

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Quarterly Meeting
May 31, 2020
MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was held on Sunday, May 31, 2020, via Zoom, Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, West Virginia.

The following individuals attended:

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONERS

Jeffrey S. Bowers
David M. Milne
Kenneth R. Wilson
Gregory K. Burnette
Thomas O. Dotson
Byron K. Chambers (via zoom)
Peter Cuffaro (via zoom)

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Senator Bill Hamilton, 11th District
Delegate Rick Atkinson, 11th District

MEDIA

John McCoy, Gazette Mail, Charleston
Chris Lawrence, Metro News, Charleston

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephen S. McDaniel, Director (Presiding), South Charleston, WV
Lysti Looney, Director's Office (Recording Secretary), South Charleston, WV
Emily Fleming, Director's Office, South Charleston, WV
Paul Johansen, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV

Jerry Jenkins, Law Enforcement, South Charleston, WV
Zack Brown, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Chris Ryan, Wildlife Resources, WV University, Morgantown, WV
Scott Warner, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Gary Foster, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston/Elkins, WV
Colin Carpenter, Wildlife Resources, Beckley, WV
Mark Scott, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Kevin Oxenrider, Wildlife Resources, Romney, WV
Seth Rader, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Scott Kline, Administration, South Charleston, WV
Keith Krantz, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
Jim Crum, Wildlife Resources, Elkins, WV
David Wellman, Wildlife Resources, Farmington, WV
Mike Peters, Wildlife Resources, Farmington, WV
Tyler Chidester, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV
Tanner Collins, Law Enforcement, French Creek, WV

CALL TO ORDER

Director Stephen McDaniel called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. Director McDaniel introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Director McDaniel asked the commissioners to introduce themselves and state the county that they represent. Director McDaniel introduced Commissioner Peter L. Cuffaro and Commissioner Byron K. Chambers, who were participating via zoom.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2020, meeting of the Natural Resources Commission as submitted. Commissioner Milne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SOUTHWICK LICENSE STRUCTURE SURVEY RESULTS, SOUTHWICK ASSOCIATES

Paul Johansen introduced Rob Southwick with Southwick Associates. Rob presented a power point presentation on the License Structure & Pricing Options Plus Revenue Considerations summary report. Rob stated this report is the first of a three-part survey, and that the survey looked at pricing points for the certain licenses and used a conjoint approach. (Attachment A)

SUMMARY OF THE 2020 SECTIONAL MEETINGS -SPORTSMEN and LANDOWNERS QUESTIONNAIRE

Keith Krantz presented the results of the Summary of the 2020 Sectional Meetings – Sportsmen and Landowners Questionnaire. Forty-nine (49) clubs with 8,390 members, and 397 individuals submitted questionnaires. (Attachment B)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Zack Brown presented public comments that were submitted on issues other than the buck limit which were submitted by email or US postal service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty comments were submitted by the public on issues not related to lowering the buck limit. (Attachment C)

APPROVAL of the 2010-2021 BIG GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS

1. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal that there be a special youth bear season for youth hunters 8 to less than 18, Class Q permit holders and Class XS license holders, to be held on the third Saturday and following Sunday in October on private and public lands in counties open to firearm deer hunting season. The use of dogs is prohibited during this season. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Dotson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
2. Colin Carpenter reviewed the proposed Black Bear Regulations for 2020. Stated DNR is proposing to close 58 square miles in Preston County for bear hunting with dogs due to landowner complaints. Commissioner Milne made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Chambers seconded the motion. **Motion did not pass.** Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to amend the proposed bear regulations table by removing the Preston County closure of 58 sq. mi. and keeping the entire county open to bear dog hunting. Commissioner Dotson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
3. Keith Krantz and Jim Crum reviewed the proposed Antlerless Deer Season Regulations for 2020. Commissioner Dotson made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Burnette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)

4. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal to allow hunters (age 14 and under), in addition to Class Y license holders, to utilize a crossbow during the crossbow deer season in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION to not approve the proposed**. Commissioner Dotson seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
5. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal to extend the Buck Firearms and Antlerless Deer Seasons through the second Sunday following Thanksgiving. Commissioner Milne made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Bowers seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
6. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal to allow the use of bows and crossbows with arrows or bolts equipped with a point having at least two sharp-cutting edges measuring in excess of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, in addition to shotguns during the Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Dotson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
7. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal that the spring wild turkey season opens on the third Monday in April and runs for thirty-five (35) consecutive days thereafter and is open statewide for the hunting of bearded only (currently the season length is 27 days). Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to amend the final eight (8) days of season to all day (dawn to dusk) hunting. Commissioner Cuffaro asked for a roll call. Commissioner Burnette aye, Commissioner Dotson no, Commissioner Bowers aye, Commissioner Milne no, Commissioner Wilson no, Commissioner Chambers no, Commissioner Cuffaro no. Amended to the **MOTION does not pass**. Commissioner Burnette made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Dotson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
8. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal that the segment splits for the fall turkey season be extended by one day and close on a Sunday. Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Dotson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)
9. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal to allow year-round coyote hunting with an artificial light with the condition that between September 1 thru December 31 night hunting with an artificial light for coyotes could only occur on private land, after receiving permission and prior to hunting, with the requirement that the

hunter (s) must notify the DNR-Law Enforcement Section after they received the permission. There being no motion to approve the proposed the proposed failed. (Attachment D)

10. Gary Foster reviewed the proposal that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2020-2021 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table. Commissioner Wilson made a **MOTION** to approve as submitted. Commissioner Milne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment D)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Gary Foster reviewed the proposal that all other small game & furbearer hunting and trapping regulations for the 2021-2022 seasons be open as shown on the attached table. This proposal will be voted on at the next meeting. (Attachment D)

REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020 STATE PARK DEER HUNTS

Brad Reed reviewed the proposed WV State Park controlled hunts for 2020. (Attachment E)

REVIEW PROPOSED 2021 FISHING REGULATIONS

Mark Scott reviewed the proposed 2021 fishing regulations. (Attachment F)

REVIEW PROPOSED 2021 REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS

Kevin Oxenrider presented the proposed 2021 Reptile and Amphibian Regulations. (Attachment G)

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director McDaniel introduced Senator Hamilton and Delegate Atkinson. Director stated he is proud of our fisheries section and that DNR continued to stock trout during this pandemic. We have extended the deadline for public comments regarding lowering the buck limit to July 24, 2020, this was pulled from the agenda due to the number of comments received and getting the summarized report to the commissioners.

Commissioner Wilson mentioned that Chief Logan Lodge and Conference Center has been preparing box lunches during the pandemic. Director stated Pipestem, Cacapon and Canaan also have been preparing box lunches.

Commissioner Bowers asked that DNR keep working on coyote issue and also inquired as to what financial effect COVID 19 has had on DNR. Director McDaniel stated that we have seen financial impact across the state. Governor Justice is working with DNR on recovering our financial losses during the pandemic.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

August 2, 2020, Chief Logan Lodge & Conference Center, Logan, WV

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wilson made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Commissioner Milne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

May 1, 2020

License Structure & Pricing Options Plus Revenue Considerations

Summary Report

Produced for the:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR)



SOUTHWICK
ASSOCIATES

PO Box 6435 ■ Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 ■ Office (904) 277-9765

Introduction

In 2019 the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) commissioned a series of projects to identify the combinations of hunting and fishing privileges most often purchased in West Virginia, lifetime license price points and whether current licenses were over- or under-priced. This report quantifies which licenses and permits – whether existing or proposed new license concepts – are most desirable, the ideal suite of licenses from a participation and revenue perspective and possible customer response to potential pricing.

This study was conducted using a statistical procedure known as conjoint analysis. Based on an online survey of resident and non-residents who purchased at least one hunting or fishing license in 2017-2019, this process uses customer input to design new licenses buyers would most prefer at prices they would find acceptable. Questions are presented in a way that reduces the bias associated with people “low balling” the price they would actually pay for a license. The results identify which licenses West Virginia hunters and anglers prefer, based on the options presented.

In all, 4,653 completed surveys were received from 71,917 email invitations sent to residents and non-residents for a response rate of 6.5%. Statistical procedures were carefully designed and implemented to ensure the results represented all license buyers and not just those more likely to respond to an online survey. Recognizing potential differences in internet usage across the state, a separate mail survey was underway at the time this report was written to identify if any significant biases might exist between online and mail survey approaches. Findings from that survey along with any corresponding adjustments to this preliminary summary will be shared in the final report.

This summary presents the results of the online survey, followed by observations and recommendations that are based on both the survey and the license studies conducted as part of this project. We recommend delaying any final licensing decisions until the mail survey is complete and any biases in the online survey that could impact results and interpretations are identified and reported.

Please note that the results presented here reflect how West Virginia license customers would have responded in 2020 if the proposed licenses were in effect. Any changes from an economic, social, hunting and fishing perspective since 2019 may affect how customers would respond in future years.

Summary Results

Results are presented first for residents, followed by non-residents. Each option is initially presented in a question format, followed by the results and recommendations. After this section, insights and cautionary notes are shared.

Part I. Potential Demand for New Resident Licenses

Hunting and Combination Licenses

1) What would happen if a Six-Day Small Game license was added? (Table 1)

- There is very little interest in the Six-Day Small Game license. About one hundred could be expected to sell annually. The cost of introducing and managing this license might be greater than the negligible revenue increase it would generate.

2) What if an annual Fishing & Small Game Hunting Combination license was added along with the Six-Day Small Game license? (Table 1)

- Likewise, there is very little interest in an annual Fishing & Small Game Hunting combination license, with approximately 250 expected to sell each year.

3) Along with adding a Six-Day Small Game license and an annual Fishing & Small Game Hunting Combination license, what if the current Hunting & Trapping (Class A) license was dropped? (Table 1)

- Removing the Hunting & Trapping (Class A) license would drive roughly 750 license buyers to the proposed annual Fishing & Small Game license but would result in some license buyers moving to the higher-cost Sportsman license. The net change over the current scenario would be a one-half percent decline in the number of resident hunters but a 3% revenue increase.
- If the price of the Sportsman license was increased from \$35 to \$39, the overall number of resident hunters would fall 5% but revenues would increase 9%.

Table 1. Resident Hunting License Options

Resident Hunting License	Current License Structure		Add Six-Day Small Game Hunting		Add Six-Day Small Game Hunting and Annual Fishing & Small Game Combination		Add Six-Day Small Game Hunting and replace Hunting & Trapping (A) with annual Fishing & Small Game Combination		Add Six-Day Small Game Hunting and replace Hunting & Trapping (A) with annual Fishing & Small Game Combination with 10% Sportsman price increase	
	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold
Six-Day Small Game Hunting			\$13.00	104	\$13.00	103	\$13.00	141	\$13.00	201
Fishing and Small Game Hunting (AB)					\$25.00	256	\$25.00	1,014	\$25.00	1,058
Hunting & Trapping (A)	\$24.00	12,703	\$24.00	12,696	\$24.00	12,622				
Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (X)	\$35.00	94,201	\$35.00	94,135	\$35.00	94,030	\$35.00	105,100	\$39.00	100,320
Total Resident Hunters		106,903		106,936		107,012		106,255		101,579
Resident Hunting License Revenue		\$3,601,886		\$3,600,799		\$3,601,743		\$3,705,683		\$3,941,544

Privileges Offered by the Resident Sportsman Deer License

What would happen to sales and revenue if the privileges associated with the current resident Sportsman license were changed to allow one either sex deer in any season plus one antlerless deer in any applicable antlerless season? (Table 2)

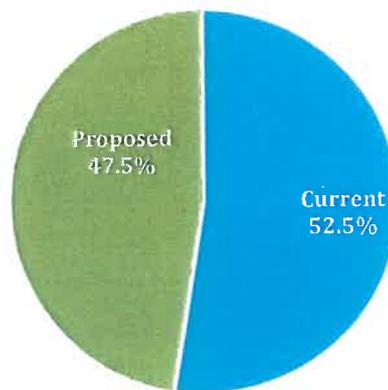
- Exchanging flexibility in the seasons hunted for a reduction in the number of deer allowed would likely decrease demand. Changing to the proposed set of deer privileges but leaving the price unchanged would likely reduce the number of Sportsman licenses sold and revenue by nearly 7%.
- Changing to the proposed set of deer privileges and raising the price 10% or 20% will result in lower sales and revenue.
- However, hunters were statistically split between either option, with 52.5% preferring the current license based on results of the conjoint question. However, a follow up question asking which set of deer privileges they would prefer given the same price produced a statistical tie. The current mail survey may offer additional insights to help decide which approach is best. (Figure 1).
- Hunters with greater avidity had a stronger preference for the current set of privileges compared to less-avid hunters.
- Pricing tests run in this analysis show that West Virginia hunters value the proposed bundle of privileges for Sportsman licenses at \$34.62, just 38 cents below the \$35 price for the current bundle of privileges.

NOTE: These results are likely somewhat exaggerated. In the survey, respondents were given a choice between the two options. If they did not have a choice and had to purchase the offered license, we expect net revenues and buyers would only decrease by a small marginal amount, as the preference for each option was almost evenly split between hunters. The difference in the value, or price, assigned to each option by hunters was only one percent.

Table 2. Sportsman License Deer Privilege Options

Sportsman License	Current Deer Privileges	Proposed Deer Privileges	Proposed Deer Privileges with 10% Price Increase	Proposed Deer Privileges with 20% Price Increase
Price:	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$38.50	\$42.00
Sportsman Licenses Sold	94,263	87,910	54,278	31,542
Revenue from Sportsman License	\$3,299,211	\$3,076,866	\$2,089,722	\$1,324,760

Figure 1. Share of preference for deer privileges at current price based on conjoint results



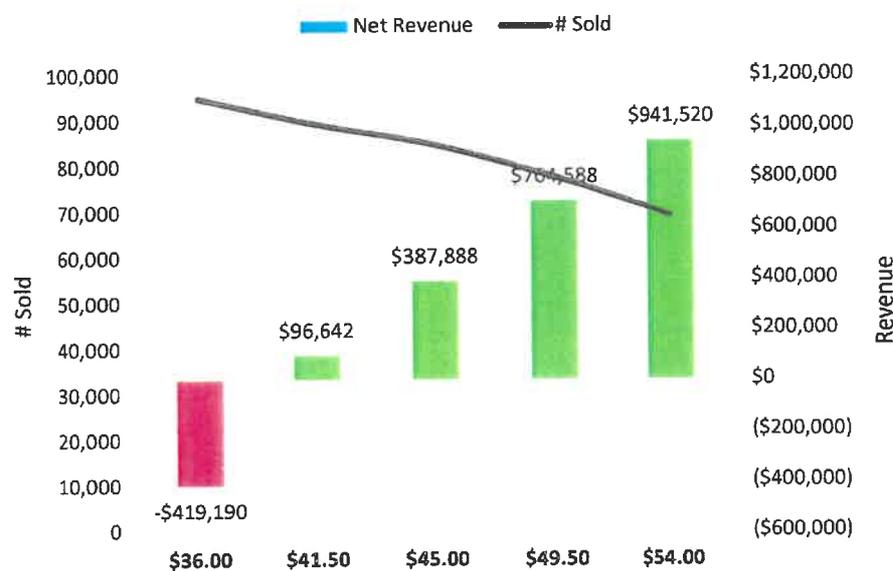
Super Sport License

The WVDNR could offer a Super Sport License. This proposed resident license would include the following privileges: Hunting and Trapping (Class A), Fishing (Class B), Conservation Stamp (Class CS), and Big Game (Class BG); along with two *either sex, any season* deer permits, and trout fishing (Class O). *The current Sportsman license does not include trout but does include one antlered buck firearm permit, one either sex deer archery/crossbow permit, and one either sex deer muzzleloader permit.* This license was tested among hunters and anglers at five different price points: \$36, \$41.50, \$45, \$49.50 and \$54.

By introducing this license, what would be the resulting demand and revenue?

- At \$36, considering 54% of the 2019's Sportsman license buyers also bought a trout stamp at a total cost of \$45, the net revenue per buyer would fall, resulting in more than \$400,000 in revenue losses. (Figure 2)
- However, revenues would increase at each increased price point.
- If current license prices are not changed, we recommend a \$45 price point, as anything higher is above the value of the license (Sportsman + Trout). Plus, as seen when the bundle of privileges offered by the Sportsman license was tested, hunters put less value on the two either sex, any season deer privilege option.

Figure 2: Price vs. Revenue and Unit Sales for Proposed Resident Super Sport Licenses



Any Deer Any Season Stamps vs. Season-Specific Stamps

How many stamps would sell if the season/weapon specific antlered deer stamps now offered were replaced with Additional Any Season Antlered Deer Stamps, which could be used in *any applicable season*? This stamp could be used to harvest an additional buck in archery/crossbow, gun, or muzzleloader season. Residents surveyed could select 0, 1 or 2 stamps. Five price points were tested: \$21 (current stamp price), \$23, \$25, \$27 and \$29. Results are displayed in Figure 3.

- Changing to an Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp would result in 9% fewer resident hunters purchasing deer stamps and 2.3% fewer stamps sold, even at the current price (\$21).
- At \$21, annual revenue from the Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp would be less than currently received. Revenue would increase at the higher price points, while the number of purchased stamps, and possibly the deer harvest, would decrease.
- At the highest tested price (\$29), a 10% increase in revenue would be expected but the number of antlered deer stamps purchased would be reduced by 21%.

- One way to reduce the buck harvest without an across-the-board reduction in the buck quota or season would be to increase the current price of antlered deer stamps.
- There would be a greater reduction in stamp buyers and stamps sold among annual license buyers compared to lifetime license holders, but both groups show lower revenue would be generated at the current \$21 price if the change was made.
- Among annual license buyers, revenue from the Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp would be greatest at the \$27 price point rather than \$29.
- Considering the jump from \$27 to \$29 would only boost revenues from the Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp by less than one percent, we recommend avoiding the \$29 price point. (Table 3).

Figure 3. Expected Changes if an Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp is Introduced (Annual + Lifetime License Holders Included)

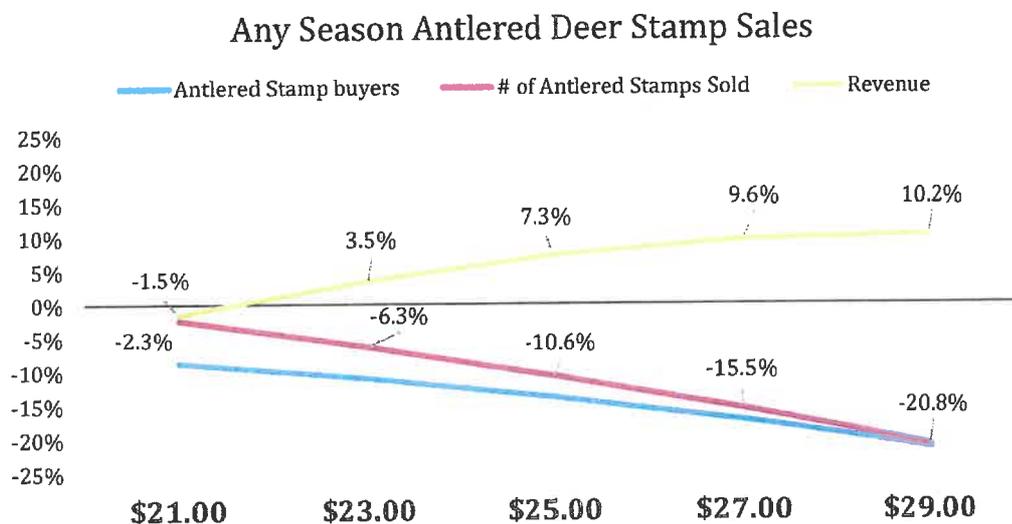


Table 3: Resident Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp Buyers, Sales and Revenue at Tested Price Points

Price	Buyers*	Stamps per Buyer	Total Stamps Sold	Total Stamp Revenue
Current prices by weapon/season	28,649	1.31	37,604	\$783,004
<i>Any Season Antlered Deer Stamps**</i>				
\$21.00	26,165	1.40	36,730	\$771,320
\$23.00	25,511	1.38	35,251	\$810,766
\$25.00	24,703	1.36	33,604	\$840,105
\$27.00	23,723	1.34	31,776	\$857,962
\$29.00	22,562	1.32	29,765	\$863,182

* Excluding antlerless stamps (Class N)
 ** Valid during buck gun, archery, & muzzleloader seasons.

Fishing Licenses

1) What would happen if the WVDNR included trout privileges in all fishing licenses instead of requiring the additional purchase of the trout stamp (type O)? (See Table 4)

- By eliminating fishing licenses that do not include a trout privilege, revenue will not change but a 12% drop in resident anglers would occur.
- Lowering the price of licenses that offer trout privileges by 10% will partially offset the decline in resident anglers but would yield a 5% drop in revenue.

Table 4: Fishing License Options Compared to Including Trout Privileges

Resident Fishing License	A) Current License Structure		B) Include Trout Fishing with All Licenses		C) Include Trout Fishing with All Licenses but Lower Price by 10%	
	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold
Five-day Fishing (L)	\$13.00	1,541	x		x	
Five-day Fishing + Trout (L+O)	\$23.00	416	\$23.00	2,500	\$20.00	2,593
Fishing (B)	\$24.00	37,642	x		x	
Fishing + Trout (B+O)	\$34.00	38,098	\$34.00	65,734	\$30.00	68,711
Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (X)	\$35.00	43,162	x		x	
Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping + Trout (X+O)	\$45.00	51,016	\$45.00	83,176	\$40.00	90,796
Total Resident Anglers		171,874		151,410		162,099
Resident Fishing License Revenue		\$6,034,698		\$6,035,362		\$5,745,015

2) What would happen if the current fishing-only licenses (B and B+O) were replaced by a fishing and small game basic combination license? (Table 5)

- Eliminating the fishing-only license (class B) and the separate trout privilege but adding a fishing and small game combination license (with and without trout privileges) would result in a 6% decline in resident anglers and a 4% decrease in revenue.
- The biggest decrease would come from people who purchase the annual fishing license without the trout privilege. A significant portion of anglers would switch to the lower-cost 5-day license.
- Though this option would decrease the overall number of anglers, West Virginia would see an increase of 48,700 certified hunting license buyers. Since the WVDNR received \$16.25 in Federal Aid from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for each 2019 hunting license sold, these additional licenses would have provided about \$791,000 in additional federal revenues. Even when considering the

expected revenue decrease from fewer anglers buying this license (-\$258,000), this still would have produced a net gain of \$532,000 (+9%) in annual federal funds for the WVDNR.

CAUTION: the amount of federal funds provided annually depends on the total excise tax revenues collected nationally plus the number of licenses sold in each state, so the revenues received annually per license sold fluctuates. This means there are no guarantees that future federal funds would be in excess of any decrease from price-driven reductions in West Virginia’s anglers.

- By furthering eliminating the five-day fishing license (L) and not offering the Sportsman combination license without trout privileges (X) or the annual fishing + trout license (B+O) – essentially offering only a five-day fishing license (without trout)(L+O), a fishing+small game license with trout privileges (AB+O) and a Sportsman license with trout (X+O) – the State would see a 17% decline in resident anglers and a 5% decrease in revenue.
- In 2019, the increase in federal funds generated by the increase in certified hunting license holders would have resulted in a \$276,000 net gain – a 5% increase. Please note that the amount of funds received in the future is uncertain and will fluctuate.

Table 5: Resident Fishing Licenses Compared to Fishing + Small Game Options

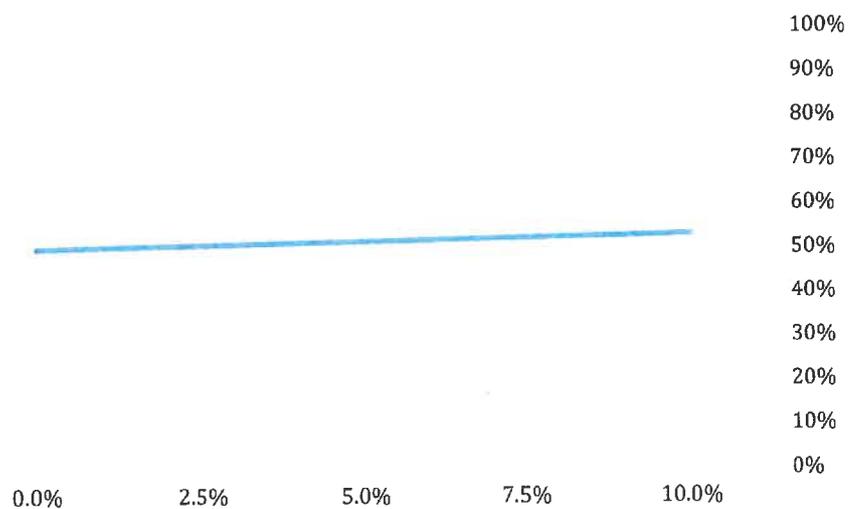
Resident Fishing License	Current License Structure		Replace Fishing (B) with Fishing+Small Game Hunting		Replace Fishing (B) with Fishing+Small Game Hunting and Include Trout in All Licenses	
	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold
Five-day Fishing (L)	\$13.00	1,541	\$13.00	12,947		
Five-day Fishing + Trout (L+O)	\$23.00	416	\$23.00	5,516	\$23.00	11,773
Fishing (B)	\$24.00	37,642				
Fishing + Trout (B+O)	\$34.00	38,098				
Fishing & Small Game Hunting (AB)			\$25.00	5,717		
Fishing & Small Game Hunting + Trout (AB+O)			\$35.00	35,428	\$35.00	47,223
Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (X)	\$35.00	43,162	\$35.00	48,003		
Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping + Trout (X+O)	\$45.00	51,016	\$45.00	53,729	\$45.00	84,091
Total Resident Anglers		171,874		161,341		143,088
Resident Fishing License Revenue		\$6,034,698		\$5,776,017		\$5,707,701

Three-Year Resident Licenses

If offered, how many customers would be interested in purchasing a three-year hunting, fishing, or sportsman license? The license would save customers the transaction fees for the second and third year plus offer the convenience of not having to renew their licenses for the following two seasons. This license was tested at different discounted price points: 2.5%, 5%, 7.5% and 10% off the cost of purchasing three separate annual licenses.

- This license would be expected to increase total revenues by reducing the number of years hunters and anglers skip buying a license.
 - However, if popular and promoted aggressively, resulting in a large number of customers switching to this license, overall license revenues would spike in the first year and drop in the second and third years. To offset uneven annual budgets, we recommend that the revenues from multi-year licenses are allocated evenly across their valid years.
- Slightly more hunters and anglers would be very likely to purchase a three-year license at a 10% discount compared to no discount. (Figure 4)
 - However, the increase in additional customers would be less than the price discount. For example, a 2.5% price discount would only attract 0.8% more buyers and the 10% discount would only boost sales by 3.2%. This license, if offered, should be priced the same as three annual licenses, as customers will still save 66% on transaction fees plus receive the convenience of a three-year license.

Figure 4: Percent of Resident Customers Reporting to be Very Interested in Three-Year Licenses, Per Possible Price Discount



Part II. Potential Demand for New Non-Resident Licenses

Fishing Licenses

1) What would be the effect of including trout fishing privileges with all non-resident fishing licenses, both at current pricing and with a 10% price hike?

- Only offering non-resident fishing licenses with trout privileges included at current prices would increase non-resident fishing license revenue by 5% but lead to an almost 15% decline in the number of non-resident anglers. (Table 6)
- Raising the price by 10% would increase revenue further (6.4% above current levels) but lead to a 21% drop in the number of non-resident anglers and their associated tourism dollars.

Table 6. Non-Resident Fishing Licenses Compared to Including Trout Privileges

Nonresident Fishing License	Current License Structure		Include Trout Fishing with All Licenses		Include Trout Fishing with All Licenses and Price Raised by 10%	
	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold
One-Day Fishing (LL)	\$16.00	11,842				
One-Day Fishing w/Trout (LL+OO)	\$32.00	7,455	\$32.00	15,824	\$35.00	15,036
Fishing (F)	\$50.00	5,709				
Fishing w/Trout (F+OO)	\$66.00	9,437	\$66.00	13,607	\$72.50	12,353
Total Nonresident Anglers		34,443		29,430		27,389
Nonresident Fishing License Revenue		\$1,336,307		\$1,404,397		\$1,421,856

2) What would be the effect of adding a three-day non-resident fishing license? Plus, what would be the effect of including trout privileges and a 10% price increase?

- Adding a three-day non-resident license is a winning idea. By offering a three-day license at \$22 and maintaining all other non-resident licenses and prices, the number of non-resident anglers would increase 7% and revenue would grow by 6%. (Table 7)
- Only offering these licenses with trout privileges included at current prices would lead to a small (2%) decline in non-resident anglers, but a greater increase in non-resident fishing license revenue (13%).
- Raising prices by 10% would increase revenue even further (17%) but lead to a 7% decline in the number of non-resident anglers.
- Adding a three-day license, dropping the one-day license, and only selling licenses with trout privileges included could be an optimal solution, as it leads to very little loss of non-resident anglers but a greater increase in revenue. It also results in a simpler license structure.
 - The results indicate that one-day non-resident fishing license buyers frequently purchase two or more of these licenses annually. The proposed \$38 three-day trout license represents a significant discount compared to buying three separate one-day fishing licenses - with or without trout privileges.

Table 7. Non-Resident Fishing Licenses Compared to Adding Three-day Licenses and Trout Privileges

Nonresident Fishing License	Current License Structure		Add Three-day License		Add Three-day License; Trout Included with All		Add Three-day License; Trout Included with All and Price Raised by 10%	
	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold	Price	# Sold
One-Day Fishing (LL)	\$16.00	11,842	\$16.00	9,573				
One-Day Fishing w/Trout (LL+OO)	\$32.00	7,455	\$32.00	2,897	\$32.00	7,512	\$35.00	7,205
Three-Day Fishing			\$22.00	651				
Three-Day Fishing w/Trout			\$38.00	11,685	\$38.00	16,483	\$42.00	15,705
Fishing (F)	\$50.00	5,709	\$50.00	5,280				
Fishing w/Trout (F+OO)	\$66.00	9,437	\$66.00	6,742	\$66.00	9,760	\$72.50	9,049
Total Non-resident Anglers		34,443		36,827		33,754		31,958
Nonresident Fishing License Revenue		\$1,336,307		\$1,413,177		\$1,510,849		\$1,567,781

Any Deer, Any Season Stamps vs. Season-Specific Stamps

How many stamps would sell if the non-resident season/weapon-specific deer antlered stamps now offered were replaced with non-resident Additional Any Season Antlered Deer Stamps, which could be used in *any applicable season*? This stamp could be used to harvest an additional buck in archery/crossbow, gun, or muzzleloader season. Non-residents were allowed to select 0, 1 or 2 stamps. Five price points were tested: \$43, \$45, \$47, \$49 and \$51.

- Switching to a non-resident any season antlered deer stamp would increase revenue at all of the prices tested. (Figure 5)
- However, the net increase between the lowest and highest prices tested (\$43 and \$51) would have negligible revenue effect but greater impacts on non-resident participation and tourism. We recommend this stamp for non-residents at the \$43 price point.
 - If the goal is to reduce buck harvest, then offer this permit at \$51 or higher.
- As this stamp is not required, it is expected to have a lesser effect on tourism than would be experienced by price hikes to primary licenses, though some unknown level of impact should still be expected.

Figure 5. Expected Changes if a Non-Resident 'Any Season' Antlered Deer Stamp Format is Introduced

'Any Season' Nonresident Antlered Deer Stamp Sales

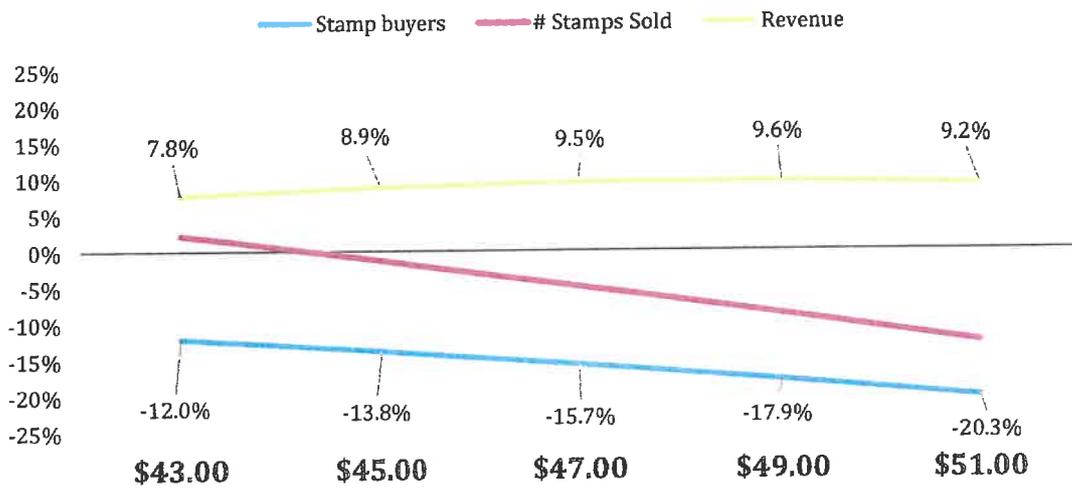


Table 8: Expected Effects of Non-Resident Any-Season Antlered Deer Stamps at Various Prices

Price	Number of buyers*	Number of Stamps per buyer	Total Number of Stamps	Total Revenue
Current prices by weapon/season	5,761	1.17	6,757	\$275,689
<i>Any Season Antlered Deer Stamps**</i>				
\$43.00	5,068	1.36	6,912	\$297,235
\$45.00	4,967	1.34	6,673	\$300,281
\$47.00	4,854	1.32	6,425	\$301,974
\$49.00	4,730	1.30	6,169	\$302,268
\$51.00	4,593	1.29	5,904	\$301,128

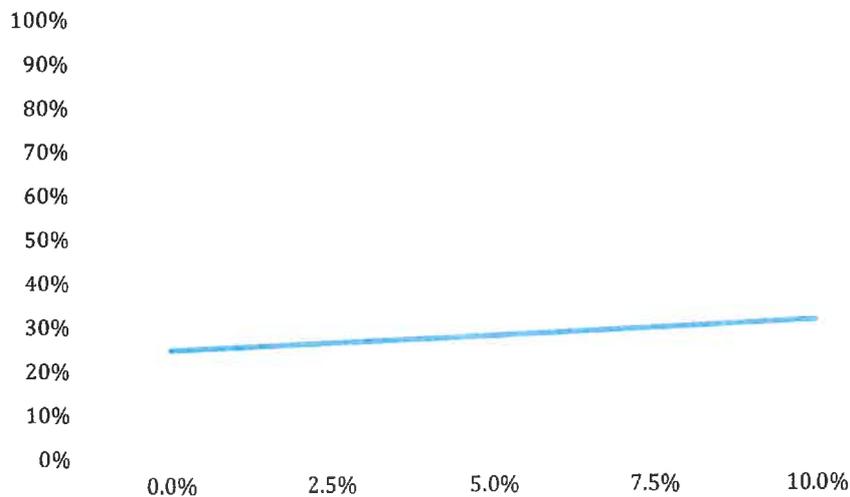
* Excluding antlerless stamps (Class NN)
 ** Valid during buck gun, archery, & muzzleloader seasons.

Three-Year Licenses

How many non-residents would be interested in purchasing a three-year hunting, fishing, or sportsman license, if the WVDNR was to offer one? The license would save customers the transaction fees for the second and third year plus offer the convenience of not having to renew their license for the following two seasons. This license was tested at different discounted price points: 2.5%, 5%, 7.5% and 10% off the cost of purchasing three separate annual licenses. (Figure 6).

- The percent of non-resident anglers and hunters who would be very likely to purchase a three-year license varies between 24% and 31% depending on the level of discount.
- No discounts should be offered on three-year licenses as the increase in the percent of non-residents interested in these licenses is lower than each incremental discount. Specifically, for each additional 2.5% discount, sales only increase 1.5% to 1.6%. Each additional discount would reduce WVDNR revenues. The 66% reduction in transaction fees and convenience of a three-year license are incentive enough for many to purchase this license.

Figure 6: Percent of Non-Residents Reporting to be Very Interested in Three-Year Licenses, Per Possible Price Discount Point



Part III. Conservation Stamp and License Year Preferences

Both residents and non-residents were asked if they preferred the current system where a conservation stamp must be purchased in addition to their license(s) or if they would prefer it be included in the price of the license (as it is with the Resident Sportsman license).

- Residents preferred the current system by 55% to 45%. (Table 9)
- Non-residents were evenly split.

Table 9. Resident Conservation Stamp (Annual License Buyers)

Currently resident hunters and anglers are required to purchase a \$5 Conservation Stamp annually unless they hold a Resident Sportsman or Lifetime license. Please select which of the following statements you agree with the most:	%
I would rather pay more for my license and have the conservation stamp automatically included	45.2%
It's fine the way it is	54.8%
<i>N=1,613</i>	

Table 10. Non-Resident Conservation Stamp

Currently non-resident hunters and anglers are required to purchase a \$5 Conservation Stamp annually unless they hold a Resident Sportsman or Lifetime license. Please select which of the following statements you agree with the most:	%
I would rather pay more for my license and have the conservation stamp automatically included	50.0%
It's fine the way it is	50.0%
<i>N=1,558</i>	

Both residents and non-residents were asked whether they prefer the current, calendar year-based license year, or would instead prefer a fiscal year license valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

- Residents overwhelmingly prefer the current, calendar year licenses. There was a little more support for the fiscal year license among hunters, but almost half still preferred the calendar year. (Table 11)
- Non-residents were more split with hunters preferring the July 1 to June 30 license year and anglers (who don't also hunt) preferring the current license year by a large margin. (Table 12)

Table 11. Resident License Year Preference

Which of these year-long license periods would you prefer?	Only fished	Hunted in past	All
January 1 – December 31	54.5%	47.1%	49.3%
July 1 – June 30	23.9%	32.1%	29.7%
No preference	21.6%	20.8%	21.0%
	<i>N</i> = 345	1310	1655

Table 12. Non-Resident License Year Preference

Which of these year-long license periods would you prefer?	Only fished	Hunted in past	All
January 1 – December 31	48.5%	28.2%	36.2%
July 1 – June 30	13.7%	38.6%	28.7%
No preference	37.9%	33.2%	35.1%
	<i>N</i> = 345	1310	1655

Part III. Additional Observations & Recommendations

Residents

1. We strongly recommend offering the suggested resident Super Sport license at the \$45 price point.
2. Overall, resident hunters are not excited about replacing the current season/weapon-specific antlered deer permits with an Any Season Antlered Deer Stamp. The number of overall buyers would decrease but the number of stamps bought per person would increase, indicating the remaining buyers see this as a worthwhile opportunity to harvest antlered deer. Prices would have to increase though to replace lost revenue, if that is a concern. At each higher price point, fewer permits would be sold, which provides a tool to help reduce buck harvest, if desired.
 - a. We suspect the actual decrease in stamps sold may be exaggerated. It is possible that some respondents did not fully read this somewhat complex question, and answered "no" to buying these proposed new stamps, falsely thinking they would be able to continue buying their traditional stamps as always, which depresses our overall estimate of the number of stamps that would actually be sold. Explicit marketing and communications efforts would be needed to educate customers about this change and its lack of impact on hunting opportunity, if implemented.
3. Continue to offer fishing licenses that do not include trout privileges. Requiring all licenses to have a trout permit will reduce participation and revenue.
4. Use caution when dropping some or all fishing-only licenses in favor of fishing+small game options. While the short-term reduced revenues resulting from lower participation would likely be replaced by an increase in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, in the long run the average Federal Aid funds received per license could fall and is beyond control of the WVDNR. Plus, the state would need to increase its non-federal matching funds required to access Federal Aid dollars.
5. Three-year licenses are a definite winner and should be instituted. These licenses should be priced at the face value of their corresponding annual license times three. No discounts or incentives are necessary beyond the reduced transaction fees and greater convenience of buying a license once every three years.
6. If the state is required to allocate 100% of revenues from the sale of a multi-year license to the year in which it's sold, the introduction of desirable multi-year licenses can cause a spike in the first year's revenues followed by two years of reduced revenues, followed by other spikes and decreases, with each subsequent round becoming smaller over time. If possible, allow revenues from multi-year licenses to be allocated evenly across the years they are valid.
7. Regarding the licenses currently offered by the WVDNR, if no new licenses are introduced, lowering the price of the Additional Gun Deer (RG) stamp no further than \$14.50 would increase revenues and the number of people buying this stamp. This approach would likely encourage greater deer harvest. An alternative would be to leave this license as-is and over time inflation would gradually have the same effect as a price increase. For insights into pricing for other licenses, please see the November 2019 report released as part of this project: *Sales Revenue Forecasts for Selected Fishing and Hunting Licenses in West Virginia*.

Non-Residents

8. While non-resident price increases could boost WVDNR's revenues, decreases in non-resident anglers and hunters would have some unknown level of impact on tourism-related businesses. We suggest careful consideration of the potential impact on guides, hunting lease revenue, tackle shops, hotels, restaurants and other commerce when new prices are considered that could decrease the number of visitors to West Virginia.
9. Although non-resident hunters would prefer the fiscal year license (July 1 – June 30) there is not enough interest from residents and non-resident anglers to justify the change.

Appendix: Screener Questions and Demographics

Resident Annual License Buyers

Q1: Did you fish, hunt, or trap in WV in the past 12 months?	%
Fish	86.8%
Hunt	68.6%
Trap	6.1%
None of these	4.3%
<i>N</i> =	1,921

Q2: How many days did you fish in West Virginia in the past 12 months?	%
1 to 5	19.9%
6 to 10	17.6%
11 to 20	19.2%
21 to 50	27.3%
51 to 100	11.1%
Over 100	4.8%
<i>Median</i>	20
<i>N</i> =	1,357

Q3: Which type of fish did you fish for in the past 12 months?	%
Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)	64.4%
White Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass	21.1%
Trout	60.0%
Musky, Tiger Musky, Northern Pike	11.7%
Sauger, Saugeye	5.4%
Walleye	12.4%
Catfish	48.4%

Perch	11.8%
Bluegill, Sunfish	47.1%
Crappie	30.0%
Anything	43.4%
	<i>N= 1,594</i>

Q4: How many days did you hunt in West Virginia in the past 12 months?	%
1 to 5	21.8%
6 to 10	17.6%
11 to 20	25.2%
21 to 50	28.1%
51 to 100	5.8%
Over 100	1.5%
	<i>Median 15</i>
	<i>N= 1,192</i>

Q5: Which type of game did you hunt for in the past 12 months?	%
Bear	17.4%
Deer	96.6%
Turkey	44.1%
Wild boar	0.8%
Dove	3.8%
Squirrel, Rabbit	56.0%
Grouse, Pheasant	8.0%
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks)	3.7%
Furbearers (Coyote, Fox, Raccoon, Bobcat, etc)	19.2%
Other	1.6%
	<i>N= 1,380</i>

Q5a: Which type of weapon did you use to hunt deer in the past 12 months? %

Firearm	94.5%
Bow	50.3%
Crossbow	32.7%
Muzzleloader	30.2%
	N= 1,328

Q6: Do you plan to fish, hunt, or trap in WV in the next 12 months? %

Fish	94.6%
Hunt	73.5%
Trap	9.1%
None of these	1.3%
	N= 1,840

Q7: Which type of fish do you plan to fish for in the next 12 months? %

Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)	59.1%
White Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass	21.7%
Trout	58.1%
Musky, Tiger Musky, Northern Pike	13.1%
Sauger, Saugeye	6.4%
Walleye	15.5%
Catfish	45.0%
Perch	12.2%
Bluegill, Sunfish	40.7%
Crappie	29.2%
Anything	47.9%
	N= 1,728

Q8: Which type of game do you plan to hunt for in the next 12 months? %

Bear	27.5%
Deer	98.0%
Turkey	64.7%
Wild boar	2.9%
Dove	6.4%
Squirrel, Rabbit	64.6%
Grouse, Pheasant	13.2%
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks)	6.9%
Furbearers (Coyote, Fox, Raccoon, Bobcat, etc)	29.0%
Other	1.8%
	N= 1,468

Q8a: Which type of weapons do you plan to use to hunt deer in the next 12 months? %

Firearm	95.8%
Bow	56.4%
Crossbow	38.2%
Muzzleloader	37.0%
	N= 1,433

Q9: Which of these licenses and stamps are you likely to purchase in the next 12 months? %

Five-Day Fishing (L)	1.0%
Fishing (B)	32.6%
Hunting & Trapping (A)	7.7%
Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (X)	64.7%
Trout Fishing Stamp (O)	60.8%
Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (N)	33.8%
Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (RB)	19.0%

Additional Firearm Deer Hunting Stamp (RG)	20.9%
Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (RM)	5.1%
Resident Big Game Stamp (BG)	6.8%
Bear Damage Stamp (DS)	17.0%
Small Arms Hunting Stamp (A-1)	5.1%
Lifetime license – Fishing (B-L)	1.8%
Lifetime license – Trout Fishing (O-L)	1.4%
Lifetime license – Hunting and Trapping (A-L)	1.2%
Lifetime license – Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (AB-L)	1.8%
Lifetime license - Handgun License (A-1-L)	0.6%
Lifetime license – Senior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (XS)	0.7%
Other	1.4%
None of these	1.5%
	<i>N= 1,806</i>

Age of respondents	Weighted	Unweighted
Under 18	0.0%	0.0%
18 to 24	16.0%	10.5%
25 to 34	20.6%	20.4%
35 to 44	21.5%	26.2%
45 to 54	22.3%	23.0%
55 to 64	19.6%	19.9%
65 and older	0.0%	0.0%
	<i>N=</i>	<i>1,921</i>

Gender of Respondents	Weighted	Unweighted
Male	75.3%	83.1%
Female	24.7%	16.9%

N= 1,921

Resident Lifetime License Holders:

Q1: Did you fish, hunt, or trap in WV in the past 12 months?		%
Fish		83.8%
Hunt		94.5%
Trap		12.7%
None of these		0.9%
	N=	1,004

Q2: How many days did you fish in West Virginia in the past 12 months?		%
1 to 5		17.7%
6 to 10		17.9%
11 to 20		24.4%
21 to 50		27.6%
51 to 100		9.1%
Over 100		3.4%
	Median	20
	N=	687

Q3: Which type of fish did you fish for in the past 12 months?		%
Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)		63.8%
White Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass		15.2%
Trout		76.9%
Musky, Tiger Musky, Northern Pike		15.8%
Sauger, Saugeye		7.3%
Walleye		19.3%
Catfish		44.7%
Perch		13.4%

Bluegill, Sunfish	43.7%
Crappie	35.3%
Anything	30.6%
	<i>N= 893</i>

Q4: How many days did you hunt in West Virginia in the past 12 months?		%
1 to 5		11.3%
6 to 10		13.9%
11 to 20		27.2%
21 to 50		38.4%
51 to 100		6.9%
Over 100		2.3%
	<i>Median</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>N=</i>	<i>784</i>

Q5: Which type of game did you hunt for in the past 12 months?		%
Bear		30.4%
Deer		97.9%
Turkey		61.8%
Wild boar		0.9%
Dove		3.1%
Squirrel, Rabbit		55.6%
Grouse, Pheasant		14.4%
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks)		3.0%
Furbearers (Coyote, Fox, Raccoon, Bobcat, etc)		23.1%
Other		2.3%
	<i>N=</i>	<i>915</i>

Q5a: Which type of weapon did you use to hunt deer in the past 12 months?		%
Firearm		96.0%
Bow		39.2%

Crossbow	46.4%
Muzzleloader	47.8%
	N= 893

Q6: Do you plan to fish, hunt, or trap in WV in the next 12 months? %

Fish	91.0%
Hunt	96.2%
Trap	15.2%
None of these	0.4%
	N= 989

Q7: Which type of fish do you plan to fish for in the next 12 months? %

Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)	63.4%
White Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass	12.3%
Trout	76.8%
Musky, Tiger Musky, Northern Pike	12.1%
Sauger, Saugeye	6.4%
Walleye	14.5%
Catfish	43.3%
Perch	9.1%
Bluegill, Sunfish	45.6%
Crappie	32.5%
Anything	25.7%
	N= 808

Q8: Which type of game do you plan to hunt for in the next 12 months? %

Bear	40.8%
Deer	98.3%
Turkey	75.2%
Wild boar	3.4%

Dove	7.1%
Squirrel, Rabbit	65.7%
Grouse, Pheasant	21.1%
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks)	7.1%
Furbearers (Coyote, Fox, Raccoon, Bobcat, etc)	30.6%
Other	2.4%
	N= 943

Q8a: Which type of weapons do you plan to use to hunt deer in the next 12 months?	%
Firearm	97.0%
Bow	43.3%
Crossbow	53.0%
Muzzleloader	56.2%
	N= 926

Q9: Which of these licenses and stamps are you likely to purchase in the next 12 months?	%
Five-Day Fishing (L)	0.5%
Fishing (B)	3.5%
Hunting & Trapping (A)	0.8%
Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (X)	10.6%
Trout Fishing Stamp (O)	37.8%
Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (N)	48.9%
Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (RB)	31.7%
Additional Firearm Deer Hunting Stamp (RG)	35.1%
Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (RM)	8.4%
Resident Big Game Stamp (BG)	1.6%
Bear Damage Stamp (DS)	32.3%
Small Arms Hunting Stamp (A-1)	7.8%

Lifetime license – Fishing (B-L)	0.2%
Lifetime license – Trout Fishing (O-L)	1.3%
Lifetime license – Hunting and Trapping (A-L)	0.7%
Lifetime license – Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (AB-L)	4.9%
Lifetime license - Handgun License (A-1-L)	1.3%
Lifetime license – Senior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (XS)	7.4%
Other	2.6%
None of these	13.5%
	<i>N= 974</i>

Age of respondents	Weighted	Unweighted
Under 18	0.0%	0.0%
18 to 24	5.9%	5.1%
25 to 34	6.9%	6.9%
35 to 44	12.4%	12.0%
45 to 54	20.2%	20.9%
55 to 64	25.3%	21.3%
65 and older	29.3%	33.9%
	<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

Gender of Respondents	Weighted	Unweighted
Male	97.1%	97.8%
Female	2.9%	2.2%
	<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

Non-Resident License Holders:

Q1: Did you fish, hunt, or trap in WV in the past 12 months?		%
Fish		48.8%
Hunt		54.3%
Trap		0.9%
None of these		11.5%
	<i>N=</i>	1,717

Q2: How many days did you fish in West Virginia in the past 12 months?		%
1 to 5		54.7%
6 to 10		21.0%
11 to 20		12.8%
21 to 50		8.9%
51 to 100		2.0%
Over 100		0.7%
	<i>Median</i>	5
	<i>N=</i>	590

Q3: Which type of fish did you fish for in the past 12 months?		%
Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)		44.5%
White Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass		8.5%
Trout		63.0%
Musky, Tiger Musky, Northern Pike		6.8%
Sauger, Saugeye		1.8%
Walleye		5.4%
Catfish		16.6%
Perch		8.4%
Bluegill, Sunfish		25.6%
Crappie		14.3%
Anything		24.9%

		N=	732
Q4: How many days did you hunt in West Virginia in the past 12 months?			%
1 to 5			39.4%
6 to 10			30.4%
11 to 20			18.3%
21 to 50			10.9%
51 to 100			1.0%
Over 100			0.0%
		<i>Median</i>	7
		N=	862

Q5: Which type of game did you hunt for in the past 12 months?			%
Bear			8.9%
Deer			89.4%
Turkey			25.3%
Dove			0.8%
Squirrel, Rabbit			19.2%
Grouse, Pheasant			6.2%
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks)			0.9%
Furbearers (Coyote, Fox, Raccoon, Bobcat, etc)			6.4%
Other			1.4%
		N=	1,037

Q5a: Which type of weapon did you use to hunt deer in the past 12 months?			%
Firearm			92.3%
Bow			29.8%
Crossbow			19.8%
Muzzleloader			11.7%
		N=	928

Q6: Do you plan to fish, hunt, or trap in WV in the next 12 months?		%
Fish		57.3%
Hunt		61.4%
Trap		1.7%
None of these		5.9%
<i>N</i> =		1,674

Q7: Which type of fish do you plan to fish for in the next 12 months?		%
Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)		44.3%
White Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass		9.1%
Trout		65.1%
Musky, Tiger Musky, Northern Pike		9.8%
Sauger, Saugeye		2.5%
Walleye		7.8%
Catfish		15.9%
Perch		9.1%
Bluegill, Sunfish		21.0%
Crappie		15.5%
Anything		32.4%
<i>N</i> =		896

Q8: Which type of game do you plan to hunt for in the next 12 months?		%
Bear		14.9%
Deer		90.5%
Turkey		44.8%
Dove		2.5%
Squirrel, Rabbit		26.2%
Grouse, Pheasant		10.1%
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks)		3.0%
Furbearers (Coyote, Fox, Raccoon, Bobcat, etc)		12.2%

Other	1.4%
	N= 1,135

Q8a: Which type of weapons do you plan to use to hunt deer in the next 12 months?		%
Firearm	94.3%	
Bow	40.4%	
Crossbow	28.9%	
Muzzleloader	20.6%	
	N= 1,023	

Q9: Which of these licenses and stamps are you likely to purchase in the next 12 months?		%
One-Day Fishing (LL)	15.9%	
Fishing (F)	45.8%	
Trout Fishing Stamp (OO)	39.6%	
Statewide Hunting & Trapping (E)	44.0%	
Bear Hunting (EE)	8.9%	
Small Game Hunting (H)	11.4%	
Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (NN)	30.9%	
Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (RRB)	14.9%	
Additional Firearm Deer Hunting Stamp (RRG)	22.2%	
Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (RRM)	4.3%	
Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (UU)	27.3%	
Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (VV)	9.7%	
Turkey Hunting Stamp (WW)	24.6%	
Bear Damage Stamp (DS)	4.8%	
Small Arms Hunting Stamp (A-1)	3.8%	
Other	4.0%	

None of these	5.1%
N=	1,647

Age of respondents	Weighted	Unweighted
Under 18	0.0%	0.0%
18 to 24	9.4%	3.8%
25 to 34	17.8%	10.5%
35 to 44	18.2%	12.9%
45 to 54	21.7%	22.6%
55 to 64	20.8%	26.4%
65 and older	12.0%	23.8%
N=	1,718	

Gender of Respondents	Weighted	Unweighted
Male	90.2%	95.2%
Female	9.8%	4.8%
N=	1,718	

**SUMMARY OF SECTIONAL MEETING QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE
2020-2021 & 2021-2022 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS,
2021 FISHING REGULATIONS, AND
2021 REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS**

49 clubs with 8,390 members, and 397 individuals submitted questionnaires

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS						
PROPOSED REGULATION		INDIVIDUALS			CLUBS	
		Number	%	Number	%*	
1	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that there be a special youth bear season for youth hunters, 8 to less than 1, Class Q permit holders and Class XS license holders, to be held on the third Saturday and following Sunday in October on private and public lands in counties open to a firearms deer hunting season. The use of dogs is prohibited during this season.	Favor	121	43.21	40	85.11
		Oppose	159	56.79	7	14.89
2	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2020 Black Bear Seasons be open as shown on the attached table.	Favor	135	38.35	45	93.75
		Oppose	217	61.65	3	6.25
3	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2020 Antlerless Deer Season be open as shown on the attached tables.	Favor	169	77.17	39	82.98
		Oppose	50	22.83	8	17.02
4	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to allow hunters (age 14 and under), in addition to Class Y license holders, to utilize a crossbow during the crossbow deer season in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties.	Favor	122	55.71	28	60.87
		Oppose	97	44.29	18	39.13
5	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the Buck Firearms and Antlerless Deer Seasons through the second Sunday following Thanksgiving.	Favor	146	65.18	37	80.43
		Oppose	78	34.82	9	19.57

6	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to allow for the use of bows with arrows equipped with a point having at least two sharp-cutting edges measuring in excess of 3/4 inch wide, in addition to shotguns and crossbows during the Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season	Favor	172	79.26	38	82.61
		Oppose	45	20.74	8	17.39
7	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the spring wild turkey season opens on the third Monday in April and runs for thirty-five (35) consecutive days thereafter and is open statewide for the hunting of bearded turkeys only. (Currently the season length is 27 days).	Favor	171	78.08	39	84.78
		Oppose	48	21.92	7	15.22
8	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the segment splits for the fall turkey season be extended by one day and close on a Sunday.	Favor	172	80.00	41	89.13
		Oppose	43	20.00	5	10.87
9	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to allow year-round coyote hunting with an artificial light, with the condition that between September 1 thru December 31, night hunting with an artificial light for coyotes can only occur on private lands and requires that the hunter receive landowner permission and notify the DNR-Law Enforcement Section prior to hunting.	Favor	157	73.02	37	80.43
		Oppose	58	26.98	9	19.57
10	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2020-2021 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table.	Favor	170	76.58	41	89.13
		Oppose	52	23.42	5	10.87

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS						
PROPOSED REGULATION			INDIVIDUALS		CLUBS	
			Number	%	Number	%*
1	The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other small game & furbearer hunting and trapping regulations for the 2021-2022 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.	Favor	181	91.88	44	91.67
		Oppose	16	8.12	4	8.33

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE 2021-2022 RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING SEASON -

The Division of Natural Resources seeks your opinion as it relates to reducing the length of the ruffed grouse hunting season. The Division is considering reducing the length of the grouse hunting season due to declining grouse populations and requests your opinion as to which option best represents your opinion on the issue.

PROPOSED REGULATION			INDIVIDUALS		CLUBS	
			Number	%	Number	%*
	Reduce days toward the end of the season.	Favor	52	24.07	16	34.78
	Reduce days toward the beginning of the season.	Favor	60	27.78	15	32.61
	Prefer a split season with reduction in days being in middle of season.	Favor	36	16.67	6	13.04
	Prefer the length of the ruffed grouse season remain the same.	Favor	68	31.48	9	19.57
	Also, this past hunting season, did you actively hunt grouse in West Virginia?	Yes	69	31.80	24	52.17
		No	148	68.20	22	47.83

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 FISHING REGULATIONS

PROPOSED REGULATION			INDIVIDUALS		CLUBS	
			Number	%	Number	%*
1	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a State-wide 30-fish daily creel and 60-fish possession limit for each of the following fish species: black and white crappie in aggregate, all sunfish species in aggregate, all other gamefish currently not under a creel limit, and yellow perch.	Favor	150	78.13	43	95.56
		Oppose	42	21.88	2	4.44
2	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the 12" size limit for black bass from Wallback Lake.	Favor	107	59.78	35	83.33
		Oppose	72	40.22	7	16.67
3	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the season for dip netting to allow this method to be used year-round.	Favor	110	60.44	35	83.33
		Oppose	72	39.56	7	16.67

4	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the black bass no-harvest regulation from the 12-mile section of the New River from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone to the Grandview Sandbar.	Favor	120	67.42	36	85.71
		Oppose	58	32.58	6	14.29
5	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a river-wide 14" to 22" slot limit with only one fish allowed over 22" for all black bass in the New River from the confluence of the New and Gauley Rivers upstream to the West Virginia/Virginia state line excluding Bluestone lake (from the dam upstream to the Bull Falls public access site).	Favor	151	82.97	39	92.86
		Oppose	31	17.03	3	7.14
6	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add the Kanawha River (from the confluence of the Gauley and New rivers downstream to the Buffalo Bridge) 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.	Favor	157	86.74	41	97.62
		Oppose	24	13.26	1	2.38
7	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the trout Catch-and-Release regulation from the .9-mile section of Shavers Fork encompassing the Stuart Recreation area.	Favor	124	65.61	32	72.73
		Oppose	65	34.39	12	27.27
8	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove Buffalo Creek in Fayette County from the trout Fly-Fishing-Only regulation.	Favor	110	59.14	33	78.57
		Oppose	76	40.86	9	21.43
9	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to set a 2-fish daily creel limit for all trout in Stephens Lake in Raleigh County.	Favor	141	77.47	39	92.86
		Oppose	41	22.53	3	7.14
10	All other fishing regulations for 2021 would be the same as those in 2020.	Favor	174	92.55	43	95.56
		Oppose	14	7.45	2	4.44

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS						
PROPOSED REGULATION			INDIVIDUALS		CLUBS	
			Number	%	Number	%*
1	The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add the Blanchard's cricket frog (<i>Acris blanchardi</i>) and yellow-spotted woodland salamander (<i>Plethodon pauleyi</i>) to the existing established seasons and limits for reptiles and amphibians in West Virginia.	Favor	135	77.14	37	92.50
		Oppose	40	22.86	3	7.50
2	The Division of Natural Resources proposes the season be closed, possession limit of zero (0), for all reptile and amphibian species listed below.	Favor	120	65.22	27	64.29
		Oppose	64	34.78	15	35.71

*Percentage based on number of clubs

DEER – GENERAL			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	All proposals are a good thing
1	80		Against changing opening day of rifle season for deer
DEER – BUCK			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		8	Annual bag limit for antlered deer should be one
1	3	15	In favor of a 2-buck limit
1	125		In favor of a 2-buck limit
1	6		Reduce the number of bucks allowed each year to 2
1	80	1	In favor of 3 buck limit
1	850		Bag limit decision needs to be made before legislature makes it for us
1	25		Increase buck limit to 5 (1-bow, 1-rifle, 1-muzzleloader, sell 2 extra tags for hunters' choice)
		1	Keep bag limits the same for bucks
		1	Don't need to reduce antlered deer harvest, instead, should have to "earn" the second and third bucks by harvesting an antlerless deer for each additional buck
		1	DNR should establish buck limit as they feel necessary to manage a healthy population

		1	Have antler restrictions on Sleepy Creek
		1	In favor of antler restrictions
		1	Would like to see the older age management areas on buck size changed from 14" width to 3-4 points on one side
		1	Recommend all antlered deer taken must have a min. 14" outside antler spread
		1	In favor of 3 pt restrictions on 2 nd harvested antlered buck
		1	In favor of 4 pt restrictions on 3 rd harvested antlered buck
		1	In favor of having restrictions on 2 nd and 3 rd harvested buck
		1	Against having to harvest a doe before shooting a 2 nd buck
		1	Antler restrictions of 3 points on one side
1	10		Against 3" in Monroe, Summers and Greenbrier
		2	Would prefer to limit by points instead of antler width
		1	Buck-only gun season open November 21, 2020 (to start Saturday)
1	28		Antler restrictions of 6 points OR 14" wide
		1	Buck must have 4 points on one side to be legal
		1	Oppose to adding Sunday to the end of buck season
		1	Would like to see a decrease in the amount of antlered buck tags one person can obtain
1	21		Would like for antlered rifle season to come in 2 days sooner and opening day be on Saturday before Thanksgiving
		1	Would like to see it bow only for the whole state and strict antler restrictions

DEER – ARCHERY/CROSSBOW

Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	Extend archery deer season into January until at least Jan. 20, if not longer
		3	Against crossbow hunting in those 4 counties
		1	Crossbows should be allowed/legal for use in the 4 traditional bow-only counties
		2	Against crossbow use unless someone has a medical condition or make it a 1-week season
		1	Oppose use of crossbow in archery season
		1	No need to introduce more crossbow use in archery only counties
		1	Separate early crossbow season (ending by Halloween)
		1	Limit crossbow season to first 3 weeks in October
1	48	1	No crossbows in the 4 bow-only counties except for handicap license holders
		1	No crossbows in Wyoming County for deer
		2	No crossbows in the bowhunting only counties
		1	Against catering to the WV Bowhunters Assoc by creating a shorter separate crossbow season
		1	Bowhunters already have over 3,000 "disabled" Y permit holders using crossbows in an area that is supposed to be archery only, not to mention bear hunters with guns in those counties

		1	Should use at least 1-inch arrows
		1	The wording (age 14 and under) sets no limit on what age is too young. Babies will just be an excuse for daddies to shoot
DEER – ANTLERLESS			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
1	100		Consider deer loss in our area due to EHD, aka Blue Tongue
1	100		Would like a reduction in doe tags for the South Fork of the South Branch
		1	In favor of Summers and Mercer to have a 2 doe/antlerless limit
		1	Approve of keeping antlerless season in October
		1	Antlerless season on Bluestone WMA should be drawn (applied for) permits, not unlimited
		2	Against October antlerless season
		1	Against antlerless season running concurrent with the November firearms season
		2	Too many antlerless seasons
1	5		Feel that the antlerless season runs too long
1	5		Do not want an additional season in Oct. (cut out antlerless season for a couple years)
		1	Request that for the antlerless deer hunting on WMA to limited license for Camp Creek SF from 50-75
		1	Kill more does
		1	Decline in the doe populations
		1	General antlerless tags – any weapon
1	15		Against doe season any time after buck season is over in December
		1	Recommend 1 antlerless limit in Grant County
		1	Recommend a bag limit of 1 antlerless deer on Sleepy Creek
		1	DNR needs to do homework on all the deer regulations and get out in the field
		1	Stop splitting counties for antlerless season – too complicated for us and the public to decide where you can or can't hunt
		1	Antlerless season should be closed, Private land should be 1 antlerless deer in the county
		1	Early rifle doe "only" season is sacrificing young bucks
		1	Antlerless seasons need to be consolidated and simplified
		1	Raise antlerless bag limit in Fayette Co. to two
		1	3 doe limit – bow, gun muzzleloader combined
		1	Southern border for antlerless deer season in Kanawha Co. should be the Kanawha River

DEER - MUZZLELOADER

Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	In favor of muzzleloader season where deer, bear and turkey were in season
		2	Oppose the youth to utilize crossbow during crossbow season (adults will use them also)
1	3		Move muzzleloader season to week before buck season starts
		1	Extend muzzleloader season and/or add/move to early season
		1	In favor of replacing antlerless firearms seasons with adding an early 3-4 day muzzleloader season the end of October

DEER - HERITAGE

Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
1	6		Expand heritage season to include 2 weekends (Sat. to following Sunday)
		1	Extend Heritage season to 1 week and include turkey season
		1	In favor of heritage season being earlier in the year when it's not so cold
		1	In favor of combining the muzzleloader and heritage seasons
		1	Extend heritage season to a full week
		1	Want heritage season to open January 1 to allow hunting for two weekends
1	8		Make Mountaineer Heritage Season a week
		1	Include compound bows in the Heritage Season weapons
		1	Add turkey season to Heritage Season
		1	Add turkey to heritage season but include it with 1 bird fall limit
		1	Move heritage season to September to give the opportunity at harvesting a velvet deer to increase participation

DEER - YOUTH

Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	Against youth deer season occurring during fall turkey season
		2	People with Q or XS permits should be allowed to take a 4 th deer during archery season because elderly don't do well in cold
1	3000	6	Against Youth Crossbow hunting in bow hunting counties
		1	If youths are skilled enough to hunt turkeys with bows, there's no need for a special youth season
1	210		Against crossbows for youth in southern counties
		1	Against youth to use a crossbow for fear their parents would take advantage
		1	Against youth using crossbows
		1	No crossbow season for kids under license age
1	3000		Opposed to four-day youth season that is antlerless only

1	25		Would like youth deer seasons to be hunter's choice (buck or antlerless)
1	25		Let youth take a buck during youth season to increase their interest
BEAR			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	In favor of adding more to the kill limit
		4	Opposed to stopping bear hunting
		1	Opposed to the proposed 20-21 bear hunting season
1	538		Recommend a limited black bear snaring season in counties where bear numbers are not being adequately controlled
DOG			
		9	Opposed to hound restrictions
		2	Opposed to hunting with dogs
1	8	4	Stop bear dog training year-round
		1	In favor of use of dogs during any season
		1	In favor of use of dogs statewide as well as pursuing coyote, raccoon, rabbits, birds, squirrels
		1	Would like to see dog training season eliminated during May and June to allow birds to raise their young
		1	Eliminate dog training season the first three weeks of October
		1	Bear hunting with dogs in the regular late season as well as early season in southern Lewis County (south of Route 4 and east of Route 19), should be opened
		13	All black bear hunting in Preston County should be allowed with dogs
Preston County			
		1	Hunting a black bear in all of Preston County with dogs should be allowed except during the Nov 23 rd to Dec 6 th (deer season)
		1	Hunting black bear should be allowed west of Rt. 7 and west of Rt. 92 with dogs during the 7-day season from Sept. 19-25 and 4-week season Dec. 7-31
		10	Hunting black bear with dogs should not be allowed west of 92 to Reedsville
		13	Oppose the new proposed black bear hunting season in Preston County 92/7 split east west without change
1	350	28	Oppose the removal of west Preston from the hound hunting season
		12	Oppose closing 92
Youth			
		6	Would like a youth season with or without dogs
		16	Would like a youth bear hound season
1	350	1	Opposed to youth bear hunting
		2	Allow use of dogs during proposed youth bear season in the counties open to the use of dogs

		1	Youth should be able to choose to hunt from a stand or over hounds
		1	Consider more youth opportunities
		1	Oppose the youth bear hunting proposal due to not allowing dogs
		1	Amend youth bear hunting Oct 17 th and 18 th . Be limited to counties not open to hound bear hunting
			Regulations
		2	Hunting black bear on private property should not be allowed. They chase our cows. Liability on us if they get hurt. They laugh at us and tell us there is nothing we can do about it. Neighbor was threatened that they would shoot him (or anyone)
		9	Leave it as it is
		1	Should require bear stamp in all seasons and hunts
		1	Institute a draw by lottery that would be county specific to allow for the limited hunting of black bear over bait on private ground only
		1	Require permission to bear hunt on private land
		2	Residents should have the right to hunt with dogs on private property or on property with written permission
		1	Suggest no bear hunting during buck season
1	3		Two bear limit to Braxton and Webster counties
		1	Bear hunting during rifle season
		1	Don't agree with 4 weeks bear season Dec 7-31. Should be after muzzleloading season
		1	Prefer bear hunting in October rather than September
		1	In favor of shorter bear season
1	6		Bear regulations are growing in complexity. Balance need for localized management with simple, easy to understand regs
		1	Add extra bear stamp – statewide limit 3 provided one comes from Boon, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, Raleigh or Wyoming
		1	2 bear limit should be opened to all counties
1	6		Take corn out of the equation. Hunters are reluctant to check bears in for fear of bear having corn in them
		4	Bring weight limit up on bear
			Bait
		1	Allow bear hunting over bait 1 st couple weeks of bow season
		1	Bear baiting outside of hound zones
1	7	1	Make hunting over bait legal
			Season
2	15	2	Would like a spring bear hunt
		1	Sept 19-Sept 25 bear season. Allow 14-day season by bringing Sept 12 then close dog training until Dec. 7, the winter season. Lessens interference
		1	Bear seasons need to be consolidated and simplified
		1	Prefer 7-day gun season

TURKEY			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		6	In favor for an extra week of spring gobbler season
1	6		Expand fall turkey season significantly. More counties need longer seasons
		2	Opposed to extending spring gobbler season
		1	Against only having one-week turkey season in most counties
		2	Extend turkey season 2 more weeks
		5	Open turkey season one week earlier
		1	Allow the hunting of wild turkey all day during the last 2 weeks of the spring season
		1	Early archery spring gobbler season
		1	All day turkey hunting in later half of spring season
		1	Spring Wild Turkey season should open the third Monday in April and run for 35 consecutive days
		1	One-month season seems long enough
1	250	1	4 weeks is enough for gobbler season with Sundays now open
		1	No hen turkey harvest during fall season – gobblers only
		1	In favor of charging \$10 for additional spring gobbler tag
		1	Favor of #7 if bag limit is increased to 3 bearded turkeys in spring and 0 for fall (or 2 in spring & 1 in fall). Yearly bag limit 3 (in VA law)
		1	In favor of Sunday hunting
		1	In favor of prohibiting center-fire rifles for turkey hunting
		2	Rifles should be illegal for Spring Turkey Season
		2	Spring turkey season hunting hours should be extended to at least 4pm
		1	In favor of being able to hunt all day
		1	Turkey season should stay as is
		1	Open spring gobbler on a Saturday. Will encourage youth
		1	Turkey season should start on April 1 st to April 30 th each year
SMALL GAME/FURBEARERS			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
			Grouse Management
		1	The state needs more specific grouse management areas (more cutting)
1	850		Improve grouse habitat
1	160	6	Increase the quality and amount of successional habitat
		1	I believe that active habitat development on State and WMA areas should be a realistic solution to the population problem not the number of days that the few grouse hunters that there are have to harvest.

		1	Provide follow up data on the Research Project and the WVU results on the web page (grouse)
1	12		Grouse numbers are declining, need more protection and preservation
1	14	1	Grouse numbers are declining, need more protection and preservation
		1	Because of the declining of grouse, present regulations should be changed
1	160		Hire grouse biologist
1	850	1	Hire grouse biologist
1	160		Collect Data
		2	Start grouse research project: Blood samples for West Nile hotspots, hen mortality study, reproductive study, grouse population surveys
		1	Have not seen any grouse in years
		1	Small game is declining because of predators-bear, coyote and hawks, etc.
			Grouse Season
		4	Against grouse season during bear season. Too many killings by bear hunters in trucks and off ATVs while cruising for bear
		1	Close ruffed grouse season December 1-31
		5	In favor of a shorter season
		1	Eliminate grouse season at the end
		1	Restrictions at the beginning of the season
		1	Split season. Cut last 2 weeks of Nov. and first 2 weeks of Dec.
		1	In favor of the December-February grouse period
1	850	14	In favor of NO changes to the current season, opposed to changing grouse season unless science-based reasoning
1	3		Recommend no change – grouse hunting
		1	Hard to justify out of state license if the season gets shortened
		3	Shorten grouse season at the beginning
		1	Due to heavy rainfall and low grouse hatching numbers, adjust the season two weeks later and close it the two weeks during the firearm season
		1	Shorten the season in the middle
		1	Let us have the latter part of the season (December-February) as it doesn't conflict with other sportsmen's seasons
		1	Shorten grouse season to January and February
		2	Split the grouse season and close during rifle deer season
		1	Close grouse season week before buck season opens back up Jan 1 st
		3	This split season would be more favorable to the true bird hunters
1	160		Reducing days and split season eliminates opportunity to hunt. Restrict hunter recruitment and retention
		1	Close grouse season during deer season for two weeks (Nov. 23-Dec. 6)
		1	Close mid-season, Nov. 15 to Dec. 15
		2	No more grouse season
		1	Eliminate ruffed grouse hunting during big game firearms season

		1	Consider closing grouse season for a year or two
		1	Keep late season open
		1	Closing part of the season feels like a knee jerk reaction
		1	Most of the grouse season is during a deer season. Not overly safe to run a dog
			Grouse Regs
		1	Need to support LE in stopping road hunting (grouse) particularly on leashes
		1	Later season is when the dedicated hunters will hunt. They already know how precious the resource is
		1	Will lose hunters if late season is removed
		1	In favor of keeping the later season
		1	In favor of setting out decoys or offer rewards to lessen illegal hunts
		1	Proposal: WV upland bird hunting stamps
		1	Late season grouse hunting has little impact. Bigger issue-west nile, birds shot from vehicle window, loss of habitat
		1	Include bird hunting stamp to be included in the license purchase options. The revenue be directed toward the quail repopulation project
		2	Would support pheasant/quail/grouse stocking program. Would buy a stamp to support
		2	Increase fines for shooting from truck and 4 wheelers
		1	Support closing grouse season during major firearm deer seasons or portions thereof, ie buck firearms and antlerless deer seasons
1	850		Increase license cost soon
		1	Lower the limit
			Bag Limit
1	850	1	Lower bag limit on both grouse and quail
1	16	12	Reduce bird bag limit to 2 instead of 4
		1	Increase the limit on fisher to 2 in the core counties
			Pheasant
		1	Release pheasants (like PA does, they charge an extra \$25 if you want to hunt pheasants)
			Squirrel
1	5		Open up squirrel season a month earlier like it was due to mating season
		1	Open the squirrel season on the last Saturday in September
		1	Open squirrel season the 1 st Saturday in September
		1	Move squirrel season back to the first Saturday in October
1	850		Open squirrel season in October
			Dove
		1	Manage Shannon Dale Springs Fields for dove hunting
		1	Plant more dove fields on WMA's
			Crow
		1	Opposed to hunting crows
			Fox
			Have continuous open season on all foxes (red and gray)

			Hawks
		1	Lessen hawk numbers
			Quail
			Recommend stocking quail back into our local farming counties. Before doing so I would close all counties to hunting quail
			Habitat
		1	Clearcut/select cut state and national forests for grouse habitat
			Saturday/Sunday
1	160		No hunting on Sunday – should be in church
		1	Richie county deer-yes to 2 nd Sunday, close the early season doe
1	5	5	Opposed to Sunday hunting
		1	Open hunting seasons on Saturday
1	10	2	We do not support Sunday hunting
		1	Open big game season on Saturdays
		1	Rifle season should start on Saturday instead of Monday
		1	If you want the season to end on a Sunday, I'd be in favor of reducing the firearms season to 1 week

COYOTES

CLUBS		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	Against coyote hunting with lights from September to January
1	3000	1	Against coyote hunting at night
		3	In favor of using artificial light for year-round coyote hunting
		3	Opposed to contacting DNR prior to hunting coyote
1	6	1	Opposed to contacting DNR if on private land with written permission
		1	The notification requirement would require a recording allowance if not staffed so that hunter could comply with requirement of notification at all times
		1	Opposed to having a limit on killing coyotes in the day or night
		2	In favor of year-round coyote hunting
		1	Approve of the suggested private land restriction
		1	Any requirement to notify DNR LE is restrictive to the intended purpose of reducing coyote and is Unenforceable
		5	Persons trapping on their own private lands should be allowed to trap coyotes year-round while still following the proper trapping regulations/guidelines
		1	Opposed to hunting coyotes around deer season
		1	Extend trapping through March (Coyotes and Bob Cats)
		1	Opposed to the coyote hunting proposal
		1	Opposed to year-round coyote hunting between Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 due to the requirements of being on private property and notifying DNR LE
		1	Opposed to notifying DNR if night hunting for coyotes on my own property

MISCELLANEOUS			
CLUBS		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
			Regulations
		1	Would like to see an orange solid, or camo pattern ball cap or toboggan added to the 400 square inch requirements for all deer firearms seasons
		1	In favor of keeping gates closed and prosecuting individuals riding ATVs on Tomblin WMA, not fair to those who have to walk
		1	Let hunters start using HI-VIS yellow vests for better visibility
			Clarify in the laws as to whether hunting over farm crops or food plots or to hunting over picked farm fields is considered hunting over bait, for both bear and turkey
		1	Open WMA to does only, not bucks
		1	Suggest postponing these proposals until a public meeting can be held
		1	Return the regulation public meetings to the old captive audience type format
		1	Try to purchase the Morris Creek WMA if and when funds are available
		1	Something needs changed on public land for people lacking the option of hunting on private land
1	6		Simplify deer regulations (use Ohio as template). Tags for a deer with tags being valid for all seasons. Can be structured to result in equal revenue. Bag limits can still be set county to county
		1	Perhaps consider a pre-rifle season hunt for resident landowners on their own land to harvest a buck
		1	Arrange the seasons starting with most primitive and end with most modern
		1	Extend trapping permits per WMA's through March
		1	Offer "Earn a Buck" stamps – kill one doe and therefore can harvest one additional buck (two for the price of one)
		1	There should be an incentive for land owners. Invite 2-3 hunters to hunt, get a thank you certificate. Bring 3-4 hunters, get a discount on your license or reduce tax on property
		1	There should never be an area where it is acceptable to harvest antlered deer without antlerless
		1	Deer management and harvest allotments should be standardized by region
		1	Increased hunting in state parks or open state parks to hunting with creation of "safety zones"
		1	Extend antlerless and possibly antlered season into new year for archery and/or muzzleloader
		1	Backpack camping should be allowed on bigger WMA's
		1	Deer numbers are down. Should be shooting less deer
		1	In need of quality deer management
		1	The early October firearm season-why not have a 3-day buck only muzzleloader season instead

		1	Bear and Coyotes are reducing the deer at a rapid rate. Too liberal doe seasons when considering bear, coyote and disease
		1	Eliminate need to notify DNR officer
		1	Deer should not be killed on parks
			Fines
		1	Increase fines for waste and poaching
		1	In need of more enforcement and stiffer penalties for poachers and those who waste game meat
			License
		1	Restructure licenses/tags (have to buy a tag for every deer)
		2	Make the license simpler (like Ohio)
		1	The current class of permit is confusing and should be just one permit then sell extra tags for more than 1 of either sex
		2	Include class N stamp on base license/lifetime privileges
		1	Continue to require nonresidents landowners to purchase nonresident hunting licenses
		1	Raise the price of the nonresident hunting license (class E) to at least \$160
		1	Eliminate the Class Y completely, it serves no management purpose in the bow only counties
		1	Would like to see counties with 3 class N tags be able to use them in any season
		1	In favor of raising the cost of a license or sportsman's package
			Trespass
		1	Eliminate need to post private land putting responsibility for trespass solely on the trespasser
		1	Nothing is done about poachers killing dozens of deer after several complaint calls
			Youth
		1	Oppose the extra days for youth only
		1	Since 15-year olds have to purchase a license the age of youth hunters should be 8-14 years of age
		1	Youth season should be for hunters less than 15 years of age
		1	Youth days should go back to age 14
		1	Need to let youth hunters kill a buck in the youth deer seasons
1	6		The minimum age for youth seasons needs to be re-evaluated. It should be lowered to allow for younger kids to be able to participate. Set necessary limitations for adult help as required
		1	Youth hunting season should allow "Youth to Hunt". It should be ages at minimum 5 years old to 15
			Bait
1	100		Make it illegal to bait for deer
		1	Should be illegal to bait for deer on private land
		1	Prohibit all baiting
		1	Need to establish a statewide restriction on baiting deer anytime a bear season is open in that area
			Season/Trap
		1	Would like to move the entire trapping season up to Oct. 15, ending 15 days earlier

Timber			
1	28		More Timber Management in Monongahela National Forest
Support			
1	28		Calvin price really looks good. Keep up the good work
		1	Doing a great job
		1	Awesome job without deer populations
		1	Thanks for all you do
Older Aged			
1	250		Turn Kanawha and Kumbrabow State Forests into older aged deer management areas
Data			
		1	Put all deer harvest figures from 1923 to present on the internet
		1	Need to continue testing for CWD at a more aggressive pace and establish more of a complete ban on baiting to control this and other diseases
		1	Big Game Bulletin not showing stats for deer kills in public and wildlife areas like it used to
		1	Would like to see DNR post more of the data they have for the public to see (ie: age class, how many deer were aged per year, how that is done, bucks killed on 1 st , -3 rd tag, antler points per buck, public land numbers, etc.)
Survey			
		1	Be able to fill out this survey online
		1	Tables are too complicated
		1	Thank you for allowing hunters to provide input
		1	Not sure that the earlier squirrel and archery seasons from several years past are contributing to more days in the field for hunters

FISH – GENERAL

Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	Think the slot limit size should run from 12" to 22"
		1	Get rid of the otters
		1	All USACE (Corps of Engineers) lakes should have a catch-release on Black Bass, all sizes
1	6		DNR doing an outstanding job
1	6		Appreciate the changes in Summersville lake to manage and create more habitats
		1	Year round or season catch and release regulations would be beneficial at Kanawha Falls, Monongahela River tail waters, Burnsville tailwater
		1	Consider starting a voluntary stamp program
		1	Remove the season for dip netting to allow this method to be used year-round but for bait fish only
		1	2-fish daily creel limit with selective harvest size in Stephens Lake in Raleigh County
		1	Should be no limits

		1	Should be no size limits and daily creel limit of 4-5
		1	Increase the possession limits
		1	All proposals are a good thing
		2	Edwards Run pond needs a wheel chair accessible ramp beside the bridge
		1	The streams, lake, rivers and dams need to have the water beds cleaned out, brush cut away for safety of snakes and easier accessibility for everyone
		1	Hampshire and Mineral counties need cleaned up. Streams have washed in from debris, construction settlement dirt. Clean out new trout holes in the stream to stock trout
		1	A lot of catch and release should be removed including Edwards Run. Too much brush, needs cleaned up
		1	Raise fish stamp to \$20
		1	Would like to see more streams where they unlock a gate to stock
		1	Would like habitat restoration
		1	Would like to see where if you catch a certain size you can keep them
		1	Ideas for new license fee: Resident fishing \$20, Resident trout stamp \$20, non-resident one day all-inclusive fishing trout \$20, non-resident 3 day all-inclusive fishing trout \$40
		1	Thank you for all you do
		1	Build a larger and better fish impoundment in Kanawha State Forest
		1	Fishing has gone downhill ever since Stonewall was opened for tournaments
1	6		Expand flathead regulations for all Ohio Drainage streams/lakes. Require harvest in all Potomac Drainage streams
1	850		Increase license cost soon
1	850		Establish penalties for non-permitted fishing tournaments and require all fishing tournaments to obtain a permit
1	850		Continue to improve habitat and access
		1	Jug fishing should be legal
		1	Would like to have the swinging bridge at the mouth of Birch river on Elk River repaired
		1	Stop messing with the rivers. You are poisoning crayfish and bass
		2	Opposed to the daily creel limit of 30 panfish.
		1	I would recommend tailoring the creel limit to a few specific bodies of water to study its effect prior to instituting it statewide
		1	Stop allowing rafting trips in such large numbers for better fishing
		1	In favor of setting a creel limit for the species of fish listed in comment #1. Creel limit should be 10 daily and 20 fish possession limit
TROUT			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		4	Have a catch and release only for all Native Brook Trout in WV

		1	Lime more streams for Native Brook Trout
		1	Stop stocking of Brown Trout and Brown Trout Fingerlings in places where they can migrate into small native trout streams
		1	If no catch and release for Native Brook Trout, have no possession of any Native Trout below 10-12"
		1	Stock trout in Stone Coal again
		1	The early ½ of the trout stocking season should be a bag limit of 3 instead of 6
		1	Nine-inch limit on all trout
		1	Ten-inch limit on trout
1	28		Bring back a trout season
		1	Remove Buffalo creek in Fayette County from the trout Fly-Fishing-Only regulation but half the stream
		1	Need 2 fish trout limit everywhere
		1	One day or two day build on streams stocked that day for trout
		1	Close trout season from October to March
		1	Stock all trout in the winter so they spread out
		1	Change the once each week March thru May stocking to every other week, close the stream for the week it is stocked, then open on the following week. Stagger and alternate in the area so some locations are closed while others are open to fishing
		1	Increase the size of trout stocked to a minimum of 15 inches
1	8		Make all Native Brook Trout catch and release statewide or put a two fish limit statewide per year with a \$1,000 fine per fish over two
		2	Trout stamps should be raised to \$30 to help restocking, cleaning, repair, rebuild fishing areas
		1	Ticket people who follow stock trucks. People go to great lengths to mark or block the roads to where they are stocking marking the spot
		1	Support the position of trout unlimited
		1	Would like several delayed harvest streams for trout
		1	Continue having year-round trout fishing
		2	Longer catch and release sections
		1	Opposed to removing catch and release areas, fly-fishing areas
		1	Need more catch and release sections in small mouth streams
		2	Agree with proposing to eliminate the catch and release at Stuart Park. It shouldn't have happened in the first place
		1	Need to make other waters catch and release or even better, fly fishing only
		1	Need more fly-fishing opportunities
		1	Protect our wild trout and natives. Seneca Creek should be fly fishing only
1	8		Make Shavers Fork from Beaver Creek up Catch and Release
		1	Opposed to dip netting. A man was seen in the Petersburg area right after a stock truck
1	25		Remove all fly fishing only regulations
1	6		The state needs more DH trout streams
		1	Any group that pimps out a section of river for fly-fishing should have to pay \$200 per person per year for said stamp

		1	Any resort should pay for their pimping rights
		1	Trout fishing in WV should be regulated heavily. I would like to see the DNR stock trout year-round and have a season put into place giving the fish a chance to move. The announcement of daily stockings should not be advertised until at minimum a week after
1	850		Trout stamps need to reflect the cost of raising the trout and are long overdue for an increase
		1	Trout stamp should allow any fishing in any stream statewide regardless of implement
		1	Eliminate all "fly-fishing only" areas
		1	Regulate number of lines in water to 2 where there is limited space at the trout ponds
		1	Would be nice if something could be done about the stock truck chaser standing there waiting on the fish to be put in
		1	Consider stocking in January-March then open season in April so people don't follow the stock truck
		1	Instead of catch and release areas, we should provide age 18 and under sections of stream to provide more opportunities to involve our youth

BASS

Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	Summersville Lake needs stocked with smallmouth
		1	In favor of putting a size-slot limit on bass on the New River
		1	In favor of slot limit 12" to 18" to be released
		3	Against slot limit for black bass on the New River
		1	In favor of slot limit to be only 1 fish over 18" may be kept vs 22"
		1	In favor of slot limit between 12-18" for fish being kept
		1	Don't keep the big one but should do selecting harvest
		1	Agree with the striped and hybrid but white bass should be more
		1	In favor or 15" black bass
		1	Opposed to the 15" size limit proposition on all Moronidae species
1	6		Add closed harvest season on black bass statewide for spawning season
		1	Support the proposal to establish a 14" to 22" slot limit with only one fish allowed over 22" for all black bass in the New River
		1	Opposed to removing protection of black bass and subjecting it to the same short sighted and ignorant massacre of fish that happens in Summersville Lake every spring
		1	Consider regulations to promote better bass fishing in our WV lakes
		1	In favor of any regulations that promoted better bass fishing opportunities for tournament anglers

CRAPPIE			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	In favor of the 30 limit on crappie (possibly even 20)
MUSKY			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
		1	Catch and release of muskie on the Buckhannon River should be re-opened to a possession limit of one muskie over 30 inches
		1	Stop trying to turn every bod of water into a musky fishery
1	850		Statewide musky regulations for Stonewall Jackson Lake
1	850		Stop stocking musky at Stonewall
		1	Consider expanding the number of special regulations areas for muskellunge
		1	DNR needs to reconsider their Muskellunge stocking or lack thereof
WALLEYE			
Clubs		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
1	6		Seems like the population is a little on the small side in Summersville Lake
		1	Walleye should be catch and release during the spawn and should have a statewide length limit
		1	Stock more walleye
1	6		Reduce daily/possession limits for sauger/saugeye/walleye statewide
		1	Opposed to the 2020-2021 fish regulations staying the same
AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILES			
CLUBS		Ind.	Comments
No.	Membership		
1	210	1	Timber Rattlesnake should be taken off the protected snakes
		4	Rattle snake near residents should be excluded
1	25	3	Strongly oppose the season closure for timber rattlesnake
		1	Rattlesnakes are extremely dangerous, especially in areas of tourists, therefore numbers must be controlled
		1	Extend frog season
1	110		Against allowing no possession of timber rattlers
		1	Should be no limit on bait even minnows
		1	Timber rattlesnake should be harvested
		1	Keep the same except reptile (snakes)
		1	Protect all species that needs protected

		2	Strongly favor zero take of box turtles and other reptiles/amphibians
		1	Limit of zero for all frogs and toads
		1	Oppose to the box turtle
		1	Put a possession limit of one on this turtle. If you put a zero limit on these, also place a "fine" of only requirement of releasing the animal

**COMPARISON OF ATTENDANCE AT REGULATIONS MEETINGS
FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2020**

MEETING LOCATION	*2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Beckley		17	18	-	-	-	36	55	-	-	-
Buckhannon		54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	32
Elkins		-	18	22	29	69	54	48	34	-	-
Fairmont		53	36	35	25	59	39	70	71	37	47
Fayetteville		-	-	-	12	35	-	-	-	-	-
Flatwoods		-	-	21	19	19	16	-	-	-	-
Glen Dale		33	39	25	29	57	32	34	16	28	31
Harrisville		-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Lewisburg		-	5	10	-	-	-	35	34	21	74
Logan		28	33	17	39	51	28	47	46	56	30
Martinsburg		40	43	36	43	58	41	21	64	46	45
Milton		26	18	30	34	45	27	28	58	32	42
Moorefield		33	28	13	30	37	56	56	55	56	35
North Bend SP		14	-	5	-	16	-	-	-	13	-
Parkersburg		33	24	15	20	60	27	45	31	40	11
Pipestem Resort SP		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Princeton		30	-	-	-	34	39	-	-	-	-
Spencer		-	16	-	17	-	15	-	42	-	6
Summersville		18	-	-	-	-	-	23	48	31	33
Twin Falls Resort SP		-	-	18	13	-	-	-	22	15	39
Weston		-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		379	284	247	310	540	410	469	521	410	425

***2020 Sectional Meetings cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE
2020-2021 BIG GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS
AND THE
2021-2022 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

**Presented to the
West Virginia Natural Resources Commission
May 31, 2020**

Prepared By:

**West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
Game Management Unit**

1

**Recommendations for the
2020-2021
Hunting and Trapping Regulations
and
2021-2022
Hunting and Trapping Regulations**

2

**2020 Proposed
Black Bear Season Tables**

3

**2020 Proposed
Antlerless Deer Season Tables**

4

**2020-2021 Proposed
Big Game Table**

5

**2021-2022 Proposed
Hunting and Trapping Table**

Randy Bland

Location: Unknown

Please no more listing trout stockings.
And leave turkey season regulations the same.

Tommy Eudy

Helen, WV

hello my name is Tommy Eudy I live in Helen, Wv. I am reaching out with my comments on the upcoming commission meeting.

First off I would to see a boat launch built down toward sandstone falls a section called long bottom. That's such a beautiful body of water that needs a boat launch to gain better access.

Second I glad creek of new river needs to be stocked weekly during the trout season. That creek is just as good as the one in the northern part of the state. We only bi-weekly stocking in the southern part and that's not right.

Thirdly the creek that runs through helen located in Raleigh co. which is one of the creeks that make up the grand river needs to be post with signs about catch and release.

Last I really think they should go a one buck limit during deer season. If can't be done least put a spread limit on them. They are no scence in shoot small bucks!

Thanks

Name: Allen Cook

Location: Unknown

I would like to see,

- muzzleloader come in before rifle season and last longer.
 - doe season to come in more
 - match our opening dates to surrounding states to help us residents vs out of staters.
-

-

Matt Myers

Location: Unknown

My name is Matt Myers and I propose a new starting date for the spring turkey season, with the mild winters we've been having the turkeys (mainly from the middle to southern WV) are starting their spring habits and gobbling by the first of March, by the time season comes in at almost May the turkeys are almost completely done...so I'm asking that our spring turkey starting dates be moved to the mid to latter part of March and no later then the first of April..Thank you.

To: WV Natural Resources Commission

From: H. Gary Gillespie

218 Woody Oak Dr.

Milton, WV 2554

(304 743 0656

Re: Suggestions for encouraging students to appreciate WV's natural resources

I am a retired after 40+ years of teaching. I've taught high school students in Pocahontas County, WV, and in Perry County, Ohio. I know that high school students, with motivation, can produce admirable achievements that are helpful to all citizens. I wish to make two suggestions along this line:

1. Perhaps the NRC could encourage WV high school teachers, especially science teachers, to get online lesson plans for a unit on bee keeping. A class unit dealing with the necessity for protecting and keeping honeybees would help students to understand how bees are pollinators of food producing crops and orchards. In conjunction with the WV Agriculture Commission, the NRC could promote bee keeping in every WV county. Bee keeping would be rewarding as a 4-H project, and earning a Bee Badge for all students in scouting could involve not only the scout but also his/her family. Perhaps NRC already furnishes web sites (www.thehoneybeeconservancy.org; www.thehoneybeesociety.org; www.planetbee.org; www.centerforhoneybeerresearch.org; <https://www.pollinator.org>) to orchard keepers and farmers. Students can contact the Center for Honeybee Research in Ashville, NC, for helpful information about "Adopt-a-Hive."
2. High school seniors enjoy Arbor Day fieldtrips. They are excellent tree planters. Each spring, Warren Blackhurst, who taught Latin and English at Green Bank High School in Pocahontas County, took the senior class on an outing to plant trees on public lands in the area. Yes, this is the same Blackhurst who authored *Riders of the Flood* and was the original commentator onboard the Cass Scenic Railroad. Over the years, his students planted many thousands of trees that are now majestic monuments to his love of nature. Perhaps the NRC can encourage Arbor Day tree-planting fieldtrips; students enjoy planting trees and they develop appreciation of our state's grand forests.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Andrew Spellman
Morgantown, WV

1. Make the spring gobbler season a week longer, preferably starting sooner.
 2. Allow all day hunting in the second half of the spring gobbler season. This is the biggest thing I'd like to see, as I've had better results in Maryland where they do this.
-

Don Ratcliff
Elkview, WV
WV Bear Hunter's Association Board of Directors

To the DNR Game Commission,

At our last Commission meeting we were told that the reason for wanting to close this area of Preston Co was due to excessive complaints about bear hunters. This is NOT so. Sgt Johnson along with Office Dallas Wolfe have stated that there are not a lot of complaints, only a couple of people, George Street being one, doing a lot of complaining. Col Jerry Jenkins echoed this same sentiment saying George Street was the only person who had ever contacted him. So if they haven't had a large number of complaints, then why close this area? Mr Street in no way shape or form is your typical Preston Co landowner or farmer. He owned a little over an acre and had a couple of goats. Also, since this, he has moved and doesn't live in the affected area any longer. But someone evidently was coaching Mr Street. He asked what the criteria was for opening a county or portion of to bear hunting with hounds. Chris Ryan found out that this area doesn't meet current criteria as far as having large tracts of public and or private land. This county has been open to bear hunting with hounds for 13 years. Who knows how many other areas don't meet the criteria now or possibly in the future with the ever changing landscape of property ownership? if we don't change the criteria that will cause us to lose this area to bear hunting with hounds, then we may lose other even more traditional areas in the future. Every good management plan needs to be able to evolve. 30 years ago we didn't have 3,000 bears in this state and we harvest that many in a year. The management plan 30 years ago was far different than it is today.

The bear hunters in this area have over 2,000 acres leased and own several hundred more acres. In addition to this property they have a shoebox full of written permission slips from local farmers and landowners. You see these bear hunters aren't the rouge individuals they were made out to be, they are respectful hunters that go the extra mile to to obtain written permission to hunt where they do. George Street is the rogue individual and the DNR should not be attempting to "throw him a bone".

My hope is that we can save this area and keep it open to bear hunting with hounds and even expand our huntable areas. We now have bears in areas of this state that haven't seen bears for almost 100 years. Hunting bears with hounds remains the most effective way of controlling the bear population. If on May 31st the Commission does meet, at the very least I would hope that this decision could be tabled until the biologists can tweek the criteria to take in the possibility of changes in landownership in the future to guarantee that areas that are open to hound hunting, stay open to hound hunting.

Sincerely,

Radcliff

Don

Bear Hunter's Assoc. Board of Directors

Larry L. Lawson

Location: Belle, WV

Dear Director McDaniel,

First I wish to express my disappointment for not being able to attend your May 31st meeting of the WVNR Commission. Because of this circumstance, I want to request that a copy of the minutes from the Feb. 23, 2020 meeting be sent to my address at 1822 Orchard Ave. Belle, WV 25015. I thank you for that consideration in advance.

My comments, in regard to your May 31st meeting, reflect my concern about the recommendation to establish a Crossbow Season for Youth, in the "Bowhunting Only" Counties. This recommendation states the participant must be age 14 and UNDER, which at very least exhibits poor wording, if not judgement. (using the word under, takes it all the way back to the womb). In reality, this is viewed as yet another way to expand the foothold of Crossbows in the West Virginia Archery Season!

As you know, I have voiced my concern, for once again trying a two buck limit in West Virginia (1995 didn't work and neither will this)! We know from pas experience that this is a money loser, which has very little impact on growing bigger bucks. I trust that you will "TABLE" both the Crossbow expansion and buck limit plans at this meeting.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Lawson

Concerned Citizen

**note: This letter was .pdf formatted in email, and a hard copy was sent to Director McDaniel's office.*

Jarrell Bailey

Wheeling, WV

Trout stocking and lake improvement:

Marshall and Ohio County would greatly benefit from every week trout stocking. The waters being stocked are heavily fished due to being in close proximity to the states of OH and PA. The stream Wheeling Creek, the lakes Bear Rock, Middle Creek Lake, Castlemans, are all stocked bi-weekly and should be weekly due to numerous individuals fishing. The loss of not stocking Dunkard Fork had mad this situation even worse. Wheeling is a great tourist area which I feel could bring in more money from tourism if more lodging, fishing access, and every week stocking where to happen. I believe that the other counties receive more tourism due to the weekly stocking and heavy advertising for these areas. The Ohio Valley could all benefit from this move.

Also Middle Creek lake is very hard to access and to find with no signs of any kind and is in need of parking at the top portion of the lake to ease access. Thank you.

JARRELL BAILEY

Ronald Myers II

Morgantown, WV

Please do away with the toll free trout stocking hotline. This year has been the best season for me due to less truck chasers. Keep and post the schedule for waters to be stocked but please do away with the hotline!

Shawn Hart
Parkersburg, WV

Please see my three recommendations to improve deer hunting in WV:

1) End the early antlerless season. With phone-in game checking, it is too easy for poachers with rifles to be in the woods during pre-rut/rut. I'm seeing too many big bucks disappear on my game cams right after the special early doe hunt every year now. If you don't believe me, do some statistical research and check your game kill records to see if you have a sudden increase in supposedly archery killed bucks during the special early doe hunt (of course this presumes the poacher even checks it in).

2) End the January primitive season hunt. While I do like the added opportunity it gives hunters, it is coming at the expense of our buck population because of the number of yearling button bucks that get mistaken for mature does. If we ever want to have good trophy buck hunting, we have to manage better to encourage an older buck population.

Name: Butch Smith

Location: Unknown

Re: North Branch of Potomac

Love to see WV. Have sole control from Jennings to Westernport. Year round fishing. Always good water levels. Best in this area. Md. , stockings r a joke! WV. Currently stocking once a month. Nice fish. Open river from bluehole to Piedmont for put n take. That will help with fishing pressure. It's a great resource going to waste. Would also help mom n pop businesses. Would take pressure off of other local streams n lakes. Great water flow year round, so fish holdover well. Some great places for kids to fish if this is done. Get Md. Completely out of picture. Require a resident WV licenses or a non resident licenses. Will help with costs. This can b a great fishery, like it was 20 yrs. ago. Feel free to contact me. I've been fishing there for 35 yrs. Thank you?

Jasi Butler

Location: Unknown

Organization: Unknown

My name is Jasi and I am a 5 year old hunter.

Also I would like to hunt with my Mom and Dad during the youth seasons but I can't because the age is 8. We took my buddy Major, he is 11, hunting during youth turkey season, I went and it was fun but I would like to hunt also. I went almost every day turkey hunting this spring with Mom and Dad but it is exciting to have a day or two as your own.

I would also like to see portions of streams designated as kids only fishing areas during trout stocking. I think this would be great. There are areas at Holly River that could be done this way. It's an idea and could help more kids catch fish and enjoy it more.

Thank you

Jasi

Shon Butler

Buckhannon, WV

- 2.) We need to allow 5 year olds and older to hunt during the youth seasons on private land. It should be a parental choice on property that I am paying taxes or lease fees on.
- 3.) Turkey should be added to the Mountaineer Heritage Hunt. You would have no more than 1 per county killed statewide. For those that are true traditionalists a trek hunt where any game could be taken would be the way to go.

Thank you
Shon Butler

Stanley Kinder

Left Hand, WV

1st. Get the coyotes under control. With the deer population down they have moved on to other feed. I have lost seven goats to them so far this year. I have a neighbor that lost at least one calf. We need these predator's gone.

2nd. Decrease the total number of deer that are allowed to be killed. Include bucks and does until the population gets back to what it was just a few years ago.

3rd. Establish other trophy growing counties like the ones in the southern part of the state. Make all public hunting areas Trophy zones.

4th. Go back to basics. Get rid of crossbows and long range black power rifles. A rifle that can take a buck at 200 yards is not a primitive weapon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stanley Kinder

Frank Bolyard

Thornton, WV

I live and run hounds in Preston County. I am against any changes to the bear hound season In
Preston County WV Frank Bolyard
2326 S Mountaineer Hwy Thornton WV 26440

Charles Craig
Riversville, WV

Bear season September early season no dogs allowed .
Charles Craig 136toothman Run Rivesville wv 26588

Scott Smith

Scott Depot, WV

I submit the following comments for the proposed regulations.

I agree with everything with the following exceptions.

The buck limit should be one per year, total, regardless of weapon used, with no antler restrictions.

Harvest limit for rattlesnakes should remain as it is with one over 42" allowed to be in your possession. Or change it like PA did to one per year where you have to tag it like a deer or bear.

Fishing- Muskie stocking needs to be ramped back up.

Muskie harvest should be possession limit of 1, with all fish between 40-48" statewide slot limit must be released. This would protect our spawning fish since we have all but eliminated stocking.

All we hear from the state, especially DNR leaders some of whom I have had lengthy discussions with, is that we need more tourism dollars and they are concerned about the drop in hunting/fishing license sales and participation. But, they are so short sighted in looking at the success in other states such as Kentucky when it comes to deer. Kentucky's deer kill used to be very similar to ours until they went to one buck a year in 1990. Now not only are they one of the top 3 states for trophy deer hunting, their total deer kill continues to climb every year, participation is up, tourism is up, and the herd is much healthier. Within 3 years of implementing one buck a year we could see the same results happening here and really grow our tourism dollars. I don't think our DNR really has a handle on how much money leaves this state with hunters going elsewhere to search for better hunting grounds.

The same can be said with muskies. Deer and muskies are two things that people passionate about them will spend money on to travel and go after. But instead of improving opportunities for these species we are going in the other direction.

You want tourism dollars, you want increased participation, do everything possible to make our state a world class destination for bucks and muskies. We have done that for walleye-but how many people are coming here to fish for walleye? How many people even in the state fish for walleye? My wife caught a world class walleye in WV (32.75") which is awesome, but that isn't paying the bills.

I can tell you there are more people chasing muskies than ever before. Probably 10-15 times the number there was just 5 years ago. We need to be capitalizing on that, and then we need to be getting the message out there through the tourism department.

This state is missing out on a golden opportunity.

Thank you.

Robert J. Jacobus

French Creek, WV

May 22, 2020

1838 Seng Run Rd.

French Creek, WV

I also would like to speak about the ruffed grouse situation. This is the first spring since 1989 that I have not heard drumming or have seen grouse feeding. I usually see some consuming greenbrier soft mast and maple buds; also, it is common to see them on the gravel road that leads to my home. No birds. Are there any plans to limit harvests or manage hunting seasons for the ruffed grouse in the near future? I think it would be prudent to consider the situation. The last prairie chicken in Indiana boomed during my underclassmen years at Purdue, I hate it when we lose something so wonderful.

All Regards,

Robert J Jacobus

Cliff Neal and Charles Brown
Greenbrier County, WV
Highland Drummer Chapter of RGS

Director McDaniels and commissioner's, thank you for allowing Cliff Neal, President of Highland Drummer Chapter of RGS and I, Charles Brown, Vice President, to voice our concerns about the regulations and management of grouse!

I have participated in blood sampling for WNV in grouse for several years with Gary Norman, grouse biologist at Virginia Tech. My samples show 12% infection and 7% immunity for birds harvested in West Virginia. The Appalachian Grouse Study(7 states) addressed compensatory and additive impact on mortality. Chris Kerch, upland biologist of North Carolina, addressed loss of HABITAT! Lisa Williams, bird biologist for Pennsylvania, has done extensive work on WNV. Bill Igo, Jim Craft , andWalt Lesser retired biologist have spent their lives managing wildlife. Cliff Neal and I have over 100 years of combined hunting grouse.

Scientists and hunters ALL agree the number one cause for decline of grouse population is major reduction and loss of HABITAT!!

Historic low creation and maintenance of habitat (20 years and younger) is currently 1% of previous habitat on state and federal lands.

There is no grouse management plan in West Virginia, no grouse biologist, and no scientific data to support a recommendation to penalize those that hunt grouse with dogs.

We recommend and support a season closure for last two weeks of November through first two weeks of December, and a season daily limit of 2 birds per day and grouse stamp of \$10. These fees will exclusively be used to study, create and maintain HABITAT according to Pittman-Robinson Act. We recommend funds be allocated for hiring a full time grouse biologist, blood sampling, wing collection and drum counts.

Sincerely, Cliff Neal, Charles Brown: President and V-President. Highland Drummer Chapter of RGS, Greenbrier County West Virginia.

Tom Green

South Charleston, WV

This is a comment to speak up for the remaining Ruffed Grouse in West Virginia and hopefully buy some time to help give their numbers a chance to recover.

Being an avid outdoorsman, i have, like most other hunters and outdoors-folks, noticed the number of Ruffed Grouse in a steady decline for the past several years to the point now where it is a rare occasion to stumble upon one.

One thing that i have noticed over the past several years is that the few that do remain now seem to be in the most remote, hardest to get to areas or on protected lands of some sort, private or otherwise.

This leads me to believe that whatever the cause for the declining numbers of Ruffed Grouse in West Virginia that shutting the hunting season down for a while could only help buy them some time and hopefully at least slow down the death spiral that they seem to be in.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

tom green

2719 Daniels Ave

So. Charleston, WV. 25303

Jay Crisp
Charleston, WV

Jay Crisp
Charleston, WV 25312

3500 Coopers Creek Rd.

I like the idea of adding a week to the spring gobbler season but I worry that it may have negative effects on the population with the cool, wet springs we have had lately. I definitely don't want the spring season to start any earlier, I would prefer it to come in a week later like before. I would like for the fall turkey season and the youth antlerless season to be separate instead of at the same time due to the blaze orange requirement. I know it's only a couple of days but fall season is only a week in many counties. Thanks, Jay

Timothy Life
Washington, WV

- Lower the amount of antlered deer preferably to one but two would be great. If the limit is lowered to two, make it be an exception that an antlerless deer must be taken before a second antlered deer is harvested. Plus make the second antlered deer have an antler restriction of 8pts with an inside spread of 15".
- Make the antlerless deer permits be for any season of the hunters choice. I prefer using my vacation time to hunt with a bow and find it very disappointing that it cost more to buy an extra permit for bow that cost me more than the regular gun permit for harvesting the same antlerless deer. So make the permit universal!
- Go back to stocking fish and not broadcasting to everyone. It is bad enough that social media let's it all out the same day anyway. It worked just fine before when it was just listed in the regulations. Maybe even make trout fishing a season. Off season could be restricted to catch and release only using flies or barbless single hook artificial lures.
- I don't know if anything has been checked into about stocking sturgeon into the Ohio River but I feel it would be a great addition. Also I fish in the Ohio River a lot and there seems to be very little Walleye population compared to the Sauger. With Walleye having such a following of anglers I think it should be more important than it is. People spend a bunch of money going to other states seeking them, why not make this another attribute of ours.
- Lifetime licensing I think is great, but I think maybe if you extended the years for younger kids it would be bought more. Parents don't even have any idea if their kids will enjoy such things. Also I know I would have bought them for my kids and possibly grandkids had there been a monthly payment plan.

Darren Hall

Location: Unknown

I'd like to point out my opinion on some things I feel the wv dnr is doing well at and somethings I hope to see them continue doing.

1. The dnr not posting where they stock is a small step in giving the working man a chance to make it to the streams and catching some stocked trout.
- 2 allowing biologists to set game and fish limits. Don't give in to the outcry for change in deer or fish limits.
- 3 the elk reintroduction. Keep up the good work
- 4 adjusting season start and stop dates to help the outdoorsman

I for one understand that the dnr has to hit a happy balance on business and biology. I for one understand that if you have to raise prices on the license to continue putting a quality product out for us outdoorsman you will. That said don't do It to adjust bag limits To appease a few noisy people that are greedy in their desires to achieve their wants.

In closing wv dnr keep doing what your doing you have support out here

One last thought have you considered creating a sportsman's council, trappers, fisherman, hounds man, hunters to name a few to work with the wv dnr. Just a thought.

Gerald M. Titus, Jr.
Roane County, WV

This email is being submitted relative to comment regarding the Spring turkey season that I believe is appropriate moving forward. I understand this comment will be considered at the West Virginia Natural Resources Commission meeting on May 31, 2020.

I have turkey hunted for over 50 years. The last 30 years plus I have Spring turkey hunted in the Roane County area. Previously, I wrote an outdoor column for the Spencer Weekly Newspaper for approximately 15 years.

I was in fairly frequent contact with Jim Pack when he was involved with the West Virginia DNR, particularly, relating to turkey hunting and turkey seasons. I enjoyed our discourse even though we basically agreed to disagree.

On the idea of an earlier opening of the Spring turkey season. Which, now, has been implemented by the West Virginia DNR. However, all along, I was in favor of keeping the fifth week. I have actually killed many turkeys on the previous fourth week, which would now be the fifth week, if the season is extended to five weeks. I am totally in favor of this extension.

Nationwide and statewide, we are losing hunters. This will provide another week of opportunity without hurting whatsoever, the resource, that is, gobblers. It is my belief that we should encourage hunting. This is part of our heritage. Also, it is part of our present and I believe it should be part of our future. Particularly, we need to encourage young hunters. This would add another part of a weekend for school-age hunters to accompany their parents turkey hunting.

Although I am not in favor of Spring gobbler season being open all day, I would suggest two changes. First, although the daily hunting period ends at 1:00 p.m., one also must be out of the woods at 1:00 p.m. I suggest one be allowed to be out of the woods at 2:00 p.m. Secondly, I would suggest during the youth season that on that Saturday or if youth season is to consist of an entire weekend Saturday/Sunday for both of those days that the youth hunters be allowed to hunt longer than 1:00 p.m. I would suggest 5:00 or 6:00 p.m., but not until dark so as to prevent turkeys being shot as they go to roost or on the roost during the evening.

I appreciate the opportunity to have commented. The spread of turkeys throughout the State of West Virginia has been no accident. The West Virginia DNR deserves a world of credit for this extension. When I was school-age, my father would take me to Hardy County to Fall turkey hunt. There were no turkeys in Roane County in the 1960's and for the most part, the 1970's. Now, I can literally walk out my backdoor, as can my children, and, one day, my grandchildren, and hunt turkeys.

I am also in favor of the Fall season that has been opened statewide. Although I am generally not able to hunt much, if at all, during the fall season, I hope that changes in the future during the one week the fall season is open in Roane County, West Virginia.

Sincerely,
Gerald M. Titus, Jr.

Aaron G Amick
Mt Nebo WV

Buck Limit

Fish Regulations.

Should be minimum 48 hours behind stock truck be fishing is permitted. I feel fish need more time to disperse before fishing should be allowed. This giving the stream a chance to naturally repopulate.

Hominy Creek in Nicholas CO. Needs put on stocking list. There's nice natural impoundment of water on this creek to start with, then various holes along the stream as well.

Aaron G Amick
amick324@gmail.com
3045754622
1048 Wahoo Rd
Mt Nebo WV 26679

David Smith
Buckhannon, WV

I used to be a very avid trout fisherman but haven't been into it in years because I work all week and by the weekend, the trout are all caught out of the streams. I think decreasing the daily bag limit to 3 would be great. 3 is plenty for dinner. I also would love to see the frequency of railroad stockings increased (buckhannon River is where I fish). This is generally my only chance to find fish.

I feel that we drastically need Antler restrictions on bucks and increase the opportunity to take does. See Kentucky, PA and Ohio deer hunting laws. We can have it here too!

Thank you for reading.

Sent from my iPhone

David J. Smith P. E.
High Point Construction Company
304-517-3500 (M)
www.highpointwv.com

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

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that there be a special youth bear season for youth hunters, 8 to less than 18, Class Q permit holders and Class XS license holders, to be held on the third Saturday and following Sunday in October on private and public lands in counties open to a firearms deer hunting season. The use of dogs is prohibited during this season.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2020 Black Bear Seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2020 Antlerless Deer Season be open as shown on the attached tables.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to allow hunters (age 14 and under), in addition to Class Y license holders, to utilize a crossbow during the crossbow deer season in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to extend the Buck Firearms and Antlerless Deer Seasons through the second Sunday following Thanksgiving.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2021-2022 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other small game & furbearer hunting and trapping regulations for the 2021-2022 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

Summary of Proposed Changes to Bear Seasons for 2020

More Liberal Seasons without hounds

Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Kanawha, Mineral, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur and Webster – from November 23 – December 5 to November 23 – December 6 (if buck gun season is changed to end on Sunday).

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 – from November 23 – December 31 (with Sunday December 6 closed to hunting) to November 23 – December 31 (with December 6 open to hunting)(if buck gun season is changed to end on Sunday).

Marion, Ritchie, Wetzel and Wirt counties – added to the October 22 – 25 concurrent bear/antlerless deer season with no permit required on public and private land in the portions of the counties open for antlerless deer firearms hunting.

Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS Bear Season – October 17 – 18 in 51 counties open to firearms deer hunting. No dogs allowed.

More Conservative Seasons with hounds

The portion of Preston County West of Route 92 to Reedsville and west of Route 7 to the Monongalia County line will be closed to hunting bear with dogs.

**PROPOSED 2020 ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PRIVATE LAND)**

<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless (Class N/NN) Hunting</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non-resident (Must Apply) (Season Bag Limit: 1)</p> <p>Oct. 22-25; Nov. 23-Dec. 6; Dec. 10-13; Dec. 28-31</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 1)</p> <p>Oct. 22-25; Nov. 23-Dec. 6; Dec. 10-13; Dec. 28-31</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 3)</p> <p>Oct. 22-25; Nov. 23-Dec. 6; Dec. 10-13; Dec. 28-31</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN. (*see special regulation requirement below) (Season Bag Limit: 3)</p> <p>Oct. 22-25; Nov. 23-Dec. 6; Dec. 10-13; Dec. 28-31</p>
<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>) Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming</p>	<p>Boone (400) Greenbrier (<i>north portion</i> - 200) Nicholas (400) Pocahontas (400) Raleigh (<i>east portion</i> - 250) Wayne (<i>north portion</i> - 300) Webster (300)</p>	<p>Braxton Brooke Clay (<i>north portion</i>) Fayette (<i>east portion</i>) Hancock Kanawha (<i>north portion</i>) Lincoln Mason Marshall Mercer Mineral (<i>west portion</i>) Ohio Pleasants Randolph Summers Tucker Wetzel Wirt</p>	<p>Barbour Cabell Doddridge Gilmer Grant Harrison Jackson Lewis Marion Monongalia Pendleton Putnam Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur</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 2021 Mountaineer Heritage Season.

**PROPOSED 2020 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PUBLIC LANDS)**

Season Dates: Oct. 22-25, Nov. 23-Dec. 6, Dec. 10-13, and Dec 28-31, 2020

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1		
Calvin Price SF (100) (Pocahontas Co.)	Greenbrier SF (50) (Greenbrier Co.)	Kumbrabow SF (100) (Randolph Co.)
Camp Creek SF (50) (Mercer Co.)	Hillcrest WMA (25) (Hancock Co.)	Seneca SF (100) (Pocahontas 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.)	Little Canaan WMA (Tucker Co.)	Pruntytown WMA (Taylor Co.)
Blackwater WMA (Preston/Tucker Cos.)	Coopers Rock SF (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)	Mill Creek WMA (Cabell Co.)	Snake Hill WMA (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)
Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Cos.)	Green Bottom WMA (Cabell/Mason Cos.)	Pleasant Creek WMA (Barbour/Taylor Cos.)	Wallback WMA (Roane/Clay/Kanawha Cos.)

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

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.

Summary of Proposed Changes to 2020 Antlerless Deer Season County Regulations

(Comparison of 2019 and 2020 Proposed Antlerless Deer Seasons)

More Liberal 2020 Antlerless Season:

Counties or portions of counties which were closed in 2019 and are proposed for limited permits in 2020:
None

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed increase in permits: Pocahontas (400)

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed increase in bag limit to 1 unlimited: Lincoln (the permit portion of the split was eliminated), Mineral (west)

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed increase in bag limit to 3 unlimited: None

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed increase in bag limit (with special regulation): None

More Restrictive 2020 Antlerless Season:

Counties or portions of counties with a change in regulations from a bag limit of 3 (with a special regulation) to a bag limit of 3: None

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed reduction in bag limit to 1: Kanawha (north), Mason, Wirt

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed reduction in bag limit to 1 (limited permits): None

Counties or portions of counties with a proposed reduction in bag limit to closed: None

Proposed Same 2020 Antlerless Season:

Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay (north and south), Doddridge, Fayette (east and west), Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier (north and south), Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy Jefferson, Harrison, Jackson, Kanawha (south), Lewis, Logan, Marion, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral (east), Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh (east and west), Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne (north and south), Webster, Wetzel, Wood, Wyoming

Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2020-2021 Big Game Hunting Seasons		
Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Mountaineer Heritage Season Deer and Bear (Primitive Weapons)	Jan. 14, 2021 - Jan. 17, 2021	
Bear (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 26, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020	
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties}	Aug. 29, 2020 - Sept. 13, 2020 Sept. 19, 2020 - Sept. 25, 2020 Oct. 3, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020 Oct. 22, 2020 - Oct. 25, 2020 Nov. 23, 2020 - Dec. 5, 2020 Dec. 7, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020	See Attached Bear Tables for Selected Counties
Bear (Youth/Q/XS Season) – dogs prohibited	Oct. 17, 2020 - Oct. 18, 2020	Proposed New Season
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 24, 2020 - Oct. 31, 2020 Feb. 5, 2021 - Feb. 7, 2021	split season
Boar (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 26, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020 Feb. 5, 2021 - Feb. 7, 2021	split season
Deer (Archery & Crossbow - Special Urban)	Sept. 5, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020 Jan. 11, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2021	split season
Deer (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 26, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 23, 2020 - Dec. 6, 2020	Propose season close on Sunday
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 22, 2020 - Oct. 25, 2020 Nov. 23, 2020 - Dec. 6, 2020 Dec. 10, 2020 - Dec. 13, 2020 Dec. 28, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020	See Attached Deer Tables For Selected Counties Propose season close on Sunday – similar to buck firearms season
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season -Antlerless)	Oct. 17, 2020 - Oct. 18, 2020 Dec. 26, 2020 - Dec. 27, 2020	Modify to first 2 days after Christmas Day (which can include a Sunday)
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 14, 2020 - Dec. 20, 2020	
Turkey (Fall) - (4 week counties)	Oct. 10, 2020 - Oct. 18, 2020 Oct. 26, 2020 - Nov. 15, 2020	Propose segment splits close on the following Sunday
Turkey (Fall) - (2 week counties)	Oct. 10, 2020 - Oct. 18, 2020 Oct. 26, 2020 - Nov. 1, 2020	Fall counties determined after 2020 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1 week counties)	Oct. 10, 2020 - Oct. 18, 2020	Fall counties determined after 2020 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring 2021 Youth Season)	April 17, 2021 - April 18, 2021	
Turkey (Spring 2021)	April 19, 2021 - May 23, 2021	Additional 8 days proposed to end of season

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2021-2022
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 11, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 4 - 5, 2021	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 16, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 16, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Quail (Tomblin WMA closed)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Jan. 1, 2022	
Rabbit	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Jan. 1, 2022 Nov. 13, 2021 - Dec. 4, 2021	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022 Jan. 1, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Mar. 31, 2022	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2021 - Nov. 20, 2021 Jan. 1, 2022 - Mar. 5, 2022	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	*Between September 1 thru December 31 night hunting with an artificial light for coyotes could only occur on private land, after receiving permission and prior to hunting, with the requirement that the hunter(s) must notify the DNR-Law Enforcement Section after they received the permission. (Pending approval in 2020)
Coyote (Hunting at night with artificial light)	*Jan. 1, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2022	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 6, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2021 FISHING REGULATIONS**

Presented to the
West Virginia Natural Resources Commission

Prepared by: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
Fish Management
May 31, 2020, 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 FISHING REGULATIONS

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a State-wide 30-fish daily creel and 60-fish possession limit for each of the following fish species: black and white crappie in aggregate, all sunfish species in aggregate, all other gamefish currently not under a creel limit, and yellow perch.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the 12" size limit for black bass from Wallback Lake.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the season for dip netting to allow this method to be used year-round.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the black bass no-harvest regulation from the 12-mile section of the New River from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone to the Grandview Sandbar. Commissioners may remove.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a river-wide 14" to 22" slot limit with only one fish allowed over 22" for all black bass in the New River from the confluence of the New and Gauley Rivers upstream to the West Virginia/Virginia state line excluding Bluestone lake (from the dam upstream to the Bull Falls public access site).

Favor _____

Oppose _____

6. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add the Kanawha River (from the confluence of the Gauley and New rivers downstream to the Buffalo Bridge) 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.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

7. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the trout Catch-and-Release regulation from the 0.9-mile section of Shavers Fork encompassing the Stuart Recreation area.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

8. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove Buffalo Creek in Fayette County from the trout Fly-Fishing-Only regulation

Favor _____

Oppose _____

9. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to set a 2-fish daily creel limit for all trout in Stephens Lake in Raleigh County.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

10. All other fishing regulations for 2021 would be the same as those in 2020

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2021 REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS**

Presented to the
West Virginia Natural Resources Commission

Prepared by: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
Wildlife Diversity Program
May 31, 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REGULATIONS

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add the Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*) and yellow-spotted woodland salamander (*Plethodon pauleyi*) to the existing established seasons and limits for reptiles and amphibians in West Virginia.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes the season be closed, possession limit of zero (0), for all reptile and amphibian species listed below.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

FROGS AND TOADS	SNAKES
Blanchard's cricket frog (<i>Acris blanchardi</i>)	Timber rattlesnake (<i>Crotalus horridus</i>)
Upland chorus frog (<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>)	Eastern hog-nosed snake (<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>)
TURTLES	Eastern black kingsnake (<i>Lampropeltis g. niger</i>)
Northern red-bellied cooter (<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>)	Smooth greensnake (<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>)
Eastern box turtle (<i>Terrapene c. carolina</i>)	Northern rough greensnake (<i>Opheodrys a. aestivus</i>)
LIZARDS	Red cornsnake (<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>)
Eastern six-lined racerunner (<i>Aspidoscels s. sexlineata</i>)	Northern pinesnake (<i>Pituophis m. melanoleucus</i>)
Northern coal skink (<i>Plestiodon a. anthracinus</i>)	Common ribbonsnake (<i>Thamnophis s. saurita</i>)
Broad-headed skink (<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>)	Mountain earthsnake (<i>Virginia v. pulchra</i>)
	Eastern smooth earthsnake (<i>Virginia v. valeriae</i>)