

WEST VIRGINIA

# DNR

HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS SUMMARY

JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026



*almost heaven®*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

Hunting and trapping in West Virginia are longstanding traditions that contribute significantly to wildlife management, conservation and the cultural heritage of our state. Being a hunter or trapper means more than just getting out in the woods or harvesting your favorite game species — it means you support healthy wildlife populations and are a responsible steward for our natural resources. Some of my favorite hunting memories are from small game hunting, and I truly believe West Virginia offers some of the best small game hunting opportunities, especially for hunters who are new to hunting traditions.

This year's regulations reflect our continued commitment to science-based management and public input. I am excited to share with you a modernized and more accessible format for our annual public regulations meetings, where the public can review and comment on the annual hunting, trapping and fishing proposals. Beginning in March 2026, six public meetings will be held in an open-house format — one at each WVDNR district office. This provides in-person access for hunters and anglers who prefer to attend and speak directly with agency biologists. Let's face it, though. We're all busy with work and the demands of a hectic life, and that doesn't always leave a lot of time for attending meetings. For those who prefer to look over the proposals from your home, on your lunch break or the bleachers at your kids' games, we are expanding our digital outreach. Notifications will be sent by email and through social media that will let you review and provide comments on the proposals online. These changes are designed to make participation more convenient and inclusive, ensuring your voice helps shape the future of wildlife management in West Virginia.

I encourage you to take the time and get out into this beautiful state to connect with the wonderful traditions of hunting and trapping. See you afield!

Brett McMillion, DNR Director



## DISTRICT OFFICES

### Main Office - Charleston, WV 25305

State Capitol Complex, Building 4, 112 California Avenue

**Wildlife Management** – Steve Rauch (304) 558-6200

**Law Enforcement** – Lt. Col. David Trader (304) 558-6200

**License Unit** – Floyd Keeney (304) 558-6200

### District 1 - Farmington, WV 26571

1110 Railroad Street (304) 825-6787

**Wildlife Management** – Thomas Pratt

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. David James

### District 2 - Romney, WV 26757

1 Depot Street (304) 822-3551

**Wildlife Management** – Chelsey Fallor

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. Michael Lott

### District 3 - French Creek, WV 26218

West Virginia State Wildlife Center (304) 924-6211  
163 Wildlife Road

**Wildlife Management** – Kaylee Pollander

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. Douglas Benson

### District 4 - Beckley, WV 25801

2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive (304) 256-6947

**Wildlife Management** – Todd Dowdy

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. Christopher Lester

### District 5 - Alum Creek, WV 25003

Forks of Coal State Natural Area (304) 756-1023  
480 Forks of Coal Way

**Wildlife Management** – Taylor Wilcox

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. Dwayne A. Duffield



### District 6 - Parkersburg, WV 26104

76 Conservation Way (304) 420-4550

**Wildlife Management** – Jerry Westfall

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. Danny L. Dolin

### Operations Center - Elkins, WV 26241

738 Ward Road, P.O. Box 67 (304) 637-0245

**Wildlife Management** – Keith Krantz



DNRpolice



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 WildlifeWV  
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This pamphlet is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing hunting and trapping in West Virginia. It is for informational purposes only and subject to change. It is created for your convenience and designed to provide simplified statements of the controlling law. However, nothing contained herein shall be read to preempt or supercede the laws themselves. Instead, the West Virginia Code and the West Virginia Code of State Rules are, at all times, the controlling laws, and if there is a conflict or a question, it is the West Virginia Code and West Virginia Code of State Rules which prevail. Both the West Virginia Code and the West Virginia Code of State Rules are available for review in the Director's Office and at the Division of Natural Resources District Offices. Copies of the Code may also be found at: <https://code.wvlegislature.gov>. Copies of the Code of State Rules can be obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State.

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

## Summary of Changes 2025-2026

1. Season dates and open counties for antlerless deer, fall wild turkey and black bear hunting seasons have changed. See appropriate sections for details.
2. Deer carcass transportation regulations in Grant County and baiting and feeding restrictions in Pendleton County are now implemented (see page 14).
3. Minimum youth age restrictions for the youth seasons have been removed (see pages 29, 38 and 44).
4. The maximum caliber restriction for hunting coyote at night has been removed (see page 8).
5. The Small Arms Hunting Stamp (Class A1) has been eliminated for hunting with a handgun (see page 7).
6. An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) can be used for tracking and locating mortally wounded deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar. Only one leashed dog can be used for tracking and locating mortally wounded deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar (see page 8).



**Patrick Morrissey, Governor**  
State of West Virginia

**Brett McMillion, Director**  
Division of Natural Resources

**Paul Johansen, Chief**  
Wildlife Resources Section

**Col. Bobby L. Cales, Chief**  
Law Enforcement Section

### COMMISSIONERS

**David M. Milne** – District 1

**Jeffrey S. Bowers** – District 2

**Jerod A. Harman** – District 3

**Vacant** – District 4

**Gregory K. Burnette** – District 5

**Janet Hamric Hodge** – District 6

**Tennis F. Cook** – Public at Large

### Landowner – Sportsmen Relations

West Virginia hunters and trappers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, hunting and trapping would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon sportsmens' and womens' attitudes and conduct.

### Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, State Capitol Complex, Building 4, 112 California Ave., Charleston, WV 25305, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

# 2025-2026 SEASONS, DATES AND LIMITS

Species	Opening Date	Closing Date	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Season Limit				
*Wild Boar (Gun) Split Season	October 25 February 6	November 1 February 8	1						
*Wild Boar (Archery and Crossbow) Split Season	September 27 February 6	December 31 February 8							
*Deer (Buck Firearms) *Deer (Archery and Crossbow)	November 24 September 27	December 7 December 31							
*Deer (Antlerless) Split Season (Selected Counties)	October 23 November 24 December 11 December 28	October 26 December 7 December 14 December 31	See pages 15-20.						
	*Deer (Muzzleloader)	December 15				December 21			
	*Deer (Youth/Class Q/Class XS) Split Season (see page 29)	October 18 December 26				October 19 December 27	1	4	4
	*Deer, Bear and Turkey (Winter 2026 - Mountaineer Heritage - see page 35)	January 8				January 11	1 deer 1 bear 1 turkey		
*Bear (Archery and Crossbow)	September 27	December 31	See pages 37-42.  1 2 2						
*Bear (Gun) (Selected Counties)	August 30 September 20 October 4 October 23 November 24 December 8	September 7 September 26 October 10 October 26 December 7 December 31							
	*Bear (Youth/Class Q/Class XS - see page 38) Split Season	September 13 October 18				September 14 October 19			
	*Turkey, Fall  Split Season (Selected Counties - see page 44)	October 11 October 27 October 27				October 19 November 2 November 16	1		
	*Turkey (Spring 2026 - Bearded Only) *Turkey (2026 Youth Season - see page 44)	April 20 April 18				May 24 April 19			1
	Squirrel (Gray, Black, Albino and Fox) Squirrel (Youth Season - see page 29) Ruffed Grouse Bobwhite Quail (Bobwhite quail hunting closed on Tomblin WMA) Cottontail Rabbit Snowshoe or Varying Hare	September 13 September 6 October 18 November 1 November 1 November 1				February 28 September 7 February 28 January 3 February 28 February 28	6 6 4 3 5 2	24 12 16 9 20 8	None 12 None None None None
Ring-necked Pheasant (cock birds only) Hillcrest WMA (cock birds only)	November 1 November 8	January 3 December 6				2 1	2 1	None None	
Raccoon (Hunting) The bag limit of 4 is for the 24-hour period of 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. Raccoon (Trapping)	October 18 November 1	February 28 February 28	4	None	None				
Red Fox, Gray Fox (Hunting and Trapping) Red Fox, Gray Fox (Hunting - night with artificial light/night vision technology, see page 3)	November 1 January 1	February 28 February 28	None						
*Bobcat (Hunting and Trapping) Mink, Muskrat (Trapping) *Fisher (Trapping) *Beaver (Trapping) *Otter (Trapping)	November 1 November 1 November 1 November 1 November 1	February 28 February 28 January 31 March 31 February 28	3 None 1 None 1						
Crow - Split Season Nuisance Crows: crows committing depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, home gardens, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated so as to constitute a health hazard and or other nuisance may be killed at any time.	October 1 January 1	November 22 March 7	None						
Coyote (Hunting)**	Year-round		None						
Skunk, Opossum, Woodchuck, Weasel, English Sparrow, European Starling and Pigeon (Hunting) Skunk, Opossum, Coyote, and Weasel (Trapping)	Year-round November 1 February 28		None						
Elk, Song and Insectivorous Birds, Owls, Hawks, Falcons and Eagles			No Open Season						
Geese, Ducks, Mourning Doves, Gallinules, Rails, Woodcock and Common Snipe		Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration required. See WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations available in August.							
*Must be electronically registered (checked). See page 4 for instructions on the electronic registration process.			**See page 8 for additional regulations.						

## Prohibitions

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- hunt in state parks (except as otherwise designated), in safety zones in state forests or wildlife management areas and in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- shoot, hunt or trap upon the fenced, enclosed, purple paint marked or posted lands of another person without having in possession written permission from the landowner.
- carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods of this state or in state parks, state forests, state wildlife management areas or state rail trails, except during open firearms hunting seasons where hunting is lawful. It is legal to hunt unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds and migratory game birds during the open season in fields, waters and marshes of the state where hunting is lawful.
- hunt with a fully automatic firearm.
- hunt small game in counties having a buck firearms season during the first three days of this season. It is legal to hunt waterfowl during this period on lakes, rivers and waterways during the open waterfowl season, to hunt bear in specified counties, and to hunt coyotes.
- hunt deer, bear or boar between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise or with an electronic call.
- be afield with a gun or air rifle and bow, or with a gun or air rifle and any arrow at the same time, except that persons who aren't prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law may carry a firearm for self-defense only. The exception does not apply to an uncased rifle or shotgun carried specifically in state park or state forest recreational facilities and marked trails within state park or state forest borders.
- shoot a firearm within 500 feet of a school, church or dwelling, or on or near a park; provided, a resident or guest of a dwelling may shoot a firearm within 500 feet of the dwelling where the person lives, if all residents of the dwelling consent and no other dwellings are within 500 feet.
- hunt while under the influence of alcohol, controlled substance or any other drug.
- to hunt on public land or the lands of another for anyone under the age of 15, unless accompanied by a licensed adult, at least 18 years of age, who remains near enough to render advice and assistance (see exception for youth seasons pages 29 and 44).
- hunt or fish with a modified bow without a special permit issued by the Director.
- get out of a motor vehicle along a public road and shoot a bow, crossbow, firearm or air rifle unless you are at least 25 yards from the vehicle.
- shoot at any wild bird or animal unless it is plainly visible.
- shoot at a deer or boar while it is in water.
- hunt or conduct hunts for a fee when the person is not physically present in the same location as the wildlife being hunted within West Virginia.
- smoke wildlife from its den or place of refuge except as provided by law or regulation.
- use or attempt to use any artificial light or any night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination while hunting, locating, attracting, taking, killing or trapping wild birds or wild animals. However, artificial lights or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination, may be used for taking coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk and opossum. Coyotes and fox may be hunted using any color artificial light in open season (see pages 2 and 8).
- catch, kill or attempt to do so by seine, net, bait, trap, deadfall, snare or like device, any bear, game bird, protected bird or protected mammal or wild boar.
- bait or feed bear at any time.
- hunt, harass or shoot at wild animals or wild birds from an airborne conveyance, a drone or other unmanned aircraft (including the use of a drone or unmanned aircraft to drive or herd any wild bird or wild animal for the purpose of hunting, trapping, wounding, harassing, transporting or killing), from a vehicle or other land conveyance, from a motor-driven water conveyance or from or across a public road, unless specifically authorized to do so by law or regulation. You may shoot from a motorized watercraft if the motor has been completely shut off and progress from the motor has ceased.
- use poisons, chemicals or explosives in taking any furbearing animal, game animal, game bird or protected song and insectivorous bird, provided that groundhogs may be controlled on private land by landowners, their resident children or resident parents or a resident tenant from April 1-September 30.
- dispose of animal carcasses by dumping them along any public road or highway or on public or private property.
- bait or feed any wildlife on public land at any time.
- cause through carelessness, neglect or otherwise to let edible portion of any big game go to waste needlessly (see page 10).
- take any big game and detach or remove from the carcass the head, hide, antlers, tusks, paws, claws, gallbladder, teeth, beards or spurs only and leave the carcass to waste. Any person that is unable to locate the carcass of any lawfully taken big game prior to spoilage or decay may remove those parts, provided the big game is registered and shall count towards the daily and seasonal bag and possession limits.
- hunt small game with an air rifle of less than .22 caliber.
- shoot an arrow across any public highway.
- to shoot or discharge any firearms across or in any public road in this state at any time.

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## Trapping Regulations

A trap is a device used to catch and hold animals and includes box or cage traps, body gripping or killer-type traps, foot or leghold traps, encapsulating traps and snares.

No traps shall be set before 8 a.m. on the first day of the season or either set or left set after noon on the last day of the season.

All traps must be checked and tended daily.

Nonresidents must possess a valid Class E, XXJ, AAH or AAHJ license and a CS/LE stamp, or Class E-L license to trap.

All traps used for taking furbearing animals shall be marked with a durable plate or tag attached to the snare, trap or trap chain bearing the owner's name and address or the owner's DNR ID number.

A person who unintentionally traps and kills more than the season bag limit shall deliver excess animals to a Natural Resources Police officer within 24 hours.

West Virginia trappers will be allowed to sell live foxes to hound coursing pens in West Virginia during the 2025-2026 trapping season. All foxes used in hound coursing pens must be live-trapped in the county in which the pen is located.

The trapping of furbearing animals is permitted during the first three days of buck firearms season.

### Foot snares are legal when the snare loop:

1. does not exceed 6 1/2 inches in diameter.
2. is at ground level.
3. is horizontal to ground level.

## WEST VIRGINIA GAMECHECK

All hunters must check big game electronically in one of three ways:

- online at [WVdnr.gov](http://WVdnr.gov)
- at a license agent
- by calling 844-WVcheck (844-982-4325)

You must have your DNR ID number (*which is valid for your lifetime*) to successfully check big game, beaver, otter, fisher and bobcat.

**TIP:** Hunters and trappers need to make sure their DNR ID account is updated with current information and password before going afield.

**REMINDER:** Youth hunters, even if exempt from purchasing a license, are required to report game checks on their own account.

### Terrestrial body-gripping snares are legal when the snare:

1. has a relaxing-type lock system with either a breaking point of 350 pounds or less or a stop with a minimum loop diameter of at least 2 inches.
2. is set with an average loop diameter not greater than 15 inches.
3. is anchored at the trap site.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- have in possession an untagged beaver, bobcat, otter or fisher pelt or parts thereof after 30 days following the close of the respective season.
- set deadfalls for taking wildlife.
- set or use foothold traps with an open inside jaw spread of more than 6 1/2 inches unless the trap is used underwater.
- set traps or trapping devices in human foot trails or livestock paths.
- set body-gripping or killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread of more than 5 inches, as measured between striking surfaces of jaws when set for terrestrial trapping. These types of traps may be used in water sets.
- set spring pole snares.
- use exposed animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof to bait an animal to a trap set that is within 50 feet of the carcass. Animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof that are completely covered and concealed from sight may be used as a lure at the immediate trap site.
- trap on fenced, enclosed, purple paint marked or posted lands of another person without written permission of the landowner.
- take beaver, fisher, mink, otter or muskrat by any means other than by trap.
- use steel jaw traps with any teeth on or attached to them.
- set a trap, trapset or snare upon a tree, post or other natural or man-made object at any point more than 3 linear feet from the surface of the earth (whether such surface is water, soil or rock) measured at right angle from the surface to the trap or trapset. Traps may be set on natural earthen mounds, such as ant hills or muskrat houses, constructed without human assistance.
- set traps during the month of March for the taking of beaver unless the traps are in water.
- trap in state parks, in safety zones located in state forests and wildlife management areas, in Harpers Ferry NHP and on National Park Service land within the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.
- trap on a WMA or State Forest without obtaining a permit from the District Wildlife Biologist.

## Trapping Regulations continued

### TAGGING AND SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

**Bobcat hunters and trappers and otter trappers should obtain a plastic Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) seal for each bobcat and/or otter pelt they plan to sell out of state. All bobcat and/or otter pelts being sold by licensed fur dealers must have a CITES seal from the state where the animal was harvested before being sold on the international market. CITES seals are only available at DNR offices (see inside front cover).**

Trappers shall electronically register beaver, bobcat, otter and fisher pelts within 30 days after the close of the respective trapping season. The DNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number shall be recorded in writing with the trapper's name and address or on a field tag and shall be attached and remain attached to each beaver, bobcat, otter and fisher pelt until it has been sold, tanned, processed into commercial fur or mounted.

A person may not ship or transport any raw furs, pelts, skins, carcasses, carcass parts, including skulls, claws and bones, and urine of wild furbearers outside of the state unless such shipment has a special shipping tag visibly attached. Shipping tags must be obtained from the DNR. One part shall be attached to the outside of the package or container and the other part completed and returned to the DNR within 24 hours of shipping furs out of state.

The dealer or buyer of raw furs, pelts, skins, carcasses, carcass parts, including skulls, claws and bones, and urine of furbearers in this state shall have a dealer's license and shall submit to the Director a completed fur dealer transaction report issued by the Division.

### Air Rifle Hunting

Any person lawfully entitled to hunt may hunt with an air rifle during small game and big game firearm seasons. Air rifles may only be used for deer hunting in counties open to firearm deer hunting. Any person hunting with an air rifle is subject to all other rifle and firearm hunting regulations (see page 3), except that air rifles may be discharged within 500 feet of a dwelling. For more information about individual seasons, go to the sections for deer, bear, turkey and wild boar hunting.

## HOW TO REPORT THE HARVEST OF A TAGGED RIVER OTTER

During the summer of 2023, WVDNR began a river otter research project examining annual survival, harvest rates, habitat use and movement rates. This project will be ongoing for the next two years.

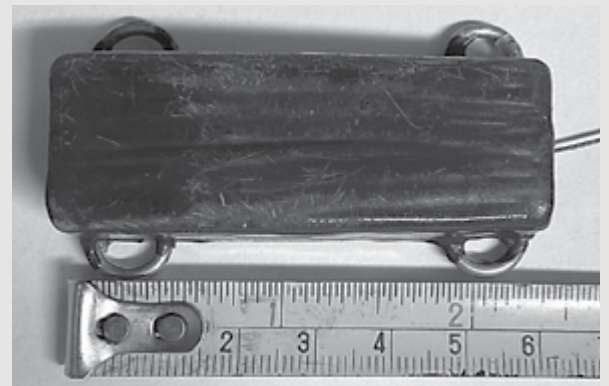
**Radio-tagged otters are legal game during trapping season.** If you harvest a radio-tagged otter, please call Holly Morris at the District 4 office at (304) 256-6947 to report the tag number and return the transmitter. Transmitters will be located inside the abdominal cavity and some otters will also have an external transmitter sutured on the otter's back. Your participation is essential to the success of this project.



*Sample of ear tag  
(less than half-inch long)*



*An internal radio transmitter approximately 4 inches long*



*An external GPS transmitter approximately 2.5 inches long*

## RIVER OTTER CARCASSES REWARD – \$20

Trappers who turn in skinned river otter carcasses to a DNR district office or local DNR official will receive a \$20 gift card for each usable carcass. Data collected will be used to monitor otter populations and guide management decisions.



# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## Archery and Crossbow Regulations

Nonresident bow and crossbow hunters, except holders of Class DT licenses, must possess a Class EE license and Class CS/LE and DS stamps or Class EE-L license to hunt bear.

For bow fishing, a resident or nonresident is required to have a valid fishing license.

A bow may be substituted for a firearm during any season for which firearms are legal except during the muzzleloader deer season. A crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during established big game firearms seasons except for muzzleloader season. In addition, a crossbow cannot be used to hunt deer in Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties unless you have a Class Y permit.

A Class Y permit allows a qualified, physically challenged person to hunt with a crossbow during designated archery seasons.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- have a gun and bow afield together, except that persons who aren't prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law may carry a firearm for self-defense only.
- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - » a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - » a working safety.
  - » bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and thenock.
  - » broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4-inch wide.
- hunt with a crossbow with more than one string.
- hunt wild turkey, bear, deer or boar with arrows with broadheads having less than two sharp-cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4 of an inch in width.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- use dogs while bow hunting for black bear except when the use of dogs is legal during the bear firearms season (this exception is only for counties where dogs are legal – see page 42). See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded bear.
- hunt with a locking device capable of holding a bow at full draw, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- bow hunt on state parks (except as otherwise designated), Harpers Ferry NHP, and safety zones on state forests and wildlife management areas. All wildlife refuges are appropriately posted.
- use bow or crossbow on Bright McCausland Homestead WMA.
- be afield with an air rifle and bow, or with an air rifle or any arrow at the same time.
- hunt with an air bow at any time.

### SHOW SUPPORT FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE

Purchase a specialty wildlife license plate.

When you order or renew your plate, \$15 of the registration cost goes directly to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources wildlife education programs. Show your support today.

Order a specialty wildlife license plate online at **DMV.WV.GOV** or call **800-642-9066**.

WEST VIRGINIA

**DNR**

*almost heaven*

**WVDNR.GOV | 304-558-6200 |**   

## REGULATIONS PUBLIC MEETINGS

WVDNR staff will be available to discuss and take public comments for proposed 2026-2027 regulations.

**March 10, 2026**

Alum Creek, Elkins and Farmington

**March 12, 2026**

Beckley, Parkersburg and Romney



## Tagging and Transporting

For specific tagging and transporting requirements, refer to the deer, bear, wild turkey, wild boar and trapping sections.

No persons may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the 13-digit game check confirmation number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

## Handgun Laws and Regulations

A person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by state or federal law may carry a firearm for self-defense.

Only revolvers or pistols having a barrel at least 4 inches in length are legal for hunting.

A revolver or pistol may be used only during established hunting seasons. Only single-shot muzzleloading pistols of .38 caliber or larger are legal for hunting deer during the muzzleloader season.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- take migratory game birds with a pistol.
- hunt bear, deer or wild boar with a revolver or pistol using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- hunt bear, deer or wild boar with a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.

## Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Licenses Information (Class AH, AHJ, AAH and AAHJ)

Persons who wish to try hunting and/or trapping without taking a hunter education course may buy an Apprentice Hunting License at any license agent or **WVdnr.gov** (see page 46). The AHJ and AAHJ licenses include fishing privileges.

No one who has ever had a base hunting license may buy the Apprentice License. A hunter who buys the Apprentice Hunting License must possess all other required documentation and stamps while hunting and must be accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed adult. See pages 47-49 for license fees.

## When Licenses or Permits are not Required

1. Resident landowners or their resident children or their resident parents or resident tenants of such land, may hunt or trap on their own land without a license during open seasons (see definition of resident landowner privileges on page 10).
2. Residents honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces receiving total permanent service connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of a motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, may apply for a Disabled Veterans and Former Prisoner of War License (Class V) which when in possession provides the recipient the same privileges as someone who possesses the following: AB-O-L and DS. Should this resident desire the privileges contained within the Class N, RB, RG or RM, those stamps must be purchased separately. This Class V license is forfeited should the license holder's state residency change.
3. Ohio residents who carry valid Ohio hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on the Ohio River and its embayments or tributaries to points identified by the Director or from the West Virginia banks of said river without obtaining West Virginia licenses. West Virginia residents who carry valid West Virginia hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on Ohio River embayments or tributaries to designated points in Ohio or from the river's banks in Ohio without obtaining Ohio licenses. Ohio hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting or fishing from Ohio banks or in Ohio embayment areas. West Virginia hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting or fishing on the Ohio River proper or from West Virginia banks and embayment areas.
4. Residents 65 or older who reached that age before Jan. 1, 2012 (those born before Jan. 1, 1947), do not need a license to hunt or trap, but must carry a West Virginia driver's license or West Virginia photo ID card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles (see page 47). Residents who have not reached their 15th birthday may hunt without a license but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult who remains near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. Some additional stamps may be required (see pages 11 and 46).
5. West Virginia residents on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, while on military leave, may hunt or trap in season without obtaining a license. Leave papers shall be carried while hunting or trapping. Some additional hunting stamps may be required (see pages 11 and 46).
6. Persons participating in field trials permitted by the Director shall not be required to have a hunting license.
7. Persons under 16 years of age do not need a migratory waterfowl stamp.

## Mandatory Hunter Education and Identification Requirement

No base hunting license may be issued to a person born on or after January 1, 1975, (exemption – see Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Licenses information on previous page) unless the person presents to the license agent: a certificate of satisfactory completion of a Hunter Education Course approved by the Hunter Education Association or the Director, or the previous year's resident or nonresident West Virginia hunting license bearing certification, or attests to certification when purchasing a license online. Persons who purchase a lifetime hunting license before their 15th birthday must complete a certified hunter education course before hunting with the license. However, he or she may utilize his or her lifetime hunting license (similar to an apprentice license) by hunting with a licensed adult until completing the required certified hunter education course.

A person may not legally hunt unless he/she has on his/her person: a) the proper licenses, stamps or permits or other proof that a valid license has been issued b) a state-issued photo ID and c) proof of hunter safety certification (if required).

Hunters who have lost their hunter education card may obtain a duplicate from their local DNR District Law Enforcement Office. Applications for duplicate cards are available at license agents or **WVdnr.gov**. The fee is \$10.

### Hunter Education Classes Information

Contact the WVDNR District Office that covers the county in which you live or visit **wvhuntered.com** or **WVdnr.gov** and look for the Hunter Education class search link.

## THE USE OF A LEASHED DOG OR UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES FOR TRACKING MORTALLY WOUNDED DEER, BEAR, WILD TURKEY OR WILD BOAR (W.VA. CODE 20-2-5J)

- A hunter may use one (1) leashed dog or an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for tracking and locating a mortally wounded deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar. A hunter is also permitted to use a dog handler and/or a licensed UAV operator for tracking and locating a mortally wounded deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar. The hunter or handler may only use one leashed dog at a time for tracking and must always maintain physical control of the dog. If a hunter is using a dog handler, the hunter may not handle additional dogs for the handler.
- A person tracking a mortally wounded deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar with a dog or UAV is hunting and is subject to all applicable laws and rules and must have a valid hunting license (see pages 11-12, 37, 43 and 45), unless exempt from licensing requirements (see page 7).
- The hunter must accompany the dog handler unless he or she is physically unable to track or locate the mortally wounded game. The dog handler may kill the mortally wounded animal if the hunter is physically unable. The deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar counts towards the hunter's bag limit.
- Any dog handler or UAV operator providing tracking services for profit must be licensed as an outfitter or guide.

## Dog Training

Persons training dogs shall not have a firearm or other implement for taking wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds, except that a person, who is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law, may carry a firearm for self-defense purposes only. Persons participating in dog training must have a hunting license.

A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, provided no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals are killed or damage is done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.

No person, other than the owner of a registered dog, may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog, or is done by a law enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

**Residents** may train dogs and hold field trials on wild animals and birds on public lands or on private land with the landowner's written permission at any time. Dogs may not be trained on deer or wild turkey.

**Nonresidents** may train dogs during any open small game hunting season. If their state offers West Virginia hunters reciprocal dog training privileges, they may train dogs on raccoons from August 15 to the end of February. See additional information on bear dog training on page 38.

### Bird Dog Training

A permit may be obtained to train dogs on pigeons or commercially pen-raised quail on private land if training during a closed season and if birds are being killed.

## Coyote Hunting Regulations

Coyotes may be hunted year-round.

Hunting coyotes at night using any color artificial light or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination, is permitted from Jan. 1–Dec. 31. From Sept. 1–Dec. 31, hunting coyotes at night is only permitted on private property with written consent of the landowner.

Air rifles for coyote hunting must be at least .22 caliber.

During closed small game seasons, coyotes may only be hunted in open fields.

Electronic calls are legal.

There is no daily, annual or season bag limit on coyotes.

## REPORTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW VIOLATIONS

**In progress** – dial 911

**Not in progress** – call your DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours or report online at [WVdnr.gov/law-enforcement/report-a-natural-resources-crime/](http://WVdnr.gov/law-enforcement/report-a-natural-resources-crime/). You also may report on [Facebook.com/DNRpolice](https://www.facebook.com/DNRpolice).

1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
2. Don't confront the violator.
3. Contact a local Natural Resources Police Officer or county communication center as soon as possible.

**Become involved in protecting your sport.  
Be willing to testify in court.**

## Point System for Hunting Violations

Persons found guilty of negligent shooting of humans or livestock will have their hunting licenses revoked for five years.

For bear hunting violation penalties, see page 37.

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges revoked for one year.

Points are assigned for other hunting violations:

- 10 points** use of spotlight with firearms or other implement or illegally killing a bear.
- 6 points** illegal possession or sale of wildlife or illegally killing deer, wild boar, or turkey.
- 6 points** hunting from a motor vehicle.
- 4 points** all other hunting violations.

When a person accumulates 10 or more hunting and/or fishing violation points combined, his/her licenses will be revoked for a period of two years.

Points will be removed on the second anniversary or upon restoration of the license.

License revocations may be made for cause, pursuant to statutory authority, or through an accumulation of points. Not all instances leading to revocation are listed herein. For more information, please see the West Virginia Code and the Code of State Rules.

## Sunday Hunting

Sunday hunting is legal statewide on private land with written permission from the landowner, and it is lawful to hunt throughout the State of West Virginia on federal land where hunting is permitted, in a state forest, on land owned or leased by the state for wildlife purposes and on land managed by the state for wildlife purposes pursuant to a cooperative agreement.

## National Forests

National Forests are managed under cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

Each wildlife management area on the national forests contains interspersed private land within its boundaries. Written permission is required on all private land before hunting, fishing or trapping.

Contact each National Forest for current rules and regulations applicable to the WMA areas.

### George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

5162 Valleypointe Parkway • Roanoke, VA 24019  
(540) 265-5100 • Toll Free: 1-888-265-0019  
[fs.usda.gov/gwj](http://fs.usda.gov/gwj)

### Monongahela National Forest

200 Sycamore Street • Elkins, WV 26241  
Voice and TDD: (304) 636-1800  
[fs.usda.gov/mnf](http://fs.usda.gov/mnf)

## National Wildlife Refuges

A free refuge hunting permit is required to hunt on the National Wildlife Refuges in West Virginia. Please contact the appropriate National Wildlife Refuge to obtain a permit and for rules and regulations governing hunting and fishing:

### Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

3982 Waverly Road • Williamstown, WV 26187  
(304) 375-2923 • [www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio\\_river\\_islands](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio_river_islands)

### Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

6263 Appalachian Highway • Davis, WV 26260  
(304) 866-3858 • [www.fws.gov/refuge/canaan\\_valley](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/canaan_valley)

## National Park Service Lands

Hunting is permitted on New River Gorge National Preserve, but is prohibited on New River Gorge National Park. Trapping is not permitted on New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, but is permitted on Gauley River National Recreation Area. Participants must possess the proper licenses/stamps and follow the regulations established by the WVDNR. Please observe no hunting areas, such as safety zones and private property. Tree stands left more than 24 hours will be removed. Feeding and baiting of wildlife, and use of ATVs/UTVs are not permitted on NPS property. Please respect the numerous private landowners' properties within the areas.

All lands are managed out of the Glen Jean headquarters.  
P.O. Box 246 • Glen Jean, WV 25846 • (304) 465-0508

### New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

[www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/hunting.htm](http://www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/hunting.htm)

### Gauley River National Recreation Area

[www.nps.gov/gari/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gari/index.htm)



## Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests

Rules and regulations governing hunting and trapping on state owned and leased lands are the same as on adjacent private lands except as follows:

1. Trapping permit, available from District Wildlife Biologist, required on all areas.
2. It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land at any time.
3. Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Bright McCausland Homestead, Burnsville Lake, Green Bottom, Fox Forest, Little Kanawha River and McClintic WMAs and Calvin Price and Coopers Rock State Forests — hunting is permitted only in accordance with special rules established for the area (see pages 6, 13, 18-20, 26, 28 and 31).
4. WMAs and state forests with camping areas require a permit and fee (see regulations posted at each area).
5. Camping is lawful only in designated areas.
6. Use of ATVs and snowmobiles is prohibited. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) means any motor vehicle designed for off-road use not subject to the vehicle registration requirements of Chapter 17A of the West Virginia Code.
7. Driving a vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile so as to harass or chase wildlife is prohibited.
8. Maximum speed limit for vehicles on WMAs and state forests is 30 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. All traffic signs and directions must be observed.
9. Driving a vehicle in a manner that creates a nuisance to other persons by repetitive or continuous cruising is prohibited.
10. Class Q hunting access is available on some WMAs. Contact the District Wildlife Biologist for more information or check online at WVdnr.gov under Disability Services.
11. Only portable tree stands may be used on public lands.
12. Target practice only permitted on designated public shooting ranges.
13. Bikes, including e-bikes, are permitted on roads open to public vehicular travel and on roads designated by signage for their use on WMAs and are permitted on all roads on state forests unless prohibited by signage for their use.

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

**Bait:** any feed or edible enticement or any non-edible facsimile of an edible enticement. See page 37 for bait restrictions specific to bear.

**Baiting:** the direct or indirect placing or exposing of bait so as to attract or entice wildlife to an area where hunters are attempting to take them. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after bait is removed.

**Big Game:** black bear, deer, wild turkey and wild boar.

**Bow:** a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is hand-drawn, hand-held and held at full draw without the aid of any mechanical device. Triggering devices or release aids are legal.

**Concurrent hunting:** hunting of the same and/or other species during a legally prescribed season.

**Crossbow:** a device consisting of a bow fixed transversely on a stock, the string of which is released by a trigger mechanism and propels a bolt.

**Edible portion of big game:** one or more of the following; (1) the meat of the front quarters to the knee; (2) the meat of the hind-quarters to the hock; or (3) the meat along the backbone between the front quarter and hind quarters. The edible portion of a wild turkey is the breast meat only.

**Hunt:** to chase, catch or take wild birds or animals.

**Licensed adult:** an individual who has attained the age of 18 years and possesses a valid West Virginia hunting and trapping license or is exempt from having to purchase a West Virginia hunting and trapping license.

**Life-threatening condition:** a terminal condition or illness that according to current diagnosis has a high probability of death within two years even with treatment with an existing generally accepted protocol.

**Modified bow:** a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that has been modified to hold the bow at full draw to accommodate a physical impairment of the user.

**Nonresident:** person who does not meet the requirements of a resident.

**Possession limit:** game taken in West Virginia that is in any way under the hunter's control. Example: the total of all game in a car, truck, home freezer, commercial food locker, or any other storage place.

**Private lands:** lands owned by an individual(s), partnership, heirship, club, organization or company and/or not qualifying as public land.

**Protected:** no open season. Hunting at any time shall be illegal for protected wildlife.

**Public lands:** lands owned, leased, licensed, managed under cooperative agreement with or under the control of the WVDNR for wildlife management purposes.

**Resident:** a person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and full-time students of a college or university of this state. Non-resident, full-time students of any West Virginia college or university are eligible to purchase lifetime licenses. Absentee ownership of land in West Virginia does not constitute legal residence.

**Resident landowner privileges:** apply to West Virginia residents who own land in West Virginia, their resident children and resident parents, or resident tenants when hunting or trapping on their own land. Resident tenants must permanently live on the land.

**Small Game:** all game and furbearing animals and game birds except big game.

## Resident Deer Hunting License Privileges

### ANNUAL CLASSES X, X3, XP, XP3, XJ, AND AHJ, LIFETIME CLASSES A-L, AB-L, AND XS\*, A+CS, AH+CS, MILITARY, DISABLED VETERAN, FORMER POW, SENIOR CITIZEN AND UNDERAGE:

entitles a hunter to take one deer during the archery or crossbow seasons, one antlered deer during the buck firearms season and one deer during the muzzleloader season.

\*Class XS License holders refer to page 29.

#### Additional stamps must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RG
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RB
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class N
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RM

### ANNUAL CLASSES A AND AH (MUST ALSO HAVE A CLASS CS):

entitles the hunter to hunt one antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

#### Additional stamps must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RG
- to hunt deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class BG
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RB
- to hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class BG
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RM
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class N

## Resident Landowner Privileges

West Virginia resident landowners may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license. See definition of resident landowner privileges on page 10.

**A resident landowner hunting on his/her own land without a license can take the same number of deer as a licensed hunter. A hunter (licensee or landowner) cannot take more than the number of deer allowed in the respective seasons.**



## Resident and Nonresident License Privileges with a Class DT Special Hunting and Fishing License for Persons with a Life-Threatening Condition

A resident or nonresident under age 21 who qualifies for and obtains a Class DT license, may hunt for and take the legal number of deer allowed in each season in compliance with county and statewide regulations without purchasing or otherwise obtaining any additional licenses or stamps, providing the Class DT license holder and assistant abides by all other pertinent laws and regulations. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

## STATE PARK DEER SEASONS

Information available July 1 at the WVDNR website, District offices and State Parks. Application process will be online at [WVdnr.gov](http://WVdnr.gov).

### Beech Fork State Park

November 3-5 and November 10-12, 2025

### Bluestone State Park

November 3-5, 2025

### Cacapon Resort State Park

November 10-12, 2025

### North Bend State Park

November 3-5 and November 10-12, 2025

### Pipestem Resort State Park

November 10-12 and November 17-19, 2025

### Twin Falls Resort State Park

November 10-12 and November 17-19, 2025

# DEER GENERAL REGULATIONS

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## Nonresident License Privileges

**Nonresidents (ages 8 through 17) who have satisfactorily completed a Hunter Education Course may purchase a Class XXJ license or AAHJ license (without the training) and a Class CS/LE stamp are entitled to take one deer during the archery or crossbow seasons, one antlered deer during the buck firearms season, and one deer during the muzzleloader season.**

### **Additional stamps must be purchased:**

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RRG
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RRB
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class NN
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RRM

**All other nonresidents, except those who hold License Classes XXJ, AAHJ or DT, regardless of landowner status, must purchase an annual Class E, AAH license and a Class CS/LE stamp or Class E-L license. This entitles the holder to hunt one antlered deer during the buck firearms season.**

### **Additional stamps must be purchased:**

- to hunt an additional antlered deer in the buck firearms season: Class RRG
- to hunt deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class UU or Class UU-L
- to hunt an additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons: Class RRB
- to hunt deer in muzzleloader season: VV or Class VV-L
- to hunt an additional deer in muzzleloader season: Class RRM
- to hunt antlerless deer in antlerless season: Class NN
- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I or Class I-L

## Baiting and Feeding Regulations

It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land at any time (see pages 3, 9, 10, 37, 44 and 45).

## Blaze Orange Requirement

Persons hunting in counties or portions thereof where a deer firearms season or muzzleloader season is presently open shall wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches. This applies to counties or parts thereof with the special youth/Class Q/XS antlerless deer season. This applies to the Mountaineer Heritage Season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

## Hunting Hours and Restrictions

You may hunt deer from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

After a person has killed his/her legal daily or season limit of deer, they may not participate further in hunting deer with either a bow, crossbow or firearm the remainder of the day.

After killing the legal limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition unless legally hunting bear, or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot unless legally hunting waterfowl using nontoxic shot.

It is legal to hunt small game during the muzzleloader season with a .22 caliber rimfire and .22 caliber air rifle.

**A hunter may take no more than two antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined.**

## Replacement Costs for Illegally Injuring or Killing Antlered Deer

In addition to the \$500 replacement value of deer, the following cost shall also be forfeited to the state by any person who is convicted of violating any criminal law of this state and the violation causes the injury or death of antlered deer:

1. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 14" or greater but less than 16" – \$2,500.
2. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 16" or greater but less than 18" – \$5,000.
3. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 18" or greater but less than 20" – \$7,500.
4. For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams on the antlers measured at the widest point equals 20" or greater – \$10,000.
5. Any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of any criminal law of this state which violation causes the injury or death of antlered deer is subject to double the authorized range of replacement cost to be forfeited.
6. Any person convicted pursuant to the replacement costs above shall also be subject to a revocation of hunting and fishing privileges for a period of five years.



## Firearms/Bows/Crossbows and Equipment

It is illegal to hunt deer with:

- a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball, or a rifle using rimfire ammunition of less than .25 caliber.
- a fully automatic rifle, shotgun or handgun.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- a muzzleloader of less than .38 caliber during the muzzleloader deer season.
- an air rifle of less than .45 caliber and with a bullet of less than 200 grains. Any person hunting with an air rifle is subject to all other rifle and firearm hunting regulations, except that air rifles may be discharged within 500 feet of a dwelling.
- both a gun and a bow or with a gun and an arrow, except that a person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by law may carry a firearm for self-defense.
- a crossbow with more than one string.
- a crossbow that does not have:
  - » a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - » a working safety.
  - » bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock.
  - » broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4 inch in width.
- a bow with arrows with broadheads having less than two sharp-cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4 inch in width.
- a bow locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- anything other than a bow, crossbow or single-shot muzzleloader on Green Bottom and Fox Forest WMAs.
- an electronic call.
- a bow or crossbow on Bright McCausland Homestead WMA.

## Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a deer must attach a completed field tag to the deer or remain with the deer and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a field tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel, the field tag shall be attached to the deer and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number, issued when electronically registered.

Each deer shall be electronically registered, and a WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number, hunter's name and address shall be attached to the deer within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

The 13-digit game check confirmation number, hunter's name and address shall remain on the deer until it is dressed for consumption.

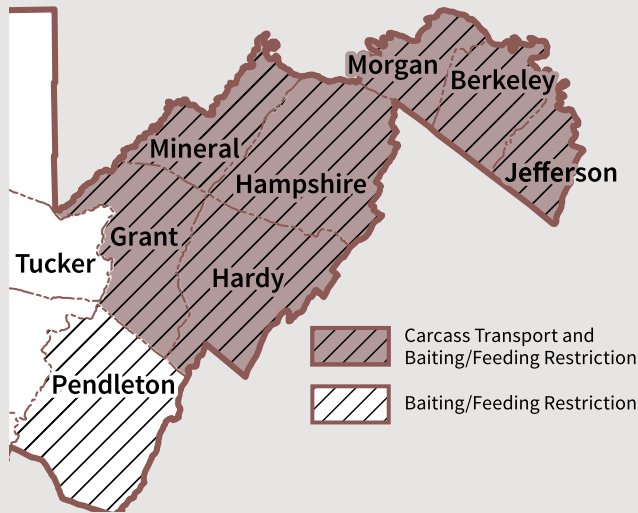
**A hunter may harvest two deer on the same day, but only one antlered buck may be harvested on the same day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Any person hunting with an air rifle is subject to all other rifle and firearm hunting regulations, except that air rifles may be discharged within 500 feet of a dwelling.

## WEST VIRGINIA CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) CONTAINMENT AREA

Includes all of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton counties.



### CARCASS TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

Hunters are prohibited from transporting dead cervids (deer, elk, etc.) or their parts beyond the boundaries of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties (shaded area) except for the following:

- meat that has been boned out,
- quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached,
- cleaned hide with no head attached,
- clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached,
- antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and
- finished taxidermy mounts

Hunters may transport whole cervid carcasses that were not killed inside Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties through the containment area.

### BAITING/FEEDING RESTRICTION REGULATIONS

It is illegal to bait or feed cervids or other wildlife in a "Containment Area" as determined by the Director and established for the management, control or eradication of chronic wasting disease or other wildlife diseases. Song and insectivorous birds may be fed, provided that such feeding shall not cause, or be done in a manner that would be reasonably anticipated to cause a congregation of cervids or other wildlife. Provided further, that captive cervids may be fed inside cervid facilities permitted by the state Department of Agriculture.

### CWD TESTING AVAILABLE

Adult deer harvested by hunters in the CWD Containment Area (see map to the left) during any deer season may be tested free of charge. Head drop-off locations are available at the District 2 Office (Hampshire County) and Sleepy Creek WMA headquarters (Berkeley County). A third location to serve southern Hardy, Grant and northern Pendleton for the 2025 deer season is currently being identified by WVDNR. Contact the District 2 Office at (304) 822-3551 for more information about this location. Hunters should bring the head of their deer, with 2-3 inches of neck attached, to the collection location and follow all instructions provided at the testing station.

Staff may be available to assist during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but heads may be dropped off at any time. Hunters must provide their DNR ID number, 13-digit game check confirmation number, address, telephone number, license type and a location for each animal submitted for testing. The hunter's field tag may be left in the deer's ear when the head is left for testing.

# WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASONS DEER

Deer can be checked in any order if you have the proper additional privilege.

The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season and state parks hunts) may include no more than 2 antlered bucks, except that 3 antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.

County See Pages 18-19 for Public Land Regulations	Archery and Crossbow Seasons September 27–December 31	Buck Firearms Season November 24–December 7	Antlerless Firearms Season* October 23-26; November 24– December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31	Muzzleloader Season* December 15-21
Berkeley Greenbrier (South Portion, see page 24)	<b>Maximum combined archery and crossbow seasons bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>Two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.</li></ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li><li>Note concurrent Antlerless Season.</li></ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to three antlerless deer may be taken on Class N or NN stamps or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county or combination of counties not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer.</li><li>Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license plus a Class N or NN stamp for each deer, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land.</li></ul> <p><i>*See pages 18, 19 and 20 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li></ul> <p><i>*See pages 18-19 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>
Barbour Brooke Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Grant Hancock Harrison Jackson Lewis Marion Mason	<b>Maximum combined archery and crossbow seasons bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>Two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.</li></ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li><li>Note concurrent Antlerless Season.</li></ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to three antlerless deer may be taken on Class N or NN stamps or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county or combination of counties not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer.</li><li>Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp for each deer, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land.</li></ul> <p><i>*See pages 18, 19 and 20 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li></ul> <p><i>*See pages 18-19 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>
Monongalia Ohio Pendleton Preston Putnam Randolph Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur	<b>Maximum combined archery and crossbow seasons bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>Two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.</li></ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li><li>Note concurrent Antlerless Season.</li></ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to three antlerless deer may be taken on Class N or NN stamps or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county or combination of counties not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer.</li><li>Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp for each deer, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land.</li></ul> <p><i>*See pages 18, 19 and 20 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li><li>One either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li></ul> <p><i>*See pages 18-19 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>

*In these counties (or parts thereof) hunters must kill an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This special regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.*



# DEER WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Deer can be checked in any order if you have the proper additional privilege.					
The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season and state parks hunts) may include no more than 2 antlered bucks, except that 3 antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.					
County See Pages 18-19 for Public Land Regulations	Archery and Crossbow Seasons September 27-December 31	Buck Firearms Season November 24-December 7	Antlerless Firearms Season* October 23-26; November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31	Muzzleloader Season* December 15-21	
Braxton Cabell Clay Fayette (East Portion, see page 24) Lincoln Marshall Mercer Mineral (West Portion, see page 25) Wetzell Wirt	<b>Maximum combined archery and crossbow seasons bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>Two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.</li> </ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> <li>Note concurrent Antlerless Season.</li> </ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One antlerless deer may be taken on a Class N or NN stamp or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land in each county not to exceed an annual statewide total of three Class N or NN deer.</li> <li>Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land. Prior application for permit not required.</li> </ul> <p><i>*See pages 18, 19 and 20 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> </ul> <p><i>*See pages 18-19 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	
Boone Greenbrier (North Portion, see page 24) Kanawha (North Portion, see page 25) Kanawha (South Portion, see page 25) Webster	<b>Maximum combined archery and crossbow seasons bag limit: 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>Two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps (one deer per stamp) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.</li> </ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> <li>Note concurrent Antlerless Season.</li> </ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to residents and non-residents and prior permit application is required.</li> <li>One antlerless deer may be taken with a valid permit on a Class N or NN stamp or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N or NN stamp, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land.</li> </ul> <p><i>*See pages 18, 19 and 20 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> </ul> <p><i>*See pages 18-19 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	

# WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASONS DEER

Deer can be checked in any order if you have the proper additional privilege.					
The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season and state parks hunts) may include no more than 2 antlered bucks, except that 3 antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.					
County See pages 18–19 for Public Land Regulations	Archery and Crossbow Seasons September 27–December 31	Buck Firearms Season November 24–December 7	Antlerless Firearms Season Season Closed	Muzzleloader Season* December 15–21	
Fayette ( <i>West Portion</i> , see page 24)  Raleigh ( <i>West Portion</i> , see page 25)  Wayne ( <i>South Portion</i> , see page 25)	<b>Maximum combined archery and crossbow seasons bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One either sex deer may be taken on a Class RB or RRB stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> </ul>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> </ul>	<b>Season Closed</b>	<b>Maximum season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, resident underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.</li> <li>One antlered deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege.</li> </ul> <p><i>*See pages 18–19 for exceptions and special regulations regarding muzzleloader season on WMAs and other public lands.</i></p>	
Logan  McDowell  Mingo  Wyoming	<b>Maximum archery season bag limit: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Crossbow Season closed, except for Class Y holders.</b></li> <li>Only one antlered deer may be taken per year, including 2026 Mountaineer Heritage season.</li> <li>One deer may be taken on a valid base license, free license, resident underage, or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land and one deer may be taken on a class RB or RRB stamp or by a resident landowner using that privilege;</li> <li>OR, if the hunter's first archery deer was taken in a county open to firearms deer hunting, two deer (at least one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps or by a resident landowner using those privileges.</li> </ul>	<b>Season Closed</b>	<b>Season Closed</b>	<b>Season Closed</b>	

# DEER WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Deer can be checked in any order if you have the proper additional privilege.	
The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season and state parks hunts) may include no more than 2 antlered bucks, except that 3 antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.	
Wildlife Management Areas and other Public Lands	Special Regulations  See page 10 for additional restrictions on hunting on public lands.
<p>Amherst/Plymouth WMA</p> <p>Moncove Lake WMA</p> <p>National Forest (<i>Grant/Hampshire/Hardy/Pendleton/Preston/Tucker counties</i>)</p> <p>Pleasant Creek WMA</p> <p>Pruntytown State Farm WMA</p> <p>Snake Hill WMA</p> <p>Stonewall Jackson Lake WMA</p> <p>Wallback WMA</p>	<p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties where the WMAs are located except: the Antlerless Season is open October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31 and the Antlerless Season bag limit is one deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>
<p>Canaan Valley NWR</p>	<p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Tucker County where public land is located except: the Antlerless Season is open October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31 and the Antlerless Season bag limit is three deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>
<p>Beech Fork Lake WMA</p> <p>Bluestone Lake WMA</p> <p>Burnsville Lake WMA</p> <p>Calvin Price State Forest</p> <p>Coopers Rock State Forest</p> <p>Little Kanawha River WMA</p> <p>McClintic WMA</p>	<p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Calhoun/Wirt counties (Little Kanawha River), Cabell/Wayne counties (Beech Fork Lake), Braxton County (Burnsville Lake), Monongalia/Preston counties (Coopers Rock), Pocahontas County (Calvin Price), Summers/Mercer/Monroe counties (Bluestone Lake) and Mason County (McClintic) where the State Forest or WMA is located except: all antlered deer taken must have a minimum 14" outside antler spread. Only one antlered deer may be taken on each area for all seasons (archery, crossbow, buck firearms, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage) combined. The Antlerless Season is open October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31, and the Antlerless Season bag limit is one deer. <b>(Burnsville Lake WMA – the Antlerless Season bag limit is three deer.)</b> Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>
<p>National Forest (<i>Greenbrier/Monroe counties</i>)</p>	<p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties or portions thereof where the WMAs are located except: the Archery and Crossbow Seasons bag limit is two deer. The Antlerless Season is closed. The Muzzleloader Season is restricted to antlered deer only. Class RM/RRM stamps are valid only for antlered deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>
<p>Camp Creek State Forest</p> <p>Daniels Ridge WMA</p> <p>Greenbrier State Forest</p> <p>National Forest (<i>Nicholas/Pocahontas counties</i>)</p> <p>National Forest and State Land (<i>Randolph County</i>)</p>	<p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in the counties or portions thereof where the WMAs or State Forests are located except: the Antlerless Season is open October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31. Prior application is required to hunt during the Antlerless Season and the Antlerless Season bag limit is one deer. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are only valid for antlered deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>



<p>Deer can be checked in any order if you have the proper additional privilege.</p> <p>The maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery season and state parks hunts) may include no more than 2 antlered bucks, except that 3 antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.</p>		
Wildlife Management Areas and other Public Lands	Special Regulations	
Wilson Cove Deer Study Area	<p>See page 10 for additional restrictions on hunting on public lands.</p> <p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Hardy County except: Buck Firearms Season is closed. <b>This area has a Special Antlered Muzzleloader Deer Season from November 24-December 7 and during this special season only muzzleloaders are permitted.</b> All Muzzleloader Season stamp requirements apply and harvested deer must be electronically registered as a Muzzleloader Season harvest. The annual antlered deer bag limit for Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloader Seasons and Mountaineer Heritage Season combined is one deer. The Antlerless Season is open October 23-26, November 24-December 7 (only muzzleloaders may be used during this period), December 11-14 and December 28-31. The RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>	
Green Bottom WMA	<p>All deer season regulations are the same as private land in Cabell/Mason counties except: Deer may only be hunted with bows, crossbows or muzzleloaders. Class RM and RRM muzzleloader stamps are valid for either sex deer. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>	
All other WMAs and other Public Lands	<p>All regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties or portions thereof where the WMAs or other public lands are located. One either sex deer may be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season (see page 35).</p>	

# DEER ANTLERLESS FIREARMS SEASON

Deer can be checked in any order if you have the proper additional privilege.				
An antlerless deer is any deer having no antlers or having no antler greater than three inches long above the hairline. The maximum annual bag limit in a county or any legal combination of counties is three Class N or NN antlerless deer.				
Counties* or parts thereof open to Unlimited Resident Class N, Nonresident Class NN and Two Additional Class N or NN	Counties or parts thereof open to Unlimited Resident Class N, Nonresident Class NN and Two Additional Class N or NN	Counties or parts thereof open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN	Counties or parts thereof, State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas open to Limited Resident Class N or Nonresident Class NN (Must Apply)	
Three (3) Class N or NN deer may be taken in each county, not to exceed an annual statewide bag limit of three (3) Class N or NN deer. October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31 (Private and Public Land**)	Three (3) Class N or NN deer may be taken in each county, not to exceed an annual statewide bag limit of three (3) Class N or NN deer. October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31 (Private and Public Land**)	One (1) Class N or NN deer may be taken in each county, not to exceed an annual statewide bag limit of three (3) Class N or NN deer. October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31 (Private and Public Land**)	Only one (1) Class N or Class NN antlerless deer may be taken in this group of counties and WMAs. October 23-26, November 24-December 7, December 11-14 and December 28-31 (Private and Public Land**)	
Berkeley Greenbrier (South Portion, see page 24) Hampshire Hardy Jefferson Mineral (East Portion, see page 25) Monroe Morgan Wood	Barbour Brooke Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Grant Hancock Harrison Jackson Lewis Marion Mason	Monongalia Ohio Pendleton Preston Putnam Randolph Ritchie Roane Taylor Tyler Upshur	Braxton Cabell Clay Fayette (East Portion, see page 24) Lincoln Marshall Mercer Mineral (West Portion, see page 25) Nicholas Pleasants Pocahontas Raleigh (East Portion, see page 25) Summers Tucker Wayne (North Portion, see page 25) Wetzel Wirt	<b>Counties or Parts Thereof</b>  Boone 300 Greenbrier (North Portion, see page 24) 200 Kanawha (North Portion, see page 25) 400 Kanawha (South Portion, see page 25) 250 Webster 350  <b>Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests</b>  Camp Creek State Forest (Mercer Co.) 50 Daniels Ridge WMA (Monroe Co.) 50 Greenbrier State Forest (Greenbrier Co.) 50 National Forest (Pocahontas Co.) 500 National Forest and State Land (Randolph Co.) 350 National Forest (Nicholas Co.) 50
*In these counties (or parts thereof) hunters must kill an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This special regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.				
<b>Counties not listed in the table are closed to firearms antlerless deer hunting.</b> **See pages 18, 19 and 20 for exceptions and special regulations regarding antlerless season on WMAs and other public lands.				

All antlerless deer taken during the antlerless deer season or the portion of the antlerless deer season concurrent with buck firearms season must be taken on a Class N or NN stamp, Class DT license or as a landowner. Only one antlerless deer may be taken on each Class N or NN stamp. See exception for concurrent archery and crossbow hunting on page 27.

## **All West Virginia residents must purchase a Class N stamp to hunt during the antlerless season with the following exceptions:**

- Resident landowners (see page 10) may hunt antlerless deer on their land without a license provided the land is in a county or part thereof open to antlerless deer hunting.
- Resident landowners, their resident children or resident parents do not have to live on the property. However, a resident tenant must permanently live on the land.
- Resident stockholders of resident corporations formed for the primary purpose of hunting or fishing who own in fee no less than 1,000 acres may hunt antlerless deer on their own land, provided the land is in a county or part thereof open to antlerless deer hunting.
- Residents or nonresidents who hold Class DT licenses are not required to purchase Class N or NN stamps but must abide by all other antlerless regulations.

## **All nonresidents, military personnel, senior citizens, Class Q, Class XS, disabled veterans, former POWs and underage hunters not exempted must purchase a Class N or NN stamp to hunt antlerless deer during the antlerless season.**

- Class N or NN stamps may be purchased at any license agent, the WVDNR office in Charleston or on the WVDNR website (see page 46).
- Class N or NN stamps are nontransferable. Class N or NN stamps are not county specific, but in limited resident counties, State Forests or WMAs, the Class N stamp must be accompanied by a valid eligibility card.
- During the antlerless season, a Class N or NN stamp holder may substitute a bow or crossbow for a firearm to take antlerless deer.

**A hunter may harvest two deer on the same day, but only one antlered buck may be harvested on the same day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

No person may actively participate (i.e., drive) in any manner in hunting antlerless deer without a valid Class N or NN stamp or otherwise being exempt from having a Class N or NN stamp.

Any person hunting with an air rifle is subject to all other rifle and firearm hunting regulations, except that air rifles may be discharged within 500 feet of a dwelling.

## **HOW TO REPORT HARVEST OF TAGGED WHITE-TAILED DEER**

In February 2021, WVDNR started a white-tailed deer research project examining survival, cause-specific mortality, habitat selection, and movement rates of male and female deer across West Virginia. This project will be ongoing for the next five years.

**Radio-tagged animals are legal game during the hunting season.** If you harvest a radio-tagged deer, please do not cut the collar off the animal. After harvesting a radio-tagged deer, please call Brett Skelly at the Elkins Operation Center at (304) 637-0245 to report the tag number and return the collar. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and important to the success of this project.



*Above: a radio-tagged buck*

*Right: radio collar*

*Below: ear tag showing WVDNR phone number*



# DEER ANTLERLESS FIREARMS SEASON

## Counties or parts thereof with a Bag Limit of Three Class N or NN Deer in Antlerless Season and Counties with a Bag Limit of Three Class N or NN Deer with Special Regulations


### Counties or parts thereof with a bag limit of three Class N or NN deer in antlerless season having a special regulation

There are nine counties or parts thereof where a hunter may take three antlerless deer during the antlerless season by purchasing multiple Class N or NN stamps (see pages 15 and 20). Hunters may take up to three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer in each county or part thereof and not to exceed the annual statewide bag limit of three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer. **There are nine counties or parts thereof (see pages 15 and 20) that require hunters to take an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.** See pages 18, 19 and 20 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

### Counties or parts thereof with a bag limit of three Class N or NN deer in antlerless season

There are 23 counties or parts thereof where a hunter may take three antlerless deer during the antlerless season by purchasing multiple Class N or NN stamps (see pages 15 and 20). Hunters may take up to three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer in each county or part thereof and not to exceed the annual statewide bag limit of three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer. See pages 18, 19 and 20 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

 **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident with special regulation:**  
bag limit of three

 **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident:**  
bag limit of three

## CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 14 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

## Concurrent Hunting during the Antlerless Deer Season

During antlerless season, concurrent hunting for small game (except during the first three days of the buck firearms season) and bear (where the season is open) is legal; however, no hunter except those legally hunting deer or bear shall be afield with a firearm with solid ball ammunition or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot, except for waterfowl hunters using nontoxic shot.

Concurrent archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during the antlerless season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. All persons hunting during deer firearms seasons or muzzleloader season (except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters) must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting is legal (see separate WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations publication).





## Counties or parts thereof, State Forests and/or WMAs with Limited Resident and Nonresident Class N or NN Permits, and Unlimited Resident and Nonresident Class N or NN with a Bag Limit of One

### Counties or parts thereof with a bag limit of one Class N or NN deer in antlerless season



Seventeen counties or parts thereof have an unlimited number of Class N or NN stamps for resident and nonresident antlerless deer hunting (see pages 16 and 20). No application is necessary for these counties. Hunters may take one antlerless (Class N or NN) deer in each county or part thereof in this group of counties, not to exceed the annual statewide bag limit of three antlerless (Class N or NN) deer. See pages 18, 19 and 20 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

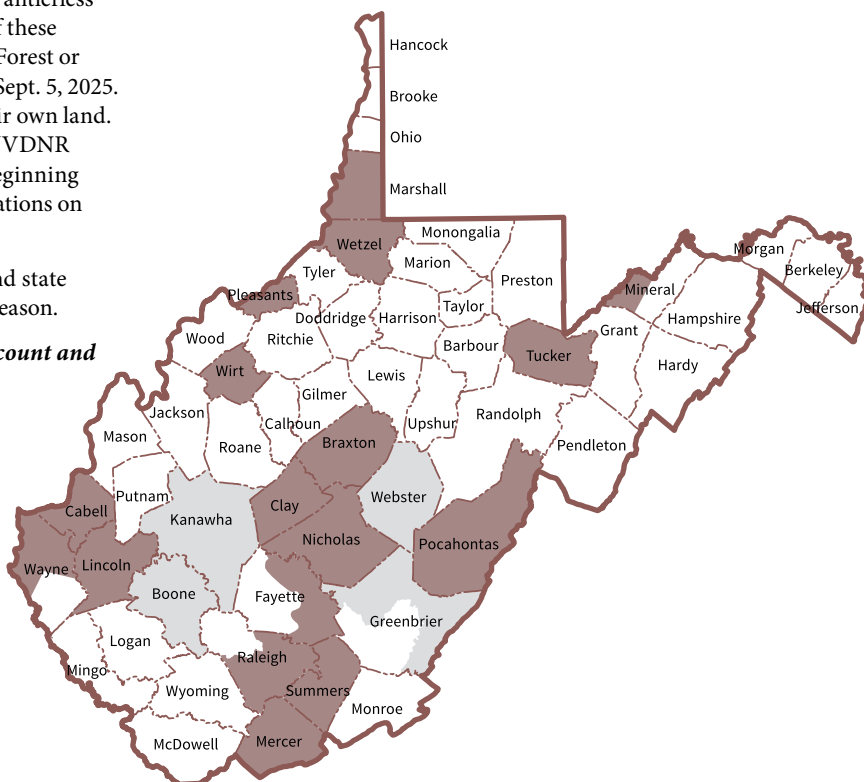
### Counties or parts thereof and public lands with limited resident and nonresident hunting for Class N or NN deer in antlerless season

There are five counties or parts thereof with resident Class N or nonresident Class NN antlerless deer hunting with prior permit application in 2025 (see pages 16 and 20). One wildlife management area, National Forest in Nicholas and Pocahontas counties, National Forest and State Land in Randolph County and two state forests have a limited number of Class N or Class NN stamps for antlerless deer hunting (see page 20). To be eligible to hunt in one of these counties or on one of these WMAs, portions of National Forest or state forests, an application must be submitted online by Sept. 5, 2025. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land. Successful applicants will receive notification from the WVDNR by mail and applicants can check online at [WVDnr.gov](http://WVDnr.gov) beginning September 15. See pages 18, 19 and 20 for antlerless regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

In limited resident and nonresident antlerless WMAs and state forests, a hunter may take only one deer in the antlerless season.

**To apply, go online to [WVDnr.gov](http://WVDnr.gov), and log into your account and click the Enter Lottery tab.**

-  **Unlimited Resident and Nonresident:**  
bag limit of one
-  **Limited Resident and Nonresident:**  
bag limit of one



## SHARE THE HARVEST SUNDAY

**NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

The DNR and the WV Council of Churches cooperatively sponsor Share Your Harvest Sunday each year to financially support the **Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH)** program. Since its inception in 1992, HHH has provided venison for more than 1.4 million meals to needy West Virginians.

During this Sunday, or another Sunday of choice, churches are encouraged to ask members of the congregation to donate \$1, \$5 or whatever they can afford. DNR staff collect the donations to help pay for meat processing and distribution costs.

### Mail donations to:

**Hunters Helping the Hungry**  
WVDNR Wildlife Resources  
163 Wildlife Road  
French Creek, WV 26218

For more information contact  
the DNR District 3 office  
at 304.924.6211 or visit





[WVDnr.gov/hunters-helping-the-hungry](http://WVDnr.gov/hunters-helping-the-hungry)

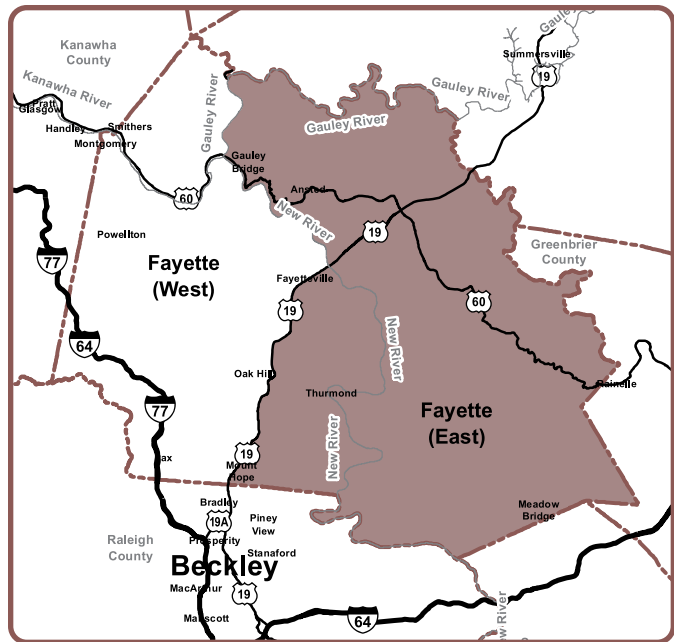


# DEER SPLIT COUNTIES – MAPS/DESCRIPTIONS

## ANTLERLESS SEASON KEY

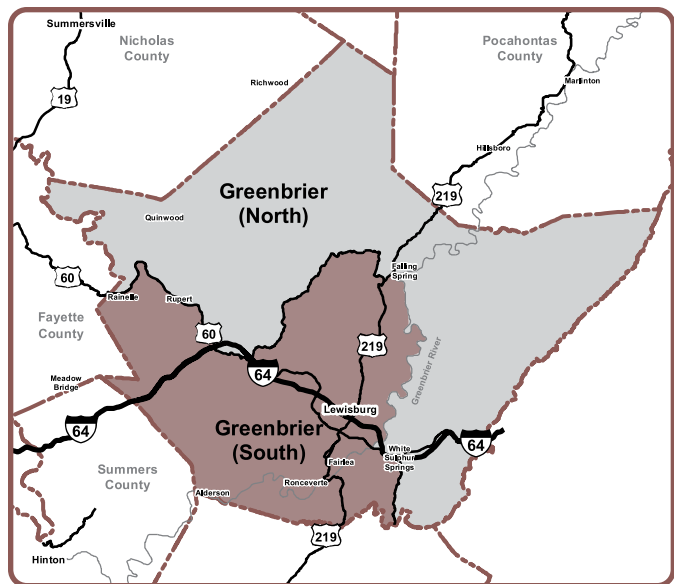
(See pages 15-20)

-  Unlimited Resident and Nonresident with special regulation: bag limit of three
-  Unlimited Resident and Nonresident: bag limit of one
-  Limited Resident and Nonresident: bag limit of one
-  Closed: to all firearms deer hunting



### Fayette County

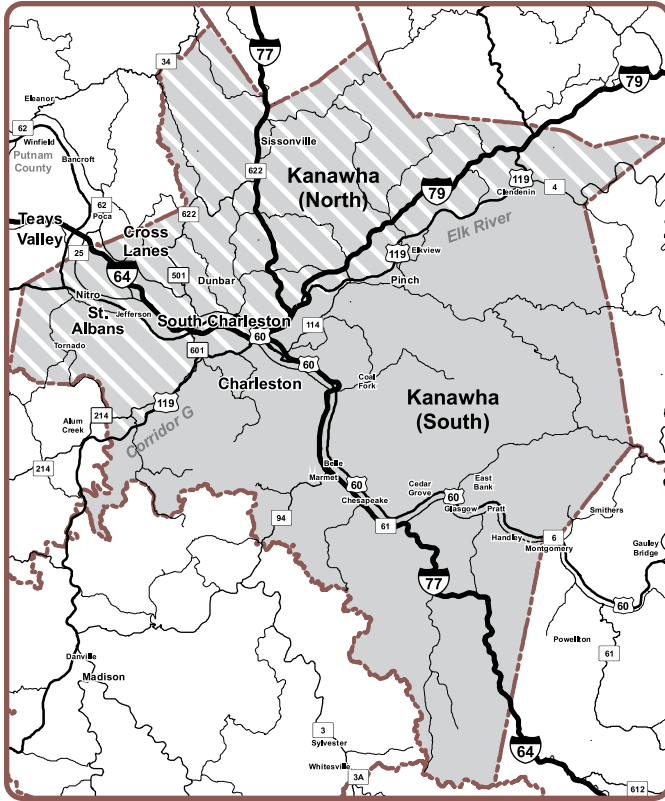
(East/West Division Line) — starting at the Raleigh County line, U.S. Route 19N to New River, then follow New River north to the Gauley River (at Gauley Bridge), then along the Gauley River to the Nicholas County line.



### Greenbrier County

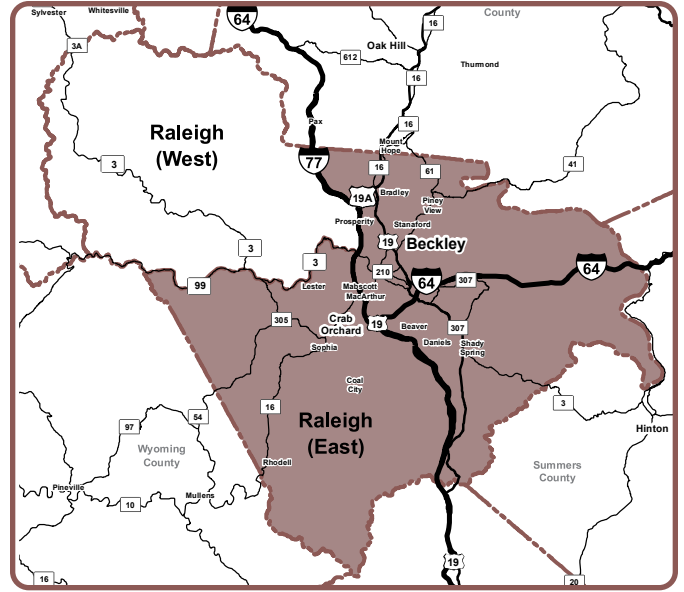
(North/South Division Line) — starting at the Fayette County line, U.S. Route 60E to CR9, CR9N to U.S. Route 219, U.S. Route 219N to CR 11 (at Renick), CR 11E to Greenbrier River, south along the Greenbrier River to I-64, I-64E to CR 60/14, CR 60/14S to Monroe County line.

# SPLIT COUNTIES – MAPS/DESCRIPTIONS DEER



## Kanawha County

(North/South Division Line) — starting at the Clay County line at the Elk River, west along the Elk River to Charleston (intersection of I-64 with Corridor G), south along Corridor G to Lincoln County line.



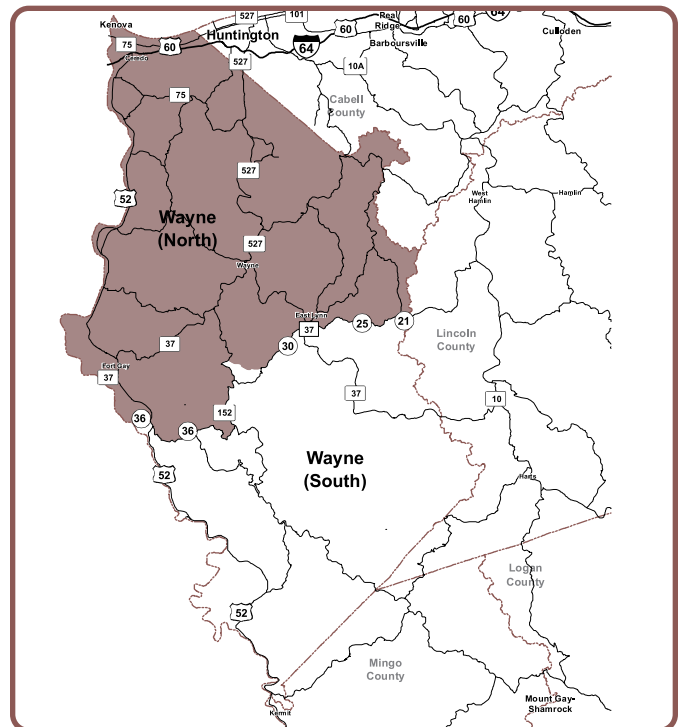
## Raleigh County

(East/West Division Line) — starting at the Wyoming County line, SR 99E to intersection with SR 3 (at Glen Daniel), then SR 3E to intersection with I-77/64 (at Beckley), then I-77N to Fayette County line.



## Mineral County

(East/West Division Line) — starting at the West Virginia-Maryland state line, U.S. Route 220S to SR 972, SR 972S to U.S. Route 50, U.S. Route 50W to SR 93, SR 93S to Grant County line.



## Wayne County

(North/South Division Line) - starting at the Lincoln County line, CR 21N to CR 25, CR 25W to SR 37 (at East Lynn), SR 37S to CR 30, CR 30W to SR 152, SR 152S to CR 36, CR 36W to West Virginia-Kentucky state line.

# DEER ARCHERY AND CROSSBOW SEASONS

**Daily Bag Limit: 2**

**Opening Date: September 27**

**Closing Date: December 31**

Three deer may be taken with a bow or crossbow during the archery and crossbow seasons. One deer may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class X3, Class XP, Class XP3, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS+BG or Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+UU, Classes AAH+CS/LE+UU, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE, Class DT or Class E-L + UU-L or UU). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take an archery or crossbow deer without a license. Up to two additional deer may be taken with Class RB or Class RRB stamps (one per stamp) or on a Class DT license or by resident landowners hunting on their own property. If two deer are taken on Class RB or RRB stamps, or on a Class DT license or by a resident landowner using those privileges, one of the two must be an antlerless deer taken in a county open to Class N antlerless hunting. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

**A hunter may take no more than two antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined, except that three antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.**

**A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

Deer of either sex may be hunted statewide with a bow or crossbow during the archery and crossbow seasons, except that crossbows are not permitted in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties, except by the holders of Class Y permits. Only one antlered deer may be taken during the Archery and Mountaineer Heritage Seasons combined in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during any deer firearms season except that a bow or crossbow cannot be substituted in the muzzleloader season.

## IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - » a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - » a working safety.
  - » bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock.
  - » broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4 inch in width.
- hunt with a crossbow with more than one string.
- hunt deer with arrows with broadheads having less than two sharp-cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4 inch in width.
- use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- use an electronic call to hunt deer.
- use a bow or crossbow on Bright McCausland Homestead WMA.
- be afield with both gun and bow or with gun and an arrow, except that a person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by law may carry a firearm for self-defense.
- be afield with an air rifle and bow or an air rifle and any arrow at the same time.
- hunt with an air bow at any time.

## WEST VIRGINIA GAMECHECK

All hunters must check big game electronically in one of three ways:

- online at [WVdnr.gov](http://WVdnr.gov)
- at a license agent
- by calling 844-WVcheck (844-982-4325)

You must have your DNR ID number (*which is valid for your lifetime*) to successfully check big game, beaver, otter, fisher and bobcat.

**TIP:** Hunters and trappers need to make sure their DNR ID account is updated with current information and password before going afield.

**REMINDER:** Youth hunters, even if exempt from purchasing a license, are required to report game checks on their own account.



## Additional Deer Archery Stamps

### Class RB and Class RRB

A resident may purchase only two Class RB stamps and a nonresident may purchase only two Class RRB stamps for the archery and crossbow seasons. The Class RB or Class RRB archery stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of statewide archery season.

- Only one deer may be taken with each Class RB or RRB stamp.
- Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RB or RRB stamps may be checked in any order.
- Class RB or RRB stamps cannot be used for taking deer with a firearm.

Two additional deer may be taken with Class RB or Class RRB stamps, by holders of Class DT licenses or by a resident landowner hunting on their own land during the archery and crossbow seasons. If two deer are taken on Class RB or Class RRB stamps, or on a Class DT license, or by a resident landowner using Class RB stamp privileges, one of the two must be an antlerless deer taken in a county open to Class N antlerless hunting.

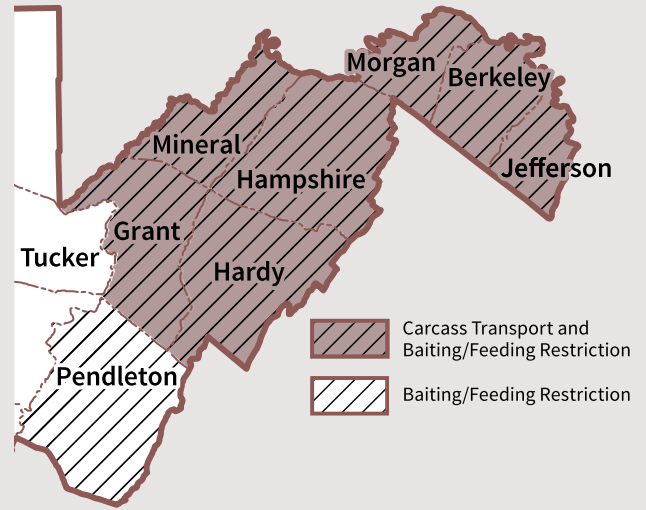
**There are nine counties or parts thereof (see pages 15, 20 and 22) that require hunters to take an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.**

The annual limit for the four-county area of Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties is two archery deer, one of which must be antlerless. One Class RB or RRB stamp is valid in these counties, except if the first archery deer was taken in a county open to firearms deer hunting, then two deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB stamps or a Class DT license in counties open to firearms deer hunting. The taking of archery antlerless deer during the buck firearms season is legal in these counties.

To take additional archery or crossbow deer, all residents except holders of Class DT licenses and resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land are required to purchase Class RB stamps. All nonresidents except holders of Class DT licenses are required to purchase Class RRB archery stamps to take additional archery or crossbow deer (see license requirements on page 12).

## CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 14 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.



## Concurrent hunting during Deer Archery and Crossbow Seasons

A bow hunter may take small game at any time the small game season is open, except the first three days of buck firearms season in counties having a buck firearms season. **A crossbow hunter may take small game during the deer crossbow season, except the first three days of buck firearms season in counties having a buck firearms season.**

Archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer are legal during muzzleloader deer season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. Additionally, archery and crossbow hunters must wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches during any deer firearms or muzzleloader seasons.

# DEER ARCHERY AND CROSSBOW SEASONS

## Special Seasons and Restrictions

### Urban Deer/Bear Archery/Crossbow Split Season

A special archery/crossbow deer/bear hunting split season is available between Sept. 6–Dec. 31, 2025, and Jan. 12–31, 2026, to incorporated cities, towns, villages and incorporated homeowner associations. To implement the hunt, homeowner associations must submit a written request to the Director by March 1 of the hunt year. During this special season, seven deer may be taken, which may include no more than two antlered bucks and the first deer must be antlerless. In addition, no more than two deer, only one of which may be antlered, may be taken in one day. One bear may be taken and a DS Stamp is required, except for underage resident and resident landowners hunting on their own land. Deer and bear taken in the Urban Deer/Bear Archery/Crossbow Season shall not apply to the hunter's regular archery and crossbow seasons bag limits. For information regarding this special archery deer/bear season, contact your local municipal government, homeowner association or the appropriate WVDNR office.

### Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken during archery and crossbow seasons on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake, Little Kanawha River and McClintic WMAs, and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price state forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). Only one antlered deer may be taken on each area for all seasons (archery, crossbow, buck firearms, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage) combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on all public lands (see page 12).

### McClintic and Green Bottom Wildlife Management Areas – Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Areas

Hunting in the controlled waterfowl hunting area of McClintic and Green Bottom WMAs is restricted to waterfowl hunting during the early segment of the waterfowl season. Refer to the 2025-2026 WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulation available in August for season dates.

### Wilson Cove Deer Study Area

See page 31 for restrictions on the Wilson Cove Deer Study Area. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on public land at any time (see page 12).

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- be afield with both gun and bow or with a gun and an arrow, except that a person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by law may carry a firearm for self-defense.
- be afield with an air rifle and bow or an air rifle and any arrow at the same time
- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - » a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - » a working safety.
  - » bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock.
  - » broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4 inch in width.
- hunt with a crossbow with more than one string.
- hunt with an air bow at any time.
- hunt deer with arrows with broadheads having less than two sharp-cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4-inch in width.
- use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- to use an electronic call to hunt deer.
- use a bow or crossbow on Bright McCausland Homestead WMA.

## Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center

OPEN Tuesday-Saturday | 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
301 Forks of Coal Way • Alum Creek, WV

WEST VIRGINIA  
**DNR**

WVDNR.GOV | 304-558-6200 |   



# SPECIAL SPLIT YOUTH, CLASS Q AND CLASS XS SEASON DEER

October 18-19 and December 26-27, 2025: Antlerless Deer Only

Only one antlerless deer may be taken per day. A bow or a crossbow can be substituted for a firearm or muzzleloader during this season.

See page 14 for special regulations for West Virginia CWD Containment Area carcass transport and baiting.

It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land at any time.

The special split antlerless deer season for youth, Class Q and Class XS hunters will be held on private land in all counties having a firearms deer hunting season and on all public lands within these counties.

The bag limit of one antlerless deer per day will not count towards the hunter's annual deer season bag limit. Also, an antlerless deer taken during the Youth, Class Q and Class XS season does not count toward the requirement to kill an antlerless deer before killing a second antlered deer in counties listed on page 15. A Class N or NN stamp is not required by youth hunters hunting during this special split antlerless season. A Class N stamp is not required by seniors with a Class XS license and by hunters with a Class Q permit. Each deer taken must be field tagged (see page 13) and electronically registered within 24 hours of the close of each portion of this special split season and before hunting an additional deer.

Youth, Class Q and Class XS season participants and all other hunters hunting on private land or on any of the public lands during the special youth, Class Q and Class XS deer season, with the exception of waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

## Youth hunters:

- must be less than 18 years old; youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements, but Class N or NN stamp not required (see page 46),
- less than 15 years old must be accompanied by a licensed adult, who must also wear 400 square inches of blaze orange, may not hunt or possess implements for the taking of wildlife and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. An adult assisting a youth hunter during any special youth season may handle the hunter's firearm to provide safe handling advice and help.

**All accompanying adult nonresidents must possess a Class E license + CS/LE stamp or Class E-L license.**

**and, if a nonresident youth,**

- possess Class XXJ license + CS/LE stamp, Class AAHJ + CS/LE stamp, Class DT or Class E-L license.

**REMINDER: Youth hunters, even if exempt from purchasing a license, are required to report game checks on their own account.**

## Senior hunters:

- must be a resident 65 years of age or older and possess a Class XS license.

## Class Q hunters must possess:

**if a resident,**

- Class Q permit plus one of the following:
  - » Class A license + CS stamp or
  - » Class X, X3, XP, XP3, AH, XJ, AHJ, XS, A-L or AB-L license or
  - » Free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT) or
  - » Be underage (must be accompanied by a licensed adult)

**if a nonresident,**

- Class Q permit + Class E license + CS/LE stamp or
- Class Q permit + Class AAH + CS/LE stamp or
- Class Q permit + Class XXJ + CS/LE stamp or
- Class Q permit + Class AAHJ + CS/LE stamp or
- Class Q permit + Class DT or
- Class Q permit + Class E-L license

## Special Youth Seasons

**Class Q and Class XS license holders are not eligible for these youth seasons.**

### Squirrel: Sept. 6-7, 2025

Youth hunters under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a licensed adult. The accompanying adult cannot carry a gun or a bow and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. The adult assisting a youth hunter during any special youth season may handle the hunter's firearm to provide safe handling advice and help. Youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements (see page 46).

### Turkey: April 18-19, 2026

See page 44.

### Waterfowl: Sept. 20 and Nov. 1, 2025

See West Virginia Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations available in August for details.

# DEER BUCK FIREARMS SEASON

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Opening Date: November 24

Closing Date: December 7

Only deer having one or both antlers more than 3 inches in length above the hairline are legal during the buck firearms season (see concurrent hunting for antlerless deer during buck firearms season on page 31).

Two deer may be taken with a gun, air rifle, crossbow or bow during the buck firearms season. One may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class X3, Class XP, Class XP3, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS or Classes AH+CS); or free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE, Classes AAH+CS/LE, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE, Class DT or Class E-L). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take an antlered deer without a license. An additional deer may only be taken with a Class RG stamp, Class RRG stamp, Class DT license or by resident landowners hunting on their own property. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

**A hunter may take no more than two antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined, except that three antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.**

**A hunter may take no more than one antlered deer per day.**

Legal firearms for hunting deer during the buck firearms season shall include:

- a rifle using centerfire ammunition.
- a rifle using .25 caliber or larger rimfire ammunition.
- a single-shot muzzleloading rifle, with or without scope, and muzzleloading pistol of .38 caliber or larger.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of .357 magnum cartridge or larger or a bottle-necked case of .24 caliber or larger (see page 7).
- a shotgun loaded with solid ball ammunition.
- an air rifle .45 caliber or larger and a bullet of 200 grains or greater.



## Additional Buck Firearms Season Gun Stamps

### Class RG and Class RRG

During a calendar year, a resident may purchase only one Class RG stamp and a nonresident may purchase only one Class RRG stamp.

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RG or Class RRG stamp. The Class RG and Class RRG stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of buck firearms season. The Class RG and Class RRG stamps are valid for buck hunting in all counties open to buck firearms season.


To take an additional deer, all residents, except resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land or holders of a Class DT license, are required to purchase a Class RG stamp. All nonresidents are required to purchase a Class RRG stamp or possess a Class DT license if they choose to take an additional deer (see license requirements on page 12).


**There are nine counties or parts thereof (see pages 15, 20 and 22) that require hunters to take an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.**

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RG or RRG stamps may be electronically registered in any order.

## Buck Firearms Season Counties

All counties except Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties are open.

 **Open:** Buck Firearms Season  
November 24–December 7, 2025  
(See pages 18-19 for special public land regulations)

 **Closed:** to all firearms, muzzleloaders or air rifles deer hunting



## Concurrent Hunting during Buck Firearms Deer Season

Antlerless deer hunting is legal on private land in 51 counties or parts thereof and all public lands having an antlerless season Nov. 24–Dec. 7, 2025. To hunt antlerless deer during the buck firearms season, a valid Class N or NN stamp or Class DT license is required for all hunters except for resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land. **A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

Small game hunting is prohibited during the first three days of buck firearms season in all counties having a buck firearms season; provided, waterfowl hunting is legal on lakes, rivers and waterways during the open waterfowl season, bear hunting is legal in specified counties, and coyote hunting is legal. The trapping of furbearing animals is permitted during the first three days of buck firearms season. Small game hunting is legal during open small game seasons beginning November 27, 2025. While hunting small game during the buck firearms season, No. 4 shot or smaller and slugs may be carried with a shotgun only if the hunter is legally hunting deer or bear.

A combination rifle-shotgun (over-under, etc.) is legal for deer hunting and concurrent small game hunting.

After killing the legal daily or season bag limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition (unless legally hunting bear) or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot. Waterfowl hunters may use nontoxic shot larger than No. 4.

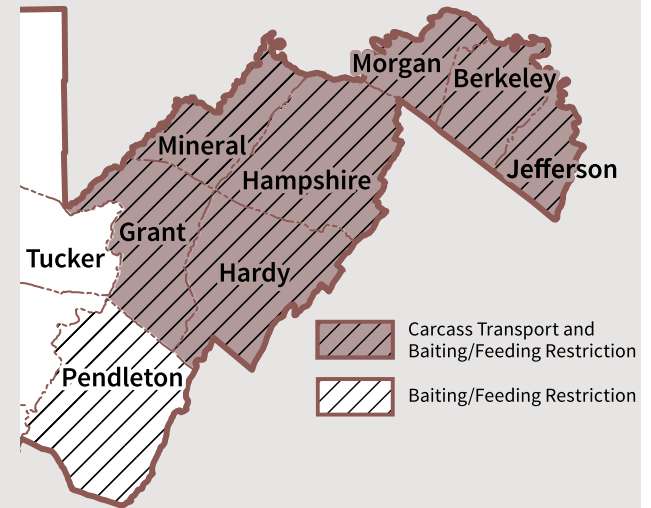
It is illegal to hunt small game during the buck firearms season with any centerfire, with any rimfire larger than .22 caliber, with any air rifle except .22 caliber, or with a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 in a county that is not open to buck firearms season.

Archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during buck firearms season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm to take antlered deer, or if hunting on a Class N or NN stamp or Class DT license, antlerless deer may be taken during the buck firearms season on private land in specified counties and on specified public lands (see pages 18, 19 and 20).

All persons hunting during a deer firearms or muzzleloader season, except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

## CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 14 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport, designated CWD sampling stations and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.



## Special Seasons and Restrictions

### Wilson Cove Deer Study Area

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area, located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest, will have a special antlered deer muzzleloader season November 24–December 7, 2025. During this period, only single shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” of .38 caliber or larger, are legal for deer hunting on these areas. These two areas will not be open to the traditional buck firearms season. All muzzleloader season license requirements apply and harvested deer must be electronically registered as a Muzzleloader Season harvest (see pages 11-12, 19 and 32). Only one antlered deer may be taken on each area for all seasons (archery, crossbow, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage) combined.

### Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake, Little Kanawha River and McClintic WMAs, and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price State Forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). Only one antlered deer may be taken on each area for all seasons (archery, crossbow, buck firearms, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage) combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on all public lands (see page 12).

# DEER MUZZLELOADER SEASON

**Daily Bag Limit: 2**

**Opening Date: December 15**

**Closing Date: December 21**

Two deer may be taken with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season. One may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class X3, Class XP, Class XP3, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS+BG or Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+VV, Classes AAH+CS/LE+VV, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE, Class DT DT or Class E-L + VV-L or VV). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 11) may take a muzzleloader season deer without a license. An additional muzzleloader season deer may only be taken with a Class RM or RRM stamp, a Class DT license or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Muzzleloader season hunting for antlered deer is legal in all counties open to the buck firearms season. A deer of either sex may be taken in the muzzleloader season in all counties or parts thereof open to the Class N season. One additional deer may be taken on a Class RM or RRM stamp or a Class DT license in all counties having the muzzleloader season (see pages 15-17 and 33).

In the muzzleloader season, only single-shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” and muzzleloaders using an encapsulated propellant charge that loads from the breech, with the projectile loaded from the muzzle of .38 caliber or larger, are legal. Telescopic sights are legal. A firearm that has been converted into a muzzleloader by use of a plug, or a double-barreled or swivel-barreled muzzleloader is illegal for deer hunting during the muzzleloader season.

A bow, crossbow or an air rifle may not be substituted for a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season.

**A hunter may take no more than two antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined, except that three antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders.**

**A hunter may harvest two deer per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered prior to harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged prior to hunting during a subsequent day.**

## Use of Class RM and Class RRM Stamps and Class DT Licenses in the Muzzleloader Season

Only one Class RM or RRM stamp may be used in the muzzleloader season.

Only one deer may be taken with a Class RM or RRM stamp. The Class RM and RRM stamps must be purchased prior to the opening of the muzzleloader season.

To take an additional muzzleloader season deer, all residents, except resident landowners (see page 11) hunting on their own land and hunters who possess a Class DT license are required to purchase a Class RM stamp. All nonresidents, except holders of a Class DT license, are required to purchase a Class RRM stamp if they choose to take an additional muzzleloader deer.

Class RM and Class RRM stamps or a Class DT license may be used to take one additional deer in the muzzleloader season in all counties having the muzzleloader season (see pages 15-17 and 33). See pages 18-19 for muzzleloader season regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Deer taken on a base license or license stamp combination or Class RM or RRM stamps may be checked in any order.

Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses may be used to take one antlered deer in all counties having the muzzleloader season OR;

Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses may be used to take one either-sex deer in the 47 counties or parts thereof having a Class N or NN antlerless season bag limit of one unlimited or three antlerless (Class N) deer (see muzzleloader map on page 33). See pages 18-19 for muzzleloader regulations on WMAs and other public lands.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting is legal (see separate WVDNR Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations publication).

**There are nine counties or parts thereof (see pages 15, 20 and 22) that require hunters to take an antlerless deer within the county, which may be taken during any regular deer season open to antlerless deer hunting, before killing a second antlered deer within the county. This regulation applies across all the combined regular deer seasons and the Mountaineer Heritage Season.**

## CWD CONTAINMENT AREA

See page 14 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

## Concurrent Hunting during Muzzleloader Season

Concurrent archery and crossbow hunting for antlered and antlerless deer is legal during the muzzleloader season subject to all archery and crossbow deer hunting regulations.

Concurrent hunting is permitted during the muzzleloader season. It is illegal to be afield with solid-ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 during the muzzleloader season except for those persons legally hunting bear, and for waterfowl hunters using nontoxic shot. All persons hunting during deer firearms or muzzleloader seasons (except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters) must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

It is legal to hunt small game with .22 caliber rimfire and .22 caliber air rifle during the muzzleloader season.

## Muzzleloader Season Counties

Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties are closed to all firearms deer hunting.

- 
- Open:** to antlered only muzzleloader season hunting on base license and Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses
- Open:** to either-sex muzzleloader season hunting on base license, and antlered deer only on Class RM, RRM stamps or Class DT licenses
- Open:** to either-sex muzzleloader season hunting on base license and Class RM, RRM stamps and Class DT licenses
- Closed:** to all firearms deer hunting

See pages 24-25 for more detailed descriptions and maps of Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Raleigh and Wayne counties.

*See pages 18-19 for exceptions and special regulations on WMAs and other public lands.*

## Special Seasons and Restrictions

### Wilson Cove Deer Study Area

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area, located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest, will have a special antlered deer muzzleloader season Nov. 24–Dec. 7, 2025. During this period, only single shot muzzleloaders, including “in-lines” of .38 caliber or larger, are legal for hunting deer on these areas. These two areas will not be open to the traditional buck firearms season. All muzzleloader season license requirements apply and harvested deer must be electronically registered as a Muzzleloader Season harvest (see pages 11–12 and 32). Only one antlered deer may be taken on each area for all seasons (archery, crossbow, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage) combined.

### Older-aged Deer Management Areas

All antlered deer taken on Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Burnsville Lake, Little Kanawha River and McClintic WMAs and Coopers Rock and Calvin Price state forests must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip). Only one antlered deer may be taken on each area for all seasons (archery, crossbow, buck firearms, muzzleloader and Mountaineer Heritage) combined. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on all public lands at any time (see page 12).



# DEER CWD—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

CWD is a neurological (brain and nervous system) disease of the deer family known to occur in limited geographical locations in North America and Europe. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). These diseases are caused by an abnormal form of a protein called a prion. There is no practical test of live animals to detect CWD, and there is no known treatment or vaccine. Postmortem testing is necessary for definitive diagnosis.

## How is it spread?

It is thought that the most common mode of transmission from an infected animal is via saliva, feces, urine and possibly other body secretions. The infectious prion persists in the environment. There is evidence that people moving live infected animals have spread the disease over long distances.

## Is it dangerous to humans?

There currently is no convincing evidence that the agent of CWD affects humans. However, public health officials recommend that human exposure to the CWD agent be avoided as they continue to research the disease. This includes not eating meat from known infected animals or animals that appear sick.

## Where has it been found?

As of May 1, 2025, CWD has been detected in free-ranging deer and elk in portions of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming in the United States, and in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada. In addition, CWD has been found in captive/farmed elk and white-tailed deer in Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin in the United States, and Alberta, Quebec and Saskatchewan, Canada.

In West Virginia, CWD has been found in 837 white-tailed deer. Testing of road-kill deer in all West Virginia counties has been continuous since 2002. The WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section, in cooperation with various USDA certified laboratories, has tested more than 23,967 deer from West Virginia for CWD. As of April 2025, 702 deer from Hampshire County, 33 from Hardy County, 48 from Berkeley County, 22 from Mineral County, 21 from Morgan County, 10 from Jefferson County and one from Grant County are the only animals found thus far to have the abnormal prion associated with CWD.

## What is being done about CWD in West Virginia?

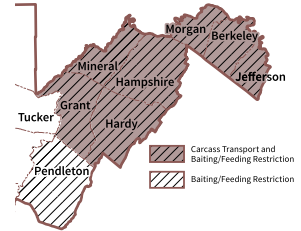
CWD in West Virginia represents a significant threat to the state's white-tailed deer. The disease does not create an immediate widespread die-off of deer, but if allowed to spread, will cause long-term damage to the herd. The WVDNR is monitoring the prevalence and distribution of the disease in the areas surrounding known infected deer. The WVDNR also discourages supplemental feeding and baiting of deer statewide, bans these practices on public land, and also bans these practices anytime in Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton

counties. In addition there are restrictions on the disposal and transport of deer carcasses from Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties within the West Virginia containment area (see CWD containment area) and any deer brought into West Virginia from states where CWD has been detected or from fenced enclosures. There are no proven solutions to combating CWD once present in free-ranging deer. Thus, future management actions will be adaptive and based on the findings of current and future surveillance.

## Chronic Wasting Disease Containment Area

Includes all of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton counties (cross hatch counties at right). It is **illegal to bait or feed deer** any time in the "Containment Area" (see baiting and feeding regulations on page 14). In addition, hunters are **prohibited from**

**transporting dead deer or their parts beyond the boundary of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties** (shaded counties at right) within the containment area except for the following: meat



that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with **no part of the spinal column or head** attached, cleaned hide with no head attached, clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached, antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and finished taxidermy mounts. Hunters may transport cervid carcasses that were not killed inside the containment area through the containment area.

or other portions of meat with **no part of the spinal column or head** attached, cleaned hide with no head attached, clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached, antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and finished taxidermy mounts. Hunters may transport cervid carcasses that were not killed inside the containment area through the containment area.

## What can hunters do?

- If you kill or observe a severely emaciated (very skinny) deer or a deer that is obviously sick, or a deer with an ear tag, contact the WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section office nearest you.
- Do not feed or bait deer. These practices concentrate deer, increase the likelihood of spread of any disease present in the deer herd, and may introduce foreign contaminants via the feed or bait.
- Harvest adequate numbers of antlerless deer to maintain deer populations in balance with natural food supplies. A deer population in balance with available habitat is healthier and less likely to spread diseases.
- Avoid using natural deer urine based lures in the environment and do not place these urine lures on the ground or on vegetation where deer can reach them.
- If you hunt cervids (deer, elk, moose, etc.) out of state bring back only boned-out meat or quarters and thoroughly cleaned skull plates, hides, antlers and/or finished taxidermy mounts. **This applies to all CWD-positive states, except for VA, MD, OH and PA where it applies only to the state designated CWD containment area or CWD disease management areas.**
- If you hunt in Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral or Morgan counties, see special regulations regarding carcass transport and disposal (page 14). **Disposal of carcass waste by double-bagging and landfill is preferred if the animal is not quartered in the field. Do not dispose of carcass waste by dumping where other deer may come in contact with it.**
- If you kill a cervid out of state in a fenced enclosure, only boned out meat or quarters and thoroughly cleaned skull plates, hides, antlers and/or finished taxidermy mounts may be transported into the state.



# MOUNTAINEER HERITAGE SEASON DEER, BEAR AND TURKEY

**Season Limit: 1 Deer, 1 Bear and 1 Turkey**

**Opening Date: January 8, 2026**

**Closing Date: January 11, 2026**

## Deer

**One either sex deer may be taken with a percussion side lock rifle or pistol, flintlock rifle or pistol, long bow or recurve bow during the Mountaineer Heritage season.**

One deer may be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class X3, Class XP, Class XP3, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Class XS, Classes A+CS+BG or Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE, Classes AAH+CS/LE, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE, Class DT or Class E-L). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take a deer during the Mountaineer Heritage Season without a license. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

**A hunter may take no more than two antlered deer during the regular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage Season combined, except that three antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area or by Class XS license holders. Only one antlered deer and no more than two total deer may be taken during the Archery and Mountaineer Heritage seasons combined in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties.**

## Deer, Bear and Turkey

**The Mountaineer Heritage Season is open statewide, but only long and recurve bows are legal in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties during this season.**

- Nonresident hunters must purchase a Class I or Class I-L stamp to hunt on National Forest land.

**Only single-shot side lock or flintlock muzzleloading rifles with iron sights of .38 caliber or larger, single-shot side lock or flintlock muzzleloading pistols with iron sights of .38 caliber or larger, long bows and recurve bows are legal during the Mountaineer Heritage season. Telescopic sights are not permitted. In-line muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders using an encapsulated propellant charge that loads from the breech, with the projectile loaded from the muzzle, and a firearm that has been converted into a muzzleloader by use of a plug, or a double-barreled or swivel-barreled muzzleloader is illegal for hunting deer, bear and turkey during this season.**

Single shot side-lock and flintlock muzzleloader shotguns with iron sights may be used for taking a turkey during this season.

## IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- hunt with a crossbow or compound bow during the Mountaineer Heritage Season.
- hunt bears with the use of dogs during the Mountaineer Heritage Season. See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded deer, bear or wild turkey.
- hunt with an air rifle during the Mountaineer Heritage Season.

See pages 6, 13, 26 and 28 for additional prohibitions on deer hunting.

See page 37 for additional prohibitions on bear hunting.

Hunting turkey with the use of bait and electronic calls is prohibited. The use of dogs for turkey hunting is legal during this season.

Hunters harvesting a bear during the Mountaineer Heritage Season are required to submit a first premolar tooth. See page 39.

## Bear

**One black bear may be taken with a percussion side lock rifle or pistol, flintlock rifle or pistol, long bow or recurve bow during the Mountaineer Heritage Season. The bag limit of one bear will not count toward the hunter's annual Bear Season bag limit.**

To hunt black bear, see page 46 for valid license combinations for resident and non-resident hunters. Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may hunt bear during the Mountaineer Heritage Season without a license. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or, with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

## Turkey

**One either sex turkey may be taken with a percussion side lock rifle or pistol, flintlock rifle or pistol, muzzleloader shotgun, long bow or recurve bow during the Mountaineer Heritage season. The bag limit of one turkey will not count toward the hunter's spring or fall turkey bag limits.**

To hunt turkey, see page 46 for valid license combinations for resident and non-residents hunters. Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take a turkey during the Mountaineer Heritage Season without a license. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.



## HUNTING & FISHING DAY



**September 6, 2025**  
**Stonewall Resort State Park**  
**Roanoke, West Virginia**

West Virginia's biggest hunting and fishing show is returning to Stonewall Resort State Park this fall for an action-packed day of hands-on outdoor recreation demonstrations and the Outdoor Youth Challenge, which gives kids a chance to win a lifetime hunting and fishing license. Perfect for hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts of any age.

**Don't miss out!**

WEST VIRGINIA  
**DNR**

*almost heaven*

WVDNR.GOV | 304-558-6200 |   

## Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

See page 13 for the field tagging, checking and transporting of deer.

See page 38 for the field tagging, checking and transporting of bear.

See page 43 for the field tagging, checking and transporting of turkey.

## CWD Containment Area

See page 14 for special regulations regarding deer carcass transport and baiting and feeding of wildlife within the West Virginia CWD Containment Area.

## Special Seasons and Restrictions

See page 28 for restrictions on the Older-aged Deer Management Areas and the Wilson Cove Deer Study Area. It is illegal to bait or feed wildlife on public land at any time (see page 12).

## Blaze Orange Requirement

Persons hunting during the Mountaineer Heritage Season shall wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches, with the exception of Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

**REMINDER:** You must have a 2026 hunting license to hunt during the Mountaineer Heritage Season in 2026. To purchase your license, go to a local license agent, area WVDNR office or [WVDnr.gov](http://WVDnr.gov).

## Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges

Two black bear may be taken during the archery; crossbow; Special Youth, Class Q and Class XS; and firearms seasons combined, provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh or Wyoming counties**. No person may take more than one bear per day.

To hunt black bear, hunters must possess one of the following valid license combinations: resident license (Classes X+DS, Classes X3+DS, Classes XP+DS, Classes XP3+DS, Classes XJ+DS, Classes AHJ+DS, Class XS, Classes AB-L+DS, Classes A-L+DS, Classes A+CS+DS+BG or Classes AH+CS+DS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT); or nonresident license (Classes EE+DS+CS/LE, Class DT or Class EE-L). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land may hunt bear without a license. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or, with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

### Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on National Forest lands: Class I or Class I-L (required for Class EE or Class EE-L).

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- hunt bears with the use of bait (includes, but not limited to, corn and other grains, animal carcasses or animal remains, grease, sugars in any form, scent attractants and other edible enticements, and an area is considered baited for 10 days after all bait has been removed).
- bait or feed bears at any time.
- hunt a bear with:
  - » a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball.
  - » a rifle of less than .25 caliber using rimfire ammunition.
  - » a pistol or revolver using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottlenecked case of less than .24 caliber.
  - » a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.
  - » an air rifle less than .45 caliber and with a bullet of less than 200 grains.
  - » an air bow.
  - » a crossbow having more than one string.
  - » a crossbow that does not have:
    - › a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
    - › a working safety.
    - › bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock.
    - › broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4 inch in width.
    - › use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- hunt bear between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- kill or attempt to kill or wound or attempt to wound any bear through the use of bait, poison, explosives, traps or deadfalls.
- shoot at or kill a bear weighing less than 75 pounds live weight or 50 pounds field dressed weight or to kill any bear accompanied by a cub or to kill any cub accompanied by another bear, regardless of its weight.
- kill more than one bear per day or more than two bears per year (excludes bear taken during Mountaineer Heritage Season and special urban bear season).
- organize for commercial purposes, or to professionally outfit a bear hunt, or to give or receive any consideration whatsoever or any donation in money, goods or services in connection with a bear hunt.
- for nonresidents to hunt bear with dogs, except in certain designated counties during the bear firearms season (see page 42). See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded bear.
- use an electronic call.

## PENALTIES FOR CHAPTER 20 BEAR LAW VIOLATIONS

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

### First Offense

\$500 to \$1,000 fine or 10 to 30 days in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for two years if convicted of killing a bear in violation of the law.

### Second Offense

\$1,000 to \$3,000 fine or 30 to 100 days to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for five years.

### Third Offense

\$2,500 to \$5,000 fine or six months to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for 10 years.

# BEAR GENERAL REGULATIONS

## Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a bear must attach a completed field tag to the bear or remain with the bear and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel, the field tag shall be attached to the bear and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number, issued when electronically registered.

A person killing a bear must, within 24 hours after the kill, electronically register the bear. The WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number and the hunter's name and address must be affixed to the bear and shall remain on the skin until it is tanned or mounted.

No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

## Bear Dog Training

Training dogs on bears or pursuing bears with dogs is defined as the hunting of bear, and all applicable regulations and license requirements apply.

Training for nonresidents is permitted from Sept. 1–Mar. 31.

- It is unlawful for a person to permit a dog owned by him or under his control to chase, pursue or follow the tracks of any deer or wild turkey. See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded deer, bear, wild turkey or wild boar.
- Residents may train dogs on bear on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time.
- Persons training dogs may not have firearms or other implements for the taking of wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds, except that a person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by law may carry a firearm for self-defense.
- A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, providing no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals killed or damage done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.
- No person other than the owner of a registered dog may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner, unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog or is done by a law-enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

## Special Split Youth, Class Q and Class XS Bear Season

This special split bear season will be open to youth less than 18 years old, Class Q holders and Class XS holders.

The first segment will be held Sept. 13–14, 2025, on private and public lands in all or parts of 26 counties open to bear hunting with or without dogs (see page 42). Bears may be hunted with or without dogs during this segment.

The second segment will be held Oct. 18–19, 2025, on private and public lands in 51 counties open to a firearms deer hunting season. The use of dogs is prohibited during this segment. See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded bear.

Daily bag limit is one bear that counts towards the hunter's annual bag limit. Two black bears may be taken during the archery; crossbow; Special Split Youth, Class Q and Class XS; and firearms seasons combined, provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.**

**REMINDER: Youth hunters, even if exempt from purchasing a license, are required to report game checks on their own account.**

## Licensing Requirements

*If a resident,*

- Class Q permit plus one of the following:
  - » Class A license + CS + DS + BG, Class AH + CS + DS + BG or
  - » Classes X + DS, X3 + DS, XP + DS, XP3 + DS, XJ + DS, AHJ + DS, A-L + DS or AB-L + DS, XS or
  - » Be underage (ages 8-14 and must be accompanied by a licensed adult) or
  - » Free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Class DT)
- Youth ages 15-17 (requires Class XJ or Class AHJ+DS)
- Underage (ages 8-14 and must be accompanied by a licensed adult)
- Senior (Class XS)

*If a nonresident,*

- Class Q permit plus one of the following:
  - » Class EE license + Class CS/LE stamp + Class DS or
  - » Class EE-L license or
  - » Class DT
- Youth ages 8-17 (requires Class EE + CS/LE + DS or EE-L)

**Hunters age 15-17 and Class Q holders are required to have a valid DS stamp, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 11).**

See page 37 for general bear hunting regulations.

See page 38 for field tagging, checking and transporting of bear.



## HUNTERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A FIRST PREMOLAR TOOTH FROM EACH BLACK BEAR THAT THEY KILL.

A person who kills a bear shall submit a first premolar tooth to the WVDNR by Jan. 31 of the year following the kill. The tooth should be secured to a card along with a label with the name and address of the hunter, date of kill, weapon used, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill and the 13-digit game check confirmation number, and either mailed or delivered to a WVDNR district office or the WVDNR Elkins Operation Center.

### Locating the tooth

The first premolar teeth are located immediately behind the canine teeth (largest, sharpest teeth). There are four first premolar teeth (two on top, two on bottom) and any of those four teeth will meet the mandatory tooth submission requirement.

The tip of the black knife blade in the photographs is pointing to two of the first premolar teeth. The photo on the left shows the first upper premolar (one on each side of the jaw). The photo on the right shows the first lower premolar (one on each side of the jaw). The tooth is very small and can be easily broken when trying to remove it from the jaw.



*First upper premolar*



*First lower premolar*

In order for the tooth to be used for aging purposes, it must be unbroken. If you break a tooth trying to remove it from the jaw, there are three others that can be submitted. Hunters are encouraged to remove two or more teeth from their bear in the event that a tooth is lost in the mail. The skull of your bear will not be used in any mount (half mount, full mount, rug) that you have made and removing these teeth will not damage the skull itself.

*First premolar tooth after extraction showing a complete unbroken tooth with root intact.*



### Removing the tooth

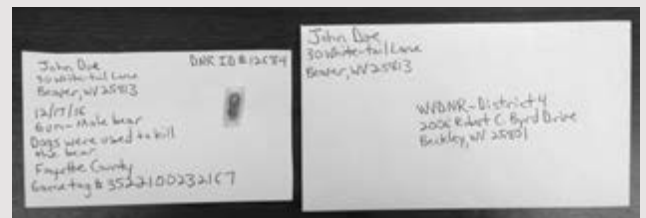
The first premolar teeth are most easily extracted when the bear is freshly killed (not frozen). Hunters are encouraged to remove the tooth (or teeth) as soon as the bear is killed and before the skull and hide are frozen. In addition, hunters are reminded that the tooth from their bear must be received by the WVDNR by Jan. 31 of the year following the kill.

The easiest way to remove a first premolar tooth is to use a knife with a wide blade. Cut the skin around the tooth (gum). Then, place the back of the knife blade (the unsharpened side) against the large canine tooth and the sharpened edge against the first premolar tooth. Use the back of the knife blade (the unsharpened side) and the canine tooth for leverage to roll the first premolar tooth out of the bear's jaw.

### Submitting the tooth

Hunters may mail or deliver the tooth from their bear to any WVDNR district office or the WVDNR Elkins Operations Center (mailing information can be found on the inside of the front cover of the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary). If mailing a tooth, hunters can get a pre-addressed envelope provided by the WVDNR at all district offices and the Elkins Operations Center.

If hunters do not have an envelope provided by WVDNR, the



*Example of properly labeled bear tooth*

tooth should be secured to a card along with a label with the name and address of the hunter, date of kill, weapon used, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill, WVDNR ID number and 13-digit game check confirmation number. The card with the tooth attached should then be placed in an envelope and either mailed or delivered to a WVDNR district office or the WVDNR Elkins Operation Center by January 31 of the year following the kill.

# BEAR ARCHERY AND CROSSBOW SEASONS

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Statewide: September 27–December 31, 2025

No person may take more than two bears annually during the archery; crossbow; Special Youth, Class Q and Class XS; and firearms seasons combined, provided at least one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh or Wyoming counties. Only one bear may be taken per day.

The use of dogs for bear hunting is illegal during the bear archery and crossbow seasons (see page 8 for exception for tracking a mortally wounded bear). A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during the bear firearms season while hunting with dogs in counties where hunting with dogs is legal (see page 42).

Bear hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof open during a deer firearms or muzzleloader season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

## Urban Deer/Bear Archery/Crossbow Split Season

A special archery/crossbow deer/bear hunting split season is available between Sept. 6–Dec. 31, 2025, and Jan. 12–31, 2026, to incorporated cities, towns, villages and incorporated homeowner associations. One bear may be taken during this season. Deer and bear taken in the Urban Deer/Bear Archery/Crossbow Season shall not apply to the hunter's regular archery and crossbow seasons bag limits. A valid DS stamp is required, except for underage resident and resident landowners hunting on their own land. See page 28 for additional details and dates.

## BEAR REPRODUCTIVE TRACT COLLECTION

West Virginia Wildlife Biologists are continuing to collect female bear reproductive tracts. Information from these tracts, as well as a premolar tooth from each bear, will reveal such data as breeding ages of females, number of cubs produced, age structure of the female population and reproductive success. Please help us obtain as much information as possible by following the outlined procedures.

You may call any WVDNR district office or the Elkins Operations Center for assistance.

**District 1:** (304) 825-6787

**District 2:** (304) 822-3551

**District 3:** (304) 924-6211

**District 4:** (304) 256-6947

**District 5:** (304) 756-1023

**District 6:** (304) 420-4550

**Elkins Operations Center:** (304) 637-0245

### Procedures

1. Open bear abdominal cavity.
2. Move intestines aside.
3. Locate bladder.
4. Note uterus under bladder, over large intestine.
5. Remove uterus and ovaries by carefully cutting them free of fat and connective tissue. Be certain to get both ovaries which are each about the size of an acorn. They may be buried in large amounts of fat.
6. Put in plastic bag and place in a refrigerator or freezer, and notify WVDNR personnel at any district office location or the Elkins Operations Center (contact information is on the inside cover of the 2025-2026 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary).



*Above: A reproductive tract before removal with both ovaries and a complete uterus. Below: A complete reproductive tract with both ovaries and a complete uterus.*



**Daily Bag Limit: 1**

**May Hunt Bear Without Dogs\***

Two bears may be taken during the bear firearms season provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.** Only one bear may be taken per day. No person may take more than two bears annually in archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

**A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during bear firearms season.**

**Bear hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof during a deer firearms or muzzleloader season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.**

September 20-26	October 23-26 <i>Public and Private Land (portions of counties open to antlerless deer hunting)</i>		November 24-December 31	November 24-December 7
Barbour <i>(West of Route 92 and Route 250 from Belington to southern border of Barbour County)</i> Braxton <i>(West of I-79)</i> Calhoun Clay <i>(North of Elk River)</i> Harrison Lewis Mercer Monongalia Monroe <i>(West of Route 219)</i> Roane Summers Taylor Upshur <i>(West of Route 20)</i>	Barbour <i>(West of Route 92 and Route 250 from Belington to southern border of Barbour County)</i> Berkeley Boone Braxton <i>(West of I-79)</i> Brooke Cabell Calhoun Clay <i>(North of Elk River)</i> Doddridge Fayette Gilmer Hampshire Hancock Harrison Jackson Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln	Marion Marshall Mason Mercer Mineral <i>(East of New Creek)</i> Monongalia Monroe <i>(West of Route 219)</i> Morgan Ohio Pleasants Putnam Raleigh Ritchie Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Upshur <i>(West of Route 20)</i> Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Barbour <i>(West of Route 92 and Route 250 from Belington to southern border of Barbour County)</i> Berkeley Braxton <i>(West of I-79)</i> Brooke Cabell Calhoun Clay <i>(North of Elk River)</i> Doddridge Hampshire Hancock Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall Mason Mercer Mineral <i>(East of New Creek)</i> Monongalia Monroe <i>(West of Route 219)</i> Morgan Ohio Pleasants Putnam Roane Summers Taylor Tyler Upshur <i>(West of Route 20)</i> Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood	Boone Fayette Gilmer Kanawha Raleigh Ritchie

\* See page 8 for exception for tracking mortally wounded bear.

## HELP THE WVDNR MONITOR BLACK BEAR REPRODUCTIVE RATES

The first 100 hunters who submit a complete female black bear reproductive tract are eligible to receive a \$20 gift card from the WVDNR.

### Requirements for receiving a gift card

Hunters are asked to send the following to the Elkins Operations Center or nearest WVDNR district office (phone numbers listed on page 40):

- A complete reproductive tract with both forks of the uterus to the point where they attach and form a “Y” (see photo on page 40).
- Label the reproductive tract with the hunter’s name and address, phone number, WVDNR ID number, date of kill, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill and 13-digit game check confirmation number.
- Submit a premolar tooth (in addition to the tooth submitted to the WVDNR, required by law for aging purposes).

Gift cards will be mailed two to three months after the close of the hunting season.

# BEAR FIREARMS SEASON

May Hunt Bear With Or Without Dogs		
December 8-31	October 4-10 and December 8-31	August 30-September 7 and December 8-31
Barbour (East of Route 92 or south of U.S. Route 33) Braxton (East of I-79) Clay (South of Elk River) Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hardy Mineral (West of New Creek) Monroe (East of Route 219) Nicholas Pendleton Pocahontas Preston Randolph Ritchie Tucker Upshur (East of Route 20) Webster	Boone Fayette Kanawha Raleigh	Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming

## REPORT HARVESTED TAGGED BEARS TO THE WVDNR

All bears caught and released in West Virginia are marked in both ears with silver metal tags that are 1.5 inches long. Some bears also may have round plastic tags that are either black or orange. Tagged bears also will typically have a tattoo on their upper lip with a number that matches their ear tag. Some black bears will also have a tracking collar around their neck. If you harvest a tagged bear, please call your nearest WVDNR district office to report the tag number and return the collar (if it is wearing one). The WVDNR district office will be able to tell you when that animal was immobilized and confirm that it is safe to eat.



Top left: plastic ear tag  
Bottom left: metal ear tag  
Above: tracking collar



## Resident and Nonresident Turkey Hunting License Privileges

Three wild turkey may be taken by hunters who possess one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident license (Class X, Class X3, Class XP, Class XP3, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class XS, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS+BG, Classes AH+CS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Class DT or Senior Citizen); or nonresident license (Classes E+CS/LE+WW, Classes AAH+CS/LE+WW, Classes XXJ+CS/LE, Classes AAHJ+CS/LE, Class DT or Class E-L + WW-L or WW). Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a properly licensed parent, guardian or other designated competent adult 21 years of age or older. Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10) may take three turkeys without a license. Two bearded turkeys may be taken in the spring and one either-sex turkey in the fall. No more than one turkey may be taken per day.

### Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I or Class I-L (required for Class E, Class E-L or Class AAH).

### Resident Landowner Privileges:

West Virginia resident landowners (see page 10) may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license.

Resident landowners hunting on their own property without a license can take the same number of turkeys as a licensed hunter. A hunter (licensee or landowner) cannot take more than the number of turkeys allowed in the respective seasons.

### Firearms, air rifles, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows legal for hunting wild turkey:

Wild turkey may be hunted with rifles, air rifles .22 caliber or larger, handguns, muzzleloaders, shotguns, bows or crossbows with arrows or bolts equipped with a point having at least two sharp-cutting edges measuring in excess of 3/4 inch wide (see exception for Youth Spring Gobbler Season on page 44).

## GROUSE HUNTERS

Whether you are a novice or a well-seasoned hunter, we would like to know more about your days afield. Your annual participation will help us better monitor and manage West Virginia's grouse. Please consider becoming a Grouse Cooperator this season. To participate in the survey contact:

**The Game Management Services Office**  
Elkins Operations Center  
P.O. Box 67 • Elkins, WV 26241  
(304) 637-0245

## COMMON VIOLATIONS

Following are the most common violations observed by WVDNR police officers during the turkey hunting seasons:

- Hunting over bait
- Hunting without license
- Improper license
- Making false application for license
- Exceeding the limits
- Failure to field tag turkey
- Illegal possession of wildlife
- Hunting without permission

### Reward

Reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of person found guilty of:

- illegally killing a turkey – \$200

**Sponsored by:** West Virginia Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation


## Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a turkey must either attach a completed field tag to the turkey or remain with the turkey and have upon their person a completed field tag before removing the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not possess a field tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel, the field tag shall be attached to the turkey and must remain on the carcass until it is electronically registered and a WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number, the hunter's name and address are attached.

The carcass of each turkey shall be electronically registered and legally tagged before it is skinned and within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first. The WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number and the hunter's name and address shall remain on the bird until it is dressed for consumption.

No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof are accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

# TURKEY 2025 FALL SEASON

Season Limit: 1	October 11-19		October 11-19 and October 27–November 2		October 11-19 and October 27–November 16	
<p><b>Shooting hours:</b> 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.</p> <p>Only one either-sex turkey may be taken during the fall hunting season with either bow, crossbow or gun.</p> <p><b>The use of dogs is legal during the fall turkey season.</b></p> <p><b>IT IS ILLEGAL TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hunt with an air rifle less than .22 caliber</li><li>• use electronic calls</li><li>• hunt with the use of bait</li></ul> <p><b>ATTENTION:</b> If you harvest a wild turkey hen with a leg band, please call Mike Peters at the WVDNR Farmington office at (304) 825-6787 to report the band number.</p>	Barbour Boone Braxton Cabell Calhoun Clay Doddridge Fayette Gilmer Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln Logan	McDowell Mercer Mingo Pleasants Putnam Raleigh Ritchie Roane Summers Upshur Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wyoming	Brooke Hancock Harrison Jackson Marion Marshall Mason Monongalia Ohio	Preston Taylor Tyler Wood 	Berkeley Grant Greenbrier Hampshire Hardy Mineral Monroe	Morgan Nicholas Pendleton Pocahontas Randolph Tucker Webster

# TURKEY 2026 SPRING GOBBLER SEASON

Season Limit: 2 bearded turkeys	Statewide: April 20–May 24, 2026
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Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- have an uncased firearm, bow or crossbow in your possession in the woods after 1 p.m.
- hunt with dogs. See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded wild turkey.
- use electronic calls
- hunt with the use of bait
- take more than one bearded turkey per day
- hunt with an air rifle less than .22 caliber

## Spring Gobbler Survey

The Division of Natural Resources conducts an annual Spring Gobbler Survey. Spring turkey hunters interested in participating in the survey should contact WVDNR at:

**The Game Management Services Office**  
Elkins Operations Center  
P.O. Box 67 • Elkins, WV 26241  
(304) 637-0245

## Youth Spring Gobbler Season

A special two-day youth spring gobbler season will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 2026. **Class Q and Class XS license holders are not eligible.**

The daily bag limit for the youth spring wild turkey season is one bearded turkey and the possession limit for the youth spring wild turkey season is two bearded turkeys, which does count as part of the annual turkey bag limit. Only shotguns, bows or crossbows with arrows or bolts equipped with a point having at least two sharp-cutting edges measuring in excess of 3/4 inch wide are legal.

**Youth hunters:**

- must be less than 18 years old; youth hunters age 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements (see page 43).
- less than 15 years old must be accompanied by a licensed adult who cannot carry a gun, crossbow or a bow and must remain close enough to render advice and assistance. An adult assisting a youth hunter during any special youth season may handle the hunter's firearm to provide safe handling advice and help.

**and, if a nonresident,**

- possess a Class XXJ license + CS/LE stamp, Class AAHJ+CS/LE stamp or Class E-L + WW-L or WW.

**Nonresident adults accompanying youth hunters must possess Class E+WW+CS/LE licenses or Class E-L + WW-L or WW and if hunting on National Forest lands, a Class I or Class I-L stamp.**

**REMINDER:** Youth hunters, even if exempt from purchasing a license, are required to report game checks on their own account.

# ARCHERY, CROSSBOW AND FIREARMS SEASONS WILD BOAR

Season Limit: 1

**Split Seasons – Archery and Crossbow:** Sept. 27–Dec. 31, 2025, and Feb. 6–8, 2026  
**Split Seasons – Firearms:** Oct. 25–Nov. 1, 2025, and Feb. 6–8, 2026

## Wild Boar Hunting License Privileges

### Residents Only – No Application Required

To hunt wild boar, hunters must possess one of the following base licenses or license combinations: Class X, Class X3, Class XP, Class XP3, Class XJ, Class AHJ, Class XS, Class AB-L, Class A-L or Classes A+BG+CS Classes AH+BG+CS; or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners hunting on their own land may hunt wild boar without a license. Holders of Class DT licenses must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or with written consent of the parent or guardian, or any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

## Regulations

**Shooting hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Wild boar may be taken during wild boar seasons with a bow, a crossbow or with firearms legal in West Virginia for taking deer (see page 13).

Any person lawfully entitled to hunt may hunt wild boar with an air rifle .45 caliber or larger and a bullet of 200 grains or greater. Any person hunting with an air rifle is subject to all other rifle and firearm hunting regulations, except that air rifles may be discharged within 500 feet of a dwelling.

Use of dogs and/or bait is prohibited. See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded wild boar.

Use of electronic calls is prohibited.

Only one wild boar may be taken per year.

## Concurrent Hunting

Concurrent hunting of small game is permitted during wild boar seasons. Concurrent hunting of deer and bear, in counties where legal, is permitted during wild boar seasons.

Wild boar hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof open during a deer firearms or muzzleloader season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

## Field Tagging and Checking

Each person killing a wild boar must attach a completed field tag to the wild boar or remain with the boar and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel, the field tag shall be attached to the wild boar and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number, issued when electronically registered.

All wild boar killed must be electronically registered within 24 hours of harvest. The WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number and the hunter's name and address shall remain on the wild boar until it is dressed for consumption.

## Wild Boar Split Seasons Counties

Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties are open to wild boar archery, crossbow and firearms seasons.

**Archery and Crossbow:**  
Sept. 27–Dec. 31, 2025, and Feb. 6–8, 2026  
**Firearms:** Oct. 25–Nov. 1, 2025, and Feb. 6–8, 2026

**Closed:** to all wild boar hunting



# LICENSES VALID BASE AND COMBINATIONS

Hunter Type	Deer Archery and Crossbow	Deer Buck Gun	Deer Antlerless	Deer Muzzleloader	Black Bear	Wild Turkey	Wild Boar
RESIDENT	A-L	A-L	A-L+N	A-L	A-L+DS	A-L	A-L
	AB-L	AB-L	AB-L+N	AB-L	AB-L+DS	AB-L	AB-L
	X	X	X + N	X	X + DS	X	X
	X3	X3	X3 + N	X3	X3 + DS	X3	X3
	XP	XP	XP + N	XP	XP + DS	XP	XP
	XP3	XP3	XP3 + N	XP3	XP3 + DS	XP3	XP3
	XJ	XJ	XJ + N	XJ	XJ + DS	XJ	XJ
	XS**	XS**	XS**+N	XS**	XS**	XS**	XS**
	A+CS+BG	A+CS	A+CS+N	A+CS+BG	A+CS +DS+BG	A+CS+BG	A+CS+BG
	AH+CS+BG	AH+CS	AH+CS+N	AH+CS+BG	AH+CS+DS+BG	AH+CS+BG	AH+CS+BG
	AHJ	AHJ	AHJ+N	AHJ	AHJ+DS	AHJ	AHJ
	Free License*	Free License*	Free License*+N	Free License*	Free License*	Free License*	Free License*
NONRESIDENT	One of the above + up to two RBs for additional deer in specified counties	One of the above + an RG for one additional buck	May purchase up to three Class N stamps to be used in specified counties	One of the above + an RM for one additional muzzleloader deer			
	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT
	E+CS/LE+UU	E+CS/LE	E+CS/LE+NN	E+CS/LE+VV	EE + CS/LE + DS or EE-L required by all nonresidents, except for Class DT holders.	E+CS/LE+WW	CLOSED
	E-L + UU-L or UU	E-L	E-L + NN	E-L + VV-L or VV		E-L + WW-L or WW	
	XXJ+CS/LE	XXJ+CS/LE	XXJ+CS/LE+NN	XXJ+CS/LE		XXJ+CS/LE	
	AAH+CS/LE+UU	AAH+CS/LE	AAH+CS/LE+NN	AAH+CS/LE+VV		AAH+CS/LE+WW	
	AAHJ+CS/LE	AAHJ+CS/LE	AAHJ+CS/LE+NN	AAHJ+CS/LE		AAHJ+CS/LE	
	One of the above + up to two RRBs for additional deer in specified counties	One of the above + an RRG for one additional buck	May purchase up to three Class NN stamps to be used in specified counties	One of the above + an RRM for one additional muzzleloader deer			
	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	DT	

\* Free Licenses include: Active Military, Senior Citizen (65 or older who reached that age before Jan. 1, 2012, i.e. those born before Jan. 1, 1947), former POW, Disabled Veteran and underage.

\*\* Class XS required for those who have attained the age of 65 on or after Jan. 1, 2012, to hunt, trap or fish.

See pages 47-49 for complete license information. For Class DT license information, see page 11.

## Purchasing a License in 2025-2026

Licenses may be obtained as follows:

1. At approximately 175 retail agent locations throughout the state and designated county clerks offices. (\$3 issuing fee for first purchase and \$1 for subsequent purchases.)
2. **WVhunt.com**  
(Official WVDNR website – \$2 fee per transaction.)
3. Directly from the Hunting and Fishing License Unit by phoning (304) 558-6200. (\$2 fee per transaction.)

For additional information, please contact:

### Hunting and Fishing License Unit

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
State Capitol, Building 4  
112 California Avenue  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
(304) 558-6200  
wvdnrcustomerservice@wv.gov

The WVDNR has the authority under Federal Welfare Reform Legislation (Title 42 of the U.S. Code Section 666 (a) (13)) to collect the Social Security Number from an applicant for a recreational license such as a fishing and hunting license. This facilitates collection of child support payments. States failing to collect a SSN could face loss of federal welfare funds. The DNR takes every precaution, including encryption and masking, to protect your SSN.





# 2025-2026 HUNTING AND TRAPPING FEES LICENSES

## Residents

### UNDER THE AGE OF 15

may hunt or trap without a license when accompanied by a licensed adult who remains in a position near enough to render advice and assistance.

#### Licenses required:

- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N
- to hunt additional deer:  
Class RG (buck), RM (muzzleloader season),  
RB (archery and crossbow)

### 65 OR OLDER WHO REACHED THAT AGE BEFORE JAN. 1, 2012 (THOSE BORN BEFORE JAN. 1, 1947)

must carry a West Virginia driver's license or photo ID card issued by the DMV to hunt, trap or fish.

#### Licenses required:

- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N
- to hunt additional deer:  
Class RG (buck), RM (muzzleloader season), RB  
(archery and crossbow)
- to hunt waterfowl:  
Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp
- to hunt waterfowl or migratory birds: free HIP card

### 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, WHO HAVE ATTAINED THAT AGE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2012 (THOSE BORN ON OR AFTER JAN. 1, 1947)

#### Licenses required:

- to hunt or trap: Class XS
- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N\*
- to hunt additional deer:  
Class RG (buck), RM (muzzleloader season), RB  
(archery and crossbow)
- to hunt waterfowl:  
Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp
- to hunt waterfowl or migratory birds: free HIP card

\* Not required during the Special Split Youth, Class Q and Class XS antlerless deer season, see page 29.

Hunting, trapping and fishing Licenses are good for the calendar year. You must purchase new licenses at the beginning of each year. All licensed hunters must carry a valid form of picture identification while hunting/trapping.

## Resident Licenses

**Conservation Stamp(Class CS):** ..... \$5  
Required for licensed hunters and anglers except holders of Class X, X3, XP, XP3, XJ, XS, AHJ, A-L, B-L, and AB-L licenses

**Hunting and Trapping (Class A):**..... \$19

**Apprentice Hunting and Trapping License (Class AH):**..... \$19  
Same privileges as Class A, but completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7)

**Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class X):**..... \$35  
For ages 18 through 64. Includes privileges of Conservation Stamp, Class A, B and BG licenses

**Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Plus (Class XP):**..... \$45  
Annual license that also includes the trout stamp

**Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping 3-year (Class X3):**..... \$105  
A three-year Sportsman license

**Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Plus 3-year (Class XP3):** ..... \$135  
A three-year Sportsman license that also includes the trout stamp

**Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class XJ):** ..... \$16  
Similar to Class X, but for ages 15 through 17

**Apprentice Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class AHJ):**..... \$16  
Same privileges as Class XJ, for ages 15-17 and completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7)

**Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (Class N):**..... \$10  
Must be accompanied by a Class A, AH, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, X3, XP, XP3, XS, XJ or free license

**Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RB):**..... \$21  
Must be accompanied by a Class A+BG, AH+BG, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, X3, XP, XP3, XS, XJ or free license. Required by crossbow hunters for an additional deer. The Class RB stamp must be purchased prior to the opening of the statewide archery season.

**Additional Firearms Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RG):**..... \$21  
Must be accompanied by a Class A, AH, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, X3, XP, XP3, XS, XJ or free license. The Class RG stamp must be purchased prior to the opening of buck firearms season.

**Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RM):**..... \$16  
Must be accompanied by a Class A+BG, AH+BG, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, X, X3, XP, XP3, XS, XJ or free license. The Class RM stamp must be purchased prior to the opening of the muzzleloader season.

**Resident Big Game Stamp (Class BG):**..... \$10  
Required of Class A or AH license holders to hunt deer during the archery, crossbow and muzzleloader deer seasons, and to hunt bear (must also have Class DS), wild turkey and wild boar.

# LICENSES 2025-2026 HUNTING AND TRAPPING FEES

## Resident Lifetime Licenses

Resident lifetime hunting, trapping and fishing licenses serve in lieu of the equivalent annual license; applications are available at WVDNR offices, license agents and online at WVDnr.gov.

Resident seniors who previously have made a resident purchase through a license agent or at a WVDNR office may buy a senior lifetime license at a license agent, at a WVDNR office or online at WVDnr.gov. Non-resident, full-time students of any West Virginia college or university are eligible to purchase lifetime licenses.

**Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class AB-L):...\$805**

**Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing - Child**

(Class AB-L)\*: .....

Under age 1:..... \$322.00

Age 1 to under 5: ..... \$442.75

Age 5 to under 10: ..... \$603.75

Age 10 to under 15: ..... \$724.50

**Hunting and Trapping (Class A-L):.....\$782**

**Hunting and Trapping - Child (Class A-L)\*: .....**

Under age 1:..... \$312.80

Age 1 to under 5: ..... \$430.10

Age 5 to under 10: ..... \$ 586.50

Age 10 to under 15: ..... \$703.80

**Senior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class XS):..... \$25**

Required for resident hunters and anglers 65 or older who reached that age on or after Jan. 1, 2012 (those born on or after Jan. 1, 1947), except holders of Class A-L and AB-L licenses, which still require other stamp purchases (for example, bear damage and trout stamps). Class XS license includes bear damage and trout stamps.

*Class BG License and Conservation Stamp not required with the Class AB-L, A-L and XS Lifetime Licenses.*

*\* The above lifetime license fee schedule for a child under 15 also applies to children who have been legally adopted or legally placed in foster care. Conservation Stamp not required.*

## Resident/Nonresident Licenses

**Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS):..... \$10**

Required to hunt or chase bear. Must be accompanied by Class A+BG, AH+BG, AHJ, A-L, AB-L, EE, X, X3, XP, XP3, XJ or C license.

**Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP):.....FREE**

Required of all licensed migratory bird hunters

**Special Hunting and Fishing License for Persons**

**with a Life-threatening Condition (Class DT): .....FREE**

Issued for ages 20 or less. Requires no additional licenses or stamps.

## Nonresident Licenses

**Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (Class CS/LE):.....\$13**

Required for all licensed hunters and anglers, except holders of Class J, Class E-L and Class EE-L licenses

**National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing Stamp (Class I):.....\$2**

Required if hunting or trapping on National Forests in addition to a Class E, AAH, EE+DS, H, E-L and EE-L

**Statewide Hunting/Trapping License (Class E):..... \$119**

**Apprentice Hunting/Trapping License (Class AAH):..... \$119**

Same privileges as Class E, but completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7).

**Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License**

(Class XXJ):..... \$16

Ages 8-17 (not required for fishing under age 15). Includes privileges of Class I, UU, VV and WW stamps.

**Apprentice Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License**

(Class AAHJ):.....\$16

Same privileges as Class XXJ, for youth under 18 years old; and completion of hunter safety course not required (see page 7).

**Bear Hunting License (Class EE):..... \$162**

**Small Game Hunting License (Class H):..... \$27**

Six consecutive days. Must have CS/LE stamp.

**Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (Class NN):..... \$27**

Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH, AAHJ, XXJ or E-L license

**Additional Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RRB):.....\$37**

Must be accompanied by a Class E +UU, AAH+UU, AAHJ, XXJ or E-L + UU-L or UU license. Required by crossbow hunters for an additional deer. The Class RRB stamp must be purchased prior to the opening of the statewide archery season.

**Additional Firearms Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RRG):.....\$43**

Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH, AAHJ, XXJ or E-L license. The Class RRG stamp must be purchased prior to the opening of buck firearms season.

**Additional Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class RRM):.....\$37**

Must be accompanied by a Class E+VV, AAH+VV, AAHJ, XXJ or E-L + VV-L or VV license. The Class RRM stamp must be purchased prior to the opening of the muzzleloader season.

**Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class UU):..... \$32**

Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH or E-L license. Required to hunt during the Archery and Crossbow Seasons.

**Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class VV):..... \$32**

Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH or E-L license

**Turkey Hunting Stamp (Class WW):..... \$32**

Must be accompanied by a Class E, AAH or E-L license

**Commercial Small Game Shooting Preserve License**

(Class J):..... \$10

Class CS/LE stamp not required with this license.

Available only at WVDnr.gov.

# 2025-2026 HUNTING AND TRAPPING FEES LICENSES

## Nonresident Lifetime Licenses

Nonresident lifetime hunting, trapping and fishing licenses serve in lieu of the equivalent annual license; applications are available at WVDNR offices, license agents and online at WVdnr.gov.

<b>Combination Hunting and Trapping License</b> (Class E-L) <sup>1</sup> :	\$3,036	<b>Muzzleloader (Class VV-L)**:</b>	\$736
<b>Combination Hunting and Trapping License - Child (Class E-L)<sup>1</sup>:</b>		<b>Muzzleloader - Child (Class VV-L)**:</b>	
Under age 1:	\$1,214.40	Under age 1:	\$294.40
Age 1 to under 5:	\$1,669.80	Age 1 to under 5:	\$404.80
Age 5 to under 10:	\$2,277	Age 5 to under 10:	\$552
Age 10 to under 15:	\$2,732.40	Age 10 to under 15:	\$662.40
<b>Bear Hunting and Bear Damage Stamp (Class EE-L)<sup>2</sup>:</b>	\$4,255	<b>Turkey Hunting (Class WW-L)**:</b>	\$736
<b>Bear Hunting and Bear Damage Stamp - Child (Class EE-L)<sup>2</sup>:</b>		<b>Turkey Hunting - Child (Class WW-L)**:</b>	
Under age 1:	\$1,702	Under age 1:	\$294.40
Age 1 to under 5:	\$2,340.25	Age 1 to under 5:	\$404.80
Age 5 to under 10:	\$3,191.25	Age 5 to under 10:	\$552
Age 10 to under 15:	\$3,829.50	Age 10 to under 15:	\$662.40
<b>Fishing License (Class F-L):</b>	\$1,150	<b>National Forest Stamp (Class I-L)**:</b>	\$46
<b>Fishing License - Child (Class F-L):</b>		<b>National Forest Stamp - Child (Class I-L)**:</b>	
Under age 1:	\$460	Under age 1:	\$18.40
Age 1 to under 5:	\$632.50	Age 1 to under 5:	\$25.30
Age 5 to under 10:	\$862.50	Age 5 to under 10:	\$34.50
Age 10 to under 15:	\$1,035	Age 10 to under 15:	\$41.40
<b>Trout Stamp (Class OO-L)*:</b>	\$368	<b>Duplicate Lifetime License (Class LRP-NR):</b>	\$6
<b>Trout Stamp - Child (Class OO-L)*:</b>			
Under age 1:	\$147.20		
Age 1 to under 5:	\$202.40		
Age 5 to under 10:	\$276		
Age 10 to under 15:	\$331.20		
<b>Archery Hunting (Class UU-L)**:</b>	\$736		
<b>Archery Hunting - Child (Class UU-L)**:</b>			
Under age 1:	\$294.40		
Age 1 to under 5:	\$404.80		
Age 5 to under 10:	\$552		
Age 10 to under 15:	\$662.40		

<sup>1</sup> License allows for firearms hunting of deer and small game and trapping. Antlerless deer firearms hunting requires the annual purchase of Class NN stamp. Conservation Stamp (Class CS/LE) is included.

<sup>2</sup> Conservation Stamp (Class CS/LE) is included.

\* Requires Class F or Class F-L license

\*\* Requires Class E-L license

\*\*\* Requires Class E-L, Class EE-L or Class F-L license

# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND FORESTS

## DISTRICT 1

(304) 825-6787

1. Bear Rocks Lake
2. Burches Run
3. Castlemans Run Lake
4. Cecil H. Underwood
5. Center Branch
6. Cheat Canyon
7. Cross Creek
8. Dents Run
9. Dunkard Fork
10. Fairfax Pond-Rehe
11. Hillcrest
12. Lantz Farm and Nature Preserve
13. Lewis Wetzel
14. Little Canaan
15. Little Indian Creek
16. Pedlar
17. Pleasant Creek
18. Pruntytown State Farm
19. Snake Hill
20. Teter Creek
21. Upper Deckers Creek

## DISTRICT 2

(304) 822-3551

22. Allegheny
23. Edwards Run
24. Fort Mill Ridge
25. Lost River
26. Nathaniel Mountain
27. Shannondale Springs
28. Short Mountain
29. Sideling Hill
30. Sleepy Creek
31. South Branch
32. Thorn Creek
33. Warden Lake
34. White Horse Mountain
35. Widmeyer

## DISTRICT 3

(304) 924-6211

36. Becky Creek
37. Big Ditch
38. Burnsville Lake
39. Elk River
40. Handley
41. Huttonsville
42. Slatyfork
43. Smoke Camp
44. Stonecoal Lake
45. Stonewall Jackson Lake
46. Summersville Lake
47. Valley Bend

## DISTRICT 4

(304) 256-6945

48. Anawalt Lake
49. Beury Mountain
50. Bluestone Lake
51. Daniels Ridge
52. Horse Creek Lake
53. Meadow River
54. Moncove Lake
55. Panther
56. Plum Orchard Lake
57. R.D. Bailey Lake
58. Tate Lohr
59. Tug Fork

## DISTRICT 5

(304) 756-1023

60. Amherst/Plymouth
61. Beech Fork Lake
62. Big South
63. Big Ugly
64. Bright McCausland Homestead
65. Chief Cornstalk
66. Chief Logan
67. East Lynn Lake
68. Green Bottom
69. Hilbert
70. Laurel Lake
71. Little Coal River
72. McClintic
73. Mill Creek
74. Tomblin
75. Upper Mud River

## DISTRICT 6

(304) 420-4550

76. Buffalo Run
77. Burning Springs
78. Conaway Run Lake
79. Elk Fork Lake
80. Federal Ridge
81. Frozen Camp
82. Hughes River
83. Little Kanawha River
84. Lynn Camp
85. O'Brien Lake
86. Ritchie Mines
87. Rollins Lake
88. Sand Hill
89. Sandy Creek
90. Stumptown
91. The Jug
92. Toll Gate
93. Turkey Run
94. Walker Creek
95. Wallback
96. Woodrum Lake

## STATE FORESTS

(304) 558-2764

- A. Cabwaylingo
- B. Calvin Price
- C. Camp Creek
- D. Coopers Rock
- E. Greenbrier
- F. Kanawha
- G. Kumbrabow
- H. Seneca

## NATIONAL FORESTS

### Monongahela WMAs

- I. Beaver Dam
- J. Blackwater
- K. Cheat
- M. Cranberry
- N. Little River
- O. Neola
- P. Otter Creek
- Q. Potomac
- S. Rimel
- U. Tea Creek

### George Washington WMAs

- L. Cove Creek
- T. Shenandoah
- V. Wardensville

### Jefferson WMAs

- R. Potts Creek

