



**DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Wildlife Resources Section**  
**324 4th Avenue**  
**South Charleston, West Virginia 25303-1228**  
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**Stephen S. McDaniel**  
**Director**

February 24, 2021


TO: Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, Landowners, Farm Groups and Others Interested in Making Recommendations for Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Regulations.

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is soliciting comments concerning the 2021-2022 big game hunting regulations; 2022-2023 hunting and trapping regulations and 2022 fishing regulations. Regulation meetings originally scheduled for March 15 and 16, 2021 have been cancelled due to concerns relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the attached questionnaire should be submitted by mail by the deadline.

The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates, bag limits and creel limits similar to the 2020-2021 seasons (recommended changes are attached).


In order for us to obtain your recommendations and accurately record your comments and recommendations, it is necessary for you to complete and return the attached form prior to April 2, 2021, to the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, Attn: Keith Krantz, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241.

Your continued interest in the state's natural resources programs is greatly appreciated.



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Paul R. Johansen, Chief  
Wildlife Resources Section



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Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel  
Law Enforcement Section

Please feel free to comment or provide recommendations on hunting, fishing and trapping regulations or on any phase of our wildlife and law enforcement programs. Please use space provided on the following page. **Returning the attached tables is not necessary.**

Please complete the following section. Be sure only one form is submitted per individual or organization. Unsigned questionnaires will not be counted.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Individual, Group, or Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMMENTS AND THE QUESTIONNAIRE  
BY APRIL 2, 2021**

Return To:

Keith Krantz  
WV Division of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Section  
P.O. Box 67  
Elkins, WV 26241



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

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2021 Black Bear Seasons be open as shown on the attached table (Table 1).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes a Special Urban Bear Archery/Crossbow Season which may be implemented within incorporated limits of a city, town or village and within incorporated homeowners' associations (requires approval by the DNR Director) that have defined boundaries. Season framework will be the same as the current Special Urban Deer Archery/Crossbow Season. All participating hunters are required to have a valid base hunting license and a DS stamp or be exempt from having to purchase a base hunting license and DS stamp.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2021 Antlerless Deer Season be open as shown on the attached tables (Tables 2 and 3).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add wild turkeys to the species which can be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season. In addition to the other permitted weapon types allowed, side-lock and flintlock muzzleloader shotguns may be used for the taking of wild turkey during this season.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2021-2022 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table (Table 4).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
2022-2023 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other small game and furbearer hunting and trapping regulations for the 2022-2023 seasons be open as shown on the attached table (Table 5).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION SEEKS YOUR OPINION ON  
THE FOLLOWING QUESTION RELATING TO THE FALL TURKEY SEASON**

The Natural Resources Commission seeks your opinion as it relates to the timing of the 4-week fall turkey season for select counties. The Division is considering moving one week of the season to January of the following year. Check one of the options:

\_\_\_\_\_ Prefer the season framework for the 4-week fall turkey counties to remain the same as in recent years (**Oct. 9 - 17, 2021 and Oct. 25, 2021 to Nov. 14, 2021**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Prefer the last week (**Nov. 8 - 14, 2021**) of the 4-week fall turkey counties be moved to January 2022 (Jan. 17 to 23, 2022).

Also, this past hunting season, did you actively hunt turkey in the fall in West Virginia

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes or \_\_\_\_\_ No (please check one)

**THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS  
REQUESTED YOUR OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING REGULATION  
PROPOSAL:**

The Little Canaan Wildlife Management Area, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Calvin Price State Forest would be closed for the two-week buck firearms season and the concurrent antlerless deer firearms season. During this period the archery and crossbow seasons would remain open for deer. An early 1-week either-sex muzzleloader deer season will be held - timing to be determined. The annual antlered deer bag limit on each of these areas would be one deer for all deer seasons combined. Antlered deer taken on these areas would be required to have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022 FISHING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a 20" – 30" protected slot limit for Walleye with an 8-fish daily creel limit, of which only one fish may be over 30", on Cheat Lake and the entire length of Cheat River.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Division of the Natural Resources proposes to establish a 4-fish daily creel limit, 8-fish possession limit, of which only one fish may be 35" or longer, for Flathead Catfish for the entire length of the Monongahela River.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a 10-fish daily creel limit of which only five fish may be 8" or longer, for Bluegill and all other sunfish species (e.g., Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish, hybrid sunfish, etc.) in aggregate on Mason Lake, Monongalia County and Teter Creek Lake, Barbour County.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to remove the 15” minimum length limit for Walleye on Tygart Lake and Tygart River (from Valley Falls upstream to Tygart Lake Dam).

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add approximately a 4,400-foot section of Second Creek adjoining immediately downstream to the existing Fly Fishing Only section.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

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

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

7. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to eliminate the Woodbine Children & Class Q section on the Cranberry River.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

8. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to place the section of the Kanawha River from the Buffalo Bridge upstream to the Winfield Lock and Dam under the regulation of 6-fish daily creel in aggregate for walleye, sauger, and saugeye. Only 2 of the 6 fish can be walleye and the walleye must be 18” or longer.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

9. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to add tiger trout to be included in all regulations pertaining to trout and consistent with all aggregate limits for trout.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

10. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to change the trout delayed harvest regulation to be under Catch-and-Release regulations from November 1 through March 31 and General Regulations from April 1 through October 31.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

11. All other fishing regulations for 2022 would be the same as those in 2021.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION SEEKS YOUR OPINION ON  
THE FOLLOWING QUESTION RELATING TO THE CATCH AND RELEASE  
SECTION ON DOGWAY FORK OF THE CRANBERRY RIVER**

1. The Natural Resources Commission requests your opinion on the removal of the 4.3-mile Catch and Release section from the junction of the North and South Forks downstream to the low water bridge at Dogway Fork on the Cranberry River.

Favor \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose \_\_\_\_\_



**Table 1. Proposed 2021 Black Bear Seasons**

\*Statewide bag limit two, provided at least one bear comes from Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, Raleigh or Wyoming counties. Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS Bear Season October 16 – 17, 2021 in 51 counties open to firearms deer hunting, no dogs allowed.  
**4-Day Gun Without Dogs October 21 – 24 portions of public and private land open to antlerless deer gun hunting in 51 counties.**

Bow Season – 55 counties: Sept. 25 – Dec. 31

Gun Seasons: Refer to Table Below

10-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Aug. 28 – Sept. 6 7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Oct. 30 – Nov 5 14-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 22 – Dec. 5 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 6 – Dec. 31	7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Sept. 18 – Sept. 24 3-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Oct. 18 – Oct. 20 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 6 - Dec. 31	6-Week Gun Without Dogs Nov. 22 - Dec. 31	14-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 22 – Dec. 5	4-Week Gun Without Dogs Dec. 6 - Dec. 31	4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 6 – Dec. 31
Boone Fayette Kanawha Raleigh	Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming	Berkeley Brooke Cabell Calhoun Doddridge Hampshire Hancock Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall Mason Mercer Monongalia Morgan Ohio Pleasants Putnam Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Barbour Braxton Clay Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hardy Mineral Monroe Nicholas Pendleton Pocahontas Preston Randolph Ritchie Tucker Upshur Webster	Barbour (W. of Rt. 92) Braxton (W. of I-79) Clay (N. of Elk River) Mineral (E. of New Creek) Monroe (W. of Rt. 219) Upshur (W. of Rt. 20)	Gilmer Ritchie

\*Statewide bag limit of two (with 2<sup>nd</sup> bear having to be taken from select counties) condition does not apply to the Mountaineer Heritage Season

**Table 2. Proposed 2021 Antlerless Deer Season Hunting Regulations  
(Private Land)**

Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless (Class N/NN) Hunting	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non-resident (Must Apply) <b>(Season Bag Limit: 1)</b>  Oct. 21-24; Nov. 22-Dec. 5; Dec. 9-12; Dec. 28-31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN <b>(Season Bag Limit: 1)</b>  Oct. 21-24; Nov. 22-Dec. 5; Dec. 9-12; Dec. 28-31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN <b>(Season Bag Limit: 3)</b>  Oct. 21-24; Nov. 22-Dec. 5; Dec. 9-12; Dec. 28-31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN. <i>(*see special regulation requirement below)</i> <b>(Season Bag Limit: 3)</b>  Oct. 21-24; Nov. 22-Dec. 5; Dec. 9-12; Dec. 28-31
<p>Clay (<i>south portion</i>) Fayette (<i>west portion</i>) Kanawha (<i>south portion</i>) Raleigh (<i>west portion</i>) Wayne (<i>south portion</i>)</p> <p>Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming</p>	<p>Boone (300) Greenbrier (<i>north portion - 200</i>) Nicholas (400) Raleigh (<i>east portion - 250</i>) Webster (300) Kanawha (<i>north portion - 400</i>)</p>	<p>Braxton Brooke Cabell Clay (<i>north portion</i>) Fayette (<i>east portion</i>) Hancock Lincoln Marshall Mercer Mineral (<i>west portion</i>) Ohio Pleasants Pocahontas Randolph Summers Tucker Wayne (<i>north portion</i>) Wetzel Wirt</p>	<p>Barbour Doddridge Gilmer Grant Harrison Jackson Lewis Mason Marion Monongalia Pendleton Preston Putnam Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur</p>	<p>Berkeley Calhoun Greenbrier (<i>south portion</i>) Hampshire Hardy Jefferson Mineral (<i>east portion</i>) Monroe Morgan Wood</p>

\*In these counties, or parts thereof, deer hunters are required to take an antlerless deer from the county, which may be taken during any deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, prior to harvesting a second antlered deer, from the county, during the combined deer seasons, including the 2022 Mountaineer Heritage Season.

**Table 3. Proposed 2021 Antlerless Deer Hunting Regulations  
(Public Lands)**

**Season Dates:** Oct. 21-24, Nov. 22-Dec. 5, Dec. 9-12, and Dec 28-31, 2021

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND  
NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1**

Camp Creek SF (50) (Mercer Co.)	Greenbrier SF (50) (Greenbrier Co.)	Hillcrest WMA (25) (Hancock Co.)
<b>National Forest (500) Randolph Co.</b>	<b>National Forest (300) Pocahontas Co.</b>	

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT  
AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1**

Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam Co.)	Pruntytown WMA (Taylor Co.)	Coopers Rock SF (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)	Snake Hill WMA (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)
<b>National Forest (Preston/ Tucker Grant/Hampshire/ Pendleton/Hardy Cos.)</b>	Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Cos.)	Pleasant Creek WMA (Barbour/Taylor Cos.)	Wallback WMA (Roane/Clay/Kanawha Cos.)
Daniels Ridge WMA (Monroe Co.)	Moncove Lake WMA (Monroe Co.)		

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICNSES FOR RESIDENT AND  
NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 3**

Burnsville Lake WMA (Braxton Co.)
Canaan Valley NWR (Tucker Co.)

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CLOSED TO ANTLERLESS SEASON**

National Forest (Nicholas/Webster/ Greenbrier/Monroe Cos.)
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All other WMAs and public lands not listed in this table will have the same seasons and bag limits as private land in the respective county or portion of the county where the WMAs or other public lands are located.

**Table 4. Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2021-2022  
Big Game Hunting Seasons**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Closing Dates</b>	<b>Comments/Changes</b>
Mountaineer Heritage Season Deer, <b>Turkey</b> and Bear (Primitive Weapons)	Jan. 13, 2022 - Jan. 16, 2022	<b>Wild Turkey added as a legal species</b>
Bear (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 25, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021	
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties}	<b>Aug. 28, 2021 - Sept. 6, 2021</b> <b>Sept. 11, 2021 - Sept. 17, 2021</b> Sept. 18, 2021 - Sept. 24, 2021 <b>Oct. 2, 2021 - Oct. 8, 2021</b> <b>Oct. 18, 2021 - Oct. 20, 2021</b> Oct. 21, 2021 - Oct. 24, 2021 <b>Oct. 30, 2021 - Nov. 5, 2021</b> Nov. 22, 2021 - Dec. 5, 2021 Nov. 22, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021 Dec. 6, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021	See Attached Bear Tables for Selected Counties
Bear (Youth/Q/XS Season) - dogs prohibited	Oct. 16, 2021 - Oct. 17, 2021	
<b>Bear (Archery &amp; Crossbow - Special Urban)</b>	<b>Sept. 4, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021</b> <b>Jan. 10, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2022</b>	<b>New Season</b>
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 23, 2021 - Oct. 30, 2021 Feb. 4, 2022 - Feb. 6, 2022	
Boar (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 25, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021 Feb. 4, 2022 - Feb. 6, 2022	
Deer (Archery & Crossbow - Special Urban)	Sept. 4, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021 Jan. 10, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2022	
Deer (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 25, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 22, 2021 - Dec. 5, 2021	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 21, 2021 - Oct. 24, 2021 Nov. 22, 2021 - Dec. 5, 2021 Dec. 9, 2021 - Dec. 12, 2021 Dec. 28, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021	See Attached Deer Tables For Selected Counties
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season - Antlerless)	Oct. 16, 2021 - Oct. 17, 2021 Dec. 26, 2021 - Dec. 27, 2021	
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 13, 2021 - Dec. 19, 2021	
Turkey (Fall) - (4-week counties)	Oct. 9, 2021 - Oct. 17, 2021 Oct. 25, 2021 - Nov. 14, 2021	
Turkey (Fall) - (2-week counties)	Oct. 9, 2021 - Oct. 17, 2021 Oct. 25, 2021 - Oct. 31, 2021	Fall counties determined after 2021 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1-week counties)	Oct. 9, 2021 - Oct. 17, 2021	Fall counties determined after 2021 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring 2022 Youth Season)	April 16, 2022 - April 17, 2022	
Turkey (Spring 2022)	April 18, 2022 - May 22, 2022	

**Table 5. Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2022-2023  
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 10, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 3 - 4, 2022	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 15, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 15, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Quail (Tomblin WMA closed)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Jan. 7, 2023	
Rabbit	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Jan. 7, 2023 Nov. 12, 2022 - Dec. 3, 2022	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023 Jan. 1, 2023 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Mar. 31, 2023	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2022 - Nov. 19, 2022 Jan. 1, 2023 - Mar. 4, 2023	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)  Coyote (Hunting at night with artificial light)  Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Continuous Open Season  Jan. 1, 2023 - Aug. 31, 2023  Nov. 5, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	