



Governor Jim Justice

Director Brett W. McMillion

February 28, 2023

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

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is soliciting comments concerning the 2023-2024 big game hunting regulations, 2024-2025 hunting and trapping regulations and 2024 fishing regulations. Regulations meetings to solicit comments are scheduled for March 13 and 14, 2023.

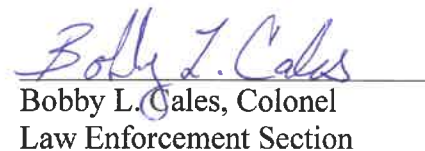
The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates, bag limits and creel limits similar to the 2022-2023 seasons (recommended changes are attached).

In order for us to obtain your recommendations and accurately record your comments and recommendations, it is necessary for you to complete and return the attached form prior to April 3, 2023, to the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, Attn: Keith Krantz, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241.

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



Paul R. Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section



Bobby L. Cales, Colonel
Law Enforcement Section

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

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

PLEASE PRINT

Individual, Group, or Organization Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Number or Members _____ Telephone _____

Signed _____ Date _____ County _____

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMMENTS AND THE QUESTIONNAIRE
BY APRIL 3, 2023**

Return To:

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2023-2024 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2023 Black Bear Seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2023 Antlerless Deer Season be open as shown in the attached tables.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2024-2025 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other small game and furbearer hunting and trapping regulations for the 2024-2025 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION SEEKS YOUR OPINION ON
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1. The Natural Resources Commission seeks your opinion of the following question. The Natural Resources Commission proposes that the annual antlered deer bag limit for all deer seasons combined be reduced from 3 antlered deer to 2 antlered deer starting with the 2024-2025 deer seasons.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Natural Resources Commission seeks your opinion of the following question. The Natural Resources Commission proposes to reduce or remove age restrictions to all youth hunting seasons; youth hunters ages 15-17 still must comply with all licensing requirements and youth hunters 14 or younger still must be accompanied by a licensed adult.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Natural Resources Commission asks for your input on the following question. In the past 12 months, have you observed any river otters in West Virginia?

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please list below the counties in which these river otter observations occurred.

FISH MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024 FISHING REGULATIONS

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a State-wide 8-fish daily creel and 16-fish possession limit for sauger and saugeye.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to increase the State-wide size limit for Blue Catfish from 24" to 25".

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to reduce the possession limit for Channel Catfish in stocked impoundments from 16 fish to 8 fish.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

4. All other fishing regulations will remain the same as in 2023.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**PROPOSED 2023 ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PRIVATE LAND)**

<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless (Class N/NN) Hunting</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non-resident (Must Apply) (Season Bag Limit: 1)</p> <p>Oct. 26-29; Nov. 20-Dec. 3; Dec. 7-10; Dec. 28-31</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 1)</p> <p>Oct. 26-29; Nov. 20-Dec. 3; Dec. 7-10; Dec. 28-31</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 3)</p> <p>Oct. 26-29; Nov. 20-Dec. 3; Dec. 7-10; Dec. 28-31</p>	<p>Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN. <i>(*see special regulation requirement below)</i> (Season Bag Limit: 3)</p> <p>Oct. 26-29; Nov. 20-Dec. 3; Dec. 7-10; Dec. 28-31</p>
<p>Fayette (<i>west portion</i>) Kanawha (<i>south portion</i>) Raleigh (<i>west portion</i>) Wayne (<i>south portion</i>)</p> <p>Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming</p>	<p>Boone (300) Greenbrier (<i>north portion - 200</i>) Nicholas (400) Raleigh (<i>east portion - 250</i>) Webster (350) Kanawha (<i>north portion - 400</i>) Clay (<i>south portion - 200</i>)</p>	<p>Braxton Brooke Cabell Clay (<i>north portion</i>) Fayette (<i>east portion</i>) Hancock Lincoln Marshall Mercer Mineral (<i>west portion</i>) Ohio Pleasants Pocahontas Randolph Summers Tucker Wayne (<i>north portion</i>) Wetzel Wirt</p>	<p>Barbour Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Grant Harrison Jackson Lewis Mason Marion Monongalia Pendleton Preston Putnam Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur</p>	<p>Berkeley Greenbrier (<i>south portion</i>) Hampshire Hardy Jefferson Mineral (<i>east portion</i>) Monroe Morgan Wood</p>

*In these counties, or parts thereof, deer hunters are required to take an antlerless deer from the county, which may be taken during any deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, prior to harvesting a second antlered deer, from the county, during the combined deer seasons, including the 2024 Mountaineer Heritage Season.

**PROPOSED 2023 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PUBLIC LANDS)**

Season Dates: Oct. 26-29, Nov. 20 -Dec. 3, Dec. 7-10, and Dec 28-31, 2023

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1		
Camp Creek SF (50) (Mercer Co.)	Greenbrier SF (50) (Greenbrier Co.)	Hillcrest WMA (25) (Hancock Co.)
National Forest (300) Randolph Co.	National Forest (500) Pocahontas Co.	

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1			
Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam Co.)	Pruntytown WMA (Taylor Co.)	Coopers Rock SF (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)	Snake Hill WMA (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)
National Forest (Preston/ Tucker Grant/Hampshire/ Pendleton/Hardy Cos.)	Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Cos.)	Pleasant Creek WMA (Barbour/Taylor Cos.)	Wallback WMA (Roane/Clay/Kanawha Cos.)
Daniels Ridge WMA (Monroe Co.)	Moncove Lake WMA (Monroe Co.)		

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICNSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 3
Burnsville Lake WMA (Braxton Co.)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CLOSED TO ANTLERLESS SEASON
National Forest (Greenbrier/Monroe Cos.)

All other WMAs and public lands not listed in this table will have the same seasons and bag limits as private land in the respective county or portion of the county where the WMAs or other public lands are located.

Proposed 2023 Black Bear Seasons

Statewide bag limit two, provided at least one bear comes from Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.
Youth, Class Q and Class XS Bear Season September 16 – 17, 2023 in all or parts of 26 counties open to bear hunting with dogs. May hunt with or without dogs.

Youth, Class Q and Class XS Bear Season October 21 – 22, 2023 in 51 counties open to firearms deer hunting, no dogs allowed.

Row Season – 55 counties: Sept. 30 – Dec. 31, 2023

Gun Seasons: Refer to Table Below

7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Oct. 7 – Oct. 13 14-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 20 – Dec. 3 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 4 – Dec. 31	9-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Sep. 2 – Sep. 10 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 4 – Dec. 31	4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 4 – Dec. 31	6-Week Gun Without Dogs Nov. 20 – Dec. 31	4-Day Gun Without Dogs in Counties or Parts of Counties Open for Antlerless Deer Gun Hunting Oct. 26 – Oct. 29	14-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 20 – Dec. 3	
Boone Fayette Kanawha Nicholas Raleigh	Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming	Barbour (E. of Rt. 92 or S. of Rt. 33 [Corridor H]) Braxton (E. of I-79) Clay (S. of Elk River) Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hardy Mineral (W. of New Creek) Monroe (E. of Rt. 219) Pendleton Pocahontas Preston Randolph Ritchie Tucker Upshur (E. of Rt. 20) Webster	Barbour (W. of Rt. 92) Berkeley Braxton (W. of I-79) Brooke Cabell Calhoun Clay (N. of Elk River) Doddridge Hampshire Hancock Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall Mason Mercer Mineral (E. of New Creek) Monongalia Monroe (W. of Rt. 219) Morgan Ohio Pleasants Putnam Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Upshur (W. of Rt. 20) Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Barbour (W. of Rt. 92) Berkeley Boone Braxton (W. of I-79) Brooke Cabell Calhoun Clay (N. of Elk River) Doddridge Fayette Gilmer Hampshire Hancock Harrison Jackson Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall Mason Mercer Mineral (E. of New Creek) Monongalia Monroe (W. of Rt. 219) Morgan Ohio Pleasants Putnam Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Upshur (W. of Rt. 20) Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Putnam Raleigh Ritchie Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Upshur (W. of Rt. 20) Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Gilmer Ritchie

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2023-2024
Big Game Hunting Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Mountaineer Heritage Season Deer, Bear and Turkey (Primitive Weapons)	Jan. 11, 2024 - Jan. 14, 2024	
Bear (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 30, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023	
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties}	Sept. 2, 2023 – Sept. 10, 2023 Oct. 7, 2023 - Oct. 13, 2023 Oct. 26, 2023 - Oct. 29, 2023 Nov. 20, 2023 - Dec. 3, 2023 Dec. 4, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023	See Attached Bear Tables for Selected Counties
Bear (Youth/Q/XS Season) – dogs permitted	Sept. 16, 2023 – Sept. 17, 2023	All or parts of 26 counties open to bear hunting with dogs.
Bear (Youth/Q/XS Season) – dogs prohibited	Oct. 21, 2023 - Oct. 22, 2023	
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 28, 2023 - Nov. 4, 2023 Feb. 2, 2024 - Feb. 4, 2024	
Boar (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 30, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023 Feb. 2, 2024 - Feb. 4, 2024	
Deer (Archery & Crossbow - Special Urban)	Sept. 9, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023 Jan. 8, 2024 - Jan. 31, 2024	
Deer (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 30, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 20, 2023 - Dec. 3, 2023	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 26, 2023 - Oct. 29, 2023 Nov. 20, 2023 - Dec. 3, 2023 Dec. 7, 2023 - Dec. 10, 2023 Dec. 28, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023	See Attached Deer Tables For Selected Counties
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season -Antlerless)	Oct. 21, 2023 - Oct. 22, 2023 Dec. 26, 2023 - Dec. 27, 2023	
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 11, 2023 - Dec. 17, 2023	
Turkey (Fall) - (4 week counties)	Oct. 14, 2023 - Oct. 22, 2023 Oct. 30, 2023 - Nov. 19, 2023	
Turkey (Fall) - (2 week counties)	Oct. 14, 2023 - Oct. 22, 2023 Oct. 30, 2023 – Nov 5, 2023	Fall counties determined after 2023 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1 week counties)	Oct. 14, 2023 - Oct. 22, 2023	Fall counties determined after 2023 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring 2024 Youth Season)	April 13, 2024 - April 14, 2024	
Turkey (Spring 2024)	April 15, 2024 - May 19, 2024	

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2024-2025
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 14, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 7 - 8, 2024	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 12, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 12, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Quail (Tomblin WMA closed)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 4, 2025	
Rabbit	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 4, 2025 Nov. 9, 2024 - Dec. 7, 2024	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night using any color artificial lights or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging, or active illumination)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025 Jan. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 31, 2025	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Mar. 31, 2025	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2024 - Nov. 23, 2024 Jan. 1, 2025 - Mar. 1, 2025	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	
Coyote (Hunting) (Hunting at night using any color artificial lights or night vision technology, including image intensification. Thermal imaging, or active illumination)	Jan. 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025*	* September 1 through December 31 – night hunting on private land only, landowner or hunter must contact the appropriate District Headquarters Office or local NRPO during regular business hours (8:30 am – 4:30 pm) Mon-Fri for the notification and further information. Note: Hunters must have written permission from the landowner and notification requests must be made no less than 24 hours prior to the requested date(s) of the hunt.
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	