WEST VIRGINIA
July 2015 - June 2016

Hunting and Trapping

REGULATIONS SUMMARY

WV GAME CHECK

LOG IN.
STOP IN.
CALL IN.

Get your **DNR ID#**

wvhunt.com

Get out & **hunt**

Check your game **1** of **3 ways**

wvhunt.com

Visit a license agent

1 844 WVCheck

Hunt West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE

WILDLIFE WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.wvdnr.gov

From the Director

Another hunting season is fast upon us, as is the beginning of a new tradition. For the first time, both the Electronic License and Game Checking Systems are fully operational!

So please don't miss out on any hunting time. Be sure, if you haven't already done so, to first get your DNR ID Number, which is valid for your lifetime. You can obtain it by going online at www.wvhunt.com, calling a DNR district office, or visiting a hunting license agent.

With that once-in-a-lifetime task behind you, all you then need is your annual hunting license(s). But be sure to do so in plenty of time, prior to the opening day for your favorite game species. Just like with your DNR ID Number, you can buy them at any license agent or online at www.wvhunt.com.

Once you get out and hunt, and succeed in bagging any big game or other quarry that requires checking, the same two options are available to check in your harvest. In addition, you can also do so by phone at 1-844-WVCheck (844-982-4325). What's more, you won't have to bring the animal in with you.

Please take a minute to review the Summary of this year's other changes on the opposite page. And as always, get permission before hunting private lands, take a youngster, thank the landowner, be safe and enjoy!

Bob Fala

Bob Fala, Director, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

DISTRICT OFFICES

Main Office - South Charleston, WV 25303
324 4th Avenue
Wildlife Management – Vacant **(304) 558-2771**
Law Enforcement – Lt. Col. David W. Trader **(304) 558-2784**

District 1 - Farmington, WV 26571
1110 Railroad Street **(304) 825-6787**
Wildlife Management – Steve Rauch
Law Enforcement – Capt. William A. Persinger Jr.

District 2 - Romney, WV 26757
1 Depot Street **(304) 822-3551**
Wildlife Management – Rich Rogers
Law Enforcement – Capt. Tom Stuckey

District 3 - French Creek, WV 26218
WV State Wildlife Center **(304) 924-6211**
163 Wildlife Road
Wildlife Management – Rob Silvester
Law Enforcement – Capt. Douglas A. Benson

District 4 - Beckley, WV 25801
2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive **(304) 256-6947**
Wildlife Management – Todd Dowdy
Law Enforcement – Capt. Woodrow W. Brogan

District 5
McClintic WMA
1163 Wildlife Road • Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550
Wildlife Management – Randy Kelley **(304) 675-0871**
Law Enforcement – Capt. Kaven W. Ransom **(304) 759-0703**
4300 1st Avenue • Nitro, WV 25143

District 6 - Parkersburg, WV 26101
2311 Ohio Avenue **(304) 420-4550**
Wildlife Management – Jeff McCrady
Law Enforcement – Capt. Bobby L. Cales

Operations Center - Elkins, WV 26241
738 Ward Road
Wildlife Management – Gary Foster **(304) 637-0245**

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Summary of Changes 2015-2016

1. Hunters and trappers must follow the new rules for electronic checking of game (see pages 12, 33, 37 and 40 for individual species and page 24 for details). These rules no longer require the hunter to take their game to a check station. All field tagging, transporting and possession requirements still apply.
2. Night vision technology is legal for taking coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk and opossum during open seasons. See pages 2, 3 and 7.
3. The crossbow season will run September 26 - December 31, 2015, and game species may be taken with a crossbow during their respective open archery season during this period. Additionally, crossbows are legal to use during any big game firearms season.
4. The WV CWD Containment Area has been expanded. See pages 12 and 25 for details.
5. Antlerless deer hunting season dates and open counties have changed. See page 18 for details.
6. Spring and fall wild turkey hunting season dates and open counties have changed. See pages 34-35 for details.
7. Black bear hunting season dates and open counties have changed. See pages 38-39 for details.

Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
State of West Virginia

Robert A. Fala, Director
Division of Natural Resources

Paul Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources

Col. Jerry B. Jenkins, Chief
Law Enforcement Section

Commissioners

Jeffrey S. Bowers – *Sugar Grove*

Gregory K. Burnette – *Elkview*

Byron Chambers – *Romney*

Peter L. Cuffaro – *Wheeling*

Thomas Dotson – *White Sulphur Springs*

David M. Milne – *Bruceton Mills*

Kenny Wilson – *Chapmanville*

Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, 324 Fourth Avenue, Room 341, South Charleston, WV 25303, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

www.facebook.com/wildlifewv
www.facebook.com/DNRpolice

WWW.WVHUNT.COM
goWILD!
WWW.WVFISH.COM

2015-2016 Seasons, Dates and Limits

Species	Opening Date	Closing Date	Daily Bag Limit	Possesion Limit	Season Limit
*Wild Boar *(Gun)*	October 24	October 31	1		
*Wild Boar *(Archery and Crossbow)*	September 26	December 31			
*Deer *(Buck Firearms)*	November 23	December 5	See pages 13-18.		
*Deer *(Archery and Crossbow)*	September 26	December 31			
*Deer *(Antlerless)* Split Season *(Selected Counties)*	October 22	October 24			
	November 23	December 5			
	December 17	December 19			
	December 29	December 31			
*Deer *(Muzzleloader)*	December 7	December 12			
*Deer *(Youth/Class Q/QQ/Class XS)* Split Season *(see page 32)*	October 17	October 17	1	3	3
	December 26	December 26			
	December 28	December 28			
*Bear *(Archery and Crossbow)* Split Season	September 26	November 21	See pages 38-39.		
	December 7	December 31			
*Bear *(Gun)* *(Selected Counties)*	September 5	September 12	1	2	2
	September 19	September 25			
	October 3	October 9			
	November 23	December 5			
	December 7	December 31			
*Turkey, Fall Split Season *(Selected Counties - see page 34)*	October 10	October 17	1		
	October 26	October 31			
	October 26	November 14			
*Turkey *(Spring 2016 - Bearded Only)*	April 18	May 14	1	2	2
*Turkey *(2016 Youth Season - see page 35)*	April 16	April 16	1 - counts towards spring season bag limit of two		
Squirrel *(Gray, Black, Albino and Fox)*	September 12	January 31	6	24	None
Squirrel *(Youth Season - see page 32)*	September 5	September 5	6		
Ruffed Grouse	October 17	February 29	4	16	None
Bobwhite Quail	November 7	January 2	3	9	None
Cottontail Rabbit	November 7	February 29	5	20	None
Snowshoe or Varying Hare	November 7	February 29	2	8	None
Ring-necked Pheasant *(cock birds only)*	November 7	January 2	2	2	None
Hillcrest WMA *(cock birds only)*	November 14	December 5	1	1	None
Raccoon *(Hunting)* *The bag limit during an 11-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. is four raccoons for each person or groups of persons hunting as a party.*	October 17	February 29	4	None	None
Raccoon *(Trapping)*	November 7	February 29	None		
Red Fox, Gray Fox *(Hunting and Trapping)*	November 7	February 29	None		
Red Fox, Gray Fox *(Hunting - night with artificial light/night vision technology, see page 3)*	January 1	February 29			
*Bobcat *(Hunting and Trapping)*	November 7	February 29	3		
Mink, Muskrat *(Trapping)*	November 7	February 29	None		
*Fisher *(Trapping)*	November 7	January 31	1		
*Beaver *(Trapping)*	November 7	March 31	None		
*Otter *(Trapping)*	November 7	February 29	1		
Crow - Split Season *Nuisance Crows: crows committing depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, home gardens, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated so as to constitute a health hazard and or other nuisance may be killed at any time.*	October 1	November 21	None		
	January 1	March 5			
Coyote *(Hunting)***	Continuous Open Season		None		
Coyote *(Hunting - night with artificial light/night vision technology)***	January 1	July 31			
Skunk, Opossum, Woodchuck, Weasel, English Sparrow, European Starling and Pigeon *(Hunting)*	Continuous Open Season		None		
Skunk, Opossum, Coyote, and Weasel *(Trapping)*	November 7	February 29			
Elk, Song and Insectivorous Birds, Owls, Hawks, Falcons and Eagles			No Open Season		
Geese, Ducks, Mourning Doves, Gallinules, Rails, Woodcock and Common Snipe		Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration required. See WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations available in September.			

** Must be electonically registered (checked). See page 24 for instructions on the electronic registration process.*

*** See page 7 for additional regulations.*

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Prohibitions

It is illegal to:

- hunt in state parks (except as otherwise designated), in safety zones in state forests or wildlife management areas, and in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- shoot, hunt or trap upon the fenced, enclosed or posted lands of another person without having in possession written permission from the landowner.
- have a crossbow with a nocked bolt, or a rifle or shotgun with cartridges that have not been removed or a magazine that has not been detached, in or on any vehicle or conveyance (including ATVs) or its attachments. You can have a loaded clip or magazine in the vehicle as long as it is not in or attached to the firearm. Exception for concealed weapons permit holders (see page 6).
- carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods, except during open firearms hunting seasons. It is legal to hunt unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds and migratory game birds during the open season in fields, waters and marshes.
- hunt with a fully automatic firearm.
- hunt small game in counties having a buck firearms season during the first three days of this season. It is legal to hunt waterfowl during this period on lakes, rivers, and waterways during the open waterfowl season, to hunt bear in specified counties, and to hunt coyotes.
- hunt deer, bear or boar between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise or with an electronic call.
- be afield with a gun and bow, or with a gun and any arrow, except for concealed weapons permit holders (see page 5).
- carry an uncased gun or crossbow in or on a vehicle or conveyance between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. E.S.T. from October 1 – June 30; and between 8:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. E.S.T. from July 1 – September 30; provided, time periods can be extended for one hour before or after times established above if transporting uncased gun or crossbow to or from a hunting site, campsite, home or other abode.
- carry an uncased or loaded gun after 5 a.m. on Sunday in counties which prohibit Sunday hunting except as provided in the trapping regulations.
- shoot a firearm within 500 feet of a school, church or dwelling, or on or near a park or other place where persons are gathered for pleasure; provided, a resident or guest of a dwelling may shoot a firearm within 500 feet of the dwelling where the person lives, if all residents of the dwelling consent and no other dwellings are within 500 feet.
- hunt while under the influence of alcohol.
- for anyone under the age of 15 to hunt on public land or the lands of another unless accompanied by a licensed adult, at least 18 years of age, who remains near enough to render advice and assistance (see exception for youth seasons pages 32 and 35).
- hunt or fish with a modified bow without a special permit issued by the Director.
- get out of a motor vehicle along a public road and shoot a bow, crossbow or firearm unless you are at least 25 yards from the vehicle.
- shoot at any wild bird or animal unless it is plainly visible.
- shoot at a deer or boar while it is in water.
- hunt or conduct hunts for a fee when the person is not physically present in the same location as the wildlife being hunted within West Virginia.
- use or attempt to use any artificial light or any night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination while hunting, locating, attracting, taking, killing or trapping wild birds or wild animals. However, artificial lights or night vision technology may be used for taking coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk and opossum. Coyotes and fox may be hunted using any color artificial light in open season (see pages 2 and 7).
- smoke wildlife from its den or place of refuge except as provided by law or regulation.
- catch, kill, or attempt to do so by seine, net, bait, trap, deadfall, snare, or like device, any bear, game bird, protected bird or mammal, or wild boar.
- bait or feed bear at any time.
- hunt or shoot at wild animals or wild birds from an airborne conveyance, a drone or other unmanned aircraft (including the use of a drone or unmanned aircraft to drive or herd any wild bird or wild animal for the purpose of hunting, trapping or killing), from a vehicle or other land conveyance, from a motor-driven water conveyance, or from or across a public road, unless specifically authorized to do so by law or regulation. You may shoot from a motorized watercraft if the motor has been completely shut off and progress from the motor has ceased.
- use poisons, chemicals or explosives in taking any furbearing animal, game animal, game bird or protected song and insectivorous bird, provided that groundhogs may be controlled on private land by landowners, their resident children or resident parents, or a resident tenant from April 1 – September 30.
- use shot larger than No. 4 or solid ball ammunition, except for .22 caliber or smaller centerfire during the buck firearms season in the four counties closed to the buck firearms season.
- hunt between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise with any firearm larger than .22 caliber centerfire, a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot shells larger than No. 2 shot.
- dispose of animal carcasses by dumping them along any public road or highway.
- bait or feed any wildlife on public land between September 1 and December 31 and during the spring gobbler seasons.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Trapping Regulations

A trap is a device used to catch and hold animals and includes box traps, body gripping or killer-type traps, foot or leghold traps, encapsulating traps and snares.

No traps shall be set before 8 a.m. on the first day of the season or either set or left set after 12 noon on the last day of the season.

All traps MUST be checked and tended daily.

Traps previously and legally set may be tended after 5 a.m. on Sunday, and the person tending the traps may carry firearms for the purpose of humanely dispatching trapped animals.

Nonresidents must possess a valid Class E, XXJ, AAH or AAHJ license and a CS/LE stamp to trap.

All traps used for taking game or furbearing animals shall be marked with a durable plate or tag attached to the snare, trap or trap chain bearing the owner's name and address.

A person who unintentionally traps and kills more than the season bag limit shall deliver excess animals to a Natural Resource Police officer within 24 hours.

West Virginia trappers will be allowed to sell live foxes to hound coursing pens in West Virginia during the 2015-2016 trapping season. All foxes used in hound coursing pens must be live-trapped in the county in which the pen is located.

Foot snares are legal when the snare loop:

1. does not exceed 6½ inches in diameter.
2. is at ground level.
3. is horizontal to ground level.

Terrestrial body-gripping snares are legal when the snare:

1. has a relaxing-type lock system with a breaking point of 350 pounds or less or a stop with a minimum loop diameter of at least 2 inches.
2. is set with an average loop diameter not greater than 15 inches.
3. is anchored at the trap site.

It is illegal to:

- have in possession an untagged beaver, bobcat, otter or fisher pelt or parts thereof, after 30 days following the close of the respective season.
- set deadfalls for taking wildlife.
- set or use foothold traps with an open inside jaw spread of more than 6½ inches unless the trap is used underwater.
- set traps or trapping devices in human foot trails or livestock paths.
- set body-gripping or killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread of more than 5 inches, as measured between striking surfaces of jaws when set for terrestrial trapping. These types of traps may be used in water sets.
- set spring pole snares.
- use exposed animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof to bait an animal to a trap set that is within 50 feet of the carcass. Animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof that are completely covered and concealed from sight may be used as a lure at the immediate trap site.
- trap on fenced, enclosed or posted lands of another person without written permission of the landowner.
- take beaver, fisher, mink, otter or muskrat by any means other than by trap.
- use steel jaw traps with any teeth on or attached to them.
- set a trap, trapset or snare upon a tree, post or other natural or man-made object at any point more than three (3) linear feet from the surface of the earth (whether such surface is water, soil or rock) measured at right angle from the surface to the trap or trapset. Traps may be set on natural earthen mounds, such as ant hills or muskrat houses, constructed without human assistance.
- set traps during the month of March for the taking of beaver unless the traps are in water.
- trap in state parks, in safety zones located in state forests and wildlife management areas, in Harpers Ferry NHP and on National Park Service land within the New River Gorge NR.
- trap on a WMA or State Forest without obtaining a permit from the District Wildlife Biologist.

RIVER OTTER CARCASSES

The DNR is requesting river otter trappers turn skinned carcasses in to a District DNR office (see inside front cover) or a local DNR representative. Data collected from carcasses will be used to refine population models used by biologists to monitor river otter populations and guide future management decisions.

Trapping Regulations continued ...

Tagging and Shipping Requirements

Bobcat hunters and trappers and otter trappers should obtain a plastic Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) seal for each bobcat and/or otter pelt they plan to sell out of state. All bobcat and/or otter pelts being sold by licensed fur dealers must have a CITES seal from the state where the animal was harvested before being sold on the international market. CITES seals are only available at DNR offices (see inside front cover).

Trappers shall electronically register beaver, bobcat, otter and fisher pelts within 30 days after the close of the respective trapping season. The DNR-issued game tag number shall be recorded in writing with the trapper's name and address, or on a field tag and shall be attached and remain attached to each beaver, bobcat, otter and fisher pelt until it has been sold, tanned, processed into commercial fur or mounted.

A person may not ship or transport any raw furs, pelts, or skins of wild furbearers outside of the state unless such shipment has a special shipping tag visibly attached. Shipping tags must be obtained from the DNR. One part shall be attached to the outside of the package or container and the other part completed and returned to the DNR within 24 hours of shipping furs out of state.

The dealer or buyer of raw furs, pelts, or skins of furbearers in this state shall have a dealer's license and shall submit to the Director a completed fur dealer transaction report as provided by the Director.

Archery and Crossbow Regulations

Nonresident bow and crossbow hunters, except holders of Class DT licenses, must possess a Class EE license, and Class CS/LE and DS stamps to hunt bear.

For bow fishing, a resident or nonresident is required to have a valid fishing license.

A bow may be substituted for a firearm during any season for which firearms are legal except during the muzzleloader deer season. A crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during any established big game firearms season except that a crossbow cannot be used to hunt deer in Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties unless you have a Class Y/YY permit.

A Class Y or YY permit allows a qualified, physically challenged person to hunt with a crossbow during designated archery seasons.

It is illegal to:

- have a gun and bow afield together, except that persons who have a concealed weapon permit may carry a concealed handgun for self-defense only.
- have a crossbow with a nocked bolt in or on any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments.
- carry an uncased crossbow in or on a vehicle between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. E.S.T. from October 1 – June 30; and between 8:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. E.S.T. from July 1 – September 30; provided, time periods can be extended for one hour before or after times established above if transporting uncased gun or crossbow to or from a hunting site, campsite, home or other place of abode.
- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - a working safety.
  - bolts at least 18 inches long.
  - broadheads with at least two edges at least ¾-inch wide.
- hunt wild turkey, bear, deer or boar with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than ¾ of an inch in width.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- have a bow in the woods during closed seasons on game animals and non-migratory game birds.
- use dogs while bow hunting for black bear except when the use of dogs is legal during the bear firearms season (this exception is only for counties where dogs are legal – see pages 39).
- hunt with a locking device capable of holding a bow at full draw, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- bow hunt on state parks (except as otherwise designated), Harpers Ferry NHP, and safety zones on state forests and wildlife management areas. All wildlife refuges are appropriately posted.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS PUBLIC MEETINGS

March 14, 2016

Fairmont, Flatwoods, Martinsburg, Milton, Mullens and Spencer

March 15, 2016

Elkins, Fayetteville, Glen Dale, Logan, Moorefield, and Parkersburg

Tagging and Transporting

Refer to deer, bear, wild turkey, boar and trapping sections for specific tagging and transporting requirements.

No persons may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the game tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Handgun Laws and Regulations

Individuals who possess a valid concealed carry permit may carry a concealed handgun while afield hunting, hiking, camping, fishing or in or on a motor vehicle for purposes of self-defense only.

Only persons 21 years old or older are eligible for a Class A-1 stamp.

Only revolvers or pistols having a barrel at least 4 inches in length are legal for hunting.

While hunting, the licensee shall carry the revolver or pistol outside his/her outer clothing, in an unconcealed and easily visible place.

A revolver or pistol may be used only during established hunting seasons. Only single-shot muzzleloading pistols of .38 caliber or larger are legal for hunting deer during the muzzleloader season.

It is legal to hunt groundhogs in open fields with a revolver or pistol.

It is illegal to:

- take migratory game birds with a pistol.
- hunt between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise with a revolver or pistol larger than .22 caliber centerfire.
- hunt bear, deer, or wild boar with a revolver or pistol using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- hunt bear, deer or wild boar with a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.

When Licenses or Permits are not Required

1. Resident landowners or their resident children or their resident parents or resident tenants of such land, may hunt or trap on their own land without a license during open seasons (see definition of resident landowner privileges on page 9).
2. Residents honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces receiving total permanent service connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of a motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, may hunt or trap without a license during open seasons. Such individuals shall carry on their person an identification card issued by the Director. Some additional stamps may be required (see pages 10 and 41).
3. Ohio residents who carry valid Ohio hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on the Ohio River and its embayments or tributaries to points identified by the Director or from the West Virginia banks of said river without obtaining West Virginia licenses, and West Virginia residents who carry valid West Virginia hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on Ohio River embayments or tributaries to designated points in Ohio or from the river's banks in Ohio without obtaining Ohio licenses. Ohio hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting or fishing from Ohio banks or in Ohio embayment areas. West Virginia hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting on the Ohio River proper or from West Virginia banks and embayment areas.
4. Residents 65 years of age or older, who have attained that age prior to January 1, 2012, do not need a license to hunt or trap, but shall carry a WV driver's license or WV photo ID card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles (see page 41). Residents who have not reached their 15th birthday may hunt without a license but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult who remains near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. Some additional stamps may be required (see pages 10 and 41).
5. West Virginia residents on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, while on military leave, may hunt or trap in season without obtaining a license. Leave papers shall be carried while hunting or trapping. Some additional hunting stamps may be required (see pages 10 and 41).
6. Persons participating in field trials permitted by the Director shall not be required to have a hunting license.
7. Persons under 16 years of age do not need a migratory waterfowl stamp.

Dog Training

Persons training dogs shall not have a firearm or other implement for taking wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds. Persons participating in dog training must have a hunting license.

A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, providing no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals killed or damage done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.

No person, other than the owner of a registered dog, may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog, or is done by a law enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

Residents may train dogs and hold field trials on wild animals and birds on public lands or on private land with the landowner's written permission at any time. Prohibitions on Sunday hunting also apply to dog training. Dogs may not be trained on deer or wild turkey.

Nonresidents may train dogs during any open small game hunting season, or if their state offers WV hunters reciprocal dog training privileges, they may train dogs on raccoons from August 15 through February 29. See additional information on bear dog training on page 37.

Bird Dog Training

A permit may be obtained to train dogs on pigeons or commercially pen-raised quail on private land if training during a closed season and if birds are being killed.

Coyote Hunting Regulations

Coyotes may be hunted year round.

Hunting coyotes at night using any color artificial light or night vision technology is legal from January 1 through July 31.

Firearms legal for night coyote hunting are shotguns with #2 or smaller shot and rifles and handguns of .22 caliber centerfire or smaller and .22 caliber rimfire or smaller.

During closed small game seasons, coyotes may only be hunted in open fields. Guns must be cased while being transported to and from the open field.

Electronic calls are legal.

There is no daily, annual or season bag limit.

Mandatory Hunter Education and Identification Requirement

No base hunting license may be issued to a person born on or after January 1, 1975, (exemption - see Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Licenses information below) unless the person presents to the license agent: a certificate of satisfactory completion of a Hunter Education Course approved by the Hunter Education Association or the Director, or the previous years resident or nonresident WV hunting license bearing certification, or attests to certification when purchasing a license online. Persons who purchase a lifetime hunting license before their 15th birthday must complete a certified hunter education course before using the license.

A person may not legally hunt unless he/she has on his/her person: a) the proper licenses, stamps or permits, b) a photo ID, and c) proof of hunter safety certification (if required).

Hunters who have lost their hunter education card may obtain a duplicate from their local DNR District Law Enforcement Office. Applications for duplicate cards are available at license agents or **www.wvdnr.gov**. The fee is $10.

Hunter Education Classes Information

Contact the WVDNR District Office closest to you or visit **www.wvhuntered.com** or **www.wvdnr.gov** and look for the Hunter Education class search link.

Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Licenses Information (Class AH, AHJ, AAH and AAHJ)

Persons who wish to try hunting and/or trapping without taking a hunter education course may buy an Apprentice Hunting License, which can only be purchased online at **www.wvhunt.com** (see page 41).

No one who has ever had a base hunting license may buy the Apprentice License. No person can buy more than three Apprentice Licenses, and those purchases must be made within five consecutive years. A hunter who buys the Apprentice Hunting License must possess all other required documentation and stamps while hunting and must be directly supervised by a licensed adult.

See page 42 for license fees.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

REPORTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW VIOLATIONS

In progress – dial 911

Not in progress – call your DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours or online at **www.wvdnr.gov/lenforce/poachers.shtm**.

1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
2. Don't confront the violator.
3. Contact a local Natural Resource Police Officer or county communication center as soon as possible.

Become involved in protecting your sport, be willing to testify in court.

Sunday Hunting

In any county where Sunday hunting has not been prohibited by local election, Sunday hunting is legal on private land only with written permission of the landowner. Hunting is prohibited on any Sunday (November 22, 2015, December 6, 2015 and April 17, 2016) preceding the Monday opening of a big game season.

For a current list of counties open to Sunday hunting, visit **www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/sundayhunt.shtm** or check with your county DNR officer or county clerk.

Point System for Hunting Violations

Persons found guilty of negligent shooting of humans or livestock will have their hunting licenses revoked for five years.

For bear hunting violation penalties see page 36.

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges suspended for one year.

Points are assigned for other hunting violations:

10 points use of spotlight with firearms or other implement.

6 points illegal possession or sale of wildlife or illegally killing deer, boar, or turkey.

6 points hunting from a motor vehicle.

4 points all other hunting violations.

When a person accumulates 10 or more hunting and/or fishing violation points combined, his/her licenses will be revoked for a period of two years.

Points will be removed on the second anniversary or upon restoration of the license.

National Forests

National Forests are managed under cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

1. Each wildlife management area on the national forests contains interspersed private land within its boundaries. Written permission is required on all private land before hunting, fishing or trapping.
2. Contact each National Forest for current rules and regulations applicable to the WMA areas.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

5162 Valleypointe Parkway • Roanoke, VA 24019
(540) 265-5100 • Toll Free: 1-888-265-0019
www.fs.usda.gov/gwj

Monongahela National Forest

200 Sycamore Street • Elkins, WV 26241
Voice and TDD: (304) 636-1800
www.fs.usda.gov/mnf

National Wildlife Refuges

A free refuge hunting permit is required to hunt on the National Wildlife Refuges in West Virginia. Please contact the appropriate National Wildlife Refuge to obtain a permit and for rules and regulations governing hunting and fishing;

Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

3982 Waverly Road • Williamstown, WV 26187
(304) 375-2923 • www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio_river_islands/

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

6263 Appalachian Highway • Davis, WV 26260
(304) 866-3858 • www.fws.gov/refuge/canaan_valley/

National Park Service Lands

Hunting is permitted on National Park Service lands. Trapping is not permitted on New River Gorge National River, but is permitted on Gauley River National Recreation Area. Participants must possess the proper licenses/stamps and follow the regulations established by the WV Division of Natural Resources. Please observe no hunting areas, such as safety zones and private property. Tree stands left over 24 hours will be removed. Feeding and baiting of wildlife, and use of ATVs are not permitted on NPS property. Please respect the numerous private landowners' properties within the areas.

All lands are managed out of the Glen Jean headquarters.
P.O. Box 246 • Glen Jean, WV 25846 • (304) 465-0508

New River Gorge National River
www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Gauley River National Recreation Area
www.nps.gov/gari/planyourvisit.htm

Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests

Rules and regulations governing hunting and trapping on state owned and leased lands are the same as on adjacent private lands except as follows:

1. Trapping permit, available from District Wildlife Biologist, required on all areas.
2. It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land between September 1 and December 31 and during the spring gobbler seasons.
3. Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake, Green Bottom, Fox Forest, Hillcrest and McClintic WMAs and Calvin Price and Coopers Rock State Forests — Hunting only in accordance with special rules established for the area (see pages 11, 12, 16-17, 27, 29 and 31).
4. WMAs and state forests with camping areas require a permit and fee (see regulations posted at each area).
5. Camping is lawful ONLY in designated areas.
6. Use of ATVs and snowmobiles is prohibited. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) means any motor vehicle designed for off-road use not subject to the vehicle registration requirements of Chapter 17A of the West Virginia Code.
7. Driving a vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile so as to harass or chase wildlife is prohibited.
8. Maximum speed limit for vehicles on WMAs and state forests is 30 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. All traffic signs and directions must be observed.
9. Driving a vehicle in a manner that creates a nuisance to other persons by repetitive or continuous cruising is prohibited.
10. Class Q/QQ hunting access is available on some WMAs. Contact the District Wildlife Biologist for more information or check online at **www.wvdnr.gov** under Disability Services.
11. Only portable tree stands may be used on public lands.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Bait: any feed or edible enticement.

Baiting: the direct or indirect placing or exposing of bait so as to attract or entice wildlife to an area where hunters are attempting to take them. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after bait is removed.

Big Game: black bear, deer, wild turkey and boar.

Bow: a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is hand-drawn, hand-held and held at full draw without the aid of any mechanical device. Triggering devices or release aids are legal.

Concurrent hunting: hunting of the same and/or other species during a legally prescribed season.

Hunt: to chase, catch or take wild birds or animals.

Licensed adult: an individual who has attained the age of 18 years and possesses a valid West Virginia hunting and trapping license or is exempt from having to purchase a West Virginia hunting and trapping license.

Life-threatening condition: a terminal condition or illness that according to current diagnosis has a high probability of death within two years even with treatment with an existing generally accepted protocol.

Modified bow: a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that has been modified to hold the bow at full draw to accommodate a physical impairment of the user.

Nonresident: person who does not meet the requirements of a resident.

Permanently disabled in the lower extremities: an individual who is permanently and totally disabled due to paralysis or disease in the lower half of the body, which makes it impossible to ambulate successfully more than two hundred feet without assistance.

Possession limit: game taken in WV that is in any way under the hunter's control. Example: the total of all game in a car, truck, home freezer, commercial food locker, or any other storage place.

Private lands: lands owned by an individual(s), partnership, heirship, club, organization or company and/or not qualifying as public land (e.g. National Wildlife Refuges).

Protected: no open season. Hunting at any time shall be illegal for protected wildlife.

Public lands: State or Federal lands owned, leased, licensed to or under the control of West Virginia DNR for wildlife management purposes.

Resident: a person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and full-time students of a college or university of this state. Nonresident students of West Virginia colleges are not eligible to apply for lifetime licenses. Absentee ownership of land in West Virginia does not constitute legal residence.

Resident landowner privileges: apply to West Virginia residents who own land in West Virginia, their resident children and resident parents, or resident tenants when hunting or trapping on their own land. Resident tenants must permanently live on the land.

Small Game: all game and furbearing animals and game birds except big game.

Resident Deer Hunting License Privileges with

Annual Classes X, XJ, and AHJ, Lifetime Classes A-L, AB-L, and XS*, Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen and Underage:

entitles a hunter to take one deer during the archery or crossbow seasons, one antlered deer during the buck firearms season and one deer during the muzzleloader season.

**Class XS License holders refer to page 32.*

Additional stamps must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RG
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RB
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class N
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RM
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Annual Class A and AH (must also have a Class CS):

entitles the hunter to hunt one antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

Additional stamps must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RG
- to hunt deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class BG
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RB
- to hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class BG
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RM
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class N
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Resident Landowner Privileges

West Virginia resident landowners may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license. See definition of resident landowner privileges on page 9.

A resident landowner hunting on his/her own land without a license can take the same number of deer as a licensed hunter. A hunter (licensee or landowner) cannot take more than the number of deer allowed in the respective seasons.

After killing a deer as a landowner, a person cannot take another deer by use of a license for which the privilege has already been used.

STATE PARK DEER SEASONS

Information available July 1 at the WV DNR website, District offices and State Parks. Application process will be on-line at www.wvhunt.com.

Cacapon Resort State Park

December 7-9, 2015

Pipestem Resort State Park

November 16-18, 2015

Resident and Nonresident License Privileges with a Class DT Special Hunting and Fishing License for Persons with a Life-Threatening Condition

A resident or nonresident under age 21 who qualifies for and obtains a Class DT license, may hunt for and take the legal number of deer allowed in each season in compliance with county and statewide regulations without purchasing or otherwise obtaining any additional licenses or stamps, providing the Class DT license holder and assistant abides by all other pertinent laws and regulations. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Replacement Costs for Illegally Injuring or Killing Antlered Deer

In addition to the $200 replacement value of deer, the following cost shall also be forfeited to the state by any person who is convicted of violating any criminal law of this state and the violation causes the injury or death of antlered deer:

1. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 14” or greater but less than 16” - $1,000;
2. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 16” or greater but less than 18” - $1,500;
3. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 18” or greater but less than 20” - $2,000;
4. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 20” or greater - $2,500;
5. Any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of any criminal law of this state which violation causes the injury or death of antlered deer is subject to double the authorized range of cost to be forfeited.

Nonresident License Privileges

Nonresidents (ages 8 through 17) who have satisfactorily completed a Hunter Education Course may purchase a Class XXJ license or AAHJ license (without the training) and a Class CS/LE stamp are entitled to take one deer during the archery or crossbow seasons, one antlered deer during the buck firearms season, and one deer during the muzzleloader season.

Additional stamps must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RRG
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RRB
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class NN
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RRM

All other nonresidents, except those who hold License Classes XXJ, AAHJ or DT, regardless of landowner status, must purchase an annual Class E or AAH license and a Class CS/LE stamp. This entitles the holder to hunt one antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

Additional stamps must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RRG
- to hunt deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class UU
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RRB
- to hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class VV
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RRM
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class NN
- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Blaze Orange Requirement

Persons hunting in counties or portions thereof where a deer firearms season is presently open shall wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches. This applies to counties or parts thereof with the special youth/Class Q/QQ/XS antlerless deer season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

Hunting Hours and Restrictions

You may hunt deer from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset (see chart on page 35).

After a person has killed his/her legal daily limit of deer, they may not participate further in hunting deer with either a bow, crossbow or firearm the remainder of the day.

After killing the legal limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition unless legally hunting bear, or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot unless legally hunting waterfowl using nontoxic shot.

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

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

Firearms/Bows/Crossbows and Equipment

It is illegal to hunt deer with:

- a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball, or a rifle using rimfire ammunition of less than .25 caliber.
- a fully automatic rifle, shotgun or handgun.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- a muzzleloader of less than .38 caliber during the muzzleloader deer season.
- both a gun and a bow or with a gun and an arrow, except that persons having a concealed weapons permit may carry a concealed handgun for self-defense only.
- a crossbow that does not have:
  - a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - a working safety.
  - bolts at least 18 inches long.
  - broadheads with at least two edges at least ¾ inch in width.
- a bow with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than ¾ inch in width.
- a bow locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- anything other than a bow, crossbow or single-shot muzzleloader on Green Bottom and Fox Forest WMAs.
- an electronic call.

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a deer must attach a completed field tag to the deer or remain with the deer and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a field tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel the field tag shall be attached to the deer and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a DNR issued game tag number.

Each deer shall be electronically registered and a DNR issued game tag number, hunter's name and address shall be attached to the deer:

1. before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county of kill,
2. within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

The game tag number, hunter's name and address shall remain on the deer until it is dressed for consumption.

A hunter may harvest two deer on the same day, but only one antlered buck may be harvested on the same day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.

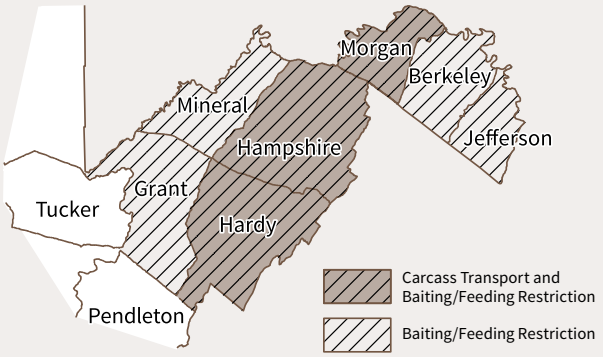
No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the DNR issued game tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Baiting and Feeding Regulations

It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land between September 1 and December 31 and during the spring gobbler seasons. It is also illegal to bait or feed at any time on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake and McClintic WMAs and on Coopers Rock and Calvin Price State Forests (see pages 27, 29 and 31).

WEST VIRGINIA CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) CONTAINMENT AREA

Includes all of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties.



Carcass Transport Regulations

Hunters are prohibited from transporting dead cervids (deer, elk, etc.) or their parts beyond the boundaries of Harmpshire, Hardy and Morgan counties (shaded area) except for the following:

1. meat that has been boned out,
2. quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached,
3. cleaned hide with no head attached,
4. clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached,
5. antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and
6. finished taxidermy mounts.

Hunters may transport whole cervid carcasses that were not killed inside Hampshire, Hardy and Morgan counties through the containment area.

Baiting/Feeding Restriction Regulations

It is illegal to bait or feed cervids or other wildlife in a "Containment Area" as determined by the Director and established for the management, control or eradication of chronic wasting disease or other wildlife diseases. Song and insectivorous birds may be fed, provided that such feeding shall not cause, or be done in a manner that would be reasonably anticipated to cause a congregation of cervids or other wildlife. Provided further, that captive cervids may be fed inside cervid facilities permitted by the state Department of Agriculture.

White-tailed Deer Hunting Seasons DEER

The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season) may include no more than 3 antlered bucks.

County See Pages 16-17 for Public Land Regulations	Archery and Crossbow September 26– December 31	Buck Firearms November 23 – December 5	Antlerless October 22-24 (Private Land Only); November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 Public* and Private Land	Muzzleloader December 7-12*
Calhoun Doddridge Greenbrier *(South Portion, see page 22)* Hampshire Mineral *(East Portion, see page 23)* Monroe Morgan Ritchie Wood	**Maximum combined seasons bag limit: 3** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • Two additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges. **In these counties, or parts thereof, archery and crossbow hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the archery and crossbow deer seasons prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery and crossbow deer seasons.**	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. **In these counties, or parts thereof, buck firearms season hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless deer firearms season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.** • Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	**Maximum season bag limit: 3** • Up to three antlerless deer may be taken on Class N or NN stamps or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county or combination of counties not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer. • Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license plus a Class N or NN stamp for each deer, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands*	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.*
Berkeley Brooke Gilmer Hardy Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Marion Mason Monongalia Ohio Pendleton *(East Portion, see page 23)* Putnam Roane Tyler Wetzel Wirt	**Maximum combined seasons bag limit: 3** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • Two additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. • Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	**Maximum season bag limit: 3** • Up to three antlerless deer may be taken on Class N or NN stamps or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county or combination of counties not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer. • Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp for each deer, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands*	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.*

DEER White-tailed Deer Hunting Seasons

The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season) may include no more than 3 antlered bucks.

County See Pages 16-17 for Public Land Regulations	Archery and Crossbow September 26– December 31	Buck Firearms November 23 – December 5	Antlerless October 22-24 (Private Land Only); November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 Public* and Private Land	Muzzleloader December 7-12*
Barbour Braxton Cabell Grant Hancock Kanawha *(North Portion, see page 22)* Lincoln Marshall Pleasants Preston Summers Taylor Upshur	**Maximum combined seasons bag limit: 3** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • Two additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. • Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	**Maximum season bag limit: 1** • One antlerless deer may be taken on a Class N or NN stamp or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer. • Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land. Prior application for permit not required. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands*	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.*
Clay *(North of Elk River)* Fayette *(East Portion, see page 22)* Mercer Nicholas Pocahontas Raleigh *(East Portion, see page 23)* Randolph	**Maximum combined seasons bag limit: 3** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • Two additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. • Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	**Maximum season bag limit: 1** • Open to Residents and Non-residents and prior application is required. • One antlerless deer may be taken on a Class N or NN stamp or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands*	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege. ***** *See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.*

White-tailed Deer Hunting Seasons DEER

The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season) may include no more than 3 antlered bucks.

County See Pages 16-17 for Public Land Regulations	Archery and Crossbow September 26– December 31	Buck Firearms November 23 – December 5	Antlerless Season Closed	Muzzleloader December 7-12
Boone Clay *(South of Elk River)* Fayette *(West Portion, see page 22)* Greenbrier *(North Portion, see page 22)* Kanawha *(South Portion, see page 22)* Mineral *(West Portion, see page 23)* Pendleton *(West Portion, see page 23)* Raleigh *(West Portion, see page 23)* Tucker Wayne Webster	**Maximum combined seasons bag limit: 3** • One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage, or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional either sex deer may be taken on a Class RB or RRB stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.	**Season Closed**	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. • One additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.
Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming	**Maximum season bag limit: 2** • **Crossbow Season closed, except for Class Y/YY holders.** • Only one antlered deer may be taken per year. • One deer may be taken on a valid base license, free license, resident underage, or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land and one deer may be taken on a class RB or RRB stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege; • OR, if the hunter's first archery deer was taken in a county open to firearms deer hunting, two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	**Season Closed**	**Season Closed**	**Season Closed**

DEER White-tailed Deer Hunting Seasons

The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season) may include no more than 3 antlered bucks.	
Wildlife Management Areas and other Public Lands	**Special Regulations**
Amherst/Plymouth WMA Beury Mountain WMA Camp Creek WMA Castlemans Run WMA Chief Cornstalk WMA Cross Creek WMA Lewis Wetzel WMA Mill Creek WMA Pleasant Creek WMA Snake Hill WMA Stonecoal Lake WMA Stonewall Jackson Lake WMA Underwood WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties where the WMAs are located except: the Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 and the season bag limit is one deer (Beury Mountain and Camp Creek WMAs — no prior application for limited permit required for Antlerless Season.) Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.
Bluestone Lake WMA Coopers Rock State Forest	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Monongalia/Preston counties (Coopers Rock) and Summers/Mercer/Monroe counties (Bluestone Lake) where the State Forest or WMA is located except: all antlered deer taken must have a minimum 14" outside antler spread. The annual bag limit for antlered deer in Buck Firearms, Archery, Crossbow and Muzzleloader Seasons combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 and the season bag limit is one deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer.
Beech Fork Lake WMA McClintic WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Wayne County (Beech Fork Lake) and Mason County (McClintic) where the WMAs are located except: all antlered deer taken must have a minimum 14" outside antler spread. The annual bag limit for antlered deer in Buck Firearms, Archery, Crossbow and Muzzleloader Seasons combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 and the season bag limit is one deer on McClintic WMA (the Antlerless Season is closed on Beech Fork Lake). Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.
Beaver Dam WMA Cheat WMA Cranberry WMA Handley WMA Hilbert WMA Little River WMA Morris Creek WMA Neola WMA Otter Creek WMA Potomac WMA Potts Creek WMA Rimel WMA Seneca State Forest Tea Creek WMA Upper Mud River WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties or portions thereof where the WMAs are located except: the Archery and Crossbow Seasons bag limit is two deer. The Antlerless Season is closed. The Muzzleloader Season is restricted to antlered deer only. Class RM/RRM stamps are valid only for antlered deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.
Big Ugly WMA Elk River WMA Greenbrier State Forest Kumbrabow State Forest Wallback WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the counties or portions thereof where the WMAs or State Forests are located except: the Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31. Prior application is required to hunt during the Antlerless Season and the season bag limit is one deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are only valid for antlered deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.

The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season) may include no more than 3 antlered bucks.	
Wildlife Management Areas and other Public Lands	**Special Regulations**
Hughes River WMA Sleepy Creek WMA South Branch WMA Stumptown WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties where the WMAs are located except: the Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 and the season bag limit is three deer (no special regulations requirement). Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.
Burnsville Lake WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Braxton County where the WMA is located except: all antlered deer taken must have a minimum 14" outside antler spread. The annual bag limit for antlered deer in Buck Firearms, Archery, Crossbow and Muzzleloader Seasons combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31, and the season bag limit is one deer. The RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.
Hillcrest WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Hancock County except: Buck Firearms Season is closed. **This area has a Special Muzzleloader Deer Season from November 23 – December 5 and during this period only muzzleloaders and crossbows may be used for hunting deer on the area.** All Muzzleloader Season stamp requirements apply. The annual antlered deer bag limit for Archery, Crossbow and Muzzleloader Seasons combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 and the bag limit is one deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. Sunday hunting prohibited.
Wilson Cove Deer Study Area	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Hardy County except: Buck Firearms Season is closed. **This area has a Special Muzzleloader Deer Season from November 23 – December 5 and during this period only muzzleloaders and crossbows may be used for hunting deer on the area.** All Muzzleloader Season stamp requirements apply. The annual antlered deer bag limit for Archery, Crossbow and Muzzleloader Seasons combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31. The RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer.
Green Bottom WMA	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Cabell/Mason counties except: Deer may only be hunted with bows or muzzleloaders and the Antlerless Season is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 and the bag limit is one deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer.
Calvin Price State Forest	All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Pocahontas County except: all antlered deer taken must have a minimum 14-inch outside antler spread. The annual bag limit for antlered deer in the Buck Firearms, Archery, Crossbow and Muzzleloader Seasons combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is closed. The RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are only valid for antlered deer.
All other WMAs and other Public Lands	All regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties or portions thereof where the WMAs or other public lands are located except: in counties having an Antlerless Season, the Antlerless Season on WMAs and other public lands is open November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31. Sunday hunting prohibited.

DEER Antlerless Season

An antlerless deer is any deer having no antlers or having no antler greater than three inches long above the hairline. The maximum annual bag limit in a county or any legal combination of counties is three Class N or NN antlerless deer.

Counties* or parts thereof open to Unlimited Resident Class N, Nonresident Class NN and Two Additional Class N or NN

Three (3) Class N or NN deer may be taken in each county, not to exceed an annual statewide bag limit of three (3) Class N or NN deer.

October 22-24 (Private Land Only)

November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 (Private and Public Land**)

Calhoun
Doddridge
Greenbrier *(South Portion, see page 22)*
Hampshire
Mineral *(East Portion, see page 23)*
Monroe
Morgan
Ritchie
Wood

In these counties, or parts thereof, archery and crossbow hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the archery and crossbow seasons prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery and crossbow seasons. In addition, buck firearms season hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless deer gun season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

Counties or parts thereof open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN and Two Additional Class N or NN

Three (3) Class N or NN deer may be taken in each county, not to exceed an annual statewide bag limit of three (3) Class N or NN deer.

October 22-24 (Private Land Only)

November 23 – December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 (Private and Public Land**)

Berkeley
Brooke
Gilmer
Hardy
Harrison
Jackson
Jefferson
Lewis
Marion
Mason
Monongalia
Ohio
Pendleton *(East Portion, see map on page 23)*
Putnam
Roane
Tyler
Wetzel
Wirt

Counties or parts thereof open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN

One (1) Class N or NN deer may be taken in each county, not to exceed an annual statewide bag limit of three (3) Class N or NN deer.

October 22-24 (Private Land Only)

November 23 - December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 (Private and Public Land**)

Barbour
Braxton
Cabell
Grant
Hancock
Kanawha *(North Portion, see page 22)*
Lincoln
Marshall
Pleasants
Preston
Summers
Taylor
Upshur

Counties or parts thereof, State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas open to Limited Resident Class N or Nonresident Class NN (Must Apply)

Only one (1) Class N or Class NN antlerless deer may be taken in this group of counties and WMAs.

October 22-24 (Private Land Only)

November 23 - December 5, December 17-19 and December 29-31 (Private and Public Land**)

Counties or Parts Thereof

Clay *(North of Elk River)*	250
Fayette *(East Portion – see map on page 22)*	200
Mercer	200
Nicholas	250
Pocahontas	300
Raleigh *(East Portion – see map on page 23)*	200
Randolph	500

Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests

Big Ugly *(Lincoln County)*	50
Elk River *(Braxton County)*	250
Greenbrier State Forest *(Greenbrier County)*	50
Kumbrabow State Forest *(Randolph County)*	50
Wallback *(Clay/Kanawha/Roane counties)*	100

Counties not listed in the table are closed to firearms antlerless hunting.

See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.

All antlerless deer taken during the antlerless deer season or the portion of the antlerless deer season concurrent with buck firearms season must be taken on a Class N or NN stamp, Class DT license or as a landowner. See exception for concurrent archery and crossbow hunting on page 27.

All West Virginia residents must purchase a Class N stamp to hunt during the antlerless season with the following exceptions:

- Resident landowners (see page 10) may hunt antlerless deer on their land without a license provided the land is in a county or part thereof open to antlerless deer hunting.
- Resident landowners, their resident children or resident parents do not have to live on the property. However, a resident tenant must permanently live on the land.
- Resident stockholders of resident corporations formed for the primary purpose of hunting or fishing who own in fee no less than 1,000 acres may hunt antlerless deer on their own land, provided the land is in a county or part thereof open to antlerless deer hunting.
- Residents or nonresidents who hold Class DT licenses are not required to purchase Class N or NN stamps but must abide by all other antlerless regulations.

All nonresidents, military personnel, senior citizens, Class Q and QQ, Class XS, disabled veterans, former POWs and underage hunters not exempted must purchase a Class N or NN stamp to hunt antlerless deer during the antlerless season.

Class N or NN stamps may be purchased at any license agent, the DNR offices in South Charleston and Elkins, or on the DNR website (see page 41).

Class N or NN stamps are nontransferable. Class N or NN stamps are not county specific, but in limited resident counties, State Forests or WMAs, the Class N stamp must be accompanied by a valid eligibility card.

During the antlerless season, a Class N or NN stamp holder may substitute a bow or crossbow for a firearm to take antlerless deer.

Only one antlerless deer may be taken on each Class N or NN stamp.

A hunter may harvest two deer on the same day, but only one antlered buck may be harvested on the same day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.

No person may actively participate (drive) in any manner in hunting antlerless deer without a valid Class N or NN stamp or otherwise being exempt from having a Class N or NN stamp.

Family Fun

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY®

WEST VIRGINIA'S
2015 Celebration

September 26-27

Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sunday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- More than 100 vendors and exhibits
- Big buck & trophy fish displays
- Hunting, fishing and wildlife seminars
- Outdoor Youth Challenge
- Hands-on activities for kids
- Learn how to clean a fish, shoot a rifle, and cast a fishing line

Admission: Adults: $6 • Ages 15 & under: Free

Stonewall Resort State Park
Roanoke, WV (located off I-79 at Exit 91)

304.558.2771
www.wvdnr.gov/nhfd/

Counties or parts thereof with a Bag Limit of Three Class N or NN Deer in Antlerless Season and Counties with a Bag Limit of Three Class N or NN Deer with Special Regulations

Counties or parts thereof with a bag limit of three Class N or NN deer in antlerless season having a special regulation

There are nine counties or parts thereof where a hunter may take three antlerless deer during the antlerless season by purchasing multiple Class N or NN stamps (see pages 13 and 18). Hunters may take up to three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer in each county or part thereof not to exceed the bag limit specified in each county or part thereof and not to exceed the annual statewide bag limit of three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer. **In these counties, or parts thereof, archery and crossbow hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the archery and crossbow seasons prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery and crossbow deer seasons. In addition, buck firearms season hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless deer firearms season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.** See pages 16-17 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Counties or parts thereof with a bag limit of three Class N or NN deer in antlerless season

There are 18 counties or parts thereof where a hunter may take three antlerless deer during the antlerless season by purchasing multiple Class N or NN stamps (see pages 13 and 18). Hunters may take up to three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer in each county or part thereof not to exceed the bag limit specified in each county or part thereof and not to exceed the annual statewide bag limit of three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer. See pages 16-17 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Unlimited Resident and Nonresident with special regulation: bag limit of three

Unlimited Resident and Nonresident: bag limit of three

WEST VIRGINIA CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 12 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

Concurrent hunting during the Antlerless Deer Season

During antlerless season, concurrent hunting for small game (except during the first three days of the buck firearms season) and bear (where the season is open) is legal; however, no hunter except those legally hunting antlerless deer or bear shall be afield with a firearm with solid ball ammunition or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot, except for waterfowl hunters using nontoxic shot.

Concurrent archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during the antlerless season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. All persons hunting during deer firearms seasons (except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters) must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting is legal (see separate WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations publication).

Counties or parts thereof, State Forests and/or WMAs with Limited Resident and Nonresident Class N or NN Permits, and Unlimited Resident and Nonresident Class N or NN with a Bag Limit of One

Counties or parts thereof with a bag limit of one Class N or NN deer in antlerless season

Thirteen counties or parts thereof have an unlimited number of Class N or NN stamps for resident and nonresident antlerless deer hunting (see pages 14 and 18). No application is necessary for these counties. Hunters may take one antlerless (Class N or NN) deer in each county or part thereof in this group of counties, not to exceed the annual statewide bag limit of three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer. See pages 16-17 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Counties or parts thereof and public lands with limited resident and nonresident hunting for Class N or NN deer in antlerless season

There are seven counties or parts thereof with resident Class N or nonresident Class NN antlerless deer hunting with prior application in 2015. Three wildlife management areas (WMAs) and two State Forests (SFs) have a limited number of Class N or Class NN stamps for antlerless deer hunting (see page 18). To be eligible to hunt in one of these counties or on one of these WMAs or SFs, an application must be submitted online by August 15, 2015. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land. Successful applicants will receive notification from the DNR by mail and applicants can check online at wvhunt.com beginning August 18. See pages 16-17 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

In limited resident and nonresident antlerless WMAs and State Forests, a hunter may take only one deer in the antlerless season.

To apply, go online to wvhunt.com, and log into your account and click the Enter Lottery tab.

Unlimited Resident and Nonresident: bag limit of one

Limited Resident and Nonresident: bag limit of one

November 1, 2015

Share Your Harvest Sunday

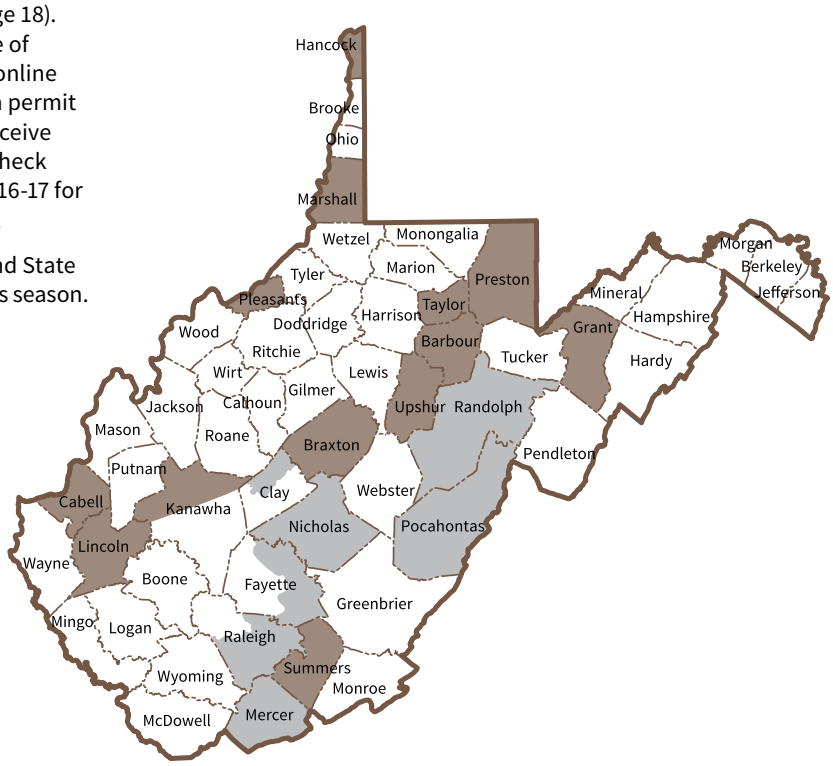
The DNR and the WV Council of Churches cooperatively sponsor Share Your Harvest Sunday each year to financially support the **Hunters Helping the Hungry** (HHH) program. Since its inception in 1992, HHH has provided venison for more than 1.1 million meals to needy West Virginians.

During this Sunday, or another Sunday of choice, churches are encouraged to ask members of the congregation to donate $1, $5 or whatever they can afford. DNR staff collect the donations to help Mountaineer Food Bank of Gassaway and the Huntington Food Bank pay for meat processing and distribution costs.

Mail donations to:

Hunters Helping the Hungry
WVDNR Wildlife Resources
324 4th Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

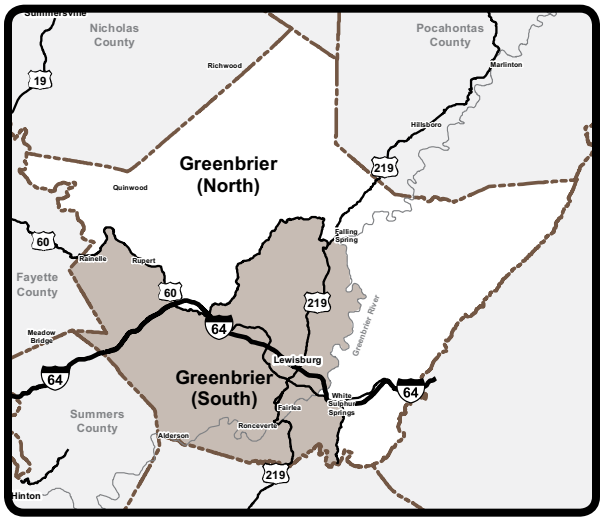
For more information contact
Judy Channell at 304.924.6211
or Judy.A.Channell@wv.gov *or visit*
www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm



ANTLERLESS SEASON KEY

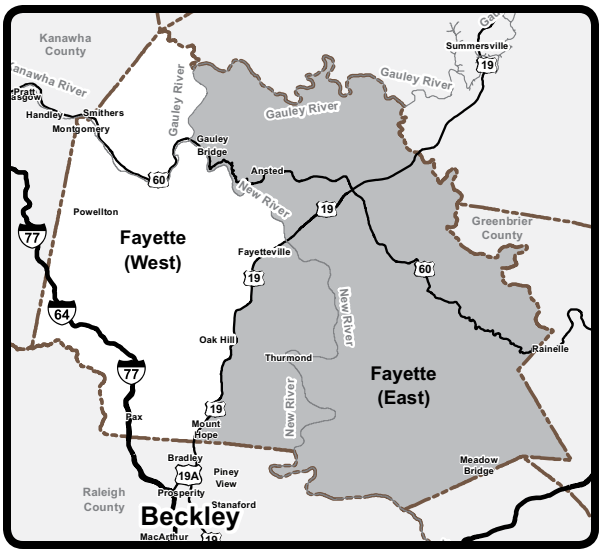
(see pages 13-15 and 18)

- **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident with special regulation:** season bag limit of three
- **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident:** season bag limit of three
- **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident:** season bag limit of one
- **Limited Resident and Nonresident:** season bag limit of one
- **Closed:** to antlerless deer hunting



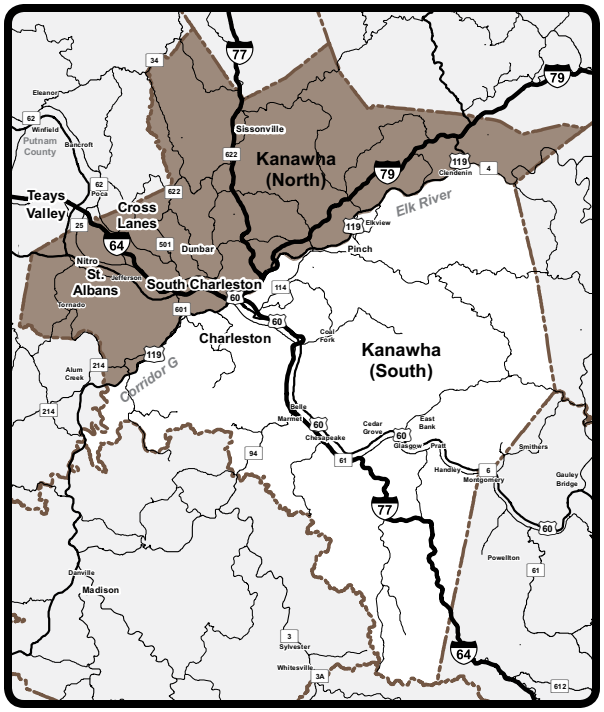
Greenbrier County

(North/South Division Line) — starting at the Fayette County line, US Route 60E to CR9, CR9N to US Route 219, US Route 219N to CR 11 (at Renick), CR 11E to Greenbrier River, south along the Greenbrier River to I-64, I-64E to CR 60/14, CR 60/14S to Monroe County line.



Fayette County

(East/West Division Line) — starting at the Raleigh County line, US Route 19N to New River, then follow New River north to the Gauley River (at Gauley Bridge), then along the Gauley River to the Nicholas County line.



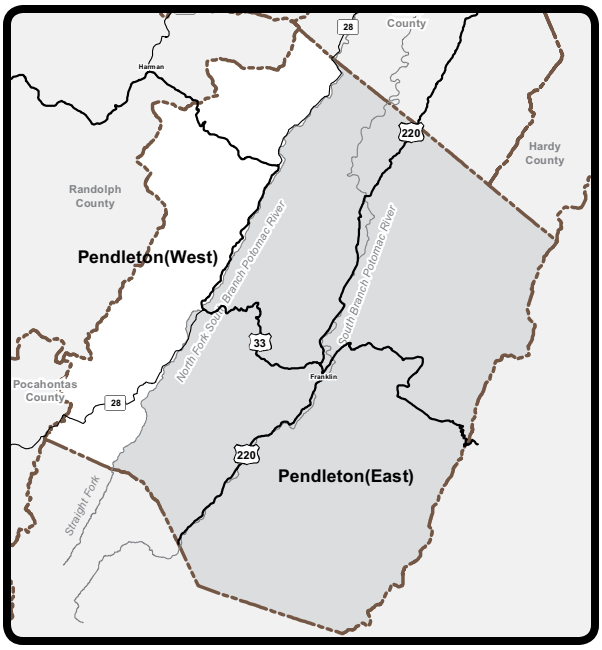
Kanawha County

(North/South Division Line) — starting at the Clay County line at the Elk River, west along the Elk River to Charleston (intersection of I-64 with Corridor G), south along Corridor G to Lincoln County line.

ANTLERLESS SEASON KEY

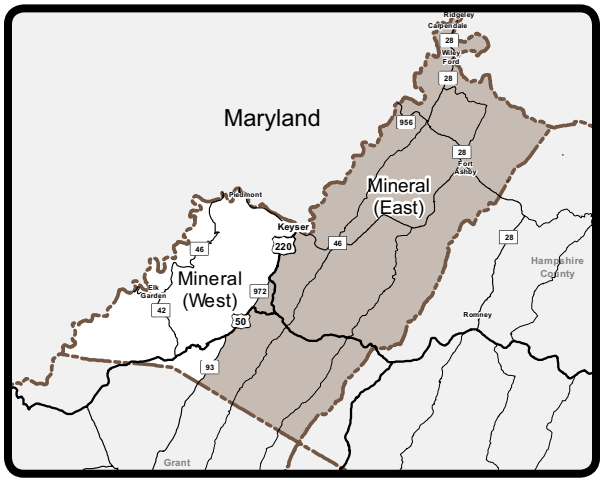
(see pages 13-15 and 18)

- **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident with special regulation:** season bag limit of three
- **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident:** season bag limit of three
- **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident:** season bag limit of one
- **Limited Resident and Nonresident:** season bag limit of one
- **Closed:** to antlerless deer hunting



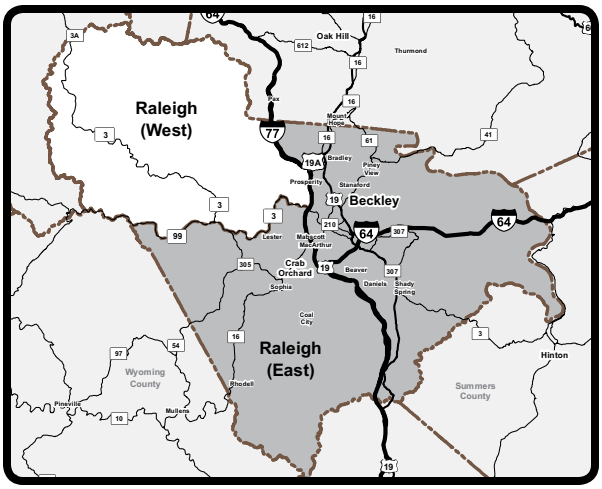
Pendleton County

(East/West Division Line) — starting at the WV/VA state line, Straight Fork to junction with the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, north along the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River to the Grant County line.



Mineral County

(East/West Division Line) — starting at the West Virginia-Maryland state line, US Route 220S to SR 972, SR 972S to US Route 50, US Route 50W to SR 93, SR 93S to Grant County line.



Raleigh County

(East/West Division Line) — starting at the Wyoming County line, SR 99E to intersection with SR 3 (at Glen Daniel), then SR 3E to intersection with I-77/64 (at Beckley), then I-77N to Fayette County line.

ELECTRONIC GAME CHECK

How to check game

Hunters and trappers, you may check game by one of the following three methods:

1. Going online to wvhunt.com.
2. By calling 1-844-982-4325 (1-844-WVCheck). You must be registered in the system and know your unique DNR ID number to use the telephone check option. To obtain your DNR ID number, please see the information below.
3. Stopping at a hunting and fishing license agent. For a current list of license agents, visit www.wvdnr.gov. Note: you are not required to bring the animal to the license agent.

If you are not required to buy a license (e.g., landowner, underage, etc.), you may log onto wvhunt.com or visit a license agent to obtain your DNR ID number.

If you are a lifetime license holder (e.g., AB-L, A-L, XS, etc.), you will already be assigned a number in the system. To obtain your DNR ID number, visit wvhunt.com or a license agent.

If you buy your base license each year, your DNR ID number will be printed on the upper left hand corner of the license.

No matter what classification of hunter or trapper you are, your DNR ID number will be valid for your lifetime and will be used in all future game checking transactions with the DNR. If you are a landowner who checks game both as a landowner and on a license, you will have only one DNR ID number.

Upon finishing the electronic game check process, you will be given a 13-digit game check confirmation number that will serve as verification that you have completed the game checking process.

This unique number must be written down on a sheet of paper with your name and address, or on your completed field tag, and attached to the animal. This number shall be affixed to the animal or parts thereof and remain affixed until it is dressed for consumption or processed into commercial fur. It will let the Natural Resources Police Officers know that the animal has been officially checked.

You may view your game checking history at wvhunt.com.

Why now?

Faced with an antiquated mix of electronic and paper hunting and fishing license systems, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has been working the last few years to come up with a state-of-the-art system that will be more efficient and convenient for both the public and DNR. Also, for the first time, hunters can check-in their game from their phone or computer.

The goWILD licensing system was developed in-house by the DNR in 2002. Obviously, computer software has improved by leaps and bounds since that time, and old programs are no longer sustainable.

The new electronic licensing system has been in effect since January 1, 2015. Most hunters have adapted pretty well to the system. The big change for hunters, and for trappers of beaver, bobcat, fisher and river otter, is the ability to check in game by phone or computer.

Those who still like to talk directly to someone about their hunting experiences will be able to stop by one of the approximately 180 official license agents to check in their game. However, unlike past years, they won't have to bring the animal in with them for checking purposes. Hunters and trappers will still have to follow the time and transportation restrictions as listed in the regulations.

Electronic game check provides several benefits. Hunters can hunt later into the day without worrying about driving around to find an open check station after dark. This will also save hunters time, gas and wear-and-tear on their vehicle. If a hunter has cell phone coverage in the woods, he or she can check the game in over the phone and immediately quarter and chill the deer, helping to preserve the freshness of the meat.

A benefit of the new system for license buyers is that once they have an account, they will be able to make and review purchases, check in game, enter lotteries for limited hunting seasons, and review their history of checking game. The DNR will benefit by having all license purchases recorded on the same system, allowing the agency to more easily account for purchases and making the system more efficient. In the past, the records of online purchases, paper license purchases and Point-of-Sale agent purchases were separate, which made compiling license purchase records difficult, to say the least. It will also make the collection of license fees by the DNR more efficient.

Although the main reason for the change in the system was to help hunters, electronic game check will also benefit DNR personnel. Biologists will be able to monitor big game kills each day, instead of waiting until they visited more than 600 check stations throughout the state to pick up check tags. Not having to visit the check stations a minimum of three times a year will save the DNR hundreds of hours of personnel time and thousands of dollars in gasoline.

Electronic game check also means DNR personnel won't have to spend hundreds of hours sorting and entering check tags into the agency's computer system for analysis. From a law enforcement perspective, Natural Resources Police Officers will be able to see if the person they are talking with in the field has checked in their game.

Few people embrace change, especially when the current system has been in effect since game checking was required. The Electronic Game Check System, however, is designed to be more efficient than the hand-written check tag system and more convenient for all concerned. Similar systems have proven successful and popular in other states.

What is CWD — Chronic Wasting Disease?

CWD is a neurological (brain and nervous system) disease of deer and elk known to occur in limited geographical locations in North America. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). These diseases are caused by an abnormal form of a protein called a prion. In deer and elk there is no practical test of live animals to detect CWD, and there is no known treatment or vaccine.

How is it spread?

It is thought that the most common mode of transmission from an infected animal is via saliva, feces, urine and possibly other body secretions. The infectious prion persists in the environment. There is evidence that people moving live infected animals have spread the disease over long distances.

Is it dangerous to humans?

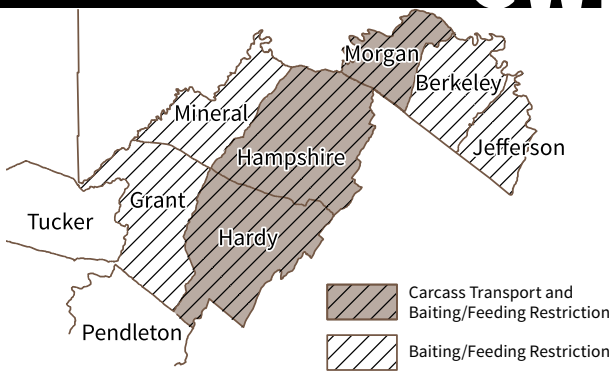
There currently is no convincing evidence that the agent of CWD affects humans. However, public health officials recommend that human exposure to the CWD agent be avoided as they continue to research the disease. This includes not eating meat from known infected animals or animals that appear sick.

Where has it been found?

In West Virginia, CWD has been found in 183 white-tailed deer. Testing of road-kill deer in all WV counties has been continuous since 2002. The WVDNR, Wildlife Resources Section, in cooperation with the SE Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia and the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, has tested over 15,500 deer from West Virginia for CWD and as of June 2015, the 179 Hampshire County deer and four Hardy County deer are the only animals found thus far to have the abnormal prion associated with CWD.

What is being done about CWD in WV?

CWD in West Virginia represents a significant threat to the state's white-tailed deer. The disease does not create an immediate widespread die-off of deer, but if allowed to spread, will cause long-term damage to the herd. The DNR is taking action to gather more information on the prevalence and distribution of the disease in the area surrounding all known infected deer. The DNR also discourages supplemental feeding and baiting of deer statewide, bans these practices on public land for a portion of the year, and also bans these practices anytime in Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties. In addition there are restrictions on the disposal and transport of deer carcasses from Hampshire, Hardy, and Morgan counties within the WV containment area (see WV CWD containment area) and portions of MD, PA and VA where CWD has been detected. There are no proven solutions to combating CWD once present in free-ranging deer. Thus, future management actions will be adaptive and based on the findings of current and future surveillance.



WEST VIRGINIA Chronic Wasting Disease Containment Area

Includes all of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties (cross-hatched counties above). It is **illegal to bait or feed deer** any time in the "Containment Area" (see baiting and feeding regulations on page 12). In addition, hunters are prohibited from **transporting dead deer** or their parts beyond the boundaries of **Hampshire, Hardy, and Morgan** counties (shaded counties above) within the containment area except for the following: meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, cleaned hide with no head attached, clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached, antlers with no meat or tissue attached, finished taxidermy mounts. Hunters may transport cervid carcasses that were not killed inside the containment area through the containment area.

What can hunters do?

- If you kill or observe a severely emaciated (very skinny) deer or a deer that is obviously sick, or a deer with an ear tag, contact the WV DNR Wildlife Resources Section office nearest you.
- Do not feed or bait deer. These practices concentrate deer, increase the likelihood of spread of any disease present in the deer herd, and may introduce foreign contaminates via the feed or bait.
- Harvest adequate numbers of antlerless deer to maintain deer populations in balance with natural food supplies. A deer population in balance with available habitat is healthier and better able to fight diseases.
- Use caution when using urine based lures in the environment and do not place deer urine lures on the ground or on vegetation where deer can reach them.
- If you plan to hunt deer or elk in a state known to harbor CWD, follow that state's rules on removing animals from the area. Bring back only boned out meat or quarters and thoroughly cleaned skull plates and antlers. **This applies to Virginia's CWD containment area and Maryland's and Pennsylvania's CWD disease management areas.**
- If you hunt in Hampshire, Hardy, or Morgan counties, see special regulations regarding carcass transport and disposal. Also, please cooperate with WVDNR requests for information and samples needed for CWD testing.
- If you kill a cervid (deer, elk, etc.) out of state in a fenced enclosure, only boned out meat or quarters and thoroughly cleaned skull plates and antlers may be transported into the state.

DEER Archery and Crossbow Seasons

Daily Bag Limit: 2 **Opening Date: September 26** **Closing Date: December 31**

Three deer may be taken with a bow or crossbow during the archery and crossbow seasons. One deer may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS+BG or Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+UU, Classes AAH+CS/LE+UU, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take an archery or crossbow deer without a license. Up to two additional deer may be taken with Class RB or Class RRB stamps (one per stamp) or on a Class DT license or by resident landowners hunting on their own property. If two deer are taken on Class RB or RRB stamps, or on a Class DT license or by a resident landowner using those privileges, one of the two must be an antlerless deer taken in a county open to Class N antlerless hunting. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.

Deer of either sex may be hunted statewide with a bow or crossbow during the archery and crossbow seasons, except that crossbows are not permitted in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties, except by the holders of Class Y/YY permits. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during any deer firearms season except that a bow cannot be substituted in the muzzleloader season.

It is illegal to:

- be afield with both gun and bow or with a gun and an arrow, except that persons who have a concealed weapon permit may carry a concealed handgun for self-defense only.
- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - a working safety.
  - bolts at least 18 inches long.
  - broadheads with at least two cutting edges at least ¾ inch in width.
- hunt deer with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than ¾ inch in width.
- use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- use an electronic call to hunt deer.

Additional Deer Archery Stamps

Class RB and Class RRB

A resident may purchase only two Class RB stamps and a nonresident may purchase only two Class RRB stamps for the archery and crossbow seasons. The Class RB or Class RRB archery stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of statewide archery season.

Only one deer may be taken with each Class RB or RRB stamp.

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RB or RRB stamps may be checked in any order.

Class RB or RRB stamps cannot be used for taking deer with a firearm.

Two additional deer may be taken with Class RB or Class RRB stamps, by holders of Class DT licenses or by a resident landowner hunting on their own land during the archery and crossbow seasons. If two deer are taken on Class RB or Class RRB stamps, or on a Class DT license, or by a resident landowner using Class RB stamp privileges, one of the two must be an antlerless deer taken in a county open to Class N antlerless hunting.

There are nine counties or parts thereof (see pages 13, 18 and 20) that require archery and crossbow deer hunters to take an antlerless deer during the archery and crossbow deer seasons prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery and crossbow deer seasons.

The annual limit for the four-county area of Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties is two archery deer, one of which must be antlerless. One Class RB or RRB stamp is valid in these counties, except if the first archery deer was taken in a county open to firearms deer hunting, then two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps or a Class DT license in counties open to firearms deer hunting. The taking of archery antlerless deer during the buck firearms season is legal in these counties.

To take additional archery or crossbow deer, all residents except holders of Class DT licenses and resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land are required to purchase Class RB stamps. All nonresidents except holders of Class DT licenses are required to purchase Class RRB archery stamps to take additional archery or crossbow deer (see license requirements on page 11).

Concurrent hunting during Deer Archery and Crossbow Seasons

A bow hunter may take small game at any time the small game season is open, except the first three days of buck firearms season in counties having a buck firearms season. **A crossbow hunter may take small game during the deer Crossbow Season, except the first three days of buck firearms season in counties having a buck firearms season.**

Archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer are legal during muzzleloader deer season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. Additionally, archery and crossbow hunters must wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches during any deer firearms seasons.

WEST VIRGINIA CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 12 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

Special Seasons and Restrictions

Urban Deer Archery/Crossbow Season

A special archery/crossbow deer hunting season is available between September 5 – December 31, 2015, to incorporated cities, towns, villages and incorporated homeowner associations. To implement the hunt, homeowner associations must submit a written request to the Director by March 1 of the hunt year. During this special season, seven deer may be taken which may include no more than two antlered bucks and the first deer must be antlerless. Deer taken in the Urban Deer Archery/Crossbow Season shall not apply to the hunters regular archery and crossbow seasons bag limit. For information regarding this special archery deer season, contact your local municipal government, homeowner association or the appropriate DNR office.

Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken during archery and crossbow seasons on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake, and McClintic WMAs and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price State Forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). The annual bag limit for antlered deer on these areas is one for all seasons combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on these areas (see page 12).

McClintic and Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Areas

Hunting in the controlled waterfowl hunting area of McClintic and Green Bottom WMAs is restricted to waterfowl hunting during the early segment of the waterfowl season. Refer to the 2015-16 WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulation available in September for season dates.

It is illegal to:

- be afield with both gun and bow or with a gun and an arrow, except that persons who have a concealed weapon permit may carry a concealed handgun for self-defense only.
- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - a working safety.
  - bolts at least 18 inches long.
  - broadheads with at least two cutting edges at least ¾ inch in width.
- hunt deer with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than ¾-inch in width.
- use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- to use an electronic call to hunt deer.

DEER Buck Firearms Season

Daily Bag Limit: 1 **Opening Date: November 23** **Closing Date: December 5**

Only deer having one or both antlers more than 3 inches in length above the hairline are legal during the buck firearms season (see concurrent hunting for antlerless deer during buck firearms season on page 29).

Two deer may be taken with a gun, crossbow or bow during the buck firearms season. One may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS or Classes AH+CS); or free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE, Classes AAH+CS/LE, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take an antlered deer without a license. An additional deer may only be taken with a Class RG stamp, Class RRG stamp, Class DT license or by resident landowners hunting on their own property. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

A hunter may take no more than one antlered deer per day.

Legal firearms for hunting deer during the buck firearms season shall include:

- a rifle using centerfire ammunition.
- a rifle using .25 caliber or larger rimfire ammunition.
- a muzzleloading rifle, with or without scope, and muzzleloading pistol of .38 caliber or larger.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of .357 magnum cartridge or larger or a bottle-necked case of .24 caliber or larger (see page 5). A Class A-1 handgun stamp is required.
- a shotgun loaded with solid ball ammunition.

Buck Firearms Season Counties

All counties except Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming are open.

Open: Buck Firearms Season November 23 – December 5, 2015 *(See pages 16-17 for special public land regulations)*

Closed: to all firearms deer hunting

Additional Buck Firearms Season Gun Stamps

Class RG and Class RRG

During a calendar year, a resident may purchase only one Class RG stamp and a nonresident may purchase only one Class RRG stamp.

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RG or Class RRG stamp. The Class RG and Class RRG stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of buck firearms season. The Class RG and Class RRG stamps are valid for buck hunting in all counties open to buck firearms season.

To take an additional deer, all residents, except resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land or holders of a Class DT license, are required to purchase a Class RG stamp. All nonresidents are required to purchase a Class RRG stamp or possess a Class DT license if they choose to take an additional deer (see license requirements on page 11).

There are nine counties or parts thereof (see pages 13, 18 and 20) that require buck firearms season hunters to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless firearms deer season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RG or RRG stamps may be electronically registered in any order.

Concurrent hunting during Buck Firearms Deer Season

Antlerless deer hunting is legal on private land in 47 counties or parts thereof and all public lands having an antlerless season November 23 – December 5, 2015. To hunt antlerless deer during the buck firearms season, a valid Class N or NN stamp or Class DT license is required for all hunters except for resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land. **A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

Small game hunting is prohibited during the first three days of buck firearms season in all counties having a buck firearms season; provided, waterfowl hunting is legal on lakes, rivers and waterways during the open waterfowl season, bear hunting is legal in specified counties, and coyote hunting is legal. Small game hunting is legal during open small game seasons beginning November 26, 2015. While hunting small game during the buck firearms season, No. 4 shot or smaller and slugs may be carried with a shotgun only if the hunter is legally hunting deer or bear.

A combination rifle-shotgun (over-under, etc.) is legal for deer hunting and concurrent small game hunting.

After killing the legal daily or season bag limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition (unless legally hunting bear) or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot. Waterfowl hunters may use nontoxic shot larger than No. 4.

It is illegal to hunt small game during the buck season with any centerfire, with any rimfire larger than .22 caliber, or with a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 in a county that is not open to buck firearms season.

Archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during buck firearms season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm to take antlered deer, or if hunting on a Class N or NN stamp or Class DT license, antlerless deer may be taken during the buck firearms season on private land in specified counties and on specified public lands (see pages 16-18).

All persons hunting during a deer firearms season, except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

WEST VIRGINIA CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 12 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

Special Seasons and Restrictions

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area and Hillcrest Wildlife Management Area

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area, located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest, and Hillcrest WMA, located in Hancock County, will have a deer muzzleloader season November 23 – December 5, 2015. During this period, only single shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” of .38 caliber or larger, and crossbows are legal for deer hunting on these areas. These two areas will not be open to the traditional buck firearms season. All muzzleloader season license requirements apply (see pages 10-11, 17 and 30). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one deer for archery, crossbow and muzzleloader seasons combined (see page 17.)

Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake and McClintic WMAs, and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price State Forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one deer for all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on these areas (see page 12).

DEER Muzzleloader Season

Daily Bag Limit: 2 **Opening Date: December 7** **Closing Date: December 12**

Two deer may be taken with a muzzleloader or crossbow during the muzzleloader season. One may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS+BG or Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+VV, Classes AAH+CS/LE+VV, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take a muzzleloader season deer without a license. An additional muzzleloader season deer may only be taken with a Class RM or RRM stamp, a Class DT license or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Muzzleloader season hunting for antlered deer is legal in all counties open to the buck firearms season. A deer of either sex may be taken in the muzzleloader season in all counties or parts thereof open to the Class N season. One additional deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or a Class DT license in all counties having the muzzleloader season (see pages 13-15 and 31).

In the muzzleloader season, only single-shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” of .38 caliber or larger and crossbows are legal. Telescopic sights are 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; when the priming charge is removed from the pan; or if they have an electronic ignition with the battery removed.

A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.

Use of Class RM and Class RRM Stamps and Class DT Licenses in the Muzzleloader Season

Only one Class RM or RRM stamp may be used in the muzzleloader season.

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RM or RRM stamp. The Class RM and RRM stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of the muzzleloader season.

To take an additional muzzleloader season deer, all residents, except resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land and hunters who possess a Class DT license are required to purchase a Class RM stamp. All nonresidents, except holders of a Class DT license, are required to purchase a Class RRM stamp if they choose to take an additional muzzleloader deer.

Class RM and Class RRM stamps or a Class DT license may be used to take one additional deer in the muzzleloader season in all counties having the muzzleloader season (see page 31). See pages 16-17 for muzzleloader season regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RM or RRM stamps may be checked in any order.

Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses may be used to take one antlered deer in all counties having the muzzleloader season OR;

Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses may be used to take one either-sex deer in the 40 counties or parts thereof having a Class N or NN antlerless season bag limit of one unlimited or three antlerless (Class N) deer (see muzzleloader map page 31). See pages 16-17 for muzzleloader regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting is legal (see separate WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations publication).

WEST VIRGINIA CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 12 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

Concurrent hunting during Muzzleloader Season

A crossbow, but not a bow, can be substituted for a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season. Concurrent archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during the muzzleloader season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations.

Concurrent hunting is permitted during the muzzleloader season. It is illegal to be afield with solid-ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 during the muzzleloader season except for those persons legally hunting bear, and for waterfowl hunters using nontoxic shot. All persons hunting during deer firearms seasons (except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters) must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

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

Special Seasons and Restrictions

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area and Hillcrest Wildlife Management Area

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area, located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest, and Hillcrest WMA, located in Hancock County, will have a muzzleloader season November 23 – December 5, 2015. During this period, only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines" of .38 caliber or larger, and crossbows are legal for hunting deer on these areas. These two areas will not be open to the traditional buck firearms season. All muzzleloader season license requirements apply (see pages 10–11, 17 and 30). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one for archery, crossbow and muzzleloader seasons combined (see page 17).

Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake and McClintic WMAs and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price State Forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). The annual antlered deer bag limit is one for archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on these areas (see page 12).

Muzzleloader Season Counties

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

Open: to antlered only muzzleloader season hunting on base license and Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses

Open: to either sex muzzleloader season hunting on base license, and antlered deer only on Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses

Open: to either sex muzzleloader season hunting on base license and Class RM, RRM stamps and Class DT licenses

Closed: to all firearms deer hunting

See pages 22-23 for more detailed descriptions and maps of Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Mineral, Pendleton and Raleigh counties.

See pages 16-17 for exceptions and special regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

DEER Special Split Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS Season

October 17 and December 26 and 28, 2015: Antlerless Deer Only

Only one antlerless deer may be taken per day. A bow or a crossbow can be substituted for a firearm during this season.

See page 12 for special regulations for West Virginia Containment Area carcass transport and baiting, and for baiting and feeding wildlife on Older-aged Deer Management Areas.

It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land between September 1 and December 31 and during the spring gobbler seasons.

The special split antlerless deer season for youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS hunters will be held on private land in all counties having a firearms deer hunting season and on all public lands within these counties.

The bag limit of one antlerless deer per day will not count towards the hunter's annual deer season bag limit. A Class N or NN stamp is not required by youth hunters hunting during this special split antlerless season. A Class N stamp is not required by seniors with a Class XS license. Each deer taken must be field tagged (see page 12) and electronically registered within 24 hours of the close of each portion of this special split season and before hunting an additional deer.

Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS season participants and all other hunters hunting on private land or on any of the public lands during the special youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS deer season, with the exception of waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

SPECIAL YOUTH SEASONS

Class Q/QQ and Class XS license holders are not eligible for these youth seasons.

Squirrel – September 5, 2015

Youth hunters under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a licensed adult. The accompanying adult cannot carry a gun or a bow and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. Youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements (see page 41).

Turkey – April 16, 2016

See page 35.

Waterfowl

A youth waterfowl season will be held in late September. See WV Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations available in September for details.

Youth hunters:

- must be at least 8 and less than 18 years old; youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements, but Class N or NN stamp not required (see page 41),
- between the ages 8-14 must be accompanied by a licensed adult, who must also wear 400 square inches of blaze orange, cannot carry a gun, a crossbow or a bow and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. ***All accompanying adult nonresidents must possess a Class E license + CS/LE stamp.***

and, if a nonresident youth,

- possess Class XXJ license + CS/LE stamp, Class AAHJ + CS/LE stamp or Class DT license.

Senior hunters:

- must be a resident 65 years of age or older and possess a Class XS license.

Class Q or QQ hunters must possess:

if a resident,

- Class Q permit plus one of the following:
  - » Class A license + CS stamp or
  - » Class X, AH, XJ, AHJ, XS, A-L or AB-L license or
  - » Free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT) or
  - » Be underage (must be accompanied by a licensed adult)

if a nonresident,

- Class QQ permit + Class E license + CS/LE stamp or
- Class QQ permit + Class AAH + CS/LE stamp or
- Class QQ permit + Class XXJ + CS/LE stamp or
- Class QQ permit + Class AAHJ + CS/LE stamp or
- Class QQ permit + Class DT

Resident and Nonresident Turkey Hunting License Privileges

Three wild turkey may be taken by hunters who possess one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class XS, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS+BG , Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+WW, Classes AAH+CS/LE+WW, Classes XXJ+CS/LE , Classes AAHJ+CS/LE or Class DT). Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a properly licensed parent, guardian or other designated competent adult 21 years of age or older. Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take three turkeys without a license. Two bearded turkeys may be taken in the spring and one either-sex turkey in the fall. However, no more than one turkey may be taken in the fall. No more than one turkey may be taken per day.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I (required for Class E or Class AAH).
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (must be age 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners hunting on their own land).

Resident Landowner Privileges:

West Virginia resident landowners (see page 10) may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license.

Resident landowners hunting on their own property without a license can take the same number of turkeys as a licensed hunter. A hunter (licensee or landowner) cannot take more than the number of turkeys allowed in the respective seasons.

Firearms and bows legal for hunting wild turkey:

Wild turkey may be hunted with rifles, handguns, muzzleloaders, shotguns, bows or crossbows (see exception for Youth Spring Gobbler Season on page 35).

COMMON VIOLATIONS

Following are the most common violations observed by Natural Resource Police officers during the turkey hunting seasons:

- Hunting over bait
- Hunting without license
- Improper license
- Making false application for license
- Exceeding the limits
- Loaded gun in a vehicle
- Failure to field tag turkey
- Illegal possession of wildlife
- Hunting without permission

Reward

Reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of person found guilty of:

- illegally killing a turkey – $200
- hunting turkey over bait – $100
- willfully destroying a turkey nest or eggs – $100

Sponsored by: WV Chapter of NWTF

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a turkey must either attach a completed field tag to the turkey or remain with the turkey and have upon their person a completed field tag before removing the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not possess a field tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel the field tag shall be attached to the turkey and must remain on the carcass until it is electronically registered and a DNR-issued game tag number, the hunter's name and address are attached.

The carcass of each turkey shall be electronically registered and legally tagged before it is either skinned or transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent to that in which the kill was made and within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first. The DNR issued game tag number and the hunter's name and address shall remain on the bird until it is dressed for consumption.

No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof are accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the DNR issued game tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

TURKEY 2015 Fall Season Regulations

Season Limit: 1

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

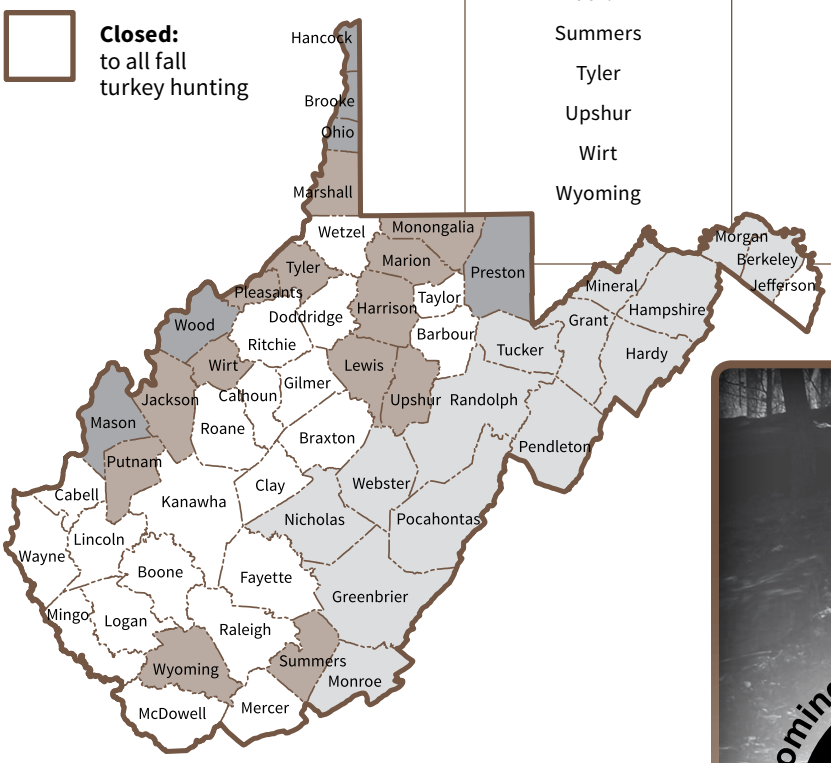
Only one either-sex turkey may be taken during the fall hunting season with either bow, crossbow or gun.

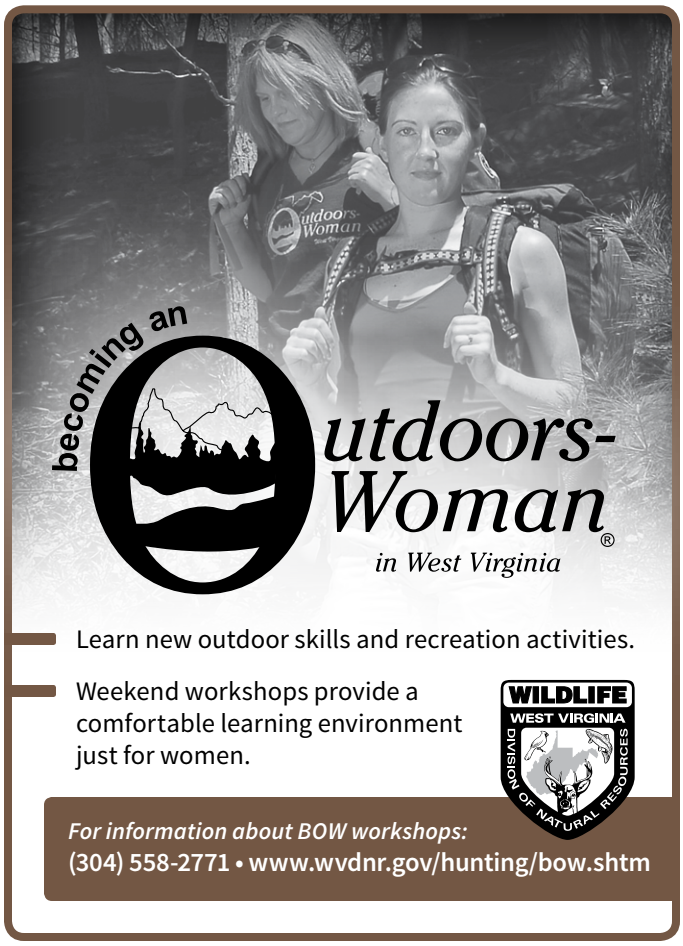
It is illegal:

- to use electronic calls.
- to hunt with the use of bait.

October 10-17	October 10-17 and October 26-31	October 10-17 and October 26-November 14
Harrison	Brooke	Berkeley
Jackson	Hancock	Grant
Lewis	Mason	Greenbrier
Marion	Ohio	Hampshire
Marshall	Preston	Hardy
Monongalia	Wood	Mineral
Pleasants		Monroe
Putnam		Morgan
Summers		Nicholas
Tyler		Pendleton
Upshur		Pocahontas
Wirt		Randolph
Wyoming		Tucker
		Webster

Closed: to all fall turkey hunting





2016 Spring Gobbler Seasons Regulations TURKEY

Season Limit: 2 bearded turkeys **Statewide: April 18 - May 14, 2016**

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.

It is illegal to:

- have an uncased firearm, bow or crossbow in your possession in the woods after 1 p.m.
- hunt with dogs
- use electronic calls
- hunt with the use of bait
- take more than one bearded turkey per day

Spring Gobbler Survey

The Division of Natural Resources conducts an annual Spring Gobbler Survey. Spring turkey hunters interested in participating in the survey should contact:

Division of Natural Resources Operations Center
c/o Tammie Thompson
P.O. Box 67 • Elkins, WV 26241
(304) 637-0245 • email: Tammie.E.Thompson@wv.gov

Youth Spring Gobbler Season

A special one-day youth spring gobbler season will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Class Q/QQ and Class XS license holders are not eligible.

The bag limit is one bearded turkey, and the harvested bird will count toward the hunter's annual bag limit. Only shotguns using shot size no larger than #4 or smaller than #7½ or crossbows are legal.

Youth hunters:

- must be at least 8 and less than 18 years old; youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements (see pages 41).
- between the ages 8-14 must be accompanied by a licensed adult who cannot carry a gun, crossbow or a bow and must remain close enough to render advice and assistance.

and, if a nonresident,

- possess a Class XXJ license + CS/LE stamp or Class AAHJ+CS/LE stamp.

Nonresident adults accompanying youth hunters must possess Class E+WW+CS/LE licenses and if hunting on National Forest lands, a Class I stamp.

SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

	September 2015		October		November	
Day	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	6:56	7:57	7:22	7:10	6:53	5:27
2	6:57	7:55	7:23	7:08	6:54	5:26
3	6:58	7:54	7:24	7:07	6:55	5:25
4	6:58	7:52	7:25	7:05	6:56	5:24
5	6:59	7:51	7:26	7:04	6:57	5:23
6	7:00	7:49	7:27	7:02	6:58	5:22
7	7:01	7:47	7:28	7:01	6:59	5:21
8	7:02	7:46	7:29	6:59	7:00	5:20
9	7:03	7:44	7:29	6:58	7:01	5:19
10	7:04	7:43	7:30	6:56	7:02	5:18
11	7:04	7:41	7:31	6:55	7:03	5:17
12	7:05	7:40	7:32	6:53	7:04	5:16
13	7:06	7:38	7:33	6:52	7:06	5:16
14	7:07	7:37	7:34	6:50	7:07	5:15
15	7:08	7:35	7:35	6:49	7:08	5:14
16	7:09	7:33	7:36	6:47	7:09	5:13
17	7:10	7:32	7:37	6:46	7:10	5:13
18	7:11	7:30	7:38	6:45	7:11	5:12
19	7:11	7:29	7:39	6:43	7:12	5:11
20	7:12	7:27	7:40	6:42	7:13	5:11
21	7:13	7:25	7:41	6:41	7:14	5:10
22	7:14	7:24	7:42	6:39	7:15	5:10
23	7:15	7:22	7:43	6:38	7:16	5:09
24	7:16	7:21	7:44	6:37	7:17	5:09
25	7:17	7:19	7:45	6:35	7:18	5:08
26	7:18	7:18	7:46	6:34	7:19	5:08
27	7:18	7:16	7:47	6:33	7:20	5:08
28	7:19	7:14	7:48	6:32	7:21	5:07
29	7:20	7:13	7:49	6:31	7:22	5:07
30	7:21	7:11	7:50	6:29	7:23	5:07
31			7:52	6:28		

	December	
Day	Rise	Set
1	7:24	5:06
2	7:25	5:06
3	7:26	5:06
4	7:27	5:06
5	7:28	5:06
6	7:29	5:06
7	7:30	5:06
8	7:31	5:06
9	7:32	5:06
10	7:32	5:06
11	7:33	5:06
12	7:34	5:06
13	7:35	5:06
14	7:35	5:07
15	7:36	5:07
16	7:37	5:07
17	7:37	5:08
18	7:38	5:08
19	7:39	5:08
20	7:39	5:09
21	7:40	5:09
22	7:40	5:10
23	7:41	5:10
24	7:41	5:11
25	7:42	5:12
26	7:42	5:12
27	7:42	5:13
28	7:43	5:14
29	7:43	5:14
30	7:43	5:15
31	7:43	5:16

NOTE: To compensate for time varations, corrections indicated for the following cities should be added or subtracted as indicated to both sunrise and sunset times.

MINUTES

Beckley	-4
Elkins	-6
Grafton	-5
Grantsville	-1
Huntington	+3
Hurricane	+1
Keyser	-9
Logan	-1
Marlinton	-7
Martinsburg	-15
Morgantown	-5
Parkersburg	-2
Princeton	-5
Romney	-12
Sistersville	-1
Wheeling	-1

BEAR General Regulations

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges

Two black bear may be taken during the archery, crossbow or firearms seasons combined, provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.** No person may take more than one bear per day.

To hunt black bear, hunters must possess one of the following valid license combinations: resident license (Classes X+DS, Classes XJ+DS, Classes AHJ+DS, Class XS, Classes AB-L+DS, Classes A-L+DS, Classes A+CS+DS+BG or Classes AH+CS+DS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT); or nonresident license (Classes EE+DS+CS/LE or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land may hunt bear without a license. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or, with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on National Forest lands: Class I (required for Class EE)
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (must be 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners)

PENALTIES FOR CHAPTER 20 BEAR LAW VIOLATIONS

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

First Offense

$1,000 to $5,000 fine or 30 to 100 days in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for two years.

Second Offense

$2,000 to $7,000 fine or 30 days to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for life.

Third Offense

FELONY - $5,000 to $10,000 fine or one to five years in prison, or both.

It is illegal to:

- hunt bears with the use of bait.
- bait or feed bears at any time.
- hunt a bear with:
  - a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball.
  - a rifle of less than .25 caliber using rimfire ammunition.
  - a pistol or revolver using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottlenecked case of less than .24 caliber.
  - a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.
  - a crossbow that does not have:
    - a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
    - a working safety.
    - bolts at least 18 inches long.
    - broadheads with at least two cutting edges at least ¾ inch in width.
  - arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than ¾ inch in width.
- use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- hunt bear between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
- kill or attempt to kill any bear through the use of bait, poison, explosives, snares, steel traps or deadfalls.
- **shoot at or kill a bear weighing less than 75 pounds live weight or 50 pounds field dressed weight or to kill any bear accompanied by a cub or to kill any cub accompanied by another bear, regardless of its weight.**
- pursue a bear, after the chase has begun, with dogs not in use at the beginning of the hunt.
- kill more than one bear per day or more than two bears per year.
- organize for commercial purposes, or to professionally outfit a bear hunt, or to give or receive any consideration whatsoever or any donation in money, goods or services in connection with a bear hunt.
- for nonresidents to hunt bear with dogs, except in certain designated counties during the bear firearms season (see page 39).
- use an electronic call.

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a bear must attach a completed field tag to the bear or remain with the bear and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel, the field tag shall be attached to the bear and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a DNR issued game tag number.

A person killing a bear must, within 24 hours after the kill, electronically register the bear. The DNR issued game tag number and the hunter's name and address must be affixed to the bear before any part of it may be transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill and shall remain on the skin until it is tanned or mounted.

No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the DNR issued game tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Dog Training

The same licenses required for bear hunting are required for the training of dogs on bear.

Training for nonresidents is permitted during any open small game season.

- It is unlawful for a person to permit a dog owned by him or under his control to chase, pursue or follow the tracks of any deer or wild turkey.
- Residents may train dogs on bear on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time. Prohibitions on Sunday hunting apply to dog training.
- Persons training dogs may not have firearms or other implements for the taking of wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds.
- A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, providing no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals killed or damage done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.
- No person other than the owner of a registered dog may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner, unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog or is done by a law-enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

BEAR TOOTH COLLECTION

The DNR is currently studying factors related to the productivity and mortality of black bears in West Virginia. As part of this research effort, radio collars, ear tags and lip tattoos have been placed on a number of bears. Anyone observing a bear wearing a radio collar or ear tag is asked to report the number of the tag (if obtainable) to the DNR. Hunters who harvest a bear with a radio collar and/or ear tag should return this equipment to the DNR.

Successful bear hunters can contribute to this research effort by either pulling or allowing a small tooth or two to be pulled and submitted to the bear project. Hunters pulling a bear tooth should refer to the accompanying diagram.

Use a screwdriver to pry out the small teeth located just in back of the large canines as shown. This is difficult to do without breaking the roots, so work slowly.

Each tooth pulled should be taped to an index card, placed in a small envelope and labeled with the hunter's name, county of kill, bear weight, sex and check tag number and dropped off at a District DNR office or mailed to the DNR at: Elkins Operation Center, PO Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241. After processing the tooth, the DNR will provide you with the age of the animal. If you do not collect a tooth, please contact the appropriate District DNR office to make arrangements for a tooth to be collected prior to processing the bear or disposing of the skull.

A tagged bear may have been tranquilized. Please contact the District Wildlife Biologist prior to consumption of meat.

BEAR Archery and Crossbow Seasons

Daily Bag Limit: 1 Statewide Split Seasons: Sept. 26, 2015 – Nov. 21, 2015 and Dec. 7 - 31, 2015

BEAR REPRODUCTIVE TRACT COLLECTION

WV Wildlife Biologists are continuing to collect female bear reproductive tracts. Information from these tracts, as well as a premolar tooth from each bear, will reveal such data as breeding ages of females, number of cubs produced, age structure of the female population and reproductive success. Please help us obtain as much information as possible by following the outlined procedures. You may call any District DNR office or the Elkins Operations Center for assistance.

District 1: (304) 825-6787

District 2: (304) 822-3551

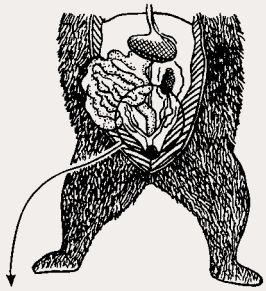
District 3: (304) 924-6211

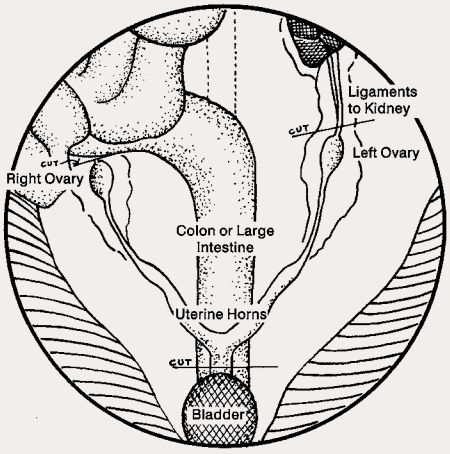
District 4: (304) 256-6947

District 5: (304) 675-0871

District 6: (304) 420-4550

Elkins Operations Center: (304) 637-0245





Procedures

1. Open bear abdominal cavity.
2. Move intestines aside.
3. Locate bladder.
4. Note uterus under bladder, over large intestine.
5. Remove uterus and ovaries by cutting as outlined in the above diagram. Be certain to get both ovaries which are each about the size of an acorn. They may be buried in large amounts of fat.
6. Put in plastic bag and place in cool location (in refrigerator if available), and notify DNR personnel.
7. If scales are available, weigh the bear.

No person may take more than two bears annually during the archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined, provided at least one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties. Only one bear may be taken per day.

The use of dogs for bear hunting is illegal during the bear archery and crossbow seasons. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during the bear firearms season while hunting with dogs in counties where hunting with dogs is legal (see bottom left of page 39).

Bear hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof open during a deer firearms season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

Firearms Season BEAR

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Two bears may be taken during the bear firearms season provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.** Only one bear may be taken per day. No person may take more than two bears annually in archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during bear firearms season.

Bear hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof during a deer firearms season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

May NOT Hunt Bear With Dogs

November 23 – December 5 *By Permit Only** *(Private & Public Lands)*	December 7-31		November 23 – December 5 and December 7-31	November 23 – December 5
Barbour	Barbour *(West of Route 92)*	Mercer	Berkeley	Boone
Braxton	Braxton *(West of I-79)*	Mineral *(East of New Creek)*	Hampshire *(With dogs only on Nathaniel Mountain and Short Mountain WMAs by special limited permit)***	Fayette
Calhoun	Brooke	Monroe *(West of Route 219)*	Jefferson	Kanawha
Clay	Cabell	Ohio	Monongalia	Nicholas
Grant	Calhoun	Pleasants	Morgan	Preston
Greenbrier	Clay *(North of Elk River)*	Putnam		Raleigh
Hardy	Doddridge	Ritchie		
Lewis	Gilmer	Roane		
Mercer	Hancock	Summers		
Monroe	Harrison	Taylor		
Pendleton	Jackson	Tyler		
Pocahontas	Lewis	Upshur *(West of Route 20)*		
Randolph	Lincoln	Wayne		
Summers	Marion	Wetzel		
Taylor	Marshall	Wirt		
Tucker	Mason	Wood		
Upshur				
Webster				

May Hunt Bear With Or Without Dogs

Sept. 19-25 and Dec. 7-31	Oct. 3-9 and Dec. 7-31	Sept. 5-12 and Dec. 7-31
Barbour *(East of Route 92)*	Boone	Logan
Braxton *(East of I-79)*	Fayette	McDowell
Clay *(South of Elk River)*	Kanawha	Mingo
Grant	Raleigh	Wyoming
Greenbrier		**Dec. 7-31**
Hardy		Mineral *(West of New Creek)*
Monroe *(East of Route 219)*		
Nicholas		
Pendleton		
Pocahontas		
Preston		
Randolph		
Tucker		
Upshur *(East of Route 20)*		
Webster		

Special Seasons and Restrictions

*Counties (private and public lands) with limited resident and nonresident hunting for bear during the Buck Firearms Season

There are 18 counties with resident and nonresident bear hunting during the Buck Firearms Season on private and public lands with prior application in 2015. To be eligible to hunt in one of these counties an application must be submitted online by August 15, 2015. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land. Successful applicants will receive notification from the DNR by mail and applicants can check online at wvhunt.com beginning August 18.

To apply, go online to wvhunt.com, and log into your account and click the Enter Lottery tab.

**Hampshire County: Nathaniel Mountain and Short Mountain WMAs

A special controlled Black Bear season will be open December 7-31, 2015, on Nathaniel Mountain and Short Mountain WMAs in Hampshire County. Hunters who use dogs must apply for a permit by October 31, 2015, (permit applications and instructions will be available online at wvhunt.com) that will allow for one party of no more than four hunters and eight dogs to hunt on one of the WMAs. Hunters who hunt without dogs may participate in bear hunting on the WMAs during this season without having a special permit.

BOAR 2015 Archery, Crossbow and Firearms Seasons

Season Limit: 1 **Archery and Crossbow: Sept. 26 – Dec. 31** **Firearms: Oct. 24 – 31**

Boar Hunting License Privileges

Residents Only – No Application Required

To hunt wild boar, hunters must possess one of the following base licenses or license combinations: Class X, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class XS, Class AB-L, Class A-L or Classes A+BG+CS Classes AH+BG+CS; or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land may hunt wild boar without a license. Holders of Class DT licenses must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Regulations

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Wild boar may be taken during wild boar seasons with a bow, a crossbow or with firearms legal in West Virginia for taking deer (see page 11).

Use of dogs and/or bait is prohibited.

Use of electronic calls is prohibited.

Only one wild boar may be taken per year.

Concurrent Hunting

Concurrent hunting of small game is permitted during wild boar seasons. Concurrent hunting of deer and bear, in counties where legal, is permitted during boar seasons.

Boar hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof open during a deer firearms season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

Field Tagging and Checking

Each person killing a boar must attach a completed field tag to the boar or remain with the boar and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel the field tag shall be attached to the boar and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a DNR issued game tag number.

All boar killed must be electronically registered within 24 hours for retagging at wvhunt.com. The DNR issued game tag number and the hunter's name and address shall remain on the boar until it is dressed for consumption.

Wild Boar Seasons Counties

Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties are open to boar archery, crossbow and firearms seasons.

Archery and Crossbow: September 26 – December 31
Firearms: October 24–31

Closed: to all boar hunting

Valid Base and Combinations LICENSES

Hunter Type	Deer Archery and Crossbow	Deer Buck Gun	Deer Antlerless	Deer Muzzleloader	Black Bear	Wild Turkey	Wild Boar
Resident**	A-L	A-L	A-L + N	A-L	A-L + DS	A-L	A-L
	AB-L	AB-L	AB-L + N	AB-L	AB-L + DS	AB-L	AB-L
	X	X	X + N	X	X + DS	X	X
	XJ	XJ	XJ + N	XJ	XJ + DS	XJ	XJ
	XS***	XS***	XS*** + N	XS***	XS***	XS***	XS***
	A + CS + BG	A + CS	A + CS + N	A + CS + BG	A + CS + DS + BG	A + CS + BG	A + CS + BG
	AH+CS+BG	AH+CS	AH+CS+N	AH+CS+BG	AH+CS+DS+BG	AH + CS + BG	AH + CS + BG
	AHJ	AHJ	AHJ+N	AHJ	AHJ+DS	AHJ	AHJ
	Free License*	Free License*	Free License* + N	Free License*	Free License*	Free License*	Free License*
	One of the above + up to two RBs for additional deer in specified counties	One of the above + an RG for one additional buck	May purchase up to three Class N stamps to be used in specified counties	One of the above + an RM for one additional muzzleloader deer			
	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT
Nonresident**	E + CS/LE + UU	E + CS/LE	E + CS/LE + NN	E + CS/LE + VV	EE + CS/LE + DS	E + CS/LE + WW	CLOSED
	XXJ + CS/LE	XXJ + CS/LE	XXJ + CS/LE + NN	XXJ + CS/LE		XXJ + CS/LE	
	AAH+CS/LE+UU	AAH+CS/LE	AAH+CS/LE+NN	AAH+CS/LE+VV		AAH + CS/LE + WW	
	AAHJ+CS/LE	AAHJ+CS/LE	AAHJ+CS/LE+NN	AAHJ+CS/LE		AAHJ + CS/LE	
	One of the above + up to two RRBs for additional deer in specified counties	One of the above + an RRG for one additional buck	May purchase up to three Class NN stamps to be used in specified counties	One of the above + an RRM for one additional muzzleloader deer			
	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	

**Free Licenses include: Active Military, Senior Citizen (those who have attained the age of 65 prior to January 1, 2012), former POW, Disabled Veteran and underage.*
***Handgun hunting also requires Class A-1 License. ***Class XS required for those who have attained the age of 65 on or after January 1, 2012, to hunt, trap or fish.*
See page 42 for complete license information. For Class DT license information, see page 10.

PURCHASING A LICENSE IN 2015-2016

Licenses may be obtained as follows:

1. At approximately 175 license agent locations throughout the state. ($3 issuing fee for first purchase and $1 for subsequent purchases.)
2. **www.wvhunt.com** (Official DNR website – $2 fee per transaction.)
3. Directly from the Hunting and Fishing License Unit by phoning (304) 558-2758. ($2 fee per transaction.)

For additional information contact:

Hunting and Fishing License Unit
West Virginia Division of
Natural Resources
324 4th Avenue
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

(304) 558-2758
wvdnrcustomerservice@wv.gov

Residents

Under the age of 15

may hunt or trap without a license when accompanied by a licensed adult who remains in a position near enough to render advice and assistance.

Licenses required:

- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N
- to hunt additional deer: Class RG (buck), RM (muzzleloader season), RB (archery and crossbow)

65 years of age or older, who have attained that age prior to January 1, 2012

must carry a WV driver's license or photo ID card issued by the DMV to hunt, trap or fish.

Licenses required:

- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N
- to hunt additional deer: Class RG (buck), RM (muzzleloader season), RB (archery and crossbow)
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1
- Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp
- to hunt waterfowl or migratory birds: free HIP card

65 years of age or older, who have attained that age on or after January 1, 2012

Licenses required:

- to hunt or trap: Class XS
- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N*
- to hunt additional deer: Class RG (buck), RM (muzzleloader season), RB (archery and crossbow)
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1
- Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp
- to hunt waterfowl or migratory birds: free HIP card

**Not required during the Special Split Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS antlerless deer season, see page 32.*

LICENSES 2015-2016 Hunting and Trapping Fees

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses are good for the calendar year. You must buy new licenses at the beginning of each year. All licensed hunters must carry a valid form of ID while hunting/trapping.

Resident Licenses

Conservation Stamp (Class CS): **$5**
Required for all licensed hunters and anglers except holders of Class X, XS, XJ, AHJ, A-L, B-L and AB-L licenses

Hunting and Trapping License (Class A): **$19**

Apprentice Hunting and Trapping License (Class AH): **$19**
Same privileges as Class A, but completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7)

Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class X): . **$35**
For ages 18 through 64. Includes privileges of Conservation Stamp, Class A, B and BG licenses

Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class XJ): **$16**
Similar to Class X, but for ages 15-17

Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class AHJ): **$16**
Same privileges as Class XJ, for ages 15-17 and completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7)

Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (Class N): **$10**
Must be accompanied by a Class A, AH, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, XS, XJ or free license

Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RB): **$21**
Must be accompanied by a Class A+BG, AH+BG, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, XS, XJ or free license. Required by crossbow hunters for an additional deer.

Additional Firearms Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RG): **$21**
Must be accompanied by a Class A, AH, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, XS, XJ or free license

Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RM): **$16**
Must be accompanied by a Class A+BG, AH+BG, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, XS, XJ or free license

Resident Big Game Stamp (Class BG): **$10**
Required of Class A or AH license holders to hunt deer during the archery, crossbow and muzzleloader deer seasons, and to hunt bear (must also have Class DS), wild turkey and wild boar

Lifetime Licenses

Resident lifetime hunting, trapping and fishing licenses serve in lieu of the equivalent annual license; applications are available at Division of Natural Resources offices and all license agents.

Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class AB-L): **$805**

Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing - Infant (Class AB-L-I)*: **$402.50**

Hunting and Trapping (Class A-L): **$782**

Hunting and Trapping - Infant (Class A-L-I)*: **$391**

Senior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class XS): $25
Required for resident hunters and anglers who have reached 65 years of age on or after January 1, 2012, except holders of Class A-L and AB-L licenses.

Small Arms Hunting (Class A-1-L): **$75**
For ages 21 and older.

Class BG License and Conservation Stamp not required with the Class AB-L, A-L, A-L-I, AB-L-I and XS Lifetime Licenses.

**Must be purchased prior to infant's second birthday.*

Resident/Nonresident Licenses

Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS): **$10**
Required to hunt or chase bear. Must be accompanied by Class A+BG, AH+BG, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, EE, X, XJ or C license

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP): ..... **FREE**
Required of all licensed migratory bird hunters

Small Arms Hunting Stamp (Class A-1): **$8**
For ages 21 or older. Must be accompanied by a Class A, AH, A-L, AB-L, X, XS, E, EE, H, J or free license

Special Hunting and Fishing License for Persons with a Life-threatening Condition (Class DT): ..... **FREE**
Issued for ages 20 or less. Requires no additional licenses or stamps.

Nonresident Licenses

Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (Class CS/LE): **$13**
Required for all licensed hunters and anglers, except holders of Class J license

National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing Stamp (Class I): **$2**
Required on National Forests in addition to a Class E, AAH, F, EE, LL or H license

Statewide Hunting /Trapping License (Class E): **$119**

Apprentice Hunting/Trapping License (Class AAH): **$119**
Same privileges as Class E, but completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7)

Statewide Fishing License (Class F): **$37**

Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class XXJ): **$16**
Ages 8-17 (not required for fishing under age 15). Includes privileges of Class I, UU, VV and WW stamps

Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class AAHJ): **$16**
Same privileges as Class XXJ, for ages 8-17 and completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7)

Bear Hunting License (Class EE): **$162**

Small Game Hunting License (Class H): **$27**
Six consecutive days

Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (Class NN): **$27**
Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH, AAHJ or XXJ license

Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RRB): **$37**
Must be accompanied by a Class E +UU, AAH+UU, AAHJ or XXJ license . Required by crossbow hunters for an additional deer.

Additional Firearms Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RRG): **$43**
Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH, AAHJ or XXJ license

Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RRM): **$37**
Must be accompanied by a Class E+VV, AAH+VV, AAHJ or XXJ license

Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class UU): **$32**
Must be accompanied by a Class E or AAH license. Required to hunt during the Archery and Crossbow Seasons.

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class VV): **$32**
Must be accompanied by a Class E or AAH license

Turkey Hunting Stamp (Class WW): **$32**
Must be accompanied by a Class E or AAH license

Commercial Small Game Shooting Preserve License (Class J): **$10**
Class CS/LE stamp not required with this license
Available only at www.wvhunt.com