested during the 2021–22 hunting seasons.

### Outstanding Deer Program Minimum Requirements

Antler Category	Open Division Minimum	Youth Division Minimum
<b>Typical</b> Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet	125	115
<b>Non-typical</b> Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet	135	125
<b>Weight Category</b>		
<b>Buck:</b> Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader	200 lbs.	180 lbs.
<b>Doe:</b> Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader	135 lbs.	125 lbs.



## Mark your calendar for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

### May 2024

#### Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Come celebrate the 33rd year of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament! Enjoy a great day of surf fishing with family and friends.

The individual who catches the overall largest legal fish wins the "Governor's Award" and will have their name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded to winners in a variety of age group and fish species categories.

All funds raised by the tournament go toward improving beach access, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment plus marine education and restoration projects.

The tournament is sponsored by NJDEP's Fish and Wildlife and State Park Service, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

**For more information visit:**

[dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/governors-surf-fishing-tournament/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/governors-surf-fishing-tournament/)  
or call (609) 748-4347



Jonathan Carlucci/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

David Koenigstein of Toms River won the 2023 Governor's Cup with a 37 1/2" Striped Bass!

## New Jersey is Hooked on Fishing



### BECOME A TEAM LEADER

Be the change you want to see, help get kids hooked on fishing!!



[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)  
[hofnod@dep.nj.gov](mailto:hofnod@dep.nj.gov)

## Operation Game Thief

### Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

# 1-855-OGT-TIPS

### 24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

### Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

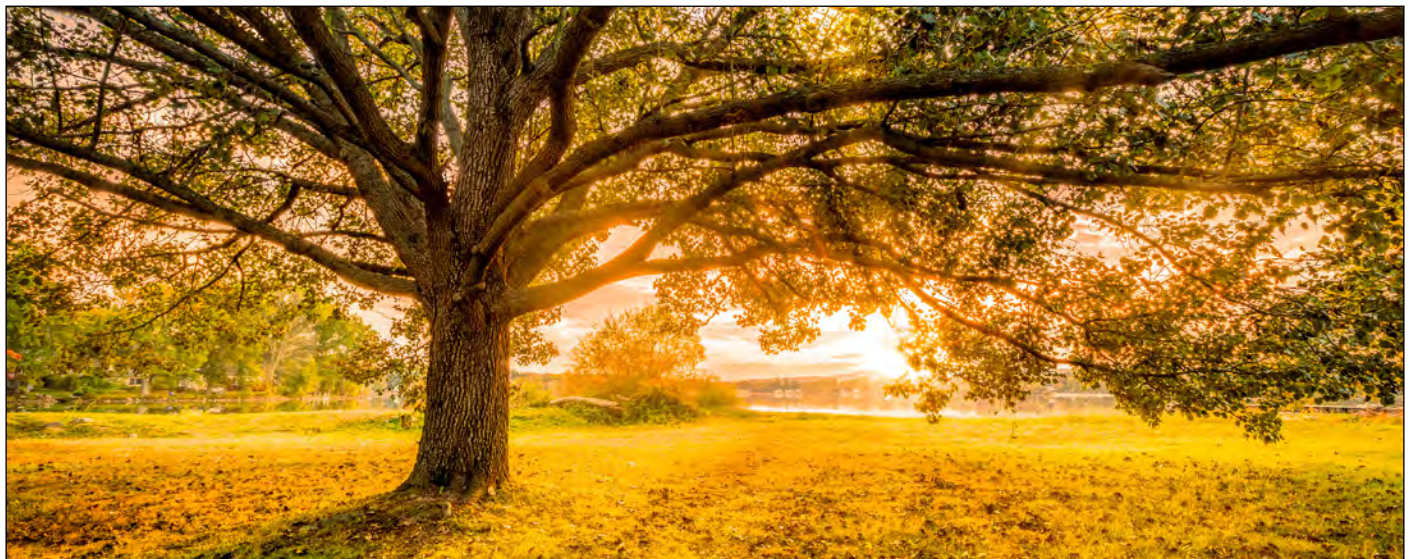


**It's Free. It's Confidential. You May Be Eligible for a Reward.**

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.

Day	Aug. '23		Sept. '23		Oct. '23		Nov. '23		Dec. '23		Jan. '24		Feb. '24		Mar. '24		Apr. '24		May '24		June '24		July '24	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	5:56	8:13	6:26	7:30	6:55	6:41	7:28	5:56	7:01	4:33	7:21	4:43	7:08	5:17	6:31	5:51	6:41	7:23	5:57	7:54	5:31	8:22	5:33	8:32
02	5:57	8:12	6:27	7:29	6:56	6:39	7:29	5:55	7:02	4:33	7:21	4:44	7:07	5:18	6:30	5:52	6:40	7:24	5:56	7:55	5:30	8:23	5:34	8:32
03	5:58	8:11	6:28	7:27	6:57	6:38	7:30	5:54	7:03	4:33	7:21	4:45	7:06	5:19	6:28	5:53	6:38	7:26	5:55	7:56	5:30	8:24	5:34	8:32
04	5:59	8:10	6:29	7:26	6:58	6:36	7:31	5:52	7:04	4:33	7:21	4:46	7:05	5:20	6:27	5:54	6:37	7:27	5:54	7:57	5:30	8:24	5:35	8:31
05	6:00	8:08	6:30	7:24	6:59	6:35	6:32	4:51	7:05	4:32	7:21	4:46	7:04	5:21	6:25	5:55	6:35	7:28	5:53	7:58	5:30	8:25	5:35	8:31
06	6:01	8:07	6:31	7:22	7:00	6:33	6:33	4:50	7:06	4:32	7:21	4:47	7:03	5:23	6:23	5:56	6:33	7:29	5:51	7:59	5:29	8:26	5:36	8:31
07	6:02	8:06	6:32	7:21	7:01	6:31	6:35	4:49	7:07	4:32	7:21	4:48	7:02	5:24	6:22	5:57	6:32	7:30	5:50	8:00	5:29	8:26	5:36	8:30
08	6:03	8:05	6:32	7:19	7:02	6:30	6:36	4:48	7:08	4:32	7:21	4:49	7:01	5:25	6:20	5:58	6:30	7:31	5:49	8:01	5:29	8:27	5:37	8:30
09	6:04	8:04	6:33	7:17	7:03	6:28	6:37	4:47	7:09	4:32	7:21	4:50	6:59	5:26	6:19	5:59	6:29	7:32	5:48	8:02	5:29	8:27	5:38	8:30
10	6:05	8:02	6:34	7:16	7:04	6:27	6:38	4:46	7:10	4:32	7:21	4:51	6:58	5:28	6:17	7:01	6:27	7:33	5:47	8:03	5:29	8:28	5:38	8:29
11	6:06	8:01	6:35	7:14	7:05	6:25	6:39	4:45	7:11	4:33	7:20	4:52	6:57	5:29	6:16	7:02	6:26	7:34	5:46	8:04	5:28	8:28	5:39	8:29
12	6:07	8:00	6:36	7:13	7:06	6:24	6:40	4:44	7:11	4:33	7:20	4:53	6:56	5:30	6:14	7:03	6:24	7:35	5:45	8:05	5:28	8:29	5:40	8:28
13	6:08	7:58	6:37	7:11	7:07	6:22	6:42	4:43	7:12	4:33	7:20	4:54	6:55	5:31	6:12	7:04	6:23	7:36	5:44	8:06	5:28	8:29	5:41	8:28
14	6:09	7:57	6:38	7:09	7:08	6:20	6:43	4:43	7:13	4:33	7:20	4:56	6:53	5:32	6:11	7:05	6:21	7:37	5:43	8:07	5:28	8:30	5:41	8:27
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17	6:11	7:53	6:41	7:04	7:11	6:16	6:46	4:40	7:15	4:34	7:18	4:59	6:50	5:36	6:06	7:08	6:17	7:40	5:40	8:10	5:29	8:31	5:44	8:25
18	6:12	7:52	6:42	7:03	7:12	6:15	6:47	4:40	7:16	4:34	7:18	5:00	6:48	5:37	6:04	7:09	6:15	7:41	5:40	8:11	5:29	8:31	5:45	8:25
19	6:13	7:50	6:43	7:01	7:13	6:13	6:48	4:39	7:16	4:35	7:17	5:01	6:47	5:38	6:03	7:10	6:14	7:42	5:39	8:12	5:29	8:31	5:45	8:24
20	6:14	7:49	6:44	6:59	7:14	6:12	6:50	4:38	7:17	4:35	7:17	5:02	6:46	5:39	6:01	7:11	6:12	7:43	5:38	8:13	5:29	8:31	5:46	8:23
21	6:15	7:47	6:45	6:58	7:15	6:10	6:51	4:38	7:17	4:36	7:16	5:03	6:44	5:41	6:00	7:12	6:11	7:44	5:37	8:14	5:29	8:32	5:47	8:22
22	6:16	7:46	6:46	6:56	7:16	6:09	6:52	4:37	7:18	4:36	7:16	5:05	6:43	5:42	6:00	7:13	6:09	7:45	5:36	8:14	5:30	8:32	5:48	8:22
23	6:17	7:44	6:47	6:54	7:18	6:07	6:53	4:36	7:18	4:37	7:15	5:06	6:41	5:43	6:00	7:14	6:08	7:46	5:36	8:15	5:30	8:32	5:49	8:21
24	6:18	7:43	6:48	6:53	7:19	6:06	6:54	4:36	7:19	4:37	7:14	5:07	6:40	5:44	6:00	7:15	6:07	7:47	5:35	8:15	5:30	8:32	5:50	8:20
25	6:19	7:41	6:49	6:51	7:20	6:05	6:55	4:35	7:19	4:38	7:14	5:08	6:39	5:45	6:00	7:16	6:05	7:48	5:34	8:17	5:30	8:32	5:51	8:19
26	6:20	7:40	6:50	6:49	7:21	6:03	6:56	4:35	7:19	4:39	7:13	5:09	6:37	5:46	6:00	7:17	6:04	7:49	5:34	8:18	5:31	8:32	5:51	8:18
27	6:21	7:38	6:51	6:48	7:22	6:02	6:57	4:34	7:20	4:39	7:12	5:11	6:36	5:47	6:00	7:18	6:03	7:50	5:33	8:19	5:31	8:32	5:52	8:17
28	6:22	7:37	6:52	6:46	7:23	6:01	6:58	4:34	7:20	4:40	7:11	5:12	6:34	5:49	6:00	7:19	6:01	7:51	5:33	8:19	5:32	8:32	5:53	8:16
29	6:23	7:35	6:53	6:44	7:24	6:00	6:59	4:34	7:20	4:41	7:10	5:13	6:33	5:50	6:00	7:20	6:00	7:52	5:32	8:20	5:32	8:32	5:54	8:15
30	6:24	7:34	6:54	6:43	7:25	5:58	7:00	4:33	7:21	4:41	7:10	5:14			6:00	7:21	5:59	7:53	5:32	8:21	5:32	8:32	5:55	8:14
31	6:25	7:32			7:27	5:57			7:21	4:42	7:09	5:15			6:00	7:22			5:31	8:22			5:56	8:13

Eastern Standard **AND Eastern Daylight Saving** Times • U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC 20392-5420  
**Times listed are ACTUAL times with Daylight Saving Time already shown.**





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**Showcase your business!**

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**Missed the printed edition?** Ask about year-round digital opportunities. 

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

## Retailers

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**Fax: 856-881-8477**  
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**Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Closed Sunday**

[WWW.BOBSLITTLESPORTSHOP.COM](http://WWW.BOBSLITTLESPORTSHOP.COM)

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*Hunt of a Lifetime* is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



*If you are interested in helping a child live their dream*, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 814.572.4387 [HuntofaLifetime.org](http://HuntofaLifetime.org)

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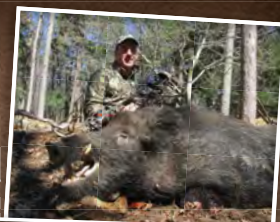
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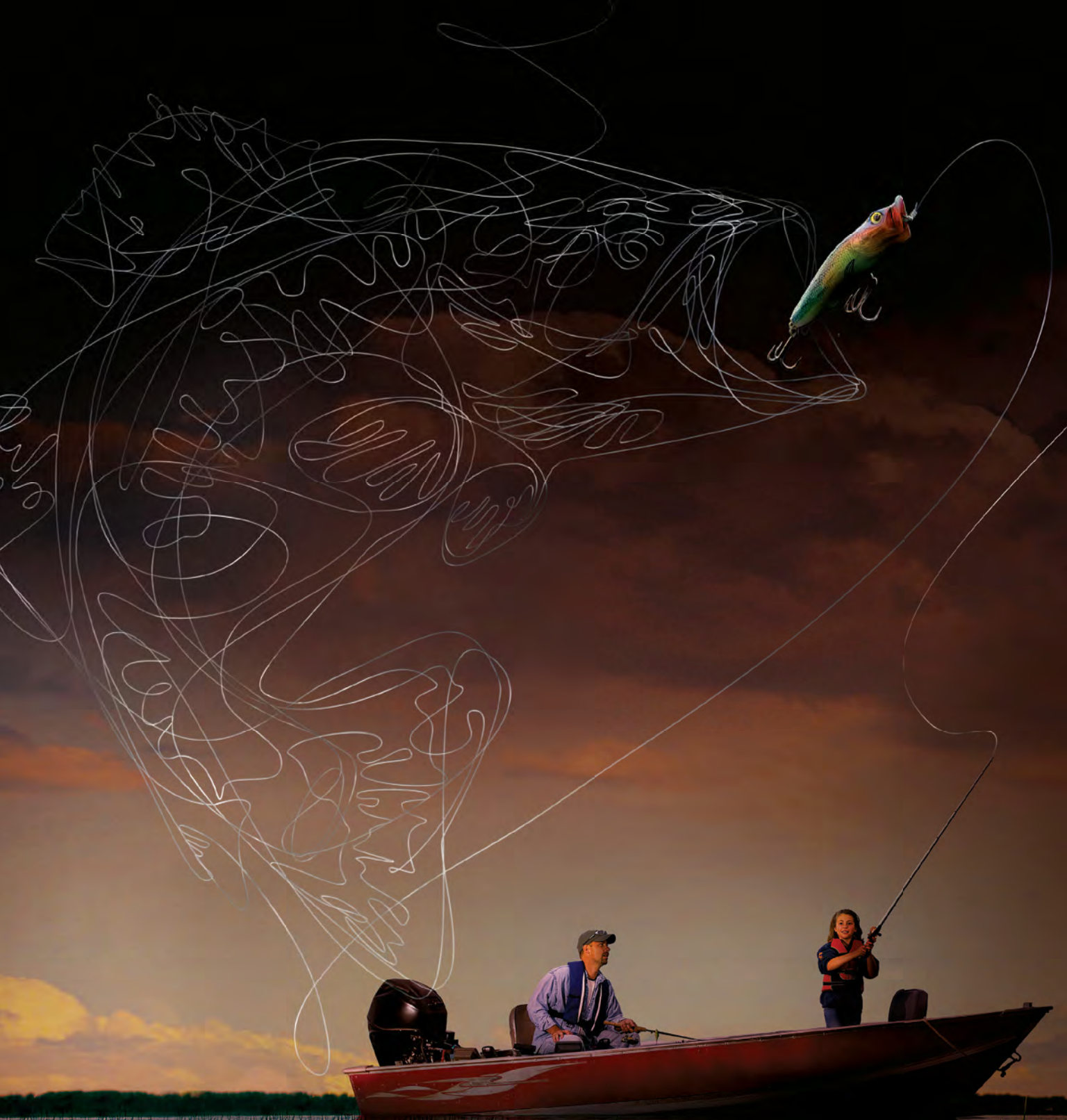

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# New Jersey Hunting & Trapping Digest

Internet Address.....NJFishandWildlife.com  
 General Email Address ..... NJFishandWildlife@dep.nj.gov  
 License Purchasing/  
 System Assistance .....NJDFWLicenses@dep.nj.gov  
**General Information** ..... (609) 292-2965  
**DEP ACTION LINE**  
**—24 HOURS.....(877) 927-6337 — (877) WARN-DEP**  
**Marine Law Enforcement.....(609) 748-2050**  
**Automated Harvest**  
**Report System** ..... (855) 448-6865 — (855) I-HUNT-NJ  
 Commercial Preserves and  
 Semi-Wild Preserves..... (609) 984-6213  
 Deer Project.....NJDeer@dep.nj.gov  
 Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits..... (609) 984-6213  
 or NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov  
 Falconry Permits..... (908) 735-8793  
 Field Trial Permits ..... (609) 259-2132  
 Freshwater Fisheries .....NJFWFish@dep.nj.gov  
 Lebanon Field Office (North)  
 P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629,  
 Lebanon, NJ 08833 ..... (908) 236-2118  
*(Central & Southern Region Fisheries Offices listed under Regional  
 Offices in right-hand column)*  
 Horseback Riding Group Permits ..... (609) 259-2132  
 Hunter Education ..... (856) 629-0552  
 or NJHunterEd@dep.nj.gov  
 Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses..... (609) 292-2965  
 Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline..... (609) 292-9192  
 License Sales..... (888) 773-8450  
 Operation Game Thief ..... (855) OGT-TIPS  
 Outstanding Deer Program..... NJDeerClassic@dep.nj.gov  
 Pheasant and Quail Stocking..... (609) 984-0547  
 Trout Stocking Hotline..... (609) 322-9524  
 Wildlife Conservation Corps..... (908) 735-7040  
 Wildlife Control..... (908) 735-8793  
 Wildlife Education..... (908) 637-4125  
 Wildlife Health ..... (908) 735-6398  
 Wildlife Management Areas..... (609) 984-0547  
**Trenton Office**  
 Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
 Endangered and Nongame Species ..... (609) 292-9400  
 Land Management ..... (609) 984-0547  
 Marine Fisheries ..... (609) 292-7794  
 Shellfisheries ..... (609) 292-3093  
 Wildlife Management..... (609) 292-6685

## Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827  
*(Serving Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset,  
 Sussex, Union, and Warren counties)*  
 Endangered and Nongame Species ..... (908) 638-4127  
 Hunter Education ..... (908) 637-4125 x 123  
 Land Management ..... (973) 383-0918  
 Law Enforcement..... (908) 735-8240  
 Wildlife Control..... (908) 735-8793  
 Wildlife Management..... (908) 735-7040

## Central Region Office

1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
*(Serving Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)*  
 Freshwater Fisheries..... (609) 223-6076  
 Hunter Education ..... (856) 629-0552  
 Land Management ..... (609) 259-6969  
 Law Enforcement..... (609) 259-2120  
 Wildlife Management ..... (609) 223-6072

## Southern Region Office

220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081  
*(Serving Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and  
 Salem counties)*  
 Freshwater Fisheries..... (856) 629-4950  
 Hunter Education ..... (856) 629-0552  
 Land Management ..... (856) 629-5006  
 Law Enforcement..... (856) 629-0555  
 Wildlife Management ..... (856) 875-6418

## Pequest Natural Resource Education Center

605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863  
*For questions concerning state fish stocking programs or comments call  
 (908) 236-2118*

## Nacote Creek Research Station

P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241  
 Marine Fisheries ..... (609) 748-2020  
 or NJMarineFisheries@dep.nj.gov  
 Marine Fisheries “Listen Only”  
 regulation information line ..... (609) 292-2083  
 Shellfisheries ..... (609) 748-2040  
 Marine Education..... (609) 748-4347

## Delaware Bay Office

1672 E. Buckshutem Rd., Millville, NJ 08332..... (856) 785-0730

## Wildlife Damage/Issues

For all species except Black Bear, call USDA APHIS Wildlife Services at (908) 735-4513. If incident is an emergency or bear related, contact Trenton Dispatch at 877-WARNDEP, (877) 927-6337. Dispatch will notify appropriate Fish & Wildlife personnel.



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\*Tower systems optional

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Weight  
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\*Tower systems optional



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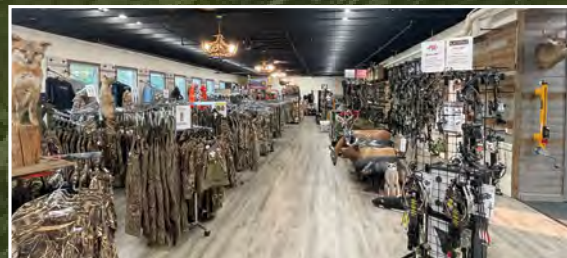
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