



HUNTING & TRAPPING

D I G E S T

ANTLERLESS TAGS

AN ALL NEW PROCESS FOR 2023-24

DMAP ON SALE 8/14

PERMITS FOLLOW NEW SCHEDULE

WMU 2H DISSOLVED

AREA PLACED BACK INTO WMU 2G

EARLIER ELK DRAWING

LICENSE APPLICATIONS DUE BY 7/16

BEAR CHECK CHANGES

COMPLETE CHECK STATION SCHEDULE INSIDE

SEASON ADJUSTMENTS

FULL LIST OF UPDATES HIGHLIGHTED

OTTER OPPORTUNITY

TRAPPING SEASON EXPANDS TO NEW WMUS

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

UPDATES

WELCOME TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN PENNSYLVANIA

LICENSE BUYERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES.

Antlerless deer licenses now may be purchased anywhere hunting licenses are sold, including online. Sales began alongside 2023-24 general license sales on Monday, June 26 at 8 a.m. **Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit** sales start later this year, on Monday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m. More details about these changes can be found in this digest. DMAP permits also will be available for use on select **state game lands**. **Wildlife Management Unit 2H has been dissolved** and its area made part of WMU 2G. The Game Commission determined WMU 2H was too small to collect adequate wildlife and hunter data for big game species. **The extended black bear season** has been eliminated in WMUs 1B, 2C, 4A, 4B and 4D because of declining nuisance-bear complaints in these WMUs. **Big game harvest tags** no longer must be notched with the date. **Elk license applications** are due earlier this year, by July 16 for the July 29 drawing. In total, 144 elk licenses (65 bulls and 79 cows) will be awarded by lottery across three seasons. The start of the **archery elk season** was pushed a week later to provide additional time between the license drawing and the start of the season. **Deer hunters in CWD areas** now have additional processing options. The Game Commission has created a statewide list of cooperating processors and taxidermists. Out-of-state hunters and those within Pennsylvania’s CWD Disease Management Areas and Established Area can use any business on the list. **All mentored hunters**, including mentored adults, now are eligible to participate in the special firearms seasons for deer and bear. **River otter trapping** seasons have been expanded to WMUs 3B and 4E. Those harvesting otters now have 48 hours to report them – the same length of time within which fisher and bobcat harvests must be reported. Additionally, there no longer are size limits for body-gripping traps used for otters. **Bag limits** have increased for **mallards and Atlantic Population Zone Canada geese**. The increases are based on updated population data. **Check stations** will be up and running on various dates and locations in the **October bear seasons**. In the **regular firearms bear season**, check stations again will be open on Saturday and Sunday only. Check station schedules are provided in the bear section. Successful bear hunters always can call 1-833-PGC-HUNT for guidance on how to check their harvests. **Muzzleloaders** accepting breech-loaded captured powder charges, such as the Firestick, now can be used in the October muzzleloader seasons for deer and bears. They cannot be used in the after-Christmas flintlock deer season. **Boats on state game lands** now are limited to “slow, no wake” speed, meaning they must operate at the slowest possible speed required to maintain maneuverability, so that no wake or wash is created by the boat on the surface of the water. Regulations were adjusted due to the horsepower attainable by modern electric boat motors. **The detection of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD)** in captive rabbits near Uniontown has resulted in a small RHD Disease Management Area extending about 5 miles from the site. Only the meat, with or without bone, from wild rabbits or hares harvested within the DMA may be removed from the DMA. The removal of all other parts is prohibited. More information about RHD and the DMA are available at www.pgc.pa.gov. **Opportunity for put-and-take hunting of captive-reared bobwhite quail** has expanded significantly through an earlier season opening date, later season closing date and removal of the daily bag limit. There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the Letterkenny Army Depot Bobwhite Quail Recovery Area. **Crow season** now begins later and ends slightly sooner, but within the season, Thursday has been added as a hunting day, meaning crows can be hunted on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. **Permitted falconers** now may hunt within the firearms deer season, and may take certain species of furbearers.

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GREETINGS

You can, believe it or not, still buy carbon paper if you're so inclined.

Remember that stuff? Our license issuing agents used it to make copies of hunting licenses – one for you, one for the Game Commission – back when buying a license was strictly an in-person, over-the-counter affair.

But times and technologies change. The Game Commission first started selling licenses using an automated point-of-sale system in 2008. That went statewide a year later, introducing us to the world of Customer Identification (CID) numbers, weather-resistant licenses and, eventually, online sales.

Now antlerless deer licenses are available through the same mobile-friendly HuntFishPA platform where other licenses are sold. Those familiar pink envelopes are relegated to history, like glass milk jugs, roll-down car windows and tube TVs.

That's a big change. But if there's one thing Pennsylvania's hunters and the Game Commission have proven capable of, it's adapting.

Think of all we've accomplished, together, over time. We brought back wildlife – deer, elk, eagles and more – gone or nearly so. We transformed wastelands into productive habitat. We instituted Youth Field Days, the Archery in the Schools Program and Junior Game Warden camps to market ourselves to new generations.

And look at the results. Deer harvests that consistently rank among the best in the nation. Some of the largest bears and elk seen anywhere in the world. Wildlife spectacles like Middle Creek's clouds of snow geese.

Now, with this new antlerless license process and other initiatives, we're knocking down barriers, making buying licenses and getting back into hunting or into hunting for the first time more convenient than ever.

Carbon paper may yet disappear completely, and the tools of our trade may change, but our shared commitment to wildlife and our hunting heritage never will.



*Game Commission Board of Commissioners
President Kristen Schnepf-Giger and
Executive Director Bryan J. Burhans*

HUNTING & TRAPPING DIGEST

TRAVIS LAU
Editor

ROBERT D'ANGELO
Associate Editor

LORI NEELY MITCHELL
Associate Editor

JULIE BUCKS
Maps

THOMAS MAKIBBIN
Maps

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Jacob Dingel

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WILDLIFE CLASSIFICATIONS

The Game and Wildlife Code protects all of Pennsylvania's wildlife. The code classifies wildlife as follows:

GAME ANIMALS

Black bear, cottontail rabbit, elk, squirrel (red, gray, black and fox), snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and woodchuck (groundhog)

GAME BIRDS

Brant, bobwhite quail, coot, gallinule, geese, grouse, merganser, mourning and Eurasian collared dove, pheasant, rail, snipe, swan, wild ducks, wild turkey and woodcock

FURBEARERS

Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pine marten, raccoon, red and gray fox, striped skunk, weasel and porcupine

BIG GAME

Bear, elk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey

SMALL GAME

Game birds and game animals not classified as big game

PROTECTED MAMMALS

Wild mammals not classified furbearers or game animals (For example, chipmunks are protected)

PROTECTED BIRDS

Wild birds not classified game birds

Protection is removed from wildlife, except migratory birds, big game and threatened or endangered species, when personal property, other than an agricultural crop, is being destroyed or damaged. Wildlife may be taken only by the owner or person in charge of the personal property affected. Wildlife taken to protect personal property must be surrendered to a Game Commission representative.

This digest is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations, and should not be considered final on legal interpretation. The Game & Wildlife Code can be viewed in full at www.pgc.pa.gov by clicking on "Hunt & Trap," then "Law." Questions about laws can also be directed to your nearest Game Commission region office by calling 1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD.

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PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Our Mission: To manage and protect wildlife and their habitats
while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.

Contacting the Game Commission is as easy as ever. Callers anywhere in Pennsylvania now can use either of two, easy-to-remember phone numbers to contact the agency's Centralized Dispatch Center, which will direct calls appropriately. Region offices can be contacted through the Dispatch Center, or reached by mail at the addresses below. Hunters reporting big game harvests by phone should continue to call 1-800-838-4431.

1-833-PGC-HUNT

(1-833-742-4868)

1-833-PGC-WILD

(1-833-742-9453)

Press 1 – Wildlife violation or wildlife emergency

Press 2 – Licensing

All other calls stay on line for a dispatcher

NORTHWEST REGION

Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie,
Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence,
Mercer, Venango & Warren counties
1509 Pittsburgh Road
Franklin, PA 16323

Richard T. Cramer, Director

SOUTHWEST REGION

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria,
Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset,
Washington & Westmoreland counties
4820 Route 711
Bolivar, PA 15923-2420

Jason D. Farabaugh, Director

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Cameron, Centre, Clearfield,
Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter,
Tioga & Union counties
1566 South Route 44 Highway,
P.O. Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038

David A. Carlini, Director

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Adams, Bedford, Blair,
Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton,
Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder &
York counties
8627 William Penn Highway
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Michael Beahm, Director

NORTHEAST REGION

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna,
Luzerne, Monroe, Montour,
Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan,
Susquehanna, Wayne & Wyoming counties
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612

Daniel E. Figured, Director

SOUTHEAST REGION

Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware,
Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery,
Northampton, Philadelphia & Schuylkill
counties
253 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605-9524

Peter F. Sussenbach, Director

HARRISBURG HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

SUNDAY HUNTING

Sunday hunting long has been permitted for **foxes, coyotes and crows** during open seasons. In addition, expanded Sunday hunting will occur on three Sundays in 2023:

- ① **SUNDAY, NOV. 12**
- ② **SUNDAY, NOV. 19**
- ③ **SUNDAY, NOV. 26**

Turkeys and migratory game birds may not be hunted on any of these three Sundays. Other game that's in season may be hunted on these Sundays. In 2023, Sunday hunting is open on the following dates for the following species:

①

SUNDAY, NOV. 12

Deer (archery), Bears (archery in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D only), Squirrels, Pheasants, Rabbits, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchucks, Crows, Raccoons, Foxes, Coyotes, Opossums, Striped Skunks, Weasels and Porcupines

②

SUNDAY, NOV. 19

Bears, Deer (archery in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D only) Squirrels, Pheasants, Rabbits, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchucks, Crows, Raccoons, Foxes, Coyotes, Opossums, Striped Skunks, Weasels and Porcupines

Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements.

③

SUNDAY, NOV. 26

Deer, Bears (only in WMUs with Extended Season), Raccoons, Foxes and Coyotes

Raccoons and foxes may be hunted only after legal hunting hours for deer. Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements. Crows may not be hunted during the Regular Deer Firearms season.

On these three Sundays, **hunters on private land are required to carry written permission** from the landowner. The permission slip should be signed by the landowner, and should include the hunter's name, address and CID license number, and the landowner's name, address and phone number. Providing contact information for the landowner is the quickest and easiest way for a game warden to verify a landowner has granted permission to a hunter.

Aside from these exceptions, Sunday hunting is **unlawful** in Pennsylvania.

SUNDAY HUNTING LANDOWNER PERMISSION SLIP

Hunters needing Sunday hunting permission can clip this slip, complete it alongside the landowner and carry it afield.

Hunter Name

Street Address

City

State

ZIP code

CID number

2023-24

Landowner Name

Street Address

City

State

ZIP code

Landowner phone number

Signature



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NATIONAL STATS

- 2022 Sales Volume – **\$1.4 Billion**
- 2022 Annual Transactions – **4,900**
- Total Offices – **100**
- Average Daily Web Sessions – **11,000/Day**
- Annual Web Sessions – **4,015,000**
- Annual Sales Volume Growth – **50%**
- Mossy Oak Sells a Property Every 1 hour 45 minutes!

DEER

ARCHERY

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Sept. 30-Nov. 17
Dec. 26-Jan. 15

1

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 16-Nov. 24
Dec. 26-Jan. 27

1 2

MUZZLELOADER

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 14-21

SPECIAL FIREARMS

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 19-21

*Junior & Senior license holders,
Mentored license holders, active-duty
military and persons with a permit to
use a vehicle as a blind*

REGULAR FIREARMS

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Nov. 25-Dec. 9

3

FLINTLOCK

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 15

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 27

EXTENDED FIREARMS

Antlerless Only

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 27

• One antlered deer per license year, and an antlerless deer with each required license or permit.

BEAR

ARCHERY

STATEWIDE

Oct. 14-Nov. 4

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 16-Nov. 24

1 2

WMU 5B

Sept. 30-Nov. 17

1

MUZZLELOADER

STATEWIDE

Oct. 14-21

SPECIAL FIREARMS

STATEWIDE

Oct. 19-21

*Junior & Senior license holders,
Mentored license holders, active-duty
military and certain disabled persons'
permit holders*

REGULAR FIREARMS

STATEWIDE

Nov. 18-21

2

EXTENDED SEASON

WMUS 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D

Nov. 25-Dec. 9

3

WMUS 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A

Nov. 25-Dec. 2

3

• One bear per license year, with bear license.



TURKEY

FALL SEASON

Bearded or unbearded birds.
Fall season is closed in WMUs 5A, 5C & 5D.
Season lengths and arms vary by WMU.

OCT. 28-NOV. 4

WMUs 1A, 1B, 4A, 4B, 4D & 4E

OCT. 28-NOV. 11 & Nov. 22-24

WMUs 2C, 2D and 2E

OCT. 28-NOV. 11

WMUs 2A, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B,
3C, 3D & 4C

OCT. 28-NOV. 17 & Nov. 22-24

WMU 2B

OCT. 31-NOV. 2

WMU 5B

SPRING SEASON

Bearded birds only.

YOUTH HUNT

April 27, 2024

STATEWIDE

May 4-31, 2024

Hunting hours vary

• One fall turkey per license year, plus up to two bearded birds in spring (one per day) with proper licenses.

ELK

ARCHERY SEASON

Sept. 16-30

GENERAL SEASON

Oct. 30-Nov. 4

LATE SEASON

Dec. 30-Jan. 6, 2024

*Elk licenses awarded by lottery.
Separate applications required for
each of three seasons, submit by
July 16 for the July 29 drawing.*

SMALL GAME

SQUIRREL

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT
Sept. 9-23

STATEWIDE
Sept. 9-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

① ②

PHEASANT

2 daily, 6 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Oct. 7-14

STATEWIDE
Oct. 21-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

① ②

RABBIT

4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT
Sept. 30-Oct. 14

STATEWIDE
Oct. 14-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

① ②

GROUSE

2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 14-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23

① ②

BOBWHITE QUAIL

No Limit

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-March 30

① ②

CROW

No Limit

STATEWIDE
Aug. 24-March 24

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays,
Sundays only

① ②

WOODCHUCK

No Limit

STATEWIDE
July 1-June 29

Except during regular
firearms deer seasons

① ②

SNOWSHOE HARE

1 daily, 3 possession

STATEWIDE
Dec. 26-Jan. 1

• A pheasant permit is required for most pheasant hunters. See the Small Game section for more details. Waterfowl and migratory bird seasons and bag limits also are provided in the Small Game section.

FUR TAKING

HUNTING

RACCOONS

No Limit

Oct. 21-Feb. 17

① ② ③

FOXES

No Limit

Oct. 21-Feb. 17

① ② ③

Sunday hunting generally is prohibited by state law, but is permitted during open seasons for foxes, coyotes and crows.

Additionally, many seasons include hunting opportunities on one or more Sundays. They are:

- ① Sunday, Nov. 12
- ② Sunday, Nov. 19
- ③ Sunday, Nov. 26

Seasons that include these opportunities are noted.

BOBCATS

1 per license year

WMUS 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F,
2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A,
4B, 4C, 4D & 4E
Jan. 6-31

Permit required

OPOSSUMS, STRIPED SKUNKS & WEASELS

No Limit

July 1-June 29
with certain exceptions
during big-game seasons

① ②

PORCUPINES

3 daily, 10 per season

Oct. 7-Nov. 24, Dec. 11-Dec. 23, and
Dec. 26-Jan. 27

① ②

COYOTES

No Limit

No closed season,
with certain exceptions
during big-game seasons

① ② ③

TRAPPING

RACCOONS, OPOSSUMS STRIPED SKUNKS & WEASELS

No Limit

Oct. 21-Feb. 18

FOXES & COYOTES

No Limit

GENERAL
Oct. 21-Feb. 18

CABLE RESTRAINTS

Dec. 26-Feb. 18

MINKS & MUSKRATS

No Limit

Nov. 18-Jan. 7

BEAVERS

Limits vary by WMU

Dec. 16-March 31

BOBCATS

1 per license year

WMUS 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A,
3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Dec. 16-Jan. 7

Permit required

FISHERS

1 per license year

WMUS 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F,
2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B,
4C, 4D & 4E

Dec. 16-31

Permit required

RIVER OTTERS

1 per license year

WMUS 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B,
3C, 3D & 4E

Feb. 10-17

Permit required

• A porcupine is classified as a furbearer, but like the coyote, it can be hunted with either a hunting or furtaker license.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Fluorescent orange requirements for Pennsylvania hunters are simpler and easier to follow than ever. In nearly all seasons orange is required, the requirements are identical. And whenever orange is required, it must be **worn at all times** while hunting. When not required, the use of orange is strongly recommended, especially while moving.

Generally, when orange is required, hunters must wear

250

SQUARE INCHES

of daylight fluorescent orange material on the **head, chest and back combined** and it must be **visible from 360 degrees**. An orange hat and vest satisfies this requirement.



This requirement applies to hunters in:

- **ALL SMALL GAME SEASONS**
- **DEER, BEAR AND ELK FIREARMS SEASONS**
- **OCTOBER MUZZLELOADER ANTLERLESS DEER AND BEAR SEASONS**
- **EXTENDED ANTLERLESS FIREARMS SEASONS IN WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D**

** Those using archery equipment during deer, bear or elk firearms seasons must comply with these fluorescent orange requirements.*

Woodchuck hunters must wear a hat made of solid fluorescent orange that's visible from 360 degrees.



When using a **blind or enclosed tree stand** during the firearms deer, bear or elk seasons, a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind or stand and visible from 360 degrees. This is in addition to wearing orange while inside. See the turkey section for details on blind use while turkey hunting.



WEARING ORANGE

No fluorescent orange is required during **archery seasons when hunting for deer, bear or elk**, or when hunting waterfowl, doves, turkeys, furbearers* or crows.

In **firearms seasons for deer, bear or elk**, orange is required, regardless of the sporting arm carried.

Hunters participating in the **after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season** are not required to wear fluorescent orange (See Special Regulations Areas section for additional information).

Even when orange isn't required, the Game Commission highly recommends the use of orange.

When fluorescent orange is required, the **full amount of orange** required for that season must be worn while moving from one hour prior to the start of legal hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours.

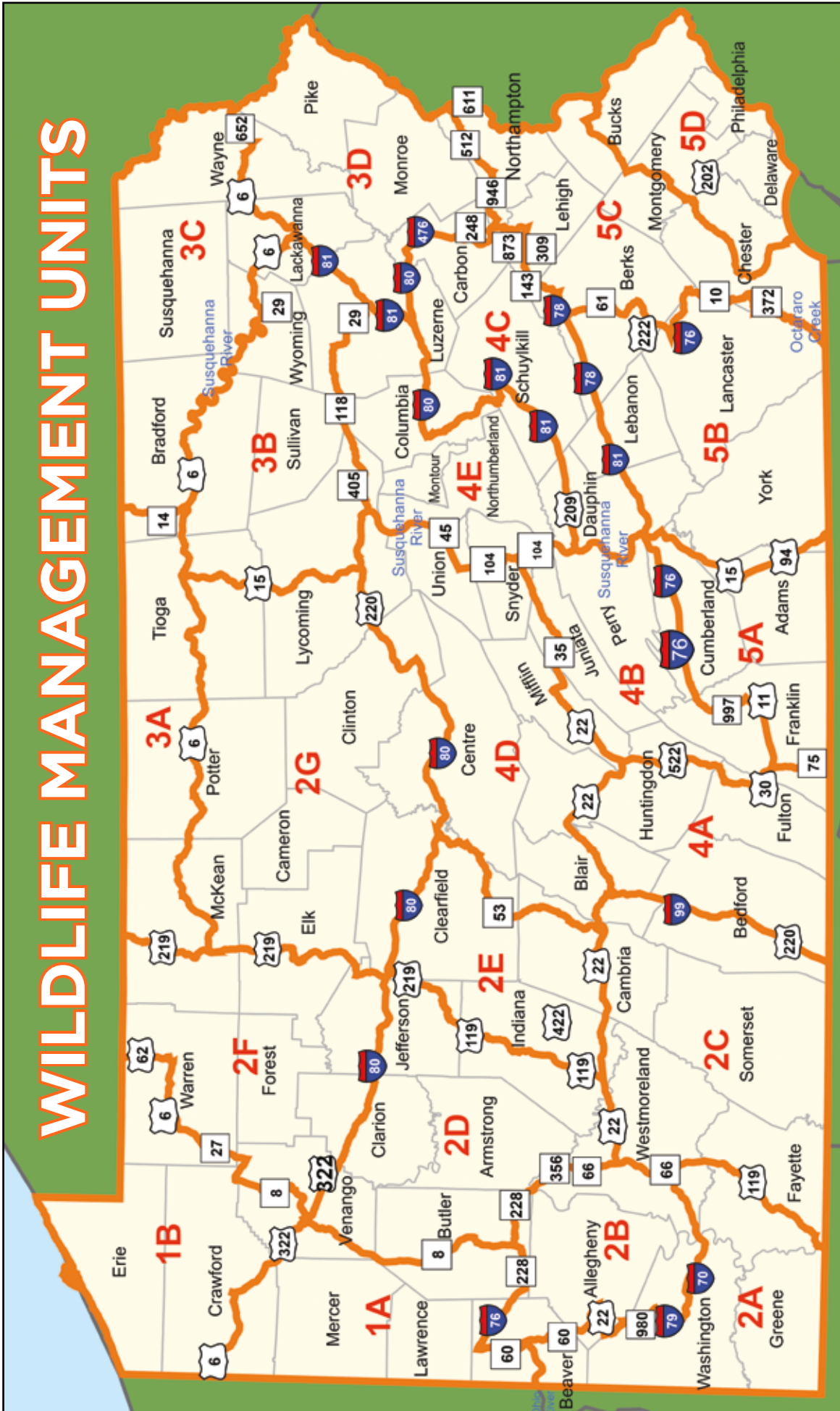
It is unlawful to be on State Game Lands from **Nov. 15 through Dec. 15**, including Sundays designated as hunting days, without wearing a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material on the head, chest and back combined, unless engaged in lawful hunting or trapping that does not require the use of orange.

CAMOUFLAGE FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy orange regulations when 250 square inches of safety material is required if the orange content is at least 250 square inches. When a hat containing 100 square inches of orange is specified, the cap must be solid fluorescent orange.

** Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS



Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are designed to improve wildlife management and, at the same time, simplify hunting and trapping regulations. Pennsylvania uses WMUs to manage all game, except elk, waterfowl and other migratory game birds. When using the Hunting & Trapping Digest, refer to this section whenever an unfamiliar WMU is referenced. See www.pgc.pa.gov for larger WMU maps and turn-by-turn descriptions of their boundaries.



REINVESTING HUNTER'S DOLLARS INTO WILDLIFE HABITAT ON STATE GAME LANDS



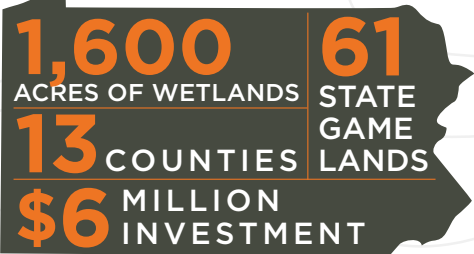
LEARN MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

MANAGED WETLANDS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission and Ducks Unlimited (DU) partnered to improve 1,600 acres of wetland habitats on 61 state game lands through the Pennsylvania Wetland Habitat Initiative (PWHI).



PWHI



2012
1,506 ACRES



2022
10,502 ACRES

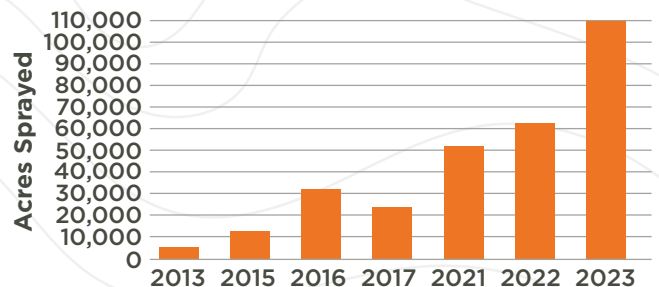
PRESCRIBED FIRE



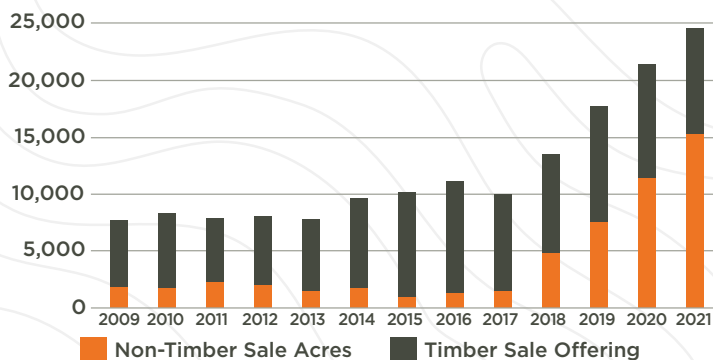
The use of prescribed fire to improve the health and resilience of forests, grasslands and shrublands, has steadily increased over the last decade.

SPONGY MOTH TREATMENTS

The Game Commission invests in a spray program to protect oak habitats from the devastating impacts of spongy moth, which allows for more regular acorn crops now and into the future.



FOREST HABITAT ACRES IMPACTED



FORESTRY FOR WILDLIFE

Forestry For Wildlife is the use of silviculture to manage forested habitats for a wide range of wildlife in a financially responsible and sustainable manner.

2023-24 HUNTING HOURS TABLE

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

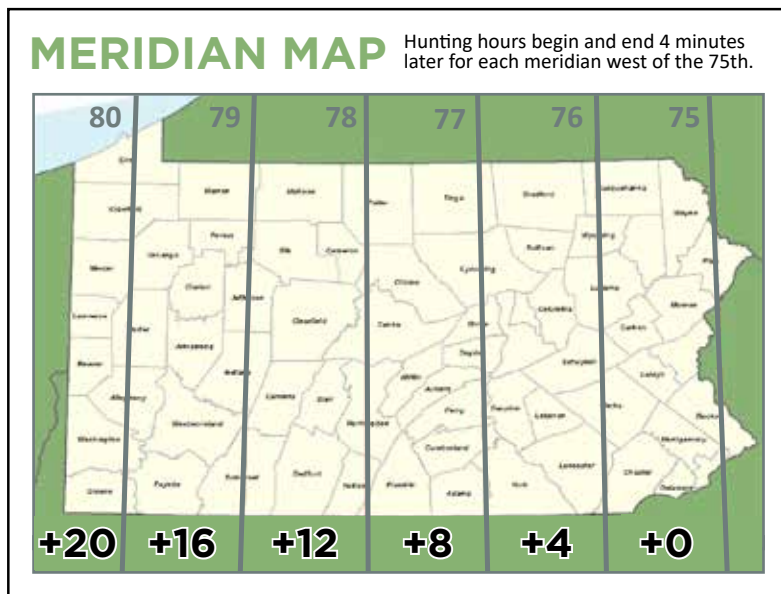
for all small and big game are from

ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE
TO ONE-HALF HOUR AFTER SUNSET.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

1. During the **Regular Firearms Deer Season**, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take other wild birds or mammals, except game birds on regulated hunting grounds, migratory waterfowl, coyotes*, feral swine, wild boars and bears.
2. **Raccoons, foxes, coyotes*, bobcats, striped skunks, opossums and weasels** may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during restricted periods noted in Exception 1 (see furtaking section for more detail).
3. Hunting hours during **Spring Gobbler Season** are from one-half hour before sunrise until noon during the youth hunt, and from the opening day of the statewide season through the third Saturday. Beginning May 20, hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
4. **Migratory birds** (waterfowl, doves, woodcock, snipe, rails and gallinules) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except during the **September Resident Canada Goose Season** and the **Snow Goose Conservation Season**, when geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.
5. Hunting hours for **mourning doves** are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset during every segment of dove season. Doves are migratory birds. Do not reference the hunting hours table here for the quitting times for migratory birds; check the migratory game birds hunting hours table on the [Waterfowl & Migratory](#) page in this digest.

* Note: Outside of any big game season (deer, bear, elk or turkey), coyotes may be taken with a hunting or furtaker license, and without wearing orange. During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (must follow orange requirements), or with a furtaker license.



HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS APPEARS IN THE WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY SECTION.

	BEGIN A.M.	END P.M.
June 25 - July 1	5:05	9:03
July 2 - 8	5:09	9:02
July 9 - 15	5:14	8:59
July 16 - 22	5:20	8:54
July 23 - 29	5:26	8:47
July 30 - Aug. 5	5:33	8:40
Aug. 6 - 12	5:39	8:31
Aug. 13 - 19	5:46	8:21
Aug. 20 - 26	5:53	8:11
Aug. 27 - Sept. 2	6:00	8:00
Sept. 3 - 9	6:06	7:49
Sept. 10 - 16	6:12	7:38
Sept. 17 - 23	6:19	7:26
Sept. 24 - 30	6:26	7:15
Oct. 1 - 7	6:33	7:04
Oct. 8 - 14	6:40	6:53
Oct. 15 - 21	6:47	6:43
Oct. 22 - 28	6:55	6:33
Oct. 29 - Nov. 4	7:03	6:25
Nov. 5 - 11**	6:11	5:18
Nov. 12 - 18	6:19	5:12
Nov. 19 - 25	6:27	5:08
Nov. 26 - Dec. 2	6:34	5:06
Dec. 3 - 9	6:40	5:05
Dec. 10 - 16	6:46	5:06
Dec. 17 - 23	6:50	5:10
Dec. 24 - 30	6:52	5:14
Dec. 31 - Jan. 6	6:53	5:16
Jan. 7 - 13	6:53	5:21
Jan. 14 - 20	6:51	5:28
Jan. 21 - 27	6:48	5:36
Jan. 28 - Feb. 3	6:43	5:44
Feb. 4 - 10	6:37	5:53
Feb. 11 - 17	6:29	6:01
Feb. 18 - 24	6:20	6:09
Feb. 25 - Mar. 2	6:10	6:18
Mar. 3 - 9	6:00	6:25
Mar. 10 - 16*	6:49	7:33
Mar. 17 - 23	6:38	7:40
Mar. 24 - 30	6:27	7:47
Mar. 31 - Apr. 6	6:15	7:54
Apr. 7 - 13	6:04	8:02
Apr. 14 - 20	5:53	8:09
Apr. 21 - 27	5:43	8:16
Apr. 28 - May 4	5:35	8:23
May 5 - 11	5:25	8:30
May 12 - 18	5:18	8:37
May 19 - 25	5:11	8:43
May 26 - June 1	5:07	8:49
June 2 - 8	5:03	8:54
June 9 - 15	5:02	8:59
June 16 - 22	5:02	9:02
June 23 - 30	5:05	9:03

Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**

MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM

Initially open only to youth under 12, the Mentored Hunting Program has expanded incrementally in recent years to offer opportunities to unlicensed hunters of all ages. Mentored hunters are not required to take a Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) class before obtaining a permit to hunt through the program. Mentored hunters ages 12 or older may participate in the program for a maximum of three license years. After that period, they must obtain a license to hunt. Individuals who participate in the mentored program for at least three years before turning 12 are required to get a license at 12 rather than continuing as a mentored hunter. License buyers must first successfully complete an HTE course.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A mentor (licensed hunter at least 21 years old) who serves as a guide to a mentored hunter must possess a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions.
- A mentored hunter must obtain a permit, which will contain their unique Customer Identification number (CID). A Social Security number is needed for a CID number to be issued. A Mentored Hunting Program permit can be obtained from any issuing agent or online at the Game Commission's HuntFishPA platform. For mentored hunters ages 7 and older, the permit includes antlered deer, fall turkey and spring turkey harvest tags. **Mentored bear hunters ages 7 and older must purchase their own bear license. Those under 7 must receive a valid bear license through transfer from an adult mentor. No big-game harvest tags will be issued to mentored hunters who are under 7 years old at the time of application.** Mentored hunters ages 7 and older each are eligible to apply for and receive one antlerless deer license, and as many DMAP harvest permits that are within the eligibility standards and limitations of these programs. All mentored hunters can purchase migratory bird licenses and pheasant permits. In addition to a Mentored Hunting Program permit, **a mentored hunter needs a migratory game bird license to hunt any migratory game-bird species authorized for mentored hunting, those 16 and older also need a federal duck stamp (\$28.97) for waterfowl, and a pheasant permit to hunt pheasants.** Mentored Hunting Program permit fees are \$2.97 for resident and nonresident applicants under 12; \$6.97 for resident applicants 12 to 16; \$41.97 for nonresident applicants 12 to 16; \$20.97 for residents 17 and older and \$101.97 for nonresidents 17 and older. Antlered deer or turkey harvests by mentored hunters must be reported within 10 days. Harvests may be reported online at www.HuntFish.PA.gov, by using the harvest report cards in this digest, or by phone at 1-800-838-4431.
- A mentored hunter who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

SPECIES, SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

- A mentored hunter can hunt **squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, pheasants, waterfowl, crows, doves, porcupines, woodchucks, coyotes, deer, bears and turkeys** in any of their respective seasons, and must follow daily and season bag limits for each species. Mentored hunters 16 and under follow the same deer antler restrictions as junior license holders, which is one antler at least 3 inches long or one antler with at least two points.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlered deer harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under 7 years old at the time of application.** The transfer may not occur until the youth has harvested the antlered deer, and must occur before the deer is tagged. The mentored youth completes the tag information and attaches the tag to the deer's ear. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youngster may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlered deer harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one spring and one fall turkey harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under 7 at the time of application.** Transfer may not occur until the youth has harvested the turkey, and must occur before tagging. The mentored youth completes the tag information and attaches the tag to the turkey's leg. The mentor must report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youngster may not receive by transfer more than **one** spring and **one** fall turkey harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlerless deer license and/or **one** Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored youth **who was under 7 years old at the time of application.** Antlerless licenses are valid within the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, and must occur before tagging. The mentored youth completes the tag information and attaches the tag to the deer's ear. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth under age 7 may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlerless deer license and/or **one** DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentored hunter 16 and under is eligible to hunt during any special youth hunting seasons for species open to mentored hunters. This includes the Special Firearms season for antlerless deer and bears held in October for junior and senior license holders.
- Mentored hunters are exempt from requirements to obtain archery and muzzleloader add-on licenses or stamps.

SAFETY & LIABILITY

- A mentored hunter 16 and under must be stationary (the state or condition where a person is still, fixed in place or static, indicated by a cessation of all forward, backward or lateral movement, whether in the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone position) and within arm's reach of the mentor at all times while in possession of any lawful hunting device (any firearm or implement that is lawful to be possessed during the current season and used to harvest the particular species) while engaged in hunting or related activities.
- A mentored participant 17 or older must hunt within eyesight of his or her adult mentor, and at a proximity close enough for verbal instruction and guidance to be easily understood without the aid of electronic communication devices or sound-amplification devices.
- A mentor **may not accompany more than one hunter** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Hunting Program. For example, a mentor **cannot** accompany a mentored hunter and a licensed junior hunter at the same time. (A supervising adult can accompany any number of junior hunters outside of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.)
- A mentor and mentored hunter 16 and under may not possess collectively more than one lawful hunting device at any given time while engaged in hunting or related activities. The mentor must carry the lawful device in transit to and from the spot.
- A mentor and mentored hunter must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.
- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored hunter occurring while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored hunter to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

STATE GAME LANDS REGULATIONS

STATE GAME LANDS

are public hunting grounds.

Lawful hunting and trapping is permitted on game lands during open seasons.

Many other rules are in place regarding game lands use.

To enable the Game Commission to effectively manage and protect these invaluable land holdings for this and future generations of hunters, trappers and wildlife enthusiasts,

GAME LANDS USERS MAY NOT:

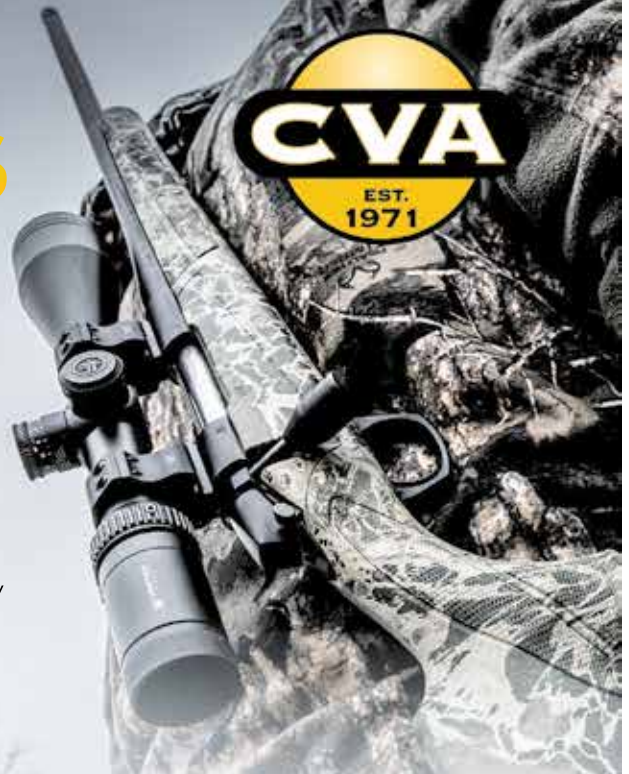
- Camp or use campsites.
- Contaminate, pollute or degrade groundwaters or surface waters or any waterways.
- Graze or permit the grazing of domestic livestock; place or maintain beehives or beekeeping apparatus.
- Solicit or place private advertisements, signs or posters.
- Plant, gather, cut, dig, remove or otherwise injure any plants or parts thereof, including trees, shrubs, vines, flowering plants and cultivated crops. (Mushrooms and fruits of berry-producing plants may be picked.)
- Travel on lands by means of any vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power. (Exemption for individuals with Disabled Person Permit for battery-powered motorized wheelchair.)
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal, except on roads normally open to public travel, or designated routes as posted, or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal from the last Saturday in September until the third Saturday in January, and prior to one hour after close of lawful hunting hours for spring turkey season from the second Saturday in April through the last Saturday in May, inclusive, except on Sundays or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal on roads open to foot travel only.
- Drive motor vehicles with or without attachments having a registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 12,000 pounds.
- Use boats propelled by a motor. Battery-powered electric motors may be used on waterways but boat speed must be operated at "slow" or "no wake."
- Fish from dam breasts posted against fishing.
- Swim in any dam, pond, lake or stream.
- Injure, destroy or cause damage to property, real, personal or mixed.
- Remove or attempt to remove any manmade or natural object, except wildlife and fish lawfully taken. Objects that may not be removed include animals, rocks, minerals, sand and historical or archaeological artifacts.
- Participate in, become part of, contribute to or engage in disorderly conduct.
- Travel on roads open to vehicular travel with vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power that is not licensed or authorized for operation on a public highway.
- Violate, fail or neglect to follow instructions posted on signs authorized by the Executive Director.
- Destroy, mutilate or remove any sign or placard.
- Travel by mechanical or motorized conveyance or ride animals on newly constructed, seeded or planted roads, or other areas, when posted against travel.
- Consume, possess or transport any alcohol, liquor, beer, malt or brewed alcoholic beverage.
- Use or possess any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
- Occupy, use or construct, place or maintain structures or other tangible property, except that portable hunting blinds and stands may be used, provided no damage is caused to trees.
- Feed wildlife or place any food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals.
- Release any domestic animals, captive-bred or captive-raised game or wildlife.
- Operate a motor vehicle in willful and wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property or in excess of posted speed limits, or where no speed limit is posted, in excess of 25 mph.
- Target shoot with firearms, bows and arrows, or devices capable of launching projectiles, unless the person is in possession of a valid hunting or furtaker license signed by its holder. Exercise of privileges shall be done in a manner as to not cause injury to persons or property, or on areas not otherwise posted closed to those activities.
- Except as provided on established shooting ranges, discharge any firearm, bow and arrow or device capable of launching projectiles that is not a lawful device to hunt game or wildlife. Shoot clay birds anywhere except areas designated by the Executive Director by signs stating that clay bird shooting is permitted.
- Engage in any activity or event involving more than 10 persons, which may conflict with the intended purposes or uses of property, or poses a potential environmental or safety problem.
- Sell, distribute, deliver, service, guide or rent any equipment, material or commodity or otherwise transact or engage in any commercial activity. Such activity is when a person directly or indirectly accepts consideration of value as compensation for the provision of goods or services, including transportation.
- Use State Game Lands for any personal, organizational or commercial purpose other than the intended use of the property.
- Operate an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) of any size, design or specification for any purpose whatsoever over lands or waters designated as state game lands.
- Operate under authority of a contract, lease, agreement or permit and fail to abide by the terms and conditions set forth.
- To be present on State Game Lands from Nov. 15 through Dec. 15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. Orange material must be visible 360 degrees. Persons using shooting ranges are exempted.
- Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes are permitted, except when the Fire Index Rating used by the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, is high, very high or extreme. Fires must be contained and tended at all times.
- Snowmobiles, as defined in the All Terrain Vehicle Act of 1985, may be driven beginning the third Sunday in January through April 1, only on designated areas, roads and trails marked with appropriate signs. Snowmobiles must display a valid registration decal.

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- Short heavy-sporter barrel for rigidity in 16.5" and 18" barrel lengths
- Two-piece Durasight scope rail included
- SoftTouch Veil Tac Black stock

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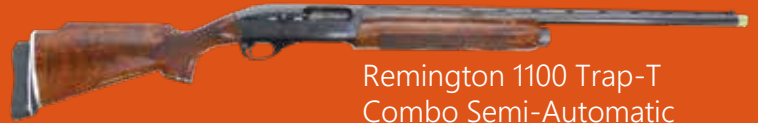


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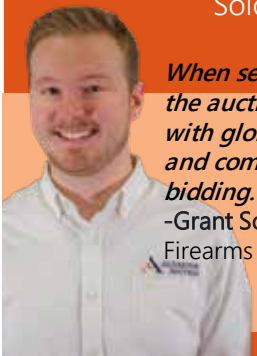
Remington 1100 Trap-T
Combo Semi-Automatic
Shotgun | Sold for \$1,230




International Harvester M1 Garand
Sold \$1,968



Sharps and Hankins Model
1862 Carbine | Sold for \$6,900



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-Grant Souder,
Firearms Sales Associate

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GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

BAITING

Baiting is allowed conditionally on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. See the Special Regulations Areas page within this digest. Elsewhere in the state, it is unlawful to hunt in or around any area where artificial or natural bait, food, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals or minerals, including their residues – regardless the type or quantity – are used, or have been used within the past 30 days, as an enticement to lure game or wildlife. Hunters are responsible for ensuring an area has not been baited before hunting. They should physically inspect the area and question landowners, guides and caretakers. This section does not pertain to hunting near areas where accepted farming or habitat-management practices are taking place (example: hunting near food plots on game lands is legal). The manipulation of crops for dove hunting is permitted. Any natural or manmade nonliving bait can be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

CULTIVATED LANDS

It is unlawful to 1) hunt in unharvested buckwheat, corn, sorghum or soybean fields without permission from the owner or caretaker; 2) operate a motor vehicle on any private property without the landowner's permission; 3) block lanes to cultivated fields, mailboxes or private property; 4) leave gates open or damage fences; 5) damage real or personal property; or 6) harass or injure livestock.

DECOYS

Decoys simulating food – such as artificial corn to attract turkeys or waterfowl – are considered artificial bait and are illegal. The use of living decoys is prohibited for all hunting and trapping. Electronic decoys can be used for hunting crows, waterfowl and doves.

DISTURBANCE OF GAME OR WILDLIFE

It is unlawful for any person to drive or disturb game or wildlife except while engaged in lawful hunting or trapping. It is unlawful to dig out or take any wild bird or animal from its den or place of refuge.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

It is unlawful to hunt wildlife while under the influence of controlled substances or alcohol.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

It is unlawful to hunt with any electronic contrivance or device, but the following exceptions apply: 1) Electronic callers to hunt bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, crows and snow geese in the conservation season, can be used. 2) Lighted pins on bow sights and scopes with lighted reticles may be used as long as they don't cast a beam. Any device used as a sight or scope on any firearm, bow or crossbow that projects a light beam of any kind onto the target is unlawful. 3) Electronic illuminating devices that are affixed at the aft end of a bolt or arrow and used solely for the purpose of locating or tracking bolt or arrow flight can be used. 4) Portable, two-way radios and cellphones may be used for general communications with another hunter, but may not be used to direct or alert another hunter of the presence or location of live game or wildlife. Alerting hunters to live game not only is a violation of the Game & Wildlife Code, but violates the concept of fair chase. The use of portable radios does not satisfy the legal requirement of accompanying a junior hunter. The accompanying adult must be close enough to give verbal instructions without the aid of an electronic device. 5) Electronic sound-amplification devices that are incorporated into hearing-protection devices and completely contained in or on the hunter's ear may be used when hunting. 6) Any manually operated firearm that uses an electronic impulse to

detonate the primer or main powder charge of the ammunition, unless such firearms are specifically prohibited, can be used. 7) Electronic rangefinders, including handheld devices and those contained within a scope or archery sight can be used. This authorization may not be construed to permit a device that emits any light beam, infrared beam, ultraviolet light beam, radio beam, thermal beam, ultrasonic beam, particle beam or other beam that is visible outside of the device or on the target, with the exception of furbearer hunters who now can use handheld and sporting-arm mounted night-vision and infrared (thermal) optics for hunting coyotes, foxes, bobcats, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums and weasels. 8) Electronic devices used for locating dogs while training and hunting are permitted. 9) Electronically heated scent or lure dispensers, and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes may be used.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMITS

It is unlawful on the opening day of a hunting season to 1) possess more than the daily limit; 2) after the second day, possess more game than may be legally taken in three days. A Field Possession Limit is the maximum number of legally taken wildlife, per species, that a person may legally possess or transport between the place of taking and the person's permanent place of residence.

FIREARMS - HANDGUNS

A License to Carry Firearms permit is required to carry a handgun concealed, or have it loaded in a motor vehicle. License to Carry Firearms permits are issued by county sheriff or the Philadelphia Chief of Police. While engaged in activities regulated by the Game & Wildlife Code, a License to Carry Firearms permit only entitles the holder to carry handguns that fall within this classification. Sportsman's Firearms Permits are issued by county treasurers. A person holding a Sportsman's Firearms Permit may not carry a concealed handgun or a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle and may not carry a handgun while bowhunting or spotlighting.

FIREARMS - LOADED IN VEHICLES

A firearm is considered loaded when there is live ammunition in the chamber or attached magazine. It is unlawful to 1) have a loaded firearm in, on or against any motor vehicle (or any attachments to the vehicle), regardless of whether the vehicle is moving or stationary; and 2) have a loaded firearm in watercraft under power, or shoot from a powered watercraft until the motor has been shut off and the craft has come to a complete stop. Holders of License to Carry Firearms permits are exempt, but most sporting firearms are not authorized by the permit. It is prohibited to have any muzzleloading firearm that has a live charge of ammunition in its firing chamber and a primer, flash powder or a battery, whichever is applicable, properly positioned in the firing mechanism of the firearm, rendering it capable of discharge, in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. Any crossbow that has been cocked and has a bolt affixed onto the string or positioned into the firing mechanism is prohibited in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. A loaded muzzleloader or crossbow should be safely discharged before being transported in a vehicle.

FIREARMS - MAGAZINE CAPACITY

Manual or autoloading shotguns to hunt small game, furbearers, turkeys, waterfowl or crows must be limited to a 3-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined. A plug must be a one-piece filler installed so it cannot be removed without disassembling the gun or magazine. There is no restriction on magazine capacity for semiautomatic rifles used to hunt small game and furbearers.

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

FIREARMS & DEVICES

It is unlawful to hunt with automatic firearms. Semiautomatic (autoloading) rifles, air- or gas-operated rifles and manually operated handguns may be used for hunting small game and furbearers (Details in those sections). Semiautomatic rifles **may not** be used for hunting deer, bear or elk. Hunting with semiautomatic handguns is prohibited. Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns that propel single-projectile ammunition can be used while hunting deer, bears and elk. Only shotguns and archery gear can be used for turkey hunting.

INJURY REPORTS

If you are involved in an incident where someone has been injured by a firearm or archery equipment, either as a victim or the person causing injury (including self-inflicted injuries), you must report the incident to the Game Commission within 72 hours. Obtain the proper forms from a game warden, complete in duplicate and return them to the warden, or mail to the Game Commission's Harrisburg headquarters. Failure to submit a report is unlawful, as is fleeing, or failing to render immediate and full assistance to an injured person.

LICENSE INFORMATION

It is unlawful to hunt or trap wildlife without first obtaining the required hunting or furtaker licenses. All hunters should be sure they have the proper and applicable licenses and tags in their possession for the seasons and species they intend to hunt or trap before heading afield. It's unlawful to carry the license of another person while hunting, or in transit to or from hunting. The possession of expired, fulfilled, revoked, suspended or invalid licenses or harvest tags while hunting or trapping also is unlawful. Hunters also are required to have in their possession additional cards or papers that must be shown to a game warden or landowner upon request to confirm identification.

LITTERING

It is unlawful while hunting or trapping to leave or deposit any garbage, except in a receptacle for that purpose.

LURES & SCENTS

Non-food-source lures and cover scents are legal for deer, however, cervid urine-based attractants are not permitted in CWD Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and Established Areas (EAs). Scents and lures that contain any form of natural or artificial food stuff, including, but not limited to, corn, apple and acorns are not legal. Use of drip devices is legal, as well as electronically heated scent or lure dispensers, with legal scents and lures, and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes. The use of scents or lures while hunting bears is prohibited.

MISTAKE KILL

Any person who kills any wildlife while hunting or trapping by accident or mistake shall immediately field-dress any edible game and deliver the carcass to a game warden in the county where it was killed. Any person who by accident or mistake kills any deer (an antlerless deer in mistake for an antlered deer, an antlered deer in mistake for an antlerless deer, or an antlered deer that does not meet antler restrictions) shall immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the kill, deliver and surrender the entire carcass, less entrails, to any game warden in the county in which it is killed and make a written, sworn statement explaining when, where and how the mistake occurred. Each licensed person who kills any deer shall immediately, and before moving the carcass, fully complete the proper tag in compliance with printed instructions and attach only the tag to the deer's ear. Use the tag you would have used for the

animal you are legally licensed to take. A beardless turkey killed by mistake during the spring turkey season must be tagged with a spring gobbler tag. In the event a tag is not available to meet the above requirements, use the tag in possession that allowed you to hunt legally. The deer will be turned in to the game warden, restitution of \$25 for each mistake deer shall be paid, and the hunter may be issued another tag to pursue another deer. Failure to report and deliver a deer killed by accident or mistake is punishable with a fine up to \$1,500 and license revocation. For information on where to deliver a deer killed by accident or mistake, or information about anyone who has failed to report a deer killed by accident or mistake, contact the Game Commission Centralized Dispatch Center.

RECOVERING WILDLIFE & TRESPASSING

It is unlawful for a hunter to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve any killed or injured game or wildlife. Hunters attempting to recover wildlife are not permitted to enter private property without permission. A hunting license does not give you the right to trespass on private property. In fact, a game warden can issue a hunter a citation for trespassing on private property, even if game-law violations aren't alleged. A new law allows the use of purple paint on trees or posts as a lawful posting method on private property in all but Allegheny and Philadelphia counties.

ROAD-KILLED DEER/POSSESSING WILDLIFE

It is unlawful at any time to possess live wildlife, except foxes for which a permit has been issued. In most cases, animals or parts of animals killed on highways may not be possessed. **Pennsylvania residents** may possess deer or turkeys killed by motor vehicles, for personal consumption only, if they secure a **permit number** from the Game Commission within 24 hours after picking up the deer or turkey. Call the Centralized Dispatch Center. An individual should keep the head and hide of a roadkill for at least 48 hours, unless directed differently by the local game warden. It is unlawful to give to another person the whole or edible parts of a deer killed on a highway. It is unlawful to keep, for example, antlers from road-killed deer or the beard or spurs from a road-killed turkey. It is unlawful to sell inedible parts from game or wildlife that was lawfully taken (including taxidermy mounts), unless such parts are disposed of by the original owner within 90 days after the close of the season in which the game or wildlife was taken. It is unlawful to take a road-killed deer to be used to bait coyotes. Holders of a valid furtaker license may possess a furbearer killed on a highway, except for bobcats, fishers or river otters. Persons taking possession of any furbearer killed on a highway during the closed season for taking that furbearer shall within 24 hours contact the Centralized Dispatch Center to report said possession. A fee will be charged to possess a road-killed furbearer picked up during the closed season.

INJURED WILDLIFE/WOUNDED GAME

It is not legal to kill or "put out of its misery" any injured wildlife. This includes wildlife injured on roadways or initially wounded during legal hunting hours and seasons. Hunters who track wounded game or wildlife after legal hunting hours, or closed season days, must notify the Central Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center will contact the appropriate game warden. Any other wildlife found to be sick or injured should be reported to the Dispatch Center (1-833-PGC-WILD) as soon as possible.

ROAD HUNTING

It is unlawful to 1) hunt from a vehicle, or assist another while hunting from a vehicle; 2) shoot at wildlife on a public road or right-of-way open to public travel; 3) shoot across a road unless the line of fire is high enough to preclude any danger to road users; and 4)

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

alight from a vehicle and shoot at any wildlife until the shooter is at least 25 yards from the traveled portion of the roadway. **NOTE:** These provisions do not prevent an individual who may not qualify for a Disabled Person's Permit, but who has health concerns or problems, to sit in or near a legally "parked" vehicle and watch for game. **See loaded firearms in vehicle section for prohibitions.**

SAFETY ZONES

It is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a safety zone as about one and a half football fields. Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds, and in cemeteries, also is prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle if its occupants are releasing pheasants. The safety zone for **archery hunters** statewide, including those using crossbows, is **50 yards**. But around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation.

SPOTLIGHTING WILDLIFE

It is unlawful to 1) spotlight wildlife while in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, or other device capable of killing wildlife. Individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit are exempted, but only regarding their carrying of firearms authorized by the permit. Most sporting arms are not authorized. 2) spotlight wildlife during the regular firearms deer season, including those

days separating the season, as well as any late extended firearms deer seasons in the Special Regulations Area counties; and 3) cast an artificial light upon any building, farm animal or photoelectric cell. Recreational spotlighting is lawful between sunrise and 11 p.m., except as previously noted. Spotlighting includes handheld lights, accessory spotlights on vehicles and vehicle headlights when intentionally used to locate or view wildlife. A person hunting raccoons, skunks, opossums, bobcats, weasels, foxes and coyotes on foot may use a handheld light, including a gun-mounted light. Furbearer hunters may not use a flashlight or spotlight that projects a laser light beam.

TRACKING DOGS

Dogs are not permitted to hunt big game, except for turkeys during the fall. **Leashed** tracking dogs can be used to track a white-tailed deer, bear or elk in recovery of an animal that has been legally killed or wounded during any open season for deer, bear or elk. No permit is required. The tracker cannot dispatch game that was wounded and will be tagged by a hunter. The tracker must be properly licensed for the animal being tracked. The tracker must abide by hunting hours and wear the required amount of fluorescent orange clothing for the season. All laws pertaining to the taking of game apply. Trackers cannot charge for their services on state game lands. Permission is needed before entering private property.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS & RESTRICTIONS

Many landowners (federal, state and local governments) open areas to hunting and trapping, but apply more restrictive regulations. For example, the Erie National Wildlife Refuge prohibits the use or possession of toxic shot for shotgun hunting for all species, except turkeys and deer. Hunters and trappers are responsible for knowing rules and regulations on lands they intend to hunt or trap.

DOG TRAINING REGULATIONS

- There is no closed season for training dogs, except on state game lands, where all dog-training activities are closed from the Monday prior to the start of youth pheasant season until the opening day of the statewide pheasant season. However, dog training on state forest land, and county owned properties may further be regulated by the agency overseeing the properties.
- A hunting or furtaker license is not required for dog training.
- Dogs may not be trained on private land on Sunday without the landowner's permission.
- A person may not carry a rifle, shotgun or bow and arrows while training dogs, except those who possess a dog training permit, or while hunting chukars or pigeons that are released and shot on State Game Lands for dog training.
- Dogs are not permitted to injure or kill wildlife. When training dogs, hunters need to be aware of and avoid areas, especially wetlands, where birds are nesting. In areas that are identified as woodcock habitat management areas, dogs are prohibited for any reason from April 1 to July 15.
- All hunters are urged to respect dog owners and their sport. Dogs can be attracted by electronic calling devices, as well as turkey calls. Be sure of your target. While the law requires dogs to be under the control of their owner or handler at all times, dogs often are not within sight of their handler while tracking game. Dogs cannot read no-trespassing signs and do not heed

fences. If you see a hunting dog running or barking, its handler probably isn't far behind. It is unlawful for dogs to chase or pursue big game, however, the Game Commission recommends that dogs not be shot unless they are actually in the act of attacking a big-game animal and there is no other option. If you see a dog or dogs chasing any deer, bear, elk or turkey (dogs are permitted for hunting turkeys in the fall), please contact the Game Commission and report the violation. Hunting-dog owners have significant amounts of time and money invested in their dogs, and they consider their dogs hunting partners and friends. Please do not shoot hunting dogs just because you do not immediately see their handler.

- There are appropriate penalties in the Game and Wildlife Code to deter owners from permitting their dogs to chase big game. If you shoot a dog that is not attacking a big-game animal you could be subject to prosecution under the Crimes Code as a misdemeanor offense, with penalties of up to \$5,000 and two years imprisonment, as well as civil liability for the restitution of the dog. Any person who destroys a dog (licensed or unlicensed) attacking a big-game animal must report the incident to the dog's owner or a game warden within 48 hours, as required by law.
- Electronic devices may be used for locating dogs while training or hunting, including such devices as e-collars, radio-telemetry dog-tracking systems and beeper collars.

Dogs should be handled in a safe and humane manner, with adequate consideration to temperature and ventilation in transportation cages and compartments.

SGL SHOOTING RANGES

For your shooting enjoyment and to make you a better hunter, the Game Commission maintains public shooting ranges across the state.

To find out which state game lands have shooting ranges, visit the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

The online list also shows any ranges that may be closed temporarily for repairs.

Game lands shooting ranges are for use by hunting or furtaker license holders, and those who possess valid shooting range permits.

Range permits now are valid 365 days from the date of purchase and do not follow a license year. Permits can be purchased online at HuntFish.PA.gov or at any license-issuing agent.

Each licensed hunter or range permit holder using a shooting range may have one guest.

Range permits are not needed when using archery ranges on state game lands.

Archery ranges are open from dawn to dusk.

Rifle and handgun ranges are open from 8 a.m. until sunset, Monday through Saturday, and from noon until sunset Sundays, unless otherwise posted. On Sundays immediately preceding or within regular deer and bear firearms seasons, hours are from 8 a.m. to sunset.

A complete list of shooting range rules can be found online.

PURPLE PAINT LAW

A change to the state Crimes Code, gives landowners the option of using purple paint, rather than signs, to post their properties and alert others that lands are private and trespassing isn't permitted.

This law is effective in all but Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.

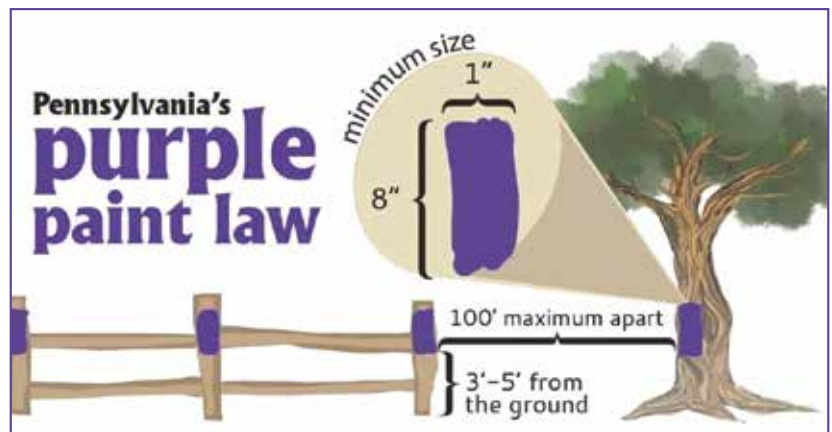
Landowners using purple paint to post their properties use vertical purple lines that are at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. The bottom of the mark must be no less than 3 feet or more than 5 feet from the ground. And painted marks are not more than 100 feet apart.

Now that the "purple paint law" is effective, hunters and trappers should know they might encounter purple markings on trees and that these marks are meant to define the boundary of an adjoining private property that's posted against trespassing.

The new law also authorizes unarmed persons to go onto private property for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog.

In Pennsylvania, failure to obey purple painted marks, as well as signs or verbal commands to keep out, is considered defiant trespass, which is punishable by up to a year in jail and \$2,500 in fines. If trespassing occurs while hunting, additional game-law violations – and additional penalties – also might apply.

A legislative act has provided the Game Commission the authority to investigate trespassing complaints and enforce trespassing violations as a primary offense, even if game-law violations aren't alleged, and the agency will do so.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL & DELAWARE WATER GAP RECREATION AREA

Hunters are reminded that hunting or discharging firearms, and use of off-road vehicles, including ATVs, are prohibited on National Park Service (NPS) lands acquired for the protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Individuals can possess firearms on national park or refuge lands if they are legally permitted to carry a firearm in the state and municipality where they are located.

Sections of the Appalachian Trail that run through State Game Lands are not subject to the listed regulations.

Please be advised that State Game Lands regulations require any group consisting of 10 or more people using the game lands, including trails, to obtain a Special Use Permit.

Maps that show NPS lands where hunting is prohibited can be viewed at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Regional Office in Boiling Springs, Pa. (717-258-5771).

Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes may be kindled, used and maintained by

persons exercising the privileges of a valid hunting, furtaker or fishing license and through-hikers within the corridor of the Appalachian Trail.

This exception to the prohibition on fires is applicable only where the small fires are located at places where adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire, and the index rating used by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is not High, Very High or Extreme for that area.

The Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area (DEWA) is a unit of the NPS. Trapping, hunting over bait, hunting in standing unharvested crops, Sunday hunting and spotlighting are prohibited. Only portable tree stands can be used and must be removed each day. A PA hunting license is required to hunt in the PA portion of the park. A NJ license is required to hunt in the NJ portion of the park. Most areas of the DEWA are open to hunting. Check the Compendium of Regulations for any closures at www.nps.gov/dewa/learn/management/compendium.htm

GREEN MEANS GO



On State Game Lands, the recreational riding of horses and bicycles is allowed **only** on designated trails, marked by the **GREEN** signs above. Trails that are closed are marked with **YELLOW** signs. Recreational off-trail riding is not permitted.

BIG GAME REGULATIONS

LAWFUL ARMS & AMMUNITION

Deer and Bear, Regular Seasons

- Manually operated (pump, lever, bolt actions, single-shot) centerfire rifles, and handguns (revolvers or single-shots) with all-lead bullet or ball, or bullet designed to expand on impact;
- Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged) that propel single-projectile ammunition. Buckshot is not legal, except during certain controlled hunts where the Game Commission issues a special permit.
- Muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger, and;
- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows (minimum 125-pound draw weight), with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length.

Bear Archery Season

- Long, recurve and compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), or crossbows, with a legal broadhead (see broadhead stipulations that follow).

Deer Archery Seasons

- Long, recurve and compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), and crossbows, and legal broadheads (an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length). Magnifying scopes and sights such as red dot on crossbows can be used. Persons hunting deer in the archery seasons may not possess a firearm, except those individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit (most sporting arms are not authorized). Muzzleloading firearms also can be carried by bowhunters during any muzzleloading season, providing the hunter has an archery license and a muzzleloader license and meets the fluorescent orange requirements of the muzzleloader season.

Dual-Carry Rules

Possession of any firearm while archery hunting is prohibited unless the individual possesses a license to carry a concealed firearm. Archery hunters are permitted to carry a muzzleloading firearm only during overlaps of archery deer or bear season with a muzzleloader deer or bear season.

Bow & Arrow Equipment Definitions

- *Arrow* - A projectile shot from a bow with an overall length exceeding the brace height of the bow with fletching designed only for guidance at the aft end and a broadhead mounted on the fore-end. No electronic tracking device shall be part of or attached to the arrow. No device, material or system capable of causing damage or injury to the animal in excess of that inflicted by the cutting edges of the broadhead shall be part of or attached to any arrow. A projectile for a crossbow is known as a bolt.
- *Bow* - A device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs. The energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from another source. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams so long as the energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous and direct pulling effort by the shooter. The bowstring must be drawn and released as a direct and conscious action by the shooter. Release shall be

accomplished by either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a manually operated release aid.

- *Broadhead* - Must have a fixed or mechanical tip having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.
- *Crossbow* - Must have a draw weight not less than 125 pounds.

Muzzleloader Deer & Bear Seasons

- *October Antlerless Deer Season & Bear Season* - Any single-barrel muzzleloading long gun with flintlock, in-line or percussion ignition 44 caliber or larger, 50 caliber or larger handgun, or an encapsulated propellant charge that loads from the breech, with the bullet loaded from the muzzle. Scope sights permitted.
- *Flintlock Season* - Flintlock-ignition, single-barrel long guns manufactured prior to 1800, or a similar reproduction of an original muzzleloading single-barrel long gun 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun, using a single projectile. It is unlawful to use telescopic sights. Late-season flintlock hunters are permitted to take an antlered deer or an antlerless deer anywhere in the state with their unused antlered deer tag.

Fall Turkey Season

- Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined;
- Muzzleloading shotguns;
- Shotshell pellets no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Possessing or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles, handguns, muzzleloading rifles and slug guns is unlawful.
- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (defined earlier).

Spring Gobbler Season

- Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to no more than three rounds in the chamber and magazine combined;
- Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; and
- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (defined earlier). Shotgun fine shot pellets only, no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rifle/shotgun combinations may be used if ammunition is confined to shotgun shells. Possessing or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles, handguns, dogs, electronic callers or live decoys is unlawful. It is unlawful to conduct drives for turkeys. Hunting by calling only. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon on the opening day through the third Saturday (including the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt), and then to one-half hour after sunset for the remainder of the season. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. when closing time is noon.

Elk Season

- Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 26 caliber using all-lead projectiles or bullets of at least 120 grains designed to expand on impact;
- Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged) that propel single-projectile ammunition. Shotguns must be at least 12-gauge;
- Muzzleloading firearms (including handguns) at least 50 caliber propelling a single projectile weighing at least 210 grains;

BIG GAME REGULATIONS

Elk Season (continued)

- Bow with a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds;
- Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds
- Any arrow or crossbow bolt with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 1 inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.
- See Elk Section for dual-carry sporting implements rules when hunting elk.

RESTRICTIONS

Bear Season

It is unlawful to 1) kill a bear in a den; 2) use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached 3) use scents or lures.

Blinds

Blinds can be used for big game (see turkey section for specifics for blinds while turkey hunting), however, a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band will suffice) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind and visible in a 360-degree arc during the firearms deer, bear and elk seasons. This is in addition to wearing orange while in the blind.

Dogs

It is unlawful to use dogs to hunt elk, bears, deer or spring turkey.

Organized Drives

Drives are permitted for deer and bear hunting only. It is unlawful to drive elk or turkeys. Drive participants must be in possession of a valid hunting license and comply with all fluorescent orange requirements. Unlicensed individuals can accompany a licensed hunter but cannot actively participate in any hunting activity and are strongly encouraged to wear fluorescent orange.

Hunting Parties

It is unlawful to hunt deer, elk or bears in a party of more than 25 persons.

Tree Stands & Blinds

It is unlawful while hunting or preparing to hunt to 1) damage any tree on public or private property by constructing a tree stand or using a portable tree stand or device to climb a tree; 2) use or occupy a tree stand that, when constructed, damages a tree. This does not apply to landowners constructing stands on their own property, or persons who have received written permission from a landowner to build or use a tree stand; 3) tree stands and portable hunting blinds on state game lands can be placed out not more than two weeks before the first and must be removed no later than two weeks after the final deer season in that area. Placing a tree stand or hunting blind does not reserve the area for its owner; other hunters can hunt there. Tree stands and portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission's management need to be conspicuously marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner's hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the stand or blind owner. Sportsman's Equipment ID numbers are assigned to license buyers and found in their customer profiles at <https://HuntFish.PA.gov>.

Shooting at Random

During the open seasons for deer and bears, it is unlawful to shoot at any target other than legal game. Target shooting is lawful only when done: 1) on property owned by the shooter or by a guest of the property owner; 2) within 200 yards of a camp or headquarters where the shooter is either quartered or an invited guest; 3) at an established shooting range. The target must be protected by a natural or artificial barrier so that the bullet or arrow cannot travel more than 15 yards beyond it.

UNFIT FOR CONSUMPTION

Any person who legally harvests any big-game animal and discovers the flesh is unfit for human consumption at the time of harvest shall, within 12 hours following the discovery, deliver the entire carcass, less entrails, but including the head and hide, to any Game Commission game warden who, being satisfied that the game was unfit for human consumption at the time of harvest, shall issue written authorization to the person to harvest a second animal or bird of the same species during the unexpired portion of the season for that species.

TRANSPORTING BIG GAME

Deer, bear, elk and turkey under transport, including those taken outside of Pennsylvania, must have an appropriate tag completed and attached. Unmarked parts of a big-game carcass taken in Pennsylvania may be transported. Upon request of any Game Commission law-enforcement officer, the name and address of the person who killed the animal must be furnished, along with other information necessary to properly establish legal possession. Before moving a harvested deer outside of a CWD Disease Management Area (DMA) or the Established Area (EA) in Pennsylvania, or bringing in a harvested deer, elk or moose from outside of Pa., all high-risk parts must be removed. Also, high-risk parts cannot be placed on the landscape in DMAs or the EA, unless they are left at the kill site. Now, however, any hunter who harvests a deer out-of-state or within a DMA or EA can take it directly to a cooperating processor or taxidermist anywhere in the state. See the CWD section in this digest.

REPORTING BIG GAME HARVESTS

Each hunter who harvests a deer or turkey must report it to the Game Commission within 10 days (five days for persons required to make a homemade tag) by sending in a postage-paid report card from this digest, or reporting online or over the phone. Be sure to read report cards thoroughly before filling out. Use one report card per animal harvested. For second-license turkey and DMAP antlerless deer, where reporting is required regardless of harvest success, be sure to check the "no harvest" box if no game is harvested. Hunters also can report their big-game harvests online at HuntFish.PA.gov by following instructions given there. Hunters and trappers also can report their deer, turkey, bobcat, fisher and otter harvests over the telephone by calling 1-800-838-4431. Hunters will need to have their license and information from the tag used, including the tag number.

Within 24 hours, each person who harvests a bear or elk must take the animal, along with hunting license and bear or elk license, to a Game Commission check station for examination. Bear check stations are maintained at Game Commission offices and at other locations listed elsewhere in this digest. Those drawn for an elk license will be notified by letter the location and operating hours of the Elk Check Station.

BIG GAME REGULATIONS

TAGGING BIG GAME

- Hunters who harvest a bear, deer, elk or turkey must follow instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses.
- Harvest tags must be filled out with a ballpoint pen.
- Tagging requirements for persons authorized to hunt without a license are identical, except that a homemade tag must be used listing the hunter's name, address, game harvested and date, time, WMU, county and township where it was taken.
- It is unlawful to possess an expired, fulfilled, revoked, suspended or invalid big-game harvest tag or hunting license while engaged in hunting or trapping activities.

BEARS must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The harvest tag must be attached to the ear and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting.

DEER can be tagged any time before the carcass is moved. A prior regulation had required a hunter to tag any harvested deer before attempting to take another. That regulation has been rescinded. The harvest tag must be attached to the ear and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. When submitting a sample for CWD testing, the completed harvest tag should remain with the head being submitted for testing.

ELK must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The harvest tag must be attached to the ear and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting.

TURKEYS must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. Turkey tags must be attached to the bird's leg.

FERAL SWINE

Feral swine have no place in Pennsylvania. They damage wildlife habitats, will kill birds and young mammals, and transmit a host of dangerous diseases. Because feral swine have no natural predators, they can live anywhere, and reproduce rapidly, and are difficult to control in the best circumstances.

In some areas of the state, protection may be removed from feral swine by an executive order of the director; however, to increase the efficiency of eradication efforts, protection may be applied to townships or counties where eradication trapping operations actively are being conducted. If you think you may have encountered feral swine, refer to www.pgc.pa.gov, for specific details on townships or counties that may have restrictions on incidental shooting of feral swine.

Feral swine may be hunted during lawful daylight hunting hours, except Sundays, with a hunting or furtaker license. However, feral swine may be taken from the first day to the last day inclusive of any big-game season only by persons who have a valid tag and are lawfully engaged in hunting big game. Those hunting feral swine with a firearm are required at all times to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined.

Firearm and archery equipment is restricted to lawful arms and ammunition identified in the Game & Wildlife Code Sec. 2308. Those killing feral swine, must contact the nearest Game Commission region office within 24 hours, so samples can be collected for disease testing.

STATE FORESTS & STATE PARKS

Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased only in designated hunting areas during the seasons state recreation areas are open to hunting. Target shooting is restricted to designated shooting ranges only. The feeding of wildlife or laying or placing food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt, or other mineral is prohibited on state park/state forest lands.

The Bureau of State Parks may restrict hunting areas or hunting seasons in state parks. Hunting and trapping by licensed hunters and furtakers is permitted in designated areas in compliance with Game Commission regulations. Contact the park office for hunting information for each park. In park areas not open to hunting, or during closed hunting season, firearms and archery equipment must be kept in the owner's car, trailer or camp.

Groundhog hunting is prohibited in state parks. Dog training is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas.

For more information about hunting in state parks, contact the Bureau of State Parks, 1-888-PA-Parks, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov,

or write State Parks, P.O. Box 8551 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551, or call your nearest state park office.

The Bureau of Forestry welcomes hunters and trappers to more than 2.2 million acres of state forests. Only small areas around occupied buildings are posted. Overnight camping is permitted only in areas designated by the district forester. Ground blinds and tree stands may be placed on state forest lands subject to following the requirements set forth in the Bureau of Forestry Rules and Regulations. Required permits are available from local forest offices.

The Bureau opens gated administrative roads annually for hunter access, participates in DMAP and offers an interactive map online. Current information related to hunting on state forests can be found online at: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Hunting/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information or maps concerning hunting and recreational activities on state forests, contact the Bureau of Forestry, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552. Phone: 717-783-7941, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov or call your nearest forestry office.

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23-P-211

LIMIT OF ONE ANTLERED DEER (1) PER LICENSE YEAR, AND ONE ANTLERLESS DEER (1) FOR EACH ANTLERLESS LICENSE OR PERMIT

ARCHERY

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Sept. 30-Nov. 17
Dec. 26-Jan. 15

①

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 16-Nov. 24
Dec. 26-Jan. 27

① ②

SPECIAL FIREARMS

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 19-21

*Junior & Senior license holders,
Mentored license holders,
active-duty military and
persons with permit to use a vehicle as a blind*

FLINTLOCK

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 15

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 27

MUZZLELOADER

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 14-21

REGULAR FIREARMS

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Nov. 25-Dec. 9

③

EXTENDED FIREARMS

Antlerless Only

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 27

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A general hunting license is required to hunt in any season.

One antlered deer per license year can be taken with a general hunting license.

An unused, antlered deer harvest tag from a general hunting license can be used to take an antlerless deer during the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season.

This is the only season in which the antlered tag can be used for antlerless deer, and each participant in the flintlock muzzleloader season must have a muzzleloader license in addition to a general license.

A muzzleloader license also is needed to participate in the October muzzleloader season for antlerless deer.

With the lone exception of the flintlock muzzleloader season, each hunter must possess an antlerless deer license or DMAP permit in order to hunt or harvest antlerless deer. One antlerless deer may be taken with each valid license or permit.

Statewide, each hunter is limited to holding a maximum of six unfilled antlerless deer licenses. Hunters who obtain six antlerless licenses may apply for and obtain additional licenses as they harvest antlerless deer and report them, so long as licenses remain available. For any WMU, sales of antlerless licenses end when the total number of licenses allocated for that WMU is expended.

The Special Firearms season for antlerless deer is open to junior and senior license holders, mentored youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons. Resident and nonresident hunters who hold a valid hunting license or qualify for fee exemptions, and who are 65 or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the license application, are eligible to hunt in the season.

Participants in any archery deer season must possess an archery license in addition to a general license.

TAGGING DEER

After harvesting a deer, a hunter must detach the deer harvest tag from his or her license, fill it out using a ballpoint pen and securely attach it to the deer's ear. Be sure to use the correct tag and be careful not to attach the actual hunting license. The harvest tags have animal icons on them.

There are two holes in the center of the tag that can be punched to insert a string, twist tie or safety pin.

Deer must be tagged before the carcass is moved.

The tag must remain attached to the ear until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. When submitting a sample for CWD testing, the completed harvest tag should remain with the head. The harvested deer carcass can still be transported for processing once the head has been submitted for testing. All high-risk parts must be removed before the carcass is transported out of any CWD Disease Management Area or the Established Area, unless destined for a cooperating processor or taxidermist. The bar code on the right edge of the tag should be positioned near the ear tip, unobstructed, so Game Commission personnel can scan it if the deer is documented as part of work to calculate the annual statewide deer harvest.

Hunters sometimes ask why a harvest tag must be attached to a deer's ear rather than an antler or some other part of the animal. Requiring that deer be tagged in the ear ensures that the tag stays with the head and valuable scientific information can be collected.

If tagging on the antler were allowed, harvest-tag information for bucks largely would be unavailable to Game Commission researchers, since antlers typically leave the butcher shop with the hunter.

DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

ARMS & AMMUNITION

Archery Deer Seasons

- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), and crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design. An arrow and crossbow bolt must be equipped with a broadhead.
 - Magnifying scopes and red-dot sights can be used on crossbows.
 - A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.
 - Persons hunting deer in the archery seasons may not possess a firearm, except those individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit (most sporting arms are not authorized). Muzzleloading firearms also can be carried by bowhunters during any muzzleloading season, including muzzleloader bear season with a bear license, providing the hunter has an archery license and a muzzleloader license and meets the fluorescent orange requirements of the muzzleloader season.

Firearms Deer Seasons

- Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact.
- Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns that propel single-projectile ammunition.
- Muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and
- Long, recurve or compound bows and crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design.

See Special Regulations Areas section for restrictions that apply there.

October Antlerless Muzzleloader Season

- Any single-barrel muzzleloading long gun with flintlock, in-line or percussion ignition 44 caliber or larger, 50 caliber or larger handgun, or an encapsulated propellant charge that loads from the breech, with the bullet loaded from the muzzle. Scope

sights permitted. Archery gear can be carried by muzzleloader hunters providing they have an archery license and necessary fluorescent orange.

Special Antlerless Deer Only Firearms

- Arms and ammunition permitted during the Regular Firearms Deer Seasons can be used in this season.

Flintlock Muzzleloader Season

- Flintlock ignition, single-barrel long gun, 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun, using single-projectile ammunition. It is unlawful to use telescopic sights. Peep sights are permitted.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Antlered & Antlerless

- During the regular and special deer seasons, and any extensions of these seasons, all hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined (example: orange cap and coat/vest visible 360 degrees). Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches.

Archers

- Fluorescent orange is not required **while hunting for deer during archery seasons**. Orange is required, however, by hunters using archery equipment during regular firearms deer seasons. The requirement to wear fluorescent orange during all overlap periods when archery hunters were required to wear varying amounts of orange while moving or post orange while in a fixed position has been eliminated. The use of fluorescent orange, though, is highly recommended for all seasons, whether required or not.

Muzzleloader Deer

- During the late flintlock deer season, muzzleloader hunters are not required to wear or display fluorescent orange. However, during the October antlerless muzzleloader deer season, hunters are required to wear the same 250 square inches of fluorescent orange required of all big-game season hunters. See the Special Regulation Areas section for more details.

TIPS FOR A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL BIG-GAME DRIVE

- **Plan your drives** – Be organized. Everyone must know their role. Decide how many drivers are needed and where standers will be located.
- **Communicate** – Stay in constant communication with other drivers so that you know the location of those around you. The use of handheld radios or cell phones to alert other hunters of the presence or movement of game or wildlife while hunting is prohibited.
- **Know your zone** – Be aware of your zone of fire. Identify the areas in front of you where you can safely attempt a shot, knowing that those areas are changing as you move across the landscape.
- **When in doubt, don't shoot** – If forced to make a split-second decision about whether it is safe to take a shot, err on the side of caution and don't shoot.

CWD UPDATE

Information on Chronic Wasting Disease in Pennsylvania, restrictions that apply within Pennsylvania's Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and its Established Area (EA), and management of the disease can be found in the **purple** section that follows. Additional information, including updated maps of the state's DMAs and EA, is available at

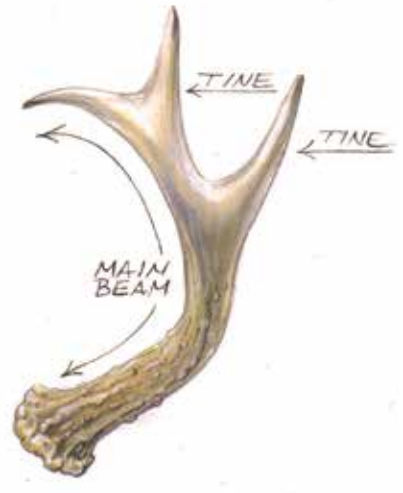
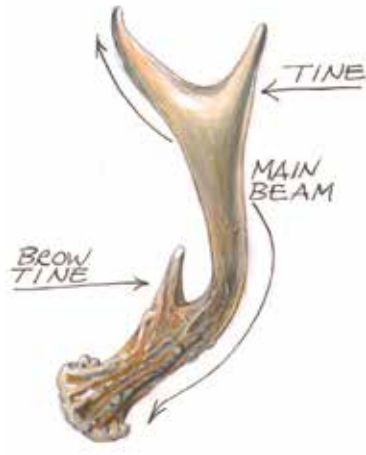
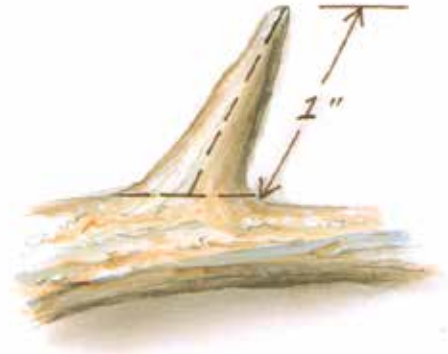
WWW.PGC.PA.GOV/CWD

ANTLER RESTRICTIONS

STATEWIDE, junior license holders, mentored youth, disabled hunters with a permit to use a vehicle, and resident active duty U.S. Armed Services personnel, can harvest antlered deer with two or more points on one antler, or a spike three or more inches in length.

Senior license holders must abide by antler restrictions, as well.

- A point is defined as any antler projection (including the brow tine) at least one inch in length from base to tip. The brow tine is the point immediately above the antler burr.
- The main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length.
- An antlerless deer will remain defined as a deer without antlers, or a deer with antlers, both of which are less than 3 inches in length. A protected deer is one not defined as an antlered deer or an antlerless deer.



IN MOST OF THE STATE

hunters are required to abide by three points on one side.

IN WMUS 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D

hunters are required to abide by "three up"; three points, including the main beam counted as one of the points, on one side, excluding the brow tine (the point immediately above the antler burr).



THREE UP

In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D

ANTLERLESS LICENSES

There's an all-new process for obtaining antlerless deer licenses in 2023-24. Hunters no longer apply for antlerless licenses by mail, they simply buy one for the Wildlife Management Unit of their choice, as long as licenses there remain available. Antlerless licenses can be purchased anywhere licenses are sold, though hunters who qualify for landowner, military or disabled veteran licenses may need to obtain them from a certain location. Antlerless deer license sales begin on the first day of general hunting license sales – **Monday, June 26**. Sales begin at **8 a.m.** on that day. Only Pennsylvania resident hunters are eligible to purchase antlerless deer licenses initially. Sales to nonresidents begin two weeks later. All hunters are limited to purchasing just one antlerless license in the first round of sales, and cannot exceed three antlerless licenses by the close of the third round. In the fourth round, hunters can buy additional licenses to reach their personal limit of six unfilled antlerless deer licenses. Sales of Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits will not begin until the third round of antlerless license sales, on Monday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m.

ANTLERLESS LICENSE SALES SCHEDULE

ROUND 1 PERSONAL LIMIT OF 1

PA RESIDENTS – MONDAY, JUNE 26

ALL LICENSE BUYERS – MONDAY, JULY 10

ROUND 2 PERSONAL LIMIT UP TO 2

ALL LICENSE BUYERS – MONDAY, JULY 24

ROUND 3 PERSONAL LIMIT UP TO 3

ALL LICENSE BUYERS – MONDAY, AUG. 14

ROUND 4 PERSONAL LIMIT UP TO 6

ALL LICENSE BUYERS – MONDAY, AUG. 28

*All 2023-24 license sales begin at 8 a.m. on June 26.
Antlerless deer license sales begin at 8 a.m. in all rounds.
DMAP sales begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 14.*

ANTLERLESS LICENSE SALES LOCATIONS

Resident and nonresident antlerless deer licenses can be purchased anywhere hunting licenses are sold, including issuing agents (sporting goods stores, gun shops, big-box retailers, etc.), County Treasurer offices, Game Commission offices, or online at [HuntFish.PA.gov](https://www.huntfish.pa.gov). **Resident Disabled Veteran and Resident Armed Forces Antlerless Deer Licenses** are available only at County Treasurer offices and Game Commission offices. Resident Disabled Veteran antlerless deer licenses are now available to Disabled Veterans that have a disability rating of 60-99% through Veterans Affairs. Resident and nonresident **Landowner Antlerless Deer Licenses** must be obtained at a County Treasurer office. Landowners seeking such licenses should contact their local County Treasurer for address information and hours of operation.

BUYING AN ANTLERLESS LICENSE

- Each antlerless license costs \$6.97 for Pennsylvania residents and \$26.97 for nonresidents.
- Antlerless licenses can be purchased anywhere licenses are sold, including online at [HuntFish.PA.gov](https://www.huntfish.pa.gov).
- Hunters must select a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) preference in purchasing an antlerless license. An antlerless license may be used to hunt antlerless deer only within the WMU for which it's issued. General information about WMUs and specific boundary descriptions, can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.
- A limited number of antlerless licenses is made available in each WMU. Once that number is sold, no more licenses for that WMU are available. A hunter seeking a license must pick a different WMU where licenses remain available.
- If purchasing an antlerless license from an issuing agent, please review your antlerless license before leaving the location. No refunds will be issued.
- If ordering antlerless licenses online, please review your selection before checking out. Allow at least 10 business days to receive antlerless licenses through the mail. If needed immediately, hunters must purchase a replacement for \$6.97 over the counter at any issuing agent.

PERSONAL LICENSE LIMITS

All hunting license holders may obtain up to six antlerless deer licenses before the start of the deer hunting seasons. No hunter may hold more than six unfilled antlerless licenses at a time. Those who hold mentored hunting permits – which are different than hunting licenses – may obtain only one antlerless deer license total in a license year. The number of antlerless deer licenses made available in each Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) is allocated by the Game Commission based on scientific data on deer populations. With limited numbers available, licenses for at least some WMUs could sell out before the second or third round of sales begins. Consequently, most hunters will never reach their personal limit of six unfilled antlerless deer licenses. But in WMUs where licenses remain, enabling more hunters to purchase antlerless licenses increases their opportunity and helps to achieve deer-management goals. Hunters who obtain six antlerless deer licenses may buy additional licenses, if available, as they harvest deer and report them through HuntFishPA. Hunters who report harvests online through [HuntFish.PA.gov](https://www.huntfish.pa.gov) or call the Customer Support line at 1-800-838-4431 instantly become eligible to purchase another license, if any are available. Those reporting by mail will not be eligible to buy another license until their report is logged.

ANTLERLESS LICENSES

LANDOWNER ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

Qualified resident and nonresident applicants for landowner antlerless deer licenses (see license section in the back of this digest for qualifications) must apply directly to the County Treasurer of the county where the qualifying acreage is located.

These licenses are available the 3rd week in June, a Monday if not a state observed holiday, and should be applied for prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins the 4th Monday in June. If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the WMU he or she desires.

If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, a completed application, proper remittance (\$6.97 for residents, \$26.97 for nonresidents), proof of ownership and a Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit (available from County Treasurers, Game Commission offices or www.pgc.pa.gov) should be mailed to the Treasurer in a plain envelope marked "Landowner Antlerless Application."

Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not mail antlerless requests directly to the Game Commission.

DISABLED VETERAN ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

Qualified resident applicants who have a service-incurred 60-100% disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may apply to any County Treasurer or Game Commission office for the WMU in which they desire to hunt. Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, only one antlerless deer tag is guaranteed per license year.

ARMED FORCES RESIDENT ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

Qualified residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or within 60 days from honorable discharge, may apply to any County Treasurer or Game Commission office for the WMU in which they desire to hunt.

Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, only one antlerless deer license is guaranteed.

ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE REGULATIONS

- Antlerless deer licenses are WMU-specific. An antlerless deer license is valid only in the WMU for which it is issued. The use or attempted use of an antlerless license in another WMU is a violation of the law.
- All hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Exception: During the after-Christmas flintlock season, a properly licensed flintlock hunter may use his or her unused antlered tag to harvest an antlerless deer anywhere in the state. A WMU-specific antlerless license, or valid DMAP permit, is required for each additional antlerless deer harvested.
- Archers must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Muzzleloader hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to participate in the antlerless-only muzzleloader deer season (Oct. 14-20).
- Junior and Senior license holders, Mentored Permit holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) holders and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to participate in the antlerless-only Special Firearms season (Oct. 19-21).

- Once obtained, a properly licensed hunter may use an antlerless deer license in any season in which it is legal to harvest an antlerless deer.
- Each antlerless deer license includes its own ear tag.

REPLACEMENT ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

Applicants who lose their antlerless deer license may obtain a replacement at any license sales location. Do not mail replacement requests directly to the Game Commission.

2023-24 ALLOCATION

Antlerless deer licenses are allocated based on scientific data on deer populations. Increased allocations might address CWD risk in some WMUs or forest impacts in others. *Hunters also should note WMU 2H has been eliminated and its area placed into WMU 2G. The allocation increase reported for WMU 2G reflects combined numbers. The 2023-24 allocation, followed by the change from last year and the 2022-23 sell-out date are below.

WMU 1A	- 46,000 (+3,000)	8/24
WMU 1B	- 37,000 (+3,000)	8/1
WMU 2A	- 46,000 (+7,000)	10/11
WMU 2B	- 53,000 (+4,000)	N/A
WMU 2C	- 88,000 (+21,000)	10/7
WMU 2D	- 86,000 (+12,000)	9/12
WMU 2E	- 52,000 (+10,000)	9/30
WMU 2F	- 49,000 (+12,000)	8/2
WMU 2G*	- 35,000 (+4,000)	7/18
WMU 3A	- 21,000 (+2,000)	8/1
WMU 3B	- 32,000 (-1,000)	8/5
WMU 3C	- 40,000 (+3,000)	8/15
WMU 3D	- 41,000 (+/- 0)	9/22
WMU 4A	- 61,000 (+11,000)	N/A
WMU 4B	- 46,000 (+12,000)	8/17
WMU 4C	- 32,000 (+1,000)	8/2
WMU 4D	- 77,000 (+22,000)	9/13
WMU 4E	- 54,000 (+12,000)	8/18
WMU 5A	- 40,000 (+9,000)	11/1
WMU 5B	- 60,000 (+/- 0)	9/12
WMU 5C	- 70,000 (+/- 0)	10/11
WMU 5D	- 29,000 (+/- 0)	11/28

The listed 2022-23 sell-out dates are associated with the mail-in application process. Sales patterns might change significantly.

THE DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALLOWS HUNTERS TO ASSIST LANDOWNERS IN ACHIEVING DEER-MANAGEMENT GOALS

FOR LANDOWNERS:

Public landowners, political subdivisions, government agencies, private landowners, and any defined hunting club are eligible for the program.

A hunting club is defined as a corporation or legal cooperative that owns its enrolled acres in fee title, was established prior to January 1, 2000, and has provided its club charter and list of current members to the Game Commission.

Landowners can apply by downloading applications and instructions from www.pgc.pa.gov. Instructions for online renewal are also available.

Applications must be submitted to local Game Commission region offices and postmarked by July 1.

FOR HUNTERS:

Each DMAP permit enables a hunter to harvest an antlerless deer on the specific property for which the permit is issued.

Landowners participating in DMAP may make permits available for hunters to purchase directly through license-issuing agents and online through <https://HuntFish.PA.gov>, or they can choose to issue coupons to hunters that hunters then may redeem to purchase permits at any license-issuing agent or online.

For DMAP properties where landowners provide coupons to hunters, hunters can purchase up to four DMAP permits. On all other properties, the limit is two DMAP permits per hunter.

If a landowner isn't issuing coupons, hunters, before purchasing permits, might need to contact the landowner to get the DMAP unit number for the property, or for properties open to public hunting, go to www.pgc.pa.gov to find the unit number.

Sales of Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits will not begin until the third round of antlerless license sales, Monday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m.

A DMAP permit costs \$10.97 for a resident, and \$35.97 for a nonresident.

Hunters on DMAP properties may hunt antlerless deer in any deer season, using the sporting arm and/or implement allowed during that season. The hunter must be properly licensed for the season; for example, archery or muzzleloader licenses are required to take antlerless deer with DMAP permits during those seasons.

A mentor can transfer one DMAP permit that's been issued to him or her to an eligible mentored hunter below age 7. Mentored hunters 7 and older can apply for their own DMAP permits (see Mentored Hunting Programs elsewhere in this digest).

A valid DMAP permit held by a mentor for potential transfer shall be kept in the mentor's possession at all times while hunting antlerless deer, and transferred after the mentored hunter under age 7 has harvested the antlerless deer, and before tagging the deer.

Reporting on harvest success is mandatory for all DMAP permit holders, regardless of whether a deer is taken.

FINDING LANDOWNER INFORMATION

Contact information for public lands and some private lands enrolled in DMAP will be posted online at www.pgc.pa.gov. Contact information for private landowners enrolled in DMAP is posted only with the landowner's permission. Hunters without Internet access can obtain listings of eligible DMAP properties by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope, along with a letter indicating their county of interest, to the Game Commission region office responsible for that particular county. For more information on the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' participation in the DMAP program, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov.



**DMAP
ON
SGLs**

For the first time, Deer Management Assistance Program permits will be available for the 2023-24 hunting season on certain State Game Lands within the Northeast, Northcentral, and Northwest Regions. The use of DMAP on these game lands will better allow the Game Commission to achieve its goal of creating healthy wildlife habitat, while providing more opportunities for hunters. Hunters can purchase up to two DMAP permits per SGL DMAP unit. More information about where permits are offered can be found in the Participating Landowners Section of the Game Commission's website.

www.pgc.pa.gov

SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS

- SPECIAL REGULATIONS INCLUDE:**
- In western Pennsylvania, all of Allegheny County.
 - In southeastern Pennsylvania, all of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, and also during special controlled hunts at Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks.

DEER

All Special Regulations Area counties are now contained within the Wildlife Management Unit system. Seasons and antler restriction requirements are based mostly on these units and general deer seasons. However, certain laws and regulations in regards to arms and ammunition still apply to specific counties in Special Regulations Areas.

DEER & BEAR SEASON, ARMS & AMMUNITION

- Philadelphia County – Only bows and arrows, including crossbows.
- Remaining Counties – Manually operated rifles and handguns chambered for straight-walled centerfire cartridges, except at Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks; muzzleloading long guns, 44 caliber or larger; manual or semiautomatic shotguns, .410 or larger, using slugs; bows and crossbows. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds. Buckshot no longer can be used, except during certain controlled hunts (Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks) where the Game Commission issues a special permit. During the controlled hunts manual or semiautomatic shotguns 20-gauge or larger using buckshot, bows and arrows and crossbows can be used.

SMALL GAME, FURBEARERS & CROWS, ARMS & AMMUNITION

Manually operated or semiautomatic shotguns plugged to a 3-shell capacity; manually operated or semiautomatic 22 caliber or less rimfire rifles; manually operated 22 caliber or less rimfire handguns; and bows and crossbows. Buckshot is not permitted. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun that propels a single-projectile pellet or bullet for small game in calibers from .177 to .22. For woodchucks and furbearers, air guns must be 22 caliber. BB ammunition cannot be used. In Special Regulations Areas bottleneck centerfire cartridges are prohibited. Coyote and woodchuck hunters can use centerfire straight-walled cartridges in rifles and manually operated handguns. In Philadelphia County, Ridley Creek State Park, and Tyler State Park only bows and arrows, crossbows, air rifles and shotguns are permitted. Centerfire, single-projectile ammunition is prohibited in these areas.

PRIVATE PROPERTY DEER BAITING

A baiting permit no longer is needed when using bait to hunt deer on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. However, other requirements remain. Bait must be shelled corn or protein-pellet supplements; bait accumulation must not exceed 5 gallons at any time; bait only can be used from two weeks before the opening of the first deer season to the close of the last deer season; automatic mechanical feeders must be used; and feeders must distribute bait during hunting hours, no more than three times a day. Landowners and hunters need to ensure bait sites comply with regulations.

LAWFUL WHILE TRAPPING

Manually operated or semiautomatic 22 caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22 caliber or less rimfire handguns. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun in calibers from .177 to .22 that propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet. BB ammunition cannot be used.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

October muzzleloader antlerless season

Oct. 14-21

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Special Firearms Antlerless Season (statewide)

Oct. 19-21

Junior, senior license holders, Mentored license holders, disabled person permit holders, and PA residents serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Deer Firearms Season (antlered & antlerless, statewide)

Nov. 25-Dec. 9

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Flintlock season (antlered and antlerless)

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Dec. 26-Jan. 27; Other WMUs Dec. 26-Jan. 15

- Fluorescent orange is not required, it's not required for archery hunters either, but keep in mind a firearms deer season is open and it is suggested that orange be worn.

Extended antlerless firearms season

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Dec. 26-Jan. 27

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Small Game

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back at all times is required. Furbearer and crow hunters do not need to wear fluorescent orange. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent cap visible 360 degrees.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) HAS BEEN DETECTED IN PENNSYLVANIA IN CAPTIVE AND FREE-RANGING DEER.

What is chronic wasting disease?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an always fatal neurological condition that affects cervid species including deer, elk, caribou, and moose and was first recognized in mule deer at a Colorado research facility in 1967. CWD is part of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) family of diseases that includes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or Mad Cow Disease, in cattle; Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans; and Scrapie in sheep and goats. Infectious CWD prions cause misfolding in normal prion proteins leading to a chain reaction that results in sponge-like holes in the brain.

CWD transmission can occur directly through animal-to-animal contact or indirectly through prion-contaminated environments. Animals infected with CWD spread infectious prions through saliva, urine, and feces. Additionally, the carcass of an infected animal can contribute to environmental contamination. Once prions are in the environment, they can be infectious for years.

CWD infected animals may not show clinical signs of disease for up to 18 to 24 months post-infection. During this period, animals may look healthy but are infectious and spreading the disease. Clinical signs of late stage CWD include lowered head, lowered ears, progressive weight loss, rough hair coat, excessive salivation, excessive thirst, excessive urination, and other behavioral changes including stumbling and lack of fear of humans. However, most animals infected with CWD are more likely to die from other causes prior to reaching this stage.

Why should I care about CWD?

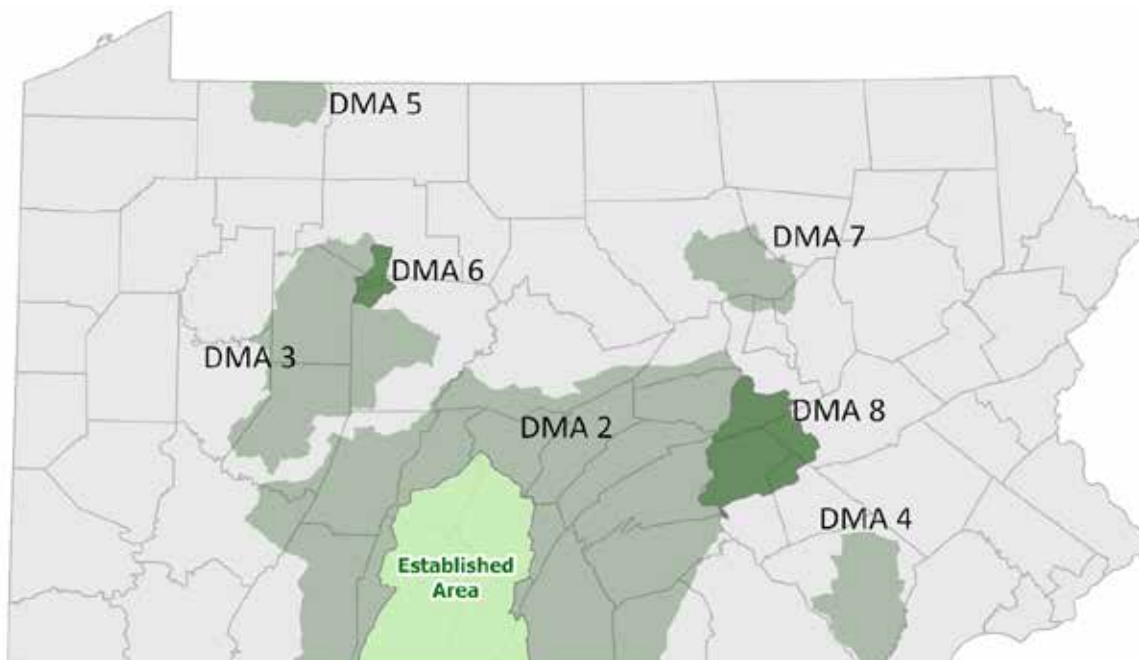
CWD is always fatal and any cervid infected with the disease will die. Research shows CWD-infected deer have a lower survival rate, and as a result, CWD can decrease deer populations over time. This can result in reduced hunting opportunities and is a threat to healthy deer populations and wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania.

Currently, there is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans or livestock. However, research conducted on CWD has demonstrated that it can pass through the digestive tract of scavengers and predators and remain infectious; plants can uptake CWD prions and remain infectious; soils retain infectious CWD prions for years; and water sources can be contaminated with CWD prions.

People regularly encounter deer and consume venison as hunting is the largest source of mortality for deer in Pennsylvania. There is still much to learn about prion diseases, but given our knowledge of CWD, limiting wildlife, domestic animal, and human exposure to a known pathogen that has no treatment, vaccine, or cure is crucial.

Where has CWD been found in Pennsylvania?

CWD was first detected in Pennsylvania at a captive facility in Adams County in 2012. Shortly after, three free-ranging CWD-positive deer were detected in Bedford and Blair counties. Since the first detections in 2012, CWD has been detected in the following counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lycoming, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Somerset, Warren, and Westmoreland. Below is a map showing the Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and Established Area (EA) as of the publication of this digest. More detailed and current maps of the DMAs and EA boundaries can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.



Because CWD sampling of deer and elk occurs year-round, this map may have changed due to additional positive detections and new areas may be included. For the most recent information, please visit www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

CWD REGULATIONS – DOS AND DON'TS

Within Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and Established Areas (EAs) the following is **prohibited**:

- Feeding of wild, free-ranging cervids
- Use or possession of cervid urine-based attractants in an outdoor setting
- The removal of high-risk cervid parts* from any DMA or EA **including from one DMA to another** unless taken directly to a Game Commission approved cooperating processor or taxidermist. Cooperators can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr or Bit.ly/PGC-CWDMaP.
- Disposal of high-risk parts on the landscape away from the location of harvest or kill. Transport of high-risk parts may occur provided they are taken directly to a Game Commission approved cooperating processor or taxidermist OR are disposed of with commercial trash service within the DMA in which the deer was harvested.
- Rehabilitation of wild, free-ranging cervids

Statewide the following is **prohibited**:

- Importation of high-risk cervid parts* from any state or province outside of Pennsylvania unless taken directly to a Game Commission approved cooperating processor or taxidermist.

Statewide the following is **allowed**:

- Importation or transportation of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached; cleaned hides without the head; skull plates and/or antlers cleaned of all brain tissue; upper canine teeth without soft tissue; or finished taxidermy mounts.

*HIGH-RISK CERVID PARTS INCLUDE:

- the head (including brain, tonsils, eyes, and any lymph nodes);
- spinal cord/backbone; spleen; skull plate with attached antlers (if visible brain or spinal cord tissue is present);
- cape (if visible brain or spinal cord tissue is present);
- upper canine teeth (if root structure or other soft tissue is present);
- any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord tissue; unfinished taxidermy mounts;
- and brain-tanned hides.

CWD DMAP AREAS

Hunters play a vital role in CWD management actions. The Game Commission gives hunters expanded opportunities to harvest deer in DMAs through CWD DMAP areas. The purpose of these units is to increase harvest and surveillance in areas located around new or high priority CWD detections. Successful hunters can submit the heads from harvested animals for CWD testing to help assess the extent of the disease in these areas.

For the 2023-24 hunting season, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is offering DMAP permits for CWD DMAP areas. These permits allow hunters to take up to two additional antlerless deer. Permits will become available for purchase in August. Locations of current CWD DMAP areas can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

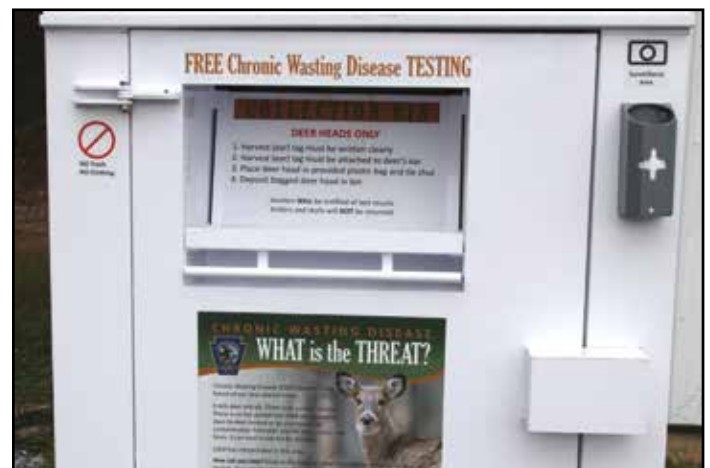
HOW TO GET YOUR DEER TESTED FOR CWD

The Game Commission offers free CWD testing to hunters who harvest a deer inside a DMA or EA. Hunters may submit their deer for testing by placing their deer head – double bagged and with harvest tag completed and firmly affixed to the ear – into any Game Commission provided head collection bin. For antlered deer, hunters should remove the antlers and/or skull cap prior to submission into a head collection bin. Antlers **will not be returned** if they are attached to a head submitted for CWD testing. Locations of these bins can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr or by calling the CWD hotline at 1-833-INFOWCD.

The Game Commission encourages hunters to check their test results online by using the QR code or going to www.pgc.pa.gov/CWD. Click the “CWD Test Results and Surveillance Data” link under “Resources” and enter your hunting license CID number and date of birth. Hunters can also check their test results by calling the CWD hotline. Results take approximately two to three weeks and hunters who receive a positive test result will be notified by certified letter.

Hunters who harvest a deer outside of a DMA or EA can get their deer tested through the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System for a fee. More information is available at www.padls.agriculture.pa.gov.

The Game Commission conducts random CWD sampling at participating processors across the state as part of a continued CWD monitoring program. Using a processor that is enrolled in this program **does NOT guarantee** your deer will be tested. To guarantee a deer is tested for CWD, the head must be deposited into a provided head collection bin.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

PROPER DEER DISPOSAL

Hunters who hunt inside of a DMA or EA may dispose of high-risk parts with their commercial trash service if trash is deposited in a lined landfill. Parts disposed of in this way should be doubled bagged. In addition, hunters hunting inside of the EA can dispose of high-risk parts in dumpsters provided by the Game Commission. Locations of these dumpsters can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

While not recommended, hunters hunting inside of a DMA or EA may leave all high-risk parts at the location of the kill site. It is recommended that all parts disposed of in this way be buried.

Cooperating processors work with the Game Commission to ensure all high-risk parts left with them are disposed of in the proper way to reduce the risk of disease spread from contaminated carcass parts. Locations of these cooperating processors can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

QUESTIONS?

For more information on CWD, visit the Game Commission's CWD storyboard by using the QR code or visiting www.arcg.is/1G4TLr. For questions, comments, and concerns use the CWD hotline at 1-833-INFOWCD (1-833-463-6293) or email us at infowcd@pa.gov.



WILDLIFE HEALTH

RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (RHD)

RHD poses a significant threat to the Commonwealth's cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare populations due to its ability to spread easily between domestic and wild lagomorph species (i.e., rabbits & hares), short incubation period, high mortality rates, and persistence in the environment. In response to a domestic detection in 2022, the Game Commission established RHD-Disease Management Area 1 (RHD-DMA 1), within which activities are restricted to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease. **The following are prohibited within the RHD-DMA:** 1) the capture, transport, rehabilitation, or release of any living, wild, free-ranging lagomorphs, 2) the removal or export of any wild, free-ranging lagomorph captured, collected, taken, harvested, or killed within any RHD-DMA or their parts or products (pelts, hides, carcasses, etc.), except meat for human consumption with or without bone, and 3) the direct or indirect feeding of wild, free-ranging lagomorphs. **If you observe multiple dead rabbits** that have died due to unknown causes, please call 1-833-PGC-WILD or use the online tool at www.pgcapps.pa.gov/WHS. For more information, visit pgc.pa.gov/wildlifehealth/rhd.

WILDLIFE FUTURES PROGRAM

The Wildlife Futures Program is a wildlife health partnership between the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. By combining the vast expertise and resources of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania's only veterinary school, the Wildlife Futures Program implements a forward-thinking approach to ensure that Pennsylvania's wild species thrive for generations. The program is actively monitoring the health of many Pennsylvania species, including but not limited to white-tailed deer, wild turkey, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, bald eagles, fisher, mink, gray fox, and more. You can assist the Wildlife Futures Program in their research by reporting any wildlife health concerns to the Wildlife Health Survey (below).

REPORT WILDLIFE HEALTH ISSUES

The Game Commission's online Wildlife Health Survey makes it easy to report wildlife health concerns. Access the survey by visiting www.pgcapps.pa.gov/WHS, or by scanning the QR code below. For immediate assistance, call 1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD.

A graphic for the Wildlife Health Survey. It features a close-up photo of a cottontail rabbit on the left. The background is a dark green gradient. Text on the right reads: "You can play a critical role in wildlife health surveillance! The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Health Survey enables the public to easily report observations of wildlife health issues occurring within the Commonwealth. Any wild birds or mammals that appear abnormal, injured, sick, or are found dead should be reported. Remember to always remain at a safe distance when observing wildlife and do not handle wildlife unless you are hunting, trapping, or authorized to do so. If you require immediate assistance, please call the Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453). Thank you for helping the Game Commission track and respond to wildlife health events! More information can be found at pgc.pa.gov/wildlifehealth." At the bottom right is a white button with the text "Submit an Observation".

Submit an Observation

For more information about wildlife health in Pennsylvania, please visit www.pgc.pa.gov/wildlifehealth or email pgc-wildlifehealth@pa.gov.

WILDLIFE HEALTH SURVEY





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FALL SEASON

1 BIRD PER LICENSE YEAR

Bearded or unbearded birds. Season lengths and arms vary by WMU. The fall season is closed in WMUs 5A, 5C & 5D.

OCT. 28-NOV. 4

WMUs 1A, 1B, 4A, 4B, 4D & 4E

OCT. 28-NOV. 11

WMUs 2A, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D & 4C

OCT. 28-NOV. 11 & Nov. 22-24

WMUs 2C, 2D and 2E

OCT. 28-NOV. 17 & Nov. 22-24

WMU 2B

OCT. 31-NOV. 2

WMU 5B

ARMS & AMMUNITION

1) Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Muzzleloading shotguns; 3) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with a broadhead that has a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.

Shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-approved nontoxic shot.

Centerfire and rimfire rifles, handguns, muzzleloading rifles and handguns, slug guns, and single-projectile ammunition no longer are permitted for fall turkey hunting.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Turkey hunters are no longer required to wear fluorescent orange material, although it is strongly recommended that they do so.

MENTORED HUNTERS

Mentored hunters may participate. Birds taken by mentored hunters under the age of 7 must be tagged with harvest tag transferred from his or her mentor.

SUNDAY HUNTING

Fall and spring turkey hunting is closed on Sundays.

DOGS

Dogs may be used during the fall season.

LEG-BANDED TURKEYS

The Game Commission regularly places leg bands and transmitters on a number of male turkeys in a continuing effort to determine spring harvest rates and annual survival rates by WMU. These birds are lawful to harvest, and should be reported if harvested. Hunters can report by following the instructions on the band.

SPRING SEASON

UP TO 2 BEARDED BIRDS (1 PER DAY) WITH PROPER LICENSES

Spring turkey hunting is open statewide.

YOUTH HUNT

April 27, 2024

STATEWIDE

May 4-31, 2024

Hunting hours vary

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours during the **April 27** youth hunt, and from **May 4 to May 18** of the statewide season begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at noon. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. during those periods. From **May 20 to May 31**, hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

ARMS & AMMUNITION

1) Manually operated and semiautomatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; 3) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see broadhead requirements in fall season section).

Fine shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other approved nontoxic shot. Rifle/shotgun combination guns may be used if ammunition is limited to shotgun shells. Carrying or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles, handguns, muzzleloading rifles and handguns, slug guns is unlawful.

MENTORED HUNTERS

Mentored hunters may participate. Harvest tags are provided to mentored hunters 7 and older. Birds taken by mentored hunters under the age of 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred from the youth's mentor. Mentored hunters can purchase a second spring turkey license.

YOUTH HUNT

Only licensed junior hunters and properly permitted mentored youth (16 and under) may participate, and must be accompanied by an adult as required by law (see License Information section). Each hunter may harvest only one bearded bird during the Youth Hunt. Birds harvested by mentored youth under age 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred to the Mentored Youth from his or her adult mentor.

NO STALKING

Hunting by calling only.

BEARDED BIRDS

Only turkeys with visible beards are legal. It is suggested, though, that hunters refrain from knowingly harvesting bearded hens because they nest and raise broods.

DOGS

Dogs may not be used during the spring season.

BLINDS

The use of turkey blinds is legal under the following definition: Any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer outside the blind.

Artificial or manufactured turkey blinds consisting of all manmade materials means blinds must be constructed of plastic, nylon, canvas, cotton cloth, plywood or other manmade materials.

Blinds made by piling rocks, logs, branches, etc. are unlawful. The blind must completely enclose the hunter on all four sides and from above to block the detection of movement within the blind.

Turkey-hunting blinds that represent the fanned tails of turkeys are illegal to use in Pennsylvania because they do not hide all hunter movement from behind or within.

Portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission's management now need to be conspicuously marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner's hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the blind owner. Identification numbers can be obtained at HuntFishPA on the Game Commission's website.

TAGGING, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful turkey hunters must follow all instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses.

Separate tags are provided for fall and spring seasons. The turkey must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must be securely attached to a leg until the bird is prepared for consumption or mounting. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field.

2ND GOBBLER TAGS

A second spring turkey license can be purchased **before** the start of the regular spring turkey season (by May 3, 2024) from any issuing agent or at the Game Commission's website. Licenses purchased online are mailed to hunters and cannot be used before they're received. While the second license allows hunters to harvest up to two gobblers, only one turkey may be taken per day.

Also, please remember to remove your old hunting license from your possession while in the field. It is unlawful to possess old licenses while hunting.

Within 10 days of harvest turkey hunters must report harvests to the Game Commission, either by going online to the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, calling toll-free, or by sending in a postage-paid report card received with this digest.

Hunters reporting their turkey harvests over the telephone call 1-800-838-4431. Hunters will need to have their license and information from the completed tag, including the tag number, beard length and spur length.

All hunters reporting harvests are asked to identify the WMU, county and township where the bird was taken.

Hunters who purchase a second spring gobbler license have a mandatory reporting requirement, regardless of whether they harvest a bird using this special license. For more details, see the "Tagging, Transporting & Reporting" section under "Big Game Regulations" in this digest.

LIVE DECOYS, DRIVES & ELECTRONIC CALLS

In both spring and fall turkey seasons, it is unlawful to possess or use live turkeys as decoys, or conduct drives for turkeys or use electronic callers or devices.



In Pennsylvania, a device that represents a fanned turkey tail cannot be used to conceal a hunter. The unlawful use of such a device last year led to a hunter being shot. Know the law and stay safe while hunting.



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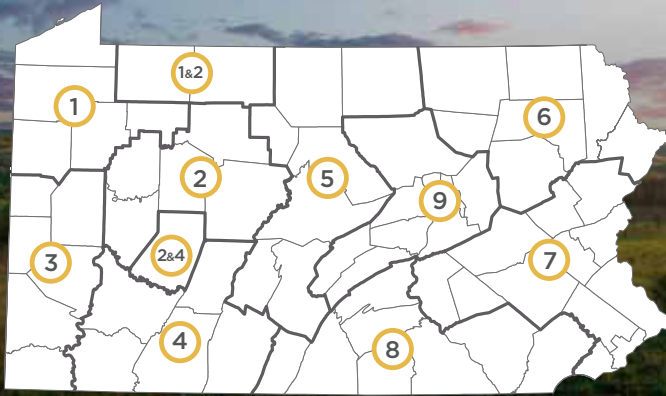
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717.668.4810



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HUNTERS ARE LIMITED TO 1 BEAR PER LICENSE YEAR.

ARCHERY

STATEWIDE
Oct. 14-Nov. 4

WMUS 2B, 5C & 5D
Sept. 16-Nov. 24

1 2

WMU 5B
Sept. 30-Nov. 17

1

MUZZLELOADER

STATEWIDE
Oct. 14-21

SPECIAL FIREARMS

STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-21

Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored license holders, active-duty military and certain disabled persons' permit holders. Arms and ammunition permitted during the regular firearms bear season can be used.

REGULAR FIREARMS

STATEWIDE
Nov. 18-21

2

EXTENDED SEASON

WMUS 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Nov. 25-Dec. 9

3

WMUS 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A
Nov. 25-Dec. 2

3

ARMS & AMMUNITION

1) Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact (buckshot is illegal); 2) semiautomatic centerfire shotgun that propels single-projectile ammunition; 3) muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger, or an encapsulated propellant charge that loads from the breech, with the bullet loaded from the muzzle; and 4) long, recurve or compound bows (draw weights at least 35 pounds), or crossbows with weight minimum of 125 pounds. A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.

TAGGING & REPORTING

A successful bear hunter must complete all information on the tag and attach it to the bear's ear immediately after harvest, and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests a bear must have it checked by the Game Commission. Bear check stations, which are listed on the next page, are open on the first two days of the regular firearms bear season, and on select days of the extended seasons. **Hunters harvesting bears during the statewide archery, muzzleloader or special firearms bear seasons, any early season in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, or on any date check stations aren't open** should contact the Centralized Dispatch Center at 1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD for instructions to have their bears checked. **Bears should be field-dressed before being brought to a check station**, as Game Commission personnel do not need to examine reproductive tracts. It's also acceptable to bring only the tagged head and hide to the check station. Hunters should bring their hunting license and bear license. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. If you purchase a bear license online, you cannot hunt for bear until the physical license is delivered to you with a harvest tag.

LICENSES

A general hunting license, or mentored permit (age 7 and older), is required to hunt in any season. Bear hunters must have a bear license in addition to a general license. A bear license allows hunters to participate in the bear archery and bear muzzleloader seasons without needing an archery or muzzleloader license for these two particular seasons. Bear licenses are available to purchase from the time general hunting licenses go on sale through the Dec. 10 close of the last extended seasons.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Bear hunters during firearms seasons, including the muzzleloader season, must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, visible from 360 degrees. Camouflage fluorescent orange will satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches. No fluorescent orange is required for hunting during the archery season.

RESTRICTIONS

It is unlawful to:

- Kill a bear in a den;
- Use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached;
- Hunt on areas where artificial or natural bait, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals, minerals or other foods – including residue – are used, or have been used as an enticement to lure wildlife within the past 30 days;
- Use scents or lures;
- Hunt bears in a party of more than 25 persons.

BEAR FEEDING BAN

It is unlawful to "intentionally lay or place food, fruit, hay, grain, chemicals, salt or other minerals that may cause bears to congregate or habituate in an area." In addition, if nuisance bears are being attracted to an area by any other wildlife feeding, game wardens can issue written notice to temporarily halt the activity.

BEAR CHECK STATIONS

HOW TO CHECK YOUR BEAR

Bear check stations are open on certain days within the early bear seasons (archery, muzzleloader and special firearms), the regular firearms season and the extended season. A complete list appears below and on the following pages. When check stations aren't open, hunters can call the Game Commission's Centralized Dispatch Center and make arrangements to have their bears checked. During the regular firearms season, check stations are open only on Saturday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The days and hours check stations are open vary during the other seasons. Hunters with questions can call the Centralized Dispatch Center.

PREPPING FOR YOUR BEAR CHECK

At the time of a harvest, successful bear hunters should place a 3- to 4-inch stick into the bear's mouth, before rigor mortis or freezing temperatures set in, making it extremely difficult to open the mouth to remove a tooth for aging when the bear is checked.

CENTRALIZED DISPATCH CENTER

1-833-PGC-HUNT
(1-833-742-4868)

1-833-PGC-WILD
(1-833-742-9453)



REGULAR FIREARMS SEASON CHECK STATIONS Saturday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Northwest Region

Clarion County – Farmington Township Volunteer Fire Company, 6785 State Route 36, Leeper– 41.3706077 N, 79.3049949 W

Jefferson County – Friendship Hose Company #1, Interstate 80, Exit 97, Rt. 830 W (Slab Run Road/First Street), right on 1st Street in Falls Creek, then 600 feet on right–41.1458166 N, 78.7985611 W

Venango County – Northwest Region Office, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin–41.36734 N, 79.859747 W

Warren County – Tidioute Borough Fire Hall, 228 Main Street, Tidioute–41.68278 N, 79.40444 W

Southwest Region

Indiana County – Homer City Fire Department, 25 West Church Street in Homer City–40.54189 N, 79.16193 W

Somerset County – New Centerville Rural Fire Dept., on Rt. 281 in New Centerville–39.9420 N, 79.1950 W

Westmoreland County – Southwest Region Office, Rt. 711 in Bolivar–40.3140 N, 79.1480 W

Northcentral Region

Centre County – DCNR Penn Nursery, 137 Penn Nursery Road, Spring Mills–40.7778230 N, 77.6137813 W

Clearfield County – PGC Maintenance Building, 4728 Quehanna Highway, Karthaus–41.1901 N, 78.14594 W

Clinton County – Chapman Twp. Fire Hall, 4 miles south of Renovo on Rt. 120 in North Bend–41.34861 N, 77.70038 W

Lycoming County – Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy., Jersey Shore–41.1911 N, 77.2315 W

Lycoming County – Trout Run Fire Hall, Rt. 14–41.38587 N, 77.05572 W

McKean County – Mt. Jewett Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6–41.7241 N, 78.64347 W

Potter County – Coudersport Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6, west of town–41.76788 N, 78.02842 W

Tioga County – Wellsboro Fire Company Social Building, U.S. Rt. 6 in center of town–41.7495961 N, 77.2967266 W

Southcentral Region

Fulton County – Buchanan State Forest Building, 0.1 mile north of Rt. 30 on Rt. 915, 4.5 miles east of Breezewood.– 40.019519 N, 78.159104 W

Huntingdon County – SGL 322 Building, 8877 Petersburg Pike, Petersburg, 3 miles west from Cold Spring Road in Huntingdon–40.5505 N, 78.0065 W

Northeast Region

Carbon County – SGL 141 Maintenance Building, 526 Behrens Road, Jim Thorpe–40.9411 N, 75.6722 W

Lackawanna County – Fleetville Fire Company, 58 Firehouse Lane, Fleetville. Interstate 81, Exit 202, Rt. 107 west to Fleetville, left onto Rt. 407, entrance to firehouse on right (look for sign, as building is not visible from road)–41.59608 N, 75.71673 W

Luzerne County – Northeast Region Office, 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas–41.342975 N, 75.991387 W

Monroe County – SGL 127 Building, Rt. 423, 2 miles south of Tobyhanna–41.168317 N, 75.439614 W

Pike County – SGL 180 Shohola Building, Rt. 6 at Shohola Falls, 13 miles south of Hawley–41.3862 N, 74.9758 W

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center, 6735 Rt. 220, 7 miles south of Dushore–41.439228 N, 76.4646 W

Southeast Region

Berks County – Southeast Region Office, 253 Snyder Road, 7 miles north of Reading–40.440840 N, 75.911236 W

Dauphin County – Game Commission Headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg–40.2934 N, 76.8553 W

BEAR CHECK STATIONS

EARLY SEASON CHECK STATIONS See preceding page for specific location information if not provided

Northwest Region

Jefferson County – SGL 244 Habitat management building, 103 McPherson Lane, Brookville- 41.11181 N, 78.96329 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Venango County – Northwest Region Office, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin-41.36734 N, 79.859747 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sundays 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday 10/16-11/3, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Warren County – SGL 143 Building, 375 Moore Lane, Pittsfield- 41.823172 N, 079.435473 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Southwest Region

Indiana County – SGL 248 Maintenance Building, 469 Chestnut Ridge Road in Penn Run-40.60891 N, 79.07144 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Thursday 10/19 & Friday 10/20, Noon- 7 p.m.

Somerset County – SGL 50 Maintenance Building, 774 Berlin Plank Road in Somerset-39.98989 N, 79.05081 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Thursday 10/19 & Friday 10/20, Noon- 7 p.m.

Westmoreland County – Southwest Region Office
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Thursday 10/19 & Friday 10/20, Noon- 7 p.m.

Northcentral Region

Clearfield County – PGC Maintenance Building, 4728 Quehanna Highway, Karthaus- 41.1901 N, 78.14594 W
Saturday 10/14, Monday 10/16 through Saturday 10/21, Saturday 10/28, and Saturday 11/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sundays 10/15 and 10/22, 8 a.m.- Noon

Lycoming County – Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy., Jersey Shore- 41.1911 N, 77.2315 W
Saturday 10/14, Monday 10/16 through Saturday 10/21, Saturday 10/28, and Saturday 11/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday 10/23 through Friday 10/27, and Monday 10/30 through Friday 11/3, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Sundays 10/15 and 10/22, 8 a.m.- Noon

Tioga County – SGL 208 Headquarters Building, 1749 Rt. 349, Gaines- 41.8007 N, 77.5721 W
Saturday 10/14, Monday 10/16 through Saturday 10/21, Saturday 10/28, and Saturday 11/4, Noon- 7 p.m.
Sundays 10/15 and 10/22, 8 a.m.- Noon

Southcentral Region

No check station hours during early archery season.
Sundays 10/15, 10/22, call Central Dispatch for appointment.

Fulton County – Buchanan State Forest Building, 0.1 mile north of Rt. 30 on Rt. 915, 4.5 miles east of Breezewood-40.019519 N, 78.159104 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21 Noon-7pm

Huntingdon County – SGL 322 Building, 8877 Petersburg Pike, Petersburg, 3 miles west from Cold Spring Road in Huntingdon-40.5505 N, 78.0065 W
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, Noon-7 p.m.

Northeast Region

All check stations in the Northeast Region will be open:
Saturday 10/14 through Saturday 10/21, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturdays 10/28, 11/4, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Carbon County – SGL 141 Maintenance Building, 526 Behrens Road, Jim Thorpe-40.9411 N, 75.6722 W

Lackawanna County – Fleetville Fire Company, 58 Firehouse Lane, Fleetville. Interstate 81, Exit 202, Rt. 107 west to Fleetville, left onto Rt. 407, entrance to firehouse on right (look for sign, as building is not visible from road) -41.59608 N, 75.71673 W

Luzerne County – Northeast Region Office, 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas-41.342975 N, 75.991387 W

Monroe County – SGL 127 Building, Rt. 423, 2 miles south of Tobyhanna-41.168317 N, 75.439614 W

Pike County – SGL 180 Shohola Building, Rt. 6 at Shohola Falls, 13 miles south of Hawley-41.3862 N, 74.9758 W

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center, 6735 Rt. 220, 7 miles south of Dushore-41.439228 N, 76.4646 W

Southeast Region

Berks County – Southeast Region Office
Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10 a.m.- 7 p.m.

PENNSYLVANIA'S BIG GAME SCORING PROGRAM

Each year, deer, bear and elk that are among the largest ever to be harvested in Pennsylvania are added to the Pennsylvania Big Game Records book.

Now those hunters and trophy owners who have a listing in the record book also may purchase an Exclusive Member Big Game Records patch.

Patches are \$9.43, plus \$2.95 shipping, plus sales tax. Funds from the sale of these patches are used to support the state's Big Game Scoring Program.

To order, call 1-888-888-3459 or visit www.HuntFish.PA.gov.

The 2023 records book becomes available in October, and costs \$10, plus \$2.95 shipping, plus 6 percent sales tax.

To enter a big game animal, or for more information about the Game Commission's Big Game Scoring Program, contact Boone & Crockett Club certified scorer and coordinator of Pennsylvania's program Bob D'Angelo at rdangelo@pa.gov or call the Game Commission Harrisburg Headquarters.



BEAR CHECK STATIONS

EXTENDED FIREARMS SEASON CHECK STATIONS

See preceding page for specific location information if not provided

Northcentral Region

Lycoming County – Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy., Jersey Shore - 41.1911 N, 77.2315 W
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday 11/27-12/1, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/2, Noon-7 p.m.

Tioga County – SGL 208 Headquarters Building, 1749 Rt. 349, Gaines – 41.8007 N, 77.5721 W
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Southcentral Region

Huntingdon County – SGL 322 Building
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Northeast Region

Carbon County – SGL 141 Maintenance Building
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Lackawanna County – Fleetville Fire Company
Saturday through Saturday 11/25-12/2, Noon- 7 p.m.

Northeast Region (continued)

Luzerne County – Northeast Region Office
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday 11/27-12/1, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Monroe County – SGL 127 Building
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Pike County – SGL 180 Shohola Building
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Southeast Region

Berks County – Southeast Region Office
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday 11/27-12/1, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Saturday 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

Dauphin County – Game Commission Headquarters
Saturday 11/25 & Sunday 11/26, Noon- 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday 11/27-12/1, 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Saturday 12/2, Noon - 7 p.m.

JUNIOR HUNTS Beginning Sept. 9

YOUNG HUNTERS HAVE EARLY CHANCES TO PURSUE SQUIRRELS, RABBITS & PHEASANTS

Junior **squirrel** season: Sept. 9-23.

Junior **rabbit** season: Sept. 30-Oct. 14.

Junior **pheasant** season: Oct. 7-14.

- Junior hunters and mentored hunters under 17 must be accompanied by an adult as required by law.
- A hunting license is not required to hunt squirrels or rabbits if the participant has successfully completed a Hunter-Trapper Education course. However, a young hunter must hold a junior hunting license or mentored youth permit to obtain the free permit that's needed to hunt pheasants. These are available online or from any issuing agent.
- Hunters must abide by the **same bag limits and regulations** as during the regular season.
- Resident and nonresident junior hunting license holders and mentored hunters under 17 must obtain a **free** junior pheasant hunting permit to hunt pheasants.
- Junior pheasant hunt stocking locations are listed online at www.pgc.pa.gov, or can be obtained by contacting the Centralized Dispatch Center. Although pheasants may be hunted statewide (except in WPRAs) during the Junior Pheasant Hunt, birds will be stocked at specific locations. About 15,000 pheasants are stocked statewide before the Junior Pheasant Hunt.

SQUIRREL

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT

Sept. 9-23

STATEWIDE

Sept. 9-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

1 2

PHEASANT

2 daily, 6 possession

JUNIOR HUNT

Oct. 7-14

STATEWIDE

Oct. 21-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

1 2

RABBIT

4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT

Sept. 30-Oct. 14

STATEWIDE

Oct. 14-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-Feb. 29

1 2

GROUSE

2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE

Oct. 14-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23

1 2

BOBWHITE QUAIL

No Limit

STATEWIDE

Sept. 1-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-23
Dec. 26-March 30

1 2

CROW

No Limit

STATEWIDE

Aug. 24-March 24
*Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays,
Sundays only*

1 2

WOODCHUCK

No Limit

STATEWIDE

July 1-June 29
*Except during regular
firearms deer seasons*

1 2

SNOWSHOE HARE

1 daily, 3 possession

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 1

ARMS & AMMUNITION

1) Manually operated and semiautomatic 10-gauge or less shotguns with a capacity of no more than 3 shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Manually operated and semi-automatic rifles and manually operated handguns 22-caliber rimfire or less; 3) Air-guns for small game in calibers from .177 to .22, for woodchucks at least 22-caliber, that propel a single-projectile or bullet. BB ammunition is prohibited. 4) Muzzleloading rifles and handguns 40-caliber or less, and shotguns 10-gauge or less; and 5) Long, recurve and compound bows and arrows, and crossbows. Single-projectile ammunition, or fine shot pellets no larger than No. 4 lead, bismuth-tin, or tungsten-iron, or other approved non-toxic shot or No. 2 steel. There is no restriction on magazine capacity for semiautomatic rifles used to hunt small game.

Note: Rifle and handgun caliber restrictions (except air-guns) do not apply when hunting woodchucks.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Small game and porcupine hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange at all times on the head, chest and back combined. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent orange cap on the head. Orange must be visible 360 degrees. No orange is required for crow hunters.

PHEASANT PERMIT REQUIRED

All adult hunters and some senior hunters who pursue pheasants in Pennsylvania are required to purchase a pheasant permit in addition to a general hunting license. The permit costs \$26.97 and must be signed and carried while hunting pheasants. Senior lifetime resident hunting or senior lifetime resident combination license holders who acquired their licenses **prior to May 13, 2017** are **exempt** from needing a pheasant permit. **Junior hunters and mentored permit holders under 17** need a **FREE permit**.

PHEASANT HUNTING

Pheasant hunting is open statewide during the Junior Hunt, Oct. 7-14. Junior Hunt stocking locations are available at www.pgc.pa.gov. Hunters statewide may hunt pheasants from Oct. 21-Nov. 24, Dec. 11-23, and Dec. 26-Feb. 29. Male and female pheasants may be taken in all WMUs.

PHEASANT STOCKING

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle if its occupants are releasing pheasants.

WILD PHEASANT RECOVERY AREAS

There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area (WPRAs), except as authorized by executive order. All other small game species can be hunted in WPRAs when in season. Dog training is now permitted in WPRAs. For WPRAs boundaries, visit www.pgc.pa.gov.

HUNTING PARTIES

It is unlawful to hunt small game in a party of more than six persons. This does not apply to waterfowl or dove hunters when hunting from a blind or other stationary positions.

TRANSPORTING SMALL GAME

Small game may be transported untagged by the owner. Small game unaccompanied by the owner must be labeled with the name, address, CID number and signature of the owner.

NO CLOSED SEASON, NO OPEN SEASON

English sparrows and European starlings may be taken in unlimited numbers, but cannot be hunted during the regular firearms deer season. There is no open season for pine martens or sharp-tailed grouse.



WE'RE HIRING

As your state wildlife agency, we are proud to have some of the most dedicated and passionate conservationists in the country who work to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.



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WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A general hunting license or mentored permit is required.

To hunt waterfowl, persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp, and it must be signed across the face and carried by the hunter. The Electronic Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp, is valid in Pennsylvania, and stamps can be purchased through HuntFishPA.

In addition, all hunters must have a Pennsylvania Migratory Game Bird License to hunt ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. Mentored hunters can purchase migratory game bird licenses and use them to hunt any migratory game bird species authorized for mentored hunting. This license may be obtained from any license issuing agent, or through <https://HuntFish.PA.gov>.

To hunt light geese in the conservation season, hunters must purchase a conservation season permit and submit a mandatory report on their hunting activity and harvest. For more information, visit www.pgc.pa.gov, or call 1-833-PGC-HUNT.

ARMS & AMMUNITION

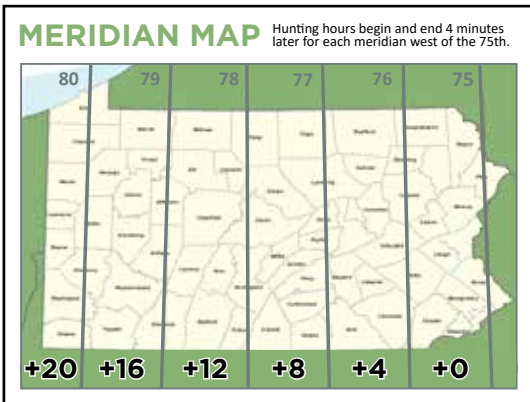
1) Manual and semiautomatic shotguns no larger than 10-gauge with a capacity limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Long, recurve and compound bows and arrows; and crossbows. Only non-toxic fine shot up to and including size T (.20 inches) is lawful for waterfowl. It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl with lead shot.

HUNTING PARTIES

Waterfowl and dove hunters can hunt in a party of more than six persons as long as they are hunting from a blind or stationary position.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours for the **entire dove season** are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. Hunting hours during the **September Canada goose season**, and the **light-goose conservation season**, are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. However, hunting hours for all waterfowl end at sunset on Youth Waterfowl Days. Hours for **all other migratory bird seasons** are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.



**SEE HUNTING HOURS PAGE
FOR FULL-SIZE MAP**

RESTRICTIONS

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. By using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 30 days after the removal of the bait.

DECOYS

Electronic decoys can be used to hunt waterfowl, doves and crows.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Not required for waterfowl and dove hunters.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE

Dates	Begin A.M.	END P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	END P.M.
June 25 - July 1	5:05	8:33	Dec. 31 - Jan. 6	6:53	4:46
July 2 - 8	5:09	8:32	Jan. 7 - 13	6:53	4:51
July 9 - 15	5:14	8:29	Jan. 14 - 20	6:51	4:58
July 16 - 22	5:20	8:24	Jan. 21 - 27	6:48	5:06
July 23 - 29	5:26	8:17	Jan. 28 - Feb. 3	6:43	5:14
July 30 - Aug. 5	5:33	8:10	Feb. 4 - 10	6:37	5:23
Aug. 6 - 12	5:39	8:01	Feb. 11 - 17	6:29	5:31
Aug. 13 - 19	5:46	7:51	Feb. 18 - 24	6:20	5:39
Aug. 20 - 26	5:53	7:41	Feb. 25 - March 2	6:10	5:48
Aug. 27 - Sept. 2	6:00	7:30	March 3 - 9	6:00	5:55
Sept. 3 - 9	6:06	7:19	March 10 - 16 *	6:49	7:03
Sept. 10 - 16	6:12	7:08	March 17 - 23	6:38	7:10
Sept. 17 - 23	6:19	6:56	March 24 - 30	6:27	7:17
Sept. 24 - 30	6:26	6:45	March 31 - April 6	6:15	7:24
Oct. 1 - 7	6:33	6:34	April 7 - 13	6:04	7:32
Oct. 8 - 14	6:40	6:23	April 14 - 20	5:53	7:39
Oct. 15 - 21	6:47	6:13	April 21 - 27	5:43	7:46
Oct. 22 - 28	6:55	6:03	April 28 - May 4	5:35	7:53
Oct. 29 - Nov. 4	7:03	5:55	May 5 - 11	5:25	8:00
Nov. 5 - 11 **	6:11	4:48	May 12 - 18	5:18	8:07
Nov. 12 - 18	6:19	4:42	May 19 - 25	5:11	8:13
Nov. 19 - 25	6:27	4:38	May 26 - June 1	5:07	8:19
Nov. 26 - Dec. 2	6:34	4:36	June 2 - 8	5:03	8:24
Dec. 3 - 9	6:40	4:35	June 9 - 15	5:02	8:29
Dec. 10 - 16	6:46	4:36	June 16 - 22	5:02	8:32
Dec. 17 - 23	6:50	4:40	June 23 - 30	5:05	8:33
Dec. 24 - 30	6:52	4:44	Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**		

Add the minutes from the Meridian Map to the begin/end times on this table.

DUCKS, MERGANSERS & COOTS

Seasons for **Ducks, Sea Ducks, Coots and Mergansers** run concurrently, but each of the state's four zones has its own **opening and closing dates**. Waterfowl hunting is closed on Sundays.

LAKE ERIE ZONE

Nov. 6-Jan. 13

2 scaup daily, Nov. 6-28 and 1 scaup daily, Nov. 29-Jan. 13

1 scaup daily, Oct. 7-Nov. 22
2 scaup daily, Nov. 23-Dec. 2 and Dec. 26-Jan. 6

NORTHWEST ZONE

Oct. 7-Dec. 2
Dec. 26-Jan. 6

NORTH ZONE

Oct. 7-21
Nov. 14-Jan. 6

1 scaup daily, Oct. 7-21 and Nov. 14-Dec. 14
2 scaup daily, Dec. 15-Jan. 6

SCAUP LIMITS

Hunters may take 2 scaup daily on 20 hunting days and 1 scaup daily on 40 hunting days. Season dates vary by zone and are shown on this map.

SOUTH ZONE

Oct. 7-14
Nov. 21-Jan. 20

1 scaup daily, Oct. 7-14 and Nov. 21-Dec. 28
2 scaup daily, Dec. 29-Jan. 20

DUCKS & SEA DUCKS 6 daily, 18 in possession

The daily bag limit of six ducks or sea ducks is combined for any species with an open season, except for the following restrictions. Only 4 sea ducks may be taken daily. Daily limit may not include more than:

- 4 mallards
**No more than 2 hens*
- 1 scaup (2 scaup at times)
- 2 black ducks
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 redheads
- 2 canvasbacks
- 1 pintail

SEA DUCKS

- 3 eiders
** No more than 1 hen*
- 3 scoters
- 3 long-tailed ducks

Possession limits are triple the daily limits.
There is no open season for Harlequin Ducks

MERGANSERS

5 daily, 15 in possession

Hooded mergansers are now part of overall merganser limit.

COOTS

15 daily, 45 in possession

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARIES

Lake Erie Zone

Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie shoreline.

Northwest Zone

The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford counties and all of Mercer and Venango counties north of I-80.

North Zone

The area east of the Northwest Zone and north of I-80 to Route 220, north from I-80 to I-180, north and east of I-180 from Route 220 to I-80, north of I-80 from I-180 to the Delaware River.

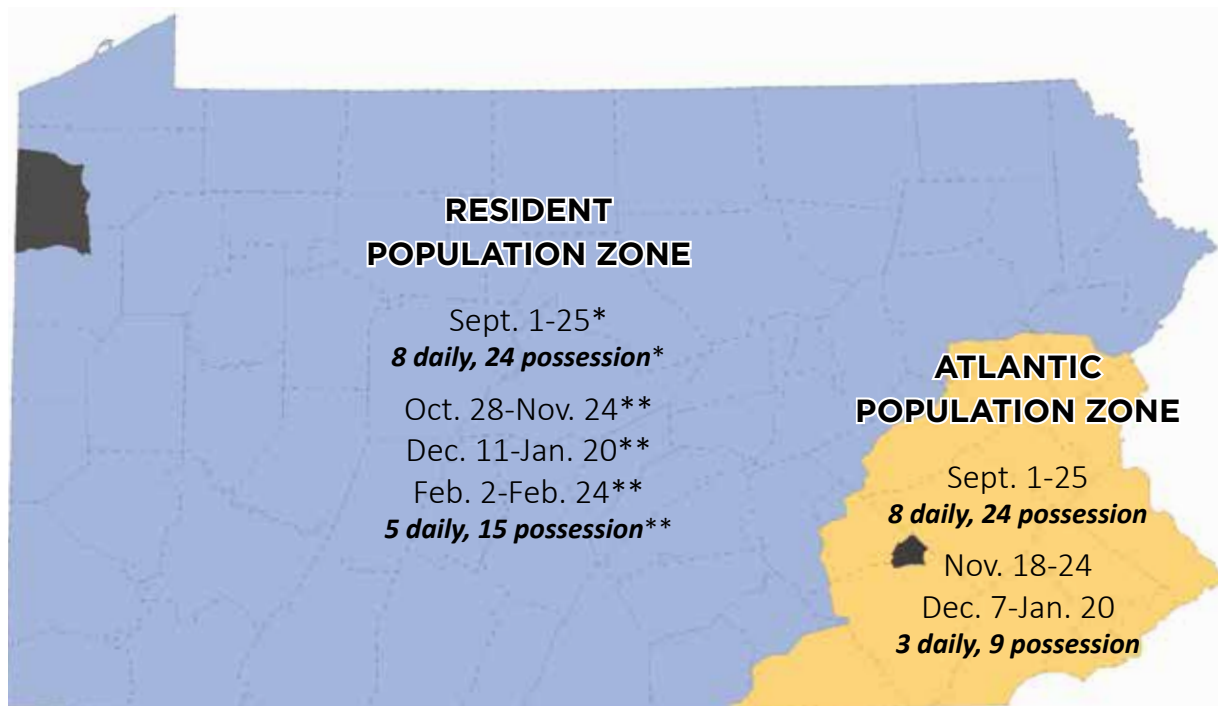
South Zone

All of state not in the Lake Erie, Northwest and North Zones.

Canada Goose hunting is open statewide, but season lengths and bag limits vary by zone.

Seasons for Canada geese include white-fronted geese.

Waterfowl hunting is closed on Sundays.



* In western Crawford County & northwestern Mercer County, the season runs from Sept. 1-16 with a daily limit of 1 and possession limit of 3.

** In western Crawford County & northwestern Mercer County, the daily limit is 3 and possession limit is 9.

EXCEPTIONS

Detailed maps of described areas available at www.pgc.pa.gov

September Season

1.) In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of I-79, west of I-79 to SR 358 to the Ohio state line. The season is Sept. 1-16. The daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 214 where the season is closed to September goose hunting.

2.) In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, the daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

Note: The above exception area restrictions do not apply to youth participation on the September youth waterfowl day in the public hunting areas of SGL 214 and SGL 46. The Controlled Hunting Areas within the Wildlife Management Areas of SGL 214 and SGL 46 remain closed to September goose hunting. Hunting hours for all migratory birds, including Canada geese, close at sunset on youth waterfowl days.

Regular Season

Areas in the public hunting sections of SGL 46 (Middle Creek WMA) in Lebanon and Lancaster counties that are outside of the controlled goose hunting areas have a daily limit of 1, and a possession limit of 3 during the regular Canada goose season. Areas inside of the controlled goose hunting areas of SGL 46 (Middle Creek WMA) have a season limit of one.

GOOSE ZONE BOUNDARIES

Atlantic Population Zone

The area east of SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of US Route 30, south of US Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of I-81 to intersection of I-80, south of I-80 to New Jersey state line.

Resident Population Zone

All of Pennsylvania except for the Atlantic Population Zone.

Southern James Bay Population Zone

This zone has been dissolved and its area incorporated into the resident population zone due to a shift in migration patterns. However, different bag limits, and in some cases different seasons, continue to apply in parts of Crawford and Mercer counties.

LIGHT GEESE, BRANT & WEBLESS

LIGHT GEESE (Snow Geese & Ross' Geese)

25 daily, no possession limit

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 24-Feb. 24

CONSERVATION SEASON
Feb. 26-April 26

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 2-Jan. 27

CONSERVATION SEASON
Jan. 29-April 26

CONSERVATION SEASON

During the conservation season, recorded or amplified calls or sounds are permitted. Hunters need a Conservation Season permit (also known as a snow goose permit; \$1.97 transaction fee), a federal duck stamp, and a Pennsylvania Migratory Game Bird License.

WEBLESS BIRDS & BRANT

BRANT

1 daily, 3 possession
Federal duck stamp needed

BOTH GOOSE ZONES
Oct. 14-Nov. 17

WOODCOCK

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 14-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-20

GALLINULES

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 21

VIRGINIA & SORA RAILS

3 daily, 9 possession
Bag limit singly or combined

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 21
*Clapper and King Rail hunting
is closed statewide.*

Except for crows,
migratory bird hunting
is closed on Sundays.

WILSON'S SNIPE

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 14-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-20

DOVES

15 daily, 45 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 24
Dec. 19-Jan. 6

LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED BY LAW

Nov. 1 To April 30

All boaters, including waterfowl hunters, must wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length, or on any canoe or kayak during the cold-weather period from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Recreational boating fatalities that occur in Pennsylvania from November through April are primarily caused by the effects of cold-water immersion.

When water temperatures are less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit, cold-water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities.

Victims who wear a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages, such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy for victims who are unable to tread water and reduced risk of aspiration of water.

In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities related to cold-water immersion, the Fish & Boat Commission has amended regulations to require life jackets to be worn on small and unstable boats during the period most noted for cold-water temperatures.

For other times of the year and on other types and sizes of boats, all boaters are required to have properly fitted personal flotation devices readily accessible. For more information on boating laws and safety, visit www.fishandboat.com.

YOUTH, VETERANS AND MILITARY DAYS

Licensed junior and mentored youth hunters, military veterans and active military personnel can hunt ducks, mergansers, brant, coots, gallinules and Canada geese during selected days. Hunters 16 or older need a federal duck stamp to participate. All hunters need a Pennsylvania migratory game bird license. Regular season bag limits and other restrictions apply. Check www.pgc.pa.gov for more details.

Statewide

Youth only – Sept. 23

North Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Nov. 4

Veterans and active military only – Jan. 13

Northwest Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Dec. 16

Veterans and active military only – Jan. 13

Lake Erie Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Oct. 28

Veterans and active military only – Jan. 20

South Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Nov. 11

Veterans and active military only – Jan. 27

SPECIAL HUNTS, INTERACTIVE MAP

DRAWING FOR SPECIAL HUNTS



This year is Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area's 50th Anniversary. Middle Creek opened its doors in October 1973, but didn't offer its first waterfowl hunting opportunities until 1974, when 25 hunters were drawn to hunt Canada geese.

THE GAME COMMISSION conducts several special hunts at the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area in Crawford County and the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster counties.

These consist of waterfowl, archery deer, muzzleloader deer and adult mentored hunts at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, and goose, youth turkey, archery deer and muzzleloader deer hunts at Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area. Permittees to hunt these areas are selected only by drawings held prior to the hunting season. Individuals can apply for a hunt at no cost but must hold an active license or permit, or have in their "cart" at the time of application. Applications may be submitted online at HuntFishPA or at any Game Commission region office or the agency's Harrisburg headquarters.

For more information on these hunts and how to apply, please visit the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

Hunters are encouraged to frequently check the website for the most up to date information regarding the special hunt programs.

DISCOVER THE PA HUNTING INTERACTIVE MAP

Visit www.hunting.pa.gov

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission have teamed up to create a new interactive map specifically for hunters. Collectively, state forest land and state game lands offer more than 3.7 million acres open to hunting in Pennsylvania.

Hunters can use this map to:

- View public lands open to hunting.
- Search hunting seasons and bag limits across different parts of the state.
- Display hunting hours (starting and ending times) across different parts of the state.
- Add personal GPS data to the map (GPS waypoints and tracklogs).
- View different types of wildlife habitat across public forest lands, including mature oak forests, meadows, food plots, openings, winter thermal (coniferous) cover and young aspen forest.
- See where recent timber harvests have occurred on public forest lands.
- Get Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) information for state forest land.
- Add map layers associated with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- Identify bear check station locations and get driving directions.
- Display and get information on the elk hunt zones.
- Add the locations of gated roads opened for hunters on public forest lands and when those gates will be opened.
- Analyze graphs and trends in antlerless/antlered deer harvests, and antlerless license allocations from 2004 to the present.

SWANS

Mute swans are non-native and not protected under state or federal law. Hunters may harvest mute swans and they do not count as part of the daily bag. Taking mute swans on private property requires landowner permission. Mute swans have an orange bill with a black fleshy knob on top of the feather line. Mute swans do not feed in fields and are encountered only in wetlands. Native tundra and trumpeter swans are protected. They have a black bill and commonly are found in fields and wetlands. Sandhill cranes are likely to be present in certain areas and are protected.



Mute Swan

Trumpeter Swan

Tundra Swan

REPORT BANDED BIRDS

Hunters can report bird bands online at www.reportband.gov. In addition to band numbers, information requested includes when, where and what species of waterfowl were killed. The age and sex of the bird and where it was banded will be provided to the hunter by email. Online reporting provides better data quality and lowers costs.

HUNTING

Foxes and coyotes may be hunted on all Sundays within their open seasons.

COYOTES

No Limit
No closed season, with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

① ② ③

RACCOONS & FOXES

No Limit
Oct. 21-Feb. 17

① ② ③

OPOSSUMS, STRIPED SKUNKS & WEASELS

No Limit
July 1-June 29
with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

① ②

BOBCATS

1 per license year
Jan. 6-31

WMUS 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Permit required

PORCUPINES

3 daily, 10 season
Oct. 7-Nov. 24
Dec. 11-Dec. 23
Dec. 26-Jan. 27

① ②

Porcupines may not be hunted at night.

TRAPPING

A furtaker license is needed to trap all furbearers, including coyotes.

FOXES & COYOTES

No Limit

GENERAL

Oct. 21-Feb. 18

CABLE RESTRAINTS

Dec. 26-Feb. 18

RACCOONS, OPOSSUMS STRIPED SKUNKS & WEASELS

No Limit
Oct. 21-Feb. 18

MINKS & MUSKRATS

No Limit
Nov. 18-Jan. 7

BEAVERS

Dec. 16-March 31, 2024

WMUS 1A & 1B

(Combined) 20 daily, 60 per season

WMUS 2A, 2B & 3C

(Combined) 20 daily, 40 per season

WMUS 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C & 5D

(Combined) 20 daily, 20 per season

WMUS 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A & 5B

(Combined), 5 daily, 5 per season

BOBCATS

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 16-Jan. 7

WMUS 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

FISHERS

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 16-31

WMUS 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

RIVER OTTERS

1 per license year with permit
Feb. 10-17

WMUS 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D & 4E

LICENSES AND PERMITS

A **furtaker license** is not required to hunt coyotes, unless you are out of big-game tags then you'd need a furtaker license, but is required to trap them. Porcupines may be hunted with a **hunting or furtaker license**. A furtaker license is required to take any other furbearer by hunting or trapping. In addition to a furtaker license, **permits** are required for bobcat, fisher and otter.

FIREARMS WHILE TRAPPING

To dispatch trapped animals during deer season, trappers are limited to semiautomatic or manually operated 22-caliber rimfire or smaller rifles, manually operated 22-caliber or smaller rimfire handguns, or manually operated or semiautomatic air- or gas-operated rifles, manually operated handguns, that are 177- to 22-caliber. Persons under 12 may use a 22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle, but only when accompanied by an adult.

FIREARMS FOR HUNTING FURBEARERS

It is unlawful to take furbearers, including bobcats, with shotguns using shot larger than size No. 4 buckshot, or implements that are not lawful firearms, bows or crossbows. Semiautomatic and manually operated rifles, manually operated handguns of any caliber, manual or semiautomatic shotguns and, bows and crossbows can be used. Muzzleloading rifles or handguns that propel single-projectile ammunition can be used. Air- or gas-operated firearms of at least 22-caliber and propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet can be used. Persons hunting coyotes, foxes, bobcats, raccoons, striped skunks,

opossums and weasels may use gun-mounted lights that do not project a laser-light beam, as well as handheld and sporting-arm mounted night-vision and infrared (thermal) optics.

COYOTES

There is no closed season for the hunting of coyotes. Coyotes may be hunted on Sundays throughout the year. There are additional requirements for hunting coyotes during big-game seasons.

Outside of Any Big Game Season

- Coyotes may be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker license and without wearing orange.

During Any Big Game Season

- Coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (big-game orange requirements must be followed) or with a furtaker license.

Bait and Devices

- Natural or manmade nonliving bait and any electronic or mechanical device may be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

Bait Visible From the Air

- It is unlawful to bait a trap with meat, animal products or their facsimiles if the bait is visible from the air. Those **hunting coyotes**, however, may hunt over bait visible from the air.

FOXES AND RACCOONS

Foxes and raccoons may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during the regular firearms deer season, when they may be hunted **only after the legal hours for deer**. Foxes may be hunted on Sundays throughout the season.

SETTING TRAPS

It is unlawful to 1) stake or set traps prior to 7 a.m. on the first day; 2) set traps within 5 feet of a hole or den, except for underwater sets; 3) use pole traps, jaw-toothed traps, deadfalls, poison, explosives, chemicals, or traps with a jaw-spread exceeding 6½ inches as measured to the outside of the jaw; 4) set body-gripping traps outside a watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam; 5) set a trap not marked with one durable identification tag attached to either the trap or chain showing the first and last name and address of the trapper, or a number issued by the Game Commission; 6) set a trap with bait visible from the air; 7) smoke or dig out a den or house or cut den trees; 8) disturb traps or remove any wildlife from the traps of another without specific permission; and 9) on the closing day, fail to remove traps by sunset.

TENDING TRAPS

Traps must be visited by the owner once every 36 hours, and each animal removed or released.

POSSESSION

It is unlawful to 1) possess green pelts (not dried, cured or tanned), except during open season and for 10 days thereafter; 2) possess live, wild furbearers, except foxes, for which a permit must be issued by the Game Commission; and 3) buy, sell or possess furbearers or parts unlawfully taken, transported, imported, exported or improperly tagged.

EXPORTING/IMPORTING FURS

It is unlawful to ship furs or harvested furbearers outside the state unless an official "Shipping Tag" is properly attached. Tags are available from Game Commission offices and licensed fur dealers. Furs and furbearers taken outside of Pennsylvania must be tagged according to laws of the state or country where harvested.

UNLAWFUL DEVICES

It is unlawful to take furbearers through the use of fish hooks, snagging hooks or any other hooks of similar design, or implements that are not lawful traps.

DOGS

Dogs are permitted to hunt furbearers.

FOOT-ENCAPSULATING TRAP

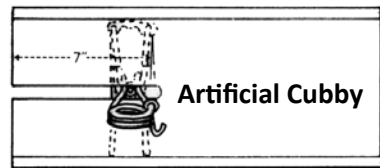
A device that has all triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing that, once set, allows access to the triggering and restraining mechanisms through a single opening not to exceed 2 inches in diameter or diagonally and is anchored by a swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism. Encapsulating traps may be used to harvest furbearers during legal seasons.

CAGE AND BOX TRAPS

Cage and box traps can be used to take furbearers, however it is unlawful to 1) use a cage or box trap in water; and 2) use a cage or box trap capable of capturing more than one animal at a time.

ARTIFICIAL CUBBY

A baited enclosure constructed of natural or artificial material that is designed to house and corral a furbearer into a body-gripping trap. Furtakers are permitted to trap furbearers using body-gripping traps set in artificial cubbies when all of the following conditions are met: 1) The artificial cubby is placed within an established watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam. 2) The entrance to the artificial cubby does not exceed 50 square inches. 3) Traps are no larger than 6½ x 6½ inches. 4) The triggering mechanism of the trap is recessed within the artificial cubby at least 7 inches from the entrance. 5) The artificial cubby is anchored in a manner that it cannot be moved or rolled. *Note: Requirements 2 through 5 shall not apply to body-gripping traps that are 5½ inches or less and set in artificial cubbies to target mink or muskrat.*



Cubby entrance cannot exceed 50 inches. Traps cannot exceed 6½ by 6½ inches. Trap trigger mechanism must be recessed at least 7 inches from the cubby entrance.

APPROVED CABLE RESTRAINT & SNARE LOCKS INCLUDE:



Reichart 180-Degree Reverse Bend Washer



Penny Lock



Berkshire 90-Degree Bend Washer



Micro Lock



BMI Slide Free Lock



Kaatz "Relax-a-Lock"

CERTIFICATION NEEDED

To view cable restraint training course schedules, visit www.pgc.pa.gov, or contact the Game Commission's Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.

Trappers shall keep the certificate from the training course in possession while setting or checking sets using cable restraints, and present the certificate upon the request of a game warden.

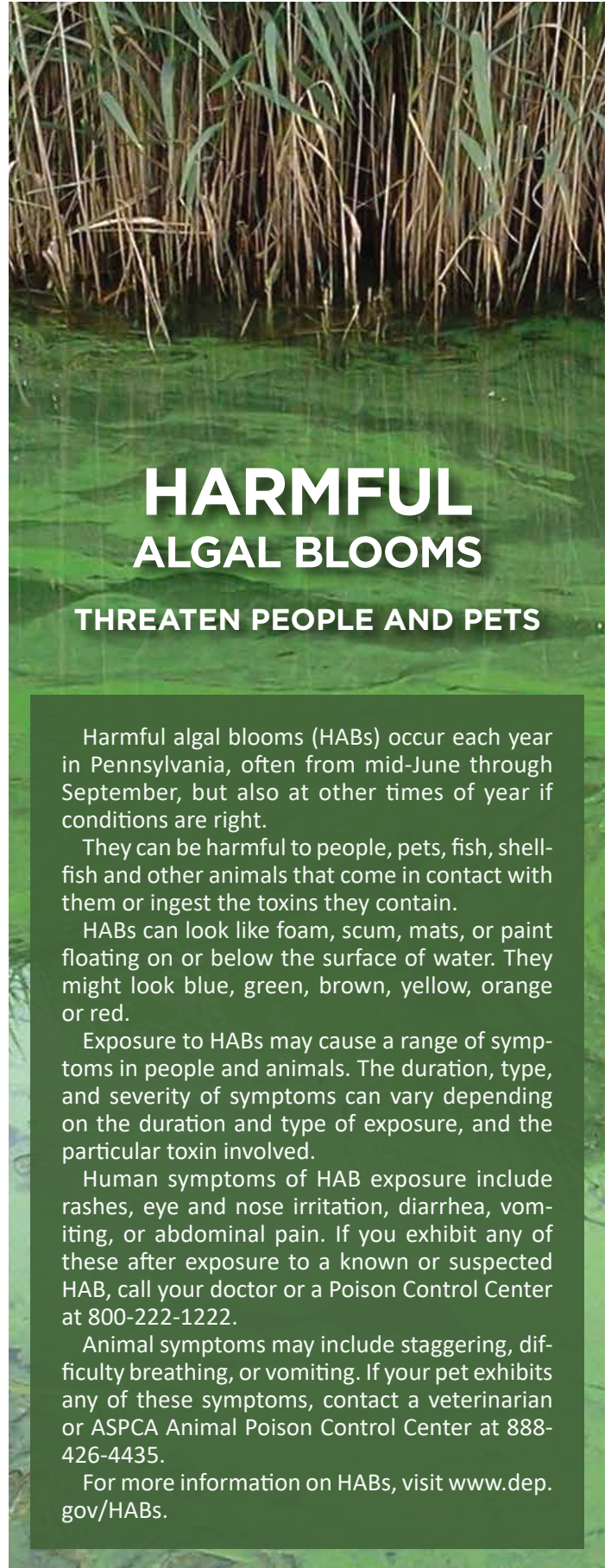
In addition to the certificate, those using cable restraints must possess a valid furtaker license, or qualify for license and fee exemptions under Section 2706 of the act relating to resident license and fee exemptions, or qualify for trapping exceptions under Section 2363 of the act relating to trapping exceptions for certain persons.

CABLE RESTRAINT REGULATIONS

- Cable restraints are permitted only for foxes and coyotes during late winter periods (Dec. 26-Feb. 18, 2024), when freezing conditions render traditional methods ineffective.
- Cable restraints must be made of a galvanized stranded steel cable with a diameter of not less than 3/32 of an inch. The cable must be constructed of 7 bundles of 7 wires per bundle (7x7), 7 bundles of 19 wires per bundle (7x19), or 1 bundle comprised of 19 wires (1X19). The cable may not exceed 7 feet in length from the anchor point to the lock contacting the fully closed loop stop, must be equipped with at least one swivel device (which allows for 360-degree rotation) between the loop and the anchor, and must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the circumference of the cable that makes up the loop may not be greater than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed. Cable restraint loops must be set so that the bottom of the loop is no less than 6 and no greater than 12 inches above the first surface beneath the cable restraint. Cable restraints must be equipped with an approved lock, and the lock may not be constructed with moving parts.
- A cable restraint must include a breakaway device affixed between the lock and cable or at the end of the cable that is rated at 375 pounds or less.
- A cable must be maintained so that all components operate properly.
- Cable restraints must be anchored to prevent the animal from moving the restraint from place of capture.
- Cable restraints may not be set where entanglement may occur or where the animal may become suspended.
- Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has a license or permit for that furbearer.
- Bobcats may not be taken in cable restraints during the bobcat hunting season. Other wildlife mistakenly killed with cable restraints must be reported to the Centralized Dispatch Center to have a game warden respond, 1-833-PGC-HUNT.

CABLE RESTRAINT & SNARE LOCKS

Approved cable restraint and snare locks include: Reichart 180-Degree Reverse Bend Washer, Kaatz "Relax-a-Lock", Berkshire 90-Degree Bend Washer, and Micro, BMI Slide Free and Penny locks.



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

THREATEN PEOPLE AND PETS

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) occur each year in Pennsylvania, often from mid-June through September, but also at other times of year if conditions are right.

They can be harmful to people, pets, fish, shellfish and other animals that come in contact with them or ingest the toxins they contain.

HABs can look like foam, scum, mats, or paint floating on or below the surface of water. They might look blue, green, brown, yellow, orange or red.

Exposure to HABs may cause a range of symptoms in people and animals. The duration, type, and severity of symptoms can vary depending on the duration and type of exposure, and the particular toxin involved.

Human symptoms of HAB exposure include rashes, eye and nose irritation, diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. If you exhibit any of these after exposure to a known or suspected HAB, call your doctor or a Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222.

Animal symptoms may include staggering, difficulty breathing, or vomiting. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, contact a veterinarian or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

For more information on HABs, visit www.dep.gov/HABs.

BOBCATS, FISHERS, BEAVERS, OTTERS

BOBCAT, FISHER AND OTTER PERMITS

Bobcats, fishers and river otters can be taken only by furtakers holding valid species-specific permits. All furtakers may purchase one permit for each species during the 2023-24 season. Furtakers may take no more than one animal with each permit. Each permit costs \$6.97. Harvests must be reported.

PERMIT PURCHASES

Bobcat permits, fisher permits and otter permits are available through any license issuing agent and through HuntFishPA on the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov. Permits must be purchased before the start of each respective season. **Bobcat and fisher permits must be purchased before Dec. 16. Otter permits must be purchased before Feb. 10.**

If You Harvest a Bobcat or Fisher

A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall, immediately before removing the animal from the harvest site, fully complete and attach to the animal the harvest tag furnished with the permit. The tag shall remain attached to the animal until it is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. A Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag automatically will be issued for bobcats that may be exported or sold. A CITES tag is not required for a fisher pelt. Within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat, fisher, or otter, a permit holder must report the harvest to the Game Commission through <https://HuntFish.PA.gov>, or by calling 1-800-838-4431.

If You Harvest an Otter

Before removing an otter from the location where it was caught, successful permit holders must immediately complete and attach to the otter the carcass tag furnished with the permit, and report their harvest within 48 hours through <https://HuntFish.PA.gov>, or by calling 1-800-838-4431. The harvest tag must remain attached to the otter until a plastic CITES tag is attached, if applicable, or the animal is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. For research purposes, the Game Commission may ask some successful otter trappers to surrender the carcass of their otter within 30 days.

Beaver and Otter Regulations

In addition to general trapping regulations, it is unlawful to: 1) destroy, disturb or interfere with a beaver dam or house; 2) use other than raw, native wood and stone materials to direct the travel of beavers or otters (manmade materials may be used only to support traps or snares); 3) place, check, reset or tend a trap or snare on an established beaver dam or beaver house, or within 15 feet of either a dam or a house. Measurement shall be from directly above the trap or snare, across the water, ice or land to the nearest point of the structure; 4) check or maintain a beaver or otter trap, or remove a beaver or otter unless the person who owns the trap is present; 5) set body-gripping traps larger than 10 inches tall by 12 inches wide.

TRAPPING DEVICE LIMITATIONS

A legal snare for beaver and otter trapping must be looped galvanized stranded steel cable 3/32 inches in diameter, equipped with the approved locks required for cable restraints. A metal ferrule shall be crimped on the cable to prevent the snare loop from closing to a circumference less than 7 inches. It is unlawful

to equip snares with a spring-activating mechanism or any device designed to aid in closing the snare loop. Snares used for taking beavers must be set completely or partially submerged in water within a waterway, watercourse, marsh, pond or dam. There must be one durable identification tag attached to each trap or snare by means of an extension wire of sufficient length so that the name tag or identification number is completely above the water or ice level and totally visible. The tag must list the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or a number issued by the Game Commission.

The number of trapping devices allowed for beaver and otter trapping differs depending on furbearer species, WMU trapped, and beaver/otter season overlap.

Otter Trapping

It is unlawful for otter trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

Beaver Trapping During Otter Season

Where beaver season overlaps with otter season by calendar date within WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D & 4E, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

Beaver Trapping

Where no overlap of otter and beaver seasons occurs by both calendar date and WMU, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined statewide total of 20 traps or snares, no more than 10 of which may be traps. No more than two of the traps may be body-gripping traps, except in WMUs where beaver bag limits are 40 per season all 10 traps may be body-gripping traps. In WMUs where beaver bag limits are 60 per season, all 20 traps or snares may be body-gripping traps.

BEAVER SEASON LIMIT

Trappers may legally take up to 125 beavers with the combined harvest in multiple Wildlife Management Units in a season. When trapping in multiple WMUs, a trapper may set or tend up to 10 traps, up to 20 snares, and not more than a total of 20 devices statewide. Beavers or pelts do not need to be tagged.

AVOIDING ACCIDENTAL OTTER CAPTURES

Trappers are urged to learn to identify otter sign and, where otters exist, to adopt the following recommendations to avoid the accidental capture of otters while trapping beavers:

- When using snares, set snare loops at 10 to 12 inches in diameter.
- Use baited sets for beavers where feasible.
- Avoid main channels in ponds and primary crossings where otter sign is present.

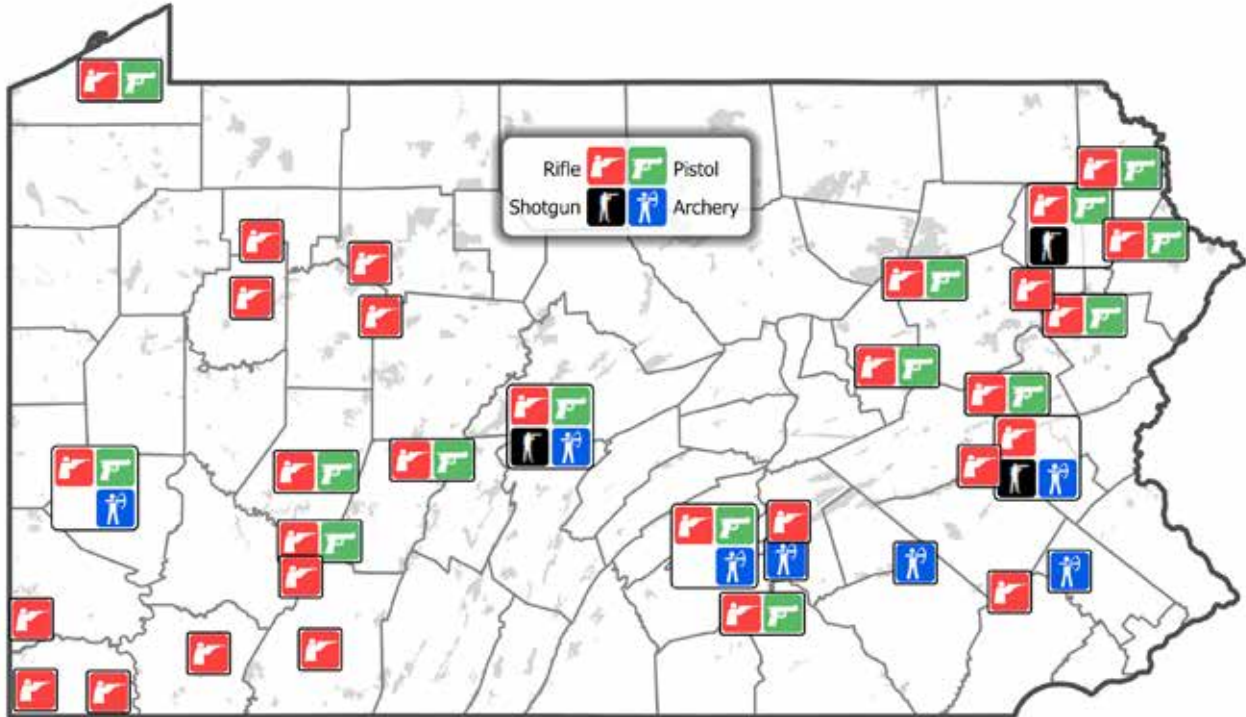
If an otter is captured accidentally, report it to the local game warden through the Centralized Dispatch Center at 1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD.



PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION MAINTAINS PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES ACROSS THE STATE FOR YOUR SHOOTING ENJOYMENT.

- ENJOY FREE ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES WITH YOUR CURRENT PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL HUNTING OR FURTKAKER LICENSE.
- NOT A CURRENT LICENSE HOLDER? USE THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE AN ANNUAL RANGE USE PERMIT.
- *NO LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED TO USE ARCHERY-ONLY RANGES.



NEW RANGES AND UPGRADES PLANNED FOR 2023

- | | |
|---|---|
| SGL #50 Archery - Somerset County | SGL # 109 Archery - Erie County |
| SGL #127 Rifle/Pistol - Monroe County | SGL #216 Archery - Lawrence County |
| SGL #141 Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun - Carbon County | SGL #205 Pistol - Lehigh County |
| SGL #159 Rifle/Pistol - Wayne County | SGL #180 Archery - Pike County |
| SGL #176 Rifle/Pistol/Archery/Shotgun - Centre County | SGL #248 Rifle/Shotgun - Indiana County |
| SGL #206 Rifle/Pistol - Luzerne County | |

RANGE RULES

Archery Range Regulations

1. Archery ranges are open from sunrise until sunset.
2. Individuals or groups using the range shall be responsible for keeping the area clean and free of debris and may not discard, deposit, leave or throw litter. Targets must be removed and discarded in an appropriate manner after use.
3. Arrows with broadheads may only be utilized on targets designated for broadhead use.
4. Individuals using the range do so at their own risk and assume all responsibility for injuries to persons or property caused by or to them.
5. An individual under sixteen (16) years of age may not use the range unless accompanied by a person eighteen (18) years of age or older.
6. When more than one person is using the range, a range officer shall be designated.
7. Individuals may not use the range when it is reserved and being used by an organized group.
8. Ranges may be reserved by organized groups from January 1 through September 1 after making arrangements through the appropriate Pennsylvania Game Commission Regional Office at least 20 days in advance and securing the appropriate permit.

9. Designated Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel may close a range by posting signs to that effect. An individual or organized group may not use the range during any period when it is posted as closed.

Shooting Range Regulations

1. Rifle and handgun ranges are open from 8:00 AM, prevailing time until sunset Monday through Saturday and from 12 Noon to sunset Sundays, unless otherwise posted; except the Sunday immediately preceding and any Sunday throughout the duration of the regular firearms deer seasons and regular firearms bear seasons, when the hours shall be 8:00 AM to sunset.
2. Individuals using the range shall be responsible for keeping the area clean and free of debris, may not discard, deposit, leave or throw litter and shall remove targets from range backboards prior to leaving range.
3. The Commission is not responsible for anyone injured on the range.
4. Individuals using the range do so at their own risk and assume all responsibility for injuries to persons or property caused by or to them.
5. When more than one person is using the range, a range officer shall be designated.
6. An individual under sixteen (16) years of age may not use the range unless accompanied by a person eighteen (18) years of age or older.
7. The Regional Director or designee may close the range by posting signs to that effect.

ARCHERY SEASON

Sept. 16-30

GENERAL SEASON

Oct. 30-Nov. 4

LATE SEASON

Dec. 30-Jan. 6, 2024

Seasons occur in designated Elk Hunt Zones within the Elk Management Area. Elk hunting is closed on Sundays.

ARMS & AMMUNITION

Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 26 caliber that propel single-projectile ammunition 120 grains or larger. Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns at least 12-gauge firing a single projectile. Muzzleloading firearms at least 50 caliber propelling a single projectile weighing at least 210 grains. A bow with a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds. Any arrow, or crossbow bolt, with a broadhead that has a fixed or mechanical tip having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 1 inch, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches. Crossbows must have a minimum peak draw weight of 125 pounds.

DRIVING & FEEDING ELK

It is unlawful to drive or herd elk. It is unlawful to feed elk at any time of year.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Except during the archery season, elk hunters and those accompanying them must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange, visible 360 degrees, on the head, chest and back combined. Camouflage-fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches.

TAGGING, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A successful hunter must attach the tag to the ear of an elk immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests an elk must take it, along with his or her hunting license and elk license, to a Game Commission check station. Hunters will receive instructions for the location and hours of the elk check station in the mail prior to the season.

ELK GUIDES

Elk guides are an optional service available to licensed elk hunters. Elk guides are regulated by the Game Commission and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and offer various services to the hunter.

2023 ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION

Hunt Zone	Archery Antlered	Archery Antlerless	General Antlered	General Antlerless	Late Antlered	Late Antlerless	Total
1	OPEN TO ALL HUNTERS WITH A VALID ELK LICENSE						
2	0	0	3	3	2	2	10
3	1	1	2	4	1	3	12
4	1	1	3	4	1	3	13
5	2	1	3	5	1	2	14
6	0	0	2	2	1	2	7
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
8	0	0	2	2	1	2	7
9	2	1	2	3	1	2	11
10	2	1	3	4	1	3	14
11	2	0	2	1	2	1	8
12	4	1	4	6	2	4	21
13	2	1	2	4	2	2	13
14	2	1	2	4	2	3	14
Total	18	8	30	42	17	29	144

APPLY FOR AN ELK LICENSE

AN ELK LICENSE IS REQUIRED TO HUNT ELK.

There are 14 established Elk Hunt Zones for which antlered and antlerless elk licenses may be allocated each year. Licenses are awarded by lottery.

There are now three elk seasons with three separate drawings and “bucket” of bonus points. Available to residents and nonresidents, with or without a current hunting or combination license, who wish to be entered into one, two or all three drawings for elk licenses, or would like to continue to accumulate points for later drawings. Only one elk license application per elk season may be submitted each license year for a total of three applications eligible for license purchase in each license year. Those who obtain an elk license are permitted to participate in the drawn season, within a designated Elk Hunt Zone. EHZ 1 is open to all hunters with a valid elk license. Hunters are limited to harvesting one antlered or one antlerless elk, depending on the license they obtain, during the hunting license year.

HOW TO APPLY:

- 1) To apply online, go to <https://HuntFish.PA.gov>, and log into your account or create a new profile. Applications will be accepted through midnight July 16, 2023. It costs \$11.97 to apply, and application fees are nonrefundable. Hunters can also go to HuntFish.PA.gov to check on the status of an elk application and review their bonus points.
- 2) Application may also be made at Point of Sale hunting license agent locations.

Nonresidents have an equal opportunity in the drawing. If drawn, a Pennsylvania resident may purchase an elk license for \$25; nonresidents \$250. Individuals drawn for an antlered license are not eligible to apply again for five additional years; individuals drawn for an antlerless license can continue to apply the following season. Successful applicants must obtain a Pennsylvania general hunting license for the appropriate license year. Unsuccessful applicants earn bonus points for future drawings. Licenses are assigned according to the drawn hunter’s application preferences. Maps and descriptions of the elk hunt zones can be found on the Game Commission website (www.pgc.pa.gov). Hunters may choose up to five elk hunt zones, and may select a fallback option. If a hunter is drawn and his or her preferred elk hunt zone choices are already filled, if the fallback option was selected, he or she will be assigned to the next available elk hunt zone. If a person submits more than one application per elk season, all of his or her applications will become ineligible, and he or she will be subject to prosecution. This year’s elk license drawing is on July 29, 2023 at the Elk Country Visitor Center near Winslow Hill in Benezette Township.

Elk Management Area map, Elk Hunt Zone descriptions and check station information can be found on the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov.



PENNSYLVANIA ELK HUNTS



LEARN MORE



THREE SEASONS

ARCHERY SEASON
SEPT 16 - 30

GENERAL SEASON
OCT 30 - NOV 4

LATE SEASON
DEC 30 - JAN 6, 2024

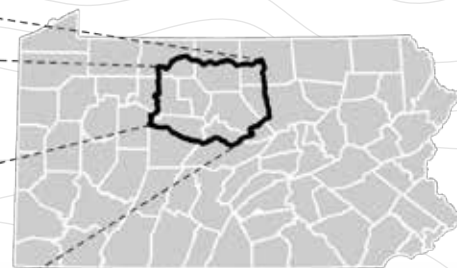
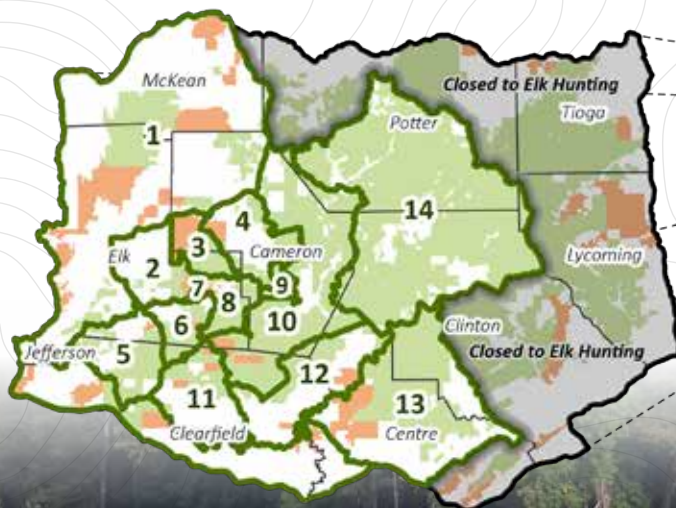


APPLICATION FEE ONLY \$11.97 PER SEASON
OR APPLY FOR ALL 3 FOR \$35.91

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 16, 2023

APPLY AT TIME OF HUNTING LICENSE PURCHASE OR VISIT US AT WWW.HUNTFISH.PA.GOV

ELK MANAGEMENT AREA BOUNDARY



- Elk Hunt Zones
- Elk Management Area
- County Boundary
- State Forests & State Parks
- State Game Land Boundary



Pennsylvania is home to the largest wild elk herd in the northeastern United States. As many as 1,400 elk freely roam across 3,000 square miles in the northcentral region of the state, mostly within Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Clearfield and Centre counties.

PENNSYLVANIA ELK HUNT ZONES

Those applying for elk licenses can select which zones they would like to hunt. Big bulls, as well as a huntable population of elk, can be found in each of the 14 zones. Below is a brief synopsis of the zones. Elk hunters are encouraged to spend some time in Pennsylvania's elk country to become familiar with the area in advance of the hunting seasons.

ELK HUNT ZONE 1: This zone is open to any licensed elk hunter; therefore, it does not appear as a selectable option for elk license applications. Located on the western and southern edge of the elk range, this zone is a buffer between the primary elk range and boundary of the elk management area. The agency's goal with this zone is to prevent elk from dispersing out of the elk management area. The elk use this zone sporadically; most of the elk in this zone reside on a few private properties. If you plan on hunting this zone, a great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge and/or the use of an outfitter is advised.

ELK HUNT ZONE 2: Located on areas of State Game Lands (SGL) 311 and the Elk State Forest, both of which provide good hunting opportunities, this zone historically contains a large number of elk. There are also elk on privately-owned land in this zone, some of which is open to hunting. Due to the high elk population and good public access, this zone is a good choice for any hunter.

ELK HUNT ZONE 3: Located nearly entirely on SGL 14 and the Elk State Forest, this zone also has a healthy population of elk. Extensive habitat work was recently completed on SGL 14 and the Elk State Forest contains managed openings, too. Some of the better areas may require walking a few miles, including a several hundred feet of elevation gain, so it helps to be in good physical shape to hunt this area. Due to the extensive amount of public land, this is a good area for all hunters.

ELK HUNT ZONE 4: Located on a mix of public and private land, with one large private land holding open to public hunting, this zone contains good access throughout the area and holds a good population of elk. Access to some of the private farms may increase hunter success, but huntable populations of elk can be found on accessible public and private land.

ELK HUNT ZONE 5: Located on a mix of public and private land, the elk population in this zone is fair and there are high human/elk conflicts, especially in and around Weedville. The elk tend to be nomadic in this area and most of the successful hunters have harvested elk on private land. A great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge, and/or the use of an outfitter is advised for this zone.

ELK HUNT ZONE 6: Located on a mix of public and private land, this zone has a good population of elk that mostly reside along the Bennett Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek. Since this area is largely private, a great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge, and/or the use of an outfitter is advised.

ELK HUNT ZONE 7: Closed to elk hunting.

ELK HUNT ZONE 8: Located on a mix of public and private land, this zone has a good population of elk which tend to live on the private lands along the Bennett Branch, as well as on

SGL 311 and the Elk State Forest, in the northwest corner of the zone. There are enough elk on public land that a self-guided hunter could be successful, but a great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge, and/or the use of an outfitter is advised for this zone.

ELK HUNT ZONE 9: Located on a mix of public and private land, this zone is small and most of the elk have been harvested on private farms along the stream bottom. This is not a remote hunt, as cabins and homes are prevalent in this zone. It can be a frustrating hunt, as elk tend to move in and out of the zone. Since most elk are harvested on private land, a great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge, and/or the use of an outfitter is advised for this zone.

ELK HUNT ZONE 10: Located on a great deal of public land, this zone is large and contains a good population of elk. Elk can be found across the Quehanna Plateau, along the First Fork and the Main Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek. There is plenty of public land that holds elk and some of the better areas require a few miles of walking, so it helps to be in good physical shape to hunt this zone. Due to the extensive amount of public land, this is a good area for all hunters.

ELK HUNT ZONE 11: Located on a mix of public and private land, the elk population in this zone is fair. The elk tend to be nomadic in this area and most of the successful hunters harvested them on private land. Because of this, a great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge, and/or the use of an outfitter is advised for this zone.

ELK HUNT ZONE 12: Located on a mix of public and private land, including areas of SGL 321, SGL 100 and the Moshannon State Forest, there is a high population of elk in this zone with good hunting opportunities. There are also elk on private lands, so a great deal of preseason scouting, local knowledge, and/or the use of an outfitter is advised for this zone. This is a good area for all hunters.

ELK HUNT ZONE 13: Located on a mix of public and private land, the elk population is growing and they can be found on SGL 100 and the Sproul State Forest. Extensive habitat work was recently completed on SGL 100. Some of the better areas require a few miles of walking, so it helps to be in good physical shape to hunt this zone. Due to the extensive amount of public land, this is a good area for all hunters.

ELK HUNT ZONE 14: Located on a mix of public and private land, the elk population is growing and the elk mostly occur in the Kettle Creek Valley. Due to the high elk population and good access to public land, this zone is a good choice for any hunter.

More information about the elk herd and elk hunting can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Have you heard about the HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM?



The Game Commission has been working with private landowners to increase wildlife populations, hunting territory and improve habitat on private lands for more than 80 years. The Hunter Access Program has evolved into a statewide cooperative with more than 10,000 private land parcels enrolled.

Enrolled landowners are required to provide reasonable access for hunting and trapping and retain the right to regulate hunter and season access. In exchange for access, cooperating landowners receive benefits including: increased law enforcement presence; free seedlings for wildlife food and habitat; free habitat management plans; free nest boxes; free *Game News*; and liability protection through the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act.

Learn more about the Hunter Access Program and use the Game Commission Mapping Center to find a local cooperator— www.pgc.pa.gov

Pennsylvania
Game Commission



Visit www.ExperienceElkCountry.com to purchase your ticket or for more information.



Tenth Anniversary 2023

PA ELK TAG RAFFLE



Get your tickets now! for a chance to win the 10th annual Conservation Elk Tag package. With a cost of only \$25 (6 tickets for \$100), any hunter has a chance to win this once-in-a-lifetime hunt! The drawing will be held at the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, PA on Sunday July 30th at 1PM, during the 2023 Elk Expo. Winner of the special tag will receive a hunting package including:

- CHANCE AT A RECORD 400+ CLASS BULL
- 56 DAY HUNTING SEASON
- HUNT ACROSS ANY OPEN ELK HUNT ZONE



100% of KECA's proceeds from ticket sales directly benefit Pennsylvania's Elk Country. Winner DOES NOT have to be in attendance at drawing. Winner's hunt will have the option to be filmed for national television. Trochey Lodge will donate and provide fully guided hunt. Meat processing by Country Butcher and a shoulder mount are included. Full details are available on KECA's website.

Tag awarded by



REPORTING A VIOLATION

YOU CAN HELP STOP WILDLIFE CRIMES

If you have witnessed activity you suspect violates the law, immediately note as many details as possible. The more information you provide, the faster a violator can be caught and prosecuted. Callers anywhere in Pennsylvania now may report by dialing

1-833-PGC-HUNT (1-833-742-4868) or
1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453)

Here are some tips:

- Gather as much information as possible.
- Get an accurate physical description and any other pertinent information. Try to secure names and addresses of other witnesses, and any information they may have about the violation or suspect.
- What type of violation was it, and when (date and time) and where did it occur?
- What wildlife was involved (species), and how many and where are they now?
- Describe the suspect's vehicle: license number, make, year, color and any other distinguishing features such as dented fenders or other noticeable damage.
- Note other physical evidence, such as hides, entrails, firearms, cartridge cases, etc. Note type and make of firearms involved. Do you know if the illegal game will be moved soon – when and where?

POACHERS ARE THIEVES HELP US CATCH THEM!

Have you witnessed a wildlife crime involving deer, turkey, bear or elk, or a species that is protected, endangered or threatened?

Call Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – to report wildlife violations, or fill out an Operation Game Thief Reporting Form online.

Calls phoned in to Operation Game Thief at **1-888-PGC-8001** always are answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide your contact information in case officers have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. However, some tips that lead to convictions might qualify for monetary rewards, and callers must provide contact information in order to claim them.

Wildlife crimes affect us all. Be a conservation hero, report wildlife crimes involving big game, or threatened, endangered or protected species to Operation Game Thief. Other violations should be reported to the region office serving that county.

The Game Commission joined the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact in 2011, which is an agreement that authorizes states to recognize the suspension of hunting and furtaking privileges in member states.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A PENNSYLVANIA HUNTER



ENJOY 2 MONTHS FREE OF ONX HUNT ELITE!



REDEEM BY AUGUST 31, 2023



NATIONWIDE + CANADA ACCESS TO ONX HUNT
ACCESS TO DISCOUNTS FROM TRUSTED PARTNERS



HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

PENNSYLVANIA'S STATEWIDE VENISON DONATION PROGRAM



MORE THAN 2 MILLION
POUNDS DONATED SINCE 1991



1 DEER = 200 SERVINGS



FOR EVERY \$25 DONATED,
100 MEALS CAN BE SERVED

FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP HSH

1. **DONATE YOUR DEER** at no charge, thanks to HSH sponsors and partners.
2. **GIVE A BUCK TO THE POT** with your monetary donation (scan the QR code).
3. **SPONSOR** to help offset program costs and show that your business supports HSH.
4. **VOLUNTEER AS AN AREA COORDINATOR** to help HSH expand its mission in your county.
5. **BE A PARTICIPATING PROCESSOR!** The lifeblood of HSH is its processors, and more are needed statewide!



SCAN TO DONATE



PROUD
PARTNER

LEARN MORE AT WWW.SHAREDEER.ORG

Phone: 866-HSH-2141 (866-474-2141)
Facebook: @HuntersSharingTheHarvest
Instagram: @hunterssharingtheharvest

Randy K. Ferguson, Executive Director
218 Vernon Road, Greenville, PA 16125
Email: info@sharedeer.org

Monetary donations can be mailed to Hunters Sharing the Harvest, 218 Vernon Road, Greenville, PA 16125. HSH is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of HSH may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



STAY CONNECTED

"FOLLOW" THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



Connect with us on social media and YOUR next harvest or outdoor memory could be HERE!

 Official Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaGameCommission>

 Official Instagram Page
<https://www.instagram.com/PAGameComm>
@PAGameComm

 Official Twitter Page
<https://www.twitter.com/PAGameComm>
@PAGameComm

 Official LinkedIn Page
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/pennsylvania-game-commission>

 Official YouTube Page
<https://www.youtube.com/PAGameCommission>

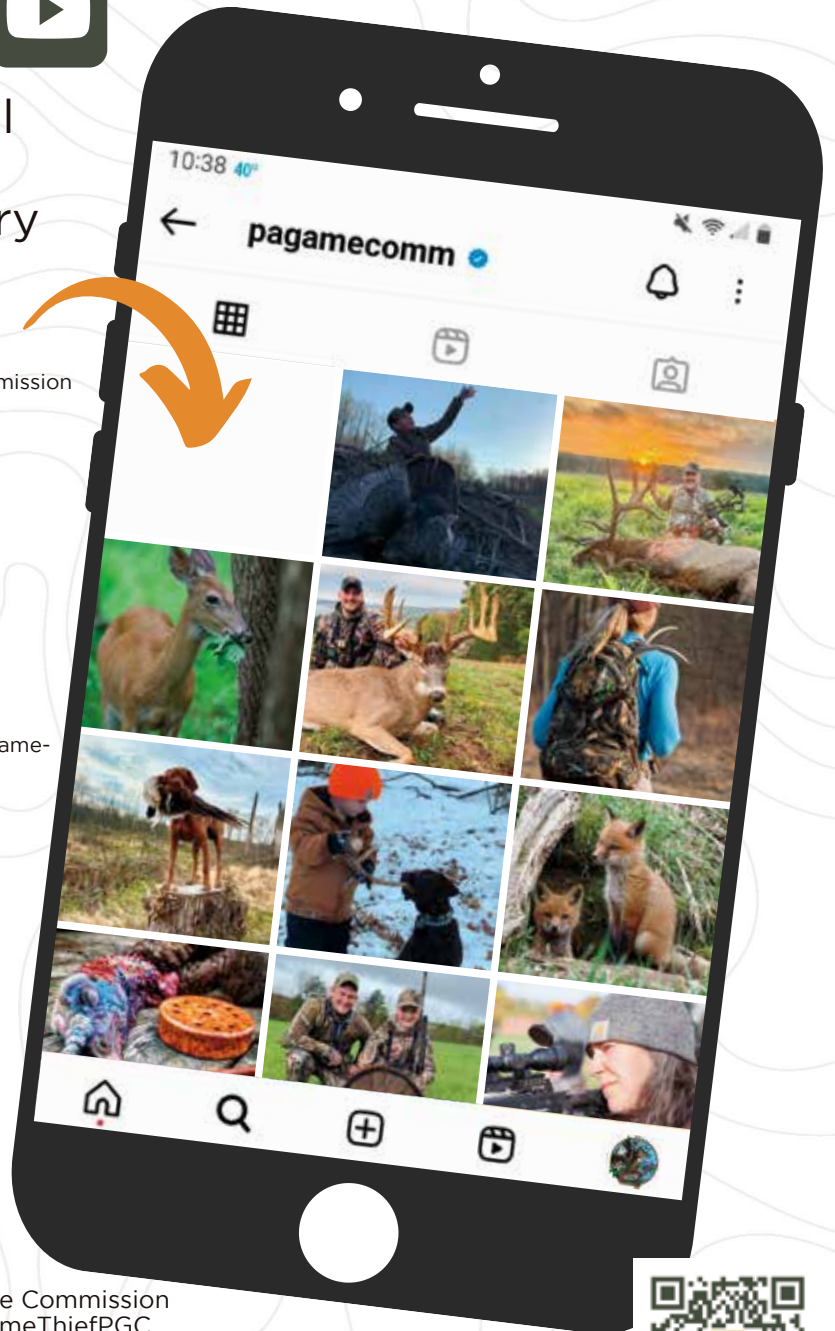
GET UPDATES FROM OUR OTHER GAME COMMISSION FACEBOOK PAGES



Pennsylvania NASP
<https://www.facebook.com/PennNASP>



Operation Game Thief, Pennsylvania Game Commission
<https://www.facebook.com/OperationGameThiefPGC>



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PGC.PA.GOV

LICENSE INFORMATION

LICENSE REQUIRED

A current hunting license is required and must be in possession to hunt, take or kill any wildlife in Pennsylvania not classified as a furbearer. A current furtaker license is required to hunt, trap, take or kill any furbearer (coyotes and porcupines are the exceptions). A license is valid July 1 to the following June 30. For waterfowl license requirements refer to migratory bird section in this digest.

DIGITAL LICENSE

HuntFishPA provides the option for hunters and trappers to carry afield electronic versions of licenses they buy, as an alternative to carrying certain paper licenses. Harvest tags will continue to be issued in physical form on green durable stock, and harvest tags need to be carried afield when hunting in big-game seasons or trapping in seasons where harvest tags are used. Hunters and trappers buying licenses online will continue to be mailed all durable-stock license panels, including harvest tags, and will also be given access to eLicenses. Those buying licenses from an issuing agent will be issued harvest tags at the time of purchase and will have the opportunity to have digital licenses provided through email. No signature is required on digital licenses. The license buyer attests to a statement, which serves in place of a signature.

VALIDITY OF LICENSES

Only one hunting or furtaker license shall be valid during any license year. Any replacement license, or purchase of a second or subsequent license shall immediately invalidate any license of the same kind that had been previously issued.

LICENSE TRANSFERS

Hunting and furtaker licenses are nontransferable and non-refundable. It is unlawful to possess another's hunting license or big game tags, with the exception of mentored hunters under age 7.

TRAINING CERTIFICATE - HUNTING

Persons who have not held a hunting license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation, or do not possess a training certificate, are required to attain certification in an accredited hunter-trapper education program before applying for a hunting license. These provisions do not apply to a person presenting 1) evidence of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard and discharge or separation under honorable conditions within six months of application, or 2) evidence that the person is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

TRAINING CERTIFICATE - TRAPPING

Persons applying for a furtaker license must present to the issuing agent one of the following: 1) evidence that the applicant has held a trapping or furtaker license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation; 2) a certificate of training; 3) an affidavit that applicant completed a voluntary trapping course sanctioned by the Game Commission, or 4) the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers within the last five years. These provisions do not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbearers under direct supervision of a licensed adult furtaker at least 18 years old. Trappers must be certified to use Cable Restraints.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED WHEN HUNTING

While afield, hunters and trappers are required to carry their appropriate licenses as well as cards or papers, which must be shown to a game warden or landowner upon request, to confirm identification and residency.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY

Proof of Pennsylvania residency must be shown to obtain a resident hunting or furtaker license. Persons must be domiciled in Pennsylvania at least 30 consecutive days prior to application. Valid Pennsylvania driver's license, certain Pennsylvania and local tax receipts, and other positive means indicating residency may be used. A change in residency status from resident to nonresident or from nonresident to resident automatically invalidates a person's hunting or furtaking license 30 days after the change in status unless the licensee completes and submits a change in residency form.

PURCHASING LICENSES ONLINE

Individuals may purchase most licenses and permits online at www.HuntFish.PA.gov, except for disabled veteran lifetime and landowner antlerless licenses. All harvest tag panels are mailed to those who purchase their licenses online, and these must be possessed afield when hunting in a season where tagging game is required. Buyers will have licenses with harvest tags mailed to them with the ability to print a digital copy without big game harvest tags from home. A *Hunting & Trapping Digest* is mailed with base licenses purchased online. Licenses are normally received within 7-10 business days. Please contact the License Division directly at 717-787-2084 if you have not received your license within 14 business days.

JUNIOR LICENSES AND HUNTERS

Persons under 17 years of age must have their parent or legal guardian's approval to purchase a general hunting, combination or furtaker license. Junior hunters who wish to hunt in the archery and/or muzzleloader seasons, must purchase a combination license. These add-on licenses may not be added to a general junior hunting license. Eleven-year-olds who have successfully completed a required Hunter-Trapper Education course may apply for a Junior License if they will be 12 years old by June 30 of the license year. They may not lawfully hunt with the license prior to their 12th birthday. Persons 12 and 13 must be accompanied by an adult member of the family (at least 18), or by an adult serving in place of a parent. Persons 14 and 15 must be accompanied by any adult 18 or older. Sixteen-year-olds may hunt alone. Persons who turn 17 after purchasing a junior license can still hunt that year with the Junior License. It is unlawful while accompanying junior hunters under 16 to be out of sight of or unable to physically or verbally control the junior hunter or fail to comply with the fluorescent orange requirements. Verbal instructions given through the use of an electronic or other sound amplification device does not meet this requirement.

BEAR LICENSES

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (the 4th Monday in June) through the end of bear season.

REPLACEMENT TRAINING CERTIFICATE

Information about obtaining a replacement Hunter Education Training Certificate, can be found online at www.pgc.pa.gov or www.ilostmycard.com.

UNLICENSED PERSONS

An unlicensed person may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper provided that the unlicensed person acts as only an observer and does not, in any manner, participate in hunting or trapping. Any unlicensed person accompanying a licensed hunter must wear the required amount of fluorescent orange. A person

LICENSE INFORMATION

who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state must remain in sight of and close to the hunter, who must be at least 18 years of age. An unlicensed person may not possess a firearm, bow, or other hunting device. An unlicensed person who accompanies any hunting party shall be counted as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed members. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed persons must not exceed 1:1.

RESIDENT LANDOWNER HUNTING LICENSE

An eligible landowner who owns 80 or more contiguous acres open to public hunting in a Cooperative Hunter Access Program, or a designated immediate family member living in the same household, is entitled to a Landowner Hunting License. Applicants must have their PGC Cooperative Hunter Access Program agreement number when applying.

LANDOWNER ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE

An eligible landowner who owns 50 or more contiguous acres within a county is entitled to one antlerless deer license for the WMU where the land is located at the prescribed fee (\$6.97 for residents, \$26.97 for nonresidents). If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the desired WMU. A landowner must keep the property open to public hunting and trapping year-round. The Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit is available from county treasurers, PGC offices, and online. Applicants must apply directly to the county treasurer where the acreage is located. Landowners may apply beginning June 20, and through the license year, as long as the WMU has available licenses.

SENIOR LIFETIME LICENSE HOLDERS

Lifetime licenses must be renewed each year. If you have not purchased or renewed your Senior Lifetime License through HuntFishPA, you will need to provide your SSN when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you do not have or cannot remember your CID. All Senior Lifetime and Senior Lifetime Combination License holders who purchased prior to May 13, 2017 are exempt from the Pheasant Permit. "Pheasant Eligible" will be located on the bottom panel of the license if a hunter does not have to purchase a pheasant permit. You will need to provide proof of residency when renewing your license, usually through a valid Pennsylvania driver's license.

RESIDENT MILITARY PERSONNEL LICENSE

To qualify for a general hunting license for \$2.97, applicants must meet all of the following requirements: 1) be a resident of Pennsylvania; 2) be on active and full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the U.S. Coast Guard; 3) be currently assigned to a facility outside Pennsylvania; and 4) be on temporary leave in Pennsylvania.

RESIDENT NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES

Reduced fee \$2.97 general hunting licenses are available to residents serving in the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Reserves who, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 60 consecutive days or more, or were released early from such service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment.

RESIDENT PRISONERS OF WAR

Reduced fee \$2.97 general hunting licenses also are available to residents who are former Prisoners of War, certified to have

been imprisoned by enemy forces while in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces.

REQUIRED ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL DOCUMENTATION

Residents applying for any of the Armed Services licenses must provide official documentation, from the branch in which they serve, to prove eligibility in the form of orders, leave documents, military ID, and in the case of POWs, a DD214. All of these licenses, except for the POWs (county treasurers and PGC offices sell POWs), are available from any issuing agent and online platform. If the applicant cannot apply in person, he or she may submit to the Game Commission office or county treasurer a written request, including full name, legal address, telephone number, date of birth, height, eye color and documentation verifying Pennsylvania residency and military orders and, for the POW license, a copy of DD214 stating Prisoner of War status. Applicant must include a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope with the request. Online applications will include questions to self-validate.

DISABLED WAR VETERANS

All three resident disabled veteran classifications must provide documentation from the Veterans Administration specifying percentage of disability and confirming disability is service-related or is a loss of use of one or more limbs to acquire these licenses. All resident disabled veteran licensees with 100% permanent disability can apply for free Lifetime Hunting and Lifetime Furtaking licenses at County Treasurer locations only. Free hunting and furtaking licenses for Resident Disabled Veterans with 100% service-incurred disability (not lifetime); Resident Disabled Veterans with 60-99% service-incurred disability rating license is \$2.97. These license types can be purchased at County Treasurer locations, Game Commission offices and online at www.HuntFish.PA.gov. Applicants must provide documentation from the Veterans Administrations. If you have questions, call the License Division at 717-787-2084.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD LICENSES

All persons are required to have a Migratory Game Bird License to hunt waterfowl, including the conservation season, and migratory birds including doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. Unless issued as a digital license, the license must be signed in ink and carried by the hunter.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

In addition to Migratory Game Bird License, all persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. It must be signed in ink across the face and carried by the hunter. It is not necessary to display the stamp. These stamps can be purchased online at www.HuntFish.PA.gov or over the counter at any issuing agent. You will receive a stamp in the mail, but you can hunt with the temporary license issued at the time of purchase. Your temporary license is good for 45 consecutive days. If not received within 30 days, please contact the vendor, Amplex at 1-800-852-4897.

SPECIAL SECOND SPRING GOBBLER LICENSE

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (the 4th Monday in June) until the day before (May 3) the spring gobbler season.

ELK LICENSE APPLICATION

Hunters may apply to enter the drawings for an elk license one time per license year, either online or at an issuing agent. The

LICENSE INFORMATION

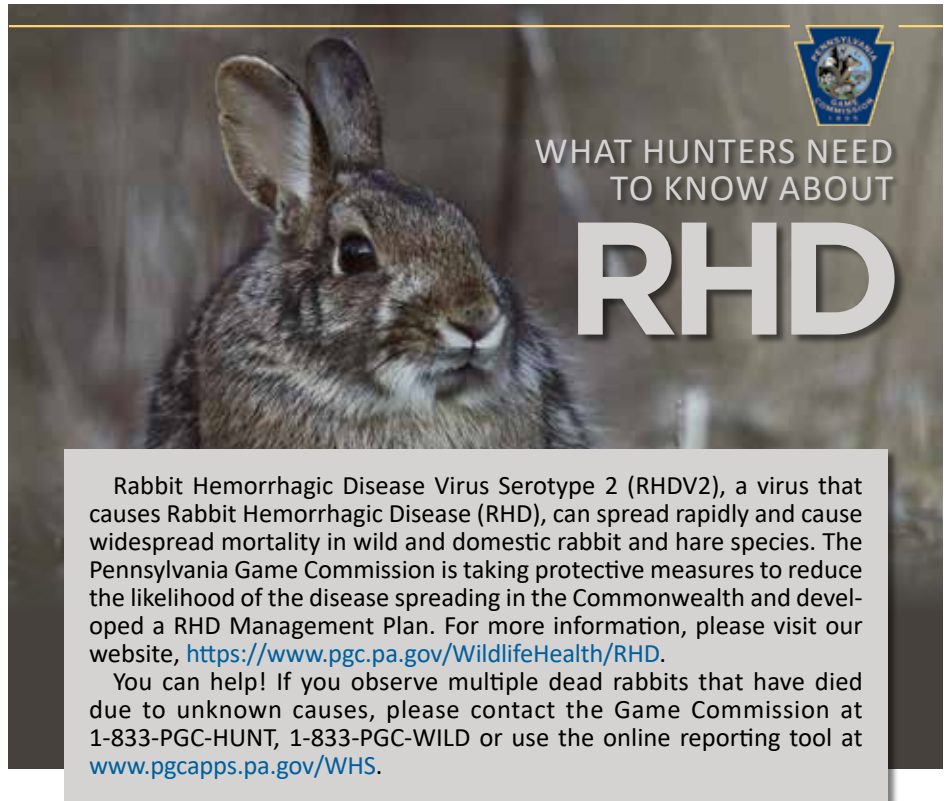
elk application can be purchased from the start of the license sales (the 4th Monday in June) until the application deadline. Refer to the "Elk Section" in this digest for detailed information.

REPLACEMENT LICENSES

If a hunting or furtaker license has been lost or destroyed, a replacement license may be purchased for \$6.97, per privilege, over-the-counter at any issuing agent or online at www.pgc.pa.gov by clicking on "Buy a License." A lost or destroyed antlerless license can only be replaced through a county treasurer. County treasurers can issue replacement antlerless deer licenses for any WMU.

UNCOLLECTIBLE CHECKS

If a check issued in payment of any fee or fine is returned uncollectible, the person who makes, issues or presents it will be charged a \$25 fee, in addition to any costs of prosecution or penalties assessed. Any license, permit or privilege granted by an uncollectible check shall be invalid until all applicable fees are paid.



WHAT HUNTERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
RHD

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2), a virus that causes Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD), can spread rapidly and cause widespread mortality in wild and domestic rabbit and hare species. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is taking protective measures to reduce the likelihood of the disease spreading in the Commonwealth and developed a RHD Management Plan. For more information, please visit our website, <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/WildlifeHealth/RHD>.

You can help! If you observe multiple dead rabbits that have died due to unknown causes, please contact the Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-HUNT, 1-833-PGC-WILD or use the online reporting tool at www.pgcapps.pa.gov/WHS.



STAY INFORMED!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IN

HUNT *Fish* PA



By having your contact information up-to-date in HuntFishPA, you can stay informed on all of the latest news from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

THE FOLLOWING LICENSES, PERMITS AND SPECIAL-DRAW APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL ISSUING AGENTS INCLUDING COUNTY TREASURERS, GAME COMMISSION OFFICES AND ONLINE.

LICENSES

Resident Mentored Youth (Ages under 7, No Tags)	\$2.97
Resident Mentored Youth (Ages under 12)	\$2.97
Resident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 through 16)	\$6.97
Resident Mentored Adult (17 and older)	\$20.97
Resident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)	\$6.97
Resident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)	\$6.97
Resident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)	\$9.97
Resident Landowner Hunting (Ages 12 & older)	\$4.97
Resident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 and older)	\$20.97
Resident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 and older)	\$20.97
Resident Senior Hunting (Ages 65 & older)	\$13.97
Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting (Ages 65 & older)	\$51.97
(Must be renewed each license year at no additional cost)	
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo (Ages 65 & older)	\$101.97
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo Upgrade	\$51.97
(See Lifetime Combination)	
Resident Senior Furtaker (Ages 65 & older)	\$13.97
Resident Senior Lifetime Furtaker (Age 65 & older)	\$51.97
(Must be renewed each license year at no additional cost)	
Resident Military Personnel, National Guard, Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses	\$2.97
Resident Hunting Heritage License (Active HTE instructors)	\$2.97
Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages under 7, No Tags)	\$2.97
Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages under 12)	\$2.97
Nonresident Mentored Youth (Ages 12 or older but < 17)	\$41.97
Nonresident Mentored Adult	\$101.97
Nonresident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 & older)	\$101.97
Nonresident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)	\$41.97
Nonresident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)	\$51.97
Nonresident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 & older)	\$81.97
Nonresident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)	\$41.97
Nonresident 7-Day Small Game *	\$31.97

ADD-ON LICENSES, STAMPS & PERMITS

Resident Archery	\$16.97
Nonresident Archery	\$26.97
Resident Muzzleloader *	\$11.97
Nonresident Muzzleloader *	\$21.97
Resident Migratory Game Bird License	\$3.97
Federal Duck Stamp	\$28.97
Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License	\$6.97
Resident Bear License	\$16.97
Nonresident Bear License	\$36.97
Resident Special Spring Turkey License	\$21.97
Nonresident Special Spring Turkey License	\$41.97
Resident Antlerless Deer License	\$6.97
Resident DMAP Harvest Permits (<i>Sales begin Aug. 14</i>)	\$10.97
Nonresident Antlerless License	\$26.97
Nonresident DMAP Harvest Permits (<i>Sales begin Aug. 14</i>)	\$35.97
Agriculture Deer Permit (Coupon required)	\$1.97
Elk License Drawings (See elk section in this Digest)	\$11.97
Bobcat Permit (See bobcat section in this Digest)	\$6.97
Fisher Permit (See fisher section in this Digest)	\$6.97
River Otter Permit (See otter section in this Digest)	\$6.97
Adult Pheasant Permit	\$26.97
Junior Pheasant Permit	FREE
Shooting Range Permit (See PGC website for more info)	\$31.97
Snow Goose Permit	\$1.97

SOLD ONLY BY COUNTY TREASURERS

Resident Landowner Antlerless Deer	\$6.97
Nonresident Landowner Antlerless Deer	\$26.97
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Hunting License (if qualified)	Free
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Furtaker License (if qualified)	Free

SOLD BY COUNTY TREASURERS, GAME COMMISSION OFFICES AND ONLINE**

Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Hunting License	\$2.97
Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Furtaker License	\$2.97
Resident Disabled Veteran Annual Hunting License *	Free
Resident Disabled Veteran Annual Furtaker License *	Free
Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License **	\$6.97
Resident Armed Forces Antlerless License **	\$6.97
* Must be renewed annually	
** Not available online	

Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime hunting and furtaker licenses can be renewed at any issuing agent, or online.

All combination licenses include hunting, furtaker, archery and muzzleloader privileges. (Bear hunting privileges, antlerless deer license, migratory game bird license and federal duck stamp not included.)

Senior resident hunting and furtaker (annual and lifetime, including combination) licenses are available to those who will be 65 years old by June 30 of the current license year.

* Nonresidents of Pennsylvania who are 12 years of age and older may purchase a consecutive 7-Day Small Game license, which includes waterfowl and pheasants, but not valid for coyotes or big game, including turkey. All junior, adult and senior hunters need to hold a Pheasant Hunting Permit to hunt pheasants. To hunt waterfowl, applicants 16 years of age and older need a federal duck stamp and applicants 12 and older need a Migratory Game Bird License.

* Muzzleloader firearms, bows and arrows, and crossbows may be used during the firearms deer hunting seasons without purchasing muzzleloader or archery licenses.

Firearms Regulations for Non-Immigrant Aliens

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has enacted new permit requirements for bringing firearms and ammunition across the U.S. border. Any resident of another country who intends to import a firearm and ammunition into the U.S. for the purpose of hunting or recreational target shooting should contact the ATF's Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch. Provide yourself ample time for the processing of the import permit application. It could take six weeks or more to receive the required permit. The ATF can be contacted at 304-616-4550. Visit the ATF website at <http://www.atf.gov>. An application for the Permit for Importation of Firearms can be found at ATF F6 NIA (5330.3D).



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STUDENTS

NASP can be taught from grades 4 to 12. It can be conducted in physical education class or any other class. The goal is to allow any student the opportunity to learn to shoot a bow safely.



ENROLL

Getting started is easy. The first step is to complete a commitment letter and submit it to your State Coordinator. Sample letters are available online.



GRANTS

Grants are available for any new school that joins the NASP program in the amount of \$1500. Additional grants are available as well. This will pay for almost half of your equipment costs.



TRAINING

Training will be provided free of charge. A certified archery instructor will come to your school and train your staff. Upon completion of the training, you will be a certified Basic Archery Instructor.



BENEFITS

NASP has been shown to increase school attendance, GPA, attitude, confidence and self-esteem. Students enjoy learning something new while having fun with their friends.



LEARN MORE

VIOLATING THE GAME & WILDLIFE CODE CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS PENALTIES, INCLUDING THE LOSS OF HUNTING PRIVILEGES.

A person charged with violating the Game and Wildlife Code will have the charges adjudicated before a Magisterial District Judge or Court of Common Pleas having jurisdiction. In addition to imposing fines, the court may also order the revocation of hunting and furtaking privileges. Absent a court order, the Game Commission may suspend the hunting and furtaking privileges of persons convicted of violating the Game and Wildlife Code. While revocation can be assessed for any violation, it's generally reserved for significant violations that affect the safety of people or property, or impact the valuable resources of the commonwealth.

Act 54 of 2010 significantly increased fines and revocation periods for serious violations. The following is a list of the most common revocations, but revocation may be applied to other violations, too.



REVOCATION PERIODS FOR COMMON VIOLATIONS:

- Failure to respond to a citation – Indefinite revocation or until adjudicated
- Failure to pay a fine in full within 180 days after adjudication – Indefinite or until paid
- Hunting or trapping under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance – 1 year
- Refusal to submit to a chemical or blood test – 1 year or second/subsequent refusal – 3 years
- Shooting at another person resulting in no injury or minor injury – 2 years; causing serious injury – 5 to 10 years; killing another person – 15 years
- Failure to render assistance or fleeing after shooting (nonfatal incident) – 10 years; failure to render assistance or fleeing after shooting (fatal incident) – 15 years/Second offense – additional 10 years
- Trespass on private property while hunting, second or subsequent offense – 1 year

REVOCATION PERIODS FOR OTHER GAME & WILDLIFE CODE VIOLATIONS:

- Assaulting an officer – 3 years
- Resisting or interfering with an officer; failure to stop on signal by an officer; turning off lights to avoid arrest or detection – 2 years
- Buying or selling wildlife or edible parts contrary to law – Threatened or endangered species – 7 years first offense; big game – up to 5 years first offense; other wildlife – 3 years first offense
- Take, injure, kill, possess or transport big game during closed season or beyond daily or season bag limits – up to 5 years first offense
- Hunting or furtaking while on revocation – 5 years
- Killing or attempting to kill game through the use of bait as an enticement – bear or elk – 3 years; all other game – 2 years
- Unlawfully taken big game (in season) – Bear or elk – 3 years; deer or turkey – 1 year
- Disturbing traps of another; trapping/furtaking during closed season; multiple violations in 2-year period; killing protected wildlife; hunting small game in a closed season; taking over the daily bag limit of small game or migratory birds – 1 year

INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Pennsylvania is the 36th state to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). All persons convicted of a violation in Pennsylvania that results in the suspension of their hunting and furtaking privileges will receive in addition to the Pennsylvania revocation notice, an additional notification if the terms of the suspension will be shared with other states cooperating in the IWVC.

Persons having a license suspension in Pennsylvania, which is subject to the provisions of the IWVC, and who plan to hunt or trap in another state, must contact that state to determine their eligibility to purchase a license.

The IWVC also establishes a process whereby wildlife law violations by a nonresident from a member state are handled as if the person were a resident, meaning they can be issued a citation rather than being arrested, booked, and bonded. This process is a convenience for hunters and trappers of member states and increases efficiency of wildlife officers by allowing more time for enforcement duties rather than violator processing procedures.

For more information on the Interstate Wildlife Compact, visit the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov



HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION

HELP RECRUIT HUNTING'S NEXT GENERATION!

Pennsylvania's Hunter-trapper Education Course is available online or in-person for anyone, ages 11 and up.

FIND A HTE COURSE

In addition to the basic hunter-trapper education course, the Game Commission also offers courses to advance your knowledge on archery safety, bowhunting, and trapping.

HELP TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION!

TO BECOME A HTE INSTRUCTOR:

- You must be 18 or older
- Have a GED or high school diploma
- The ability to volunteer 12-16 hours per year



LEARN MORE OR BECOME A HTE INSTRUCTOR

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Hunting & Trapping Digest

This digest is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.

The digest simply is a summary of the more important and frequently misunderstood hunting and trapping regulations.

Review the digest carefully. If there is anything you do not understand, contact your nearest Game Commission office.

Hunting and trapping are privileges in Pennsylvania. Remember, a license does not entitle you to trespass on private lands. Hunters and furtakers may be prosecuted for trespassing, whether or not a property is posted against hunting or trapping.

Always ask permission to hunt or trap, and make sure you are a welcomed guest of the landowner.

A private landowner who permits hunting or trapping does not extend assurance that the premises are safe and does not assume responsibility or incur liability for injury.

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Hunting safely means staying away from utility equipment.

Protect yourself and others by looking out for power poles and lines.

Structures attached to a transmission tower or pole—or placed underneath a high-voltage line—are dangerous and prohibited. Be sure to follow all hunting safety and sportsmanship guidelines, especially around power equipment.



If you have questions about staying safe near utility equipment, go to [firstenergycorp.com/rightofway](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/rightofway).

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