JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING & TRAPPING DIGEST

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PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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Region 5: Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Region 6: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York.

Region 7: Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Region 8: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill.

To better assist hunters and residents, the Game Commission has six region field offices. Violations can be reported to region offices.

Northwest Region
Butler, Clarion,
Crawford, Erie, Forest,
Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer,
Venango & Warren counties
P.O. Box 31
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-3187 or (814) 432-3188,
(814)432-3189

Southcentral Region
Adams, Bedford, Blair,
Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton,
Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry,
Snyder & York counties
8627 William Penn Highway
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643-1831 or (814) 643-9635

Southwest Region
Allegheny, Armstrong,
Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene,
Indiana, Somerset, Washington &
Westmoreland counties
4820 Route 711
Bolivar, PA 15923-2420
(724) 238-9523 or (724) 238-9524,
(724) 238-5639

Northeast Region
Bradford, Carbon, Columbia,
Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe,
Montour, Northumberland, Pike,
Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne
& Wyoming counties
3917 Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA 18612
(570) 675-1143 or (570) 675-1144

Northcentral Region
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield,
Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean,
Potter, Tioga & Union counties
1566 South Route 44 Highway,
P.O. Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
(570) 398-4744 or (570) 398-4745,
(570) 398-3423
pgc-ncregion@pa.gov

Southeast Region
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin,
Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon,
Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton,
Philadelphia & Schuylkill counties
253 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605-9524
(610) 926-3136 or (610) 926-3137,
(610) 926-1966

Contacting the Harrisburg headquarters 717-787-4250

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PRESS 7 Bureau of Automated Technology
PRESS 8 Training School and Executive Office
PRESS 0 Operator

2001 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797 **www.pgc.pa.gov**

Greetings:

Board of Game Commissioners President Brian H. Hoover, left, and Game Commission Executive Director R. Matthew Hough.

Thank you for purchasing your 2016-17 hunting or furtaking license. Nothing does more to benefit Pennsylvania's wildlife. This Hunting & Trapping Digest provides you with the 2016-17 seasons and bag limits, rules and regulations, and safety requirements.

Inside, you will find a handy Clip & Carry Pocket Guide you can take with you afield as a reminder of major season dates and lawful shooting hours. The GoHuntPA app, which can be downloaded through the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, also is a great go-to tool for hunters and trappers. Our website, and our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages, work together to provide the most up-to-date information available.

Pennsylvania offers some of the best and most diverse hunting and trapping opportunities in the nation. From gray squirrels to black bears, from foxes to pheasants, Pennsylvania has it all. And with mentored permits available for both youth and adults, it's easier than ever to introduce a friend or family member to our hunting tradition.

Thanks again for purchasing your license. Have a great and enjoyable season and, most of all, be careful out there!

Sincerely,

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2016-17 Hunting & Trapping Digest

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Printed By:
Liberty Press Publications

This digest is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations, and should not be considered final on legal interpretation. Questions about laws can be directed to your nearest Game Commission office.

Update

Welcome to hunting and trapping in Pennsylvania

LICENSE BUYERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TAKING PLACE THIS YEAR.

Here are some of the changes this year that hunters and trappers need to know: Statewide, **antlerless deer license allocations** are similar to last season, with fewer tags being allocated in WMUs 2G, 2H and 3A to allow the deer herd to further grow there. Information on the allocation, as well as the dates on which antlerless licenses for each Wildlife Management Unit sold out last year is found with the application instructions. The first day for residents to apply is July 11. ❖ The schedule for accepting **antlerless license applications from nonresidents** has been changed to make the process more fair, while still giving preference to Pennsylvanians. Nonresident hunters, many of whom are native Pennsylvanians who return home to hunt deer with family, now may apply on the third Monday of July, which this year is July 18. ❖ The boundary between **WMUs 5C and 5D** has changed again this license year. Nearly 52,000 acres – or 81 square miles – that previously had been part of WMU 5C has been moved to WMU 5D to provide a more logical boundary between more urban and less developed areas. New maps are included in the WMU section of this digest. ❖ **Disease Management Area 2**, where deer hunters must abide by special rules to slow the spread of chronic wasting disease, has expanded again. A new map is included within the deer-hunting section of this digest, but hunters should make a habit of checking the Game Commission's website for the latest boundary changes. DMA 2 is the only area of the state where CWD has been detected in free-ranging deer, and the Game Commission this year will be working with hunters to address this threat to Pennsylvania's rich hunting heritage. **DMA 2 antlerless deer permits** again will be made available this year through The Outdoor Shop website. ❖ The **amount hunters and trappers pay** for each license and privilege they purchase has increased by 20 cents this year due to a higher fee charged for use of the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System. ❖ There is an **earlier opener for the cottontail season**, Oct. 15, as well as the youth season, Oct. 1. The shift aligns the cottontail and squirrel seasons. ❖ An **extended black bear season in WMU 1B** will be held Nov. 30 to Dec. 3, the first week of the firearms deer season, to prevent further expansion of bears into the western part of the WMU, where the potential for human-bear conflicts is high. Meanwhile, the **extended black bear season has been eliminated in WMU 3A**. ❖ The length of the **fall turkey season has been reduced** in WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A and 4C due to declining turkey populations within those WMUs. ❖ The length of the **fisher season has been doubled** in the 13 WMUs with an open season. ❖ A **one-week river otter season** has been established for WMUs 3C and 3D, eliminating the need to extend the season if the harvest quota isn't met. ❖ The **snowshoe hare season has been extended to one week** statewide to simplify regulations and reflect the fact harvest mortality is not a major driver of hare populations. ❖ It now is **illegal to possess expired hunting or furtaker licenses or harvest tags** while hunting or trapping. The change addresses problems with expired tags being used unlawfully to hunt, trap or harvest game over the limit. Hunters and trappers are reminded to remove expired licenses and tags from their license holders or wallets after purchasing new licenses. ❖ A total of 124 **elk licenses** have been allocated this year. Twenty-five antlered elk licenses and 99 antlerless elk licenses will be awarded by lottery. Application instructions can be found in the elk section of this digest. The application deadline is July 31, and the drawing is Aug. 20. ❖ A **Veterans with Disabilities Waterfowl Hunt** is set to be held this year at Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area. Resident Disabled Veteran and Resident Reduced Fee Disabled Veteran license holders may hunt alongside three guests if selected by drawing. An application is in the **waterfowl section**, which itself is a new addition to the digest.

Wildlife Classifications

The Game and Wildlife Code protects all of Pennsylvania's wildlife. The code classifies wildlife as follows:

Game Animals:
Black bear, cottontail rabbit, elk, squirrels (red, gray, black and fox), snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and woodchuck (groundhog)

Game Birds:
Brant, bobwhite quail, coot, gallinule, geese, grouse, Hungarian partridge, merganser, mourning and Eurasian collared doves, pheasant, rail, snipe, swan, wild ducks, wild turkey and woodcock.

Big Game:
Bear, elk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

Small Game:
Game birds and game animals not classified as big game.

Furbearers:
Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pine martin, raccoon, red and gray fox, striped skunk and weasel.

Protected Mammals:
Wild mammals not classified furbearers or game animals (For example, chipmunks are protected).

Protected Birds:
Wild birds not classified game birds.

Protection is removed from wildlife, except migratory birds, big game and threatened or endangered species, when personal property, other than an agricultural crop, is being destroyed or damaged. Wildlife may be taken only by the owner or person in charge of the personal property affected. Wildlife taken to protect personal property must be surrendered to a Game Commission representative.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission manages all wild birds and mammals, and their habitats, for current and future generations.

Deer

One antlered deer per license year, and an antlerless deer with each required license or permit

Regular Firearms Nov. 28-Dec. 10

The Regular Firearms season is a statewide season.
In much of the state, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part of the season.

WMUs 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D

Antlered & Antlerless - Nov. 28-Dec.10

All Other WMUs

Antlered Only - Nov. 28-Dec.2
Antlered & Antlerless - Dec.3-Dec.10

Other deer seasons

Archery
Antlered & Antlerless

Statewide
Oct. 1-Nov. 12
Dec. 26-Jan. 14

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D
Sept. 17-Nov. 26
Dec. 26-Jan. 28

Muzzleloader
Antlerless Only

Statewide
Oct. 15-22

Special Firearms
Antlerless Only

Statewide
Oct. 20-22

Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored Youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons' permit holders

Flintlock
Antlered & Antlerless

Statewide
Dec. 26-Jan. 14

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D
Dec. 26-Jan. 28

Extended Firearms
Antlerless Only

Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia Counties
Dec. 26-Jan. 28

Turkey

One fall turkey per license year, plus up to two bearded birds in the spring season (one per day) for properly licensed hunters

Fall Season

Hunters during the fall season may take a bearded or unbearded bird.
Fall season is closed in WMUs 5B, 5C & 5D. Season lengths and arms vary by WMU.

Oct. 29-Nov. 5
WMU 1B

Oct. 29-Nov. 5 & Nov. 24-26
WMUs 1A & 2A

Oct. 29-Nov. 12 & Nov. 24-26
WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C & 4D

Oct. 29-Nov. 18 & Nov. 24-26
WMUs 2B, 2C & 4E

Nov. 3-5
WMU 5A

Spring Season

Bearded birds only.

Youth Hunt
April 22, 2017

Statewide
April 29-May 31, 2017

Hunting hours vary

Bear

One bear per license year, with bear license

Regular Firearms
Statewide
Nov. 19 & Nov. 21-23

Archery
Includes Crossbow

Statewide
Nov. 14-18

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D
Sept. 17-Nov. 18

WMU 5B
Oct. 1-Nov. 18

Muzzleloader

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 15-22

Special Firearms

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 20-22

Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored Youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons' permit holders

Extended Season

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Nov. 28-Dec. 10

WMUs 3B, 3C & 3D
Nov. 28-Dec. 3

WMUs 1B, 2C, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E
Nov. 30-Dec. 3

Small Game

Migratory bird and waterfowl seasons are included in the small game section

Squirrel

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

Junior Hunt
Oct. 1-15

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Pheasant

2 daily, 6 possession
Cocks only in some WMUs

Junior Hunt
Oct. 8-15

Statewide
Oct. 22-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Rabbit

4 daily, 12 possession

Junior Hunt
Oct. 1-15

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Grouse

2 daily, 6 possession

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Jan. 21

Bobwhite Quail

4 daily, 12 possession

Statewide
Oct. 22-Nov. 26
(Closed in WMU 5A)

Woodchuck

No Limit

Statewide
No closed season, except during regular firearms deer seasons. Hunting on Sundays prohibited.

Porcupine

3 daily, 10 season

Statewide
Sept. 1-March 31

Crow

No Limit

Statewide
July 1-April 9
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays only

Snowshoe Hare

1 daily, 3 possession

Statewide
Dec. 26-31

Furtaking

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes

No Limit
Oct. 22-Feb. 18

Coyotes, Opossums, Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit
No closed season, with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

Bobcats

1 per license year, permit required
Jan. 14-Feb. 8
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes

No Limit

General
Oct. 23-Feb. 19

Cable Restraints
Dec. 26-Feb. 19

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit
Oct. 23-Feb. 19

Minks & Muskrats

No Limit
Nov. 19-Jan. 8

Bobcats

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 17-Jan. 8
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Fishers

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 17-28
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4D & 4E

River Otters

1 per license year with permit
Feb. 18-25
WMUs 3C & 3D

Beavers

Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 26-March 31

Elk

25 antlered & 99 antlerless licenses awarded by lottery, application deadline July 31

Regular Season

Oct. 31-Nov. 5

Extended Season

Nov. 7-12

2016-17 Hunting Hours Table

Legal Hunting Hours

for all small and big game are from

One-half hour before sunrise
to one-half hour after sunset.

Please note the following exceptions:

1 – During the **Regular Firearms Deer Season**, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take other wild birds or mammals, except game birds on regulated hunting grounds, migratory waterfowl, coyotes,* feral swine, wild boar and bears.

2 – Raccoons, foxes, coyotes*, bobcats, striped skunks, opossums and **weasels** may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during restricted periods noted in Exception 1 (see furtaking section for more detail).

3 – Hunting hours during **Spring Gobbler Season** are from one-half hour before sunrise until noon during the youth hunt, and from the opening day of the statewide season through the third Saturday. Beginning May 15, hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

4 – Migratory birds (waterfowl, doves, woodcock, snipe, rails and gallinules) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except during the **September Resident Canada Goose Season** and the **Snow Goose Conservation Season**, when geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

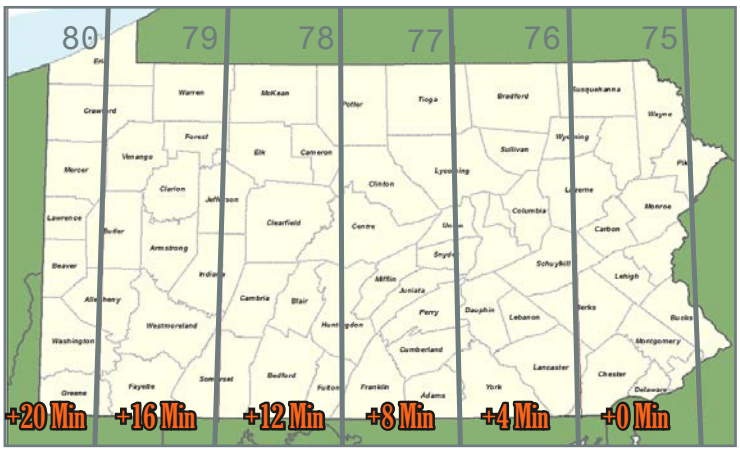
5 – Hunting hours are noon to sunset during much of the September segment of **Dove Season**. They begin one-half hour before sunrise on Sept. 26.

** Note: Outside of any big game season (deer, bear, elk or turkey), coyotes may be taken with a hunting or furtaker license, and without wearing orange. During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (must wear orange), or with a furtaker license.*

Hunting Hours Table for migratory game birds appears elsewhere in this digest.

Pennsylvania Meridian Map

Hunting hours begin and end 4 minutes later for each meridian west of the 75th.



	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 - 2	5:06	9:03
July 3 - 9	5:11	9:00
July 10 - 16	5:16	8:57
July 17 - 23	5:21	8:52
July 24 - 30	5:28	8:46
July 31 - Aug. 6	5:34	8:38
Aug. 7 - 13	5:41	8:29
Aug. 14 - 20	5:48	8:19
Aug. 21 - 27	5:54	8:06
Aug. 28 - Sept. 3	6:01	7:58
Sept. 4 - 10	6:07	7:47
Sept. 11 - 17	6:14	7:35
Sept. 18 - 24	6:21	7:24
Sept. 25 - Oct. 1	6:27	7:12
Oct. 2 - 8	6:34	7:00
Oct. 9 - 15	6:42	6:50
Oct. 16 - 22	6:49	6:40
Oct. 23 - 29	6:57	6:31
Oct. 30 - Nov. 5	7:05	6:23
Nov. 6 - 12**	6:13	5:16
Nov. 13 - 19	6:21	5:11
Nov. 20 - 26	6:28	5:07
Nov. 27 - Dec. 3	6:36	5:06
Dec. 4 - 10	6:42	5:05
Dec. 11 - 17	6:47	5:06
Dec. 18 - 24	6:50	5:08
Dec. 25 - 31	6:52	5:11
Jan. 1 - 7	6:52	5:17
Jan. 8 - 14	6:52	5:23
Jan. 15 - 21	6:50	5:30
Jan. 22 - 28	6:47	5:38
Jan. 29 - Feb. 4	6:41	5:47
Feb. 5 - 11	6:35	5:55
Feb. 12 - 18	6:27	6:03
Feb. 19 - 25	6:18	6:12
Feb. 26 - Mar. 4	6:08	6:19
Mar. 5 - 11	5:57	6:27
Mar. 12 - 18*	6:46	7:35
Mar. 19 - 25	6:35	7:42
Mar. 26 - Apr. 1	6:24	7:49
Apr. 2 - 8	6:13	7:56
Apr. 9 - 15	6:02	8:03
Apr. 16 - 22	5:51	8:10
Apr. 23 - 29	5:41	8:17
Apr. 30 - May 6	5:32	8:24
May 7 - 13	5:23	8:31
May 14 - 20	5:16	8:38
May 21 - 27	5:10	8:45
May 28 - June 3	5:06	8:50
June 4 - 10	5:03	8:55
June 11 - 17	5:02	9:02
June 18 - 24	5:03	9:02
June 25 - July 1	5:06	9:03

Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**

Mentored Youth Hunting Program

The Mentored Youth Hunting Program is designed to allow youngsters **under 12 years of age** to gain hunting experience and learn at an early age about Pennsylvania's rich hunting heritage. It gives unlicensed youngsters the opportunity to receive one-on-one, hands-on experience and training in the field on ethics, safety, responsibility, enjoyment and all other aspects of the hunting experience by adult mentors who are dedicated to this pursuit. Participating youngsters are not required to take a Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) class to be eligible for the Mentored Youth Program, however, once they reach their 12th birthday, the mentored youth permit will no longer be valid, and they will be required to successfully complete an HTE course before obtaining a junior license.

General Information

- A mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a mentored youth must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored youth hunting activities.
- A mentored youth planning to participate in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program must obtain a permit, and each youngster will be issued his or her CID number (each youngster will need a Social Security number to receive a CID number). The $2.90 permit can be obtained from any issuing agent and online at the Game Commission's "The Outdoor Shop." The Mentored Youth Hunting Program permit includes big game harvest tags for antlered deer and spring turkey. **No big-game harvest tags will be issued to mentored youth applicants who are under 7 years of age at the time of application.** Antlered deer or turkey harvests must be reported within five days by using the harvest report cards found in this digest, online at www.pgc.pa.gov, or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681. **To hunt doves, mentored youth also need a migratory game bird license.**
- A mentored youth who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

Species, Seasons & Bag Limits

- A mentored youth can hunt only **squirrels, rabbits (cottontails), doves, woodchucks, coyotes, deer, and turkeys** in any of their respective seasons, and must follow daily and field possession bag limits for each species (one antlered deer and one bearded turkey in the spring, per license year). Mentored youth permit holders may follow the same antler restrictions as junior license holders, which is one antler of three or more inches in length or one antler with at least two points.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlered deer harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under the age of 7 at the time of application**. The transfer of the antlered deer harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlered deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the harvest tag is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlered deer harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one spring turkey harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under the age of 7 at the time of application**. The transfer of the spring harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the spring turkey, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the harvest tag is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the leg of the bird. The mentor must report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than **one** spring turkey harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one fall turkey tag to a mentored youth if the youngster harvests a fall turkey. The harvest information and tag must be attached to the leg of the bird, and the mentor needs to check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlerless deer license and/or **one** Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored youth. Antlerless licenses are valid within the wildlife management unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the mentored youth to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlerless deer license and/or **one** DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentored youth is eligible to hunt during any special youth hunting seasons that apply to **eligible** mentored youth hunt species. This includes the Special Antlerless Deer Only Firearms October season for junior and senior license holders.

Safety

- A mentored youth must be stationary (the state or condition where a person is still, fixed in place or static, indicated by a cessation of all forward, backward or lateral movement, whether in the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone position) and within arm's reach of the mentor at all times while in possession of any lawful hunting device (any firearm or implement that is lawful to be possessed during the current season and used to harvest the particular species) while engaged in hunting or related activities.
- A mentor **may not** accompany more than **one youngster** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. For example, a mentor **cannot** accompany a mentored youth and a licensed junior hunter at the same time. (A supervising adult can accompany any number of junior hunters outside of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.)
- A mentor and mentored youth may not possess collectively more than one lawful hunting device at any given time while engaged in hunting or related activities. The mentor must carry the lawful device in transit to and from the spot.
- A mentor and mentored youth must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.

Liability

- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored youth occurring while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored youth to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

Mentored Adult Hunting Program

The Mentored Adult Hunting Program is designed to allow first-time hunters **18 years old and older** who have never held a prior hunting license within this Commonwealth, or another state or nation, to participate and learn about hunting through the experience of a licensed mentor. Mentored adults obtaining a permit through this program would be able to take part in hunting activities without first needing to take the basic Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) course. The mentored adult hunter must be properly accompanied by a mentor while engaged in all hunting or related activities.

General Information

- A mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a mentored adult must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored adult hunting activities.
- A mentored adult planning to participate in the Mentored Adult Hunting Program must obtain a permit. Each mentored adult will be issued his or her CID number (each adult will need a Social Security number to receive a CID number). The permit ($20.90 for residents and $101.90 for nonresidents) can be obtained from any issuing agent and online at the Game Commission's "The Outdoor Shop." The Mentored Adult Hunting Program permit includes a big game tag for spring gobbler. Turkey harvests must be reported within five days by using the harvest report cards found in this digest, online at www.pgc.pa.gov, or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681. Mentored adult hunting permits are available for a total of three consecutive, unbroken, license years, after which the mentored adult will be required to successfully complete an HTE course before obtaining an applicable adult hunting license.
- A mentored adult who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

Species, Seasons & Bag Limits

- A mentored adult can hunt only **squirrels, ruffed grouse, rabbits (cottontails), pheasants, bobwhite quail, hares, porcupines, woodchucks, crows, coyotes, antlerless deer and wild turkeys**. Species must be hunted in any of their respective seasons, and daily and field possession bag limits for each species must be followed.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlerless deer license and/or **one** Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored adult. Antlerless licenses are valid within the wildlife management unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored adult has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the mentored adult to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored adult" box on the harvest report card. A mentored adult may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlerless deer license and/or **one** DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentor can transfer **one** fall turkey tag to a mentored adult. The transfer of the fall turkey tag may not occur until after the mentored adult has harvested the fall turkey, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the tag is to be transferred to the mentored adult to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the leg of the bird. The mentor must report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored adult" box on the harvest report card. A mentored adult may not receive by transfer more than **one** fall turkey tag each license year.

Safety

- A mentored adult must hunt within eyesight of his or her adult mentor, and at a proximity close enough for verbal instruction and guidance to be easily understood without the aid of electronic communication devices or sound amplification devices.
- A mentor **may not** accompany more than **one mentored adult** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Adult Hunting Program. A mentor **may not** accompany a junior hunter or a mentored youth hunter in addition to a mentored adult.
- A mentor and mentored adult must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.

Liability

- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored adult while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored adult to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

Junior Hunting Opportunities

Youth Squirrel Season: Oct. 1-15 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course).

Junior Pheasant Season:
Oct. 8-15 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)

Junior Cottontail Rabbit Season:
Oct. 1-15 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)

12- to 16-year-olds or Junior License holders

Bear: Oct. 20-22 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D (junior license holders)

Deer: Oct. 20-22 (Antlerless only; junior license holders with required antlerless license; statewide)

Youth Turkey Hunt: April 22, 2017 (Spring gobbler; junior license holders with required license; statewide)

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days: (* Junior License holders 12-15). One shooting day at Middle Creek and Pymatuning to be designated as a youth-only day, in addition to two statewide or duck-zone specific youth waterfowl hunting days held each year.

General Hunting Regulations

Baiting

Baiting is allowed in the Southeast Special Regulations Area by permit only. Elsewhere in the state, it is unlawful to hunt in or around any area where artificial or natural bait, food, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals or minerals, including their residues, are used, or have been used within the past 30 days, as an enticement to lure game or wildlife regardless of the type or quantity. Hunters are responsible for ensuring that the hunting area has not been baited before they begin hunting. They should physically inspect the area and question landowners, guides and caretakers. This section does not pertain to hunting near areas where accepted farming or habitat-management practices are taking place (example: hunting near food plots on game lands is legal). Any natural or manmade nonliving bait can be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

Cultivated Lands

It is unlawful to 1) hunt in unharvested buckwheat, corn, sorghum or soybean fields without permission from the owner or caretaker; 2) operate a motor vehicle on any cleared field or private property without the landowner's permission; 3) block lanes to cultivated fields, mailboxes or private property; 4) leave gates open; 5) damage real or personal property; 6) break down or damage fences, or 7) harass, injure or kill livestock.

Decoys

Decoys simulating food – such as artificial corn to attract turkeys or waterfowl – are considered artificial bait and are illegal. Electronic decoys are illegal, unless permitted by exception as outlined in the Electronic Devices section below. The use of living decoys is prohibited for all hunting and trapping.

Disturbance of Game or Wildlife

It is unlawful for any person to drive or disturb game or wildlife except while engaged in lawful hunting or trapping. It is unlawful to dig out or take any wild bird or animal from its den or place of refuge.

Drugs & Alcohol

It is unlawful to hunt wildlife while under the influence of controlled substances or alcohol.

Electronic Devices

It is unlawful to hunt with any electronic contrivance or device except: 1) Electronic callers may be used to hunt bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and crows, and snow geese in the conservation season. 2) Lighted pins on bow sights and scopes with lighted reticles may be used as long as they don't cast a beam. Any device used as a sight or scope on any firearm, bow or crossbow that projects a light beam of any kind onto the target is unlawful. 3) Portable, two-way radios and cellphones may be used for general communications with another hunter, but may not be used to direct or alert another hunter of the presence or location of live game or wildlife. The use of electronic communication devices to alert hunters to live game not only is a violation of the Game & Wildlife Code, but violates the concept of fair chase. The use of portable radios does not satisfy the legal requirement of accompanying a junior hunter. The accompanying adult must be close enough to give verbal instructions without the aid of an electronic device. 4) Electronic sound amplification devices that are incorporated into hearing-protection devices and completely contained in or on the hunter's ear may be used to hunt or take wildlife. 5) Electronic crow decoys may be used solely for the harvesting of crows. The following devices **may be used** to hunt or take wildlife: Any manually operated firearm that uses an electronic impulse to detonate the primer or main powder charge of the ammunition, unless such firearms are specifically prohibited devices. Electronic illuminating devices that are affixed at the aft end of a bolt or arrow and used solely for the purpose of locating or tracking bolt or arrow flight after being launched from a crossbow or bow. Electronic rangefinders, including handheld devices and those contained within a scope or archery sight. This authorization may not be construed to permit a device that emits any light beam, infrared beam, ultraviolet light beam, radio beam, thermal beam, ultrasonic beam, particle beam or other beam that is visible outside of the device or on the target.

Field Possession Limits

It is unlawful on the opening day of a hunting season to 1) possess more than the daily limit; 2) after the second day possess more game than may be legally taken in three days. A Field Possession Limit is the maximum number of legally taken wildlife of a species that a person may legally possess or transport between the place of taking and the person's permanent place of residence.

Firearms – Handguns

A Sportsman's Firearms Permit or a License to Carry Firearms permit is required to carry a handgun, or have it in a motor vehicle. Licenses to Carry Firearms permits are issued by county sheriffs or the Philadelphia Chief of Police. The License to Carry Firearms permit only entitles bowhunters or spotlighters, for instance, to carry firearms that fall within this classification. County treasurers issue Sportsman's Firearms Permits. A person holding a Sportsman's Firearms Permit may not carry a concealed handgun or a loaded handgun in a vehicle, and may not carry a handgun while bowhunting or spotlighting.

Firearms – Loaded in Vehicles

A firearm is considered loaded when there is live ammunition in either the chamber or attached magazine. It is unlawful to 1) have a loaded firearm in, on or against any motor vehicle (or any attachments to the vehicle), regardless of whether the vehicle is moving or stationary; and 2) have a loaded firearm in watercraft under power, or shoot from a powered watercraft until the motor has been shut off and the craft has come to a complete stop. Holders of License to Carry Firearms permit are exempt, but keep in mind that most sporting firearms are not authorized by the permit. It is prohibited to have any muzzleloading firearm that has a live charge of ammunition in its firing chamber and a primer, flash powder or a battery, whichever is applicable, properly positioned in the firing mechanism of the firearm rendering it capable of discharge, in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. Any crossbow that has been cocked and has a bolt affixed onto the string or positioned into the firing mechanism of the device is prohibited in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. For safety, a loaded muzzleloader or crossbow should be fired into soft ground before those devices are transported in a vehicle.

Firearms – Magazine Capacity

Manual or autoloading shotguns to hunt small game, furbearers, turkeys, waterfowl or crows must be limited to a 3-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined. A plug must be a one-piece filler installed so it cannot be readily removed without disassembling the gun or magazine.

General Hunting Regulations

Firearms & Devices – Unlawful to Use

It is unlawful to hunt with 1) Automatic and semi-automatic (autoloading) rifles and handguns; 2) air- or gas-operated rifles and handguns.

Fluorescent Orange

Those hunting waterfowl, furbearers (some exceptions with coyotes), doves, spring turkeys or crows, and hunters participating in the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader deer season, are not required to wear fluorescent orange. Archery hunters also carrying a muzzleloader during any muzzleloader season must meet the fluorescent orange requirements for the muzzleloader season. See the two-page Fluorescent Orange Requirements section in this digest for more information.

Injury Reports

If you are involved in an incident resulting in injury by a firearm or bow and arrow, either as a victim or the person causing injury (including self-inflicted), you must report the incident to the Game Commission within 72 hours. Obtain the proper forms from a Game Commission officer, complete in duplicate and return them to the officer, or mail to the Game Commission's Harrisburg Headquarters. It is unlawful not to submit this report, or to flee, fail or refuse to render immediate and full assistance to an injured person.

License Information

It is unlawful to hunt or trap wildlife without first obtaining the required hunting or furtaker licenses. All hunters should be sure they have the proper and applicable licenses and tags in their possession for the seasons and species they intend to hunt or trap before heading afield. It's unlawful to carry the license of another person while hunting, or in transit to or from hunting. The possession of expired, fulfilled, revoked, suspended or invalid licenses or harvest tags while hunting or tapping also is unlawful. While afield, in addition to their licenses, hunters are required to have in their possession additional cards or papers that must be shown to an officer or landowner upon request to confirm identification.

Littering

It is unlawful while hunting or trapping to leave or deposit any garbage, bottles, cartons, containers, glass, paper or debris, except in a receptacle for that purpose.

Lures & Scents

Except in CWD Disease Management Areas, estrous scents and lures, or other non-food source cover scents are legal for deer. Scents and lures that contain any form of natural or artificial food stuff, including, but not limited to, corn, apple and acorns are not legal. Use of drip devices is legal, with legal scents and lures, as long as they don't violate the prohibition against electronic devices. The use of scents or lures while hunting bears is prohibited.

Mistake Kill

Any person who kills any wildlife while hunting or trapping by accident or mistake shall immediately field-dress any edible game and deliver the carcass to a Game Commission officer in the county where it was killed. Big game killed by accident or mistake must be tagged with the appropriate big-game tag that is attached to the license before moving the carcass from the kill location. Use the tag you would have used for the animal you are legally licensed to take. Examples: An antlerless deer killed in mistake for an antlered deer must be tagged with the antlered deer tag; an antlered deer killed in mistake for an antlerless deer must be tagged with an antlerless deer tag; a hen turkey killed by mistake during the spring gobbler season must be tagged with a spring gobbler tag. Antlered deer that are killed by mistake and do not meet the minimum points requirements must be tagged with an antlered deer tag. (See the big-game regulations section for more details on how to handle a mistake deer kill.) If you have previously used a tag for a prior legal kill and need that tag for a mistake kill, use the tag you have remaining that entitled you to hunt legally.

Recovering Dead or Injured Wildlife

It is unlawful for a hunter to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve any killed or injured game or wildlife. Hunters attempting to recover wildlife are not permitted to enter private property without permission. A hunting license does not give you the right to trespass on private property. In fact, a wildlife conservation officer can issue a citation for trespassing on private property to hunters in violation of the Game & Wildlife Code or regulations.

Road-killed Deer/Possessing Wildlife

It is unlawful at any time to possess live wildlife, except foxes for which a permit has been issued, or animals, or parts of animals, killed on highways. **Pennsylvania residents** may possess deer or turkeys killed by a motor vehicle for personal consumption only if they secure a **permit number** from the Game Commission within 24 hours after taking the deer or turkey; call the appropriate region office. It is not legal to kill or "put out of its misery" any injured wildlife; again, call the region office. It is unlawful to give to another person the whole or edible parts of a deer killed on a highway. It is not lawful to keep, for example, antlers from road-killed deer or the beard or spurs from a road-killed turkey. It is unlawful to sell inedible parts from game or wildlife lawfully taken (including taxidermy mounts), unless such parts are disposed of by the original owner within 90 days after the close of the season in which the game or wildlife was taken. It is unlawful to take a road-killed deer into possession to be used to bait coyotes. Holders of a valid furtaker license may possess a furbearer killed on a highway, except for bobcats, fishers or river otters. Persons taking possession of any furbearer killed on a highway during the closed season for taking that furbearer shall within 24 hours contact any Game Commission region office to make notification of said possession. A fee will be charged to possess a road-killed furbearer picked up during the closed season.

Road Hunting

It is unlawful to 1) hunt from a vehicle; 2) aid or assist another while hunting from a vehicle; 3) shoot at wildlife on a public road or right-of-way open to public travel; 4) shoot across a road unless the line of fire is high enough to preclude any danger to road users; and 5) alight from a vehicle and shoot at any wildlife until the shooter is at least 25 yards from the traveled portion of the roadway. **NOTE:** These provisions do not prevent an individual, who may not qualify for a Disabled Person's Permit, but who has health concerns or problems to sit in or near a legally "parked" vehicle and watch for game. **Loaded firearms may never be placed in, on or against any motor vehicle, its trailer or other attachments, at any time.**

General Hunting Regulations

Safety Zones

It is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a safety zone as about one and a half football fields. Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds, and in cemeteries, also is prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle if its occupants are releasing pheasants. The safety zone for **archery hunters** statewide, including those using crossbows, is **50 yards**. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards.

Spotlighting Wildlife

It is unlawful to 1) spotlight wildlife while in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, or other device capable of killing wildlife. Individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit are excepted, but only regarding their carrying of firearms authorized by the permit. Most sporting arms are not authorized. 2) spotlight wildlife during the regular firearms deer seasons, including those days separating the seasons, as well as any late extended firearms deer seasons in the Special Regulations Area counties; and 3) cast an artificial light upon any building, farm animal or photoelectric cell. Recreational spotlighting is lawful between sunrise and 11 p.m., except as previously noted. Spotlighting includes handheld lights, accessory spotlights on vehicles and vehicle headlights when intentionally used to locate or view wildlife. A person hunting raccoons, skunks, opossums, bobcats, weasels, foxes and coyotes on foot may use a handheld light, including a gun-mounted light. Furbearer hunters may not use a flashlight or spotlight that projects a laser light beam.

Sunday Hunting

It is unlawful to hunt wildlife, except foxes, crows and coyotes, on Sundays.

Additional Regulations & Restrictions

Many landowners (federal, state and local governments) open areas to hunting and trapping, but apply more restrictive regulations. An example is the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Crawford County, where the use or possession of toxic shot is prohibited for shotgun hunting for all species, except turkeys and deer. Hunters and trappers are responsible for knowing rules and regulations on lands they intend to hunt or trap.

Dog Training Regulations

Dogs are not permitted to hunt big game, except for turkeys during the fall. All State Game Lands are closed to all dog-training activities from the Monday prior to the start of the youth pheasant season until the close of the youth pheasant season. On Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas, dog training is prohibited from the first Sunday in February through July 31 each year.

- There is no closed season for training dogs.
- A hunting or furtaker license is not required for dog training.
- Dogs may not be trained on private land on Sunday without the landowner's permission.
- A person may not carry a rifle, shotgun or bow and arrows while training dogs.
- Dogs are not permitted to injure or kill wildlife. Owners are liable for any wildlife killed or injured by dogs. When training dogs, hunters need to be aware of and avoid areas, especially wetlands, where birds are nesting.
- All hunters are urged to respect dog owners and their sport. Dogs can be attracted by electronic calling devices, as well as turkey calls. Be sure of your target. While the law requires dogs to be under the control of their owner or handler at all times, dogs often are not within sight of their handler while tracking game. Dogs cannot read no-trespassing signs and do not heed fences. If you see a hunting dog running or barking, its handler probably isn't far behind. It is unlawful for dogs to chase or pursue big game, however, the Game Commission recommends that dogs not be shot unless they are actually in the act of attacking a big-game animal and there is no other option. If you see a dog or dogs chasing any deer, bear, elk or turkey, please contact the Game Commission and report the violation. Hunting-dog owners have significant amounts of time and money invested in their dogs, and they consider their dogs hunting partners and friends. Please do not shoot hunting dogs just because you do not immediately see their handler.
- There are appropriate penalties in the Game and Wildlife Code to deter owners from permitting their dogs to chase big game. If you shoot a dog that is not attacking a big-game animal you could be subject to prosecution under the Crimes Code as a misdemeanor offense, with penalties of up to $5,000 and two years imprisonment, as well as civil liability for the restitution of the dog. Any person who destroys a dog (licensed or unlicensed) attacking a big-game animal must report the incident to the dog's owner or a Game Commission officer within 48 hours, as required by law.
- Electronic devices may be used for locating dogs while training or hunting, including such devices as e-collars, radio-telemetry dog tracking systems and beeper collars.
- In areas that are identified as woodcock habitat management areas, dogs are prohibited for any reason from April 1 to July 15.

Dogs should be handled in a safe and humane manner, with adequate consideration to temperature and ventilation in transportation cages and compartments.

State Game Lands Regulations

State Game Lands are public hunting grounds.

Lawful hunting and trapping is permitted on game lands during open seasons. And many other rules are in place regarding game lands use.

To enable the Game Commission to effectively manage and protect these invaluable land holdings for this and future generations of hunters, trappers and wildlife enthusiasts,

Game Lands users may not:

- Camp or use campsites.
- Contaminate, pollute or degrade groundwaters or surface waters or any waterways.
- Graze or permit the grazing of domestic livestock; place or maintain beehives or beekeeping apparatus.
- Solicit or place private advertisements, signs or posters.
- Plant, gather, cut, dig, remove or otherwise injure any plants or parts thereof, including trees, shrubs, vines, flowering plants and cultivated crops. (Mushrooms and fruits of berry-producing plants may be picked.)
- Travel on lands by means of any vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power. (Exemption for individuals with Disabled Person Permit for battery-powered motorized wheelchair.)
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal, except on roads normally open to public travel, or designated routes as posted, or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal from the last Saturday in September until the third Saturday in January, and prior to one hour after close of lawful hunting hours for spring turkey season from the second Saturday in April through the last Saturday in May, inclusive, except on Sundays or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal on roads open to foot travel only.
- Drive motor vehicles with or without attachments having a registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 12,000 pounds.
- Use boats propelled by a motor. Battery-powered electric motors may be used on waterways unless otherwise posted.
- Fish from dam breasts posted against fishing.
- Swim in any dam, pond, lake or stream.
- Injure, destroy or cause damage to property, real, personal or mixed.
- Remove or attempt to remove any manmade or natural object, except wildlife and fish lawfully taken. Objects that may not be removed include animals, rocks, minerals, sand and historical or archaeological artifacts.
- Participate in, become part of, contribute to or engage in disorderly conduct.
- Travel on roads open to vehicular travel with vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power that is not licensed or authorized for operation on a public highway.
- Violate, fail or neglect to follow instructions posted on signs authorized by the Executive Director.
- Destroy, mutilate or remove any sign or placard.
- Travel by mechanical or motorized conveyance or ride animals on newly constructed, seeded or planted roads, or other areas, when posted against travel.
- Consume, possess or transport any alcohol, liquor, beer, malt or brewed alcoholic beverage.
- Use or possess any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
- Occupy, use or construct, place or maintain structures or other tangible property, except that portable hunting blinds and stands may be used, provided no damage is caused to trees.
- Feed wildlife or place any food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals.
- Release any domestic animals, captive-bred or captive-raised game or wildlife.
- Operate a motor vehicle in willful and wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property or in excess of posted speed limits, or where no speed limit is posted, in excess of 25 mph.
- Target shoot with firearms, bows and arrows, or devices capable of launching projectiles, unless the person is in possession of a valid hunting or furtaker license signed by its holder. Exercise of privileges shall be done in a manner as to not cause injury to persons or property, or on areas not otherwise posted closed to those activities.
- Except as provided on established shooting ranges, discharge any firearm, bow and arrow or device capable of launching projectiles that is not a lawful device to hunt game or wildlife. Shoot clay birds anywhere except areas designated by the Executive Director by signs stating that clay bird shooting is permitted.
- Engage in any activity or event involving more than 10 persons, which may conflict with the intended purposes or uses of property, or poses a potential environmental or safety problem.
- Sell, distribute, deliver, service, guide or rent any equipment, material or commodity or otherwise transact or engage in any commercial activity. Such activity is when a person directly or indirectly accepts consideration of value as compensation for the provision of goods or services, including transportation.
- Use State Game Lands for any personal, organizational or commercial purpose other than the intended use of the property.
- Operate under authority of a contract, lease, agreement or permit and fail to abide by the terms and conditions set forth.
- Except on Sundays, to be present on State Game Lands from Nov. 15 through Dec. 15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. Orange material must be visible 360 degrees. Persons using shooting ranges are exempted.
- Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes are permitted, except when the Fire Index Rating used by the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, is high, very high or extreme. Fires must be contained and tended at all times.
- Snowmobiles, as defined in the All Terrain Vehicle Act of 1985, may be driven beginning the third Sunday in January through April 1, only on designated areas, roads and trails marked with appropriate signs. Snowmobiles must display a valid registration decal.

State Game Lands Regulations

State Game Lands Shooting Ranges

- Rifle and handgun ranges are open from 8 a.m. until sunset Monday through Saturday, and from noon to sunset Sundays, unless otherwise posted. **Exception:** The Sunday immediately preceding the regular antlered and antlerless deer season and bear season the hours are 8 a.m. to sunset.
- A range may be reserved for exclusive use by an organized group from Jan. 1 through Oct. 1. Arrangements must be made with the appropriate Game Commission region office at least 20 days in advance. An individual may not use the range when it has been reserved.
- An individual or organized group using a range is responsible for keeping the area clean and free of debris and may not discard, deposit or leave litter, except in refuse containers. Users shall remove targets from backboards.
- The Game Commission is not responsible for anyone injured on a range. An individual using a Game Commission range does so at his or her own risk and assumes all responsibility for injuries to a person or property.
- When more than one person is using a range, a range officer shall be designated.
- Individuals under the age of 16 may not use a range unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.
- A Game Commission region director may close a range by the posting of signs.

Prohibited Acts

- Possess a loaded firearm, except at an established shooting station on the firing line.
- Discharge a firearm, except from an established shooting station on the firing line at a paper target placed on a permanent backboard.
- Discharge armor-piercing, incendiary, explosive, tracer or multiple-projectile ammunition.
- Be intoxicated, use or possess alcohol or a controlled substance.
- Possess an automatic firearm.
- Possess, load or discharge a firearm that contains more than three rounds of single-projectile ammunition, except at a Game Commission facility specifically designated as a handgun range an individual is permitted to load and discharge a handgun containing a maximum of six rounds of single-projectile ammunition at any one time.
- Shoot clay birds anywhere except areas designated by the Game Commission Executive Director, marked with signs stating that clay bird shooting is permitted.

Prohibitions apply at rifle and handgun ranges located on land under Game Commission ownership, except when authorized.

Range Permits

Permits are required for individuals who use Game Lands shooting ranges, including designated clay-bird shooting areas, but who don't possess a valid Pennsylvania hunting or furtaker license.

Range permits will be issued to persons 16 years of age or older. A permitted person is allowed one guest.

Permits must be in possession, but do not have to be displayed.

Permits are $30 and must be purchased by credit card through The Outdoor Shop at the Game Commission's website, or at Game Commission region offices or the Harrisburg headquarters.

Permits are effective from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Appalachian Trail

Hunters are reminded that hunting or discharging firearms, and use of off-road vehicles, including ATVs, are prohibited on National Park Service (NPS) lands acquired for the protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Individuals can now possess firearms on national park or refuge lands if they are legally permitted to carry a firearm in the state and municipality where they are located.

Sections of the Appalachian Trail that run through State Game Lands are not subject to the listed regulations.

Please be advised that State Game Lands regulations require **any group consisting of 10 or more people** using the game lands, including trails, to a obtain a Special Use Permit.

Maps that show the NPS lands where hunting is prohibited are available for viewing at the Appalachian Trail Conference Regional Office in Boiling Springs, Pa. (717-258-5771).

Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes may be kindled, used and maintained by persons exercising the privileges of a valid hunting, furtaker or fishing license and through-hikers within the corridor of the Appalachian Trail.

This exception to the prohibition on fires is applicable only where the small fires are located at places where adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire, and the small fires are attended at all times and the index rating used by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is not High, Very High or Extreme for that area.

A person causing a wildfire, in addition to possible criminal penalty, is liable for all damages, cost of extinguishing and fines.

Green Means Go

On State Game Lands, recreational riding of horses and bicycles is allowed only on designated trails, marked by the **GREEN** signs above. Trails that are closed are marked with **YELLOW** signs. Recreational off-trail riding is not permitted.

Big Game Regulations

Lawful Arms & Ammunition

Deer and Bear, Regular Seasons

• Manually operated (pump, lever, bolt actions, single-shot) centerfire rifles, shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged when hunting deer, bears or elk) and handguns (revolvers or single-shots) with all-lead bullet or ball, or bullet designed to expand on impact;
• Muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger, and;
• Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows (minimum 125-pound draw weight), with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length. The use of buckshot is not legal, except in the Southeast Special Regulations Area.

Bear Archery Season

• Long, recurve and compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), or crossbows, with a legal broadhead (see broadhead stipulations for deer below).

Deer Archery Seasons

• Long, recurve and compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), and crossbows, and legal broadheads (an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length). Magnifying scopes and sights such as red dot on crossbows can be used. Persons hunting deer in the archery seasons may not possess a firearm, except those individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit (most sporting arms are not authorized). Muzzleloading firearms also can be carried by bowhunters during any muzzleloading season, providing the hunter has an archery license and a muzzleloader license and meets the fluorescent orange requirements of the muzzleloader season.

Bow & Arrow Equipment Definitions

Arrow - A projectile shot from a bow with an overall length exceeding the brace height of the bow with fletching designed only for guidance at the aft end and a broadhead mounted on the fore-end. No electronic tracking device shall be part of or attached to the arrow. No device, material or system capable of causing damage or injury to the animal in excess of that inflicted by the cutting edges of the broadhead shall be part of or attached to any arrow. A projectile for a crossbow is known as a bolt.

Bow - A device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs. The energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from another source. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams so long as the energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous and direct pulling effort by the shooter. The bowstring must be drawn and released as a direct and conscious action by the shooter. Release shall be accomplished by either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of

Bow & Arrow Equipment Definitions (continued)

a manually operated release aid.

Broadhead - Must have a fixed or mechanical tip having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches in length.

Crossbow - Must have a draw weight not less than 125 pounds.

Muzzleloader Deer Seasons

October Antlerless Deer Season - Any single-barrel muzzleloading long gun with flintlock, in-line or percussion ignition 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun. Scope sights permitted.

Flintlock Season - Flintlock-ignition, single-barrel long guns manufactured prior to 1800, or a similar reproduction of an original muzzleloading single-barrel long gun 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun, using a single projectile. It is unlawful to use telescopic sights. Late-season flintlock hunters are permitted to take an antlered deer or an antlerless deer anywhere in the state with their unused antlered deer tag.

Fall Turkey Season

• Manually operated rifles and handguns, including rimfires;
• Manually operated and semi-automatic shotguns limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined;
• Muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and handguns, and;
• Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see deer and bear section to the left). Single-projectile ammunition or shotshell pellets no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
• During any fall season in WMU 2B, as well as in Special Regulations Area county, Allegheny, only shotguns and long, recurve, compound bows or crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design are permitted.

Spring Gobbler Season

• Manually operated and semi-automatic shotguns limited to no more than three rounds in the chamber and magazine combined;
• Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; and
• Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see deer and bear section). Shotgun fine shot pellets only, no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rifle/shotgun combinations may be used if ammunition is confined to shotgun shells. Possessing or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles, handguns, dogs, electronic callers or live decoys is unlawful. It is unlawful to conduct drives for turkeys. Hunting by calling only. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon from the opening day through the third Saturday (including the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt), and then to one-half hour after sunset for the remainder of the season. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. when closing time is noon.

Elk Season

- Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 27 caliber using all-lead projectiles or bullets of at least 130 grains designed to expand on impact;
- Shotguns at least 12-gauge;
- Muzzleloading firearms (including handguns) at least 50 caliber propelling a single projectile weighing at least 210 grains;
- Bow with a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds;
- Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds
- Any arrow or crossbow bolt with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 1 inch with at least two cutting edges located on the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface, and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length.

Restrictions

Bear Season

It is unlawful to 1) kill a bear in a den; 2) use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached 3) use scents or lures.

Blinds

Blinds can be used for big game (see turkey section for specifics for blinds while turkey hunting), however, a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band will suffice) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind and visible in a 360-degree arc during the firearms deer, bear and elk seasons. This is in addition to wearing orange while in the blind.

Dogs

It is unlawful to use dogs to hunt elk, bears, deer or spring turkey.

Organized Drives

It is unlawful to drive or herd elk. For deer and bear, an unlicensed person who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state may participate in a drive for a properly licensed hunter providing the following requirements are met: The person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess any firearm, bow or other hunting device; and the person complies with requirements for wearing fluorescent orange. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed hunters must not exceed 1:1.

Hunting Parties

It is unlawful to hunt deer, elk or bears in a party of more than 25 persons.

Tree Stands & Blinds

It is unlawful while hunting or preparing to hunt to 1) damage any tree on public or private property by constructing a tree stand or using a portable tree stand or device to climb a tree; 2) use or occupy a tree stand that, when constructed, damages a tree. This does not apply to landowners constructing stands on their own property, or persons who have received written permission from a landowner to build or use a tree stand; 3) tree stands on state land can be placed out not more than two weeks before the first and must be removed no later than two weeks after the final deer season in that area. Placing a tree stand does not reserve the area for its owner; other hunters can hunt there. Tree stands and portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission's management now need to be conspicuously

Tree Stands & Blinds (continued)

marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner's hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the stand or blind owner. Identification numbers can be obtained at The Outdoor Shop on the Game Commission's website.

Shooting at Random

During the open seasons for deer and bears, it is unlawful to shoot at any target other than legal game. Target shooting is lawful only when done: 1) on property owned by the shooter or by a guest of the property owner; 2) within 200 yards of a camp or headquarters where the shooter is either quartered or an invited guest; 3) at an established shooting range. The target must be protected by a natural or artificial barrier so that the bullet or arrow cannot travel more than 15 yards beyond it.

Reporting Big Game Harvests

Each hunter who harvests a deer or turkey must report it to the Game Commission within 10 days (five days for turkeys or deer taken by mentored hunters, or persons required to make a homemade tag) by sending in a postage-paid report card supplied in this digest, or making a report online or over the phone. Be sure to read report cards thoroughly before filling out. Use one report card per animal harvested. For second-license turkey and DMAP antlerless deer, where reporting is required regardless of harvest success, be sure to check the "no harvest" box if no game is harvested. Hunters also can report their big-game harvests online at the agency's website: www.pgc.pa.gov by following instructions given there. Hunters and trappers also can report their deer, turkey, bobcat, fisher and otter harvests over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681). Hunters will need to have their license and their copy of the carcass tags attached to harvested animals available to complete the call; along with the data captured for particular animals, such as number of points or beard length.

Hunters should record the confirmation number supplied by the IVR system for each animal reported. Harvests submitted through the IVR system will be available for review on the Game Commission's Internet harvest reporting site; go to www.pgc.pa.gov and follow the link labeled "Report Your Harvest." Within 24 hours, each person who harvests a bear or elk must take the animal, along with hunting license and bear or elk license, to a Game Commission check station for examination. Bear check stations are maintained at Game Commission offices and at other locations listed elsewhere in this digest. The Elk Check Station is located at the Old Benezette School House in Elk County located on the north side of Route 555 in Benezette, on the west side of Trout Run.

Transporting Big Game

Deer, bear, elk and turkey under transport, including those taken outside of Pennsylvania, must have an appropriate tag completed and attached. Unmarked parts of a big-game carcass taken in Pennsylvania may be transported. Upon request of any Game Commission law-enforcement officer, the name and address of the person who killed the animal must be furnished, along with other information necessary to properly establish legal possession.

Big Game Regulations

Mistake Kill

Any person who by accident or mistake kills any deer (an antlerless deer in mistake for an antlered deer, an antlered deer in mistake for an antlerless deer, or an antlered deer that does not meet required antler restrictions) shall immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the kill, deliver and surrender the entire carcass, less entrails, to any Game Commission officer in the county in which it is killed and make a written, sworn statement explaining when, where and how the accident or mistake occurred. Each licensed person who kills any deer shall immediately, and before moving the carcass, fully complete the proper tag in compliance with printed instructions and attach only the tag to the deer's ear. The deer will be turned in to the officer, restitution of $25 for each mistake deer shall be paid, and the hunter will be issued another tag to pursue another deer. Failure to report and deliver a deer killed by accident or mistake is punishable with a fine up to $1,500 and license revocation. For information on where to deliver a deer killed by accident or mistake, or with information about anyone who has failed to report a deer killed by accident or mistake, contact the Game Commission region office servicing the area.

Tagging Big Game

Hunters who harvest a deer, bear, elk or turkey must follow instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before carcass is moved. The tag must be attached to the ear of a deer or bear, or the body of an elk and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. Turkey tags must be attached to the bird's leg.

When multiple harvests of deer per day are authorized, only one deer at a time may be taken. Before attempting to take an additional deer, the first deer shall be lawfully tagged (This doesn't apply in the Special Regulations Areas).

Tagging requirements for persons authorized to hunt without a license are identical, except that a homemade tag must be used listing the hunter's name, address, game harvested and date, time, WMU, county and township where it was taken.

It is unlawful to possess an expired, fulfilled, revoked, suspended or invalid big-game harvest tag or hunting license while engaged in hunting or trapping activities.

Unfit for Consumption

Any person who legally harvests any big-game animal and discovers the flesh was unfit for human consumption at the time of harvest shall, within 12 hours following the discovery, deliver the entire carcass, less entrails, but including the head and hide, to any Game Commission officer who, being satisfied that the game was unfit for human consumption at the time of harvest, shall issue written authorization to the person to harvest a second animal or bird of the same species during the unexpired portion of the season for that species.

Feral Swine

Feral swine have no place in Pennsylvania. They pose a very real threat to native Pennsylvania wildlife and wildlife habitats. Not only do they damage wildlife habitats, they will kill birds, the young of many mammals, and transmit a host of dangerous diseases. Because they have no natural predators, they can live anywhere, and reproduce rapidly, and are difficult to control in the best circumstances.

In some areas of the state, protection may be removed from feral swine by an executive order of the director; however, to increase the efficiency of eradication efforts, protection may be applied to townships or counties where eradication trapping operations are being actively conducted. If you think you may encounter a feral swine, refer to the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, for specific details on townships or counties that may have restrictions on incidental shooting of feral swine.

Feral swine may be hunted during lawful daylight hunting hours, except Sundays, with a hunting or furtaker license. However, feral swine may be taken from the first day to the last day inclusive of any big-game season only by persons lawfully engaged in hunting big game who have a valid tag. Those hunting feral swine with a firearm are required at all times to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined.

Firearm and archery equipment is restricted to lawful arms and ammunition identified in the Game & Wildlife Code Sec. 2308. If you kill a feral swine, contact the nearest region office within 24 hours, so samples can be collected for disease testing.

State Forests & State Parks

Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased only in designated hunting areas during the seasons state recreation areas are open to hunting.

In park areas not open to hunting, or during closed hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment must be kept in the owner's car, trailer or camp.

Hunting, trapping, pursuing or intentionally disturbing wildlife in state parks is prohibited, except that hunting and trapping by licensed hunters and furtakers is permitted in designated areas in compliance with Game Commission regulations. Trapping may be permitted in areas not designated for hunting, but only upon written approval, which is granted only when effective wildlife administration of the area requires trapping.

Dog training is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. Groundhog hunting is prohibited in state parks.

The Bureau of Forestry welcomes hunters and trappers to more than 2 million acres of state forests. Only small areas around occupied buildings are posted. Overnight camping is permitted only in areas designated by the district forester.

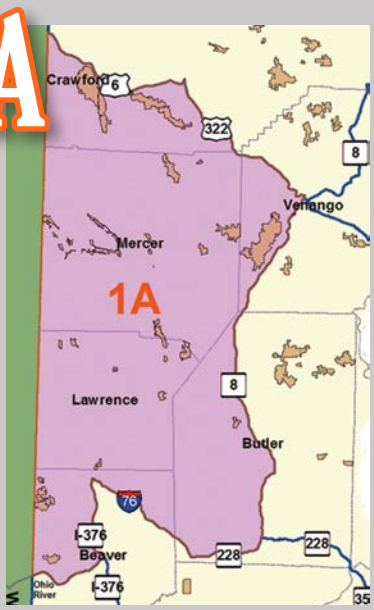
Required permits are available from local forestry offices. For more information about hunting on state parks, contact the Bureau of State Parks, 1-888-PA-PARKS, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us, or write State Parks, 8th Floor, P.O. Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551, or call your nearest state park.

For more information or maps concerning hunting and recreational activities on state forests, contact the Bureau of Forestry, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552. Phone: 717-783-7941, or your nearest forestry office.

Wildlife Management Units

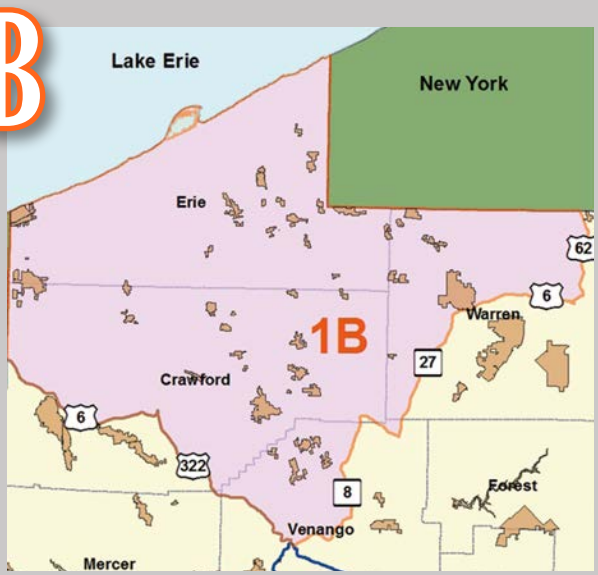
Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are designed to improve wildlife management and, at the same time, simplify hunting and trapping regulations. Pennsylvania uses WMUs to manage all game, except elk, waterfowl and other migratory game birds. When using the Hunting & Trapping Digest, refer to this section whenever an unfamiliar WMU is referenced.

1A



From Ohio/Pa. state line, US Rt. 6 east to US Rt. 322 at Conneaut Lake. US Rt. 322 east to Pa. Rt. 8 at Franklin. Pa. Rt. 8 south to Pa. Rt. 228 near Gibsonia. Pa. Rt. 228 west to I-76 (Pa. Turnpike) to I-376 near New Beaver. I-376 to Ohio River to Ohio/Pa. state line.

1B



From the N.Y./Pa. state line, US Rt. 62 south to US Rt. 6 near Warren. US Rt. 6 west to Pa. Rt. 27 at Pittsfield. Pa. Rt. 27 south to Pa. Rt. 8 at Titusville. Pa. Rt. 8 south to US Rt. 322 at Franklin. US Rt. 322 west to US Rt. 6 to Conneaut Lake. US Rt. 6 west to Ohio/Pa. state line.

2A

From the Ohio/Pa. state line, Ohio River east to I-376 near Vanport. I-376 east to US Rt. 22 near Moon Run. US Rt. 22 west to Pa. Rt. 980 near Santiago. Pa. Rt. 980 south to I-79 to I-70 at Washington. I-70 east to US Rt. 119 near New Stanton. US Rt. 119 south to W.Va./ Pa. state line.

2B

From Washington, I-79 north to PA Rt. 980 near Canonsburg. PA Rt. 980 north to US Rt. 22 near Santiago. US Rt. 22 east to I-376 near Moon Run. I-376 west to I-76 near New Beaver. I-76 east to PA Rt. 228 at Cranberry to PA Rt. 356 near Sarver to PA Rt. 66 near North Washington. Toll Road Rt. 66 south to US Rt. 119 south to I-70 near New Stanton. I-70 west to I-79 at Washington.

2C

From the West Virginia/PA state line, US Rt. 119 north to Toll Road Rt. 66 near New Stanton. Toll Road Rt. 66 north to US Rt. 22 near Delmont. US Rt. 22 east to US Rt. 119 to US Rt. 422 near Indiana. US Rt. 422 east to US Rt. 22 near Ebensburg. Use US Rt. 219 just west of Ebensburg to join US Rt. 22 and 422. US Rt. 22 east to I-99 near Hollidaysburg. I-99 south to US Rt. 220 near Bedford. US Rt. 220 south to Maryland/PA state line.

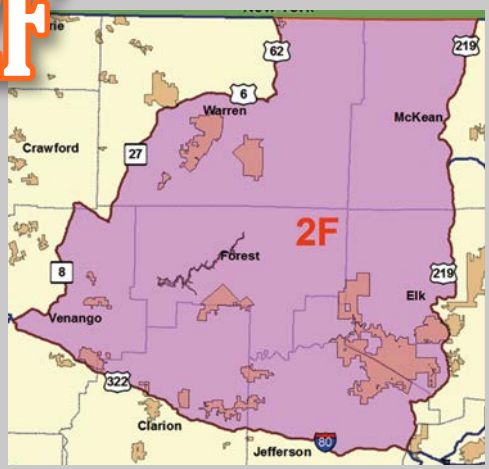
2D

From Franklin, US Rt. 322 east to I-80 near Corsica. I-80 east to US Rt. 219 near DuBois. US Rt. 219 south to US Rt. 119 near DuBois. US Rt. 119 south to US Rt. 22 near Black Lick. US Rt. 22 west to PA Rt. 66 near Delmont. PA Rt. 66 north to PA Rt. 356 to PA Rt. 228 near Sarver. PA Rt. 228 west to PA Rt. 8 near Gibsonia. PA Rt. 8 north to US Rt. 322 at Franklin.

2E

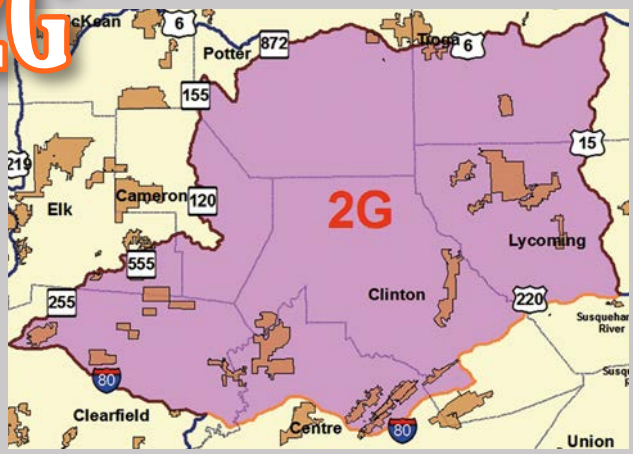
From near DuBois, I-80 east to PA Rt. 53 near Kylertown. PA Rt. 53 south to US Rt. 22 near Cresson. US Rt. 22 west to US Rt. 422 near Ebensburg. US Rt. 422 west to US Rt. 119 near Indiana. US Rt. 119 north to US Rt. 219 near DuBois. US Rt. 219 north to I-80 near DuBois.

2F



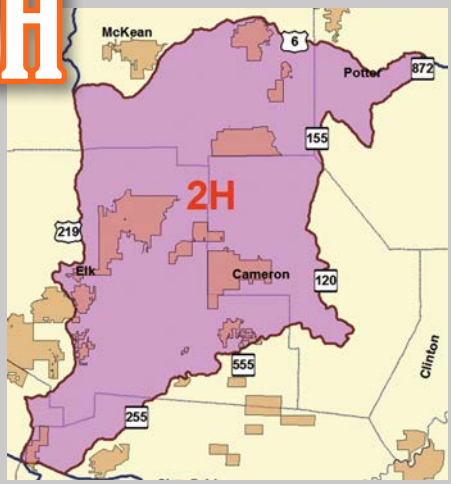
From New York/PA state line, US Rt. 219 south to I-80 near DuBois. I-80 west to US Rt. 322 near Corsica. US Rt. 322 west to PA Rt. 8 at Franklin. PA Rt. 8 north to PA Rt. 27 at Titusville. PA Rt. 27 north to US Rt. 6 at Pittsfield. US Rt. 6 east to US Rt. 62 near Warren. US Rt. 62 north to New York/PA state line.

2G



From the intersection of US Rt. 6 and Rt. 872 near Coudersport, east on US Rt. 6 to US Rt. 15 at Mansfield. US Rt. 15 south to US Rt. 220 at Williamsport. US Rt. 220 west to I-80 to Rt. 255. North on Rt. 255 to Rt. 555 at Weedville. East on Rt. 555 to Rt. 120 at Driftwood North on Rt. 120 to Rt. 155 to Rt. 607 at Keating Summit. Southeast on Rt. 607 to Rt. 872 at Austin. North on Rt. 872 to US Rt. 6 intersection.

2H

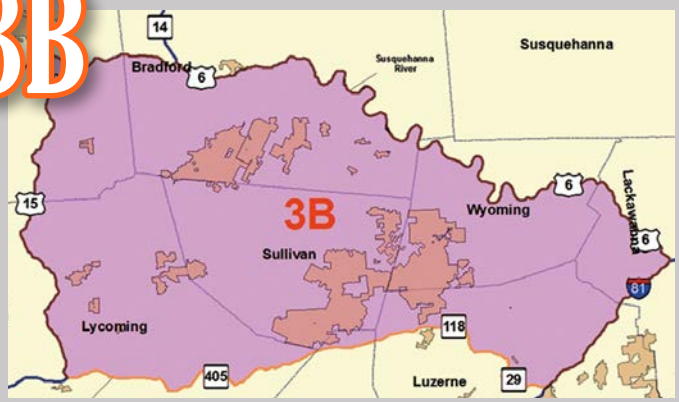


From Lantz Corners, US Rt. 6 east to Coudersport. South on Rt. 872 to Austin. Northwest on Rt. 607 to Keating Summit, and then south on Rt. 155 to Rt. 120. Follow Rt. 120 south to Driftwood, and then west on Rt. 555 to Rt. 255 in Weedville. South on Rt. 255 to I-80. West on I-80 to US Rt. 219 near DuBois. North US Rt. 219 to Rt. 6 at Lantz Corners.

3A

From N.Y./Pa. state line, Pa. Rt. 14 south to US Rt. 6 near Troy. US Rt. 6 west to US Rt. 219 at Lantz Corners. US Rt. 219 north to N.Y./Pa. state line.

3B

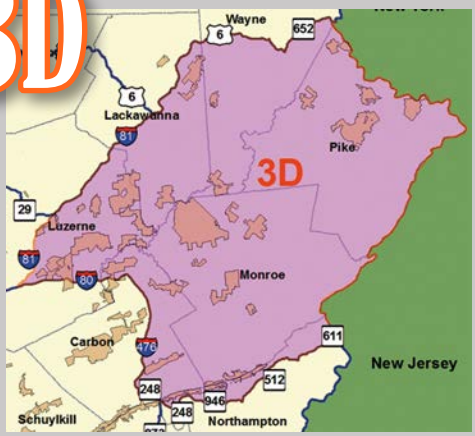


From Mansfield, US Rt. 6 east to Susquehanna River at Towanda. Susquehanna River east to U.S. Rt. 6 at Tunkhannock. U.S. Rt. 6 east to I-81 near Scranton. I-81 south to Pa. Rt. 29 near Nanticoke. Pa. Rt. 29 north to Pa. Rt. 118 near Pikes Creek. Pa. Rt. 118 west to Pa. Rt. 405 at Hughesville. Pa. Rt. 405 south to Susquehanna River at Muncy. Susquehanna River north to US Rt. 15 at Williamsport. US Rt. 15 north to US Rt. 6 at Mansfield.

3C

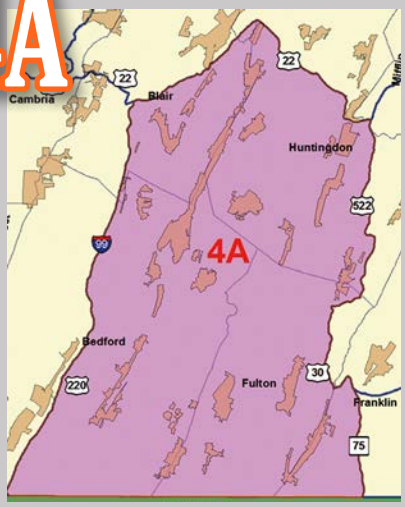
From N.Y./Pa. state line, Pa. Rt. 652 west to US Rt. 6 at Indian Orchard. US Rt. 6 west to Tunkhannock. The boundary between WMUs 3C and 3B between Tunkhannock and Towanda is the Susquehanna River. US Rt. 6 west to Pa. Rt. 14 near Troy. Pa. Rt. 14 north to N.Y./Pa. state line.

3D



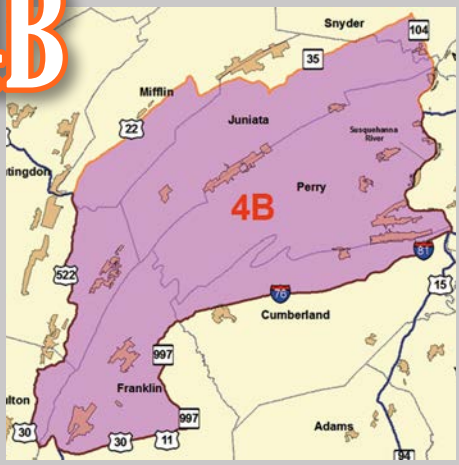
From N.J./Pa. line, Portland Toll Bridge to Pa. Rt. 611 at Portland. Pa. Rt. 611 south to Pa. Rt. 512 near Mount Bethel. PA Rt. 512 west to PA Rt. 946 near Moorestown. PA Rt. 946 west to Pa. Rt. 248 near Berlinsville. Pa. Rt. 248 north to I-476. I-476 north to I-80 near White Haven. I-80 west to I-81 near Drums. I-81 north to US Rt. 6 near Scranton. US Rt. 6 east to Pa. Rt. 652 at Indian Orchard. Pa. Rt. 652 east to N.Y./Pa. state line. In the Scranton area, Industrial Rt. 6, the Casey Highway is used for the boundary for WMUs 3C and 3D.

4A



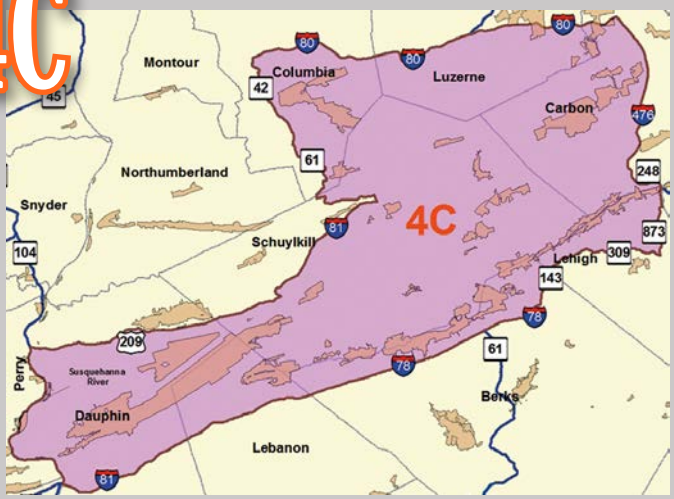
Md./Pa. state line, US Rt. 220 north to I-99 near Bedford. I-99 north to US Rt. 22 near Hollidaysburg. US Rt. 22 east to US Rt. 522 near Mount Union. US Rt. 522 south to US Rt. 30 near McConnellsburg. US Rt. 30 east to Pa. Rt. 75 near Fort Loudon. Pa. Rt. 75 south to Md./Pa. state line.

4B



From Mount Union, US Rt. 22/522 east to Lewistown. From Lewistown, US Rt. 22/322 east to Pa. Rt. 35 near Mifflintown. Pa. Rt. 35 east to Pa. Rt. 104 at Mount Pleasant Mills. Pa. Rt.104 south to intersection with US Rts. 11/15. From this intersection, directly east to Susquehanna River. Susquehanna River south to I-81 near Harrisburg. I-81 south to I-76 near Carlisle. I-76 west to Pa. Rt. 997 near Newburg. Pa. Rt. 997 south to US Rt. 11 at Green Village. US Rt. 11 south to US Rt. 30 at Chambersburg. US Rt. 30 west to US Rt. 522 using the US Rt. 30 4-lane bypass north of McConnellsburg. US Rt. 522 north to US Rt. 22 at Mount Union.

4C



From Millersburg, US Rt. 209 east to I-81 near Joliett. 81 north to Pa. Rt. 61 near Frackville. Pa. Rt. 61 north to Pa. Rt. 42 at Centralia. Pa. Rt. 42 north to I-80 near Bloomsburg. I-80 east to I- 476 near White Haven. I-476 south to Rt. 248. Rt. 248 east to Rt. 873. Rt. 873 south to Rt. 309. Rt. 309 west to Rt. 143. Rt. 143 south to I-78. I-78 to I-81 to Susquehanna River near Harrisburg. Susquehanna River north to Millersburg ferry to US Rt. 209.

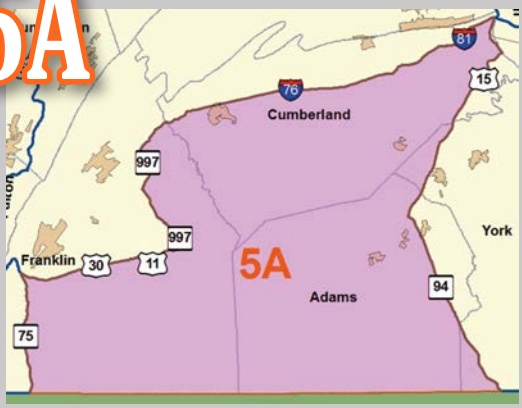
4D

From Williamsport, US Rt. 15 to Susquehanna River. Susquehanna River south to Pa. Rt. 45 at Lewisburg. Pa. Rt. 45 west to Pa. Rt. 104 at Mifflinburg. Pa. Rt. 104 south to Pa. Rt. 35 at Mount Pleasant Mills. Pa. Rt. 35 west to US Rt. 22/322 near Mifflintown. US Rt. 22/322 west to Lewistown. From Lewistown, US Rt. 22/522 west to Mount Union. From Mount Union, US Rt. 22 west to Pa. Rt. 53 near Cresson. Pa. Rt. 53 north to I-80 near Kylertown. I-80 east to US Rt. 220 near Mackeyville. US Rt. 220 north to US Rt. 15 at Williamsport.

4E

From Muncy, Pa. Rt. 405 east to Pa. Rt. 118 at Hughesville. Pa. Rt. 118 east to Pa. Rt. 29 near Pikes Creek. Pa. Rt. 29 south to I-81 near Nanticoke. I-81 south to I-80. I-80 west to Pa. Rt. 42 near Bloomsburg. Pa. Rt. 42 south to Pa. Rt. 61 at Centralia. Pa. Rt. 61 south to I-81 near Frackville. I-81 south to US Rt. 209 near Joliett. US Rt. 209 west to Millersburg Ferry. From the Millersburg Ferry on the Susquehanna River north to a point directly east of the intersection of US Rts. 11 & 15 and Pa. Rt. 104. From this point, directly west to Pa. Rt. 104. Pa. Rt. 104 north to Pa. Rt. 45 at Mifflinburg. Pa. Rt. 45 east to Susquehanna River. Susquehanna River north to Pa. Rt. 405 at Muncy.

5A

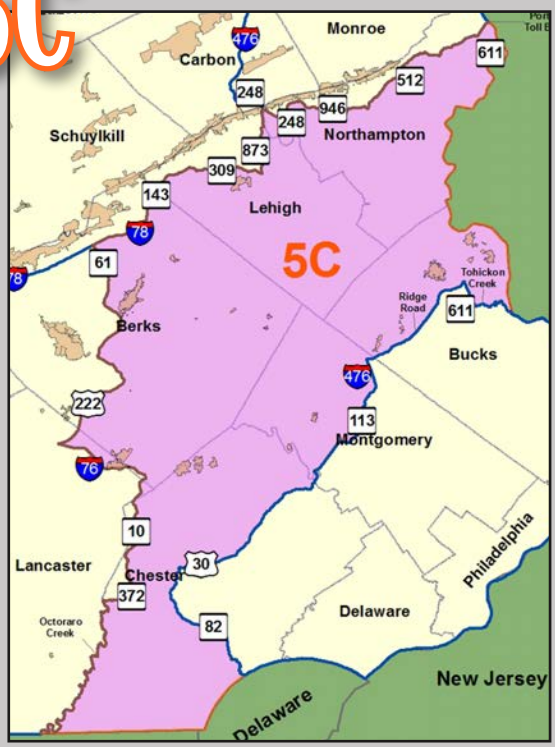


From Md./Pa. state line, Pa. Rt. 75 north to US Rt. 30 at Fort Loudon. US Rt. 30 east to US Rt. 11 at Chambersburg. US Rt. 11 north to Pa. Rt. 997 at Green Village. Pa. Rt. 997 north to I-76 near Newburg. I-76 east to I-81 at Carlisle. I-81 east to US Rt. 15 near Harrisburg. US Rt. 15 south to Pa. Rt. 94 near York Springs. Pa. Rt. 94 south to Md./Pa. state line.

5B

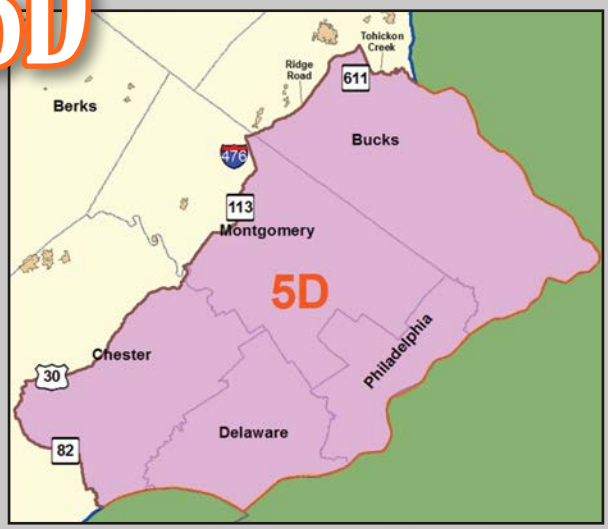
From the Md./Pa. state line, Pa. Rt. 94 north to US Rt. 15 near York Springs. US Rt. 15 north to I-81 near Harrisburg. I-81 east to I-78 to Pa. Rt. 61 near Hamburg. Rt. 61 south to US Rt. 222 near Reading. Rt. 222 south to I-76. I-76 east to Pa. Rt. 10 near Morgantown. Rt. 10 south to Pa. Rt. 372 near Parkesburg. Rt. 372 west to the Octoraro Creek near Christiana and then south to the Maryland line.

5C



From Maryland/PA state line, north along the Octoraro Creek to Rt. 372. Rt. 372 east to PA Rt. 10 north to Interstate 76. I-76 west to US Rt. 222. Rt. 222 north to PA Rt. 61 west of Reading. Rt. 61 north to I-78 near Hamburg. I-78 east to Rt. 143. Rt. 143 north to Rt. 309. Rt. 309 south to PA Rt. 873 northwest of Allentown. Rt. 873 north to Rt. 248. Rt. 248 east to PA Rt. 946. Rt. 946 east to PA Rt. 512. Rt. 512 to PA Rt., 611 near Mount Bethel. Rt. 611 north to Portland Toll Bridge at Portland. Portland Toll Bridge east to New Jersey/PA state line. New Jersey/PA state line south to the Tohickon Creek. Tohickon Creek west to PA Rt. 611. PA Rt. 611 north to S Park/Ridge Road. Ridge Road south to Interstate 476. I-476 east to PA Rt. 113. PA Rt. 113 south to US Rt. 30. US Rt. 30 west to PA Rt. 82. PA Rt. 82 east to the Delaware/PA state line near Yorklyn.

5D



From the Delaware/ PA state line near Yorklyn, PA Rt. 82 west to US Rt. 30. US Rt. 30 east to PA Rt. 113 at Downingtown. PA Rt. 113 north to Interstate 476. I-476 west to PA Rt. 563 (Ridge Road). Ridge Road east straight to PA Rt. 611. PA Rt. 611 south to the intersection of Tohickon Creek. Tohickon Creek east to the PA/ New Jersey state line.

Hunters & Trappers are advised

THE BOUNDARIES OF **WMUs 5C and 5D**
HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE LAST LICENSE YEAR

Always study WMU boundaries carefully

Deer

Hunters are limited to 1 antlered deer per license year, and 1 antlerless deer for each antlerless license or permit.

Regular Firearms Nov. 28-Dec. 10

The Regular Firearms season is a statewide season.
In much of the state, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part the season.

WMUs 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D

Antlered & Antlerless - Nov. 28-Dec. 10

All Other WMUs

Antlered Only - Nov. 28-Dec. 2
Antlered & Antlerless - Dec. 3-Dec.10

Concurrent Seasons

WMUs 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D

Other deer seasons

Archery
Antlered & Antlerless

Statewide
Oct. 1-Nov. 12
Dec. 26-Jan. 14

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D
Sept. 17-Nov. 26
Dec. 26-Jan. 28

Muzzleloader
Antlerless Only

Statewide
Oct. 15-22

Special Firearms
Antlerless Only

Statewide
Oct. 20-22

Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored Youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons

Flintlock
Antlered & Antlerless

Statewide
Dec. 26-Jan. 14

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D
Dec. 26-Jan. 28

Extended Firearms
Antlerless Only

Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia Counties
Dec. 26-Jan. 28

License Requirements

A general hunting license is required to hunt in any season.

One antlered deer per license year can be taken with a general hunting license.

An unused, antlered deer harvest tag from a general hunting license can be used to take an antlerless deer during the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season.

This is the only season in which the antlered tag can be used for antlerless deer, and each participant in the flintlock muzzleloader season must have a muzzleloader license in addition to a general license.

A muzzleloader license also is needed to participate in the October muzzleloader season for antlerless deer.

With the lone exception of the flintlock muzzleloader season, each hunter must possess an antlerless deer license, DMAP permit or Disease Management Area permit in order to hunt or harvest antlerless deer. One antlerless deer may be taken with each valid license or permit.

Each hunter is limited to a maximum of three antlerless licenses in total, however, there is no limit on the number of licenses that can be obtained for WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D. For any WMU, sales of antlerless licenses end when the total number of licenses allocated for that WMU is expended.

The Special Firearms season for antlerless deer is open to junior and senior hunters, mentored youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons. Resident and nonresident hunters who hold a valid hunting license or qualify for fee exemptions, and who are 65 or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the license application, are eligible to hunt in the season.

Participants in any archery deer season must possess an archery license in addition to a general license.

Deer Hunting Regulations

Arms & Ammunition

Archery Deer Seasons

- Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds), and crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design. An arrow and crossbow bolt must be equipped with a broadhead.
  - Magnifying scopes and red-dot sights can be used on crossbows.
  - A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches in length.
  - Persons hunting deer in the archery seasons may not possess a firearm, except those individuals who have a License to Carry Firearms permit, and then only those firearms authorized by the permit (most sporting arms are not authorized). Muzzleloading firearms also can be carried by bowhunters during any muzzleloading season, providing the hunter has an archery license and a muzzleloader license and meets the fluorescent orange requirements of the muzzleloader season.

Firearms Deer Seasons

- Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact
- Muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and
- Long, recurve or compound bows and crossbows with broadheads of cutting-edge design.

See Special Regulations Areas section for restrictions that apply there.

October Antlerless Muzzleloader Season

- Any single-barrel muzzleloader long gun with flintlock, percussion or in-line ignition, 44 cal. or larger, or 50 cal. or larger handgun. Scope sights permitted.

Special Antlerless Deer Only Firearms

- Arms and ammunition permitted during the Regular Firearms Deer Seasons can be used in this season.

Flintlock Muzzleloader Season

- Flintlock ignition, single-barrel long gun, 44 caliber or larger, or 50 caliber or larger handgun, using single-projectile ammunition. It is unlawful to use telescopic sights. Peep sights are permitted.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Antlered & Antlerless

- During the regular and special deer seasons, and any extensions of these seasons, all hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined (example: orange cap and coat/vest visible 360 degrees). Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches.

Archers

- When early archery season overlaps with the October muzzleloader/special antlerless firearms season, archers are required to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange clothing while moving about or relocating. They may remove their orange clothing providing 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material is placed within 15 feet of their location and is visible 360 degrees when on stand. Finally, during overlap with fall turkey season, archery deer hunters (and bear hunters during the designated archery bear season) must wear a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange material while moving about or relocating. The orange hat may be removed when the hunter is stationary, or on stand. See the Special Regulations Areas section for more details.

Muzzleloader Deer

- During the late flintlock deer season, muzzleloader hunters are not required to wear or display fluorescent orange. However, during the October antlerless muzzleloader deer season, hunters are required to wear the same 250 square inches of fluorescent orange required of all big-game season hunters. See the Special Regulation Areas section for more details.

Tagging Deer

This photo shows the proper way to tag a deer. After harvesting a deer, a hunter must detach the deer harvest tag from his or her license, fill it out using a ballpoint pen and attach it to the ear of the animal as shown. Be sure to use the correct tag and be careful not to attach the actual hunting license. The harvest tags have animal icons on them. There are two holes in the center of the tag that can be punched to insert a string, twist tie or safety pin to attach it to the animal. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. Note that the bar code on the right edge of the tag should be unobstructed so Game Commission personnel can scan it.

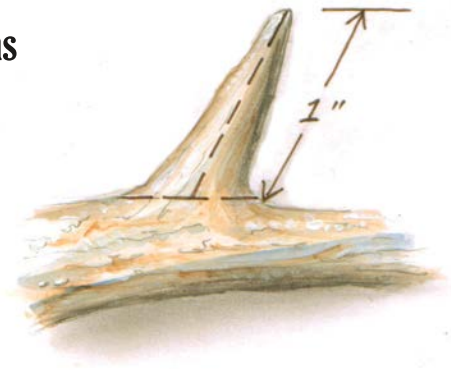
Antler Restrictions

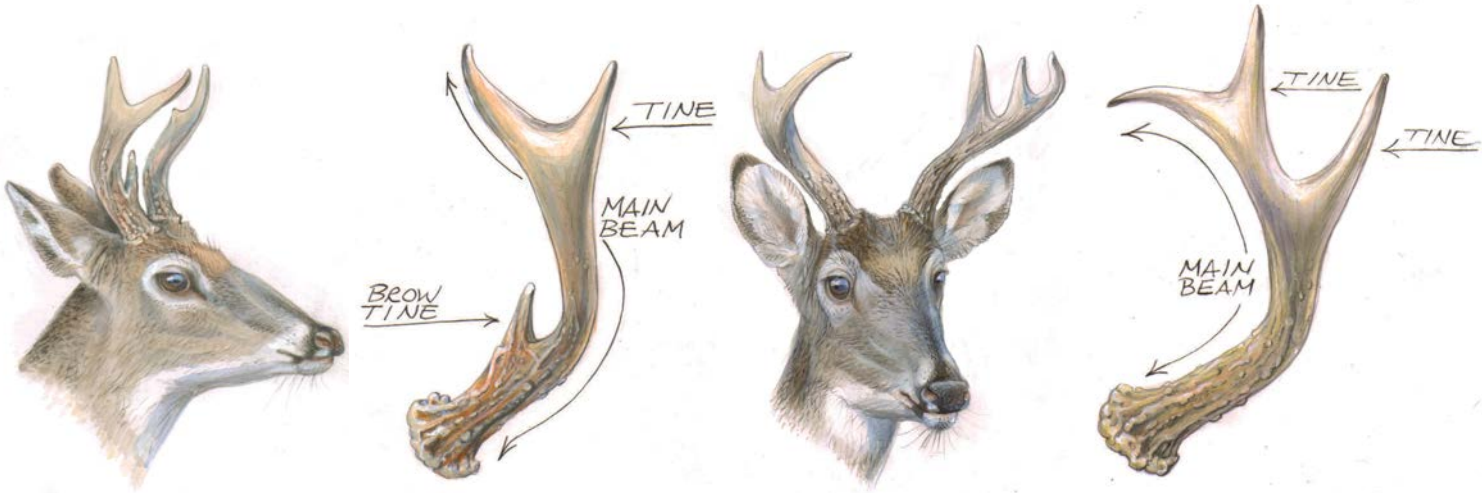
STATEWIDE, junior license holders, mentored youth, disabled hunters with a permit to use a vehicle, and resident active duty U.S. Armed Services personnel, can harvest antlered deer with two or more points on one antler, or a spike three or more inches in length.

All other hunters must abide by additional antler restrictions

Senior license holders must abide by antler restrictions, as well.

- A point is defined as any antler projection (including the brow tine) at least one inch in length from base to tip. The brow tine is the point immediately above the antler burr.
- The main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length.
- An antlerless deer will remain defined as a deer without antlers, or a deer with antlers, both of which are less than 3 inches in length. A protected deer is one not defined as an antlered deer or an antlerless deer.



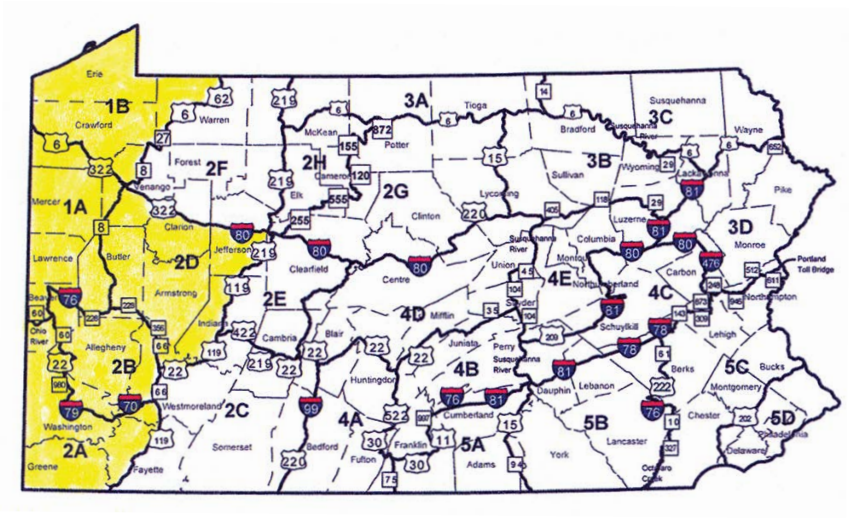


In most of the state

hunters are required to abide by three points on one side.

In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D

hunters are required to abide by "three up"; three points, including the main beam counted as one of the points, on one side, excluding the brow tine (the point immediately above the antler burr).



THREE UP

In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D

Antlerless Licenses

Application Schedule

July 11 Residents

July 18 Nonresidents

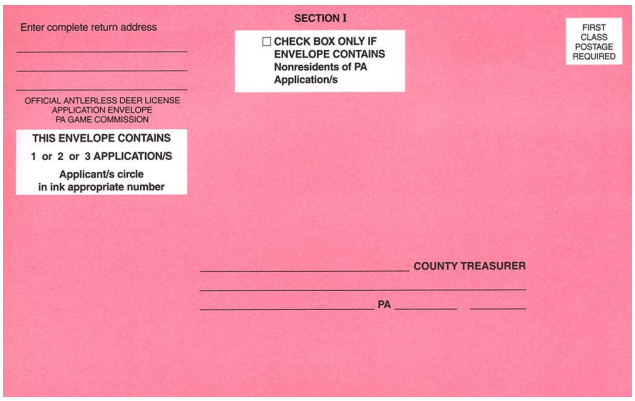
Aug. 1 Unsold, 1st round

Aug. 15 Unsold, 2nd round

Aug. 22 Over-the-counter sales
WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Oct. 3 Over-the-counter sales
All other WMUs

- *By mail only, prior to the start of over-the-counter sales*
- *One application per person per round, except after Aug. 1 in WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D*



All antlerless deer license applications must be mailed in the official pink envelope. In most WMUs, hunters may submit only one application per round. But up to three applicants can submit using the same envelope.

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

In WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D, hunters can apply for and receive an unlimited number of antlerless licenses beginning Aug. 1. No more than three applications can be sent in the same envelope. Beginning Aug. 22, antlerless licenses that remain unsold for WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D can be purchased over the counter.

Application Instructions

- Application forms can be obtained on:
  - The yellow panel issued with the license;
  - The Game Commission website;
  - The Antlerless Deer License Application card that appears with the tear-out harvest report cards in this digest.
- Cost for each antlerless license is $6.90 for residents and $26.90 for nonresidents.
- On the application form, the hunter must enter at least one Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) preference where he or she desires to hunt.
- The hunter may select up to three WMU preferences on the form. If the first WMU preference is sold out, the County Treasurer will issue the second, or if necessary, the third preference based on license availability.
- A guide to WMUs, including boundary maps, is found elsewhere in this digest.
- Please print plainly and remember to sign and date your application.
- Include a check or money order, which must be in U.S. dollars and payable to "County Treasurer."
- The completed antlerless deer license applications and check or money order must be placed in the official pink envelope described above and mailed directly to any County Treasurer of your choice (addresses listed in this section).
- Do not mail applications to the Game Commission.

Group Applications

- If you are applying with others as a group (limit of three individual applications per envelope) for the same WMU preferences, submit one check or money order for all applications.
- If two or three applicants apply together in the same envelope, and one or more of the applications is not complete, all of the applications may be rejected and returned.
- If each of the applicants selects different WMU preferences, a separate check or money order for each application is strongly recommended.
- All applications could be rejected if one cannot be processed because a selected WMU sold out.

Application Status

- County Treasurers will accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis. No drawings will be held.
- Successful applicants will receive their antlerless deer licenses after the 2nd Monday in September.
- Hunters can check on the status of an antlerless deer license application by visiting the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.pa.gov, clicking on Buy a License, then (PALS) and selecting the first option, which includes checking on application status.
- If the license allocations for all WMU preferences are sold out, the application will be returned to the hunter. The hunter may apply to another WMU where licenses are available by using a new pink envelope.

Antlerless Licenses

Incomplete Application

- If an application is not complete and/or proper remittance is not enclosed, it will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

Insufficient Postage

- If the applicant failed to provide return postage, no license will be issued and the envelope will be placed in a dead letter file in the County Treasurer's office. Hunters can retrieve their dead letters by contacting the County Treasurer for instructions.

Antlerless Deer License Regulations

- Antlerless deer licenses are WMU-specific. An antlerless deer license is valid only in the WMU for which it is issued. The use or attempted use of an antlerless license in another WMU is a violation of the law. County Treasurers may issue licenses for any WMU, not just units within their county.
- Applications are limited to no more than three per envelope.
- Applications will not be accepted by County Treasurers prior to the start of the application period. Applications will be rejected and returned.
- A person may apply for and receive no more than three antlerless licenses in a license year (1 regular antlerless license and 2 unsold antlerless licenses), with the exception of WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D. Elsewhere in the state, obtaining more than three licenses is against the law and carries a $100 fine.
- All hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Exception: During the after-Christmas flintlock season, a properly licensed flintlock hunter may use his or her unused antlered tag to harvest an antlerless deer anywhere in the state. A WMU-specific antlerless license, or valid DMAP or DMA permit, is required for each additional antlerless deer harvested.
- Archers must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Muzzleloader hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to participate in the antlerless-only muzzleloader deer season (Oct. 15-22).
- Junior and Senior license holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) holders and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces must have a valid antlerless deer license or permit to participate in the Special Antlerless Only Firearms season (Oct. 20-22).
- Once obtained, a properly licensed hunter may use an antlerless deer license in any season in which it is legal to harvest an antlerless deer.
- Each antlerless deer license includes its own ear tag.

Landowner Antlerless Deer Licenses

Qualified resident and nonresident applicants for landowner antlerless deer licenses (see license section in the back of this digest for qualifications) must apply directly to the County Treasurer of the county where the qualifying acreage is located.

These licenses must be applied for prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins the second Monday in July. If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the WMU he or she desires.

If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, the applicant should mail his or her antlerless deer license application, proper remittance ($6.90 for residents, $26.90 for nonresidents), proof of ownership and a Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit (available from Treasurers, Game Commission offices, or the agency's website) to the Treasurer in a plain envelope marked "Landowner Antlerless Application."

Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission.

Disabled Veteran Antlerless Deer Licenses

Qualified resident applicants who have a service-incurred 100% disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may apply to any County Treasurer for the WMU in which they desire to hunt. Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, only one antlerless deer tag is guaranteed.

If an applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, the applicant should mail the antlerless deer license application, $6.90 remittance and supporting documents (Veterans Administration form letter) directly to a County Treasurer in a plain envelope marked "Disabled Veteran Antlerless Application."

Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission. Application for these licenses may occur at any time during the license year. **Resident disabled war veterans with a service-incurred disability rating between 60% and 99%, do not qualify for this license.**

Armed Forces Antlerless Deer Licenses

Qualified residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or within 60 days from honorable discharge, may apply to any County Treasurer for the WMU in which they desire to hunt.

Regardless of allocations or application deadlines, only one antlerless deer license is guaranteed.

If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, the antlerless deer license application, $6.90 remittance and supporting documentation (official orders) may be mailed to a County Treasurer using a plain envelope marked "Armed Forces Antlerless Application."

Applicants who apply by mail must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission. Application for these licenses may occur at any time during the license year.

Replacement Antlerless Deer Licenses

Applicants who lose their antlerless deer license may obtain a replacement by applying to any County Treasurer.

If the applicant or his or her agent cannot apply in person, their completed, mail-order Application/Affidavit for Replacement of a Lost Antlerless Deer License (form available on the Game Commission's website) and $6.90 remittance may be mailed to a County Treasurer using a plain envelope marked "Replacement Antlerless Application." Applicants must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

Do not use the pink Official Antlerless Deer License Application Envelope or mail the material to the Game Commission.

County Treasurer Addresses

Address your envelope by writing in the county treasurer of your choice,

_____ COUNTY TREASURER

using the appropriate address from the list below:

Adams — 117 Baltimore Street, RM 101, Gettysburg, PA 17325-2390
Allegheny — 436 Grant Street Suite 108, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2497
Armstrong — 450 East Market Street, Suite 100, Kittanning, PA 16201-1497
Beaver — 810 Third Street, Beaver, PA 15009-2196
Bedford — 200 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522-1713
Berks — 633 Court Street, 2nd Floor County Services Center, Reading, PA 19601-4318
Blair — 423 Allegheny Street, Suite 142, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2047
Bradford — 301 Main Street Courthouse, Towanda, PA 18848-1891
Bucks — 55 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901-4318
Butler — 124 W. Diamond St., P.O. Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003-1208
Cambria — 200 South Center Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931-1941
Cameron — 20 East Fifth St., Courthouse, Emporium, PA 15834
Carbon — P.O. Box 247, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229
Centre — 420 Holmes Street, RM 105, Bellefonte, PA 16823-1401
Chester — 313 West Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382
Clarion — 330 Main Street, Room 110, Clarion, PA 16214
Clearfield — P.O. Box 289, Clearfield, PA 16830-0289
Clinton — 230 East Water Street, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1399
Columbia — Columbia County Annex Building, P.O. Box 380, Bloomsburg, PA 17815-0380
Crawford — 903 Diamond Park, Meadville, PA 16335
Cumberland — 1 Courthouse Square, Room 103, Carlisle, PA 17013
Dauphin — Dauphin County Courthouse, 101 Market Street, Room 105, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2078
Delaware — 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19063-2708
Elk — 300 Center Street, P.O. Box 247, Ridgway, PA 15853-0247
Erie — 140 West Sixth Street, Room 109, Erie, PA 16501-1084
Fayette — 61 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401
Forest — 526 Elm Street, Tionesta, PA 16353-9724
Franklin — 157 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA 17201
Fulton — 201 North Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Greene — 93 East High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370
Huntingdon — Bailey Building, 233 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652-1457
Indiana — 825 Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA 15701-3934
Jefferson — 155 Main Street, Room 212, Brookville, PA 15825
Juniata — P.O. Box 68, Mifflintown, PA 17059
Lackawanna — 135 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18503
Lancaster — P.O. Box 1447, Lancaster, PA 17608-1447
Lawrence — 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101-3503
Lebanon — 400 South 8th Street, Room 103, Lebanon, PA 17042
Luzerne — 200 North River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
Lycoming — 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701-6536
McKean — 500 West Main Street, Smethport, PA 16749
Mercer — 104 Courthouse, Mercer, PA 16137-1224
Mifflin — 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044
Monroe — 1 Quaker Plaza, Suite 103, Stroudsburg, PA 18360-2141
Montgomery — P.O. Box 311, Norristown, PA 19404-0311
Montour — 29 Mill Street, Danville, PA 17821
Northampton — Dept. of Fiscal Affairs, 669 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042-7482
Northumberland — 399 Stadium Drive, Sunbury, PA 17801-3201
Perry — 25 West Main Street, New Bloomfield, PA 17068-0063
Pike — 506 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337-1542
Potter — 1 North Main Street, Suite 202, Coudersport, PA 16915-1630
Schuylkill — 401 North Second Street, Pottsville, PA 17901
Snyder — P.O. Box 217, Middleburg, PA 17842
Somerset — 300 North Center Ave., Suite 300, Somerset, PA 15501-1470
Sullivan — P.O. Box 116, Laporte, PA 18626-0116
Susquehanna — P.O. Box 218, Montrose, PA 18801-0218
Tioga — P.O. Box 308, Wellsboro, PA 16901-1444
Union — 103 South Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Venango — P.O. Box 708, Franklin, PA 16323-0708
Warren — 204 Fourth Ave., Warren, PA 16365
Washington — 100 West Beau Street, Suite 102, Washington, PA 15301-4432
Wayne — 925 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431-1994
Westmoreland — 2 North Main Street, Suite 110, Greensburg, PA 15601-2488
Wyoming — 1 Court House Square, Tunkhannock, PA 18657-1233
York — 28 East Market Street, Room 126, York, PA 17401-1584

2016-17 ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE ALLOCATION

This year's allocation, the increase or decrease from last year, and 2015 sell-out date provided.

WMU 1A – 46,000 (+/- 0)	*8/20*	
WMU 1B – 29,000 (+/- 0)	*7/21*	
WMU 2A – 43,000 (+/- 0)	*10/7*	
WMU 2B – 61,000 (+/- 0)	*12/2*	
WMU 2C – 31,000 (+/- 0)	*7/24*	
WMU 2D – 55,000 (+/- 0)	*8/5*	
WMU 2E – 21,000 (+/- 0)	*8/3*	
WMU 2F – 22,000 (+/- 0)	*7/21*	
WMU 2G – 21,000 (-1,000)	*7/23*	
WMU 2H – 6,000 (-500)	*7/27*	
WMU 3A – 15,000 (-4,000)	*8/5*	
WMU 3B – 28,000 (+/- 0)	*8/5*	
WMU 3C – 36,000 (+/- 0)	*8/10*	
WMU 3D – 25,000 (+/- 0)	*8/5*	
WMU 4A – 30,000 (+/- 0)	*8/17*	
WMU 4B – 26,000 (+/- 0)	*8/3*	
WMU 4C – 25,000 (+/- 0)	*7/24*	
WMU 4D – 34,000 (+1,000)	*8/3*	
WMU 4E – 25,000 (+/- 0)	*8/3*	
WMU 5A – 19,000 (+/- 0)	*8/5*	
WMU 5B – 50,000 (+/- 0)	*8/10*	
WMU 5C – 70,000 (+/- 0)	*9/1*	
WMU 5D – 30,000 (+6,000)	*9/3*	

ANTLERLESS LICENSE APPLICATION

Found with tear-out harvest report cards.

ALWAYS REPORT HARVESTS

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in Pennsylvania in captive and free-ranging deer.

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological (brain and nervous system) disease found in deer and elk in certain geographic locations in North America. CWD belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) or prion diseases; it attacks the brains of infected deer and elk and produces small lesions that result in death. While CWD is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, there is no known relationship between it and any other TSE of animals or people.

Is it dangerous to humans?

There is no evidence that the agent of CWD affects humans. However, public health officials recommend that human exposure to the CWD agent be avoided as research about the disease continues. Hunters are advised to not consume any deer that tested positive for CWD.

How can I tell if a deer has CWD?

Infected animals may not show symptoms in the early stages. However, as the disease progresses, infected animals begin to lose body functions and display abnormal behaviors, such as staggering or standing with poor posture. Many diseases can look like CWD, or can occur at the same time as CWD. At this time, the diagnosis only can be made after death.

What should I do if I see a deer with CWD symptoms?

You should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the nearest Game Commission Region Office. Do not attempt to disturb, kill or remove the animal.

How is it spread?

While it's not known exactly how CWD is spread, the agent responsible for the disease may be spread both directly (animal to animal contact) and indirectly (soil or other surface to animal) through various excretions and secretions (saliva, urine or feces).

Where has it been found?

CWD has been found in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

What can hunters do?

Follow the directives in the Executive Orders in the Disease Management Areas (DMAs). Hunters also need to tell political leaders of their concerns about CWD. Indicate your support for increased financial assistance to state wildlife and agricultural agencies to combat CWD. Encourage state officials to support the important steps taken to manage the spread of CWD. And finally, because any concentration of deer or elk assists in the spread of diseases, stop supplemental feeding programs and the use of urine-based lures. Hunters also should immediately report deer that have ear tags.

High-risk deer parts can't be imported

To help prevent the spread of CWD, the Game Commission has banned the importation of specific cervid carcass parts from states and provinces where CWD has also been found, including from our own Disease Management Areas.

Before hunting deer, elk or moose out of state, hunters should visit the Game Commission's website to see which states and Canadian provinces are affected. Check frequently, as the list does change. Hunters heading to a state with a history of CWD should become familiar with that state's wildlife regulations and guidelines for the transportation of harvested game animals, as well as the Game Commission's Cervid Parts Importation Ban.

Hunters may not bring back into Pennsylvania: the head (including brain, tonsils, eyes and retropharyngeal lymph nodes), spinal cord/backbone, spleen, skull plate with attached antlers if visible brain or spinal cord material is present, cape if visible brain or spinal cord material is present, upper canine teeth if root structure or other soft material is present, any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord material, unfinished taxidermy mounts or brain-tanned hides of any deer, elk or moose from listed states or provinces.

They may bring back to Pennsylvania only low-risk materials: meat without the backbone, skull plate with attached antlers if no visible brain or spinal cord material is present, tanned hide or raw hide with no visible brain or spinal cord material present, cape if no visible brain or spinal cord material is present, upper canine teeth if no root structure or other soft material is present, and finished taxidermy mounts.

These same high-risk parts may not be removed from the DMAs.

It is strongly recommended that hunters get their animals tested for CWD if hunting in a CWD-positive state. If, after returning to Pennsylvania, a hunter is notified by another wildlife agency that his or her game is positive for CWD, the hunter is directed to contact the Game Commission for further instructions. For more information on CWD, visit the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov and on the Home Page banner click on "Wildlife," "Wildlife- Related Diseases" then "CWD."

What precautions should hunters take?

Wildlife officials have suggested that hunters in areas where CWD is known to exist follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Do not shoot, handle or consume an animal that appears sick.
- Wear disposable gloves when field-dressing, and thoroughly wash your hands and instruments after field-dressing.
- Bone out the meat from your animal, and minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues. Ask your deer processor to process your meat individually, without meat from other animals, or process your own meat.
- Consider having your animal tested, and do not consume meat from any animal that tests positive for the disease.

Where can I learn more?

Hunters are encouraged to contact state wildlife agencies where they plan to hunt for more information on the status of CWD in that state. Most states, including Pennsylvania (www.pgc.pa.gov), now have up-to-date information on CWD on their websites. The Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website (www.cwd-info.org) is frequently updated with new information.

Disease Management Areas

Disease Management Areas (DMAs) have been designated by the Game Commission and are depicted and described here.

Within a DMA, the following acts are prohibited:

- Removal or exportation of high-risk cervid (deer or elk) parts
- Rehabilitation of cervids
- Use or possession of cervid urine-based attractants in any outdoor setting
- Feeding of wild, free-ranging cervids

Additionally, the possession and removal of any vehicular-killed cervids, and/or cervid parts, from within DMAs to locations outside the DMAs, except to sites as approved by the Game Commission, are **prohibited**. Further, the issuance of any new Game Commission permits to possess or transport live cervids is prohibited in the DMAs.

All cervids killed within the DMAs are subject to CWD testing. This testing may require hunters to present cervids, or cervid parts, for examination and sampling at prescribed locations pursuant to conditions announced in advance of or during the hunting season. This process will be announced through press releases, website notices and other means to reach the widest possible audience. The cost of any such testing and reporting to the hunter will be borne by the Game Commission.

DMA 2 Permits

In an effort to slow the spread of CWD where it has been detected among free-ranging deer, the Game Commission has created a permit that can be used to hunt and harvest antlerless deer within DMA 2.

DMA 2 Antlerless Deer Permits can be used within DMA 2 during any open deer season, even if the rest of the WMU is open only to antlered deer hunting at the time.

Applications for DMA 2 permits are accepted in two ways – electronically through the Game Commission's Outdoor Shop, or by mail.

The permits are $6.90 each, and will be available to purchase when antlerless licenses go on sale.

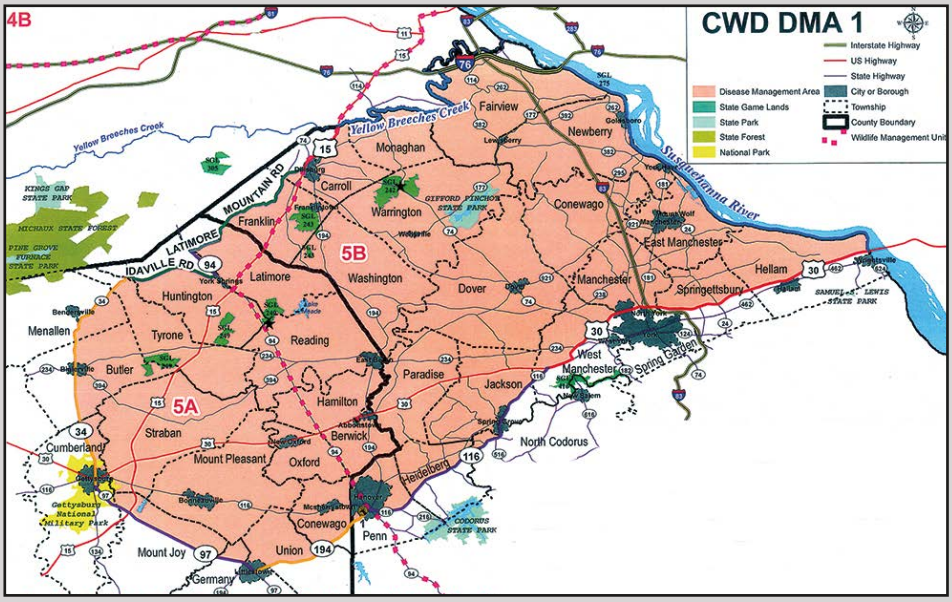
For the application schedule, and other details, visit the CWD Info page at the Game Commission's website.

Only residents and nonresidents 12 and older with valid general hunting licenses may apply for permits. Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters are ineligible to make application, and the permits cannot be transferred to participants in those programs.

DMA 1

Adams and York counties

Adams and York counties, bounded and described as follows: Starting at the intersection of I-76 and the west bank of the Susquehanna River heading south along the River (21.8 miles) to U.S. Highway 30. Westbound on U.S. Highway 30 (18.3 miles) to Highway 116. Highway 116 toward Hanover (13.7 miles). In Hanover southwest on State Highway 194 (7 miles) to Littlestown, then northwest on State Highway 97 (9.7 miles) to Gettysburg. In Gettysburg, north on State Highway 34 (14.3 miles) to the Idaville Road. East on Idaville Road (4.8 miles) to the intersection of State Highway 94. North State Highway 94 (2 miles) to Latimore Road. East on Latimore Road (1.6 miles) to Mountain Road. North on Mountain Road (6.9 miles) to Dillsburg and the intersection of U.S. Highway 15. North on U.S. Highway 15 (3.2 miles) to the Yellow Breaches Creek (County Line). Northeast along the banks of the Yellow Breaches Creek (12.1 miles) to the intersection of I-76. East along I-76 (6.4 miles) to the intersection of the Susquehanna River and the starting point.



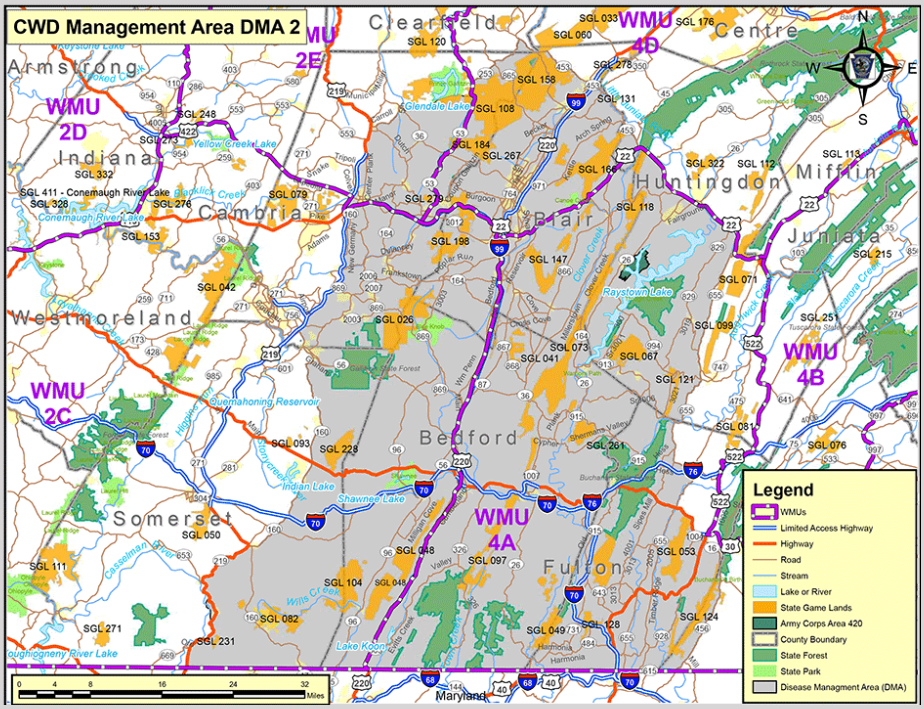
DMA boundaries can, and do, change as new CWD cases are detected

For the most up-to-date maps, visit the CWD Info page at www.pgc.pa.gov

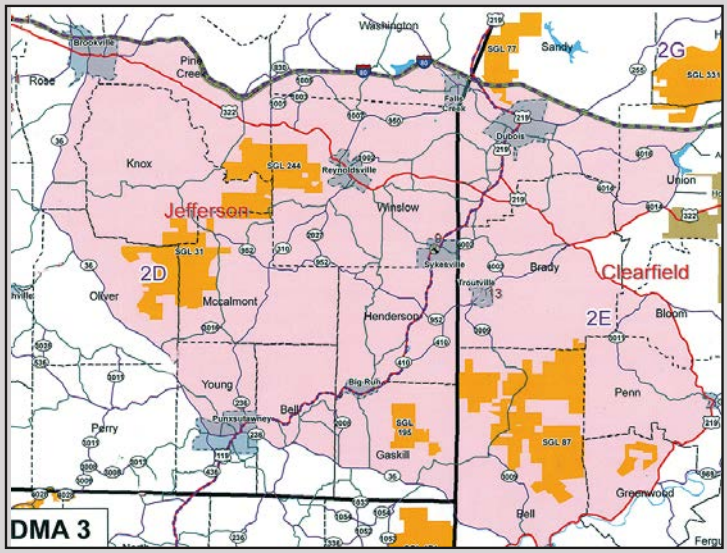
Disease Management Areas

DMA 2

Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset counties



Beginning in the southeastern extent of the DMA at the intersection of State Highway 456 and the Maryland state line, proceed north on Highway 456 for approximately 12.1 miles to the intersection of State Highway 16. The DMA boundary follows State Highway 16 north for 5.4 miles to US Highway 522 in McConnellsburg. Follow US Highway 522 north for .8 miles to US Highway 30. Follow US Highway 30 west for 6.4 miles to the intersection of State Highway 655. The DMA boundary follows north on State Highway 655 for approximately 22.3 miles to the intersection of US Highway 22. The DMA boundary follows US Highway 22 west for 16.6 miles to State Highway 453, then north along State Highway 453 for 20.5 miles to the intersection of State Highway 253. Follow State Highway 253 south for 8.1 miles to State Highway 53 in Van Ormer. The DMA continues on State Highway 53 south for 1.7 miles to Marina Road. At Marina Road the boundary follows for 5.5 miles to the intersection of Glendale Lake Road. Left on Glendale Lake Road and in 3 miles join onto State Highway 36. The DMA boundary follows State Highway 36 west into the town of Patton and then straight onto Magee Ave to the intersection of 5th Avenue. South on 5th Ave for about .3 miles where the road becomes Mellon Ave. Continuing on Mellon Ave for .4 miles the road becomes Carroll Road once in East Carroll Township. The boundary continues south on Carroll Road for 3.7 miles to State Highway 219 in Carrolltown. The DMA boundary follows State Highway 219 south for 26.7 miles to State Highway 56 East and then follows State Highway 56 east for 3.9 miles to State Highway 160. Following State Highway 160 southward the boundary continues for 26.5 miles to the borough of Berlin, then west through downtown Berlin on State Highway 2030 (Main Street) for 0.44 miles to the intersection of State Highway 219. Finally south along State Highway 219 for 20.6 miles to the Maryland border.



DMA 3

Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties

Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties, bounded and described as follows: Beginning in the northwestern extent of the DMA at the intersection of Interstate 80 and State Route 36 in Brookville, proceed east on State Route 36 for about 33.5 miles to the intersection of U.S. Highway 219. The DMA boundary follows U.S. Highway 219 north for 22.4 miles to U.S. Highway 322, then east along U.S. Highway 322 for 4 miles to Home Camp Road. Follow Home Camp Road north for 2.6 miles to Anderson Creek Road. Take Anderson Creek Road 1.8 miles northeast to the intersection of Interstate 80. Follow Interstate 80 west for 27.1 miles back to the starting point.

Deer Management Assistance Program

DMAP allows hunters to assist landowners achieve deer-management goals

For Landowners:

All public landowners, private landowners or lessees where no fee is charged for hunting, and any defined hunting club are eligible for the program.

A hunting club is defined as a corporation or legal cooperative that owns its enrolled acres in fee title, was established prior to January 1, 2000, and has provided its club charter and list of current members to the Game Commission.

Landowners can download applications and instructions from the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Applications must be submitted to local Game Commission region offices and postmarked by May 1.

Finding Landowner Information

Contact information for public lands and some private lands enrolled in DMAP will be posted on the Game Commission website (www.pgc.pa.gov). For more information on the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) bureaus of Forestry and State Parks participation in the DMAP program, visit DCNR's website at www.dcnr.state.pa.us. Contact information for private landowners enrolled in DMAP will be posted on the Game Commission's website only with permission of the landowner. Hunters without access to the Internet can obtain listings of eligible DMAP properties by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope, along with a letter indicating their county of interest, to the Game Commission region office responsible for that particular county.

For Hunters:

Hunters can get up to two DMAP harvest permits per property. Hunters can apply for DMAP antlerless harvest permits as soon as landowner applications are approved and landowners are notified by the Game Commission.

For DMAP participating hunters, DMAP coupon redemption will be done at any license issuing agent or over the Game Commission website.

For landowners receiving coupons, they must distribute them to hunters and then the hunters must take their coupon to any license issuing agent or access the Game Commission website to acquire the antlerless deer harvest permits.

For landowners choosing the "no coupon" option, hunters will need to contact the landowner (or visit the Game Commission's website, if the landowner chose to make a property available for public hunting) to get the DMAP unit number for the area, then they must go to any license issuing agent or the Game Commission website to get an antlerless deer permit for this DMAP property.

A DMAP harvest permit costs $10.90 for a resident, and $35.90 for a nonresident. Each DMAP harvest permit is good for taking one antlerless deer on the property for which the DMAP harvest permit was issued.

Hunting may take place during all seasons for the taking of antlerless deer by using the sporting arm and/or implement allowed during that season. The hunter must be properly licensed for the season; for example, archery or muzzleloader licenses are required during those seasons.

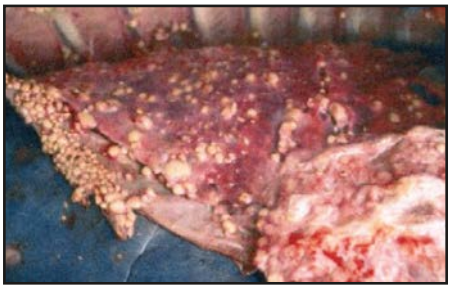
In WMUs where the firearms deer season is antlered-only from Nov. 28-Dec.2, DMAP permit holders may harvest antlerless deer on DMAP properties.

A mentor can transfer one DMAP harvest permit issued to him or her to an eligible mentored youth or mentored adult (see Mentored Hunting Programs elsewhere in this digest). The DMAP permit shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting antlerless deer. The transfer of the DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored youth or mentored adult has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth or mentored adult is ineligible to make direct application for a DMAP harvest permit.

Reporting is mandatory for all DMAP harvest permits issued, regardless of harvest success.

Hunters: Help Us Detect Tuberculosis

We want to prevent TB from being introduced into the wild white-tailed deer and elk herds in Pennsylvania. The bacteria known as Mycobacterium bovis can cause infection in most mammal species. Some wildlife species susceptible to bovine TB include: white-tailed deer, elk, bison, mule deer, black bears, bobcats, coyotes, opossums, raccoons and foxes. We are asking hunters who observe anything that resembles this photo to contact the Game Commission immediately. These abscesses may be found in tissues throughout the body, as well as in the tonsils and lymph nodes. When cut open, these nodules contain yellow-green or tan pus. Tan or yellow lumps may be found throughout the chest cavity and in the lungs. The lungs also may develop dark and firm areas. Read more about TB on the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.pa.gov.



Please note the boundary between WMUs 5C and 5D has changed this year.

Special Regulations Areas

SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS INCLUDE:

- In **western Pennsylvania**, all of Allegheny County.
- In **southeastern Pennsylvania**, all of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, and also during special controlled hunts at Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks.

Deer

All Special Regulations Area counties are now contained within the Wildlife Management Unit system. Seasons and antler restriction requirements are based mostly on these units and general deer seasons. However, certain laws and regulations in regards to arms and ammunition still apply to specific counties in Special Regulations Areas. Also, the regulation: when multiple harvests of deer per day are authorized, only one deer at a time may be taken; before attempting to take an additional deer, the first deer shall be lawfully tagged, does not apply when hunting in Special Regulations Areas. Baiting for deer without a permit (see below) is not permitted on private lands in the Southeast Special Regulations Areas.

Deer & Bear Season, Arms & Ammunition

- Allegheny County – Muzzleloading long guns 44 caliber or larger, bows and arrows, crossbows, manual or semi-automatic shotguns, .410 or larger using slugs. Buckshot is not permitted.
- Philadelphia County – Only bows and arrows, including crossbows.
- Remaining Counties – Muzzleloading long guns, 44 caliber or larger, manual or semi-automatic shotguns, .410 or larger, using slugs; 20-gauge or larger, using buckshot, bows and crossbows. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds. Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks – Manual or semi-automatic shotguns 20-gauge or larger using buckshot during special regulated deer hunts only, bows and arrows and crossbows.

Small Game, Furbearers & Crows, Arms & Ammunition

Manually operated or semi-automatic shotguns plugged to a 3-shell capacity; manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and handguns; and bows and crossbows. Buckshot is not permitted.

Southeast Deer Attractant Permit

A permit has been created that allows private-property owners in the southeastern special regulations areas limited opportunities to use bait while deer hunting. Baiting already is allowed in the special regulations areas on properties enrolled in the agency's Deer Depredation Program, commonly called the "Red Tag" program. Through the use of permitted baiting, there is the potential for higher deer harvests in an area where there is high potential for human-deer conflicts, and where hunting access is extremely limited. Baiting must be limited to shelled corn and protein pellet supplements, not to exceed five gallons per site, and distributed through automatic mechanical feeders set to dispense bait up to three times a day during legal hunting hours. The permit is free, and a landowner or authorized land agent who possesses a valid hunting license can apply. For more information, visit www.pgc.pa.gov.

Lawful While Trapping

Manually operated 22-caliber or less **rimfire** rifles and handguns, except as noted under specific "Furtaking" regulations elsewhere in this digest.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Deer Archery Season (Antlered and Antlerless)

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Sept. 17-Nov. 26 & Dec. 26-Jan. 28.

- No fluorescent orange required, unless during the October muzzleloader, special firearms or fall turkey seasons.

October Muzzleloader Antlerless Season

Oct. 15-22

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Special Firearms Antlerless Season (Statewide)

Oct. 20-22

Junior, senior license holders, disabled person permit holders and PA residents serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Deer Firearms Season (Antlered and Antlerless, Statewide)

Nov. 28-Dec. 10

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Flintlock Season (Antlered and Antlerless)

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Dec. 26-Jan. 28; Other WMUs Dec. 26-Jan. 14

- Fluorescent orange is not required, but keep in mind a firearms deer season is open and it is suggested that orange be worn.

Extended Antlerless Firearms Season

Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties: Dec. 26-Jan. 28

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

Small Game

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back at all times is required. Furbearer and crow hunters do not need to wear fluorescent orange. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent cap visible 360 degrees.

Turkey

Fall season
1 bird, either sex

Oct. 29 to Nov. 5
- WMU 1B

Oct. 29 to Nov. 5; Nov. 24 to 26
- WMUs 1A & 2A

Oct. 29 to Nov. 12; Nov. 24 to 26
- WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C & 4D

Oct. 29 to Nov. 18; Nov. 24 to 26
- WMUs 2B, 2C & 4E

Nov. 3 to 5
- WMU 5A

Closed to fall hunting
- WMUs 5B, 5C & 5D

Arms & Ammunition
1) Manually operated rifles and handguns, including rimfires; 2) Manually operated and semi-automatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 3) Muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and handguns; and 4) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with a broadhead that has a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches.

Single-projectile ammunition or shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-approved nontoxic shot. **The fall seasons in WMU 2B (and the Allegheny County portion of 2A)** are limited to shotguns and long, recurve, compound bows or crossbows.

Fluorescent Orange
Fall turkey hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees at all times when moving. Orange material may be removed at a stationary calling location, providing a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange is posted within 15 feet of the location and is visible 360 degrees.

- **Exception:** In WMU 2B, which is limited to hunting with shotguns and archery equipment, hunters must wear a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange material, visible 360 degrees at all times when moving. While fluorescent orange is not required in this zone at stationary calling locations, it is strongly recommended.

Mentored Hunters
Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters may participate. Birds taken by any mentored hunter must be tagged with harvest tag transferred from his or her mentor.

Dogs
Dogs may be used during the fall season.

Spring season
Up to 2 bearded birds, (1 per day) with proper licenses.

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING IS OPEN STATEWIDE

YOUTH HUNT
April 22, 2017

STATEWIDE SEASON
April 29 to May 31, 2017

Hunting Hours
Hunting hours during the **April 22** youth hunt, and from **April 29 to May 13** of the statewide season begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at noon. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. during those periods. From **May 15 to May 31**, hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

Arms & Ammunition
1) Manually operated and semi-automatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; 3) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see broadhead requirements in fall season section).

Fine shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other approved nontoxic shot. Rifle/shotgun combination guns may be used if ammunition is limited to shotgun shells. Carrying or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles or handguns is unlawful.

Mentored Hunters
Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters may participate. Harvest tags are provided to Mentored Adults and Mentored Youth older than 7. Birds taken by Mentored Youth younger than 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred from the youth's mentor. Each mentored hunter may take only one turkey during the spring.

Youth Hunt
Only licensed junior hunters and properly permitted Mentored Youth may participate, and must be accompanied by an adult as required by law (see License Information section). Each hunter may harvest only one bearded bird during the Youth Hunt. Birds harvested by Mentored Youth under age 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred to the Mentored Youth from his or her adult mentor.

No Stalking
Hunting by calling only.

Bearded Birds
Only turkeys with visible beards are legal. It is suggested, though, that hunters refrain from knowingly harvesting bearded hens because they nest and raise broods.

Dogs
Dogs may not be used during the spring season.

Blinds

The use of turkey blinds is legal under the following definition: Any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer outside the blind.

Artificial or manufactured turkey blinds consisting of all manmade materials means blinds must be constructed of plastic, nylon, canvas, cotton cloth, plywood or other manmade materials.

Blinds made by piling rocks, logs, branches, etc. are unlawful. The blind must completely enclose the hunter on all four sides and from above to block the detection of movement within the blind.

A new turkey-hunting blind available for online purchase is illegal to use in Pennsylvania. The new blind incorporates the fanned tail of a gobbler to hide a hunter's form, but because it does not hide all hunter movement from behind or within, it cannot be used legally to hunt turkeys.

When fluorescent orange is required at a stationary calling location in fall seasons, at least 100 square inches must be displayed outside the blind and within 15 feet of the blind, visible 360 degrees.

Portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission's management now need to be conspicuously marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner's hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the blind owner. Identification numbers can be obtained at The Outdoor Shop on the Game Commission's website.

Tagging, Reporting Requirements

Successful turkey hunters must follow all instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses.

Separate tags are provided for fall and spring seasons. The turkey must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must be securely attached to a leg until the bird is prepared for consumption or mounting. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. Also, please remember to remove your old hunting license from your possession while in the field. It is unlawful to possess old licenses while hunting.

Within 10 days of harvest (five days for mentored hunters), turkey hunters must report harvests to the Game Commission, either by going online to the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, or by using a postage-paid report card supplied in this digest, or calling toll-free

Hunters reporting their turkey harvests over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system can call 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681). Hunters will need to have their license and their copy of the carcass tag attached to the harvested turkey available to complete the call.

Hunters should record the confirmation number supplied by the IVR system for the turkey reported.

All hunters reporting harvests are asked to identify the WMU, county and township where the bird was taken.

Hunters who purchase a second spring gobbler license have a mandatory reporting requirement, regardless of whether they harvest a bird using this special license. For more details, see the "Tagging, Transporting & Reporting" section under "Big Game Regulations" in this digest.

A **2ND SPRING TURKEY LICENSE** can be purchased **BEFORE** the start of the regular spring turkey season (by April 28, 2017) from any issuing agent or at the Game Commission's website. While the second license allows hunters to harvest up to two gobblers, only one turkey may be taken per day.

Live Decoys, Drives and Electronic Calls

In both spring and fall turkey seasons, it is unlawful to possess or use live turkeys as decoys, or conduct drives for turkeys or use electronic callers or devices.

Pennsylvania's Big Game Scoring Program

Each year, deer, bear and elk that are among the largest ever to be harvested in Pennsylvania are added to the Pennsylvania Big Game Records book.

Now those hunters and trophy owners who have a listing in the record book also may purchase an Exclusive Member Big Game Records patch.

Patches are $9.43, plus shipping, plus sales tax. Funds from the sale of these patches are used to support the state's Big Game Scoring Program.

To order, call 1-888-888-3459.

The 2016 records book becomes available in October, and costs $6, plus shipping, plus 6 percent sales tax.

To enter a big game animal, or for more information about the Game Commission's Big Game Scoring Program, contact Boone & Crockett Club certified scorer and coordinator of Pennsylvania's program Bob D'Angelo at rdangelo@pa.gov or call the Game Commission Harrisburg Headquarters.

Bear

Hunters are limited to harvesting 1 bear per license year.

Regular Firearms

Statewide

Nov. 19 & Nov. 21-23

Archery

Includes Crossbow

Statewide
Nov. 14-18

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D
Sept. 17-Nov. 18

WMU 5B
Oct. 1-Nov. 18

Muzzleloader

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 15-22

Special Firearms

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 20-22

Junior & Senior license holders, Mentored Youth, active-duty military and certain disabled persons' permit holders

Extended Season

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Nov. 28-Dec. 10

WMUs 3B, 3C & 3D
Nov. 28-Dec. 3

WMUs 1B, 2C, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E
Nov. 30-Dec. 3

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact (buckshot is illegal); 2) muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and 3) long, recurve or compound bows (draw weights at least 35 pounds), or crossbows with weight minimum of 125 pounds. A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches.

Tagging & Reporting

A successful bear hunter must complete all information on tag and attach it to the bear's ear immediately after harvest, and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests a bear must take the animal, along with his or her hunting license and bear license, to a Game Commission check station for examination. Bear check stations are listed in this section. **Bears should be field-dressed before being brought to a check station,** as Game Commission personnel do not need to examine reproductive tracts. Check stations are open on each day of the regular firearms bear season, and on select days of the extended seasons. Hunters harvesting bears anywhere during the statewide archery bear season, or during any early season in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate region office for instructions to have the animals checked. Hunters with bears to be checked after check stations close on Nov. 23, or Dec. 5-10 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate region office. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. Keep in mind that if you purchase a bear license through PALS online, you cannot hunt for bear until the physical license is delivered to you with a harvest tag.

Licenses

A general hunting license is required to hunt in any season. Bear hunters must have a bear license in addition to a general license. A bear license allows hunters to participate in the bear archery and bear muzzleloader season. There no longer is a split schedule for bear-license sales. Bear licenses are available to purchase from the time general hunting licenses go on sale through the Dec. 10 close of the last extended seasons.

Fluorescent Orange

Bear hunters during firearms seasons must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, visible from 360 degrees. Camouflage fluorescent orange will satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches. When hunting in an area with a concurrent fall turkey season, archery bear hunters must wear a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange when moving. The hat may be removed when the archer is stationary or on stand.

Restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- Kill a bear in a den;
- Use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached;
- Hunt on areas where artificial or natural bait, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals, minerals or other foods – including residue – are used, or have been used as an enticement to lure wildlife within the past 30 days;
- Use scents or lures;
- Hunt bears in a party of more than 25 persons.

Bear Feeding Ban

It is unlawful to "intentionally lay or place food, fruit, hay, grain, chemicals, salt or other minerals that may cause bears to congregate or habituate in an area." In addition, if nuisance bears are being attracted to an area by any other wildlife feeding, wildlife conservation officers can issue written notice to temporarily halt the activity.

Bear Check Stations

Check stations statewide are open each day through the regular firearms bear season. Hours are:

- **Saturday, Nov. 19** – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Sunday, Nov. 20** – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Monday, Nov. 21** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 22** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 23** – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Northwest Region

Forest County: Allegheny National Forest, Marienville Ranger Station, Rt. 66 approx. 1.5 miles north of Marienville– 41.48806 N, 79.1025 W

Jefferson County: Friendship Hose Company #1, Interstate 80, Exit 97, Rt. 830 W (Slab Run Road/First Street), right on 1st Street in Falls Creek, then 600 feet on right –41.1458166 N, 78.7985611 W

Venango County: Northwest Region Office, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin–41.36734 N, 79.859747 W

Warren County: Tidioute Borough Fire Hall, 228 Main Street, Tidioute–41.68278 N, 79.40444 W

Southwest Region

Indiana County: Homer City Fire Department, 25 West Church Street in Homer City–40.54189 N, 79.16193 W

Somerset County: New Centerville Rural Fire Dept., on Rt. 281 in New Centerville–39.9420 N, 79.1950 W

Westmoreland County: Southwest Region Office, Rt. 711, 7 miles north of Ligonier–40.3140 N, 79.1480 W

Northcentral Region

Clearfield County: PGC Maintenance Building along the Quehanna Highway, about 3.5 miles south of the intersection with Wykoff Run Road about 4.5 miles north of Karthaus–41.1901 N, 78.14594 W

Clinton County: Chapman Twp. Fire Hall, four miles south of Renovo on Rt. 120 in North Bend–41.34861 N, 77.70038 W

Lycoming County: Antes Fort Fire Hall, 1/4 mile south of NC Region Office on Rt. 44–41.1909 N, 77.22612 W

Lycoming County: Trout Run Fire Hall, Rt. 14–41.38587 N, 77.05572 W

McKean County: Mt. Jewett Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6–41.7241 N, 78.64347 W

Potter County: Coudersport Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6, west of town–41.76788 N, 78.02842 W

Tioga County: Wellsboro Fire Company Social Building, U.S. Rt. 6 in center of town–41.74858 N, 77.29642 W

Southcentral Region

Fulton County: Buchanan State Forest Bldg., 5 miles east of Breezewood on Rt. 30 – 40.017185 N, 78.150533 W

Huntingdon County: Huntingdon Nat'l Guard Armory, 10034 Raystown Rd., Huntingdon–40.4889 N, 78.0499 W

Snyder County: Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S. Sassafras Street, Beavertown – 40.75133 N, 77.166542 W

Northeast Region

Carbon County: Beltzville State Park Main. Bldg., 2950 Pohopoco Dr., just east of Exit 74 PA Turnpike NE Ext. (I-476) – 40.863781 N, 75.628489 W

Lackawanna County: Lackawanna State Park Maintenance Bldg., behind park office on Rt. 524; from I-81 take Exit 199 and go 3 miles west on 524–41.5655 N, 75.7026 W

Luzerne County: Back Mountain Regional EMA Building, 3593 Route 118 (half-mile west of the intersection of routes 118 and 415), Dallas–41.335226 N, 75.997755 W

Monroe County: SGL 127 Bldg., Rt. 423, 2 miles south of Tobyhanna–41.168317 N, 75.439614 W

Pike County: SGL 180 Shohola Bldg., Rt. 6 at Shohola Falls, 13 miles south of Hawley–41.3862 N, 74.9758 W

Sullivan County: DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center, 6735 Rt. 220, 7 miles south of Dushore–41.439228 N, 76.4646 W

Southeast Region

Berks County: Southeast Region Office, 253 Snyder Road, 7 miles north of Reading–40.440840 N, 75.911236 W

Dauphin County: PGC Headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg–40.2934 N, 76.8553 W

NEW LOCATIONS FOR 2016 HIGHLIGHTED

Several long-running check stations have closed or have been relocated. Please review the list carefully.

Bear Check Stations

Check stations are open in select WMUs during the extended bear season. Dates and hours of operation vary.

See preceding page for specific location information if not provided.

Northwest Region

Venango County – Northwest Region Office:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Warren County – State Game Lands 143 Building:
375 Moore Lane, Pittsfield - 41.823172 N, 079.435473 W
Wednesday-Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Southwest Region

Westmoreland County – Southwest Region Office:
Wednesday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. Noon - 7 p.m.

Somerset County – New Centerville Rural Fire Dept.:
Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Northcentral Region

Lycoming County
Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy., P.O. 5038, Jersey Shore - 41.1911 N, 77.2315 W :
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Southcentral Region

Huntingdon County
Southcentral Region Office, Rt. 22, 1.1 miles west of Huntingdon - 40.4944 N, 78.0450 W:
Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.;
Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Snyder County
Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S. Sassafrass Street, Beavertown
Wednesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Northeast Region

Carbon County
Beltzville State Park Maintenance Building:
Wednesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Lackawanna County – Lackawanna State Park:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Luzerne County – Back Mountain Regional EMA Building:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Monroe County – State Game Lands 127 Building:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Pike County – State Game Lands 180 Shohola Building:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday, Noon - 7 p.m.

Southeast Region

Berks County – Southeast Region Office:
Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday to Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Dauphin County – Game Commission Headquarters:
Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday to Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Prepping For the Check Station

At the time of a harvest, successful bear hunters should place a 3- to 4-inch stick into the bear's mouth, before rigor mortis or freezing temperatures set in, making it extremely difficult for check-station staff to open the mouth to remove a tooth for aging.

Small Game

Squirrel
6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

Junior Hunt
Oct. 1-15

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Pheasant
2 daily, 6 possession
Cocks only in some WMUs

Junior Hunt
Oct. 8-15

Statewide
Oct. 22-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Rabbit
4 daily, 12 possession

Junior Hunt
Oct. 1-15

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Snowshoe Hare
1 daily, 3 possession

Statewide
Dec. 26-31

Grouse
2 daily, 6 possession

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 12-24
Dec. 26-Jan. 21

Bobwhite Quail
4 daily, 12 possession

Statewide
Oct. 22-Nov. 26
(Closed in WMU 5A)

Woodchuck
No Limit

Statewide
No closed season, except during regular firearms deer seasons. Hunting on Sundays prohibited.

Porcupine
3 daily, 10 season

Statewide
Sept. 1-March 31

Crow
No Limit

Statewide
July 1-April 9
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays only

Arms & Ammunition
1) Manually operated and semi-automatic 10-gauge or less shotguns with a capacity of no more than 3 shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Manually operated rifles and handguns 23 caliber or less; 3) Muzzleloading rifles and handguns 40 caliber or less, and shotguns 10-gauge or less; and 4) long, recurve and compound bows and arrows, and crossbows. Single-projectile ammunition, or fine shot pellets no larger than No. 4 lead, bismuth-tin, or tungsten-iron, or other approved non-toxic shot or No. 2 steel. **Note:** Rifle and handgun caliber restrictions do not apply when hunting woodchucks or porcupines, although rifles and handguns must be manually operated.

Fluorescent Orange
Small game and porcupine hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange at all times on the head, chest and back combined. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent orange cap on the head. Orange must be visible 360 degrees. No orange is required for crow hunters.

Hunting Parties
It is unlawful to hunt small game in a party of more than six persons. This does not apply to waterfowl or dove hunters when hunting from a blind or other stationary positions.

No Open Season
Hungarian partridges, pine martens & sharp-tailed grouse.

No Closed Season
English sparrows and European starlings. No limit, but cannot be hunted during the regular firearms deer seasons.

Pheasant Stocking
It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle if its occupants are releasing pheasants.

Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas
No taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area in any season. **It is unlawful to hunt small game,** not including groundhogs, crows or waterfowl open during the restricted time period, from the first Sunday in February through July 31 within any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area.

Transporting Small Game
Small game may be transported untagged by the owner. Small game unaccompanied by the owner must be labeled with the name, address, license customer ID number and signature of the owner.

Pheasant Hunting
is open statewide during the Junior Hunt, Oct. 8-15.
Hunters statewide may hunt pheasants from Oct. 22-Nov. 26, Dec. 12-24, and Dec. 26-Feb. 28, but only cocks may be taken in some Wildlife Management Units. Pheasants may not be hunted or taken on any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area.

Cocks Only
WMUs 2A, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A & 5B

Cocks or Hens
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2B, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5C & 5D

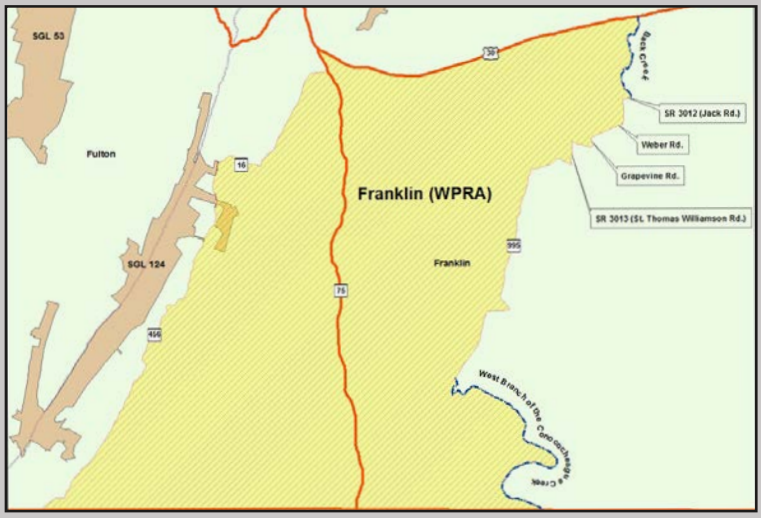
Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas

Pennsylvania is working to restore wild ring-necked pheasant populations.

Wild pheasants trapped in other states have been released in each of the state's four Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas (WPRAs). These areas were selected because the habitat there provides the best chances of supporting a self-sustaining population.

It is unlawful to hunt pheasants in any WPRA. It is unlawful to train dogs in any manner or hunt small game, with the exceptions of groundhogs, crows or waterfowl during the restricted time period, from the first Sunday in February through July 31 within any area designated as a WPRA. It is unlawful to release artificially propagated pheasants in any WPRA, and no Game Commission-raised pheasants are released in any WPRA.

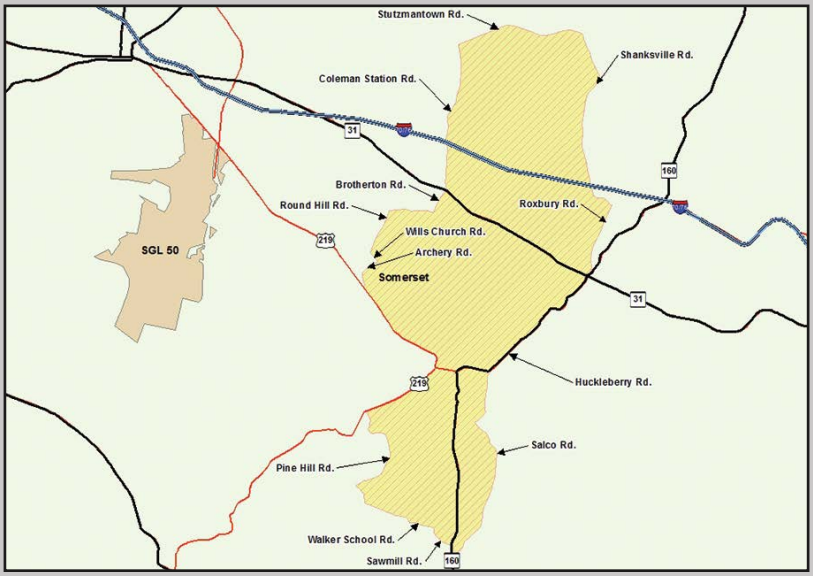
Franklin County WPRA



That portion of WMUs 4A and 5A in Franklin County from PA Rt. 30 on the northern border to the PA/Maryland border on the southern border, and from Cove Mountain on the western border to the towns of Laurich and Williamson and the Conococheague Creek on the eastern border. The WPRA is bounded on the north by Rt. 30 (Lincoln Highway). Beginning at the town of Fort Loudon at the intersection of Rt. 30 and Rt. 75, proceed east on Rt. 30, through St. Thomas and continue east to Laurich. Just east of Laurich, proceed south on Back Creek to Rt. 3012 (Jack Road). Proceed west on Rt. 3012, then south on Weber Road. Continue south and southwest on Weber Road to the intersection of Weber, Grapevine and Jacks Mill roads. Proceed southwest on Grapevine Road and then northwest to intersection with Rt. 3013. Turn south onto Rt. 3013 (St. Thomas Williamson Road) and then west onto Rt. 995. Proceed west and then south on Rt. 995 through Williamson to the West Branch of the Conococheague Creek (northeast of Welsh Run). Proceed along the West Branch Conococheague Creek to the confluence with Conococheague Creek. Follow the Conococheague Creek south to the PA/MD border. Proceed west along the PA/MD border to Rt. 456. Proceed northeast on Rt. 456 to Rt. 16. Proceed east on Rt. 16 to Mountain Road. Proceed northeast on Mountain Road to Rt. 75. Proceed northwest on Rt. 75 to the intersection of Rt. 75 and Rt. 30 at Fort Loudon.

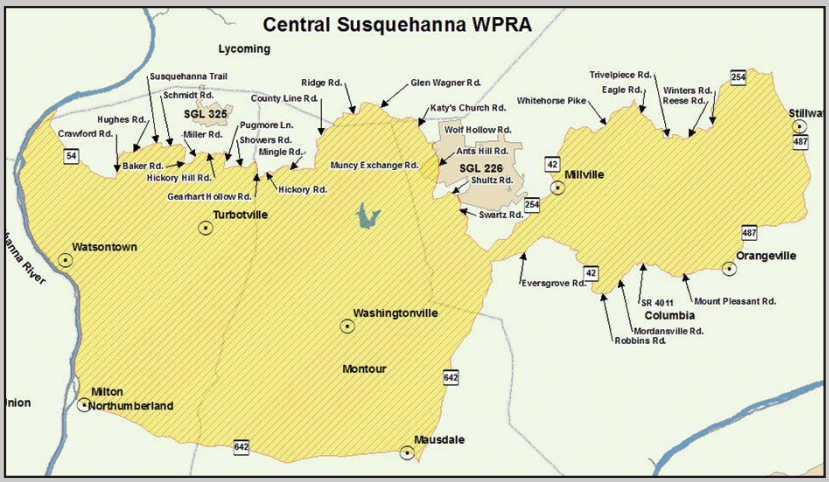
Somerset WPRA

That portion of Somerset County, WMU 2C, bounded on the western side starting at the intersection of Coleman Station Road and Stutzmantown Road, proceeding south on Coleman Station Road, crossing Rt. 31, to Brotherton Road, continuing south to Round Hill Road, then east onto Wills Church Road then to Archery Road. The boundary then follows Berlin Plank Road (U.S. Rt. 219) south into the town of Berlin where it joins the Mason Dixon Highway (U.S. Rt. 219), proceeding south to Pine Hill Road to Walker School Road then east on Maple Valley Road to Sawmill Road to the Cumberland Highway (Rt. 160). The boundary then follows the Cumberland Highway (Rt. 160) south to Salco Road and then proceeds north on Salco Road to Huckleberry Highway (Rt. 160) in Berlin. The boundary follows Huckleberry Highway (Rt. 160) north, crossing Rt. 31, to the intersection of Roxbury Road then north to Shanksville Road. The boundary then proceeds north to Stutzmantown Road, and then west to the beginning at the intersection of Coleman Station Road.



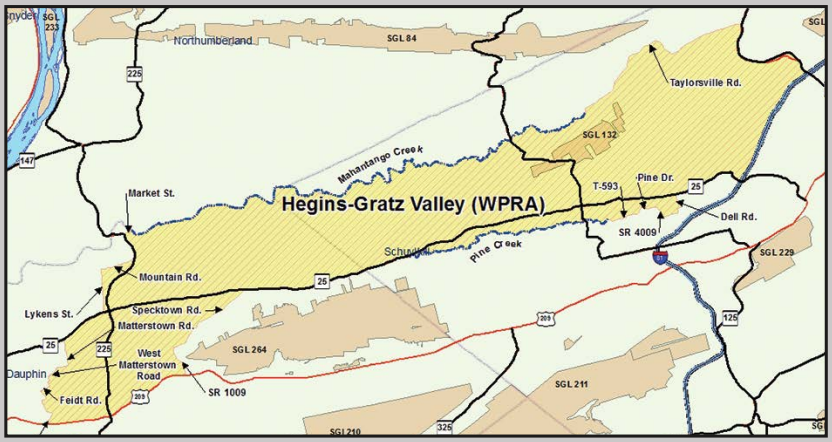
Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas

Central Susquehanna WPRA



Portions of WMU 4E in Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Lycoming counties from the West Branch of the Susquehanna River south to the intersection with Rt. 642 and the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Milton. The southern boundary is defined by Rt. 642 east from Milton to Mausdale, then north on Rt. 642 to just south of Jerseytown, proceeding east on Eyersgrove Road to Eyers Grove at Rt. 42. Proceeding south on Rt. 42 to Mordansville, northeast of Mordansville along Robbins Road (Rt. 600) to Mordansville Road (Rt. 541), south on Rt. 4011 (Millertown Road), then continuing east to follow Mount Pleasant Road (Rt. 4020) and Mount Pleasant Street (Rt. 4034) to Orangeville at the southeast corner of the WPRA. Rt. 487 lines the eastern boundary from Orangeville north to Maple Grove intersection with Rt. 254. The northern boundary begins with Rt. 254 west of Maple Grove to the intersection with Winters Road (Rt. 459), proceeding west to the intersection with Austin Trail (Rt. 4039). Continuing west on Owl Road (Rt. 599), north and west on Reese Road (Rt. 578), and north and west on Trivelpiece Road (Rt. 576). Eagle Road (Rt. 4037) then continues northwest to the intersection with Whitehorse Road/Whitehorse Pike (Rt. 661) heading west to just south of Sereno, and then south on Rt. 42 to Millville. From Millville, proceeding southwest on Rt. 254 to Jerseytown. Then northwest on Rt. 44, north on Swartz Road, west on Shultz Road, north on Ants Hill Road, west on Wolf Hollow Road, then north on Katy's Church Road. Crossing into Lycoming County and proceeding northwest on G Wagner Road, west on Ridge Road, crossing into Montour County, southwest on County Line Road, south on Muncy Exchange Road (Rt. 1003), west on Hickory Road (Rt. 1008), west on Mingle Road (Rt. 433), west on Hickory Road (Rt. 1008) for the second time, and proceeding north on Gearhart Hollow Road (Rt. 441). Continuing west on Showers Road (Rt. 1010), crossing into Northumberland County, proceeding north and west on Pugmore Lane, north on Hockley Hill Road (Rt. 1011), west on Miller Road (Rt. 653), continuing southwest on Balliet Road (Rt. 664). Proceeding northwest and west on Schmidt Road (Rt. 564). Continuing north on Susquehanna Trail (Rt. 1007), continuing west on Hughes Road (Rt. 655), crossing under I-180, proceeding south on Crawford Road (Rt. 507) to Rt. 54. Proceeding northwest on Rt. 54 to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA



That Portion of Management Unit 4E in Schuylkill and Dauphin counties from SR 1007 (Matterstown Road) to PA Rt. 901 at Taylorsville. The WPRA is bounded on the north by the Mahantango Creek. Beginning at the town of Pillow in Dauphin County, proceeding east on SR 1026 (Market Street) to the Mahantango Creek, which is the Northumberland and Dauphin county border until entering Schuylkill county at Klingerstown. Continuing northeast along the Mahantango Creek in Schuylkill county to SR 4039 (Taylorsville Road) at Haas, to Taylorsville and then proceeding south on PA Rt. 901. Proceeding south and southeast on PA Rt. 901 to I-81. Proceeding southwest on I-81 and then west on PA Rt. 25. From PA Rt. 25, proceeding south and west on Dell Road and then northwest and west on State Highway 4009 (Pine Drive) continuing west on Pine Drive, T593 and north on T592 to Pine Creek. The southern boundary then follows Pine Creek west along the northern side of Broad Mountain to Spring Glen. From Spring Glen, continuing west on PA Rt. 25, crossing into Dauphin county, to Gratz. Then proceeding southwest from Gratz on State Highway 1014 (Specktown Road) to PA Rt. 1009 (S. Crossroads Road). Proceeding south on PA Rt. 1009 (S. Crossroads Road) to PA Rt. 209 and southwest to Elizabethville. From Elizabethville continue west on PA Rt. 209 (Main St). Turn north onto T462 (Botts Road). At the first intersection turn north onto T461 (Feidt Rd). Turn East onto SR 4008 (West Matterstown Road). Turn north on to SR 1007 (Matterstown Road). Turn Right or east onto PA Rt. 25 (Berrysburg Rd) which turns into Market Street. Turn left (north) onto Lykens Street. Turn right or East onto T639 (Mountain Road). Turn left (north) on PA Rt. 225 into Pillow on PA Rt. 225, ending at SR 1026 (Market Street).

Beginning Oct. 1

Junior Hunts

JUNIOR HUNTERS HAVE EARLY CHANCES TO PURSUE SQUIRRELS, PHEASANTS AND RABBITS.

The Junior rabbit and squirrel seasons run from Oct. 1-15, and Mentored Youth may participate.
The Junior pheasant season runs from Oct. 8-15.

- Hunters must be **12 to 16 years old** and accompanied by an adult as required by law.
- A hunting license is not required, but youngsters must have successfully completed a **Hunter-Trapper Education course**.
- Hunters must abide by the same **bag limits and regulations** governing "Male-Only Pheasant Wildlife Management Units" during the regular season.
- Note that pheasants are not included in the species that can be hunted by youngsters under 12 who participate in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.

Junior Pheasant Hunt Stocking Locations

15,000 pheasants stocked statewide

Northwest Region

Butler County: SGL 95, from Butler Rt. 8 to Rt. 308 north. Just before Moniteau High School turn right on Brimstone Rd. Proceed to Swope Rd. and turn left. Proceed around a right bend on Swope and you are in the stocking area for that side of lake. Stocking area on other side of lake, go left on Brimstone Rd., turn left at stop sign, make first left onto Calico Rd., as you pass SGL parking area on left you are coming into stocking area. Moraine State Park, north of Butler on Rt. 8, turn off of Route 8 onto Muddy Creek Road and follow for 1 mile and turn left onto Country Club Road and at the parking lot head south to the fields to hunt.

Clarion County: SGL 63, North of Shippenville. Accessed at a parking lot adjacent to food plots along the west side of Station Road T-406 (locally known as old Allaman Farm). SGL 72, just east of Rt. 66 and south of Brenaman Rd. SGL 74, northeast of Strattanville and accessed through parking lot adjacent to food plot openings. Located at the end of Terwilliger Road (locally known as old Terwilliger Farm). SGL 330 at the intersection on Limestone Flat and Mt. Zion roads.

Crawford County: SGL 199, along Taylor Stand Rd., between Heath and Clements Rd. and near parking areas off Rt. 77. SGL 213, approximately two miles west of Geneva on SR 285 at the railroad crossing. SGL 214, around area known as Hartstown Lower and Middle impoundments. Approximately one mile east of Hartstown, turn south onto Pine Road. Turn right (west) across from Brooks Road or the next game lands road to the west, approximately one mile south of Brooks Road. SGL 277, parking area off Rt. 19 and parking area on Miller Station Rd. Woodcock Dam, US Army Corps of Engineers, Area 435 along old Rt. 198, south of new Rt. 198, and east of Woodcock Dam causeway, Stoltz Rd.

Erie County: SGL 144, from intersection of Nash Hill and Elgin roads, travel about a third of a mile west on Nash Hill Rd. to parking area, south side of road. SGL 218, off Barton Rd. by old Visitor Center, and behind parking area along Rt. 8. SGL 263, from intersection of Hereford and Russell roads, south on Russell Rd. about 0.4 miles. Field area is on east side of road.

Forest County: Allegheny National Forest area known as Buzzard Swamp.

Jefferson County: SGL 54, north of Sugar Hill, along Bond Rd. T-554 at food plots (locally known as Carrier Fields); the old PGC training school site, located on Empire Rd., approximately one mile north of Game School Rd. SGL 244, the Jefferson County Food and Cover headquarters complex, 1.5 miles south of I-80 at Exit 86.

Lawrence County: SGL 151, from I-79 take Rt. 108 west to right turn on SR 1013. Proceed on SR 1013 to Plain Grove North Liberty Rd., turn right. Proceed to Book Rd., turn left. Site is located behind parking area. Also, continue on SR 1013 to right turn on Brent Rd., travel to Mason Rd. and turn right. Proceed to second SGL parking area. SGL 216, from I-79 take Rt. 108 west, cross Rt. 19, turn left onto Rose Point-Harlansburg Rd. Turn right on Game Farm Rd.; release site is on left. Also, stay on Rose Point-Harlansburg Rd. to County Line Rd. Turn right onto County Line Rd. travel to site located across parking area.

Mercer County: SGL 270 north of Sheakleyville off Rt. 19, and both sides of SR 1018 between Mcquiston's Corners and Sheakleyville. Goddard State Park, south of Georgetown Rd. at the Hill Building near New Vernon. Shenango Lake Area 415, Golden Run area, 2 miles east of Clark, north side of Route 258. Big Bend area, off Creek Rd. and Orangeville Flats, off Carlisle Rd., just east of Orangeville. SGL 284, south of Rt. 208, and east of Rt. 19.

Venango County: SGL 39, DeWoody Rd. area, and Polk Cut Off Rd. area. SGL 96, Russell Rd. area, and the Cherrytree Plum Line Rd./Fairview Rd. intersection area.

Warren County: SGL 143, Spetz Hill only, Rt. 6 west from Pittsfield approximately 3.5 miles. Left on Brooks Rocks Rd. Follow about 1 mile. Left on T-457 (Spetz Hill Rd.) to its termination at SGL parking area, where pheasants are stocked nearby.

Although pheasants may be hunted statewide (except in WPRAs) during the Junior Pheasant Hunt, birds will be stocked at specific locations throughout the commonwealth prior to the hunt.

Southwest Region

Armstrong County: SGL 247, exit from routes 422 and 28 at West Kittanning. At Franklin Village shopping center traffic light turn right and go two miles to Center Hill. Just past the Church of the Brethren turn onto SR 3007, go 1.3 miles and turn left onto Gameland Rd., 0.2 mile to parking lot on right, or continue on Gameland Rd. to end and turn right onto Chechak Rd. and go 0.5 mile to parking lot on right, or stay on SR 3007 and travel 0.3 mile farther to parking lot on right.

Beaver County: SGL 173, both sides of Rt. 168.

Cambria County: SGL 79, from routes 22 &119 intersection near Blairsville take Rt. 22 east 18.5 miles to traffic light at Chicory, left at light onto Chicory Hill Rd. and follow to bottom of hill where it intersects with SR 3047 at stop sign. Make right at stop sign, follow SR 3047 1.7 miles to game lands road on left. Follow road across bridge and bear left at sharp turn into parking area at gate. Stocked area is entire old mine area after gate. From routes 219 and 422 near Ebensburg, take Rt. 422 west 6 miles to Rt. 271. Go south on Rt. 271 for 2 miles to SR 3047. Go right on SR 3047 toward Vintondale approximately 1.6 miles to game lands road on right. From routes 119 & 422 near Indiana take Route 422 east 18 miles to Rt. 271 and then follow directions in previous sentence. SGL 108 near Prince Gallitzin State Park. SGL 120 from St. Lawrence travel 3.5 miles northeast toward Irvona. Game lands access road is on left at the intersection of St. Lawrence and Church roads. SGL 279, take Rt. 53 north from Cresson and turn left on Vampire Rd. Game lands parking lot is approximately two miles on left.

Fayette County: SGL 51, Field adjacent to Dunbar-Ohiopyle Rd. (Rt. 1055) at the intersection with PGC Administrative Road (Hughes Strip Area). SGL 238, Fields adjacent to parking area on Croushore Rd.

Greene County: SGL 223, fields adjacent to Kirby Road (Rt. 2018) between Interstate 79 and the intersection with Garards Fort Rd. (Rt. 2011) (former Lonestar Farm area). Fields adjacent to the parking area located just north of the intersection of Kirby Rd. (Rt. 2018) and Garards Fort Rd. (Rt. 2011). Fields south of the white covered bridge on Roberts Run Rd.

Indiana County: SGL 262 along Frye Cemetery Rd. near Smithport, SGL 276 in Brush Valley area along Rhine Rd. Conemaugh Federal Flood Control Area, Newport Rd. area, from Rt. 22 at Blairsville, north on Rt. 217, 0.6 mile to Newport Rd. on left. Take Newport Rd. 1.7 miles to game lands parking lot on right. Virginia Farms area, continue on Newport Rd. 1.2 miles to parking lots on left. Old Slaughterhouse area, from Rt. 22 at Blairsville go north on Rt. 217, 1.7 miles to Pleasant Valley Rd. on left. Follow Pleasant Valley Rd. to game lands parking lot. Yellow Creek State Park, approximately 12 miles east of Indiana along Rt. 422.

Somerset County: SGL 82 along White Oak Hollow Road and Gamelands Road. SGL 93 from Rt. 30 across from Flight 93 National Memorial then onto Johnson Bottom Rd.; game lands on right side of road. SGL 111, upper, middle and lower Skull fields off Brushtown Rd., and Ream fields off Draketown Rd. SGL 228, all field complexes along Shaffer and Lambert Mountain roads. Somerset County Conservancy-Kimberly Run Environmental Area, off Rt. 219 and Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Washington County: SGL 117, west on Hanlin Road off of Route 18 just south of the Pepsi-Cola Roadhouse. All fields both sides of Hanlin Road. Both sides of designated handicap road, and south of old Rt. 22, near parking area. SGL 232, all fields between Green Cove and Oak Ridge Rd., west of Oak Ridge, east of Green Cove, both sides of Colby-Yound Rd., both sides of Rt. 231, and west of Rt. 221. SGL 245, both sides of road leading to rifle range off Rt. 231. Area 432, Hillman State Park, located off Rt. 22, along both sides of Haul Rd., and back to, and including, fields surrounding grouse management area.

Westmoreland County: Loyalhanna Flood Control Project, Christopher area, from traffic light west of New Alexandria on Rt. 22, north onto Operator's Way, turn right at "T" then go straight off first bend, and turn left onto Christopher Rd. at top of hill. Follow Christopher Rd. to parking lot. Oasis area, from traffic light at routes 22 and 981 in New Alexandria, south on Rt. 981 1.4 miles to Oasis Rd. on west side of Rt. 981. Oasis Rd. to parking area on right. Sanderson area, take Derbytown Rd. off Rt. 981 north of Latrobe across from Latrobe Elks Golf Course. Follow Derbytown Rd. 1.1 miles to end, turn right onto McFarland Rd., parking area on the right.

Northcentral Region

Centre County: Penn State property Toftrees Tract, located 2 miles north of Beaver Stadium on Fox Hollow Rd. SGL 333 located off of Interstate 99 at the Shilo Rd. exit, just east of State College.

Clearfield County: SGL 60 is a detached section from that in Centre County near Smoke Run between Ramey and Janesville. SGL 77, on south side of township road (Game Lands Rd.) 3/4 of a mile east of Rt. 219. SGL 100, Covington Twp., off Woolridge Rd., one mile south of the intersection of Keewaydin Rd. and Rolling Stone Rd. SGL 87, Penn Township, Ridge Road (T356).

Elk County: Project on SGL 44 in cooperation with Pheasants Forever Chapter 630. Take Shawmut Road from Route 219 in Brockport north 3.9 miles and turn left onto Game Lands Road and travel 1.4 miles to parking area at top of hill.

Lycoming County: SGL 252, pheasants are released throughout the game lands at herbaceous openings accessible from any of the parking areas along Ridge, Pikes Peak, Alvira and Mill roads.

McKean County: SGL 61, section located 6 miles south of Port Allegheny off Rt. 155 south of Wrights on Back Valley Rd. Nivers Farm on Allegheny National Forest 6 miles west of Kane on Rt. 6 near Wetmore intersection on Old Nivers Rd.

Potter County: SGL 64, along east side of Phoenix Run Rd., about 2.5 miles north of Rt. 6. SGL 204 south of Rt. 44, along West Branch of Whitney Creek, known as Castle Hollow.

Tioga County: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tioga Dam complex north of Mansfield along Tioga River west of Rt. 15 (Lambs Creek), and at the Hammond Dam complex from Ives Run, access road west along old railroad grade (Bryant Hollow) to Holiday. If flooding restricts access to Lambs Creek or Bryant Hollow, alternate location is U.S.A.C.E. Cowanesque Lake Complex on north side of lake as accessed by Bliss Road in Nelson.

Union County: SGL 193, herbaceous opening east of Supplee Mill Rd. parking area. SGL 201, herbaceous openings along Mensch Rd. SGL 252, herbaceous openings throughout the game lands accessible from any of the parking areas along Alvira Rd. and Rt. 44. SGL 317, herbaceous openings throughout the game lands accessible from any of the parking areas along Palman, Laurel and Glover roads, and Rt. 45.

Southcentral Region

Adams County: SGL 249, near Heidlersburg off Twin Bridges or Game Land Road north of Conewago Creek.

Bedford County: SGL 48, from Rt. 96 turn on Milligans Cove Road and follow to game lands. The fields are located near the Food & Cover crew headquarters building. SGL 97, Biddle Place. Accessible from Ivy Lane off of Diehl Road. Follow lane across Cove Creek onto SGL.

Blair County: Canoe Creek State Park on Rt. 22 east of Hollidaysburg. Hunt area is to the north end of the lake. SGL 198 — From Altoona go west on Sugar Run Road to Tunnel Hill. Turn right on Tunnel Hill Street and make another right onto access road at "George's Trailers" sign. Continue through gate to hunting area at parking lots on right. For a map and other information, visit www.visitPAparks.com

Cumberland County: SGL 169, on Mountain Rd., parking areas after crossing Conodoguinet Creek. SGL 230, from Rt. 34 go west on Rt. 944 to parking areas along highway. Hunt north side of Rt. 944.

Franklin County: SGL 235, near Sandy Hook and adjacent to southwest corner of Letterkenny Army Depot. Can be accessed from Fort McCord Rd. to Burkett Rd. or Bricker Rd. Do not cross fences into well-marked federally-owned Army Depot.

Fulton County: SGL 53, follow directional signs to Meadow Grounds Lake from the McConnellsburg area. Once on the SGL, follow the road north to Gate 3. The fields are behind the gate. SGL 128, behind Game Lands service building—accessed from Interstate 70 (Exit 163, which is Amaranth)—go east on Route 731, which becomes Deneen Gap Road, for approximately 8/10 of a mile.

Huntingdon County: SGL 251, between Blairs Mills and Shade Gap. Raystown Lake property, Game Commission Area 420 at Raystown Lake, along Rt. 26 south of Hesston from USACE boundary line off of Backbone Rd. to Fouses Crossing Rd.

Perry County: SGL 170, south of Duncannon, accessed from Rt. 11/15 to Spur Drive (1/4-mile north of Cove Road). SGL 258 is approximately 3 miles north of Liverpool. Take Rt. 11/15 and exit at Rt. 104 and immediately turn onto Old Trail Rd. and then turn right on Fishing Rod Rd. Parking areas are along Fishing Rod Rd. and on top of hill on the south side of the road. SGL 281, west of Duncannon. Take Old Lime Kiln Rd. off of Rt. 849 and go to parking lot across from the Bailey Run mobile home park. From parking lot, walk about a half-mile on gated road to field.

Snyder County: SGL 188, just north of Beavertown. Small game areas are along Creek Rd., Baily Hill Rd. and Middle Rd. SGL 194, just west of Meiserville is mostly small game habitat. SGL 428, Faylor Lake is an area managed for small game located just north of Beaver Springs and west of Benfer on Rt. 235.

York County: SGL 83, south on Rt. 74, turn left onto Goram Rd. to Heffner Rd. Turn right on Heffner Rd., proceed to first Rd. to left going over the hill. SGL 181, south on Rt. 74, turn left onto Posey Rd., west about 4 miles on Posey Rd. to SGL sign, turn right (north) on first lane past sign. From parking area walk north up trail, take first trail to right to multiple fields. SGL 242 Old York Rd., north side between Beaver Creek Rd. and Game Rd. Also south side between Poplar Rd. and parking area across from shooting range. SGL 243, north and south of Gameland Rd., Franklintown Rd. and State Game Rd. SGL 416 Indian Rock Dam, east and west of Rt. 616, north of Graybill Rd., east of Joseph Rd., and east and west of Sunnyside Rd.

Northeast Region

Bradford County: SGL 36, west side of Falls Creek Rd., south of Red's Rd., SGL 219, north of Hickeys Rocks Rd., west of Irish Hill Rd., and southwest of Montrose Turnpike. SGL 239, off of Rt. 220 about 4 miles west of Greens Landing. SGL 289, the fields on both sides of Steam Hollow Rd.

Carbon County: Beltsville Area 414, east of PA Turnpike north side of lake, and north and south of Pohopoco Drive. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Beltsville Area 414.

Columbia County: SGL 58, 4 miles south of Mainville on Rt. 339, turn left on Full Mill Hill Rd. Proceed 1 mile to entrance road to game lands on left. Small tract of land, possible crowded conditions. SGL 226 Madison Township, 2 miles west of Millville.

Lackawanna County: Lackawanna State Park, both sides of Rt. 438, east of intersection of Rt. 407. Also access from Rowlands Rd. near park office.

Luzerne County: SGL 187, south of Mt. Top, about 2 miles west of Rt. 437, and north of Honey Hole Rd. known as the Old Pear Farm. Nescopeck State Park, south of Mt. Top, about 3 miles west of Rt. 437 near the silo, and south of Honey Hole Rd., known as the Hoda Farm.

Pike County: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) about 2 miles south of Milford and north of Raymondskill Creek on what is known as the Snyder Tract. DEWA at Loch Lomond in Delaware Township at the intersection of Mary Stuart and Wilson Hill roads.

Northumberland County: SGL 165, parking area located along Irish Valley Rd. Small tract of land, possible crowded conditions. Sullivan County: Ricketts Glen State Park, hay fields on east side of Route 487 just north of Lake Jean and south of the Red Rock Job Corp.

Susquehanna County: SGL 175, located a half-mile past the Blue Ridge High School on Township Route 825. SGL 236, consists of four separate tracts, but only the second tract from the south will be stocked; both sides of T-588. Salt Springs State Park, in Franklin Township seven miles north of Montrose, along Silver Creek Road (Rt. 4008).

Wayne County: SGL 159, from Honesdale north on Rt. 670 to Egypt Road, turn right on Egypt road to stop sign, turn right and go to first parking area on left.

Wyoming County: SGL 57, Forkston Township. Use the parking area along Windy Valley Road.

Southeast Region

Berks County: SGL 106, from Rt. 78 east of Hamburg, take Lenhartsville exit, Rt. 143. North on Rt. 143 approximately 4 miles to Hawk Mountain Rd., left on Hawk Mtn. Rd. approximately 3 miles turn left on Pine Swamp Rd. to rifle range. SGL 280, Blue Marsh east of Rt. 183 and north of Bright School Rd. And, east of Rt. 183 and north of Mt. Pleasant, and north of parking area on Snyder School Rd. Also west side of lake off Justa Rd. to parking lot. North of lot and south of Sleepy Hollow Rd. Also on SGL 280, take Rt. 183 north from Rt. 222 and travel about 8 miles. Turn left on Old Church Road and go 1 mile and turn left on Lake Rd. Go 1 mile to the dead end/parking area. Fields stocked on left side of Lake Rd.

Bucks County: Nockamixon State Park, from Quakertown follow Rt. 313 toward Dublin and turn left onto Rt. 563 north; from Doylestown follow Rt. 313 toward Quakertown to Rt. 563 north and go approximately 5 miles to fishing pier sign, turn right and then right into parking lot, fields are visible. Or continue on Rt. 563, 2 more miles north past fishing pier, large pull off on right with a gated road, fields are down the road. From Rt. 313 follow Ridge Rd. north, which turns into South Park Rd. and continue to Yost School Rd. (dirt road), turn left to visible fields. From Rt. 611 turn onto South Park Rd., follow to Mink Rd. and turn right; fields are visible. From Rt. 611 turn left onto Rt. 412 and follow to Rt. 563. Turn left at light and follow to gated road at left. Maps of the area are available at the Park Office on Rt. 563.

Chester County: SGL 43 east of Rt. 345, between Northside and Harmoneyville roads. Struble Lake Fish & Boat Commission Property. Access is east on Rt. 322, from the borough of Honey Brook go approximately three miles and turn left onto Chestnut Tree Rd. Follow to the "Y" intersection with a 3-way stop, make a left onto Morgantown Rd. and travel approximately a half-mile to the Struble Lake access parking lot on the left. The birds are stocked primarily on the south and west portions of the property. Chester Water Authority property at the end of Worth's Bridge Rd.

Lancaster County: SGL 220, off of Route 897, on Swamp Church Road or Blainsport Road in West Cocalico Township. Muddy Run in Martic and Drumore townships, in agricultural areas and fields at the end of Hilldale Rd., and Old River Rd., and south of River Rd.

Lebanon County: SGL 145 around Cavalry Dam north and west of Rt. 241, south of Rt. 117, and east of Rt. 341. Swatara State Park, the portion east of Rt. 72, south of Rt. 443, and bordered by I-81.

Lehigh County: SGL 205.

Montgomery County: SGL 234

Schuylkill County: SGL 227, along Taggertsville Rd. across from Tuscarora State Park. Reading Anthracite Property in Yatesville, one mile north of Mahanoy City along Rt. 339. SGL 229, south of Newtown on Rt. 209 approximately 1 mile to access road on left and parking.

Waterfowl & Migratory Game Birds

License Requirements

A general hunting license is required in all seasons.

To hunt waterfowl, persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp, and it must be signed across the face and carried by the hunter.

The Electronic Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp, is valid in Pennsylvania, and stamps can be purchased through "The Outdoor Shop."

In addition, all licensed hunters ages 12 and older must have a Pennsylvania Migratory Game Bird License to hunt ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. This license may be obtained from any license issuing agent, or through the Game Commission's website.

When hunting light geese in the conservation season, hunters also need a free permit and harvest report card, which can be obtained online at the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, or by calling the Harrisburg Headquarters at 717-787-4250.

Purchase of a voluntary Pennsylvania Duck Stamp helps to finance wetland acquisition and development, and waterfowl education.

Arms & Ammunition

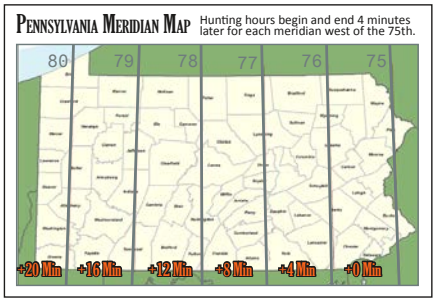
1) Manual and semi-automatic shotguns no larger than 10-gauge with a capacity limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Long, recurve and compound bows and arrows; and crossbows. Only non-toxic fine shot up to and including size T (.20 inches) is lawful for waterfowl. It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl with lead shot.

Fluorescent Orange

Not required for waterfowl and dove hunters.

Legal Hunting Hours

Hunting hours during the early portion of the **September dove season** are noon to sunset. Hunting hours during the **September Canada goose season**, and the **snow-goose conservation season**, are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. However, hunting hours for all waterfowl end at sunset on Youth Waterfowl Days. Hours for **all other migratory bird seasons** are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.



See page 14 for a larger version of map.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 2016 adjusted the schedule for selection of migratory bird seasons and bag limits, which allows all seasons to appear in this digest.

Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys, or decoys powered or operated by batteries or any other source of electricity. Electronic crow decoys can be used for the hunting of crows.
- By using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 30 days after the removal of the bait.

Hunting Parties

Waterfowl and dove hunters can hunt in a party of more than six persons as long as they are hunting from a blind or stationary position.

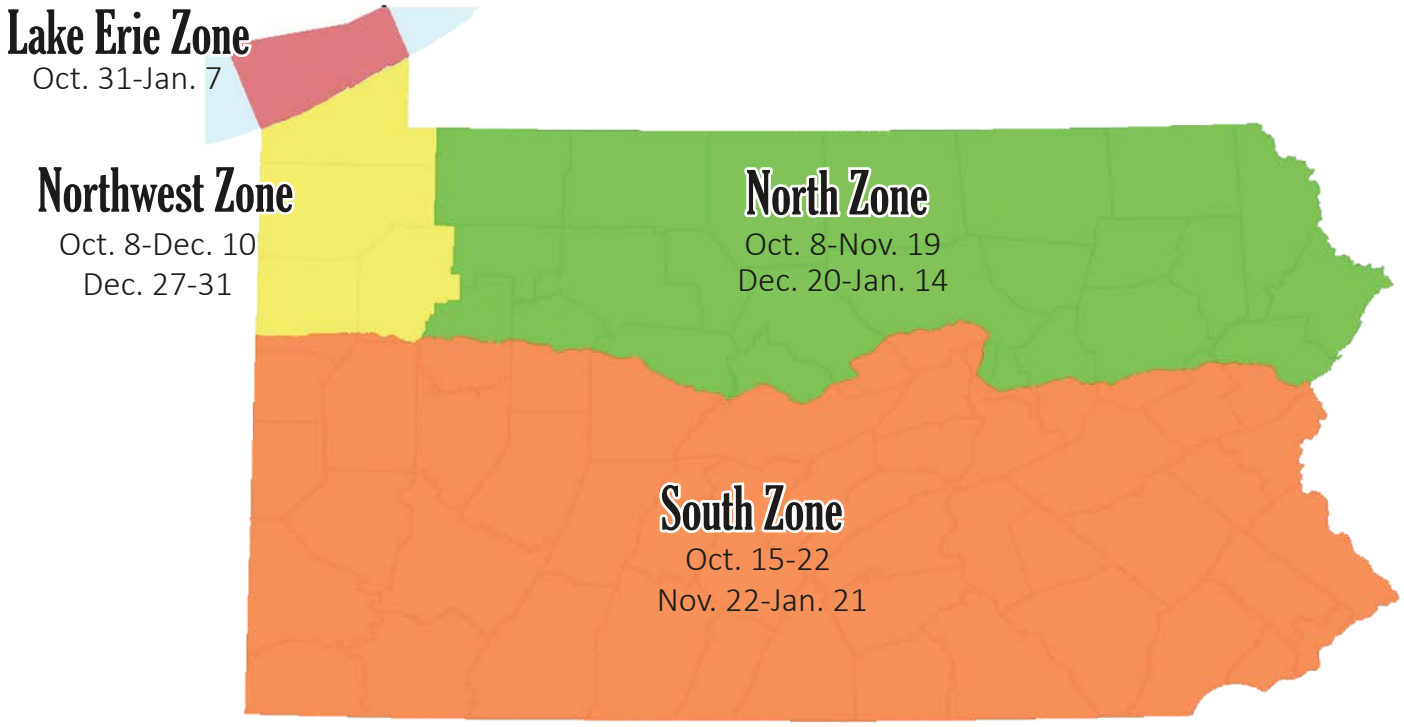
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Table

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
Aug. 28 - Sept. 3	6:01	7:28	Dec. 25 - 31	6:52	4:41
Sept. 4 - 10	6:07	7:17	Jan. 1 - 7	6:52	4:47
Sept. 11 - 17	6:14	7:05	Jan. 8 - 14	6:52	4:53
Sept. 18 - 24	6:21	6:54	Jan. 15 - 21	6:50	5:00
Sept. 25- Oct. 1	6:27	6:42	Jan. 22 - 28	6:47	5:08
Oct. 2 - 8	6:34	6:30	Jan. 29 - Feb. 4	6:41	5:17
Oct. 9 - 15	6:42	6:20	Feb. 5 - 11	6:35	5:25
Oct. 16 - 22	6:49	6:10	Feb. 12 - 18	6:27	5:33
Oct. 23 - 29	6:57	6:01	Feb. 19 - 25	6:18	5:42
Oct. 30 - Nov. 5	7:05	5:53	Feb. 26 - Mar. 4	6:08	5:49
Nov. 6 - 12 **	6:13	4:46	Mar. 5 - 11	5:57	5:57
Nov. 13 - 19	6:21	4:41	Mar. 12 - 18 *	6:46	7:05
Nov. 20 - 26	6:28	4:37	Mar. 19 - 25	6:35	7:12
Nov. 27 - Dec. 3	6:36	4:36	Mar. 26 - Apr. 1	6:24	7:19
Dec. 4 - 10	6:42	4:35	Apr. 2 - 8	6:13	7:26
Dec. 11 - 17	6:47	4:38	Apr. 9 - 15	6:02	7:33
Dec. 18 - 24	6:50	4:38	Daylight Saving Time Begins*		Ends**

Add the minutes from the Meridian Map to the begin/end times on this table.

Ducks, Mergansers & Coots

Seasons for **Ducks, Sea Ducks, Coots and Mergansers** run concurrently, but each of the state's four zones has its own **opening and closing dates**.



Ducks & Sea Ducks

6 daily, 18 in possession

The daily bag limit of six ducks or sea ducks is **combined** for any species with an open season, except for the following restrictions:
Daily limit may not include more than:

- 4 mallards
  including 2 hen mallards
- 2 scaup
- 1 black duck
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 redheads
- 4 eiders
- 2 canvasbacks,
- 2 pintails
- 1 mottled duck
- 1 fulvous whistling duck
- 4 scoters
- 4 long-tailed ducks

Possession limits are triple the daily limits.
There is no open season for Harlequin Ducks

Mergansers

5 daily, 15 in possession

Not more than 2 hooded mergansers daily, 6 hooded in possession.

Coots

15 daily, 45 in possession

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARIES

Lake Erie Zone

Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie shoreline.

Northwest Zone

The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford counties and all of Mercer and Venango counties north of I-80.

North Zone

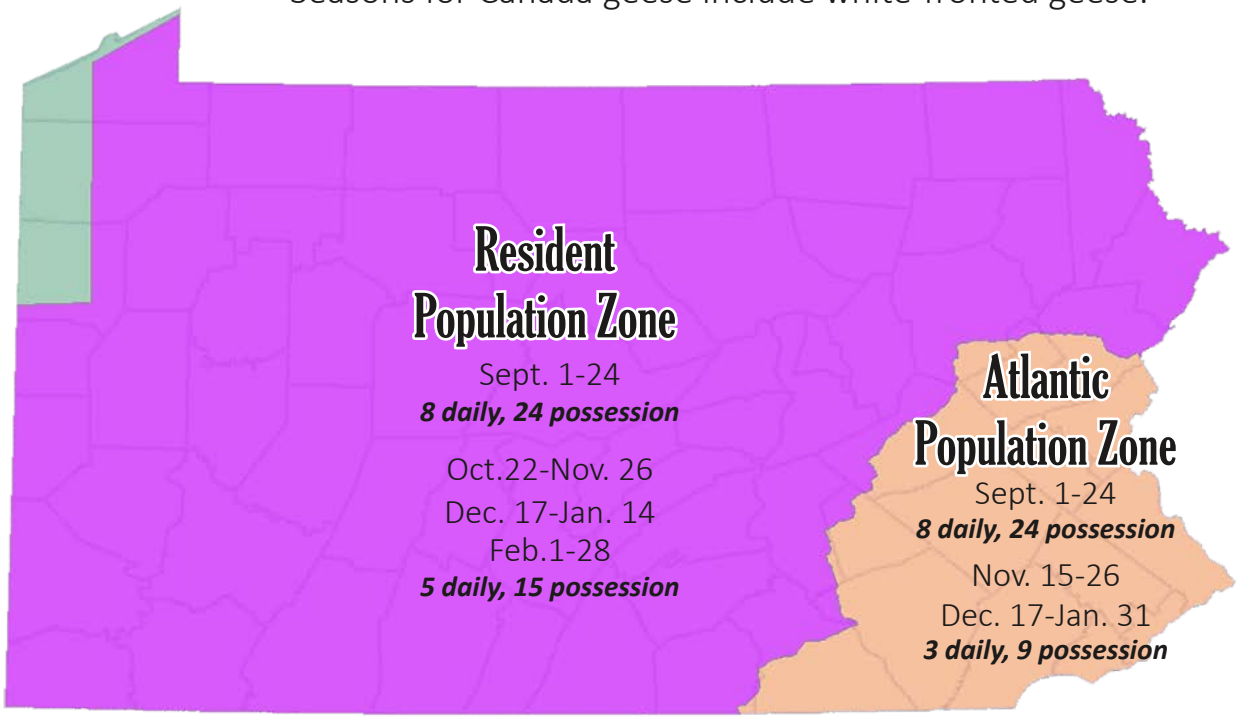
The area east of the Northwest Zone and north of I-80 to Route 220, north from I-80 to I-180, north and east of I-180 from Route 220 to I-80, north of I-80 from I-180 to the Delaware River.

South Zone

All of state not in the Lake Erie, Northwest and North Zones.

Canada Geese

Canada Goose hunting is open statewide, but **season lengths and bag limits vary** by zone. Seasons for Canada geese include white-fronted geese.



EXCEPTIONS

September Season

Detailed maps of described areas available at www.pgc.pa.gov

1.) In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of SR 18, SR 18 south to SR 618, SR 618 south to US Route 6, US Route 6 east to US Route 322/SR 18, US Route 322/SR 18 west to intersection of SR 3013, SR 3013 south to the Crawford/Mercer County line. The daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 214 where the season is closed to September goose hunting.

2.) Canada geese may be taken on Pymatuning State Park Reservoir and an area to extend 100 yards inland from the shoreline of the reservoir, excluding the area east of SR 3011 (Hartstown Road). The daily bag limit is 3, possession limit of 9.

3.) In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, the daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

Note: *Exceptions 1 and 3 do not apply to youth participation on youth waterfowl days, when regular season regulations apply. Hunting hours for all migratory birds, including Canada geese, close at sunset on youth waterfowl days.*

Regular Season

Areas outside of the controlled goose hunting areas at the Middle Creek WMA and SGL 46 in Lebanon- Lancaster counties have a daily limit of one, and a possession limit of three during the regular Canada goose season. Areas inside the goose hunting areas at the Middle Creek WMA and SGL 46 have a season limit of one.

GOOSE ZONE BOUNDARIES

Southern James Bay Population Zone

The area north of I-80 and west of I-79 including in the city of Erie west of Bay Front Parkway to and including the Lake Erie Duck zone (Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of Lake Erie Shoreline).

Atlantic Population Zone

The area east of SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of US Route 30, south of US Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of I-81 to intersection of I-80, south of I-80 to New Jersey state line.

Resident Population Zone

All of Pennsylvania except for the Southern James Bay Population and the Atlantic Population zones.

Light Geese, Brant & Webless Birds

Light Geese (Snow Geese & Ross' Geese)

25 daily, no possession limit

Southern James Bay Population Zone

Regular season
Oct. 1-Jan. 20

Conservation season
Jan. 21-April 21

Resident Population Zone

Regular season
Oct. 27-Feb. 28

Conservation season
March 1-April 21

Atlantic Population Zone

Regular season
Oct. 1-Jan. 31

Conservation season
Feb. 1-April 21

Conservation Season

During the conservation season, recorded or amplified calls or sounds, and decoys powered or operated by batteries or electricity are permitted.

Webless Birds & Brant

Brant

2 daily, 6 possession
Federal duck stamp needed

All goose zones
Oct. 8-Dec. 16

Woodcock

3 daily, 9 possession

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26

Gallinules

3 daily, 9 possession

Statewide
Sept. 1-Nov. 9

Common Snipe

8 daily, 24 possession

Statewide
Oct. 15-Nov. 26

Doves

15 daily, 45 possession

Statewide
Sept. 1-Oct. 8
Oct. 15-Nov. 26
Dec. 26-Jan. 3

Shooting hours begin at noon Sept. 1-24

Virginia & Sora Rails

3 daily, 9 possession
Bag limit singly or combined

Statewide
Sept. 1-Nov. 9

Clapper and King Rail hunting is closed statewide.

Life Jackets Required By Law Nov. 1 To April 30

All boaters, including waterfowl hunters, must wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length, or on any canoe or kayak during the cold-weather period from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Recreational boating fatalities that occur in Pennsylvania from November through April are primarily caused by the effects of cold-water immersion.

When water temperatures are less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit, cold-water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities.

Victims who wear a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages, such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy for victims who are unable to tread water and reduced risk of aspiration of water.

In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities related to cold-water immersion, the Fish & Boat Commission has amended regulations to require life jackets to be worn on small and unstable boats during the period most noted for cold-water temperatures.

For other times of the year and on other types and sizes of boats, all boaters are required to have properly fitted personal flotation devices readily accessible. For more information on boating laws and safety, visit www.fishandboat.com.

Youth Waterfowl Days

Licensed junior hunters ages 12-15 can hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, coots and gallinules during a series of Youth Waterfowl Days. Regular season bag limits and other restrictions apply. Check the PGC website for more details. This season, Youth Waterfowl Days will be held:

Statewide
Sept. 17

North Zone & Northwest Zone
Sept. 24

Lake Erie Zone
Oct. 22

South Zone
Nov. 5

Goose Blind Application

Goose Blind Application

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
or Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area

Permittees to hunt these areas during goose season are selected only by public drawings held prior to the hunting season. Only the application form on this page will be accepted.

An individual may apply to only one area per year and may submit only one application from the current Hunting & Trapping Digest. Mailed applications for Middle Creek will be accepted through Sept. 13, and selected through a public drawing on Sept. 14. Mailed applications for Pymatuning will be accepted through Sept. 10, and selected through a public drawing on Sept. 17.

The application must contain the applicant's 2016-17 hunting license Customer Identification Number (CID).

The number of applications to be drawn will be established at least 20 days prior to the drawing.

One shooting day each at Middle Creek and Pymatuning will be designated as a youth-only day. Adults who accompany a junior license hunter on this day may participate in the hunt by calling only. Applications received from junior hunters will be separated and drawn prior to the other applications on the established drawing date for the management area. Unsuccessful applicants for the youth shooting day will then be placed with all other applications and the drawing will proceed until all shooting days are filled.

A drawing for a special hunt for qualifying veterans with disabilities will be conducted this year at Pymatuning. Applicants must hold a Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting License or Resident Reduced Fee Disabled Veteran License to qualify, and up to three guests can accompany the disabled hunter. See the License Information section of this digest for qualifications.

A separate drawing is held for blinds that accommodate hunters with disabilities. Applicants must submit a copy of their current Disabled Person Permit (permit to hunt from a vehicle) issued by the Game Commission.

Blinds at Middle Creek and Pymatuning will not be operational during the September season. Shooting days at Middle Creek are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Shooting days at Pymatuning are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. See www.pgc.pa.gov for specific dates.

Persons may hunt only once per year on a goose blind reservation, either as a blind holder or a guest. Persons may hunt more than once per year in the controlled goose hunting program, but only if unclaimed permits exist after the first no-show drawing.

Successful applicants will be mailed a hunting reservation entitling them to be accompanied by a maximum of three guests.

Controlled Goose Hunting Area Application
(Please Print)

Check One: ☐ Middle Creek ☐ Pymatuning

☐ Youth Only Day (Check if you are a Junior License Holder and are interested in being included in this special drawing.)

☐ Pymatuning Veterans With Disabilities Hunt (Resident Disabled Veteran and Resident Reduced Fee Disabled Veterans license holders.)

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

License CID # ___ ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___

Phone Number (_____) _____
Area Code

Signature _____ Date _____

List Two Preferred Dates

1. _____ 2. _____

☐ Check here if you will accept any other date if your selected dates are full.

Do Not Write Below This Line

Assignment Date _____ Blind _____

Apply to:

PGC Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
Post Office Box 110
Kleinfeltersville, PA 17039-0110

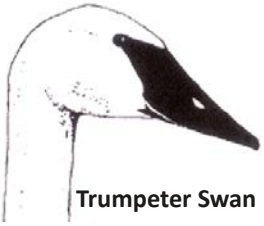
or

PGC Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area
9552 Hartstown Rd.
Hartstown, PA 16131

Mute Swans

Mute swans are non-native and not protected under state or federal law. Hunters may harvest mute swans and they do not count as part of the daily bag. Taking mute swans on private property requires landowner permission. Mute swans have an orange bill with a black fleshy knob on top at the feather line. Mute swans do not feed in fields and are encountered only in wetlands. Native tundra and trumpeter swans are protected. They have a black bill and commonly are found in fields and wetlands. Sandhill cranes are likely to be present in certain areas and are protected.

Mute Swan



Trumpeter Swan

Tundra Swan

Report Banded Birds

Hunters can report bird bands online at www.reportband.gov or on a toll-free number: 1-800-327-BAND. Operators are on duty 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.- Fri. At other times, a voicemail system will ask hunters to leave a telephone number. Online reporting is preferred because it provides better data quality and lowers costs. In addition to band numbers, information requested will include when, where and what species of waterfowl were killed. The age and sex of the bird and where it was banded will be provided to the hunter by mail.

Furtaking

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes
No Limit
Oct. 22-Feb. 18

Coyotes, Opossums, Striped Skunks & Weasels
No Limit
No closed season, with certain exceptions during big-game seasons

Bobcats
1 per license year, permit required
Jan. 14-Feb. 8
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes
No Limit
General
Oct. 23-Feb. 19

Cable Restraints
Dec. 26-Feb. 19

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels
No Limit
Oct. 23-Feb. 19

Minks & Muskrats
No Limit
Nov. 19-Jan. 8

Bobcats
1 per license year with permit
Dec. 17-Jan. 8
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Fishers
1 per license year with permit
Dec. 17-28
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4D & 4E

River Otters
1 per license year with permit
Feb. 18-25
WMUs 3C & 3D

Beavers
Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 26-March 31

- A FURTAKER LICENSE IS **NOT REQUIRED** TO HUNT COYOTES, BUT IS **REQUIRED** TO TRAP THEM.
- A **FURTAKER LICENSE IS REQUIRED** TO TAKE ANY OTHER FURBEARER BY HUNTING OR TRAPPING.
- IN ADDITION TO A FURTAKER LICENSE, **PERMITS ARE REQUIRED** FOR BOBCAT, FISHER AND OTTER.

Firearms While Trapping
- To dispatch trapped animals during deer season, trappers are limited to a manually operated 22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or handgun. Persons under 12 may use only a manually operated 22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle and only when accompanied by an adult.

Firearms for Hunting Furbearers
- It is unlawful to take furbearers, including bobcats, with shotguns using shot larger than size number 4 buckshot, or implements that are not lawful firearms, bows or crossbows. Manually operated rifles or handguns of any caliber, manual or semi-automatic shotguns and, bows and crossbows can be used. Persons hunting furbearers, including coyotes, foxes, bobcats, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums and weasels, may use gun-mounted lights that do not project a laser-light beam.

Foxes & Raccoons
Foxes can but raccoons cannot be hunted on Sundays. Foxes and raccoons may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during the regular antlered or antlered/antlerless deer seasons, and during that time they may be hunted **only after the legal hours for deer**.

Dogs
Dogs are permitted to hunt furbearers.

Unlawful Devices
It is unlawful to take furbearers through the use of fish hooks, snagging hooks or any other hooks of similar design, or implements that are not lawful traps. A furtaker's license is needed to trap all furbearers, including coyotes.

Coyotes
While there is no closed season for the hunting of coyotes, and coyotes may be hunted on Sundays, there are additional requirements for hunting coyotes during big-game seasons.

Outside of Any Big Game Season
- Coyotes may be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker license and without wearing orange.

During Any Big Game Season
- Coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (big-game orange requirements must be followed) or with a furtaker license.

Bait and Devices
- Natural or manmade nonliving bait and any electronic or mechanical device can be used to attract coyotes for hunting or trapping.

Bait Visible From the Air
- The law allowing trappers to use any natural or manmade nonliving bait to attract coyotes does not permit the bait to be visible from the air. It is unlawful to bait a trap with meat, animal products or their facsimiles if the bait is visible from the air. Those hunting coyotes, however, may hunt over bait visible from the air.

Sunday Hunting
Coyotes and foxes may be hunted on Sundays during open seasons, but other furbearers may not.

Traps & Trapping

Setting Traps

It is unlawful to 1) stake or set traps prior to 7 a.m. on the first day; 2) set traps within 5 feet of a hole or den, except for underwater sets; 3) use pole traps, jaw-toothed traps, deadfalls, poison, explosives, chemicals, or traps with a jaw-spread exceeding 6½ inches; 4) set body-gripping traps outside a watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam; 5) set a trap not marked with a durable identification tag attached to either the trap or chain showing the first and last name and address of the trapper, or a number issued by the Game Commission; 6) set a trap with bait visible from the air; 7) smoke or dig out a den or house or cut den trees; 8) disturb traps or remove any wildlife from the traps of another without specific permission; and 9) on the closing day, fail to remove traps by sunset.

Possession

It is unlawful to 1) possess green pelts (not dried, cured or tanned), except during open season and for 10 days thereafter; 2) possess live, wild furbearers, except foxes, for which a permit must be issued by the Game Commission; and 3) buy, sell or possess furbearers or parts unlawfully taken, transported, imported, exported or improperly tagged.

Tending Traps

Traps must be visited by the owner once every 36 hours, and each animal removed or released.

Exporting Furs

It is unlawful to ship furs or harvested furbearers outside the state unless an official "Shipping Tag" is properly attached. Tags are available from Game Commission offices and licensed fur dealers.

Importing Furs

Furs and furbearers taken outside of Pennsylvania must be tagged according to laws of the state or country where harvested.

Cable Restraint Captures

Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has license or permit for that furbearer.

Traps

Foot-Encapsulating Trap

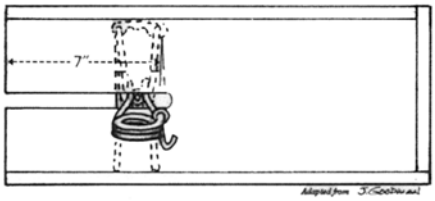
A device that has all triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing that, once set, allows access to the triggering and restraining mechanisms through a single opening not to exceed 2 inches in diameter or diagonally and is anchored by a swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism. Encapsulating traps may be used to harvest furbearers during legal seasons.

Cage and Box Traps

It is unlawful to 1) use a cage or box trap in water; and 2) use a cage or box trap capable of capturing more than one animal at a time.

Artificial Cubby

A baited enclosure constructed of natural or artificial material that is designed to house and corral a furbearer into a body-gripping trap. Furtakers are permitted to trap furbearers using body-gripping traps set in artificial cubbies when all of the following conditions are met: 1) The artificial cubby is placed within an established watercourse, waterway, marsh, pond or dam. 2) The entrance to the artificial cubby does not exceed 50 square inches. 3) Traps no larger than 6½ x 6½ inches can be used. 4) The triggering mechanism of the trap is recessed within the artificial cubby at least 7 inches from the entrance. 5) The artificial cubby is anchored in a manner that it cannot be moved or rolled. Note: Requirements 2 through 5 shall not apply to body-gripping traps that are 5½ inches or less and set in artificial cubbies to target mink or muskrat.



Cable Restraints

A cable restraint is a highly specialized trapping device designed to restrain foxes and coyotes without injury.

Cable restraints employ modern modifications, such as flexible multi-strand cable, relaxing locks, and breakaway stops and hooks to restrain animals in winter conditions where traditional trapping methods are less effective.

Trappers use cable restraints to capture foxes and coyotes by suspending the loop within a pathway used by the species of interest. The loop is usually held in place by a piece of light wire.

As the animal enters the device, its own forward progress draws the loop tight around the body. The animal is then held alive until the trapper arrives to check the set.

The legalization of cable restraints in Pennsylvania was based on data collected during one of the most ambitious trap research projects in the history of wildlife management—the development of Best Management Practices for Trapping (BMPs) in the United States.

Trapping BMPs identify techniques, traps and cable restraints that maximize the welfare of trapped animals and allow for the efficient, selective, safe and practical capture of furbearers.

Cable restraints have been field tested by experienced trappers during legal land trapping seasons throughout North America. Animals harvested during these studies were sent to wildlife veterinarians who used international guidelines to examine and evaluate them for capture-related injuries. The animal welfare performance of cable restraints was outstanding.

Trappers must become certified to use cable restraints

Cable Restraints

Cable Restraint Regulations

The use of cable restraints by certified trappers in Pennsylvania is highly regulated.

Cable restraints are permitted only for foxes and coyotes during late winter periods (Dec. 26-Feb. 19), when freezing conditions render traditional methods ineffective.

Everyone who traps in Pennsylvania must follow strict guidelines established and enforced by the Game Commission.

Regulations dictating the species that may be harvested, seasons, trap types and where traps can be placed are reviewed annually by Game Commission biologists and law-enforcement personnel. In addition to general trapping regulations, these specific regulations have been instituted for using cable restraints in Pennsylvania.

Cable restraints must be made of a galvanized stranded steel cable with a diameter of not less than 3/32 of an inch. The cable must be constructed of 7 bundles of 7 wires per bundle (7x7), 7 bundles of 19 wires per bundle (7x19), or 1 bundle comprised of 19 wires (1X19). The cable may not exceed 7 feet in length from the anchor point to the lock contacting the fully closed loop stop, must be equipped with at least one swivel device (which allows for 360-degree rotation) between the loop and the anchor, and must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the circumference of the cable that makes up the loop may not be greater than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed. Cable restraint loops must be set so that the bottom of the loop is no less than 6 and no greater than 12 inches above the first surface beneath the cable restraint. Cable restraints must be equipped with an approved lock, and the lock may not be constructed with moving parts.

A cable restraint must include a breakaway device affixed between the lock and cable or at the end of the cable that is rated at 375 pounds or less. The cable must be maintained in good condition so that all components operate properly.

Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has a license or permit for that furbearer.

Bobcats may not be taken in cable restraints during the bobcat hunting season. Other wildlife mistakenly killed with cable restraints must be reported to any Game Commission officer in the county where the kill occurred. Call the appropriate region office to have an officer respond.

Cable restraint certification

To use cable restraints, trappers must first complete a certified cable restraint training course

To view course schedules, check the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.pa.gov, or contact the agency's Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.

Trappers shall keep the certificate from the training course in possession while setting or checking sets using cable restraints, and present the certificate upon the request of an officer.

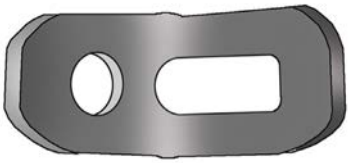
In addition to the certificate, those using cable restraints must possess a valid furtaker license, qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act relating to resident license and fee exemptions, or qualify for trapping exceptions under section 2363 of the act relating to trapping exceptions for certain persons.

Approved Cable Restraint Locks Include:

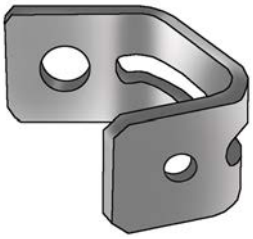
Reichart 180-Degree Reverse Bend Washer

Kaatz "Relax-a-Lock"

Berkshire 90-Degree Bend Washer



Micro Lock



BMI Slide Free Lock

Penny Lock

Bobcats, Fishers, Beavers & Otters

Season length is used to regulate bobcat taking in specified WMUs in the state. Because fisher populations have increased dramatically in many areas of the state, the Game Commission has adopted a fisher trapping season in select WMUs. To assess interest, effort, and harvest success rates during these seasons, the Game Commission requires that hunters and trappers possess bobcat and/or fisher permits to pursue these species. All furtakers may purchase one permit for each species during the 2016-17 season, and successful permit holders must report their harvest.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Bobcat?

Licensed furtakers (hunters and trappers) who possess a valid bobcat permit can harvest one bobcat per license year in WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from **Jan. 14-Feb. 8, 2017, by hunting only**, or **Dec. 17-Jan. 8, 2017, by trapping only**, using lawful devices and methods.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Fisher?

Licensed furtakers who possess a valid fisher permit can **harvest, by trapping,** one fisher per license year in WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4D or 4E (combined) from **Dec. 17-28** using lawful devices and methods during the trapping season.

If You Harvest a Bobcat or Fisher

A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall, immediately before removing the animal from the location of the taking, fully complete and attach to the animal the carcass tag furnished with the permit. The tag shall remain attached to the animal until it is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. A CITES tag automatically will be issued for bobcats that may be exported or sold. A CITES tag ***is not*** required for a fisher pelt. A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall report the harvest to the Game Commission within 48 hours of the taking by using the agency website (www.pgc.pa.gov), by using the Interactive Voice Response system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681), or calling the nearest region office (phone numbers for region offices are listed in the front of this digest).

Purchasing Bobcat, Fisher or Otter Permits

Bobcats, fishers and river otters can only be taken by furtakers holding valid permits.

Bobcat permits, fisher permits and otter permits are available through any license issuing agent and through the "Outdoor Shop" on the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

Furtakers may purchase one bobcat permit, one fisher permit and one otter permit per license year, and they may take no more than one animal with each permit.

Each permit costs $6.90.

Bobcat, fisher and otter permits must be purchased before the start of each respective season.

Bobcat and fisher permits must be purchased before Dec. 17. Otter permits must be purchased before Feb. 18.

Beavers & Otters

Beavers

Dec. 26-March 31

WMUs 1A, 1B & 3C
(Combined) 20 daily, 40 per season

WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C & 5D
(Combined) 20 daily, 20 per season

WMUs 2G, 2H, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A & 5B
(Combined), 5 daily, 5 per season

River Otters

Feb. 18-25

WMUs 3C & 3D
1 per year with permit

In addition to general trapping regulations, it is unlawful to: 1) destroy, disturb or interfere with a beaver dam or house; 2) use other than raw, native wood and stone materials to direct the travel of beavers or otters (manmade materials may be used only to support traps or snares); 3) place, check, reset or tend a trap or snare on an established beaver dam or beaver house, or within 15 feet of either a dam or a house. Measurement shall be from directly above the trap or snare, across the water, ice or land to the nearest point of the structure; 4) check or maintain a beaver or otter trap, or remove a beaver or otter unless the person who owns the trap is present; 5) set body-gripping traps larger than 10 inches tall by 12 inches wide.

Special Otter Regulations

Licensed furtakers must purchase a river otter permit to participate in the season. Before removing an otter from the location where it was caught, successful permit holders must immediately complete and attach to the otter the carcass tag furnished with the permit, and report their harvest within 24 hours to the Game Commission's Northeast Region Office by calling 570-675-1143. The harvest tag must remain attached to the otter until a plastic Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag is attached, if applicable, or the animal is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. For research purposes, the Game Commission may ask some successful otter trappers to surrender the carcass of their otter within 30 days.

Beavers & Otters

Trapping Device Limitations

The number of trapping devices allowed for beaver and otter trapping differs depending on furbearer species, WMU trapped, and beaver/otter season overlap.

Otter Trapping

- It is unlawful for otter trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

Beaver Trapping During Otter Season - WMUs 3C & 3D

- Where beaver season overlaps with otter season by calendar date within WMUs 3C & 3D, it is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined total of five traps or snares, no more than two of which may be body-gripping traps.

Beaver Trapping

- Where no overlap of otter and beaver seasons occurs by both calendar date and WMU, beaver trapping device regulations remain as they have in the past. It is unlawful for beaver trappers to set, tend or operate more than a combined statewide total of 20 traps or snares, no more than 10 of which may be traps. No more than two of the traps may be body-gripping traps, except in WMUs 1A, 1B & 3C where the two body-gripping trap limit does not apply.

A legal snare for beaver and otter trapping must be looped galvanized stranded steel cable 3/32 inches in diameter, equipped with a mechanical sliding metal release lock. A metal ferrule shall be crimped on the cable to prevent the snare loop from closing to a circumference less than 7 inches. It is unlawful to equip snares with a spring-activating mechanism or any device designed to aid in closing the snare loop. Snares used for taking beavers must be set completely or partially submerged in water within a waterway, watercourse, marsh, pond or dam. There must be one durable identification tag attached to each trap or snare by means of an extension wire of sufficient length so that the name tag or identification number is completely above the water or ice level and totally visible. The tag must list the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or a number issued by the Game Commission.

Avoiding Accidental Otter Captures

Trappers are urged to learn to identify otter sign and, where otters exist, to adopt the following recommendations to avoid the accidental capture of otters while trapping beavers:

- When using snares, set snare loops at 10 to 12 inches in diameter.
- Use baited sets for beavers where feasible.
- Avoid main channels in ponds and primary crossings where otter sign is present.

If an otter is captured accidentally, report it to your local wildlife conservation officer by contacting your Game Commission region office.

Beaver Season Limit

Trappers may legally take up to 65 beavers with the combined harvest in multiple Wildlife Management Units in a season. When trapping in multiple WMUs, a trapper may set or tend up to 10 traps, up to 20 snares, and not more than a total of 20 devices statewide. Beavers or pelts do not need to be tagged.

Ask Permission Before Entering Private Property.

Dear Landowner: Thank you for allowing me on your property. Because of your generosity, I've been able to enjoy Pennsylvania's rich hunting and trapping heritage.

Permission to Hunt/Trap

I hereby grant permission to the person named below to hunt and/or trap on my property located at: _____ _____ on the following dates: _____
Signed: _____

In return for the privilege of hunting/trapping on this property, I agree to obey the laws, to observe all safety precautions, and to assume all responsibility and liability for my person and my property while on the landowner's property.
Signed: _____
Address: _____
License CID # _____
Date: _____

The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act provides liability protection to landowners who allow recreational use (hunting, fishing, swimming and hiking) on their unimproved property to the public without a fee.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Woodchuck Hunting

A hat made of solid fluorescent orange,
visible 360 degrees.

Worn at All Times

All Small Game Seasons

A minimum 250 square inches,
on head, chest and back combined,
visible 360 degrees.

Worn at All Times

Deer, Bear or Elk Firearms Seasons

A minimum 250 square inches,
on head, chest and back combined,
visible 360 degrees.

Worn at All Times

October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Seasons

A minimum 250 square inches,
on head, chest and back combined,
visible 360 degrees.

Worn at All Times

Fall Turkey Seasons

Where open, except WMU 2B

A minimum 250 square inches,
on head, chest and back combined,
visible 360 degrees at all times when moving.
May be removed at a stationary calling location,
providing a minimum 100 square inches of
daylight fluorescent orange material
is posted within 15 feet of the location, and is
visible from 360 degrees.

Moving

Stationary

Fall Turkey Seasons

WMU 2B

Hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches
of solid fluorescent orange material,
visible from 360 degrees at all times when moving.
May be removed at stationary calling location.

Moving

Stationary

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Archery Deer & Bear Seasons — During Fall Turkey Overlap

When hunting in an area with a concurrent fall turkey season, a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange must be worn when moving. The hat may be removed when archer is stationary or on stand.

Moving

Stationary

Archery Deer Season — During October Deer Seasons Overlap

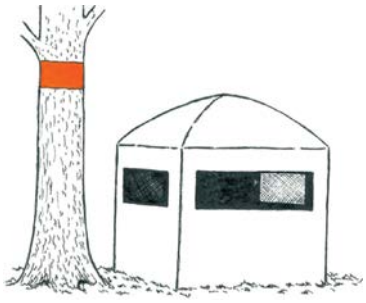
During the overlap with the October Muzzleloader
and Special Antlerless Firearms Season
a minimum of 250 square inches
on head, chest and back combined,
visible 360 degrees at all times when moving.
May be removed when archer is stationary in a tree or ground stand
providing 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material
is posted within 15 feet of the location and is visible 360 degrees.

Moving

Stationary

Blinds

A minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of a blind and visible in a 360-degree arc during the firearms deer, bear and elk seasons. This is in addition to wearing orange while in the blind. **See turkey section for specifics on blind use while turkey hunting.**



No Orange Required

No fluorescent orange is required when hunting
waterfowl, doves, spring gobblers, crows and furbearers*

None is required during the regular archery deer season, except during overlaps with turkey seasons and the October muzzleloader and special firearms antlerless deer seasons.

Hunters participating in the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader or archery deer seasons are not required to wear fluorescent orange (See Special Regulations Areas section for additional information.

None is required during the archery bear season, except during the overlap with turkey seasons.

Hunters participating in the spring gobbler season no longer are required to wear a fluorescent orange hat while moving.

** Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big game* season, if orange is required during that season.

Camouflage Fluorescent Orange

Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy orange regulations when 250 square inches of safety material is required if the orange content is at least 250 square inches. When a hat containing 100 square inches of orange is specified, the cap must be solid fluorescent orange.

Elk

Regular Season	Extended Season
Oct. 31 - Nov. 5	**Nov. 7-12**
In designated Elk Hunt Zones within the Elk Management Area	**Antlered or Antlerless** Outside of the Elk Management Area

Arms & Ammunition

Manually operated centerfire rifles and handguns at least 27 caliber that propel single-projectile ammunition 130 grains or larger. Manually operated shotguns at least 12-gauge firing a single projectile. Muzzleloading firearms at least 50 caliber propelling a single projectile weighing at least 210 grains. A bow with a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds. Any arrow, or crossbow bolt, with a broadhead that has a fixed or mechanical tip having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 1 inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches in length. Crossbows must have a minimum peak draw weight of 125 pounds.

Driving Elk

It is unlawful to drive or herd elk.

Feeding Elk

It is unlawful to feed elk at any time of year.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

All elk hunters and those accompanying them must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange, visible 360 degrees, on the head, chest and back combined. Camouflage-fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches.

Tagging, Reporting Requirements

A successful hunter must attach the tag to the ear of an elk immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests an elk must take it, along with his or her hunting license and elk license, to a Game Commission check station for examination.

Elk Guides

Elk guides are an optional service available to licensed elk hunters. Elk guides are regulated by the Game Commission and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and offer various services to the hunter.

2016 Elk License Allocation

EHZ 1	Open to all hunters	EHZ 8	2 Antlered; 8 Antlerless
EHZ 2	3 Antlered; 22 Antlerless	EHZ 9	2 Antlered; 7 Antlerless
EHZ 3	2 Antlered; 4 Antlerless	EHZ 10	3 Antlered; 7 Antlerless
EHZ 4	2 Antlered; 4 Antlerless	EHZ 11	1 Antlered; 3 Antlerless
EHZ 5	4 Antlered; 20 Antlerless	EHZ 12	2 Antlered; 14 Antlerless
EHZ 6	2 Antlered; 6 Antlerless	EHZ 13	2 Antlered; 4 Antlerless
EHZ 7	0 Antlered; 0 Antlerless	Total	**25 Antlered; 99 Antlerless**

Apply for an Elk License

An elk license is required to hunt elk.

There are 13 established Elk Hunt Zones for which antlered and antlerless elk licenses may be allocated each year. Licenses are awarded by lottery.

Those who obtain an antlered or antlerless elk license are permitted to participate in the regular season, within a designated Elk Hunt Zone. Hunters are limited to harvesting one antlered or one antlerless elk, depending on the license they obtain, during the hunting license year.

Hunters who do not harvest an elk during the regular season may participate in the extended season, in which they are permitted to take either an antlered or antlerless elk outside the state's Elk Management Area.

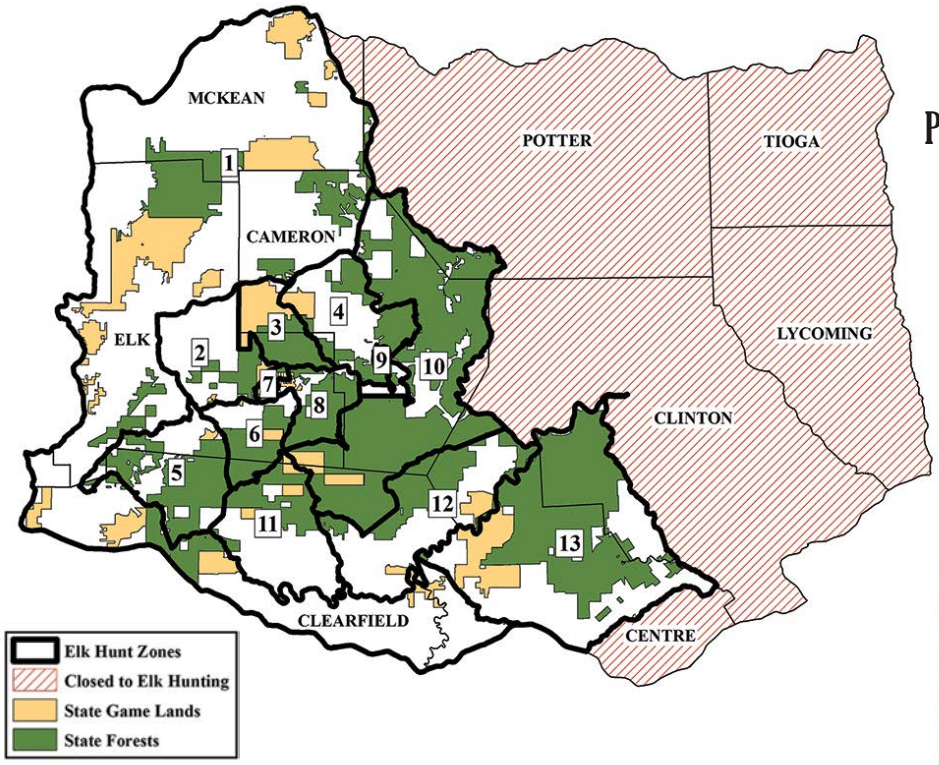
How to apply:

1) To apply for an elk license online, go to www.pgc.pa.gov, click on "Buy a License" icon. Applications on the e-commerce site will be accepted through midnight July 31, 2016. It costs $10.90 to apply, and application fees are nonrefundable. Hunters also can use the website to check on the status of an elk application and review their preference points.

2) Application also may be made at Point of Sale (POS) locations through the PALS system.

Nonresidents have an equal opportunity in the drawing. If drawn, a Pennsylvania resident may purchase an elk license for $25; nonresidents $250. Individuals drawn for an antlered license are not eligible to apply again for five license years; individuals drawn for an antlerless license can continue to apply. Successful applicants must obtain a Pennsylvania general hunting license for the appropriate license year. Unsuccessful applicants earn preference points for future drawings. Licenses are assigned according to the drawn hunter's selected antlered/antlerless preferences. If a hunter selected the "either sex" field and is drawn after all antlered licenses have been assigned, he or she will be assigned an antlerless license. Maps of the elk hunt zones can be found on the website. If a hunter is drawn and his or her preferred elk hunt zone already is filled, he or she will be assigned to another elk hunt zone. If a person submits more than one application, all of his or her applications will become ineligible, and he or she will be subject to prosecution. This year's elk license drawing is on Aug. 20 at the Elk Country Visitor Center near Winslow Hill in Benezette Township.

Elk Management Area



Pennsylvania's Elk Management Area

comprises parts of nine counties in northcentral Pennsylvania. Elk-hunting opportunities exist within the management area, and hunting licenses may be allocated within the 13 Elk Hunt Zones that have been established there. Hunters who receive a license, but don't harvest an elk within their selected zone can hunt outside the Elk Management Area during the extended season.

Elk Hunt Zone 1

Acreage: 547,508 **Public Land:** 23% **Road Miles:** 1,589

From intersection of U.S. 219 and U.S. 6 near Mt. Jewett, follow U.S. 6 to Rt. 155. Rt. 155 south to Rt. 120. Rt. 120 west to Rt. 255. Rt. 255 south to Cleveland St. near Byrnedale. Cleveland St. west to Byrnedale Rd. Byrnedale Rd. west to Gardner Hill Rd. Gardner Hill Rd. west to Clear Cut Rd. Clear Cut Rd. west to Boone Mountain Rd. Boone Mountain Rd. south across Rt. 153 to Fire Tower Rd. Fire Tower Rd. south to Sierra Heights Rd. Sierra Heights Rd. east to Kiehlmeier Rd. Kiehlmeier Rd. east to Mountain Run Rd. Mountain Run Rd. east to Rt. 255. Rt. 255 south to Bark Camp Rd. Bark Camp Rd. east to Rt. 153. Rt. 153 south to Four Mile Rd. Four Mile Rd. east to McGeorge Rd. McGeorge Rd. south to Goshen Rd. Goshen Rd. east to Rt. 970 at Shawville. Rt. 970 south to West Branch Susquehanna River. West Branch Susquehanna River east to Rt. 879 near Karthaus. Rt. 879 south to Rt. 144 near Moshannon. Rt. 144 east to Interstate 80 interchange near Snow Shoe. Interstate 80 west to U.S. 219 near Dubois. U.S. 219 north to U.S. 6 near Mt. Jewett.

Elk Hunt Zone 2

Acreage: 44,536 **Public Land:** 23% **Road Miles:** 127

From St. Marys, take Rt. 120 east to SGL 14 boundary. SGL 14 boundary south to Dents Run Rd. Dents Run Rd. south to Porcupine Rd. Porcupine Rd. south to Shantytown Ln. Shantytown Ln. west to Moorehead Rd. Moorehead Rd. south to Dewey Rd. Dewey Rd. west to Coal Haul Rd. Coal Haul Rd. southwest to Front St. Front St. south to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 west to Gray Hill Rd. Gray Hill Rd. west to Mt. Zion Rd. Mt. Zion Rd. west to Caledonia Rd. Caledonia Rd. north to Rt. 255 to Rt. 120 in St. Marys.

Elk Hunt Zone 3

Acreage: 25,859 **Public Land:** 95% **Road Miles:** 110

From intersection of Rt. 120 and SGL 14 western boundary, take Rt. 120 east to Moore Hill Rd. Moore Hill Rd. south to Hicks Run Rd. Hicks Run Rd. south to East Hicks Run Rd. East Hicks Run Rd. south to Hicks Run Rd. Hicks Run Rd. south to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 west to Dents Run Rd. Dents Run Rd. north to SGL 14 boundary. SGL 14 boundary north to Rt. 120.

MAPS OF ALL ELK HUNT ZONES

are available on the elk hunting page at www.pgc.pa.gov

Elk Hunt Zone 4

Acreage: 50,246 **Public Land:** 48% **Road Miles:** 164

From intersection Rt. 120 and Moore Hill Rd., Rt. 120 east through Emporium. Rt. 120 south to Stillhouse Run Rd. below Emporium Country Club. Stillhouse Run Rd. east to Ridge Rd. Ridge Rd. south to Grove Hill Rd. Grove Hill Rd. to Rt. 120 near Huntley. Rt. 120 north to the Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary north and then south to Mason Hill Rd. (Castle Garden Rd.). Mason Hill Rd. south about 3.9 miles to Elk State Forest boundary south then west to Rt. 555 just east of Mix Run. Rt. 555 west to Hicks Run Rd. Hicks Run Rd. north to East Hicks Run Rd. East Hicks Run Rd. north to Hicks Run Rd. Hicks Run Rd. north to Moore Hill Rd. Moore Hill Rd. north to Rt. 120.

Elk Hunt Zone 5

Acreage: 56,068 **Public Land:** 59% **Road Miles:** 264

From the intersection of Rt. 255 and Caledonia Rd., then Caledonia Rd. southeast to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 east to Caledonia Pike. Caledonia Pike south to McGeorge Rd. McGeorge Rd. south to Four Mile Rd. Four Mile Rd. west to Rt. 153. Rt. 153 north to Bark Camp Rd. Bark Camp Rd north to Rt. 255. Rt. 255 north to Mountain Run Rd. Mountain Run Rd. west to Kiehlmeier Rd. Kiehlmeier Rd. west to Sierra Heights Rd. Sierra Heights Rd. west to Fire Tower Rd. Fire Tower Rd. north across Rt. 153 to Boone Mountain Rd. Boone Mountain Rd. north to Clearcut Rd. Clearcut Rd. east to Gardner Hill Rd. Gardner Hill Rd. east to Byrnedale Rd. to Cleveland Rd. Cleveland Rd. east to Rt. 255 at Byrnedale. Rt. 255 north to intersection with Caledonia Rd.

Elk Hunt Zone 6

Acreage: 27,141 **Public Land:** 64% **Road Miles:** 99

From the intersection of Caledonia Rd. and Mount Zion Rd., then Mount Zion Rd. east to Gray Hill Rd. Gray Hill Rd. east to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 east to pipeline approximately one mile east of Summerson Rd. Pipeline south to Grant Trail Rd. Grant Trail Rd. south to Quehanna Highway. Quehanna Highway west to Jack Dent Rd. Jack Dent Rd. south to Medix Grade Rd. Medix Grade Rd. south to Shaggers Inn Rd. Shaggers Inn Rd. south to Caledonia Pike. Caledonia Pike north to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 west to Caledonia Rd. Caledonia Rd. north to the intersection with Mount Zion Rd.

Elk Hunt Zone 7

Acreage: 3,651 **Public Land:** 60% **Road Miles:** 20

From the intersection of Winslow Hill Rd. and Summerson Rd. south on Summerson Rd. to SGL 311 boundary. SGL 311 boundary south to Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary east to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 west to Front Street at Benezette. Front Street north to Coal Haul Rd. Coal Haul Rd. northeast (bear right at Y) to parking lot at end of Dewey Rd. Dewey Rd. west to Moorehead Rd. Moorehead Rd. north to Shantytown Ln. Shantytown Ln. east to SGL 311 boundary. SGL 311 boundary south to Winslow Hill Rd. Winslow Hill Rd. east to Summerson Rd.

Elk Hunt Zone 8

Acreage: 23,920 **Public Land:** 77% **Road Miles:** 86

From the intersection of Porcupine Rd. and Dents Run Rd., then Dents Run Rd. east to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 east to Elk State Forest boundary west of Mix Run. Elk State Forest boundary south to Red Run Rd. Red Run Rd. south to Quehanna Highway. Quehanna Highway west to Grant Trail Rd. Grant Trail Rd. north to pipeline. Pipeline north to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 west to Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary north to SGL 311 boundary. SGL 311 boundary north to Summerson Rd. Summerson Rd. north to Winslow Hill Rd. Winslow Hill Rd. west to SGL 311 boundary. SGL 311 boundary north to Shantytown Ln. Shantytown Ln. east to Porcupine Rd. Porcupine Rd. north to Dents Run Rd.

Elk Hunt Zones

Elk Hunt Zone 9

Acreage: 6,636 **Public Land:** 31% **Road Miles:** 33

From the intersection of the Elk State Forest boundary and Rt. 120 near Big Run Trail. Rt. 120 south to pipeline approximately 1.5 miles south of Driftwood. Pipeline west to Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary west to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 east to Elk State Forest boundary just east of Mix Run. Elk State Forest boundary east to Mason Hill Rd. Mason Hill Rd. north about 3.9 miles to the Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary north to Rt. 120.

Elk Hunt Zone 10

Acreage: 160,690 **Public Land:** 84% **Road Miles:** 563

From the intersection of Rt. 155 and Park Rd., then Park Rd. north to Crooked Run Rd. Crooked Run Rd. east to Ridge Rd. Ridge Rd. south to Bailey Run Rd. Bailey Run Rd. south to Rt. 872. Rt. 872 east to Elk Lick Run Rd. Elk Lick Run Rd. east to Trout Run Rd. Trout Run Rd. south to Montour Rd. Montour Rd. south to Rt. 120. Rt. 120 east approximately 3.5 miles to powerline. Powerline south to Dutchman Rd. Dutchman Rd. west to Three Runs Rd. Three Runs Rd. to Quehanna Highway. Quehanna Highway south to powerline. Powerline south to Caledonia Pike. Caledonia Pike west to Merrill Rd. Merrill Rd. north to Ardell Rd. Ardell Rd. north to Quehanna Highway. Quehanna Highway east to Red Run Rd. Red Run Rd. north to Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary east to pipeline. Pipeline north to Rt. 120. Rt. 120 north to Grove Hill Rd. Grove Hill Rd. north to Ridge Rd. Ridge Rd. north to Stillhouse Rd. Stillhouse Rd. west to Rt. 120. Rt. 120 north to Rt. 155. Rt. 155 north to Park Rd.

Elk Hunt Zone 11

Acreage: 60,105 **Public Land:** 39% **Road Miles:** 199

From the intersection of Quehanna Highway and Ardell Rd., then Ardell Rd. south to Merrill Rd. Merrill Rd. south to Caledonia Pike. Cross Caledonia Pike to Billotte Rd. Billotte Rd. south to Buck Run Rd. Buck Run Rd. south to Rt. 879. Rt. 879 south to Deer Creek Rd. at Coudley. Deer Creek Rd. south to West Branch Susquehanna River. West Branch Susquehanna River west to Rt. 970 at Shawville. Rt. 970 north to Rt. 879. Cross Rt. 879 to Goshen Rd. Goshen Rd. west to McGeorge Rd. at Goshen. McGeorge Rd. north to Caledonia Pike. Caledonia Pike east to Shaggers Inn Rd. Shaggers Inn Rd. north to Medix Grade Rd. Medix Grade Rd. west to Jack Dent Rd. Jack Dent Rd. north to Quehanna Highway. Quehanna Highway to Ardell Rd.

Elk Hunt Zone 12

Acreage: 82,315 **Public Land:** 41% **Road Miles:** 278

From the intersection of powerline and Sinnemahoning Creek, take Sinnemahoning Creek east to West Branch Susquehanna River. West Branch Susquehanna River west to Deer Creek Rd. Deer Creek Rd. north to Rt. 879 at Coudley. Rt. 879 north to Buck Run Rd. Buck Run Rd. north to Billotte Rd. Billotte Rd. north to Caledonia Pike. Caledonia Pike east to powerline. Powerline northeast to Quehanna Highway. Quehannia Highway west to Three Runs Rd. Three Runs Rd. north Dutchman Rd. Dutchman Road east to powerline. Powerline north to Sinnemahoning Creek

Elk Hunt Zone 13

Acreage: 178,475 **Public Land:** 60% **Road Miles:** 678

From the intersection of the West Branch Susquehanna River and Rt. 879 near Karthaus, then Rt. 879 southeast to Rt. 144. Follow Rt. 144 south then east to Snowshoe exit off Interstate 80. Interstate 80 east to Yarnell Rd. Yarnell Rd. north, becomes Little Marsh Creek Rd. Little Marsh Creek Rd. north becomes Marsh Creek Rd. Marsh Creek Rd. east to Eagle Valley Rd. Eagle Valley Rd. east to Monument Orviston Rd. Monument Orviston Rd. north to Beech Creek Mountain Rd. Beech Creek Mountain Rd. north to Rt. 144. Rt. 144 north to the West Branch Susquehanna River. West Branch Susquehanna River southwest to Rt. 879 near Karthaus.

CHECK STATION HAS MOVED

The Elk Check Station has been moved to the Old Benezette School House in Elk County located on the north side of Route 555 in Benezette on the west side of Trout Run. The GPS coordinates are 41.3154 N and 78.3874 W.

Boundary changes

Elk-license applicants should note the boundaries of Elk Hunt Zones, 2, 7, and 8 have changed this year. Maps of the zones are available at the Game Commission's website.

Licenses & More

The Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS)

allows hunters and trappers to purchase licenses online, but provides a number of other services, as well.

First ...

If you have already purchased a hunting or fishing license through PALS, you were assigned a Customer Identification Number (CID) that is printed on your license. Use this number to access the following information on our website.

Then ...

Select the option that will provide the information you're looking for. More details at right.

A Click the **Purchase** option and use your CID to make purchase, update your info, or check on applications.

- Purchase a License, Permit, Application or Reprint an Add-on: Purchase your license online and it will be mailed to you within seven to 10 business days. All sales are final. You can print your archery, muzzleloader, and migratory game bird add-on licenses immediately and they can be reprinted at no extra cost (online purchases only; must be used in conjunction with a valid hunting license). Purchase your Federal Duck Stamp online and it will be mailed to you within 45 business days. You can print a temporary electronic duck stamp (eDuck) immediately. The eDuck stamp can be reprinted at no extra cost up to 45 days from purchase (online purchases only).
- Update Address and Personal Information: Update your personal information at any time. Make sure your address is current and correct. You do not need to make a purchase to update your address. (Note: Name, date of birth, and driver's license number cannot be updated online. Call the License Division at 717-787-2084 to change this information.)
- Check on Antlerless Deer or Elk status: You can view successful antlerless applications because PALS updates this page as soon as your application is processed and your license is issued. You also can view your current elk preference points and see if you've been awarded an elk license in the lottery.

B Click the **Harvest Reporting** option, and use your CID to manage your harvest reports:

- Report your Harvest: You can report these tags online: antlered/flintlock, antlerless deer (including DMAP permits), fall turkey, spring turkey, bobcat, and fisher. If you have multiple antlerless deer or spring turkey licenses, make sure to use the correct tag.
- View Harvest Record: You can view your harvest reports for the current year. PALS will display harvest reports made online or via the harvest phone hotline.

C Click the **View Antlerless Deer License Availability** option to see up-to-the-minute sales.

- Check to see how many licenses are left in each WMU before mailing your application.

Automated Revocations

Another feature of the electronic license sales system is that persons who have had their hunting and furtaking license privileges revoked are automatically prohibited from buying a license.

License revocation can occur for the following reasons: failure to respond to a citation issued for a violation of the Game and Wildlife Code; failure to pay fines assessed by a court within 180 days of adjudication of the charges; revocation ordered by the court for Game and Wildlife Code violations; failure to pay child support or for other lawful purposes; revocation ordered by the Game Commission for certain Game and Wildlife Code violations; revocation mandated by the Game and Wildlife Code; and failure to complete a remedial HTE course, if mandated.

Anyone who may be affected by one or more of these situations may contact the Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Protection at 717-787-4024 to verify the status of his or her hunting privileges.

License Information

License Required
A current hunting license is required and must be in possession to hunt, take or kill any wildlife in Pennsylvania not classified as a furbearer. A current furtaker license is required to hunt, trap, take or kill any furbearer (coyotes are the exception). A license is valid July 1 to the following June 30. Licenses are not required to be displayed on an outer garment.

Proof of Residency
Proof of Pennsylvania residency must be shown to obtain a resident hunting of furtaker license. Persons must be domiciled in Pennsylvania at least 30 consecutive days prior to application. Valid Pennsylvania driver's license, certain Pennsylvania and local tax receipts, and other positive means indicating residency may be used.

Validity of Licenses
Only one hunting or furtaker license shall be valid during any license year. Any replacement license, or purchase of a second or subsequent license shall immediately invalidate any license of the same kind that had been previously issued.

Uncollectible Checks
If a check issued in payment of any fee or fine is returned uncollectible, the person who makes, issues or presents it will be charged a $25 fee. This fee is in addition to any costs of prosecution or penalties assessed as a result of the collectible check. Any license, permit or privilege granted by an uncollectible check shall be invalid until all applicable fees are paid.

License Transfers
Hunting and furtaker licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. It is unlawful to possess another's hunting license or big game tags.

Training Certificate – Hunting
Persons who have not held a hunting license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation, or do not possess a training certificate, are required to attain certification in an accredited hunter-trapper education program before applying for a hunting license. These provisions do not apply to a person presenting 1) evidence of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard and discharge or separation under honorable conditions within six months of application, or 2) evidence that the person is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard.

Training Certificate – Trapping
Persons applying for a furtaker license must present to the issuing agent one of the following: 1) evidence that the applicant has held a trapping or furtaker license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation; 2) a certificate of training; 3) an affidavit that applicant completed a voluntary trapping course sanctioned by the Game Commission, or 4) the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers within the last five years. These provisions do not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbearers under direct supervision of a licensed adult furtaker at least 18 years old.

Replacement Training Certificate
Information about obtaining a replacement Hunter Education Training Certificate, can be found online at www.pgc.pa.gov or www.ilostmycard.com.

Unlicensed Persons
An unlicensed person may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper provided that the unlicensed person acts as only an observer and does not, in any manner, participate in hunting or trapping. Any unlicensed person accompanying a licensed hunter must wear the required amount of fluorescent orange. An unlicensed person who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper and participate in these activities providing the following requirements are met: The unlicensed person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess a firearm, bow, or other hunting device; the unlicensed person complies with fluorescent orange requirements; and the unlicensed person who accompanies any hunting party shall be counted as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed members. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed persons must not exceed 1:1.

Identification Required When Hunting
While afield, in addition to his or her hunting or furtaker license, hunters or furtakers are required to have cards or papers that must be shown to an officer or landowner upon request to confirm identification and residency.

Purchasing Licenses Online
Individuals may apply for most licenses online, with the exceptions of antlerless deer licenses and military licenses. Visit online at www.pgc.pa.gov and click on "Buy a License." Licenses are not valid until they are received and signed by the license holder. Each general license is mailed with a copy of the current digest and two antlerless deer application envelopes (additional envelopes are available at any issuing agent). Add-on privileges purchased online, such as archery, muzzleloader and migratory game bird licenses, can be printed by the applicant. These add-on privileges (images if printed by applicant) are not valid unless the applicant has his or her general license in hand.

Junior Licenses and Hunters
Persons under 17 years of age must have their parent or legal guardian's approval to purchase a general hunting, combination or furtaker license. Junior hunters who wish to hunt in the archery and/or muzzleloader seasons, must purchase a combination license. These add-on licenses may not be added to a general junior hunting license. Eleven-year-olds who have successfully completed a required Hunter-Trapper Education course may apply for a Junior License if they will be 12 years old by June 30 of the license year. They may not lawfully hunt with the license prior to their 12th birthday. Persons 12 and 13 must be accompanied by an adult member of the family (at least 18), or by an adult serving in place of a parent. Persons 14 and 15 must be accompanied by any adult 18 or older. Sixteen-year-olds may hunt alone. Persons who turn 17 after purchasing a junior license can still hunt that year with the Junior License. It is unlawful while accompanying junior hunters under 16 to be out of sight of or unable to physically or verbally control the junior hunter or fail to comply with the fluorescent orange requirements. Verbal instructions given through the use of an electronic or other sound amplification device does not meet this requirement.

Senior Lifetime License Holders

Lifetime licenses must be renewed each year. If you have not purchased or renewed your Senior Lifetime License through PALS, you will need to provide your SSN when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you do not have or cannot remember your CID. Senior Lifetime License ID cards are no longer issued or required because PALS will recognize your record through your SSN or CID. You still need to provide proof of residency when renewing your license, usually through a valid Pennsylvania driver's license.

Resident Landowner Hunting License

An eligible landowner who owns 80 or more contiguous acres open to public hunting in a Cooperative Hunter Access Program, or a designated immediate family member living in the same household, is entitled to a Landowner hunting license. Applicants must have their PGC Cooperative Hunter Access Program agreement number when applying.

Landowner Antlerless Deer License

An eligible landowner who owns 50 or more contiguous acres within a county is entitled to one antlerless deer license for the WMU where the land is located at the prescribed fee ($6.90 for residents, $26.90 for nonresidents). If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the WMU he or she desires. A landowner must keep his or her property open to public hunting and trapping year-round to qualify. These licenses are allocated in advance of the regular licenses. The Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit is available from county treasurers, PGC offices, and online. Applicants must apply directly to the county treasurer of the county where the acreage is located. Landowners must apply for these licenses prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins on the second Monday in July.

Resident Military Personnel License

To qualify for a general hunting license for $2.90 applicants must meet all of the following requirements: 1) be a resident of Pennsylvania; 2) be on active and full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or the U.S. Coast Guard; 3) be currently assigned to a facility outside Pennsylvania; and 4) be on temporary leave in Pennsylvania.

Resident National Guard/Reserves

Reduced fee $2.90 general hunting licenses are available to residents serving in the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Reserves who, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 60 consecutive days or more, or were released early from such service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment.

Resident Prisoners of War

Reduced fee $2.90 general hunting licenses also are available to residents who are former Prisoners of War imprisoned by enemy forces while in the service of the armed forces of the U.S. as certified by the appropriate branch of the armed forces of the U.S.

Required Armed Services Personnel Documentation

Residents applying for any of the Armed Services licenses must provide official documentation, from the branch in which they serve, to prove eligibility in the form of orders, leave documents, military ID, and in the case of POWs, a DD214. All of these licenses, except for the POWs (county treasurers and PGC offices sell POWs), are available from any issuing agent. If the applicant cannot apply in person, he or she may submit to the Game Commission office or county treasurer a written request, including full name, legal address, telephone number, date of birth, height, eye color and documentation verifying Pennsylvania residency and military orders and, for the POW license, a copy of DD214 stating prisoner of war status. Applicant must include a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope with the request.

Disabled War Veterans

Resident disabled war veterans with service-incurred 100 percent disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may qualify for free hunting and furtaker licenses. Resident disabled war veterans with a service-incurred disability rating between 60 percent and 99 percent may qualify for a reduced fee $2.90 hunting and furtaker license. Applicants must provide documentation from the Veterans Administration. Call your county treasurer.

Migratory Game Bird Licenses

All persons are required to have a Migratory Game Bird License to hunt waterfowl and migratory birds including doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. The license must be signed in ink and carried by the hunter.

Federal Duck Stamp

All persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. It must be signed in ink across the face and carried by the hunter. It is not necessary to display the stamp. These stamps can be purchased at any issuing agent, at the post office, or by visiting www.pgc.pa.gov and clicking "Buy a License."

Bear Licenses

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) through the end of bear season.

Special Second Spring Gobbler License

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) until the day before (April 28) the spring gobbler season.

Replacement Licenses

If a hunting or furtaker license has been lost or destroyed, a replacement license may be purchased for $6.90, per privilege, over-the-counter at any issuing agent or online at www.pgc.pa.gov by clicking on "Buy a License." A lost or destroyed antlerless license can only be replaced through a county treasurer. County treasurers can issue replacement antlerless deer licenses for any WMU.

Elk License Application

Hunters may apply to enter the drawing for an Elk license one time per license year, either online or at an issuing agent. The Elk application can be purchased from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) until the application deadline. Refer to the "Elk Section" in this Digest for detailed information.

License Availability

THE FOLLOWING LICENSES, PERMITS AND SPECIAL-DRAW APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL ISSUING AGENTS INCLUDING COUNTY TREASURERS, GAME COMMISSION OFFICES AND ONLINE.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE LICENSE DIVISION AT 717-787-2084.

Licenses

Resident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)	$6.90
Resident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)	$6.90
Resident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)	$9.90
Resident Landowner Hunting (Ages 12 & older)	$4.90
Resident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 and older)	$20.90
Resident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 and older)	$20.90
Resident Senior Hunting (Ages 65 & older)	$13.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting (Ages 65 & older) (Must be renewed each license year)	$51.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo (Ages 65 & older) (Must be renewed each license year)	$101.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Combo Upgrade (Must be renewed each license year)	$51.90
Resident Senior Furtaker (Ages 65 & older)	$13.90
Resident Senior Lifetime Furtaker (Age 65 & older) (Must be renewed each license year)	$51.90
Nonresident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 & older)	$101.90
Nonresident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16)	$41.90
Nonresident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16)	$51.90
Nonresident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 & older)	$81.90
Nonresident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16)	$41.90
Nonresident 7-Day Small Game	$31.90
Mentored Youth Hunting Program Permit	$2.90
Resident Mentored Adult Hunting Program Permit	$20.90
Nonresident Mentored Adult Hunting Program Permit	$101.90
Resident Military Personnel, National Guard, Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses (POW not available online; available only from County Treasurer & Game Commission)	$2.90

Add-on Licenses

Resident Archery	$16.90
Nonresident Archery	$26.90
Resident Muzzleloader *	$11.90
Nonresident Muzzleloader *	$21.90
Resident Migratory Game Bird License	$3.90
Federal Duck Stamp	$28.40
Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License	$6.90
Resident Bear License	$16.90
Nonresident Bear License	$36.90
Resident Second Spring Gobbler License	$21.90
Nonresident Second Spring Gobbler License	$41.90
Resident DMAP Harvest Permits	$10.90
Nonresident DMAP Harvest Permits	$35.90
Elk License Drawing (See elk section in this Digest)	$10.90
Bobcat Permit (See bobcat section in this Digest)	$6.90
Fisher Permit (See fisher section in this Digest)	$6.90
River Otter Permit (See otter section in this Digest)	$6.90

Available Only from County Treasurers

(See "Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless Deer License" sections elsewhere in this Digest for additional information)

Resident Antlerless Deer License	$6.90
Resident Unsold Antlerless License	$6.90
Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License	$6.90
Resident Armed Forces Antlerless License	$6.90
Nonresident Antlerless License	$26.90
Nonresident Unsold Antlerless License	$26.90
Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting License (annual or lifetime, if qualified)	Free
Resident Disabled Veteran Furtaker License (annual or lifetime, if qualified)	Free
Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Hunting License	$2.90
Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Furtaker License	$2.90

Resident Disabled Lifetime hunting and furtaker licenses can be renewed at any issuing agent, or online.

All combination licenses include hunting, furtaker, archery and muzzleloader privileges. (Bear hunting privileges, antlerless deer license, migratory game bird license and federal duck stamp not included.)

Senior resident hunting and furtaker (annual and lifetime, including combination) licenses are available to those who will be 65 years old by June 30 of the current license year.

Nonresident of Pennsylvania – 12 years of age and older. Seven consecutive days and license includes waterfowl, but not valid for coyotes or big game, including turkey. To hunt waterfowl, applicants 16 years old and older need a federal duck stamp and a Migratory Game Bird License.

* Muzzleloader firearms, bows and arrows, and crossbows may be used during the firearms deer hunting seasons without purchasing muzzleloader or archery licenses.

FIREARMS REGULATIONS FOR NON-IMMIGRANT ALIENS

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has enacted new permit requirements for bringing firearms and ammunition across the U.S. border. Any resident of another country who intends to import a firearm and ammunition into the U.S. for the purpose of hunting or recreational target shooting should contact the ATF's Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch. Provide yourself ample time for the processing of the import permit application. It could take six weeks or more to receive the required permit. The ATF can be contacted at 304-616-4550. Visit the ATF website at http://www.atf.gov. An application for the Permit for Importation of Firearms can be found at ATF F6 NIA (5330.3D).

Follow the Law

Violating the Game & Wildlife Code can result in serious penalties, including the loss of hunting privileges.

A person charged with violating the Game and Wildlife Code will have the charges adjudicated before a Magisterial District Judge or Court of Common Pleas having jurisdiction. In addition to imposing fines, the court may also order the revocation of hunting and furtaking privileges. Absent a court order, the Game Commission may suspend the hunting and furtaking privileges of persons convicted of violating the Game and Wildlife Code. While revocation can be assessed for any violation, it's generally reserved for significant violations that affect the safety of people or property, or impact the valuable resources of the commonwealth.

Act 54 of 2010 significantly increased fines and revocation periods for serious violations. The following is a list of the most common revocations, but revocation may be applied to other violations, too.

Revocation Period Required By Law:

- Failure to respond to a citation – Indefinite revocation or until adjudicated
- Failure to pay a fine in full within 180 days after adjudication – Indefinite or until paid
- Hunting or trapping under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance – 1 year
- Refusal to submit to a chemical or blood test – 1 year or second/subsequent refusal – 3 years
- Shooting at another person resulting in no injury or minor injury – 2 years; causing serious injury – 5 to 10 years; killing another person – 15 years
- Failure to render assistance or fleeing after shooting (nonfatal incident) – 10 years; failure to render assistance or fleeing after shooting (fatal incident) – 15 years/Second offense – additional 10 years

Revocation Periods for Other Game & Wildlife Code Violations:

- Assaulting an officer – 3 years
- Resisting or interfering with an officer; failure to stop on signal by an officer; turning off lights to avoid arrest or detection – 2 years
- Unlawful use of lights to take wildlife – Big game – up to 5 years for first offense; other wildlife – 3 years for first offense
- Buying or selling wildlife or edible parts contrary to law – Threatened or endangered species – 7 years first offense; big game – up to 5 years first offense; other wildlife – 3 years first offense
- Take, injure, kill, possess or transport big game during closed season or beyond daily or season bag limits – up to 5 years first offense
- Hunting or furtaking while on revocation – 5 years
- Killing or attempting to kill game through the use of bait as an enticement – bear or elk – 3 years; all other game – 2 years
- Killing, wounding or attempting to kill a deer with a firearm during the archery season – 2 years
- Unlawfully taken big game (in season) – Bear or elk – 3 years; deer or turkey – 1 year
- Disturbing traps of another; trapping/furtaking during closed season; multiple violations in 2-year period; refuse to produce identification to an officer; killing protected wildlife; hunting small game in a closed season; taking over the daily bag limit of small game or migratory birds – 1 year

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

In 2011, Pennsylvania became the 36th state to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). The IWVC is an agreement that authorizes states to recognize the suspension of hunting and furtaking privileges in member states. A person's conviction and suspension in one state may affect his or her hunting and furtaking privileges in all states participating in the IWVC. A person, who commits a violation in Pennsylvania and, as a result, is placed on license revocation, also may be suspended in all member states.

All persons convicted of a violation in Pennsylvania that results in the suspension of their hunting and furtaking privileges will receive, in addition to the Pennsylvania revocation notice, an additional notification if the terms of the suspension will be shared with other states cooperating in the IWVC.

Persons having a license suspension in Pennsylvania, which is subject to the provisions of the IWVC, and who plan to hunt or trap in another state, must contact that state to determine their eligibility to purchase a license.

The IWVC also establishes a process whereby wildlife law violations by a nonresident from a member state are handled as if the person were a resident, meaning he or she can be issued a citation rather than being arrested, booked and bonded. This process is a convenience for hunters and trappers of member states, and increases efficiency of wildlife officers by allowing more time for enforcement duties, rather than violator-processing procedures.

For more information on the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, visit the Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Reporting a Violation

Violation Report Form

Use this form to record as much information as possible.

Nature of Violation _____

Date _____ **Time** _____

Location _____

Suspect's Name _____

Weight _____ **Height** _____ **Hair** _____ **Eyes**_____

Customer ID Number (CID) __ __ __ - __ __ __ - __ __ __

Vehicle License Number _____

Year _____ **Make** _____ **Color** _____

Distinguishing Features _____

Wildlife Involved _____

Evidence _____

Type of Firearm _____

Other Information _____

Your Phone Number _____

You can help stop wildlife crimes

If you have witnessed activity you suspect violates the law, immediately note as many details as possible.

The more information you provide, the faster a violator can be caught and prosecuted.

Transmit this information as quickly as possible to the Game Commission region office serving your area.

A list of counties comprising each Game Commission region, as well as telephone numbers and addresses of the region offices is in the front of this digest.

Here are some tips:

- Gather as much information as possible about the subject.
- Get an accurate physical description and any other pertinent information. Try to secure names and addresses of other witnesses, and any information they may have about the violation or suspect
- What type of violation was it, and when, where and what time did it occur?
- What wildlife was involved (species, how many and where are they now)?
- Describe the suspect's vehicle: license number, make, year, color and any other distinguishing features such as dented fenders or other noticeable damage.
- Note other physical evidence, such as hides, entrails, firearms, cartridge cases, etc. Note type and make of firearms involved. Do you know if the illegal game will be moved soon – when and where?

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Operation GAME THIEF

WWW.PGC.STATE.PA.US

1-888-PGC-8001

POACHERS ARE THIEVES

Have you witnessed a wildlife crime involving deer, turkey, bear or elk, or a species that is protected, endangered or threatened?

Call Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – to report wildlife violations, or fill out an Operation Game Thief Reporting Form online.

Calls phoned in to Operation Game Thief at 1-888-PGC-8001 always are answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide your contact information in case officers have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. However, some tips that lead to convictions might qualify for monetary rewards, and callers must provide contact information in order to claim them.

Wildlife crimes affect us all. Be a conservation hero, report wildlife crimes involving big game, or threatened, endangered or protected species to Operation Game Thief. Other violations should be reported to the region office serving that county.

HELP US CATCH THEM!

Volunteer Opportunities

Becoming a Deputy WCO

Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers are local representatives of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Individuals selected for these positions serve in a volunteer capacity and perform their duties under the supervision of a District Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Deputies do not receive regular salary or wages. They may receive compensation at a Commission-approved per diem rate, in lieu of wages and expenses, on certain approved days.

History has shown, though, that, in the performance of their duties, deputies spend far more money than they make.

Deputies are recruited locally on an as needed basis.

Applicants must be in good physical condition, have a good knowledge of hunting, trapping and other outdoor activities, and be able to maintain a good working relationship with fellow officers and the public.

Deputies should be prepared to function in all phases of Commission activities, including law enforcement, hunter education and other educational exhibits/programs, wildlife management and land management.

For more information about the qualifications needed and becoming a deputy, visit www.pgc.pa.gov and click on "Careers and Volunteers."

Those who are interested also may write 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797; or call 717-787-4250.

Advertising within this digest

The advertising within the Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest is handled under a contract agreement with Liberty Press Publications.

Advertising revenues have enabled the Game Commission to save thousands of sportsmen's dollars in publication and distribution costs.

Advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Pennsylvania Game Commission or Liberty Press, and does not necessarily reflect Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

Among the paid advertisements have been several ads for ATVs. The operation of ATVs on State Game Lands and other properties open to public hunting remains a violation of the law and continues to be aggressively enforced by our wildlife conservation officers and their deputy WCOs. It is unlawful to ride ATVs on State Game Lands, except on **designated roads open for persons issued a Disabled Persons Permit,** and who have a valid registration from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR).

It is unlawful to ride ATVs on private land open to public hunting without the permission of the landowner. It is unlawful to have a loaded firearm on an ATV. Individuals issued a Disabled Persons Permit may hunt from a **parked** ATV. For ATV-use regulations on state forests and parks, contact the DCNR. For information on using an ATV on the Allegheny National Forest, contact the ANF.

To inquire about placing an ad in the digest, contact Liberty Press Publications at 1-800-296-6402.

Help perpetuate our hunting and trapping traditions

Teach Hunter-Trapper Education

More than 2 million new hunters have become certified since Pennsylvania conducted its first hunter-education course in 1959.

And a record 38,671 students received their basic Hunter-Trapper Education certification last year.

None of it would be possible without a dedicated corps of volunteer instructors, and you could become the next of them.

The Game Commission is seeking knowledgeable and experienced individuals to teach both basic and advanced hunter education training programs.

As a volunteer hunter education instructor, you'll be teaching students with an easy-to-use, standardized curriculum for which all teaching aids and materials are provided.

Courses average six hours for a classroom format and eight hours for a skills station format.

To qualify, instructors must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- attend and complete training;
- pass a background investigation, and;
- meet minimum education levels.

Volunteer instructors should have the ability to give 12 to 16 hours each year. Annual instructor training events and the opportunity to teach advanced classes, such as Successful Bowhunting and Successful Furtaking also are available.

Statistics show hunting fatalities and injuries from firearms have declined by more than 80 percent over the years, showing that hunter education is working and working well.

For more information about becoming an instructor, visit the Game Commission education page at www.pgc.pa.gov or call the Game Commission Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.

COPA — Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association

COPA was formed in 1994 to promote professionalism among Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Waterways Conservation Officers, and to enhance the spirit of understanding and cooperation between our officers and the public. COPA is affiliated with the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, an international association for conservation professionals.

COPA Membership Application

Although COPA is an organization of professional law enforcement officers, anybody who believes in and wants to support conservation law enforcement is welcome to join as an Associate Member.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** ____ **ZIP**_____

Email Address _____

☐ **Associate** ($15 a year) ☐ **Junior** (under 16) ($5 a year)

Make checks payable to COPA and mail to: COPA, 100 Nature Way, Milroy, PA 17063. Allow four to six weeks for membership processing. New Associate Memberships from this ad will be good through 2017.

COPA's 2016 collectible patch, as well as past patches and other items, can be ordered by visiting the organization's website. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

For more on COPA, visit www.pawco.org

Clip & Carry Pocket Guide

Small Game

		Daily Limit
Youth Squirrel Hunt (Combined Species)	Oct. 1-15	6
Squirrel (Combined Species)	Oct. 15-Nov. 26 Dec. 12-24 Dec. 26-Feb. 28	6
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 15-Nov. 26 Dec. 12-24 Dec. 26-Jan. 21	2
Youth Rabbit Hunt	Oct. 1-15	4
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Oct. 15-Nov. 26 Dec. 12-24 Dec. 26-Feb.28	4
Youth Pheasant Hunt	Oct. 8-15	2
Pheasant	Oct. 22-Nov. 26 Dec. 12-24 Dec. 26-Feb.28	2

WMUs 2A, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A & 5B
Only male pheasants may be harvested

All other WMUs
Male or female pheasants may be harvested

Pheasants may not be hunted or harvested in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area

Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 22-Nov.26	4

*Season closed in **WMU 5A***

		Daily Limit
Snowshoe Hare	Dec. 26-31 ***Statewide***	1
Porcupine	Sept. 1-March 31	3

Season limit of 10; season closed during overlap with regular firearms deer seasons.

Woodchuck	No Closed Season, except for Sundays	No Limit
Crow	July 1-April 9	No Limit

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays only

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit for small game = 3x Daily Limit

Turkey

Fall Season

WMU 1B	Oct. 29-Nov. 5	One bird limit during fall season
WMUs 1A & 2A	Oct. 29-Nov. 5 Nov. 24-26	Bearded or Unbearded Birds may be taken
WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C & 4D	Oct. 29-Nov. 12 Nov. 24-26	Fluorescent Orange required
WMUs 2B, 2C & 4E	Oct. 29-Nov. 18 Nov. 24-26	
WMU 5A	Nov. 3-5	

Spring Season		
Youth Hunt	April 22	Bearded Birds Only Only one bird may be harvested per day.
Statewide	April 29-May 31	Hunting hours shift, be sure to check

Bear

Archery		One bear per season limit
WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D	Sept. 17-Nov. 18	
WMU 5B	Oct. 1-Nov. 18	
Statewide	Nov. 14-18	
Muzzleloader WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D	Oct. 15-22	
Special Firearms WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D	Oct. 20-22	
Regular Firearms Statewide	Nov. 19, 21-23	
Extended		
WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D	Nov. 28-Dec. 10	
WMUs 3B, 3C & 3D	Nov. 28-Dec. 3	
WMUs 1B, 2C, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E	Nov. 30-Dec. 3	

Elk

Regular Season	Extended Season
Oct. 31-Nov. 5	Nov. 7-12

Then, fold this panel overtop **2**

1 Fold this panel to middle first

GO HUNT PA.ORG

Clip along dotted lines and fold along solid lines to give yourself a handy summary of seasons you can carry along with your hunting license.
If you wish to print this Clip & Carry Pocket Guide on heavier paper, visit www.pgc.pa.gov to find it online.

Clip & Carry Pocket Guide

Hunting Hours

One-Half hour before sunrise to
One-Half hour after sunset

Please note the following exceptions:

1 – During the **Regular Firearms Deer Season**, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take other wild birds or mammals, except game birds on regulated hunting grounds, migratory waterfowl, coyotes,* feral swine, wild boar and bears.

2 – Raccoons, foxes, coyotes*, bobcats, striped skunks, opossums and **weasels** may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during restricted periods noted in Exception 1 (see furtaking section for more detail).

3 – Hunting hours during **Spring Gobbler Season** are from one-half hour before sunrise until noon during the youth hunt, and from the opening day of the statewide season through the third Saturday. Beginning May 15, hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

4 – Migratory birds (waterfowl, doves, woodcock, snipe, rails and gallinules) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except during the **September Resident Canada Goose Season** and the **Snow Goose Conservation Season**, when geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

5 – Hunting hours are noon to sunset during much of the September segment of **Dove Season** (tentative depending on federal approvals; check the Game Commission's website for details).

** Note: Outside of any big-game season (deer, bear, elk or turkey), coyotes may be taken with a hunting or furtaker license, and without wearing orange. During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game (must wear orange), or with a furtaker license.*

Furtaking

Hunting		Daily Limit
Raccoons & Foxes	Oct. 22-Feb. 18	No Limit
Coyotes, Striped Skunks Opossums & Weasels	No closed season, exceptions apply	No Limit
Bobcats *WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E*	Jan. 14-Feb. 8	1 per license year with permit
Trapping		
Foxes & Coyotes	Oct. 23-Feb. 19	No Limit
	Dec. 26-Feb. 19 *(Cable Restraints)*	No Limit
Raccoons, Striped Skunks Opossums & Weasels	Oct. 23-Feb. 19	No Limit
Minks & Muskrats	Nov. 19-Jan. 8	No Limit
Bobcats *WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E*	Dec. 17-Jan. 8	1 per license year with permit
Fishers *WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4D & 4E*	Dec. 17-28	1 per license year with permit
Beavers	Dec. 26-March 31	Limits vary by WMU
River Otters *WMUs 3C & 3D*	Feb. 18-25	1 per license year with permit

Deer

Archery (Antlered & Antlerless) **Statewide**	Oct. 1-Nov. 12 Dec. 26-Jan. 14
Archery (Antlered & Antlerless) **WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D**	Sept. 17-Nov. 26 Dec. 26-Jan. 28
Muzzleloader (Antlerless) **Statewide**	Oct. 15-22
Special Firearms (Antlerless) **Statewide**	Oct. 20-22
Regular Firearms **Statewide**	Nov. 28-Dec. 10

In WMUs 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D
Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken

In all other WMUs
Only Antlered deer may be taken - Nov. 28-Dec. 2
Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken Dec. 3-10

Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) **Statewide**	Dec. 26-Jan. 14
Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) **WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D**	Dec. 26-Jan. 28
Extended Firearms (Antlerless) **Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia counties**	Dec. 26-Jan. 28

Limit of 1 antlered deer per year, and 1 antlerless deer with each valid antlerless license or permit

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Hunting & Trapping Digest

This digest is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.

The digest simply is a summary of the more important and frequently misunderstood hunting and trapping regulations.

Review the digest carefully. If there is anything you do not understand, contact your nearest Game Commission office.

Hunting and trapping are privileges in Pennsylvania. Remember, a license does not entitle you to trespass on private lands. Hunters and furtakers may be prosecuted for trespassing, whether or not a property is posted against hunting or trapping.

Always ask permission to hunt or trap, and make sure you are a welcomed guest of the landowner.

A private landowner who permits hunting or trapping does not extend assurance that the premises are safe and does not assume responsibility or incur liability for injury.