



February 19, 2004

**To:** Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, Landowners, Farm Groups and Others Interested in Making Recommendations for Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Regulations.

Meetings to solicit your comments concerning the 2004 deer, turkey, bear, and boar hunting regulations as well as 2005-2006 hunting and trapping regulations and the 2005 fishing season are scheduled for March 22, 23, 24, and 25, 2004.

The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates; bag and creel limits similar to the 2004-2005 seasons (see recommended changes attached).

In order for us to obtain your recommendations and accurately record them, it is necessary for you to complete and return the attached form prior to April 1, 2004 to the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241, Attn: Mr. Steve Wilson.

Your continued interest in the natural resources program is appreciated.

Curtis I. Taylor, Chief  
Wildlife Resources Section

James D. Fields, Colonel  
Law Enforcement Section

Please feel free to comment or provide recommendations on hunting and fishing regulations or on any phase of our wildlife and law enforcement programs. Please use space provided on the following page. ***Returning the attached tables is not necessary.***

Please complete the following section. Be sure only one form is submitted per individual or organization. Unsigned questionnaires will not be counted.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Individual, Group, or  
Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONNAIRE  
BY APRIL 1, 2004 TO:**

WV Division of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Section  
P.O. Box 67  
Elkins, WV 26241

Attn: Steve Wilson



**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
2004 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

- 1) The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2004 antlerless deer season be open as shown in the attached tables.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_                      Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2004 bear firearms season be open as shown in the attached table.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_                      Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
2005-2006 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS**

- 1) The Division of Natural Resources proposes a youth spring gobbler hunt on the Saturday prior to the opening of spring gobbler season (April 23, 2005) for youth hunters between the ages of 10 and 14. The youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult, at least 21 years of age, who cannot carry a gun or bow and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. The bag limit will be one (1) bearded gobbler and the harvested gobbler will count toward the hunter's season bag limit. Nonresident youth must possess a Class CS/LE and a Junior Sportsman & Hunting/Trapping license. Only a shotgun using shot size 4, 5, or 6 is legal.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_                      Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) The Division of Natural Resources proposes to increase the bobcat (hunting and trapping) bag limit from two (2) to three (3).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_                      Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) All other hunting and trapping regulations for 2005-2006 seasons would be the same as those in 2004-2005 (See Attached Table).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_                      Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2005 FISHING REGULATIONS**

- 1) The Division of Natural Resources proposes a 40-inch minimum size limit for muskellunge in North Bend Lake, Ritchie County.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the Slaty Fork section of Elk River trout catch-and-release area approximately one mile from the railroad bridge downstream to the mouth of Dry Branch, and to include all tributaries entering the catch-and-release area between its upper and lower boundaries.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a trout catch-and-release area on an approximately 7-mile section of Shavers Fork from Oats Creek downstream to the mouth of Beaver Creek.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) All other fishing regulations for 2005 would be same as those in 2004.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2005 FISHING REGULATIONS  
(Supplemental Questions)**

1) The Division of Natural Resources proposes to change the time period for the Clear Fork of the Guyandotte River Delayed Harvest Area in Wyoming County from March 1 through May 31, to October 1 through May 31.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

2) The Division of Natural Resources proposes to change the time period for the Middle Wheeling Creek Delayed Harvest Area in Ohio County from February 1 through May 31, to October 1 through May 31.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**Correction**

Recommendation number 3 regarding the proposed Shavers Fork catch-and-release area includes all tributaries within the seven-mile section.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Individual, Group, or  
Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

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BY APRIL 1, 2004 TO:**

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Attn: Steve Wilson

**West Virginia  
Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the  
2004 Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Changes
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 25, 2004 - Oct. 30, 2004	
Boar (Archery)	Oct. 16, 2004 - Dec. 31, 2004	
Deer (Archery)	Oct. 16, 2004 - Dec. 31, 2004	See Attached Deer Tables for Selected Counties
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 22, 2004 - Dec. 04, 2004	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Nov. 22, 2004 - Dec. 04, 2004	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Dec. 06, 2004 - Dec. 11, 2004	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Dec. 29, 2004 - Dec. 31, 2004	
Deer Youth/Class Q Hunts (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Nov. 06, 2004 - Nov. 06, 2004 Dec. 27, 2004 - Dec. 28, 2004	
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 13, 2004 - Dec. 18, 2004	
Bear (Archery)	Oct. 16, 2004 - Nov. 20, 2004	See Bear Table
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties}	Dec. 06, 2004 - Dec. 31, 2004 Dec. 06, 2004 - Dec. 11, 2004	
{Selected Counties}	Nov. 01, 2004 - Nov. 06, 2004	
{Selected Counties}	Nov. 22, 2004 - Nov. 27, 2004	
Turkey (Fall) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 23, 2004 - Nov. 20, 2004 Oct. 23, 2004 - Oct. 30, 2004	Counties determined after 2004 gobbler season
{Preston County}	Oct. 23, 2004 - Nov. 06, 2004	

**West Virginia  
Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the  
2005-2006 Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Closing Dates</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 24, 2005 – Oct. 29, 2005	
Boar (Archery)	Oct. 15, 2005 – Dec. 31, 2005	
Turkey (Spring)	Apr. 25, 2005 - May 21, 2005	
Turkey Spring Youth Hunt	Apr. 23, 2005	One Day Youth Hunt
Squirrel	Oct. 08, 2005 - Jan. 31, 2006	
Squirrel Youth Hunt	Oct. 01, 2005	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 15, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Grouse	Oct. 15, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Quail	Nov. 05, 2005 - Jan. 07, 2006	
Rabbit	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Hare	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Ringneck Pheasant	Nov. 05, 2005 - Jan. 07, 2006	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	Increase Bag Limit to 3
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Jan. 31, 2006	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Mar. 31, 2006	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 01, 2005 - Nov. 19, 2005 Jan. 01, 2006 - Mar. 04, 2006	Fall segment continuous instead of 3 days/week
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/Woodchuck/ English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 05, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006	
Mountain Lion, Elk, Otter, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season. These species are totally protected	

**PROPOSED 2004 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS**

Daily Bag Limit 1

Opening Date November 22

Closing Date December 4 (Private Land Only)

Opening Date December 29

Closing Date December 31 (Private Land Only)

Opening Date December 6

Closing Date December 11 (Private and Public Lands)

**COUNTIES OPEN TO 21 DAY SPLIT ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING IN 2004**

COUNTY	Open to Limited Licenses for Residents Only (Must Apply)	Open to Unlimited Licenses For Resident and Nonresident Class N Antlerless Season (1 License may be Purchased)	Open to Unlimited Licenses For Resident and Nonresident Class N Antlerless Season (3 Licenses may be Purchased)	Open For Use Of Unfilled RG/RRG in Antlerless Or Muzzleloader Season
Barbour			X	X
Berkeley			X	X
Boone	X			
Braxton			X	X
Brooke			X	X
Cabell			X	X
Calhoun			X	X
Clay - (N. of Elk R.)	X			
Doddridge			X	X
Fayette -- (N & E of New R. & E. of Gauley R.)			X	X
Gilmer			X	X
Grant			X	X
Greenbrier (Private Land Only)			X	X
Greenbrier (Public Land Only)		X		
Hampshire			X	X
Hancock			X	X
Hardy			X	X
Harrison			X	X
Jefferson			X	X

COUNTY	Open to Limited Licenses for Residents Only (Must Apply)	Open to Unlimited Licenses For Resident and Nonresident Class N Antlerless Season (1 License may be Purchased)	Open to Unlimited Licenses For Resident and Nonresident Class N Antlerless Season (3 Licenses may be Purchased)	Open For Use Of Unfilled RG/RRG in Antlerless Or Muzzleloader Season
Jackson			X	X
Kanawha			X	X
Lewis			X	X
Lincoln			X	X
Marion			X	X
Marshall			X	X
Mason			X	X
Mercer		X		
Mineral			X	X
Monongalia			X	X
Monroe (Private Land Only)			X	X
Monroe (Public Land Only)		X		
Morgan			X	X
Nicholas	X			
Ohio			X	X
Pendleton (Public Land Only)		X		
Pendleton (Private Land Only)			X	X
Pleasants			X	X
Preston (E. of Cheat River)			X	X
Preston (W. of Cheat River)		X		
Putnam			X	X
Pocahontas (Private Land Only)			X	X
Pocahontas (Public Land Only)		X		

COUNTY	Open to Limited Licenses for Residents Only (Must Apply)	Open to Unlimited Licenses For Resident and Nonresident Class N Antlerless Season (1 License may be Purchased)	Open to Unlimited Licenses For Resident and Nonresident Class N Antlerless Season (3 Licenses may be Purchased)	Open For Use Of Unfilled RG/RRG in Antlerless Or Muzzleloader Season
Randolph		X		
Raleigh		X		
Ritchie			X	X
Roane			X	X
Summers			X	X
Taylor			X	X
Tucker		X		
Tyler			X	X
Upshur			X	X
Wayne			X	X
Webster	X			
Wetzel			X	X
Wirt			X	X
Wood			X	X

Counties not listed in the table are closed to firearms antlerless hunting

Note: Springfield, Hughes River and McClintic WMAs will be open the same length and have the same bag limit as private land. Lewis Wetzel WMA will be open for the same number of days as Wetzel County; however, the bag limit for Lewis Wetzel WMA will be one (1) antlerless deer. Morris Creek WMA in Clay and Kanawha counties will be closed to antlerless deer hunting.

**PROPOSED 2004 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR WMAs**

Opening Date December 6

Closing Date December 11

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES  
FOR RESIDENT CLASS N ANTLERLESS SEASON**

Hillcrest WMA (Hancock Co.)	Stonewall Jackson WMA (Lewis Co.)
Fork Creek WMA (Boone Co.)	Big Ugly WMA (Lincoln Co.)
Burnsville WMA (Braxton Co.)	Chief Cornstalk WMA (Mason Co.)
Cross Creek WMA (Brooke Co.)	Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Co.'s)
Beech Fork WMA (Wayne Co.)	Stonecoal WMA (Lewis/Upshur Co.'s)
Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam Co.)	Elk River WMA (Braxton Co.)
East Lynn Lake WMA (Wayne Co.)	

Springfield, McClintic and Hughes River WMAs will be open the same length and have the same bag limit as private land. Lewis Wetzel WMA will be open for the same number of days as Wetzel County; however, the bag limit for Lewis Wetzel WMA will be one (1) antlerless deer. Morris Creek WMA in Clay and Kanawha counties will be closed to antlerless deer hunting.

**Proposed 2004 Black Bear Seasons  
Bow Season Statewide: October 16-November 20**

**Gun Season**

<b>County</b>	<b>6 Day Gun With Dogs November 1-6 &amp; 6 Day Gun Without Dogs November 22-27</b>	<b>6 Day Gun Without Dogs December 6-11</b>	<b>4 Week Gun With Dogs December 6-31</b>
Barbour		X (West of Rt. 92)	X (East of Rt. 92)
Berkeley		X	
Braxton		X	
Boone	X		X
Cabell		X	
Clay		X	
Fayette	X		X
Grant			X
Greenbrier			X
Hampshire		X	
Hardy			X
Jefferson		X	
Kanawha	X		X
Lewis		X	
Lincoln		X	
Logan		X	
Marion		X	
Mason		X	
McDowell		X	
Mercer		X	
Mineral		X (East of New Creek)	X (West of New Creek)
Mingo		X	
Monongalia		X	
Monroe		X (West of Rt. 219)	X (East of Rt. 219)
Morgan		X	
Nicholas			X
Pendleton			X
Pocahontas			X
Preston			X
Putnam		X	
Raleigh	X		X
Randolph			X
Summers		X	
Tucker			X
Upshur		X	
Wayne		X	
Webster			X
Wyoming		X	