

West Virginia
Wildlife Resources

Big Game Bulletin



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BLACK BEAR

By
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Season Results and Highlights

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,009 black bears during the combined 2011 archery and firearms seasons (Tables 1 and 2). This is the third time the kill has topped 2,000 in the past 5 years. The harvest of 2011 is the third highest of all time, and is 16% below the record harvest of 2,392 set in 2010 (Fig 1).

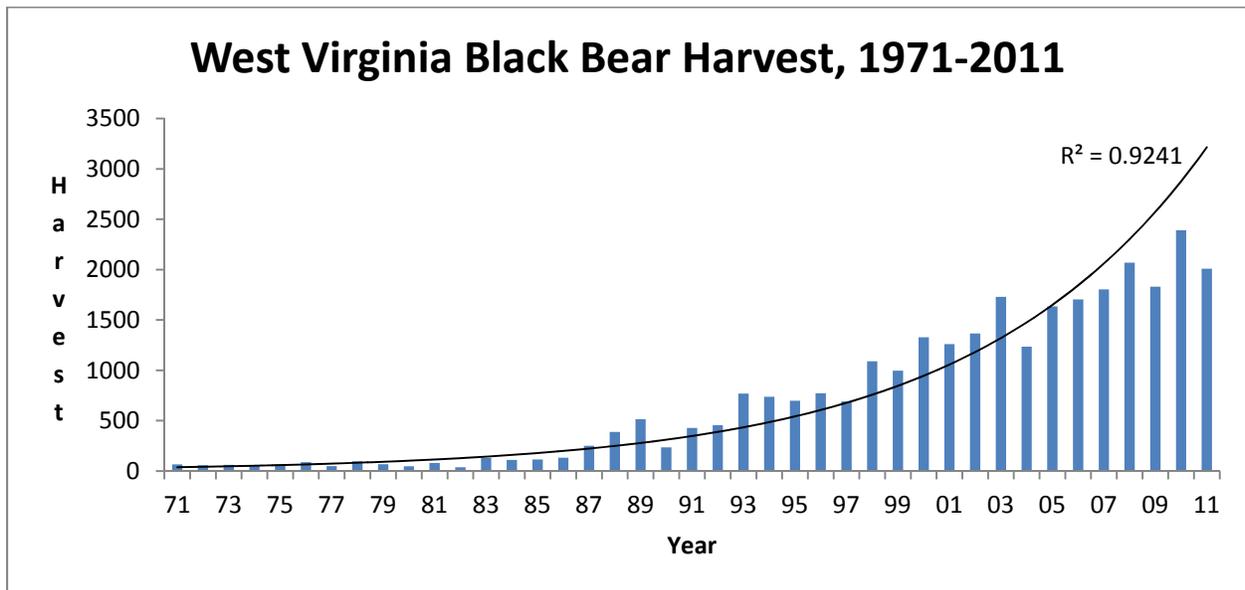


Figure 1. Black bear harvest in West Virginia, 1971-2011.

Reduced mast conditions in 2011 allowed archery hunters to pattern bears more effectively. However, less mast drove many bears to their dens early, which led to a decreased firearms harvest in the traditional December season. The fact that numerous counties were open to extended seasons designed to help those counties reach management objectives, helped bolster the bruin harvest.

Hunters took 620 (362M: 258F) bears during the 2011 archery season (Tables 1 and 2). Biologists predicted that the archery harvest would increase due to lower mast availability. The top five counties were Randolph (70), Preston (56), Nicholas (44), Webster (41) and Wyoming (34).

Firearms hunters harvested 1,389 (808M: 581F) bears during the 2011 combined gun seasons. This is a 28% decrease over the record of 1,938 set in 2010 (Table 3). Hunters took 631 bears in September, 76 during the concurrent buck/bear season and 682 during the traditional December season (Table 1). Top five counties were Randolph (148), Greenbrier (142), Pendleton (132), Pocahontas (112) and Webster (110).

Non-hunting Mortalities

As a rule, non-hunting mortalities increase in years of below-average mast production. Two-hundred six bears (Tables 3 and 4) 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 84% from the 112 non-hunting mortalities recorded in 2010 (Table 3). There were 107 deaths from vehicles in 2011 compared to 66 in 2010. The number of illegal and miscellaneous deaths was up from 6 to 8 and 5 to 6 from 2010 to 2011, respectively. The largest increase in non-hunting deaths was in bears killed for nuisance or damage activity, which was up from 35 in 2010 to 85 in 2011. The combined seasonal and non-seasonal deaths (2,215) is the second largest recorded in West Virginia (Table 3).

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 30% from 176 in 2010 to 229 in 2011 (Table 5). Total payments of \$345,007 were 202% higher than the \$114,201 paid out in 2010. Claims were reported in 27 counties in 2010 and 33 counties in 2011. There were 54 claims for bees (compared to 42 in 2010) totaling \$32,863, 31 for livestock at \$12,159 (28 in 2010), 88 for corn at \$271,163 (25 in 2010), and 56 (81 in 2010) miscellaneous claims at \$28,822.

Preston County had the greatest dollar amount in compensations at \$74,074, followed by Greenbrier (\$51,660), Hardy (\$50,839), Pocahontas (\$29,782), and Pendleton (\$29,434). The 2 counties with the most claims were Preston (26) and Pendleton (25). Greenbrier and Randolph counties were tied for the third highest number of claims with 19 each.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources and Law Enforcement Sections employees received 826 nuisance bear calls in 2011 compared to 845 in 2010. The 5 counties with the most complaints were Greenbrier (95), Raleigh (83), Preston (62), Nicholas (47) and Hampshire (44).

Tooth Collections

Age data from the 2010 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters only submitted 844 useable teeth (correct tooth, identification matched check tags, etc.) for age consideration. Sixteen (2%) were cubs, 35% (297) were yearlings, 23% (197) were 2-year olds, 12% (97) were 3-year olds, and the remaining 28% (237) 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. The fact that black bears usually only reproduce every 2 years, have relatively small litters and take several years to reach sexual maturity can lead to slow population growth. Litter size, adult female survival, and interbirth interval are the three factors that influence black bear populations. However, adult female survival is the only factor that managers have control over. Hunting season timing and length are adjusted to manipulate adult female survival. Wildlife managers and biologists have been collecting female reproductive tracts to estimate litter size around the state. The data gathered from reproductive tracts (cubs/female) mirrors data collected from visiting the dens of radio-tagged females.

Biologists examine reproductive tracts for the presence of either corpora lutea or placental scars. Corpora lutea are found in the ovaries and indicate that an egg was released during ovulation. The number of corpora lutea indicate the number of cubs that would have been born if the female had survived to give birth (and no eggs were reabsorbed). Placental scars are pigmented spots on the uterine wall that indicate former sites of egg implantation. Most of the reproductive tracts that are examined will have corpora lutea present if the bear was old enough to reproduce. This occurs because females with cubs are protected in West Virginia. Reproductive tracts with placental scars indicate the female gave birth in the year of harvest. If a female loses her cubs after the breeding season, she would become available for harvest and her reproductive tract would have placental scars. Occasionally, reproductive tracts will have both corpora lutea and placental scars. In these instances, a female most likely lost her litter early enough in the year to be bred again.

Managers collected 27 reproductive tracts that supplied useful information in 2010. Reproductive tract data lags one year behind because researchers are waiting on age data. Information from reproductive tracts obtained in 2011 cannot be fully analyzed until ages are determined. One reproductive tract had 3 placental scars and 1 corpus luteum. This indicated that the sow gave birth to 3 cubs, lost her litter, and was bred, all in 2010. The fact that the sow gave birth to 3 cubs was confirmed, because the reproductive tract belonged to a sow that was wearing a radio collar during spring 2010 when her den was examined. Eight yearling tracts were examined with the possibility of 2 having bred in 2010. Seventeen of the remaining 18 females that were at least 3 years old showed evidence of breeding. The seventeen females had an average of 2.35 corpora lutea per female.

Black Bear Research

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 has played 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 was to identify the most cost effective way for the DNR to effectively manage the bear population.

After analyzing the long-term data sets from both study areas, it was determined that reproductive data obtained from den visits and data collected from reproductive tracts were not statistically different. In addition, survival rates collected from radio-tagged bears closely matched survival rates calculated from population reconstruction using ages from teeth of harvested bears. Reproductive tracts and tooth collections from harvested bears provide the most cost-effective way to monitor the black bear population and are being used to help make decisions about changes in hunting regulations. Therefore, radio collars will be removed from all bears in the southern study area. Radio collars will be left on 8-10 females in the northern study area.

We urge all hunters who harvest a bear to submit a tooth for age determination. In addition, we ask that hunters who harvest female bears submit reproductive tracts. These data are now more important than ever in monitoring the black bear population.

In 2011, wildlife managers handled 6 (average = 2.67) and 6 (average = 2.5) litters of cubs on the northern and southern study areas, respectively. On the southern study area, managers handled 0 dens with yearlings. Managers worked 1 yearling den on the northern study area and tagged 2 yearlings in those dens.

A new black bear research project was initiated in 2011. West Virginia is participating in a study with Pennsylvania and New Jersey to examine movements, home range, survival and harvest vulnerability of bears that live in and around urban areas. Fifteen satellite collars will be deployed on black bears around the cities of Charleston, Beckley and Morgantown. These collars will transmit the daily locations of the bears by text message. The data collected by all 3 states will be analyzed by a student at West Virginia University to complete a doctoral dissertation (PhD).

Nine satellite collars were deployed in 2011 in West Virginia. Two collars were deployed in Charleston (2 males), 5 in Beckley (5 males) and 2 in Morgantown (1 male, 1 female). Two collared bears were harvested by hunters (2 males) and 1 was struck by a vehicle (1 male). There are currently 6 bears wearing satellite collars (2 in each city). The rest of the collars will be deployed in 2012.

In August 2007, 23 GPS (Global Positioning System) radio collars were deployed on bears in our southern study area. Eighteen of these collars have been retrieved with useful data. A Wildlife Resources Section Wildlife Manager is attending West Virginia University and using these data as part of the requirements for a Master of Science degree. These data will help wildlife managers better understand movement patterns of female black bears in and around active mine sites in southern West Virginia.

Table 1. West Virginia 2011 black bear harvest by season and county.

| County | Bow Total | September Total | Buck Gun Total | December Total | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Barbour | 19 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 31 |
| Brooke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marion | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Marshall | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Monongalia | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 56 | 46 | 0 | 27 | 129 |
| Taylor | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Tucker | 27 | 24 | 0 | 39 | 90 |
| Wetzel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| District I Subtotal | 117 | 74 | 0 | 75 | 266 |
| Berkeley | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Grant | 21 | 29 | 0 | 39 | 89 |
| Hampshire | 15 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 19 |
| Hardy | 25 | 42 | 0 | 57 | 124 |
| Jefferson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mineral | 10 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 18 |
| Morgan | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Pendleton | 14 | 41 | 0 | 91 | 146 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 90 | 112 | 3 | 201 | 406 |
| Braxton | 7 | 12 | 0 | 7 | 26 |
| Clay | 8 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 28 |
| Lewis | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Nicholas | 44 | 29 | 21 | 26 | 120 |
| Pocahontas | 15 | 50 | 0 | 62 | 127 |
| Randolph | 70 | 51 | 0 | 97 | 218 |
| Upshur | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| Webster | 41 | 60 | 0 | 50 | 151 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 193 | 203 | 21 | 266 | 683 |
| Fayette | 32 | 38 | 14 | 14 | 98 |
| Greenbrier | 29 | 68 | 0 | 74 | 171 |
| McDowell | 15 | 20 | 0 | 12 | 47 |
| Mercer | 15 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 17 |
| Monroe | 14 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 21 |
| Raleigh | 31 | 26 | 8 | 6 | 71 |
| Summers | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Wyoming | 34 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 49 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 182 | 166 | 22 | 117 | 487 |
| Boone | 9 | 25 | 14 | 7 | 55 |
| Cabell | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Kanawha | 9 | 36 | 16 | 12 | 73 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Logan | 7 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 24 |
| Mason | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mingo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wayne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 27 | 76 | 30 | 22 | 155 |
| Calhoun | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Doddridge | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Gilmer | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Jackson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Roane | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wirt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 |
| STATE TOTAL | 620 | 631 | 76 | 682 | 2,009 |

Table 2. Sex ratios of West Virginia black bears for September or November gun season, bow season and December gun season, 1964-2011.

| Year | Bow or gun season Late September | | Bow season and/or Early Nov. gun season | | Late Nov. or December gun season | | Annual Kill | | Total* |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 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 | 108 | 76 | 607 | 428 | 416 | 195 | 1,131 | 699 | 1,830 |
| 2010 | 214 | 248 | 310 | 144 | 939 | 537 | 1,463 | 929 | 2,392 |
| 2011 | 330 | 301 | 362 | 258 | 478 | 280 | 1,170 | 839 | 2,009 |
| 33-Year Total | 1,000 | 947 | 6,498 | 4,269 | 10,546 | 5,751 | 18,044 | 10,967 | 29,011 |
| Average Sex Ratios | 51% | 49% | 60% | 40% | 65% | 35% | 62% | 38% | |
| 2011 Sex Ratios | 52% | 48% | 58% | 42% | 63% | 37% | 58% | 42% | |

*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 |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | Bow | Gun | | | | | |
| 1970s' | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 14 | 523 | 1970s' Average Annual Bag: Bow 2; Gun 65 | | | | |
| 1980s' | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 261 | 1,542 | 1980s' Average Annual Bag: Bow 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 |
| 1990s' | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 2,363 | 4,506 | 1990s' Average Annual Bag: Bow 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 | 1,035 | 795 | 11 | 70 | 184 | 9 | 2,104 |
| 2000s' | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 5,997 | 10,022 | 2000s' Average Annual Bag: Bow 600; Gun 1,002 | | | | |
| 2010 | 454 | 1,938 | 6 | 66 | 35 | 5 | 2,504 |
| 2011 | 620 | 1,389 | 8 | 107 | 85 | 6 | 2,215 |
| 2010s' | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 1,074 | 3,327 | 2010s' Average Annual Bag: Bow 537; Gun 1,664 | | | | |

*November Gun Seasons held in 1989, and 2002 - 2011 in certain counties.

**September Season held in 2008-2011 in certain counties.

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

Table 4. West Virginia 2011 nonseasonal black bear mortalities by county and type.

| County | Roadkills | Illegal | Marauders | Miscellaneous | Total |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Barbour | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Brooke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Marion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marshall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monongalia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Taylor | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tucker | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 14 |
| Berkeley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grant | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Hardy | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Jefferson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mineral | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morgan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pendleton | 2 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 11 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 6 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 20 |
| Braxton | 11 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 15 |
| Clay | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Lewis | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Nicholas | 18 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 24 |
| Pocahontas | 1 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 22 |
| Randolph | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| Upshur | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Webster | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 8 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 46 | 3 | 44 | 1 | 94 |
| Fayette | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Greenbrier | 13 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 32 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mercer | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Monroe | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Raleigh | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| Summers | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Wyoming | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 39 | 3 | 22 | 3 | 67 |
| Boone | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cabell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kanawha | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Logan | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 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 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Calhoun | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Doddridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gilmer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jackson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Roane | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wirt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| State Total | 107 | 8 | 85 | 6 | 206 |

Table 5. Black bear damage claims paid and payments by county 2007-2011.

| County | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | |
|--------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments |
| Barbour | 4 | \$1,745 | 3 | \$1,607 | 3 | \$832 | 1 | \$88 | 1 | \$609 |
| Berkeley | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$274 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Boone | 15 | \$29,749 | 6 | \$5,319 | 2 | \$764 | 3 | \$4,968 | 3 | \$2,835 |
| Braxton | 3 | \$559 | 8 | \$3,139 | 3 | \$5,775 | 7 | \$3,205 | 4 | \$4,664 |
| 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 | 1 | \$55 |
| Clay | 6 | \$2,637 | 5 | \$2,322 | 3 | \$977 | 7 | \$6,900 | 1 | \$43 |
| Doddridge | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$150 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$350 |
| Fayette | 8 | \$3,965 | 4 | \$1,105 | 5 | \$6,202 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$3,600 |
| Gilmer | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$397 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Grant | 4 | \$2,250 | 6 | \$4,570 | 5 | \$3,066 | 11 | \$9,811 | 6 | \$14,983 |
| Greenbrier | 19 | \$42,704 | 9 | \$16,770 | 35 | \$82,867 | 12 | \$16,031 | 19 | \$51,660 |
| Hampshire | 5 | \$3,857 | 2 | \$1,575 | 10 | \$7,421 | 4 | \$2,089 | 13 | \$11,619 |
| Hancock | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Hardy | 9 | \$15,767 | 9 | \$9,060 | 9 | \$12,317 | 11 | \$4,055 | 13 | \$50,839 |
| Harrison | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$804 | 1 | \$228 |
| Jackson | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$274 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Jefferson | 1 | \$138 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$833 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Kanawha | 6 | \$2,444 | 3 | \$2,691 | 2 | \$114 | 5 | \$681 | 0 | \$0 |
| Lewis | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$1,329 | 2 | \$1,163 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Lincoln | 2 | \$2,574 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Logan | 3 | \$745 | 5 | \$1,694 | 7 | \$5,004 | 2 | \$809 | 3 | \$2,167 |
| Marion | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$218 | 1 | \$126 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Marshall | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$776 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Mason | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| McDowell | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 3 | \$1,031 |
| Mercer | 3 | \$2,847 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$1,438 | 1 | \$390 | 2 | \$530 |
| Mineral | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$1,327 | 7 | \$1,793 | 10 | \$5,320 | 11 | \$12,341 |
| Mingo | 1 | \$164 | 2 | \$1,292 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$666 | 0 | \$0 |
| Monongalia | 1 | \$113 | 5 | \$2,114 | 2 | \$150 | 3 | \$785 | 0 | \$0 |
| Monroe | 2 | \$630 | 1 | \$177 | 1 | \$29 | 4 | \$8,062 | 1 | \$232 |
| Morgan | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$2,789 | 1 | \$129 | 3 | \$1,088 |
| Nicholas | 18 | \$5,287 | 6 | \$9,199 | 36 | \$23,123 | 11 | \$4,269 | 12 | \$7,080 |
| Ohio | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Pendleton | 22 | \$14,581 | 12 | \$5,115 | 17 | \$18,895 | 7 | \$5,133 | 25 | \$29,434 |
| Pleasants | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Pocahontas | 26 | \$14,305 | 4 | \$2,050 | 23 | \$41,204 | 19 | \$18,420 | 18 | \$29,782 |
| Preston | 8 | \$6,157 | 9 | \$5,857 | 15 | \$27,690 | 9 | \$6,080 | 26 | \$74,074 |
| Putnam | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$268 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$1,193 |
| Raleigh | 3 | \$1,087 | 6 | \$3,000 | 8 | \$3,932 | 4 | \$1,344 | 5 | \$1,558 |
| Randolph | 20 | \$17,363 | 10 | \$3,077 | 23 | \$10,263 | 24 | \$6,499 | 19 | \$7,773 |
| Ritchie | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$125 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Roane | 1 | \$138 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Summers | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$399 | 4 | \$1,094 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$1,396 |
| Taylor | 1 | \$324 | 1 | \$203 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$70 |
| Tucker | 16 | \$10,850 | 5 | \$4,437 | 12 | \$24,477 | 4 | \$2,966 | 8 | \$25,319 |
| Tyler | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Upshur | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$258 | 2 | \$738 | 0 | \$0 | 6 | \$1,299 |
| Wayne | 1 | \$106 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$484 |
| Webster | 6 | \$1,127 | 6 | \$1,530 | 21 | \$8,725 | 7 | \$1,159 | 8 | \$2,096 |
| Wetzel | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$410 | 7 | \$3,100 |
| Wirt | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$1,041 |
| Wood | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$105 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Wyoming | 7 | \$3,791 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$683 | 4 | \$3,127 | 2 | \$434 |
| Total | 221 | \$188,004 | 142 | \$92,837 | 270 | \$295,450 | 176 | \$114,201 | 229 | \$345,007 |

WILD TURKEY

By
Christopher W. Ryan

Spring Harvest

The 2011 spring gobbler harvest was 9,190 (Table 1). The total was 10% lower than the kill in 2010 (10,209). Turkey broods observed in 2009 were also 10% below the 5-year average. There is a direct correlation between turkey brood observations and the spring turkey harvest 2 years later.

The top five counties in harvest were Mason (445), Preston (325), Kanawha (311), Jackson (290) and Wood (277). The kill was down in all DNR districts except district 4 where the kill was similar. District 5, in southwestern West Virginia, led all districts with a kill of 1,988. Table 2 depicts the harvest by public wildlife management areas (WMAs). The top areas were Neola (36), Little River (29), Potomac (28), Bluestone (28) and Cranberry (27).

The one-day spring gobbler youth hunt, which occurred the Saturday preceding the regular Monday opening, yielded a harvest of 392 toms, down 17% from 2010 (Table 3). The first week of the spring season accounted for 58% of the harvest while 19% of the toms were harvested the second week, 11% the third week, 7% the fourth week and 1% of the kills had an unknown harvest date (Table 3).

Fall Harvest

A total of 33 counties were open during the fall 2011 season. The kill of 1,186 turkeys was up 5% from the 1,126 birds taken during the 2010 fall season (Table 4). Fall wild turkey harvests are highly influenced by annual reproduction and hard mast conditions. The reduced acorn crop of 2011 had birds more concentrated around specific food sources and easier to harvest than in 2010. Although there were 6 fewer counties open to fall hunting in 2011, the harvest was slightly above the 2010 tally. Biologists had predicted that the harvest would be similar or slightly higher because of the mast conditions and brood production and these predictions held true in 2011.

Top counties were Randolph with a take of 142, Greenbrier (90), Preston (76), Pocahontas (68) and Monroe (63). The harvest on WMAs (Table 5) made up 13% of the 2011 fall harvest. Top WMAs were Little River (18), Bluestone (17), Tea Creek (12), Sleepy Creek (10) and Cranberry (9).

There were 201 turkeys (17%) checked on the opening Saturday of the fall season (20% in 2010). The opening week accounted for 45% of the total harvest (44% in 2010). The last week of the season made up 11% of the kill, which is above the 8% in 2010 (Table 6).

The combined spring and fall harvests in 2011 was 10,376—this ranks 20th in total wild turkey kill since 1966 (Table 7). The 2011 tally was 8% lower than last year. The total spring harvest of bearded turkeys since 1966 (316,279) is 63% more than the number of wild turkeys killed in the fall during the same period (116,434).

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 2011, results were compiled from 168 hunters. Cooperators took 1,446 hunting trips and heard 2,382 gobblers. The gobbling rate (52 gobblers heard per 100 hours) was 9% higher (Figure 1) than 2010 (47 per 100 hours) and down 21% from the 29-year average (63).

The survey showed the best gobbling in 2011 occurred in the Southwestern (82 gobblers per 100 hours) and Western (66 per 100 hours) regions of the State. On average, hunters heard 2.3 gobblers per trip in 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 opinions.

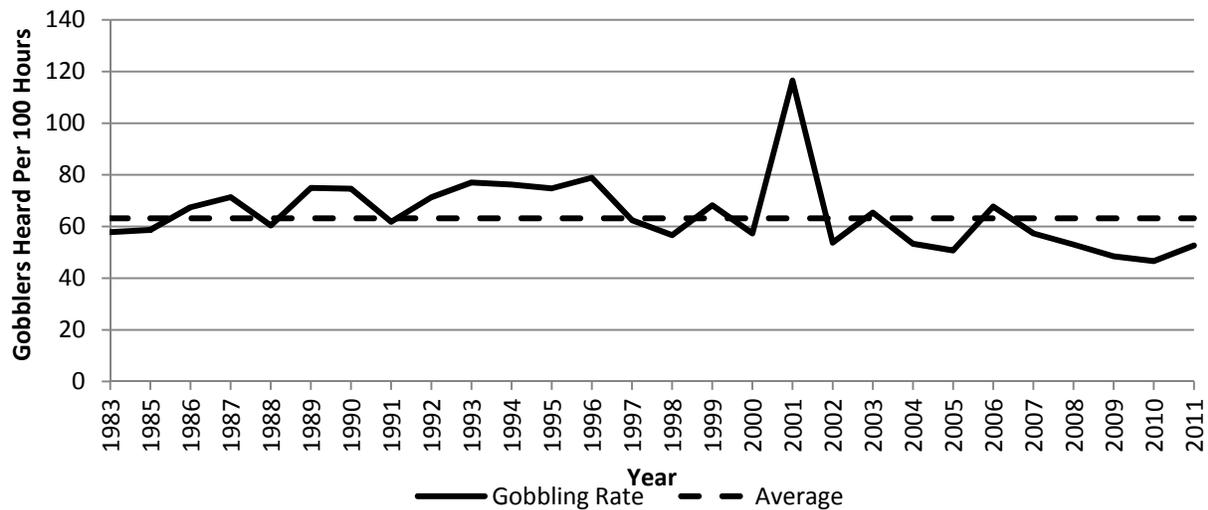


Figure 1. Gobblers heard per 100 hours by cooperators in West Virginia from 1983-2011.

Bowhunter Survey

Due to timing of the fall hunting 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 2010 were lower than in 2009. The rate of 28 turkeys seen per 100 hours of bowhunting is 53% lower than the record rate (59 per 100 hours in 1999), and 30% below the long term average (40).

Turkey observations in 2010 were exactly what one would expect when looking at a combination of other data. Brood observations were lower than normal and mast production was at an all-time high; therefore, it was harder for archers to observe turkeys while in the treestand. We expect these observations to have rebounded in 2011 with an increase in brood production and a decrease in mast availability.

Brood Survey

Recent studies have shown that the quantity of gobblers born two years prior to a spring turkey season is a pretty good forecaster of that spring's gobbler harvest. Since brood counts in 2010 were down 27% from 2009, the expected spring kill for 2012 should be lower than the 9,190 2011 kill.

Brood reports in 2011 were 22% higher than counts in 2010. However, this may not all be due to turkey activity—like other entities, the DNR Wildlife Section is going through a baby boomer retirement spike. With a good percentage of field personnel absent, and field projects curtailed, opportunities for brood sightings in 2010 were much lower than previous years.

Fall harvests are more of a challenge to accurately forecast. Regional mast conditions, brood success in fall hunt counties, and the number of eligible counties open to a fall season need to be considered in fall harvest predictions. Brood counts have accurately forecasted fall turkey harvests about two-thirds of the years since 1968. Due to higher number of reports of broods in 2011 and the reduced amount of acorns, black cherries, and other wild foods, biologists predicated the kill in traditional fall hunt counties would be higher than the 2010 harvest—but similar statewide because fewer counties were open to fall hunting. The reduced number of counties “evened out” the traditional area kill.

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 2010 survey, the 2011 mast crop decreased considerably. All hard mast species except walnut and beech decreased from 2010’s estimate. Indices for chestnut oak and white oak decreased 80 and 73 percent, respectively. Apple index decreased only slightly (4 percent). Although black cherry was a heavy producer last year, cherry’s index decreased by 90 percent. This is the second year walnuts have increased from the previous year. Walnut abundance increased 78 percent from 2010 levels. Unfortunately, hickory did not fare as well. Hickory decreased by 22 percent. Several soft mast species were also monitored. Greenbrier decreased by one percent from last year. Of the soft mast species, dogwood increased the most from 2010 (31 percent).

Table 1. Spring harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| County | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Barbour | 177 | 224 | 209 | 157 | 160 |
| Brooke | 101 | 79 | 86 | 91 | 93 |
| Hancock | 117 | 71 | 98 | 109 | 107 |
| Harrison | 237 | 291 | 310 | 265 | 242 |
| Marion | 201 | 178 | 175 | 179 | 135 |
| Marshall | 279 | 222 | 214 | 316 | 253 |
| Monongalia | 260 | 247 | 215 | 257 | 218 |
| Ohio | 77 | 53 | 64 | 94 | 92 |
| Preston | 330 | 371 | 378 | 321 | 325 |
| Taylor | 84 | 115 | 101 | 86 | 76 |
| Tucker | 83 | 85 | 68 | 68 | 56 |
| Wetzel | 204 | 253 | 213 | 199 | 125 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 2,150 | 2,189 | 2,131 | 2,142 | 1,882 |
| Berkeley | 71 | 70 | 83 | 89 | 86 |
| Grant | 144 | 115 | 121 | 102 | 102 |
| Hampshire | 163 | 165 | 194 | 149 | 119 |
| Hardy | 156 | 141 | 172 | 158 | 123 |
| Jefferson | 46 | 34 | 44 | 27 | 42 |
| Mineral | 114 | 107 | 135 | 121 | 78 |
| Morgan | 87 | 88 | 63 | 68 | 70 |
| Pendleton | 140 | 101 | 114 | 98 | 100 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 921 | 821 | 926 | 812 | 720 |
| Braxton | 211 | 199 | 226 | 186 | 172 |
| Clay | 80 | 77 | 89 | 65 | 85 |
| Lewis | 245 | 243 | 241 | 237 | 201 |
| Nicholas | 188 | 210 | 157 | 163 | 166 |
| Pocahontas | 127 | 102 | 117 | 106 | 108 |
| Randolph | 170 | 163 | 198 | 197 | 142 |
| Upshur | 212 | 288 | 298 | 241 | 213 |
| Webster | 98 | 98 | 113 | 102 | 99 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 1,331 | 1,380 | 1,439 | 1,297 | 1,186 |
| Fayette | 231 | 279 | 255 | 215 | 234 |
| Greenbrier | 264 | 292 | 266 | 226 | 253 |
| McDowell | 214 | 250 | 181 | 270 | 228 |
| Mercer | 269 | 253 | 215 | 175 | 186 |
| Monroe | 170 | 142 | 178 | 145 | 158 |
| Raleigh | 282 | 221 | 227 | 182 | 215 |
| Summers | 284 | 258 | 219 | 231 | 210 |
| Wyoming | 197 | 209 | 227 | 287 | 242 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 1,911 | 1,904 | 1,768 | 1,731 | 1,726 |
| Boone | 132 | 118 | 111 | 185 | 185 |
| Cabell | 125 | 138 | 157 | 236 | 134 |
| Kanawha | 254 | 247 | 219 | 261 | 311 |
| Lincoln | 172 | 188 | 183 | 278 | 188 |
| Logan | 112 | 157 | 160 | 194 | 169 |
| Mason | 407 | 394 | 419 | 551 | 445 |
| Mingo | 80 | 82 | 95 | 115 | 138 |
| Putnam | 178 | 232 | 256 | 323 | 236 |
| Wayne | 164 | 145 | 146 | 234 | 182 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 1,624 | 1,701 | 1,746 | 2,377 | 1,988 |
| Calhoun | 150 | 141 | 129 | 120 | 96 |
| Doddridge | 117 | 144 | 135 | 150 | 121 |
| Gilmer | 150 | 139 | 147 | 135 | 137 |
| Jackson | 332 | 310 | 257 | 286 | 290 |
| Pleasants | 59 | 89 | 63 | 72 | 68 |
| Ritchie | 244 | 208 | 206 | 239 | 212 |
| Roane | 268 | 229 | 219 | 207 | 195 |
| Tyler | 155 | 174 | 167 | 196 | 135 |
| Wirt | 216 | 185 | 175 | 166 | 157 |
| Wood | 337 | 315 | 279 | 279 | 277 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 2,028 | 1,934 | 1,777 | 1,850 | 1,688 |
| State Total | 9,965 | 9,929 | 9,787 | 10,209 | 9,190 |

Table 2. Spring turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| Land Type | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 17 | 8 | 16 | 11 | 3 |
| | Blackwater | 14 | 18 | 17 | 21 | 8 |
| | Cheat | 11 | 8 | 14 | 11 | 7 |
| | Cranberry | 31 | 32 | 47 | 33 | 27 |
| | Little River | 30 | 14 | 26 | 22 | 29 |
| | Neola | 26 | 26 | 28 | 19 | 36 |
| | Otter Creek | 16 | 19 | 8 | 13 | 10 |
| | Potomac | 42 | 31 | 34 | 28 | 28 |
| | Rimel | 31 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 17 |
| | Tea Creek | 14 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 5 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 232 | 190 | 216 | 188 | 170 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 18 | 9 | 7 | 12 | 11 |
| | Wardensville | 42 | 26 | 52 | 17 | 24 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 60 | 35 | 59 | 29 | 35 |
| Jefferson NF | | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| National River | | 14 | 25 | 21 | 7 | 9 |
| National River Total | | 14 | 25 | 21 | 7 | 9 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 2 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 16 | 19 | 11 | 16 | 10 |
| | Anawalt | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| | Becky Creek | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| | Beech Fork | 17 | 26 | 19 | 13 | 21 |
| | Berwind | 5 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| | Beury Mtn | 0 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| | Big Ugly | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Bluestone | 43 | 25 | 19 | 26 | 28 |
| | Burnsville | 19 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 12 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| | Castleman | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Castleman Run | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Center Branch | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Conaway Run | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 12 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 3 |
| | Cornstalk | 15 | 15 | 19 | 22 | 23 |
| | East Lynn | 3 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 11 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 16 | 12 | 19 | 9 | 13 |
| | Fork Creek | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Frozen Camp | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| | Handley | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Hillcrest | 10 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 21 |
| | Horse Creek | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| | Hughes River | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| | Huttonsville | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Kanawha Sf | 11 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 14 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 3 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| | Laurel Lake | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 7 |

Table 2. Continued.

| Land Type | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| State Land | Lewis Wetzel | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| | McClintic | 11 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 13 |
| | Meadow River | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Mill Creek | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Morris Creek | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| | Panther Sf | 16 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 12 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | Plum Orchard | 6 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Pruntytown | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| | R D Bailey | 24 | 26 | 24 | 47 | 5 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| | Seneca Sf | 6 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| | Shannondale | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | Short Mnt | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 18 | 13 | 16 | 13 | 21 |
| | Snake Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Stonecoal | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| | Stonewall Jackson | 21 | 20 | 20 | 17 | 22 |
| | Tate Lohr | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | The Jug | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| | Upper Mud River | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Wallback | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| | Summersville | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| | Underwood | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | South Branch | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Cross Creek | 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| | Pedlar | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Tug Fork | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| | Little Indian Creek | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | Elk Creek | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| | Sand Hill | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Stumptown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| O'Brien | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| State Land Total | | 364 | 366 | 353 | 382 | 370 |
| Private Land | | 9,293 | 9,308 | 9,129 | 9,595 | 8,599 |
| Unknown | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| State Total | | 9,965 | 9,929 | 9,787 | 10,209 | 9,190 |

Table 3. Spring wild turkey harvest by week of season, 2010-2011.

| Week of Season | 2010 | | 2011 | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Youth | 476 | 5% | 392 | 4% |
| Week 1 | 6,249 | 61% | 5,329 | 58% |
| Week 2 | 1,739 | 17% | 1,757 | 19% |
| Week 3 | 1,045 | 10% | 1,028 | 11% |
| Week 4 | 621 | 6% | 630 | 7% |
| Unknown | 79 | 1% | 54 | 1% |
| Grand Total | 10,209 | 100% | 9,190 | 100% |

Table 4. Fall harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| County | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Brooke | 8 | 12 | 14 | 6 | 6 |
| Hancock | 10 | 9 | 14 | 24 | 8 |
| Harrison | 0 | 34 | 25 | 0 | 20 |
| Marion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Marshall | 18 | 9 | 15 | 15 | 11 |
| Monongalia | 19 | 30 | 0 | 24 | 13 |
| Ohio | 14 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 12 |
| Preston | 90 | 89 | 83 | 80 | 76 |
| Taylor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Tucker | 29 | 31 | 25 | 28 | 17 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 188 | 214 | 183 | 221 | 163 |
| Berkeley | 23 | 31 | 30 | 18 | 35 |
| Grant | 63 | 74 | 51 | 42 | 31 |
| Hampshire | 57 | 61 | 49 | 30 | 22 |
| Hardy | 78 | 74 | 58 | 33 | 27 |
| Mineral | 32 | 38 | 27 | 17 | 32 |
| Morgan | 34 | 26 | 24 | 14 | 18 |
| Pendleton | 60 | 47 | 51 | 38 | 38 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 347 | 351 | 290 | 192 | 203 |
| Lewis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 22 |
| Nicholas | 103 | 39 | 116 | 46 | 61 |
| Pocahontas | 107 | 74 | 53 | 47 | 68 |
| Randolph | 96 | 115 | 75 | 58 | 142 |
| Upshur | 0 | 35 | 38 | 40 | 42 |
| Webster | 52 | 36 | 66 | 37 | 44 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 358 | 299 | 348 | 240 | 379 |
| Greenbrier | 171 | 84 | 103 | 92 | 90 |
| Monroe | 142 | 60 | 105 | 59 | 63 |
| Summers | 118 | 35 | 0 | 36 | 31 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| Mercer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 431 | 179 | 208 | 234 | 236 |
| Mason | 67 | 101 | 81 | 46 | 57 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 21 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0 |
| Cabell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 67 | 101 | 81 | 131 | 83 |
| Jackson | 39 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 33 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Ritchie | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 9 |
| Wirt | 38 | 30 | 36 | 21 | 34 |
| Wood | 43 | 28 | 61 | 37 | 43 |
| Dist VI Subtotal | 120 | 62 | 97 | 108 | 121 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| State Total | 1,511 | 1,206 | 1,208 | 1,126 | 1,186 |

Table 5. Fall turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| Land Type | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| | Blackwater | 11 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 3 |
| | Cheat | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| | Cranberry | 10 | 12 | 14 | 3 | 9 |
| | Little River | 28 | 20 | 14 | 11 | 18 |
| | Neola | 18 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 9 |
| | Otter Creek | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| | Potomac | 11 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| | Rimel | 22 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| | Tea Creek | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 12 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 113 | 88 | 79 | 61 | 79 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 8 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 4 |
| | Wardensville | 23 | 22 | 10 | 5 | 8 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 31 | 33 | 17 | 16 | 12 |
| Jefferson NF | Potts Creek | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Bluestone | 37 | 20 | 1 | 11 | 17 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| | Camp Creek SF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Cornstalk | 8 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| | Cross Creek | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Frozen Camp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Hillcrest | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Hughes River | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | Little Indian Creek | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | McClintic | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| | Meadow River | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | R D Bailey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Seneca Sf | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | Short Mnt | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sleepy Creek | 3 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 10 | |
| South Branch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Stonecoal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Stonewall Jackson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Summersville | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| Widmyer | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| State Land Total | | 82 | 68 | 30 | 40 | 60 |
| Private Land | | 1,285 | 1,015 | 1,081 | 1,009 | 1,034 |
| National River | New River Gorge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| National River Total | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| State Total | | 1,511 | 1,206 | 1,208 | 1,126 | 1,186 |

Table 6. Fall wild turkey harvest by week of season, 2010-2011.

| Week of Season | 2010 | | 2011 | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Opening Day | 231 | 21% | 201 | 17% |
| Week 1 | 491 | 44% | 531 | 45% |
| Week 2 | 213 | 19% | 185 | 16% |
| Week 3 | 89 | 8% | 136 | 11% |
| Week 4 | 90 | 8% | 125 | 11% |
| Unknown | 12 | 1% | 8 | 1% |
| Grand Total | 1,126 | 100% | 1,186 | 100% |

Table 7. Total spring and fall wild turkey harvest, West Virginia, 1966-2011.

| Year | Spring | Fall | Total | Rank |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| 1966 | 12 | 1,334 | 1,346 | 45 |
| 1967 | 42 | 989 | 1,031 | 46 |
| 1968 | 134 | 1,697 | 1,831 | 44 |
| 1969 | 243 | 3,430 | 3,673 | 34 |
| 1970 | 370 | 3,020 | 3,390 | 37 |
| 1971 | 421 | 2,374 | 2,795 | 41 |
| 1972 | 589 | 2,353 | 2,942 | 40 |
| 1973 | 554 | 3,038 | 3,592 | 35 |
| 1974 | 596 | 2,158 | 2,754 | 42 |
| 1975 | 585 | 2,827 | 3,412 | 36 |
| 1976 | 721 | 1,860 | 2,581 | 43 |
| 1977 | 719 | 2,998 | 3,717 | 33 |
| 1978 | 566 | 2,803 | 3,369 | 38 |
| 1979 | 873 | 2,421 | 3,294 | 39 |
| 1980 | 1,459 | 3,696 | 5,155 | 30 |
| 1981 | 1,970 | 3,135 | 5,105 | 31 |
| 1982 | 2,458 | 5,684 | 8,142 | 26 |
| 1983 | 2,627 | 2,224 | 4,851 | 32 |
| 1984 | 3,387 | 2,414 | 5,801 | 29 |
| 1985 | 4,215 | 2,343 | 6,558 | 28 |
| 1986 | 4,774 | 3,130 | 7,904 | 27 |
| 1987 | 5,665 | 4,114 | 9,779 | 23 |
| 1988 | 6,526 | 2,939 | 9,465 | 24 |
| 1989 | 7,245 | 2,204 | 9,449 | 25 |
| 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 | 18 |
| 2008 | 9,929 | 1,206 | 11,135 | 20 |
| 2009 | 9,787 | 1,208 | 10,995 | 21 |
| 2010 | 10,209 | 1,126 | 11,335 | 19 |
| 2011 | 9,190 | 1,186 | 10,376 | 22 |
| Total | 316,279 | 116,434 | 432,713 | |

WILD BOAR

By
Christopher W. Ryan

Hunters killed 37 boar during the 2011 season. This is up from the harvest of 16 in 2010 and is the highest harvest since the late December season was removed in 2003. Mast production in the boar area during 2010 likely increased reproduction and the number of young of the year available for harvest. In addition, the spotty acorn crop of 2011 made it easier for hunters to locate and pattern these unique animals.

Firearms hunters took 17 (6 in Logan County and 11 in Boone County) and archers killed 20 (10 in Logan County and 10 in Boone County). Raleigh and Wyoming counties 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.

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 was restricted by permits. The main reason for fewer animals in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties is loss of habitat resulting in poor reproduction and survival. Impacts from mining and logging operations continue to decrease the mature oak-hickory forest favored by the boar.

Boar harvests will likely remain low and will fluctuate depending upon mast and weather conditions. The good acorn crop of 2010 led to increased reproduction and a higher harvest in 2011 but the harvest will likely dip some next year in response to the availability of food in fall 2011. Hunters should not expect to achieve the harvest of the 1990's. Wildlife personnel will continue to monitor the wild boar population and will make management recommendations accordingly.

Table 1. Wild boar harvests in West Virginia, 1979–2011.

| Year | <u>Gun</u> | <u>Gun</u> | | Archery | Total |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | Permits Available | Early Season | December | | |
| 1979 | 200 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 1980 | 600 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| 1981 | 1200 | 31 | 0 | 2 | 33 |
| 1982 | 1500 | 69 | 0 | 3 | 72 |
| 1983 | 1500 | 50 | 0 | 4 | 54 |
| 1984 | 3000 | 76 | 0 | 5 | 81 |
| 1985 | 3000 | 52 | 0 | 6 | 58 |
| 1986 | 4000 | 29 | 0 | 6 | 35 |
| 1987 | 5000 | 63 | 0 | 11 | 74 |
| 1988 | 5000 | 29 | 0 | 5 | 34 |
| 1989 | 6000 | 29 | 79 | 8 | 116 |
| 1990 | 6000 | 16 | 62 | 8 | 86 |
| 1991 | 6000 | 20 | 38 | 1 | 59 |
| 1992 | 6000 | 39 | 72 | 19 | 130 |
| 1993 | 6000 | 13 | 61 | 8 | 82 |
| 1994 | 6000 | 21 | 53 | 12 | 86 |
| 1995 | 6000 | 34 | 105 | 19 | 158 |
| 1996 | 6000 | 51 | 56 | 32 | 139 |
| 1997 | 6000 | 43 | 61 | 37 | 141 |
| 1998 | 6000 | 16 | 30 | 12 | 58 |
| 1999 | 6000 | 19 | 56 | 21 | 96 |
| 2000 | 6000 | 7 | 36 | 3 | 46 |
| 2001 | 4000 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 43 |
| 2002 | 4000 | 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 |
| 2010 | Permit Not Required | 8 | 0 | 8 | 16 |
| 2011 | Permit Not Required | 17 | 0 | 20 | 37 |
| Total | | 815 | 749 | 330 | 1,894 |

WHITE-TAILED DEER

By
JAMES M. CRUM

Deer Season 2011

The following Tables 1 through 9 contain the 2011 white-tailed deer hunter harvest information for each of West Virginia's 55 counties and the various public lands scattered across the state. In 2011, deer hunters harvested a total of 135,696 deer in the combined deer seasons. This is a 27% increase from the 2010 harvest and 4% less than the previous five-year harvest average of 141,775. The combined deer season harvest for 2011 is the 21st largest total deer harvest on record for West Virginia. The 2011 total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 108 acres of deer habitat in the state (Table 9), and a 38% harvest decrease from that of 10 years ago. From 1945 through 2011, a total of 5,607,892 deer have been recorded as harvested in West Virginia (Fig.1). Sixty-four percent (3,606,825) of the total recorded deer harvest of the past 66 years has occurred in the last 20 years.

WV DEER HARVEST 1945-2011

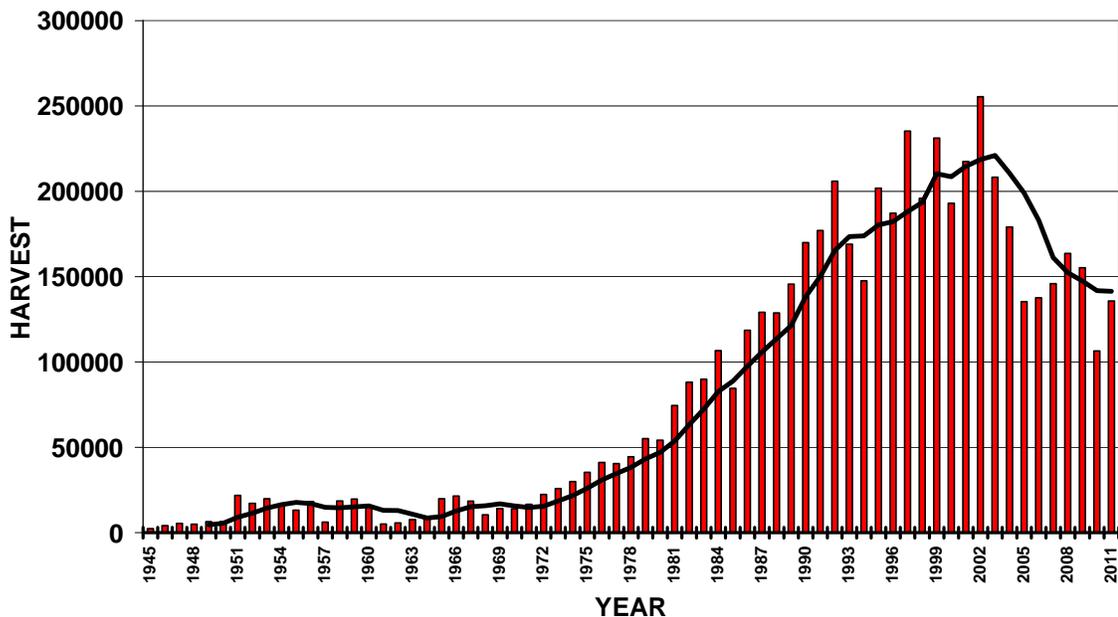


Figure 1. White-tailed deer harvest in West Virginia from 1945-2011.

In 2011, the traditional bucks-only firearm season harvest of antlered bucks was 60,157, an increase of 38% from the 2010 harvest (Table 1). This is 2% less than the five-year average harvest of 61,428 and ranks 24th among all past years.

The 2011 antlerless season deer harvest increased by 16% from 2010 and was down 61% from the record harvest of 104,199 recorded in 2002. A total of 40,262 antlerless deer (Table 5) were taken in the antlerless season. The antlerless bag limit

was decreased in 22 counties and portions of two counties and the antlerless season was closed in an additional two counties and portions of two counties while hunter opportunity was increased in three counties from that of 2010. The antlerless season was open in 2011 for 22 days on private land in 39 counties and portions of three more counties. In 13 counties and portions of three more, the season was closed. Of the counties open for antlerless deer hunting to resident and nonresident hunters, eight counties and portions of one had a bag limit of four antlerless deer, 12 more counties and portions two counties had a bag limit of two antlerless deer and 18 counties and portions of two counties had a one deer antlerless bag limit. Portions of two counties in 2011 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/QQ 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 WMA's plus three state forests. The 2011 special split deer season for youth and Class Q/QQ hunters was the fifth year for the season to be open on private land in all 51 counties open to a deer firearms season. The 2011 antlerless season harvest was 20th highest on record and 12% less than the five-year average antlerless harvest of 45,656. As in 2010, the 2011 maximum season bag limit for antlerless deer season was four deer.

In the 2011 archery season, a harvest of 27,404 was recorded and includes 350 deer harvested during the early special antlerless archery season held September 12 through 17, 2011. This year's archery harvest was an increase of 25% from the 2010 archery season but was 15th highest on record and 2% above the five-year average of 26,919 (Table 3).

The 2011 muzzleloader season harvest was 7,873, an increase of 22% from 2010. This is 1% above the five-year average harvest of 7,773, and the 18th highest harvest recorded for this season (Table 7). This was the second year for a special antlerless muzzleloader deer season which was open September 19 through 24, 2011 in 21 counties and a portion of one county, reduced from 31 counties and portions of one county in 2010. In 2011, opportunity for muzzleloader hunters to take a deer of either sex was decreased in two counties and portions of two counties during December. The reported deer harvest during the early special antlerless muzzleloader season was 601 deer.

In 2011, hunting on Sunday was permissible in West Virginia for the eleventh 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 2011, there were 14 counties open to hunting on Sunday. These 14 counties had nine additional days available for deer hunting in 2011 deer seasons. All nine days were open for archery hunters who recorded taking 561 deer on Sundays, or 2% of the total 2011 archery harvest. One Sunday was open for firearms deer hunting (the Sunday after Thanksgiving November 27th), and 178 deer were recorded as harvested.

In the 2011 deer season, 51 counties were open to the two-week bucks-only season. The desired buck harvest per square mile was exceeded by more than one buck per square mile in three counties representing 4% of the deer habitat in the state. In 17 counties, the buck harvest was at least one buck per square mile lower than the

desired harvest. For the remaining 31 counties, the buck harvest was within one buck per square mile of the desired harvest for the county. In contrast to 2010, no counties exceeded the desired buck harvest per square mile by at least one buck per square mile but 37 counties were lower than the desired harvest and 14 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 contributed to the lower deer harvest in 2010. The percentage of female deer in the harvest in 2011 declined from that of 2010 and was below the 40% level. This should allow some deer herd growth in 2012 although button buck harvest did not increase possibly indicating less recruitment of 2010 fawns into the herd than expected.

Over the last 19 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 and conversely reduce antlerless deer harvest to stabilize or increase deer populations.

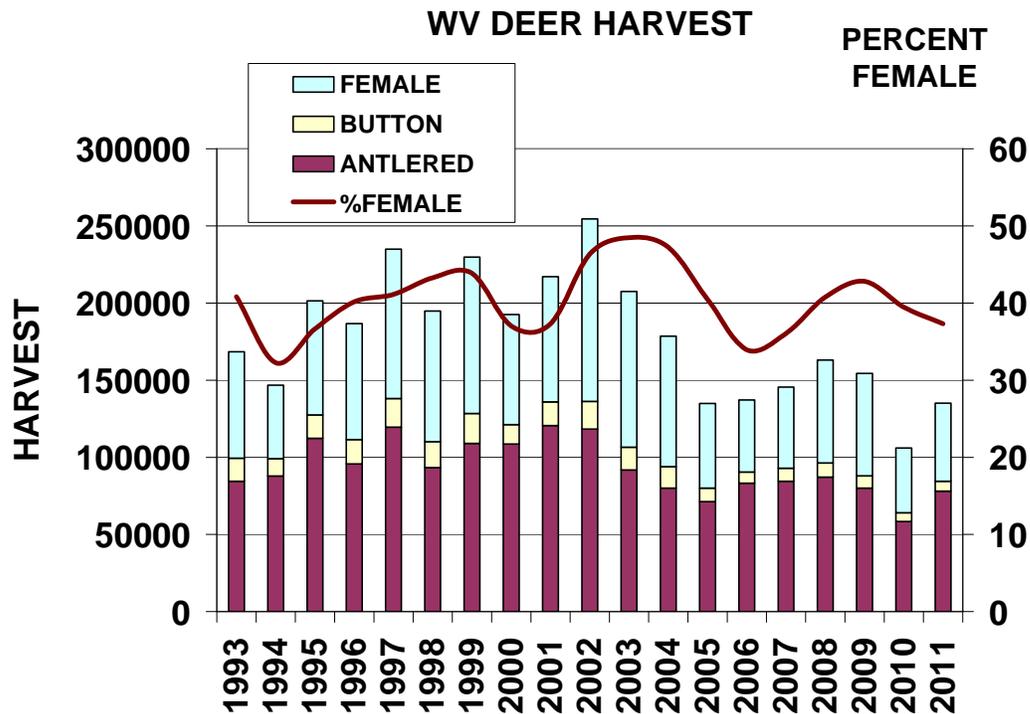


Figure 2. Deer harvested by sex in West Virginia from 1993-2011.

Special Deer Management Areas

Hunters took 443 deer in the special urban deer season in 2011. 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 2011, nine cities (Barboursville, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Charleston, Parkersburg, Morgantown, Ronceverte, Weirton and Wheeling) reported harvesting 337 deer, which are included in Tables 3, 4, 8 and 9. In addition, 106 deer were harvested during urban deer archery hunts conducted by seven homeowner associations. This is the eighth 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 seven 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/QQ deer season, a total of 3,859 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 WMA's, and three State Forests on October 29, 2011, and again December 26 and 27, 2011. This was the 14th year this special season was held. To participate, hunters had to hold a Class Q license or be a youth at least eight and less than 18 years of age on the day of the season. Youth hunters, age 8-14, must be accompanied by a

licensed adult at least 21 years of age and youths age 15-17 must comply with all regular season license requirements for junior sportsman hunting or hunt with resident landowner privileges. The 2011 season was the second year for participation by the 15-17 age youths. 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 2,761 deer on October 29th and an additional 752 and 346 deer on December 26th and 27th, respectively. The harvest for the 2011 special Youth and Class Q deer season increased 64% from 2010. This increase in total season harvest can probably be attributed to the weather during the December season segment. The harvest for the second and third days of the season was up 81% from the reported harvest in 2010.

Special controlled deer hunts were not held in 2011 at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) or at any West Virginia State Parks. It is anticipated that controlled deer hunts on these areas will be held in the future. 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 Natural Resource Police 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 Natural Resource Police 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 increased 2% from 19,850 in 2010 to 20,295 in 2011. Deer killed on crop damage permits decreased in three DNR Districts and increased in three DNR Districts. Overall, deer killed through the crop damage permit system was 3,599 in 2010 and 3,523 in 2011, a 2% decline. Reported vehicle kills increased statewide by 3% in 2011, from 16,251 in 2010 to 16,772 in 2011. Percent change by DNR Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were -9%, +6%, -1%, +20%, +6%, and +4%, 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).

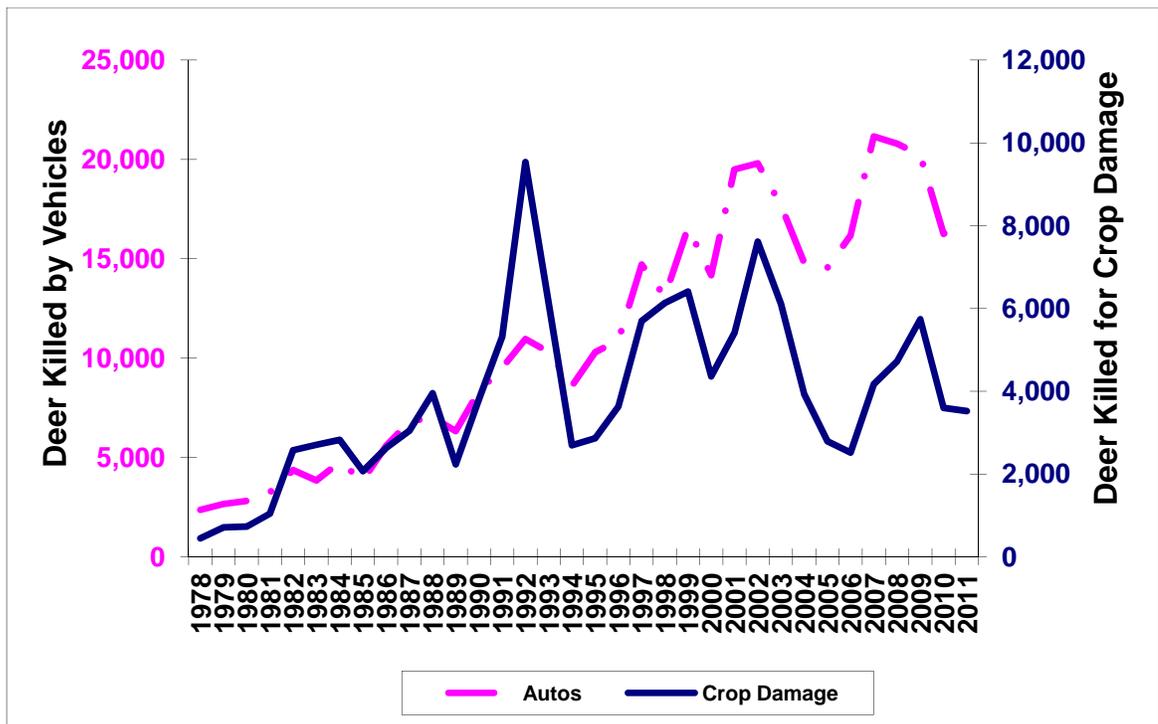


Figure 3. Vehicle and crop damage kills in West Virginia from 1978-2011.

Deer Hunting Outlook

For the 2012 deer seasons, the DNR proposes substantial changes to the deer season framework as recommended in the recently revised White-tailed Deer Operational Plan completed in late December 2011. In general these proposed changes should increase the diversity of deer hunting opportunities, simplify hunting regulations, better distribute antlerless deer harvest to meet deer population goals and limit conflict among wildlife resource user groups.

In 2011 the deer archery season opened two weeks earlier than in 2010 and is anticipated that the 2012 archery season will have a similar earlier opening. Uniform and more liberal deer bag limits and season lengths for the urban archery deer seasons available to incorporated cities and homeowner associations are proposed.

As in 2011, an early special antlerless deer muzzleloader deer season is proposed for 2012. The special, early antlerless deer muzzleloader season would allow for the taking of one additional deer that must be checked on a Class RM or Class RRM Stamp in select counties. During the 2012 traditional muzzleloader deer season the DNR proposes that, in counties with unlimited Class N antlerless deer permits and an antlerless Class N season bag limit of one 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 limited lottery Class N antlerless season and a one antlerless deer Class N season bag limit, hunters in the 2012 muzzleloader season can take one deer of either sex but the second muzzleloader season deer taken on the

RM or RMM additional muzzleloader deer stamp can 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 2011, a split three-day Special Youth and Class Q/QQ antlerless deer season is proposed to be held on October 20th and December 26th and 27th on private and public lands in the 51 counties open to firearms deer season. Like last year the proposed 2012 Special Youth and Class Q/QQ 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 and Wyoming counties. In addition, in 2012, senior lifetime license holders (Class XS) will be eligible to participate in this split special three-day Special Youth Class Q/QQ and Senior Lifetime License holder antlerless season.

Overall there should be increased deer hunting opportunities for hunters across the state in 2012. In select counties, which have a tradition of under harvesting antlerless deer the DNR proposes that deer hunters must have harvested an antlerless deer before taking a second antlered buck during archery and gun seasons, respectively. This regulation is proposed to encourage deer hunters to harvest antlerless deer but not penalize those that wish to only harvest one antlered buck. Please refer to the 2012-2013 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 2012 will be published and available to hunters in July of 2012. 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 visit the Wildlife Resources Section on the web at www.wvdnr.gov.

Table 1. West Virginia antlered buck harvest, 2007-2011.

| County | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 1,380 | 1,413 | 1,307 | 875 | 1,372 |
| Brooke | 386 | 427 | 377 | 337 | 413 |
| Hancock | 361 | 357 | 339 | 299 | 324 |
| Harrison | 1,508 | 1,680 | 1,730 | 1,053 | 1,494 |
| Marion | 1,114 | 1,489 | 1,183 | 764 | 1,249 |
| Marshall | 1,126 | 1,339 | 1,321 | 1,087 | 1,407 |
| Monongalia | 1,474 | 1,927 | 1,536 | 1,116 | 1,508 |
| Ohio | 438 | 485 | 412 | 412 | 467 |
| Preston | 2,309 | 2,618 | 2,122 | 2,034 | 2,224 |
| Taylor | 724 | 808 | 727 | 494 | 768 |
| Tucker | 974 | 951 | 874 | 743 | 738 |
| Wetzel | 1,767 | 2,210 | 1,474 | 958 | 1,615 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 13,561 | 15,704 | 13,402 | 10,172 | 13,579 |
| Berkeley | 973 | 855 | 651 | 661 | 835 |
| Grant | 1,733 | 1,531 | 1,228 | 959 | 1,266 |
| Hampshire | 2,223 | 2,153 | 1,634 | 1,271 | 1,676 |
| Hardy | 2,111 | 2,046 | 1,601 | 1,315 | 1,589 |
| Jefferson | 657 | 605 | 461 | 482 | 447 |
| Mineral | 1,420 | 1,383 | 1,158 | 947 | 1,286 |
| Morgan | 953 | 806 | 573 | 457 | 601 |
| Pendleton | 1,698 | 1,416 | 1,257 | 893 | 1,391 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 11,768 | 10,795 | 8,563 | 6,985 | 9,091 |
| Braxton | 2,005 | 1,731 | 1,891 | 986 | 1,468 |
| Clay | 551 | 540 | 552 | 353 | 519 |
| Lewis | 1,952 | 2,027 | 2,227 | 1,130 | 1,586 |
| Nicholas | 1,216 | 1,082 | 1,176 | 846 | 1,279 |
| Pocahontas | 1,277 | 1,223 | 1,346 | 1,100 | 1,106 |
| Randolph | 1,968 | 2,126 | 1,930 | 1,858 | 2,032 |
| Upshur | 1,517 | 1,536 | 1,383 | 1,088 | 1,612 |
| Webster | 929 | 887 | 901 | 807 | 1,063 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 11,415 | 11,152 | 11,406 | 8,168 | 10,665 |
| Fayette | 1,101 | 905 | 896 | 742 | 1,005 |
| Greenbrier | 2,204 | 1,925 | 1,976 | 1,367 | 1,783 |
| Mercer | 820 | 537 | 604 | 362 | 647 |
| Monroe | 2,150 | 1,431 | 1,569 | 1,002 | 1,364 |
| Raleigh | 842 | 577 | 706 | 446 | 739 |
| Summers | 1,282 | 932 | 931 | 536 | 865 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 8,399 | 6,307 | 6,682 | 4,455 | 6,403 |
| Boone | 676 | 577 | 628 | 471 | 653 |
| Cabell | 947 | 787 | 695 | 464 | 705 |
| Kanawha | 1,395 | 1,259 | 1,257 | 896 | 1,275 |
| Lincoln | 1,126 | 983 | 860 | 747 | 1,146 |
| Mason | 2,154 | 1,892 | 2,099 | 1,298 | 1,944 |
| Putnam | 1,401 | 1,311 | 1,065 | 794 | 1,170 |
| Wayne | 898 | 768 | 880 | 570 | 894 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 8,597 | 7,577 | 7,484 | 5,240 | 7,787 |
| Calhoun | 1,163 | 1,252 | 1,124 | 570 | 962 |
| Doddridge | 1,227 | 1,605 | 1,416 | 767 | 1,000 |
| Gilmer | 1,401 | 1,585 | 1,398 | 701 | 1,029 |
| Jackson | 2,081 | 1,948 | 2,504 | 1,225 | 1,962 |
| Pleasants | 398 | 630 | 531 | 332 | 512 |
| Ritchie | 1,564 | 2,369 | 2,010 | 1,195 | 1,701 |
| Roane | 1,873 | 2,010 | 2,112 | 1,049 | 1,694 |
| Tyler | 1,125 | 1,590 | 1,210 | 833 | 1,189 |
| Wirt | 1,006 | 1,186 | 1,265 | 659 | 944 |
| Wood | 1,635 | 1,655 | 1,879 | 1,110 | 1,639 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 13,473 | 15,830 | 15,449 | 8,441 | 12,632 |
| State Total | 67,213 | 67,365 | 62,986 | 43,461 | 60,157 |

Table 2. Antlered buck gun harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| Area | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 64 | 79 | 84 | 74 | 53 |
| | Blackwater | 164 | 179 | 168 | 164 | 119 |
| | Cheat | 111 | 93 | 111 | 109 | 100 |
| | Cranberry | 185 | 135 | 209 | 184 | 119 |
| | Little River | 274 | 237 | 273 | 252 | 181 |
| | Neola | 127 | 146 | 125 | 110 | 110 |
| | Otter Creek | 127 | 116 | 144 | 112 | 95 |
| | Potomac | 432 | 327 | 305 | 244 | 256 |
| | Rimel | 92 | 134 | 115 | 120 | 84 |
| | Tea Creek | 96 | 70 | 74 | 70 | 47 |
| | | 1,67 | | | | |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 2 | 1,516 | 1,608 | 1,439 | 1,164 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 60 | 56 | 38 | 47 | 68 |
| | Wardensville | 278 | 226 | 151 | 150 | 139 |
| | Wilson Cove | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 338 | 283 | 189 | 199 | 207 |
| Jefferson NF | | 68 | 51 | 39 | 50 | 22 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 68 | 51 | 39 | 50 | 22 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 17 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 29 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 31 |
| | Bear Rocks | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| | Becky Creek | 2 | 11 | 2 | 16 | 4 |
| | Beech Fork | 20 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 10 |
| | Beury Mtn | 14 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 7 |
| | Big Ditch | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Big Ugly | 17 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 21 |
| | Blennerhassett | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Bluestone | 22 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 23 |
| | Briery Mnt | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| | Burches Run | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Burnsville | 25 | 22 | 21 | 7 | 16 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 8 | 14 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 4 | 15 | 17 | 5 | 7 |
| | Castleman Run | 10 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 5 |
| | Center Branch | 4 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| | Conaway Run | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 31 | 28 | 16 | 19 | 14 |
| | Cornstalk | 112 | 73 | 72 | 61 | 68 |
| | Cotton Hill | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Cross Creek | 27 | 20 | 23 | 20 | 21 |
| | Dents Run | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Dunkards Fork | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | East Lynn | 27 | 29 | 8 | 14 | 12 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| | Elk Fork | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 106 | 63 | 55 | 42 | 67 |
| | Fork Creek | 24 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fort Mill Ridge | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |

Table 2. Continued.

| Area | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| State Land | Fox Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Frozen Camp | 21 | 10 | 25 | 12 | 9 |
| | Green Bottom | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 7 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 14 |
| | Handley | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| | Hilbert | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Hillcrest | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Hughes River | 13 | 50 | 54 | 31 | 43 |
| | Huttonsville | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| | Kanawha Sf | 14 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 20 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 9 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 13 |
| | Lantz Farm | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Lewis Wetzel | 108 | 117 | 70 | 46 | 63 |
| | Little Indian Cr | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| | McClintic | 16 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| | Meadow River | 2 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| | Mill Creek | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Moncove | 12 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| | Morris Creek | 17 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 52 | 54 | 47 | 30 | 31 |
| | New River Gorge | 56 | 20 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pedlar | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 5 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| | Plum Orchard | 5 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| | Pruntytown | 7 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 7 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 9 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| | Seneca Sf | 22 | 39 | 32 | 25 | 23 |
| | Shannondale | 31 | 27 | 12 | 16 | 15 |
| | Short Mnt | 61 | 52 | 43 | 49 | 39 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 202 | 190 | 69 | 77 | 126 |
| | Smoke Camp | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Snake Hill | 13 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| | South Branch | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| | Stonecoal | 19 | 18 | 24 | 11 | 8 |
| | Stonewall Jck | 174 | 157 | 170 | 95 | 88 |
| | Stumptown | 8 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| | Summersville | 23 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 5 |
| | Sutton Res | 4 | 8 | 14 | 1 | 5 |
| | Tate Lohr | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Teter Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | The Jug | 25 | 31 | 16 | 12 | 7 |
| | Thorn Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Underwood | 11 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 18 |
| Upper Mud River | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| Wallback | 5 | 9 | 27 | 6 | 13 | |
| Widmyer | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Woodrum | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| State Land Total | | 1,501 | 1,333 | 1,138 | 845 | 964 |
| Private Land | | 63,585 | 64,182 | 60,002 | 40,926 | 57,800 |
| Unknown | | 49 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| State Total | | 67,213 | 67,365 | 62,986 | 43,461 | 60,157 |

Table 3. West Virginia white-tailed deer bow harvest, 2007-2011.

| County | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 556 | 678 | 522 | 429 | 509 |
| Brooke | 257 | 299 | 297 | 215 | 259 |
| Hancock | 284 | 402 | 419 | 343 | 377 |
| Harrison | 475 | 563 | 572 | 466 | 544 |
| Marion | 396 | 670 | 494 | 366 | 516 |
| Marshall | 303 | 449 | 409 | 392 | 393 |
| Monongalia | 625 | 870 | 685 | 691 | 776 |
| Ohio | 203 | 222 | 227 | 213 | 255 |
| Preston | 1,171 | 1,473 | 1,213 | 1,140 | 1,322 |
| Taylor | 257 | 375 | 286 | 273 | 287 |
| Tucker | 482 | 597 | 431 | 407 | 405 |
| Wetzel | 317 | 525 | 353 | 222 | 326 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 5,326 | 7,123 | 5,908 | 5,157 | 5,969 |
| Berkeley | 375 | 465 | 457 | 374 | 436 |
| Grant | 461 | 535 | 453 | 301 | 404 |
| Hampshire | 278 | 400 | 317 | 179 | 245 |
| Hardy | 465 | 479 | 441 | 269 | 358 |
| Jefferson | 344 | 385 | 361 | 354 | 382 |
| Mineral | 342 | 378 | 323 | 238 | 351 |
| Morgan | 255 | 264 | 225 | 164 | 159 |
| Pendleton | 482 | 413 | 372 | 233 | 367 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 3,002 | 3,319 | 2,949 | 2,112 | 2,702 |
| Braxton | 595 | 736 | 661 | 400 | 520 |
| Clay | 262 | 329 | 309 | 209 | 240 |
| Lewis | 488 | 588 | 610 | 352 | 433 |
| Nicholas | 862 | 864 | 842 | 652 | 883 |
| Pocahontas | 455 | 396 | 408 | 348 | 402 |
| Randolph | 998 | 1,286 | 1,048 | 1,011 | 1,163 |
| Upshur | 604 | 710 | 603 | 472 | 748 |
| Webster | 548 | 650 | 628 | 528 | 728 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 4,812 | 5,559 | 5,109 | 3,972 | 5,117 |
| Fayette | 830 | 723 | 752 | 516 | 791 |
| Greenbrier | 929 | 777 | 832 | 556 | 738 |
| McDowell | 944 | 739 | 609 | 412 | 464 |
| Mercer | 646 | 575 | 547 | 331 | 589 |
| Monroe | 702 | 641 | 645 | 370 | 551 |
| Raleigh | 786 | 664 | 718 | 595 | 812 |
| Summers | 636 | 620 | 526 | 335 | 484 |
| Wyoming | 884 | 747 | 681 | 560 | 772 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 6,357 | 5,486 | 5,310 | 3,675 | 5,201 |
| Boone | 288 | 381 | 380 | 349 | 317 |
| Cabell | 364 | 444 | 387 | 303 | 357 |
| Kanawha | 750 | 919 | 939 | 723 | 884 |
| Lincoln | 304 | 428 | 428 | 418 | 467 |
| Logan | 668 | 714 | 729 | 469 | 591 |
| Mason | 818 | 861 | 778 | 691 | 788 |
| Mingo | 286 | 343 | 329 | 259 | 284 |
| Putnam | 560 | 611 | 542 | 446 | 561 |
| Wayne | 296 | 366 | 326 | 311 | 307 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 4,334 | 5,067 | 4,838 | 3,969 | 4,556 |
| Calhoun | 273 | 384 | 299 | 202 | 241 |
| Doddridge | 239 | 278 | 279 | 167 | 217 |
| Gilmer | 251 | 420 | 348 | 200 | 280 |
| Jackson | 651 | 751 | 795 | 505 | 669 |
| Pleasants | 88 | 139 | 108 | 84 | 116 |
| Ritchie | 385 | 601 | 486 | 390 | 473 |
| Roane | 476 | 661 | 632 | 400 | 484 |
| Tyler | 264 | 421 | 272 | 258 | 298 |
| Wirt | 343 | 433 | 391 | 274 | 332 |
| Wood | 639 | 766 | 758 | 597 | 749 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 3,609 | 4,854 | 4,368 | 3,077 | 3,859 |
| State Total | 27,440 | 31,408 | 28,482 | 21,962 | 27,404 |

Table 4. Deer bow harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| Area | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 37 | 38 | 42 | 24 | 34 |
| | Blackwater | 89 | 99 | 96 | 80 | 45 |
| | Cheat | 36 | 55 | 39 | 40 | 34 |
| | Cranberry | 96 | 90 | 84 | 72 | 93 |
| | Little River | 91 | 106 | 99 | 89 | 71 |
| | Neola | 45 | 27 | 24 | 13 | 9 |
| | Otter Creek | 27 | 63 | 30 | 45 | 43 |
| | Potomac | 170 | 148 | 134 | 82 | 85 |
| | Rimel | 26 | 17 | 12 | 22 | 10 |
| | Tea Creek | 11 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 628 | 656 | 573 | 480 | 437 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 26 | 20 | 11 | 10 | 14 |
| | Wardensville | 42 | 49 | 31 | 24 | 23 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 68 | 69 | 42 | 34 | 37 |
| Jefferson NF | | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 11 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| | Anawalt | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | Bear Rocks | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | Becky Creek | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| | Beech Fork | 3 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| | Berwind | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| | Beury Mtn | 20 | 13 | 16 | 6 | 14 |
| | Big Ditch | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | Big Ugly | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| | Bluestone | 67 | 60 | 27 | 20 | 39 |
| | Briery Mnt | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Burches Run | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Burnsville | 43 | 49 | 31 | 19 | 24 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| | Castleman Run | 3 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| | Center Branch | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | Chief Logan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Conaway Run | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 18 | 19 | 7 | 13 | 10 |
| | Cornstalk | 59 | 48 | 31 | 39 | 30 |
| | Cotton Hill | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Cross Creek | 13 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| | Dents Run | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | East Lynn | 11 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| | Edwards Run | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Elk Creek | 0 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 2 |
| | Elk Fork | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 31 | 32 | 37 | 35 | 24 |
| | Fork Creek | 15 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Frozen Camp | 10 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | |
| Graystone | 0 | 69 | 60 | 0 | 0 | |
| Green Bottom | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | |
| Greenbrier Sf | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | |
| Greystone | 0 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 0 | |
| Handley | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Hilbert | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Hillcrest | 9 | 15 | 7 | 17 | 15 | |

Table 4. Continued.

| Area | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Horse Crk | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Hughes River | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 12 |
| | Huttonsville | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| | Kanawha Sf | 8 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 7 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 7 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| | Laurel Lake | 5 | 13 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| | Lewis Wetzel | 7 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| | Little Indian Cr | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | Mcclintic | 24 | 8 | 7 | 19 | 3 |
| | Meadow River | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| | Mill Creek | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Moncove | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Morris Creek | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Mount Wood Park | 0 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| | New River Gorge | 26 | 15 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| | Panther Sf | 23 | 25 | 21 | 6 | 10 |
| | Pedlar | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 13 | 16 | 1 | 10 | 9 |
| | Plum Orchard | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| | Pruntytown | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| | R D Bailey | 133 | 117 | 87 | 18 | 20 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Ronceverte | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Seneca Sf | 4 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| | Shannondale | 24 | 23 | 18 | 22 | 14 |
| | Short Mnt | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 35 | 25 | 26 | 13 | 19 |
| | Smoke Camp | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Snake Hill | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| | South Branch | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Stonecoal | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| | Stonewall Jck | 40 | 60 | 53 | 28 | 33 |
| | Stonewall Resort | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Stumptown | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Summersville | 20 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| | Sutton Res | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Teter Creek | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | The Crossings | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| | The Jug | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| | Tug Fork | 11 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Underwood | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Upper Mud River | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| | Wallback | 10 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| | Whitings Neck | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| | Widmyer | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| State Land Total | | 826 | 845 | 664 | 436 | 425 |
| Private Land | | 25,898 | 29,832 | 27,171 | 20,997 | 26,444 |
| Unknown | | 13 | 0 | 23 | 6 | 53 |
| State Total | | 27,440 | 31,408 | 28,482 | 21,962 | 27,404 |

Table 5. West Virginia antlerless gun harvest, 2007-2011. Includes Youth and Class Q/QQ seasons.

| County | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 1,361 | 1,733 | 1,580 | 1,184 | 1,025 |
| Brooke | 609 | 560 | 590 | 501 | 385 |
| Hancock | 477 | 444 | 545 | 373 | 389 |
| Harrison | 1,632 | 1,919 | 1,939 | 1,208 | 1,323 |
| Marion | 863 | 1,538 | 1,488 | 895 | 965 |
| Marshall | 1,069 | 1,208 | 1,257 | 926 | 1,075 |
| Monongalia | 1,243 | 1,712 | 1,589 | 1,235 | 1,273 |
| Ohio | 471 | 443 | 477 | 348 | 351 |
| Preston | 2,178 | 2,832 | 2,421 | 1,920 | 1,974 |
| Taylor | 735 | 889 | 875 | 662 | 709 |
| Tucker | 257 | 702 | 582 | 266 | 440 |
| Wetzel | 1,336 | 1,872 | 1,417 | 942 | 974 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 12,231 | 15,852 | 14,760 | 10,460 | 10,883 |
| Berkeley | 659 | 775 | 728 | 557 | 674 |
| Grant | 739 | 1,116 | 954 | 559 | 622 |
| Hampshire | 1,503 | 1,850 | 1,575 | 905 | 1,089 |
| Hardy | 1,395 | 1,694 | 1,610 | 800 | 874 |
| Jefferson | 469 | 565 | 529 | 410 | 461 |
| Mineral | 1,128 | 1,171 | 1,160 | 861 | 861 |
| Morgan | 612 | 793 | 723 | 477 | 380 |
| Pendleton | 789 | 979 | 1,046 | 358 | 576 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 7,294 | 8,943 | 8,325 | 4,927 | 5,537 |
| Braxton | 478 | 1,556 | 1,656 | 1,032 | 1,368 |
| Clay | 25 | 44 | 172 | 114 | 38 |
| Lewis | 1,470 | 2,132 | 2,583 | 1,350 | 1,511 |
| Nicholas | 131 | 179 | 267 | 197 | 348 |
| Pocahontas | 59 | 81 | 93 | 267 | 556 |
| Randolph | 171 | 292 | 724 | 539 | 1,434 |
| Upshur | 1,397 | 1,485 | 1,307 | 1,021 | 1,361 |
| Webster | 86 | 134 | 164 | 131 | 246 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 3,817 | 5,903 | 6,966 | 4,651 | 6,862 |
| Fayette | 340 | 856 | 357 | 73 | 186 |
| Greenbrier | 1,337 | 1,273 | 1,145 | 574 | 777 |
| Mercer | 661 | 441 | 414 | 110 | 54 |
| Monroe | 1,865 | 1,487 | 1,745 | 952 | 823 |
| Raleigh | 49 | 296 | 75 | 57 | 193 |
| Summers | 275 | 1,039 | 1,041 | 329 | 128 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 4,527 | 5,392 | 4,777 | 2,095 | 2,161 |
| Boone | 22 | 25 | 34 | 51 | 61 |
| Cabell | 417 | 627 | 560 | 452 | 377 |
| Kanawha | 510 | 718 | 649 | 547 | 674 |
| Lincoln | 25 | 60 | 54 | 225 | 120 |
| Mason | 2,191 | 2,390 | 2,204 | 1,617 | 2,142 |
| Putnam | 802 | 1,382 | 1,020 | 840 | 838 |
| Wayne | 289 | 313 | 324 | 242 | 290 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 4,256 | 5,515 | 4,845 | 3,974 | 4,502 |
| Calhoun | 683 | 918 | 1,004 | 527 | 644 |
| Doddridge | 729 | 1,113 | 1,233 | 550 | 741 |
| Gilmer | 741 | 1,447 | 1,165 | 664 | 708 |
| Jackson | 2,053 | 2,104 | 2,508 | 1,270 | 1,800 |
| Pleasants | 332 | 461 | 509 | 347 | 329 |
| Ritchie | 1,505 | 2,087 | 2,069 | 1,188 | 1,184 |
| Roane | 1,337 | 1,587 | 1,603 | 1,050 | 1,204 |
| Tyler | 1,119 | 1,566 | 1,440 | 899 | 1,023 |
| Wirt | 1,113 | 1,225 | 1,240 | 753 | 986 |
| Wood | 1,889 | 2,108 | 2,070 | 1,245 | 1,698 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 11,501 | 14,616 | 14,841 | 8,493 | 10,317 |
| State Total | 43,626 | 56,221 | 54,514 | 34,600 | 40,262 |

Table 6. Antlerless deer harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2007-2011. Includes Youth and Class Q/QQ seasons.

| Area | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Blackwater | 18 | 114 | 85 | 44 | 35 |
| | Cheat | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Cranberry | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Little River | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Neola | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Otter Creek | 1 | 33 | 24 | 7 | 10 |
| | Potomac | 46 | 160 | 153 | 17 | 18 |
| | Rimel | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 71 | 314 | 264 | 71 | 65 |
| | Shenandoah | 10 | 41 | 25 | 2 | 0 |
| | Wardensville | 36 | 83 | 51 | 39 | 24 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 46 | 124 | 76 | 41 | 24 |
| Jefferson NF | Potts Creek | 3 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 1 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 3 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 1 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 8 | 13 | 7 | 13 | 16 |
| | Bear Rocks | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| | Becky Creek | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| | Beech Fork | 15 | 21 | 21 | 13 | 10 |
| | Beury Mtn | 3 | 37 | 0 | 12 | 26 |
| | Big Ditch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Big Ugly | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Blennerhassett | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Bluestone | 188 | 145 | 169 | 83 | 41 |
| | Briery Mnt | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | Burches Run | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Burnsville | 20 | 28 | 47 | 51 | 64 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| | Castleman Run | 17 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| | Center Branch | 4 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 3 |
| | Conaway Run | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 21 | 55 | 42 | 65 | 42 |
| | Cornstalk | 33 | 127 | 76 | 79 | 102 |
| | Cross Creek | 10 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 7 |
| | Dents Run | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Dunkards Fork | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | East Lynn | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| | Edwards Run | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| | Elk River | 0 | 1 | 36 | 27 | 15 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Frozen Camp | 24 | 43 | 40 | 23 | 17 |
| | Green Bottom | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | Hillcrest | 9 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 13 |
| | Hughes River | 20 | 61 | 45 | 30 | 27 |
| Huttonsville | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | |
| Kanawha Sf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Kumbrabow Sf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |

Table 6. Continued.

| Area | Locality | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| State Land | Lewis Wetzel | 14 | 50 | 27 | 19 | 32 |
| | Little Indian Cr | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 13 |
| | McClintic | 30 | 49 | 31 | 26 | 56 |
| | Meadow River | 10 | 15 | 9 | 0 | 5 |
| | Mill Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Moncove | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| | Morris Creek | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Mount Wood Park | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 8 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 7 |
| | New River Gorge | 0 | 24 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| | Ohio River Islan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pedlar | 4 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 8 | 8 | 12 | 13 | 5 |
| | Plum Orchard | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | Pruntytown | 4 | 7 | 20 | 2 | 7 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| | Shannondale | 18 | 27 | 19 | 18 | 22 |
| | Short Mnt | 29 | 42 | 22 | 21 | 16 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 32 | 108 | 70 | 42 | 57 |
| | Snake Hill | 0 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| | South Branch | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | Stonecoal | 15 | 16 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| | Stonewall Jck | 127 | 84 | 196 | 90 | 115 |
| | Stonewall Resort | 0 | 67 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| | Stumptown | 0 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| | Sutton Res | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Tate Lohr | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Teter Creek | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | The Jug | 5 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 11 |
| | Underwood | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 3 |
| | Upper Mud River | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | Wallback | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Widmyer | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Woodrum | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| State Land Total | | 766 | 1,154 | 1,131 | 755 | 800 |
| Private Land | | 42,724 | 54,621 | 53,020 | 33,724 | 39,372 |
| Unknown | | 16 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| State Total | | 43,626 | 56,221 | 54,514 | 34,600 | 40,262 |

Table 7. Muzzleloader deer seasons in West Virginia, 2007-2011.

| County | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Barbour | 220 | 256 | 247 | 226 | 186 |
| Brooke | 53 | 63 | 96 | 88 | 72 |
| Hancock | 69 | 100 | 121 | 103 | 97 |
| Harrison | 210 | 241 | 268 | 197 | 240 |
| Marion | 79 | 179 | 177 | 128 | 152 |
| Marshall | 161 | 208 | 227 | 177 | 201 |
| Monongalia | 173 | 195 | 189 | 185 | 230 |
| Ohio | 71 | 66 | 62 | 65 | 63 |
| Preston | 321 | 323 | 450 | 314 | 294 |
| Taylor | 90 | 105 | 102 | 130 | 119 |
| Tucker | 208 | 159 | 105 | 140 | 163 |
| Wetzel | 191 | 246 | 247 | 118 | 185 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 1,846 | 2,141 | 2,291 | 1,871 | 2,002 |
| Berkeley | 102 | 91 | 118 | 109 | 142 |
| Grant | 240 | 231 | 278 | 124 | 139 |
| Hampshire | 185 | 216 | 224 | 119 | 180 |
| Hardy | 213 | 196 | 213 | 128 | 172 |
| Jefferson | 93 | 78 | 82 | 55 | 73 |
| Mineral | 137 | 149 | 162 | 137 | 168 |
| Morgan | 87 | 111 | 108 | 81 | 74 |
| Pendleton | 205 | 164 | 209 | 50 | 139 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 1,262 | 1,236 | 1,394 | 803 | 1,087 |
| Braxton | 403 | 541 | 333 | 271 | 362 |
| Clay | 20 | 7 | 39 | 28 | 17 |
| Lewis | 356 | 399 | 455 | 225 | 301 |
| Nicholas | 39 | 33 | 33 | 36 | 46 |
| Pocahontas | 32 | 19 | 18 | 106 | 120 |
| Randolph | 46 | 36 | 310 | 398 | 450 |
| Upshur | 274 | 233 | 195 | 176 | 234 |
| Webster | 22 | 9 | 20 | 24 | 26 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 1,192 | 1,277 | 1,403 | 1,264 | 1,556 |
| Fayette | 275 | 181 | 175 | 18 | 38 |
| Greenbrier | 293 | 216 | 240 | 115 | 175 |
| Mercer | 114 | 78 | 120 | 28 | 34 |
| Monroe | 320 | 189 | 275 | 146 | 150 |
| Raleigh | 32 | 91 | 36 | 22 | 19 |
| Summers | 52 | 167 | 134 | 82 | 42 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 1,086 | 922 | 980 | 411 | 458 |
| Boone | 20 | 21 | 25 | 15 | 23 |
| Cabell | 102 | 93 | 126 | 86 | 80 |
| Kanawha | 137 | 119 | 154 | 123 | 173 |
| Lincoln | 18 | 38 | 44 | 167 | 57 |
| Mason | 258 | 321 | 308 | 245 | 311 |
| Putnam | 146 | 160 | 147 | 131 | 152 |
| Wayne | 67 | 73 | 84 | 45 | 60 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 748 | 825 | 888 | 812 | 856 |
| Calhoun | 117 | 165 | 194 | 102 | 120 |
| Doddridge | 96 | 180 | 197 | 78 | 136 |
| Gilmer | 124 | 271 | 240 | 101 | 189 |
| Jackson | 252 | 285 | 380 | 200 | 358 |
| Pleasants | 46 | 54 | 57 | 53 | 64 |
| Ritchie | 195 | 301 | 288 | 181 | 192 |
| Roane | 233 | 277 | 212 | 141 | 223 |
| Tyler | 124 | 202 | 192 | 124 | 166 |
| Wirt | 135 | 210 | 224 | 154 | 216 |
| Wood | 202 | 263 | 292 | 181 | 250 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 1,524 | 2,208 | 2,276 | 1,315 | 1,914 |
| State Total | 7,658 | 8,609 | 9,232 | 6,476 | 7,873 |

Table 8. Deer mortality by type of season, 2011. Includes Youth and Class Q/QQ seasons.

| County | Buck Gun | Antlerless | Bow | Muzzleloader | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Barbour | 1,372 | 1,025 | 509 | 186 | 3,092 |
| Brooke | 413 | 385 | 259 | 72 | 1,129 |
| Hancock | 324 | 389 | 377 | 97 | 1,187 |
| Harrison | 1,494 | 1,323 | 544 | 240 | 3,601 |
| Marion | 1,249 | 965 | 516 | 152 | 2,882 |
| Marshall | 1,407 | 1,075 | 393 | 201 | 3,076 |
| Monongalia | 1,508 | 1,273 | 776 | 230 | 3,787 |
| Ohio | 467 | 351 | 255 | 63 | 1,136 |
| Preston | 2,224 | 1,974 | 1,322 | 294 | 5,814 |
| Taylor | 768 | 709 | 287 | 119 | 1,883 |
| Tucker | 738 | 440 | 405 | 163 | 1,746 |
| Wetzel | 1,615 | 974 | 326 | 185 | 3,100 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 13,579 | 10,883 | 5,969 | 2,002 | 32,433 |
| Berkeley | 835 | 674 | 436 | 142 | 2,087 |
| Grant | 1,266 | 622 | 404 | 139 | 2,431 |
| Hampshire | 1,676 | 1,089 | 245 | 180 | 3,190 |
| Hardy | 1,589 | 874 | 358 | 172 | 2,993 |
| Jefferson | 447 | 461 | 382 | 73 | 1,363 |
| Mineral | 1,286 | 861 | 351 | 168 | 2,666 |
| Morgan | 601 | 380 | 159 | 74 | 1,214 |
| Pendleton | 1,391 | 576 | 367 | 139 | 2,473 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 9,091 | 5,537 | 2,702 | 1,087 | 18,417 |
| Braxton | 1,468 | 1,368 | 520 | 362 | 3,718 |
| Clay | 519 | 38 | 240 | 17 | 814 |
| Lewis | 1,586 | 1,511 | 433 | 301 | 3,831 |
| Nicholas | 1,279 | 348 | 883 | 46 | 2,556 |
| Pocahontas | 1,106 | 556 | 402 | 120 | 2,184 |
| Randolph | 2,032 | 1,434 | 1,163 | 450 | 5,079 |
| Upshur | 1,612 | 1,361 | 748 | 234 | 3,955 |
| Webster | 1,063 | 246 | 728 | 26 | 2,063 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 10,665 | 6,862 | 5,117 | 1,556 | 24,200 |
| Fayette | 1,005 | 186 | 791 | 38 | 2,020 |
| Greenbrier | 1,783 | 777 | 738 | 175 | 3,473 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 464 | 0 | 464 |
| Mercer | 647 | 54 | 589 | 34 | 1,324 |
| Monroe | 1,364 | 823 | 551 | 150 | 2,888 |
| Raleigh | 739 | 193 | 812 | 19 | 1,763 |
| Summers | 865 | 128 | 484 | 42 | 1,519 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 772 | 0 | 772 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 6,403 | 2,161 | 5,201 | 458 | 14,223 |
| Boone | 653 | 61 | 317 | 23 | 1,054 |
| Cabell | 705 | 377 | 357 | 80 | 1,519 |
| Kanawha | 1,275 | 674 | 884 | 173 | 3,006 |
| Lincoln | 1,146 | 120 | 467 | 57 | 1,790 |
| Logan | 0 | 0 | 591 | 0 | 591 |
| Mason | 1,944 | 2,142 | 788 | 311 | 5,185 |
| Mingo | 0 | 0 | 284 | 0 | 284 |
| Putnam | 1,170 | 838 | 561 | 152 | 2,721 |
| Wayne | 894 | 290 | 307 | 60 | 1,551 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 7,787 | 4,502 | 4,556 | 856 | 17,701 |
| Calhoun | 962 | 644 | 241 | 120 | 1,967 |
| Doddridge | 1,000 | 741 | 217 | 136 | 2,094 |
| Gilmer | 1,029 | 708 | 280 | 189 | 2,206 |
| Jackson | 1,962 | 1,800 | 669 | 358 | 4,789 |
| Pleasants | 512 | 329 | 116 | 64 | 1,021 |
| Ritchie | 1,701 | 1,184 | 473 | 192 | 3,550 |
| Roane | 1,694 | 1,204 | 484 | 223 | 3,605 |
| Tyler | 1,189 | 1,023 | 298 | 166 | 2,676 |
| Wirt | 944 | 986 | 332 | 216 | 2,478 |
| Wood | 1,639 | 1,698 | 749 | 250 | 4,336 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 12,632 | 10,317 | 3,859 | 1,914 | 28,722 |
| State Total | 60,157 | 40,262 | 27,404 | 7,873 | 135,696 |

Table 9. West Virginia 2011 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 | 4.23 | 3.16 | 0.57 | 1.57 | 9.54 |
| Brooke | 76 | 5.43 | 5.07 | 0.95 | 3.41 | 14.86 |
| Hancock | 61 | 5.31 | 6.38 | 1.59 | 6.18 | 19.46 |
| Harrison | 390 | 3.83 | 3.39 | 0.62 | 1.39 | 9.23 |
| Marion | 273 | 4.58 | 3.53 | 0.56 | 1.89 | 10.56 |
| Marshall | 270 | 5.21 | 3.98 | 0.74 | 1.46 | 11.39 |
| Monongalia | 312 | 4.83 | 4.08 | 0.74 | 2.49 | 12.14 |
| Ohio | 83 | 5.63 | 4.23 | 0.76 | 3.07 | 13.69 |
| Preston | 612 | 3.63 | 3.23 | 0.48 | 2.16 | 9.50 |
| Taylor | 157 | 4.89 | 4.52 | 0.76 | 1.83 | 11.99 |
| Tucker | 412 | 1.79 | 1.07 | 0.40 | 0.98 | 4.24 |
| Wetzel | 353 | 4.58 | 2.76 | 0.52 | 0.92 | 8.78 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 3323 | 4.09 | 3.28 | 0.60 | 1.80 | 9.76 |
| Berkeley | 294 | 2.84 | 2.29 | 0.48 | 1.48 | 7.10 |
| Grant | 474 | 2.67 | 1.31 | 0.29 | 0.85 | 5.13 |
| Hampshire | 621 | 2.70 | 1.75 | 0.29 | 0.39 | 5.14 |
| Hardy | 567 | 2.80 | 1.54 | 0.30 | 0.63 | 5.28 |
| Jefferson | 192 | 2.33 | 2.40 | 0.38 | 1.99 | 7.10 |
| Mineral | 318 | 4.04 | 2.71 | 0.53 | 1.10 | 8.38 |
| Morgan | 222 | 2.71 | 1.71 | 0.33 | 0.72 | 5.47 |
| Pendleton | 689 | 2.02 | 1.19 | 0.20 | 0.53 | 3.59 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 3377 | 2.69 | 1.75 | 0.32 | 0.80 | 5.45 |
| Braxton | 499 | 2.94 | 2.74 | 0.73 | 1.04 | 7.45 |
| Clay | 336 | 1.54 | 0.11 | 0.05 | 0.71 | 2.42 |
| Lewis | 381 | 4.16 | 3.97 | 0.79 | 1.14 | 10.06 |
| Nicholas | 616 | 2.08 | 0.56 | 0.07 | 1.43 | 4.15 |
| Pocahontas | 930 | 1.19 | 1.31 | 0.13 | 0.43 | 2.35 |
| Randolph | 1015 | 2.00 | 2.12 | 0.44 | 1.15 | 5.00 |
| Upshur | 340 | 4.74 | 4.00 | 0.69 | 2.20 | 11.63 |
| Webster | 544 | 1.95 | 0.45 | 0.05 | 1.34 | 3.79 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 4661 | 2.29 | 2.83 | 0.33 | 1.10 | 5.19 |
| Fayette | 594 | 1.69 | 0.31 | 0.06 | 1.33 | 3.40 |
| Greenbrier | 986 | 1.81 | 2.19 | 0.18 | 0.75 | 3.52 |
| McDowell | 486 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.95 | 0.95 |
| Mercer | 367 | 1.76 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 1.60 | 3.61 |
| Monroe | 466 | 2.93 | 1.90 | 0.32 | 1.18 | 6.20 |
| Raleigh | 548 | 1.35 | 0.35 | 0.03 | 1.48 | 3.22 |
| Summers | 344 | 2.51 | 0.37 | 0.12 | 1.41 | 4.42 |
| Wyoming | 495 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.56 | 1.56 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 4286 | 1.94 | 1.22 | 0.14 | 1.21 | 3.32 |
| Boone | 490 | 1.33 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 0.65 | 2.15 |
| Cabell | 247 | 2.85 | 1.53 | 0.32 | 1.45 | 6.15 |
| Kanawha | 804 | 1.59 | 2.59 | 0.22 | 1.10 | 3.74 |
| Lincoln | 424 | 2.70 | 0.28 | 0.13 | 1.10 | 4.22 |
| Logan | 444 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.33 | 1.33 |
| Mason | 407 | 4.78 | 5.26 | 0.76 | 1.94 | 12.74 |
| Mingo | 403 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.70 | 0.70 |
| Putnam | 331 | 3.53 | 2.53 | 0.46 | 1.69 | 8.22 |
| Wayne | 499 | 1.79 | 1.36 | 0.12 | 0.62 | 3.11 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 4049 | 2.43 | 2.39 | 0.27 | 1.13 | 4.37 |
| Calhoun | 277 | 3.47 | 2.32 | 0.43 | 0.87 | 7.10 |
| Doddridge | 310 | 3.23 | 2.39 | 0.44 | 0.70 | 6.75 |
| Gilmer | 333 | 3.09 | 2.13 | 0.57 | 0.84 | 6.62 |
| Jackson | 452 | 4.34 | 3.98 | 0.79 | 1.48 | 10.60 |
| Pleasants | 119 | 4.30 | 2.76 | 0.54 | 0.97 | 8.58 |
| Ritchie | 439 | 3.87 | 2.70 | 0.44 | 1.08 | 8.09 |
| Roane | 476 | 3.56 | 2.53 | 0.47 | 1.02 | 7.57 |
| Tyler | 246 | 4.83 | 4.16 | 0.67 | 1.21 | 10.88 |
| Wirt | 232 | 4.07 | 4.25 | 0.93 | 1.43 | 10.68 |
| Wood | 309 | 5.30 | 5.50 | 0.81 | 2.42 | 14.03 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 3193 | 3.96 | 3.23 | 0.60 | 1.21 | 9.00 |
| State Total | 22,889 | 2.86 | 2.55 | 0.37 | 1.20 | 5.93 |

*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

HUNTERS



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COOPERATE IN THE BOWHUNTER AND GOBBLER SURVEYS

Cooperators are supplied with the results of the survey and other additional information.



To participate please contact Tammie Thompson at Tammie.E.Thompson@wv.gov or 304.637.0245.

PUBLIC LANDS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS AND NATIONAL FORESTS

| District | Public Lands | Acres | County | Primary Game Species | Shooting Range | *Class Q Hunter Access | Fishing | | Camping |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | | | | | | Lake | Stream | |
| DNR District 1 Farmington, WV (304) 825-6787 | 1. Bear Rock Lakes | 242 | Ohio | D,S,R | | | • | | |
| | 2. Briery Mountain | 1,162 | Preston | D,T,B,S | | | | | |
| | 3. Burches Run | 55 | Marshall | D,S | | | | | |
| | 4. Castlemans Run Lake | 836 | Brooke/Ohio | D,T,S,G | | | • | • | |
| | 5. Cecil H. Underwood | 2,229 | Marshall/Wetzel | D,T,S,G | | | | • | |
| | 6. Center Branch | 975 | Harrison | D,T,S,G | | | | | |
| | 7. Cross Creek | 2,078 | Brooke | D,T,S,G | | | • | | |
| | 8. Dents Run | 1,226 | Marion | D,T,R,S | | | • | | |
| | 9. Dunkard Fork | 470 | Marshall | D,T,S,W | | | • | | |
| | 10. Hillcrest | 2,212 | Hancock | D,T,R,S,M,W | • | • | | | |
| | 11. Lantz Farm | 555 | Wetzel | D,T,S | | | | • | |
| | 12. Lewis Wetzel | 13,949 | Wetzel/Tyler/Doddridge | D,T,S,G | • | • | | • | • |
| | 13. Little Indian Creek | 1,046 | Monongalia | D,T,S,R,G | | | | | |
| | 14. Pedlar | 766 | Monongalia | D,T,S,G,W | • | | | • | |
| | 15. Pleasant Creek | 2,976 | Barbour/Taylor | D,T,S,G,R,W | • | | | • | • |
| | 16. Pruntytown State Farm | 1,764 | Taylor | D,T,S,R,M | | | | | |
| | 17. Snake Hill | 3,092 | Monongalia/Preston | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | |
| | 18. Teter Creek Lake | 137 | Barbour | D,S,G | | | | • | • |
| | 19. Upper Deckers Creek | 56 | Preston | W | | | | • | |
| A. Blackwater (NF) | 58,978 | Tucker/Preston | D,T,B,S,G,H | | | • | | • | |
| B. Coopers Rock SF | 12,713 | Preston/Monongalia | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | • | |
| DNR District 2 Romney, WV (304) 822-3551 | 20. Allegheny | 6,396 | Mineral | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | |
| | 21. Edwards Run | 397 | Hampshire | D,T,S | | | • | | • |
| | 22. Fort Mill Ridge | 217 | Hampshire | D,S | | | | • | |
| | 23. Nathaniel Mountain | 12,476 | Hampshire | D,T,B,S | | | | | • |
| | 24. Shannondale Springs | 1,361 | Jefferson | D,T,S,R,M,W | | | | • | |
| | 25. Short Mountain | 8,005 | Hampshire | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | • |
| | 26. Sleepy Creek | 22,928 | Berkeley/Morgan | D,T,S,G | • | • | • | | • |
| | 27. South Branch | 1,093 | Hampshire/Hardy | D,T,S,M | | | | • | |
| | 28. Thorn Creek | 529 | Pendleton | D,T,S | | | | • | |
| | 29. Widmeyer | 422 | Morgan | D,T,S | | | | | |
| | C. Potomac (NF) | 139,786 | Grant/Pendleton/Randolph/Tucker | D,T,B,S,G,H | | | • | | • |
| D. Shenandoah (NF) | 49,106 | Pendleton | D,T,B,S,G | • | | | • | • | |
| E. Wardensville (NF) | 55,327 | Hampshire/Hardy | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | • | |
| DNR District 3 French Creek, WV (304) 924-6211 | 30. Becky Creek | 1,930 | Randolph | D,T,B,S | | | | | • |
| | 31. Big Ditch | 388 | Webster | D,T,S,W | | | • | | |
| | 32. Burnsville Lake | 12,579 | Braxton | D,T,S,G | | | • | • | • |
| | 33. Elk River | 18,302 | Braxton | D,T,S,W | • | • | • | • | • |
| | 34. Handley | 784 | Pocahontas | D,T,B,S,G,W | | | • | • | • |
| | 35. Huttonsville State Farm | 2,720 | Randolph | D,T,B,S,M,R | | | | • | |
| | 36. Smoke Camp | 252 | Lewis | D,T,S | | | | | |
| | 37. Stonecoal Lake | 2,985 | Lewis/Upshur | D,T,S,W | | | | • | |
| | 38. Stonewall Jackson Lake | 18,289 | Lewis | D,T,S,G,R,W | • | • | • | • | • |
| | 39. Summersville Lake | 5,974 | Nicholas | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | • |
| | 40. Valley Bend | 31 | Randolph | W | | | | | • |
| | 41. Wallback | 11,758 | Clay/Kanawha/Roane | D,T,S,R | • | • | • | • | |
| | F. Beaver Dam (NF) | 37,674 | Randolph | D,T,B,G,H,W | | | • | • | • |
| | G. Calvin Price SF | 9,482 | Pocahontas | D,T,B,S,G | | | | | |
| | H. Cheat (NF) | 80,771 | Randolph | D,T,B,S,G,H,W | | | | • | • |
| | I. Cranberry (NF) | 158,147 | Nicholas/Webster/Pocahontas/Greenbrier | D,T,B,G,H | | | • | • | • |
| | J. Kumbrabow SF | 9,474 | Randolph | D,T,B,S,G | • | | | | • |
| K. Little River (NF) | 124,483 | Pocahontas | D,T,B,S,G,H,W | | | • | • | • | |
| L. Otter Creek (NF) | 68,782 | Randolph/Tucker | D,T,B,S,G,H | | | • | • | • | |
| M. Rimel (NF) | 67,251 | Pocahontas | D,T,B,S,G,H | | | • | • | • | |
| N. Seneca SF | 11,684 | Pocahontas | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | • | |
| O. Tea Creek (NF) | 67,919 | Pocahontas/Randolph/Webster | D,T,B,S,G,H | | | • | | • | |

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS AND NATIONAL FORESTS

PUBLIC LANDS

| District | Public Lands | Acres | County | Primary Game Species | Shooting Range | *Class Q Hunter Access | Fishing | | Camping |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | | | | | | Lake | Stream | |
| DNR District 4 Beckley, WV (304) 256-6947 | 42. Anawalt Lake | 1,792 | McDowell | D,T,G,B,S | | | • | | |
| | 43. Andrew Rowan Farm | 510 | Monroe | D,T,S | | | | | |
| | 44. Berwind Lake | 85 | McDowell | D,T,S | | | • | | • |
| | 45. Beury Mountain | 9,324 | Fayette | D,T,B,S,G | | | | | |
| | 46. Bluestone Lake | 18,019 | Summers/Mercer/Monroe | D,T,B,S,G,R | • | • | • | • | • |
| | 47. Meadow River | 2,504 | Greenbrier | D,T,S,G,W | | | | | |
| | 48. Moncove Lake | 775 | Monroe | D,T,S,G,R,W | | | • | | • |
| | 49. Panther | 10,999 | McDowell | D,T,B,S,G | • | | | • | • |
| | 50. Plum Orchard Lake | 3,201 | Fayette | D,T,B,S,W | • | | • | | • |
| | 51. R.D. Bailey Lake | 17,280 | Mingo/Wyoming | D,T,B,S,G | • | | • | | • |
| | 52. Tate Lohr | 500 | Mercer | D,T,S | | | | | |
| | 53. Tug Fork | 2,165 | McDowell | D,T,B,S,G | | | | • | |
| | P. Neola (NF) | 104,750 | Greenbrier/Pocahontas | D,T,B,S,G,R,W | | • | • | • | • |
| | Q. Camp Creek SF | 5,300 | Mercer | D,T,S,G | | | | | • |
| | R. Cove Creek (NF) | 428 | Monroe | D,T,B,S,G | | | | | • |
| | S. Greenbrier SF | 5,130 | Greenbrier | D,T,B,S,G | | | | | • |
| T. Potts Creek (NF) | 18,526 | Monroe | D,T,B,S,G,R | | | | | • | |
| DNR District 5 Pt. Pleasant, WV (304) 675-0871 | 54. Amherst/Plymouth | 7,061 | Putnam | D,T,S,G,R | | | | • | |
| | 55. Beech Fork Lake | 7,531 | Cabell/Wayne | D,T,S,R,G,M,W | • | | • | | |
| | 56. Big Ugly | 6,000 | Lincoln | D,T,S,G | • | | | | |
| | 57. Chief Cornstalk | 11,772 | Mason | D,T,S,G | • | | • | | • |
| | 58. Chief Logan | 374 | Logan | D,T,S | • | | | | |
| | 59. East Lynn Lake | 22,928 | Wayne | D,T,B,S,G,R,W | | | • | | |
| | 60. Elk Creek | 6,004 | Logan/Mingo | D,T,B,S,G,R | | | | • | |
| | 61. Green Bottom | 1,101 | Cabell/Mason | D,S,G,R,M,W | | | | • | |
| | 62. Hilbert | 289 | Lincoln | D,T,S,G | | | | | |
| | 63. Laurel Lake | 12,776 | Mingo | D,T,B,S,G | | | • | | |
| | 64. McClintic | 3,653 | Mason | D,T,S,G,R,M,W | • | • | • | | |
| | 65. Mill Creek | 1,470 | Cabell | D,T,S,G,R | | | | | |
| | 66. Morris Creek | 9,874 | Clay/Kanawha | D,T,B,S | | | | | • |
| | 67. Upper Mud River | 1,425 | Lincoln | D,T,S,G,R,W | | | • | | |
| U. Cabwaylingo SF | 8,123 | Wayne | D,T,S,G,R | | | | | • | |
| V. Kanawha SF | 9,302 | Kanawha | D,T,B,S,G,R | • | | • | | • | |
| DNR District 6 Parkersburg, WV (304) 420-4550 | 68. Buffalo Run | 143 | Tyler | D,T,S,R | | | | • | |
| | 69. Conaway Run | 630 | Tyler | D,T,S,G,R,W | • | | • | | • |
| | 70. Frozen Camp | 2,735 | Jackson | D,T,S,G,R,W | • | | • | | • |
| | 71. Hughes River | 10,000 | Ritchie/Wirt | D,T,S,G,R,W | | • | | | |
| | 72. Ritchie Mines | 2,300 | Ritchie | D,T,S,G | | | | | |
| | 73. Sand Hill | 987 | Wood/Ritchie | D,T,S,G,R | | | | | |
| | 74. Stumptown | 1,803 | Calhoun/Gilmer | D,T,S,G | | | | | |
| | 75. The Jug | 2,065 | Tyler | D,T,S,G,R,W | | | | | |
| 76. Woodrum | 1,696 | Jackson | D,T,S,G,R,W | | | | | | |

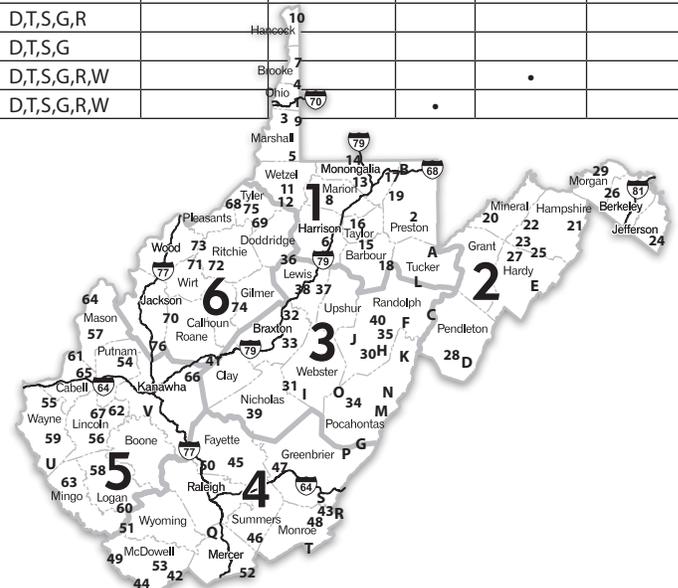
Primary Game Species:

- B - Black Bear
- D - Deer
- G - Grouse
- H - Snowshoe Hare
- M - Mourning Dove
- R - Rabbit
- S - Squirrel
- T - Turkey
- W - Waterfowl

Public Land:

- SF - State Forest
- NF - National Forest

*Additional Class Q Hunter Access opportunities may be available. Please contact the District Game Biologist in the respective District for additional details.





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