

JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

P E N N S Y L V A N I A



HUNTING & TRAPPING

DIGEST

UPDATES

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**SEMIAUTOMATIC SHOTGUNS
PERMITTED FOR BIG GAME**

**CHANGES IN PHEASANT
PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

**CWD RULES IMPACTING
MORE HUNTERS**

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PERMITTED IN NEW AREAS**

**NEW EXTENDED BEAR SEASON
IN WMUS 4A & 5A**

**FISHER TRAPPING TO OPEN
IN WMUS 4B & 4C**





P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

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

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Pennsylvania Game Commission

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Richard Palmer, Deputy Executive Director

Thomas P. Grohol, Deputy Executive Director

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Region 2: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland.

Region 3: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter.

Region 4: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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 4 Game News, Hunter Education, Bureau of Information & Education
PRESS 5 Pheasant Propagation, Bureau of Wildlife Management
PRESS 6 Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management
PRESS 7 Bureau of Automated Technology
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PRESS 0 Operator

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

Greetings:



Board of Game Commissioners President
Timothy S. Layton, left, and Game Commission
Executive Director Bryan J. Burhans.

Huge bucks are being taken everywhere. Bear hunting has never been better. Turkey harvests here typically lead the nation. There's a chance to hunt world-class elk. And the pheasant allocation in the 2018-19 license year is expected to again reach 220,000 birds.

This truly is a great time to be a Pennsylvania hunter.

Thank you for helping to preserve and strengthen our state's rich tradition through the purchase of your 2018-19 hunting or furtaker license. Your license not only is your ticket to making lasting memories in Penn's Woods, it represents an investment in our state's wildlife resource to ensure future generations can experience the hunting and furtaking opportunities we enjoy today.

Nothing does more to benefit Pennsylvania's wildlife, or enable the Game Commission – your state wildlife agency – to carry out its mission in managing all 480 of Pennsylvania's wild bird and mammal species.

Because the Game Commission receives no money from the state's general fund, hunters and trappers are absolutely vital to wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania.

This Hunting & Trapping Digest provides you with the 2018-19 seasons and bag limits, rules and regulations, and safety requirements. While the published digest may be purchased along with licenses, license buyers should note the electronic version available at www.pgc.pa.gov is regularly updated to reflect changes made during the license year. All are welcome to download the electronic version of the digest for quick reference on their mobile device or to print at home.

And when you head afield, be ready for action.
Pennsylvania offers plenty of it.

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2018-19 HUNTING & TRAPPING DIGEST

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Maps

COVER PHOTO:
Jeremy Swartz, of Red Lion, with
2017 Lycoming County gobbler.
Photo taken by Frank Clary.

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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.

WELCOME TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues to impact deer and deer hunting in Pennsylvania. Since last hunting season, CWD was detected in a captive-raised deer in Lancaster County, resulting in the **establishment of Disease Management Area 4** (DMA 4) in parts of Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks counties. Meanwhile, the boundaries of **DMA 2 and DMA 3 were expanded** due to new CWD-positive deer being detected. Because DMA boundaries change due to new positives, hunters are urged to visit the Game Commission's website to be sure they're viewing the most up-to-date DMA maps. ❖ The **statewide archery deer season** will end on Monday, Nov. 12 to include the Veterans Day holiday. ❖ A **pheasant permit** is required this year for all junior hunters, as well as adult hunters and some senior hunters who pursue pheasants in Pennsylvania. There is no fee for a junior pheasant permit, but the free permit will help the Game Commission track youth participation. Meanwhile, a pheasant permit costs \$26.90 for adults and seniors. Hunters who acquired their senior lifetime hunting or combination licenses prior to May 13, 2017 no longer need a pheasant permit to hunt and harvest pheasants. ❖ **Hen pheasants** now may be taken by properly licensed pheasant hunters in Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2C, 4C and 5B, which traditionally have been open only to the harvest of pheasant roosters. WMUs 4E and 5A still are open only to the harvest of roosters. ❖ A **new four-day extended black bear firearms season** has been implemented in WMUs 4A and 5A. And in WMU 3A, the extended season length has increased from four days to six days. ❖ **Hunting hours for mourning doves** now begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset during all season segments. ❖ The **fisher trapping season** this license year will include WMUs 4B and 4C, in addition to those WMUs where the season had been open. ❖ **Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns** that propel single-projectile ammunition now can be used by Pennsylvania hunters participating in most firearms deer, bear and elk seasons. For elk, the shotgun needs to be 12-gauge or larger. ❖ A total of 125 **elk licenses** have been allocated this year. Twenty-six 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. 18. ❖ The **Somerset Wild Pheasant Recovery Area has been dissolved**. Pheasant hunting is open within the former Somerset WPRP and public properties there again may be stocked with pheasants. ❖ Since the start of last hunting season, **four additional electronic devices** have been approved for use by hunters. Within established seasons, hunters now may use electronic decoys in hunting waterfowl; electronic dove decoys solely for hunting doves; electronically heated scent or lure dispensers; and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes. Electronic devices generally are prohibited for hunting use in Pennsylvania, but some are permitted by exception. ❖ A **permit no longer is required** when using bait to hunt deer on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. Other provisions, including limits on the type of bait that can be used and that it must be dispensed from an automatic feeder during hunting hours remain. Hunters elsewhere are reminded the use of bait while hunting is prohibited broadly in Pennsylvania. ❖ A **new Disabled Person Access Permit** has been created to allow mobility-challenged game-lands users to use ATVs, golf carts and other mobility devices on designated routes on game lands. This permit is free, and separate from the permit that allows disabled persons to hunt from motorized vehicles and ATVs. A wider variety of applicants might qualify for the new permit. ❖ And for the first time in history, a hunting season will begin with the Game Commission's law-enforcement officers holding the official title of **State Game Warden**. Many hunters likely have called them that all along, though the official title had been wildlife conservation officer, and district game protector before that.

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 marten, raccoon, red and gray fox, striped skunk, weasel and porcupine.

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. 26-Dec. 8

The Regular Firearms season is a statewide season.

In most of the state, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part of the season.

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

ANTLERED & ANTILERLESS - Nov. 26-Dec. 8

All Other WMUs

ANTLERED ONLY - Nov. 26-30
ANTLERED & ANTILERLESS - Dec. 1-8

Other deer seasons

Archery

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Sept. 29-Nov. 12
Dec. 26-Jan. 12

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 15-Nov. 24
Dec. 26-Jan. 26

Muzzleloader

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-20

Special Firearms

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 18-20

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

Flintlock

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 12

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 26

Extended Firearms

Antlerless Only

ALLEGHENY, BUCKS, CHESTER,
DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY
& PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES

Dec. 26-Jan. 26

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 5C & 5D. Season lengths and arms vary by WMU.

Oct. 27-Nov. 3

WMU 1B

Oct. 27-Nov. 3
& Nov. 22-24

WMUs 1A, 2A,
4A & 4B

Oct. 27-Nov. 10
& Nov. 22-24

WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G,
2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C,
4D & 4E

Oct. 27-Nov. 16
& Nov. 22-24

WMUs 2B & 2C

Oct. 30-Nov. 1

WMU 5B

Nov. 1-3

WMU 5A

Spring Season

Bearded birds only.

Youth Hunt

April 20, 2019

Statewide

April 27-May 31, 2019

Hunting hours vary

Bear

One bear per license year, with bear license

Regular Firearms

STATEWIDE

Nov. 17 &
Nov. 19-21

Archery

Includes Crossbow

STATEWIDE

Oct. 29-Nov. 3

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 15-Nov. 24

WMU 5B

Sept. 29-Nov. 10

Muzzleloader

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

Oct. 13-20

Special Firearms

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

Oct. 18-20

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

Extended Season

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

Nov. 26-Dec. 8

WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D

Nov. 26-Dec. 1

WMUs 1B, 2C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E & 5A

Nov. 28-Dec. 1

Small Game

A pheasant permit is required for most hunters.
See page 48 for more details.

Squirrel

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT

Sept. 29-Oct. 13

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Pheasant

2 daily, 6 possession
Cocks only in WMUs 4E & 5A

JUNIOR HUNT

Oct. 6-13

STATEWIDE

Oct. 20-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Rabbit

4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT

Sept. 29-Oct. 13

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Grouse

2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24

Bobwhite Quail

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Woodchuck

No Limit

STATEWIDE

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

Crow

No Limit

STATEWIDE

July 1-April 14
Fridays, Saturdays,
Sundays only

Snowshoe Hare

1 daily, 3 possession

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 1

Furtaking

The porcupine is classified as a furbearer, but, like the coyote, it can be hunted with either a hunting or furtaker license.

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes

No Limit

Oct. 20-Feb. 16

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. 12-Feb. 6

WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H,
3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupine

3 daily, 10 season

Sept. 1-March 30

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes

No Limit

GENERAL

Oct. 21-Feb. 17

CABLE RESTRAINTS

Dec. 26-Feb. 17

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit

Oct. 21-Feb. 17

Bobcats

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 15-Jan. 6

WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H,
3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Minks & Muskrats

No Limit

Nov. 17-Jan. 6

Fishers

1 per license year with permit

Dec. 15-26

WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E,
2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C,
3D, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Beavers

Limits vary by WMU

Dec. 26-March 31

River Otters

1 per license year with permit

Feb. 16-23

WMUs 3C & 3D

Elk

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

Regular Season

Nov. 5-10

Extended Season

Nov. 12-17

2018-19 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 13, 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.

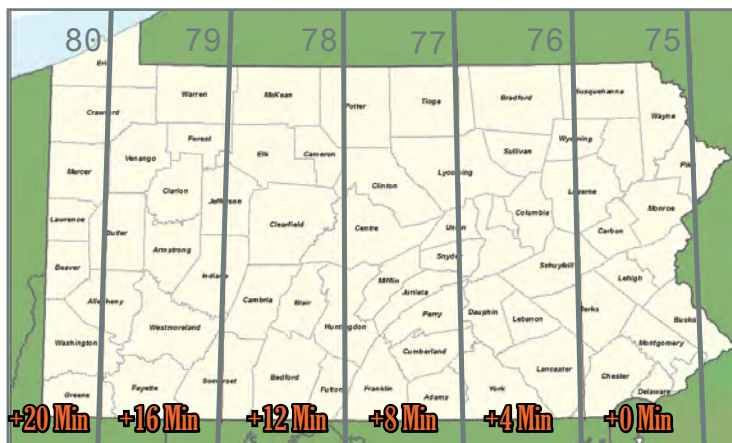
5 – Hunting hours for mourning doves now are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset during every segment of dove season. Doves are migratory birds. Do not reference the hunting hours table here for the quitting times for migratory birds; check the migratory game birds hunting hours table elsewhere in this digest.

** 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 follow orange requirements), 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 - 7	5:09	9:02
July 8 - 14	5:14	8:59
July 15 - 21	5:19	8:54
July 22 - 28	5:25	8:48
July 29 - Aug. 4	5:32	8:41
Aug. 5 - 11	5:39	8:32
Aug. 12 - 18	5:45	8:23
Aug. 19 - 25	5:52	8:13
Aug. 26 - Sept. 1	5:58	8:02
Sept. 2 - 8	6:05	7:51
Sept. 9 - 15	6:12	7:39
Sept. 16 - 22	6:18	7:28
Sept. 23 - 29	6:25	7:16
Sept. 30 - Oct. 6	6:32	7:05
Oct. 7 - 13	6:39	6:54
Oct. 14 - 20	6:46	6:44
Oct. 21 - 27	6:54	6:34
Oct. 28 - Nov. 3	7:02	6:26
Nov. 4 - 10**	6:10	5:25
Nov. 11 - 17	6:18	5:13
Nov. 18 - 24	6:26	5:09
Nov. 25 - Dec. 1	6:33	5:06
Dec. 2 - 8	6:40	5:06
Dec. 9 - 15	6:45	5:05
Dec. 16 - 22	6:49	5:07
Dec. 23 - 29	6:52	5:10
Dec. 30 - Jan. 5	6:53	5:15
Jan. 6 - 12	6:52	5:21
Jan. 13 - 19	6:51	5:24
Jan. 20 - 26	6:48	5:35
Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	6:43	5:44
Feb. 3 - 9	6:37	5:52
Feb. 10 - 16	6:30	6:00
Feb. 17 - 23	6:21	6:09
Feb. 24 - Mar. 2	6:12	6:17
Mar. 3 - Mar. 9	6:01	6:24
Mar. 10 - 16*	6:50	7:32
Mar. 17 - 23	6:39	7:39
Mar. 24 - 30	6:28	7:46
Mar. 31 - Apr. 6	6:17	7:54
Apr. 7 - 13	6:05	8:01
Apr. 14 - 20	5:55	8:08
Apr. 21 - 27	5:44	8:15
Apr. 28 - May 4	5:35	8:22
May 5 - 11	5:26	8:29
May 12 - 18	5:19	8:36
May 19 - 25	5:12	8:42
May 26 - June 1	5:07	8:49
June 2 - 8	5:04	8:54
June 9 - 15	5:02	8:58
June 16 - 22	5:02	9:01
June 23 - 30	5:05	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 received with current Pocket Guide, 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 & Liability

- 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.
- 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.

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. The use of living decoys is prohibited for all hunting and trapping. Electronic crow decoys can be used solely for hunting crows. Electronic decoys can now be used for waterfowl hunting, and electronic dove decoys can be used solely for hunting doves.

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, but following are exceptions: Electronic callers to hunt bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and crows, and snow geese in the conservation season can be used. 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. 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 can be used. 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. 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. 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 can be used. Electronic rangefinders, including handheld devices and those contained within a scope or archery sight can be used. 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. Electronic devices used for locating dogs while training and hunting are permitted. Electronically heated scent or lure dispensers, and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes can now be used.

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. There is no restriction on magazine capacity for semiautomatic rifles used to hunt small game and furbearers.

General Hunting Regulations

Firearms & Devices — Unlawful & Permitted

It is unlawful to hunt with automatic firearms. Semiautomatic (autoloading) **rifles**, and air- or gas-operated rifles and manually operated handguns may be used for hunting small game and furbearers. Semiautomatic rifles **may not** be used for hunting deer, bear, turkey or elk. Hunting with semiautomatic handguns is prohibited. Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns that propel single-projectile ammunition can now be used while hunting deer, bear and elk.

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 trapping 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, as well as electronically heated scent or lure dispensers, with legal scents and lures, and electronic devices that distribute ozone gas for scent-control purposes. 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.

Tracking Dogs

Dogs are not permitted to hunt big game, except for turkeys during the fall. **Leashed** tracking dogs can be used to track a white-tailed deer, bear or elk to recover an animal that has been legally killed or wounded during any open season for deer, bear or elk. No permit is required. The tracker cannot dispatch game that was wounded and will be tagged by another hunter. The tracker must be properly licensed for the animal being tracked. The tracker must abide by hunting hours and wear the required amount of fluorescent orange clothing for the season. All laws pertaining to the taking of game apply. Trackers cannot charge for their services on state game lands. Permission is needed before entering private property.

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

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 opening day of the statewide pheasant season. On Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas, dog training is prohibited from March 1 through July 31 each year.

- There is no closed season for training dogs, see exceptions above.
- 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 an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) of any size, design or specification for any purpose whatsoever over lands or waters designated as state game lands.
- 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 and any Sundays throughout the duration of the regular firearms deer season(s) and the regular firearms bear season(s) the hours are 8 a.m. to sunset.
- All Game Commission ranges, regardless of length or size, are designated as rifle ranges. The Commission may designate any range as a handgun-only range by posting appropriate signage.
- A range may be reserved for exclusive use by an organized group from Jan. 1 through Oct. 1. Applications for a range reservation must be made with the appropriate Game Commission region office at least 20 days in advance. An individual may not use the range during any period reserved by an organized group. A range cannot be used during any period when it is posted as closed.
- 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

- Discharge a firearm from any location on the range other than an established shooting station on the firing line.
- Discharge a firearm at any target other than a paper target placed on a permanent backboard mounted by the Game Commission. Users are prohibited from intentionally shooting at or damaging the frames or stands to mount permanent target backboards.
- Discharge armor-piercing, incendiary, explosive, tracer or multiple-projectile ammunition.
- Be intoxicated, use or possess alcohol or a controlled substance.
- Discharge an automatic firearm.
- Load or discharge a firearm that contains more than six rounds of single-projectile ammunition.
- Shoot clay birds anywhere except in designated areas 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, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Archery Range

Permits are NOT required for the new archery range on State Game Lands 234 in Montgomery County. The range is open from dawn to dusk daily. Shooting must occur from the established firing line, and shooters are limited to six shots when sharing the range. Broadheads are permitted only if a broadhead shooting station is provided.

Appalachian Trail & Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area

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 obtain a Special Use Permit.

Maps that show NPS lands where hunting is prohibited can be viewed at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy 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 exer-

cising 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 index rating used by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is not High, Very High or Extreme for that area.

The Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area (DEWA) is a unit of the NPS. Trapping, hunting over bait, hunting in standing unharvested crops, Sunday hunting and spotlighting are prohibited. Only portable tree stands can be used and must be removed each day. A PA hunting license is required to hunt in the PA portion of the park. A NJ license is required to hunt in the NJ portion of the park.

Most areas of the DEWA are open to hunting. Check the *Compendium of Regulations* for any closures at www.nps.gov/dewa/learn/management/compendium.htm

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, and handguns (revolvers or single-shots) with all-lead bullet or ball, or bullet designed to expand on impact;
- Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged) that propel single-projectile ammunition.
- 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 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 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 bow-hunters 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 may not exceed 3.25 inches.

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 semiautomatic 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 semiautomatic 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.

Big Game Regulations

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;
- Manually operated or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns (shotguns do not have to be plugged) that propel single-projectile ammunition. Shotguns must be 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, and the length may not exceed 3.25 inches.

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, or drive turkeys. 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 received with current Pocket Guide, 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 Elk Country Visitor Center, 950 Winslow Hill Road, Benezette. The GPS coordinates are 41.3231 N and 78.3695 W. Check station hours are Monday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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 warden 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.

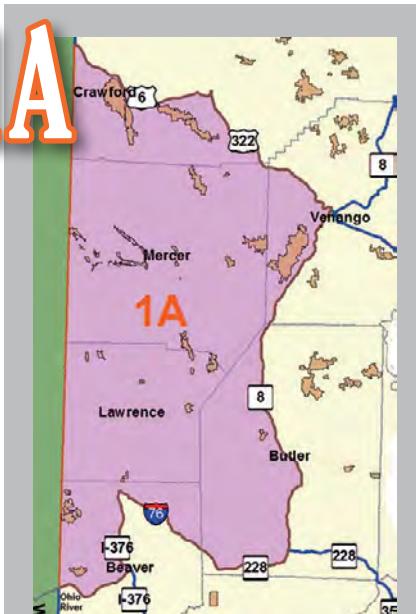
The Bureau of Forestry welcomes hunters and trappers to more than 2 million acres of state forests. Only small areas around occupied buildings are posted. Overnight camping is permitted only in areas designated by the district forester.

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.pa.gov, 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.

A detailed map of Pennsylvania showing its Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). The map is color-coded by region, with each unit labeled with a red alphanumeric code. Major roads, including Interstates (I-76, I-80, I-95) and State Routes (e.g., PA-6, PA-22, PA-30), are shown as orange lines. County names are printed in black text across the map. The map is bordered by green areas representing water bodies (Lake Erie to the northwest and Delaware Bay to the southeast) and a green border representing the state's edge.

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.



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.



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.

HUNTERS ARE LIMITED TO 1 ANTLERED DEER PER LICENSE YEAR, AND 1 ANTLERLESS DEER FOR EACH ANTLERLESS LICENSE OR PERMIT.

Regular Firearms Nov. 26-Dec. 8

The Regular Firearms season is a statewide season.

In most of the state, antlerless deer may be taken only during the second part the season.

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS - Nov. 26-Dec. 8

All Other WMUs

ANTLERED ONLY - Nov. 26-Nov. 30
ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS - Dec. 1-Dec. 8



CONCURRENT SEASONS

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Other deer seasons

Archery

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Sept. 29-Nov. 12
Dec. 26-Jan. 12

WMUs 2B, 5C AND 5D

Sept. 15-Nov. 24
Dec. 26-Jan. 26

Muzzleloader

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-20

Special Firearms

Antlerless Only

STATEWIDE

Oct. 18-20

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

Flintlock

Antlered & Antlerless

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 12

WMUs 2B, 5C AND 5D

Dec. 26-Jan. 26

Extended Firearms

Antlerless Only

ALLEGHENY, BUCKS, CHESTER, DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY & PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES

Dec. 26-Jan. 26

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

or DMAP 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 license holders, 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 may not exceed 3.25 inches.
- 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
- Semiautomatic centerfire shotguns that propel single-projectile ammunition.
- 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 ANTILERLESS 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 ANTILERLESS 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 & ANTILERLESS

- 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.



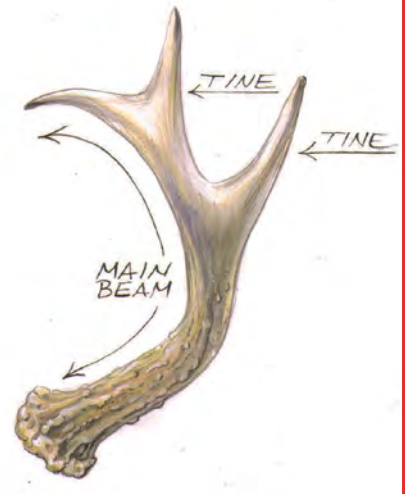
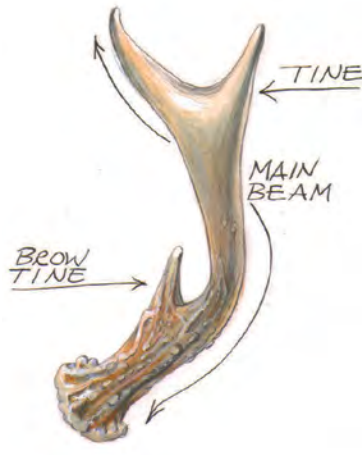
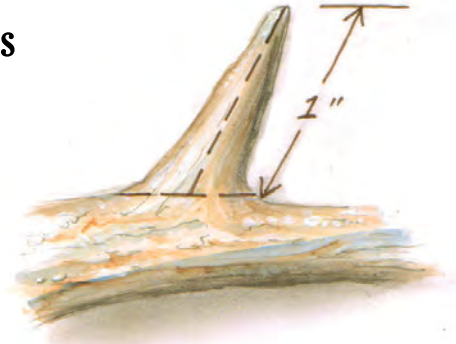
Antler Restrictions

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.

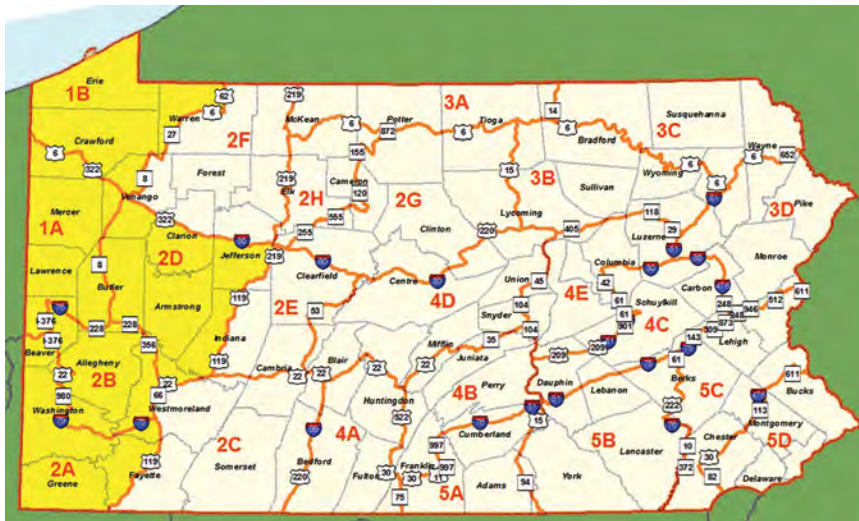


In most of the state

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

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 semiautomatic 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 semiautomatic 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 semiautomatic 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 semiautomatic shotguns plugged to a 3-shell capacity; manually operated or semiautomatic 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire handguns; and bows and crossbows. Buckshot is not permitted. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun that propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet for small game in calibers from .177 to .22. For woodchucks and furbearers, air guns must be 22-caliber. BB ammunition cannot be used.

PRIVATE PROPERTY DEER BAITING

A baiting permit no longer is needed when using bait to hunt deer on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. However, other requirements remain. Bait used within the Southeast Special Regulations Area must be shelled corn or protein-pellet supplements; bait accumulation must not exceed 5 gallons at any time; bait only can be used from two weeks before the opening of the first deer season to the close of the last deer season; automatic mechanical feeders must be used; and feeders must distribute bait during hunting hours, no more than three times a day. Landowners and hunters need to ensure bait sites comply with regulations. While the use of bait while hunting is prohibited broadly in Pennsylvania, it is allowed conditionally on private property within the Southeast Special Regulations Area, where traditional hunting and deer-control methods have proven ineffective.

Lawful While Trapping

Manually operated or semiautomatic 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire handguns. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun in calibers from .177 to .22 that propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet. BB ammunition cannot be used.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

DEER ARCHERY SEASON (ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS)

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Sept. 15-Nov. 24 & Dec. 26-Jan. 26.

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

OCTOBER MUZZLELOADER ANTLERLESS SEASON

Oct. 13-20

- 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. 18-20

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. 26-Dec. 8

- 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. 26; Other WMUs Dec. 26-Jan. 12

- 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. 26

- 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.

Fall season 1 bird, either sex

Oct. 27 to Nov. 3

- WMU 1B

Oct. 27 to Nov. 3; Nov. 22 to 24

- WMUs 1A, 2A, 4A & 4B

Oct. 27 to Nov. 10; Nov. 22 to 24

- WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4D & 4E

Oct. 27 to Nov. 16; Nov. 22 to 24

- WMUs 2B & 2C

Nov. 1 to 3

- WMU 5A

Oct. 30 to Nov. 1

- WMU 5B

Closed to fall hunting

- WMUs 5C & 5D

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated rifles and handguns, including rimfires; 2) Manually operated and semiautomatic 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 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, or 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 (and the Allegheny County portion of 2A), 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 20, 2019

STATEWIDE SEASON

April 27 to May 31, 2019

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours during the **April 20** youth hunt, and from **April 27 to May 11** 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 13 to May 31**, hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated and semiautomatic 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.

Turkey

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.

Turkey-hunting blinds that represent the fanned tails of gobblers are illegal to use in Pennsylvania because they do not hide all hunter movement from behind or within.

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

A **2ND SPRING TURKEY LICENSE** can be purchased **BEFORE** the start of the regular spring turkey season (by April 26, 2019) 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.

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 with the current Pocket Guide, 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.

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 \$2.95 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 2018 records book becomes available in October, and costs \$10, plus \$2.95 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.



HUNTERS ARE LIMITED TO HARVESTING 1 BEAR PER LICENSE YEAR.

Regular Firearms

STATEWIDE

Nov. 17 &
Nov. 19-21

Archery

Includes Crossbow

STATEWIDE

Oct. 29-Nov. 3

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

Sept. 15-Nov. 24

WMU 5B

Sept. 29-Nov. 10

Muzzleloader

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

Oct. 13-20

Special Firearms

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

Oct. 18-20

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

Extended Season

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

Nov. 26-Dec. 8

WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D

Nov. 26-Dec. 1

WMUs 1B, 2C, 4A, 4B,

4C, 4D, 4E & 5A

Nov. 28-Dec. 1

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) semiautomatic centerfire shotgun that propels single-projectile ammunition; 3) muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and 4) 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 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. 21, or Dec. 3-8 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. 8 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, game wardens can issue written notice to temporarily halt the activity.

Small Game

Squirrel

6 daily, 18 possession
Combined Species

JUNIOR HUNT

Sept. 29-Oct. 13

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Pheasant

2 daily, 6 possession
Cocks only in WMUs 4E & 5A

JUNIOR HUNT

Oct. 6-13

STATEWIDE

Oct. 20-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Rabbit

4 daily, 12 possession

JUNIOR HUNT

Sept. 29-Oct. 13

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Grouse

2 daily, 6 possession

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24

Bobwhite Quail

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE

Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-24
Dec. 26-Feb. 28

Snowshoe Hare

1 daily, 3 possession

STATEWIDE

Dec. 26-Jan. 1

Woodchuck

No Limit

STATEWIDE

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

Crow

No Limit

STATEWIDE

July 1-April 14
Fridays, Saturdays,
Sundays only

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated and semiautomatic 10-gauge or less shotguns with a capacity of no more than 3 shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Manually operated and semi-automatic rifles and manually operated handguns 22-caliber rimfire or less; 3) Air-guns for small game in calibers from .177 to .22, for woodchucks at least 22-caliber, that propel a single-projectile or bullet. BB ammunition is prohibited. 4) Muzzleloading rifles and handguns 40-caliber or less, and shotguns 10-gauge or less; and 5) 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.

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.

Pheasant Hunting

Pheasant hunting is open statewide during
the Junior Hunt, Oct. 6-13.

Hunters statewide may hunt pheasants from Oct. 20-Nov. 24,
Dec. 10-24, and Dec. 26-Feb. 28.

Only cock pheasants may be hunted in WMUs 4E & 5A.

Cocks or hens may be taken in all other WMUs.

Pheasants may not be hunted or taken on any Wild Pheasant
Recovery Area, except the Central Susquehanna WPRA during a
specially authorized permit-based youth hunt.

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.

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 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, except the Game Commission executive director
can authorize permit-based youth-only pheasant hunting
opportunities in the Central Susquehanna WPRA. All other
small game species, except pheasants, when in season, can
be hunted in WPRAs. Dog training is prohibited from March
1 through July 31 in WPRAs.

PHEASANT PERMIT REQUIRED

All adult hunters and some senior hunters who pursue
pheasants in Pennsylvania are required to purchase a pheasant
permit in addition to a general hunting license. The permit
costs \$26.90 and must be signed and carried while hunting
pheasants. Senior lifetime resident hunting or senior lifetime
resident combination license holders who acquired their
licenses **prior to May 13, 2017** are **exempt** from needing a
pheasant permit. **Junior hunters pursuing pheasants now
need a FREE permit.**

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 semiautomatic 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 for the **entire dove season** are now from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. Hunting hours during the **September Canada goose season**, and the **light-geese 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.



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. 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.

Decoys

Electronic decoys can now be used in hunting waterfowl. Electronic dove decoys can be used solely for hunting doves. Electronic crow decoys can be used for hunting crows.

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. 26 - Sept. 1	5:58	7:32	Dec. 23 - 29	6:52	4:40
Sept. 2 - 8	6:05	7:21	Dec. 30 - Jan. 5	6:53	4:45
Sept. 9 - 15	6:12	7:09	Jan. 6 - 12	6:52	4:51
Sept. 16 - 22	6:18	6:58	Jan. 13 - 19	6:51	4:54
Sept. 23 - 29	6:25	6:46	Jan. 20 - 26	6:48	5:05
Sept. 30 - Oct. 6	6:32	6:35	Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	6:43	5:14
Oct. 7 - 13	6:39	6:24	Feb. 3 - 9	6:37	5:22
Oct. 14 - 20	6:46	6:14	Feb. 10 - 16	6:30	5:30
Oct. 21 - 27	6:54	6:04	Feb. 17 - 23	6:21	5:39
Oct. 28 - Nov. 3	7:02	5:56	Feb. 24 - Mar. 2	6:12	5:47
Nov. 4 - 10 **	6:10	4:55	Mar. 3 - 9	6:01	5:54
Nov. 11 - 17	6:18	4:43	Mar. 10 - 16 *	6:50	7:02
Nov. 18 - 24	6:26	4:39	Mar. 17 - 23	6:39	7:09
Nov. 25 - Dec. 1	6:33	4:36	Mar. 24 - 30	6:28	7:16
Dec. 2 - 8	6:40	4:36	Mar. 31 - Apr. 6	6:17	7:24
Dec. 9 - 15	6:45	4:35	Apr. 7 - 13	6:05	7:31
Dec. 16 - 22	6:49	4:37	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**.

Lake Erie Zone

Oct. 29-Jan. 5

Northwest Zone

Oct. 6-Dec. 8

Dec. 27-Jan. 1

North Zone

Oct. 6-Nov. 17

Dec. 18-Jan. 12

South Zone

Oct. 13-20

Nov. 20-Jan. 19

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
- 2 black ducks
- 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.

Southern James Bay Population Zone

Sept. 1-25*

1 daily, 3 possession

Oct. 6-Nov. 24

Dec. 11-Jan. 19

3 daily, 9 possession

* In western Crawford County, the season runs from Sept. 1-15

Resident Population Zone

Sept. 1-25

8 daily, 24 possession

Oct. 27-Nov. 24

Dec. 17-Jan. 19

Jan. 26-Feb. 23

5 daily, 15 possession

Atlantic Population Zone

Sept. 1-25

8 daily, 24 possession

Nov. 15-24

Dec. 15-Jan. 31

3 daily, 9 possession

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 season is Sept. 1-15. The daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 214 where the season is closed to September goose hunting.

2.) 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: These exceptions 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). The SJBZ is no longer separately monitored and managed. However, the zone remains in place to help meet resident Canada goose management objectives in northwest Pennsylvania and to retain greater overlap of duck and goose season than would be available under federal frameworks for other goose zones.

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. 19

CONSERVATION SEASON
Jan. 21-April 19

Resident Population Zone

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 23-Feb. 23

CONSERVATION SEASON
Feb. 25-April 19

Atlantic Population Zone

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 1-Jan. 31

CONSERVATION SEASON
Feb. 1-April 19

CONSERVATION SEASON

During the conservation season, recorded or amplified calls or sounds are permitted.

Webless Birds & Brant

Brant

2 daily, 6 possession
Federal duck stamp needed

ALL GOOSE ZONES
Oct. 13-Dec. 21

Woodcock

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-18

Gallinules

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 21

Common Snipe

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 13-Nov. 24
Dec. 10-18

Doves

15 daily, 45 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 24
Dec. 18-Jan. 5

Virginia & Sora Rails

3 daily, 9 possession

Bag limit singly or combined

STATEWIDE
Sept. 1-Nov. 21

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 12-16 can hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, coots and gallinules during a series of Youth Waterfowl Days. Sixteen-year-olds need a federal duck stamp to participate. Regular season bag limits and other restrictions apply. Check the Game Commission website for more details. This season, Youth Waterfowl Days will be held:

Statewide
Sept. 15

North Zone
Jan. 19

Northwest Zone
Dec. 15

Lake Erie Zone
Oct. 20

South Zone
Jan. 26

Goose Blind Application

GOOSE BLIND APPLICATION

Middle Creek or Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas

Permittees to hunt these areas during goose season are selected only by public drawings held prior to the hunting season. Only the **electronic application form** found on the Game Commission's website www.pgc.pa.gov under the Goose Blind Application link will be accepted.

An individual may apply to only one area per year and may submit only an electronic application to either area through the application found on the Game Commission's website.

Applications will be accepted electronically through Sept. 1 and selected through a public drawing at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 12 and the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 15.

The electronic application must contain the applicant's 2018-19 hunting license Customer Identification Number (CID).

The number of applications to be drawn will be established 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 assist the junior hunter, but are not permitted to shoot or harvest waterfowl. This does not forfeit the adult hunter's option to hunt a different day. Applications received from junior hunters will be 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 for 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 type in their current Disabled Person Permit (permit to hunt from a vehicle) number issued by the Game Commission in the space provided on the application.

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. Specific dates are listed on the electronic application.

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. If a "no-show" blind is used, the hunter forfeits his or her right to future blind reservations during that license year. Successful applicants will be mailed a hunting reservation entitling them to be accompanied by a maximum of three guests.

DISCOVER THE PA HUNTING INTERACTIVE MAP

Visit www.hunting.pa.gov

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission have teamed up to create a new interactive map specifically for hunters. Collectively, state forest land and state game lands offer more than 3.7 million acres open to hunting in Pennsylvania.

Hunters can use this map to:

- View public lands open to hunting.
- Search hunting seasons and bag limits across different parts of the state.
- Display hunting hours (starting and ending times) across different parts of the state.
- Add personal GPS data to the map (GPS waypoints and tracklogs).
- View different types of wildlife habitat across public forest lands, including mature oak forests, meadows, food plots, openings, winter thermal (coniferous) cover and young aspen forest.
- See where recent timber harvests have occurred on public forest lands.
- Get Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) information for state forest land.
- Add map layers associated with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- Identify bear check station locations and get driving directions.
- Display and get information on the elk hunt zones.
- Add the locations of gated roads opened for hunters on public forest lands and when those gates will be opened.
- Analyze graphs and trends in antlerless/antlered deer harvests, and antlerless license allocations from 2004 to the present.

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. In addition to band numbers, information requested includes 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 email. Online reporting provides better data quality and lowers costs.

Hunting

Raccoons & Foxes

No Limit
Oct. 20-Feb. 16

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. 12-Feb. 6
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H,
3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupine

3 daily, 10 season
Sept. 1-March 30

Trapping

Foxes & Coyotes

No Limit
GENERAL
Oct. 21-Feb. 17

Raccoons, Opossums Striped Skunks & Weasels

No Limit
Oct. 21-Feb. 17

Bobcats

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 15-Jan. 6
WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H,
3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D & 4E

Fishers

1 per license year with permit
Dec. 15-26
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G,
2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

CABLE RESTRAINTS
Dec. 26-Feb. 17

Minks & Muskrats

No Limit
Nov. 17-Jan. 6

Beavers

Limits vary by WMU
Dec. 26-March 31

River Otters

1 per license year with permit
Feb. 16-23
WMUs 3C & 3D

A **furtaker license** is not required to hunt coyotes, but is required to trap them. Porcupines also may be hunted with a **hunting license**. 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 semiautomatic or manually operated 22-caliber rimfire or smaller rifles, manually operated 22-caliber or smaller rimfire handguns, or manually operated or semiautomatic air- or gas-operated rifles, manually operated handguns, that are 177- to 22-caliber. Persons under 12 may use a 22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle, but 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 No. 4 buckshot, or implements that are not lawful firearms, bows or crossbows. Semiautomatic and manually operated rifles, manually operated handguns of any caliber, manual or semiautomatic shotguns and, bows and crossbows can be used. Muzzleloading rifles or handgun that propel single-projectile ammunition can be used. Air- or gas-operated firearms of at least 22-caliber and propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet 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**.

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.

Dogs

Dogs are permitted to hunt furbearers.

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.

TRAPS

Foot-Encapsulating Trap

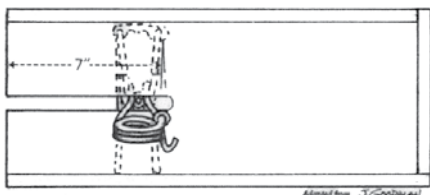
A device that has all triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing that, once set, allows access to the triggering and restraining mechanisms through a single opening not to exceed 2 inches in diameter or diagonally and is anchored by a swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism. Encapsulating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



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.

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. 17), 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.

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.

A cable restraint must be anchored to prevent the animal from moving the restraint from place of capture.

Cable restraint may not be set where entanglement may occur or where the animal may become suspended.

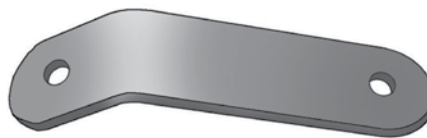
Trappers eligible to use cable restraints for foxes and coyotes can keep non-target furbearers that are incidentally captured in a cable restraint if there is an open trapping season in which those furbearers are legal for harvest, and the trapper has a license or permit for that furbearer.

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.

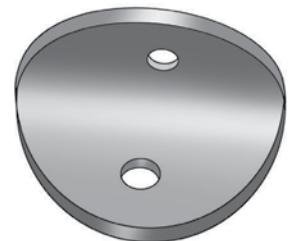
Approved Cable Restraint Locks Include:



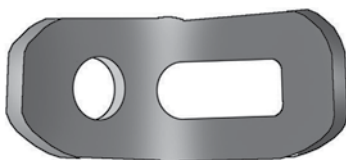
Reichart 180-Degree
Reverse Bend Washer



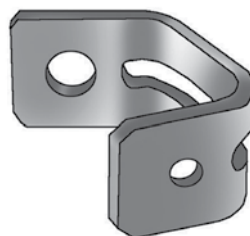
Kaatz "Relax-a-Lock"



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 2018-19 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. 12-Feb. 6, 2019, by hunting only**, or **Dec. 15-Jan. 6, 2019, 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, 4B, 4C, 4D or 4E (combined) from **Dec. 15-26** 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

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. 15**.
Otter permits must be purchased before **Feb. 16**.

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).

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. 16-23, 2019

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 up to 10 body-gripping traps may be used.

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

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.

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.

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.

PROVIDE HUNTERS ACCESS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has a long history of partnering with private landowners to provide access for hunting and trapping. Since 1936, the Hunter Access Program has grown to include over 13,000 landowners who provide access to over 2.2 million acres throughout the state.

In exchange for providing reasonable access for hunting or trapping, landowners get something in return.

Landowners can receive a complimentary subscription to Game News magazine, bird boxes, tree and shrub seedlings, a reduced-cost landowner hunting license, a landowner antlerless license, law-enforcement protection, wildlife habitat technical assistance, free program signs, and coverage under the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act.

Additional benefits might also be available.

The success of the Hunter Access Program is due to the generosity of private landowners.

Through their cooperation, Pennsylvania's great outdoors heritage continues to be enriched by providing additional hunting and trapping opportunities throughout most of the state.

For more information on the Hunter Access Program, visit www.pgc.pa.gov or contact your Game Commission regional office.



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, ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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, ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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.



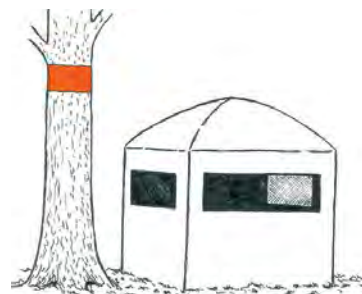
MOVING



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.

A fluorescent orange hat is recommended for spring gobbler hunters while moving.

The required amount of fluorescent orange for each season must be worn while moving from one hour prior to the start of legal hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours.

** Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.*

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.



Regular Season Nov. 5 - Nov. 10

In designated Elk Hunt Zones
within the Elk Management Area

Extended Season Nov. 12-17

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 or semiautomatic centerfire 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 may not exceed 3.25 inches. 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.

2018 ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION

EHZ 1	Open to all hunters	EHZ 8	2 Antlered; 7 Antlerless
EHZ 2	2 Antlered; 25 Antlerless	EHZ 9	2 Antlered; 7 Antlerless
EHZ 3	2 Antlered; 5 Antlerless	EHZ 10	2 Antlered; 11 Antlerless
EHZ 4	2 Antlered; 5 Antlerless	EHZ 11	2 Antlered; 2 Antlerless
EHZ 5	3 Antlered; 3 Antlerless	EHZ 12	3 Antlered; 17 Antlerless
EHZ 6	2 Antlered; 7 Antlerless	EHZ 13	2 Antlered; 6 Antlerless
EHZ 7	0 Antlered; 0 Antlerless	EHZ 14	2 Antlered; 4 Antlerless
		TOTAL	26 Antlered; 99 Antlerless

APPLY FOR AN ELK LICENSE

AN ELK LICENSE IS REQUIRED TO HUNT ELK.

There are 14 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. EHZ 1 is open to all hunters. Hunters are limited to harvesting one antlered or one antlerless elk, depending on the license they obtain, during the hunting license year.

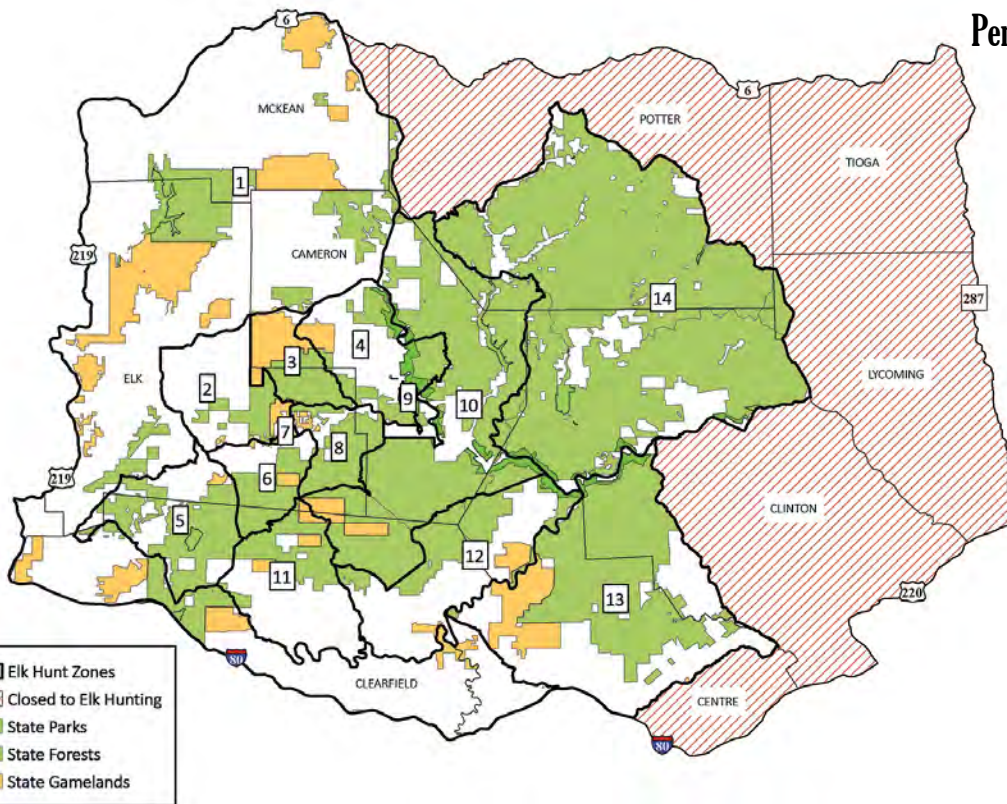
Hunters who do not harvest an elk during the regular season may participate in the extended season, in which they are permitted to take either an antlered or antlerless elk **outside** the state's Elk Management Area.

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, 2018. 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 bonus 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 bonus 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. 18 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 14 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: 46,028

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 Hollow Rd. Porcupine Hollow Rd. south to Winslow Hill Rd. Winslow Hill Rd. west, then south to Elk State Forest boundary. Elk State Forest boundary west to Front St. at Benezette. 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

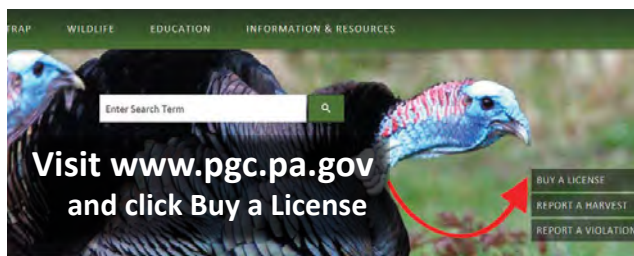
From intersection of Rt. 120 and SGL 14 western boundary, take Rt. 120 east to Moore Hill Rd. Moore Hill Rd. south to Hicks Run Rd. Hicks Run Rd. south to East Hicks Run Rd. East Hicks Run Rd. south to Hicks Run Rd. Hicks Run Rd. south to Rt. 555. Rt. 555 west to Dents Run Rd. Dents Run Rd. north to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

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.

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



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.



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.



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.

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.

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.