

# INDIANA HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

2023-2024 REGULATIONS

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# INDIANA HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE



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The Hunting & Trapping Guide is a publication of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. 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 & Wildlife before reproducing any part of this booklet. Paid advertisements that appear in this guide do not imply endorsement by the DNR or by the State of Indiana for the businesses or products advertised. The Department is not responsible for any advertising claims contained herein.



Photograph by – John Maxwell, Indiana DNR



As Indiana's humid summer days fade away to the crisp mornings of fall, one thing's for certain: It's hunting and trapping season for much of our favorite game.

Some of my fondest memories of growing up in southern Indiana involve getting together with a few buddies to head out for a squirrel hunt. Clad in layers of blaze orange, we'd be out early in the morning—shortly after sunrise—when the squirrels would first peek their heads out.

Back in the day, my friends and I were not the most patient group. But squirrel hunting was perfect for us because it helped us channel our energy into a sport that refined our focus and our perseverance. We bonded over our hits—and our more frequent misses—and

enjoyed the peaceful time that a forest can provide like no other place.

Once I got older and started a family of my own, I brought my son along on squirrel hunts. Together, we'd head down the road to Monroe Lake, where we'd follow the same time-tested tradition of Hoosier hunters before us across the state. Those quiet moments brought us closer together and helped forge a lifetime of memories that I will always cherish.

One great thing about squirrel hunting is that it doesn't take a ton of time or gear. Mostly, it just requires a little patience.

So, gather up your friends and family, and take this as your invitation to get outside to make a few memories of your own in the woods.

*Dan Bortner*

**Dan Bortner**

Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



This year's cover and theme touch a place close to my heart. Nearly 10 years ago, I brought home my first feist, my first squirrel dog, for my 8-year-old son, so they could squirrel hunt together on Saturday mornings in the fall. Over the years, that dog has grown from a hunting companion into a family pet that we love for many more reasons than what she does in the woods. My family's relationship with our dog has turned into a lifelong bond.

Fifteen years ago, my job with the Division of Fish & Wildlife was to determine how to introduce more people to hunting because we were seeing a decline in participation. I had always thought the path to introducing new folks to hunting was through small game because that was the path I followed. I still cannot

think of a better way to introduce people to hunting than by bringing a dog and the whole family along for a fun outdoor activity.

Even without a dog, squirrel hunting is a simple, quiet walk in the woods to focus on listening and watching for movement in the scenic environment around you. The relaxation isn't even the best part of the experience—squirrel meat is some of the finest fare that you can put on your table. My family loves squirrel pot pie, buffalo squirrel dip, squirrel and noodles, and the traditional pan-fried squirrel and gravy.

Over the years, we have shared our dogs and our squirrel hunting trips with a lot of people. Our experiences are priceless, the relationships we build are meaningful, and our bounty is yummy.

If you're interested in gaining experience hunting squirrel, there's no better place to practice than at a learn-to-hunt event hosted on our public land. No matter how you hunt, you're in for an incredible adventure.

*Amanda Wuestefeld*

**Amanda Wuestefeld**

Director, DNR Fish & Wildlife

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## To Hunters & Trappers in the Hoosier State

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Indiana DNR Hunting & Trapping Guide. We hope you find it helpful as you prepare for the upcoming hunting and trapping seasons.

Any corrections or updates to information published in this guide will be made to the online version found at [hunting.IN.gov](https://www.hunting.IN.gov).

This guide provides a summary of Indiana hunting and trapping regulations. If you need complete versions of Indiana rules and regulations for hunting and trapping, they can be found in Indiana Code, Title 14, Article 22 ([iga.IN.gov](https://www.iga.IN.gov)) or in Indiana Administrative Code, Title 312, Article 9, ([IN.gov/legislative/iac](https://www.IN.gov/legislative/iac)).

Information in the guide includes season dates, bag limits, license requirements and costs, legal hunting hours, approved hunting equipment, and more. Articles found within this guide are written by Indiana DNR staff who are experts in their work.

All funds made from selling Indiana hunting and fishing licenses go directly back to conservation. Your license funds are used for wildlife management and research, habitat management and restoration, land acquisition, public access, shooting ranges, fish stocking, DNR law enforcement, and more. We thank all hunters, anglers, trappers, and recreational shooters in Indiana for their continued support of the Division of Fish & Wildlife. The funding stream you provide helps make conservation of Indiana's natural resources a success.

Finally, good luck this hunting and trapping season. We hope it's your best one yet.

## 2023-2024 INDIANA HUNTING SEASONS

Furbearers	Hunting Dates	Limit
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 15, 2023 - Feb. 28, 2024	No limit
Coyote & Striped Skunk	Oct. 15, 2023 - March 15, 2024	No limit
Raccoon & Opossum	Nov. 8, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	No limit
Mink, Muskrat & Long-Tailed Weasel	Nov. 15, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	No limit
Beaver	Nov. 15, 2023 - March 15, 2024	No limit
Dog Running (Raccoon, Opossum) Chasing season only - no hunting	Feb. 1, 2023 - Oct. 25, 2023	Not applicable

Wild Turkey	Hunting Dates	Limit
Youth Spring	April 20, 2024 - April 21, 2024	1 bearded or male turkey per hunter in youth/spring
Spring	April 24, 2024 - May 12, 2024	
Fall Archery (statewide)	Oct. 1, 2023 - Oct. 29, 2023 Dec. 9, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024	1 turkey of either sex per hunter each fall
Fall Firearms	Oct. 18, 2023 - Oct. 29, 2023 (see page 45 for counties)	

Deer	Hunting Dates	Limit
Reduction Zone*	Sept. 15, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024 (see page 27 for Reduction Zones)	See page 33 for deer season bag limits
Youth	Sept. 23, 2023 - Sept. 24, 2023	
Archery	Oct. 1, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024	
Firearms	Nov. 18, 2023 - Dec. 3, 2023	
Muzzleloader	Dec. 9, 2023 - Dec. 24, 2023	
Special Antlerless Firearms	Closed	

\* Designated counties or portions of counties (formerly Urban Deer Zones)

Game Birds	Hunting Dates	Limit
Pheasant (cock only)	Nov. 1, 2023 - Dec. 15, 2023	2 per day
Quail		
North of Interstate 74*	Nov. 1, 2023 - Dec. 15, 2023	4 per day*
South of Interstate 74**	Nov. 1, 2023 - Jan. 10, 2024	8 per day**
Crow	July 1, 2023 - Aug. 15, 2023 Dec. 13, 2023 - March 1, 2024	No limit

The possession limit on game birds 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

Small Game	Hunting Dates	Limit
Squirrel (Gray & Fox)	Aug. 15, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	5 per day
Rabbit	Nov. 1, 2023 - Feb. 28, 2024	5 per day
Green Frog & Bullfrog	June 15, 2023 - April 30, 2024	25 per day
Game Turtles *	July 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024	4 per day**

The possession limit for small game species is two times the daily bag limit.

\* Eastern snapping turtle, smooth softshell turtle, spiny softshell turtle

\*\* Limit is singly or in aggregate. These species of turtles must have a carapace length of at least 12 inches.

Waterfowl & Migratory Game Birds	Hunting Dates	Limit
See table on page 38 for species and season dates		



The Indiana DNR receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination the basis of race, color, nation origin, age, disability (or sex in education programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Chief, Public Civil Rights; Office of Civil Rights; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; 1849 C Street NW; Washington, DC 20240.







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## IMPORTANT UPDATES

### Reserved Hunts and Draws

In 2022, the Indiana DNR reserve hunts program awarded 18,690 separate hunting opportunities. This year, the number of reserve hunt opportunities is expanding to include additional hunts from Indiana's Private Lands Access Program (IPLA), as well as hunts at numerous State and federally operated properties in the state. Visit [on.IN.gov/reservedhunt](https://on.IN.gov/reservedhunt) for application instructions and information about the game species and areas offered within the program.

### Keep up with the Division of Fish & Wildlife

Want to keep up to date with DFW regulation changes, projects, and wildlife news? Subscribe to our Nongame Wildlife News and Wild Bulletin Newsletters at [on.IN.gov/wildbulletin](https://on.IN.gov/wildbulletin) to make sure you don't miss a beat!

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## General License Regulations

- **Hunting licenses:** A valid hunting license issued by the Indiana DNR 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 other individuals are nonresidents.
- **Licenses and stamps:** A hunting license (and applicable stamps, permits, and HIP number) must have 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 or must purchase an apprentice hunting license. See page 10 for more information on apprentice licenses.
- **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 noncompliance with conditions under which licenses are issued.
- **License refunds:** Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable.

## How to Purchase a License

### Online

Go to [on.IN.gov/INhuntfish](https://on.IN.gov/INhuntfish). Online license purchases have a \$1 per license fee for system support maintenance and an additional \$1 plus 1.96% credit card company fee on each transaction.

### In Person

Visit one of more than 500 retailers statewide listed at [on.IN.gov/INhuntfish](https://on.IN.gov/INhuntfish).

### By Mail

Send a check or money order (payable to DNR) or credit card information (include number and expiration date) to DNR Customer Service, Attention: Licenses.

## STATE LICENSE FEES

License Category	License Type	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Nonresident	Apprentice Option?
Youth	Res. Youth Consolidated Hunt/Trap (See page 12 for details)	\$12	na	Y
	Nonres. Annual Youth Hunting <sup>2</sup>	na	\$20	Y
	Nonres. Youth Deer Hunting	na	\$39	Y
	Nonres. Deer License Bundle	na	\$91	Y
	Nonres. Youth Spring Turkey Hunting <sup>6</sup>	na	\$32	Y
	Nonres. Youth Fall Turkey Hunting <sup>6</sup>	na	\$32	Y
	Nonres. Annual Youth Trapping	na	\$20	N
Combo Hunt/Fish	Annual Hunting & Fishing <sup>2</sup>	\$32	na	Y
	Disabled American Veterans Annual Hunt/Fish <sup>2</sup>	\$2.75	na	N
	Disabled American Veterans 10-Year Hunt/Fish <sup>2</sup>	\$27.50	na	N
Hunting (except deer and turkey)	Annual Hunting <sup>2</sup>	\$20	\$90	Y
	Five-Day Hunting <sup>2</sup>	na	\$50	Y
Deer	Deer Hunting <sup>3</sup>	\$39 <sup>4</sup>	\$240 <sup>5</sup>	Y
	Deer License Bundle	\$91	\$550	Y
Turkey	Spring Turkey Hunting <sup>6</sup>	\$32	\$175	Y
	Fall Turkey Hunting <sup>6</sup>	\$32	\$175	Y
Stamps	Game Bird Habitat Stamp <sup>6</sup>	\$11	\$11	N
	Waterfowl Stamp <sup>7</sup>	\$11	\$11	N
Trapping	Annual Trapping	\$20	\$140	N
	Annual Fishing	\$23	\$60	N
Fishing	Trout/Salmon Stamp	\$11	\$11	N
	One-Day Fishing (includes trout/salmon)	\$10	\$15	N
	Seven-Day Fishing	na	\$35	N
	Senior Annual Fishing	\$3	na	N
	Senior Fish for Life	\$23	na	N

1 - See resident description located at the left of this chart.

2 - Does not include deer or turkey.

3 - Deer Hunting refers to Reduction Zone, firearms, archery, crossbow, muzzleloader, or bonus antlerless licenses.

4 - The second and any additional resident bonus antlerless deer hunting licenses: \$24 each. The first bonus antlerless license must be purchased at a cost of \$39 prior to purchasing the second and any additional bonus antlerless licenses at the discounted rate.

5 - The second and any additional nonresident bonus antlerless deer hunting licenses: \$39 each. The first bonus antlerless license must be purchased at a cost of \$240 prior to purchasing the second and any additional bonus antlerless licenses at the discounted rate.

6 - Game Bird Habitat Stamp is required to hunt turkey, dove, quail and pheasant.

7 - Waterfowl Stamp Privilege is required when hunting migratory waterfowl (page 38).

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include:

- The license(s) and season (e.g., deer muzzleloader) you are purchasing
- Name, date of birth, Indiana Driver's License number, and Social Security number (required by Indiana Code 14-22-11-3)
- Hunter education certificate number if born after Dec. 31, 1986
- Complete address, city, state, ZIP code, and phone number
- Height, weight, color of hair, and color of eyes

**\*DNR Customer Service mailing address is:**

402 W. Washington St.  
W255B  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

### By Phone

Call the DNR Customer Service at 317-232-4200 or 877-463-6367 (toll-free).

Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

## State Stamp & License Exemptions

The following are exempt from license requirements:

- Residents or nonresidents participating in a DNR-licensed field trial.
- Resident owners of Indiana farmland, resident lessees of Indiana farmland who farm that land, and the spouses and children living with them while hunting, fishing, or trapping on the farmland they own or lease. This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation, or partnership unless the shareholders, partners, members, or owners are composed solely of the members of an immediate family and



farm that land and does not extend to immediate family members of those shareholders, partners, or members of the business entity.

Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber, or the raising of live-stock, 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 that are residents of Indiana 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 less than 13 years of age who are accompanying a licensed hunter who is at least 18 years of age; as long as the youth is not carrying a bow or firearm.
- Youth participating in free youth hunting days.

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

- The nonresident's state allows the same exemption for the same species for Indiana residents who own farmland in that state.\*
- 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.

\* 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 in the exemption, then the nonresident must have a valid nonresident license and any applicable stamps 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.



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## Nonresident Private Shooting Preserve

Nonresidents must purchase a nonresident shooting preserve license (\$20 for adult, \$12 for youth) and any applicable stamp requirements to hunt bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants, or waterfowl on private shooting preserves. The nonresident private shooting preserve license expires April 30 immediately following the date the license is effective.

## Persons with Disabilities

Individuals with a disability that prevent 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. Individuals with a disability permit must also have the appropriate valid hunting license for that species, unless exempt from a license under state law while hunting on their farmland.

For rules or application forms, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife by calling 317-232-4102 or visit [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov).

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.

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 DNR property with a disability permit, contact the property manager (page 50).

## Hunting Guide License

Law requires hunting guide or outfitter services that are offered or provided for money or other consideration to possess a valid annual Hunting Guide License issued under Indiana Code 14-22-15.5. The annual license expires on March 31 of the following year in which the license was issued. Applications for these licenses can be found at [wildlife.IN.gov](http://wildlife.IN.gov).

## 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 a lifetime before having to take a DNR-offered hunter education class. Apprentice licenses are required for those born after Dec. 31, 1986 unless a DNR-offered hunter education class has been completed.

The apprentice hunter 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) at all times. 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 (pages 8-9) are also 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. 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. These courses are available only to Indiana residents. Hunters 11 years old and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian during every session. To find classes in your area, visit [indianahuntereducation.com](http://indianahuntereducation.com) or contact:

- Hunter Education North, 317-605-1028; email [chclark@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:chclark@dnr.IN.gov)
- Hunter Education South, 317-694-7531; email [tbeck@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:tbeck@dnr.IN.gov)

Indiana offers an online hunter safety course for hunters age 12 and older to obtain their hunter education card. For more information please visit [hunter-ed.com/Indiana](http://hunter-ed.com/Indiana). If you have lost your hunter education card, visit [lostmycard.com](http://lostmycard.com).

# Conservation Funding: A Benefit for All



Virtually everyone enjoys seeing wildlife while hiking or driving a county road, whether it's deer, ducks, or turtles. All wildlife, harvestable or not, need great habitats to thrive. Conservation funding is the key to keeping these habitats and the species that use them flourishing.

Hunters and recreational shooters have long been the driving force behind conservation funding in Indiana and across the country. In 1937, the federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act was passed. It requires manufacturers and importers to pay an excise tax on firearms and ammunition. Archery equipment was added later. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service apportions and distributes the funds collected to the states.

To qualify to receive funding, each state must provide a 25% match, which primarily comes from licenses purchased by hunters and trappers. By statute, these funds must be spent on wildlife restoration and hunter-education programs. Wildlife restoration projects include but are not limited to the improvement, creation, and management of wildlife habitat on Fish & Wildlife areas (FWAs) and private lands, as well as wildlife health initiatives.

Whether you're a hunter, birder, wildlife viewer or all three, you benefit from conservation funding that improves habitat for wildlife in your area. Any project that helps one species will undoubtedly benefit a long list of others, including the songbirds, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, bald eagle, mink, or turtles you hope to catch a glimpse of at the many FWAs around the state.

Conservation funding comes down to the efforts of the hunters, trappers, and sport shooters who help wildlife and their habitats receive the conservation management they need to thrive. To all of you—hunters and nonhunters alike—who contribute to this important work, thank you.





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# Perks for Youth Hunters

In Indiana, youth hunters have a number of opportunities to help them get outdoors.

The list starts with a low-cost hunting license and special hunting dates set aside for them.

The resident youth hunt/trap license is \$12 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). All hunters of waterfowl and other migratory birds must have a free Harvest Information Program (HIP) number (page 39).

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 \$12 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 hunt dates for youth age 17 and younger, and many DNR-managed properties offer youth hunting events. For more details, check [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov).

## Free Hunting Days

The free youth hunting dates in 2023 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 free youth 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 for properly licensed youth hunters is Sept. 23-24, 2023. 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 harvested is determined by the bonus antlerless quota for the county hunted.

The youth hunter must possess a valid license for hunting deer 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 rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, air gun, 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 & Wildlife areas and some other DNR properties.

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

## Youth Waterfowl Season

The 2023 youth waterfowl season dates for properly licensed youth hunters are Oct. 21-22 (North Zone), Oct. 28-29 (Central Zone), and Nov. 4-5 (South Zone). Youth 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. A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years of age or older. A Harvest Information Program number (HIP) is required during the youth waterfowl season. A state Waterfowl Stamp is not required to hunt waterfowl or other migratory birds for resident and nonresident youth license holders.

## Youth Turkey Season

The youth wild turkey season for properly licensed youth hunters is April 20-21, 2024.

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.

A resident youth hunter must have the resident youth hunt/trap combo license (no stamp required). A nonresident youth hunter must have a valid nonresident youth turkey hunting license and game bird habitat stamp privilege or a valid nonresident youth turkey hunting license. The adult that accompanies a youth hunter during the youth turkey season does not need to be accompanied by a licensed adult, unless the youth hunter has an apprentice license, in which state law requires a person who purchases an apprentice license to be accompanied by a licensed individual age 18 or older (IC 14-22-12-1.7), unless that adult is exempt from needing a license under state law.

The youth hunter may take only one bearded or male wild turkey in the 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 may not take a turkey and 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 (NWR) will have deer hunts in 2023 and turkey hunts in 2024 for youth hunters. Adults cannot hunt or carry firearms during this hunt.

The youth deer hunt dates are Sept. 23-24, 2023 at Muscatatuck NWR and Oct. 28, 2023 at Big Oaks NWR. Big Oaks NWR also offers an optional youth deer hunt workshop for the drawn hunters and their families on Oct. 27, 2023.

The youth turkey hunt dates are April 20-21, 2024 at Muscatatuck NWR and April 21, 2024 at Big Oaks NWR. Big Oaks NWR also offers an optional youth turkey hunt workshop for the drawn hunters and their families on April 20, 2024.

To apply for Big Oaks NWR youth hunts, 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 application deadline is Oct. 1, 2023 for the deer hunt and April 1, 2024 for the turkey hunt.

To apply for the Muscatatuck NWR hunts, visit [on.IN.gov/reservedhunt](http://on.IN.gov/reservedhunt).







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## Bag and Possession Limits

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

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

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 left unattended (not in the immediate vicinity of the individual who took the animal) while in the field must have a tag attached or be in a container or bag with 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 (the hunting hours may differ on state-owned property—page 44).

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

**Furbearer:** Trapping/Hunting/Running: No restrictions.

**Small Game:** No restrictions, except for rabbits on designated DNR properties in February (page 36).

**Waterfowl (ducks and geese):** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except for teals, which are sunrise to sunset. Shooting hours may differ on state-owned property (page 50).

## Wild Animals Found Dead

If a deer, wild turkey, river otter, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, Eastern cottontail rabbit, Northern bobwhite, 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 (page 51) or other law enforcement officer, DNR property manager or assistant property manager (page 50), or wildlife biologist (page 49) may issue a permit to an individual to possess the dead animal.

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

Wildlife found deceased from unknown causes can be reported at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).

## Disturbing Nests or Dens

It is illegal to disturb the den, nest, hole, burrow, or house of a wild animal by shooting, digging, cutting, or chipping into the animal home and 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 location 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. This is to ensure the prevention of dislodging a wild animal from its home or other location where it has hidden itself for security or protection.

## 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 form requesting permission to access private land can be found at [hunting.IN.gov](https://hunting.IN.gov).

## 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 does not carry a human operator and is capable of flight under remote control or autonomous programming. Drones may be used in the attempt to locate deer that have already been lawfully killed. Drones are not permitted on a DNR property without special permit from the property.

## Party Hunting

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

## Spotlighting

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

It is also illegal to shine a spotlight, searchlight, or other artificial light for the purpose of taking, attempting to take, or assisting another person to take any wild animal,

excluding furbearing mammals, crayfish, and frogs or while fishing.

## Red Dot Sights

Red dot 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 hunt waterfowl or squirrels 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 ride an off-road vehicle with a loaded firearm unless it's a legally possessed handgun or if the person carrying the firearm is operating the vehicle on property the person owns, has a contractual interest in, or has permission from the landowner to possess the firearm on the 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 and include it in the bag limit. It is also illegal 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 found at [iga.IN.gov](https://iga.IN.gov). It is illegal to take a deer with a handgun except during the firearms season, during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloading handgun, and when in compliance with DNR regulations.

## Trail/Game Cameras on DNR Properties

Trail or game cameras can be placed on Fish & Wildlife Areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests, and State Recreation Areas as long as the camera is legibly marked with (A) the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the camera in the English language; or (B) the individual's customer identification number issued by the department. Trail or



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Illustration by Rick Hill



## GENERAL INFORMATION

game cameras are not allowed on State Parks or on Dedicated Nature Preserves (that are **not** part of one of the properties named at the beginning of the paragraph).

### Disposing of Carcasses

Carcasses of wild animals that are lawfully taken cannot be dumped in streams or other bodies of water. Rotting carcasses in a waterway can affect water quality downstream.

Dumping dead wild animals in a waterway is considered littering and is a criminal offense punishable by a fine.

Carcasses should not be burned, as the act can cause air pollution. Carcasses cannot be left in the open for scavengers or people to see without permission from the landowner. Do not dump carcasses on public land. The DNR recommends all discarded carcasses and unwanted animal parts be bagged and sent to a landfill.

### Shooting Across Roads or Waters

It is illegal to hunt, shoot at, or kill any animal or to shoot at any object within, into, upon, or across any public road. It is illegal to shoot into or across the waters of the state or boundary waters of the state, except in the lawful pursuit of wildlife.

#### Purple Paint = No Trespassing

Landowners can mark the perimeter of their property where entry is denied to the public with purple paint on either trees or posts. The purple marks must be readily visible to any person approaching the property. A purple-paint perimeter serves the same legal purpose as a "No Trespassing" sign. For more information, see Indiana Code 35-43-2-2 at [iga.IN.gov](http://iga.IN.gov).

### Where to Hunt

Indiana's Division of Fish & Wildlife manages over 170,000 acres of land. Some of this land includes Fish & Wildlife areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas. Reservoir properties and State Forests add another 200,000-plus acres. This combination provides various hunting opportunities for the public. To find a hunting spot near you, visit [on.IN.gov/where2hunt](http://on.IN.gov/where2hunt).

### Indiana Private Lands Access

The Indiana Private Lands Access program provides opportunities for hunters to hunt on privately owned land enrolled in the program. For more information for landowners wishing to enroll in the program, please visit [on.IN.gov/private-lands-access](http://on.IN.gov/private-lands-access).

### 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 thereof, cannot be sold, traded or bartered. (Exceptions: furbearers, river otters, squirrel tails and hides, deer hides, antlers, hooves, and cured pheasant, quail and turkey feathers may be sold. All must be lawfully taken.)

### 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 (page 50).

### 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.

Fluorescent orange must be worn when hunting deer (page 26), wild turkey (when fall turkey season overlaps a deer firearms season, page 45), rabbit, pheasant, quail, woodcock, and squirrel (Nov. 1-Jan. 31).

### Silencers/Suppressors

Silencers/suppressors can be used to take wild animals without a permit or special authorization from the Indiana DNR, but they must be used in accordance with federal law. It is a Class B misdemeanor to hunt on private land without consent from the landowner or tenant and use or possess a silencer or suppressor (Indiana Code 14-22-38-4.5).

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# Crosley FWA, a Squirrel Hunter's Dream



Nestled in the rolling hills of southeastern Indiana, Crosley Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) is a property uniquely suited for squirrel hunting; approximately 80% of its 4,288 acres are forested.

Squirrels thrive in the mature upland forests that wind along the Muscatatuck River and foster diverse tree species. Nut-bearing trees such as the oak, hickory, and walnut at Crosley FWA provide food for squirrels, which also use the leaves and hollowed-out tree trunks for nesting.

Indiana DNR maintains these contiguous stands of nut and berry-producing trees through various management practices to

make the habitat more desirable to squirrels. One involves clearing the forest of invasive and less-desirable species of trees, shrubs, and vines, which creates more opportunities for such trees to grow and germinate.

Staff also do single-tree selection harvest, which involves cutting down one large, mast-producing tree in a group of other similar trees so more light can reach the forest floor to produce the next generation of mast-producing trees. Another method used to achieve this goal is girdling large trees, which also increases the number of standing dead trees that squirrels can use for nesting.

The fun of squirrel hunting can't be discussed without bringing up squirrel dogs. Many hunters say the enjoyment that comes from seeing one work is unsurpassed by any other form of hunting.

Crosley FWA's Unit E (the dog running area allotted for out-of-season training) is an excellent place to train squirrel dogs throughout the year, do preseason scouting for squirrels, or relax in the woods with friends while watching your dogs work.

Squirrel hunting and running dogs on Crosley FWA requires a one-day access permit, which you can get through self-service check-in at the office at 2010 S. State Road 3 in North Vernon.

Because a portion of squirrel season coincides with deer season, the wearing of hunter orange is required from Nov. 1 – Jan. 31.

See [on.IN.gov/crosleyfwa](https://on.IN.gov/crosleyfwa) or call 812-346-5596 for more information.

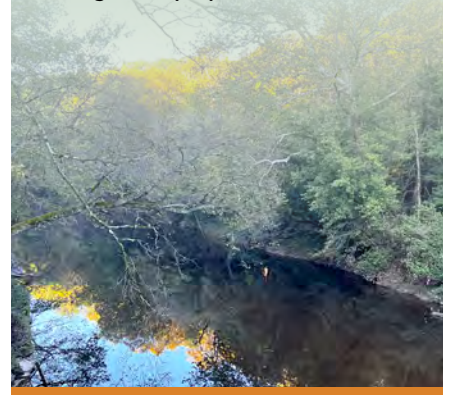
## Visit a Fish & Wildlife Area

The Division of Fish & Wildlife manages public lands so Indiana's fish, wildlife, and habitats can thrive and benefit present and future generations of Hoosiers.

At a Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) you can:

- Hunt and trap
- Fish
- Enjoy shooting sports
- View wildlife and practice wildlife photography
- Walk in nature
- Enjoy scenic views

Check in is required for all hunters, range users, and dog runners prior to entering the field. Camping is also available at Glendale, J.E. Roush Lake, and Willow Slough FWAs. To plan a visit and learn more about FWAs, go to [on.IN.gov/dfwproperties](https://on.IN.gov/dfwproperties).



## What license and stamp do I need?

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# Squirrel Chips and Curry

Like chili cheese fries in America or poutine in Canada, chips and curry are a popular food in Great Britain.

Recipe, photo, and instructional video provided by the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports R3 Community Clearinghouse and chef Jonathan Wilkins.

## Ingredients

- Quarters from 3 squirrels
- Celery, onion, carrot, and bay leaf (for stock)
- 1 onion
- 1 apple
- Fresh ginger (thumb sized portion)
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 cup stock
- 1 cup hot water
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon of cardamom seeds
- 3 tablespoons curry
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup neutral oil (vegetable, canola, peanut)
- 2 tablespoons flour
- Cilantro for garnish
- Salt and pepper



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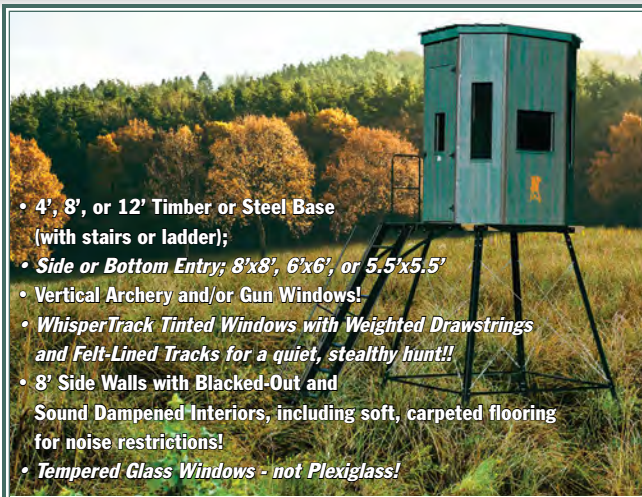
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# Squirrel Hunting: From the Tree to the Table

By Cindy Stites

In the age of social media and the big photo-worthy bucks that deer hunters love to post about, squirrel hunting can be overlooked.

But there's nothing more enjoyable than slowly walking through the woods, pausing from time to time, and looking for the slightest movements in the treetops for squirrels.

I have hunted for the past 10 years and developed a love for hunting squirrels above all other species. This passion has led me to talk with other avid hunters throughout the state. I've found out that many hunters learned how to hunt squirrels before graduating to larger game.

Bloomington's Cory Lamping is one example. He enjoys squirrel hunting because it is easily accessible, fun, and engaging. Cory's father introduced him to hunting by teaching him to hunt squirrels. When Cory returned to hunting as an adult, he started with squirrels. Other hunters said they appreciate squirrel hunting for the lifelong lessons it's taught them—patience, stealth, and woodsmanship.

Woodsmanship is a hunter's essential knowledge of the species they pursue, such as where to find it, what it eats, and where it lives. Woodsmanship is not just about knowing species facts—it also involves mastering the ability to move through the woods in a thoughtful manner and approaching animals without detection. These skills, along with marksmanship, improve the more times you hunt squirrel.

Squirrels can be hunted in many ways and with a variety of equipment. You can legally take squirrel with firearms such as a .410, a 12- or 20-gauge shotgun, or .22 rifle. If you're a new hunter who hasn't sharpened your marksmanship skills, you might choose a shotgun or .410, which offer better chances of contact, as opposed to a .22, which requires high shooting proficiency. In addition to firearms, you can also hunt squirrels

with archery equipment by changing out a normal deer broadhead for a smaller version, or by switching to a blunt point, which is a tip that won't stick in trees or burrow under the weeds of the forest floor.

Other than your preferred method of take and the proper ammunition, hunting squirrel requires nothing fancy. You don't need head-to-toe camouflage clothing, nor do you need high-tech gadgets to find squirrels. You don't have to use a blind or a rangefinder, and you don't need much muscle to carry your harvest. You might consider bringing a set of binoculars to see distant squirrels more easily, as well as a vest with a pouch in the back to carry your squirrels and keep your hands free, but neither is necessary to have a great day outdoors chasing squirrels.

Some people may turn up their noses when they imagine eating squirrels, but squirrel hunters will tell you that if you don't give squirrel meat a chance, you're missing out. There are many ways to prepare it, such as squirrel and noodles, squirrel and gravy, and chicken-fried squirrel. It can be baked, deep-fried, and even grilled. Just about any method you would use to prepare chicken

wings, you can use with a squirrel. One of my favorites is dropping squirrel meat into a pressure cooker for about 15 minutes and adding water, salt, and pepper.

But no matter how you cook it, you can't go wrong with squirrel meat!

SCAN TO WATCH  
Squirrel Skinning  
Process





# Squirrel Hunting: A Timeless Tradition



Photo by Dan Zachary

By Cindy Stites

As a young man in the early 1960s, my dad and his best friend planned their fall days around adventures in the woods.

They would meet in the evenings after work to plan where they would go the next day. They were squirrel hunters, and that was all they thought about from opening day until the season's final stretch of daylight.

I have seen my dad's passion for the sport firsthand. He kept returning to the woods, not for a lack of other entertainment, but because hunting was his passion. A passion that I can't help but carry on even though I started hunting just 10 years ago.

My father is 82 now, but a few years ago, when he was 78, I invited him to spend a morning chasing fox squirrels with me. With some gentle encouragement, he agreed. It had been a long while since he had gone hunting, but he showed up with the same squirrel gun he used as a teenager—a few shots at a target proved that rifle was still as true as it had ever been.

That day I watched him tread through the woods in search of squirrels, no doubt moving much more slowly than the last time he set out with his old .22, but with the same passion and intention I imagined he had as a young man.

We took just one squirrel that morning, but that was the least important part of our experience. Sitting on a log and hearing his stories about squirrel hunting more than 50 years ago and nodding my head in agreement when he spoke of the joy those experiences brought him reminded me that some things are timeless.

Bonding over squirrel hunting brought my dad and me closer, and it never would have happened if he hadn't joined me that day.

As this year's hunting seasons begin, I encourage you to take part in the enduring tradition of hunting to create bonds with your loved ones that can be just as timeless as mine.

# Unleash the Fun! Squirrel Hunting with a Four Legged Friend

By Ethan Plumier

*The cool breeze pushes me toward the big oak I've propped myself against, inspiring thoughts of the biscuits and gravy calling my name at the local diner. I let my eyes drift across the woods, pausing to watch a downy woodpecker's frenzied hops up and down the trunk of another oak a few yards away. Suddenly the sounds of barks and whines pierce my relative calm—Bob Fudge, my treeing feist pup, has treed a squirrel by himself!*

*I frantically weave through the trees, following Bob's calls, until I reach him. He stares upward, bites at the shaggy bark, and tries to climb to the squirrel. I set my sights, take a breath, and squeeze the trigger.*

*Looks like I'll be making my own biscuits with squirrel gravy this morning.*

The best squirrel hunting equipment doesn't come from a store; it has four legs and makes a mean racket in the timber, just like Ol' Bob Fudge.

Squirrel hunting with dogs is a unique experience, one that I highly recommend. The dog breeds most associated with hunting squirrels are the several varieties of feists and curs. Typically small to midsize dogs, these

hounds are great for hunting squirrels and other woodland small game. Along with their sense of smell, they use their keen eyesight to give them an edge over the squirrel's typical methods of escape. These vocal, high-energy dogs are fun to watch and nearly impossible to keep up with. And they're great companions.

Tom Cartwright of North Vernon is a proud and unendingly passionate owner of multiple feists and has been an avid squirrel hunter for 43 years.

"(My favorite part of squirrel hunting) is getting to watch how excited they get when they find a squirrel," he said. "It's also a sense of accomplishment raising up a good squirrel dog."

Hunting with someone who has squirrel dogs can be a fun introduction to squirrel hunting. For one thing, you don't have to be quiet. Instead, you can ramble in the woods with your dogs and buddies ... and still have a decent chance of ending the day with meat in your freezer.

This fall, find a friend with a squirrel dog and ask them if you can tag along one morning. You won't regret it.





# Stay Connected



Statistically, sometime this hunting season, a hunter will fall out of a tree stand. Hopefully, that hunter will survive, but they may not. Most assuredly, they will suffer injuries. These accidents are avoidable with the proper safety precautions.

"When you leave the ground you need to be wearing a full body harness which is connected to a tree belt or tree stand safety line," said Lt. Andy Hagerty of the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. "It is important to stay connected from the time you leave the ground until you return to the ground."

Of the 118 hunting accident reports filed by DNR Law Enforcement over the past five years, 79 involved falls from tree stands. Over 72% of the victims were not wearing any form of fall arrest device or full-body harness, which could have prevented serious injuries.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service offers the following tree stand safety tips to hunters:

## Before the hunt

- Know your equipment.
  - Read and understand manufacturer's instructions and warnings before using your tree stand and full-body harness (FBH).
  - Check stands and climbing aids (including straps and chains) every season and before each use for signs of wear, fatigue, cracks, and loose or missing nuts and bolts. Replace as necessary. It is recommended to remove stands after the season ends. (See page 27 for laws for tree stands on public lands.)
  - Practice at ground level with your tree stand 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 tree stand.
  - Check the tree for insect nests and 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.

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### During the hunt

- Wear an FBH. Simply owning an FBH does not make you safe. You must wear it.
- Make sure your FBH is attached to the tree as soon as you start to climb.
- For an additional level of safety, use a tree stand safety rope.
- 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.
- Always be sure to use a supplied tether between the base and seat portion of the stand to connect the two sections.
- 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 nonslip soles to avoid slipping, especially in wet weather.

### In the stand

- Properly adjust your FBH. Whether standing or sitting, keep the tether-line distance between you and the tree as short

as possible with no slack in the tether while in a seated position. This will minimize the distance in the case of a fall.

- Use a haul line. Always raise and lower your firearm, bow, or other equipment with a haul line.
- Make sure firearms have the muzzle pointed down, are unloaded, with the action open, and with the safety on, before attaching a haul line near trigger or trigger guard.
- Make sure broadheads are covered before 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, cellphone, 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.
- Use a hunt plan. Let someone know where you are hunting and when you will return.

### The best tip of all?

Don't take chances and stay connected!



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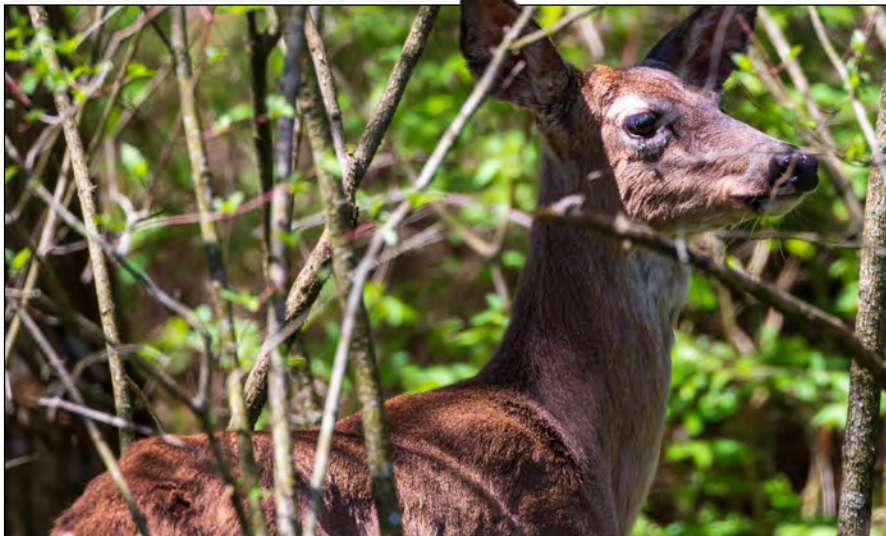


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## Deer Regulations

### License Requirements

Unless exempt (see pages 8-9), 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. Except with the deer license bundle, comprehensive lifetime

hunting license, and resident youth hunt/trap license, only one deer can be taken per deer hunting license. See the tables on pages 30-33 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 firearms season). A deer firearms license is only valid for the harvest of one antlered deer during the firearms 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.

Antlerless deer harvested with the deer license bundle must be used toward the bag limit for bonus antlerless deer, archery, or muzzleloader. When used toward the bonus antlerless deer county quota, the county quota applies. See page 33 for bonus county quotas.

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), firearms, or muzzleloader seasons.

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 (page 50) or go to [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov) for details.

### 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

Hunters, including those using archery equipment, must meet hunter orange requirements while hunting for deer during the following seasons: firearms (Nov. 18-Dec. 3, 2023), muzzleloader (Dec. 9-24, 2023), and deer reduction (Nov. 18, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024 in deer reduction zones).

Hunter orange must be worn during the youth deer season (Sept. 23-24, 2023). See page 16 for more information.

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An occupied ground blind must have at least 144 square inches of hunter orange that is visible on each side of the blind while deer hunting during any deer season in which a hunter is already required to wear hunter orange. Hunter orange is required on ground blinds constructed of man-made or synthetic materials and placed on or within four feet of the ground. The hunter orange is required on public and private land. A flag placed on top of a blind does not satisfy this hunter orange requirement.

#### **Infrared Sensors/Electronic Calls**

The use of infrared sensors, drones, 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 deer 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 Muscatatuck, Patoka River, and Big Oaks national wildlife refuges. Tree stands

may be left overnight only from noon Sept. 15 through Jan. 10.

Fasteners that penetrate a tree more than 1/2 inch are prohibited on these lands.

A tree stand placed on public land must be legibly marked with the owner's name, address, and telephone number, or DNR Customer Identification Number.

#### **Fair Chase**

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

It is illegal to use dogs or other domesticated animals to take deer. 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 give hunters opportunities to harvest deer in areas with high deer densities.

The deer reduction zone season is Sept. 15, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024. 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 (aka 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 (page 28).

Hunters attempting to satisfy the reduction zone bag limits must have a deer reduction zone, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting/fishing license, or meet a license exemption. The license bundle 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, archery equipment legal for deer hunting can be used in reduction zones from Sept. 15, 2023 to Jan. 31, 2024.

Where allowed by local ordinances, firearms legal for deer hunting can be used in reduction zones from Nov. 18, 2023 to Jan. 31, 2024.

From Nov. 18, 2023 to Jan. 31, 2024, hunters must follow hunter orange clothing requirements to hunt deer with a firearm in a reduction zone. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners to hunt on private property.

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## DEER INFORMATION

Certain restrictions apply regarding deer reduction zone licenses on DNR-managed properties. Please contact the property you plan to hunt for more information.

Deer reduction zones may be altered annually at the DNR director's discretion based on deer population management needs. Please visit [deer.dnr.IN.gov](http://deer.dnr.IN.gov) to see a current map and zone descriptions.

### Deer Reduction Zone CheckIN

Hunters must ensure deer harvested within a deer reduction zone are checked in correctly. DNR uses these responses and corresponding harvest numbers to determine the effectiveness of these zones. In counties with a deer reduction zone, hunters are required to report in CheckIN Game whether the deer was harvested in a deer reduction zone. If so, hunters are then required to report whether they want that deer to count toward the deer reduction zone bag limit. Hunters using reduction zones to harvest a second buck or to fulfill the deer reduction zone antlerless bag limit must ensure that their deer are counted toward the zone bag limit. Hunters who hunt in an area inside the deer reduction zone but are not interested in counting deer toward the zone bag limit or who are not using a license valid in a deer reduction zone should select that the deer will not count toward the reduction zone bag limit.

## 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.

## Reporting Requirements

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

- Online through the DNR's CheckIN Game system ([CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov](http://CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov))
- Call 800-419-1326 (a \$3 fee applies)
- Find 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, muzzleloading handguns, and air guns are legal during the firearms season. Only muzzleloading firearms are legal during the muzzleloader season. Firearms with suppressors may be used to take deer in accordance with federal law.

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

### Carrying Handguns

While hunting, an individual may carry a handgun without a handgun license in accordance with Indiana Code 35-47-2-1 found at [iga.IN.gov](http://iga.IN.gov).

Deer can be taken with a handgun only when in compliance with DNR regulations and only during the firearms season, with muzzleloading handguns only in the muzzleloader seasons, and in deer reduction zones when and where local ordinances allow.

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and 5 QUGA Habitat Vinyl Signs
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## DEER EQUIPMENT CHART

	Equipment	Specifications	Legal Season
Firearms	Rifle	<b>Allowed on PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND:</b> <b>Bullet diameter:</b> .357" minimum <b>Casing length:</b> 1.16-1.8" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full metal jacketed bullets are illegal</li> </ul>	Youth, firearms, deer reduction zone
		<b>Allowed on PRIVATE LAND ONLY:</b> <b>Bullet diameter:</b> .243" (6 mm) minimum <b>Casing length:</b> 1.16-3" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a hunter must not possess more than 10 of these cartridges while hunting deer</li> <li>• full metal jacketed bullets are illegal</li> </ul>	
	Handgun	<b>Barrel length:</b> 4" minimum <b>Bullet diameter:</b> .243" minimum <b>Case length:</b> 1.16" minimum, except for 10 mm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 mm also legal cartridges (i.e. 10 mm Auto and .40 S&amp;W)</li> <li>• rifles with barrel less than 18" are NOT considered handguns</li> <li>• .25-20 Winchester, .32-20 Winchester, .30 carbine, and .38 special ammunition are prohibited</li> <li>• NOT permitted for hunting on military areas</li> </ul>	Firearms, deer reduction zone
	Shotgun	<b>Bore:</b> 10, 12, 16, 20, or 28 gauge or .410" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shooting slugs and sabot bullets only</li> <li>• combination rifle-shotguns are allowed</li> </ul>	Youth, firearms, deer reduction zone
Muzzleloaders	Muzzleloading Rifle/Shotgun	<b>Barrel caliber:</b> .44" minimum <b>Bullet diameter:</b> .357" minimum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• powder and bullet loaded from muzzle and single bullet*</li> <li>• sabot bullets permitted</li> <li>• multiple barreled guns permitted</li> </ul> <p>* can have powder loaded from the breech end only during the youth and firearms seasons</p>	Youth, firearms, muzzleloader, deer reduction zone
	Muzzleloading Handgun	<b>Barrel length:</b> 12" minimum, measured from the base of the breech plug (excluding tangs and other projections to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown) <b>Barrel caliber:</b> .50" minimum <b>Bullet diameter:</b> .44" minimum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loaded from muzzle and single shot</li> </ul>	
Archery	Vertical Bow	Long bows, compound bows, or recurve bows and arrows  <b>Draw weight:</b> 35 lbs. minimum	Archery, youth, deer reduction zone
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bows drawn, held, or released by means other than by hand or hand-held releases may be used</li> <li>• arrows must have metal, metal-edged, napped flint, chert, or obsidian broadheads</li> </ul>	
	Crossbow	Defined as a device for propelling an arrow by means of limbs mounted on a stock and a string, and having a working safety that may be drawn or held <b>Draw weight:</b> 125 lbs. minimum	
Special	Air guns	Using nonignited compressed air or other gas charged by external high compression power source <b>Projectiles:</b> Must shoot .40 caliber or larger single bullet generating 400 ft. lbs. of muzzle energy; or an arrow or bolt with a sharpened metal or metal-edged broadhead at minimum of 300 fps at release	Youth, firearms, deer reduction zone

### Deer Hotline

If you need information about deer, take advantage of our Deer Hotline. Call 812-334-3795, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday or email [INDeerHotline@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:INDeerHotline@dnr.IN.gov) with your questions. Find additional information at [deer.dnr.IN.gov](http://deer.dnr.IN.gov).





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## DEER SEASONS, LICENSES, & EQUIPMENT

	Archery	Crossbow	Handgun	Muzzleloading Handgun	Muzzleloading Long Gun	Shotgun	Rifle	Air Guns
<b>Youth Season</b> – Sept. 23-24, 2023								
Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License	•	•			•	•	•	•
Nonresident Youth Deer License (incl. Deer License Bundle)	•	•			•	•	•	•
<b>Reduction Zone Season*</b> – Sept. 15, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024								
Deer Reduction Zone License	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Youth License	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Archery Season</b> – Oct. 1, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024								
Archery License	•							
Crossbow License		•						
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License	•	•						
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License	•	•						
Deer License Bundle	•	•						
Bonus Antlerless License	•	•						
Youth License	•	•						
<b>Firearms Season</b> – Nov. 18 - Dec. 3, 2023								
Firearms License (antlered deer only)			•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Deer License Bundle			•	•	•	•	•	•
Bonus Antlerless License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Youth License			•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Muzzleloader Season</b> – Dec. 9-24, 2023								
Muzzleloader License				•	•			
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License				•	•			
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License				•	•			
Deer License Bundle				•	•			
Bonus Antlerless License				•	•			
Youth License				•	•			
<b>Special Antlerless Firearms Season</b> – Closed								

• Indicates the equipment that can be used during a season with a particular license.

\* If allowed by local ordinances, firearms may be used to hunt deer in designated Reduction Zones from Nov. 18, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024.

NOTE: The Bonus Antlerless License (and bonus county deer under the Deer License Bundle) may not be valid for all DNR properties. Contact the property you want to hunt for details.



## Antlerless Deer Bag Limit

Bonus antlerless quotas are determined using a variety of population indicators such as hunter harvest trends, deer observation rates, crop damage reports, deer-vehicle collision rates, and hunter surveys that measure individual satisfaction level with deer populations in each county. Learn more about how county bonus antlerless quotas are set at [deer.dnr.IN.gov](http://deer.dnr.IN.gov).

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. One must use the equipment that is legal during that season.

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. Contact the property or go to [wildlife.IN.gov](http://wildlife.IN.gov) for details.

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 and muzzleloader bag limits. For example, during archery season the third antlerless deer harvested counts toward 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 toward the county quota.

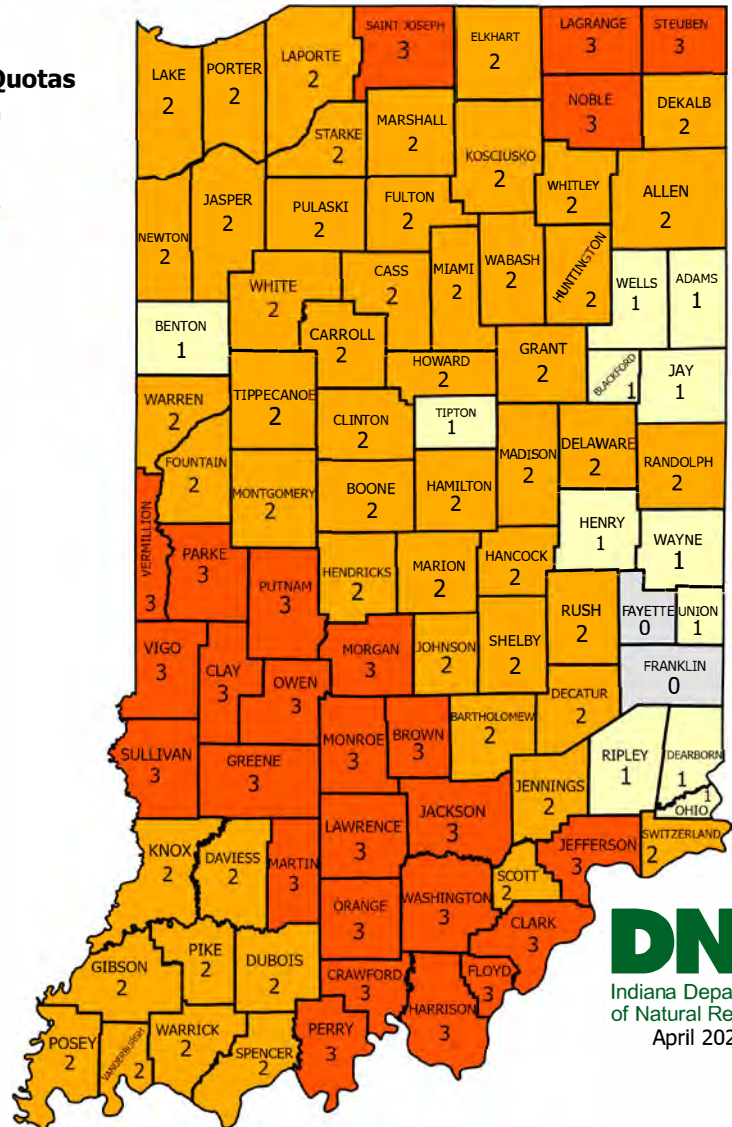
## Special Antlerless Firearms Season

The Special Antlerless Firearms season is closed during the 2023-2024 deer hunting season.

## 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.

## 2023-2024 County Bonus Antlerless Quotas



**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources  
April 2023

## DEER BAG LIMITS

Season	Bag Limit*
<b>Youth Season</b>	1 antlered deer AND the number of bonus antlerless deer per county quota; exceptions apply on some DNR properties
<b>Reduction Zone Season</b>	1 antlered deer (see "earn-a-buck" page 27) AND 9 antlerless deer OR 10 antlerless deer
<b>Archery Season</b>	2 antlerless deer OR 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer
<b>Firearms Season</b>	1 antlered deer
<b>Muzzleloader Season</b>	1 antlered deer OR 1 antlerless deer
<b>Special Antlerless Firearms Season</b>	Closed in 2023-2024
<b>Additional Opportunities</b>	
<b>Bonus Antlerless Deer</b>	1 antlerless deer per license not to exceed the bonus antlerless county quota; bonus deer can be taken during the archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons with the appropriate license
<b>State Park Hunts</b>	3 antlerless deer OR 2 antlerless and 1 antlered deer (reserved hunts; visit <a href="http://hunting.IN.gov">hunting.IN.gov</a> )
<b>Military/Refuge Properties</b> (by reserved hunt drawing or invitation only)	1 deer of either sex per Military/Refuge Deer License

\* Only 1 antlered deer per hunter may be taken during the youth, archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons combined.

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



## Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk, reindeer, and moose. It causes brain lesions and is fatal in these species. There is no vaccine or treatment and no chance for infected animals to recover. CWD has been confirmed in approximately half of the United States, as well as in Canada, Europe and Asia. It is spreading to new places, and high prevalence in some states is slowing deer population growth. CWD has been detected in wild deer close to Indiana's borders—in Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio. CWD has not yet been confirmed in Indiana.

The disease is caused by a misfolded protein called a prion. Prions are shed from infected deer through their bodily secretions such as saliva, feces, and urine. CWD can be transmitted when healthy deer contact bodily secretions either directly from infected deer or carcasses, or indirectly from places where infected deer have shed prions into the environment. CWD prions are highly resistant to disinfectants, freezing, and heat. Cooking or burning will not inactivate them. Prions can remain in the environment for many years and continue to infect deer.

CWD-infected deer may appear normal and look healthy, but still may be capable of spreading the disease. About 18 to 24 months after they have been infected, deer will begin to show signs such as weight loss, drooping ears and head, tremors, staggering, excessive drooling, and changes in behavior such as confusion or loss of fear of humans.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans. However, in areas where CWD is known to be present, the CDC recommends that hunters strongly consider having deer and elk tested before eating the meat. The CDC also recommends not consuming meat from an animal that tests positive for CWD.

For more information about precautions you can take to decrease your risk of exposure to CWD, visit [cdc.gov/prions/cwd](https://www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd).

For questions related to human health, you may call the Indiana State Department of Health at 317-233-1325 or 1-800-382-9480.

The Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) strictly limits the movement of cervid carcasses and body parts into Indiana. BOAH allows the following:

- De-boned meat or commercially processed meat, which may contain bones. The head, spinal cord and small intestine must be removed (see below)
- Carcasses or parts of carcasses if no portion of the head, spinal cord, or small intestine is 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 a meat processor inspected by the

BOAH or USDA who disposes of discarded tissue from the animal at a land fill permitted by the IDEM or through a renderer licensed by BOAH

- Antlers, including those 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”
- Heads, if they are delivered to a taxidermist licensed by the DNR within 72 hours after entry. The taxidermist must dispose of the discarded tissue from the head at a landfill permitted by the IDEM or through a renderer licensed by the BOAH
- Finished taxidermist mounts

Indiana DNR has conducted surveillance for CWD in wild deer across the state for more than 15 years without any detection of infection. The DNR will continue its efforts to detect this disease in Indiana in the coming years, but needs your help and support.

If you would like to have your hunter-harvested deer tested for CWD, you can 1) submit your deer's head to a DNR sampling station located at a Fish & Wildlife area or a State Fish Hatchery at no cost or 2) submit samples directly to Purdue's Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (ADDL) for a fee. More information and sampling locations can be found at [on.IN.gov/cwd](https://on.IN.gov/cwd). Information and submission forms for submitting directly to ADDL are available on the ADDL website: [purdue.edu/vet/addl](https://purdue.edu/vet/addl).

To learn about CWD and obtain updated details on surveillance in Indiana, visit [on.IN.gov/cwd](https://on.IN.gov/cwd).

### What can you do to help?

- Report deer that appear to be sick at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).
- Dispose of carcass parts responsibly, using one of these options:
  - Double-bag for regular trash pick-up
  - Take directly to a municipal landfill
  - Bury at the kill site deep enough to prevent scavengers from digging it up
- Be aware of and comply with carcass transport restrictions, which may vary from state to state.
- Participate in sampling and surveillance efforts conducted by the DNR and encourage other hunters to do so.
- Keep hunting.

## Bovine Tuberculosis

Indiana DNR and BOAH monitor Indiana's deer herd for bovine tuberculosis (bTB) due to the detection of the disease in southeast Indiana. Bovine tuberculosis was detected at

a captive cervid facility in Franklin County (2009), cattle farms in Dearborn (2011) and Franklin (2008, 2009, 2016) counties, and in a wild white-tailed deer and several wild raccoons from infected cattle farms in Franklin County (2016-2019).

Thanks to support from hunters and landowners, more than 5,000 deer have been tested for bTB from within the surveillance zone since 2009. The disease was not detected in any of these samples, suggesting the prevalence of bTB in wild deer is very low, if present in wild deer at all. More information about Indiana's bTB testing in deer is available at [deerhealth.IN.gov](https://deerhealth.IN.gov).

While you are field-dressing a deer, be aware of the presence of white or tan lesions on the internal organs or inner wall of the chest cavity. Lesions may be found on the lungs, inside the rib cage, on the liver, on lymph nodes, or occasionally other internal organs. Report deer with these lesions at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).

While field-dressing or handling any carcass or other raw meat, you should wear disposable gloves and always wash your hands with soap and water afterward. Wash and disinfect all tools used during processing.

To learn more about bTB, including where to have a carcass tested or how to report a possible case, visit [deerhealth.IN.gov](https://deerhealth.IN.gov).

## EHD

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is caused by infection with viruses from the genus Orbivirus that are transmitted by biting midges. EHD is not transmissible to humans. Infected deer develop a fever and seek comfort in or around water and may be found dead around water. Other signs of EHD include a blue-tinged tongue, ulcers on the tongue, or an eroded dental pad. The onset of freezing temperatures often brings an end to outbreaks.

Not all deer that contract EHD die as a result. Although there is no treatment for EHD, many infected deer recover and develop immunity. While deer mortality due to EHD may be high in a small area, large-scale or long-term 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, host genetics, and deer population density. Outbreaks tend to occur cyclically, approximately every 5 years. The last major outbreak of EHD was in 2019 in southern Indiana. To see the number of reported, tested, and lab confirmed EHD cases by county since 2019, visit [on.IN.gov/EHD](https://on.IN.gov/EHD).

If you suspect EHD in deer, please submit a report at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).



# Good Squirrel Habitat Makes for Good Squirrel Hunting Opportunities

Fortunately, fox squirrels and gray squirrels are habitat generalists, thriving in many habitat types. Fox squirrels prefer more open habitat such as woodlots, fencerows, and bottomlands. Gray squirrels are more commonly seen in largely forested areas. A mixture of these habitats results in these species often being in the same place.

The best squirrel habitat contains various trees and shrubs that produce mast, a fruit that can be either hard or soft. Hard-mast-producing trees such as oaks, hickories, black walnut, and American beech are important food sources for squirrels. Habitats with a variety of these species provide better consistency in yearly acorn production. Ensuring squirrel habitats have soft-mast-producing trees and shrubs such as black gum, flowering dogwood, spicebush,

and wild grapes is equally important. Before those food sources ripen, squirrels also feed heavily on foods from native hardwoods, particularly flower buds of elms in spring, and seeds from tulip trees, maples, and ash trees.

Squirrels also need sufficient cover to survive and reproduce. Mature trees, especially those with cavities, offer the best shelter. Squirrels use the cavities in late winter to raise their litters. In the absence of cavities, squirrels build nests, also called dreys, using leaves and twigs. Dreys are built in high places like maturing trees or grapevine tangles; however, they prefer to use dreys to raise litters in spring and summer.

Landowners interested in creating better squirrel habitat can use many of the same practices used for timber management.



Prescribed fires, timber harvests, and timber stand improvement can help sustain the oak/hickory forest habitat that supports an abundance of squirrels. Landowners who want to attract squirrels should concentrate on retaining cavity trees, managing for a diversity of hardwood trees, and encouraging young, vigorous mast-bearing trees.

Controlling invasive plants can also optimize squirrel habitat. Removing invasive shrubs such as bush honeysuckles, autumn olive, and multiflora rose will allow more beneficial native plants to grow, leading to years of great squirrel hunting opportunities on your land.

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## SMALL GAME

### Rabbit

Cottontail rabbit season is from Nov. 1, 2023 through Feb. 28, 2024.

Hunting hours for rabbits in February on FWAs and at Mississinewa, Patoka, and Salamonie lakes are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for rabbit hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 7½-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 (page 16).

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

Gray and fox squirrel season is from Aug. 15, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024.

Hunter orange clothing requirements (page 16) must be met while hunting squirrels from Nov. 1, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for squirrel hunting. A 20-gauge or smaller shotgun loaded with 6- to 7½-size shot or a .22-caliber rimfire rifle is recommended. Trapping of squirrels is illegal.

Shooting into or disturbing leaf nests and 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 (page 50).

## HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL GAME, GAME BIRDS, & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Animal	License & Stamps Required
<b>Small Game</b>	
<b>Rabbit</b> , Squirrel*	Valid hunting license
Frog, Turtle	Valid hunting or fishing license
<b>Game Birds</b>	
<b>Pheasant</b> , Quail	Valid hunting license and Game Bird Habitat Stamp
Crow	Valid hunting license
Wild Turkey**	Turkey license and Game Bird Habitat Stamp
<b>Migratory Birds</b>	
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks, Coots, Mergansers, Teal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth 15 and younger: Valid youth hunting license, HIP number</li> <li>Youth 16-17: Valid youth hunting license, HIP number, Federal Duck Stamp</li> <li>Adults 18+: Valid hunting license, HIP number, Federal Duck Stamp, State Waterfowl Stamp</li> </ul>
Mourning Dove	Valid hunting license, HIP Number, and Game Bird Habitat Stamp
<b>Woodcock</b> , Sora, Snipe	Valid hunting license and HIP Number

**Italicized Bold Text** – Hunter orange is required for the entire season (page 16).

\* Hunter orange is required from Nov. 1, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024.

\*\* Hunter orange is required from Dec. 9-24, 2023.

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Indiana Department  
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## REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SEASONS & LIMITS

	Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Game Turtles	Eastern Snapping Turtle	July 1 - March 31	4*	8*
	Smooth Softshell Turtle			
	Spiny Softshell Turtle			
Restrictions	Turtle traps may be used, but may not have an opening below the water surface. 12-inch minimum carapace length.			
Game Frogs	Green Frog & Bullfrog	June 15 - April 30	25*	50*
Restrictions	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.			

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

## Reptiles and Amphibians

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.

The collection limit for native nongame amphibians and reptiles is two per day and four per year (from April 1 through March 31 of the following year) for any one species. The possession limit is four per species.

Eastern snapping, smooth softshell, and spiny softshell turtles can be taken only between July 1 and March 31 of the following year and must be at least 12 inches in carapace length.

Carapace length is the straight-line measure along the top surface of the shell from the central point of the front edge directly behind the turtle's neck to a central point on the back edge directly above the turtle's tail.

A license is required to take a reptile or amphibian from the wild (see Reptile/Amphibian Seasons & Limits table).

Indiana residents older than 17 must possess a valid hunting or fishing license while collecting species of reptiles and amphibians from the wild. All nonresident adults and nonresident youth must possess a nonresident annual hunting license while collecting reptiles and amphibians from the wild.

License holders must obey season dates and bag limits, and use legal methods. An individual with a valid hunting or fishing license may take game frog and game turtle species from a DNR property where hunting or fishing is authorized. Air rifles and firearms cannot be used at state parks.

Other species of reptiles and amphibians may not be taken from any DNR property.

The daily bag limit is 25 for game frog species and four for game turtle species. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Reptiles and amphibians collected from the wild in Indiana may not be sold. Only legally collected amphibians or reptiles held for fewer than 30 days may be released at their original capture site if they have never been housed with another animal.



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Fish & Wildlife area staff use management techniques such as prescribed burning to stimulate the growth of nut and berry-producing species that squirrels rely on for food. Learn more about how prescribed fire is used to manage FWAs at [on.IN.gov/fire](https://on.IN.gov/fire).

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

## WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRD SEASON DATES

Regular Seasons	2023-2024 Season Dates	Bag Limits	Poss. Limits
<b>Mourning Doves</b>			
	Sept. 1 - Oct. 15	15 **	45 **
Statewide	Nov. 1-26	15 **	45 **
	Dec. 16 - Jan. 3	15 **	45 **
<b>Sora</b>			
Statewide	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	25	75
<b>American Woodcock</b>			
Statewide	Oct. 15 - Nov. 28	3	9
<b>Snipe</b>			
Statewide	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	8	24
<b>Teal</b>			
Statewide *	Sept. 9-24	6	18
<b>Ducks, Coots, &amp; Mergansers</b>			
North Zone	Oct. 28 - Dec. 17	***	***
	Dec. 26 - Jan. 3	***	***
Central Zone	Nov. 4-12	***	***
	Nov. 24 - Jan. 13	***	***
South Zone	Nov. 11-12	***	***
	Dec. 2 - Jan. 28	***	***
<b>Geese</b>			
	Sept. 9-17	****	****
North Zone	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	****	****
	Nov. 18 - Feb. 11	****	****
Central Zone	Sept. 9-17	****	****
	Nov. 4-18	****	****
South Zone	Nov. 24 - Feb. 11	****	****
	Sept. 9-17	****	****
	Nov. 11 - Feb. 11	****	****

## VETERAN & YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS (DUCKS, GEESE, MERGANSERS, & COOTS)

Zones	Dates	Bag Limits
North Zone	Oct. 21-22	Same as Regular Season *****
Central Zone	Oct. 28-29	Same as Regular Season *****
South Zone	Nov. 4-5	Same as Regular Season *****

\* Shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

\*\* 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, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 or 2 scaup. The daily bag limit may include only 1 scaup before November 12 in the North Zone, November 30 in the Central Zone, and December 15 in the South Zone. The daily bag limit may include 2 scaup on or after those dates. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

\*\*\*\* The daily bag limit for dark geese (Canada, white-front, brant) is 5 in the aggregate. The possession limit for dark geese is 3 times the daily bag limit. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow, blue, Ross) is 20. There is no possession limit for light geese.

\*\*\*\*\* For youth and veteran hunting dates, the daily bag for scaup is 1 per day.

## State and Federal Regulations

- Based on an individual's age, the following are needed to hunt waterfowl in Indiana:
  - Youth 15 and younger: Valid hunting license and HIP number
  - Youth 16-17: Valid youth hunting license, HIP number, and Federal Duck Stamp
  - Adults 18+: Valid hunting license, HIP number, Federal Duck Stamp, and State Waterfowl Stamp
- Lifetime license holders and those exempt from Indiana license and stamp requirements must still obtain a Federal Duck Stamp and HIP number to hunt waterfowl.
- 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, current acting upon the hull, or 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, 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 hunter's signature, address, total number of birds involved by species, and dates 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.
- Shooting hours for geese and ducks (except for teal season) is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Non-toxic shot is required when hunting waterfowl and migratory birds on DNR properties.

### Reminders

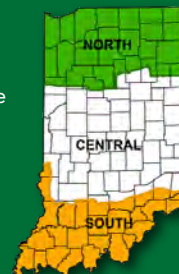
- Indiana enforces all federal migratory bird laws. Violating any provision of a state law regarding federally protected migratory birds is also a violation of federal law.
- State stamps are available from hunting and fishing license vendors and online by going to [on.IN.gov/INhuntfish](https://on.IN.gov/INhuntfish). Find where to buy Federal Duck Stamps at [fws.gov/duckstamps](https://fws.gov/duckstamps).

## Zones

**North:** Segment of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along State Road 18 to U.S. 31; north along U.S. 31 to U.S. 24; east along U.S. 24 to Huntington; southeast along U.S. 224; south along State Road 5; and east along State Road 124 to the Ohio border.

**Central:** Segment of Indiana south of the North Zone boundary and north of the South Zone boundary.

**South:** Segment of Indiana south of a line extending east from the Illinois border along I-70; east along National Ave.; east along U.S. 150; south along U.S. 41; east along State Road 58; south along State Road 37 to Bedford; and east along U.S. 50 to the Ohio border.





## 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 derive 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 HIP before hunting coots, doves, ducks, mergansers, geese, snipe, sora, teal, and woodcock.

Hunters must register at [on.IN.gov/INhuntfish](http://on.IN.gov/INhuntfish) or by calling 866-671-4499. At the end of the registration, the hunter is given a validation number to record on their 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 with HIP only once each season, not each time they hunt; however, hunters must register in each state they hunt.

In addition to providing name and address, hunters are asked questions designed to identify which species they hunted last year and, in some cases, the number of birds they harvested.

### Non-Toxic Shot

Hunters are required to use approved non-toxic shot while hunting all waterfowl. Hunters are also required to use non-toxic shot to hunt mourning doves on all DNR properties. Non-toxic shot currently approved for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are:

bismuth-tin  
copper-clad iron  
corrosion-inhibited copper  
iron (steel)  
iron-tungsten  
iron-tungsten-nickel  
tungsten-bronze

tungsten-iron-copper-nickel  
tungsten-iron-polymer  
tungsten-matrix  
tungsten-polymer  
tungsten-tin-bismuth  
tungsten-tin-iron  
tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

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

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

## Waterfowl Hunting on State Properties

Hunters can apply for reserved waterfowl hunts by completing the reserved waterfowl hunt application at [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov).

For more information concerning waterfowl hunting on state-owned properties, contact the property (page 50).

## 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 any aircraft or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land vehicle, except that persons with paraplegia and persons with single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land vehicle.
- By the use or aid 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 sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By baiting or by hunting 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. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties for hunting over bait are \$15,000/6 months jail time and for placing bait are \$100,000/1 year jail time. For more information on baiting, visit [wildlife.IN.gov](http://wildlife.IN.gov).
- By the use of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

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# The Role of Hunters in One Health

## One Health



Hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreators are important partners in protecting human, animal, and environmental health



These practices can help establish and protect a healthy, shared environment for humans and animals

One Health is an approach to research, management, and outreach that recognizes the importance of human health and its direct relationship to the health of domestic animals, wildlife, and our shared environment. Together we can use this framework to monitor and manage the health of Indiana's wildlife.

An example of how One Health and wildlife health are connected is demonstrated in the case of highly pathogenic avian influenza

(HPAI). HPAI is caused by a virus that can infect both domestic and wild birds, and, on rare occasions, humans and other mammals.

In 2022, H5N1 HPAI was confirmed in a commercial turkey farm in Indiana. Since then, it has been confirmed in several wild bird species in Indiana (read more about this outbreak at [on.IN.gov/avian-flu](https://on.IN.gov/avian-flu)). During that time, hunters and wildlife biologists worked together to monitor this disease in our state's waterfowl, primarily through surveillance of hunter-harvested waterfowl and hunters' use of the DNR application for reporting sick and dead wildlife ([on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife)). As a result of those efforts, DNR shared important health information with the public.

This One Health approach promoted cooperation, communication, and coordination between professionals and the public.

This ultimately bolstered monitoring of the outbreak, recovered food safety, protected human health, and conserved biodiversity. As of April 2023, Indiana was declared HPAI-free in commercial facilities. Nevertheless, hunters and outdoor recreators should remain vigilant.

Hunters can participate in the One Health approach by:

- Reporting sick or dead wild animals at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife) and avoiding the harvest of these wildlife
- Processing wild game and meats in well-ventilated areas
- Wearing gloves and washing hands before and after handling carcasses
- Refraining from eating, drinking, smoking, and eye touching during processing
- Double bagging wildlife remains before disposal
- Participating in wildlife diseases surveillance efforts
- Cooking meat to a safe internal temperature
- Practicing healthy pet habits (e.g. vaccinating pets, picking up pet waste, etc.)
- Removing litter and trash from public or private lands

The CDC's website, [cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html](https://cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html) can provide more information on One Health.

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## Report Sick or Dead Wildlife

Help keep our wildlife healthy!

### DO REPORT:

- Wildlife that appears sick or dead without obvious cause.
- Incidents involving the death of five or more animals.
- Recurring deaths of animals in the same location.
- Deer that appear sick.
- Incidents involving threatened or endangered species, regardless of the cause of death or the number of animals involved.

### DON'T REPORT:

- Roadkill.
- Orphaned or injured animals.
- Bird window collisions.



REPORT AT:  
[on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife)





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### ALWAYS REMEMBER

- Safety first – ear and eye protection required on firearm ranges
- Know the rules of the range
- Recreational shooting is a great funding source for wildlife and habitat restoration.

FIND OUT MORE AT  
**on.IN.gov/dnrshootingranges**



**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources



## CELEBRATE WITH US! SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

National Hunting & Fishing Day  
National Public Lands Day  
Free Fishing Day



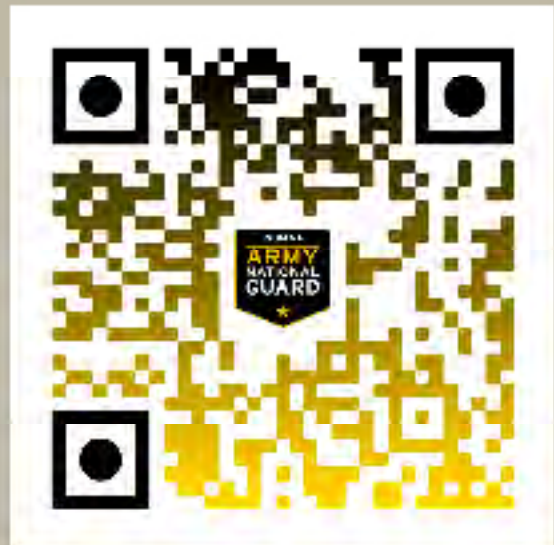
FIND A PROPERTY NEAR YOU:  
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## GAME BIRDS



### Pheasant

Pheasant season is from Nov. 1 - Dec. 15. A valid hunting license and Indiana Game Bird Habitat Stamp are required to hunt pheasants. Hunter orange clothing requirements (page 16) 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. Non-toxic 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, Tri-County, Willow Slough, and Winamac FWAs. Put-and-take pheasant hunting on these DNR properties starts on November 18, 2023.

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 their limit in the put-and-take hunt may not take any more pheasants that day.

When applications are being accepted, hunters can reserve put-and-take pheasant hunts online at [hunting.IN.gov](https://hunting.IN.gov). 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.

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NWTF-Indiana

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## Game Bird Areas

The Division of Fish & Wildlife conducts reserved pheasant hunts on Game Bird Areas in northern Indiana (Benton, Jasper, Newton, Warren, and White counties). When the application period is open, hunters can apply at [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov).

## Quail

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

The North Zone season is from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, with a bag limit of four birds. The South Zone season is from Nov. 1 to Jan. 10, with a bag limit of eight birds.

The daily bag limit at North Zone Fish & Wildlife areas and at Mississinewa Lake and Salamonie Lake is two quail. The daily bag limit at South Zone Fish & Wildlife areas and at Patoka Lake is four quail.

A valid hunting license and an Indiana Game Bird Habitat Stamp are required to hunt quail in Indiana. Hunter orange clothing requirements (page 16) 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 (page 50).

## 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 nongame 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

Crow hunting season is July 1 - Aug. 15 and Dec. 13 - March 1.

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 in accordance with local ordinances.

You are not required to have a state stamp, federal stamp, or HIP registration number to hunt crows.

*Have questions or want to know more?  
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[hoosiersfeedingthehungry.org](http://hoosiersfeedingthehungry.org)



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[duboiscountysportsmen.org](http://duboiscountysportsmen.org)



**Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry**  
[fhfh.org](http://fhfh.org)

For more information on donating, visit: [sbfi.IN.gov](http://sbfi.IN.gov)

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

**LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**  
[sbfi.IN.gov](http://sbfi.IN.gov)

## License Requirements

To hunt wild turkey, a valid turkey hunting license and Game Bird Habitat Stamp are required.

Those who have a lifetime comprehensive hunting, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing, or resident or nonresident 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 the spring and fall seasons.

Game Bird Habitat Stamps are good for both spring and fall seasons in the same calendar year.

Regardless of whether you have harvested a turkey yourself, you can only assist another hunter by calling if you are licensed to turkey hunt.

## Season and Bag Limits

**Fall 2023** - 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 (including crossbows) is statewide from Oct. 1-29, 2023 and Dec. 9, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024. Fall firearms season is from Oct. 18-29, 2023 in specific counties. See the map on page 45.

**Spring 2024** - The spring season runs from April 24 - May 12, 2024. The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season. Spring turkey hunting is allowed statewide.

## Reserved Hunts

Reserved turkey hunts are scheduled at select DNR Fish & Wildlife areas.

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 to apply during open applications, go to [hunting.IN.gov](https://hunting.IN.gov).

Turkeys harvested at a reserved hunt counts toward the hunter's season bag limit.

## Youth Season

Information about the youth season is on page 12.

## Legal Equipment

Turkeys can be hunted only with:

- A .410 caliber and 10-, 12-, 16-, 20-, or 28-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7½, or with Tungsten Super Shot 8, 9 and 10. Shot sizes smaller than size 7½ must be made of Tungsten Super Shot or equivalent pellet density only, such as Tungsten Super Shot 8, 9 and 10. Non-toxic shot is required while hunting turkey on some DNR properties. Call the property you are interested in hunting on for additional information.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size 4, 5, 6, 7, 7½, and Tungsten Super Shot 8, 9 and 10. 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 CT and until 1 p.m. for properties on ET. Mushroom hunters are required to stay out of the field until after this time.

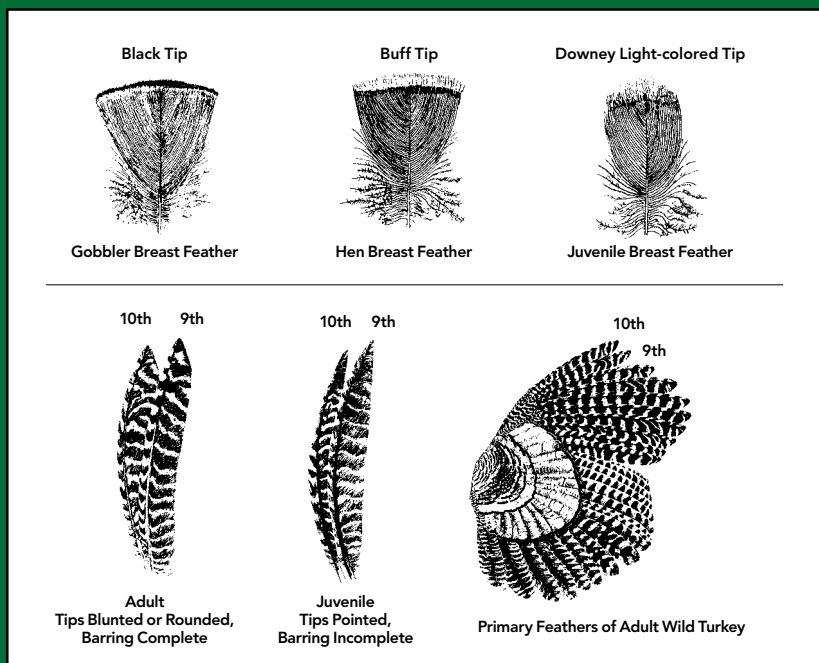
## Fall Wild Turkey Sex and Age Determination

If no obvious leg spur:

- use breast feathers to determine sex and wing tips to determine age (amount of barring and shape of 9th and 10th primary tips)

If obvious leg spur, then bird is a male:

- adult male: 1/2 inch or longer
- juvenile male: less than 1/2 inch



Art by Dave Hamilton. Used by permission of MO DOC.



## 2023 Fall Turkey Firearms & Archery Seasons Map

Archery (statewide)  
Oct. 1-29, 2023  
and  
Dec. 9, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024

Fall Firearms & Archery  
Oct. 18-29, 2023



## 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](http://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 a printable version of a temporary transportation tag, visit [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov).

## Hunter Orange

Turkey hunters must meet hunter orange requirements while hunting turkeys Dec. 9-24, 2023. See hunter orange requirements on page 16.

## 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.

## Report Turkey Broods:

Help Indiana DNR monitor summer production of wild turkeys. Your reports assist in determining best management practices for wild turkey. Find more information and report July and August broods at [on.IN.gov/turkeybrood](http://on.IN.gov/turkeybrood).

## Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

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



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

**Toll Free 814.572.4387 [HuntofaLifetime.org](http://HuntofaLifetime.org)**

## FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS

Furbearers	Hunting Seasons
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 15 - Feb. 28
Coyote & Striped Skunk	Oct. 15 - March 15
Raccoon & Opossum	Nov. 8 - Jan. 31
Mink, Muskrat, Long-tailed Weasel	Nov. 15 - Jan. 31
Beaver	Nov. 15 - March 15
Dog Running (Chasing season only - no hunting)	Feb. 1 - Oct. 25

### Furbearer Hunting

A valid hunting license is needed to hunt beaver, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, 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
- Disturb the den or nest of any animal by shooting, digging, cutting or chipping 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
- Use or carry tree-climbing or cutting equipment for the purpose of dislodging an animal from a tree
- Hunt furbearers from a boat

### Dog Running

The dog running season for raccoon and opossum extends from Feb. 1 through Oct. 25. A person needs a valid Indiana hunting license to chase wild animals with dogs. See license exemptions on pages 8-9. It is legal to hunt and chase foxes (Oct. 15 - Feb. 28), raccoons (Nov. 8 - Jan. 31), and coyotes (Oct. 15 - March 15) with dogs during the established hunting seasons. Youth who are younger than 13 years old, do not possess a bow, crossbow, or firearm, and are accompanied by a valid license-holding individual who is at least 18 years of age 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 and permission of the landowner.



### 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.

### 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 (page 51). 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 (toll free 877-463-6367), or go to [wildlife.IN.gov](http://wildlife.IN.gov).

### Wildlife Conflicts

Resident landowners or tenants may use legal methods, without a permit, to take a beaver, mink, muskrat, long-tailed weasel, red fox, gray fox, opossum, skunk, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, or raccoon that is on their own property and damaging property or posing a health or safety threat.

If the animal is released, it must be released in the county of capture with permission of the recipient landowner.

Groundhogs (woodchucks), moles, voles, red squirrels, and chipmunks may be taken at any time using any equipment without a permit.

Landowners may take coyotes at any time on the land they own without a special permit or license, or they may provide written permission for others to take coyotes on their land at any time. A valid hunting or trapping license or nuisance wild animal control permit is required to take a coyote on land other than your own.

Coyotes that are taken outside the hunting and trapping season by a landowner or someone with written permission from a landowner cannot be possessed live for more than 24 hours, and the live coyote cannot be sold, traded, bartered, or gifted.

For assistance with wildlife conflicts, contact your District Wildlife Biologist (page 49).

### Possession of Hides & Carcasses

There is no deadline for the possession of lawfully obtained untanned hides or unprocessed carcasses of furbearers taken during the season.

The sale of legally harvested furbearing mammals or untanned hides of furbearing mammals can be made to licensed fur buyers only.

Go to [wildlife.IN.gov](http://wildlife.IN.gov) to obtain a list of Indiana licensed fur buyers, or call the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-232-4200 or 877-463-6367 (toll-free).

### 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 human or the mammal's health; (g) and has ambient ventilation by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning to protect the health 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 where the mammal is housed. If necessary for the mammal in possession, adequate lighting must be provided by artificial or natural means and cycled for appropriate photoperiod. 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, river otter, and striped skunk.

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

Traps must be checked and animals removed at least one time every 24 hours with the following exception: Traps that are designed to capture and kill the animal as a result of submerging the animal in water or crushing or asphyxiating the animal must be checked at least one time every 48 hours. The DNR recommends checking every trap within 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.

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 their season limit. River otters taken during the trapping season must be reported to the DNR CheckIN Game system ([CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov](http://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 online at [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov) for locations.

There is a statewide quota of 750 river otters for the 2023-2024 season. The season will close early if the quota is reached prior to March 15, 2024. Trappers are responsible for knowing if the quota has been met. The current reported river otter take can be found at [hunting.IN.gov](http://hunting.IN.gov) or by calling 317-232-4200. 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 their bag limit.

Individuals who kill river otters after the statewide quota has been met or after they have reached their bag limit must notify the DNR within 48 hours of capture and make arrangements for the DNR to take the carcass.

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 (page 49), local Conservation Officer (page 51), or 812-837-9536.

TRAPPING SEASONS	
Furbearers	Trapping Seasons
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 15 - Jan. 31
Coyote & Striped Skunk	Oct. 15 - March 15
Raccoon & Opossum	Nov. 8 - Jan. 31
Mink, Muskrat, Long-tailed Weasel	Nov. 15 - Jan. 31
Beaver	Nov. 15 - March 15
River Otter (in designated counties)	Nov. 15 - March 15 (or until quota is met)

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 be euthanized immediately after removal from the trap or immediately upon transporting from the trap site.

## Trapper Education

The DNR offers trapper education courses that describe basic methods for trapping furbearers, handling the catch, and the responsibilities of the trapper.

To find information on classes in your area, go to [register-ed.com/programs/Indiana](http://register-ed.com/programs/Indiana).

## River Otter Rules

You must take the skinned carcass and separated pelt to a designated DNR employee or registration station for physical registration and CITES tagging within 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 in Endangered Species of Wild 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 in 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.

### Counties Open to River Otter Trapping



# TRAP REGULATIONS

## 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 jaws (Figure 1) and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the vertical center of the trap's jaws (Figure 2) is:

1. Larger than 7.5 inches if square or
2. Larger than 8 inches if round

Otherwise, when set, at least 50% of the opening of the trap must be submerged in 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 inside width between the trap's hinge posts (both measurements) is greater than  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches and less than or equal to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, unless the jaws of the trap have at least a  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch offset, the gap of the offset is filled with securely attached rubber pads, or the trap is completely covered by water.

Securely attached rubber pads are those attached with bolts or rivets. The trap's hinge posts must be 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 inside width between the trap's hinge posts is greater than  $6\frac{1}{2}$  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.

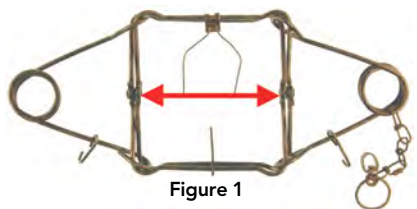
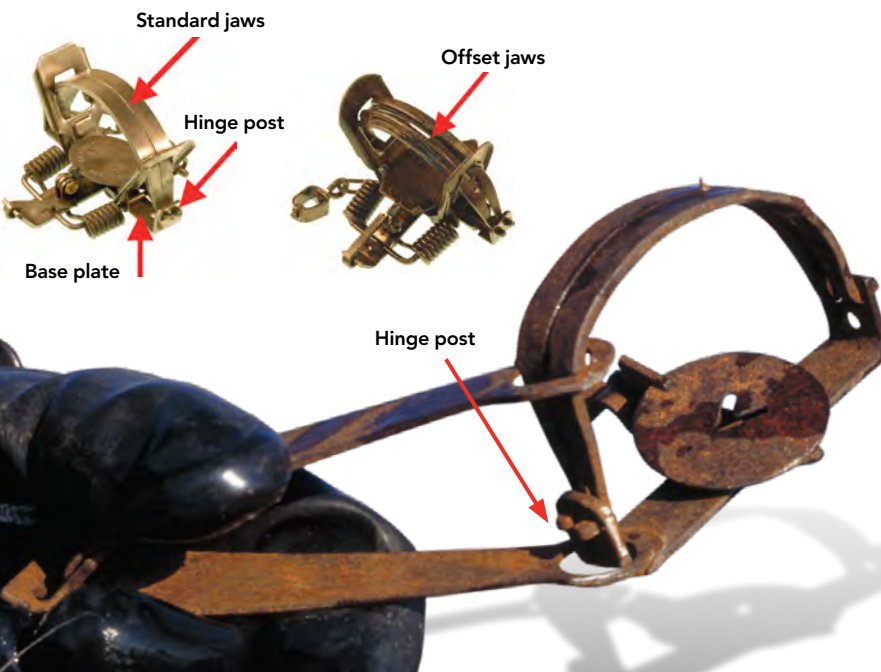


Figure 1

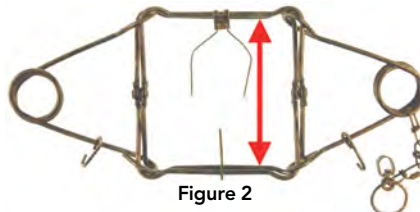


Figure 2

## Measuring Your Foothold Trap

1. Measure the widest inside jaw spread perpendicular to the trap's base plate as in Figure 3 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 1.
2. Measure the inside width between the trap's 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  $\frac{1}{8}$  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.



Figure 3



Figure 4

BOX	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
1	5" or less	5" or less
	$5\frac{1}{4}$ "	$5\frac{1}{4}$ "
	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
	$5\frac{3}{4}$ "	$5\frac{3}{4}$ "
	$> 5\frac{3}{4}$ *	$> 5\frac{3}{4}$ "
2	6"	6"
	$6\frac{1}{4}$ "	$6\frac{1}{4}$ "
	$6\frac{1}{2}$ "	$6\frac{1}{2}$ "
	$> 6\frac{1}{2}$ "	$> 6\frac{1}{2}$ "
3	$6\frac{3}{4}$ "	$6\frac{3}{4}$ "
	7"	7"
	$7\frac{1}{4}$ " or more	$7\frac{1}{4}$ " or more

\* The Symbol ">" means "greater than." (i.e.: ">  $5\frac{3}{4}$ " means "greater than  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ").



## DNR Wildlife Biologists

### District 1

Mike Mycroft  
4112 E. SR 225  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
765-320-0516  
mmycroft@dnr.IN.gov

### District 2

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4320 W. Toto Road  
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tcarroll@dnr.IN.gov

### District 3

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PO Box 71  
Mingo, IN 46771  
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ltresenriter@dnr.IN.gov

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### District 5

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moberly@dnr.IN.gov

### District 6

Travis Stoelting  
13540 W. CR 400 S.  
Linton, IN 47441  
812-512-9177  
tstoelting@dnr.IN.gov

### District 7

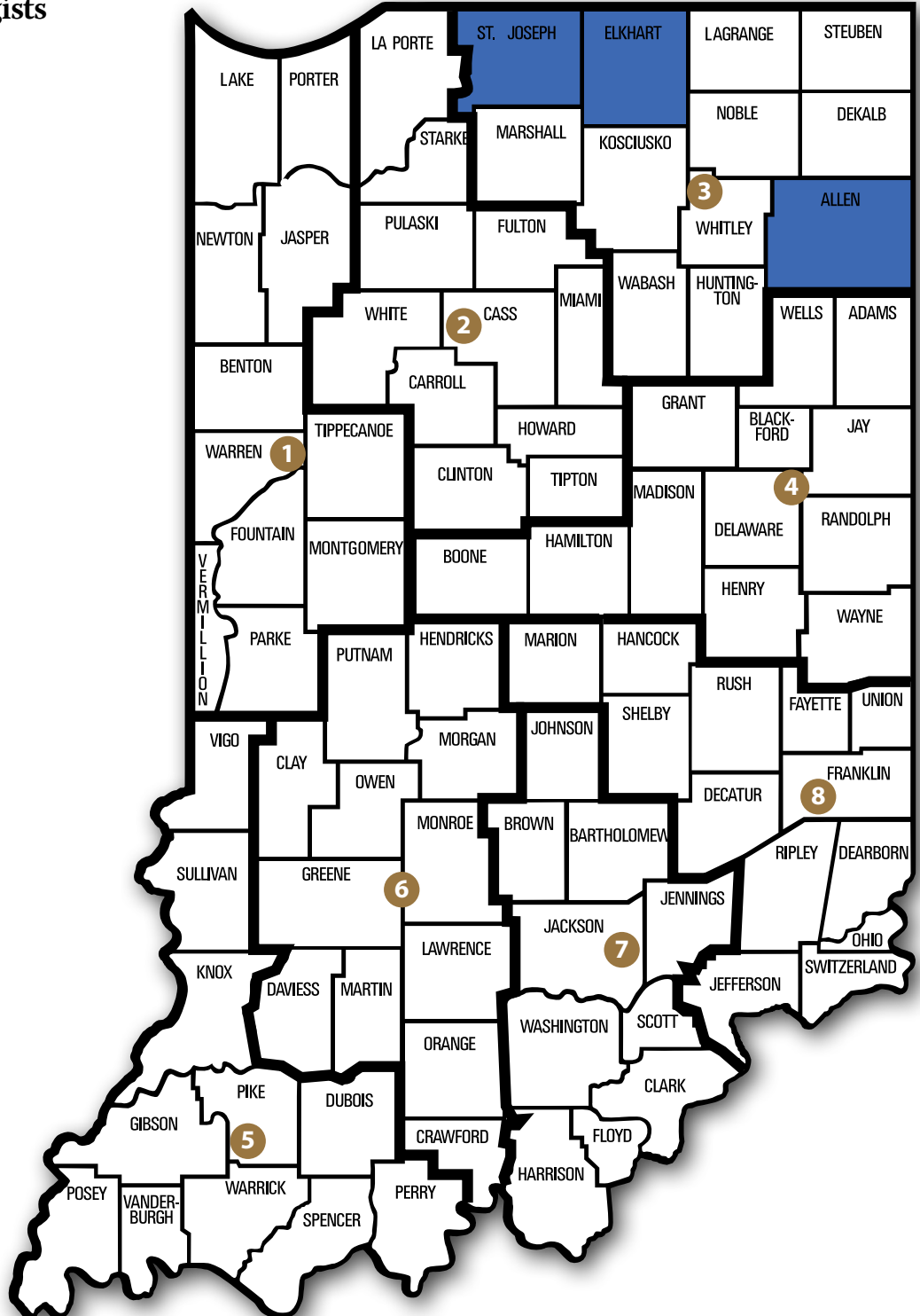
Shannon Winks  
4931 S. CR 250 W.  
Vallonia, IN 47281  
812-358-2253  
swinks@dnr.IN.gov

### District 8

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7970 S. Rowe St.  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
812-352-8486  
bsargent@dnr.IN.gov

### North Urban

Jessica Merkling  
1353 S. Governors Drive  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
260-244-6805  
jmerkling@dnr.IN.gov



## What a Wildlife Biologist Can Help You With:

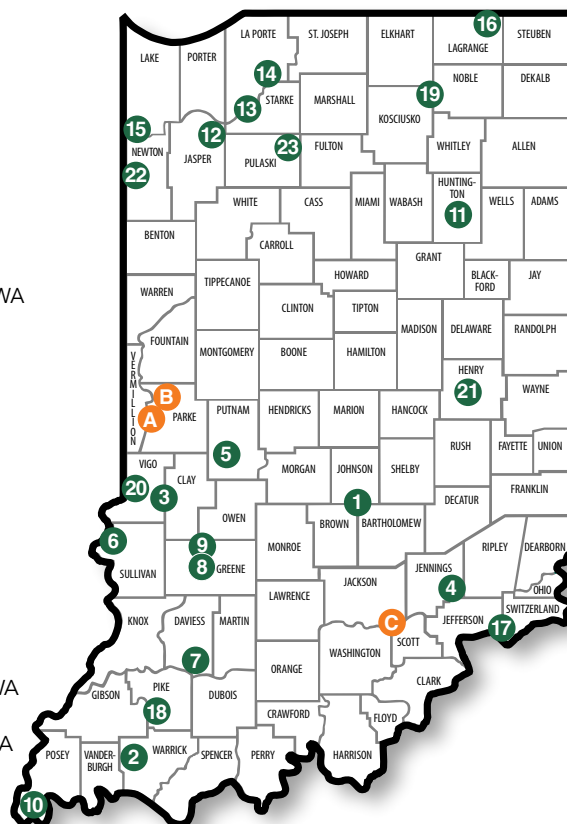
- Information on and help with wildlife habitat improvements on private lands
- Assistance with living and interacting with wildlife
- For more information and resources, visit [on.IN.gov/livingwithwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/livingwithwildlife).

## Fish & Wildlife Areas / Healthy Rivers INitiative Sites

1. **Atterbury FWA**  
7970 S. Rowe St.  
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 S. 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 47558  
812-674-0168
8. **Goose Pond FWA**  
13540 W. CR 400 S.  
Linton, IN 47441  
812-512-9185
9. **Hillenbrand FWA**  
Contact Goose Pond FWA

10. **Hovey Lake FWA**  
8401 SR 69 S.  
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620  
812-838-2927
11. **J.E. Roush Lake FWA**  
517 N. Warren Road  
Huntington, IN 46750  
260-468-2165
12. **Jasper-Pulaski FWA**  
5822 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  
219-992-3019
16. **Pigeon River FWA**  
8310 E. 300 N.  
Howe, IN 46746  
260-367-2164
17. **Splinter Ridge FWA**  
Contact Crosley FWA

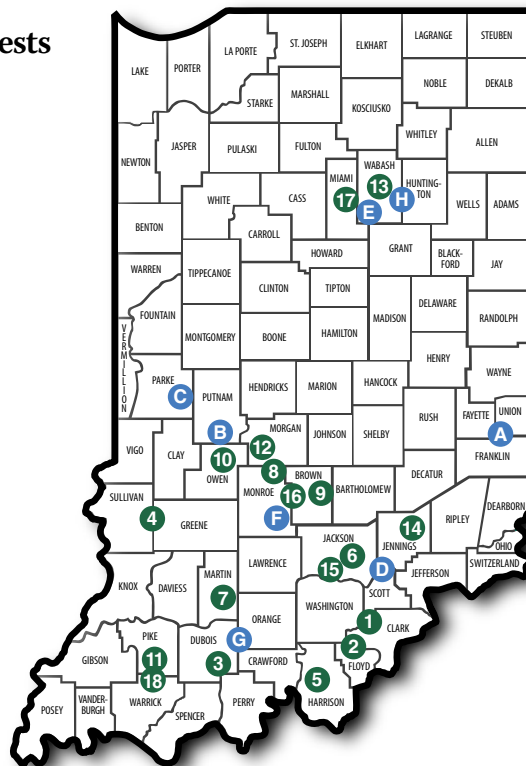
18. **Sugar Ridge FWA**  
2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
812-789-2724
  19. **Tri-County FWA**  
8432 N. 850 E.  
Syracuse, IN 46567  
574-834-4461
  20. **Wabashiki FWA**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
  21. **Wilbur Wright FWA**  
2239 N. SR 103  
New Castle, IN 47362  
260-468-2165
  22. **Willow Slough FWA**  
1803 S. 700 W.  
Morocco, IN 47963  
219-285-2704
  23. **Winamac FWA**  
1493 W. 500 N.  
Winamac, IN 46996  
574-946-4422
- A. Wabash River (HRI)**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- B. Sugar Creek (HRI)**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- C. Austin Bottoms (HRI)**  
Contact Crosley FWA



## State Lakes, State Park Forest Recreation Areas & State Forests

- A. **Brookville Lake**  
14108 SR 101  
Brookville, IN 47012  
765-647-2657
- B. **Cagles Mill Lake**  
1317 W. Lieber Road  
Suite 1  
Cloverdale, IN 46120  
765-276-0197
- C. **Cecil M. Harden Lake**  
1588 S. Raccoon Parkway  
Rockville, IN 47872  
765-344-1412
- D. **Hardy Lake**  
5620 Hardy Lake Road  
Scottsburg, IN 47170  
812-794-3800
- E. **Mississinewa Lake**  
4673 S. 625 E.  
Peru, IN 46970  
765-473-6528
- F. **Monroe Lake**  
4850 S. SR 446  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
812-837-9546
- G. **Patoka Lake**  
3084 N. Dillard Road  
Birdseye, IN 47513  
812-338-5589
- H. **Salamonie Lake**  
9214 W. Lost Bridge W.  
Andrews, IN 46702  
260-468-2125

1. **Clark SF**  
#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  
812-827-2857
4. **Greene-Sullivan SF**  
2551 S. SR 159  
Dugger, IN 47848  
812-648-2810
5. **Harrison-Crawford SF**  
7240 Old Forest Rd. S.W.  
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  
765-792-4654
9. **Mountain Tea SF**  
Pumpkin Ridge Road  
Nashville, IN 47448  
812-988-7945
10. **Owen-Putnam SF**  
2153 Fish Creek Road  
Spencer, IN 47460  
812-829-2462
11. **Pike SF**  
5994 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
812-827-2857
12. **Ravinia SF**  
N. Duckworth Road  
Paragon IN, 46166  
765-792-4654
13. **Salamonie River SF**  
5400 E. Salamonie  
Forest Rd.  
Lagro, IN 46941  
260-782-0430
14. **Selmier SF**  
905 E. CR 350 N.  
North Vernon, IN 47265  
812-346-2286
15. **Starve Hollow SRA**  
4345 S. CR 275 W.  
Vallonia, IN 47281-9741  
812-358-3464
16. **Yellowwood SF**  
772 Yellowwood Lake Rd.  
Nashville, IN 47448  
812-988-7945



17. **Frances Slocum SF**  
CR 510 E.  
Peru, IN 46970  
260-782-0430
18. **Interlake SRA**  
200 E. SR 68  
Lynnville, IN 47619  
812-922-0002



## 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  
765-276-0196

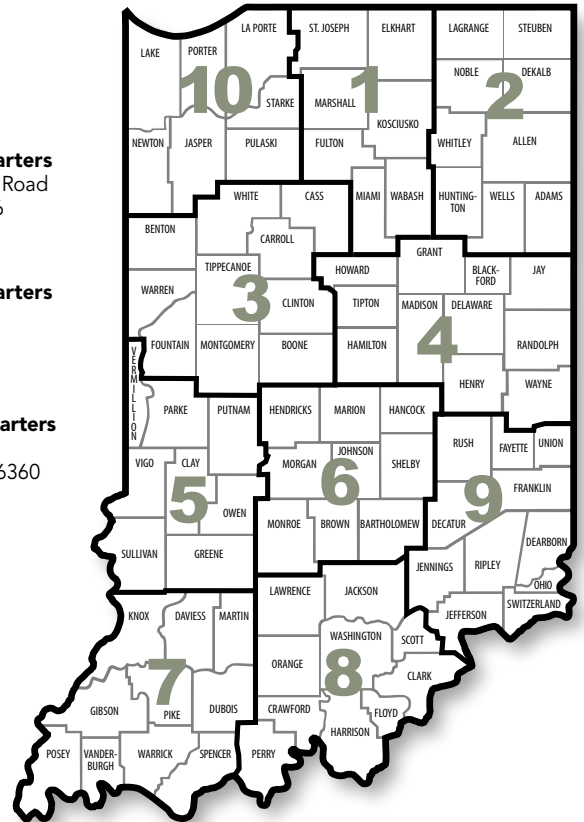
**6. District 6 Headquarters**  
7937 Durbin St.  
Building 9A  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
812-526-4101

**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



## 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 online to [on.IN.gov/dnrshootingranges](http://on.IN.gov/dnrshootingranges).

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

**2. Patoka Lake**  
archery  
812-338-5589

**3. Wilbur Wright FWA**  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
260-468-2165

**4. J. E. Roush Lake FWA** \$  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun/trap/skeet  
260-468-2416

**5. Jackson-Washington  
State Forest**  
archery  
812-358-2160

**6. Jasper-Pulaski FWA**  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
219-843-4841

**7. Crosley FWA**  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
812-346-5596

**8. Atterbury FWA** \$  
rifle/shotgun/handgun/  
trap/skeet  
archery (no fee)  
812-526-6552

**9. Tri-County FWA**  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
574-834-4461

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

**11. Kingsbury FWA** \$  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
219-393-1128

**12. Willow Slough FWA** \$  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
219-285-2060

**13. Cecil M. Harden Lake**  
archery  
765-344-1412

**14. Sugar Ridge FWA**  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
812-789-2724

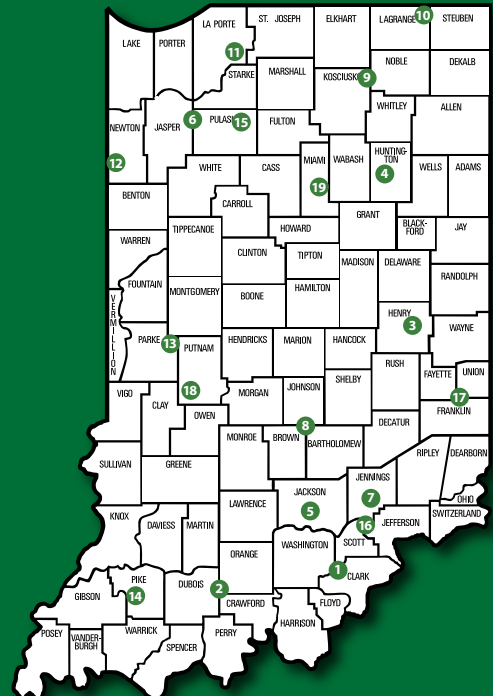
**15. Winamac FWA**  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
574-946-4422

**16. Hardy Lake**  
archery  
812-794-3800

**17. Brookville Lake** \$  
archery/rifle/shotgun/  
handgun  
765-647-2657

**18. Deer Creek FWA** \$  
rifle/shotgun/handgun  
765-276-3032

**19. Mississinewa Lake**  
archery  
765-473-6528



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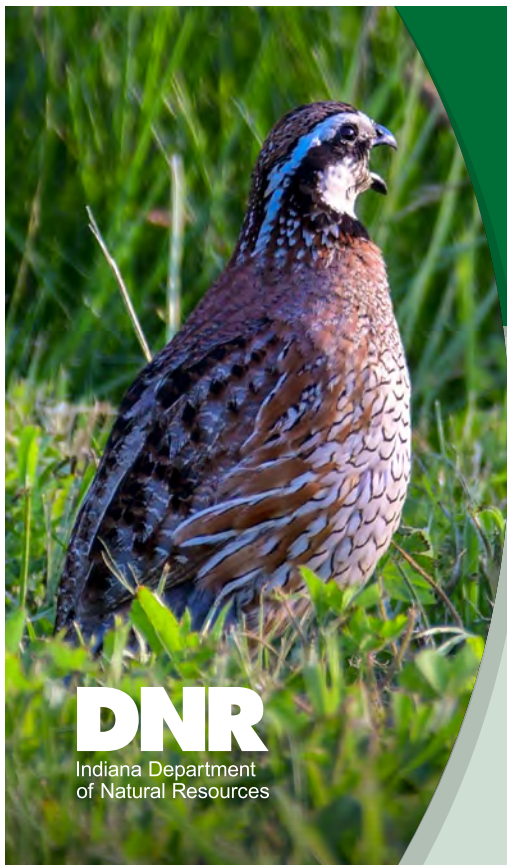
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**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

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for Gamebirds & Songbirds

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**Camping/Shelter/Cabin Reservations**  
**[camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)**

or 1-866-622-6746

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

**[stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov)**



Memories made naturally.





# PULASKI COUNTY

I N D I A N A

*It's the Simple Things*

## AN OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE

Offering opportunities for wild-dove and pheasant hunting in the heart of rural Pulaski County, Sandy Prairie Hunt Club provides more than 200 acres of ground, including 40 acres of prairie-grass strips and sun-flower fields. Individuals and small parties are welcome, dogs are required, and there's no membership fee.

The Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area, in northern Pulaski County, along U.S. 35, offers tremendous opportunities for hunting deer, wild turkey, rabbit, quail, squirrel, woodcock, dove, and furbearers. Waterfowl hunting is offered, but is limited due to the small amount of wetlands, and opportunities exist for pheasant, quail and dove hunting. Wetland trapping is always permitted. Two two-acre ponds are home to bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass waiting to challenge master anglers and recreational fishers alike.

Northwestern Pulaski County's Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area is home to the Ryan Ditch (shoreline fishing), two gravel pits with boat ramps, and numerous small ponds to provide plenty of diversity as you seek the catch of the day — or just a day out of the office, communing with nature. Deer, quail, rabbit, squirrel, snipe, dove, sora rails, woodcock, waterfowl and wild turkey all inhabit the area, challenging mature marksmen and first-timers alike.



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