

West Virginia
Natural Resources

Big Game Bulletin



2009

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This bulletin was made possible through hunting and fishing license monies and funds from Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, Project W-48-R-26 Statewide Wildlife Research.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION BULLETIN 10-01

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BLACK BEAR
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Season Results and Highlights

West Virginia hunters harvested 1,843 black bears during the combined 2009 archery and firearms seasons. The harvest for the combined seasons in 2009 is the second highest on record behind only 2008.

Multiple factors contributed to this most recent bear harvest. West Virginia has a tremendous bear population that allows for a variety of different hunting opportunities. The poor statewide mast conditions allowed archery hunters to better pattern bear movements as the bruins were looking for concentrated food sources. However, poor mast conditions and a larger than normal December snowfall pushed bears into their winter dens, thereby making them unavailable to gun hunters.

Hunters took a record 992 bears during the 2009 archery season. This was the first time in history that the archery harvest topped 800, let alone reaching the 900 mark. Biologists predicted that this would be a record archery harvest because of the statewide mast conditions and the remarkable bear population. The top five counties were Randolph (119), Webster (92), Nicholas (77), Greenbrier (77), and Preston (73).

Firearms hunters harvested 851 bears during the 2009 combined gun seasons. West Virginia DNR biologists have demonstrated a direct relationship between mast conditions and bear gun harvests. The poor mast conditions coupled with the larger than normal snowfall and reduced hunting opportunities resulted in a predictable lower gun harvest in 2009. Top five counties were Randolph (112), Fayette (94), Pocahontas (74), Pendleton (70), and Raleigh (58).

Non-hunting Mortalities

Two-hundred sixty two bears were killed on highways, died as a result of illegal or marauder activities, or succumbed from other non-hunting causes (electrocution, accidental poisoning, etc.). This is up dramatically from the 81 non-hunting mortalities recorded in 2008 (Table 3). There were 64 deaths from vehicles in 2009 compared to 38 in 2008. The number of illegal and miscellaneous deaths was up from three to nine and six to nine from 2008 to 2009, respectively. The largest increase in non-hunting deaths was in bears killed for nuisance or damage activity, which was up from 34 in 2008 to 180 in 2009. The combined seasonal and non-seasonal deaths (2,105) is the second largest recorded in West Virginia (Table 4).

Damage Payments and Nuisance Complaints

All hunters who pursue bears are required to buy bear damage stamps (Class DS). Funds derived from stamp sales are deposited in a special bear damage account to reimburse property owners for real and personal property damage caused by bears.

The number of bear damage claims was up 90% from 142 in 2008 to 270 in 2009 (Table 5). Total payments of \$295,450 were 318% higher than the \$92,837 paid out in 2008 and exceeded the previous record from 2007 by more than \$100,000. Claims were reported in 34 counties in 2009 and 32 counties in 2008. There were 79 claims for bees (compared to 45 in 2008) totaling \$30,837, 27 for livestock at \$13,045 (25 in 2008), 71 for corn at \$213,175 (18 in 2008), and 93 (54 in 2008) miscellaneous claims at \$37,993.

Greenbrier County had the greatest dollar amount in compensations at \$82,867, followed by Pocahontas (\$41,204), Preston (\$27,690), Tucker (\$24,477), and Nicholas (\$23,123). The five counties with the most claims were Nicholas, Greenbrier, Randolph, Pocahontas, and Webster.

Division of Natural Resources employees received a record 1,607 nuisance bear calls in 2009 compared to 1,142 in 2008. The top counties with most complaints were Nicholas (233), Greenbrier (143), Raleigh (122), Kanawha (91), and Webster (79).

Tooth Collections

Age data from the 2008 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters only submitted 894 useable teeth (correct tooth, identification matched check tags, etc.) for age consideration. Nine (8 M: 1F) were cubs, 33% (211M: 80F) were yearlings, 23% (133M: 75F) were 2-year olds, 14% (74M: 49F) were 3-year olds, and the remaining 29% (105M: 158F) were 4-years old or older.

Reproductive Tract Collections

Black bears have one of the lowest reproductive rates of any land mammal in North America. Population dynamics research projects have shown that litter size, adult female survival, and interbirth interval are the three key factors that influence black bear populations. Managers adjust harvest regulations to manipulate adult female survival; however, they are unable to control reproductive rates (litter size, interbirth interval, cub survival, etc.). To help monitor these reproductive rates, wildlife managers and biologists have been collecting female reproductive tracts to estimate litter size in respective areas.

Managers collected 26 reproductive tracts that supplied useful information in 2008. Reproductive tract data lags one year behind because researchers are waiting on age data. Information from reproductive tracts obtained in 2009 cannot be fully analyzed until ages are determined. Two reproductive tracts had 2 placental scars each which indicated that they gave birth in 2008. Six yearling tracts were examined with the possibility of one having bred in 2008. Sixteen of the remaining 18 females that were at least 3 years old showed evidence of breeding. The sixteen females had an average of 2.8 corpora lutea per female. Biologists have analyzed the historic reproductive tract data. These data are available in the project leader's dissertation.

Monitoring and Research Study

The Black Bear Monitoring and Research Project was initiated in 1999 to gather demographic information from bears in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, and Raleigh counties and to learn more about bears captured as a result of nuisance behavior. The study plays an important role in modifications of bear seasons. A northern study area primarily centered in Randolph and Tucker counties was added in 2004 to reexamine demographic parameters of the bear population from data previously collected in the 1970s and 1980s. One of the primary goals of this project is to identify the most cost effective way for the DNR to effectively manage the bear population. Data from this project was completed in fall 2009 and published as a dissertation at West Virginia University. The entire dissertation with additional scientific publications may be viewed at www.wvdnr.gov under black bears.

Wildlife managers have handled 783 adult bears 1,529 times on the southern study area since 1999. Bears handled during nuisance complaints were given orange ear tags so that they could be easily identified; whereas, bears caught specifically on research trap lines for the purpose of marking additional bears were tagged with black ear tags. In the southern study area, 109 (51M: 58F) bears were tagged in 2009 or were still wearing their radio transmitters from previous years. Ninety (40M: 50F) bears were in the 4-county study area and considered available for harvest. Most of the additional bears outside the study area were trapped and relocated as part of normal DNR activities. Thirty-nine females were equipped with working radio transmitters at the start of the 2009 hunting season. Six of 50 (12%) females and 11 of 40 males (28%) available for direct harvest in the southern study area were reported dead during fall 2009. There were an additional eight (6M: 2F) bears harvested from previous years.

Wildlife managers have handled a total of 1,493 adult bears 3,087 times on the northern study area since the project began. These data include the historical data that began in the early 1970's. In 2009, wildlife managers in Districts 1 and 3 marked 111 (51M: 60F) bears to gather demographic data on the bear population in our traditional counties. One hundred and five (47M: 58F) bears were available for harvest inside the study area. Thirty-one female bears were equipped with radio transmitters at the start of hunting season. Seven (14%) male and five (5%) females available for direct harvest

died after September 1. In addition, eight bears (3M: 5F) tagged in previous years were harvested in 2009.

Data from the study (see dissertation) revealed that the overall average litter size on both study areas was 2.65 ($n = 300$). Mean litter size did not differ ($P > 0.05$) between the southern ($\bar{x} = 2.85$, $n = 84$, 95% CI = 2.68–3.02) and northern ($\bar{x} = 2.71$, $n = 153$, 95% CI = 2.58–2.83) study areas for adult black bears or for subadult black bears on the southern ($\bar{x} = 2.1$, $n = 20$, 95% CI = 1.80–2.39) and northern ($\bar{x} = 2.23$, $n = 21$, 95% CI = 1.85–2.61) areas. However, adult females on each study area had larger litters than subadults ($P < 0.05$). We observed severe mast failures in 1988, 1997, and 2002 but they did not influence litter size. Three-cub litters were most common on both the northern (46.5%, $n = 85$) and southern study areas (46.1%, $n = 54$), followed by 2-cub litters on northern (34.4%, $n = 63$) and southern (33.3%, $n = 39$), 4-cub litters on the northern (11.5%, $n = 21$) and southern (11.9%, $n = 14$), 1-cub litters on northern (7.1%, $n = 13$) and southern (6.8%, $n = 8$), and 5-cub litters on the northern (0.5%, $n = 1$) and southern study areas (1.7%, $n = 2$).

Mean litter size did not differ ($F = 1.22$, $P = 0.269$) between reproductive tracts collected from hunters ($\bar{x} = 2.58$, 95% CI = 2.46–2.69) or cubs observed at den visits ($\bar{x} = 2.67$, 95% CI = 2.57–2.76). Number of corpora lutea observed from reproductive tracts or cubs during den visits did not differ for adult black bears ($F = 0.07$, $P = 0.792$) or subadult black bears ($F = 0.34$, $P = 0.561$). Number of black bears surviving to age 1 was numerically similar for Downing population reconstruction ($\bar{x} = 2.24$, 95% CI = 1.99–2.48) and average number of yearlings observed in den visits ($\bar{x} = 2.14$, 95% CI = 2.01–2.14). Additional demographic data may be viewed in the dissertation.

Wildlife managers also handled 16 ($\bar{x} = 2.5$) and 17 ($\bar{x} = 2.2$) litters of cubs on the northern and southern study areas in 2009, respectively. On the southern study, managers handled 4 dens with yearlings and 15 bears were in areas that were not accessible or did not den. They also tagged 2 yearling bears. Managers worked 8 yearling dens on the northern study area and tagged 9 yearlings in those dens. There was one bear too old for cubs and one that did not have yearlings or cubs.

One of the new, exciting aspects of the bear project started in August 2007 with the purchase of 23 GPS (Global Positioning System) radio collars for our southern study area. Twenty of these collars were retrieved with useful data in 2009. Biologists hope to analyze these data in 2010 to provide better management recommendations.

Table 1. West Virginia 2009 black bear harvest by season and county.

County	Archery	September	Buck Gun	December	TOTAL
	Total	Total	Total	Total	
Barbour	17	0	0	8	25
Brooke	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison	1	0	0	0	1
Marion	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	0	0	0	0	0
Monongalia	4	0	3	0	7
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	73	0	0	28	101
Taylor	1	0	0	1	2
Tucker	41	0	0	47	88
Wetzel	1	0	0	0	1
District I Subtotal	138	0	3	84	225
Berkeley	3	0	0	2	5
Grant	30	0	0	29	59
Hampshire	14	0	0	9	23
Hardy	40	0	0	45	85
Jefferson	3	0	0	0	3
Mineral	9	0	0	4	13
Morgan	4	0	0	2	6
Pendleton	32	0	0	70	102
Dist. II Subtotal	135	0	0	161	296
Braxton	22	0	0	5	27
Clay	22	0	0	5	27
Lewis	2	0	0	0	2
Nicholas	77	0	0	38	115
Pocahontas	22	0	0	74	96
Randolph	119	0	0	112	231
Upshur	3	0	0	3	6
Webster	92	0	0	53	145
Dist. III Subtotal	359	0	0	290	649
Fayette	49	71	17	6	143
Greenbrier	77	0	0	51	128
McDowell	20	0	0	3	23
Mercer	28	0	0	1	29
Monroe	33	0	0	6	39
Raleigh	30	45	12	1	88
Summers	10	0	0	1	11
Wyoming	38	0	0	1	39
Dist. IV Subtotal	285	116	29	70	500
Boone	12	35	9	7	63
Cabell	0	0	0	0	0
Kanawha	24	36	10	0	70
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Logan	20	0	0	0	20
Mason	0	0	0	0	0
Mingo	6	0	0	0	6
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	1	1
Dist. V Subtotal	62	71	19	8	160
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0
Doddridge	0	0	0	0	0
Gilmer	3	0	0	0	3
Jackson	1	0	0	0	1
Pleasants	1	0	0	0	1
Ritchie	2	0	0	0	2
Roane	2	0	0	0	2
Tyler	0	0	0	0	0
Wirt	3	0	0	0	3
Wood	1	0	0	0	1
Dist. VI Subtotal	13	0	0	0	13
State Total	992	187	51	613	1,843

Table 2. Sex ratios of West Virginia black bears for late September, November gun season, archery season, and December gun season, 1964-2009.

Year	Archery or Gun Season		Archery Season and/or Early		Late Nov. or December		Annual		Total*
	Late September		Nov. Gun Season		Gun Season		Kill		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1964-1978	0	0							
15-Yr Total	0	0	318	345	178	71	496	416	912
Sex Ratios	0	0	48%	52%	71%	29%	54%	46%	
1979	0	0	0	0	50	18	50	18	68
1980	0	0	2	2	34	9	36	11	47
1981	0	0	3	2	59	16	62	18	80
1982	0	0	11	5	16	4	27	9	36
1983	0	0	11	6	78	34	89	40	129
1984	0	0	8	8	51	43	59	51	110
1985	0	0	14	7	68	24	82	31	113
1986	0	0	31	14	61	26	92	40	132
1987	0	0	40	14	146	51	186	65	251
1988	0	0	21	16	198	165	219	181	400
1989	0	0	81	96	198	135	279	231	510
1990	0	0	41	20	114	60	155	80	235
1991	0	0	72	57	186	111	258	168	426
1992	0	0	112	89	169	85	281	174	455
1993	0	0	141	96	340	190	481	286	767
1994	0	0	111	73	290	258	401	331	732
1995	0	0	152	75	310	153	462	228	690
1996	0	0	114	101	355	198	469	299	768
1997	0	0	225	198	178	85	403	283	686
1998	0	0	167	97	481	337	648	434	1,082
1999	0	0	256	168	369	201	625	369	994
2000	0	0	196	102	655	364	851	466	1,317
2001	0	0	302	165	482	301	784	466	1,250
2002	0	0	540	321	327	169	867	490	1,357
2003	0	0	605	422	450	222	1,055	644	1,699
2004	0	0	319	219	479	218	798	437	1,235
2005	0	0	432	285	616	301	1,048	586	1,634
2006	0	0	399	266	727	312	1,126	578	1,704
2007	0	0	521	328	637	318	1,158	646	1,804
2008	348	322	292	187	589	331	1,229	840	2,069
2009	109	78	580	412	450	214	1,139	704	1,843
30-Year Total	457	400	5,799	3,851	9,163	4,953	15,419	9,204	24,623
Average Sex Ratios	53%	47%	60%	40%	65%	35%	63%	37%	
2009 Sex Ratios	58%	42%	58%	42%	68%	32%	62%	38%	

*Represents bears of known sex and not the total harvest in each year.

Table 3. Number of black bears killed each year in West Virginia and cause of death.

Year	Hunting Season		Illegal Kill	Road Kill	Marauders	Others	Total
	Archery	Gun					
70's Subtotal	14	523	70's Average Annual Bag: Archery 2; Gun 65				
1980	4	43	9	5	11	3	75
1981	5	75	15	2	5	0	102
1982	17	20	17	8	17	5	84
1983	17	112	15	6	7	7	164
1984	16	94	14	7	9	7	147
1985	22	92	12	9	11	13	159
1986	44	88	8	18	18	3	179
1987	55	197	12	10	15	13	302
1988	38	350	20	25	23	24	480
1989	43	471	14	14	15	15	572
80's Subtotal	261	1,542	80's Average Annual Bag: Archery 26; Gun 154				
1990	61	174	14	23	13	10	295
1991	131	297	18	21	13	2	482
1992	201	254	17	48	18	8	546
1993	239	529	24	40	4	6	842
1994	185	550	10	31	5	5	786
1995	227	470	14	37	6	8	762
1996	214	558	6	23	15	7	823
1997	420	272	13	58	30	10	803
1998	265	825	12	30	8	6	1,146
1999	420	577	9	24	8	15	1,053
90's Subtotal	2,363	4,506	90's Average Annual Bag: Archery 236; Gun 450				
2000	305	1,023	6	16	8	4	1,362
2001	475	785	18	43	22	1	1,344
2002	726	670	14	82	28	10	1,530
2003	774	958	17	87	61	7	1,904
2004	374	861	7	55	22	11	1,330
2005	585	1,076	15	62	18	10	1,766
2006	516	1,188	8	61	36	10	1,819
2007	728	1,076	4	62	155	7	2,032
2008	479	1,590	3	38	34	6	2,150
2009	992	851	9	64	180	9	2,105
00's Subtotal	5,954	10,078	00's Average Annual Bag: Archery 595; Gun 1,007.				

*November Gun Seasons held in 1989, and 2002 - 2009 in certain counties.

**September Season held in 2008-2009 in certain counties.

***Check tags without season (<0.05%) marked were assumed gun kills for this table.

Table 4. West Virginia 2009 nonseasonal black bear mortalities by county and type.

County	Roadkills	Illegal	Marauders	Misc.	Total
Barbour	0	0	3	0	3
Brooke	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	0	0	0	0	0
Monongalia	0	0	1	0	1
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	1	0	3	0	4
Taylor	0	0	0	0	0
Tucker	0	0	9	0	9
Wetzel	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. I Subtotal	1	0	16	0	17
Berkeley	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	2	0	2
Hampshire	3	0	4	0	7
Hardy	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
Morgan	0	0	0	0	0
Pendleton	1	2	3	0	6
Dist. II Subtotal	4	2	9	0	15
Braxton	10	0	2	0	12
Clay	2	0	9	1	12
Lewis	2	0	0	1	3
Nicholas	19	2	16	2	39
Pocahontas	0	0	47	1	48
Randolph	2	2	5	2	11
Upshur	0	0	0	0	0
Webster	1	0	9	0	10
Dist. III Subtotal	36	4	88	7	135
Fayette	2	0	1	0	3
Greenbrier	9	0	55	0	64
McDowell	0	0	1	0	1
Mercer	0	0	1	0	1
Monroe	0	0	0	0	0
Raleigh	3	0	5	0	8
Summers	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	3	0	1	0	4
Dist. IV Subtotal	17	0	64	0	81
Boone	1	0	3	0	4
Cabell	0	0	0	0	0
Kanawha	2	0	0	1	3
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	1
Logan	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	0	0	0
Mingo	1	0	0	0	1
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. V Subtotal	5	0	3	1	9
Calhoun	0	1	0	0	1
Doddridge	1	0	0	0	1
Gilmer	0	0	0	1	1
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasants	0	1	0	0	1
Ritchie	0	0	0	0	0
Roane	0	0	0	0	0
Tyler	0	1	0	0	1
Wirt	0	0	0	0	0
Wood	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. VI Subtotal	1	3	0	1	5
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	64	9	180	9	262

Table 5. Black bear damage claims paid and payments by county 2005-2009.

County	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Claims	Payments	Claims	Payments	Claims	Payments	Claims	Payments	Claims	Payments
Barbour	2	\$1,439	1	\$398	4	\$1,745	3	\$1,607	3	\$832
Berkeley	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$274
Boone	9	\$2,264	2	\$372	15	\$29,749	6	\$5,319	2	\$764
Braxton	3	\$3,080	4	\$3,430	3	\$559	8	\$3,139	3	\$5,775
Brooke	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Cabell	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Calhoun	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Clay	3	\$1,472	2	\$227	6	\$2,637	5	\$2,322	3	\$977
Doddridge	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$150
Fayette	6	\$2,543	4	\$2,929	8	\$3,965	4	\$1,105	5	\$6,202
Gilmer	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$397	0	\$0
Grant	6	\$1,429	2	\$608	4	\$2,250	6	\$4,570	5	\$3,066
Greenbrier	20	\$20,075	12	\$19,468	19	\$42,704	9	\$16,770	35	\$82,867
Hampshire	0	\$0	3	\$825	5	\$3,857	2	\$1,575	10	\$7,421
Hancock	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Hardy	5	\$1,357	6	\$3,860	9	\$15,767	9	\$9,060	9	\$12,317
Harrison	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Jackson	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$274
Jefferson	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$138	0	\$0	1	\$833
Kanawha	6	\$7,207	1	\$413	6	\$2,444	3	\$2,691	2	\$114
Lewis	0	\$0	2	\$124	0	\$0	4	\$1,329	2	\$1,163
Lincoln	1	\$137	0	\$0	2	\$2,574	0	\$0	0	\$0
Logan	3	\$776	1	\$85	3	\$745	5	\$1,694	7	\$5,004
Marion	0	\$0	2	\$803	0	\$0	2	\$218	1	\$126
Marshall	0	\$0	1	\$753	0	\$0	1	\$776	0	\$0
Mason	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
McDowell	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mercer	7	\$2,504	3	\$842	3	\$2,847	0	\$0	2	\$1,438
Mineral	1	\$101	1	\$840	0	\$0	2	\$1,327	7	\$1,793
Mingo	3	\$992	3	\$657	1	\$164	2	\$1,292	0	\$0
Monongalia	1	\$254	0	\$0	1	\$113	5	\$2,114	2	\$150
Monroe	2	\$2,224	4	\$5,688	2	\$630	1	\$177	1	\$29
Morgan	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	4	\$2,789
Nicholas	10	\$4,939	11	\$2,915	18	\$5,287	6	\$9,199	36	\$23,123
Ohio	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Pendleton	16	\$5,314	5	\$1,446	22	\$14,581	12	\$5,115	17	\$18,895
Pleasants	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Pocahontas	11	\$7,102	11	\$8,480	26	\$14,305	4	\$2,050	23	\$41,204
Preston	11	\$2,950	13	\$13,178	8	\$6,157	9	\$5,857	15	\$27,690
Putnam	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$268
Raleigh	9	\$4,040	2	\$379	3	\$1,087	6	\$3,000	8	\$3,932
Randolph	52	\$28,682	23	\$15,324	20	\$17,363	10	\$3,077	23	\$10,263
Ritchie	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$125	0	\$0
Roane	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$138	0	\$0	0	\$0
Summers	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$399	4	\$1,094
Taylor	1	\$1,318	1	\$154	1	\$324	1	\$203	0	\$0
Tucker	3	\$2,434	11	\$6,655	16	\$10,850	5	\$4,437	12	\$24,477
Tyler	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Upshur	1	\$110	2	\$550	0	\$0	2	\$258	2	\$738
Wayne	1	\$2,168	1	\$2,168	1	\$106	0	\$0	0	\$0
Webster	5	\$1,359	10	\$3,318	6	\$1,127	6	\$1,530	21	\$8,725
Wetzel	3	\$887	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Wirt	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Wood	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$105	0	\$0
Wyoming	0	\$0	1	\$1,200	7	\$3,791	0	\$0	1	\$683
Total	201	\$109,157	145	\$98,089	221	\$188,004	142	\$92,837	270	\$295,450

WILD TURKEY

by
William K. Igo

Spring Harvest

The 2009 spring gobbler harvest was 9,787 (Table 1). The total is 1% lower than the kill in 2008 (9,929). Based on slightly better productivity in 2007 (brood reports up 7% from 2006), biologists had predicted a similar to slightly higher spring harvest compared to the take in 2007 (9,965). Inclement weather the first Saturday of the season in some parts of the State may have depressed gobbling activity and hunter turnout resulting in a lower kill.

The top five counties in terms of harvest were Mason (419), Preston (378), Harrison (310), Upshur (298), and Wood (279). The kill was up slightly in Districts 2, 3, and 5; it was down slightly in District 1. The check-in was down 7% in District 4 and down 8% in District 6. District 1 in northcentral West Virginia led all Districts with a kill of 2,131. Table 2 depicts the harvest by public wildlife management areas (WMAs). The top areas were Cranberry (47), Potomac (34), Neola (28), Little River (26), and R.D. Bailey (24).

Last year the 2008 opening day kill was only 13% of the total harvest, probably due to wet, windy weather. The opening day of the regular 2009 spring season showed a check-in of 1,852 bearded turkeys, 19% of the total spring take. This is close to the 20% opening day harvest in 2007. The second day 2009 harvest made up 10% of the total kill (9% in 2008), with a slightly lower take on the third day (7%). The harvest then declined each day, with spikes of higher kills each Saturday. The first Saturday of the regular season showed a kill of 744 birds, about 8% of the harvest. All four Saturdays of the season accounted for 17% of total kill. During 2009, the first week tallied 56% of the total spring take, the same as 2008 (Table 3).

The one-day spring gobbler youth hunt, which occurred the Saturday preceding the regular Monday opening, yielded a harvest of 344 toms. This youth hunt kill was the second highest since this special season was initiated in 2005.

Fall Harvest

A total of 24 counties were open during the fall 2009 season. The kill of 1,208 turkeys was very similar to the 1,206 birds taken during the 2008 fall season (Table 4). Top counties were Nicholas with a take of 116, Monroe (105), Greenbrier (103), Preston (83), and Randolph (75). The traditional fall-hunt counties with their four-week season (except Preston with two weeks) accounted for 76% of the total fall kill. The harvest of

WMAs (Table 5) made up 11% of the fall harvest. Top WMAs were Neola (15), Cheat (14), Cranberry (14), Wardensville (10), Blackwater (9), and Rimel (9).

There were 229 turkeys (19%) checked on the opening Saturday of the fall season (19% also in 2008). The opening week accounted for 44% of the total harvest (similar to the 42% in 2008). The last week of the season made up 13% of the kill, close to the 12% in 2008 (Table 6).

The combined spring and fall harvests in 2009 was 10,995—this ranks 20th in total wild turkey kill since 1966 (Table 7). The 2009 tally was only 1% lower than last year. The total spring harvest of bearded turkeys since 1966 (296,880) is 62% more than the number of wild turkeys killed in the fall during the same period (114,122).

Surveys

Spring Gobbler Survey

The Wildlife Resources Section and the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation conduct an annual survey of spring gobbler hunters. The survey is done entirely by volunteer sportsmen that donate their time and effort to gather information to help the DNR manage wild turkeys in the State. The West Virginia Chapter sends survey forms to its members; the Wildlife Resources Section compiles the data from these and other participants. A survey report is written and provided free to cooperators.

During 2009, results were compiled from 205 hunters. Cooperators took 1,792 hunting trips and heard 2,824 gobblers. The gobbling rate (41 gobblers heard per 100 hours) was 9% lower (Fig. 1) than 2008 (45 per 100 hours) and down 24% from the 27-year average (54).

The survey showed the best gobbling in 2009 occurred in the Western (50 gobblers per 100 hours) and Southwestern (47 per 100 hours) regions of the State. Hunters heard about two gobblers per trip in each of these regions. The survey also provides DNR biologists important data not only on wild turkeys, but also ruffed grouse, coyote, overwinter losses of turkeys and deer, and much other information. The data may provide accurate population trend information on white-tailed deer. This survey is also an important forum for hunters to express their opinions and ideas.

Hunters desiring a copy of the annual survey report need to participate in the survey. Spring gobbler hunters wanting to help are encouraged to contact Tammie Thompson, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, PO Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, phone 304-637-0245. Those wishing to participate will be sent necessary forms and a questionnaire prior to the spring hunting season. The survey is simple to conduct and a hunter does not have to harvest a gobbler to provide useful data. Most of the information collected deals with what a hunter hears, sees, or has an opinion on.

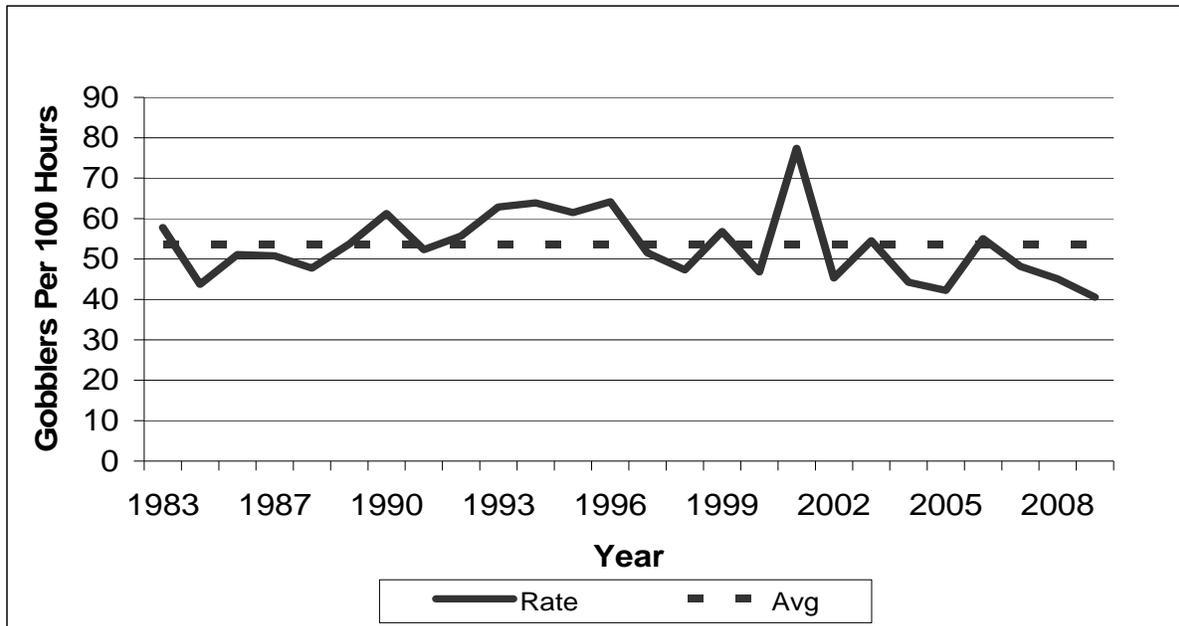


Figure 1. Gobblers heard per 100 hours by cooperators in West Virginia from 1983- 2009.

Bowhunter Survey

Due to timing of season and analysis of data, results from the Bowhunter Survey lag one year behind other surveys. This survey not only monitors white-tailed deer, it is also valuable in determining population and harvest trends of other wildlife species, including wild turkey. Turkey sightings by bowhunter cooperators during the fall of 2008 increased 17% from 2007. The rate of 34 turkeys seen per 100 hours of bowhunting is 42% lower than our record rate (59 per 100 hours in 1999), and 15% below our long term average (40). The increase in turkeys observed by bowhunters in 2008 (17% over 2007) is in contradiction with brood reports for those years—a 4% decrease in broods was recorded in 2008 over that reported in 2007. A likely explanation for this contradiction: the shortage of acorns in 2008, which probably resulted in flocks concentrating in and around fields, feeding on insects and fruits from edge-loving shrubs. Field edges are typical sites for setups by archery enthusiasts.

Brood Survey

Our recently completed gobbler survival study showed that jake gobblers are two to three times less vulnerable to spring hunting than older toms. This means that good hatches for a given year should result in a good kill two springs later—and, vice versa, a poor brood year should result in a poor harvest two springs hence. Brood reports in 2007 were slightly higher than 2006 brood counts, and biologists had predicted a slightly higher spring harvest—weather permitting. Weather didn't permit, so the spring 2009 kill turned out slightly lower than the previous years' harvest.

Turkey broods in 2008 were similar to the counts in 2007, and a similar take in gobblers is expected for the 2010 spring season. However, due to very poor food conditions in the fall-winter of 2009-2010, gobbling intensity may be reduced, resulting in a lower harvest. As one of our fellow biologists in Georgia once remarked, "Skinny turkeys don't gobble." A very poor hatch in 2009 should mean a reduced spring 2011 kill.

Brood counts have correctly forecasted fall harvest about two-thirds of the years since 1968. Regional food supplies, brood success in fall hunt counties, and the number of eligible fall hunt counties also need to be considered in fall harvest predictions. Based on good poult production in the traditional fall-hunt mountain counties, and poor production in the traditional fall Eastern Panhandle counties, biologist predicted a similar or slightly higher 2009 fall kill. The 2009 take of 1,208 was almost identical to the 1,206 birds killed in 2008.

Mast Survey

The Wildlife and Law Enforcement Sections of the Division of Natural Resources and the Division of Forestry have conducted surveys for abundance of wild foods since 1970. Foods of 18 tree and shrub species that are important wildlife mast are monitored. Compared to the 2008 survey, the mast for 2009 decreased considerably. All species except scrub oak declined from last years observations. The 2009 mast index for all species combined declined to an all time low (40 years!). Fifteen of the 18 species monitored declined more than 20%. The statewide index for combined hard mast species (beech, hickory, and oaks) was well below the long term average. All soft mast species, except yellow-poplar, was also well below the 39-year average. Higher elevations were observed to have more mast production than lower elevations for both hard and soft mast. Better acorn crops were recorded in the Eastern Panhandle and Mountains regions than other areas of the state.

Setting the Opening Date

The season is set with the wild turkey resource considered first and foremost in importance; convenience and desires of hunters are then taken into account. Some points that might get some gray matter stirring: (1) A study in Iowa found that hunter activity suppresses gobbling. No matter when hunters enter the woods, gobbling activity will decrease. (2) Hundreds of gobblers are killed (i.e., silenced) the first few days of season. Hundreds of less gobblers usually mean a lot less gobbles. These two points reveal that even if the season is set one or two weeks earlier, the same phenomenon occurs – gobbling will quickly be depressed by hunter disturbance and less talkative birds. Some hunters will again complain about lack of gobbling and what will they want? – an earlier season!

Our season is set to closely coincide with peak incubation of hens. This causes less hen disturbance, protects hens from illegal harvest, and increases nesting success – resulting in higher turkey numbers. By starting the season the 4th Monday of April, we are actually setting the season just prior to peak incubation. We have compromised for improved hunter success by establishing the season based on peak of gobbling (found through extensive studies to occur April 22 – May 1). West Virginia has been recognized by one recent study as having the better biologically set spring season (compared to other States) which should result in better attainment toward optimum turkey populations. But even our season was deemed too early for truly optimum turkey numbers!

Research in Missouri, Virginia, and West Virginia has shown that incubating hens are less vulnerable to illegal spring harvest than non-nesting hens. These studies revealed that illegal killing of hens was greater when the spring season opened before the peak of incubation occurred. Illegal hen losses ranged from 2.5% in West Virginia, 5.2% in Missouri, to 6% in Virginia. Virginia's higher hen mortality was thought to be due to the spring season opening well before the peak of incubation. A study in Ohio reveals hen losses during spring gobbler season in the range of 5%.

2010 Hunting Regulations

The youth spring season hunt will occur Saturday, April 24, prior to the regular Monday season opening on April 26. This will be the sixth year for the youth hunt. Current regulations specify that **youngsters eight through 14 years of age will be able to participate in the youth hunt when accompanied by a licensed adult who must be at least 21 years old.** The adult cannot carry a gun or bow, and must stay close enough to render advice and assistance. The bag limit is one bearded turkey; a harvested bird will count toward the annual bag limit. Only shotguns using 4, 5, or 6 shot are legal. The regular spring gobbler season lasts four weeks, ending on May 22.

The 2010 fall hunting season will open October 23. The season will close November 20 in the traditional fall hunt counties that are open to four weeks of hunting. The season will close November 6 in Preston County. Hunters should review the "Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary", which should be available in July, 2010, for other counties eligible for a fall season, and other details concerning spring and fall turkey seasons.

Table 1. Spring harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barbour	200	176	177	224	209
Brooke	119	121	101	79	86
Hancock	131	137	117	71	98
Harrison	270	254	237	291	310
Marion	166	190	201	178	175
Marshall	264	306	279	222	214
Monongalia	235	310	260	247	215
Ohio	109	137	77	53	64
Preston	375	400	330	371	378
Taylor	102	101	84	115	101
Tucker	88	98	83	85	68
Wetzel	244	200	204	253	213
Dist. I Subtotal	2,303	2,430	2,150	2,189	2,131
Berkeley	83	107	71	70	83
Grant	108	130	144	115	121
Hampshire	192	220	163	165	194
Hardy	127	226	156	141	172
Jefferson	43	51	46	34	44
Mineral	108	135	114	107	135
Morgan	85	116	87	88	63
Pendleton	108	136	140	101	114
Dist. II Subtotal	854	1,121	921	821	926
Braxton	234	282	211	199	226
Clay	74	82	80	77	89
Lewis	268	258	245	243	241
Nicholas	175	226	188	210	157
Pocahontas	97	128	127	102	117
Randolph	132	176	170	163	198
Upshur	206	258	212	288	298
Webster	68	108	98	98	113
Dist. III Subtotal	1,254	1,518	1,331	1,380	1,439
Fayette	264	261	231	279	255
Greenbrier	276	298	264	292	266
McDowell	183	270	214	250	181
Mercer	389	311	269	253	215
Monroe	217	200	170	142	178
Raleigh	328	264	282	221	227
Summers	387	287	284	258	219
Wyoming	172	243	197	209	227
Dist. IV Subtotal	2,216	2,134	1,911	1,904	1,768
Boone	141	159	132	118	111
Cabell	152	146	125	138	157
Kanawha	297	263	254	247	219
Lincoln	227	223	172	188	183
Logan	155	169	112	157	160
Mason	451	493	407	394	419
Mingo	92	100	80	82	95
Putnam	233	246	178	232	256
Wayne	244	207	164	145	146
Dist. V Subtotal	1,992	2,006	1,624	1,701	1,746
Calhoun	164	193	150	141	129
Doddridge	214	199	117	144	135
Gilmer	183	195	150	139	147
Jackson	333	353	332	310	257
Pleasants	90	97	59	89	63
Ritchie	341	317	244	208	206
Roane	297	293	268	229	219
Tyler	199	198	155	174	167
Wirt	234	272	216	185	175
Wood	284	409	337	315	279
Dist. VI Subtotal	2,339	2,526	2,028	1,934	1,777
State Total	10,958	11,735	9,965	9,929	9,787

Table 2. Spring turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

Land Type	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	3	7	17	8	16
	Blackwater	40	25	14	18	17
	Cheat	6	9	11	8	14
	Cranberry	15	20	31	32	47
	Little River	12	26	30	14	26
	Neola	24	42	26	26	28
	Otter Creek	12	14	16	19	8
	Potomac	27	41	42	31	34
	Rimel	21	25	31	15	13
	Tea Creek	3	18	14	19	13
Monongahela NF Total		163	227	232	190	216
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	16	16	18	9	7
	Wardensville	29	49	42	26	52
George Washington NF Total		45	65	60	35	59
Jefferson NF		3	5	2	5	8
Jefferson NF Total		3	5	2	5	8
National River		18	10	14	25	21
National River Total		18	10	14	25	21
State Land	Allegheny	5	4	2	3	10
	Amherst/Plymouth	13	8	16	19	11
	Anawalt	5	4	2	5	5
	Bear Rocks	2	1	0	0	0
	Becky Creek	0	0	0	1	2
	Beech Fork	17	17	17	26	19
	Berwind	2	0	5	11	3
	Beury Mtn	1	5	0	4	8
	Big Ugly	1	1	0	1	2
	Bluestone	38	41	43	25	19
	Burnsville	11	26	19	13	12
	Cabwaylingo Sf	3	4	3	4	3
	Calvin Price Sf	4	2	3	2	0
	Camp Creek Sf	3	7	1	2	3
	Castleman	0	0	0	2	2
	Castleman Run	5	4	4	0	0
	Center Branch	2	0	1	2	1
	Conaway Run	1	0	0	1	0
	Coopers Rock Sf	6	8	12	5	10
	Cornstalk	17	19	15	15	19
	Cross Creek	0	0	8	6	2
	East Lynn	14	6	3	6	9
	Edwards Run	0	0	0	0	1
	Elk Creek	0	0	0	1	4
	Elk River	15	17	16	12	19
	Fork Creek	1	3	2	4	2
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	0	0	0	1
	Frozen Camp	2	3	4	5	3
	Greenbrier Sf	2	4	1	3	1
	Handley	0	0	1	0	0
	Hilbert	1	0	0	0	0
	Hillcrest	26	19	10	7	11

Table 2. Continued.

Land Type	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
State Land	Horse Creek	0	5	1	3	1	
	Hughes River	13	19	9	5	8	
	Huttonsville	0	0	0	2	1	
	Kanawha Sf	10	8	11	5	7	
	Kumbrabow Sf	1	8	3	10	2	
	Laurel Lake	8	4	1	4	4	
	Lewis Wetzel	8	9	4	7	5	
	Little Indian Creek	0	0	0	2	1	
	McClintic	17	25	11	17	16	
	Mill Creek	0	0	0	1	0	
	Morris Creek	2	0	3	2	1	
	Nathaniel Mnt	3	4	3	4	3	
	Panther Sf	7	14	16	12	7	
	Pedlar	0	0	0	1	0	
	Pleasants Creek	0	3	2	2	3	
	Plum Orchard	4	1	6	5	2	
	Pruntytown	2	2	1	1	2	
	R D Bailey	12	24	24	26	24	
	Ritchie Mines	5	7	1	4	6	
	Sand Hill	0	0	0	0	2	
	Seneca Sf	5	5	6	0	4	
	Shannondale	6	3	6	1	3	
	Short Mnt	5	4	6	4	3	
	Sleepy Creek	13	34	18	13	16	
	Snake Hill	1	5	0	0	0	
	South Branch	0	1	0	0	1	
	Stonecoal	4	3	5	2	3	
	Stonewall Jackson	20	26	21	20	20	
	Summersville	5	3	7	6	6	
	Sutton Res	0	1	0	0	0	
	Tate Lohr	0	1	0	0	1	
	The Jug	15	2	5	8	6	
	Thorn Creek	0	1	0	0	0	
	Tug Fork	0	0	0	4	3	
	Underwood	1	0	0	1	0	
	Upper Mud River	1	2	0	5	4	
	Wallback	4	1	6	4	6	
	Widmyer	2	1	0	0	0	
	State Land Total		371	429	364	366	353
	Private Land		10,351	10,985	9,293	9,308	9,129
Unknown		7	14	0	0	1	
State Total		10,958	11,735	9,965	9,929	9,787	

Table 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in West Virginia by week of season, 2008-2009.

Week of Season	2008		2009	
	N	%	N	%
Youth	385	4%	344	4%
Week 1	5,590	56%	5,512	56%
Week 2	1,963	20%	1,926	20%
Week 3	1,116	11%	1,208	12%
Week 4	799	8%	755	8%
Unknown	76	1%	42	0%
Grand Total	9,929	100%	9,787	100%

Table 4. Fall harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Brooke	10	5	8	12	14
Hancock	7	7	10	9	14
Harrison	0	0	0	34	25
Marshall	0	20	18	9	15
Monongalia	0	0	19	30	0
Ohio	15	10	14	0	7
Preston	107	137	90	89	83
Tucker	30	27	29	31	25
Dist I Subtotal	169	206	188	214	183
Berkeley	13	24	23	31	30
Grant	59	59	63	74	51
Hampshire	74	68	57	61	49
Hardy	68	63	78	74	58
Mineral	34	59	32	38	27
Morgan	24	31	34	26	24
Pendleton	52	55	60	47	51
Dist II Subtotal	324	359	347	351	290
Nicholas	82	67	103	39	116
Pocahontas	75	69	107	74	53
Randolph	73	98	96	115	75
Upshur	0	0	0	35	38
Webster	43	48	52	36	66
Dist III Subtotal	273	282	358	299	348
Greenbrier	108	139	171	84	103
Monroe	86	102	142	60	105
Summers	51	0	118	35	0
Dist IV Subtotal	245	241	431	179	208
Mason	74	0	67	101	81
Dist V Subtotal	74	0	67	101	81
Jackson	0	0	39	0	0
Pleasants	0	0	0	4	0
Wirt	45	37	38	30	36
Wood	0	60	43	28	61
Dist VI Subtotal	45	97	120	62	97
Unknown	0	1	0	0	1
State Total	1,130	1,186	1,511	1,206	1,208

Table 5. Fall turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

Land Type	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	5	3	5	6	3
	Blackwater	10	11	11	8	9
	Cheat	6	9	6	2	2
	Cranberry	14	6	10	12	14
	Little River	13	21	28	20	14
	Neola	12	24	18	12	15
	Otter Creek	5	2	2	4	3
	Potomac	14	6	11	5	5
	Rimel	15	19	22	13	9
	Tea Creek	8	5	0	6	5
Monongahela NF Total		102	106	113	88	79
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	12	15	8	11	7
	Wardensville	8	27	23	22	10
George Washington NF Total		20	42	31	33	17
Jefferson NF	Potts Creek	4	2	0	2	1
Jefferson NF Total		4	2	0	2	1
State Land	Allegheny	2	4	1	0	1
	Bear Rocks	7	0	0	0	0
	Becky Creek	0	1	0	0	0
	Bluestone	27	1	37	20	1
	Calvin Price Sf	2	2	4	0	0
	Castleman Run	1	0	0	0	0
	Coopers Rock Sf	0	0	1	0	0
	Cornstalk	2	0	8	13	7
	Cross Creek	0	0	1	3	2
	Edwards Run	0	0	0	0	1
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	0	0	1	0
	Greenbrier Sf	3	4	3	1	0
	Hillcrest	0	0	2	1	1
	Hughes River	2	4	2	1	1
	Kumbrabow Sf	0	1	0	5	2
	Little Indian Creek	0	0	0	1	0
	McClintic	4	0	5	5	5
	Nathaniel Mnt	1	0	0	1	0
	Seneca Sf	5	2	6	3	2
	Short Mnt	6	6	4	1	1
	Sleepy Creek	2	4	3	11	4
	South Branch	0	0	1	0	0
	Summersville	8	2	3	1	2
Underwood	0	1	0	0	0	
Widmyer	1	0	1	0	0	
State Land Total		73	32	82	68	30
Private Land		930	1,004	1,285	1,015	1,081
Unknown		1	0	0	0	0
State Total		1,130	1,186	1,511	1,206	1,208

Table 6. Fall wild turkey harvest in West Virginia by week of season, 2008-2009.

Week of Season	2008		2009	
	N	%	N	%
Opening Day	224	19%	229	19%
Week 1	507	42%	528	44%
Week 2	175	15%	164	14%
Week 3	131	11%	119	10%
Week 4	145	12%	159	13%
Unknown	24	2%	9	1%
Grand Total	1,206	100%	1,208	100%

Table 7. Total spring and fall wild turkey harvest, West Virginia, 1966-2009.

Year	Spring	Fall	Total	Rank
1966	12	1,334	1,346	43
1967	42	989	1,031	44
1968	134	1,697	1,831	42
1969	243	3,430	3,673	32
1970	370	3,020	3,390	35
1971	421	2,374	2,795	39
1972	589	2,353	2,942	38
1973	554	3,038	3,592	33
1974	596	2,158	2,754	40
1975	585	2,827	3,412	34
1976	721	1,860	2,581	41
1977	719	2,998	3,717	31
1978	566	2,803	3,369	36
1979	873	2,421	3,294	37
1980	1,459	3,696	5,155	28
1981	1,970	3,135	5,105	29
1982	2,458	5,684	8,142	24
1983	2,627	2,224	4,851	30
1984	3,387	2,414	5,801	27
1985	4,215	2,343	6,558	26
1986	4,774	3,130	7,904	25
1987	5,665	4,114	9,779	21
1988	6,526	2,939	9,465	22
1989	7,245	2,204	9,449	23
1990	9,152	3,504	12,656	15
1991	10,097	3,690	13,787	13
1992	11,299	3,518	14,817	8
1993	13,428	3,536	16,964	6
1994	15,501	3,351	18,852	4
1995	16,770	3,211	19,981	2
1996	16,618	2,870	19,488	3
1997	14,021	3,385	17,406	5
1998	12,467	1,678	14,145	11
1999	11,241	2,901	14,142	12
2000	12,794	1,541	14,335	10
2001	17,875	3,505	21,380	1
2002	13,385	2,808	16,193	7
2003	12,535	1,841	14,376	9
2004	10,573	1,357	11,930	17
2005	10,957	1,130	12,087	16
2006	11,735	1,186	12,921	14
2007	9,965	1,511	11,476	14
2008	9,929	1,206	11,135	19
2009	9,787	1,208	10,995	20
Total	296,880	114,122	411,002	

WILD BOAR

by
Gary H. Sharp

Hunters killed 35 boar during the 2009 season. This is up from the harvest of 14 in 2008. Good mast production in the boar area during the fall of 2007 and 2008, likely spiked reproduction enough to increase hunter success. Firearms hunters took 15 (4 in Logan County and 11 in Boone County), and archers killed 20 (11 in Logan County, 8 in Boone County and one in Wyoming County). Raleigh County had no reported kills. The bulk of the harvest came from Boone and Logan counties close to the original release site in the Spruce-Laurel Fork of the Little Coal River. Wildlife and Law Enforcement personnel patrolling during the firearms season observed lower hunting pressure than in previous years.

Boar were introduced in 1971 to supplement big game populations and did well enough to accommodate a hunting season in 1979. Harvests have ranged from 3 that year to 158 in 1995. The decline in the population since the late 1990's led to the removal of the December season in 2003. The single October firearms season is designed to reduce the harvest and allow numbers to improve and move into unoccupied habitats. Traditionally, hunters have been less successful during October when weather conditions are warm and dry and leaf fall makes boar sign more difficult to find.

Biologists do not believe that hunting contributed to the population decline. Hunting seasons have been short and hunter participation restricted by permits. The main reason for fewer animals in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties is loss of habitat resulting in poor production and survival. Impacts from mining and logging operations continue to decrease the mature oak-hickory forest favored by the boar.

There is concern among some sportsmen about the current status of the boar population and the strategy for increasing numbers. The original justification for releasing boar was a suppressed deer population which doesn't exist today. Administrators in the late 1960's were reserved to the fact that southern West Virginia would never have the big game populations that exist today, and had they had that foresight, the exotic wild boar would not have been released. Currently, we have good whitetail deer, black bear and wild turkey populations and their competition may be a factor in the declining boar numbers.

Wildlife personnel will continue to monitor the wild boar population. It is anticipated the current conservative season will continue at least until boar populations improve.

Table 1. Wild boar harvests in West Virginia, 1979-2009.

Year	Gun	Gun Kill		Archery Kill	Total Kill
	Permits Available	Early Season	December		
1979	200	3	0	0	3
1980	600	9	0	1	10
1981	1,200	31	0	2	33
1982	1,500	69	0	3	72
1983	1,500	50	0	4	54
1984	3,000	76	0	5	81
1985	3,000	52	0	6	58
1986	4,000	29	0	6	35
1987	5,000	63	0	11	74
1988	5,000	29	0	5	34
1989	6,000	29	79	8	116
1990	6,000	16	62	8	86
1991	6,000	20	38	1	59
1992	6,000	39	72	19	130
1993	6,000	13	61	8	82
1994	6,000	21	53	12	86
1995	6,000	34	105	19	158
1996	6,000	51	56	32	139
1997	6,000	43	61	37	141
1998	6,000	16	30	12	58
1999	6,000	19	56	21	96
2000	6,000	7	36	3	46
2001	4,000	11	14	18	43
2002	4,000	3	26	9	38
2003	Permit Not Required	3	0	2	5
2004	Permit Not Required	3	0	4	7
2005	Permit Not Required	10	0	2	12
2006	Permit Not Required	10	0	4	14
2007	Permit Not Required	7	0	15	22
2008	Permit Not Required	9	0	5	14
2009	Permit Not Required	15	0	20	35
Total		790	749	302	1,841

WHITE-TAILED DEER

by
James M. Crum

Deer Harvest 2009

The following Tables 1 through 9 contain the 2009 white-tailed deer hunter harvest information for each of West Virginia's 55 counties and the various public lands scattered across the state. In 2009, deer hunters harvested a total of 155,214 deer in the combined deer seasons. This is a 5% decrease from the 2008 harvest and 1.9% more than the previous five-year harvest average of 152,318. The combined deer season harvest for 2009 is the 16th largest total deer harvest on record for West Virginia. The 2009 total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 94 acres of deer habitat in the state (Table 9), and a 33% harvest decrease from that of 10 years ago. From 1945 through 2009, a total of 5,365,697 deer have been recorded as harvested in West Virginia (Fig.1). Fifty-three percent (2,842,088) of the total recorded deer harvest of the past 65 years has occurred in the last 15 years.

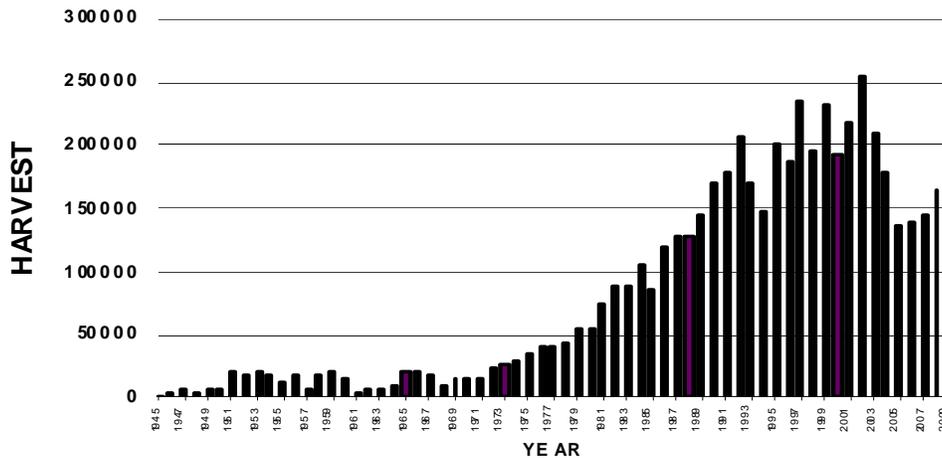


Figure 1. White-tailed deer harvest in West Virginia from 1945-2009.

In 2009, the traditional bucks-only firearm season harvest of antlered bucks was 62,986, a decrease of 6.5% from the 2008 harvest (Table 1). This is 2% less than the five-year average harvest of 64,293, and ranks 23rd among all past years.

The 2009 antlerless season deer harvest decreased by 3% from 2008 and was down 48% from the record harvest of 104,199 recorded in 2002. A total of 54,514 antlerless deer (Table 5) were taken in an antlerless season where hunter opportunity was increased in six counties and portions of three counties from that of 2008. The

antlerless season was open in 2009 for 21 days on private land in 38 counties and portions of seven more counties. In 10 counties and portions of seven more, the season was closed. Of the counties open for antlerless deer hunting to resident and nonresident hunters, 26 counties and portions of one had a bag limit of four antlerless deer, seven counties and portions of two more counties had a bag limit of two antlerless deer, and five counties and portions one county had a one deer antlerless bag limit. Portions of three counties in 2009 were limited to resident hunters who had to apply for limited permits. The antlerless season was closed on the vast majority of National Forest land (Table 6) and open for 19 days on State owned or leased Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Qualifying youth and Class Q License (physically challenged) holders had an additional three-day antlerless-only season on private land in counties having a firearms deer hunting season and 47 WMAs plus three state forests. The 2009 special split deer season for youth and Class Q hunters was the third year for the season to be open on private land in all 51 counties open to a deer firearms season. The 2009 antlerless season harvest was 16th highest on record and 4.6% more than the five-year average antlerless harvest of 52,095. As in 2008, the 2009 maximum season bag limit for antlerless deer season was four deer.

In the 2009 archery season, a harvest of 28,482 was recorded and includes 1,017 deer harvested during the early special antlerless archery season held September 14 through 19, 2009. This year's archery harvest was a decrease of 9.3% from the 2008 archery season but was fifth highest on record and 7.6% above the five-year average of 26,465 (Table 3).

The 2009 muzzleloader season harvest was 9,232, an increase of 7.2% from 2008. This is 2.4% below the five-year average harvest of 9,464, and the 15th highest harvest recorded for this season (Table 7). The increase in the 2009 muzzleloader season can be attributed to the expansion of opportunity for muzzleloader hunters to take antlerless deer. In 2009, muzzleloader hunters could take a deer of either sex in portions of an additional two counties during December and a special antlerless muzzleloader deer season was open September 21 through 26, 2009 in 33 counties and portions of three counties. The reported deer harvest during the early special antlerless muzzleloader season was 2,125 deer.

In 2009, hunting on Sunday was permissible in West Virginia for the ninth year since 1956. In 2001, all counties were open to hunting on Sunday. In 2002, a total of 20 counties were open to hunting on Sunday. From 2003 through 2009, there were 14 counties open to hunting on Sunday. These 14 counties had eight additional days available for deer hunting in 2009 deer seasons. All eight days were open for archery hunters who recorded taking 488 deer on Sundays, or 1.7% of the total 2009 archery harvest. One Sunday was open for firearms deer hunting (the Sunday after Thanksgiving November 29th), and 242 deer were recorded as harvested.

In the 2009 deer season, of the 51 counties open to the two-week bucks-only season, the desired buck harvest per square mile was exceeded in 5 counties, indicating the deer population needs to be reduced in a minimum of 8% of the deer

habitat in the state. Of the remaining 46 counties, 14 were lower than the desired harvest and 32 were within one buck per square mile of the desired buck harvest for the county. In contrast to 2008, 11 counties (12% of deer habitat in the state) were above the desired buck harvest per square mile. Of the remaining 40 counties, 13 were lower than the desired harvest and 27 were within one buck per square mile of the desired buck harvest for the county.

The harvest of antlerless deer is the key to healthier, heavier, and more productive deer herds. This is because there are natural limits to the number of deer the land can support. When these natural limits are exceeded, deer body weights, reproductive rates, antler development, and herd health declines, including an increased likelihood that deer will die over winter. If deer exceed natural limits long enough, habitat quality is reduced which produces a long-term reduction in the natural limit of deer the land can support. To avoid these problems a minimum of 70 females for every 100 bucks is generally required just to stabilize a deer herd. If a decrease in the herd is warranted, the percentage of females needs to be above 40%. Prior to the 2000 deer season, West Virginia's deer herd was on track for a better healthier herd. Decreases in antlerless harvest (Fig. 2) in the 2000 and 2001 deer seasons temporarily slowed progress toward a better deer herd but, with landowners and hunters in the 2002 through 2004 deer season recognizing the need to harvest antlerless deer, the pace toward a better deer herd quickened. From the 2002 through 2004 deer seasons, the recorded antlerless deer harvest exceeded the traditional firearm antlered buck harvest. The percentage of does in the statewide harvest exceeded 40% for the 2002 through 2004 seasons even though the total harvest in 2003 and 2004 declined. In 2005, the reductions in hunter opportunity to harvest antlerless deer resulted in a lower total deer harvest and a reduction of the percentage of female deer in the harvest, but the percentage was still 40%. In 2006, the antlered deer harvest rebounded somewhat, but with further reductions in the opportunity to harvest antlerless deer; the percentage of female deer in the harvest was well below the 40% mark. This allowed the deer herd to increase in 2007. The percentage of female deer in the harvest in 2007 increased over that of 2006 but was still below the 40% mark, and the deer harvest in 2008 increased. The percentage of female deer in the 2008 harvest increased to the 40% level and slowed deer herd growth in 2009. The percentage of female deer in the harvest in 2009 exceeded the 40% level and this should slow the deer herd growth in 2010.

Over the last 17 years the yearly average number of antlered bucks harvested during all deer seasons has been four antlered bucks per square mile of deer habitat in West Virginia. Hunters and landowners must continually assess their expectations of the proper number of deer sightings versus the visible impacts deer have on vegetation, and manage the state's deer herd by participating and encouraging antlerless deer harvest where needed to benefit not only the deer herd, but all wildlife dependent on our state's woodland habitat.

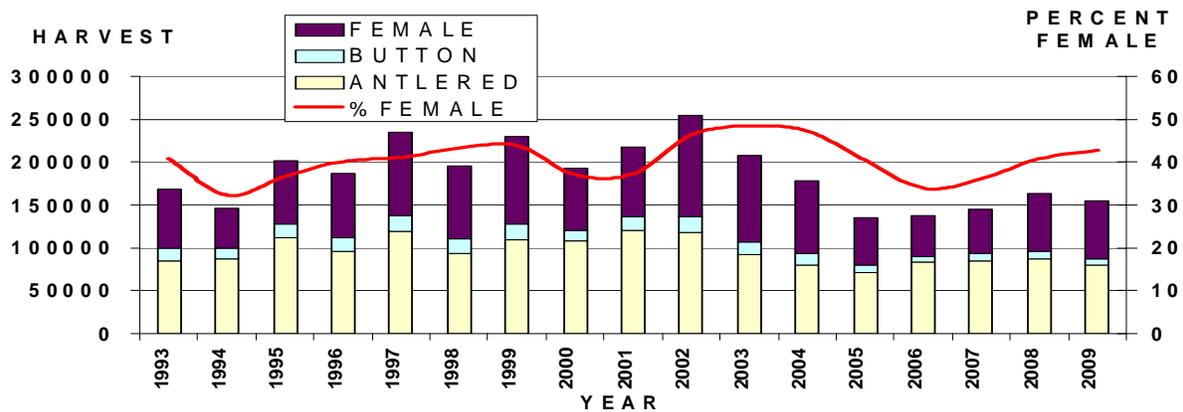


Figure 2. Deer harvested by sex in West Virginia from 1993-2009.

Special Deer Management Areas

Hunters took 447 deer in the special urban deer season in 2009. This special archery deer-hunting season is available to incorporated cities and homeowner associations, which may open 14 days prior to the opening of archery season and close December 31. During this special season, two deer may be taken which do not count toward the regular archery deer season bag limit. Note however, that special exempt rules apply to the City of Charleston. In 2009, nine cities (Barboursville, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Charleston, Granville, Harrisville, Ronceverte, Weirton, and Wheeling) reported harvesting 337 deer, which are included in Tables 3, 4, 8, and 9. In addition, 110 deer were harvested during urban deer archery hunts conducted by five homeowner associations. This is the sixth year that homeowner associations have taken advantage of the special urban archery deer season to address deer population management. The Whiting's Neck Farm Estate was the first homeowner's association to use this special archery season. They have continued to use this season to safely and economically manage deer numbers for the past six years. For information regarding implementing a special season contact your local city government or homeowner's association.

In the special split Youth and Class Q deer season, a total of 3,217 antlerless deer were harvested and are included in antlerless deer harvest tables 5, 6, 8, and 9. This season was open on private land in any county open to a firearms deer season, 47 DNR WMAs, and three State Forests on October 31, 2009, and again December 26 and 28, 2009. This was the 12th year this special season was held. To participate, hunters had to hold a Class Q license or be a youth between eight and 14 years of age on the day of the season. Youths must be accompanied by a licensed adult at least 21 years of age. The daily bag limit was one antlerless deer, which did not count against the hunter's annual antlerless deer season bag limit. Youth and Class Q hunters harvested 1,983 deer on October 31st and an additional 706 and 528 deer on

December 26th and 28th, respectively. The harvest for the 2009 special Youth and Class Q deer season decreased 12% from 2008. This decrease in total season harvest can probably be attributed to the weather during the October season segment. The harvest for the second and third days of the season was up 56% from the reported harvest in 2007.

The deer harvest (Tables 5, 6, 8 and 9) do not include 30 deer harvested during the fifteenth year of a controlled five-day deer hunt at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO). The NRAO continues to set the example to demonstrate that deer hunting and thus good land stewardship is compatible with almost any other activities taking place on an area.

All hunting was stopped on West Virginia State Parks in the fall of 1959, until the year 2001. On November 5, 2001, Blennerhassett Island State Park became the first West Virginia State Park in 42 years to be open for deer hunting and the first in 49 years to be open for firearms deer hunting. The controlled deer hunt on Blennerhassett Island State Park in 2001 harvested 185 deer; 2002 deer hunters harvested 87 deer; the harvest was 50 deer in 2007. Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park became the second West Virginia State Park in recent times to open for deer hunting on November 17, 18, and 19, 2008. Seventy deer were harvested on the park during that controlled deer hunt. In 2009 another controlled hunt was held on Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park November 16, 17, and 18, 2009 and 57 deer were harvested. It is anticipated that more state parks will conduct controlled deer hunts in the fall of 2010. Deer are a keystone species in West Virginia's natural world and proper stewardship of our State's flora and fauna require that deer management be addressed on all lands.

Nonseasonal Mortalities

Nonseasonal mortalities are those deer deaths that are not associated with the harvest of deer by hunters. Figure 3 depicts nonseasonal deer mortalities that are associated with human/deer conflicts (i.e., vehicle collisions and crop damage). The public, DNR Conservation Officers, and DNR Wildlife Resources personnel routinely report nonseasonal mortalities. The WV Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (DOH) -Traffic Engineering Division, provides monthly summaries of vehicle killed deer that are encountered by DOH personnel. DNR Conservation Officers provide wildlife damage investigation reports from which the number of deer killed for crop damage is obtained.

The reported nonseasonal mortalities from vehicle collisions and crop damage decreased 1.8% from 25,724 in 2008 to 25,254 in 2009. Deer killed on crop damage permits decreased in DNR Districts 2 and 4 and increased in DNR Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6. Overall, deer killed through the crop damage permit system was 5,097 in 2008 and 5,098 in 2009. Reported vehicle kills decreased statewide by 2% in 2009. Percent change by DNR Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were -12.8%, +6.7%, -5.7%, -11.4%, -1.8% and +1.2%, respectively.

The occurrence of deer reportedly killed by collisions with vehicles and deer reported as killed for crop damage follow similar trends. Although other factors such as deer food supply (such as acorns), number and average speed of vehicles, and crop growing conditions like drought influence these trends, a major factor is deer population (Fig. 3).

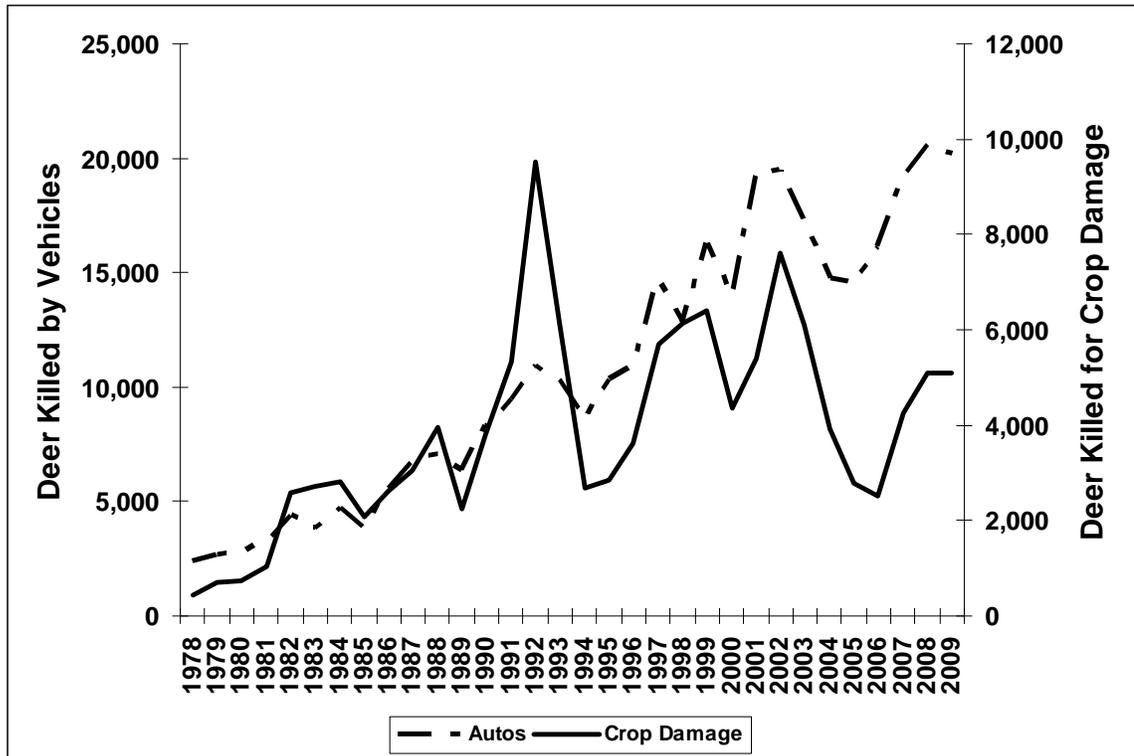


Figure 3. Vehicle and crop damage kills in West Virginia from 1978-2009.

Deer Hunting Outlook

For the 2010 antlerless deer season, the DNR proposes that 39 counties and portions of seven additional counties be open to antlerless deer Class N hunting. The DNR proposes on private land in these counties there be a 21-day split antlerless season, 12 days of which would be concurrent with the traditional bucks-only deer season. Private land in these counties would open from November 22 through December 11, and open again December 29 through December 31. Public land in these counties would be open for antlerless deer Class N hunting from November 24 through December 11, and December 29 through December 31, except all National Forest land in Monroe County would be closed to antlerless hunting, as well as Wallback WMA in Roane, Clay, and Kanawha counties. The antlerless deer Class N season is proposed to be closed in nine counties and portions of seven counties, including all National Forest and WV State owned or leased lands in Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Webster counties. Hunters would

need to apply for limited permits to hunt during the antlerless deer Class N season in four counties and portions of Clay, Pocahontas and Randolph counties plus four Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These counties and WMAs with limited licenses are proposed to have a bag limit of one antlerless deer. Twenty-six counties and a portion of Kanawha County are proposed to have an antlerless deer Class N season with a bag limit of four antlerless deer, five counties are proposed to have a bag limit of two antlerless deer. Four counties and portions of Greenbrier, Pendleton, and Wayne counties, and 34 WMAs are proposed to have a bag limit of one antlerless deer during the antlerless deer Class N season. Antlerless deer will not be allowed to be taken on an unfilled RG or RGG additional deer license during the 2010 antlerless deer Class N season or muzzleloader season. Thus, the maximum total season deer bag limit that can be taken on antlerless Class N licenses in 2010 is four.

During the 2010 muzzleloader deer season the DNR proposes that, in counties with an antlerless deer Class N season bag limit of two or more, hunters would be able to take two deer of either sex during the muzzleloader season, provided the second muzzleloader deer is taken on an additional muzzleloader deer stamp (RM for residents and RMM for nonresident hunters). In counties with a one antlerless deer Class N season bag limit, hunters in the 2009 muzzleloader season could take one deer of either sex but the second muzzleloader season deer taken on the RM or RMM additional muzzleloader deer stamp could only be an antlered deer, provided the hunter has not filled the maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery hunts) of three antlered bucks.

Again, as in 2009, a split three-day Special Youth and Class Q antlerless deer season is proposed to be held on October 30th and December 27th and 28th on private land in 51 counties and 47 wildlife management areas and three State Forests. Like last year the proposed 2010 Special Youth and Class Q antlerless deer season **would not** be limited to those counties open to antlerless (Class N) deer hunting, but the season would be open in the 51 counties that are open to a firearms deer season. Therefore, this season **would be closed** in Logan, Mingo, McDowell, or Wyoming counties. In addition, all National Forest lands, six State Forests, and 27 wildlife management areas **would be closed** to this season.

An early special antlerless deer archery season and early special antlerless deer muzzleloader season in 31 counties and a portion of Kanawha County where the antlerless Class N season bag limit is two or more deer is proposed. The special, early antlerless deer archery season would open on September 13, 2010 and close on September 18, 2010 and allow for the taking of one additional deer that must be checked on a Class RB or Class RRB Stamp. The special, early antlerless deer muzzleloader season would open on September 20, 2010 and close on September 25, 2010 and allow for the taking of one additional deer that must be checked on a Class RM or Class RRM Stamp. These early special antlerless archery and muzzleloader seasons were open in September 2009 for the first time and are being proposed to be open again in 2010.

Please refer to the 2010 Hunting and Trapping Regulations summary for further details on all deer hunting seasons because the above proposed seasons and bag limits have not been approved by the Natural Resources Commission at this time. White-tailed deer hunting season regulations for 2010 will be published and available to hunters in July of 2010. This newsprint-like pamphlet contains complete information on gun, archery, muzzleloading, and antlerless deer hunting, plus other hunting regulations on turkey, bear, boar, and small game. Hunters will be able to obtain a copy from any DNR office or any business that sells West Virginia hunting licenses or visiting the Wildlife Resources Section web site at www.wvdnr.gov.

Issues of Concern

Retention of the DNR's regulatory authority over individuals possessing live deer in pens is important in protecting our state's valuable wildlife resources and associated recreation. The principal threat of transferring authority to another agency stems from the commerce of live animals that lack any federally approved biologics commonly used by domestic livestock for disease prevention and control. The translocation of a deer and co-mingling of captive native and exotic ungulates is a recipe for a disease problem. Couple this with the fact that the movement of live animals from distant places is a translocation of a biological package which includes known and unknown diseases and pests, then the chances for an unwanted organism to be introduced into West Virginia is increased. There are too many examples of introductions that have caused disastrous results for responsible persons not to take heed and reflect on the costs and benefits of commercializing captive wildlife. This gamble with animal health jeopardizes the hunting heritage of an estimated 11 million elk and deer hunters nationwide as well as the \$27.9 billion annual economic impact associated with deer hunting. In addition, these initiatives go against the basic tenets that wildlife species are not to be privately owned commodities for commercial sale. These misguided attempts are a direct threat to the four principles that have made our state's and national wildlife management programs so successful -- public ownership of wildlife; elimination of markets in the meat, parts, and products of game mammals and birds; allocation of the material benefits of wildlife by law, not by the marketplace, birthright, land ownership, or social position; and prohibition of frivolous killing of wildlife.

Efforts to control the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in free-ranging deer in Hampshire County by DNR, landowners, and hunters are ongoing. In the 2009 deer seasons, samples from 1,091 hunter-harvested deer brought to game checking stations in Hampshire County and one station in northern Hardy County were tested for CWD. Fifteen samples were found to have the abnormal proteins associated with CWD. CWD has now been detected in a total of 61 deer in Hampshire County, two road-killed deer, one in 2005 and one in 2008, four deer collected by the DNR in 2005, five deer collected by the DNR in 2006, one hunter-harvest deer taken during the 2006 deer season, three deer collected by the DNR in 2007, six hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2007 deer season, 11 deer collected by the DNR in 2008, six hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2008 deer season, eight deer collected by the DNR in

2009 and 15 hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2009 deer season. Over 4,200 samples collected by the DNR elsewhere in the state since 2002, primarily from vehicle collisions, have not detected the abnormal protein of CWD in any county other than Hampshire.

Lowering encounter rates between infected and non-infected animals by prohibiting artificial supplemental feeding and baiting are generally accepted management practices for slowing the spread of an infectious disease among wildlife and initiating these prohibitions on a statewide or regional basis for deer is a major tool used by other states combating CWD. Currently (February 2010) in West Virginia only the portion of Hampshire County north of U.S. Route 50 has regulations prohibiting the baiting and feeding of deer. However, there are 7 square miles south of U.S. Route 50 within 1 mile of a known location of a detected CWD positive deer and approximately 99.5 square miles south of U.S. Route 50 that is within 5 miles of known locations of CWD positive deer which includes 16.7 square miles in Hardy County. Considering the CWD management actions available, documented disease transmission risks associated with artificial supplemental feeding and baiting of deer and the current known distribution of CWD in West Virginia, the DNR is proposing to expand the containment zone to all of Hampshire County. In addition, it would be wise to prohibit and discourage the artificial supplemental feeding and baiting of all wildlife in West Virginia.

For more information on CWD and the current status of the disease in Hampshire County, West Virginia contact any DNR office or visit the Wildlife Resources web site www.wvdnr.gov.

Table 1. West Virginia antlered buck harvest, 2005-2009.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barbour	1,138	1,527	1,380	1,413	1,307
Brooke	477	479	386	427	377
Hancock	452	447	361	357	339
Harrison	1,494	1,810	1,508	1,680	1,730
Marion	1,119	1,443	1,114	1,489	1,183
Marshall	1,593	1,648	1,126	1,339	1,321
Monongalia	1,683	1,953	1,474	1,927	1,536
Ohio	473	505	438	485	412
Preston	2,254	2,616	2,309	2,618	2,122
Taylor	683	903	724	808	727
Tucker	733	1,020	974	951	874
Wetzel	1,672	1,926	1,767	2,210	1,474
Dist. I Subtotal	13,771	16,277	13,561	15,704	13,402
Berkeley	869	924	973	855	651
Grant	1,472	1,544	1,733	1,531	1,228
Hampshire	2,019	1,949	2,223	2,153	1,634
Hardy	1,961	2,178	2,111	2,046	1,601
Jefferson	651	713	657	605	461
Mineral	1,255	1,388	1,420	1,383	1,158
Morgan	802	845	953	806	573
Pendleton	1,484	1,850	1,698	1,416	1,257
Dist. II Subtotal	10,513	11,391	11,768	10,795	8,563
Braxton	1,244	1,308	2,005	1,731	1,891
Clay	370	399	551	540	552
Lewis	1,485	1,778	1,952	2,027	2,227
Nicholas	1,009	991	1,216	1,082	1,176
Pocahontas	1,167	1,410	1,277	1,223	1,346
Randolph	1,447	1,862	1,968	2,126	1,930
Upshur	1,164	1,432	1,517	1,536	1,383
Webster	753	796	929	887	901
Dist. III Subtotal	8,639	9,976	11,415	11,152	11,406
Fayette	728	873	1,101	905	896
Greenbrier	1,763	2,143	2,204	1,925	1,976
Mercer	451	662	820	537	604
Monroe	1,308	1,886	2,150	1,431	1,569
Raleigh	502	651	842	577	706
Summers	730	944	1,282	932	931
Dist. IV Subtotal	5,482	7,159	8,399	6,307	6,682
Boone	454	495	676	577	628
Cabell	577	683	947	787	695
Kanawha	877	1,025	1,395	1,259	1,257
Lincoln	596	832	1,126	983	860
Mason	2,146	2,067	2,154	1,892	2,099
Putnam	993	1,051	1,401	1,311	1,065
Wayne	627	837	898	768	880
Dist. V Subtotal	6,270	6,990	8,597	7,577	7,484
Calhoun	859	1,039	1,163	1,252	1,124
Doddridge	1,033	1,328	1,227	1,605	1,416
Gilmer	981	1,182	1,401	1,585	1,398
Jackson	2,074	2,122	2,081	1,948	2,504
Pleasants	452	588	398	630	531
Ritchie	1,495	2,147	1,564	2,369	2,010
Roane	1,616	1,691	1,873	2,010	2,112
Tyler	1,139	1,429	1,125	1,590	1,210
Wirt	928	919	1,006	1,186	1,265
Wood	1,649	1,877	1,635	1,655	1,879
Dist. VI Subtotal	12,226	14,322	13,473	15,830	15,449
State Total	56,901	66,115	67,213	67,365	62,986

Table 2. Antlered buck gun harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

Area	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	51	72	64	79	84
	Blackwater	204	196	164	179	168
	Cheat	111	133	111	93	111
	Cranberry	168	172	185	135	209
	Little River	255	304	274	237	273
	Neola	188	208	127	146	125
	Otter Creek	108	113	127	116	144
	Potomac	322	453	432	327	305
	Rimel	143	177	92	134	115
	Tea Creek	72	77	96	70	74
Monongahela NF Total		1,622	1,905	1,672	1,516	1,608
George Washington NF	Cove Creek	1	0	0	0	0
	Shenandoah	143	157	60	56	38
	Wardensville	272	291	278	226	151
	Wilson Cove	0	0	0	1	0
George Washington NF Total		416	448	338	283	189
Jefferson NF	Potts Creek	37	107	68	51	39
Jefferson NF Total		37	107	68	51	39
State Land	Allegheny	7	8	17	15	6
	Amherst/Plymouth	10	17	29	19	15
	Bear Rocks	3	7	2	0	1
	Becky Creek	0	0	2	11	2
	Beech Fork	22	7	20	9	13
	Beury Mtn	2	4	14	13	14
	Big Ditch	2	1	0	2	1
	Big Ugly	2	4	17	15	15
	Blennerhassett	0	0	5	0	0
	Bluestone	65	15	22	17	17
	Briery Mnt	0	0	2	0	0
	Burches Run	0	0	1	0	0
	Burnsville	52	2	25	22	21
	Cabwaylingo Sf	2	6	2	3	2
	Calvin Price Sf	11	23	8	14	2
	Camp Creek Sf	14	21	4	15	17
	Castleman Run	6	14	10	6	12
	Center Branch	4	8	4	13	9
	Conaway Run	6	8	5	6	8
	Coopers Rock Sf	95	12	31	28	16
	Cornstalk	95	96	112	73	72
	Cotton Hill	0	0	5	0	0
	Cross Creek	19	20	27	20	23
	Dunkards Fork	0	3	0	1	0
	East Lynn	15	26	27	29	8
	Edwards Run	2	1	0	1	1
	Elk Fork	0	0	1	0	0
	Elk River	43	48	106	63	55
	Fork Creek	18	18	24	2	1
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	1	2	2	2

Table 2. Continued.

Area	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
State Land	Frozen Camp	28	24	21	10	25
	Green Bottom	1	1	4	6	2
	Greenbrier Sf	14	16	7	7	9
	Handley	3	1	2	6	3
	Hillcrest	0	0	0	5	0
	Hughes River	48	54	13	50	54
	Huttonsville	0	7	5	7	4
	Kanawha Sf	9	19	14	10	16
	Kumbrabow Sf	6	9	9	18	16
	Lantz Farm	0	0	1	0	0
	Lewis Wetzel	70	80	108	117	70
	Little Indian Cr	0	0	0	1	2
	McClintic	20	6	16	4	9
	Meadow River	4	2	2	0	7
	Mill Creek	2	2	0	3	1
	Moncove	1	9	12	7	8
	Morris Creek	0	10	17	4	10
	Nathaniel Mnt	36	46	52	54	47
	New River Gorge	35	26	56	20	32
	Pedlar	2	5	3	4	8
	Pleasants Creek	8	17	5	11	7
	Plum Orchard	0	5	5	10	8
	Pruntytown	16	10	7	7	11
	Ritchie Mines	10	15	9	14	3
	Seneca Sf	41	36	22	39	32
	Shannondale	15	25	31	27	12
	Short Mnt	56	72	61	52	43
	Sleepy Creek	119	204	202	190	69
	Smoke Camp	0	0	4	0	2
	Snake Hill	4	9	13	12	7
	South Branch	0	1	2	0	1
	Stonecoal	9	19	19	18	24
	Stonewall Jck	106	130	174	157	170
	Stumptown	2	5	8	2	8
	Summersville	13	17	23	8	12
	Sutton Res	1	8	4	8	14
	Tate Lohr	1	0	1	1	1
	Teter Creek	0	0	0	0	1
	The Jug	25	16	25	31	16
	Thorn Creek	1	1	0	0	1
Underwood	20	14	11	3	9	
Upper Mud River	3	3	2	2	3	
Wallback	8	6	5	9	27	
Widmyer	0	1	1	0	1	
Woodrum	1	0	1	0	0	
State Land Total		1,233	1,301	1,501	1,333	1,138
Private Land		53,593	62,329	63,585	64,182	60,002
Unknown		0	25	49	0	10
State Total		56,901	66,115	67,213	67,365	62,986

Table 3. West Virginia white-tailed deer archery harvest, 2005-2009.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barbour	394	520	556	678	522
Brooke	315	330	257	299	297
Hancock	409	381	284	402	419
Harrison	507	504	475	563	572
Marion	430	494	396	670	494
Marshall	454	435	303	449	409
Monongalia	686	715	625	870	685
Ohio	257	263	203	222	227
Preston	1,012	1,230	1,171	1,473	1,213
Taylor	233	276	257	375	286
Tucker	355	495	482	597	431
Wetzel	318	358	317	525	353
Dist. I Subtotal	5,370	6,001	5,326	7,123	5,908
Berkeley	406	382	375	465	457
Grant	388	422	461	535	453
Hampshire	312	254	278	400	317
Hardy	394	419	465	479	441
Jefferson	380	362	344	385	361
Mineral	290	333	342	378	323
Morgan	149	180	255	264	225
Pendleton	315	438	482	413	372
Dist. II Subtotal	2,634	2,790	3,002	3,319	2,949
Braxton	396	421	595	736	661
Clay	212	229	262	329	309
Lewis	470	458	488	588	610
Nicholas	660	809	862	864	842
Pocahontas	284	393	455	396	408
Randolph	660	1,002	998	1,286	1,048
Upshur	476	536	604	710	603
Webster	399	494	548	650	628
Dist. III Subtotal	3,557	4,342	4,812	5,559	5,109
Fayette	464	656	830	723	752
Greenbrier	614	800	929	777	832
McDowell	480	642	944	739	609
Mercer	353	483	646	575	547
Monroe	451	558	702	641	645
Raleigh	467	640	786	664	718
Summers	411	490	636	620	526
Wyoming	377	611	884	747	681
Dist. IV Subtotal	3,617	4,880	6,357	5,486	5,310
Boone	215	276	288	381	380
Cabell	277	310	364	444	387
Kanawha	566	579	750	919	939
Lincoln	246	300	304	428	428
Logan	396	491	668	714	729
Mason	780	774	818	861	778
Mingo	177	273	286	343	329
Putnam	449	485	560	611	542
Wayne	267	298	296	366	326
Dist. V Subtotal	3,373	3,786	4,334	5,067	4,838
Calhoun	208	248	273	384	299
Doddridge	218	235	239	278	279
Gilmer	212	226	251	420	348
Jackson	630	560	651	751	795
Pleasants	91	114	88	139	108
Ritchie	430	477	385	601	486
Roane	433	440	476	661	632
Tyler	310	310	264	421	272
Wirt	273	291	343	433	391
Wood	593	601	639	766	758
Dist. VI Subtotal	3,398	3,502	3,609	4,854	4,368
State Total	21,949	25,301	27,440	31,408	28,482

Table 4. Deer archery harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

Area	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	34	43	37	38	42
	Blackwater	96	74	89	99	96
	Cheat	49	58	36	55	39
	Cranberry	61	93	96	90	84
	Little River	63	103	91	106	99
	Neola	14	30	45	27	24
	Otter Creek	29	33	27	63	30
	Potomac	124	124	170	148	134
	Rimel	18	17	26	17	12
Tea Creek	18	13	11	13	13	
Monongahela NF Total		506	588	628	656	573
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	25	33	26	20	11
	Wardensville	58	48	42	49	31
George Washington NF Total		83	81	68	69	42
Jefferson NF		14	11	7	6	9
Jefferson NF Total		14	11	7	6	9
State Land	Allegheny	1	5	1	2	1
	Amherst/plymouth	7	0	11	6	4
	Anawalt	1	1	1	0	1
	Bear Rocks	0	3	2	2	3
	Becky Creek	2	0	0	5	2
	Beech Fork	8	6	3	13	9
	Berwind	9	23	8	3	3
	Beury Mtn	8	9	20	13	16
	Big Ditch	0	0	0	2	2
	Big Ugly	2	0	3	5	4
	Bluestone	87	62	67	60	27
	Briery Mnt	0	1	2	1	1
	Burches Run	1	0	0	1	0
	Burnsville	30	20	43	49	31
	Cabwaylingo Sf	0	3	0	0	2
	Calvin Price Sf	2	2	2	0	2
	Camp Creek Sf	3	4	4	6	3
	Castleman Run	1	1	3	8	3
	Center Branch	3	4	2	1	3
	Conaway Run	0	3	0	0	0
	Coopers Rock Sf	31	8	18	19	7
	Cornstalk	35	51	59	48	31
	Cotton Hill	0	0	3	0	0
	Cross Creek	7	3	13	4	6
	East Lynn	3	3	11	3	5
	Edwards Run	2	0	2	1	0
	Elk Creek	0	0	0	8	12
	Elk Fork	0	0	1	0	0
	Elk River	20	30	31	32	37
	Fork Creek	3	2	15	0	1
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	0	0	1	0
	Frozen Camp	2	5	10	0	2
	Graystone	0	0	0	69	60
Green Bottom	4	2	5	1	4	

Table 4. Continued.

Area	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
State Land	Greenbrier Sf	0	7	5	1	2
	Greystone	0	0	0	10	11
	Handley	1	3	4	2	0
	Hillcrest	22	20	9	15	7
	Horse Crk	1	3	5	8	0
	Hughes River	22	14	10	10	5
	Huttonsville	2	0	2	2	1
	Kanawha Sf	5	5	8	5	4
	Kumbrabow Sf	3	4	7	0	6
	Lantz Farm	1	0	0	0	0
	Laurel Lake	5	4	5	13	9
	Lewis Wetzel	5	6	7	10	5
	Little Indian Cr	0	0	0	1	0
	Mcclintic	26	14	24	8	7
	Meadow River	2	5	6	4	5
	Mill Creek	0	0	2	0	0
	Moncove	1	2	0	1	1
	Morris Creek	1	3	6	3	1
	Mount Wood Park	0	0	0	14	10
	Nathaniel Mnt	2	1	3	1	4
	New River Gorge	12	18	26	15	18
	Panther Sf	11	16	23	25	21
	Pedlar	1	2	5	5	3
	Pleasants Creek	7	6	13	16	1
	Plum Orchard	8	2	6	9	3
	Pruntytown	4	2	1	1	3
	R D Bailey	54	91	133	117	87
	Ritchie Mines	2	1	3	0	0
	Ronceverte	0	0	0	2	0
	Seneca Sf	6	5	4	11	7
	Shannondale	21	14	24	23	18
	Short Mnt	6	7	12	6	2
	Sleepy Creek	31	28	35	25	26
	Smoke Camp	0	0	1	0	0
	Snake Hill	3	6	3	6	4
	South Branch	1	0	2	5	2
	Stonecoal	5	4	4	4	2
	Stonewall Jck	64	41	40	60	53
	Stonewall Resort	0	0	0	3	0
	Stumptown	2	0	0	0	1
	Summersville	9	13	20	14	11
	Sutton Res	7	1	0	1	0
	Tate Lohr	0	1	0	0	0
Teter Creek	0	0	0	2	0	
The Crossings	0	0	0	0	21	
The Jug	17	5	0	0	0	
Tug Fork	0	14	11	7	0	
Underwood	4	3	2	1	0	
Upper Mud River	1	5	3	4	3	
Wallback	6	12	10	1	6	
Whitings Neck	0	0	0	11	11	
Widmyer	0	1	2	0	1	
Woodrum	1	0	0	0	0	
State Land Total		654	640	826	845	664
Private Land		20,692	23,962	25,898	29,832	27,171
Unknown		0	19	13	0	23
State Total		21,949	25,301	27,440	31,408	28,482

Table 5. West Virginia antlerless harvest, 2005-2009.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barbour	1,025	1,127	1,361	1,733	1,580
Brooke	764	613	609	560	590
Hancock	675	533	477	444	545
Harrison	1,858	2,055	1,632	1,919	1,939
Marion	1,367	1,464	863	1,538	1,488
Marshall	1,794	1,540	1,069	1,208	1,257
Monongalia	2,063	1,827	1,243	1,712	1,589
Ohio	724	602	471	443	477
Preston	1,820	1,956	2,178	2,832	2,421
Taylor	763	933	735	889	875
Tucker	0	0	257	702	582
Wetzel	1,734	1,680	1,336	1,872	1,417
Dist. I Subtotal	14,587	14,330	12,231	15,852	14,760
Berkeley	815	651	659	775	728
Grant	846	565	739	1,116	954
Hampshire	1,651	1,369	1,503	1,850	1,575
Hardy	1,610	1,513	1,395	1,694	1,610
Jefferson	619	565	469	565	529
Mineral	1,277	1,213	1,128	1,171	1,160
Morgan	738	598	612	793	723
Pendleton	198	303	789	979	1,046
Dist. II Subtotal	7,754	6,777	7,294	8,943	8,325
Braxton	421	0	478	1,556	1,656
Clay	0	0	25	44	172
Lewis	2,371	1,660	1,470	2,132	2,583
Nicholas	0	0	131	179	267
Pocahontas	0	0	59	81	93
Randolph	0	0	171	292	724
Upshur	1,197	638	1,397	1,485	1,307
Webster	0	0	86	134	164
Dist. III Subtotal	3,989	2,298	3,817	5,903	6,966
Fayette	0	0	340	856	357
Greenbrier	489	0	1,337	1,273	1,145
Mercer	0	0	661	441	414
Monroe	1,071	521	1,865	1,487	1,745
Raleigh	0	1	49	296	75
Summers	276	112	275	1,039	1,041
Dist. IV Subtotal	1,836	634	4,527	5,392	4,777
Boone	0	0	22	25	34
Cabell	502	196	417	627	560
Kanawha	210	213	510	718	649
Lincoln	141	0	25	60	54
Mason	2,719	2,262	2,191	2,390	2,204
Putnam	1,146	738	802	1,382	1,020
Wayne	132	155	289	313	324
Dist. V Subtotal	4,850	3,564	4,256	5,515	4,845
Calhoun	780	735	683	918	1,004
Doddridge	1,237	912	729	1,113	1,233
Gilmer	895	359	741	1,447	1,165
Jackson	2,534	2,259	2,053	2,104	2,508
Pleasants	547	585	332	461	509
Ritchie	2,086	1,466	1,505	2,087	2,069
Roane	1,885	656	1,337	1,587	1,603
Tyler	1,372	1,459	1,119	1,566	1,440
Wirt	941	1,265	1,113	1,225	1,240
Wood	2,154	2,020	1,889	2,108	2,070
Dist. VI Subtotal	14,431	11,716	11,501	14,616	14,841
State Total	47,447	39,319	43,626	56,221	54,514

Table 6. Antlerless harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

Area	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Monongahela NF	Blackwater	12	10	18	114	85
	Cheat	0	0	1	1	0
	Cranberry	1	0	0	2	0
	Little River	0	0	0	2	0
	Neola	0	0	4	1	2
	Otter Creek	0	0	1	33	24
	Potomac	28	35	46	160	153
	Rimel	0	0	1	1	0
Monongahela NF Total		41	45	71	314	264
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	2	3	10	41	25
	Wardensville	82	44	36	83	51
George Washington NF Total		84	47	46	124	76
Jefferson NF	Potts Creek	14	2	3	8	16
Jefferson NF Total		14	2	3	8	16
State Land	Allegheny	2	2	4	3	7
	Amherst/Plymouth	3	0	8	13	7
	Andrew Rowan	1	0	0	0	0
	Bear Rocks	0	1	1	0	1
	Becky Creek	0	0	3	3	5
	Beech Fork	11	4	15	21	21
	Beury Mtn	0	0	3	37	0
	Big Ugly	1	0	2	2	2
	Blennerhassett	0	0	45	0	0
	Bluestone	36	113	188	145	169
	Briery Mnt	1	0	0	5	3
	Burches Run	0	0	1	0	0
	Burnsville	0	0	20	28	47
	Cabwaylingo Sf	0	0	0	1	0
	Camp Creek Sf	0	0	4	2	3
	Castleman Run	12	4	17	4	7
	Center Branch	2	9	4	12	11
	Conaway Run	4	7	2	3	3
	Coopers Rock Sf	46	30	21	55	42
	Cornstalk	27	51	33	127	76
	Cross Creek	7	8	10	8	8
	Dunkards Fork	0	0	0	1	1
	East Lynn	1	1	4	1	4
	Edwards Run	2	0	1	3	0
	Elk Fork	2	2	0	0	0
	Elk River	0	0	0	1	36
	Fort Mill Ridge	1	0	1	1	0
	Frozen Camp	22	38	24	43	40
	Green Bottom	1	0	2	0	2
	Greenbrier Sf	0	0	2	0	3
	Hillcrest	17	9	9	4	12
	Hughes River	78	32	20	61	45
	Huttonsville	0	0	2	0	7
	Kanawha Sf	0	0	1	0	0
Lewis Wetzel	81	17	14	50	27	
Little Indian Cr	0	0	0	1	3	

Table 6. Continued.

Area	Locality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
State Land	McClintic	123	31	30	49	31
	Meadow River	4	0	10	15	9
	Mill Creek	1	0	0	0	1
	Moncove	0	1	5	5	5
	Morris Creek	0	0	1	0	2
	Mount Wood Park	0	0	0	0	7
	Nathaniel Mnt	5	5	8	8	13
	New River Gorge	0	0	0	24	11
	Ohio River Islan	0	0	0	0	1
	Pedlar	3	4	4	4	9
	Pleasants Creek	12	11	8	8	12
	Plum Orchard	0	0	3	1	0
	Pruntytown	10	7	4	7	20
	Ritchie Mines	5	7	1	6	9
	Shannondale	2	13	18	27	19
	Short Mnt	14	33	29	42	22
	Sleepy Creek	41	38	32	108	70
	Snake Hill	1	3	0	3	9
	South Branch	2	2	0	3	3
	Stonecoal	15	16	15	16	3
	Stonewall Jck	135	140	127	84	196
	Stonewall Resort	0	0	0	67	57
	Stumptown	10	3	0	16	5
	Sutton Res	1	5	0	2	2
	Tate Lohr	0	0	1	4	1
	Teter Creek	0	1	1	0	2
	The Jug	12	14	5	15	13
	Underwood	1	16	2	4	6
	Upper Mud River	0	0	0	0	1
	Widmyer	0	0	0	1	0
	Woodrum	0	1	1	0	0
	State Land Total		755	679	766	1,154
Private Land		46,553	38,532	42,724	54,621	53,020
Unknown		0	14	16	0	7
State Total		47,447	39,319	43,626	56,221	54,514

Table 7. Muzzleloader harvests in West Virginia, 2005-2009.

County	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barbour	201	221	220	256	247
Brooke	93	62	53	63	96
Hancock	166	91	69	100	121
Harrison	286	216	210	241	268
Marion	197	143	79	179	177
Marshall	362	179	161	208	227
Monongalia	324	251	173	195	189
Ohio	123	74	71	66	62
Preston	354	330	321	323	450
Taylor	136	107	90	105	102
Tucker	23	25	208	159	105
Wetzel	248	204	191	246	247
Dist. I Subtotal	2,513	1,903	1,846	2,141	2,291
Berkeley	162	107	102	91	118
Grant	209	219	240	231	278
Hampshire	266	129	185	216	224
Hardy	262	228	213	196	213
Jefferson	97	90	93	78	82
Mineral	190	121	137	149	162
Morgan	95	83	87	111	108
Pendleton	163	192	205	164	209
Dist. II Subtotal	1,444	1,169	1,262	1,236	1,394
Braxton	463	39	403	541	333
Clay	12	4	20	7	39
Lewis	412	390	356	399	455
Nicholas	37	34	39	33	33
Pocahontas	34	44	32	19	18
Randolph	34	39	46	36	310
Upshur	221	257	274	233	195
Webster	13	15	22	9	20
Dist. III Subtotal	1,226	822	1,192	1,277	1,403
Fayette	20	25	275	181	175
Greenbrier	335	76	293	216	240
Mercer	21	25	114	78	120
Monroe	211	289	320	189	275
Raleigh	19	22	32	91	36
Summers	196	36	52	167	134
Dist. IV Subtotal	802	473	1,086	922	980
Boone	15	9	20	21	25
Cabell	104	82	102	93	126
Kanawha	133	90	137	119	154
Lincoln	98	20	18	38	44
Mason	477	288	258	321	308
Putnam	192	112	146	160	147
Wayne	72	66	67	73	84
Dist. V Subtotal	1,091	667	748	825	888
Calhoun	109	144	117	165	194
Doddridge	163	158	96	180	197
Gilmer	167	211	124	271	240
Jackson	344	279	252	285	380
Pleasants	69	64	46	54	57
Ritchie	243	268	195	301	288
Roane	211	186	233	277	212
Tyler	203	158	124	202	192
Wirt	186	154	135	210	224
Wood	293	230	202	263	292
Dist. VI Subtotal	1,988	1,852	1,524	2,208	2,276
State Total	9,064	6,886	7,658	8,609	9,232

Table 8. Deer mortality by type of season in West Virginia, 2009.

County	Buck Gun	Antlerless	Archery	Muzzleloader	Total
Barbour	1,307	1,580	522	247	3,656
Brooke	377	590	297	96	1,360
Hancock	339	545	419	121	1,424
Harrison	1,730	1,939	572	268	4,509
Marion	1,183	1,488	494	177	3,342
Marshall	1,321	1,257	409	227	3,214
Monongalia	1,536	1,589	685	189	3,999
Ohio	412	477	227	62	1,178
Preston	2,122	2,421	1,213	450	6,206
Taylor	727	875	286	102	1,990
Tucker	874	582	431	105	1,992
Wetzel	1,474	1,417	353	247	3,491
Dist. I Subtotal	13,402	14,760	5,908	2,291	36,361
Berkeley	651	728	457	118	1,954
Grant	1,228	954	453	278	2,913
Hampshire	1,634	1,575	317	224	3,750
Hardy	1,601	1,610	441	213	3,865
Jefferson	461	529	361	82	1,433
Mineral	1,158	1,160	323	162	2,803
Morgan	573	723	225	108	1,629
Pendleton	1,257	1,046	372	209	2,884
Dist. II Subtotal	8,563	8,325	2,949	1,394	21,231
Braxton	1,891	1,656	661	333	4,541
Clay	552	172	309	39	1,072
Lewis	2,227	2,583	610	455	5,875
Nicholas	1,176	267	842	33	2,318
Pocahontas	1,346	93	408	18	1,865
Randolph	1,930	724	1,048	310	4,012
Upshur	1,383	1,307	603	195	3,488
Webster	901	164	628	20	1,713
Dist. III Subtotal	11,406	6,966	5,109	1,403	24,884
Fayette	896	357	752	175	2,180
Greenbrier	1,976	1,145	832	240	4,193
McDowell	0	0	609	0	609
Mercer	604	414	547	120	1,685
Monroe	1,569	1,745	645	275	4,234
Raleigh	706	75	718	36	1,535
Summers	931	1,041	526	134	2,632
Wyoming	0	0	681	0	681
Dist. IV Subtotal	6,682	4,777	5,310	980	17,749
Boone	628	34	380	25	1,067
Cabell	695	560	387	126	1,768
Kanawha	1,257	649	939	154	2,999
Lincoln	860	54	428	44	1,386
Logan	0	0	729	0	729
Mason	2,099	2,204	778	308	5,389
Mingo	0	0	329	0	329
Putnam	1,065	1,020	542	147	2,774
Wayne	880	324	326	84	1,614
Dist. V Subtotal	7,484	4,845	4,838	888	18,055
Calhoun	1,124	1,004	299	194	2,621
Doddridge	1,416	1,233	279	197	3,125
Gilmer	1,398	1,165	348	240	3,151
Jackson	2,504	2,508	795	380	6,187
Pleasants	531	509	108	57	1,205
Ritchie	2,010	2,069	486	288	4,853
Roane	2,112	1,603	632	212	4,559
Tyler	1,210	1,440	272	192	3,114
Wirt	1,265	1,240	391	224	3,120
Wood	1,879	2,070	758	292	4,999
Dist. VI Subtotal	15,449	14,841	4,368	2,276	36,934
State Total	62,986	54,514	28,482	9,232	155,214

Table 9. West Virginia 2009 deer kill per square mile of habitat by season (calculated using deer habitat open by county for season, all seasons combined kill based on total deer harvest).

County	Area	Bucks	Antlerless	Muzzleloader	Archery	Total
Barbour	324	4.03	4.88	0.76	1.61	11.28
Brooke	76	4.96	7.76	1.26	3.91	17.89
Hancock	61	5.56	8.93	1.98	6.87	23.34
Harrison	390	4.44	4.97	0.69	1.47	11.56
Marion	273	4.33	5.45	0.65	1.81	12.24
Marshall	270	4.89	4.66	0.84	1.51	11.90
Monongalia	312	4.92	5.09	0.61	2.20	12.82
Ohio	83	4.96	5.75	0.75	2.73	14.19
Preston	612	3.47	3.96	0.74	1.98	10.14
Taylor	157	4.63	5.57	0.65	1.82	12.68
Tucker	412	2.12	1.41	0.25	1.05	4.83
Wetzel	353	4.18	4.01	0.70	1.00	9.89
Dist. I Subtotal	3323	4.03	4.44	0.69	1.78	10.94
Berkeley	294	2.21	2.48	0.40	1.55	6.65
Grant	474	2.59	2.01	0.59	0.96	6.15
Hampshire	621	2.63	2.54	0.36	0.51	6.04
Hardy	567	2.82	2.84	0.38	0.78	6.82
Jefferson	192	2.40	2.76	0.43	1.88	7.46
Mineral	318	3.64	3.65	0.51	1.02	8.81
Morgan	222	2.58	3.26	0.49	1.01	7.34
Pendleton	689	1.82	1.52	0.30	0.54	4.19
Dist. II Subtotal	3377	2.54	2.47	0.41	0.87	6.29
Braxton	499	3.79	3.32	0.67	1.32	9.10
Clay	336	1.64	1.62	0.12	0.92	3.19
Lewis	381	5.85	6.78	1.19	1.60	15.42
Nicholas	616	1.91	0.43	0.05	1.37	3.76
Pocahontas	930	1.45	0.10	0.02	0.44	2.01
Randolph	1015	1.90	1.07	0.31	1.03	3.95
Upshur	340	4.07	3.84	0.57	1.77	10.26
Webster	544	1.66	0.30	0.04	1.15	3.15
Dist. III Subtotal	4661	2.45	3.48	0.30	1.10	5.34
Fayette	594	1.51	1.16	0.29	1.27	3.67
Greenbrier	986	2.00	3.12	0.24	0.84	4.25
McDowell	486	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	1.25
Mercer	367	1.65	2.46	0.33	1.49	4.59
Monroe	466	3.37	4.03	0.59	1.38	9.09
Raleigh	548	1.29	0.45	0.07	1.31	2.80
Summers	344	2.71	3.03	0.39	1.53	7.65
Wyoming	495	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	1.38
Dist. IV Subtotal	4286	2.02	2.67	0.30	1.24	4.14
Boone	490	1.28	0.07	0.05	0.78	2.18
Cabell	247	2.81	2.27	0.51	1.57	7.16
Kanawha	804	1.56	2.50	0.19	1.17	3.73
Lincoln	424	2.03	0.13	0.10	1.01	3.27
Logan	444	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.64	1.64
Mason	407	5.16	5.42	0.76	1.91	13.24
Mingo	403	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.82
Putnam	331	3.22	3.08	0.44	1.64	8.38
Wayne	499	1.76	1.51	0.17	0.65	3.23
Dist. V Subtotal	4049	2.34	3.32	0.28	1.19	4.46
Calhoun	277	4.06	3.62	0.70	1.08	9.46
Doddridge	310	4.57	3.98	0.64	0.90	10.08
Gilmer	333	4.20	3.50	0.72	1.05	9.46
Jackson	452	5.54	5.55	0.84	1.76	13.69
Pleasants	119	4.46	4.28	0.48	0.91	10.13
Ritchie	439	4.58	4.71	0.66	1.11	11.05
Roane	476	4.44	3.37	0.45	1.33	9.58
Tyler	246	4.92	5.85	0.78	1.11	12.66
Wirt	232	5.45	5.34	0.97	1.69	13.45
Wood	309	6.08	6.70	0.94	2.45	16.18
Dist. VI Subtotal	3193	4.84	4.65	0.71	1.37	11.57
State Total	22,889	2.99	3.60	0.44	1.24	6.78

*Note counties or portions thereof not open to Class N antlerless deer season include special youth Class Q season harvest but kill per square mile is calculated only on area open to Class N season if a portion of the county is closed to Class N season

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