

# HUNTING & TRAPPING IN VIRGINIA

July 2016-June 2017



Virginia Department of Game and  
Inland Fisheries

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# HUNTING & TRAPPING IN VIRGINIA

July 2016-June 2017



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## Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; To provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; To promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting, and fishing; To provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please write to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Attn: Executive Director's Office, 7870 Villa Park Dr, Suite 400, P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228.

## On the Cover:

White-tailed deer

© John Ford



Photo by Dwight Dyke

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This booklet is for general information and contains information regarding programs, policies, regulations, rules, and fees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) current at the time of printing. Information and prices are subject to change. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode>) or the Game Department Regulation Manual (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15>). For answers to specific questions about hunting and fishing, contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries once nearest you.

The sale of advertising paid a large portion of the cost of this publication. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries neither endorses the products or services offered in the advertising, nor accepts any liability from the use of such products or services.





Welcome young and 'seasoned' hunters to the hunting digest for 2016/17! Your successful trips afield help to ensure the future of hunting in Virginia, while serving to benefit science-based wildlife management. To those young hunters who have grown up in a world shaped by technology and related innovations, I am thrilled to announce that the Department has invested in a new online platform for doing business with us! This licensing and registration system, launched in July, essentially creates a one-stop-shop for all of your licensing, boating, and recreational needs. You may access the Department's website, use your mobile device or laptop, or visit any of the nearly 850 retail license agents using this technology to obtain your license(s) this season. We believe you will be pleased with the efficiency of transactions and level of customer service — creating an easier way to "Go Outdoors Virginia!"

**Bob Duncan**  
Executive Director, VDGIF

## VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM AND YOU



Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping, and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlife-oriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition, or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program. Virginia currently receives over \$12 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.



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## About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 90778  
Henrico, VA 23228-0778

## Regional Offices

### Region 1

3801 John Tyler Memorial Hwy.  
Charles City, VA 23030  
(804) 829-6580

### Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road  
Forest, VA 24551-9223  
(434) 525-7522

### Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen  
Marion, VA 24354  
(276) 783-4860

### Region 4

P.O. Box 996, 517 Lee Highway  
Verona, VA 24482  
(540) 248-9360

1320 Belman Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(540) 899-4169



## Additional Contacts

### Report Wildlife Violations Only

(800) 237-5712 or [wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov)

### Boating Registration/Information

(804) 367-1000

### Checking-in Game

(866) GOT-GAME (866-468-4263)

### Quota Hunts

[www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com)

### Virginia Department of Forestry

Charlottesville Office (M-Th)

[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

(434) 977-6555

### Department of Conservation and Recreation Reservation Center

[www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov)

(800) 933-7275

### USDA Wildlife Services

(804) 739-7739

### U. S. Forest Service Supervisor George Washington and Jefferson Forest

[www.fs.usda.gov/gwj](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj)

(540) 265-5100

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal wildlife inquiries only)

(804) 771-2883; (804) 771-2280

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### Licenses

- Hunters and anglers can download all current valid licenses and new licenses to their mobile device and display them for Conservation Police Officers.
  - Note: a hard copy of the Deer/Turkey and Bear Licenses must still be carried
- New enhanced on-line licensing system
  - Users will be required to create a customer account
  - Users can enroll in DGIF's new auto renew program
  - DGIF will begin offering a durable hard card license for an additional fee
  - See Page 11 for details

### Quota Hunts

- New Quota Hunts application process. "Go Outdoors Virginia" is a completely online solution that simplifies the application process and is available to you whenever and wherever you are.

### Wildlife Management Areas

- Ware Creek WMA has been added in New Kent County
- Additional lands have been added to several WMAs

## FERAL HOGS

Feral hogs (wild hogs, wild pigs, wild boar, or Russian boar) are designated as a nuisance species in Virginia and are defined as "any hog that is wild or for which no proof of ownership can be made." They are extremely invasive and cause damage to wildlife habitat and agricultural lands wherever they exist. Feral hogs have been found to destroy turkey, grouse, and quail nests. They can also prey on deer fawns, destroy sensitive wetland habitat, contaminate waterways, and compete with our native wildlife for food resources. Feral hogs carry numerous diseases that can affect wildlife, domestic animals, and humans.

The DGIF is taking every measure possible to fight the spread of feral hogs in Virginia. If feral hogs or hog damage are observed, or if feral hogs are harvested or trapped on private or public property, we ask you to make a report by calling our toll-free Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline (1-855-571-9003). It is illegal to transport live feral hogs or to release feral hogs to the wild in Virginia. Any feral hog trapped must be immediately killed at the trap site.

The DGIF does not currently have feral hogs established on any of its lands, nor do we provide information on where to find feral hogs on private land. To harvest feral hogs, you must have a hunting license and landowner permission. There is no closed season on private property. There is no daily bag limit or checking system for feral hogs.

For more information on feral hogs please visit:

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/feral-hogs/hunting-faq/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/feral-hogs/hunting-faq/)

## Report Feral Swine



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## Sunday Hunting

Hunting is allowed on Sundays under the following circumstances:

- Allows a landowner and his family or a person with written permission from the landowner to hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including nuisance species, on the landowner's property on Sunday, except within 200 yards of a house of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
- It also allows for waterfowl and rail hunting on Sundays subject to restrictions imposed by the Director of the Department and except within 200 yards of a house of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
- Continues to allow raccoon hunting until 2 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Other than these exceptions and other allowances that had been made specifically by law in the past, it will continue to be unlawful to hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, with a gun, firearm, or other weapon on Sundays. It will also continue to be unlawful to hunt or kill any deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sundays.

### Frequently asked questions and answers on the new law and Sunday hunting in Virginia:

#### May I use dogs to hunt on private land on Sunday as long as I have the written permission of the landowner?

Yes, except you may not hunt or kill any deer or bear with a gun, firearm or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sundays.

#### I hunt with a hunt club and the club president has obtained written permission from the landowner for club members and guests to hunt on Sunday. Does each member need to carry a copy of that permission document?

They should, but your club president can act as the representative of the landowner to pass on written permission to members and guests to hunt on Sunday so long as the landowner grants the president that authority. Language granting permission to hunt on Sundays should be included in the written permission.

#### Can I hunt rabbit, squirrel, and quail with dogs on Sundays?

If you are the landowner, a member of his or her family, or have the landowner's written permission to hunt on Sunday, you may use dogs for rabbit, squirrel, and quail hunting.

#### I obtained written permission to hunt on Sunday from the landowner on whose property I hunt. The landowner also gave me permission to bring guests. My son and daughter want to hunt with me on Sunday. Do they also need written permission from the landowner?

You can act as the representative of the landowner to pass on written permission to your son and daughter as long as the landowner gave you written permission authorizing you and your guests to hunt on Sunday, however language granting permission to hunt on Sundays should be included in the written permission.

#### What is meant by "written permission" as used in the new law?

A plain meaning interpretation of "written permission" involves four pieces of information: (i) the identity of the person who has been granted permission to hunt; (ii) the scope of the permission, which may include limitations; (iii) the identity of the landowner who gave the written permission, and (iv) the date the permission is given and expires. Such written permission must be provided after the effective date of the Act.

#### I have verbal rather than written permission from Mr. Smith to hunt his property because he does not post his property. Do I still need written permission from him to hunt his property on Sunday?

Yes and language granting permission to hunt on Sundays should be included in the written permission.

#### Is Sunday hunting of waterfowl on private or public lands permissible except for those places within 200 yards of places of worship or for which geographical limitations are established by the Director?

Yes as long as no other prohibition precludes hunting waterfowl under the circumstances existing at the time hunting occurs.

#### Is written permission required for someone waterfowl hunting on private property?

The new law does not require someone hunting waterfowl on private property on Sunday to have written permission. However, this does not displace any other laws or regulations that otherwise prohibit, limit or regulate hunting on private property. Written permission to hunt on posted property is required as with all other days of the week.

#### The new law retained existing language that permits the hunting of raccoons until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Is Sunday hunting of raccoons limited to this time period only, or may raccoon hunters also hunt on Sundays in accordance with other provisions of the new law?

Lawful hunting of raccoons on Sunday ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. No other Sunday hunting of raccoons is allowed on either public or private lands.

#### Prior to the new law Sunday hunting was permitted on licensed shooting preserves. Does this new law impact the Sunday hunting operation of the shooting preserves in any way?

The new law will not change anything with the current law for the operation of shooting preserves on Sunday for pen-raised game birds.

Photo by Sally Mills



## Definitions

### Archery Tackle

As used in this digest, archery tackle includes longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, and crossbow.

### Bait

Bait shall mean any food, grain, or other consumable substance that could serve as a lure or attractant; however, crops grown for normal or accepted agriculture or wildlife management purposes, including food plots, shall not be considered as bait.

### Dismal Swamp Line

Beginning at a point on Rt. 10 where it intersects the Isle of Wight County line, then along this highway to its intersection with the corporate limits of Suffolk, then through Suffolk to its intersection with Rt. 642 (White Marsh Road) and then along this highway in a southwest direction to Rt. 604 (Desert Road), and then southerly along this highway to the North Carolina state line.

### Furbearer Species

Furbearer means beaver, bobcat, fisher, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, raccoon, skunk, and weasel.

### Game Animal

Game animal means bear, bobcat, deer, elk, fox, rabbit, raccoon, and squirrel.

### Hunting and Trapping

The act of or the attempted act of taking, hunting, trapping, pursuing, chasing, shooting, snaring, or netting birds or animals, and assisting any person who is doing the same, regardless of whether birds or animals are actually taken.

### Loaded Crossbow or Muzzleloader

A muzzleloading firearm is considered "loaded" when the muzzleloader is capped, or has a charged pan, or has a primer or battery installed in the firearm.

The definition of a "loaded crossbow" is a crossbow that is cocked and has either a bolt or arrow engaged or partially engaged on the shooting rail or track of the crossbow, or with a "trackless crossbow" when the crossbow is cocked and a bolt or arrow is nocked.

### Nonmigratory Game Birds

Nonmigratory game bird means grouse, pheasant, bobwhite quail, and turkey.

### Migratory Game Birds

Migratory game birds means species of waterfowl (ducks, geese, brant, swans and mergansers) and webless species (coots, doves, gallinules, moorhens, rails, snipe and woodcock).

### Nuisance Species

The following animals: house mouse, Norway rat, black rat, coyote, groundhog, nutria, feral hog, European starling, English sparrow, mute swan, and pigeon (rock dove) are designated as nuisance species and may be taken at any time by use of a firearm or other weapon (unless prohibited by local ordinances, see page 22) and on some public lands during certain time periods (see National Forest-Game Department Regulations page 55).

### Other Wildlife

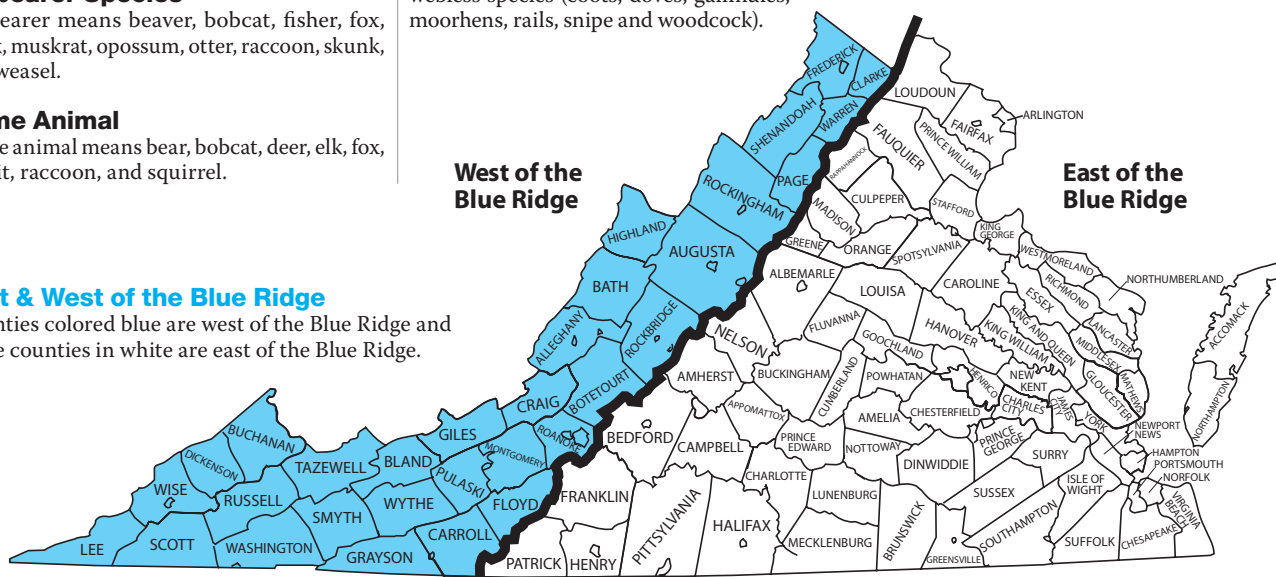
It is unlawful to take, possess, transport, release, or sell all other wildlife species not classified as game, furbearer, or nuisance, unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation.

### Route 29 Line/Amherst County

The Route 29 "line" in Amherst County is defined as Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River.

### East & West of the Blue Ridge

Counties colored blue are west of the Blue Ridge and those counties in white are east of the Blue Ridge.



## VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CRIME LINE



Since its inception in October 1986, the Virginia Wildlife Crime Line has become a valuable tool in the enforcement of the Commonwealth's game, fish, and boat laws. As awareness of this program increases, so do the number of calls to report violations. The program has generated

thousands of reported wildlife crime tips that have resulted in over a thousand arrests and over \$40,000 in approved rewards. Reward payments are approved and funded through the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc. Their mission is to promote the

enforcement of hunting, fishing, and boating laws in Virginia by supporting the Wildlife Crime Line in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. You can help support this effort by sending a tax-deductible donation to: Virginia Wildlife Crime Line, P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228-0778.

### Report a Wildlife Crime

If you know someone who kills wildlife out of season or over the game limit, help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries catch the individual and stop others from following that path. If you observe a violation, call the toll-free Virginia Wildlife Crime Line number at (800) 237-5712 or e-mail [wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov).



# Mandatory Hunter Education

Hunter Education courses provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship. The courses are composed of two sections:

## Section 1 – Self-study.

Each student is required to study course material prior to the classroom portion. Students must read the Today's Hunter Student Manual and complete the review exercises at the back of the book. The review exercises must be presented to the course instructor, or the student will not be certified. Student manuals may be obtained at any DGIF regional office or may be purchased by calling 1-800-830-2268. A free download of the manual is available on [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education)

## Section 2 – Classroom portion.

Students will focus on safety and ethics. A written test will be given at the end of the class. Test questions will cover material from the classroom portion and from the self-study material.

Courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. For more information, go to the Hunter Education page at the DGIF website [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education) or call the Hunter Education Coordinator at the nearest DGIF regional office [www.dgif.virginia.gov/about/offices](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/about/offices).

Hunters age 12 and over may also take hunter education completely online. There is a fee associated with these courses. For more information, go to [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education).

## Hunter Education Requirements

You must complete an approved hunter education course and carry your card while hunting if either of the following apply:

- You are 12–15 years of age. (You must complete hunter education but you do not have to carry your card if accompanied and properly supervised by a licensed adult.)
- You are at least 16 years of age and you are hunting with your first hunting license.

*Virginia accepts and recognizes all states' and countries' hunting licenses and official hunter education credentials for the purpose of complying with mandatory hunter education requirements. These may be in the form of an identification card or certificate.*

Although it is recommended for all hunters, you are not required to complete hunter education if:

- You only hunt foxes with hounds while on horseback, but without firearms.
- You are exempt from the requirement to purchase a license.

- You are under the age of 12. However, you may not hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed adult.
- You are hunting with an apprentice license. In that case you must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. "Accompanied and directly supervised" means the adult maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the apprentice hunter. The apprentice hunting license cannot be used as proof of holding a previous hunting license, for the purposes of purchasing a hunting license without proof of hunter education.

If you purchase an apprentice hunting license and then complete hunter education, you may then use the apprentice license as a basic hunting license to hunt without supervision until it expires unless otherwise required by law to be supervised as in the case of hunting on a youth/apprentice hunting weekend where apprentice hunters must be supervised by a licensed adult. You must carry proof of hunter education while hunting unsupervised.

Any person 16 years of age or older may certify that he or she has held a previously issued hunting license by signing the license.

# Hunter Skills Weekends

Virginia Hunter Skills Weekends are offered twice each year near Appomattox, VA, through a partnership program between the Virginia Hunter Education Association, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. These affordable educational programs are open to ages 11–90+ (children under 18 must attend with a parent). A variety of instructional courses provide skill development for new and seasoned hunters alike. They include firearms, archery, survival, game cooking, tree stand safety, and a variety of hunting techniques. Completion of a Hunter Education course is preferred but not required. For more information on registration fees and dates visit [www.holidaylake4h.com](http://www.holidaylake4h.com), call Holiday Lake at (434) 248-5444, or e-mail [bbranch@vt.edu](mailto:bbranch@vt.edu).

**Q: How do I get a replacement Hunter Education card?**

**A:** Go to [www.ilostmycard.com](http://www.ilostmycard.com) or call 800-830-2268.

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Every person who is required to have a license must carry such license and shall show the license immediately upon request of any officer whose duty it is to enforce the game and inland fish laws, or upon the demand of any owner or lessee, or any employee or representative of such owner or lessee, upon whose land or water such person may be hunting, trapping, or fishing. Any person who is required to carry certain hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses or a hunter education certificate on their person can meet the requirement by carrying an electronic copy of the relevant license or certificate, except that the bear license and deer/turkey license must still be possessed as a paper copy for checking requirements.

## Residency Qualifications

- Persons who have been a bona fide resident of the city, county, or state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of purchasing a license.
- Persons who have been domiciliary residents of the state for at least two months upon approval of a completed affidavit to be furnished by the Department.
- Legal voters for Virginia.
- Any member of the armed forces of the United States, or a member of the immediate family of such a member as defined in § 2.2-3101, upon execution of a certificate of residence if the member (i) resides in the Commonwealth, (ii) is on active duty, and (iii) is stationed at a military installation within, or in a ship based in, the Commonwealth.
- Students (including nonresident students boarding on campus) residing in Virginia who are enrolled in bona fide Virginia schools.
- Any unnaturalized person who owns real estate in the county or city and who has actually resided there not less than five years next preceding the date of the application for the license in the county or city.

## License Exemptions

All persons, except those listed below, must purchase the proper licenses before hunting or trapping. Where exempt, the exemption means the individual is exempt from the basic hunting license; bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license; muzzleloading license; trapping license; and Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. All seasons, bag limits, and checking requirements apply.

- Resident or nonresident landowners, their spouses, their children and grandchildren

and the spouses of such children and grandchildren, or the landowner's parents, resident or nonresident, do not need a license to hunt, trap or fish (on inland waters) within the boundaries of their own lands.

- Tenants, on the land they rent and occupy, are not required to have a license, but must have the written permission of the landowner. Persons who lease property and do not permanently reside there are not exempt from license requirements.
- Residents, 65 years of age and over, do not need a license to hunt or trap on private property in their county or city of residence.
- Resident hunters under the age of 12 are not required to have a hunting license or hunter education. Nonresident hunters under the age of 12 need a hunting license but do not need hunter education to purchase one. All hunters under the age of 12 may not hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed adult.
- Residents under the age of 16 are not required to have a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid Virginia trapping license.
- Any person who is not hunting, but is aiding a disabled person to hunt when such disabled person possesses a valid Virginia Disabled Resident Lifetime hunting license or a Virginia Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime license is not required to have a license.
- Any Indian who "habitually" resides on an Indian reservation or a member of the Virginia recognized tribes who resides in the Commonwealth is not required to have a hunting or trapping license; however, such Indian must have on his person an identification card or paper signed by the chief of his tribe, a valid tribal identification card, written confirmation through a central tribal registry, or certification from a tribal office.
- Stockholders owning 50 percent or more of the stock of any domestic corporation owning land in Virginia, his or her spouse and children and minor grandchildren, resident or nonresident, do not need a license to hunt, trap and fish within the boundaries of lands and inland waters owned by the domestic corporation.

## Which Licenses Do I Need?

To hunt in Virginia, a resident or nonresident hunting license is required, unless you are license exempt. Other licenses, permits, or stamps may also be required depending on species hunted and location of hunt. Before purchasing a hunting license or permit, make sure you understand what qualifies as a Virginia residency, that you really need a license or permit based on the exemptions, and you have met the hunter safety requirements.

### To Hunt Small Game

A hunting license is required. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.

### To Hunt Dove, Woodcock, Snipe, or Rail

A hunting license and HIP number are required. Register for HIP online at [www.vahip.com](http://www.vahip.com) or call 1-888-788-9772. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.

### To Hunt Bear, Deer, or Turkey

A bear license and/or a deer/turkey license is required in addition to a hunting license. (These licenses are valid from July 1–June 30 only.) A National Forest Permit, State Forest Use Permit, or Bonus Deer Permits may also be required.

### To Hunt With Archery Tackle

An archery license is required in addition to a hunting license when using archery tackle during a designated archery season for bear, deer, turkey and bobcat. A bear license, deer/turkey license, National Forest Permit, State Forest Use Permit, or Bonus Deer Permits may also be required.

### To Hunt With a Muzzleloader

A muzzleloading license is required in addition to the hunting license if hunting with a muzzleloading firearm during any muzzleloader deer season. A bear license, deer/turkey license, National Forest Permit, State Forest Use Permit, or Bonus Deer Permits may also be required.

**If hunting with archery tackle or muzzleloading rifle during any firearms deer season you do not need an archery or muzzleloading license.**

### To Trap

- A trapping license is required to trap. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required

### To Hunt Waterfowl

- A hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp, Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and a HIP number are required. Register for HIP online at [www.vahip.com](http://www.vahip.com) or call 1-888-788-9772. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.

**Q: If you buy the apprentice license do you still need to buy a Bear License or Deer/Turkey License, etc?**

**A: Yes, the apprentice license is in place of the basic hunting license. Any additional licenses, stamps, or permits would still be required.**





# 100 YEARS

## New Virginia DGIF Fishing & Hunting License System

### Go Outdoors Virginia!

On July 1, 2016, DGIF will offer customers a new, enhanced online licensing system to provide customers with additional benefits and features.

#### Highlights & Features



##### DGIF Customer Accounts

BEGINNING JULY 1, SYSTEM USERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CREATE A DGIF USER ACCOUNT. WITH THIS, CUSTOMERS CAN MANAGE THEIR LICENSES AND PREFERENCES USING A CUSTOMER ID NUMBER.



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CUSTOMERS CAN ENROLL IN DGIF'S NEW AUTO RENEW PROGRAM BEGINNING JULY 1, ALLOWING CUSTOMERS TO SET UP THEIR FISHING & HUNTING LICENSES TO BE AUTOMATICALLY RENEWED EVERY YEAR.



##### License Packages

TAKE THE HASSLE OUT OF DETERMINING WHICH LICENSES AND PERMITS YOU NEED - CHOOSE FROM A SELECTION OF LICENSE PACKAGES BY ACTIVITY, ENSURING YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN 1 CLICK.



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DGIF WILL BEGIN OFFERING CUSTOMERS STYLISH, DURABLE HARD CARD LICENSES FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$4. THE LICENSE CARDS WILL OFFER CUSTOMERS A MORE DURABLE LICENSE OPTION FEATURING COLLECTIBLE FISH AND WILDLIFE DESIGNS.

**The New Go Outdoors Virginia System Goes Live July 1, 2016**

**The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries thanks our customers for being partners in conservation!**

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# HUNTING LICENSE INFORMATION

## Legacy Lifetime Hunting License

- Issued only to an individual who is younger than two years of age and is valid for the lifetime of the license holder regardless of any change in that person's status as a resident or nonresident.
- Legacy hunting license is valid until the individual's 12th birthday. Upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, this license is transferable to a lifetime hunting license at no additional charge.
- The Legacy hunting or fishing license is available by application through the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online. Cost is \$125 for resident children and \$250 for nonresident children.

Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.

## Replacement Licenses

If you purchased a license from a retail license agent, such as a sporting goods store, you can request a replacement at any retail license agent.

If you purchased a license online, by phone, or from the Richmond office you will need to request a replacement by calling toll-free 1-866-721-6911 during regular business hours.

## Lifetime Licenses

Resident and nonresident lifetime licenses are purchased by an application and require supporting documentation of age, residency, and/or disability. They are issued only through the Richmond office. Retail license agents cannot issue these licenses.

Applications can be submitted in person at the Richmond office or mailed in. License applications can be found on the Department's website at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/lifetime](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/lifetime).

## Where to Get a License

### Online:

[www.gooutdoorsvirginia.gov](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.gov) Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay.

### In Person:

Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents around the state. Not sold at Department Regional Offices.

### By Phone:

(866) 721-6911 during regular business hours.

**Q: If you turn 16 after you purchase a junior license is it still good or do you need to purchase another license for 16 and older?**

**A:** Your license is good until it expires.



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**Over-the-counter licenses on sale**

**July 26, 2016**

**Remaining limited licenses on sale**

**August 2, 2016**

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### License Fees

(Issuance fee is included in the price.)

#### Resident Hunting Licenses

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase except the bear license, deer/turkey license (valid July 1-June 30 only), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp, the apprentice hunting license, and lifetime licenses.

LICENSE	FEE
<b>Resident Sportsman's License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$133.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, muzzleloading license, freshwater fishing license, and trout license.	
<b>Resident Hunting License</b> (age 16 and older)	
1-year license	\$23.00
2-year license	\$44.00
3-year license	\$65.00
4-year license	\$86.00
<b>Resident County or City Hunting License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$16.00
For county or city of residence only.	
<b>Resident Apprentice Hunting License</b>	\$11.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
<b>Resident Senior Citizen Hunting License</b> (age 65 and over)	\$9.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license.	
<b>Resident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans</b>	\$12.00
Resident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability upon certification. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Resident Junior Hunting License</b> (age 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old)	\$8.50
<b>Resident Youth Combination Hunting License</b> (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
<b>Resident Junior Lifetime Hunting License</b> (under age 12)	\$255.00
No annual bear license, or deer/turkey license required until age 12. National forest permit, state forest use permit, and bonus deer permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license. Upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, the license is transferable to a lifetime hunting license at no additional fee. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Resident Legacy Lifetime Hunting License</b>	\$125.00
Must be purchased before age 2. See page 12 for details. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	

LICENSE	FEE
<b>Resident Lifetime Hunting License</b>	
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
Age 12-44 (hunter education course required under age 16)	\$260.00
Age 45-50	\$210.00
Age 51-55	\$160.00
Age 56-60	\$110.00
Age 61-64	\$60.00
Age 65 and over	\$20.00
<b>Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Hunting Lifetime License</b>	\$15.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this hunting license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime Hunting License</b>	no charge
For qualified resident disabled veterans. Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, muzzleloading license. All other applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online. A license for freshwater fishing is also available.	
<b>Resident Fox Hunting License</b>	\$23.00
To hunt foxes on horseback with hounds without firearms. Not required of an individual holding a basic license to hunt.	

#### One or more of the following may be required in addition to a resident hunting license.

LICENSE	FEE
<b>Resident Bear License</b>	\$21.00
<b>Resident Deer/Turkey License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$23.00
Not required if a senior citizen's lifetime license was purchased before July 1, 1988. Not required for holders of Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Lifetime License. Valid July 1 through June 30 only.	
<b>Resident Junior Deer/Turkey License</b> (age 12 to 15)	\$8.50
Valid July 1 through June 30.	
<b>Resident Archery License</b>	\$18.00
Includes longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, and crossbow.	
<b>Resident Muzzleloading License</b>	\$18.00

**License-exempt hunters must still check bear, bobcat, deer, elk, or turkey (see page 27).**



## Nonresident Hunting Licenses

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase except the bear license, deer/turkey license (valid July 1-June 30 only), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp, the apprentice hunting license, and lifetime licenses.

LICENSE	FEE
<b>Nonresident Hunting License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$111.00
<b>Nonresident 3-Day Hunt License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$60.00
Must be 3 consecutive days	
<b>Nonresident Apprentice Hunting License</b>	\$21.00
Annual nonresident bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits may be required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
<b>Nonresident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans</b>	\$56.00
Nonresident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Nonresident Veteran Annual Hunting License</b>	\$28.50
For nonresident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a total and permanent disability that is service connected. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this hunting license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Nonresident Junior Hunting License</b> (under age 12)	\$13.00
<b>Nonresident Junior Hunting License</b> (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
<b>Nonresident Youth Combination Hunting License</b> (under age 16)	\$31.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
<b>Nonresident Legacy Hunting License</b>	\$250.00
Must be purchased before age 2. See page 12 for details. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	

LICENSE	FEE
<b>Nonresident Lifetime Hunting License</b>	\$555.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Nonresident Fox Hunting License</b>	\$111.00
To hunt foxes on horseback with hounds without firearms. Not required of an individual holding a general license to hunt.	
<b>Nonresident Foxhound Training Preserve license</b>	\$18.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed foxhound training preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	
<b>Nonresident Hunting Preserve license</b>	\$23.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	

### One or more of the following may be required in addition to a nonresident hunting license.

LICENSE	FEE
<b>Nonresident Bear License</b>	\$151.00
<b>Nonresident Deer/Turkey License</b> Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Age 16 and older	\$86.00
Age 12 to 15	\$16.00
Under age 12	\$13.00
<b>Nonresident Archery License</b>	\$31.00
Includes longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, and crossbow.	
<b>Nonresident Muzzleloading License</b>	\$31.00



### License Fees

(Issuance fee is included in the price.)

#### Trapping Licenses

One or more of the following is required to trap. Other licenses or permits may also be required.

LICENSE	FEE
<b>County or City Resident Trapping License</b>	\$21.00
For county or city of residence.	
<b>Resident Trapping License</b>	
1-year license	\$46.00
2-year license	\$90.00
3-year license	\$134.00
4-year license	\$178.00
<b>Resident Junior Trapping License</b> (under age 16)	\$11.00
<b>Resident Senior Citizen Trapping License</b> (age 65 and over)	\$9.00
<b>Resident Senior Citizen Lifetime Trapping License</b> (age 65 or over)	\$20.00
Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Service-Connected Permanently and Totally Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime Trapping License</b>	\$15.00
Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime Trapping License</b>	\$15.00
Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Nonresident Trapping License</b>	\$206.00

#### Miscellaneous Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

One or more of the following may be required in addition to a hunting license.

PERMITS	FEE
<b>Resident Bonus Deer Permit</b> (6 antlerless tags)	\$18.00
See page 32 for more information.	
<b>Nonresident Bonus Deer Permit</b> (6 antlerless tags)	\$31.00
See page 32 for more information.	
<b>National Forest Permit</b>	\$4.00
To hunt and trap within National Forest. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap or residents who have an annual senior citizen hunting license (\$9.00) or a senior lifetime license issued before 7/1/88.	
<b>Virginia State Forest Use Permit</b> (age 16 or older)	\$16.00
Allows hunting, trapping, fishing, mountain biking, and horse riding. No motorized vehicles on gated roads/trails (open or closed). Sold in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry.	
<b>Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALS)</b>	\$18.00
See page 55 for more information.	
<b>Access Permit</b> (see page 52 for more information)	\$4.00 per day / \$23.00 per year
Daily group rates are available. For more information go to: <a href="http://www.HuntFishVA.com/access-permit/">www.HuntFishVA.com/access-permit/</a>	

STAMPS	FEE
<b>Federal Migratory Duck E-Stamp</b>	\$27.50
To take migratory waterfowl; required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license. Valid July 1 through June 30. See below.	
<b>Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp</b>	\$10.00
Required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt. Valid July 1 through June 30.	

## FEDERAL ELECTRONIC OR “E-STAMP” DUCK STAMP PROGRAM

A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years and older in order to hunt waterfowl. Waterfowl hunters can still purchase their Federal Duck Stamp at U.S. Post Offices at a cost of \$25.00, but a new program provides a convenient online option whereby hunters can obtain an E-stamp for \$27.50. The E-stamp is valid immediately following the purchase and for up to 45 days. The actual Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to the customer within 45 days and must be signed and carried thereafter while hunting waterfowl.

To obtain the E-stamp Federal Duck stamp go to the Department’s website ([www.HuntFishVA.com/licenses](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/licenses)) and click on hunting and fishing licenses or visit one of over 800 license agents throughout the Commonwealth.



2016 Federal Duck Stamp artwork, by Joseph Hautman  
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## Hunting Hours

(See page 72 for sunrise-sunset table)

- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for nonmigratory birds and game animals except during spring turkey season.
- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon during spring gobbler season, except the last 13 days when the hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.
- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset for Youth/Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend.
- Hours for bear hound training season are from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily, including Sundays.
- Bobcat, foxes, raccoons, and opossums may be hunted by day or night during authorized seasons.

- Raccoons may be hunted until 2:00 a.m. on Sundays. No other Sunday hunting of raccoons is permitted.
- Nuisance species may be taken day or night.

## Blaze Orange

### Requirements

When hunting any species during a firearms deer season and on youth/apprentice deer hunting weekend, every hunter (see exceptions below), or persons accompanying a hunter, shall wear a blaze orange hat or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze orange material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze orange. Hats shall not be in "camo"

style, since the latter is designed to prevent visibility. A logo, which does not detract from visibility, may be worn on a blaze orange hat.

Hunters using ground (pop-up, chair, box, etc.) or tree stand blinds that conceal them from view must display a minimum of 100 square inches of blaze orange, visible from 360 degrees, on the OUTSIDE of such blinds. This blaze orange is in addition to any worn on the hunter's person.

During the muzzleloader seasons for hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm, every muzzleloader deer hunter and every person accompanying a muzzleloader deer hunter shall wear blaze orange as specified above except when they are physically located in a tree stand or other stationary hunting location.

### Exceptions

- Blaze orange is not required of waterfowl hunters, dove hunters, individuals participating in hunting dog field trials, and fox hunters on horseback without firearms.
- Hunters hunting with archery tackle during an open firearms deer season in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by state law or local ordinance, are exempt from the blaze orange requirement.
- Other than muzzleloader deer hunters, blaze orange is not required of any hunters hunting during the muzzleloader deer seasons.

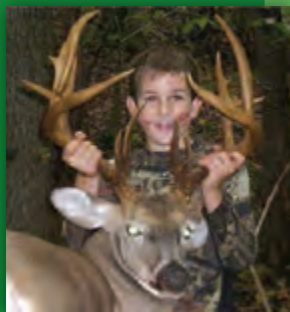
### Q: Is it true that I must now wear blaze orange during the muzzleloading seasons for deer when hunting with a muzzleloading rifle?

A: Yes, you and anyone accompanying you. It must be worn to and from your stand or while moving. Once you get to your stand you may remove the blaze orange clothing.



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## Hunting With Dogs

- The hunting of deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sunday is prohibited.
- Dogs may be used to pursue wild birds and animals during hunting seasons where not prohibited.
- Section 18.2-136 of the Code of Virginia decriminalizes trespass in certain instances related to dog retrieval. That section provides: "Fox hunters and coon hunters, when the chase begins on other lands, may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls, but may not carry firearms or bow and arrows on their person or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls pursuant to this section and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor."
- Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear or deer statewide during any archery, muzzleloader, or firearm bear or deer hunting season, or within 24 hours of the end of such season, provided that those who are involved in the retrieval effort have permission to hunt on or to access the land being searched and do not have any weapons in their possession. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)
- It is unlawful to use dogs when hunting any species with archery tackle during any archery season, except bear hounds may be used during the youth/apprentice bear hunting weekend.
- It is unlawful to chase with dogs or hunt with dogs or to attempt to chase or hunt with dogs any wild animal from a baited site or to train dogs on any wild animal from a baited site. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to place, distribute, or maintain bait or salt for any wild animal for the purpose of chasing with dogs, hunting with dogs, or the training of dogs. When hunting or training with dogs a baited site will be considered to be baited for 10 days following the complete removal of all such bait or salt.
- It is unlawful to intentionally cripple or otherwise harm any game animal for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs. Upon treeing, baying, or otherwise containing an animal in a manner that offers the animal no avenue of escape, the person or the hunting party shall either harvest the animal if within a legal take season and by using lawful methods of take or terminate the chase by retrieving the dogs and allowing the animal freedom to escape

## TRAINING DOGS ON MILITARY BASES

For training dogs on military bases contact the appropriate base:

<b>Fort A.P. Hill Game Check Station</b> .....	(804) 633-8244
<b>Fort Belvoir Outdoor Recreation</b> .....	(703) 805-3081
<b>Ft. Pickett Game Check Station</b> .....	(434) 292-2618
<b>Quantico Game Check Station</b> .....	(703) 784-5523

- for the remainder of the same calendar day.
- It is unlawful to dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.

## Training Dogs

The training of dogs on live wild animals is considered hunting and you must have a valid hunting license while training, and is unlawful during the closed season except as noted below.

- You may train dogs during daylight hours on squirrels and nonmigratory game birds on private lands and on rabbits from 1/2 hour before sunrise until midnight on private lands. Participants shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession and no wild animals shall be taken. Weapons may be in possession when training dogs on captive raised and properly marked mallards and pigeons so that they may be immediately shot or recovered, except on Sunday.
- You may train dogs on National Forest or Department-owned lands only during authorized training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- You may train dogs on quail on the Amelia Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Dick Cross WMA, and on designated portions of the Chester F. Phelps WMA from September 1 to the day prior to the opening date of the

quail hunting season, both dates inclusive. No weapons other than starter pistols may be in possession, and pen-raised birds may not be released.

- Pen-raised quail may be released at any time on private land with landowner permission. However, birds can only be shot during the regular quail season. Regular bag limits apply.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and nonmigratory game birds on the Weston WMA from September 1 thru March 31, both dates inclusive. Participants in this dog training season shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession, shall not release pen-raised birds, and must comply with all regulations and laws pertaining to hunting. No game shall be taken.

## Hunting On Private Property

Trespass violations, posting property, and access issues are all concerns that affect a landowner's decision to allow hunting.

Hunters are reminded that it is unlawful to hunt on private property without the permission of the landowner, and hunters must have the permission of the landowner to track or retrieve wounded game on private property.

### On Posted Property

It is unlawful to hunt without written permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$2500 and/or 12 months in jail.



### Report Your Lost Hunting Dog

The VHDA missing dog site allows owners of missing Virginia hunting dogs to record facts, photos, and the exact last sighting location of their missing dogs and print a poster to use locally. Uniquely, it notifies via email Virginia's licensed shelters statewide that the dog is being sought.

[www.vahda.org/missingdogfacts.htm](http://www.vahda.org/missingdogfacts.htm)



## On Unposted Property

It is unlawful to hunt any unposted property without permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

### Landowners may post their property by any of the following methods:

- Using an aluminum or purple color paint, paint a vertical line at least 2 inches in width and at least 8 inches in length, no less than 3 feet and not more than 6 feet from the ground or normal water surface and visible when approaching the property.
- Signs that specifically prohibit hunting, fishing, or trespassing on the property.

## What Landowners Should Know

For landowners, finding responsible hunters can provide many benefits for both the landowner and sportsmen allowed access to the property. There are benefits of having responsible hunters included as an important part of the landowner's wildlife management plan, especially if they are absentee or do not hunt themselves. There are many in-kind benefits of such relationships including road maintenance, habitat improvement, security, and safety. Hunt clubs are also helpful, and lease fees can offset property taxes. Information on locating responsible hunters can be found by contacting local civic groups like Ruritans, or 4-H Clubs, sporting goods shops, and area landowner contacts that participate in Tree Farm or Stewardship Programs. Members of sportsmen's conservation organizations that are dedicated, reputable partners with DGIF promote safety, ethical practices, habitat improvement, and scientific management of wildlife.

### Liability

Concern about legal liability for recreationists prevents some landowners from permitting hunting on their property. However, the Vir-

ginia General Assembly has addressed this concern in Virginia Code Section 29.1-509. Amended in 1982, this law exempts landowners who provide recreational opportunities to the public from liability for injury or damages, provided:

- the landowner does not charge a fee.
- there is no gross negligence or "willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, or structure" on the property.

The property owner should eliminate obvious hazards such as open wells and falling down buildings, or fence off and identify with warning signs any hazard that cannot be eliminated, such as a rock quarry. The landowner may wish to consider insuring the property subject to casualty and obtain comprehensive liability insurance. These are relatively inexpensive additions to standard and homeowner insurance policies. Sportsmen can be asked to help provide financial or other support in return for permission to use the lands.

Fundamentally, sportsmen are responsible for their own safety and for any damages they cause to the property of others. Lease agreements and individual permit cards (samples available here and on the Department website) include codes of ethical conduct while the holders are on the property.

Furthermore, landowners can require sportsmen to show proof of insurance. Sportsman insurance is available through insurance companies and national sportsman organizations.




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## LANDOWNERS WANTED

### Quail Management Assistance Program

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/quail.qmap.asp](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/quail.qmap.asp)

Photo by Dwight Dyke

### Permission to Hunt

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that they are putting their name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.

I grant: \_\_\_\_\_

permission to \_\_\_\_\_ my property

on these dates \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_

over

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The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

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I grant: \_\_\_\_\_

permission to \_\_\_\_\_ my property

on these dates \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_

over

## Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle

Special restrictions may apply to specific firearms use in some counties. See Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 22 for details.

- No restrictions on shot size except for spring gobbler season when it is unlawful to have any shot in possession larger than number 2 fine shot while hunting.
- Shotguns must not be larger than 10 gauge.
- Unplugged shotguns are legal for hunting nonmigratory game and crows.
- Shotgun barrels must be at least 18 inches long.
- Shotguns with rifled barrels are permitted in areas where slugs may be used.
- All game birds and animals, except deer, may be hunted with shotguns from boats. Hunters must have permission from the landowner to hunt/retrieve game located on private land.
- Rifles used for deer or bear must be .23 caliber or larger.
- Rifles (including air rifles) may be used for taking wild animals and wild birds, except migratory game birds and waterfowl, and where prohibited by local ordinances.
- Rifles (including air rifles), pistols, and revolvers may be used for hunting crows and turkeys, except where prohibited by local ordinances.
- Pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloading pistols may be used for small game, except where prohibited by local ordinances.
- Pistols and revolvers are lawful for deer and bear hunting only in those counties where hunting deer and bear with rifles is lawful. Cartridges used must be .23 caliber or larger and have a manufacturer's rating of 350 foot-pounds muzzle energy or more.
- Muzzleloading pistols of .45 caliber or larger (.50 caliber or larger is recommended) are permitted for hunting big game where and in

### Valid Concealed Handgun Permit Holders:

Nothing in any Department regulation shall prohibit the possession and transport of a concealed handgun when the individual possesses a valid concealed weapon permit as defined in the Code of Virginia. The granting of a concealed handgun permit shall not thereby authorize the possession of any handgun or other weapon on property or in places where such possession is otherwise prohibited by law or is prohibited by the owner of private property. Furthermore, the possession of a concealed handgun permit does not authorize the use of the concealed handgun for hunting.

- those seasons when the use of muzzleloading rifles is permitted.
- Muzzleloading shotguns, muzzleloading rifles, or archery tackle may be used to hunt during the firearms seasons where not prohibited.
  - Archery tackle (including crossbows) may be used for hunting wild birds and animals.
    - » The laws governing the use of archery tackle also apply to crossbow tackle.

- On another person's property without the written consent of the owner of the property or as explicitly authorized by law.
- With a passenger at any time, unless vehicle is designed and equipped to be operated with more than one rider.

The above does not apply to members of the household or employees of the owner or lessee of private property on which the ATV is operated.

## All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Laws

No ATV shall be operated:

- On any public highway, or other public property, except as authorized by proper authorities or to the extent necessary to cross a public highway by the most direct route.
- By any person under the age of 16, except that children between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate ATVs powered by engines of no less than 70 cubic centimeters nor more than 90 cubic centimeters displacement.
- By any person unless he is wearing a protective helmet of a type approved by the Superintendent of State Police for use by motorcycle operators.

## Unlawful Methods

Penalties may include hunting or trapping privilege revocation for one year to life and forfeiture of firearms.

A person found guilty of a violation a second time within three years of a previous conviction shall have their hunting or trapping privilege revoked by the court trying the case.

### It is unlawful to:

- Hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, with a gun, firearm, or other weapon, or to hunt or kill any deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs, on Sundays.
- Exceptions to Sunday hunting prohibition:
  1. Raccoons may be hunted until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Hunter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicle Tag No. \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.

**SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE**  
 In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:

1. Respect the landowner's property, only go where they designate and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.
2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.
3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.
4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.

Hunter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicle Tag No. \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.

**SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE**  
 In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:

1. Respect the landowner's property, only go where they designate and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.
2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.
3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.
4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.

Hunter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_



2. Waterfowl (ducks, coot, geese, brant, and swans) and rails, gallinules, and moorhen may be hunted on Sundays subject to geographical limitations established by the Director and except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
3. Any landowner or member of his family or any person with written permission from the landowner may hunt on the landowner's property on Sunday, except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
4. Hunting is permitted on licensed hunting (shooting) preserves.
  - Hunt migratory game birds with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber, combined, unless allowed by federal regulations and authorized by the Department.
  - Hold in captivity any live wild birds or wild animals outside the limits allowed by regulations without a permit.
  - Discharge a firearm or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any public road.
  - Cast a light attached to a vehicle or from a vehicle beyond a roadway upon places used by deer without written permission of the landowner or at anytime while in the possession of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, archery tackle, or speargun.
  - Handle any firearm in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
  - Destroy, mutilate, or take down "posted" signs or to litter.
  - Take or attempt to take wild animals and wild birds with the exception of bobcats, coyotes, crows, and foxes by the use or aid of recorded animal or bird calls or sounds or recorded or electrically amplified imitation of animals or bird calls or sounds; provided, that electronic calls may be used on private lands for hunting bobcats, coyotes, and foxes with written permission of the landowner and on public lands except where specifically prohibited.
  - Hunt adjacent to forest fires.
  - Willfully and intentionally impede the lawful hunting or trapping of wild birds or wild animals.
  - Kill or cripple and knowingly allow any nonmigratory game bird or game animal to be wasted without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in possession.
  - Hunt under age 12 without being accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed parent, guardian, or other adult designated by the parent or guardian. The term "accompanied and directly supervised" means the adult maintains close visual and verbal contact, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.
  - Hunt with an Apprentice Hunting License prior to completing hunter education unless accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has, on his per-

son, a valid Virginia hunting license. For the purposes of this section, "accompanied and directly supervised" occurs when a person over 18 maintains a close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the apprentice hunter. Upon completion of hunter education and unless otherwise required by law to be supervised (as in the case of hunting on a youth/apprentice hunting day where by department regulation apprentice hunters must be supervised by a licensed adult), the apprentice hunting licensee may hunt unsupervised subject to the requirements of applicable state law and regulations.

- Shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of the state. However, licensed trappers may shoot a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters for the purpose of dispatching trapped animals.
- Carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on public inland waters for hunting wild birds or animals.
- Shoot waterfowl or migratory game birds from a boat being propelled by a motor.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotic drugs.
- Molest eggs, nest, den, or young of any wild bird or animal, except nuisance species, at any time without a permit as required by law.
- Occupy any baited blind or other baited place for the purpose of taking or attempting to take any wild game bird or wild game animal or to put out bait or salt for the purpose of taking or killing any wild game bird or wild game animal, except for the purpose of trapping furbearing animals.
- Shoot or attempt to take any wild bird or animal from any vehicle, except as otherwise provided by law.
- Exceed the bag limit or possess over the daily limit of any wild bird or animal while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state.
- Use vehicles or possess firearms (including concealed weapons) while retrieving dogs on private lands without permission of the landowner.
- Use live birds or animals to decoy or call game.
- Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.
- Hunt or attempt to kill or trap any species of wild bird or wild animal after having obtained the daily bag or season limit during such day or

season. However, any properly licensed person, or a person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such daily bag or season limit while hunting may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives if the weapon in possession is an unloaded firearm, a bow without a nocked arrow, or an unloaded crossbow. Any properly licensed person, or person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such season limit prior to commencement of the hunt may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives, provided he does not have a firearm, bow, or crossbow in his possession.

- Alter, change, borrow, or lend a hunting license or permit.
- Hunt with explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.
- Possess or transport any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or the parts thereof, unless specifically allowed and only in accordance with regulations.
- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms, (i.e., machine guns).
- Sell or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof, except as specifically permitted by law.
- Use radio tracking equipment, except on dogs or on raptors permitted by a falconry permit, to aid in the chase, harvest or capture of wildlife.

## Unlawful Feeding of Certain Wildlife

Not only is it illegal to hunt, chase with dogs, or attempt to kill game birds and animals from a baited site, it is also illegal to feed some wildlife under certain circumstances. The Department does not encourage the feeding of wildlife at any time of the year. Feeding restrictions help control the transmission of diseases, nuisance problems, littering concerns, and enforcement issues about hunting with bait.

- It is unlawful to feed deer or elk at certain times. For more information see page 40.
- It is unlawful to feed bears anytime. For more information see page 28.

### Q: Is it legal to kill snakes in Virginia?

**A: No, under normal circumstances. Snakes can only be killed when their presence represent an immediate human health hazard or they are creating some other type of nuisance issue. State or federally protected species (e.g. canebrake rattlesnake) may never be killed under any circumstance. The indiscriminate killing of snakes is contrary to the Department's conservation ethic.**



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## Local Firearms Ordinances

The following counties and cities have regulations concerning the use and transportation of firearms. The number or numbers following that county name indicate the regulations listed below for that particular county. In addition, certain counties have ordinances other than

those listed, primarily pertaining to possession of firearms near parks or schools, hunting or discharging firearms near populated areas, residences, or buildings, and age limitations for possession of loaded firearms on public roads. Before hunting in a county or city, hunters

should become familiar with all ordinances particular to that county or city by contacting the county or city directly. If a locality is not listed, state firearms restrictions apply (see Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle on page 20).

COUNTY	#
Accomack.....	43
Albemarle.....	16, 54
Alexandria.....	1, 54
Amherst.....	18
Arlington.....	59
Buckingham.....	12, 60
Caroline.....	17, 83
Campbell.....	11
Charles City.....	7, 33, 42
Chesapeake.....	29, 46
Chesterfield.....	7, 14, 21, 22, 37, 54, 70
Clarke.....	25, 54
Culpeper.....	18, 22, 54
Cumberland.....	5, 17, 27, 74
Danville.....	54
Dinwiddie.....	12, 13, 38
Essex.....	7, 42, 49
Fairfax.....	2, 25, 45
Fauquier.....	14, 18, 22, 36, 54
Franklin.....	26
Fredericksburg (city).....	2, 18, 30, 51, 54, 64
Gate City.....	55
Gloucester.....	14
Goochland.....	9, 10, 23, 33, 77
Greensville.....	15, 22
Halifax.....	33, 61, 75
Hampton (city).....	31, 45
Hanover.....	7, 20, 46, 53
Isle of Wight.....	8, 12, 35
James City.....	40, 54
King and Queen.....	49, 68
King George.....	6, 17, 22, 26, 54
King William.....	17, 18, 28

COUNTY	#
Lancaster.....	6, 12, 26
Loudoun.....	18, 22, 54, 62, 63, 64, 65
Louisa.....	17, 27, 68
Lunenburg.....	17
Madison.....	22, 25, 54
Mecklenburg.....	27
Middlesex.....	26
Nelson.....	22
New Kent.....	8, 12, 25, 54
Newport News.....	1
Northampton.....	7, 53
Northumberland.....	17, 26, 42, 54
Orange.....	18, 22, 34
Petersburg.....	54
Pittsylvania.....	26
Poquoson (city).....	22, 69, 71, 72
Prince George.....	4, 7, 32, 43
Prince William.....	2, 12, 18
Rappahannock.....	18
Richmond.....	7, 66, 67, 68
Richmond (city).....	1, 54
Roanoke.....	25, 54, 64, 77, 79
Southampton.....	3, 8, 19, 41, 80
Stafford.....	81, 82
Suffolk.....	44, 52, 76
Surry.....	7, 53, 54
Sussex.....	7, 48, 73
Virginia Beach.....	2, 7, 54, 56, 57, 58
Warren.....	54
Westmoreland.....	50
Williamsburg.....	1, 54
York.....	47



1. No discharge of firearms except on approved ranges.
2. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting.
3. It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading shotgun loaded with slugs or sabot slugs.
4. Deer hunting with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire is prohibited in the county. However, hunting of groundhogs with a rifle of a caliber larger than a .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31 is permitted, and a rifle of a caliber larger than a .22 rimfire may be used for hunting all other game, bird, and varmint species as allowed by state law and regulations. Deer hunting with a shotgun loaded with slugs is permitted so long as such hunting is conducted from a stand located at least ten feet in elevation above the ground.
5. It is lawful to hunt groundhogs with rifles of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire during the season between March 1 and August 31.
6. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs outside of the regular hunting season.
7. No rifles for deer hunting.
8. No rifles for big game hunting.
9. It shall be unlawful to hunt in the county with a rifle, pistol, or revolver of a caliber larger than .22 caliber or with a shotgun loaded with slugs, except that rifles of a larger caliber, shotguns loaded with slugs and pistols or revolvers firing cartridges rated in manufacturers' tables at 350 foot pounds of energy or greater may be used to hunt from a stand elevated at least 10 feet from the ground, provided that no cartridge shall be used with a bullet of less than .23 caliber.
10. It shall be unlawful to have in immediate possession any hunting firearm other than a muzzleloading rifle while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle during the early muzzleloader season.
11. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within the ditch line of any primary or secondary highway.
12. It is lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for game animals in the regular hunting season.
13. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated 10 feet.
14. It is unlawful to hunt from the road with firearms.
15. It is unlawful to hunt with firearms from the road and within 10 feet of the ditch bank.
16. It is unlawful to hunt within 100 feet of the road.
17. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized deer season where firearms are permitted.
18. It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm within 100 yards of a road.
19. It is unlawful to transport, possess or carry a loaded rifle in any vehicle while on the road from October 1 through February 15.
20. It shall be unlawful to discharge or shoot any firearm or other weapon in or along any public road or street or within 100 yards thereof or within 100 yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling or place where the public gathers, not his own dwelling or residence.
21. Except for target shooting, no person shall shoot an arrow from a bow with a peak draw weight of 10 pounds or more within 150 feet of a business, public building, public gathering, public meeting place, or dwelling of another unless they have the permission of the dwelling owner or occupant.
22. It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm on the road except when permission to hunt is obtained from landowners on each side.
23. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within the county during the time between sunset and sunrise.
24. No rifles over .22 caliber for hunting except for groundhogs between March 1 and August 31.
25. No hunting with firearms of game species from within 100 yards of a road.
26. No hunting with firearms of any game animal from the road right-of-way.
27. No hunting with firearms from the road including ditch to ditch.
28. No hunting with a rifle larger than .22 caliber during the deer season.



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# LOCAL FIREARMS ORDINANCES

29. When 100 yds. from a road and elevated from a stand 15 ft. above ground a rifle may be used to hunt big game east of the Dismal Swamp line.
30. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt any bird or game animal using a muzzle-loading rifle or a shotgun loaded with slugs, except from a stand elevated at least 10 feet above the ground.
31. All hunting within the City of Hampton is prohibited, with the exception of shotgun hunting from a licensed waterfowl blind. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge shots, bullets, pellets or any similar thing from a firearm or pneumatic gun within five hundred feet of any dwelling or occupied structure or any street, alley or other public way in the city.
32. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground; however, this requirement shall be expressly inapplicable to all legally handicapped persons.
33. The use of a muzzleloading rifle shall be permitted during the early muzzleloading season and during the entire regular firearms season for deer hunting.
34. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or rifle in a vehicle on a road during open deer season.
35. It shall be unlawful to possess outside of a vehicle, or shoot or hunt with a rifle, muzzleloader, pistol, or shotgun loaded with slugs, or to possess shotgun slugs on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area in Isle of Wight County. In addition, it shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm within 100 yards of the boardwalk or nature trail on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area.
36. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm from or across any sidewalk, highway or on public land.
37. It is unlawful for minors to carry firearms on public highways or public lands unless accompanied by certain adults.
38. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31 and coyotes may be hunted for the entire year.
39. It shall be lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for deer and squirrels during the regular seasons.
40. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber, a muzzleloader larger than .36 caliber, or a shotgun loaded with slugs except from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground, except for groundhogs in certain areas between March 1 and September 1.
41. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzle-loading rifle at any time.
42. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31.
43. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within 50 feet of the center of any primary and secondary highway.
44. Rifles are permitted for bear and deer hunting when used from stands elevated at least 15 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements).
45. All rifles, pistols, muzzleloaders, or shotguns loaded with slugs are prohibited for any hunting.
46. It is unlawful to discharge any firearms, spring propelled rifle or pistol, or air-propelled rifle or pistol from, on, across or within 150 yards of any city building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway or public place within the city limits: check local county/city ordinances.
47. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 except as specifically approved by local County ordinance.
48. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during the special muzzleloading season.
49. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized firearms season for the hunting of game animals except for the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season.
50. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt in the county with a shotgun loaded with slugs or a muzzleloading rifle other than during the prescribed open season for the hunting of big game species or with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 caliber.
51. It shall be unlawful to shoot an arrow from a bow in a manner that can be reasonably expected to result in the impact of the arrow upon the property of another without permission from the owner or tenant of such property.
52. It shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm within any densely populated area: within 200 yards from any structure or within 100 yards from any public street, secondary road, or highway within the city, except on a permitted firing range or at or upon the property of another without permission.
53. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles.
54. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle on any public street, road or highway.
55. It shall be unlawful for any person in the town, except a duly authorized officer in the course of his duty, to fire or discharge any gun, pistol, or other firearms of any kind.
56. No discharge of firearms across or within 150 yards of any building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, public land, or public place.
57. No discharge of firearms north or west of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary; thence northwardly along North Landing Road; thence eastwardly along Indian River Road; thence northeastwardly along New Bridge Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean, or across any land north of False Cape Park and east of Shipps Bay and Point Creek. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 south of this line except muzzleloading rifles may be used to hunt deer during the firearms deer season.
58. Shotguns firing pellets are lawful on certain agricultural lands of 50 contiguous acres or more, and on certain lands south of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary, thence northeastwardly along Elbow Road; thence southeastwardly along Salem Road; thence northeastwardly along North Landstown Road; thence southeastwardly along Princess Anne Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean. The property must be permitted by the City Manager for this purpose.
59. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot off a firearm in the county. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot or throw any dangerous missiles by mechanical, explosive, air- or gas-propelled means, or similar method or device onto or across any public sidewalk, path, or roadway, at any public structure or building, or at or onto the property of another. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a compound bow, crossbow, longbow, or recurve bow at or upon the property of another without permission. It shall be unlawful to discharge a projectile from any of the aforementioned bows within 100 yards of any public road, public building or structure, private residence or structure, or property of another. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the use of firearms or other instruments or missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in lawful self defense or in the lawful defense of property, or to prohibit the use of firearms or other missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in supervised sport, recreation, or training conducted on safety-inspected and approved ranges and courses, provided the same is not contrary to existing law.
60. It shall be lawful to hunt deer and bear from a stand elevated at least 10 feet from the ground or within a ten (10) foot perimeter from a stationary, pre-identified and marked point, such point having been established by an easily visible fixed marker, with a .23 or larger caliber. However such rifles can only be loaded while the hunter is in the elevated tree stand, within the 10 feet of the stationary pre-identified and marked point, if ground hunting, or while attempting to recover wounded game within a 300 yard perimeter of the elevated stand or the pre-identified and marked point from which the game was shot.
61. It is unlawful to hunt or attempt to hunt on a primary or secondary state maintained highway, and within the side ditches of such highways.
62. Discharging firearms is prohibited within certain areas (check local county ordinance



**Local firearms ordinances are established by individual counties/cities. Please contact the appropriate locality for more information.**

- for area description), except deer hunting is permitted with handguns, shotguns, or muzzleloading rifles using a single projectile and all other hunting is allowed with rifles of .22 caliber rimfire or less, handguns, shotguns, and muzzleloading rifles using single or multiple projectiles.
63. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 50 yards of a highway in the primary or secondary system of state roads.
  64. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of any public park or school.
  65. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission.
  66. Muzzleloaders shall be legal firearms during any firearms season.
  67. Shotgun slugs shall be permitted for deer hunting.
  68. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than .22 caliber, except rifles of a larger caliber may be used for hunting groundhogs and coyotes outside the general firearms deer season.
  69. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge an air gun, spring gun, or firearm from, along, across or toward, or within 300 yards of any paved public street, highway or road, or any building in the city.
  70. It shall be lawful to hunt game species with a muzzleloading rifle during the prescribed open seasons.
  71. The discharge or use of a rifle, except for a .22 caliber rim fire is prohibited within the city limits.
  72. The use of muzzleloading rifles during the prescribed open seasons for the hunting of game species is permitted in the city; provided, however, that the use of such muzzleloading rifle shall be only from a stand located at least 10 feet above the ground.
  73. No rifles for turkey hunting.
  74. It is unlawful to hunt deer during the regular hunting season with a rifle of .23 caliber or larger either on public lands or in the area of the county bordered to the north by the James River, to the west by Route 602 from the Willis River, and to the south by Route 45 and Route 684 to the county line (generally known as Cartersville Historic District); except from a tree stand elevated at least 10 feet above the ground. It shall be lawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle from the ground or from a tree stand elevated to any height.
  75. No person shall hunt using a rifle larger than a .22 caliber rimfire within 100

yards of any residence or occupied building without the written approval of the owner or lessee of the property. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire from an elevated stand within 100 yards of an adjoining property line without first obtaining written permission of the owner or, if different than the owner, the occupant of the adjoining property or within 100 yards of any public street or primary or secondary state-maintained highway.

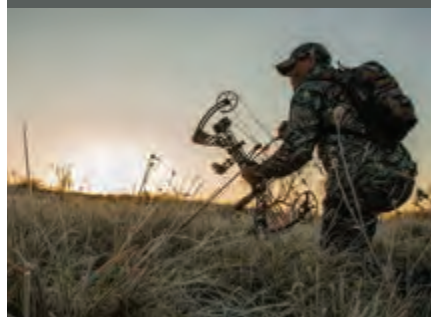
76. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during the open seasons for hunting game species from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements). No early muzzleloader season east of the Dismal Swamp Line.
77. It shall be unlawful to engage in hunting with a firearm within the right-of-way of any primary or secondary highway.
78. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in hunting with a firearm or to discharge a firearm within 100 yards of a dwelling house or occupied building not his or her own.
79. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in hunting with a bow or to discharge arrows from bows within 100 yards of a dwelling house or occupied building not his or her own. A "bow" includes all compound bows, crossbows, longbows, and recurves that have a peak draw weight of 10 pounds or more. The term "arrow" means a shaft-like projectile intended to be shot from a bow.
80. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire, except rifles of a larger caliber may be used for hunting groundhogs and coyotes between March 1 and August 31.
81. It shall be unlawful to shoot or hunt within 100 yards of any regularly occupied structure without written permission of its owner or occupant or within 100 yards of any private road located in a subdivision where lots are 10 acres or more without written permission of the owner or occupant.
82. It shall be unlawful to shoot or hunt on any county property including, but not limited to, schools, parks, pools, the courthouse and other county offices.
83. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than a caliber of .22 caliber in the county, except in the hunting of groundhogs, coyotes, and feral hogs outside the general firearms deer season.

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### Validation of Tags

- All hunters (unless license exempt) killing a bear, deer, elk, or turkey are required to validate an appropriate tag on their bear, deer/turkey license, bonus deer permit, or special permit (DCAP, DMAP, or DPOP) at the place of kill prior to moving the animal in any way. To validate a tag, hunters must completely remove the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag.
- DO NOT detach license or permit tags to attach to the animal. Validation only requires the removal of the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag.
- It is unlawful for any person to validate (notch) a tag from any license or special permit prior to the killing of an animal. A tag that is mistakenly validated (notched) prior to the killing of an animal must be voided immediately by the licensee or permittee by writing, in ink, the word "VOID" on the line provided on the tag.
- Hunters killing an elk are required to validate an appropriate deer tag.

### Checking Bear, Deer, Elk, and Turkey

#### General Information

- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any animal until it is checked. After the appropriate tag has been validated (notched), successful hunters are allowed to dismember the carcass to pack it out from the place of kill as long as they do not destroy the identity of the sex and all the parts of the carcass (excluding internal organs) are present when the animal is checked.
- All bear, deer, elk, and turkey must be checked by all hunters, including license-exempt hunters, upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.

#### Bear

- Bears can only be checked at an official bear check station.
- It is mandatory for the successful bear hunter to remove or allow to be removed a premolar (tooth) from the carcass. This tooth shall be sealed in the envelope attached to the check card and left with the check station operator.

#### Deer

- Deer must be checked at either a check station, or by using the telephone or Internet checking system. All deer killed after the first Saturday in January must be checked by telephone or Internet.

#### Elk

- Elk must be checked at either a check station, or by using the telephone or Internet checking system. All elk killed after the first Saturday in January must be checked by telephone or Internet.
- Successful hunters, upon checking an elk, must contact the Department at (804) 367-0044 to schedule the collection of biological samples for disease testing. This number is intended only to make arrangements to obtain tissue samples from harvested elk. No other game checking or other wildlife issues will be answered using this number. For general wildlife questions, call (804) 367-1000 during normal business hours.

#### Turkey

- Fall turkeys (except those killed in January) must be checked at either a check station, or by using the telephone or Internet checking system.
- Fall turkeys killed in January must be checked using the telephone or Internet checking system.
- Spring turkeys must be checked using the telephone or Internet checking systems.

### Check Stations for Bear, Deer, Elk, and Fall Turkeys

- Deer, elk, and fall turkey check stations can be found online at [www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/checkstations](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/checkstations). Black bear check station locations can be found online at [www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/checkstations/bear](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/checkstations/bear). You may also call a Department office listed on page 4 during normal business hours for locations.
- Black bears must be checked at an official black bear check station. In counties without established bear check stations, hunters may transport their kill to a bear check station in an adjoining county.
- Hunters checking animals at a check station will be given a check card furnished by the Department. The hunter shall immediately

write the check card number in ink on the line labeled "check card or confirmation number" of the tag that was validated (notched) at the place of kill.

- The check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until processed.
- If the carcass of an animal that was checked at a check station is left unattended, the check card must be securely attached to the carcass.
- Hunters needing a copy of a lost check card should call the appropriate Department regional office listed on page 4 after March 1st.

### Using Telephone and Internet Checking

Only deer, elk, turkey, and bobcat (see page 47) can be checked using the telephone or Internet. Before using either system, you will need your deer/turkey license and a pen and paper to record your confirmation number. If you are exempt from purchasing such license, you will need your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

#### Telephone Checking System

Call the toll-free number, (866) GOT-GAME (866-468-4263). **Only touch-tone phones may be used.**

#### Internet Checking System

Go to [www.HuntFishVA.com](http://www.HuntFishVA.com) and click on Hunting, then under Links click Check Game Online. **Hunters have the option of printing a check card at the end of the Internet-checking session.**

- Follow the instructions and provide the requested information.
- You will be given a confirmation number at the end of the telephone or Internet session. Write it down. Licensed hunters must then immediately write this confirmation number, in ink, on the line labeled "check card or confirmation number" of the tag that was validated (example below). When using the telephone or Internet, be sure that the confirmation number is a letter followed by up to 11 digits. If your telephone or Internet checking session is cut off or your confirmation number is not complete, start the session again and repeat steps until the complete confirmation number is obtained.
- Bucks that have shed their antlers are considered antlerless deer and may be tagged with an antlerless-only deer tag. For the process of checking in these shed-antlered bucks on the telephone and Internet, they should be checked in as an antlered deer with zero antler points.
- The telephone deer checking system will only accept antlered bucks with up to 29 antler points. If you kill a buck with more than 29 points that is checked in by telephone, just enter antler points as 29.

<p>VA RESIDENT BEAR - DEER - TURKEY</p> <p>Before moving game from place of kill, license must be notched in the appropriate area. Game must be checked at authorized check stations. Deer and turkey may be checked toll free at 1-866-468-4263 or online at <a href="http://www.dgif.virginia.gov">www.dgif.virginia.gov</a></p> <p>VALID HUNTING LICENSE REQUIRED</p>	<p>DEER EITHER SEX</p> <p>DO NOT REMOVE 2016-17 <b>X52001852001</b></p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>	<p>1. Remove the designated notch area from the appropriate tag on license prior to moving the animal in any way. <b>Do not remove the tag from your license.</b></p> <p>2. Check your animal by the appropriate method, whether by calling 1-866-GOT-GAME (468-4263), taking it to a check station, or using the Internet at <a href="http://www.HuntFishVA.com">www.HuntFishVA.com</a>.</p> <p>3. <b>Write the check card number or the confirmation number (from telephone or Internet checking) in ink on the license tag next to the notch.</b></p>
	<p>DEER EITHER SEX</p> <p>DO NOT REMOVE 2016-17</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>	
	<p>DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY</p> <p>DO NOT REMOVE 2016-17</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>	
	<p>DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY</p> <p>DO NOT REMOVE 2016-17</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>	



- Hunters checking two deer on the same day may get the same confirmation number for both animals. This is okay.

## Carcass Transferred or Unattended

- If the kill is reported using the telephone or Internet checking system by a hunter who validated a tag, no personal check card is required as long as the hunter is in possession of the carcass.
- If the carcass is transferred to the possession of another individual or left unattended, a personal check card or Internet check card must be created and kept with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the personal check card or Internet check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

## License-Exempt Hunters

License-exempt hunters such as resident hunters under the age of 12, hunters age 65 and over hunting private lands in the county of residence, holders of the disabled veteran's lifetime license and those using the landowner

**exemption, must check all bear, bobcat, deer, elk, and turkey.** When using the telephone or Internet system the license-exempt hunter will be classified as "license exempt" when prompted as to what type of license they have. When prompted for a license number, use the last four digits of your drivers license or your social security number. If the telephone or Internet was used, the license-exempt hunter must create a personal check card (see below) which must be kept with the carcass until it is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

## Personal Check Card

An animal reported using the telephone or Internet checking system will require the creation of a personal check card if:

1. The hunter is license exempt.
2. The hunter possesses a Veteran's Disabled Lifetime License.
3. The carcass is transferred to someone else.
4. The carcass is left unattended.

The personal check card may be written on any type of paper using a pen and must include the hunter's:

1. Full name
2. Date of kill and
3. The confirmation number.

For your convenience a personal check card can be downloaded at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/personal-check-card-for-exempt-hunters.pdf](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/personal-check-card-for-exempt-hunters.pdf). A copy can also be requested by contacting our License Sales and Information Center at (866) 721-6911 during normal business hours.

## ATTENTION: LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

All license-exempt hunters must still check bear, bobcat, deer, elk, or turkey. See page 26 for information on checking options for bear, deer, elk, and turkey. See page 47 for information on bobcat checking procedures.



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*~ Travis "T-Bone" Turner*

Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson  
and co-host of Michael  
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**For information, please call WTU's Virginia  
Field Director Todd Puckett at (434) 363-8240.**

**[www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)**

## General Information

### Bear License

To hunt bears, residents and nonresidents must purchase a bear license in addition to all other applicable licenses, permits or stamps, unless license exempt.

### KEEP BEARS WILD!

#### Unlawful to Feed Bears

It shall be unlawful for anyone, including (but not limited to) private citizens, homeowners associations, corporations, or government entities to place, distribute, or allow the placement of food, minerals, carrion, trash, or similar substances to feed or attract bear. Nor, upon notification by Department personnel, shall anyone continue to place, distribute or allow the placement of any food, mineral, carrion, trash or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the presence of any bears. After such notification, such person shall be in violation of the law if the placing, distribution, or presence of such food, minerals, carrion, trash or similar substances continues.

#### Unlawful to Shoot Without Intent to Retrieve the Bear

No person shall kill or cripple and knowingly allow any game animal to be wasted without

making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in their possession.

### Unlawful to Dislodge and Continue to Hunt

It is unlawful to dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.

### Bag Limits

One per license year, at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight (all internal organs removed). Females with cubs may not be harvested.

### Bear Checking

All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Locations for bear check stations are available on the DGIF website at [www.hunt-fishva.com/hunting/checkstations/bear](http://www.hunt-fishva.com/hunting/checkstations/bear) or by calling (804) 367-1000 during normal business hours. Bear information will need to be recorded on a Black Bear Check Card. Do not record information on Deer and Turkey Check Card. Tooth collection is mandatory, and the tooth envelope is part of the Black Bear Check Card.

### Look Up the Age of Your Harvested Bear Online!

The age of your harvested bear will be available online 9 to 10 months after the hunting season ends at [www.HuntFishVA.com/wildlife/bear/age/](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/wildlife/bear/age/).

### Tracking Dogs

Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear or deer statewide during any archery, muzzle-loader, or firearm bear or deer hunting season, or within 24 hours of the end of such season, provided that those who are involved in the retrieval effort have permission to hunt on or to access the land being searched and do not have any weapons in their possession. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

## Archery Bear Season

### Season Dates

October 1 through November 18: Statewide

### Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to archery tackle used during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20 for details.

- Archery tackle only.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- It is unlawful to use explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.

## YOUTH AND APPRENTICE BEAR HUNTING WEEKEND

### October 8 through 9

- Statewide (Sunday hunting on private lands only)
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
  - Bear bag limit, weight limits, and all other take restrictions apply. If a bear is taken on this weekend, the youth or apprentice hunter may not take another bear in any season.
  - Blaze orange is required in areas with an open deer firearms season during this weekend. If hunting in an area with no open deer firearms season this weekend, blaze orange is strongly recommended.

- Bears may be taken with the aid of dogs on Saturday statewide except in:
  - » The counties of Accomack, Campbell (west of the Norfolk Southern Railroad), Fairfax, Grayson (west of State Route 16), Henry, Loudon, Northampton, Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of the Norfolk Southern Railroad), Roanoke (south of I-81), Smyth (that part south of I-81 and west of State Route 16), and Washington (south of I-81)
  - » On the Amelia, Chester F. Phelps, Featherfin, G. Richard Thompson, Mattaponi, Merrimac Farm, and Pettigrew Wildlife Management Areas.
- Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear.
- All bears must be checked at an official bear check station.
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice bear hunters:
  - » do not need a bear license on this weekend.
  - » shall not carry or discharge a firearm.
  - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.





- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead bear (see Hunting with Dogs, page 18) and dogs may be used by youth or apprentice bear hunters to take bears on October 8.
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession, except that a muzzleloading firearm as defined in the muzzleloader bear season section, may also be in possession when and where there is an overlap with a muzzleloading bear season where bear hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading firearm is permitted. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

## Muzzleloader Bear Season

### Season Dates

November 12 through 18: Statewide in all areas where hunting with a muzzleloading rifle is permitted.

### Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22 for details.

- Only muzzleloading firearms, .45 caliber or larger, loaded from the muzzle of the gun.

- Muzzleloading firearms must be single shot, capable of firing only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger).
- Flintlock, percussion, or electronic ignitions are permitted.
- It is unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading firearms designed for it. Never use smoke-

less powder of any type in any quantity in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.

- Scopes are permitted.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered "unloaded" when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap, primer, or battery has been removed from the firearm. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead bear (see Hunting with Dogs, page 18).

### Q: Why do you collect a tooth from harvested bears?

A: The premolar from a bear is used to determine the age of the bear. The age structure of the annual harvest is used to analyze trends and is an important tool needed to manage bear populations in Virginia.

### Q: Are bear attractant scents legal in Virginia?

A: Yes and no. They are illegal if they are used in a way that a bear can consume it. A good rule of thumb about these products is if a bear can only smell it, it is considered just a scent and is legal. If a bear can consume it or whatever it is applied to can be consumed, it is considered bait and is illegal.

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### Firearms Bear Seasons

#### October 1 through January 7:

In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

#### November 28 through January 7:

In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Arlington, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Caroline, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Giles, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Highland, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison, Montgomery, (northwest of I-81), Nelson, Orange, Page, Powhatan, Prince William, Pulaski (northwest of I-81), Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Smyth (northwest of I-81), Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Warren, Washington (northwest of I-81 and east of Route 19), Wythe (northwest of I-81), and on the Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas and Channels State Forest and within the incorporated limits of any independent city, not listed, that allows bear hunting.

#### December 5 through 24:

In the counties of Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Henry, Montgomery (southeast of I-81), Patrick, Pulaski (southeast of I-81), Smyth (southeast of I-81), Washington (southeast of I-81), Wythe (southeast of I-81).

#### December 5 through January 7:

In the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Washington (northwest of I-81 and west of Route 19), and Wise.

#### Exception

- Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas and Channels State Forest (see November 28 –January 7 season).

#### December 5 through 10:

In the counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charles City, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Gloucester, Greenville, Halifax, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York.

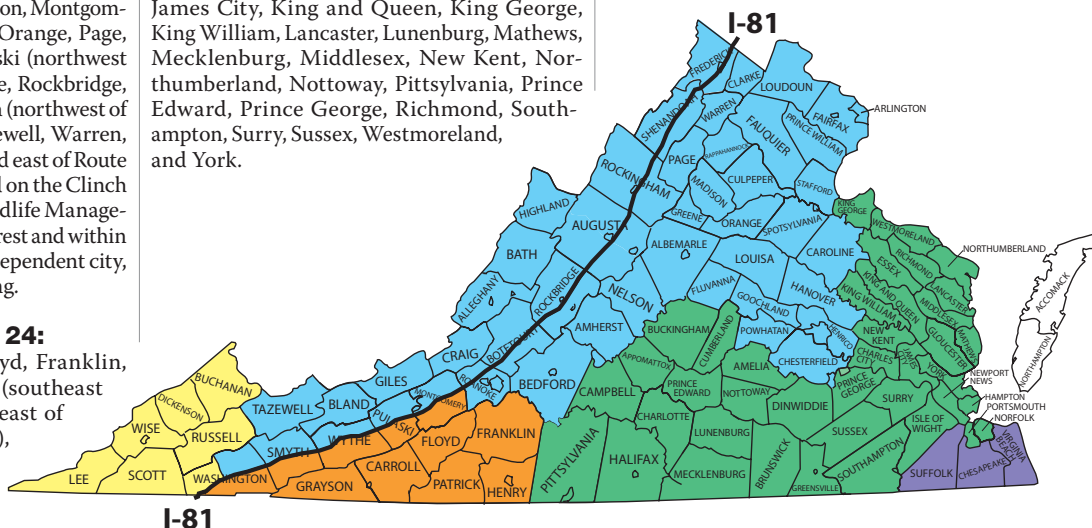
#### Closed

In the counties of Accomack and Northampton.

#### Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22 for details.

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle (including crossbows)
- Muzzleloading firearms



## KNOW YOUR CAPABILITIES AND KNOW YOUR SHOT!

- Plan your hunt! Long before harvesting a bear, the hunter must decide how the meat will be processed and how the hide will be used. Both the meat and the hide can spoil quickly especially at temperatures above freezing.
- A dead bear can be large and cumbersome. Skinning, processing and transporting a bear is difficult, if not impossible, alone. Hunters should arrange to have help available for all aspects of handling a harvested bear and have plans made ahead of time to ensure that the meat and hide are properly processed.
- Hunters must understand that bears are built differently than deer and other big game animals. The chest of a bear is compressed compared to that of a deer when looking at it from the side.
- A bear's most vital area is an 8" circle behind the front shoulder.
- The best shot opportunity is a broadside shot or "quartering away" for penetration into the vital organs.
- NEVER take a shot you are unsure of, at a bear that is not clearly visible, or one that is positioned in such a way that you cannot cleanly hit the vital area.
- Shots directly in the shoulder bone are not recommended. Bears have massive, muscular shoulders and heavy bones. A hunter who shoots ahead of the front shoulder may miss or injure the animal.
- To take your shot, wait for the bear to step forward with the near side leg exposing the heart/lung area.
- A head shot is not recommended since a bear skull is very dense. The blunt, rounded shape can cause bullets or arrows to glance off or become lodged in the skull without penetrating.
- Frontal shots or shots from directly overhead (like might occur from a tree stand) are not recommended because they offer little opportunity for penetration of the vital organs (especially with archery equipment).
- If you make a poor shot, a wounded bear can run for considerable distances before dying. Heavy bones, hide, and fat layers may prevent quick-clotting blood from dripping and leaving a good trail, making an injured bear hard to track.

See more tips at:

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear)



**NO BLACK BEAR MAY BE TAKEN  
DURING THIS SEASON.**

4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including Sundays.  
See maps for dates and locations.

Same for hunting seasons where bears can be taken. See licenses, stamps, and permits section for appropriate required licenses.

- It is unlawful to have in possession a firearm, bow, crossbow, or any weapon capable of taking a black bear while participating in the bear hound training season. The meaning of “possession” for the purpose of this section shall include, but not be limited to, having a firearm, bow, crossbow, or any weapon capable of taking a black bear in or on one’s person, vehicle, or conveyance. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)
- It is unlawful to dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.



	<b>Closed</b>
--	---------------

— State Route 16

■ August 13 through September 24\*

\*Dogs may be used during Bear Hound Training Season on Cavalier WMA only August 13–31

September 3 through 24

In the counties of Brunswick, Charlotte, Greenville, Lunenburg, and Mecklenburg.

	Closed
--	--------

- During the firearms deer season in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- During the first 14 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.
- During the firearms bear season in the counties of Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll (east of the New River), Fairfax, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson (east of the New River), Henry, Loudoun, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81), Roanoke (south of I-81), and Wythe (southeast of the New River or that part bounded by Rt. 21 on the west, I-81 on the north, the county line on the east, the New River on the south-east and Cripple Creek on the south), and in the city of Lynchburg.

- On the Amelia, Chester F. Phelps, Featherfin, G. Richard Thompson, Mattaponi, Merrimac Farm, and Pettigrew Wildlife Management Areas.
- When hunting during the archery or muzzleloading bear seasons, except in certain counties during the youth/apprentice bear hunting weekend (see page 28).
- On Cavalier WMA dogs may only be used during the Bear Hound Training Season from August 13 through 31.
- On Sundays while in possession of a weapon. The meaning of “possession” for the purpose of this section shall include, but not be limited to, having a firearm, bow, crossbow, or any weapon capable of taking a black bear in or on one’s person, vehicle, or conveyance. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

## General Information

### Bag Limits

**East of the Blue Ridge (except on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties)**

The bag limit for deer shall be two a day, six a license year. Of the six-deer limit, no more than three may be antlered deer and at least three must be antlerless deer (unless noted in the exception below).

### Exception

- The daily bag limit for deer shall be unlimited in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties (including the cities and towns within). However, no more than three antlered deer may be killed in a license year.

**West of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties**

The bag limit for deer shall be one a day and five a license year. Of the five-deer limit, no more than two may be antlered deer and at least three must be antlerless deer (unless noted in the exceptions below).

### Exceptions

- The daily bag limit for deer shall be two a day on private lands in Clarke, Frederick, Roanoke, Shenandoah, and Warren counties (including the cities and towns within).
- If a deer hunter kills two antlered bucks in a license year in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, Rockingham, or Shenandoah County, at least one of the bucks must have at least four antler points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers.

### Bag Limit Exceptions

- Deer hunters, including those exempt from purchasing a license, on private land and authorized public lands may take more than the license-year bag limit of antlerless deer by using bonus deer permits or special permits (DCAP, DMAP, and DPOP).
- DCAP, DMAP, and DPOP tags do not count against the daily or season bag limit.

## BONUS DEER PERMITS

- Are valid for one year from date of purchase.
- Are valid for antlerless deer only.
- Are valid only on private lands and authorized public lands.
- Are valid only on designated either-sex deer hunting days.
- Are valid during all archery, muzzleloader, and firearms deer seasons.
- Allow deer to be taken in addition to the license year bag limit.
- Do not allow the daily bag limit to be exceeded.
- Are not valid on National Forest and Department-owned lands.
- Are not valid in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.
- Come with no restriction on number that may be purchased and used.

## Antlered and Antlerless Deer

### Deer Tags

- Either-sex deer tags (commonly called “buck” tags) may be used on antlered or antlerless deer.
- Antlerless-only deer tags (commonly called “doe” tags) may only be used on antlerless deer.

### Antlered Deer

- Antlered deer must have antlers visible above the hairline.
- An antlered deer must be tagged with an either-sex deer tag.

### Antlerless Deer

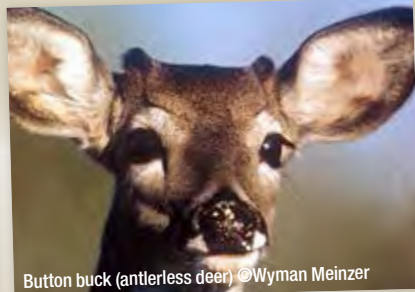
- Antlerless deer may only be taken during designated either-sex deer hunting days

during the archery season(s), muzzleloading season(s), and firearms season(s). Youth deer hunters, see Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend and Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation provisions on page 35.

- Antlerless deer (does, button bucks, and shed-antlered bucks) may be tagged with an antlerless-only deer tag or an either-sex deer tag.
- Button bucks, male fawns approximately six months old, are considered antlerless deer. The hair covered bumps on a button buck’s head are not antlers. They are the pedicels from which the antlers will grow the next year.
- Antlered deer that have shed their antlers, usually in late December or early January, are also considered antlerless deer. When checking a shed-antlered buck by telephone or Internet, it should be checked as an antlered deer with zero antler points.

### Q: Are antler traps that are designed to knock off sheds legal in Virginia?

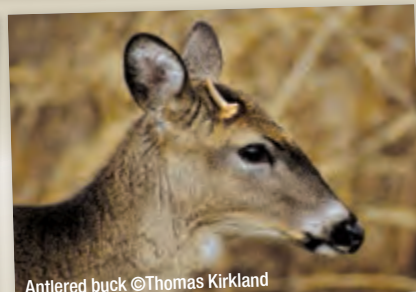
A: No, they are illegal because they are designed to entangle or trap the antler while it is still attached to a living animal. Collecting and possessing shed deer antlers is legal.



Button buck (antlerless deer) ©Wyman Meinzer

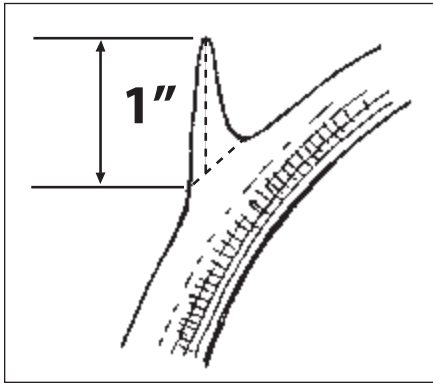


Shed-antlered buck (antlerless deer)  
©Leonard Lee Rue III



Antlered buck ©Thomas Kirkland





### Antler Point Restrictions

**Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, Rockingham, and Shenandoah Counties**

If a deer hunter kills two antlered bucks in a license year, at least one of the bucks must have at least four antler points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers in each of the counties listed above.

### Fairstone and Featherfin WMAs

On the Quality Deer Management Area of the Fairstone WMA and Featherfin WMA a legal antlered deer is a deer with at least four antler points, one inch or longer, on one side.

**Q: Seven western counties have an antler point restriction (APR) limiting deer hunters to killing one small antlered buck per license year. If I deer hunt in two of these counties, can I legally kill a small buck in one APR county and then another small buck in a second APR county in the same license year?**

**A:** Yes, the APR restrictions are county specific.

**Q: In the seven counties with an antler point restriction is there a specific order in which the deer must be killed within each county?**

**A:** No. The rule limits hunters to killing one small buck per year. It does not specify the order. For example, if a hunter killed a small buck first, his or her next buck would have to be a big buck (have 4 or more points on one side). However, if they killed a big buck first, their second buck could legally be a small buck or a second big buck.

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**HUNTER'S EDGE**

### Earn a Buck (EAB)

For the purposes of this section, the term “license year” defines the period between July 1 and June 30 of the following year.

#### **Arlington County (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Arlington County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Arlington County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Arlington County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Arlington County. Local firearms ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in Arlington County.

#### **Bedford County on private lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Bedford County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Bedford County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Bedford County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Bedford County.

#### **Clarke County on private lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to

take a second antlered deer on private lands in Clarke County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Clarke County.

#### **Fairfax County (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Fairfax County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Fairfax County.

#### **Frederick County on private lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Frederick County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Frederick County.

#### **Loudoun County (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Loudoun County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Loudoun County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Loudoun County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Loudoun County.

#### **Prince William County except on Department of Defense (DOD) lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Prince William County (except on DOD lands) prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Prince William County

(except on DOD lands), and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Prince William County (except on DOD lands) prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Prince William County (except on DOD lands).

#### **Rappahannock County on private lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Rappahannock County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Rappahannock County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Rappahannock County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Rappahannock County.


#### **Roanoke County on private lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Roanoke County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Roanoke County.

#### **Warren County on private lands (including the cities and towns within)**

During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Warren County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Warren County.

**Earn a Buck questions and  
answers can be found at**  
[www.HuntFishVA.com/wildlife/deer/eab](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/wildlife/deer/eab)



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## ACT RESPONSIBLY

### Dispose of Your Deer Carcass!

Don't give hunters a bad name by leaving deer parts in public locations, in parking lots, in waterways, or along roads. A recommended method of disposing of unused deer carcass parts is to double bag them and take them to a lined landfill or dumpster location which accepts deer carcasses. A second method is to simply dig a pit in which the deer carcass parts are placed, provided no other trash is placed in the pit. After the hunting season, cover the pit with at least six inches of soil. If you are caught dumping a carcass or deer parts in an unauthorized area, you may be charged with littering.



photo by Eugene Hester.



### Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend

**September 24 and 25**

- Statewide.
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
- Deer of either sex may be taken.
- Antlerless deer taken on the youth and apprentice deer hunting weekend are in addition to an antlerless deer taken under the youth antlerless deer regulation and on either-sex deer hunting days.
- Deer harvested by youth or apprentice hunters count against their daily and season bag limit.
- Blaze orange requirements and exceptions for firearms deer season are in effect (see page 17).

- Deer hunting with dogs is prohibited, except that tracking dogs are allowed (see Hunting with Dogs, page 18).
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice deer hunters:
  - » do not need a deer/turkey license on this weekend.
  - » shall not carry or discharge a weapon.
  - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.
- Unless specified above, all other normal firearm deer regulations apply (e.g., daily and season bag limits, tagging and checking, EAB, special antler restrictions, etc.).

**Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend questions and answers can be found at:**

[www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/youth](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/youth)

### Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation

Resident or nonresident deer hunters 15 years of age and under may take one antlerless deer per license year on days other than designated either-sex deer hunting days during the muzzleloading season(s) or the firearms season(s) in all counties that have at least one either-sex deer hunting day during the firearms deer season. This regulation applies to all private and public lands (National Forest, State Forests, WMAs, etc.) statewide (except on public and private lands in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties). This regulation is in addition to either-sex deer hunting days. For example, if a youth deer hunter, 15 years of age or younger, killed one or more antlerless deer on designated either-sex deer hunting days, he or she could still take one antlerless deer on a day not designated an either-sex day.

**Q: If an apprentice license holder has had their hunter safety course, must they still be accompanied and directly supervised by a mentor over 18 on the youth and apprentice deer hunting day?**

**A: Yes.** The youth deer hunting day regulation requires that all youth and apprentice license holders be accompanied by an adult mentor.

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## Archery Deer Seasons

### Early Archery Season

**October 1 through November 18:**  
Statewide.

### Late Archery Season

**December 4 through January 7:**

- In all areas west of the Blue Ridge unless noted in the season exception below.

**Season Exception:** Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick County.

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Route 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Route 151).

**December 5 through January 7:**

- On the Chester F. Phelps WMA and on National Forest Lands in Frederick County.

**December 1 through January 7:**

- In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

**December 18 through January 7:**

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, and Patrick.

### Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunting

Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the early and late archery deer seasons, including the cities of Chesapeake, Virginia Beach and Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line), unless otherwise noted below.

- Only antlered deer may be taken during the early and late archery deer seasons on PALS (Public Access Lands) in Dickenson County.

### Northern VA Late Antlerless-only Season

During this season only antlerless deer may be taken.

**March 27, 2017 through April 30, 2017:**

- In Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties (including the cities and towns within).

### Urban Archery Deer Seasons

During this season only antlerless deer may be taken.

**September 3 through 30 and January 8, 2017 through March 26, 2017:**

- Within the incorporated limits of the cities of Chesapeake (except on Department-owned lands), Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Galax, Hopewell, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Poquoson, Radford, Richmond, Staunton, Suffolk, and Winchester; and in the towns of Alta Vista, Amherst, Bedford, Blacksburg, Blackstone, Chatham, Christiansburg, Farmville,

## TREE STAND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Use a full-body safety harness to secure yourself to the tree. Stay attached whenever you are off the ground. Minimize slack in the tether so that if you fall, it will not be very far. This reduces the risk of injury and may allow you to climb back into your stand. Hanging in a harness for a long time may cause irreversible injury or death. Have a plan for self-rescue.
- Never climb with equipment; use a haul line to get your unloaded gun or bow into and out of the tree stand. Crossbows may be raised while cocked, but should never be loaded with an arrow until you are securely in the stand and ready to hunt. It can be dangerous to try to cock a crossbow while in a tree.
- Keep manufactured tree stands in good working condition. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Many falls occur because of the failure of homemade stands, especially as they age. It is best to avoid them.
- While most manufactured tree stands are safe if used properly, they are occasionally found to be defective and recalled. To find out if your stand has been recalled, check the Consumer Product Safety Commission website at [www.CPSC.gov](http://www.CPSC.gov).

Additional Information on safety harnesses:

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education)

Front Royal, Halifax, Hurt, Independence, Irvington, Kenbridge, Pearisburg, Pulaski, Richlands, Rocky Mount, Saltville, Smithfield, Stuart, Tazewell, West Point, and Wytheville; and in the counties of Chesterfield, Fairfax, James City, Roanoke (except on National Forest and Department-owned lands), and York.

- Archery or crossbow deer hunters hunting during the early urban archery deer season are required to wear blaze orange on the Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend. For exceptions to the blaze orange requirement see page 17.
- Lists of properties available for hunting are not maintained by the Department or local governments.
- Go to [www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/urban-archery](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/urban-archery) for local restrictions and other urban archery information.
- All other "normal" deer regulations apply (e.g., daily and season bag limits, tagging and checking, DMAP, DCAP, EAB, special antler restrictions, etc.).

### Legal Methods and Restrictions During Archery Deer Seasons

Special restrictions may apply during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22 for details.

- Archery tackle (including crossbows).
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- It is unlawful to use explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead deer (see Hunting with Dogs, page 18).
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession except that a muzzleloading firearm, as defined in the muzzleloader deer seasons section, may also be in possession when and where there is an overlap with a muzzleloading deer season where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading firearm is permitted. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

## BOWHUNTERS NEEDED FOR SURVEY

The Department has an ongoing statewide bowhunter survey to obtain information on bear, deer, turkey, small game, and furbearer populations. Participants will receive an annual survey form to complete during the early archery deer season and a copy of the results after they are compiled. To participate, please contact Mike Fies with your mailing address at [mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov).



# Muzzleloader Deer Seasons

In all areas where hunting with a muzzleloading rifle is permitted.

**Note:** Deer hunters west of the Blue Ridge Mountains may take both of their season limit of two antlered deer during the early muzzleloading season.

Muzzleloader deer hunters and persons accompanying a muzzleloader deer hunter shall wear blaze orange, except when physically located in a tree stand or other stationary hunting locations.

## Early Muzzleloader Season

**November 5 through 18:**

There is no early muzzleloading season in the cities of Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, or Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line) since it occurs during the general firearms season.

### *Either-sex Deer Hunting East of the Blue Ridge:*

**November 5 through 18 (full season):**

In all areas (including Merrimac Farm WMA and Occoneechee State Park) unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 12:** On State Forest lands, State Park lands (except Occoneechee State Park), Department-owned lands (except Merrimac Farm WMA), and Philpott Reservoir.
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties.

### *Either-sex Deer Hunting West of the Blue Ridge:*

**November 5 through 18 (full season):**

- On private lands in Carroll, Clarke, Floyd, Frederick, Grayson, Montgomery, Roanoke, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.

**November 12 and November 14 through November 18:**

- On private lands in Botetourt County.

**November 12:**

- On private lands in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Craig, Giles, Highland, Page, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Rockingham (except on private lands west of Routes 613 and 731), Scott, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe counties.

**Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:**

- On National Forest and Department-owned lands in all counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- On private lands in Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Rockingham (west of Routes 613 and 731), Russell, Tazewell, and Wise counties.
- On Channels State Forest, Grayson Highlands

State Park, PALS (Public Access Lands) in Dickenson County, and Flannagan Reservoir.

## Late Muzzleloader Season East of the Blue Ridge

**December 17 through January 7:**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Route 29), Bedford, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Route 151), and Patrick, and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

### *Either-sex Deer Hunting East of the Blue Ridge:*

**December 17 through**

**January 7 (full season):**

- In the counties of Amherst (west of Route 29 except on National Forest lands), Bedford (except on National Forest lands), Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Route 151 except on National Forest lands), and Patrick.

**January 2 through 7:**

- In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

**January 7:**

- On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties.

## Late Muzzleloader Season West of the Blue Ridge

**December 17 through January 7:**

**Season Exception:**

- Closed in Clarke County and on private lands in Frederick County since it occurs during the general firearms season.

### *Either-sex Deer Hunting West of the Blue Ridge:*

**December 17 through**

**January 7 (full season):**

- On private lands in Carroll, Floyd, Grayson, Montgomery, Roanoke, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.

**January 2 through 7:**

- On private lands in Augusta, Bland, Botetourt, Craig, Giles, Page, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Rockingham (except on private lands west of Routes 613 and 731), Scott, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe counties.
- On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Carroll, Craig, Bland, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Wythe counties.

**January 7:**

- On private lands in Alleghany, Bath, Dickenson (north of Route 83), Highland, Lee, Rockingham (west of Routes 613 and 731), Russell, Tazewell, and Wise counties.
- On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Dickenson (north of Route 83), Frederick, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Tazewell, Warren,

Washington, and Wise counties.

- On Channels State Forest, Grayson Highlands State Park, and Flannagan Reservoir.

**Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:**

- On private lands in Buchanan and Dickenson (south of Route 83) counties.
- On PALS (Public Access Lands) in Dickenson County.

## Legal Methods and Restrictions During Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22, for details.

- Only muzzleloading firearms, .45 caliber or larger, loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Muzzleloading firearms must be single shot, capable of firing only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger).
- Flintlock, percussion, or electronic ignitions are permitted.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- Muzzleloading pistols which meet the four restrictions listed above are legal.
- It is unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading firearm while hunting with a muzzleloader. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading firearms designed for it. Never use smokeless powder in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.
- Scopes are permitted.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap, primer, or battery has been removed from the firearm.
- It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead deer (see Hunting with Dogs, page 18).
- It is lawful to carry archery tackle when and where there is an overlap with a deer archery and muzzleloading season.
- Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the muzzleloading seasons within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting except in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach and in the cities and towns of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties and only with the weapons (archery tackle and/or muzzleloaders) authorized by each individual city or town.
- Muzzleloader deer hunters and persons accompanying a muzzleloader deer hunter shall wear blaze orange, except when physically located in a tree stand or other stationary hunting location.

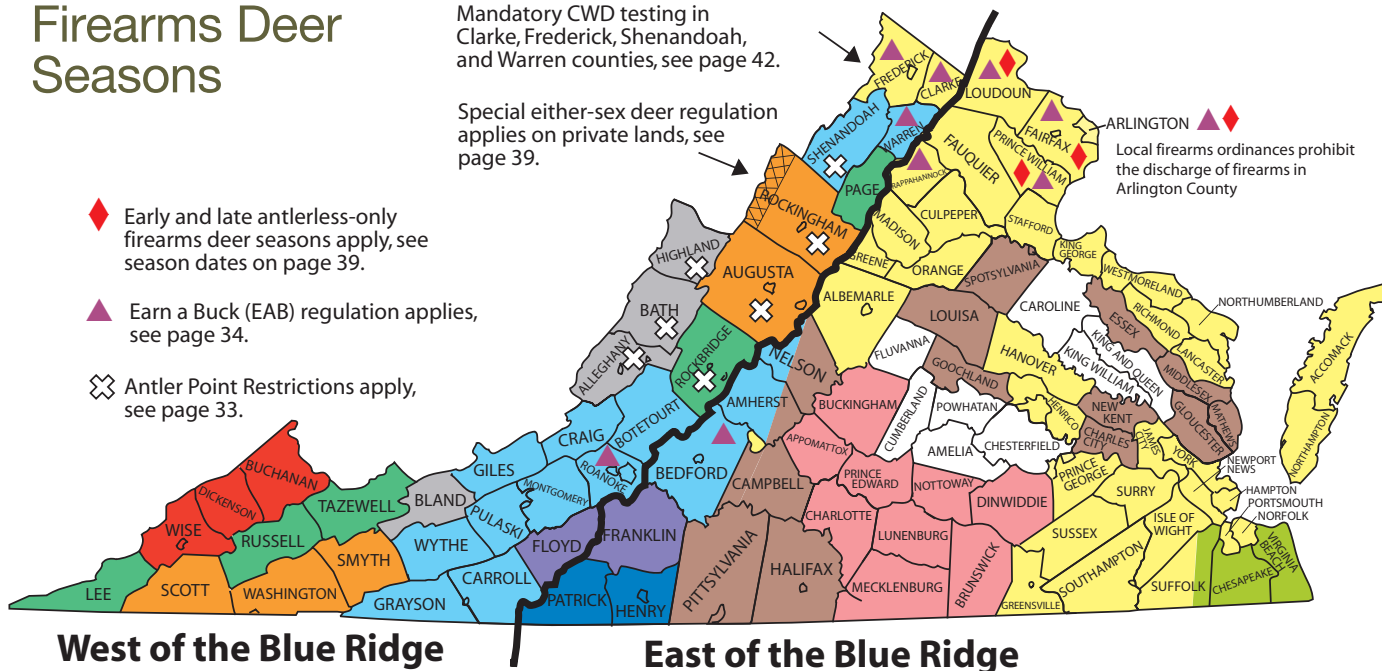
## Firearms Deer Seasons

Mandatory CWD testing in Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, see page 42.

Special either-sex deer regulation applies on private lands, see page 39.

Local firearms ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in Arlington County

- ◆ Early and late antlerless-only firearms deer seasons apply, see season dates on page 39.
- ▲ Earn a Buck (EAB) regulation applies, see page 34.
- ⊗ Antler Point Restrictions apply, see page 33.



### West of the Blue Ridge

### East of the Blue Ridge

Antlerless deer may only be taken on designated either-sex deer hunting days.

#### November 19 through December 3

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford\*, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pulaski, Roanoke\*, Shenandoah, Warren\*, and Wythe.

#### Either-sex Deer Hunting Days: November 19 through December 3 (full season):

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26 and December 3:** On National Forest lands and Department-owned lands in Carroll and Roanoke counties and on National Forest lands in Craig, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe counties and on Big Survey WMA.
- **December 3:** On National Forest lands and Department-owned lands in Botetourt County and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, Nelson, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On National Forest lands in Grayson County and on portions of Grayson Highlands State Park. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

#### November 19 through December 3

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Lee, Page, Rockbridge, Russell, and Tazewell.

#### Either-sex Deer Hunting Days: November 26, December 2 and 3:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **December 3:** On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Rockbridge County and on National Forest lands in Page County
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On National Forest lands in Lee and Tazewell counties and on Clinch Mountain WMA, Channels State Forest, and Hidden Valley WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

#### November 19 through January 7

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Accomack, Albemarle, Arlington\*, Clarke\*, Culpeper (see season exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Fairfax\*, Fauquier (see season exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Frederick\* (see season exception for National Forest lands below), Greene, Greenville, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, Lancaster, Loudoun\*, Madison, Northampton, Northumberland, Orange, Prince George, Prince William\*, Rappahannock\*, Richmond, Southampton, Stafford, Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp line), Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York.

- In Arlington County\*, City of Hampton, and City of Richmond (in the City of Richmond: archery only, no special permit is required for archery deer hunting). Note: Local Ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in these areas (see Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22).

- In the City of Lynchburg (on private lands for which a special permit has been issued by the Chief of Police).
- In the City of Newport News: archery only, no special permit is required for archery deer hunting.
- In Fairfax County\* a special landowner permit is required to firearms deer hunt on private lands. Contact the Div. of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details. No special police permit is required for archery deer hunting.

#### Season Exception:

**November 19 through December 3:** On C.F. Phelps WMA and National Forest lands in Frederick County.

#### Either-sex Deer Hunting Days: November 19 through January 7 (full season):

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 12 through January 7:** On Rapidan WMA.
- **November 26 and January 7:** On G.R. Thompson WMA.
- **November 26 and December 3:** On C.F. Phelps WMA.
- **December 3:** On National Forest lands in Frederick County.
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On the Carlisle Tract of the Hog Island WMA, and Ragged Island WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

\*Denotes Earn a Buck (EAB) County



## **Northern VA Early and Late Antlerless-only Firearms Deer Seasons**

During these seasons only antlerless deer may be taken.

**Early: September 3 through 30**

**Late: January 8, 2017 through March 26, 2017**

In the counties of Arlington\*, Fairfax\*, Loudoun\*, and Prince William\* (including the cities and towns within). Local firearm ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in Arlington County. To firearms deer hunt on private lands in Fairfax County a special landowner permit is required (see above).

All legal deer hunting weapons including bows, crossbows, muzzleloaders, pistols, shotguns, and rifles are legal. Local firearm ordinances still apply.

All other "normal" deer regulations apply (e.g., daily and season bag limits, tagging and checking, DCAP, DMAP, EAB, etc.).

## **November 19 through January 7**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Dinwiddie, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 26, December 3, and January 2 through 7:**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 12 through January 7:** On Featherfin WMA (by quota hunt only).
- **November 26, December 3, and January 2 through 7:** On Briery Creek, Dick Cross, and Horsepen Lake WMAs.
- **November 26 and December 3:** On Appomattox-Buckingham and Prince Edward State Forests.

## **November 19 through January 7**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amelia, Caroline, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Fluvanna, King and Queen, King William, and Powhatan.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 26, December 3, and December 26 through January 7:**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26, December 3, and December 26 through January 7:** On Powhatan WMA.
- **November 26, December 3 and January 2 through 7:** On Amelia and Mattaponi WMAs.
- **November 26 and December 3:** On Cumberland State Forest.

## **November 19 through December 3**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Augusta, Rockingham, Scott, Smyth, and Washington.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 26 and November 28 through December 3:**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **December 3:** On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Augusta County, and on National Forest lands in Rockingham County and on private lands west of Routes 613 and 731 in Rockingham County.
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On National Forest lands in Scott, Smyth, and Washington counties and on Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley WMAs, Hungry Mother State Park, and Channels State Forest. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

## **November 19 through December 17**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Henry and Patrick.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 26, December 3, and December 5 through 17:**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26 and December 12 through 17:** On Fairystone Farms and Turkeycock Mountain WMAs, designated areas of Fairystone State Park, and Philpott Reservoir.

## **October 1 through November 30**

In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**October 8, October 15, and November 18 through November 30:** In all areas.

## **November 19 through December 3**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days in all areas.**

Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation does not apply.

## **November 19 through December 17**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd and Franklin.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 19 through December 17 (full season):**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26 and December 12 through 17:** On Philpott Reservoir and Turkeycock Mountain WMA.

## **November 19 through January 7**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (east of Rt. 29), Campbell, Charles City, Essex, Gloucester, Goochland, Halifax, Louisa, Mathews, Middlesex, Nelson (east of Rt. 151), New Kent, Pittsylvania and Spotsylvania. Note: Dogs may not be used for deer hunting in Campbell County (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad) and in Pittsylvania County (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 12 through January 7:**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26 and January 2 through 7:** On James River WMA.
- **November 26 and January 7:** On White Oak Mountain WMA.
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On Chickahominy WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

## **November 19 through December 3**

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Alleghany, Bath, Bland, and Highland.

### **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

**November 26 and December 3:**

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 26 and December 3:** On National Forest lands in Bland County.
- **December 3:** On National Forest lands in Alleghany County and on National Forest and Department-owned lands in Bath and Highland counties.



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\*Denotes Earn a Buck (EAB) County

## Firearms Either-sex Deer Hunting For Incorporated Cities and Towns

Deer of either sex may be taken full season in the incorporated limits of any city or town in Virginia that allows deer hunting except in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach, but only with the specific weapons authorized by each individual city or town.

## Legal Methods and Restrictions During Firearms Deer Seasons

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Hunters are allowed to use archery tackle or muzzleloading firearms to deer hunt during the firearms deer season with the following conditions:
  - » all hunters are required to comply with the either-sex deer hunting days for the firearms deer season.
  - » use of muzzleloading firearms is allowed only if not otherwise restricted.
  - » muzzleloader deer hunters must wear blaze orange during the firearms deer season.
  - » archery deer hunters must wear blaze orange during the firearms deer season

except when hunting in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited.

## Dogs May Not Be Used For Deer Hunting:

- On Sunday while in possession of a weapon.
- West of the Blue Ridge.
- East of the Blue Ridge in Bedford, Fairfax, Franklin, Henry, Loudoun, Northampton, and Patrick counties, and Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the City of Lynchburg.
- When hunting during archery and muzzleloading seasons and on the Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend.
- On many military areas. Check individual Post regulations.
- On Amelia, Cavalier, Doe Creek, Featherfin, Mattaponi, Merrimac Farm, Pettigrew, Chester F. Phelps, and G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Areas.
- During the first 14 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.

## Tracking Dogs

Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear or deer statewide during any archery, muzzleloader, or firearm bear or deer hunting

season, or within 24 hours of the end of such season, provided that those who are involved in the retrieval effort have permission to hunt on or to access the land being searched and do not have any weapons in their possession. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

## Elk Hunting

- Elk of either sex, antlered or antlerless, may be taken during any open deer season using weapons legal for deer during that season **(except that elk season is closed in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise.)**
- The taking of an elk counts toward the hunter's daily and license year bag limit for deer.
- Licenses, tag validation, and checking requirements for elk are the same as for deer.
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any harvested elk until checked. Elk may be dismembered to pack it out from the place of kill. The identity of the sex and all parts of the carcass must be present when the elk is checked.

Successful hunters, upon checking an elk, must contact the Department at (804) 367-0044 to schedule the collection of biological samples for disease testing. This number is intended only to make arrangements to obtain tissue samples from harvested elk. No other game checking or other wildlife issues will be answered using this number. For general wildlife questions, call (804) 367-1000 during normal business hours.

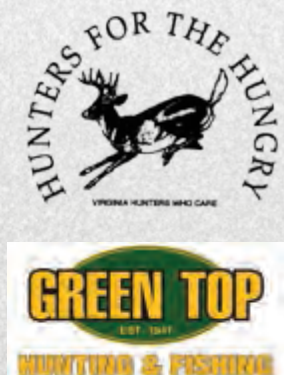
## HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY

We hope you will consider helping to feed the hungry. Hunters for the Hungry encourages hunters to donate deer at participating locations. Funds are raised to cover the costs of professional processing then the venison is distributed through local feeding programs to people in need throughout Virginia. To date, 24 million servings of venison have been provided **through the generosity of Virginia's hunters!**

To help the program be as cost-effective as possible, hunters are asked to donate mature, large-bodied deer. **To thank hunters and encourage donations of deer, a free hunter incentive drawing is held.** For each deer a hunter donates, they receive an entry into this 25 prize drawing! For a listing of participating locations and the prize list for the 2016/2017 drawing sponsored by Green Top Sporting Goods, please call 1-800-352-4868, visit [www.h4hungry.org](http://www.h4hungry.org) or write P.O. Box 304, Big Island, VA 24526.

Legislation was passed in 2003 in honor of the program's founder, David Horne which enables hunters to voluntarily make a donation when they purchase their hunting licenses. No financial donations are required to donate deer to the program. \*If you are asked to pay any part of the processing fee on donated deer please contact us.

\* The only two exceptions are Linthicum Slaughtering and Overstreet Foods.



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## DO NOT FEED DEER OR ELK

Department regulation makes it illegal to place or distribute food, salt, or minerals to feed or attract deer or elk:

- from September 1 through January 7 statewide.
- year-round in Buchanan, Clarke, Dickenson, Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren, and Wise counties (including the cities and towns within).
- in any city, town, or county during any deer or elk hunting season.
- Nor, upon written notification by Department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer. No part of this regulation shall be construed to restrict bonafide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots) or distribution of food to livestock.



## REDUCING LEAD EXPOSURE

Bald eagle populations may have rebounded from historical bounties, habitat loss, and exposure to DDT, but they now face a newly recognized challenge: lead poisoning from ingestion of contaminated carcasses and gut piles left in the field by hunters. The effects of lead poisoning are not limited to bald eagles but also extend to golden eagles, vultures, ravens, and other species.

### Why is there lead in carcasses and gut piles?

Bullets, especially those fired from high-powered rifles, leave fragments throughout a carcass anywhere from 2 to 18 inches away from the wound tract. Up to 55% of the fragments are found embedded in the internal organs and are thus available for consumption by scavengers feeding on gut piles; 90% of deer gut piles examined in Wyoming and California between 2002 and 2004 were found to be contaminated with lead fragments.

### What happens to scavenging birds that ingest lead from a carcass or gut pile?

Eagles and other birds that consume enough lead to become clinically ill may exhibit weight loss, seizures, paralysis, inability to fly, weakness (droopy head and wing), impaired reproduction, and/or death. Once lead reaches toxic levels, clinical signs will not resolve without medical intervention, which is not practical in wild birds.

### What can hunters do to minimize lead exposure in wildlife and humans?

As dedicated conservationists, hunters can reduce lead exposure in the environment by using non-toxic, non-lead ammunition alternatives, such as copper or copper alloys. Other practices, such as burying or removing gut piles from the field can reduce lead intake by scavengers. Gut piles should be buried and then covered with rocks or brush to prevent animals from digging them up. Leftover carcass parts should also be either buried, or double-bagged and taken to a landfill, or covered with rocks or brush to prevent access by scavengers. Human exposure to lead at the dinner table can be reduced by liberally trimming meat from both the entrance and exit wounds and avoiding consumption of internal organs.



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### CWD Surveillance in Virginia

A total of 13 deer with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) have been found in northwestern Virginia. Virginia's first CWD-positive deer was harvested in 2009 in western Frederick County within one mile of West Virginia. Since then, several more CWD-positive deer have been killed by hunters in the same area of western Frederick County. Two deer have been killed in southern Frederick County, approximately 8-10 miles southeast of the others, and the first CWD-positive deer in Shenandoah County—also the first road-killed positive deer—was detected in the northeastern portion of the county in 2014.

#### Containment Area Boundaries

The CWD Containment Area (CA) will not change in 2016. The CA includes all of Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren, and Clarke Counties.

**All deer killed by hunters within the CWD Containment Area on the following dates must be brought to a designated sampling station for CWD testing:**

#### November 19 and 26, 2016.

- CWD sampling station hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- CWD **sampling stations** will include: Cather's Market, Crossroads Grocery, Gore Grocery, and T&R Processing in Frederick County; Fort Valley Grocery, Graden's Supermarket, Larkin's Store, and Town & Country in Shenandoah County; Foodway Supermarket in Warren County; and the Clarke County Fairgrounds.

- Deer killed any other day of the season may be checked for CWD by dropping off the head at one of the following **refrigerator locations** and following posted instructions: North Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company 19 in Winchester, the Winchester-Frederick County Conservation Club, the Enders Fire Department in Berryville, the Elks Lodge in Front Royal, and the Department of Forestry in Edinburg.

**Whole deer carcasses or deer parts cannot be transported out of the CWD Containment Area, except carcass parts currently allowed under the carcass movement regulation (see below).**

**Special hunting season regulations will continue to apply on private lands in Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the City of Winchester including:**

- Daily bag limit of two deer per day.
- All hunting seasons, including early and late muzzleloading seasons, full season either-sex on private lands.
- Earn-A-Buck, except in Shenandoah County.

**Feeding of deer is prohibited year-round in Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, and the City of Winchester.**

**Hunters are strongly encouraged to dispose of carcass remains from deer killed within the CWD Containment Area in designated dumpsters or lined landfills located within Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, and Warren counties. See the agency website listed below for dumpster locations.**

**For more information on CWD in Virginia, go to:**

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/).

**For more information on CWD in West Virginia, go to:**

[www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/ChronicWaste.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/ChronicWaste.shtm).

#### Carcass Movement Regulation

To prevent the spread of CWD into new areas, Virginia's carcass transportation movement regulation prohibits the importation or possession of whole deer carcasses or specified high-risk parts of carcasses originating from any enclosure intended to confine deer or elk or from any area designated by the Department (see page 43). This includes any member of the deer family Cervidae (including, but not limited to, white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, fallow, axis, and sika deer, elk, moose, and caribou). However, the following carcass parts may be imported and possessed:

- Boned out meat that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately).
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Hides and capes with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skulls and skull plates with or without antlers attached.





- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers,” “whistlers,” or “ivories.”
- Finished taxidermy products.

A legible label shall be affixed to packages or containers holding the allowed carcass parts with the following information: the species of animal, the state or province from where the animal originated, and the name and address of the person who killed or owned the animal. Any person who imports into Virginia any deer carcass or parts described above and is notified that the animal has tested positive for CWD must report the test results to the Department within 72 hours of receiving the notification. In order to facilitate the proper disposal of any infected material, the Department may take into possession any imported carcass or carcass part of an animal if the animal has tested positive for CWD. For out-of-state hunters, please check the CWD regulations in your home state, the state in which you will be hunting, and states which you will travel through en route home from your hunting area. A summary of state-by-state carcass transportation regulations is provided on the CWD Alliance website ([www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org)) under the Regulations section.

### Transporting Deer Carcasses Out of Virginia

Restrictions for nearby states can be found at the following websites:

- Kentucky: <http://fw.ky.gov>
- Maryland: <http://dnr2.maryland.gov>
- North Carolina: <http://www.ncwildlife.org>
- Pennsylvania: <http://www.pgc.pa.gov>
- Tennessee: <https://www.tn.gov>
- West Virginia: <http://www.wvdnr.gov>

### Transporting Deer Carcasses into Virginia

- Whole carcasses and designated parts are prohibited from any enclosure in North America intended to confine deer or elk
- Whole carcasses and designated parts\* are prohibited from the entire state or province: Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming
- Maryland: Whole carcasses and designated parts\* are prohibited from Allegany and Washington Counties
- West Virginia: Whole carcasses and designated parts\* are prohibited from Hampshire, Hardy, and Morgan counties only

\* Carcasses must be boned out or quartered so the brain and spinal cord is removed. Boned out meat, quarters without spinal column or head attached, antlers, cleaned skull plates, clean upper canines, caped hides, and finished taxidermy products are allowed.

## Natural Deer Urine Attractants Illegal in Virginia

**It is illegal to possess or use deer scents or lures that contain natural deer urine or other bodily fluids while taking, attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife in Virginia.**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) poses a significant risk to the long-term health of Virginia's white-tailed deer populations. Since 2002, CWD has been found in a total of eight eastern states, including Virginia. Importation bans on whole carcass and certain carcass parts (i.e., brain and spinal cord) from high-risk CWD areas — areas or states infected with CWD or any North American enclosure intended to confine deer — are already in place in Virginia, along with a ban on interstate movement of captive deer and elk. Reducing the use of natural deer urine attractants by prohibiting the possession or use while afield will further minimize the risk of introducing CWD into a new area of Virginia.

Since this ban was passed, many people have questioned the need for such a ban and the science behind it. Following is some information Virginia's deer hunters need to know about chronic wasting disease and the risk posed by attractants produced from deer bodily fluids.

### Why is the use of deer urine attractants risky?

The infectious proteins (i.e., prions) known to transmit CWD have been found in the urine, feces, and saliva of infected individuals. To make these commercial scents, urine from captive elk and/or deer is collected over a grate system that does not prevent contamination from either feces or saliva. The urine “product” is not treated chemically or with heat to neutralize the infectious proteins because these treatments would also destroy the desired scent characteristics. The infectious proteins causing CWD are extremely resistant to degradation and will continue to transmit CWD for years. Deer in Virginia that taste or sniff these products may actually be exposing themselves to CWD harbored by deer living hundreds of miles away in enclosures.

### Why did the Department decide to ban these urine-based products?

The VDGF is taking a proactive approach on this issue. The agency banned possession and use until it is proven that prions are not spread in commercial deer urine products, rather than continue to risk introducing CWD to new areas. While there have been claims that CWD transmission by urine is low risk, low risk is not the same as zero risk. With an infectious agent that cannot be treated and which can persist for years in the environment, low risk is simply not good enough. Additionally, there is no way to test these products for CWD, nor, short of incineration, to decontaminate them.

VDGIF's intent with this regulation is to protect our deer hunting heritage and the long-term health

of the Virginia deer herd. Both of these goals can be achieved, in part, by trying to minimize the areas in Virginia infected with CWD.

### Aren't deer urine products from certified captive deer herds guaranteed to be CWD free?

No. As noted above, deer urine is collected in a manner that does not prevent contamination. While some captive deer herds are certified as “low risk for CWD”, no deer herd is certified a “no risk for CWD”. In fact, CWD has been detected in herds that participated in state and national certification programs.

### What does “possess or use” a natural deer urine attractant mean?

It will still be legal for products that contain natural deer urine or other bodily fluids to be purchased and sold in Virginia (e.g., for use in another state where legal). However, it will not be legal for individuals to have these products in their possession or on their person while afield for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting any wild animal in Virginia.

### Can I collect and use urine and/or tarsal glands from deer I kill in Virginia?

No. You cannot use these fluids afield anywhere in Virginia. Possession or use of any natural deer urine, feces, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid while afield is illegal in Virginia, regardless of the origin.

### Are there any legal alternatives to natural deer urine lures?

Yes, there are synthetic attractants that do not pose any secondary risks for CWD transmission to Virginia's white-tailed deer. These products are readily available at sporting goods stores and online retailers.

### Why should I worry about CWD in Virginia?

Population models predict that CWD will lead to significant declines in deer populations over time. Current research in Wyoming suggests that white-tailed deer numbers are significantly lower in diseased areas than in areas where CWD has not been diagnosed. CWD infection prevalence has risen to nearly 25 percent in adult bucks in some areas of Wisconsin since the initial discovery of CWD in 2002.

Not only are deer an important part of Virginia's natural heritage, they are also important to the economy. Deer hunting in Virginia generates over \$500 million in economic activity, according to data from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for Virginia. Over 20,000 jobs were related to hunting in Virginia in 2011, according to a report by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

For more information on CWD, visit our website at: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/>.

### General Information

#### Bag Limits

##### General

One per day, three per license year, no more than two of which may be taken in the fall.

##### Archery and Fall Firearms Season

One per day, either sex may be taken.

##### Spring Turkey Season

One per day, bearded turkeys only.

#### Checking Fall and Spring Turkeys

- Wild turkeys killed in the fall (except those killed in January) must be checked at a Game Check Station, by telephone, or the Internet checking system.
- Wild turkeys killed in January must be checked using the telephone or Internet checking system.
- Wild turkeys killed in the spring gobbler season must be checked using the telephone or Internet checking system.

### Archery Turkey Season

#### Season Dates

**October 1 through November 12**

Statewide except in areas where there is a closed firearm season on turkey.

#### Legal Methods and Restrictions for Archery Turkey Season

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22 for details.

- Archery tackle (including crossbows) only.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- It is unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery tackle during the archery season.
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

### Youth and Apprentice Fall Turkey Hunting Weekend

#### Season Dates

**October 15 and 16**

- Statewide in counties, cities, and areas with a fall turkey season.
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
- Hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
- **Bag limit is one turkey (either sex) per youth/apprentice hunter, per weekend.**

### Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons

#### October 29 through November 11 and November 24

In the counties of Albemarle, Allegheny, Augusta, Bath, Greene, Highland, Madison, Orange, Page, Rockingham, and Warren.

#### October 29 through November 11, November 24, December 5 through 31, and January 14 through 28

In the counties of Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Goochland, Grayson, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, King and Queen, King William, Lee, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and on Camp Peary.

#### Closed

In the county of Arlington and the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach.

#### October 29 through November 11, November 24, and December 5 through 17

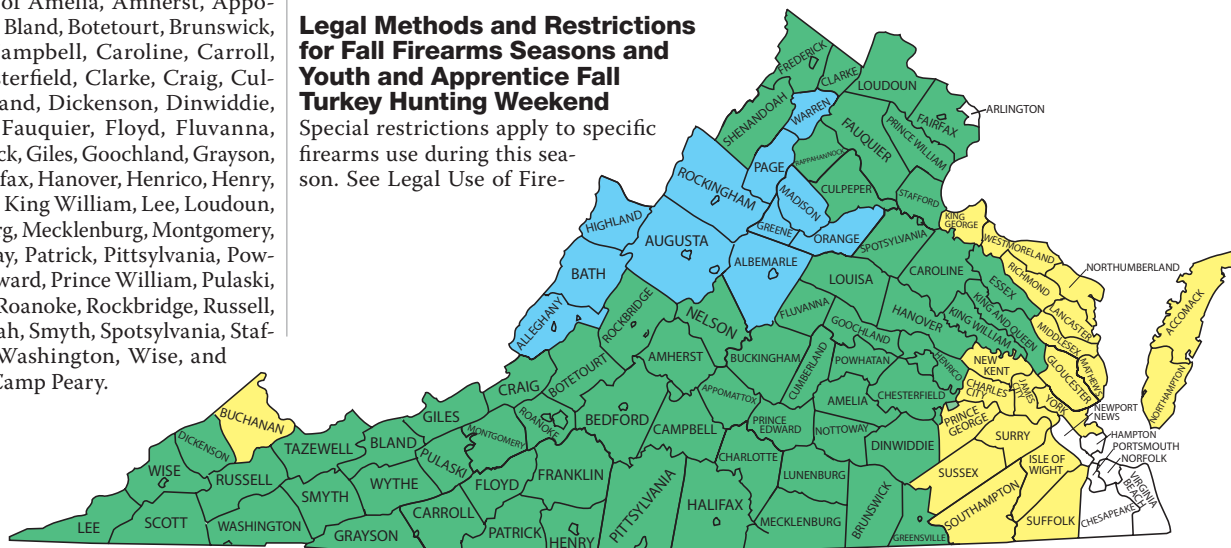
In the counties of Accomack, Buchanan, Charles City, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, Lancaster, Matthews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, York (except on Camp Peary), and City of Suffolk.

#### Legal Methods and Restrictions for Fall Firearms Seasons and Youth and Apprentice Fall Turkey Hunting Weekend

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Fire-

arms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Archery tackle (including crossbows).
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Dogs may be used.
- Unlawful to use electronic calls.





- Turkeys harvested by youth or apprentice hunters count against their daily and season bag limit.
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice turkey hunters:
  - » do not need a deer/turkey license.
  - » may assist with calling.
  - » shall not carry or discharge a firearm.
  - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.

## Youth and Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend

### Season Dates

#### April 1 and 2

- Statewide.
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
- Hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.
- **Bag limit is one turkey (bearded bird only) per youth/apprentice hunter, per weekend.**
- Turkeys harvested by youth or apprentice hunters count against their daily and season bag limit.
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice turkey hunters:
  - » do not need a deer/turkey license on this weekend.
  - » may assist with calling.
  - » shall not carry or discharge a weapon.
  - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.

## SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS NEEDED FOR SURVEY!

For years the Department has conducted a statewide survey of spring turkey hunters to collect their observations and opinions, but participation has been declining. Survey results help the Department with many wild turkey conservation issues. Participants receive an annual report. To participate, send your name and mailing address to Gary.Norman@dgif.virginia.gov.



## Spring Turkey Season

### Bag Limit

One per day, bearded turkeys only. Hunters may take one, two, or three bearded turkeys depending on how many turkeys were taken in the fall season.

### Season Dates

#### April 8 through 30

- Statewide
- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon each day.

#### May 1 through 13

- Statewide
- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

### Legal Methods and Restrictions for Spring Firearms and Youth and Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during these seasons. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- It is unlawful to use electronic calls.
- It is unlawful to use dogs during spring turkey season.
- When using a shotgun it is unlawful to use or have in possession any shot larger than number 2 fine shot during spring turkey season.

### Q: Why is spring gobbler hunting limited to noon during portions of the gobbler season?

A: During Department research to determine survival rates of wild turkey hens, it was discovered that at least 6% of the hen population is poached during the early part of the spring gobbler season. The rate could be as high as 9% if birds with transmitters that disappeared under suspicious circumstances are included. We believe accidental kills of hens primarily occur early in the season when hens are with gobblers. The risk that a hen will be shot drops sharply when they begin incubating a nest. The peak of onset of incubation is normally the first week of May. By delaying all-day hunting until most of the hens are incubating nests, we reduce potential additional incidental or intentional kill that would likely occur with all-day hunting early in the season.

## REWARDS

Paid for information leading to the arrest of persons violating Virginia Wildlife, Fish, and Boating Laws.

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To be eligible for a reward you **MUST** report the violation by calling 1-800-237-5712.

## General Information Groundhog

### Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Dogs may be used.

## Crow

### Season Dates

**August 20 through March 18  
on Wednesdays, Fridays,  
Saturdays, and Sundays.**

**September 3 through March 18**

On National Forest Lands and Department lands on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only.

- Crows are a federally regulated migratory species; however, no HIP number is required and hunters may use unplugged shotguns to hunt them.
- Electronic calls may be used on private and public lands. Written permission of the landowner is not required to hunt crows with electronic calls, except when hunting on posted property or on Sundays. Electronic calls may not be attached to or played from a vehicle.

### Season Dates

**Continuous open season on private lands.**

- Groundhog hunting on National Forest lands and Department lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during the spring turkey season.
- Groundhog hunting is permitted during the spring squirrel season only on Department lands that are open for spring squirrel hunting.
- Groundhog hunting is not permitted on National Forest lands during the spring squirrel season.

## Grouse

### Season Dates

**October 29 through February 11:  
west of I-95.**

**Continuous closed season: east of I-95.**

### Bag Limit

Three per day.

## Quail & Pheasant

### Season Dates

**November 12 through January 31**

### Bag Limits:

Quail: six per day.

Pheasant: no daily or seasonal bag limit.

## Rabbit

### Season Dates

**November 5 through February 28**

### Bag Limit

Six per day.

## Squirrel

(Gray, Red, and Fox)

### Bag Limit

All squirrels combined—six per day.

### Fall Seasons

**Gray and Red Squirrels: September 3  
through February 28**  
Statewide.

**Fox Squirrels: September 3  
through January 31 in the following  
designated areas only:**

Counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Albemarle, Bedford, Culpeper, Fauquier, Franklin, Greene, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Patrick, Prince William, and Rappahannock.

### Spring Season

**June 3 through 17, 2017: Closed  
on National Forest lands.**

### During the Spring Season:

*Gray and red squirrels may be harvested statewide, unless otherwise posted, and on the following wildlife management areas:* Amelia, Big Survey, Big Woods, Briery Creek, Cavalier, Chickahominy, Dick Cross, Doe Creek, Fairystone (including Fairystone State Park and Philpott Reservoir), Featherfin, Gathright, Goshen, Hardware River, Havens, Highland, Hog Island (Carlisle Tract only), Horsepen, James River, Lake Robertson, Little North Mountain, Mattaponi, Merrimac Farm, Pettigrew, Phelps, Powhatan (including the Goochland Tract), Rapidan, Short Hills, Stewarts Creek, G. Richard Thompson, Turkeycock Mountain, and White Oak Mountain.

*Fox squirrels may be harvested on all lands, unless otherwise posted, in all counties with an open fox squirrel season during the fall squirrel season and on the following wildlife management areas:* Big Survey, Gathright, Goshen, Havens, Highland, Lake Robertson, Little North Mountain, Merrimac Farm, Phelps, Rapidan, Short Hills, Stewarts Creek, and G. Richard Thompson.

## Hunting Preserves

Pen-raised game birds may be taken on licensed hunting preserves from September 1 through April 30, including Sundays. A list of hunting preserves open to the public may be obtained at the Department's Richmond office or at [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov). A resident hunting on a licensed hunting preserve is required to have a hunting license. A nonresident is required to have either a nonresident hunting license or a special nonresident hunting (shooting) preserve license which is valid only within the boundaries of licensed hunting preserves.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### Grouse Hunting Survey

Survey results help the Department with many ruffed grouse conservation issues. Participants receive an annual report. To participate, send your name and mailing address to: [Gary.Norman@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:Gary.Norman@dgif.virginia.gov).

### Quail Hunting Survey

Please consider joining our quail hunter cooperator survey. Help us keep records on wild quail hunting success rates and habitats where quail are being found. Contact Marc Puckett at: [Marc.Puckett@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:Marc.Puckett@dgif.virginia.gov).



## Furbearer Hunting Seasons

### Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during these seasons. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 20, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 22, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Dogs may be used (except where prohibited, see Hunting with Dogs, page 18).
- Electronic calls may be used for bobcat, coyote, and fox as long as the call is not attached to or played from a vehicle.
- Hunting permitted day or night.
- Lights may be used as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle.
- Night vision scopes and laser sights may be used.
- No hunting of raccoons on Sundays, except until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.
- Sunday hunting of furbearers other than raccoons is permitted on private lands with written permission of the landowner.
- No Sunday hunting of furbearers on public lands, except raccoons, which may be hunted until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

## Bobcat

### Bag Limit

Two per hunting party taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

### Archery Season

**October 1 through 31:**  
Statewide.

### Legal Methods and Restrictions

- It is unlawful to use dogs when hunting with bow and arrow or crossbow during the bobcat archery season.
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

### Firearms Season

**November 1 through February 28:**  
Statewide.

### Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Bobcats

During the firearms season for deer in the counties of Alleghany, Amherst (west of Route 29), Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Page, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

### Electronic Checking Requirement for Bobcats

All hunters or trappers who kill a bobcat are required to report the kill within 24 hours through the Department's electronic harvest reporting system. Bobcats can be checked with a touch-tone telephone (a rotary phone will not work) by calling the toll-free number 1-866-GOT-GAME (468-4263). Bobcats can also be checked using the Internet. Successful hunters and trappers can access the Department's webpage at [www.HuntFishVA.com](http://www.HuntFishVA.com), then click on "Hunting," then "Check Game Online" under the "Links" tab.

Before using the telephone or Internet checking system, you will need your hunting license number, a pen, and a piece of paper to record your confirmation number. If you are exempt from purchasing a license, you will need your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

At the end of the check-in session, you will be provided with a confirmation number that is a letter followed by 11 digits. **Write this number down and store it in a secure location where it can be retrieved to prove compliance with the checking requirement or to request CITES tags.** If your telephone or Internet session is cut off before you get a complete confirmation number, start the session again and continue until the complete confirmation number is obtained. If you have more than one bobcat to check in, you will have the opportunity to report additional animals at the end of the session.

If you plan to take the bobcat to a taxidermist,

you must securely attach written documentation to the carcass that includes the full name of the hunter or trapper, date of kill, and the harvest confirmation number.

Bobcats legally killed by landowners outside the season are not required to be checked in using the electronic harvest reporting system. If you plan to take a bobcat to a taxidermist that does not require checking, you must securely attach the same information described above (except for the confirmation number) and a description of how the bobcat was legally obtained.

## Coyote

### Season

Continuous open season except on National Forest lands and Department lands. Coyote hunting on National Forest lands and Department lands is permitted from September 1 through March 10 and during the spring turkey season. Coyotes may also be hunted on Department lands during the spring squirrel season unless otherwise posted (see page 46 for list of open areas).

### Coyote Bounty Law

Coyote bounties are not administered by DGIF. Counties have the option of establishing their own coyote bounty system. For more information, hunters and trappers should contact their County Administrator or County Board of Supervisors.

## CITES TAGGING REQUIREMENT FOR BOBCATS

Bobcat pelts that are sold, traded, or transported out of state must also have a CITES tag affixed to each animal. A valid confirmation number will be needed to obtain a CITES tag. No CITES tag is needed to have a bobcat mounted by a Virginia taxidermist or to ship a bobcat pelt out-of-state for tanning purposes (unless required by the state where the tannery is located).

To obtain a CITES tag for a bobcat, contact License Sales and Information at (866) 721-6911 during regular business hours. If you cannot reach License Sales and Information, you can contact a Conservation Police Officer through your nearest Department regional office (listed on page 4) or your local Sheriff's Office (after hours). Every effort will be made to provide CITES tags as quickly as possible, but we may not be able to accommodate short notice requests received on weekends or after hours. Nonresident hunters or trappers who need to leave the state before they are able to secure a CITES tag should plan to leave the bobcat pelt or carcass in the care of someone in Virginia until a tag can be attached.

Make sure that you have a valid harvest confirmation number for each CITES tag requested. Tags ordered from our Customer Service Center will be mailed directly to the hunter or trapper, along with instructions for tagging. If a bobcat pelt is required to have a CITES tag affixed, it must be tagged by April 1.

### Fisher

Continuous closed season for hunting or trapping fisher. Please report verifiable sightings (see page 51).

### Fox

#### Firearms Season

**November 1 through February 28:**

Closed in Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier (except Quantico), Loudoun, Louisa, and Rappahannock counties.

#### Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Foxes:

During the firearms season for deer on the Gathright, Goshen, Highland, and Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Areas and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

#### Chase-Only Season

**NO FOXES MAY BE TAKEN EXCEPT DURING THE FIREARMS SEASON.**

#### Licenses Required

License requirements are the same as those for hunting foxes with firearms. However, a Fox Hunting License to hunt foxes on horse-

back with hounds without firearms may be purchased in lieu of a basic hunting license. This license exempts the licensee from having to complete the hunter education program.

#### Continuous open season statewide (including Sundays) unless noted below.

- Closed March 1 through October 31 and during the firearms season for deer on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests and on Gathright, Goshen, G. Richard Thompson, Highland, and Little North Mountain WMAs.
- Closed March 1 through October 31 on Rapidan WMA.

#### Restrictions

- Unlawful to have in possession a firearm when hunting fox outside of the firearms fox season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any firearm in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

### Opossum

#### Firearms Season

**October 15 through March 10:** Statewide.

### Raccoon

#### Bag Limits

**East of the Blue Ridge:** Two per hunter taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

**West of the Blue Ridge:** Two per hunting party (individual or organized) taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

#### Firearms Season

**October 15 through March 10:** Statewide.

#### Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Raccoons may be hunted until 2:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.
- Lights may be used as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle.

#### Chase-Only Seasons

**NO RACCOON MAY BE TAKEN EXCEPT DURING THE FIREARMS SEASON.**

#### Continuous open season statewide (including Sundays):

Except on Department-controlled lands west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on National Forest lands.

## SPOTTED SKUNK INFORMATION NEEDED

Our Department would like to know if you have seen the animal in this photograph. The Eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), also known as a "civet cat," is one of two species of skunks found in Virginia. Most people are familiar with the common striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) that is statewide in distribution. The spotted skunk, however, is lesser known and generally found only in the western portion of the state. They are small, slender animals, usually not much larger than a squirrel (1 to 2½ pounds) and noticeably smaller than most striped skunks. The glossy black fur has four to six broken white stripes along the back and sides that resemble "spots." The tail usually has a white tip and the head often has an inverted triangular white patch above the nose. The status of spotted skunks in Virginia is largely unknown, but populations are believed to have declined precipitously during the last half of the 20th century. Loss of suitable habitat has almost certainly contributed to this decline, but may not completely explain the spotted skunk's decrease in numbers. Please note that it is illegal to shoot or trap spotted skunks (unless they are causing damage) and their pelts may not be sold. If you have information regarding occurrences of spotted skunks in Virginia, particularly trail camera photos or other verifiable evidence, please contact our furbearer biologist, Mike Fies, at (540) 248-9390 or by e-mail at [mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov).



Eastern spotted skunk ©Bob Gress



### Licenses Required

License requirements are the same as those for hunting raccoons with firearms.

### August 13 through September 24 (including Sundays):

On Department-controlled lands west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on National Forest lands where bear hound training is permitted (see page 31).

### Restrictions

It is unlawful to have in possession a firearm, bow, axe, or any tree climbing device when chasing raccoons outside of the firearms season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having these devices in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance while engaged in the act of chasing. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

## Skunk

### Season

**Continuous open season to hunt striped skunk except on National Forest lands and Department lands.**

Striped skunk hunting on National Forest lands and Department lands is permitted from September 1 through March 10 and during the spring turkey season. Striped skunks may also be hunted on Department lands during the spring squirrel season unless otherwise posted. (See page 46 for list of open areas.)

**Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunks, and the pelts of spotted skunks may not be sold.**

## Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

*Hunt of a Lifetime* is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



*If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.*

**Toll Free 866.345.4455 [HuntofaLifetime.org](http://HuntofaLifetime.org)**

### HUNTING PROPERTIES FOR SALE

**Sika Deer, Duck, Goose, Turkey**

**Owner financing available**

**[www.sikastag.com](http://www.sikastag.com)**

**[percy.res@gmail.com](mailto:percy.res@gmail.com) 609.257.3706**

**MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE**

### **Q: Are laser sights, night vision scopes and infrared scopes legal to use when legally hunting at night?**

**A: Yes, these devices are legal to use when legally hunting at night. The following animals are legal to hunt at night: bobcat, coyote, feral hog, fox, opossum, raccoon, and skunk.**

## Foreclosed Land Deeply Discounted

Recreational and Residential land located in FL, NC, TX, AR, NY, PA, WA, AZ, NV

**888-758-5687 • [www.dfcland.com](http://www.dfcland.com)**

## ELECTRONIC CALLS

Electronic calls may be used to hunt bobcats, coyotes, crows and foxes, but not other species. With the exception of crows (see page 46), written permission of the landowner is required to hunt with electronic calls on private lands. Electronic calls may also be used on public lands (except where specifically prohibited) during periods when the use of firearms is allowed. Electronic calls may not be attached to or played from a vehicle.

## REPORT A NUTRIA IN VIRGINIA

As part of a multi-agency effort, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is continuing to monitor the distribution of nutria in Virginia. The nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) is an invasive semi-aquatic mammal native to South America. A casual observer may misidentify a muskrat or beaver as a nutria. Compared to a muskrat, nutria are



©Rob & Ann Simpson

considerably larger (average 12 pounds), have a round tail, white whiskers, and orange teeth. Nutria cause considerable damage to North American wetlands and are legally defined as a nuisance species in Virginia. Although the current distribution of nutria in the Commonwealth is not completely known, confirmed reports have been limited to areas east of Interstate 95 and south of the James River. Improving our understanding of where nutria occur is necessary to support potential eradication efforts. If you believe you have seen a nutria in Virginia, please visit the website below and report your sighting. The information you provide will assist us with the management of this invasive species: [www.reportnutria.org](http://www.reportnutria.org).

### General Trapping Regulations

Residents under 16 years of age do not need a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid state or county license to trap. Residents under 16 years of age who hold a resident junior trapping license are not required to be accompanied by a licensed adult while trapping. County residents 65 years of age and over do not need a license to trap on private property in their county of residence. Resident or nonresident landowners, and their spouses, children, grandchildren, spouses of such children and grandchildren, and the landowner's parents do not need a license to trap within the boundaries of their own lands.

Trapping is allowed on any day of the week, including Sundays. In addition, trappers may shoot wild animals caught in traps on any day of the week (including Sundays) in order to dispatch them. No additional license is required other than a valid Virginia trapping license (unless you are license exempt).

Trapping on Department-owned or controlled lands and waters is allowed under the regulations of the Board unless prohibited by posted rules. The posted rules may require written authorization to trap on some areas or may specify other restrictions. National Forest lands will be open during the regular trapping seasons. Check local ordinances before trapping near highways.

It is lawful to set traps in water from December 1 through the last day of February, both dates inclusive, and at any time within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania,

Stafford, Roanoke, and York, except as otherwise specifically provided by Department permit or by local ordinances.

Any person setting or in possession of a steel foothold or body gripping trap or snare shall have it marked by means of a nonferrous metal tag bearing his name and address or a permanent identification number issued by the Department. This requirement shall not apply to landowners on their own land, nor to a bona fide tenant or lessee within the bounds of land rented or leased by him, nor to anyone transporting any such trap from its place of purchase.

Trappers must visit all traps once each day and remove all animals caught therein, except for completely submerged body-gripping traps which must be visited once every 72 hours.

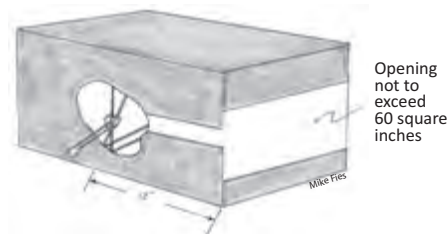
The use of body gripping traps with a jaw spread in excess of 7½ inches is prohibited except when such traps are at least half submerged by water.

It is unlawful to set on land any steel foothold trap with teeth set upon the jaws or with a maximum inside jaw spread exceeding 6½ inches measured perpendicular to the hinges.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any body gripping trap with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches when using any bait, lure or scent. However, baited body-gripping traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 inches and up to 7½ inches may be used within an enclosure with openings no greater than 60 square inches and the trap trigger recessed at least 12 inches from all openings (see diagram). Traps must be staked to prevent enclosures from turning over and may only be used on private lands with written permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to intentionally set foothold traps, body-gripping traps, or snares within 50 feet of an animal carcass or animal parts, unless the carcass or parts are completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. For the pur-

Body-gripping Trap Enclosure



poses of this requirement, completely covered is defined as not being visible from above. A carcass is defined as the body, portions of the body, meat, organs, or viscera of any animal, including fish. Feathers (including those with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera, are excluded from this definition.

No deadfall traps may be used. Snares set on land must have loops 12 inches or less in diameter with the bottom of the snare loop no more than 12 inches above ground level. Snares with the top of the snare loop set higher than 12 inches above ground level must include a single-piece lock that is not power-assisted, a cable stop that prevents the snare loop from closing smaller than 2½ inches in diameter, and a break-away device that has been tested to break or disassemble at no more than 285 pounds pull. Land snares may only be used with written permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to willfully molest, damage, or remove any trap, or any lawfully caught bird or animal from or in any way disturb traps or snares legally set by another person.

It is unlawful to shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over public inland waters; however, a licensed trapper may shoot a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters for the purpose of dispatching a trapped animal.

### PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FOR TRAP TAGS

Trappers have the option of using a permanent identification number on their trap tags instead of their name and address. The Department will assign a unique number to interested trappers for permanent use. To obtain a trapper ID number, contact the Verona Regional Office at (540) 248-9360 for instructions. To ensure confidentiality, permanent trapper ID numbers will only be provided to trappers via a written letter mailed directly to the assignee. ID numbers will NOT be provided to trappers over the telephone or via e-mail. Please remember that this method of tag marking is OPTIONAL and that you may continue to use tags with your name and address, if you prefer.



Photo by Sally Mills



## Trapping Seasons

There is a continuous open season to trap beaver, muskrat, opossum, and raccoon within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke, and York.

When beavers are damaging crops or lands, the owner of the premises, his agent, or tenant, may kill the animals or have them killed. This includes shooting, except in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited.

### Beaver

December 1 through February 28

### Bobcat

November 15 through February 28  
All trapped bobcats must be reported within 24 hours through the Department's electronic harvest reporting system. A CITES tag may also be required for some bobcats. Please see page 47 for details regarding electronic bobcat checking and CITES tagging procedures.

### Coyote

Continuous open season.

### Fisher

Continuous closed season.

### Fox

November 15 through February 28:  
Fox trapping is prohibited in Clarke (except on G. Richard Thompson WMA), Fauquier (except on Chester F. Phelps WMA and G. Richard Thompson WMA), Loudoun, and Rappahannock counties.

### Mink

December 1 through February 28

### Muskrat

December 1 through February 28

### Nutria

Continuous open season.

### Opossum

November 15 through February 28

### Otter

December 1 through February 28  
Bag Limit: The season bag limit shall be 4 otters in all counties west of the Blue Ridge. There is no season bag limit in counties east of the Blue Ridge.

### CITES Tagging Requirement for Otter

Otter pelts that are sold, traded, or transported out of state must also have a CITES tag affixed to each animal. No CITES tag is needed to have an otter mounted by a Virginia taxidermist or ship an otter pelt out-of-state for tanning purposes (unless required by the state where the tannery is located). To obtain a CITES tag, contact a local Conservation Police Officer through your nearest Department regional office (listed on page 4). If an otter pelt is required to have a CITES tag affixed, it must be tagged by April 1.

### Rabbit

May be taken with box traps from October 15 through January 31, provided no traps shall be set on the lands of another without written permission of the landowner. Trappers using box traps for rabbits do not need a license.

### Raccoon

November 15 through February 28

### Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunk.  
Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunk, and the pelts of spotted skunk may not be sold.

### Weasel

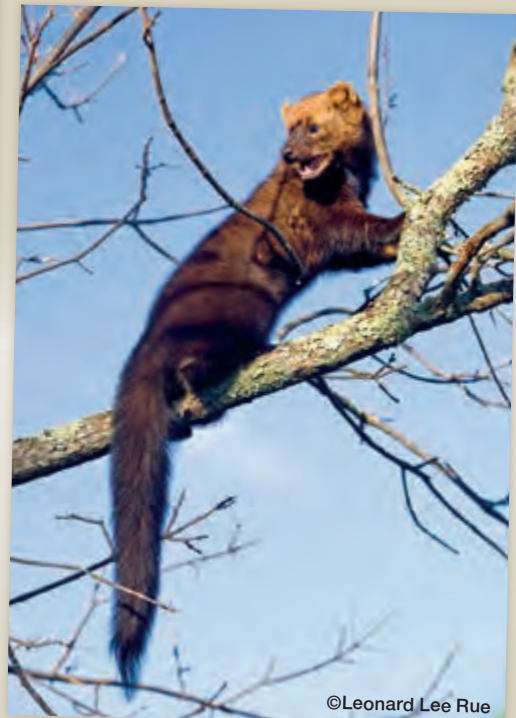
December 1 through February 28

## DO YOU HAVE A TRAIL CAMERA PHOTO OF THIS ANIMAL?

If you have a trail camera photo of this animal, we would like to hear from you. The fisher (*Martes pennanti*) once occurred in the western mountains of our state, but populations were likely extinct by the 1900s. After a long absence, fishers appear to be reestablishing themselves as part of our fauna.

Fishers are members of the Mustelid or weasel family. They are stocky animals with an elongated body and relatively short legs. Adult fishers are about the size of a fox, typically weighing 4 to 12 pounds and measuring 30 to 47 inches from the nose to the tip of the tail. Their fur is dark brown and black. The face and shoulders often have a golden or silver sheen. The underside may have patches of white or cream colored fur.

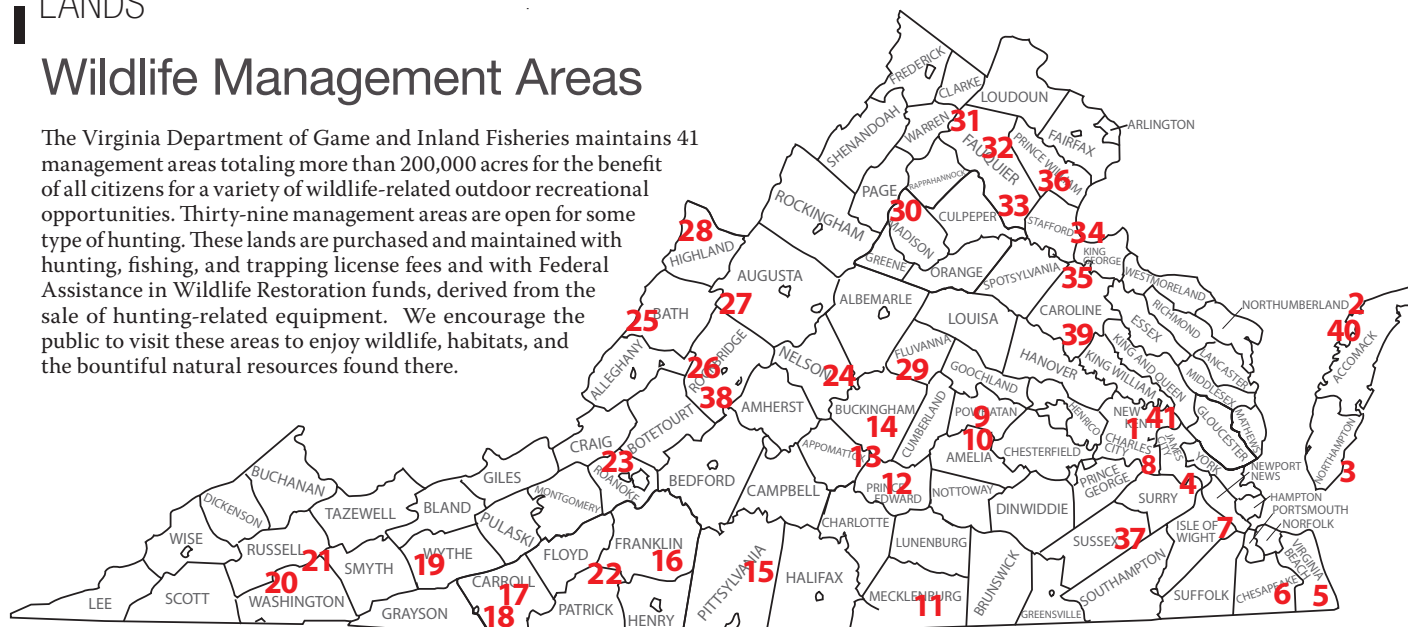
Please note that it is illegal to hunt or trap fishers in Virginia. If you have verifiable information (i.e. trail camera photos, video, etc.) regarding occurrences of fishers in Virginia, please contact our furbearer biologist, Mike Fies, at (540) 248-9390 or by e-mail at [mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov).



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## Wildlife Management Areas

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains 41 management areas totaling more than 200,000 acres for the benefit of all citizens for a variety of wildlife-related outdoor recreational opportunities. Thirty-nine management areas are open for some type of hunting. These lands are purchased and maintained with hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees and with Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration funds, derived from the sale of hunting-related equipment. We encourage the public to visit these areas to enjoy wildlife, habitats, and the bountiful natural resources found there.



WMA	ACRES
1. *Game Farm Marsh WMA	530 acres
2. Saxis WMA	5,574 acres
3. *Mockhorn Island/GATR WMA	7,642 acres
4. */#Hog Island/Carlisle WMA	3,908 acres
5. */#Princess Anne WMA	1,546 acres
6. Cavalier/Dismal Swamp WMA	4,485 acres
7. Ragged Island WMA	1,537 acres
8. *Chickahominy WMA	5,218 acres
9. Powhatan WMA	4,463 acres
10. *Amelia WMA	2,217 acres
11. *Dick Cross WMA	1,400 acres
12. Briery Creek WMA	3,164 acres
13. *Featherfin WMA	2,800 acres
14. Horsepen WMA	2,910 acres
15. White Oak Mt. WMA	2,712 acres
16. Turkeycock Mt. WMA	2,678 acres
17. Crooked Creek WMA	1,796 acres
18. Stewarts Creek WMA	1,100 acres
19. Big Survey WMA	7,300 acres
20. Hidden Valley WMA	6,400 acres
21. Clinch Mt. WMA	25,477 acres
22. Fairystone WMA	5,321 acres
23. Havens WMA	7,190 acres

WMA	ACRES
24. James River WMA	1,213 acres
25. Gathright WMA	13,428 acres
26. Lake Robertson WMA	581 acres
27. Goshen/Little North Mt. WMA	33,697 acres
28. Highland WMA	14,283 acres
29. Hardware River WMA	1,034 acres
30. Rapidan WMA	10,327 acres
31. Thompson WMA	3,963 acres
32. **Weston WMA	265 acres
33. #C. F. Phelps WMA	4,540 acres
34. **Lands End WMA	450 acres
35. Pettigrew WMA	934 acres
36. *Merrimac Farm WMA	300 acres
37. Big Woods WMA	2,208 acres
38. Short Hills WMA	4,232 acres
39. Mattaponi WMA	2,542 acres
40. *Doe Creek WMA	637 acres
41. *Ware Creek WMA	2,600 acres

\* Some or all hunting by quota drawing (see pages 62–67).

\*\* Hunting is not allowed.

# Managed hunt opportunities offered (see page 67–68).

## Wildlife Management Area: General Rules and Regulations

These lands are held in trust by the Department to conserve habitat for wildlife. The goal of the Wildlife Management Area system is to: *Maintain and enhance habitats that support game and nongame wildlife while providing op-*

*portunities to hunt, fish, trap, and view wildlife.* Other uses of WMAs may be allowed by written authorization of the Director, as long as they do not interfere with the goals and uses of WMAs.

**NOTE:** Not all activities listed below are available on each WMA, check our website at [www.HuntFishVA.com/wmas](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/wmas) for specific WMA information.

### Access

- Any person 17 years of age or older accessing a DGIF Wildlife Management Area or Fishing Lake must have in possession one of the

following valid Virginia licenses/permits: freshwater fishing license, hunting license, trapping license, boat registration, or DGIF Access Permit.

### Camping/Fires

- Primitive camping is permitted for up to 21 consecutive days when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. No more than 3 camping units are permitted per site.
- Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any boat ramp, fishing lake, or at other specific sites as posted.



- It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

### Disabled Hunter Access

- Trails are open to manual and power wheelchairs and personal mobility assistive scooters (for indoor/outdoor use) designed primarily to assist people with disabilities. Individuals are encouraged to use caution when selecting trails, as many were designed for foot traffic only. Terrain may make them unsuitable for personal mobility devices.
- Electric vehicles up to 54 inches in width are permitted only on designated trails.

### Dogs

- It is lawful to chase with dogs or train dogs on Department-owned lands only during authorized hunting, chase, or training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of open hunting, chase, or training seasons.

### Firearms

- It is unlawful to have in possession or in a vehicle a bow, crossbow, or any firearm that is not unloaded and cased or dismantled:
  - » While on Department-owned lands west of the Blue Ridge except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, or waterfowl.
  - » While on Department-owned lands east of the Blue Ridge except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, waterfowl, or migratory game birds.
  - » Except when possessing a permit issued by the Department.
  - » Except when possessing a handgun and a valid concealed carry permit issued by a Circuit Court.
- It is unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on a WMA.
- Target shooting is permitted only on designated ranges.

### Fishing, Boating, & Swimming

- Refer to the current Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations digest and posted signs for special fishing rules which apply to this WMA.
- It is unlawful to use boats propelled by a gasoline motor, sail, or mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel unless otherwise posted.
- Swimming is prohibited unless otherwise posted. Anglers, hunters, and trappers actively engaged in fishing, hunting, or trapping may make in public waters.
- Only rod and reel angling is permitted. All other methods of take (trotlines, juglines, limblines, etc.) are prohibited.

### General

- Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.

- Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public is prohibited.
- Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

### Horseback/Bicycle Riding & Hiking

- Horseback and bicycle riding only on roads and trails designated for these uses. No riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas.
- Hiking is welcome.
- Riders, cyclists, and hikers should be mindful of all open hunting and trapping seasons. Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.
- A blaze orange hat or clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

### Hunting & Trapping

- Refer to the current Hunting & Trapping in Virginia digest and posted signs for special hunting or trapping rules which apply to the WMAs.

### Resource & Property Damage

- It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- It is unlawful to cut, mutilate, destroy, or remove vegetation or to remove other minerals, artifacts or other property from this area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- Berry picking and gathering of mushrooms or other fruits is allowed.
- It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.
- No posting of unauthorized signs, notices, and flyers anywhere on the WMA.

### Special Antler Rules

- It shall be unlawful to kill an antlered deer on Featherfin Wildlife Management Area or on the special Fairystone Quality Deer Management Area unless the deer has at least four antler points, 1 inch or longer, on either the right or left antler.

### Vehicles

- Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Cross-country motor vehicle travel is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.

For more information on the Department's Wildlife Management Area System: [www.HuntFishVA.com/wmas](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/wmas).

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- ★ Concealed Carry Permit Denials
- ★ Expungements
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- ★ Corporate Law

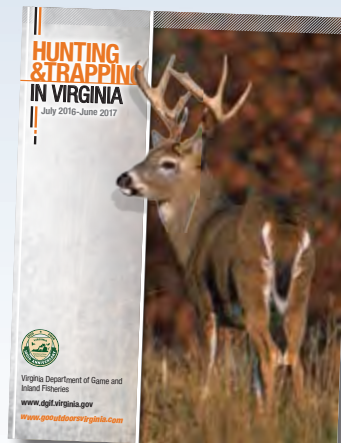
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PUBLISHING

## Public Ranges on WMAs and National Forests

The Department has public sighting-in ranges available at the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) listed below. These ranges were built for sportsmen to properly sight-in their firearms before going afield during the hunting seasons. All Department public sighting-in ranges are handicapped accessible. Range rules and hours of operation are prominently posted at each range to promote shooting safety and proper care of the facilities. Range users must adhere to posted rules and hours of operation. No reservations are required. Any person 17 years of age or older accessing a WMA or DGIF fishing lake must have in their possession a valid hunting, freshwater fishing, or trapping license; current boat registration, or Access Permit. Shooters are limited to one hour of shooting when range is full. Be sure to bring your own paper targets, cardboard backing, clothespins, and tape. In order to help maintain the ranges, all target materials and brass must be removed for proper disposal off site. "Leave No Trace." Specific hours and dates of operation, range rules, scheduled closures, travel directions, and other information is posted on the Department website at [www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/shootingranges.asp](http://www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/shootingranges.asp).

The use of firearms at public ranges during closed general firearms hunting seasons is restricted to the area within the established range boundaries for target shooting purposes only. Such weapons are required to be unloaded and cased or dismantled on all national forest and department-owned lands outside the range boundaries during this period.

### Department Sighting-In Ranges Amelia Wildlife Management Area:

Six covered bench positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets; area for clay bird shooting (bring own thrower and targets). Pistol shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays, the range is closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Forest Regional Office, (434) 525-7522.

### Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area:

Ten covered bench shooting positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun sighting-in at stationary paper targets. Additional covered area for stand up shotgun patterning. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays, the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Charles City Regional Office, (804) 829-6580.

### Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area:

Six covered bench-rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays, the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. Snow and ice may result in temporary range closures in January, February, and March. For information contact: Marion Regional Office, (276) 783-4860.

### Gathright Wildlife Management Area:

Six covered bench-rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays, the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Verona Regional Office, (540) 248-9360.

### C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area:

Six covered bench-rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays, the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Fredericksburg Regional Office, (540) 899-4169.

### White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area:

Six covered bench positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays, the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Forest Regional Office, (434) 525-7522.

**NOTE:** The Department reserves the right to manage the use and access of these facilities as deemed appropriate. These facilities are subject to emergency closures.

### National Forest Shooting Ranges

These ranges are open sunrise to sunset during the operating season. Users must bring their own paper targets to all ranges. Use stationary paper targets only. Moving targets, including skeet and/or clay targets, are prohibited except at the Blacksburg Range where clay targets are allowed. No tracer or incendiary type ammunition is allowed. Shooters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. All of the ranges have vault toilet restroom buildings. None of these sites have drinking water.

### The Blacksburg Shooting Range in Montgomery County:

Two facilities: an 18-lane rifle/pistol range with covered benches for firing at stationary paper targets for up to 100 meters, and a single position shotgun (trap) range for shooting clay targets. Archery is allowed at the shotgun range. Shooting benches and restrooms are wheelchair accessible although some shooters will need assistance with hanging and retrieving targets. This year-round range is closed on Mondays for cleaning. For information contact: Eastern Divide Ranger District, (540) 552-4641.

### The Bath County Shooting Range:

A 5-lane range with covered benches for shooting stationary paper targets at 50–100 yards. Pistols and rifles are allowed. **Shotguns are allowed only when shooting at a stationary paper target. Shooting at any moving target is strictly prohibited.** This range is open year round. For information contact: Warm Springs Ranger District, (540) 839-2521.

### The Hite Hollow Shooting Range in Augusta County:

A 6-lane rifle for shooting approximately 50, 100, and 150 yards, and a 2-lane pistol range for shooting approximately 25 yards. Both of these facilities have covered benches. This range is open from May 2 through December 31. For information contact: North River Ranger District, (540) 432-0187.

### The Low Moor Shooting Range in Alleghany County:

Provides a 5-lane rifle range for shooting 50 and 100 yards, and a 3-lane pistol range for shooting up to 25 yards. **Shotguns are allowed only when shooting at a stationary paper target. Shooting at any moving target is strictly prohibited.** Both ranges offer covered benches. This range is open year round. For information contact: James River Ranger District, (540) 962-2214.

### The Pott's Slope Shooting Range in Craig County:

Provides a 9-lane, covered bench, rifle and pistol range for shooting targets at 25, 50, and 100 yards. No shotguns or moving targets are allowed. Shooting benches and restrooms are wheelchair accessible although some shooters will need assistance with hanging and retrieving targets. This range is open year round, but is closed on Tuesdays for cleaning. For information contact: Eastern Divide Ranger District, (540) 552-4641.

### The West Side Shooting Range:

Provides 8 shooting lanes of various lengths for rifles, shotguns and pistols. All 8 lanes have covered shooting benches. No moving targets are allowed. This range is open from May 2 to December 31. For more information contact: North River Ranger District, (540) 432-0187.



### The Wythe Shooting Range:

Offers a total of 10 lanes with covered benches. Five are dedicated pistol lanes (25 yards only), three are dedicated rifle lanes (100 yards) and the final two are intermittent lanes where targets can be set at 7, 10, 15, 25, 50, and 100 yards. No shotguns, moving targets or archery allowed. This range is open year round. For more information, contact: Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area, (800) 628-7202.

**NOTE: On National Forests, please remember firearms may be discharged for target practice only at established shooting ranges. Discharging a firearm in a developed recreation site is dangerous and prohibited. For more information contact: the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Headquarters at 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA 24019, or call (540) 265-5100.**

## National Forests

Day use fees are required on certain recreation areas. Please visit the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest website, [www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj), or contact the appropriate office below for more information on fees and seasonal pass information.

<b>Supervisor's Office</b> .....	(540) 265-5100
<b>Clinch</b> .....	(276) 679-8370
<b>North River</b> .....	(540) 432-0187
<b>Glenwood-Pedlar</b> .....	(540) 291-2188
<b>James River</b> .....	(540) 962-2214
<b>Lee</b> .....	(540) 984-4101
<b>Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area</b> .....	(276) 783-5196
<b>Eastern Divide</b> .....	(540) 552-4641
<b>Warm Springs</b> .....	(540) 839-2521

## Regulations Specific to National Forest and Department Lands

It shall be unlawful to have in possession a bow, crossbow, or any firearm which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled on all National Forest lands statewide, or on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey or waterfowl on these lands; and on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, waterfowl or migratory game birds on these lands. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

It shall be unlawful to possess or transport a loaded firearm or loaded crossbow in or on any vehicle at any time on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands. (See exception for valid concealed handgun permit holders on page 20.)

"Loaded firearm" is defined as a firearm in which ammunition is chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip, when such magazine or clip is found engaged or partially engaged in a firearm.

The definition of a loaded muzzleloading firearm will include a firearm which is capped, or has a charged pan, or has a primer, or battery installed in the firearm.

The definition of a "loaded crossbow" is a crossbow that is cocked and has either a bolt or arrow engaged or partially engaged on the shooting rail or track of the crossbow, or with a "trackless crossbow" when the crossbow is cocked and a bolt or arrow is nocked.

The word "possession" shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow, crossbow, or firearm in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance.

It is unlawful to chase with a dog or train dogs on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands except during authorized hunting, chase, or training seasons that specifically permit these activities on these lands.

Collecting any portion of the American ginseng plant for personal or commercial use from the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests and Department-owned lands is prohibited.

Commercial hunting or fishing outfitter activities on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests require a permit from the National Forest.

### Access Roads

Hunter access roads on Department lands seasonally open to motor vehicles will be open (weather permitting) from the last Saturday in September to the 2nd Saturday in February and the 1st Saturday in April to the 3rd Saturday in May.

Opening and closing dates of hunter access roads on National Forest lands may vary by ranger district. Opening and closing dates are determined by management considerations for the areas accessed by these roads. Contact the local ranger district listed at left for opening and closing dates on specific roads.

Any motor driven vehicle using roads normally open to motor vehicles on Department and National Forest lands shall conform with all state laws for highway travel. No cross country travel is permitted. All terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) travel is permitted only on designated National Forest roads and trails.

### Camping Policy

Primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms or other facilities) is permitted on Department-owned lands, except as otherwise posted. Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any Department-owned or controlled boat ramp or fishing lake. Camping on Department-owned lands is not to exceed 21 consecutive days. No more than 3 camping

units are permitted per site.

Camping on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests for more than 21 consecutive days without terminating occupancy for a minimum of 10 consecutive days within a 31-day time period is prohibited. For more information, please visit the National Forest website [www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj) or call the appropriate office. No trash service is provided. "Pack it in, Pack it out."

### Structures

It is unlawful to construct, maintain, or occupy any permanent structure, except by permit, on Department-owned lands and National Forest lands.

It is unlawful to maintain any temporary dwelling on Department-owned land for more than 14 consecutive days. Persons constructing or occupying such structures are responsible for complete removal of temporary structures.

### Tree Stands

It is unlawful to construct, maintain, or occupy any permanent tree stand on Department-owned lands, National Forest lands, and on Department of Conservation and Recreation-owned or controlled lands. Portable tree stands, which are not permanently affixed, may be used. Use of a full body safety harness while hunting from tree stands is strongly recommended.

## Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALS)

PALS is a program that opens additional lands for public use. Through this cooperative private/public program the Department has opened more than 30,000 acres of private land in Dickenson and Wise counties and 260 acres in James City County to public hunting, fishing and trapping. The property in Dickenson is owned by Heartwood Forestland Fund IV and managed by The Forestland Group, LLC.

The Department manages access to both properties for hunting, fishing, and trapping. PALS permits are only sold through license agents or on the DGIF website, and the fee is \$18.00. Hunters, anglers, and trappers must buy the permit from a license agent or online. Inquiries about these areas should be directed to the website [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov) or to the Marion Region 3 Office at (276) 783- 4860 (Dickenson and Wise County property) or Charles City Region 1 office at (804) 829-6580 (James City County property) for recreational opportunities in their respective regions.

The Department hopes to provide additional PALS lands in the future across other parts of the Commonwealth.

## State Forests

The State Forests of Virginia serve as demonstration sites for multiple use management which

focuses on the advantages and benefits of managing the total resource. Environmental protection, water quality, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, forest research and recreation are as important as a sustained timber harvest. The State Forests are operated under a separate, self-supporting budget. Most of the funds are generated through timber sales, but use permits for hunting and other activities and important as well.

Hunting is allowed on many of the State Forest properties in Virginia including: Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Big Woods State Forest in Sussex County, Browne State Forest in Essex County, Channels State Forest in Washington and Russell Counties, Chilton Woods State Forest in Lancaster County (archery and blackpowder only), Conway Robinson State Forest in Prince William County (lottery permit only), Cumberland State Forest, Dragon Run State Forest in King and Queen County, Lesesne State Forest in Nelson County (archery and black-powder only within designated dates), Matthews State Forest in Grayson County (archery only in designated areas), Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest, and Sandy Point State Forest in King William County.

A valid State Forest Use Permit and valid hunting license is required and may be purchased from licensed agents or online. Hunting is allowed on these properties only in accordance with state hunting regulations. No motorized vehicles, including ATVs, are permitted on gated roads and trail whether the gate is open or closed.

Further information on regulations governing the use of specific State Forest properties for hunting or other recreational activities is available at the Virginia Department of Forestry's website ([www.dof.virginia.gov/stateforest/recreation/hunting.htm](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/stateforest/recreation/hunting.htm)) or by calling 804-492-4121.

## National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks in Virginia. For current information related to any permitted hunting activities view Park specific websites or contact via Park public information telephone lines. Example: Blue Ridge Parkway [www.nps.gov/blri](http://www.nps.gov/blri) or (828) 298-0398.

## Military Areas

### Fort A.P. Hill

#### Archery

October 1 through November 4. Either-sex all season.

#### Muzzleloading

November 5 through 18. No Either-sex hunting.

#### General Firearms

November 19 through January 7. See Fort A.P. Hill Hunting Regulations for either-sex hunting days.

One deer per day, two bucks total combining all seasons. See Fort A. P. Hill Hunting Regulations for antler restrictions.

Closed: at 12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, and closed all day Christmas.

Contact Fish and Wildlife Branch (804) 633-8984 for details. Fort A.P. Hill regulations and requirements differ from state and county regulations.

### Fort Pickett

#### Deer:

#### Archery

October 1 through November 18.

#### Muzzleloading

November 5 through 18.

#### General Firearms

November 19 through January 7. Two per day, six per year. Either-sex deer hunting on November 26, December 3 and January 2 through 7.

#### Quail:

Hunting permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.

#### Dove:

Hunting permitted on Wednesday and Saturday only.

All persons 12 years of age and older must present a hunter education certificate in order to purchase a Fort Pickett hunting permit. No apprentice licenses will be accepted. Contact the Ft. Pickett Game Check Station at (434) 292-2618 for further details about seasons and special restrictions. Open Tuesday-Saturday and closed on state-recognized holidays.

### Quantico Marine Reservation

#### Deer:

#### Archery Season

October 1 through November 18.

#### General Firearms

November 19 through January 7. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Open half day on Thanksgiving Day.

No Muzzleloading Season.

For hunting information, contact the Game Checking Stations at (703) 784-5523 or [www.quantico.marines.mil/OfficesStaff/GFIInstallationandEnvironment/NaturalResourcesEnvironmentalAffairs/QuanticoSportsman](http://www.quantico.marines.mil/OfficesStaff/GFIInstallationandEnvironment/NaturalResourcesEnvironmentalAffairs/QuanticoSportsman).

The Game Checking Station is open seasonally, September-January and April-May.

### Fort Belvoir

#### Archery Only

Qualification required.

#### Deer:

September 3 through March 25.

September 24 is Youth/Apprentice Day

### Fall Turkey:

Oct. 1–Nov. 5; Nov. 24;

Nov. 28–Dec. 24 and Jan. 14–Jan. 28.

Waterfowl hunting is also available during prescribed seasons.

Contact Outdoor Recreation staff at (703) 805-3081 for further details.

## Federal Refuges

Hunting is allowed on the following National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia. For more information, contact the appropriate refuge manager at:

<b>Back Bay*</b> .....	(757) 301-7329
<b>Chincoteague</b> .....	(757) 336-6122
<b>Great Dismal Swamp*</b> .....	(757) 986-3705
<b>Eastern Shore</b> .....	(757) 331-2760
<b>Rappahannock</b>	
<b>River Valley*</b> .....	(804) 333-1470
<b>James River*</b> .....	(804) 829-9020
<b>Plum Tree Island*</b> .....	(804) 829-9020
<b>Presquile*</b> .....	(804) 829-9020
<b>Mason Neck/Occoquan</b> .....	(703) 490-4979

\* Quota hunts are offered through the DGIF Quota Hunt program; see pages 64–71.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### John H. Kerr Reservoir

The John H. Kerr Reservoir is a federally managed multipurpose facility located on the Virginia-North Carolina border. It consists of a 50,000 acre reservoir and 55,000 acres of land surrounding the lake which offers 40,000 acres open to hunting. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains 26 wildlife management areas located around Kerr Reservoir.

For more information contact:

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1930 Mays Chapel Road, Boydton, VA 23917  
(434) 738-6143 or <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm>.

### John W. Flannagan Reservoir

The John W. Flannagan Reservoir in western Dickenson County provides 6,400 acres of land open to public hunting. The area offers deer, black bear, wild turkey, and small game hunting opportunities.

For further information contact: (276) 835-9544 or <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm>.



2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OLD DOMINION  
**ONESHOT**  
TURKEY HUNT 2016

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## State Parks

Virginia State Parks offer a wide variety of hunting opportunities as well as countless other outdoor activities for the entire family. Hunting opportunities range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts where individuals participate through a reservation or lottery system.

Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year. Managed deer hunts are

a tool in Virginia State Parks' overall deer management program. Participating hunters are asked to support our management efforts by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

For more information about hunting in a Virginia State Park or to make reservations go on the Web at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/hunting.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hunting.shtml) or call (800) 933-PARK (7275).

Overnight accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season; contact the Customer Service Center or visit the website for additional information and to reserve cabins or campsites. Detailed hunting opportunities are listed below.

### Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas Hunting Opportunities 2016–2017 Season

LOCATION	HUNTING DATES	RESERVATION PERIOD BEGINS	NUMBER OF HUNTERS/DAY	WEAPONS ALLOWED	RESERVATION FEE	HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIRED
<b>Belle Isle</b> Lancaster County 804-462-5030	11/7-8	9/23	12	M	\$15	✓
	12/14-15	9/23	12	G	\$15	✓
<b>Caledon</b> King George County 540-663-3861	11/16-17	9/9	10	M	\$15	✓
<b>Claytor Lake</b> Pulaski County 540-643-2500	1/6-7	10/6	20	M, Ss	\$15	✓
<b>Grayson Highlands</b> Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/7-8	9/8	30	M	\$15	✓
	11/21-22	9/8	30	G	\$15	✓
<b>James River</b> Buckingham County 434-933-4355	11/7-8	9/16	15	M	\$15	✓
	11/28-29	9/16	15	M, S	\$15	✓
	12/12-13	9/16	15	M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Kiptopeke</b> Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/9-10	9/28	12+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/7-8	9/28	12+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Lake Anna</b> Spotsylvania County 540-854-5503	11/10	9/14	20	M	\$15	✓
	12/7-8	9/14	20	M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Leesylvania</b> Prince William County 703-730-8205	12/8-9	10/7	15	S*	\$15	✓
<b>Natural Tunnel</b> Scott County 276-940-2674	11/14-15	9/29	15	M	\$15	✓
	11/19	9/29	15	YM	\$15	✓
	1/13-14	9/29	15	M, Ss	\$15	✓
<b>Pocahontas</b> Chesterfield County 804-796-4255	11/7-12	9/30	10+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/5-7	9/30	25+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
	12/13-15	9/30	25+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Shenandoah River</b> Warren County 540-622-6840	11/14	9/21	7	YM	\$15	✓
	12/12-13	9/21	14	M	\$15	✓
<b>Smith Mountain Lake</b> Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/7-8	9/15	30	A, M	\$15	✓
	11/14-15	9/15	30	A, M	\$15	✓
<b>York River</b> James City County 757-566-3036	11/14-15	9/22	5, 37	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/5-6	9/22	37	A, M, S	\$15	✓

#### Key:

**A** ..... Archery

**M** ..... Muzzleloading firearms

**S** ..... Shotgun

**bs** ..... buckshot only

**s** ..... slugs only

**G** ..... General Firearms

**YM** .. Youth Muzzleloading firearms

**YG**... Youth General Firearms

**\*** ..... special qualification required

**+** ..... some slots allow for hunting buddy

Call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK to participate. All hunts have special regulations.

Contact the individual park or the customer service center to obtain the hunt specific rules.



**All of Virginia State Parks' managed hunts will be filled by reservation, except the Cooperative Hunts listed below.**

### Reservation Hunts

Hunters may reserve a preferred day and at some sites, a preferred stand or zone. There is a non-refundable reservation fee of \$15 per day; there may be limits to the number of reservations allowed per call. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. To make a reservation call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) to participate.

### Special Youth Hunts

Two special Youth Hunts are planned: Monday, November 14 at Shenandoah River State Park (muzzleloader), and Saturday, November 19 at Natural Tunnel State Park (muzzleloader). To participate, youth ages 12–17 should follow the same process as for our other hunts. Note that youth ages 16–17 may hunt alone, youth ages 12–15 must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (with valid hunter safety certification).

### Special Southern Heritage Hunt

Chippokes Plantation State Park hosts a traditional hunting experience on Saturday, December 3. This is an old-fashioned hunt featuring three traditional meals, a blessing of the hounds, rides to and from the hunt stands and a butchering service. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. Fee: \$325/adult or youth 16 and older; \$200/child, ages 12–17, if stand is shared with a paying adult; \$50 per non-hunting companion.

## Cooperative Hunts

### Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt

There are three special opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in hunts. Special Muzzleloader hunts will be held at Shenandoah River State Park on Monday, Nov. 7, and at Lake Anna State Park on Wednesday, Nov. 9. A special General Firearms hunt will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Staunton River State Park. Contact Robin Clark, 434-249-6154, weeeelz@aol.com. Apply or download the application at [www.vanwtf.com](http://www.vanwtf.com). Application deadline is September 30.

### False Cape State Park Deer and Feral Hog Lottery Hunt

This hunt is run in conjunction with the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Legal harvest is deer and feral hogs using shotguns. Hunt dates are October 24–25. Lottery applications accepted beginning July 1 with a deadline of August 19. There is an application and hunt fee. Application information and lottery information is available online [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com). Additional information is available at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Back\\_Bay/visit/hunting.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Back_Bay/visit/hunting.html).

### Mason Neck State Park

This hunt is run in conjunction with the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Hunt dates are November 29 and December 6, with a bonus hunt day for qualified hunters only on December 13. All selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is an application and hunt fee. Applications will be accepted from August 1 to September 17. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Refuge office at 703-490-4979 or online at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason\\_Neck/visit/deerhunt.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason_Neck/visit/deerhunt.html).

### Claytor Lake State Park Youth Deer Hunting Workshop

This workshop and hunt for youth (ages 12–17) is held in conjunction with the VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries on Dec. 9-10. Workshop includes a Friday evening seminar on deer biology/management, hunting safety/ethics and

muzzleloader safety, and a Saturday guided hunt. Participants must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, and meet all hunter education and licensing requirements. For more information and to register contact Tracy Howard at (540) 731-3639, [tracy.howard@radfordva.gov](mailto:tracy.howard@radfordva.gov).

### York River State Park Youth Archery Deer Hunt

This hunt is held in conjunction with the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries on Oct. 29–Nov. 5 (no Sunday hunting). This Archery and Crossbow hunt allows hunters to hunt for 7 days on designated lands at the York River State Park in James City County. All successful adult applicants must bring one YOUTH Licensed Hunter (age 12–15) as their guest to hunt. Youth hunters are also welcome to apply but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest. Application information and lottery information is available online. Application deadline is September 30.

# Hunters and Trappers

If you use a boat—remember to boat smart!

## Wear Your Life Jacket

### Safety Tips

- ✓ Check the weather before leaving.
- ✓ Wear a life jacket, vest or float coat.
- ✓ Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- ✓ Properly load your boat.
- ✓ Leave the alcohol at home.
- ✓ Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- ✓ Guard against hypothermia.
- ✓ Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.



## Don't forget: Boating Safety Classes are Required

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/requirement/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/requirement/)

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# VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MAY/JUNE 2016

FOUR DOLLARS

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

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## 2016-2017 Quota Hunts

### General Information/Application

Quota hunts provide hunters unique opportunities to access public lands that otherwise may be closed to hunting. Hunters can participate in random drawings to hunt waterfowl, white-tailed deer, black bear, quail, rabbits and turkeys. To participate, hunters must apply pre-season and submit a non-refundable application fee. Applicants should be aware there is a risk and no guarantee that you will be selected for the hunt or hunt dates. Your application fee(s) will not be returned.

Your application fee(s) are used to process the application, conduct computer random hunter selections and post online hunter notifications. Application fees are \$7.50 for each hunt.

A hunter may only apply through the Department's website at [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com). Applicants will only receive their hunt materials online. Hunt materials will not be mailed.

Hunters may receive additional hunt dates as a bonus if the hunt series does not fill to capacity. To be eligible for this opportunity, select "I will accept any date" when applying for your hunt. Hunters are responsible for obtaining all applicable licenses and stamps.

### New for the 2016-2017 Quota Hunt Season

- New online application process
- #304 Adams Daniel Farm — Multi-Species Hunt
- #409 Ware Creek WMA — Spring Gobbler Hunt
- #410 Adams Daniel Farm — Spring Gobbler Hunt
- #609 Adams Daniel Farm — Dove Hunt

### Quota Hunts Having Early Application Deadlines:

- Radford Army Ammunition Plant Deer Hunts, Series #211 — Applications must be received on or before Friday, July 29, 2016
- Princess Anne Early Season Waterfowl Hunt, Series #112 — Applications must be received on or before July 29, 2016.
- New Adam's Daniel Farm — Dove Hunt, Series, #609- Application must be received on or before July 29, 2016
- Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area Dove Hunt, Series #608 — Application must be received on or before July 29, 2016

### Waterfowl

#### Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) - Series #101

Hunt waterfowl at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Hunt includes morning hunt until 11:00 a.m. each Saturday during the last segments of the general duck season. Hunter

check-in begins at 4:00 a.m. and ends promptly at 4:30 a.m. Stand-by drawings to replace "no show" vacancies will be held at 4:15 a.m.; individuals with a current "unsuccessful draw notification letter" will be given priority. Individuals age 16 years and older must have a valid picture ID for security. Hunting parties are provided a blind, boat, and decoys for the hunt. Nine hunters are randomly selected for each day of hunting, and selected hunters are allowed two guests. Limited access to the area requires hunters be transported by Department personnel to their blind location. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt dates:** November: 19, 26. December: 17, 24, 31. January: 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts - Series #102

Hunt waterfowl on managed impoundments at Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunt includes half day hunting each Saturday during the last two segments of the general duck season. Hunter check-in starts at 4:45 a.m. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each day of hunting and selected hunters are allowed three guests. Stand-by drawings will be held to replace "no show" vacancies; individuals with a current "unsuccessful draw notification letter" will be given priority. Dogs are allowed and recommended. Note: Hunters are to provide their own decoys.

- **Hunt dates:** November: 19, 26. December: 17, 24, 31. January: 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017.
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts - Series #103

Hunt waterfowl on the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Hunt days are during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. Three hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt dates. Hunting is from floating blinds at designated blind stakes only.

- **Hunt dates:** November 16, 18–19; 23, 25–26; December 21, 23–24; 28, 30–31; January 4, 6–7; 11, 13–14, 18, 20–21; 25, 27–28, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Tundra Swan Permit - Series #104

Tundra Swan hunting is by permit only. Each permit holder will be authorized to take one tundra swan. The hunt area is limited to east of U.S. Route I-95 and south of Chopawamsic Creek on the Prince William / Stafford County line.

- **Tundra Swan season:** November 16–January 31
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts - Series #105

Hunt waterfowl on Lake Orange, Orange County. Hunt days are Wednesdays and Saturdays during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunting will only be allowed on a designated section(s) of Lake Orange. Only floating blinds, anchored within 50 feet of shore, or portable blinds along the designated shoreline will be allowed.

- **Hunt dates:** November 16, 19, 23, 29, 2016. December 21, 24, 28, 31, 2016. January 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts - Series #106

Hunt waterfowl on designated impoundments at Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Hunt days are every Wednesday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunts begin one half hour before sunrise and end at 3:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunters must provide decoys. Dogs are allowed. There are no boat landings or direct vehicular access provided. Small boats or canoes may be used but must be transported on foot.

- **Hunt dates:** November 16, 23, 2016; December 21, 28, 2016; January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts - Series #107

Hunt waterfowl for half days on the waters of Back Bay and the North Landing River in the City of Virginia Beach during the last two segments of the general duck season. There are 55 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Drawing order will be randomly selected for each hunt day prior to the hunting season. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind in the order assigned by the preseason drawing. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting after the quota drawing. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/ float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time! See Princess Anne WMA page for maps.

- **Hunt days:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and opening day
- **Hunt dates:** Nov: 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 2016,



Dec: 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31, 2016, Jan: 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 2017

- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

### **Plum Tree National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunts - Series #108**

Hunt waterfowl for full days on the Cow Island Unit of Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Poquoson. Hunting is available from licensed blind locations. Hunters select preferred dates for two-day hunt packages during the last two segments of the regular duck season. Each hunter selected is allowed 2 guests. Hunters must provide their own boat access to the refuge, decoys, and hunting gear. Use of retrieval dogs is permitted and encouraged. The nearest boat launch access to the hunting area is from the Rens Road Public Boat Ramp in Poquoson or from Owens Marina (launching fee collected on-site).

- **Hunt days:** Opening Day, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Holidays
- **Hunt dates:** Nov. 16 & 19, Nov. 23 & 26, Dec. 21 & 24, Dec. 28 & 31, Jan. 4 & 7, Jan. 11 & 14, Jan. 18 & 21, Jan. 25 & 28
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 829-9020.

### **Princess Anne Early Season Waterfowl Hunt #112**

Hunt September Canada geese/teal (during the September teal season) and waterfowl (during the October waterfowl season) on the Princess Anne WMA and North Landing River in Virginia Beach. Resident goose season prior to the teal season is open on a first-come, first-served basis. Quota hunting begins with the opening of teal season. There are 55 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Drawing order will be randomly selected for each hunt day prior to the hunting season. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind in the order assigned by the preseason drawing. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting after the quota drawing. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time!

- **Hunt days:** Three days weekly. Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Opening Day.
- **Hunt dates:** September 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, and October 8, 10, 2016
- **Applications due:** July 26, 2016

### **Game Farm Marsh (WMA) #113**

Waterfowl hunting on the following days: Oc-

tober 7, October 8, November 16 and December 17 in Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County is by Quota Hunt drawing. Seven parties will be randomly selected to hunt the area on these days. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests and must check-in with Department staff at Eagles Landing by 5:00 A.M. Stand-by drawings to replace "no show" vacancies will be held at 5:15 a.m.; individuals with a current "unsuccessful draw notification letter" will be given priority. Hunt locations will be on a "first come, first served" basis and hunting parties are asked to maintain a respectful distance from each other. A limited number of VDGIF-licensed stationary blinds are available on the area. Hunters may use these blinds if desired, but are not required to hunt from the blinds. Hunters may also hunt from floating blinds or while standing on Game Farm Marsh property. Hunting out of floating blinds is not permitted within 500 yards of any privately licensed stationary blinds. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 pm. Successfully drawn hunters must have their award notification with them during the hunt period. No other equipment is provided. You will need a boat to access the WMA. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Quota Hunt days:** October 7, October 8, November 16, December 17, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 26, 2016

For the remainder of the October, November, and December/January segments of the duck season, Game Farm Marsh WMA is open for hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with no restrictions on the number of hunters. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m.

### **Deer**

#### **Hog Island WMA Archery Deer Hunts - Series #201**

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunters must be present for a 4:45 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on first hunt day of assigned period. Stand-by drawings will be held to fill "no-show" vacancies at 5:00 a.m. on first day of each hunt period. Individuals age 16 years and older must have a valid picture ID for security. Pre-application scouting is highly recommended.

- **Hunt dates archery:** October 1–5 (no Sunday hunting), 6–8, 10–12, 13–15, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

#### **Hog Island WMA Deer Shotgun and Muzzleloader Hunts - Series #202**

Shotgun, archery, or muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in

Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunters must be present for a 4:45 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on first hunt day of assigned period. Stand-by drawings will be held to fill "no-show" vacancies at 5:00 a.m. on first day of each hunt period. Individuals age 16 years and older must have a valid picture ID for security. Pre-application scouting is highly recommended.

- **Hunt dates:** October 17–19, 20–22, 24–26, 27–29, 2016.
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

### **The Nature Conservancy, North Landing River - Series #203**

Hunt deer on a 2300-acre tract on the North Landing River in Virginia Beach. Please note: this tract is accessible only by boat and is composed of very dense wetland habitat. Hunters must provide their own boat for access. There is no high-ground access for foot travel, and hunters are highly recommended to provide their own map/GPS equipment to navigate interior travel. Fifty hunters will be selected to hunt this property for the 2016-2017 deer seasons (general firearms, late archery, and late muzzleloader). Each successful hunter will be allowed one guest. Successful applicants must return a signed waiver prior to the season. Failure to submit a waiver will result in revocation of hunting privileges.

- **Hunt dates:** October 1, 2016–January 7, 2017 (No Sunday hunting)
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016
- **Map (PDF)**

### **Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts - Series #204**

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA in Northampton County during the dates listed below. The 365-acre GATR Tract is the mainland portion of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. This tract is accessible by vehicle. A total of two hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

- **Hunt dates:** November 5–9 (no Sunday hunting), November 10–12, November 14–16, and November 17–18, 2016.
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

### **Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park Deer Hunt - Series #205**

Shotgun hunting for white-tailed deer on Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park in the City of Virginia Beach for the dates listed below. Unlimited incidental harvest of feral hogs permitted during the hunt. A total of 116 hunters are selected per hunt day. A stand-by drawing will be available for "no shows" each morning of the hunt. In addi-

tion, there will be a standby drawing each day at 1:00 p.m. A hunter education certification (card) is required. Hunt Zone #1 is a boat-in only area; hunters must provide their own boat. Please note: for successful applicants there will be a one-time hunt permit fee per person of \$10.00 to the Back Bay NWR / False Cape SP payable on the day of the hunt. For complete hunt information and zone maps go to the following web site before registering for this hunt: USFWS or DCR.

- **Hunt dates:** October 24–25, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

### Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Series #206

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Caroline, Essex, King George, Richmond and Westmoreland counties for the dates listed below. Hunt tracts include: Hutchinson, Thomas (Essex County); Mothershead (Westmoreland County); Toby's Point (King George County); Tayloe, Laurel Grove, Wright, Franklin (Richmond County); Port Royal (Caroline County). Applicants may apply for both seasons. Applicants must indicate their preference to bring a guest on the application. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25/season per hunter. Applications for unfilled hunt slots will be accepted on selected days and times (on a walk-in basis and limited phone-in opportunities). Please check USFWS for dates and times.

- **Hunt dates archery:**
  - » **Season I:** October 1–14 (except Sundays)
  - » **Season II:** October 15–28 (except Sundays)
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 333-1470 Ext. 118.

### Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Series #207

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Essex, King George, and Richmond counties for the dates listed below. Hunt tracts include: Hutchinson (Essex County); Toby's Point (King George County); Laurel Grove, Tayloe, Wilna, Wright (Richmond County). Applicants may apply for multiple hunt dates. Applicants must indicate their preference to bring a guest on the application. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day per hunter. Applications for unfilled hunt slots will be accepted on selected days and times (on a walk-in basis and limited phone-in opportunities).

- **Hunt dates:** November 5, 11, and 12, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 333-1470 Ext. 118.

### Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Series #208

Firearms (shotgun/muzzleloader) hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Essex, King George, and Richmond counties for the dates listed below. Hunt tracts include: Hutchinson (Essex County); Toby's Point (King George County); Laurel Grove, Tayloe, Wilna, Wright (Richmond County). Applicants may apply for multiple hunt dates. Applicants must indicate their preference to bring a guest on the application. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day per hunter. Applications for unfilled hunt slots will be accepted on selected days and times (on a walk-in basis and limited phone-in opportunities).

- **Hunt dates:** November 19, 21, 26, 28, December 2 and 5, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 333-1470 Ext. 118.

### Presquile National Wildlife Refuge - Series #209

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge in Chesterfield County for the dates listed below. Presquile is an island in the James River near Hopewell, Virginia. Hunters must provide their own boat access to the island and hunting gear. The nearest boat launch access to the refuge is from Deep Bottom public boat ramp (Henrico County) or Hopewell Marina (launch fee collected on site), City of Hopewell. Please note: For successful applicants (and guest) there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day per hunter, payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

- **Hunt dates firearms:** November 21, 26, and December 3, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 829-9020.

### James River National Wildlife Refuge - Series #210

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the James River National Wildlife Refuge in Prince George County for the dates listed below. Please note: For successful applicants (and guest,) there will be an additional hunt fee of \$50/season per hunter.

- **Hunt dates archery:** October 1–22, 2016 (excluding Sundays)
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 829-9020.

### Radford Army Ammunition Plant Deer Hunts - Series #211

Hunt quality white-tailed deer at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) in Pulaski

County. Bow hunting and shotgun hunting are allowed. Hunters and the day they will hunt are selected by computer drawing. Hunters must apply for and participate in an antlerless hunt before they are eligible to apply for and participate in a buck hunt. Applications are limited to one per hunter per year. Hunters who are drawn must submit a background check as required by the Department of Defense. Information regarding background checks will be supplied to successful applicants.

- **Hunt dates archery:** October 15, 22, 2016
- **Hunt dates shotgun:** November 9, 16, 19, 26, 30 and December 3, 2016
- **Applications due:** On or before July 29, 2016
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### Lone Star Lakes Park - Series #212 (Hunters Choice)

Hunting for white-tailed deer within Suffolk's Lone Star Lakes Park during the dates listed below. A total of 8 hunters are selected for the hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunters must be present for a 5:00 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on the first hunt day of assigned period. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25.00 payable to the City of Suffolk due on the day of the hunt period. Please make all checks payable to Ronald H. Williams, Treasurer. Stand-by drawings for no-show slots will be held prior to the pre-hunt briefing on a walk-in basis only. Hunters may use shotgun, muzzleloader, or archery equipment.

- **Hunt dates:** October 14–15, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

### Lone Star Lakes Park - Series #213 (Hunters Choice)

Hunting for white-tailed deer within Suffolk's Lone Star Lakes Park during the dates listed below. A total of 8 hunters will be selected for hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunters must be present for a 5:00 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on the first day of assigned period. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25.00 payable to the City of Suffolk due on the first day of a hunt period. Please make checks payable to Ronald H. Williams, Treasurer. Stand-by drawings for no-shows slots will be held prior to the pre-hunt briefing on a walk-in basis only. Hunters may use shotgun, muzzleloader or archery equipment.

- **Hunt dates:** November 18–19, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

### Lone Star Lakes Park - Series #214 (Muzzleloader/Archery)

Hunting for white-tailed deer within Suffolk's Lone Star Lakes Park during the dates listed below. A total of 8 hunters will be selected for hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunters must be present for a 5:00 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on the first



day of assigned period. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25.00 payable to the City of Suffolk due on the first day of a hunt period. Please make checks payable to Ronald H. Williams, Treasurer. Stand-by drawings for no-shows slots will be held prior to the pre-hunt briefing on a walk-in basis only. Hunter may only use muzzleloader or archery equipment.

- **Hunt dates:** December 16–17, 2016
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

#### **Lone Star Lakes Park - Series #215 (Urban Archery Hunting)**

Archery hunting for ANTLERLESS white-tailed deer only within Suffolk's Lone Star Lakes Park during the dates listed below. This hunt is part of the new Urban Archery season which has been incorporated within the City of Suffolk. A total of 8 hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunters must be present for a 5:00 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on the first hunt day of assigned period. Please note: For successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25.00 payable to the City of Suffolk due on the day of the hunt. Please make all checks payable to Ronald H. Williams, Treasurer. Stand-by drawings for no-show slots will be held prior to the pre-hunt briefing on a walk-in basis only.

- **Hunt dates:** February 10–11, 2017 (Archery only)
- **Applications due:** January 4, 2017

#### **Doe Creek WMA Archery or Muzzleloader Deer Hunts - Series #217**

Muzzleloader or archery hunting for white-tailed deer and turkey when in season on designated lands of the Doe Creek WMA and Mink Farm Tract in Accomack County during the dates listed below. These tracts are accessible by vehicle. A total of five hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. An official permit slip to access Mink Farm Tract will be included in the packet, and each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

- **Hunt dates:** November 5–9 (no Sunday hunting), November 10–12, November 14–16, and November 17–18, 2016
- Following muzzleloader quota hunts, the Mink Farm tract is open without quota restriction to archery deer hunting; the Doe Creek tract is closed through the duck season.
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

#### **Youth Hunter - York River Archery/Crossbow Hunt and Workshop - Series #218**

This Archery and Crossbow HUNT allows hunters to hunt for 7 days on designated lands at the York River State Park in James City County. All successful adult applicants must bring one YOUTH Licensed Hunter (age 12–15) as their guest to hunt. YOUTH HUNTERS ARE

ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt dates:** October 29–November 5, 2016 (no Sunday hunting)
- **Hunt time:** Gates open 1 hour before sunrise till 1 hour after sunset
- **Selected:** 10 Selected with 1 Guest Allowed, 1 must be YOUTH Licensed
- **All Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### **Apprentice Hunter -New Kent Forestry Center Archery Hunt - Series #219**

This Archery Hunt allows hunters to hunt for 7 days on designated lands at the New Kent Forestry Center in New Kent County.

All successful applicants must bring one APPRENTICE Licensed Hunter as their guest to hunt. APPRENTICE HUNTERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY but must bring a Licensed Hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt dates:** October 8–15, 2016 (no Sunday hunting).
- **Hunt time:** Gates open 1 hour before sunrise till 1 hour after sunset
- **Selected:** 25 Selected with 1 Guest Allowed, 1 must be Apprentice Licensed
- **All Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### **Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Managed Deer - Series #701**

Public deer hunting by shotgun and bow on Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, in designated areas for the dates listed below. Either-sex deer may be taken all season. Hunting conditions could be considered "rigorous." First time hunters are encouraged to visit the Refuge and attend scouting day to familiarize themselves with hunting conditions. During the hunt, some areas may close early or be closed completely due to weather, road conditions, or emergency operations. There is a refuge fee of \$15.00. For more information and details on how to stay updated during the hunt, please visit the Great Dismal Swamp NWR website.

- **Scouting date:** September 24 2016
- **Hunt dates:** October 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, and November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 2016 (permittees hunt eleven days)
- To scout and hunt all dates, applications must be submitted by August 19, 2016. However, if you miss this early registration, you may continue to apply up to and through November 19, 2016. Know that late applications may miss some of the available hunt dates.

#### **Multi-Species WMA Hunts Featherfin WMA - Series #302**

Hunt any game species in season on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward Counties. A total of 14 hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Applicants who do not receive their preferred hunt dates will be assigned random hunt dates.

Hunter quota restrictions do not apply on open hunting season dates other than those listed below. A special 4-pt. antler rule is posted and applies during all open deer seasons.

- **Hunt dates:** November 5–9 (no Sunday Hunting), 10–12, 14–16, 17–19, 21–23, 24–26, 28–30, December 1–3, 5–7, 8–10, 12–14, 15–17, 19–21, 22–24, 26–28, 29–31 and Jan. 2–4, 5–7, 2017.
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

#### **Merrimac Farm WMA - Series #303**

Hunt any game species in season (except quail) on Merrimac Farm WMA in Prince William County. One hunter will be selected for each hunt day. Each successful applicant will be allowed up to two guests. When hunting deer with a muzzleloader or shotgun, hunters must use an elevated stand. Two handicapped accessible blinds are located on the WMA and are available for disabled hunter use. Dogs may be used to find and retrieve game, except that dogs may not be used to pursue deer. September 24 is the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day if they are accompanying a youth or apprentice deer hunter. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter on September 24. If a youth or apprentice hunter is selected for September 24, they can hunt as long as they are accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older.

- **Hunt dates:** September 24, October 1, 3, 7, 10, 15, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29, November 2, 5, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, December 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 31, January 2, 4, 7, 2017
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

#### **NEW Adams Daniel Farm #304**

Hunt any game species in season on the Adams Daniel Farm in Pittsylvania County. This property is owned by the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia. One hunter will be selected for each set of hunt days. Each selected applicant will be allowed to bring up to one licensed guest. Dogs may be used to find and retrieve game, except that dogs may not be used to pursue deer, turkey or bear. Selected applicants will be issued a hunting pass which must be carried and a windshield pass which must be displayed. Youth/ Apprentice Hunting weekends include September 24–25 for Deer, October 8–9 for Bear, and October 17–18 for Turkey. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on these days if they are accompanying a youth or apprentice hunter. The selected applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter during Youth/App hunting days. If a youth or apprentice hunter is selected, they can hunt as long as they are accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older. There is a limit of one deer or one turkey per hunter per hunting segment.

# PUBLIC HUNTING

## QUOTA HUNTS

- **Hunt dates:** September 24–25, October 1–2, 7–9, 14–16, 21–23, 28–30, November 4–6, 11–13, 18–20, 25–27, December 2–4, 9–11, 16–18, 23–25, 30–Jan. 1, January 6–7, 2017
- **Applications due:** August 19, 2016

### 2016 Spring Turkey Hunts

#### Featherfin WMA - Series #401

Hunt spring gobblers on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward counties. A total of 6 hunters are selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Successful applicants will be entitled to bring one guest. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect on the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day (April 1, 2017) and from May 1–13, 2017.

- **Hunt dates:** April 8–12 (no Sunday hunting), 13–15, 17–19, 20–22, 24–26, 27–29, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Amelia WMA - Series #402

Hunt spring gobblers on the Amelia WMA in Amelia County. A total of 3 hunters are selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Successful applicants will be entitled to bring one guest. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect on the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day (April 1, 2017) and from May 1–13, 2017.

- **Hunt dates:** April 8–12 (no Sunday hunting), 13–15, 17–19, 20–22, 24–26, 27–29, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts - Series #403

Hunt spring gobblers on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA, Northampton County. The GATR Tract is the mainland part of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. A total of one hunter is selected for each hunt segment. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. April 1, 2017 is a youth/apprentice turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH/APPRENTICE HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter on April 1, 2017. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 1–13, 2017.

- **Hunt dates:** April 1, 2017 (Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day only), April 8–12 (no Sunday hunting), 13–15, 17–19, 20–22, 24–26, 27–29, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Merrimac Farm WMA - Series #404

Hunt spring gobblers on Merrimac Farm WMA in Prince William County. One hunter will be selected for each hunt segment listed below. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Each hunter may harvest no more than one turkey for the entire spring season on Merrimac Farm WMA. April 1, 2017 is the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day. Adults are not per-

mitted to carry firearms on this day. The successful applicant must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter on April 1. If a youth or apprentice hunter is selected for Segment 1, which includes the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day, they can hunt as long as they are accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older.

- **Hunt dates:**
  - » Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays only.
  - » **Segment 1:** April 1 (Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day), 8, 10, 14
  - » **Segment 2:** April 15, 17, 21
  - » **Segment 3:** April 22, 24, 28
  - » **Segment 4:** April 29, May 1, 5
  - » **Segment 5:** May 6, 8, 12, 13
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Doe Creek WMA Spring Turkey Hunts - Series #405

Hunt spring gobblers on the Doe Creek WMA and Mink Farm Tract in Accomack County. These lands are on the bayside of the Eastern Shore. A total of three hunters are selected for each hunt segment. A permit to access Mink Farm Tract will be included in the packet and must be signed and carried. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. Guests must hunt with the applicant. April 1, 2017 is the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day, applicants must be licensed adults 18 years of age or older. The successful applicant must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter on April 1, 2017. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 1–13, 2017.

- **Hunt dates:** April 1, 2017 (Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day only), April 8–12 (no Sunday hunting), and 13–15, 17–19, 20–22, 24–26, 27–29, 2017.
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Apprentice Hunter- New Kent Forestry Center Spring Turkey - Series #408

This is a 1 day opportunity to take and mentor an APPRENTICE Hunter, on a Spring Turkey Hunt on designated lands at New Kent Forestry Center.

All successful applicants must bring one APPRENTICE Licensed Hunter as their guest to hunt. APPRENTICE HUNTERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY but must bring a Licensed Hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt date:** April 22, 2017
- **Hunt time:** 1 Hour before sunrise to noon
- **Selected:** 4 Selected on date, 1 guest allowed, 1 must be Apprentice Licensed
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### NEW Ware Creek WMA - Spring Turkey - Series # 409

Hunt spring gobblers on the Ware Creek WMA in New Kent County. Total of (5) hunters are

selected for each hunt segment. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. Guests must hunt with the applicant. Successfully drawn hunters must have their award notification with them during the hunt period. April 1, 2017 is the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day. Only Youth and/or Apprentice Licensed Hunters may carry a weapon and one accompanying person must be a licensed adult 18 years of age or older. To apply for the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day, applicants must be licensed adults 18 years of age or older. The successful applicant must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter on April 1, 2017.

- **Hunt dates:** April 1, 2017 (Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day only), April, 8–12, (no Sunday hunting), 13–15, 17–19, 20–22, 24–26, 27–29, May 1–3, 4–6, 8–10, 11–13, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### NEW Adams Daniel Farm - Spring Turkey - Series #410

Hunt spring gobblers on the Adams Daniel Farm in Pittsylvania County. One hunter will be selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Selected applicants will be allowed to bring one licensed guest. Each hunter may not harvest more than one turkey on Adams Daniel Farm during the spring season. April 1–2, 2017 is the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Weekend. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on Youth/App Week and must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter. If a youth or apprentice hunter 18 years old or older applies and is selected for the Youth/Apprentice Weekend, they can hunt as long as they are accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older. Selected applicants will be issued a hunting pass which must be carried and a windshield pass which must be displayed.

- **Hunt dates:** April 1–2 Youth and Apprentice Weekend, April 8–9, 14–16, 21–23, 28–30, May 5–7, 12–13, 2017
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

### Bear

#### Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge - Series #501

Shotgun hunting (slugs only) for black bears on Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, in designated areas of the Virginia portion of the refuge for the dates listed below. A total of 100 hunters will be selected to hunt. A maximum harvest limit of 20 bears is imposed on this hunt, and therefore the number of hunt days could be reduced as this quota is approached (however, this has never occurred). Hunting conditions could be considered "rigorous." First time hunters are encouraged to visit the Refuge and attend scouting day to familiarize themselves with hunting conditions. There is a refuge fee of \$25 per hunter. For more information about the bear hunt program, visit the Great Dismal Swamp NWR website.



- **Scouting date:** November 10, 2016 (also a deer hunt permit can be purchased for additional scouting access to hunt areas prior to the scouting day; see deer hunt # 701)
- **Hunt dates:** November 11, 12, 18, 19, 2016 (permittees hunt four days)
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016
- If you miss this early application due date, you may continue to apply up to and through November 19, 2016. Know that late applications may miss some of the available hunt dates.

### Small Game

#### New Kent Forestry Center Rabbit Hunts - Series #602

Hunt rabbits on designated lands at the New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Dogs are encouraged. Successful applicants may bring 4 licensed hunters as their guest to hunt.

- **Hunt dates:** February 18, 2017
- **Hunt time:** Sunrise-Sunset
- **Selected:** 1 Selected — 4 Guest Allowed
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### New Kent Forestry Quail Hunt - Series #603

Hunt quail on designated lands at the Department of Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Dogs are encouraged. Successful applicants may bring 2 licensed hunters as their guest to hunt.

- **Hunt dates:** January 14, 2017
- **Hunt time:** Sunrise-Sunset
- **Selected:** 1 Selected per hunt date — 2 Guest Allowed
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Apprentice Hunter - New Kent Forestry Center Rabbit Hunts #606

Take this opportunity to hunt designated and managed lands for rabbits and mentor an APPRENTICE Licensed Hunter at New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Dogs are encouraged.

Successful applicants must bring at least one Apprentice Hunting License Hunter as their guest. APPRENTICE HUNTERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt dates:** January 4, 2017
- **Hunt time:** Sunrise to sunset
- **Selected:** 1 Selected per hunt date — 4 Guests Allowed, 1 must be an Apprentice Licensed Hunter
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Apprentice Hunter - New Kent Forestry Center Quail Hunt #607

Take this opportunity to hunt designated and managed lands for quail and mentor an APPRENTICE Licensed Hunter at New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge, New Kent County. Dogs are encouraged.

Successful applicants must bring at least

one Apprentice Hunting License Hunter as their guest. APPRENTICE HUNTERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt date:** January 7, 2017
- **Hunt time:** Sunrise to sunset
- **Selected:** 1 Selected, 2 Guests Allowed, 1 must be an Apprentice Licensed Hunter
- **Applications due:** September 30, 2016

#### Chickahominy (WMA) Dove Hunt #608

Hunt managed dove fields on the Chickahominy wildlife management area in Charles City County. This opportunity provides each selected hunter and two guests a one day hunt on managed dove fields in the early segment of dove season. On each of the three hunt days 14 hunters will be selected. Successfully drawn applicants must have their award notification with them to hunt. Dogs are allowed.

- **Hunt date:** September 3, September 5, and September 7, 2016.
- **Hunt time:** Meet at dove field parking area at 11:30; hunting starts at 1:00 pm and ends at 5:00pm
- **Applications due:** July 29, 2016

#### NEW Adams Daniel Farm - Dove Hunt #609

Hunt doves on managed fields on the Adams Daniel Farm in Pittsylvania County. This opportunity provides each selected hunter and one licensed guest a one day hunt for doves in the early dove season segment. Eight hunters will be selected for each day. Selected applicants will be issued a hunting pass which must be carried and a windshield pass which must be displayed. Dogs are allowed. Hunting hours — 12 noon until sunset. HIP number required, call 1-888-788-9772.

- **Hunt dates:** September 3, September 5, and September 7, 2016
- **Applications due:** July 29, 2016

**The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.**

## 2016-2017 Managed Hunts & Workshops

Managed Hunts are generally by on-site random drawings or by application through the local Resource Office. Hunting opportunities are provided on various Department Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges.

### Managed Waterfowl Hunts

#### Hog Island WMA September Waterfowl Hunts

Hunt resident Canada geese and teal when in season on the first, third and fourth Wednes-

days in September until 11:00 a.m. on Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of 10 parties of no more than 3 hunters per party will be selected each morning of the hunt. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Hunters should call in advance to determine field hunting conditions (crops in/out or of the fields). Phone number: (757) 357-5224. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt days:** Wednesdays
- **Hunt dates:** September 7, 21, 28, 2016
- Drawing begins promptly at 4:15 a.m.

#### Hog Island - Youth October Waterfowl Day

This is an opportunity for 20 youths to hunt waterfowl on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. The Department in cooperation with The Wildlife Foundation of Virginia will host a youth waterfowl hunting day in October. Only youth may hunt and carry a firearm. The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult. All youth hunters must register for this event and registration will be first come first serve. To register, contact the Hog Island WMA between September 15, 2016–October 1, 2016, at (757) 357-5224. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt date:** October 22, 2016
- Hunters to arrive by 4:30 a.m.

#### Hog Island-Youth February Waterfowl Day

This is an opportunity for nine youths to hunt waterfowl on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County on the January Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day. Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult. All youth hunters must register for this event and registration will be first come first serve. To register, contact the Hog Island WMA between January 3–15, 2017, at (757) 357-5224. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt date:** February 4, 2017
- Hunters to arrive by 4:30 a.m.

#### Princess Anne WMA Impoundments September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

This is an opportunity to hunt September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl during the October waterfowl season on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's impoundment system will be open on a first come, first served basis for half-day (until 1:00 p.m.) hunting on Saturdays. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking areas off Munden Road. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts.

- **Hunt days:** Saturdays
- **Hunt dates:**
  - » September Geese: September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2016
  - » September Teal: September 17, 24, 2016
  - » October Waterfowl: October 8, 2016
- Hunters may not occupy area before 5:00 a.m.

#### Princess Anne WMA Light Goose Conservation Order Season (Snow and Ross' Geese)

This is an opportunity for float blind hunters to hunt snow geese (light geese) at the Princess Anne WMA after the general duck season. The Princess Anne blind stakes and impoundments at Back Bay are available for snow goose hunting after the general duck season. These hunts will be on a first come, first served basis. Daily hunting times will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The impoundments are open for late snow goose hunting on Wednesdays, Saturdays and state holidays. The blind stakes may be hunted Mondays–Saturdays.

- **Conservation Order Season:** February 1–April 5, 2017 (No Sunday hunting).

#### Princess Anne WMA - Youth Waterfowl Days

Float blind stakes and the impoundments will be open on a first come, first served basis to youth 15 years or younger when accompanied by an adult on youth waterfowl hunting days. Only youth may hunt and carry a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts.

- **Hunt dates:** October 22, 2016 and February 4, 2017
- Hunters may not occupy area before 5:00 a.m.

#### Managed Deer Hunts

##### Princess Anne WMA October Archery

Archery hunt for deer on the Whitehurst and Beasley tracts of Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Permits will no longer be required. Hunters must stay within the wooded areas, or along wooded edges while hunting. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking areas off Munden Road, and scouting is allowed on Sundays.

- **Hunting days:** Mondays–Saturdays
- **Hunt dates:** October 1–31, 2016
- Hunters may not occupy area before 5:00 a.m.

#### C. F. Phelps WMA Deer Hunt for the Disabled

This is an opportunity for disabled hunters, disabled defined as mobility impaired due to a permanent physical condition, to hunt white-tailed deer on the Hogue Tract of C.F. Phelps WMA in Fauquier County. Two disabled hunters will be chosen by random drawing to hunt

each day during the archery, muzzleloader, and general firearms deer seasons. Each successful applicant may be accompanied by one companion, who may hunt if properly licensed. Applications for this special hunt must include the name, address, telephone number(s) (home, cell, and/or business), e-mail address, hunting license number, vehicle description, and vehicle license number of the disabled hunter and companion hunter, and 2 preferred hunting dates for each deer season. Mail the application to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN: Hogue Tract Hunt, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Applications must be received by the close of business on September 9, 2016.

- **Hunting days:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and State Holidays
- **Hunt dates archery:** October 1 through November 2, 2016
- **Hunt dates muzzleloader:** November 5 through November 16, 2016
- **Hunt dates general firearms:** November 19 through December 3, 2016

#### Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve Deer Hunt

This is an opportunity to hunt deer on Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Loudoun County. For more information go to [www.loudoun.gov/webtrac](http://www.loudoun.gov/webtrac) or call 703-777-0343

#### Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunt

Selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is an application and hunt fee. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Refuge office at 703-490-4979 or online at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Occoquan\\_Bay/Visit/DeerHunt.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Occoquan_Bay/Visit/DeerHunt.html).

- **Hunt dates:** December 8 and 15, 2016

#### Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and State Park Deer Hunt

Selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is an application and hunt fee. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Refuge office at 703-490-4979 or online at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason\\_Neck/Visit/deerhunt.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason_Neck/Visit/deerhunt.html).

- **Hunt dates:** November 29 and December 6, 2016

#### Deer Hunting Workshops

##### Occoquan Bay National Wildlife

On Saturday, December 3, 2016, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a Novice Youth Deer Hunt on the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Prince William County. This is an opportunity for beginning hunters to learn more about deer and deer hunting and participate in an afternoon hunt.

For registration information and workshop details please see the hunting workshop section of our website at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting).

#### Loudoun County Parks

Loudoun County, VA Parks and Recreation is offering a Virginia Department Game & Inland Fisheries sponsored novice deer hunter workshop and hunt at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. The Novice Deer Hunter Workshop will take place October 22–23 and the hunt days will be December 2, 9, and 16 at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, 21085 The Woods Road, Leesburg, VA 20176.

This workshop is to educate novice hunters beyond the state required hunter education course and to prepare them for real field experiences. This workshop for novice hunters 18 and over will consist of two days of classroom sessions that cover hunter safety, deer habitat, and hunting technique. Classroom sessions will be followed by three days of either shotgun or archery hunting with an assigned mentor.

Interested hunters must register for the lottery through Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS). Individuals must first establish a household account. New and existing household account information is available online at [www.loudoun.gov/webtrac](http://www.loudoun.gov/webtrac). After establishing a household account number and password, hunters can register for the lottery.

The lottery registration fee is \$10 per chance for Loudoun county residents and \$15 per chance for non-residents.

Online registration begins, August 1 and runs through 12:00 a.m. (midnight), August 31, 2016. In-person lottery registration will also be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the PRCS Administrative Office, 20145 Ashbrook Place, Ashburn, VA 20147. For additional registration assistance, call 703-777-0343.

**The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.**

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. 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, 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 as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.



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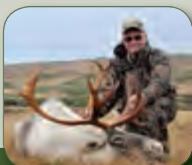
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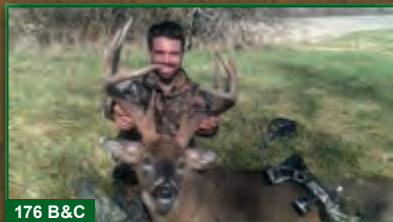


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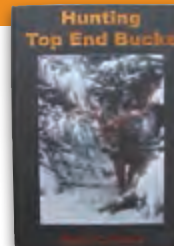
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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SUNSET/SUNRISE TIMETABLE

### Sunrise and Sunset Timetable – Richmond, Virginia

Times below are Eastern Standard Time and reflect Daylight Saving Time when in use.

	JULY 2016		AUG. 2016		SEPT. 2016		OCT. 2016		NOV. 2016		DEC. 2016		JAN. 2017		FEB. 2017		MAR. 2017		APR. 2017		MAY 2017		JUNE 2017	
DAY	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)
1	5:53	8:35	6:14	8:17	6:41	7:38	7:06	6:52	7:35	6:11	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:03	7:13	5:34	6:41	6:04	6:55	7:33	6:14	8:00	5:50	8:26
2	5:53	8:35	6:15	8:16	6:41	7:37	7:07	6:51	7:36	6:10	7:07	4:52	7:25	5:04	7:12	5:35	6:39	6:05	6:53	7:34	6:13	8:01	5:50	8:26
3	5:54	8:35	6:16	8:15	6:42	7:35	7:08	6:49	7:37	6:09	7:08	4:51	7:25	5:04	7:11	5:36	6:38	6:06	6:52	7:35	6:12	8:02	5:50	8:27
4	5:54	8:34	6:17	8:14	6:43	7:34	7:08	6:48	7:38	6:08	7:09	4:51	7:25	5:05	7:10	5:38	6:37	6:07	6:50	7:36	6:11	8:03	5:49	8:27
5	5:55	8:34	6:18	8:13	6:44	7:32	7:09	6:46	7:40	6:07	7:10	4:51	7:25	5:06	7:10	5:39	6:35	6:08	6:49	7:36	6:10	8:04	5:49	8:28
6	5:55	8:34	6:19	8:12	6:45	7:31	7:10	6:45	6:41	5:06	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:07	7:09	5:40	6:34	6:09	6:48	7:37	6:09	8:05	5:49	8:29
7	5:56	8:34	6:19	8:11	6:46	7:29	7:11	6:43	6:42	5:05	7:12	4:51	7:25	5:08	7:08	5:41	6:32	6:10	6:46	7:38	6:08	8:05	5:49	8:29
8	5:56	8:33	6:20	8:10	6:46	7:28	7:12	6:42	6:43	5:04	7:13	4:51	7:25	5:09	7:07	5:42	6:31	6:11	6:45	7:39	6:07	8:06	5:48	8:30
9	5:57	8:33	6:21	8:09	6:47	7:26	7:13	6:40	6:44	5:03	7:12	4:52	7:25	5:10	7:06	5:43	6:29	6:12	6:43	7:40	6:06	8:07	5:48	8:30
10	5:58	8:33	6:22	8:08	6:48	7:25	7:14	6:39	6:45	5:02	7:14	4:52	7:25	5:11	7:04	5:44	6:28	6:13	6:42	7:41	6:05	8:08	5:48	8:31
11	5:58	8:32	6:23	8:06	6:49	7:23	7:15	6:38	6:46	5:02	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:12	7:03	5:45	6:26	6:14	6:40	7:42	6:04	8:09	5:48	8:31
12	5:59	8:32	6:24	8:05	6:50	7:21	7:16	6:36	6:47	5:01	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:13	7:02	5:46	7:25	7:15	6:39	7:43	6:03	8:10	5:48	8:32
13	6:00	8:31	6:24	8:04	6:51	7:20	7:17	6:35	6:48	5:00	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:14	7:01	5:47	7:24	7:15	6:37	7:44	6:02	8:11	5:48	8:32
14	6:00	8:31	6:25	8:03	6:51	7:18	7:18	6:33	6:49	4:59	7:17	4:53	7:24	5:15	7:00	5:48	7:22	7:16	6:36	7:45	6:01	8:12	5:48	8:32
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16	6:02	8:30	6:27	8:00	6:53	7:15	7:19	6:31	6:51	4:58	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:17	6:58	5:51	7:19	7:18	6:33	7:46	6:00	8:13	5:48	8:33
17	6:02	8:29	6:28	7:59	6:54	7:14	7:20	6:29	6:52	4:57	7:19	4:54	7:23	5:18	6:56	5:52	7:18	7:19	6:32	7:47	5:59	8:14	5:48	8:33
18	6:03	8:29	6:29	7:58	6:55	7:12	7:21	6:28	6:53	4:57	7:19	4:54	7:22	5:19	6:55	5:53	7:16	7:20	6:31	7:48	5:58	8:15	5:48	8:34
19	6:04	8:28	6:30	7:56	6:56	7:11	7:22	6:27	6:54	4:56	7:20	4:54	7:22	5:20	6:54	5:54	7:15	7:21	6:29	7:49	5:57	8:16	5:49	8:34
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27	6:10	8:22	6:36	7:45	7:02	6:58	7:30	6:17	7:02	4:53	7:24	4:59	7:17	5:29	6:44	6:02	7:02	7:28	6:19	7:56	5:52	8:22	5:51	8:35
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29	6:12	8:20	6:38	7:42	7:04	6:55	7:32	6:14	7:04	4:52	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:31			6:59	7:30	6:17	7:58	5:51	8:24	5:52	8:35
30	6:13	8:19	6:39	7:41	7:05	6:54	7:33	6:13	7:05	4:52	7:24	5:01	7:15	5:32			6:58	7:31	6:15	7:59	5:51	8:24	5:52	8:35
31	6:13	8:18	6:40	7:40			7:34	6:12			7:25	5:02	7:14	5:33			6:56	7:32			5:51	8:25		

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

LOCATION	CORRECTION	LOCATION	CORRECTION
Bristol.....	+19 minutes	Newport News.....	-5 minutes
Cape Charles.....	-6 minutes	Norfolk.....	-5 minutes
Charlottesville.....	+4 minutes	Roanoke.....	+10 minutes
Chincoteague.....	-8 minutes	Tazewell.....	+16 minutes
Danville.....	+8 minutes	Williamsburg.....	-3 minutes
Fredericksburg.....	0 minutes	Winchester.....	+3 minutes

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