



Governor Jim Justice

Director Brett W. McMillion

February 26, 2024


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 2024-2025 big game hunting regulations, 2025-2026 hunting and trapping regulations and 2025 fishing regulations. Regulations meetings to solicit comments are scheduled for March 11 and 12, 2024.

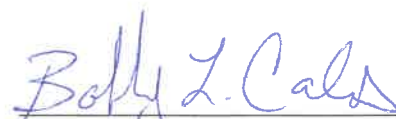
The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates, bag limits and creel limits similar to the 2023-2024 seasons (recommended changes are attached).

In order for us to obtain your recommendations and accurately record your comments and recommendations, it is necessary for you to complete and return the attached form prior to April 2, 2024, 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 2, 2024**

Return To:

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
2024–2025 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2024 Black Bear Seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2024 Antlerless Deer Season be open as shown in the attached tables.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2024–2025 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
2025–2026 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

4. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other small game and furbearer hunting and trapping regulations for the 2025–2026 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

5. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes that the Youth Squirrel Season bag limit beginning with the 2025 season be changed to six squirrels in aggregate per day and the possession and season limit be changed to twelve squirrels in aggregate.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**THE DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR REQUESTS
YOUR OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes that youth hunters during the Special Youth Deer Season be allowed to harvest either sex deer. Youth hunters would be allowed one antlered buck that would count towards the youth hunter's annual antlered buck limit of 2 for all deer seasons combined, except in a designated West Virginia CWD Containment Area where the annual antlered deer bag limit is 3 for all deer seasons combined. The antlerless deer bag limit will remain one per day during this special season that does not count towards the hunter's annual deer season bag limit.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**FISH MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
2025 FISHING REGULATIONS**

1. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a regulation on black bass at Elk Fork, North Bend, O'Brien, and Woodrum Lakes with a 6-fish per day creel limit, of which only one may exceed 16 inches. Possession limit of 12, only two of which may exceed 16 inches.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. All other fishing regulations will remain the same as in 2024.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

**PROPOSED 2024 ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PRIVATE LAND)**

Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless Hunting (Class N/NN)	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non-resident (Must Apply) (Season Bag Limit: 1) Oct. 24–27 Nov. 25–Dec. 8 Dec. 12–15 Dec. 28–31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 1) Oct. 24–27 Nov. 25–Dec. 8 Dec. 12–15 Dec. 28–31	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 3) Oct. 24–27 Nov. 25–Dec. 8 Dec. 12–15 Dec. 28–31	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) Oct. 24–27 Nov. 25–Dec. 8 Dec. 12–15 Dec. 28–31
Fayette (<i>west portion</i>) Raleigh (<i>west portion</i>) Wayne (<i>south portion</i>) Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming	Boone (300) Greenbrier (<i>north portion - 200</i>) Nicholas (400) (<i>east portion - 250</i>) Webster (350) Kanawha (<i>north portion - 400</i>) Kanawha (<i>south portion - 250</i>) Clay (<i>south portion - 200</i>)	Braxton Cabell Clay (<i>north portion</i>) Fayette (<i>east portion</i>) Hancock Lincoln Marshall Mercer Mineral (<i>west portion</i>) Pleasants Pocahontas Raleigh (<i>east portion</i>) Summers Tucker Wayne (<i>north portion</i>) Wetzel Wirt	Barbour Brooke Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Grant Harrison Jackson Lewis Mason Marion Monongalia Ohio Pendleton Preston Putnam Randolph Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur	Berkeley Greenbrier (<i>south portion</i>) Hampshire Hardy Jefferson Mineral (<i>east portion</i>) Monroe Morgan Wood

* 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 2025 Mountaineer Heritage Season.

**PROPOSED 2024 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS
(PUBLIC LAND)**

Season Dates: Oct. 24–27, Nov. 25 –Dec. 8, Dec. 12–15 and Dec 28–31, 2024

**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 (50) (Hancock Co.)
Public Land (350) (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 LICENSES 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 2024 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/QQ and Class XS Bear Season September 14–15, 2024 in all or parts of 26 counties open to bear hunting with dogs. May hunt with or without dogs.
- Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS Bear Season October 19–20, 2024 in 51 counties open to firearms deer hunting, no dogs allowed.
- Bow Season - 55 counties: Sept. 28 – Dec. 31
- Gun Seasons: Refer to Table Below (and 2nd page)

<p>7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs (Oct. 5–11)</p> <p>14-Day Gun Without Dogs (Nov. 25 – Dec. 8)</p> <p>4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs (Dec. 9–31)</p>	<p>9-Day Gun With or Without Dogs (Aug. 31 – Sep. 8)</p> <p>4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs (Dec. 9–31)</p>	<p>4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs (Dec. 9–31)</p>	<p>6-Week Gun Without Dogs (Nov. 25 – Dec. 31)</p>
<p>Boone Fayette Kanawha Nicholas Raleigh</p>	<p>Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>

**PROPOSED 2024 BLACK BEAR SEASONS
(continued)**

- 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/QQ and Class XS Bear Season September 14–15, 2024 in all or parts of 26 counties open to bear hunting with dogs. May hunt with or without dogs.
- Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS Bear Season October 19–20, 2024 in 51 counties open to firearms deer hunting, no dogs allowed.
- Bow Season - 55 counties: Sept. 28 – Dec. 31
- Gun Seasons: Refer to Table Below (and 2nd page)

4-Day Gun Without Dogs in Counties or Parts of Counties Open for Antlerless Deer Gun Hunting (Oct. 24–27)	14-Day Gun Without Dogs (Nov. 25 – Dec. 8)	7-Day Gun Without Dogs Sept. 21 – 27	
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 Nicholas Ohio Pleasants Putnam Raleigh Ritchie Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Upshur (W. of Rt. 20) Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Gilmer Ritchie	Barbour (W. of Rt. 92) Braxton (W. of I-79) Calhoun Clay (N. of Elk River) Harrison Lewis Mercer Monongalia Monroe (W. of Rt. 219) Roane Summers Taylor Upshur (W. of Rt. 20)

**PROPOSED OPENING AND CLOSING DATES FOR
2024–2025 BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS**

Species	Opening and Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Mountaineer Heritage Season Deer, Turkey and Bear (Primitive Weapons)	Jan. 9, 2025 – Jan. 12, 2025	
Bear (Archery and Crossbow)	Sept. 28, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024	
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties}	Aug. 31, 2024 – Sept. 8, 2024 Oct. 5, 2024 – Oct. 11, 2024 Oct. 24, 2024 – Oct. 27, 2024 Nov. 25, 2024 – Dec. 8, 2024 Dec. 9, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024	See Attached Bear Tables for Selected Counties
Bear (Youth/Q/XS Season) – dogs permitted	Sept. 14, 2024 – Sept. 15, 2024	All or parts of 26 counties open to bear hunting with dogs
Bear (Youth/Q/XS Season) – dogs prohibited	Oct. 19, 2024 – Oct. 20, 2024	
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 26, 2024 – Nov. 2, 2024 Feb. 7, 2025 – Feb. 9, 2025	
Boar (Archery and Crossbow)	Sept. 28, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024 Feb. 7, 2025 – Feb. 9, 2025	
Deer (Archery and Crossbow - Special Urban)	Sept. 7, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024 Jan. 13, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2025	
Deer (Archery and Crossbow)	Sept. 28, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 25, 2024 – Dec. 8, 2024	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 24, 2024 – Oct. 27, 2024 Nov. 25, 2024 – Dec. 8, 2024 Dec. 12, 2024 – Dec. 15, 2024 Dec. 28, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024	See Attached Deer Tables for Selected Counties
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season -Antlerless)	Oct. 19, 2024 – Oct. 20, 2024 Dec. 26, 2024 – Dec. 27, 2024	
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 16, 2024 – Dec. 22, 2024	

**PROPOSED OPENING AND CLOSING DATES FOR
2024–2025 BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS
(continued)**

Species	Opening and Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Turkey (Fall) - (4 week counties)	Oct. 12, 2024 – Oct. 20, 2024 Oct. 28, 2024 – Nov. 17, 2024	
Turkey (Fall) - (2 week counties)	Oct. 12, 2024 – Oct. 20, 2024 Oct. 28, 2024 – Nov 3, 2024	Fall counties determined after 2024 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1 week counties)	Oct. 12, 2024 – Oct. 20, 2024	Fall counties determined after 2024 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring 2025 Youth Season)	April 19, 2025 – April 20, 2025	
Turkey (Spring 2025)	April 21, 2025 – May 25, 2025	

**PROPOSED OPENING AND CLOSING DATES FOR
2025–2026 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS**

Species	Opening and Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 13, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 6–7, 2025	Proposed daily bag and possession limit changes
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 18, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 18, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Quail (Tomblin WMA closed)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Jan. 3, 2026	
Rabbit	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Jan. 3, 2026 Nov. 8, 2025 – Dec. 6, 2025	
Fox (Hunting and Trapping) (Hunting at night using any color artificial lights or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026 Jan. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Bobcat (Hunting and Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	

**PROPOSED OPENING AND CLOSING DATES FOR
2025–2026 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS
(continued)**

Species	Opening and Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2026	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Mar. 31, 2026	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2025 – Nov. 22, 2026 Jan. 1, 2026 – Mar. 7, 2026	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	* September 1 through December 31 - night hunting on private land only with written consent of the private landowner
Coyote (Hunting) (Hunting at night using any color artificial lights or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination)	Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026 *	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	
Elk, Song and Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons and Eagles	No Open Season	