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Features

Public Lands Expand
A colorful infographic details the number of acres the DNR acquired in 2016.

Bonus Deer
Check out the new bonus antlerless deer quota for your county.

Waterfowl Dates
This year’s guide includes the full waterfowl season dates.

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Fish & Wildlife Director: Mark Reiter
Photographers: Frank Oliver, John Maxwell
Writers: Steve Backs, Jack Basiger, Joe Caudell, Nick Werner
Project Coordinators: Sam Jordan, Seth Peters

This is a summary of Indiana hunting and trapping regulations. It is designed as a service to sportsmen and women and is not intended to be a complete digest of all hunting and trapping regulations. Most regulations are subject to change by administrative rule. Contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife before reproducing any part of this booklet.

On the Cover:
A snow-covered buck in Marion County.
Photographed by – John Maxwell, Indiana DNR
As hunters, you no doubt are aware of the Pittman-Robertson Act, a piece of federal legislation that changed the face of conservation here in Indiana and across the country.

This year, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of Pittman-Robertson, which is sometimes referred to as the P-R Fund or the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

This law shifted a pre-existing excise tax on firearms and ammunition from the U.S. Treasury to the Department of Interior’s U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. A companion program covering fishing and boating was added in the 1950s to create the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Fund, or WSFR.

WSFR funds are distributed each year to state agencies, like our Department of Natural Resources, using a formula that includes certified fishing or hunting license buyers in each state.

Since their inception, the combined programs have sent more than $18 billion to states for on-the-ground projects. Indiana’s share tops $300 million, with $16.5 million coming our way in 2016.

Our DNR uses these funds to restore and manage wildlife habitat, deliver hunter education programs and research projects, operate fish hatcheries, and open and maintain access to fishing, hunting and target shooting.

So, thanks to congressional leaders who years ago put these funding programs in motion. And thanks to you for playing a key role in Indiana’s conservation efforts.

Mark Reiter
Director, DNR Fish & Wildlife
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2017-18 INDIANA HUNTING SEASONS

Furbearers Hunting Dates Limit
Red and Gray Fox Oct. 15, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018 No limit
Coyote, Striped Skunk Oct. 15, 2017 - March 15, 2018 No limit
Raccoon, Opossum Nov. 8, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 No limit
Dog Running (Raccoon, Opossum) Feb. 1, 2017 - Oct. 25, 2017 Not applicable
Feb. 1, 2018 - Oct. 25, 2018

Woodland Game Hunting Dates Limit
Wild Turkey
  Youth Spring April 21-22, 2018 1 bearded or male turkey in spring
  Spring April 25 - May 13, 2018
  Fall Firearm Oct. 18 - 29, 2017 (see page 37 for counties)

Deer
  Reduction Zone * Sept. 15, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (see page 22 for Reduction Zones)
  Youth Sept. 23, and 24, 2017
  Archery Sept. 1, 2017 - Dec. 30, 2017
  Firearms Nov. 18, 2017 - Dec. 3, 2017
  Muzzleloader Dec. 9 - 24, 2017
  Special Antlerless ** Dec. 26, 2017 - Jan. 7, 2018
  Youth Sept. 23, and 24, 2017
  Archery Sept. 1, 2017 - Dec. 30, 2017
  Firearms Nov. 18, 2017 - Dec. 3, 2017
  Muzzleloader Dec. 9 - 24, 2017
  Special Antlerless ** Dec. 26, 2017 - Jan. 7, 2018

Squirrel (gray and fox) Aug. 15, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 5 per day

The possession limit for woodland game (except deer and turkey) is two times the daily bag limit.

* Designated counties or portions of counties (formerly Urban Deer Zones)
** Special Antlerless Season only in counties with a bonus antlerless quota of 4 or more (see page 26)

Upland Game Hunting Dates Limit
Pheasant (cock only) Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2017 2 per day
Quail
  North of Interstate 74* Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2017 4 per day*
  South of Interstate 74** Nov. 1, 2017 - Jan. 10, 2018 8 per day**
Rabbit Nov. 1, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018 5 per day

The possession limit on upland game is two times the daily bag limit.
* 2 per day on North Zone fish & wildlife areas, Mississinewa Lake and Salamonie Lake
** 4 per day on South Zone fish & wildlife areas and Patoka Lake

Miscellaneous Hunting Dates Limit
Crow July 1 - Aug. 15, 2017 No limit
Dec. 13, 2017 - March 1, 2018
Frog (bull and green only) June 15, 2017 - April 30, 2018 25 per day
Game Turtles * July 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018 4 per day

* Eastern snapping turtle, smooth softshell turtle, spiny softshell turtle
If you are a hunter, you know how important food plot management is to develop quality whitetails and top-scoring trophy bucks. The good news is your local Woods dealer has a plot seeder that’s perfect for the job – things just got a lot easier.
Additional Rifles Now Legal for Deer Hunting

In 2016, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law to approve certain high-powered rifles for deer hunting on private land only.

In 2017, language was adopted to add more options to the year-old law.

The changes do not affect regulations for other rifles previously allowed for deer hunting on public land.

During the youth season (Sept. 23-24), firearms season (Nov. 18 - Dec. 3), deer reduction zone season (only from Nov. 18, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless only season (where authorized from Dec. 26, 2017 - Jan. 7, 2018), rifles that meet the following specifications can now be used for deer hunting only on private land:

- The rifle must have a barrel length of at least 16 inches
- The cartridge must have a minimum case length of at least 1.16 inches and have a maximum case length of 3 inches
- The cartridge must fire a bullet with a diameter that is .243 inches (same as 6mm) or larger
- A hunter may not possess more than 10 cartridges for each of these rifles while hunting deer
- Full metal jacket bullets cannot be used
- These rifle options can be used only on private land

The General Assembly also modified requirements for retrieving wild animals that are killed or crippled. It requires a hunter or trapper to retrieve and take into possession a wild animal that has been killed or crippled, even if there is no bag limit for the animal, unless it is a nuisance wild animal taken with permission of the landowner or tenant (such as a coyote). If there is a bag limit for the animal, it must be included in the bag limit (Indiana Code 14-22-10-7).

Another new state law, effective July 1, requires children under age 18 to wear an approved helmet when riding any off-road vehicle (ORV) on public or private property in Indiana, including Interlake and Redbird state recreation areas.

House Enrolled Act 1200 requires owners of ORVs who allow children younger than age 18 to ride their ORV on public or private property without wearing an approved helmet can be charged with a Class C infraction, which carries a maximum penalty of $500.

“Approved helmets” are those that meet U.S. Department of Transportation standards. The new law doesn’t affect riders of snowmobiles, which do not fall under the legal definition of ORV per Indiana Code 14-8-2-185.

Key Definitions

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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Antlered deer</td>
<td>A deer with at least one antler that is at least 3 inches long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlerless deer</td>
<td>Any deer other than an antlered deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bag limit</td>
<td>The quantity of individual wild animals that may be taken in any one day of the specified season for that wild animal or during the entire season for that wild animal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bait</td>
<td>Food that is transported or placed for consumption, including but not limited to piles of corn and apples placed in the field; a prepared solid or liquid that is manufactured and intended for consumption by livestock or wild deer, such as commercial baits and food supplements; salt; or mineral supplements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furbearer</td>
<td>Beaver, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game bird</td>
<td>Ring-necked pheasant, bob-white quail, wild turkey, and mourning dove.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt</td>
<td>To take any wild animal except by trapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor driven conveyance</td>
<td>An automobile, truck, tractor, combine, wagon, bus, off-road vehicle, ATV, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, moped, dune buggy, go-cart, motorboat, airplane, or any other motorized vehicle capable of transporting an individual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession limit</td>
<td>The possession limit is two times the daily bag limit of a wild animal. The possession limit does not apply to a wild animal that is processed and stored at an individual’s primary residence, except for waterfowl and migratory birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take</td>
<td>To kill, shoot, spear, gig, catch, trap, harm, harass, or pursue a wild animal, or to attempt to engage in such conduct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Play an active role in helping nongame and endangered wildlife. Donate to the Indiana Nongame Wildlife Fund to protect and manage more than 750 species—from shorebirds and salamanders to lake sturgeon.

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Your Hunting, Fishing or Trapping License
Ask your license retailer

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General License Regulations

• Hunting licenses: A valid hunting license issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is required to hunt any species of wild animal on both private and public land in Indiana. License exemptions can be found below. Some species also require state and/or federal stamps.

• Resident licenses: To qualify for resident hunting licenses, a person must have established a true fixed and permanent home and primary residence in Indiana for 60 consecutive days prior to purchasing a license or permit and not claim residency for hunting, trapping or fishing in another state or country. All others are nonresidents.

• Licenses and stamps: A hunting license (and applicable stamp privileges, federal stamps or permits, and HIP number) must have either an original signature in ink and be carried with the licensee while hunting or the licensee must produce an electronic copy of the license while hunting. The license or electronic copy of the license must be produced upon the request of an Indiana Conservation Officer or other authorized law enforcement officer.

• Hunter education: Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must successfully complete a DNR-offered hunter education class to purchase an Indiana hunting license (see pages 10–11 for Disability and Apprentice License exceptions).

• License reprints: Lost or damaged licenses can be reprinted online at no cost to the customer. Reprints at retail locations may come with a $3 service charge.

• License revoked: DNR-issued licenses may be revoked at the discretion of a court upon conviction of fish and wildlife law violations, or at the discretion of the Department for non-compliance with conditions under which licenses are issued.

• License refunds: Licenses are non-transferable and non-refundable.

How to Purchase a Hunting or Trapping License

1. Online …
Go to INHuntFish.com. A service fee applies. Online license purchases have a $1 per license fee for system support maintenance, and an additional $1 plus 2 percent credit card company fee on each transaction.

2. In Person …
Visit one of more than 525 retailers statewide at INHuntFish.com or visit the DNR Customer Service Center. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

3. By Mail …
Send a check or money order (payable to DNR) or Visa or MasterCard (include number, expiration date) to:

License

DNR Customer Service Center
402 W. Washington St., W160
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

Allow 2–3 weeks for delivery. Include the following information:

• Specify the license(s) and season (e.g., deer muzzleloader)

• Name, date of birth, Indiana Driver’s License number and Social Security number (required by IC 14-22-11-3)

• Hunter education certificate number if born after Dec. 31, 1986

• Complete address, city, state, ZIP code and phone number

4. By Phone …
Call (317) 232-4200

License Exemptions

The following are exempt from license requirements:

• Residents or nonresidents participating in a DNR-licensed field trial.

• Resident owners of Indiana farmland or lessees of Indiana farmland who farm that land, their spouses and children living with them, while hunting, fishing or trapping on the farmland they own or lease. There is no acreage requirement to qualify for this exemption. This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation or partnership unless the shareholders,
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ATTRACTIONS
Covered Bridge Festival 765-569-5226
Turkey Run State Park 765-597-2635
Raccoon Lake 765-344-1412
Rockville Lake Park 765-569-6541
Covered Bridge Art Gallery 765-569-9422
Bridgeton Mill 765-548-0106
Mansfield Roller Mill 765-344-0741
Canoeing on Sugar Creek 765-597-2029
30-Six Saloon 765-569-9441
Shades State Park 765-435-2810
Festivals & Events 765-569-5226

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INNS
Turkey Run Inn 877-563-4371
Raccoon Lakeside Lodge 765-344-1102
Old Jail Inn Parke County 217-808-1309
EconoLodge 765-569-3430

MOTELS
Parke Bridge Motel 765-569-3525
Covered Bridge Motel 765-569-2833
Motel Forrest 765-569-5250

BED & BREAKFASTS
Granny’s Farm B & B 765-569-2248
Owl Nest B & B 765-569-1603
Bubble Gum B & B 765-569-6630
Cherrywood Farm B & B 765-548-0582
Mansfield Guest Inn 812-877-9831
Red Brick Inn 765-344-1162
Knoll Inn 765-597-2248

CABINS
Turkey Run State Park Cabins 877-563-4371
Wilkins Mill Guest House 765-597-2046
Raccoon Lake Park Cabins 765-597-2399
Peaceful Waters Cabins 765-597-2046
Hilltop Guesthouse 765-597-2046
Pet’s Pad 765-569-9422
Bear Cub Cabins 765-344-1436
Raccoon Lake House Rentals 765-569-0393
Fallen Rock Park 765-597-2395
Sugar Valley Cabins 765-597-0393
The Dragonfly Guesthouse 765-592-0393
Gobbler’s Knob Cabins 812-236-4132
Raccoon Lake Sunset Rentals 765-569-0393
The Cabins at Hobson Farms 765-597-2395

CANOE CAMP
Turkey Run State Park Cabins 877-563-4371
Wilkins Mill Guest House 765-597-2046
Raccoon Lake Park Cabins 765-597-2399
Peaceful Waters Cabins 765-597-2046
Hilltop Guesthouse 765-597-2046
Pet’s Pad 765-569-9422
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The Cabins at Hobson Farms 765-597-2395

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31 COVERED BRIDGES

2017
Parke County Covered Bridge Christmas - Dec 1-3
2018
Parke County Maple Fair - Feb 24 & 25 and March 3-4
Zoom Town 5K Walk/Run - May 19
Rosedale Strawberry Festival - June 1-3
Miami Indians All Nations Gathering - June 2 & 3

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October 13-22, 2017

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partners, members or owners are comprised solely of the members of an immediate family and farm that land.

Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber or the raising of livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. There is no acreage requirement to qualify for this exemption.

- Trustees and named trust beneficiaries comprised solely of the members of an immediate family when hunting on the trust property (as defined in Indiana Code 30-4-1-2).
- Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service and who are carrying their leave orders and a valid Indiana driver’s license or Indiana voter registration card.
- Youth participating in free youth hunting weekends.

The following nonresidents can hunt with a resident license:

- A nonresident younger than 18 years old may hunt, trap or fish with a resident license if a parent, grandparent or legal guardian is an Indiana resident.
- Nonresident military personnel on active duty and stationed in Indiana may hunt or fish with a resident license.

Indiana allows non-resident landowners, including their spouse and children living with them, to hunt, fish or trap on their own farmland in Indiana without a hunting license only if the following conditions are met:

1. The nonresident’s state allows the same exemption for the same species for Indiana residents who own farmland in that state*.
2. While hunting, fishing, or trapping on the farmland, the nonresident must keep proof of ownership (for example, a tax receipt identifying the nonresident as owner) in a place where the proof is readily accessible by the nonresident.

* For example, if a nonresident is from state X that only allows Indiana residents who own land in that state an exemption to hunt small game on land they own without a license, then the same exemption would apply in Indiana for a nonresident who owns Indiana farmland and is hunting small game on that farmland. If state X does not include other species (e.g., deer, turkey) in the exemption, then the nonresident must have and carry a valid nonresident license and any applicable stamp privileges to hunt those species in Indiana.

This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation or partnership unless the shareholders, partners, members or owners are comprised solely of the members of an immediate family and farm that land.

Nonresidents who lease land in Indiana are not exempt and must purchase nonresident licenses.

**Nonresident Private Shooting Preserve**

Nonresidents must purchase a nonresident shooting preserve license and any applicable stamp privilege requirements for species they are hunting at a private shooting preserve.

The nonresident private shooting preserve license expires April 30, immediately following the date the license is effective. The nonresident shooting preserve license is $17 and the nonresident youth shooting preserve license is $7.

**Persons with Disabilities**

Individuals with a disability that prevents them from being able to hunt wild animals under regular hunting regulations may request a special permit from the DNR.

Special permits may allow those who cannot walk or have serious walking limitations to hunt from a vehicle or gain special vehicle access on public property.

For rules or application forms, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-4102 or at wildlife.IN.gov/2371.htm.
Individuals with certain permanent developmental disabilities as defined in state law may apply for a conditional hunter education card. The individual must first take the hunter education class. Call DNR Law Enforcement at (317) 232-4011 for more information.

A disability is defined as a physical impairment resulting from injury or disease, excluding impairment due to the normal aging process.

To find out where to hunt on a State property with a disability permit, contact the property manager.

A special disability permit is not required to hunt deer with a crossbow. However, a valid license is required.

Apprentice Licenses
A resident or nonresident can buy an apprentice hunting license without having to take a hunter education class. An individual can purchase up to three apprentice licenses, of any combination, in his/her lifetime before having to take a DNR-offered hunter education class.

While hunting, the apprentice hunter at all times must be in close proximity to and able to communicate with a hunter who is at least 18 years old and has a valid hunting license (unless exempt from needing a hunting license). The individual who accompanies the apprentice hunter cannot accompany more than two apprentice hunters at one time while afield.

The apprentice resident youth hunt/trap license includes the same licenses and stamps as the regular resident youth hunt/trap license; it only exempts the license holder from needing to take a hunter education class.

Landowners or lessees of farmland and their children living with them who meet the requirements for license exemptions listed on pages 8-10 also are exempt from needing an apprentice hunting license.

Hunter Education
Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must successfully complete a DNR-offered hunter education class to purchase a hunting license. See apprentice license exception. Hunters certified in another state or Canada can also present a card or certificate and purchase an Indiana hunting license.

The DNR offers hunter education courses in counties throughout the state. The program takes approximately 10 hours to complete. For information on classes in your area, see register-ed.com/programs/indiana/agency:25? or contact the nearest hunter education office:

- Hunter Education North, (317) 605-1028; email chclark@dnr.IN.gov.
- Hunter Education South, (812) 482-3093; email tbeck@dnr.IN.gov.

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Dunham’s 2017-P-226
Bag and Possession Limits

It is illegal to take more than the daily bag limit of a wild animal in a calendar day.

The possession limit is two times the daily bag limit for species other than migratory birds (including waterfowl), deer, and wild turkey, beginning the second day of the season.

The possession limit does not apply to a wild animal that is processed and stored at an individual’s primary residence, except for waterfowl and migratory birds.

It is illegal to carry, transport or ship outside Indiana, in open season, in one day, a wild animal that the individual has taken in open season in excess of the possession limit.

A harvested wild animal that is left unattended while in the field, not in the immediate vicinity of the individual who took the animal while in the field, or gifted to another person must have a tag attached or be in a container or bag that has the following information: the name and address of the person who took the animal, total number and species of wild animals taken, the date the wild animals were taken, and the signature of the person who killed the animal(s).

You cannot transport a harvested wild animal for another person that is in excess of your bag limit unless the animal is tagged as described above.

You may carry the carcass of a wild animal for another person while in the field or transporting from the field as long as the person who killed the animal is present with you.

When transporting pheasant, the head and head plumage of the bird must remain attached until processing.

Legal Hunting Hours

Turkey: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (hours may differ on state-owned property — see page 42).

Deer: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Furbearer: Hunting/Running; noon of season’s first day to noon of last day.

Small Game: No hunting hours, except for rabbits on designated DNR properties in February (see page 28).

Waterfowl (ducks and geese): One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Trapping: 8 a.m. of season’s first day to noon of last day.

Wild Animals Found Dead

If a deer, wild turkey, river otter, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, eastern cottontail rabbit, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, or furbearer (e.g., beaver, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, skunk, long-tailed weasel) dies after a collision with a motor vehicle, an Indiana Conservation Officer or other law enforcement officer, DNR property manager, or wildlife biologist (wildlife.in.gov/2716.htm) may issue a permit to an individual to possess the dead animal.

An Indiana Conservation Officer or a person designated by the Conservation Officer also may issue a permit to possess one of these animals if it is found dead from another cause.

Disturbing Nests or Dens

It is illegal to disturb the den or house of a wild animal by shooting, digging, cutting, or chopping into the nest, hole, burrow, den, or other home of a wild animal with the aid of smoke, fire, fumes, chemicals, a ferret or other small animal, or with any mechanical device (other than a lawfully set trap) introduced into the hole, burrow, tree, den, where the animal is hidden or sheltered.

A person must not wear or use a device to climb poles or trees, or possess an ax or saw while in the field at night for the purpose of dislodging a wild animal from a location where the animal has hidden itself for security or protection, or in which the animal maintains a nest or den.

Trespassing

It is illegal to hunt, trap, chase or retrieve game on private land without the consent of the landowner or tenant.

Always ask permission before entering private property. A sample private landowner permission form is on page 29.

Use of Drones

State law prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to search for, scout, locate, or detect a wild animal as an aid to take that animal during the hunting season and for 14 days prior to the hunting season for that animal. There are a few exceptions for purposes such as agricultural production, nuisance wild animal control, and scientific research.

An “unmanned aerial vehicle” means an aircraft that A) does not carry a human operator, and B) is capable of flight under remote control or autonomous programming.

Party Hunting

Party hunting is illegal. In a party hunting arrangement, a hunter not only shoots to fill his/her license but also shoots additional game to fill the licenses of other hunting party members.

Spotlighting

It is illegal to shine a spotlight, searchlight or other artificial light for the purpose of taking, attempting to take or assisting another person to take a deer, or to shine such a light while in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow.

It also is illegal for a person to deliberately cast a spotlight or other artificial light from a motor vehicle if in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow.

Laser Sights

Laser sights are legal for all hunting.

Hunting from a Vehicle or Boat

Mammals and birds may not be taken or chased from, by the use of, or with the aid of any motor-driven conveyance (including boats), except:

- By an individual authorized to hunt from a stationary vehicle with a Persons with Disabilities Hunting Permit.
- To check traps that are lawfully set and maintained.
- To hunt waterfowl from a motorboat if the boat is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or otherwise without motion, except as provided by wind, water current or hand-operated oars or paddles.

It is illegal to hunt furbearers from any boat.

It is illegal to ride an off-road vehicle with a loaded firearm (unless it’s a handgun and on private property in accordance with Indiana Code 14-16-1-23).

Wanton Waste

It is illegal to kill or cripple any wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal to include in your daily bag limit.

It is illegal, however, to enter private property without permission to retrieve downed game.

Before hunting, individuals should make sure they have permission to track game on land adjoining their hunting area.

Handguns

While hunting, an individual may carry a handgun without a handgun license in accordance with Indiana Code 35-47-2-1 at iga.IN.gov. It is not legal to take a deer with a handgun except during the firearms and special antlerless seasons, and during the muzzleloader season with a muzzlesloading handgun, and in compliance with DNR regulations.

Shooting Across Roads or Waters

It is illegal to shoot at or kill any animal or to shoot at any object from within, upon or across any public road. It is illegal to shoot across a body of water, except in the lawful pursuit of wildlife.

Harassment of Hunters, Trappers

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with the legal taking of a game animal by another person on public land, or on private land without permission of the landowner.
Selling of Wild Game

Protected or regulated wild animals, live, dead, or the meat from, cannot be sold, traded or bartered. (Exceptions: lawfully taken fur-bearers, river otters, squirrel tails, deer hides, antlers, hooves, and cured gamebird feathers may be sold).

DNR, Federal Property Rules

Hunting and trapping regulations may vary on some state or federal properties. Please check with the property manager for current regulations before hunting or trapping on state or federal areas.

Violation Penalties

A violation of a fish and wildlife law or regulation is a Class C infraction. If it is done with knowledge or intent, it is a Class C misdemeanor.

Any person who takes a deer or wild turkey in violation of any regulation will be penalized $500 in addition to any other penalty under the law and can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor or Class A misdemeanor (with a prior conviction). Equipment such as guns and vehicles used in intentional violation of fish and wildlife laws may be seized for evidence and, upon conviction, confiscated at the discretion of the court.

Hunter Orange Requirements

To meet fluorescent orange (or “hunter orange”) clothing requirements, hunters must wear one or more of the following items that is solid fluorescent orange in color and exposed at all times as an outer garment: vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat or cap. Minimal logos or patches are allowed.

Camouflage-patterned fluorescent orange garments do not satisfy the requirement.

Where to Hunt

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife manages 334 sites in Indiana covering almost 165,300 acres. These properties include Fish & Wildlife Areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, and other satellite locations. Reservoir properties and state forests add another 200,000-plus acres.

The combination provides various hunting opportunities for the public. To find a hunting spot near you, visit wildlife.IN.gov/5427.htm

Trapper Education

The DNR offers trapper education courses that describe basic methods for trapping furbearers, handling the catch, and the responsibilities of the trapper. The course takes approximately six hours to complete.

To find information on classes in your area, go to www.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/agency:257.
Youth Hunters Benefit From Low-cost Licenses, Special Dates

In Indiana, youth hunters have a number of special opportunities to help them get outdoors. It starts with a low-cost hunting license and special hunting dates set aside for them.

The resident youth hunt/trap license is $7 for any Indiana resident age 17 or younger. It includes all hunting and trapping licenses and stamp privileges, including small game, deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl. No additional licenses are needed, unless a federal duck stamp is required (age 16 and older).

The license also is available to nonresident youth (age 17 or younger) who have a parent, grandparent or legal guardian who is an Indiana resident.

Nonresident youth who don’t qualify for the $7 license can buy the appropriate nonresident youth license — annual hunting, deer, turkey, or trapping — at the same rate as a resident adult license, which is less than nonresident adult licenses.

There also are special hunt dates for youth age 17 and younger, and many DNR-managed properties offer youth hunting events as part of their outreach programs. Check wildlife.IN.gov/2701.htm for details.

Free Hunting Days

Youth free hunting days for 2017 are Sept. 2-3 and Nov. 25-26.

Any resident age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can take any legal game in season during these youth free hunting days. To participate, the youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter does not have to possess a hunting license, Harvest Information Program (HIP) number or any state stamp but must comply with all other hunting regulations.

To hunt waterfowl, a Federal duck stamp is required for all persons 16 years or older.
The youth’s adult partner must be in close enough proximity to monitor and be able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times. The adult may help the youth hunter with calling game but may not carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, except for a handgun carried lawfully. The adult must possess a valid hunting license, unless exempted from needing a license.

**Youth Deer Season**

Youth deer season is Sept. 23-24, 2017. Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter may harvest both antlered and antlerless deer. The antlered deer counts toward the statewide bag limit of one antlered deer. The number of antlerless deer harvest is determined by the bonus antlerless quota for the county hunted. A youth hunter can take only one antlerless deer in a county with a bonus antlerless quota of “A” during the special youth deer season.

The youth hunter must possess a valid license for hunting deer (youth hunt/trap or other) while in the field unless exempt from needing a license. The youth’s adult partner must possess a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license.

The youth hunter and adult partner must wear hunter orange. The youth hunter may use a legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow to take a deer.

The adult partner cannot take a deer and may not possess a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field with the youth hunter, except for a handgun carried lawfully.

Only one antlerless deer may be taken on DNR-managed Fish and Wildlife areas and some other DNR properties.

The youth hunter must comply with all other deer hunting regulations.

**Youth Turkey Season**

The youth wild turkey season is April 21-22, 2018.

Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter must possess a valid license for hunting wild turkey (youth hunt/trap or other). The adult partner must possess a turkey hunting license and game bird habitat stamp if participating in the hunt (i.e., calling turkeys) unless exempt from license requirements (see page 8).

The youth hunter may take only one bearded or male wild turkey during spring, which includes both the youth and regular spring turkey seasons. The youth must comply with all other turkey hunting regulations.

The youth hunter may use any legal shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow. The youth’s adult partner must not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field, except for a handgun carried lawfully.

**National Refuge Hunts**

Big Oaks and Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuges will have special deer hunts in 2017 and special turkey hunts in 2018 for youth hunters.

The deer hunt dates are Sept. 23-24 at Muscatatuck and Nov. 4 at Big Oaks.

The turkey hunt dates are April 21-22, 2018 at Muscatatuck and April 22, 2018 at Big Oaks.

Both Big Oaks hunts include an optional workshop and luncheon the day before.

To apply for either Big Oaks hunt, send a postcard that includes the youth’s name, address and phone number to Big Oaks NWR, 1661 W. JPG Niblo Road, Madison, IN 47250. The deadline is Oct. 1 for the deer hunt and April 1, 2018 for the turkey hunt.

To apply for the Muscatatuck hunts, go to wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm
Hunters answered call in ‘16
bovine TB surveillance

By Nick Werner

The DNR has a special message for deer hunters in southern Fayette, Franklin, and northern Dearborn counties.

“Thank you for your incredible effort. Cooperation in a bovine tuberculosis surveillance program in these counties last fall made it unnecessary to pay government biologists to cull additional mature bucks for testing.

“Hunters responded like they never have before, and it was mostly voluntary,” said DNR deer biologist Joe Caudell, PhD. “What we were looking at having to do probably would have cost upwards of a million dollars.”

Bovine tuberculosis is a chronic bacterial disease that affects primarily cattle, but can be transmitted to any warm-blooded animal and humans. While the disease usually is not fatal in deer, it may diminish an animal’s lifetime breeding productivity.

In July 2016, the disease showed up in a wild deer culled for testing from a Franklin County cattle farm affected by bovine tuberculosis.

Personnel with the Indiana Board of Animal Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services had been testing wildlife on the farm. It was one of three properties in Franklin County and one in Dearborn County where bovine tuberculosis had shown up in cattle and captive deer since 2008.

The DNR began a smaller white-tailed deer surveillance program for bovine tuberculosis in 2009.

The agency expanded the monitoring area and ramped up sampling efforts last year after finding the disease in a wild deer.

Surveillance involves collecting and testing lymph nodes from the necks of harvested deer.

The DNR set a goal of collecting between 850 and 2,700 samples from deer in Franklin, southern Fayette, and northern Dearborn counties. The wide range reflected the fact that not all deer are created equal when it comes to the science of disease monitoring. Older deer, especially older males, are more valuable for sampling.

Samples had to be collected from deer submitted for testing by hunters.

If the DNR didn’t reach its sampling goal, it would have needed to hire biologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to shoot additional deer after the hunting season. That would have put additional pressure on the deer population. Moreover, biologists would have intentionally pursued mature bucks, making those sought-after deer unavailable to hunters next deer season.

Caudell didn’t know what type of response to expect from the hunters, especially when it came to volunteering mature bucks for sampling. He worried that some hunters wouldn’t want a DNR biologist cutting into the neck of their trophy deer.

On the contrary, hunter participation exceeded expectation.

Hunters submitted more than 2,000 deer for sampling, including hundreds of wall-hanger bucks. As an incentive, hunters who allowed sampling of a mature buck were given permission to take an additional mature buck.

Ultimately, none of the hunter-harvested deer tested positive for bovine tuberculosis.

Shawn McKee of Fishers volunteered two bucks for testing. McKee owns hunting property near Laurel in the Whitewater River valley, the epicenter of the bovine tuberculosis outbreak.

McKee said he got involved because he was worried about the health of the deer herd. Furthermore, he and many hunters in the area felt like participating in testing gave them some control over the process.

Nobody liked the idea of biologists having to come in after the season to kill additional deer.

“We, as hunters, needed to be a part of the solution,” McKee said.

Having the support of taxidermists and meat processors who were respected in the hunting community also was crucial, according to Caudell.

“They helped us even to the point that it slowed their business down,” Caudell said. “This really required them to do extra work, and they did it voluntarily.”

Tony Runtz of Hunter’s Choice Processing in Brookville said he helped hunters fill out paperwork. He also hung fliers about the testing program around his business, and stored deer heads in his freezer for future testing.

Perhaps most importantly, he helped clear misconceptions.

“Hunters were scared,” he said. “They were afraid of people coming in and annihilating the deer. I kept reassuring them and telling them it wouldn’t happen.”

By working with taxidermists, the DNR was able to preserve both the skin and the lymph nodes on trophy bucks. That way the mounts were unaffected.

Because of the level of testing, it is likely that if bovine tuberculosis is present in wild deer in these areas, it probably exists at a level less than a quarter of 1 percent of the population.

Testing will resume this year but is expected to be on a smaller scale, assuming no additional positive deer are found.

“We’re going to be sampling again,” Caudell said, “and we need hunter cooperation again.”
Lead Ammo Can Fragment

Lead ammunition, especially when fired from rifles, can fragment into tiny pieces that spread throughout big game such as deer. These fragments cannot all be removed during processing, and ground venison can have higher lead concentrations than whole muscle cuts.

Lead exposure has a well-documented negative impact on both humans and animals, affecting multiple organ systems. Lead exposure can cause health effects in both adults and children.

Lead levels in venison may not impact adults, unless lead-tainted meat is eaten frequently. Children are at a much higher risk to the effects of lead due to their developing bodies. Even low levels of lead in children, or in women who are pregnant, have been associated with decreased IQ, behavioral changes, and learning disabilities.

Hunters concerned about lead exposure for themselves and their families may want to follow this advice:

- When purchasing ammunition for deer hunting, especially rifle ammunition, choose a non-lead alternative such as copper or a copper alloy.
- If you choose to purchase lead ammunition, select ammunition the manufacturer indicates has high mass retention after impact.
- When processing your harvest shot with lead ammunition, trim liberally around the wound channel to reduce exposure to lead fragments, and dispose of the carcass in a way that prevents wildlife from scavenging from it.
- Be aware that some processors commingle meat from multiple harvested deer when producing ground venison, so ground meat may be lead-tainted even if your deer was harvested with non-lead ammunition.

For information, please call WTU’s Indiana Field Director Dave Penrod at (260) 273-3943. www.whitetailsunlimited.com

“Celebrate the deer hunting tradition by attending a event near you.”

~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner
Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson and co-host of Michael Waddell’s Bone Collector TV Show.
Deer reduction hunts at State Parks are different than most DNR-managed special hunts. Reduction hunts are carried out exclusively to achieve an ecological objective – to ensure balanced and healthy natural communities for all flora and fauna within park boundaries.

While most other special hunts are offered for recreation, deer reduction hunts in State Parks are a necessary management tool designed to reduce ecological damage caused by deer over browsing.

Trophy hunting, or passing on does or smaller bucks to wait for a larger buck, is counter to the ecological objective of State Park reduction hunts and is strongly discouraged.

DNR biologists initially determine the need for a reduction at individual parks based on scientific monitoring of vegetation. Once a park begins reduction hunts, its harvest data are analyzed for decisions regarding habitat recovery and whether specific parks require a reduction hunt the following year.

Research indicates that vegetation and habitat begin to recover from over browsing once a rate of firearm harvest per effort (H/E) lowers to 0.22 to 0.20. The H/E index is determined by the number of hunters participating and the number of deer that are harvested. At State Parks where reduction hunts are limited to archery equipment only, the H/E target is 0.1 to 0.08. A park typically takes the following year off from hosting a reduction once these harvest rates are achieved in a given year.

The first reduction hunt was scheduled for one day in 1993 at Brown County State Park. Since 1995, most of Indiana’s 24 State Park properties have had one or more reduction hunts.

In 2017, 18 locations will have reduction hunts on Nov. 13-14 and Nov. 27-28. They are Chain O’Lakes, Charlestown, Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, Harmonie, Lincoln, McCormick’s Creek, Ouabache, Pokagon and Trine SRA (drawn and managed together), Potato Creek, Shades, Shakamak, Spring Mill and Cave River Valley Natural Area (drawn and managed together), Tippecanoe River, Versailles, and Whitewater Memorial state parks.

Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, and Trine SRA will be archery only reduction hunts. Volunteers can apply online at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm. Successful applicants are allowed to take up to three deer. Only one can be antlered. Deer harvested at a State Park reduction hunt are not counted toward regular statewide bag limits.
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1,661 NEW ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN 2016

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Don’t Be a Thud!

Sometime this hunting season, a hunter will fall out of a tree stand. Perhaps he will survive; perhaps not. Most assuredly, he will suffer injuries. It’s inevitable. The sad thing is it’s also avoidable.

“Wearing your safety harness in a tree stand is comparable to wearing your life jacket around water,” said Lt. Larry Morrison of the DNR Law Enforcement division. “When the accident happens, it’s going to save your life.

“When you leave the ground, you should be secured to the tree with a full-body safety harness.”

Of the 182 hunting accident reports filed by the DNR Division of Law Enforcement over the past five years, 109 involved falls from tree stands. Most of the victims were not wearing any form of fall arrest device, which could have prevented serious injury.

National studies show that one of every two tree stand users wears a fall arrest device and that as many as 30 percent of hunters who hunt from an elevated stand will have an incident sometime in their hunting career.

The National Bowhunter Education Foundation (www.nbef.org) states on its website: “Some will not live to tell their story; others will tell it from a hospital bed or wheelchair. Many accident victims will never hunt again.”

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service offers the following treestand safety tips:

Before the hunt

• Know your equipment.
  - Read and understand manufacturer’s instructions and warning before using your treestand and full-body harness (FBH).
  - Check stands (including straps and chains) every season and before each use for signs of wear, fatigue, cracks, loose or missing nuts and bolts. Replace as necessary.
  - Practice at ground level with your treestand and FBH with another person present.
  - Learn how to properly use your FBH with a suspension release device.

• Select the right tree for your stand.
  - Find a healthy, straight tree that is the right size for your treestand.
  - Check the tree for insect nests or animal dens.
  - Avoid using climbing stands on smooth barked trees, especially during icy or wet conditions.
  - Clear debris from the base of the tree to minimize injury from a fall and to ensure a safe base if using a ladder stand.

During the hunt

• Wear a full-body harness (FBH). Simply owning a FBH does not make you safe. You must wear it.
• Make sure your FBH is attached to the tree as soon as you begin to climb.
• In the case of ladder stands, attach the FBH before securing the platform to the tree or stepping onto it.
• When climbing a ladder, keep three points of contact with the ladder at all times. Both hands and a foot or both of your feet and one hand should be used to support your body weight when using a ladder.
• When using a platform stand, climb higher than the stand and then step down onto the platform. Slowly put your weight onto your stand to be sure of your balance.
• Use boots with non-slip soles to avoid slipping, especially in wet weather.
  - Make sure broadheads are covered prior to raising or lowering a bow with a haul line.
  - If you fall, stay calm. By planning ahead, you can avoid additional problems.
  - Have emergency equipment, such as a knife, cell phone, flashlight, and/or whistle on your person.
  - Practice the three Rs: recover, relief and rescue. Attempt to recover and return to your stand. If this is not possible, exercise your legs by pushing against the tree, using another form of motion or your suspension relief device until help arrives.

The best tip of all?
Don’t take chances. Don’t be a thud!

Treestand accidents in Indiana 2012-2016

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<th>Treestand Falls</th>
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</table>
Deer Regulations

License Requirements
Unless exempt (see pages 8 and 10), an individual must have a signed or digital deer hunting, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license when hunting deer on public or private land. See the table on page 25 for a summary of deer seasons, licenses, bag limits and equipment requirements.

- **Archery Season**: an archery, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license is required. To use a crossbow during the archery season, an individual must have a crossbow license, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license.

- **Firearms Season**: a deer firearms, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license is required. (Note: a muzzleloader license is not valid during the deer muzzleloader season).

- **Muzzleloader Season**: a muzzleloader, deer license bundle, bonus antlerless, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license is required. (Note: a firearms license is not valid during the deer muzzleloader season).

Deer License Bundle
The deer license bundle is valid for all deer seasons except for the Reduction Zone Season.

- The deer license bundle allows an individual to harvest up to three deer (two antlerless and one of either sex) with only one license. An antlered deer harvested with the deer license bundle counts toward an individual’s one antlered deer limit for statewide seasons.

- The bundle can be used to take a deer with equipment legal during the archery (this includes crossbows, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons, and in counties open to the special antlerless-only season).

- Antlerless deer harvested with the deer license bundle can be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer in that county as well as the archery, muzzleloader, and special antlerless-only bag limits. If used toward the bonus antlerless deer county quota, the county quota applies. See page 26 for bonus county quotas.

- The bundle may not be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer on DNR properties where the bonus antlerless license cannot be used. Contact the property or go to www.wildlife.IN.gov for details.

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Legal Hunting Hours
Legal hunting hours for all deer seasons are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Hunter Orange Requirements

Hunter orange must be worn during the special youth deer season (Sept. 23–24, 2017). See page 13 for a description of hunter orange requirements.

An occupied ground blind must display hunter orange of at least 144 square inches on each side so that it is visible from any direction while deer hunting during any deer season in which a hunter is already required to wear hunter orange.

Hunter orange is required only on ground that conceal a hunter so the hunter is visible from one or more directions. Two materials and placed on or within 4 feet of the ground that conceal a hunter must meet the required materials while hunting for deer during firearm (Dec. 9–24, 2017) and special antlerless firearm (Dec. 26, 2017–Jan. 7, 2018) seasons.

The use of infrared sensors or electronic deer calls to locate or take deer is illegal.

Infrared Sensors/Electronic Calls
The use of infrared sensors or electronic deer calls to locate or take deer is illegal.

It is also illegal to hunt or to retrieve deer with the aid of an infrared sensor or to hunt deer while possessing an electronic deer call.

Antlered Deer
An antlered deer must have at least one antler that is at least 3 inches long.

Tree Stands
Tree stands may be used for hunting during all deer hunting seasons. It is illegal to erect or hunt from a permanent tree blind on state-owned or state-leased lands. Portable tree stands may be used on state-owned or state-leased lands, U.S. Forest Service lands and lands of the Muscatacum, Patoka River and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuges and may be left overnight only from noon Sept. 15 through Jan. 10.

Fair Chase
It is illegal to use bait, salt, snares, dogs or other domesticated animals to take deer. Bait is considered any product that is transported into a hunting area and placed there for animal consumption. Baits can be in the form of salt, mineral blocks, prepared solid or liquid, or piles of apples or other food that is intended for the animal to eat. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait and any affected soil.

Dogs may be used while on a leash only to track or trail wounded deer.

Artificial deer decoys are legal for deer hunting.

Deer Reduction Zones
In addition to statewide bag limits, deer reduction zones, previously called urban deer zones, give hunters opportunities to harvest deer in defined urban areas with high deer densities.

The Reduction Zone season is Sept. 15, 2017 through Jan. 31, 2018. The bag limit for the Reduction Zones is 10 deer, of which only one can be antlered. Individuals hunting in a designated Reduction Zone who are attempting to satisfy the Reduction Zone bag limit must harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer (a.k.a. earn-a-buck). The earn-a-buck requirement only applies to the Reduction Zone bag limit. The Reduction Zone bag limit is in addition to all other bag limits. See page 25 for deer bag limits.

A Reduction Zone license has been established to replace previous requirements to possess a regular archery, extra archery or bonus antlerless license. The Reduction Zone license allows an individual to harvest one deer per license in a defined Reduction Zone.

Hunters attempting to satisfy the Reduction Zone bag limits must have a Reduction Zone, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive license.

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hunting/fishing license, or meet a license exemption. The bundle license is not valid when working toward the Reduction Zone bag limit. A valid license is required for each deer taken.

The season does not override any local ordinances restricting shooting of firearms and bows.

Where allowed by local ordinances, firearms legal for deer hunting can be used in Reduction Zones from Nov. 18 to Jan. 31, 2018.

Hunter orange clothing requirements must be followed to hunt deer with a firearm in a Reduction Zone. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners to hunt on their property. (For a private land permission form, see page 29.)

Reduction Zone licenses are not permitted on Division of Fish & Wildlife properties.

Deer Reduction Zones may be altered annually at the DNR director’s discretion based on deer population management needs. Please visit wildlife.IN.gov/8367.htm to see a current map and zone descriptions.

Tagging Requirements

Immediately upon killing a deer, the hunter must complete a temporary tag on paper that states the hunter’s name, address, sex of the deer, license number (if applicable) of the individual who took the deer, and the day and month of the kill. A hunter is not required to place the tag on the deer while dragging it out of the field as long as the hunter has filled out and is carrying the required information. A hunter must maintain immediate custody of and visual contact with the deer carcass unless the completed temporary transportation tag is attached. The tag must be attached to the deer before the hunter leaves the deer or loads the deer in a vehicle.

Reporting Requirements

Hunters are required to register their harvested deer within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:

- Self reporting online through the DNR’s CheckIN Game system (CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov)
- Calling 800-419-1326 (a $3 fee applies)
- Finding a check station, or license retailer who will enter the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the deer is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the deer until processing begins.

The deer head must remain attached to the carcass until the deer is registered with CheckIN Game and a confirmation number is issued.

Hunting Equipment

Legal Firearms

Shotguns, handguns, rifles with legal cartridges, muzzleloading long guns and muzzleloading handguns are legal during the firearms and special antlerless seasons. Only muzzleloading firearms are legal during the muzzleloader season.

Hunters may carry more than one type of legal firearm when hunting during the firearms, youth, reduction zone (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons only.

Shotguns

Shotguns must be 10-, 12-, 16-, 20- or 28-gauge or .410 bore loaded with slugs or saboted bullets. Rifled slug barrels are permitted. Combination rifle-shotguns are allowed.

Centerfire Rifles

Rifles chambered for cartridges that fire a bullet of .357-inch diameter or larger, have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches, and have a maximum case length of 1.8 inches are legal to use only during the deer firearms, youth, reduction zones from Nov. 18-Jan. 31 (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons. Some cartridges legal for deer hunting include the .357 Magnum, .38-.40 Winchester,
• Full metal jacketed bullets are illegal

High-Powered Rifles
A state law passed in 2016 that allowed certain rifle cartridges to be used for deer hunting on private land was amended earlier this year to allow additional cartridges. During the firearms, reduction zone from Nov. 18-Jan. 31 (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons.

Handguns
Legal handguns can be used to hunt deer during the firearms, reduction zone from Nov. 18-Jan. 31 (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), and special antlerless seasons.

Handguns, other than muzzleloading handglocks, must have a barrel at least 4 inches long and mustfire a bullet of .243-inch diameter or larger. The handgun cartridge case, without the bullet, must be at least 1.16 inches long. There is no maximum cartridge length for those used in handguns. Full metal-jacketed bullets are not permitted. The handgun must not be a rifle that has a barrel less than 18 inches. (A rifle with a barrel less than 18 inches is not considered a handgun.)

Handguns are not permitted for hunting on any military areas.

Some handgun cartridges that are legal for deer hunting include .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .44 Special, .45 Colt, .45 Long Colt, .45 Winchester Magnum, .35 Remington and .357 Herrett.

A new state law also legalizes a handgun that fires the 10mm Auto and 40 Smith & Wesson cartridge.

Some handgun cartridges that are illegal for deer hunting include .38 Special, .38 Smith and Wesson, .38 Colt New Police, .38/200, .38 Long Colt, .38 Super, .38 ACP, .38 Colt Auto, .45 ACP, .45 Automatic and .45 Auto Rim. All .25/.20, .32/.20 and .30 carbine ammunition is prohibited.

Muzzleloaders
Legal muzzleloaders can be used to hunt deer during the firearms, youth, reduction zone (in zones where local ordinances allow the use of a firearm), muzzleloader, and special antlerless seasons. Only muzzleloading firearms (including muzzleloading handglocks) are legal during the muzzleloader season.

Muzzleloading firearms must be .44 caliber or larger, loaded with a single bullet of at least .357 caliber. Saboted bullets are allowed, provided the bullet is .357 caliber or larger. A muzzleloading firearm must be capable of being loaded from only the muzzle. Multiple barrel muzzleloading long guns are allowed.

Muzzleloading handglocks are allowed. The muzzleloading handglock must be single shot, .50 caliber or larger, loaded with bullets at least .44 caliber and have a barrel at least 12 inches long, measured from the base of the breech plug excluding tongs and other projections to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown.

Carrying Handguns
While hunting, an individual may carry a handglock without a handgun license in accordance with Indiana Code 35-47-2-1 at iga.IN.gov.

Deer Hotline
If you have questions about deer hunting regulations, call (812) 334-3795, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. This is not a toll-free call. See wildlife.IN.gov/7389.htm for Deer Hunting FAQs.
## DEER SEASONS, LICENSES, AND EQUIPMENT

A separate deer license is required prior to taking each deer (exceptions: deer license bundle, youth hunt/trap, lifetime license, landowner exemption).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Archery</th>
<th>Crossbow</th>
<th>Handgun</th>
<th>Muzzleloading</th>
<th>Handgun</th>
<th>Muzzleloading</th>
<th>Long Gun</th>
<th>Shotgun</th>
<th>Rifle</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Youth Season – Sept. 23 and 24, 2017</strong></td>
<td>1 antlered deer AND the number of bonus antlerless deer per county quota</td>
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<td><strong>Reduction Zone Season – Sept. 15, 2017–Jan. 31, 2018</strong></td>
<td>1 antlered deer (see &quot;earn-a-buck&quot; req. page 24) AND 9 antlerless deer OR 10 antlerless deer</td>
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<td><strong>Archery Season – Oct. 1, 2017–Jan. 7, 2018</strong></td>
<td>2 antlerless deer OR 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer (AND bonus antlerless county quota)</td>
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<td><strong>Firearms Season – Nov. 18–Dec. 3, 2017</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Muzzleloader Season – Dec. 9–24, 2017</strong></td>
<td>1 antlered deer OR 1 antlerless deer (AND bonus antlerless county quota)</td>
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<td><strong>Special Antlerless Firearms Season – Dec. 26, 2017 - Jan. 7, 2018</strong></td>
<td>the number of bonus antlerless deer per county with a quota of 4 or more (see page 26)</td>
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**Orange Text** — Hunter Orange clothing is required for the entire season (see page 13).

* **Statewide Season** — Only one antlered deer per hunter may be taken during the special youth, archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons combined.
  * An antlered deer must have at least one antler that is at least 3 inches long.
  * If allowed by local ordinances, firearms may be used to hunt deer in designated Reduction Zones from Nov. 18, 2017 through Jan. 31, 2018.

**Additional opportunities**:
- Bonus Antlerless Deer — 1 antlerless deer per license not to exceed the bonus antlerless county quota (see page 26)
- Military/Refuge Properties (by reserved hunt drawing or invitation only) — 1 deer of either sex per Mil/Ref Deer License
- State Park (must be drawn in online reserved hunts at [wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm)) — 3 antlerless deer or 2 antlerless deer and 1 antlered deer

**NOTE**: The Bonus Antlerless License (and bonus county deer under the Deer License Bundle) may not be used on all DNR properties. Contact the property for details.
Bonus Antlerless Deer

Antlerless Deer Bag Limit
To maintain a healthy and thriving deer population in Indiana, strategic herd management is done on a county basis. The primary strategy in counties where deer populations need to be reduced is increased harvest of female deer. The bonus antlerless county quotas are set to allow hunters the opportunity to actively participate in deer herd management by harvesting additional antlerless deer.

Bonus antlerless county quotas have been set for the 2017-18 Indiana deer hunting season.

Bonus antlerless quotas are determined based on a variety of factors — hunter harvest trend data, crop damage reports, deer-vehicle collisions, and landowner and hunter surveys that measure individual satisfaction level with deer populations in each county.

In addition to the basic bag limits for the license that was purchased, hunters can purchase bonus antlerless licenses if they wish to take additional antlerless deer. No more than one deer can be taken per bonus antlerless license. Bonus antlerless licenses can be used in any season, except the Reduction Zone Season and prior to Nov. 30 for counties designated as “A,” and using the equipment that is legal at that time.

Bonus licenses may be used in any county, but you may not take more than the county quota for bonus antlerless deer in any specific county. The map on the right indicates county quotas for bonus antlerless deer. Bonus antlerless licenses may not be used on DNR-managed Fish & Wildlife Areas but may be used on some other DNR properties and on some Healthy Rivers Initiative sites. Contact the property or go to wildlife.IN.gov/8367.htm for details.

County quotas range from A to 8. For counties designated as an A, a bonus antlerless license can be used to take one antlerless deer from Nov. 30, 2017 through Jan. 7, 2018 (the last four days of regular firearms season, plus muzzleloader season and the remainder of archery season). Bonus antlerless licenses cannot be used in A counties prior to Nov. 30, 2017. For counties designated 1 to 8, hunters may take additional antlerless deer but cannot exceed the county quota. Only counties with a quota of 4 or above are eligible for the special antlerless season (Dec. 26, 2017 - Jan. 7, 2018).

Antlerless deer harvested with the deer license bundle must be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer in that county as well as the archery, muzzleloader, and special antlerless-only bag limits. For example, during archery season the third antlerless deer harvested counts towards the bonus antlerless county quota; in firearms season any antlerless deer harvested must count toward the antlerless quota; and during muzzleloader season, the second antlerless deer counts towards the county quota.

Special Antlerless Firearms Season
The special antlerless deer firearms season is from Dec. 26, 2017 to Jan. 7, 2018 in counties with a bonus antlerless deer quota of 4 or more (shaded counties on map). The special antlerless firearms season gives hunters additional opportunities to harvest antlerless deer in those participating counties. Hunters may use the deer license bundle to fulfill bag limits during the special antlerless season but must purchase additional antlerless licenses after bag limits have been reached. Hunters who do not have a bundle license must purchase a separate bonus antlerless license to hunt in the special antlerless firearms season and have one license for each additional deer.

Youth/Lifetime License Holders
Comprehensive lifetime hunting/fishing and resident youth hunt/trap license holders are not required to purchase bonus antlerless deer licenses since they are included in those license types. Lifetime/youth license hunters must follow the bonus antlerless bag limits and all other deer regulations.
Bovine TB Surveillance

Indiana DNR and the Board of Animal Health (BOAH) are monitoring Indiana’s deer herd for bovine tuberculosis after detecting the disease at a captive cervid facility in Franklin County, cattle farms in Dearborn and Franklin counties, and a white-tailed deer on an infected cattle farm in Franklin County.

In 2016, Indiana DNR tested 2,047 deer and all were negative for bovine TB.

Given the results, the apparent prevalence rate of bovine tuberculosis in this area’s wild deer population was less than a quarter percent in 2016. Continued support from hunters in Fayette and Franklin counties submitting deer for testing will improve confidence in determining the prevalence of bovine TB. For more information about bovine TB testing during the hunting season, visit TB. For more information about bovine TB testing during the hunting season, visit wildlife.IN.gov/9320.htm.

You can assist the effort to protect Indiana’s domestic and wild animal populations from bovine tuberculosis by inspecting your harvested deer. The following procedures provide guidance in the event you harvest a deer that you suspect might be diseased.

**Inspect Your Deer**

1. While field dressing a deer, look for white, tan or red blister-like lesions on internal organs or inside of the carcass. Lesions may be found on the lungs, inside the rib cage, the liver, the lymph nodes or occasionally other organs inside the carcass.

2. In the unlikely event you find lesions, discontinue processing until the carcass has been examined by a State BOAH veterinarian. Refrigerate (or ice down) the carcass if possible.

3. Keep the animal, including the head, intact until examined.

To contact a BOAH veterinarian, call (877) 747-3038 (toll free). This number is answered 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Messages left on weekends or holidays will be returned as soon as possible.

A BOAH veterinarian will advise, free-of-charge, about the appropriate use of the animal and may collect tissue samples for further testing. Reporting any suspicious lesion helps protect the health status of Indiana’s white-tailed deer resource.

If a veterinarian asks a hunter to submit a deer for further testing, the DNR will replace the hunter’s deer tag and revalidate an existing license.

After field dressing or handling any carcass or other raw meat, wash your hands with soap and water. Hand washing removes disease-causing bacteria, including bovine tuberculosis. Follow this practice even if the animal appears healthy.

For more information on Indiana’s deer bovine tuberculosis surveillance program, contact BOAH:

- Toll-free phone: (877) 747-3038
- E-mail: animalhealth@boah.IN.gov
- Web page: IN.gov/boah
- Mail: Board of Animal Health
  Discovery Hall, Suite 100
  1202 East 38th St
  Indianapolis, IN 46205-2898

**Chronic Wasting Disease and Out-of-State Deer, Elk and Moose**

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease found in deer, elk, and moose. CWD has been confirmed in 24 states and two Canadian provinces. It is spreading geographically and becoming locally prevalent. It has not been confirmed in Indiana.

The disease is spread environmentally through saliva and feces, and recent research shows plants uptake the prions. It is not known if prions are transmissible through ingestion of plant parts.

CWD-affected deer experience loss of body condition and changes in behavior. Affected animals may stand with legs wide apart, hold head and ears low, have subtle head tremors, and may be found near water. Excessive drinking is common in terminal stages of the disease.

There is currently no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans. However, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention does not recommend consuming meat from a CWD-positive animal.

Because CWD has been transmitted in experiments where healthy deer were exposed to skeletons of infected deer, BOAH strictly limits the movement of cervid carcass and body parts into Indiana to the following:

- Commercially processed meat, which may contain bone
- Carcasses or parts of carcasses if no portion of the head, spinal cord or small intestine are attached or otherwise included
- Carcasses or parts of carcasses that include the head, spinal cord or small intestine, if they are delivered within 72 hours after entry to one of the following:
  - A meat processor inspected by BOAH for processing
  - A commercial deer processor registered with the DNR for processing
  - A taxidermist licensed by the DNR
- Antlers, including antlers attached to skull caps, if the skull cap is cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue
- Hides
- Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers,” “whistlers,” or “ivories”
- Finished taxidermist mounts

A person licensed as a disposal plant or collection service under state law (Indiana Code 15-2.1-16) may move carcasses and parts into the state if the carcasses and parts are moved directly to a licensed disposal plant.

For up-to-date information on CWD and the state’s prevention and monitoring program visit wildlife.IN.gov/8367.htm.

**EHD**

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) has been present in the United States for more than 50 years and is caused by infection of viruses from the genus Orbivirus that are spread only by biting midges.

Deer that contract EHD do not always die. Many recover. Large-scale, regional deer population decreases due to EHD have not been observed.

The variability of the disease is affected by many factors, including the number of insect vectors, virus serotype, previous host immunity and host genetics, and deer population density.

The onset of freezing temperatures often brings an end to outbreaks. Infected deer develop a fever and often seek comfort in or around water. Other signs include blue tongue, ulcers on the tongue, or an eroded dental pad.

There is no cure for EHD.

If you suspect an outbreak, contact your local DNR wildlife biologist (wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm). Humans are not at risk for contracting EHD. They are at risk for contracting hemorrhagic diseases in general, such as Ebola.
Rabbit

Cottontail rabbit season is from Nov. 1, 2017 through Feb. 28, 2018.

Hunting hours for rabbits in February on FWAs and at Mississinewa, Patoka and Salamonie reservoirs are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour before sunset.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for rabbit hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 7 1/2-size shot is recommended.

It is illegal to remove a rabbit from a hole, den or tree hollow with the aid of a ferret or other small animal or other means. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be met while hunting rabbits (see page 13).

It is illegal to hunt, take or possess swamp rabbits, which are an endangered species in Indiana.

Rabbits can be chased with a dog year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

Squirrel


Hunter orange clothing requirements (see page 13) must be met while hunting squirrels from Nov. 1, 2017 through Jan. 31, 2018.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for squirrel hunting. A 20-gauge or smaller shotgun loaded with 6- to 7 1/2-size shot or a .22-caliber rimfire rifle is recommended.

Shooting into or disturbing leaf nests or squirrel dens is illegal at all times.

It is illegal to hunt flying squirrels, which are a protected species in Indiana. They cannot be possessed without a special permit.

Gray and fox squirrels can be chased with dogs year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

Reptile/Amphibian

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated species.

Species of frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes, toads, or turtles on the state- or federal-endangered species list may not be taken at any time. Eastern box turtles also are protected and cannot be collected from the wild at any time.

It is illegal to manufacture or to manufacture or to possess swamp rabbits, which are an endangered species in Indiana.

Reptiles can be chased with a dog year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

### REPTILE/AMPHIBIAN SEASONS AND LIMITS

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<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
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<td>Game Turtles</td>
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<tr>
<td>eastern snapping turtle</td>
<td>July 1 to March 31</td>
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<td>smooth softshell turtle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiny softshell turtle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions</td>
<td>Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface. 12-inch minimum carapace length.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Frogs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bullfrog and green frog</td>
<td>June 15 to April 30</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions</td>
<td>Frogs may be taken with the following: a gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in width and a single row of tines; long bow and arrow; club; hands alone; hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached; .22-caliber firearm loaded with bird shot only; or an air rifle that fires a lead pellet (.177 diameter minimum) at least 500 feet per second.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Singly or in aggregate, which means the catch limit includes any combination of the species.

Orange Text – Hunter Orange is required for the entire season (see page 13).


Permission To Hunt On Private Land Form

TO BE RETAINED BY THE HUNTER

According to IC 14-22-10-1, a person may not hunt on privately owned land without consent of the owner or tenant of the land. According to IC 34-31-9, natural resource-based activities, including hunting and fishing, are considered agritourism activities. An agritourism provider is a person who provides the opportunity for agritourism activities whether or not the participant pays to participate in the activity.

WARNING - Under Indiana law, an agritourism provider is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in agritourism activities at this location if the death or injury results from the inherent risks of agritourism activity. Inherent risks of agritourism activities include risks of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals as well as the potential for you to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to your injury or death, or for other participants to act in a manner that may cause you injury or cause your death. You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity.

Participant’s Name _____________________________________________
Participant’s Signature __________________________ Date ______________
Permitted Activities: □ Hunting □ Fishing □ Trapping □ Other
Restrictions/Additional Information ______________________________________________

TO BE RETAINED BY THE LANDOWNER/TENANT

Under IC 34-31-9, you are not liable for the injury or death of someone participating in natural resource-based activities on your property if the death or injury results from the inherent risks of such activity. Inherent risks include risks of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals as well as the potential for the participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to their injury or death, or for other participants to act in a manner that may cause their injury or death. The participant assumes the risk of participating in natural resource-based activities on your property.

The law does not prevent or limit the liability of an agritourism provider who has knowledge or reasonably should have known of a dangerous condition on the land and does not make the danger known to the participant; or who commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant; or who intentionally injures the participant.

Participant’s Name _____________________________________________
Participant’s Signature __________________________ Date ______________
Address ________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ Zip Code __________________
Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone __________________________
Vehicle Make __________________________ Vehicle Model __________________________
Vehicle Color __________________________ Vehicle License Plate No. __________________
Permitted Activities: □ Hunting □ Fishing □ Trapping □ Other
Restrictions ________________________________________________________
### WATERFOWL SEASON DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasons</th>
<th>2017-2018 Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
<th>Poss. Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mourning Doves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Sep. 1 Oct. 15</td>
<td>15 *</td>
<td>45 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 1 Nov. 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 9 Jan. 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sora Rails</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Sep. 1 Nov. 9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>American Woodcock</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 1 Nov. 9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Snipe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Sep. 1 Dec. 16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Teal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide **</td>
<td>Sep. 9 Sep. 24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 21 Dec. 10</td>
<td>***</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 23 Dec. 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 28 Nov. 5</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 25 Jan. 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Zone</td>
<td>Nov. 4 Nov. 12</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 2 Jan. 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geese</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Zone</td>
<td>Sep. 9 Sep. 17</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 21 Nov. 26</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 16 Feb. 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Zone</td>
<td>Sep. 9 Sep. 17</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 28 Nov. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 25 Feb. 11</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Zone</td>
<td>Sep. 9 Sep. 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 4 Nov. 26</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 2 Feb. 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS (Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, & Coots)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zones</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 14–15</td>
<td>Same as Regular Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 21–22</td>
<td>Same as Regular Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 28–29</td>
<td>Same as Regular Season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The daily bag and possession limits are for mourning doves and white-winged doves in aggregate.

** The daily bag limit for coots is 15. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, which may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers. The daily bag limit for ducks is 6, which may include no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 1 redheads, 2 black ducks, and 1 mottled duck. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

*** The daily bag limit for dark geese (Canada, white-fronted, and brant) is 5 in the aggregate. During September, all 5 may be Canada geese; during the remainder of the season, no more than 3 may be Canada geese. The possession limit for dark geese is 3 times the daily bag limit. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow, blue, and Ross) is 20. There is no possession limit for light geese.

### Reporting Bird Bands Helps Research

Franklin College researchers are investigating the importance of urban habitats for mallard ducks and the potential that such areas may provide significant numbers of waterfowl available to hunters.

Franklin undergraduate students banded 600 mallards in 2016 and plan to band more than 2,000 over the next two summers. Birds are captured by using live walk-in traps located in seven central Indiana counties. All waterfowl hunters are urged to report bird bands to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or by calling 1-800-327-BAND (1-800-327-2263). Operators are on duty 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday during the hunting season.

Reporting band numbers of harvested birds provides information about where the birds were reared. More importantly, band return data will be used to determine survival and harvest rates of game bird populations. This information is then used to more effectively set bag limits and hunting dates for future seasons.

### Many Factors Affect Waterfowl Numbers

Although most migratory game bird populations remain abundant, when and where birds will be encountered depends on many factors. Food availability, habitat, weather conditions, and other factors all influence local bird abundance, distribution, behavior and ultimately, hunter success.


More than 1,000 bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918, and about 170 are defined as game birds. Fewer than 60 species are typically hunted each year, subject to limits based on data from aerial surveys and other monitoring programs. The Service publishes migratory game bird regulations each year in the Federal Register.

In Indiana, regulations for waterfowl hunting are split into three geographic zones (North, Central, and South). Each zone can have a 60-day season for ducks, coots and mergansers, and a 104-day goose season. The zones are further split into two segments for duck season and three segments for goose season.
Migratory game birds include rails, doves, moorhens, woodcock, snipe, ducks and geese. Migratory game bird and waterfowl hunting dates are set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with Indiana and other states.

**State/Federal Regulation Reminders**

- In order to hunt ducks and geese in Indiana, all individuals must have an Indiana hunting license, an Indiana waterfowl stamp privilege and a free Harvest Information Program (HIP) validation number. Additionally, all persons 16 years or older must have a signed Federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. Federal duck stamps are available at most post offices and online at [www.fws.gov/duck-stamps](http://www.fws.gov/duck-stamps). State waterfowl stamp privileges are available from hunting and fishing license vendors and online at [INHuntFish.com](http://INHuntFish.com).

- Indiana enforces all federal migratory bird laws. Violating any provision of a state law regarding federally protected migratory birds is also a violation of federal law.

- Migratory game birds may be hunted from a motorboat provided it is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or without motion other than that imparted by wind and current acting upon the hull, or due to hand-operated oars or paddles.

- Hunters may retrieve dead or injured birds by hand or from a motorboat under power but may NOT shoot from a boat under power or in motion due to motor power.

- Migratory game birds in a hunter’s possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification when the hunter is in the field or traveling from the field to home.

- All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

- No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:
  - The hunter’s signature.
  - The hunter’s address.
  - The total number of birds involved, by species.
  - The dates such birds were killed.

- No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**Harvest Information Program (HIP)**

HIP is a joint effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies.

The program is designed to improve harvest estimates for migratory game birds nationwide. Once harvest information is gathered, the information is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and states to ensure decisions regarding migratory game bird hunting seasons are based on sound scientific evidence.

All hunters in Indiana, including those exempt from purchasing a license, must register with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting coots, doves, ducks, mergansers, gallinules, geese, snipe, sora rails or woodcock.

Hunters must register at [wildlife.IN.gov/3567.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/3567.htm) or by calling (866) 671-4499 and providing the information requested. At the end of the registration, the hunter is given a validation number to record on his or her license. This number is valid from the date of registration through the close of the last current migratory bird hunting season.

Lifetime license holders and those exempt from Indiana license and stamp requirements must also register with HIP.

Hunters need to register for HIP only once each season, not each time they hunt; however, hunters must register in each state in which they hunt.
Coatings of copper, nickel, tin, zinc, zinc chloride, zinc chrome, and fluoropolymers on approved non-toxic shot types are allowed. Lead shot plated with copper, nickel or other material does not qualify.

It is illegal to possess shells loaded with anything other than approved non-toxic shot while hunting ducks, geese and coots anywhere in the state.

The use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl was banned nationwide in 1991.

It is illegal to possess lead shot while hunting mourning doves on any state-managed property.

Waterfowl Hunting on State Areas

Hunters can apply for reserved waterfowl hunts by completing the reserved waterfowl hunt application online at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm.

For more information concerning waterfowl hunting on state-owned properties, contact the property (see page 42 for phone number).

Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

• With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

• With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.

• From a sink box (a low, floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

• From or with the aid of a car or other motor-driven land vehicle, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land vehicle.

• By the use of live decoys. All tame or captive live ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure that substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

• By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized vehicle or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.

• By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Baiting includes the placing of corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing or allowing hunters to take or attempt to take birds by the aid of bait or over a baited area. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait: $15,000/6 months jail; placing bait: $100,000/1 year jail. For more information on baiting:
  – Dove Hunting and Baiting (wildlife.in.gov/2713.htm)
  – Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting (wildlife.in.gov/2713.htm)

• By the use of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or imitations of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds.
Hunters Fund Conservation and Recreation

Hunting and fishing have a long history in Indiana, and Hoosiers have contributed to conservation since the first hunting license was sold in 1901.

With future generations in mind, regulated hunting and fishing was established to protect fish and wildlife species from being overharvested.

Ever since, proceeds generated from licenses, including habitat and fish stamps, have gone directly into managing those species and their habitats, furthering conservation and recreation. The success of conserving our natural resources would not have been possible without this user-pay, user-benefit model, which remains in effect today.

In addition to licenses, an excise tax on various hunting and fishing equipment is dedicated solely to the conservation of fish and wildlife. Taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment, boat engines, and motorboat fuel are collected for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The WSFR program began in 1937 and has distributed more than $19 billion across the nation for the conservation of fish and wildlife species and their habitats, and associated recreational opportunities. Indiana has received more than $300 million, including almost $18 million in 2017 alone.

The funds have helped the DNR acquire more than 19,000 acres of public-use land since 2010. Notable acquisitions in 2015 that benefit both wildlife and recreation include 860 acres added to Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area in Greene County and the new 376-acre Goose Creek Gamebird Habitat Area in northwest Indiana for critical upland wildlife habitat.

The DNR recently opened two shooting ranges to enhance customer experience — a new facility at Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area in Putnam County and a renovated range at Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area in Newton County. Both facilities feature multiple target ranges, a pro shop, and are staffed with an on-site safety officer.

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The DNR recently opened two shooting ranges to enhance customer experience — a new facility at Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area in Putnam County and a renovated range at Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area in Newton County. Both facilities feature multiple target ranges, a pro shop, and are staffed with an on-site safety officer.

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife relies on the revenue generated from these dedicated funding programs. License sales and WSFR funds currently contribute about 87 percent of the Division’s funding. In total, roughly 96 percent of all funding for the Division is from sources exclusive for fish and wildlife resources.

The majority of funds are generated from hunting and fishing activities, but the conservation programs benefit everyone. Whether it’s viewing sandhill cranes at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, receiving habitat assistance from a wildlife biologist, or launching a canoe at a public access site, these are all supported by the license and WSFR funds.

Recreation related to fish and wildlife (including wildlife watching) is a $1.7 billion industry in Indiana that benefits businesses and contributes to the quality of life that Hoosiers desire.

Support from hunters and anglers is critical to sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and to providing recreational opportunities for current and future generations of Hoosiers.

There are over 4,000 DU events held across the country each year. By attending a local event, you can have a great time while helping us fill the skies with waterfowl. To find one near you, visit ducks.org/events.
Pheasant season is from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, 2017. A valid hunting license and Indiana game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt pheasants. Hunter orange clothing requirements (see page 13) must be met while hunting pheasants. The daily bag limit for pheasants is two male (cock) pheasants. It is illegal to shoot female pheasants (hens), except during put-and-take hunts in designated areas. If you take a pheasant, you must leave the head and head plumage attached while you are transporting the bird. There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for pheasant hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 4- to 6-size shot is recommended. Nontoxic shot is required when hunting pheasant on some DNR properties. Call the property for additional information.

Put-and-Take
Pheasants are released for put-and-take hunting on Atterbury, Glendale, J. E. Roush Lake, Pigeon River (west of State Road 3), Tri-County, Willow Slough and Winamac FWAs. There is a per-person fee to participate in put-and-take hunts. The bag limit for put-and-take pheasant hunting is two birds of either sex, except at Pigeon River, Willow Slough and Winamac FWAs, where the limit is two roosters only. A hunter filling his/her limit in the put-and-take hunt may not take any more pheasants that day.

Hunters can reserve put-and-take pheasant hunts online from 5 a.m. EST Sept. 1 until midnight on Nov. 30 at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm. Hunts are no longer available first-come, first-served at the property.

Hunters can select the date, property, and area for their hunt. Pheasant hunters in designated put-and-take areas are prohibited from harvesting game animals other than pheasants on days when pheasants are released and hunted. This restriction is only for pheasant hunters and only in their designated units.

Game Bird Areas
The Division of Fish & Wildlife conducts special reserved pheasant hunts on game bird habitat areas in northern Indiana (Benton, Jasper, Newton, Warren and White counties). Hunters can apply online at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm.

Quail
Quail hunting is divided into two zones — north and south. Interstate 74 is the dividing line.

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SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
Call or go online for details.
The North Zone season is from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, 2017, with a bag limit of 4 birds. The South Zone season is from Nov. 1, 2017 to Jan. 10, 2018, with a bag limit of 8 birds.

The daily bag limit at North Zone fish & wildlife areas and at Mississinewa Lake and Salamonie Lake properties is 2 quail. The daily bag limit at South Zone fish & wildlife areas and at Patoka Lake is 4 quail.

A valid hunting license and an Indiana game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt quail in Indiana. Hunter orange clothing requirements (see page 13) must be met while hunting quail.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for quail hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 9-size shot is recommended.

Some DNR properties may have additional regulations for quail hunting. Check with the property for details.

Other Wild Birds

English sparrows, European starlings, monk parakeets, and feral pigeons (except homing pigeons) may be killed at any time.

Brown-headed cowbirds, common grackles, red-winged blackbirds, Brewer’s blackbirds and crows may be controlled without a permit when they are damaging trees or crops, or creating a public health hazard in accordance with federal regulations. All other non-game species of birds not otherwise covered in this regulation are protected by state or federal law and may not be killed. These provisions do not override any local ordinances restricting the use of firearms and other equipment.

Crow


Crows may be taken outside of the hunting season only if they are damaging trees, crops, livestock or wildlife, or creating a public health hazard. There are no restrictions on use of calls or decoys, and crows may be taken with bow and arrow, crossbow or firearm.

You are not required to have a state stamp privilege or federal stamp, but you must have a HIP registration number.
License Requirements

To hunt wild turkey, a valid turkey hunting license and a valid game bird habitat stamp privilege are required.

Those that have a lifetime comprehensive hunting, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing, or resident youth hunt/trap license can hunt turkey and do not need to purchase the game bird habitat stamp because it is included with those license types.

A separate turkey hunting license is required when hunting during each turkey hunting season — one for the spring season and one for the fall season.

Game bird habitat stamp privileges are good for both spring and fall seasons in the same calendar year.

You can assist another hunter by calling only if you are licensed to hunt turkeys, regardless of whether or not you have harvested a turkey yourself.

Season and Bag Limits

Spring 2018

- The spring season is April 25 through May 13, 2018. The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season. Spring turkey hunting is allowed statewide.

Fall 2017

- The bag and possession limit for the fall seasons is one bird of either sex, regardless of hunting equipment used or what portion of the season. Fall archery season is statewide. Fall firearm season has specific dates for specific counties (see below or map on page 37).
  - Fall firearm: Oct. 18 - 29, 2017 in the following counties only:

Reserved hunts

Special reserved turkey hunts are scheduled at select DNR fish and wildlife areas. Special reserved turkey hunts also take place at Big Oaks and Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuges. Applications and drawings are managed through the DNR reserved hunt system. For details and how to apply online, go to wildlife.in.gov/5834.htm

Youth Season

Information about the youth season is on page 14-15.

Legal Equipment

Turkeys can be hunted only with:

- A 10-, 12-, 16- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7 or 7½. Non-toxic shot is required while hunting turkey on some DNR properties. Call the property for additional information.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7 or 7½. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- Bow and arrow
- A crossbow

Hunting Hours

Wild turkeys may be hunted only from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. All DNR properties
managed by the Division of Fish & Wildlife have spring season hunting hours one-half hour before sunrise until noon for properties on CDT and until 1 p.m. for properties on EDT. Call the property for additional information.

**Tagging Requirements**

Immediately upon killing a turkey, the hunter must complete a temporary transportation tag on paper stating the hunter’s full name, address, sex of the turkey, license number (if applicable), and the date the turkey was taken before transporting the turkey from the field.

**Reporting Requirements**

Hunters are required to register their harvested turkey within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:

- Self reporting online through the DNR’s CheckIN Game system (CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov)
- Calling 800-419-1326 (a $3 fee applies)
- Finding a check station, license vendor, or retailer who will file the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the turkey is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the turkey until processing begins.

For an online printable version of a temporary transportation tag, see www.wildlife.in.gov/files/turkeytag.pdf

**Hunter Orange**

Turkey hunters must meet fluorescent (hunter) orange requirements while hunting turkeys Dec. 9-24, 2017 and from Dec. 26, 2017 through Jan. 7, 2018. (in locations where the deer special antlerless season is open). See hunter orange requirements on page 13.

**Fair Chase**

While hunting wild turkey, it is illegal to use or possess: a dog; another domesticated animal; a live decoy; a recorded call; an electronically powered or controlled decoy; or bait. An area is considered baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait and affected soil, but an area is not considered to be baited that is attractive to wild turkeys resulting from normal agricultural practices.
**FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furbearers</th>
<th>Hunting Seasons</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dog Running</td>
<td>Feb. 1, 2018 - Oct. 25, 2018</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Furbearer Hunting**

A valid hunting license is needed to hunt coyote, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk. (See the chart above for season dates.)

A continuously burning light that can be seen for at least 500 feet must be carried while pursuing furbearing animals between sunset and sunrise. It is illegal to:

- Remove wild animals from any cavity or den;
- To disturb the den or nest of any animal by shooting, digging, cutting or chopping; with the aid of smoke, fire, fumes, chemicals, ferret or other small animal; or with any device introduced into the hole where the animal is sheltered;
- To use or carry tree climbing or cutting equipment for the purpose of dislodging an animal from a tree.

**Dog Running**

The dog running season for raccoon and opossum extends from noon Feb. 1 through noon Oct. 25. A person needs a valid Indiana hunting license to chase wild animals with dogs. See license exemptions on pages 8 and 10. It is legal to hunt and chase foxes (Oct. 15 to Feb. 28), raccoons (Nov. 8 to Jan. 31), and coyotes (Oct. 15 to March 15) with dogs during the established hunting seasons. Youth that are younger than 13 years old, do not possess a bow, crossbow or firearm, and are accompanied by an individual who is at least 18 years of age and holds a valid license are exempt from needing a hunting license while chasing a wild animal during the dog running season. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties. It is legal to chase foxes and coyotes with dogs year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

**Fox & Coyote Hunting**

It is legal to hunt fox and coyote with the use of mouth- or hand-operated calls, or with the use of recorded calls. Spotlights may be used to take fox and coyote. There are no restrictions on hunting hours or firearms for hunting fox and coyote. It is illegal to hunt fox or coyote from a roadway or with the use of any motor-driven conveyance. It is legal to chase foxes and coyotes without a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties.

**Protected Species**

Badgers and bobcats are protected species. It is illegal to take these furbearers in Indiana. If you accidentally trap a badger or bobcat, report the incident to an Indiana Conservation Officer (see page 43). There is no penalty for reporting accidental captures. If the animal is dead, the carcass must be surrendered to an Indiana Conservation Officer. Information provided by hunters and trappers is an important means of determining the status and distribution of these species in Indiana.

For more on protected wildlife, call the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, (317) 232-4200 or go to wildlife.IN.gov.

**Possession of Live Furbearers**

Only raccoons, red foxes, gray foxes, and coyotes can be retained alive during the trapping season for that species.

Raccoons, foxes or coyotes that are removed from a trap and kept alive must be confined in a cage or other enclosure that: (a) makes escape of the mammal unlikely and prevents the entrance of a free-roaming mammal of the same species; (b) is structurally sound; (c) is of sufficient strength for the species involved; (d) is maintained in good repair and smoothly secured to prevent escape or injury to the mammal in the enclosure; (e) is constructed to allow sufficient space for individual posture, to turn about freely, and make normal social movements; (f) is secured when unattended with protective devices at entrances and exits to prevent escapes if kept outdoors and if needed to prevent injuries to humans or the mammal’s health; and (g) has ambient ventilation by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning to prevent the escape of the mammal and to minimize drafts, odors and condensation.

Night quarters, transportation cages, and nesting boxes may not be used as primary housing. Surface water must be adequately drained from a cage or enclosure to where the mammal is housed. Adequate lighting must be provided by artificial or natural means and cycled for appropriate photoperiod, if necessary for the mammal in possession. The cages or enclosures must also have adequate shelter from the elements and provide adequate shade for the animals.

You must remove and dispose of food wastes, feces, urine and bedding from the enclosure. You must also remove from the enclosure and appropriately dispose of trash, garbage, debris, and carcasses as soon as they are observed.

You must also provide daily: 1) fresh, clean drinking water in clean containers and 2) food that is unspoiled, uncontaminated, appropriate to the dietary needs of the mammal, and of sufficient quantity for the mammal involved.

Furbearers that are possessed alive and their cages or other enclosures must be made available for inspection by an Indiana Conservation Officer upon request.
Trapping Regulations

Furbearing game animals in Indiana include beaver, coyote, gray fox, red fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, and striped skunk.

You must have a valid Indiana trapping license to set traps.

Traps may not be set prior to 8 a.m. on opening day of trapping season. Traps must be checked and animals removed at least one time every 24 hours. Traps may be set at any distance from openings to tile drains or entrances to beaver or muskrat lodges. Tree climbing equipment may not be used as an aid in removing wild animals from trees. The use of motor-driven watercraft is permitted for purposes of setting or checking trap lines.

All trapping seasons are from 8 a.m. of the first day of the season to noon of the last day of the season. There are no daily bag or possession limits except for river otters.

Furbearers (except for raccoons, foxes and coyotes that can be retained alive) that are trapped must either be released into the wild in the county in which they were captured within 24 hours of capturing the animals, or they must be euthanized immediately after removal from the trap or immediately upon transporting from the trap site.

River Otter Rules

For the third straight year, Indiana will have a regulated trapping season for river otters in 66 designated counties.

River otters may be trapped from 8 a.m. Nov. 15, 2017 until noon March 15, 2018 and only in counties that are shaded in the map to the right.

A valid Indiana trapping license is required to set traps for river otters. An individual who sets a trap for river otters must be at least 10 years old, unless the individual has passed a state-certified trapper education course.

The bag limit is two otters per trapper per season. An individual who sets a trap that catches a river otter must count the animal toward his or her season limit. River otters taken during the trapping season must be reported to the DNR CheckIN Game system (www.CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov or call 800-419-1326) within 24 hours of harvest. A CheckIN Game confirmation number will be provided and must be kept with the river otter until the animal is physically registered by a designated Indiana DNR employee or at an official DNR river otter check station. Check wildlife.IN.gov/8499.htm for locations.

There is a statewide quota of 600 river otters for the 2017-18 season. The season will close early if the quota is reached prior to March 15, 2018. Trappers are responsible for knowing if the quota has been met. The current reported river otter take can be found at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/8499.htm. If the season closes early, an exception may be made for an individual who traps a river otter within 48 hours after the close of the season and has not yet reached his/her own bag limit.

River otters killed accidentally after the statewide quota or individual’s own bag limit have been reached must notify the DNR within 48 hours of capture and make arrangements to give that river otter to the DNR.

River otters trapped outside the season or in counties closed to river otter trapping must be turned in to the DNR. Call your local district wildlife biologist, local Conservation Officer or (812) 837-9536.

You must take the skinned carcass and separated pelt to a designated DNR employee or registration station for physical registration and CITES tagging 15 days after the month of harvest.

River otter pelts will be sealed with a CITES tag and the carcass collected so DNR biologists can evaluate reproductive and age data from the animal. The information helps biologists make future season recommendations.

What is a CITES tag? CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement governing trade of endangered species. As a CITES participant, the United States follows certain requirements. River otters are on Appendix II of CITES, which means they are a “look-alike” species to other endangered otter species around the world.

To ensure river otters entering international trade were harvested legally in the United States, an unaltered CITES tag must be affixed to the pelt. Each state has uniquely marked tags. An otter pelt must have a CITES tag before it can be sold.

Trappers reported taking 518 river otters during the 2016-17 season after meeting the quota of 600 otters in the inaugural 2015-16 season.
Body Gripping Traps
A person must not take a wild animal with a Conibear, Dahlgren, Bigelow or other body-gripping trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured at the horizontal center of the trap’s base plate and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the trap’s base plate is greater than 5¾ inches, unless the jaws of the trap are at least a 1/8-inch offset, the gap of the offset is filled with securely attached rubber pads, or the trap is completely covered by water.

Snares
It is only legal to use a snare to trap a wild animal on land you own or with the written permission of the landowner. The maximum legal circumference for snare loops is 15 inches, unless at least half of the snare loop is covered by water or if the snare employs a relaxing snare lock. A relaxing snare lock allows the snare loop to loosen slightly to reduce the possibility of strangulation. Regulations on snare size and lock are designed to prevent accidental loss of domestic animals.

Box Traps
Furbearers may be captured in box traps used on land or underwater.

Foothold Traps
It is illegal to use a foothold trap with saw-toothed or spiked jaws. It is illegal to take a wild animal with a foothold trap if the widest inside jaw-spread measured perpendicular to the trap’s base plate and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the vertical center of the trap’s base plate is greater than 5¾ inches and less than or equal to 6½ inches, unless the traps hinge posts are maintained at a 90-degree angle to the trap’s base plate. It is illegal to take a wild animal with a foothold trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured perpendicular to the trap’s base plate and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the vertical center of the trap’s base plate is greater than 6½ inches.

It is illegal to set or place a stake, chain, drag or another portion of a trap that is designed to take a wild animal, except during a season established for trapping that wild animal.

Measuring your foothold trap
1. Measure the widest inside jaw spread perpendicular to the traps baseplate as in Figure 3 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 1.
2. Measure the inside width between the traps hinge posts as in Figure 4 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 2.
3. If both measurements fall in Box 1, then the trap can have standard jaws (offset jaws are not required).
4. If either measurement falls in Box 2, then the jaws of the trap must have at least a 1/8 inch offset or the gap of the offset can be filled with securely attached rubber pads. Securely attached means with bolts or rivets, not tape.
5. If either measurements fall in Box 3, then the trap must be completely covered by water.
Indiana’s R3 Program Combats Hunter Decline

According to recent conservative estimates, there are about 13.7 million hunters and more than 40 million shooting sports participants in the United States.

Their combined activities support more than 1.5 million jobs and produce nearly $110 billion in economic impact annually. Hunters and recreational shooters have generated more than $10.5 billion for the conservation of wildlife and their habitats (see Hunters Fund Conservation and Recreation article on Page 35).

Indiana alone has received over $178 million in federal assistance for wildlife conservation.

However, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service records, national participation in hunting declined 18 percent since it peaked in 1982.

Present trends suggest that the decline will continue while the average age of Hoosier hunters increases. With many baby boomers aging out of hunting participation, the need to engage a new segment of the population is increasingly important in order to sustain future wildlife conservation activities.

To counter the decline, Indiana is part of a national movement to reverse the trend. It’s called Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3).

R3 experts are working to identify the complexity of the challenge, hoping to stabilize and increase hunting and shooting sports participants. R3 efforts focused on hunting are needed now more than ever to ensure the hunting heritage of Hoosiers remains relevant.

In Indiana, the hunting, trapping, and shooting sports R3 program is administered by the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife’s Hoosier Outdoor Heritage (HOH) program. The goal of HOH is to teach people how to hunt, trap, and enjoy the shooting sports in a safe and secure manner. HOH puts on 40-60 events and workshops per year. Events range from single-day events to multi-day workshops. Single-day events, like family dove hunts, pair participants new to hunting with seasoned mentors and provide high-quality hunting opportunities. Multi-day workshops, like the Learn to Hunt Deer workshop, provide participants all the knowledge, experience, and practice to try deer hunting for the first time.

For more information on HOH and its events, visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2701.htm. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer hunting, trapping, or shooting sports mentor, contact the HOH Coordinator by email at Learn2Hunt@dnr.in.gov.

Non-Native Wild Pigs Present Problems

Populations of non-native wild pigs have been a problem in pockets around the state.

Wild pigs are an invasive species and a threat to native wildlife, including popular game animals such as deer and turkey. They are opportunistic animals that feed on the nests and young of game birds, rabbits, reptiles, amphibians and deer. They also compete with native wildlife for food. Some wildlife, such as deer and nesting turkeys, avoid areas where pigs are active.

Pig activity along streams and rivers can cause water quality issues. Pigs muddy up waterways, an activity that covers fish spawning beds in silt and decreases oxygen levels.

Wild pig rooting also damages crops, parks, lawns and rural cemeteries. Wild pigs will eat young lambs and goats.

They are known to carry more than 30 pathogens and parasites that can be transmitted to livestock, people, pets and wildlife. Some of these pathogens can be directly transmitted to humans, causing life-long debilitating illnesses.

A person can take a wild pig anytime without a permit from the DNR, but they must have written permission of the landowner where the pig is taken. All captured pigs must be euthanized immediately; possession of a live wild pig is illegal.

Recreational sport hunting has not been successful in reducing wild pig populations. Population control is possible through a combination of trapping whole social groups, selective shooting of trap-shy pigs, and aerial shooting.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH), and the Indiana DNR ask hunters who observe or take wild pigs to report the animal(s) to the USDA-WS at 1-855-386-0370.

Reports help the cooperating agencies determine necessary control and disease monitoring steps.

Reports should include date, best possible location information (e.g., distance and direction to nearest town, county or township, landowner’s name), approximate number and relative size of the pigs, and the observer’s contact information. Digital pictures of the pigs are helpful.
Fish & Wildlife Areas / Healthy Rivers INitiative Sites

1. Atterbury FWA
   7970 S. Rowe Rd.
   Edinburgh, IN 46124
   (812) 526-2051

2. Blue Grass FWA
   Contact Sugar Ridge FWA

3. Chinook FWA
   Contact Deer Creek FWA

4. Crosley FWA
   2010 South SR 3
   North Vernon, IN 47265
   (812) 346-5596

5. Deer Creek FWA
   2001 W. CR 600 S
   Greencastle, IN 46135
   765-653-0453

6. Fairbanks Landing FWA
   Contact Goose Pond FWA

7. Glendale FWA
   6001 E. 600 S
   Montgomery, IN 47555
   (812) 647-2657

8. Goose Pond FWA
   13540 West CR 400
   Linton, IN 47441
   (812) 512-9185

9. Hillenbrand FWA
   Contact Crosley FWA

10. Hovey Lake FWA
    15800 Raben Road S
    Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
    (812) 838-2927

11. J.E. Roush FWA
    517 N. Warren Road
    Huntingdon, IN 46750
    (260) 468-2165

12. Jasper-Pulaski FWA
    5822 N. Fish & Wildlife Ln
    Medaryville, IN 47957
    (219) 843-4841

13. Kankakee FWA
    4320 W. Toto Road
    North Judson, IN 46366
    (574) 896-3522

14. Kingsbury FWA
    5344 S. Hupp Road
    LaPorte, IN 46350
    (219) 393-3612

15. LaSalle FWA
    4752 W 1050 N
    Lake Village, IN 46349
    (219) 789-2724

16. Pigeon River FWA
    8310 East 300N
    Box 71
    Huntingdon, IN 46750
    (260) 468-2165

17. Splinter Ridge FWA
    Contact Crosley FWA

18. Sugar Ridge FWA
    2310 East SR 364
    Winslow, IN 47598
    (812) 789-2724

19. Tri-County FWA
    8432 North 850E
    Syracuse, IN 46567
    (574) 834-4461

20. Wabashiki FWA
    Contact Deer Creek FWA

21. Wilbur Wright FWA
    2239 North SR 103
    New Castle, IN 47362
    (765) 529-9581

22. Willow Slough FWA
    1803 S. 700 W.
    Morocco, IN 47963
    (219) 285-2704

23. Winamac FWA
    1493 West 500N
    Winamac, IN 46996
    (574) 946-4422

State Reservoirs & State Forests

A. Brookville Lake
   14108 SR 101
   PO Box 100
   Brookville, IN 47012
   (765) 647-2657

B. Cagles Mill Lake
   1317 W. Lieber Road
   Suite 1
   Cloverdale, IN 46120
   (765) 795-4576

C. Cecil M. Harden Lake
   1588 S. Raccoon Parkway
   Rockville, IN 47872
   (765) 344-1884

D. Hardy Lake
   5620 Hardy Lake Road
   Scottsburg, IN 47170
   (812) 794-3800

E. Mississinewa Lake
   4673 S 625 E
   Peru, IN 46970
   (765) 473-9528

F. Monroe Lake
   4850 S SR 446
   Bloomington, IN 47401
   (812) 837-9546

G. Patoka Lake
   3084 N. Dillard Road
   Birdseye, IN 47513
   (812) 685-2464

H. Salamonie Lake
   9214 W Lost Bridge W
   Andrews, IN 46702
   (260) 468-2125

1. Clark SF
   P.O. Box 119
   #2 Service Road
   Henryville, IN 47126
   (812) 294-4306

2. Deam Lake SRA
   1217 Deam Lake Road
   Borden, IN 47106
   (812) 246-5421

3. Ferdinand SF
   6583 E SR 264
   Ferdinand, IN 47532
   (812) 367-1524

4. Greene-Sullivan SF
   2551 S SR 159
   Dugger, IN 47848
   (812) 648-2810

5. Harrison-Crawford SF
   7240 Old Forest Rd. SW
   Corydon, IN 47112
   (812) 738-7694

6. Jackson-Washington SF
   1278 E SR 250
   Brownstown, IN 47220
   (812) 358-2160

7. Martin SF
   14040 Williams Road
   Shoals, IN 47581
   (812) 247-3491

8. Morgan-Monroe SF
   6220 Forest Road
   Martinsville, IN 46151
   (765) 342-4026

9. Owen-Putnam SF
   2153 Fish Creek Road
   Spencer, IN 47460
   (812) 829-2462

10. Pike SF
    6583 E SR 264
    Ferdinand, IN 47532
    (812) 367-1524

11. Selmier SF
    905 E CR 350 N
    North Vernon, IN 47265
    (812) 346-2286

12. Starve Hollow SRA
    4345 S. 275 W, Box 291
    Vallonia, IN 47281-9741
    (812) 358-3464

13. Yellowwood SF
    772 Yellowwood Lake Rd.
    Nashville, IN 47448
    (812) 988-7945
DNR Law Enforcement Districts

Contact DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch (24 hours) to report violations or if you need assistance from an Indiana Conservation Officer. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR to report any poaching activities.

Central Dispatch
4850 S SR 446
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 837-9536

1. District 1 Headquarters
9822 N. Turkey Creek Road
Syracuse, IN 46567
(574) 457-8092

2. District 2 Headquarters
1353 S. Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 244-3720

3. District 3 Headquarters
4112 E SR 225
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 567-7859

4. District 4 Headquarters
3734 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46017
(765) 649-1062

5. District 5 Headquarters
1317 W. Lieber Road
Suite 2
Cloverdale, IN 46120
(765) 795-3534

6. District 6 Headquarters
P.O. Box 282
Ninevah, IN 46164
(812) 526-4101

7. District 7 Headquarters
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
(812) 789-9538

8. District 8 Headquarters
1504 Schlamm Lake Road
Henryville, IN 47126
(812) 639-4148

9. District 9 Headquarters
1387 E U.S. 50
Versailles, IN 47042
(812) 689-4370

10. District 10 Headquarters
100 W. Water St.
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 879-5710

Need a Wildlife Biologist?
To find the DNR wildlife biologist or urban biologist in your area, go to wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm

Public Shooting Ranges

DNR shooting ranges are open to the general public. Contact the range in your area with questions on range hours, fees and other information or go to wildlife.IN.gov/3648.htm

1. Clark State Forest
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-294-4306

2. Patoka Lake
archery
812-685-2464

3. Wilbur Wright FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-529-9581

4. J. E. Roush Lake FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-344-1884

5. J. E. Roush Lake FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-358-2160

6. Jasper-Pulaski FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
574-946-4422

7. Crosley FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-526-4101

8. Atterbury FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
574-96-4422

9. Tri-County FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
574-344-1884

10. Pigeon River FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
260-367-2164

11. Kingsbury FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
219-285-2060

12. Willow Slough FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
219-843-4841

13. Cecil M. Harden Lake
archery
765-344-1884

14. Sugar Ridge FWA
archery/rifle/handgun/shotgun
812-526-4101

15. Winamac FWA
archery/rifle/shotgun/handgun
765-344-1884

16. Hardy Lake
archery
812-946-4422

17. Greene-Sullivan State Forest
archery
812-649-2810

18. Brookville Lake FWA
archery/rifle/handgun/shotgun
765-676-2567

19. Deer Creek FWA
archery/rifle/handgun
765-276-3032

- A fee is charged.
**MARKETPLACE**

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Mississinewa Lake │ Hardy Lake │ Monroe Lake
Patoka Lake │ Salamonie Lake

For information on hunter education classes, youth hunting events, trapping courses and other outdoor skills programs, visit interpreteservices.IN.gov.

Prefer a little more comfort than a tent or a camper? Check out Indiana State Park Inns.

Inn Reservations
Indianalnns.com or 1-877-LODGES 1

Camping/Shelter/Cabin Reservations
camp.IN.gov or 1-866-622-6746

stateparks.IN.gov

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