

Deer - Muzzleloader Season

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Opening Date: December 12

Closing Date: December 17

Muzzleloader deer hunting for antlered deer is legal in all counties open to bucks-only season. Deer of either sex may be taken with muzzleloaders in all counties or parts thereof open to the Class N season.

In all limited resident antlerless counties or parts thereof and limited resident Wildlife Management Areas a hunter may take only one deer in the muzzleloader season.

In the muzzleloader season, only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines" of .38 caliber or larger are legal. A muzzleloader with telescopic sights is legal. A firearm that has been converted into a muzzleloader by use of a plug, or a double-barreled or swivel-barreled muzzleloader is illegal for deer hunting during the muzzleloader season.

When being transported in or on a vehicle, muzzleloaders will be considered unloaded when uncapped or when the priming charge is removed from the pan.

Two deer may be taken with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season - the first deer must be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident (Class X, Class XJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS+V, or Classes Q+CS+V); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen); or nonresident (Classes E+CS/LE+VV, or Classes XXJ+CS/LE). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may take a first muzzleloader deer without a license. A second deer may only be taken in specified counties with an unfilled Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land who has not filled their RG privilege.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per year in all seasons combined.

Muzzleloader Counties

Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming counties are closed to all firearms deer hunting.

-  **Open:** resident and nonresident bucks-only muzzleloader hunting
-  **Open:** resident and nonresident either-sex muzzleloader hunting
-  **Closed:** to all firearms deer hunting



Muzzleloader Season - Deer

Use of unfilled Class RG and Class RRG Licenses in Muzzleloader Season

Unfilled Class RG and Class RRG licenses can be used to take an additional deer in the muzzleloader season in 25 counties or parts thereof (see page 10). See page 12 for muzzleloader regulations on Wildlife Management Areas and other public lands.

Deer hunting in the muzzleloader season on the Class RG or RRG gun license can begin on the day after legally checking the first muzzleloader deer.

In all instances, the first muzzleloader season deer must be taken on an appropriate license or as a landowner (see page 7) and legally checked before the Class RG or RRG license is legal (see page 10).

Concurrent hunting during the Muzzleloader Deer Season

A bow cannot be substituted for a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season. Concurrent archery hunting is legal during the muzzleloader season subject to all archery deer hunting regulations, except archery hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Concurrent hunting is permitted during the muzzleloader season. Except for those persons legally hunting bear, it is illegal to be afield with solid ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 during the muzzleloader season, except for waterfowl hunters using nontoxic shot.

It is legal to hunt small game with .22 caliber or smaller rimfire during the muzzleloader season.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting (See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations) is legal.

Special Seasons and Restrictions

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area and Hillcrest Wildlife Management Areas

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest and the **Hillcrest WMA**, located in Hancock County will have a bucks-only muzzleloader season November 21 - December 3, 2005. Only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines", of .38 caliber or larger are legal. A muzzleloader with telescopic sights is legal. **These two areas will not be open to the traditional rifle bucks-only firearms season.** All muzzleloader license requirements and bag limits apply. (See pages 8, 12 and 20.)

McClintic Wildlife Management Area

All antlered deer taken during muzzleloader season on McClintic WMA must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip).