



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources Section
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Stephen S. McDaniel
Director

February 27, 2019


**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 2019-2020 big game hunting regulations; 2020-2021 hunting and trapping regulations; 2020 fishing regulations; and reptile and amphibian regulations are scheduled for March 11 and 12, 2019.


The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates, bag limits and creel limits similar to the 2018-2019 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 5, 2019, to the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, Attn: Keith Krantz, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241.

Your continued interest in the state's natural resources programs is appreciated.



Paul R. Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section



Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel
Law Enforcement Section

Please feel free to comment or provide recommendations on hunting, fishing, amphibian and reptile 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 THE QUESTIONNAIRE
BY APRIL 5, 2019**

Return To:

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2019-2020 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2019 Black Bear Seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2019 Antlerless Deer Season be open as shown on the attached tables.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season to two days by adding the following Sunday to the existing season framework. In addition, to remove the shot size restriction and make consistent with the Statewide Spring Turkey Season.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the October segment of the Youth/Class Q and XS Antlerless Deer Season to two days by adding the following Sunday to the existing season framework.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to make the Little Kanawha Wildlife Management Area (8,255 acres) in Wirt and Calhoun counties an older-age deer management area.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

6. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to open public lands to the proposed 4-day October Antlerless Deer and Bear Seasons.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

7. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to allow the use of side-lock percussion and flintlock muzzleloading pistols during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (scopes and in-line pistols are prohibited). Caliber requirements would be the same as the traditional muzzleloader season.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

8. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2019-2020 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2020-2021 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to make it illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public lands all year. (Currently it is prohibited during the period from September 1 to December 31 and during the spring turkey seasons).

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the September Youth Squirrel Season to two days by adding the following Sunday to the existing season framework.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend coyote night season with use of artificial light to first day of January through the last day in August (currently ends last day of July).

Favor _____

Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other hunting and trapping regulations for the 2020-2021 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES SEEKS
YOUR OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTION**

1. The Director of the Division of Natural Resources seeks your opinion as to whether you favor reducing the annual antlered deer bag limit from three (3) to two (2) antlered bucks per year.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2020 FISHING REGULATIONS

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the 20"-30" slot limit with a 2-fish daily creel for Walleye, only one of which can be over 30", on 1) Elk River upstream of Sutton Dam, including Sutton Lake and all tributaries and 2) Gauley River and all tributaries (upstream of Summersville Lake) beginning at the mouth of Persinger Creek.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the Walleye regulation (20"-30" slot, 2-fish limit) be extended into the tributaries of the following rivers: Bluestone, Coal, Elk, Greenbrier, Gauley, Kanawha (upstream of Winfield Lock and Dam), and New rivers.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to reduce the daily creel limit for all Esocid species (Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, and all Pickerel) to a 1-fish daily creel limit with a possession limit of 2 fish on all State waters.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish the minimum size limit for Tiger Musky at 30" minimum size.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add Bluestone, Beech Fork, and R. D. Bailey Lakes to the regulation of a 4-fish daily creel limit with a 15"-minimum size limit for all Moronidae species including Striped Bass, White Bass, and Hybrid Striped Bass and move East Lynn Lake to the Statewide regulation.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

6. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a 6-fish daily creel in aggregate for Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye on the Ohio River. Only 2 of the 6 fish can be Walleye and must be a minimum of 18" in length.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

7. The Division of Natural Resources proposes the possession limit on the following streams to be zero (0) for all fish species other than game fish. Furthermore, no fish may be used as bait on the following waters:

- a. *Confluence of the East and West Forks of the Greenbrier River upstream including all tributaries.*
- b. *Gauley River upstream of the Route 55/20 Bridge (Curtin, WV) which includes the Cherry, Williams, Cranberry, and Upper Gauley rivers and all tributaries of each river.*
- c. *Camp Creek and Manns Creek including all tributaries of each stream. Note: Glade Creek in Babcock State Park is included in the Manns Creek drainage.*

Favor _____ Oppose _____

8. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to make illegal the possession of any darter species within the State of West Virginia.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

9. All other fishing regulations for 2020 would be the same as those in 2019.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

Proposed 2019 Black Bear Seasons

Statewide bag limit two, provided at least one bear comes from Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, Raleigh or Wyoming counties

**Bow Season – 55 counties: Sept. 28 – Dec. 31
Gun Seasons: Refer to Table Below**

7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Oct. 5 – Oct. 11 12-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 25 – Dec. 7 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 9 – Dec. 31	16-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Aug. 31 - Sept. 15 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 9 - Dec. 31	7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Sept. 21 – Sept. 27 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 9 - Dec. 31	12-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 25 – Dec. 7 4-Week Gun Without Dogs Dec.9 - Dec. 31	4-Day Gun Without Dogs October 24 – 27 No Permit Required Public and Private Portions of Counties Open for Antlerless Deer Gun Hunting	2-Week Gun Without Dogs Nov. 25 – Dec. 7 No Permit Needed Entire County Open	4-Week Gun Without Dogs Dec. 9 - Dec. 31
Boone Fayette Kanawha Raleigh	Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming	Barbour (E. of Rt. 92) Braxton (E. of I-79) Clay (S. of Elk River) Grant Greenbrier Hardy Mineral (W. of New Creek) Monroe (E. of Rt. 219) Nicholas Pendleton Pocahontas Preston Randolph Tucker Upshur (E. of Rt. 20) Webster	Berkeley Brooke Cabell Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Hampshire Hancock Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall Mason Mercer Monongalia Morgan Ohio Pleasants Putnam Ritchie Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Barbour Braxton Berkeley Boone Calhoun Clay Fayette Gilmer Hampshire Harrison Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln Mercer Monongalia Monroe Morgan Nicholas Preston Raleigh Roane Summers Taylor Upshur	Barbour Braxton Clay Grant Greenbrier Hardy Mineral Monroe Nicholas Pendleton Pocahontas Preston Randolph Tucker Upshur Webster	Barbour (W. of Rt. 92) Braxton (W. of I-79) Clay (N. of Elk River) Mineral (E. of New Creek) Monroe (W. of Rt. 219) Upshur (W. of Rt. 20)

**PROPOSED 2019 ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PRIVATE LAND)**

Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless (Class N/NN) Hunting	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non-resident (Must Apply) (Season Bag Limit: 1) Oct. 24-27; Nov. 25-Dec. 7; Dec. 12-15; Dec. 28-31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 1) Oct. 24-27; Nov. 25-Dec. 7; Dec. 12-15; Dec. 28-31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 3) Oct. 24-27; Nov. 25-Dec. 7; Dec. 12-15; Dec. 28-31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN. (*see special regulation requirement below) (Season Bag Limit: 3) Oct. 24-27; Nov. 25-Dec. 7; Dec. 12-15; Dec. 28-31
<p>Clay (<i>south portion</i>) Fayette (<i>west portion</i>) Kanawha (<i>south portion</i>) Raleigh (<i>west portion</i>) Wayne (<i>south portion</i>)</p> <p>Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming</p>	<p>Boone (400) Greenbrier (<i>north portion - 200</i>) Lincoln (<i>south portion - 200</i>) Mineral (<i>west portion - 200</i>) Nicholas (400) Pocahontas (300) Raleigh (<i>east portion - 250</i>) Wayne (<i>north portion - 300</i>) Webster (300)</p>	<p>Braxton Brooke Clay (<i>north portion</i>) Fayette (<i>east portion</i>) Hancock Lincoln (<i>north portion</i>) Marshall Mercer Ohio Pleasants Randolph Summers Tucker Wetzel</p>	<p>Barbour Cabell Doddridge Gilmer Grant Harrison Jackson Kanawha (<i>north portion</i>) Lewis Marion Mason Monongalia Pendleton Putnam Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur Wirt</p>	<p>Berkeley Calhoun Greenbrier (<i>south portion</i>) Hampshire Hardy Jefferson Mineral (<i>east portion</i>) Monroe Morgan Preston Wood</p>

*In these counties, or parts thereof, deer hunters are required to take an antlerless deer from the county, which may be taken during any deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, prior to harvesting a second antlered deer, from the county, during the combined deer seasons, including the 2020 Mountaineer Heritage Season.

**PROPOSED 2019 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS
FOR PUBLIC LANDS**

Season Dates: Oct. 24-27, Nov. 25-Dec. 7, Dec. 12-15, and Dec 28-31, 2019

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1		
Blackwater WMA (100) (Preston/Tucker Cos.)	Greenbrier SF (50) (Greenbrier Co.)	Little Canaan WMA (50) (Tucker Co.)
Bluestone WMA (100) (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Cos.)	Hillcrest WMA (25) (Hancock Co.)	Seneca SF (50) (Pocahontas Co.)
Calvin Price SF (50) (Pocahontas Co.)	Kumbrabow SF (50) (Randolph Co.)	Beech Fork WMA (50) (Cabell/Wayne Cos.)
McCausland WMA (25) (Mason Co.)		

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1			
Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam Co.)	Canaan Valley NWR (Tucker Co.)	Mill Creek WMA (Cabell Co.)	Snake Hill WMA (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)
McClintic WMA (Mason Co.)	Coopers Rock SF (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)	Pleasant Creek WMA (Barbour/Taylor Cos.)	Upper Mud River WMA (Lincoln Co.)
Big Ugly WMA (Lincoln Co.)	Green Bottom WMA (Cabell/Mason Cos.)	Pruntytown WMA (Taylor Co.)	Wallback WMA (Roane/Clay/Kanawha Cos.)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CLOSED TO ANTLERLESS SEASON		
Beaver Dam WMA (Randolph Co.)	Handley WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Rimel WMA (Pocahontas Co.)
Becky Creek WMA (Randolph Co.)	Little River WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Slatyfork WMA (Pocahontas/Randolph Cos.)
Camp Creek SF (Mercer Co.)	Neola WMA (Greenbrier/Pocahontas Cos.)	Tea Creek WMA (Pocahontas/Randolph/Webster Cos.)
Cheat WMA (Randolph Co.)	Otter Creek WMA (Randolph/Tucker Cos.)	Morris Creek WMA (Kanawha Co.)
Cranberry WMA (Nicholas/Webster/Pocahontas/ Greenbrier Cos.)	Potts Creek WMA (Monroe Co.)	Cove Creek WMA (Monroe Co.)

All other WMAs and public lands will have the same regulations as it relates to bag limits as private land in the respective county or portion of county where the WMAs or other public lands are located; with the exception that these WMAs and public lands will be open during the dates listed above.

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2019-2020
Big Game Hunting Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Mountaineer Heritage Season Deer and Bear (Primitive Weapons)	Jan. 9, 2020 - Jan. 12, 2020	Percussion side lock and flintlock rifles and pistols , long and recurve bows only
Bear (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 28, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019	
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties}	Aug. 31, 2019 - Sept. 15, 2019 Sept. 21, 2019 - Sept. 27, 2019 Oct. 5, 2019 - Oct. 11, 2019 Oct. 24, 2019 - Oct. 27, 2019 Nov. 25, 2019 - Dec. 7, 2019 Dec. 9, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019	See Attached Bear Tables for Selected Counties
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 26, 2019 - Nov. 2, 2019 Feb. 7, 2020 - Feb. 9, 2020	split season
Boar (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 28, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019 Feb. 7, 2020 - Feb. 9, 2020	split season
Deer (Archery & Crossbow - Special Urban)	Sept. 7, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019 Jan. 13, 2020 - Jan. 31, 2020	split season
Deer (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 28, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 25, 2019 - Dec. 7, 2019	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 24, 2019 - Oct. 27, 2019 Nov. 25, 2019 - Dec. 7, 2019 Dec. 12, 2019 - Dec. 15, 2019 Dec. 28, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019	See Attached Deer Tables For Selected Counties
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season -Antlerless)	Oct. 19, 2019 - Oct. 20, 2019 Dec. 26, 2019 - Dec. 27, 2019	Proposal is to add Sunday to October season
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 22, 2019	
Turkey (Fall) - (4 week counties)	Oct. 12, 2019 - Oct. 19, 2019 Oct. 28, 2019 - Nov. 16, 2019	
Turkey (Fall) - (2 week counties)	Oct. 12, 2019 - Oct. 19, 2019 Oct. 28, 2019 - Nov. 2, 2019	Fall counties determined after 2019 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1 week counties)	Oct. 12, 2019 - Oct. 19, 2019	Fall counties determined after 2019 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring Youth Season)	April 18, 2020 - April 19, 2020	Proposal is to add Sunday to youth season, bag limit 1 bird per day
Turkey (Spring 2020)	April 20, 2020 - May 16, 2020	

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2020-2021
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 12, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 5 - 6, 2020	Add a Sunday to Youth Squirrel Season
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 17, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 17, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Quail (Tomblin WMA closed)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Jan. 2, 2021	
Rabbit	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Jan. 2, 2021 Nov. 14, 2020 - Dec. 5, 2020	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021 Jan. 1, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Jan. 31, 2021	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2020 - Nov. 21, 2020 Jan. 1, 2021 - Mar. 6, 2021	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	Proposal to extend the Coyote (Hunting at night with light) Season through the end of August. Currently it closes the end of July.
Coyote (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Jan. 1, 2021 – Aug. 31, 2021	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 7, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	