

HUNTING & TRAPPING IN VIRGINIA

July 2025—June 2026



Virginia Department of
Wildlife Resources

www.viriniawildlife.gov

www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com



Our RV's roof wasn't



Landing us in



It was really



Good thing we have Roof Protection Plus® from Progressive,
a leader in RV insurance protecting over 1 million RVs.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM

PROGRESSIVE

Quote RV
insurance in
as little as
4 minutes



HUNTING & TRAPPING IN VIRGINIA

July 2025–June 2026



Commonwealth of Virginia
Glenn Youngkin, *Governor*

Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
Stefanie K. Taillon

Department of Wildlife Resources
Ryan J. Brown, *Executive Director*

Members of the Board
George J. Terwilliger, Chair, Delaplane
Michael Formica, Vice-Chair, McLean
Lynwood D. Broadus, Milford
Jon Cooper, Troutville
John W. Daniel II, Richmond
James Edmunds, Halifax
Mamie A. Parker, Ph.D., Dulles
Brian Vincent, Farmville
Laura W. Walters, Dublin
William Wampler III, Abingdon
Marley "Woody" Woodall, Jr., Chesapeake

Mission Statement

Conserve and manage wildlife populations and habitat for the benefit of present and future generations. Connect people to Virginia's outdoors through boating, education, fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing and other wildlife-related activities. Protect people and property by promoting safe outdoor experiences and managing human-wildlife conflicts.

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

On the Cover:

Planning a day in the field. © Meghan Marchetti/DWR



© Meghan Marchetti/DWR

GENERAL INFORMATION	4
BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS	26
ELK HUNTING REGULATIONS	31
DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS	32
TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS	46
SMALL GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS	48
FURBEARER HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS	50
PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS REGULATIONS	56

This booklet is for general information and contains information regarding programs, policies, regulations, rules, and fees of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) current at the time of printing. Information may change after printing and any changes will supersede the information in this publication. DWR's programs, policies, regulations, rules, or fees can be found at www.virginiawildlife.gov. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode>) or the Wildlife Resources Department Regulation Manual (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15>). For answers to specific questions about hunting and fishing, contact the Department of Wildlife Resources office nearest you.

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



Time goes by fast—as I write this, spring turkey season has just ended, and for the first time in a few weeks, my alarm clock was set to a somewhat reasonable time. Several new treestands that I bought at the end of last deer season still sit in boxes in my shed, despite my urgency when I bought them to get them situated before the woods leafed out, and I can already picture myself rushing to get them in place sometime in late September. And a coworker remarked to me that the year is almost halfway over, which seems impossible, but is, in fact, true.

For all of the pressures that time moving on may cause, it does come with an upside—we are already at the time of year when we begin looking forward to the fall hunting seasons. Whether your passion leads you to the fields, woods, marshes, or mountains, Virginia is blessed to

offer an all-encompassing variety of opportunities for sportsmen and women, with perhaps the only limitation being our own time to experience it all. Included in the *Hunting & Trapping in Virginia* and *Migratory Game Bird Hunting in Virginia* books you will find seasons, bag limits, and rules and regulations intended to help responsibly manage our populations and provide safe sporting opportunities for the public, but I'd also invite you to review them from the standpoint of references to the large number of experiences that are available in the Commonwealth. You can find out more about each of these pursuits on our website at dwr.virginia.gov and look for places to experience them on our Explore the Wild app, which can be found either on our GoOutdoorsVA app that you may already use for licensing and tagging purposes, or on the internet at <https://dwr.virginia.gov/explore/>.

This year's season offerings will be very familiar, but with some notable adjustments due to completion of a biennial wildlife regulations review cycle and, for our migratory game bird hunters, the annual effort to establish seasons and bag limits consistent with what is permitted by the federal guidelines that oversee those species. Whether you are a first-time hunter or this fall will mark several decades in the field for you, take a moment to review information relevant to you ahead of time, so that you won't find yourself wondering the night before your hunt (or, as sometimes happens to one of my friends, scrambling to look it up when the target of your pursuit happens to be standing in front of you!).

Thanks to all of you for your support of our wildlife and our hunting opportunities here in Virginia. If you are a longtime hunter, remember this year to give a little back and take someone new into the field; you'll find the experience to quickly become among your favorite memories. And most of all, remember to set aside the time to get away from life's daily pressures and get out there and enjoy all that this state has to offer! I wish all of you a safe and rewarding season.

Ryan Brown, Executive Director, DWR

VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM AND YOU



Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping, and wildlife watching. In addition to directly funding these opportunities through your purchase of hunting and trapping licenses and permits, you also help the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources make wildlife-related outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition, or archery equipment. When you make these purchases, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program. For more than 80 years, the Wildlife Restoration Program has served as a model of conservation partnership among industry, states and territories, and the federal government, protecting and restoring wildlife and the lands they depend on for current and future generations. Virginia received \$15.3 million from this program in 2025, which also is used to fund a large portion of the Department's hunter education and outreach efforts, Wildlife Management Area habitat work, and recreational shooting opportunities.

Meghan Marchetti / DWR



About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

The revenue generated through ad sales in this publication significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs and we thank the advertisers for their support.



**Have questions or feedback?
Interested in advertising?**

Please contact us at 413.884.1001

Related education & courses include:

 hunter-ed.com

 bowhunter-ed.com

[ilearntohunt](http://ilearntohunt.com)

Visit **Kalkomey.com** to explore the complete suite of educational courses.

The hunting and trapping regulations in this guide are online at:

 eRegulations.com

FEDERAL



CRUSH CLAYS IMPROVE RESULTS

IN PRACTICE AND IN THE FIELD.

Even the most challenging targets are no match for consistent, hard-hitting Federal® Top Gun®.

The loads' high-quality lead shot produce even patterns that crush clays.

Hard shot •

Consistent, reliable Federal® primer •

Eight-segment crimp •

Unique wad column for consistent patterns



experience *the* tradition.

M-F 9am-7pm / SAT 8am-6pm / SUN 9am-5pm



www.GreenTop.com

10150 LAKERIDGE PARKWAY / ASHLAND, VIRGINIA 23005

Headquarters

7870 Villa Park Drive, Suite 400
Henrico, VA 23228
(804) 367-1000; (804) 367-1278 V/TDD

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

Boating Registration/ License Fees

(804) 367-1000

Note: The Headquarters Office is the only Department location where visitors may title/register a boat. These services are not available at the Regional Offices.

Regional Offices

Region 1

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

Region 2

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

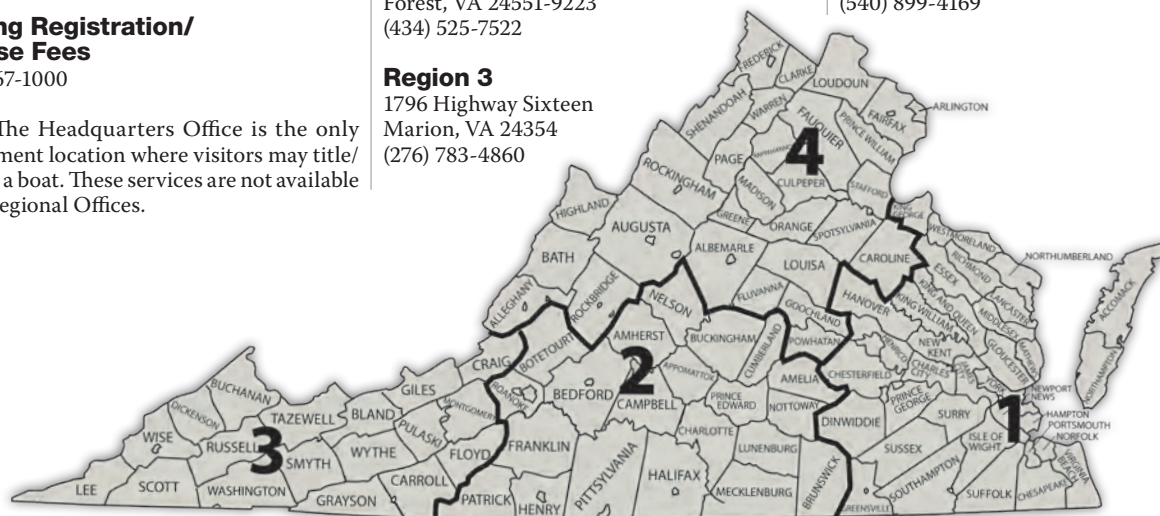
Region 3

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

Region 4

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

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



Additional Contacts

Report Wildlife Violations Only

(800) 237-5712
Email: wildcrime@dwr.virginia.gov
Text DWRTIP plus your tip to 847411

Boating Registration/License Fees

(804) 367-1000

Harvest Reporting

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

Quota Hunts

www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com

Virginia Department of Forestry

Headquarters: (434) 977-6555
State Forest: (804) 492-4121 <https://dof.virginia.gov/education-and-recreation/state-forests/recreation-and-hunting/>

Department of Conservation and Recreation Reservation Center

www.dcr.virginia.gov
(800) 933-7275

USDA Wildlife Services

(804) 739-7739

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

www.fs.usda.gov/gwj
(540) 265-5100

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

(804) 771-2883

Subscribe to **Notes from the Field** today!

Get the latest outdoor news delivered straight to your inbox! Our digital newsletter covers topics such as hunting news, fishing reports, boating safety, wildlife updates, and conservation police notebooks.



SIGN UP AT VIRGINIAWILDLIFE.GOV/NFTF



Virginia

National Wild
Turkey Federation



- Volunteers in VA raised over \$1,000,000 net in 2023 and 2024 for NWTF's mission.
- Committed over \$254,500 from the Super Fund for VA Conservation Projects and Outreach Events in 2025.
- Lead the Nation in 2025 with 120 Outreach Events (JAKES, Women in the Outdoors and Wheelin' Sportsmen).
- Conserved or enhanced over 17,265 acres since 2018.
- \$181,000 historic financial support for wild turkey research.

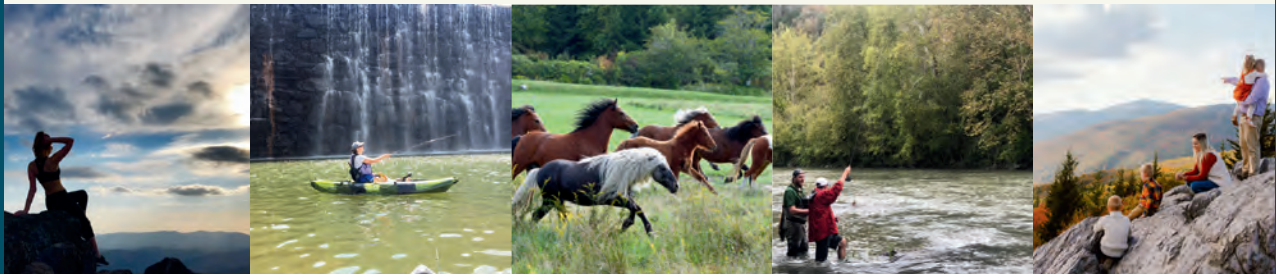


LEARN MORE at [NWTF.ORG](https://www.nwtf.org)



DISCOVER VIRGINIA'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

Grayson County, Virginia offers exceptional fishing and hunting experiences amid its diverse landscapes. Anglers can explore the ancient New River, which meanders 46 miles through the county and is home to smallmouth bass, walleye, and more. Hunters will find ample opportunities in Grayson County's public lands, from Matthews State Forest to George Washington and Jefferson National Forest.



VISIT [WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYVA.COM](https://www.graysoncountyva.com) TO PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OUTDOOR
LOVERS

CONTACT US:

☎ 276-773-8002

✉ visit@graysoncountyva.gov



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR TRAVEL INFO



WHAT'S NEW

FOR 2025–2026

Deer

- The firearms deer season on private land has been increased to a:
 - » Four-week season in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Craig, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Rockbridge, Rockingham (west of route 613 and 731), Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties
 - » Seven-week season in western Amherst, Bedford, Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, western Nelson, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of routes 613 and 731), Shenandoah, Warren, and Wythe counties.
- Firearms either-sex deer hunting days have been increased in 30 counties, on Cumberland State Forest, and on Amelia, Highland, Turkeycock, and White Oak Wildlife Management Areas.
- Early and late antlerless only firearms seasons have been established in Greene, Hanover, Henrico, and James City counties.
- Deer of either sex may be taken during the entire early muzzleloader season in Craig and Giles counties.
- Deer of either sex may be taken on the second Saturday of the early muzzleloader season and last day of the late muzzleloader season in Buchanan County.
- Deer of either sex may be taken on the last day of the late muzzleloader season on federal lands in Dickenson County.
- Earn a Buck requirements have been established in Chesterfield, Craig, Giles, and Spotsylvania counties.
- Urban Archery deer seasons are now open in the City of Newport News.

CWD

- Rockingham County has been added to Disease Management Area 2.
- Mandatory CWD testing will take place in Patrick, Roanoke, Shenandoah, Smyth, Tazewell, and Wythe counties on Saturday, November 15, 2025.



Bear

- The archery, muzzleloader, and firearms seasons have been reduced in Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Buckingham, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Frederick, Greene, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Nelson, Page, Rappahannock, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.
- Hunters can still chase bears with dogs on the days when bear harvest with dogs was removed during the firearms season.
- The three-day early firearms season was removed in the counties of Bland, Craig, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Smyth, Tazewell, and Wythe.
- A week at the beginning of the general firearms season was added southeast of I-81 in Montgomery, Pulaski, Wythe, Smyth, and Washington counties.
- The early three-day firearms season was added to the southeast side of I-81 in Washington County.
- One week was added to the beginning of the general firearms bear season in the counties of Charlotte, Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Prince Edward. This will result in the removal of one week of overlapping bear hound training season in these counties.

Furbearers

- A continuous open season for taking opossum and raccoons has been established on private lands where permission to trap has been granted by the landowner.
- Individuals taking otters may now request a CITES tag through the Department's Customer Service Section and affix the tag to their otter pelts.

Firearms

- Muzzleloading weapon definitions have been updated to clarify that double-barreled muzzleloading rifles and .44 caliber muzzleloading revolvers designed to shoot a .45 caliber projectile are legal weapons during the special muzzleloading seasons.

Licenses

- A three-day trip hunting license has been created for Virginia residents.

Camping on Wildlife Management Areas

- Backcountry camping and the use of enclosed camping trailers and camping vehicles is allowed.
- Camping is permitted in existing open areas (i.e., pull off areas) adjacent to roadways.

DWR'S MOBILE APP

Go Outdoors VA

DOWNLOAD IT FOR FREE!



Sync & Download Licenses

Always have your licenses ready for you & your family.

Buy Your Licenses on the Go

Be prepared for your next outdoor adventure.

Access Upcoming Events & More

Find local events, weather, tides & feeding times.

eNotch Your Harvest

Electronically notch your tag, even without cell service.

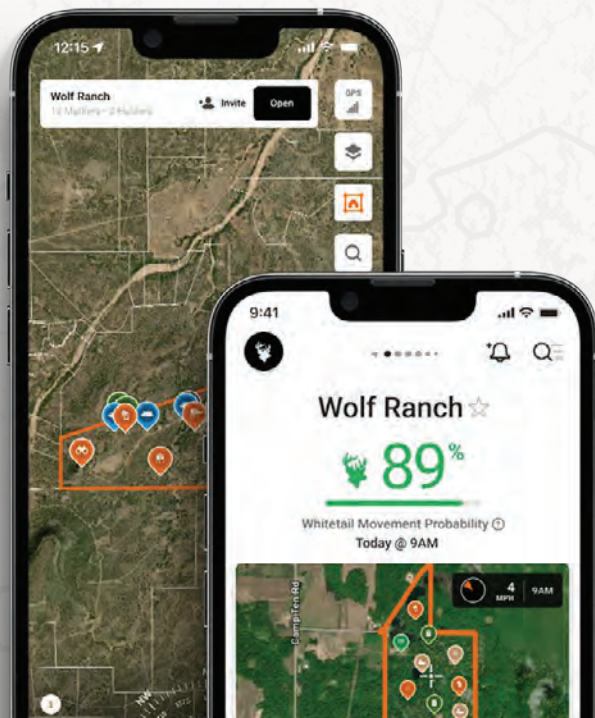




THE ULTIMATE HUNTING TOOLSET

With advanced mapping and forecasting features that help you find the perfect place and time, HuntWise gives you every tool you need to scout, strategize, and execute hunts like a pro.

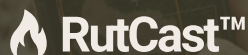
START YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY!



ADVANCED PREDICTIONS



Your predictive guide, utilizing a proprietary algorithm for animal movement predictions to anticipate and intercept whitetail movement.



Nationwide County-by-County whitetail rut phase predictions, guiding your strategic planning for success.



Your wind guide, comparing stands and blinds based on ideal and historical winds and for optimal positioning and placement.

"If I had an app like this when I started hunting, **the amount of 'the one that got away' stories would be far less.** It's going to take years of mistakes and translate them into years of success."



John Dudley
@nockontv



Mandatory Hunter Education

Hunter Education courses provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship. There are two options for completing Hunter Education—Classroom with self study and Full Online Courses.

Classroom Course

Section 1 – Self-study.

Each student is required to study course material prior to the classroom session. Students must read the Today's Hunter Student Manual and complete the review exercises at the back of the book. The review exercises must be presented to the course instructor, or the student will not be certified. Student manuals may be obtained for free at DWR headquarters or at any DWR regional office. A free download of the manual is available at www.virginiawildlife.gov/hunting/education.

Section 2 – Classroom portion.

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

Courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. For more information, go to the Hunter Education page on the DWR website at www.virginiawildlife.gov/hunting/education or call the Hunter Education Office at (804) 367-1147.

Full Online Course

Hunters age 12 and over may also take hunter education completely online. There is a fee associated with this course. For more information, go to www.virginiawildlife.gov/hunting/education.

Hunter Education Requirements

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

- You are 12–15 years of age. (You must complete hunter education but you do not have to

carry your card if accompanied and properly supervised by a licensed adult.)

- You are at least 16 years of age and you are hunting with your first hunting license.

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

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

- You only hunt foxes with hounds while on horseback, but without firearms.
- You are exempt from the requirement to purchase a license.
- You are under the age of 12. However, you may not hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed adult.
- You are hunting with an apprentice license. In that case you must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. "Accompanied and directly supervised" means the adult maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the apprentice hunter. When buying a hunting license, the apprentice hunting license cannot be used as proof of previously purchasing a hunting license.

If you purchase an apprentice hunting license and then complete hunter education, you may use the apprentice license as a basic license to hunt until it expires. You will not need supervision unless otherwise required by law to be supervised, such as in the case of hunting on a youth/apprentice hunting weekend. You must carry proof of hunter education while hunting unsupervised with an apprentice license.

Hunter Skills Weekend

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



Damien Kincannon/DWR

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

A: Go to www.iloostmycard.com, call 800-830-2268 (daily 9 a.m.–midnight), or login to hunter-ed.com and print online course completion document.

Elevate your career with VADOC!



***NOW HIRING for Security and Non-Security Positions!
Elevate your career by joining our Team!***

**Competitive Salaries
Health Benefits
Enhanced Retirement
Sign-on Bonuses**

Public Safety, First and Always. Come Make a Difference!

**For more information regarding these amazing
opportunities, please contact us!
(804) 659-3479 • recruitment@vadoc.virginia.gov**

**Check out the careers available and apply online to a rewarding
position at www.vadoc.virginia.gov or simply scan this QR code:**



Every person who is required to have a license must carry such license and shall show the license immediately upon request of any officer whose duty it is to enforce the game and inland fish laws, or upon the demand of any owner or lessee, or any employee or representative of such owner or lessee, upon whose land or water such person may be hunting, trapping, or fishing. Any person who is required to carry certain hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses or a hunter education certificate on their person can meet the requirement by carrying an electronic copy of the relevant license or certificate. We recommend the electronic carrying of licenses through the use of our App, see page 6. Electronic carry does not require a signature.

Residency Qualifications

Persons meeting the following criteria may purchase a state resident license.

- Individuals who, for two or more months immediately prior to purchasing a license, have been a domiciliary resident of Virginia and who execute a certificate of residency.
- Members of the U.S. armed forces, their spouse, and their dependents when the armed forces member (i) resides in Virginia, (ii) is on active duty, and (iii) is stationed at a military base within or on a ship based in Virginia.

Persons meeting the following criteria may purchase a city or county resident license.

- U.S. citizens who have been a bona fide resident of the city or county for six months immediately prior to purchasing a license for that city or county.
- Legal voter of the city or county for which license is purchased.
- Residents of a city whose limits are wholly within the county for which the license is purchased, provided the resident has physically resided within the city at least six consecutive months immediately preceding purchase.
- Any student regularly enrolled in and boarding at a preparatory school or institution of higher education located in Virginia may purchase a city or county license for the city or county in which the school is located upon presenting a certificate of enrollment to the licensing agent.

License Exemptions

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

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

Which Licenses Do I Need?

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

To Hunt Small Game

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

To Hunt Dove, Woodcock, Snipe, Gallinules, or Rails

A hunting license and HIP authorization are required. Register for HIP online at www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com or call 844-802-4193. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.

To Hunt Bear, Deer, or Turkey

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

To Hunt With Archery Tackle

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

To Hunt With a Muzzleloader

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

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

To Trap

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

To Hunt Waterfowl

- A hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp, Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and HIP authorization are required. Register for HIP online at www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com or call 844-802-4193. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.

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

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

Apprentice Hunting License

The apprentice hunting license is a one-time purchase and serves as a first-time Virginia resident or nonresident hunting license and is good for two years. Previous Virginia hunting license holders are not eligible to purchase an apprentice license. Apprentice license holders have two years to take an approved Hunter Safety course.

The apprentice license holder must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. "Accompanied and directly supervised" means the adult maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the apprentice hunter. When buying a hunting license, the apprentice hunting license cannot be used as proof of previously purchasing a hunting license.

However, if you purchase an apprentice hunting license and then complete hunter education, you may use the apprentice license as a basic license to hunt until it expires. You will not need supervision unless otherwise required by law to be supervised, such as in the case of hunting on a youth/apprentice hunting weekend. You must carry proof of hunter education while hunting unsupervised with an apprentice license.

Replacement Licenses

If you purchased a license from a retail license agent, online, or by phone you can visit www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com, select "Manage Your Account" and reprint your license anytime. You can also visit any retail license agent that sells hunt/fish licenses or call the Headquarters office at (804) 367-1000 during normal business hours.

Where to Get a License

Online: www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com

- **New Customers:** Create a unique customer account to access licenses and other products.
- **Existing Customers:** Log in using your date of birth, last name and either your DWR Customer ID, the last 4 digits of your SSN or driver's license number.

Select the license(s) you want, pay with your credit card and print your license if needed.

In Person:

Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court, at license agents across Virginia, and DWR headquarters. Not sold at DWR regional offices.

To find a license agent visit: <https://license.gooutdoorsvirginia.com/Licensing/LocateAgent.aspx>

By Phone/Mobile Phone:

(804) 367-1000 during regular business hours, or use your GoOutdoors Virginia mobile app.

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

A: Your license is good until it expires.



kalkomey™

YOUR AD HERE

Showcase your business and reach more active outdoor enthusiasts than ever before!

- ✓ Increase customer reach.
- ✓ Build customer awareness of your business and brand.
- ✓ Promote the benefits of your products or services.
- ✓ Communicate information about your business.
- ✓ Increase sales and demand.

Learn more about our many print and digital advertising opportunities!

(413) 884-1001

INTRODUCING

Simpson

OUTDOORS

SINCE 1951

Your Sporting Goods Headquarters for over 70 years!

HuntSimpsons.com

NC EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

SAVE UP TO

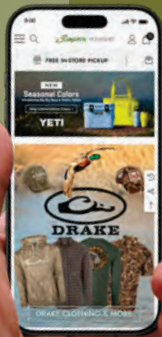
15% OFF

REGULAR-PRICED MERCHANDISE

Valid through July 25 - August 31, 2025.

with code:

FIELDREADYVA



License Fees (Issuance fee is included in all prices.)

Resident and nonresident licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase except the bear license, deer/turkey license, and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (which are valid July 1 – June 30), the apprentice hunting license (valid for 2 years from date of purchase), and lifetime licenses. Bear license and deer/turkey license that are part of a package (e.g. Sportsman's License or combo licenses) are also valid July 1 – June 30. For information on Hunter Education requirements, see page 8 in this digest or go to www.virginiawildlife.gov/hunting/education. It is unlawful to alter, change, borrow, or lend a hunting license or permit. All licenses are sold not subject to exchange or refund.

For Legacy, Lifetime, and Veterans Lifetime Licenses and information please see page 15.

Resident Hunting Licenses

LICENSE	FEE
Resident Sportsman's License (age 16 and older)	\$100.00
The Sportsman's License isn't all inclusive but offers a hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, muzzleloading license, freshwater fishing license, and trout license. Other licenses/stamps may be required. Purchaser should also ensure that the bear and deer/turkey license tags are valid for intended hunting season.	
Resident Junior Hunting License* (age 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old)	\$8.50
Resident Youth Combination Hunting License (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
Resident Hunting License* (age 16 and older)	
1-year license	\$23.00
2-year license	\$44.00
3-year license	\$65.00
4-year license	\$86.00
3-day license (must be three consecutive days)	\$12.00
Resident County or City Hunting License* (age 16 and older)	\$16.00
For county or city of residence only.	
Resident Apprentice Hunting License*	\$11.00
Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
Resident 65 and Older Hunting License* (age 65 and over)	\$9.00
Resident Fox Hunting License	\$23.00
To hunt foxes on horseback with hounds without firearms. Not required of an individual holding a basic license to hunt.	

* Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license.

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

LICENSE	FEE
Resident Bear License	\$21.00
Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Resident Junior Bear License (ages 12–15)	\$6.50
Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Resident Deer/Turkey License	\$23.00
Not required for holders of Resident Service-Connected Disability Veteran Lifetime License. Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Resident Junior Deer/Turkey License (age 12 to 15)	\$8.50
Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Resident Archery License	\$18.00
Resident Muzzleloading License	\$18.00

Nonresident Hunting Licenses

LICENSE	FEE
Nonresident Junior Hunting License* (under age 12)	\$13.00
Nonresident Junior Hunting License* (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
Nonresident Youth Combination Hunting License (under age 16)	\$31.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
Nonresident Hunting License* (age 16 and older)	\$111.00
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt License* (age 16 and older)	\$60.00
Must be 3 consecutive days.	
Nonresident Apprentice Hunting License*	\$21.00
Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
Nonresident Annual Hunting License for 70% or Greater Service-Connected Partially Disabled Veterans and Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veterans	
Nonresident Veterans rated 70% or greater or as Total and Permanent Service-Connected disabled veteran by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Administrative Office may apply for a discounted annual hunting license by application only. Please note this license does not include bear, deer/turkey, archery, muzzleloading or other applicable licenses, stamp, and/or permits.	
Please visit www.virginiawildlife.gov for applications listed above, instructions, and prices. Applications may be mailed or brought into our Henrico office location.	
Nonresident Fox Hunting License	\$111.00
To hunt foxes on horseback with hounds without firearms. Not required of an individual holding a general license to hunt.	
Nonresident Foxhound Training Preserve License	\$18.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed foxhound training preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	
Nonresident Shooting Preserve License	\$23.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	

* Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits may be required in addition to this license.

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

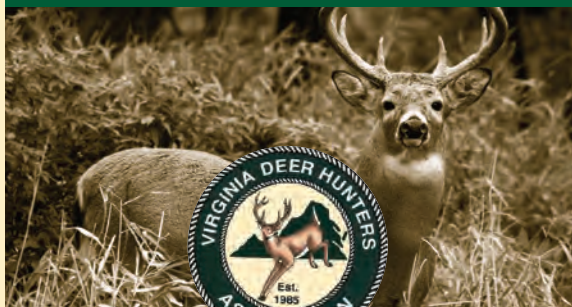
LICENSE	FEE
Nonresident Bear License	\$151.00
Valid July 1 through June 30	
Nonresident Junior Bear License (ages 12–15)	\$6.50
Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Nonresident Deer/Turkey License	
Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Age 16 and older	\$86.00
Age 12 to 15	\$16.00
Under age 12	\$13.00
Nonresident Archery License	\$31.00
Nonresident Muzzleloading License	\$31.00

Get Your Durable Collector's Card



Upgrade your license to this durable card on custom art by a local artist & support the next generation of conservationists.

Buy Online at GoOutdoorsVirginia.com



VIRGINIA DEER HUNTERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One \$5,000 Scholarship

Six \$2,000 Scholarships

For the Study of

- Forestry • Biology • Conservation and White-Tailed Deer Management • Conservation Law and Law Enforcement • VDWR Internships

All accredited Community College, Undergraduate, Graduate and Certificate Programs Eligible

If you wish to donate to the scholarship fund or for details and application visit us on

www.virginiadeerhunters.org

Deadline to Apply: May 31, 2023

Buy the gifts that
GIVE all year!



Order at: GoOutdoorsVirginia.com or scan QR



Trapping Licenses

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

LICENSE	FEE
County or City Resident Trapping License	\$21.00
For county or city of residence.	
Resident Trapping License	
1-year license	\$46.00
2-year license	\$90.00
3-year license	\$134.00
4-year license	\$178.00
Resident Junior Trapping License (under age 16)	\$11.00
Resident 65 and Older Trapping License (age 65 and over)	\$9.00
Nonresident Trapping License	\$206.00

Miscellaneous Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

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

PERMITS	FEE
Resident Bonus Deer Permit (6 antlerless tags)	\$18.00
See page 32 for more information.	
Nonresident Bonus Deer Permit (6 antlerless tags)	\$31.00
See page 32 for more information.	
National Forest Permit	\$4.00
To hunt and trap within National Forest. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap or residents who have an annual senior citizen hunting license (\$9.00). If fishing in the National Forest this permit is required in addition to other fishing licenses (unless a resident is under 16 or over 65, or a nonresident under 16 accompanied by a person with a valid license to fish).	
Virginia State Forest Use Permit (age 16 or older)	\$16.00
Allows hunting, trapping, fishing, mountain biking, and horse riding. No motorized vehicles on gated roads/trails (open or closed). Sold in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry.	
Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALS)	\$18.00
See page 59 for more information.	
Access Permit (see page 56 for permit requirements)	\$4.00 per day / \$23.00 per year
Daily group rates are available. For more information go to: www.virginiawildlife.gov/access-permit	
STAMPS	FEE
Federal Migratory Duck E-Stamp	
To take migratory waterfowl; required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license. Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp	\$10.00
Required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt. Valid July 1 through June 30.	

FEDERAL ELECTRONIC OR "E-STAMP" DUCK STAMP PROGRAM

A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years and older in order to hunt waterfowl. A convenient on-line option is available whereby hunters can obtain an E-stamp for. The electronic Federal Duck Stamp is valid through June 30, 2026. Your physical stamp will be sent to your designated mailing address after March 10, 2026. Waterfowl hunters can still purchase their Federal Duck Stamp at some U.S. Post Offices.

To obtain the Federal Migratory Duck E-Stamp go to the Department's website (www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com) and click on hunting and fishing licenses or visit one of over 800 license agents throughout the Commonwealth.



The winning 2025–2026 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp art is an acrylic painting of a pair of spectacled eiders by Adam Grimm of Wallace, South Dakota.

Image by © Adam Grimm, used by USFWS with permission.



Meghan Marchetti/DWR

LIFETIME LICENSES

Legacy Lifetime

- Available to Virginia residents and non-residents under the age of 2 years upon date of application receipt to Department of Wildlife Resources.
- The legacy hunting lifetime license is valid until the individual's 12th birthday at which time they must complete an approved hunter education course or equivalent, then transfer the legacy to a regular hunting lifetime license at no additional charge.

Lifetime

- Virginia resident and non-resident lifetime licenses available.
- Certain Virginia residents may purchase their lifetime licenses online through www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com provided their Virginia residency status can be verified through Virginia DMV.
- The lifetime hunting license equals the state hunting licenses; all other applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license.
- Resident Junior Lifetime Hunting license is available to Virginia residents under the age of 12. This license will expire on their 12th birthday, and is transferable when they complete and submit the Youth Hunter Education Compliance form and a copy of their Hunter Safety or equivalent completed certificate.

• Senior Combo Lifetime

- Available to Virginia residents 80 years of age and older.
- All other applicable licenses, stamps, and permits (except the bear license and deer/turkey license) are required in addition to this license.

Resident Service-Connected Disability Veteran Lifetime

- Virginia residents who are disabled due to a service-connected disability rated 30% or greater by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs office may apply for a lifetime license to hunt.
- Discounted fees for the licenses are based upon the individual's current U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating.
- The veteran's lifetime hunting license includes small game, deer, turkey, bear, and privilege to hunt during the special archery and muzzleloading hunting seasons.

Please visit www.virginiawildlife.gov/licenses/lifetime/ for applications, prices, and more information regarding lifetime licenses.

As a purchaser of a lifetime license, you will be entitled to hunt, fish, or trap for your lifetime, even if you move out of state. Please note that lifetime license holders may still need to purchase annual licenses for bear, deer or turkey, archery, muzzleloader, or other permits as required.

Hunting Hours

(See page 72 for sunrise-sunset table)

- One half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for nonmigratory birds and game animals except during spring turkey season.
- One half-hour before sunrise until 12 noon during spring turkey season, except the last 20 days when the hunting hours are one half-hour before sunrise until sunset.
- One half-hour before sunrise to sunset for Youth/Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend.
- Hours for bear hound training season are from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Bobcats, foxes, raccoons, and opossums may be hunted by day or night during authorized seasons.
- Nuisance species may be taken day or night.

Sunday Hunting

Hunting is allowed on Sundays except under the following circumstances:

- within 200 yards of a house of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
- to hunt or kill any deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs.

Blaze Color Requirements

When hunting any species during a firearms deer season and on youth/apprentice deer hunting weekend:

- Every hunter (see exceptions below), or persons accompanying a hunter, shall wear a solid blaze colored (blaze orange or blaze pink) hat or solid blaze colored upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze colored material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees.
- Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze color. Hats shall not be in "camo" style, since the latter is designed to prevent visibility. A logo, which does not detract from visibility, may be worn on a blaze colored hat.
- Hunters using an enclosed ground blind (pop-up, chair, box, etc.) that conceals them from view shall display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze colored material, visible from 360 degrees attached to or immediately above the blind. This blaze color is in addition to any worn on the hunter's person.

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

Exceptions

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

Hunting With Dogs

- The hunting of deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sunday is prohibited.
- Dogs may be used to pursue wild birds and animals during hunting seasons where not prohibited.
- Section 18.2-136 of the Code of Virginia decriminalizes trespass in certain instances related to dog retrieval. That section provides: "Fox hunters and coon hunters, when the chase begins on other lands, may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls, but may not carry firearms or bow and arrows on their person or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs, falcons, hawks, or owls pursuant to this section and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor."
- Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear, deer, or turkey statewide during any

archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season for these species, or within 24 hours of the end of such season, provided that those who are involved in the retrieval effort have permission to hunt on or to access the land being searched. Licensed hunters engaged in such tracking may possess any weapon permitted for hunting and may use such weapon to humanely kill the wounded bear, deer, or turkey being tracked, including after legal hunting hours. Such weapon shall not be used to hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the animal being tracked, except in self-defense.

- It is unlawful to use dogs when hunting any species with archery tackle during any archery season, except bear hounds may be used during the youth/apprentice bear hunting weekend.
- It is unlawful to chase with dogs or hunt with dogs or to attempt to chase or hunt with dogs any wild animal from a baited site or to train dogs on any wild animal from a baited site. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to place, distribute, or maintain bait or salt for any wild animal for the purpose of chasing with dogs, hunting with dogs, or training of dogs. When hunting or training with dogs, a baited site will be considered to be baited for 30 days following the complete removal of all such bait or salt.
- It is unlawful to intentionally cripple or otherwise harm any game animal for the

intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs. Upon treeing, baying, or otherwise containing an animal in a manner that offers the animal no avenue of escape, the person or the hunting party shall either harvest the animal if within a legal take season and by using lawful methods of take or terminate the chase by retrieving the dogs and allowing the animal freedom to escape for the remainder of the same calendar day.

- It is unlawful to dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.
- It shall be unlawful to engage in hunting with a dog unless the dog has a tag securely fastened to the collar which displays the name of the owner/custodian and current phone number for that individual.

Training Dogs

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

- You may train dogs during daylight hours on squirrels and nonmigratory game birds on private lands and on rabbits from 1/2 hour before sunrise until midnight on private lands. Participants in this dog training season shall



BUILD YOUR OWN GAME OR MEAT COOLER

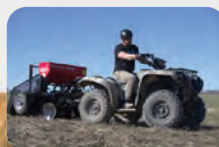
- Save \$1,000s by building your own walk-in cooler
- Cool a well insulated room down to 34 degrees with a CoolBot and window air conditioner
- Perfect for meat curing and aging
- Over 100,000 units sold in 70 different countries

Go to eregulations.com/coolbot to save \$20 on your order!



Real Tools for Real Food Plots

- No-Till Drills, Overseeders and Broadcast Spreaders
- Simple Calibration Accurately plants any smooth seed, from clover to corn
- Ground-Driven for rugged leveling action and less maintenance
- Cast-iron seed meters guarantee accurate and consistent calibration
- Seeding rates can be changed in seconds



FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED
ALL PRODUCTS DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED IN USA
ALMOST 60 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

800-458-9129 * www.kascomfg.com

not use any weapons other than starter pistols to train dogs, must comply with all regulations and laws pertaining to hunting, and no game shall be taken; provided, however, that weapons may be used on private lands when training dogs on captive raised and properly marked mallards and pigeons so that they may be immediately shot or recovered.

- You may train dogs on National Forest or Department-owned lands only during authorized training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- You may train dogs on quail on the Amelia Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Cavalier

WMA, Chickahominy WMA, Dick Cross WMA, Mattaponi WMA, and White Oak WMA, and on designated portions of the C. F. Phelps WMA from September 1 to the day prior to the opening date of the quail hunting season, both dates inclusive. Participants in this dog training season shall not use any weapons other than starter pistols to train dogs, shall not release pen-raised birds, and no game shall be taken.

- Pen-raised quail may be released at any time on private land with landowner permission. However, birds can only be shot during the regular quail season. Regular bag limits apply.

- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and nonmigratory game birds on the Weston WMA from September 1 through March 31, both dates inclusive. Participants in this dog training season shall not use any weapons other than starter pistols to train dogs, shall not release pen-raised birds, and no game shall be taken.

Hunting On Private Property

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

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

On Posted Property

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

On Unposted Property

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

A landowner may post their property by any of the following methods:

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

Landowner Liability

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

TRAINING DOGS ON MILITARY BASES

Fort Walker (formerly Fort AP Hill), Fort Barfoot (formerly Fort Picket), and Marine Corps Base Quantico provide hunting dog training opportunities. See each installation's iSportsman website below for details on access procedures and rules and regulations for hunting dog training on base.

Fort Walker: <https://walker.isportsman.net/>

Fort Barfoot: <https://barfoot.isportsman.net/>

Marine Corps Base Quantico: <https://quantico.isportsman.net>

LANDOWNERS WANTED

Quail Management Assistance Program

www.virginiawildlife.gov/quail/get-involved/qmap

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

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



Report Your Lost Hunting Dog

The VHDA missing dog site allows owners of missing Virginia hunting

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

www.vahda.org/missing-dogs/

Liability

Concern about legal liability for recreationists prevents some landowners from permitting hunting on their property. However, the Virginia General Assembly has addressed this concern in Virginia Code Section 29.1-509. Amended in 1982, this law exempts landowners who provide recreational opportunities to the public from liability for injury or damages, provided:

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

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

Fundamentally, sportsmen are responsible for their own safety and for any damages they cause to the property of others. Individual permission cards (see below and bottom pg. 20) include codes of ethical conduct while the cardholders are on the property.

Furthermore, landowners can require sportsmen to show proof of insurance. Sportsman

insurance is available through insurance companies and national sportsman organizations.

Sale and Purchase of Legally Harvested Game

It is unlawful to sell, barter, or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof. There are exceptions and a general representation of these are listed below for your reference and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Specific exceptions and requirements are identified in the Code of Virginia and the Virginia Administrative Code.

Bears

- Except for taxidermy mounts referenced below, no portion of a black bear may legally be bought or sold.

Deer and Elk

- The hair, hide, tail, sinew, skull, antlers, bones, and feet as well as products made from these parts may be bought and sold.

Furbearers (beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, skunk, and weasels)

- Any hunter, trapper, or person engaged in the business of fur farming can sell raw pelts and unskinned carcasses of legally taken and possessed furbearers at any time.

- Any person who purchases, consigns, or trades in raw pelts and unskinned carcasses of furbearers is required to have a Fur Dealer Permit, except when the pelts or carcasses are to be tanned or used in taxidermy mounts for personal use and not for resale, trade, or other commercial purposes.
- Any person can buy or sell tanned pelts, skinned carcasses, taxidermy mounts, or other furbearer parts (skulls, teeth, claws, bones, glands, secretions, etc.) at any time.
- Legally harvested opossums and raccoons may be bought and sold during the open hunting season.

Migratory Game Birds (brant, coots, doves, ducks, gallinules, geese, mergansers, moorhens, rails, snipe, swans, and woodcock)

- No portion of a migratory game bird may be bought or sold.

Wild Turkey and Small Game (bobwhite quail, pheasants, rabbits, ruffed grouse, and squirrels)

- The skins, pelts, skulls, bones, teeth, claws, feet, tails, hair, feathers, beard, spurs, taxidermy mounts, and other non-meat parts as well as products made from these parts may be bought and sold.
- Legally harvested rabbits and squirrels may be bought and sold during the open hunting season.

Taxidermy Mounts

- Under specific conditions, unclaimed mounts of native wildlife or their processed hides may be sold by a Virginia licensed taxidermist with the exception of migratory waterfowl, migratory birds and state and federally listed threatened and endangered species.
- A licensed Virginia auctioneer or licensed auction firm may sell wildlife mounts and processed hides (including bears, but not migratory game birds) which have undergone the taxidermy process.

Q: In Virginia, is it legal to buy or sell a mounted deer head, deer antlers, or craft items made from a deer?

A: Yes. It is now legal to buy and sell the hair, hide, tail, sinew, skull, antlers, bones, and feet of a legally possessed deer or elk carcass or carcass part, any products made from these carcass parts, and deer or elk mounts. Deer or elk meat (venison) organs, etc. cannot be bought and sold.

Permission to Hunt

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

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

I grant _____
permission to _____ my property
on these dates _____
Landowner signature: _____
over

Permission to Hunt

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

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

I grant _____
permission to _____ my property
on these dates _____
Landowner signature: _____
over

Unlawful Methods

Penalties for a violation may include hunting or trapping privilege revocation for one year to life and forfeiture of firearms. A person found guilty of a violation a second time within three years of a previous conviction shall have their hunting or trapping privilege revoked by the court trying the case.

It is unlawful to:

- Hold in captivity any live wild birds or wild animals outside the limits allowed by regulations without a permit.
- Hunt adjacent to forest fires.
- Use antler traps.
- Willfully and intentionally impede the lawful hunting or trapping of wild birds or wild animals.
- Kill or cripple and knowingly allow any non-migratory game bird or game animal to be wasted without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in possession.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotic drugs.
- Take or attempt to take wild animals and wild birds by the use or aid of recorded animal or bird calls or sounds or recorded or electrically amplified imitation of animals or bird calls or sounds; provided, that electronic calls may be used on private lands for hunting bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, and foxes with written permission of the landowner

and on public lands except where specifically prohibited.

- Destroy or harass the nest, eggs, den, or young of any wild bird or animal, except nuisance species, at any time without a permit as required by law.
- Occupy any baited blind or other baited place for the purpose of taking or attempting to take any wild game bird or wild game animal or to put out bait or salt for the purpose of taking or killing any wild game bird or wild game animal, except for the purpose of trapping furbearing animals.
- Destroy, mutilate, or take down "posted" signs or litter. Conviction of littering can result in loss of hunting license.
- Exceed the bag limit or possess over the daily limit of any wild bird or animal while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state.
- Use live birds or animals to decoy or call game.
- Possess or transport any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or the parts thereof, unless specifically allowed and only in accordance with regulations.
- Sell or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof, except as specifically permitted by law.
- Offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, or purchase a hunt guaranteeing the killing of a deer, bear, or wild turkey. This law doesn't prevent a landowner from leasing land for hunting.
- To possess or use deer scents or lures that contain natural deer urine or other bodily

fluids while taking, attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife in Virginia.

- Use radio tracking equipment, except on dogs or on raptors permitted by a falconry permit, to aid in the chase, harvest or capture of wildlife.
- Hunt or assist another to hunt during any open season on the same calendar day and the same property where a drone (unmanned aerial vehicle) was used to locate or scout for any wild animal.
- Hunt or attempt to kill or trap any species of wild bird or wild animal after having obtained the daily bag or season limit during such day or season. However, any properly licensed person, or a person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such daily bag or season limit while hunting may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives if the weapon in their possession is an unloaded firearm, an unloaded slingbow, an unloaded arrowgun, a bow without a nocked arrow, or an unloaded crossbow. Any properly licensed person, or person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such season limit prior to commencement of the hunt may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives, provided said person does not have a firearm, bow, crossbow, slingbow or arrowgun in their possession.

Q: Is it legal to kill snakes in Virginia?

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

Eastern kingsnake attacking a copperhead.



©Tricia Pearsall

Q: Are bear attractant scents legal in Virginia?

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

Hunter's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Vehicle Tag No. _____ Driver's License No. _____

I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.

SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE

In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:

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

Hunter's Signature _____

Hunter's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Vehicle Tag No. _____ Driver's License No. _____

I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.

SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE

In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:

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

Hunter's Signature _____

UNLAWFUL FEEDING OF CERTAIN WILDLIFE

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

- It is unlawful to place or direct the placement of, deposit, distribute, or scatter food or salt capable of attracting or being eaten by bear, deer, or turkey year round on National Forest and Department-owned lands.
- Cities and towns have the authority to prohibit the feeding of deer by local ordinance. Contact localities for details.
- Department regulation makes it illegal to place, distribute, or allow the placement of food, minerals, salt, carrion, trash, or similar substances to feed or attract the following:
 - » **Deer and Elk:**
 - September 1 – first Saturday in January; statewide. Attractants must be removed by September 1.
 - During any open deer or elk season; statewide
 - Year round in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties as well as those counties listed on page 44, which are associated with the management of CWD in Virginia (towns and cities within included).
 - » **Bears:** year round; statewide
 - » **All species:** Illegal to feed any wild animal when the feeding results in property damage, endangers people or wildlife, or creates a public health concern

If anyone continues with any of these activities for any purpose and it results in the presence of species mentioned previously in this box, such person could be in violation of the law and subject to a fine of up to \$500. No part of this regulation shall be construed to restrict bonafide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots) or distribution of food to livestock.

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) LAWS

No ATV shall be operated:

- On any public highway, or other public property, except as authorized by proper authorities or to the extent necessary to cross a public highway by the most direct route.
- By any person under the age of 16, except that children between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate ATVs powered by engines of no less than 70 cubic centimeters nor more than 90 cubic centimeters displacement.
- By any person unless he is wearing a protective helmet of a type approved by the Superintendent of State Police for use by motorcycle operators.
- On another person's property without the written consent of the owner of the property or as explicitly authorized by law.
- With a passenger at any time, unless vehicle is designed and equipped to be operated with more than one rider.

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



Whether you're a homeowner or a professional excavator, prioritize safety when digging to avoid injuries, service interruptions, and expensive repairs.

Ensure a safe dig by contacting Virginia 811 before you dig to have your public utility lines marked by visiting VA811.com or by calling 811.

It's free and easy!

SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS. EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.



With you wherever you go.

The most up-to-date hunting regulations online!



LEGAL USE OF FIREARMS AND ARCHERY TACKLE

FIREARM, HUNTING DEVICE, AND AMMUNITION	DEER	BEAR	ELK	FALL TURKEY	SPRING TURKEY
Shotguns (including muzzleloading shotguns)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ³
Air guns (.35 caliber or LARGER)	✓	No	No	✓	✓
Rifles and pistols using rimfire ammunition and air guns (.35 caliber or SMALLER)	No	No	No	✓	✓
Rifles and pistols using centerfire ammunition (.23 caliber or LARGER) Pistols must generate at least 350 foot pounds of energy or greater.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rifles and pistols using centerfire ammunition (SMALLER than .23 caliber)	No	No	No	✓	✓
Muzzleloading firearms Rifles - .40 caliber or larger; Pistols (except revolvers) - .45 caliber or larger; Revolvers .44 caliber or larger	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓	✓
Muzzleloading firearms Rifles - smaller than .40 caliber; Pistols - smaller than .45 caliber	No	No	No	✓	✓
Archery tackle with broadhead widths/expandables that open to 7/8-inch	✓	✓ ²	✓ ²	✓	✓

Unplugged shotguns are legal for hunting nonmigratory game and crows.

Shotguns (including muzzleloading shotguns) must NOT be larger than 10 gauge and barrels MUST be legal under federal and state law. (Rifled barrels are permitted in areas where slugs may be used)

All game birds and animals may be hunted from a boat (with a SHOTGUN and landowner permission), EXCEPT deer. (Licensed trappers may shoot a .22 caliber rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters to dispatch trapped animals)

¹ Muzzleloading rifles must load the projectile from the muzzle, and use projectiles .35 caliber or larger. See Legal Methods and Restrictions in the bear (page 27) and deer (page 37) sections for additional details on other muzzleloading weapons.

Muzzleloading shotguns/rifles, arrowguns, or archery tackle may be used to hunt during the muzzleloading and firearms seasons.

Archery tackle may include: longbows, recurves, compounds, crossbows, sling-bow and arrowguns/airbows. (Persons with a disability which hinders them from drawing a bow/crossbow may use an arrowgun/airbow during archery seasons when in possession of an authorization form provided by DWR and signed by their physician (www.virginiawildlife.gov/forms/#license-forms).

² Slingbows may NOT be used for bear or elk.

³ Shotguns (including muzzleloading shotguns) using ammunition loaded with a diameter larger than number 2 fine shot may NOT be used for spring turkey.

All methods may be used to hunt nuisance species, crow, and small game.

Please refer to page 23 for any additional prohibitions that may be in your locality.

Other Weapons Usage

Unlawful to:

- Hunt migratory game birds with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber, combined, unless allowed by federal regulations and authorized by the Department.
- Discharge a firearm, muzzleloader, arrowgun, or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any road.
- Cast a light attached to or from a vehicle beyond the surface of the roadway upon places used by deer without permission of the landowner or anytime while in the possession of any firearm, crossbow, slingbow, arrowgun, bow and arrow, or speargun.
- Handle any firearm in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of the state. However, licensed trappers may shoot a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol on or over public inland waters for the purpose of dispatching trapped animals.
- Carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on public inland waters for hunting wild birds or animals.

- Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.
- Shoot waterfowl or migratory game birds from a boat being propelled by a motor.
- Shoot or attempt to take any wild bird or animal from any vehicle, except as otherwise provided by law.
- Use vehicles or carry firearms or bows and arrows (including muzzleloaders and concealed weapons) while retrieving dogs on private or prohibited lands without permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.
- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms (i.e., machine guns).

Loaded Weapons Definitions

Loaded Arrowgun

Defined as an arrowgun that has an arrow or bolt inserted on the arrow rest or barrel.

Loaded Crossbow

Defined as a crossbow that is cocked and has either a bolt or arrow engaged or partially engaged on the shooting rail or track of the crossbow, or with a “trackless crossbow” when the crossbow is cocked and a bolt or arrow is nocked.

Loaded Muzzleloader

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

Loaded Firearm

Defined as a firearm in which ammunition is chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip and is engaged or partially engaged in a firearm.

Concealed and Open Carry of Weapons

Nothing in Department regulation prohibits open carry or the possession of a concealed handgun when the individual possesses a valid concealed weapon permit issued under Virginia law. Open carry or having a valid concealed handgun permit does not authorize the possession of any weapon on property or in places where such possession is otherwise prohibited by law or by the owner of private property. Neither open carry nor a concealed handgun permit authorizes the use of a firearm for hunting. Lawful use of firearms for hunting remains controlled by law and regulation.

Local Firearms Ordinances

The localities listed below have enacted ordinances concerning the use and transport of firearms that hunters must follow. This list is not complete, as some localities may have ordinances not directly related to hunting; primarily pertaining to possession of firearms near parks or schools, hunting or discharging firearms near populated areas, residences, or buildings, and age limitations for possession of loaded firearms on public roads.

Before hunting in a county or city, hunters should become familiar with all ordinances particular to that county or city by contacting the county or city directly. Our local ordinance webpage listed below contains links to information hunters must follow regarding firearm use in select localities. If a locality is not listed, state firearms restrictions apply (see Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle on page 22).



If you need a hard copy of these ordinances mailed to you, please call 804-367-1000 or email wildlife@dwr.virginia.gov. To view local ordinances, visit: dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/local-ordinances

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

LOCALITY	LOCALITY	LOCALITY	LOCALITY	LOCALITY
Accomack	Dinwiddie	Hampton (city)	Middlesex	Roanoke
Albemarle	Emporia (city)	Hanover	Nelson	Roanoke (city)
Alexandria	Essex	Harrisonburg (city)	New Kent	Rocky Mount (city)
Amherst	Fairfax	Henrico	Newport News	Salem (city)
Arlington	Fairfax (city)	Hopewell (city)	Norfolk (city)	Southampton
Ashland (city)	Falls Church (city)	Isle of Wight	Norton (city)	Spotsylvania
Bristol (city)	Fauquier	James City	Northampton	Stafford
Buchanan	Floyd	King and Queen	Northumberland	Staunton (city)
Buckingham	Fluvanna	King George	Orange	Suffolk
Buena Vista (city)	Franklin	King William	Patrick	Surry
Caroline	Franklin (city)	Lancaster	Petersburg	Sussex
Campbell	Fredericksburg (city)	Loudoun	Pittsylvania	Virginia Beach
Charles City	Galax (city)	Louisa	Poquoson (city)	Warren
Charlottesville (city)	Gate City	Lunenburg	Portsmouth (city)	Waynesboro (city)
Chesapeake	Gloucester	Lynchburg (city)	Prince George	Westmoreland
Chesterfield	Goochland	Madison	Prince William	Williamsburg
Clarke	Greene	Manassas (city)	Radford (city)	York
Culpeper	Greensville	Manassas Park (city)	Rappahannock	
Cumberland	Halifax (county)	Martinsville (city)	Richmond	
Danville	Halifax (town)	Mecklenburg	Richmond (city)	

Permanently disabled hunters possessing a valid hunting license, hunters holding a lifetime disabled hunting license, and hunters holding a lifetime disabled veterans hunting license are exempt from any local ordinance requiring hunting from an elevated platform or tree stand.

TAG VALIDATION AND HARVEST REPORTING

Harvest Reporting for Bear*, Deer, Elk, Turkey, Bobcat, and Gray Fox

	DEER	ELK	BEAR	GRAY FOX	FALL TURKEY	SPRING TURKEY	BOBCAT	ALL OTHER SPECIES
Telephone Harvest Reporting System (866) GOT-GAME or (866) 468-4263; touch-tone phone only (Available during all open seasons)	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	Are not required to be reported
Internet Harvest Reporting System www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com ; click Internet Harvest Reporting (Available during all open seasons)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
GoOutdoorsVA Mobile App (eNotch) (Available during all open seasons)	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	

* To report a bear, a hunter must have a customer account through GoOutdoorsVirginia. It is free and easy to set up your account at www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com. If you have any problems, please call (804) 367-1000.

Tagging at Location of Harvest

- All hunters (unless license exempt) killing a bear, deer, elk, or turkey are required to validate an appropriate tag on their bear license, deer/turkey license, bonus deer permit, or special deer permit (DCAP, DMAP, or DPOP) prior to moving the animal in any way.
- To validate a tag:
 - » **Electronic license tag validation (eNotch):** Requires use of the Department's free Go Outdoors Virginia mobile app. Available for deer/turkey license tags, bonus deer permit tags, and bear tag. When viewing the mobile app, select eNotch, then select the license tab at the top of the screen, then select the proper license, and touch the designated notch area of the appropriate license tag.
 - » **Paper license tag validation:** Available for all paper license tags (bear license, deer/turkey license, bonus deer permit, or special deer permit (DCAP, DMAP, or DPOP)). Hunters must completely remove the designated notch area from the appropriate paper license or permit tag.
- It is unlawful for any person to validate (notch) a tag from any license or special permit prior to the killing of an animal. A paper tag that is mistakenly validated (notched) prior to the killing of an animal must be voided immediately by the licensee or permittee by writing, in ink, the word "VOID" on the line provided on the tag.

General Information

- All bear, deer, elk, and turkeys must be reported by all hunters, including license exempt hunters, upon vehicle transport of the

carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.

- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any animal until it is reported. After the appropriate tag is validated, the hunter may dismember the carcass to pack it out as long as all parts of the carcass (excluding internal organs) are present when the animal is reported.

Internet or Telephone Harvest Reporting

www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com

Got Game: (866) 468-4263

If you are not reporting by using your Go Outdoors customer account or if you are choosing to use your paper license, you will need a pen and paper to create a personal check card or write down your confirmation number on your paper license or permit.

- A confirmation number will be provided at the end of your internet or telephone session.
- Confirmation numbers contain 8 digits.
- If your session is cut off prior to receiving a confirmation number, start the session again and repeat until a complete confirmation number is obtained.
- Upon reporting, hunters using a paper license tag shall immediately write the confirmation number (provided by the telephone or internet reporting system) in ink on the line labeled "confirmation number" of the tag that was validated at the place of kill.
- If a paper license was not required, then the hunter must create a personal check card.
- Hunters have the option of printing a check card at the end of the Internet reporting session.

Carcass Transferred or Unattended

- If the carcass is left unattended or transferred to another individual a personal check card is required.
- The personal check card should be kept in possession with the carcass until it is processed.
- If possession of the carcass is transferred to another individual, the personal check card should be given to that individual.
- If the carcass is left unattended, the personal check card should be securely attached to the carcass.
- After the carcass of a game animal has been processed (disassembled), its parts may be legally transported; however, upon request of a law enforcement officer, sufficient verbal or written information must be furnished to establish legal possession.

Bear Tooth Submission

To report a bear, a hunter must have a customer account through GoOutdoorsVirginia to ensure you receive the materials you will need to submit a premolar bear tooth. It is free and easy to set up your account at www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com. If you have any problems, please call 804-367-1000.

- You will need an official envelope to record basic information and secure a tooth from your bear. The Department will mail the envelope to the address associated with your GoOutdoors customer account. If you do not receive this mailing within 2 weeks after reporting the bear, please call (804) 367-1000.
- For instructions on removing and submitting the premolar tooth, please see the diagram on page 27 and/or the video at: <https://www.virginiawildlife.gov/wildlife/bear/how-to-remove-submit-bear-teeth-for-aging/>.
- A pre-paid mailing label will be generated when you report the bear. The label will be sent as an attachment to the email address on your GoOutdoors account; if no email is

Q: When using an airgun, airbow, or arrowgun, how do I report weapon type in the harvest reporting system?

A: When prompted for weapon used, report harvests with air rifles as "rifle," air pistols as "pistol," and airbows/arrowguns as "bow."

provided, you can **obtain the mailing label online** from *your* GoOutdoors account (go to “Harvest History” and “Detail”). Please affix this label to the shipping envelope that is mailed to you.

- You do not have to use the pre-paid mailing label but please use the tooth envelopes mailed to you. You can mail the envelope with premolar tooth to the following address: Bear Tooth Submission, P.O. Box 28840, Henrico, VA 23228-8840.
- To comply with the law, the premolar and accompanying information must be mailed or delivered to the Department no later than 14 days after the close of the bear season in January.

Bobcat Reporting

- Any hunter or trapper who kills a bobcat during an open hunting or trapping season, including license exempt hunters and trappers, must report the bobcat within 24 hours of the time of kill.
- Bobcats legally killed by landowners outside the hunting and trapping seasons are not required to be reported.
- After reporting a bobcat, hunters and trappers shall immediately record the confirmation number in a location where it can later be retrieved to prove compliance with reporting requirements or to request a CITES seal.
- Any bobcat received by a taxidermist for mounting or tanning shall have written documentation securely attached to the carcass that includes the full name of the hunter or trapper, date of kill, and the harvest confirmation number. For bobcats that do not require reporting, the same information must be attached (except for the confirmation number) with a description of how the bobcat was legally obtained.

Gray Fox Reporting

- Any hunter or trapper who kills a gray fox during an open hunting or trapping season, including license-exempt hunters and trappers, must report the gray fox within 24 hours of the time of kill.
- Gray fox legally killed by landowners outside the hunting and trapping seasons are not required to be reported.
- After reporting a gray fox, hunters and trappers shall immediately record the confirmation number in a location where it later be retrieved to prove compliance with reporting requirements.
- Any gray fox received by a taxidermist for mounting or tanning shall have written documentation securely attached to the carcass that includes the full name of the hunter or trapper, date of kill, and the harvest confirmation number. For gray fox that do not require reporting, the same information must be attached (except for the confirmation number) with a description of how the gray fox was legally obtained.

Elk – Collection of Biological Samples

Hunters harvesting an elk are required to validate an appropriate tag on their deer/turkey license or bonus deer permit, report the animal as an elk, and must contact the Department at

(804) 367-0044 to schedule an inspection of the carcass and the site of kill for the collection of biological samples.

License-Exempt Hunters

- License-exempt hunters are required to report all bear, deer, elk, turkeys, gray fox, and bobcats.
 - » License exempt hunters may choose to report their harvests using their Go Outdoors customer account and selecting “no tag required” when prompted for tag type used. License exempt hunters may also report using the internet or telephone harvest reporting systems without a customer account by selecting “exempt hunter.”
- License-exempt hunters reporting a bear electronically are required by law to submit a premolar for each bear harvested (see page 27). To provide the necessary information, a free customer account will be required to report a bear electronically.

Personal Check Card

A personal check card may be written on any type of paper using a pen and must include the hunter’s full name, date of kill, and confirmation number.



**REAL
HUNTERS
DON'T
POACH.**

**SUPPORT YOUR SPORT.
PLEASE REPORT ALL
VIOLATIONS.**

Call 1-800-237-5712, or email
WildCrime@dwr.virginia.gov



FERAL HOGS

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

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

For more information on feral hogs please visit:
www.virginiawildlife.gov/wildlife/feral-hogs/hunting-faq/

Report Feral Swine



**Help Protect Virginia's Agricultural
and Natural Resources**

1 (855) 571-9003



Please Report
Hog Sightings
Hog Damage



General Information

To report a bear, a hunter must have a customer account through GoOutdoorsVA. It is free and easy to set up your account at www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com/. If you have any problems, please call 804-367-1000.

Bag Limits

One per license year, at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight (all internal organs removed). Females with cubs may not be harvested. Cubs may be 30–50 lbs by fall. Please observe and be patient before shooting as cubs often lag behind the female.

Unlawful to Feed or Bait Bears

See page 21 for details.

Feeding or baiting prohibited year round and statewide. Do your part to keep bears wild, reduce human-bear conflicts, and slow the spread of mange. Bears with mange will have hair loss, dry and scaly skin, and sometimes look thin or starving (see page 30).

Unlawful to Shoot Without Intent to Retrieve the Bear

No person shall kill or cripple and knowingly allow any game animal to be wasted without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in their possession.

Unlawful to Cripple, Harm, or Dislodge and Continue to Hunt

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

Bear Harvest Reporting and Tooth Submission

Successful bear hunters must report their harvest through the internet at GoOutdoorsVirginia.com, via the Go Outdoors Virginia mobile app, or by telephone and also submit a bear tooth. See pages 24 and 25.

Look Up the Age of Your Harvested Bear Online!

The age of your harvested bear will be available online 9 to 10 months after the hunting season ends at www.virginiawildlife.gov/wildlife/bear/age.

Tracking Dogs

Allowed (see page 17 for details).

Archery Bear Season

Season Dates

See map on page 28.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to archery tackle use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22 for more details.

- Archery tackle only, excluding slingshots.
- Persons with a disability that prevents them from drawing a bow or crossbow may hunt with an arrowgun during the special archery season provided they have in possession an authorization form provided by the Department that has been completed by their physician.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- It is unlawful to use explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead bears (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17) and dogs may be used by youth or apprentice bear hunters on the Saturday of Youth and Apprentice Bear Hunting Weekend.
- It shall be unlawful to use firearms to hunt any game species while hunting with archery equipment during the special archery seasons, except that hunters 15 years of age and under and apprentice hunters may use firearms to hunt for bear while hunting on youth and apprentice hunter bear hunting weekend and except that a muzzleloading gun may be used by a properly licensed muzzleloading

YOUTH AND APPRENTICE BEAR HUNTING WEEKEND

October 11 and 12

- Hunting weapons legal during the firearms season are allowed on this weekend.
- Statewide
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses,

may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).

- Bear bag limit, weight limits, and all other take restrictions apply. If a bear is taken on this weekend, the youth or apprentice hunter may not take another bear in any season.
- Blaze color is required in areas with an open deer firearms season during this weekend. If hunting in an area with no open deer firearms season this weekend, blaze color is strongly recommended.
- Dogs may not be used on Sunday statewide.

- Bears may be taken with the aid of dogs on Saturday statewide except:
 - » In the counties of Accomack, Campbell (west of the Norfolk Southern Railroad), Fairfax, Grayson (west of State Route 16), Henry, Loudoun, Northampton, Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of the Norfolk Southern Railroad), Roanoke (south of I-81), Smyth (that part south of I-81 and west of State Route 16), and Washington (south of I-81) and the city of Lynchburg.
 - » On the Amelia, C. F. Phelps, Featherfin, G. Richard Thompson, Mattaponi, Mattaponi Bluffs, Merrimac Farm, Oakley Forest, Flippo-Gentry, Pettigrew, Robert W. Duncan, Tye River, and Ware Creek Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), and other areas posted on WMAs.
- Tracking dogs maintained and controlled on a lead may be used to find a wounded or dead bear.
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice bear hunters:
 - » do not need a bear license on this weekend.
 - » shall not use or discharge a firearm.
 - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.



gun hunter when and where the early special archery bear season overlaps the early special muzzleloading bear season.

Muzzleloader Bear Season

Season Dates

See map on page 28.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

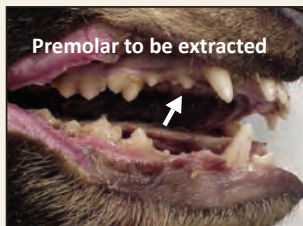
Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23 for more details.

- Muzzleloading guns that can be used during this season include:
 - » Muzzleloading rifles (one or more barrels), .40 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a .35 caliber or larger projectile) where the projectile is loaded from the muzzle;
 - » Muzzleloading shotguns (one or more barrels) not larger than 10 gauge where the projectiles are loaded from the muzzle;
 - » Muzzleloading pistols (one or more barrels) .45 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a .35 caliber or larger projectile) per barrel where the

propellant and projectile are loaded from the muzzle;

- » Muzzleloading revolvers .44 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a .35 caliber or larger projectile) per cylinder where the propellant and projectile are loaded from the forward end of the cylinder. Muzzleloading revolvers sold as .44 caliber and designed to shoot a .45 caliber projectile are legal for use in the muzzleloading season.
- Flintlock, percussion, or electronic ignitions are permitted.

Mandatory Submission of a Tooth from Harvested Black Bears



Premolar to be extracted



Extracted premolar

Root

Watch a video on tooth removal at:
www.virginiawildlife.gov/wildlife/bear/

- Regulations require the removal and submission of a premolar.
- The entire tooth and root is needed to accurately age the bear.
- Use pliers, screwdriver or knife to remove tooth.
- Remove the first small tooth behind either upper or lower canine.
- Seal tooth in envelope sent to you after you report your harvest.
- The age of harvested bears will be available 9-10 months following the close of the harvest season.

- It shall be unlawful to hunt bear with any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun during the special muzzleloading bear season.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading firearms designed for it. **Never use smokeless powder of any type in any quantity in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.**
- Scopes are permitted.
- Pneumatic arrowguns are allowed.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead bear (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).

MORE FISH THAN FREEWAYS.

More of what matters. **MORE MECKLENBURG.**

The fish are waiting in Mecklenburg County VA. Home to Virginia's largest lake and the world record blue catfish. On 50,000 acre Buggs Island Lake, the possibilities are endless and your next story is just waiting to unfold. Come ashore to comfy accommodations, great restaurants and charming towns.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

try our new trip planner at visitmeckva.com

#moremeck



REGULATIONS

Bear Hunting Seasons

 In the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Washington, and Wise.

- **Early Firearms**
September 29 through October 1
- **Archery**
October 4 through November 14
- **Muzzleloader**
November 8 through 14
- **Firearms**
November 24 through January 3

 In the counties of Arlington, Bland, Caroline, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Craig, Fairfax, Fluvanna, Giles, Goochland, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince William, Pulaski, Roanoke, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, and Wythe.

- **Archery**
October 4 through November 14
- **Muzzleloader**
November 8 through 14
- **Firearms**
November 24 through January 3

■ In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Buckingham, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Frederick, Greene, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Nelson, Page, Rappahannock, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren.

- **Archery**
October 18 through November 14
- **Muzzleloader**
November 11 through 14
- **Firearms**
November 28 through 30, and December 22 through January 3

 In the counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Campbell, Carroll, Charles City, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Floyd, Franklin, Gloucester, Grayson, Greensville, Henry, Isle of Wight, James City, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Mathews, Middlesex,

DOGS MAY NOT BE USED TO HUNT BEARS:

- It is unlawful to hunt or kill a bear on Sunday within 200 yards of a place of worship, or any accessory structure thereof, with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs.
- November 24 through 30 in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- November 24 through November 28 in Madison and Greene counties.
- During the firearms bear season in the counties of Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll (east of the New River), Fairfax, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson (east of the New River), Henry, Loudoun, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81), Roanoke (south of I-81), and Wythe (southeast of the New River or that part bounded by Rt. 21 on the west, I-81 on the north, the county line on the east, the New River on the southeast and Cripple Creek on the south), and in the city of Lynchburg.
- On the Amelia, C. F. Phelps, Doe Creek, Featherfin, G. Richard

New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York.

- **Archery**
October 4 through November 14
- **Muzzleloader**
November 8 through 14
- **Firearms**
December 1 through January 3

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

- **Archery**
October 4 through November 14
- **Firearms**
October 1 through January 3

Closed Season

In the counties of Accomack
and Northampton.

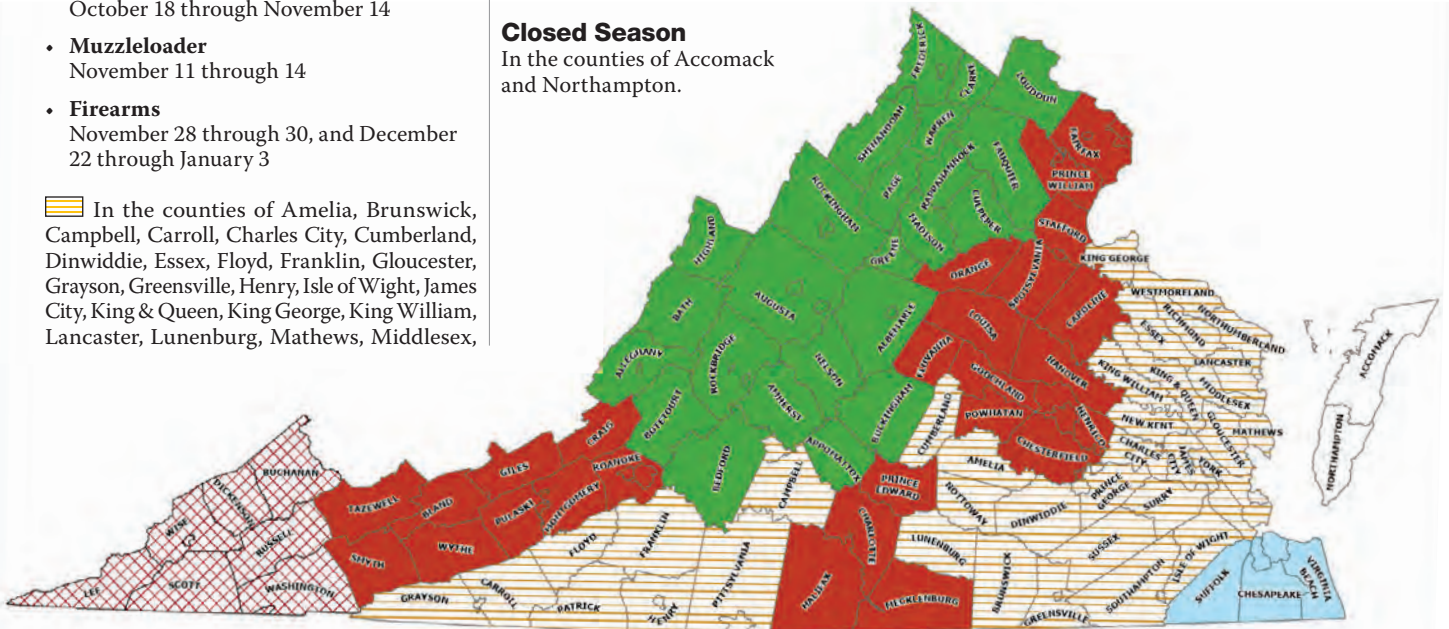
Towns and Cities

Bears may be harvested using any lawful weapon within the incorporated limits of any town or city that allows bear hunting from October 4 through January 3. This season will not supersede local ordinances with respect to hunting or use of weapon.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23 for more details.

- Modern firearms
- Arrowguns are allowed
- Archery tackle (excludes slingbows)
- Muzzleloading firearms



Thompson, Mattaponi, Mattaponi Bluffs, Merrimac Farm, Oakley Forest, Flippo-Gentry, Pettigrew, Robert W. Duncan, Tye River, and Ware Creek Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), and other areas posted on WMAs.

- When hunting during the archery or muzzleloading bear seasons, except in certain counties during the youth/apprentice bear hunting weekend (see pages 26 and 27).
- On Cavalier WMA except during the Bear Hound Training Season from August 9 through 23. Dogs may not be used to hunt bears at any other time.

Bear Hound Training/Chase Seasons

NO BLACK BEAR MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON.

Hours

4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including Sundays (except as noted under the map below). See maps and information below for dates, locations, and other restrictions.

Licenses Required

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

Unlawful Methods

- It is unlawful to dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.
- It is unlawful to chase, hunt, or train dogs from baited sites or with use of bait.
- It shall be unlawful to use for the purpose of taking a bear any firearm, bow, crossbow, or any weapon capable of taking a black bear while participating in the bear hound training season.

In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Culpeper, Greene, Highland, Madison, Nelson, Page, Rappahannock, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren

- August 1 through September 27 (including Sundays), December 1 through December 20 (excluding Sundays)

In the counties of Brunswick, Greenville, and Lunenburg

- August 1 through September 27 (including Sundays), November 15 through November 29 (including Sundays)

In the counties of Charlotte and Mecklenburg

- August 1 through September 27 and November 15 through November 23 (all including Sundays)

In the counties of Halifax and Prince Edward

- November 15 through November 23 (including Sundays)

In the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Franklin, Floyd, Giles, Grayson (East of State Rt 16), Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke (North of 81), Russell, Scott, Smyth (East of State Rt. 16 and north of I-81), Tazewell, Washington (North of 81), Wise, and Wythe and the Cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach

- August 1 through September 27 (including Sundays) except Cavalier WMA (August 9 through August 23)

In the counties of Amelia, Campbell (East of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Charles City, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottingham, Pittsylvania (East of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York

- November 15 through November 29 (including Sundays)

In the counties of Appomattox and Buckingham

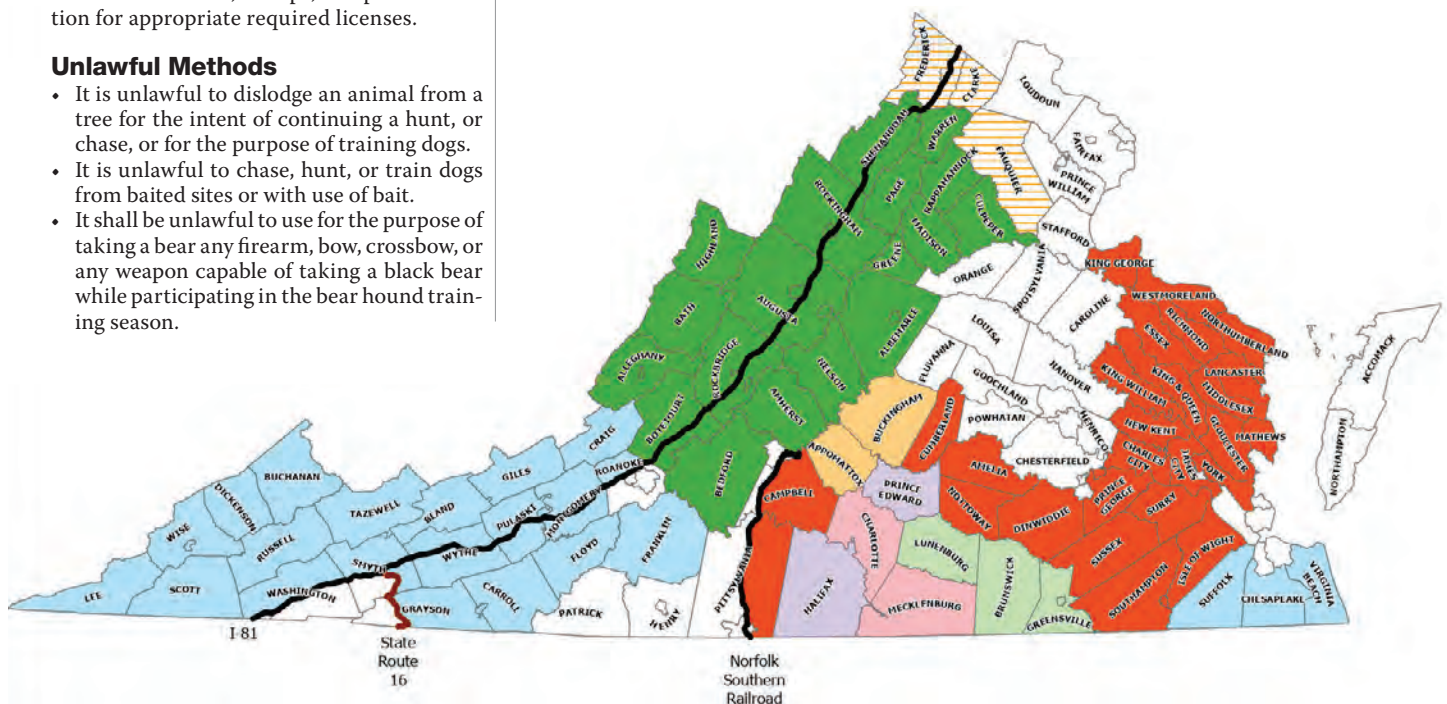
- November 15 through November 27 (including Sundays), December 1 through December 20 (excluding Sundays)

In the counties of Clarke, Fauquier, and Frederick

- December 1 through December 20 (excluding Sundays)

In the counties of Accomack, Campbell (West of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Caroline, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Fluvanna, Goochland, Grayson (West of State Rt 16), Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Loudon, Louisa, Northampton, Orange, Patrick, Pittsylvania (West of the Norfolk Southern Railroad), Powhatan, Prince William, Roanoke (South of 81), Smyth (West of State Rt. 16 and south of I-81), Spotsylvania, Stafford, Washington (South of 81)

- Closed Season



Information for Hunters Regarding Black Bears with Mange

Sarcoptic mange is a highly contagious skin disease of mammals caused by mites. It is the most common agent isolated in severely affected black bears. *S. scabiei* has a wide host range that includes dogs, foxes, coyotes, horses, cows, cats, and numerous other domestic and wildlife species. Humans are susceptible to *S. scabiei* infestation but most infections are mild and do not require treatment.

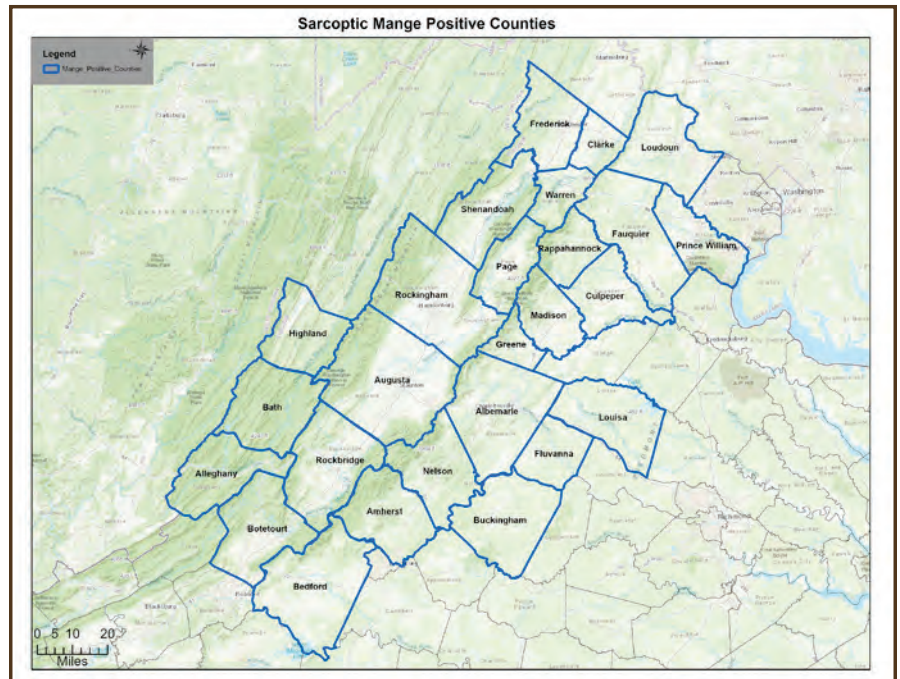
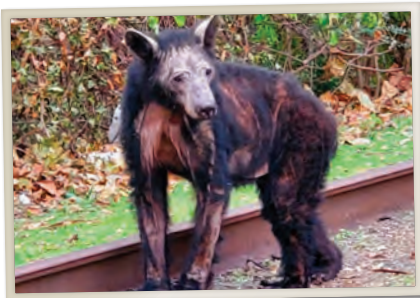
Hunters should carefully evaluate bears before harvest and refrain from harvesting bears that show any signs of mange. Determining if a bear has mange can be difficult in the field, especially because other conditions can appear similar to mange, such as normal shedding. The DWR mange brochure (URL at the bottom of this document) contains photos of bears with mange along with additional characteristics to look for to help in your assessment. Research and experience in other states show that many bears with mild to moderate cases can survive and clear symptoms of mange. If you have any doubts, please refrain from harvesting the bear; instead, take photos, note your exact location (take GPS coordinates, if possible) and submit this information to the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline at vawildlifeconflict@usda.gov or (1-855-571-9003). **Reports not only help us track the prevalence and spread of mange but also help guide our research and decisions about hunting seasons in affected areas.**

Bear Training Seasons

- A mange-infested bear cannot be killed during any bear training (chase) seasons. Hunters should report any mange-suspect bear observed while training to the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline as soon as possible (with photos and location coordinates): vawildlifeconflict@usda.gov or (1-855-571-9003)

Harvesting a Mange-Infested Bear

- If a hunter harvests a bear with signs of mange during an open bear season (regardless of condition/degree of infestation), they **must** utilize their bear tag and report the bear at the time of harvest. Reporting the harvest of a bear (including those with mange) is both required by law and is a vital element of the Department's bear management program.
- Because humans can contract mange, han-



dling of the bear carcass isn't required, and the bear does not need to be removed from the place of harvest.

- A photo of the bear (at the time of harvest) along with GPS coordinates or specific location should be collected. Photos should include potential evidence of mange (lack of hair, crusting skin, etc.) so that staff can evaluate the animal effectively and efficiently.
- IMPORTANT: The harvested bear should be reported to bearmange@dwr.virginia.gov with the photo and confirmation number from reporting the harvest.** DWR will evaluate the submission and contact the hunter regarding license status or to collect additional information on the harvested bear's condition. *If DWR can confirm that the bear had mange, the hunter will be eligible for a replacement bear tag, if they so desire.* If you do not have access to email, you may call the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline as soon as possible (1-855-571-9003), however there may be some delays when reporting by phone.

Best Management Practices for Possible Exposure to a Mange-Infested Bear

- Handling of a mange-infested bear should be minimized to avoid unnecessary exposure. Hunters should take precautions if handling and/or disposing of the pelt and carcass. These precautions include wearing disposable gloves, using a Permethrin-based insect repellent on clothes/gear (as instructed by the label), bagging gloves and any other dis-

posable equipment after use, and disposing of them in a dumpster or similar location. Hands and arms should be washed thoroughly with soap. Contaminated clothing should be washed and machine-dried with heat or placed in a freezer overnight to kill any mites. If the carcass of a bear with signs of mange is removed from the harvest site, the hunter should try to dispose of the pelt by double-bagging or returning it to the site of harvest.

- Hunters should contact their veterinarian to discuss options for their hounds that may have come into contact with a mange-infested bear or an area occupied by a mange-infested bear (e.g., den, bedding site, etc.).
- Equipment (dog leashes, dog box, etc.) should be disinfected (e.g., 40% bleach solution or other disinfectant cleaner for equipment and clothing) if suspected of being in contact with a mange-infested bear or with a dog that has come into contact with a mange-infested bear.
- Contact your health care provider for more information related to a potential exposure to mange.

Important Information about Mange in Bears (including images)

virginiawildlife.gov/wildlife/information/black-bear/#section-mange-and-black-bears

virginiawildlife.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/Black-Bear-Mange-Brochure.pdf

Elk Hunting Regulations

In Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties (Virginia's designated Elk Management Zone)

Elk hunting in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties is available through an elk hunt lottery <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/elk/hunting/elk-lottery/>. Interested individuals may apply for the lottery each February–March. The fee to apply for the elk hunt lottery is \$15 for Virginia residents and \$20 for non-residents.

Virginia's fourth elk hunt within the Elk Management Zone (Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties) will occur October 11–17, 2025. Information on applying for the fall 2026 elk hunt will be available in January 2026.

In All Areas Outside of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties:

Any elk (bull, cow, or calf) can be taken on any day of an open deer season (archery, muzzle-loader, or firearms) in the county/locality in which the individual is hunting. Legal weapons for taking elk coincide with legal weapons for

deer during that specific season except that elk may not be taken with a slingbow or air rifle.

Reporting requirements for elk are the same as those for deer, but the animal should be reported as an elk. After receiving a confirmation number, successful elk hunters must also contact the Department at (804) 367-0044 to schedule a time for collection of biological samples. This number is **ONLY** intended for making arrangements for tissue sample collection from harvested elk. It is illegal to destroy the sex identity of any harvested elk until reported. Elk may be dismembered to pack it out of the place of kill, but the sex and all parts of the carcass (except internal organs) must be present when the elk is reported.

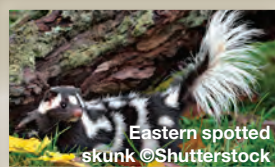
- The taking of an elk counts toward a hunter's daily and seasonal bag limit for deer.
- Only one elk per day may be taken statewide.
- An animal with antlers above the hairline counts toward a hunter's either-sex (buck) deer limit.
- An animal without antlers counts toward a hunter's daily and seasonal antlerless deer limit.

- Elk cannot be harvested on DCAP, DMAP, or DPOP tags.
- Unless otherwise specified above, all deer hunting regulations (p. 32–42) apply to elk hunting outside of the Elk Management Zone.



HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ANIMALS?

If you have a photo of any of the animals shown here, including the Eastern spotted skunk, fisher, nine-banded armadillo, and/or the North American porcupine, we would like to hear from you.



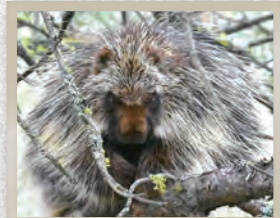
Eastern spotted skunks are listed as a Tier IV Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in Virginia and can generally be found in the western part of the state. They are smaller (1 to 2½ pounds) than the more common striped skunks and have glossy black fur with four to six broken white stripes along the back and sides that resemble “spots.” Please note that it is illegal to shoot or trap spotted skunks (unless they are causing damage) and their pelts may not be sold.



Fishers are large weasels, typically weighing 4 to 12 pounds and measuring 30 to 47 inches from the nose to the tip of the tail. They have an elongated body, short legs, and a long tail with dark brown and black fur. Likely becoming extinct in the state in the early 1900s, fishers have begun to reappear in Virginia in the western part of the state and are listed as a Tier IV SGCN. Please note that there is a continuous closed hunting and trapping season for fishers in Virginia.



Nine-banded armadillos are armored, cat-sized (8 to 17 pounds), insect-eating mammals typically found in the American Southwest. Armadillos have been expanding their range in the U.S. to the east and north and have been spotted in the southwest corner of Virginia.



North American porcupines are large rodents (10 to 28 pounds) distinguished by their notable coat of long, sharp quills. Porcupines are typically found in the northern and western parts of North America, but have been extending their range. Porcupines have now been observed in the northwest region of Virginia.

Report Observations: If you have any verifiable information (i.e., photos, video, etc.) regarding the occurrences of any of these animals, please enter your information at virginiawildlife.gov/report-rare-animals or scan QR code. For more information contact Leah Card (Leah.Card@dwr.virginia.gov).



General Information

Bag Limits

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

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

Exceptions

- The daily bag limit for deer shall be unlimited in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and in all cities and towns east of the Blue Ridge except in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. However, no more than three antlered deer may be killed in a license year.
- Only one deer per day may be taken on National Forest lands and Department-owned and Department-managed lands east of the Blue Ridge.

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

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

Exceptions

- The daily bag limit for deer shall be unlimited in all cities and towns west of the Blue Ridge. However, no more than two antlered deer may be taken in a license year.
- Only one deer per day may be taken on National Forest lands and Department-owned and Department-managed lands west of the Blue Ridge.
- If a deer hunter kills two antlered bucks in a license year in Alleghany, Bath, Highland, or Rockbridge County, at least one of the bucks must have at least four antler points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers (see p. 33).
- Only one elk per day may be taken statewide.

BONUS DEER PERMITS

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

Bag Limit Exceptions

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

Antlered and Antlerless Deer

Deer Tags

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

Antlered Deer

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

Antlerless Deer

- **Antlerless deer may only be taken during designated either-sex deer hunting days** during the archery season(s), muzzleloading season(s), and firearms season(s). Youth and apprentice deer hunters, see page 35 for exceptions.
- Antlerless deer (does, button bucks, and shed-antlered bucks) may be tagged with an antlerless-only deer tag or an either-sex deer tag.
- Button bucks, male fawns approximately six months old, are considered antlerless deer. The hair covered bumps on a button buck's head are not antlers. They are the pedicels from which the antlers will grow the next year.
- Antlered deer that have shed their antlers, usually in late December or early January, are also considered antlerless deer.



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

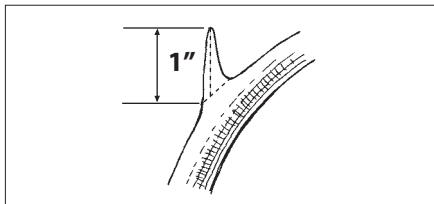


Button buck (antlerless deer) ©Wyman Meinzer



Antlered buck ©Thomas Kirkland

Antler Point Restrictions



Alleghany, Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge Counties

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

TREE STAND SAFETY GUIDELINES

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

Additional Information on safety harnesses:

www.virginiawildlife.gov/hunting/education/treestand-safety

Q: Are deer calls legal for deer hunting in Virginia?

A: Yes, as long as they are not electronic (i.e., have batteries). It is unlawful to take or attempt to take wild animals and birds with recorded or electronically amplified calls, except for bobcat, coyote, crow, fox, and raccoon.

THE SHARPEST

REPLACEABLE BLADES ON THE MARKET

SHOP NOW



Havalon.com

HAYALON®
KNIVES

NEVER LOSE YOUR EDGE™

Earn a Buck (EAB)

Deer taken in one EAB county, city, or town do not “carry over” to any other EAB county, city, or town. Each county, city, or town is its own separate management unit with regards to EAB. Deer taken on out-of-season kill permits do not count toward EAB.

Private lands in Accomack, Albemarle, Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Augusta, Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Fauquier, Floyd, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, James City, Madison, Montgomery, Orange, Page, Prince George, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of Rts. 613 and 731), Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, Wythe, and York counties

Within a license year and within each individual county listed above, before you can take a second antlered deer on private lands in that county (your second buck), you must have taken at least one antlerless deer on private lands in that county. Furthermore, in those counties listed above east of the Blue Ridge Mountains where it is legal to harvest a third antlered deer, before you can take a third antlered deer on private lands in that county (your third buck),

you must have taken at least two antlerless deer on private lands in that county.

Example – Within a license year, before you can take a second antlered deer on private lands in Albemarle County (your second buck), you must have taken at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Albemarle County. Furthermore, before you can take a third antlered deer on private lands in Albemarle County (your third buck), you must have taken at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Albemarle County.

Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William (except on Department of Defense lands) counties

Within a license year and within each individual county listed above, before you can take a second antlered deer in that county (your second buck), you must have taken at least one antlerless deer in that county. Furthermore, before you can take a third antlered deer in that county (your third buck), you must have taken at least two antlerless deer in that county.

Example – Within a license year, before you can take a second antlered deer in Fairfax County (your second buck), you must have taken at least one antlerless deer in Fairfax County. Furthermore, before you can take a third antlered deer in Fairfax County (your third buck),

you must have taken at least two antlerless deer in Fairfax County.

Cities and Towns

EAB does not apply to the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

Within a license year and within any city or town, before you can take a second antlered deer in that city or town (your second buck), you must have taken at least one antlerless deer in that city or town. Furthermore, in those cities and towns east of the Blue Ridge Mountains where it is legal to harvest a third antlered deer, before you can take a third antlered deer in that city or town (your third buck), you must have taken at least two antlerless deer in that city or town.

Example – Within a license year, before you can take a second antlered deer in the City of Lynchburg (your second buck), you must have taken at least one antlerless deer in the City of Lynchburg. Furthermore, before you can take a third antlered deer in the City of Lynchburg (your third buck), you must have taken at least two antlerless deer in the City of Lynchburg.

Earn a Buck questions and answers can be found at

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/general/#EAB>

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

RAISE CHICKENS?

We have a wide selection of the finest handcrafted coops to fit anyone's budget.



SHEDS STUFF

Call Us Now for Pricing & Information! 1.866.411.SHED

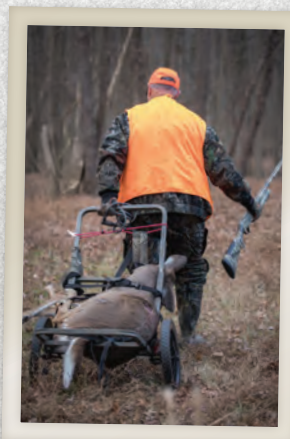
Q: How are the opening days for deer season set in Virginia?

A: Season Opening Day
 Youth/Apprentice Weekend..... Last Sat. in Sept. and the next day
 Urban Archery First Saturday in September
 Early Archery First Saturday in October
 Early Muzzleloader..... Saturday prior to the first Monday in November
 Firearms Saturday prior to the third Monday in November
 Note: Does not apply to the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line) or Virginia Beach.

ACT RESPONSIBLY

Dispose of Your Deer Carcass!

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



Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend

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

www.virginiawildlife.gov/youth/hunting/

September 27 and 28

- Statewide.
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
- Deer of either sex may be taken.
- Antlerless deer taken on the youth and apprentice deer hunting weekend are in addition to an antlerless deer taken under the youth and apprentice antlerless deer regulation and on either-sex deer hunting days.

- Deer harvested by youth or apprentice hunters count against their daily and season bag limit.
- Blaze colored requirements and exceptions for firearms deer season are in effect (see page 15).
- Deer hunting with dogs is prohibited, except that tracking dogs are allowed (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice deer hunters:
 - » do not need a deer/turkey license on this weekend.
 - » shall not carry or discharge a weapon.
 - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.
- Unless specified above, all other normal firearm deer regulations apply (e.g., daily and season bag limits, tagging and reporting, EAB, antler point restrictions, etc.).

Q: Can I use a suppressor for hunting in Virginia?

A: Yes, lawfully owned and possessed suppressors may be used for hunting in Virginia.

Youth and Apprentice Antlerless Deer Regulation

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

Q: Are deer decoys legal for deer hunting in Virginia?

A: Yes.

Explore. — — —
CARTER COUNTY
× T E N N E S S E E ×
ELIZABETHTON • ROAN MOUNTAIN • WATAUGA LAKE

Home of world class fishing on the beautiful Watauga Lake,
rugged Doe River and designated trophy trout stream, Watauga River

Watauga River

Watauga Lake

Doe River

PLAN YOUR TRIP AT
TOUROCARTERCOUNTY.COM

Archery Deer Seasons

Early Archery Season

October 4 through November 14:
Statewide.

- Firearm season in Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach overlaps early archery season.

Late Archery Seasons

December 14 through January 3:

- In Henry and Patrick counties.
- In all areas west of the Blue Ridge unless noted below.

No late archery season in Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of routes 613 and 731), Shenandoah, Warren, and Wythe counties.

November 30 through January 3:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Alleghany, Bath, Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Highland, Lee, Rockingham (west of Rts 613 and 731), Russell, Scott, Tazewell, and Wise.
- On all National Forest and Department-owned lands west of the Blue Ridge.
- On the C. F. Phelps WMA.
- On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties.

December 1 through January 3:

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

Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunting

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

Urban Archery Deer Seasons

During these seasons only antlerless deer may be taken.

September 6 through October 3 and January 4, 2026 through March 29, 2026:

- Within the incorporated limits of the cities of Charlottesville, Chesapeake (except on Department-owned lands), Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Galax, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Poquoson, Radford, Richmond, Salem, Staunton, Suffolk, and Winchester; and in the towns of Altavista, Amherst, Bedford, Blacksburg, Blackstone, Boones Mill, Buchanan, Chatham, Christiansburg, Farmville, Front Royal, Halifax, Hillsville, Hurt, Independence, Irvington, Kenbridge, Lebanon, Pearisburg, Pulaski, Richlands, Rocky Mount, Saltville, Scottsville, Smithfield, Stuart, Tazewell, Victoria, West Point, and Wytheville; and in

the counties of Chesterfield, Fairfax, James City, Prince William (except DOD land and DWR-owned land), Roanoke (except on National Forest and Department-owned lands), Stafford, and York.

- Archery or crossbow deer hunters hunting during the early urban archery deer season are required to wear blaze color on the Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend. For exceptions to the blaze color requirement see page 15.
- Lists of properties available for hunting are not maintained by the Department or local governments.
- Go to www.virginiawildlife.gov/hunting/urban-archery-season for local restrictions and other urban archery information.
- All other normal deer regulations apply (e.g., daily and season bag limits, tagging and reporting, DCAP, DMAP, EAB, antler point restrictions, etc.).

NOVA Late Archery Season

During this season only antlerless deer may be taken.

March 30, 2026 through April 26, 2026:

- In Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William (except on Department-owned lands) counties (including the cities and towns within).

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Archery Deer Seasons

Special restrictions may apply during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23 for details.

- Archery tackle.
- Persons with a disability that prevents them from drawing a bow or crossbow may hunt with an arrowgun during the special archery season(s) provided they have in possession an authorization form provided by the Department that has been completed by their physician.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- It is unlawful to use explosive head arrows or arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead deer (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).

- It shall be unlawful to use firearms to hunt any game species while hunting with archery equipment during the special archery seasons, except that a muzzleloading gun may be used by a properly licensed muzzleloading gun hunter to hunt for deer when and where a special archery deer season overlaps a special muzzleloading deer season.

Muzzleloader Deer Seasons

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

Note: Deer hunters west of the Blue Ridge Mountains may take their season limit of two antlered deer during the early muzzleloading season. In designated areas, EAB regulations would apply.

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

Early Muzzleloader Season

November 1 through November 14:

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

Antlered deer may be taken every day of the season. Antlerless deer may only be taken on the designated either-sex deer hunting days listed below.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days East of the Blue Ridge:

November 1 through November 14 (full season):

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

- **November 8:** On State Forest lands, State Park lands (except Occoneechee State Park), Department-owned lands (except Merrimac Farm WMA), and Philpott Reservoir.
- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:** On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties. Special Youth and Apprentice Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

BOWHUNTERS NEEDED FOR SURVEY

The Department has an ongoing statewide bowhunter survey to obtain information on bear, deer, turkey, small game, and furbearer populations. Participants will receive an annual survey form to complete during the early archery deer season and a copy of the results after they are compiled. To participate, please send your name and mailing address to dwrweb@dwr.virginia.gov with "Bowhunter Survey" in the subject line.

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

**November 1 through November 14
(full season):**

- On private lands in Augusta, Botetourt, Carroll, Clarke, Craig, Floyd, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of Route 613 and 731), Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Warren and Wythe counties.

November 8:

- On private lands in Alleghany, Bath, Bland, Buchanan, Craig, Dickenson, Giles, Highland, Lee, Rockbridge, Russell, Tazewell, Wise and Washington counties, and on the Highland WMA.

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

- On all National Forest and Department-owned lands in all counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (except the Highland WMA).
- In Rockingham County (west of Routes 613 and 731).
- On Channels State Forest, Grayson Highlands State Park, Hungry Mother State Park, and Flannagan Reservoir.
- Special Youth and Apprentice Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

**Late Muzzleloader Season
East of the Blue Ridge**

December 13 through January 3:

In the counties of Henry and Patrick, on federal and department-owned lands in Franklin county, on national forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties, and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

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

**December 13 through
January 3 (full season):**

- In the counties of Henry and Patrick.

December 29 through January 3:

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

January 3:

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

**Late Muzzleloader Season
West of the Blue Ridge**

December 13 through January 3:

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

Season Exception:

- There is no late muzzleloader season in Clarke County and on private lands in Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Frederick, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of routes 613 and 731), Shenandoah, Warren, and Wythe counties since it occurs during the general firearms season.

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

**December 13 through
January 3 (full season):**

- On private lands in Augusta, Botetourt, Craig, Giles, Grayson, Scott, and Smyth counties.

December 29 through January 3:

- On private lands in Bland, Dickenson, Rockbridge, and Washington counties.

January 3:

- In Alleghany, Bath, Buchanan, Highland, Lee, Rockingham (west of Routes 613 and 731), Russell, Tazewell, and Wise counties.
- On all National Forest and Department-owned lands in all counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- On Channels State Forest, Grayson Highlands State Park, Hungry Mother State Park, and Flannagan Reservoir.

**Legal Methods and Restrictions
During Muzzleloading
Deer Seasons**

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23, for details.

- Muzzleloading firearms that can be used during these deer seasons include:
 - » Muzzleloading rifles (one or more barrels) .40 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a .35 caliber or larger projectile) where the projectile is loaded from the muzzle;
 - » Muzzleloading shotguns (one or more barrels) not larger than 10 gauge where the projectiles are loaded from the muzzle;
 - » Muzzleloading pistols (one or more barrels) .45 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a .35 caliber or larger projectile) per barrel where the propellant and projectile are loaded from the muzzle;
 - » Muzzleloading revolvers .44 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a .35 caliber or larger projectile) per cylinder where the propellant and projectile are loaded from the forward end of the cylinder. Muzzleloading revolvers sold

as .44 caliber and designed to shoot a .45 projectile are legal for use in the muzzleloading season.

- Flintlock, percussion, or electronic ignitions are permitted.
- It shall be unlawful to hunt deer with any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun during the special muzzleloading deer season.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading firearms designed for it. **Never use smokeless powder in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.**
- Scopes are permitted.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap, primer, or battery has been removed from the firearm.
- Pneumatic arrowguns are allowed.
- It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead deer (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).
- It is lawful to carry archery tackle when and where there is an overlap with a deer archery and deer muzzleloader season.

**Muzzleloader Either-Sex Deer
Hunting for Incorporated
Cities and Towns**

- Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the muzzleloader seasons within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows muzzleloading deer hunting (except in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach) and only with the weapons (archery tackle and/or muzzleloaders) authorized by each individual city or town.
- Earn a buck applies to all cities and towns except Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach (see page 34).

Q: Are deer cover scents legal in Virginia?

A: Yes, but there is a catch. They are illegal if they are used in a way where a deer can lick or consume it. A good rule of thumb about these products is if a deer can only smell it, it is a cover scent and it is legal. If a deer can lick and ingest it, it is considered bait and it is illegal.

**MAKE YOUR OWN WILD GAME
SUMMER SAUSAGE AND SALAMI.**

WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PROCESS
YOUR MEAT INTO DELICIOUS SAUSAGE
RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME.



COMPLETE KITS STARTING AT \$13.95

B Butcher & Packer Supply
P.O. Box 71748
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071

Call 1-800-521-3188
www.butcher-packer.com



Firearms Deer Seasons

For private lands and public lands unless otherwise noted in tables on pages 40–41.

November 15 through December 13
In Buchanan County.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days. Special Youth and Apprentice Antlerless Deer Regulation Applies.

November 15 through December 13
In the counties of Dickenson and Wise.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:
November 29

November 15 through December 13
In the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Highland, Rockingham (west of Routes 613 and 731), and Lee.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:
November 22, 28, and 29.

November 15 through December 13
In the counties of Henry and Patrick.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:
November 22, 29, and December 1 through December 13.

November 15 through December 13
In the counties of Bland, Russell, Scott, and Tazewell.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:
November 22 through November 29.

X Antler Point Restrictions apply. See page 33

▲ Earn a Buck (EAB) regulation applies. See page 34

◆ Early and late antlerless-only firearms deer seasons apply. Dogs may not be used during these seasons. See page 41

◆ Early and late antlerless-only firearms deer seasons apply. See page 41

November 15 through December 13

In the counties of Augusta*, Botetourt*, Craig*, Giles*, Grayson*, Rockbridge, Smyth, and Washington.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 15 through December 13 (full season)

November 15 through January 3

In the counties of Caroline, King & Queen and King William

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 22, 29, and December 22 through January 3.

November 15 through January 3

In the counties of Amelia, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Nottoway.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 22, 29, and December 6 through January 3.

November 15 through January 3

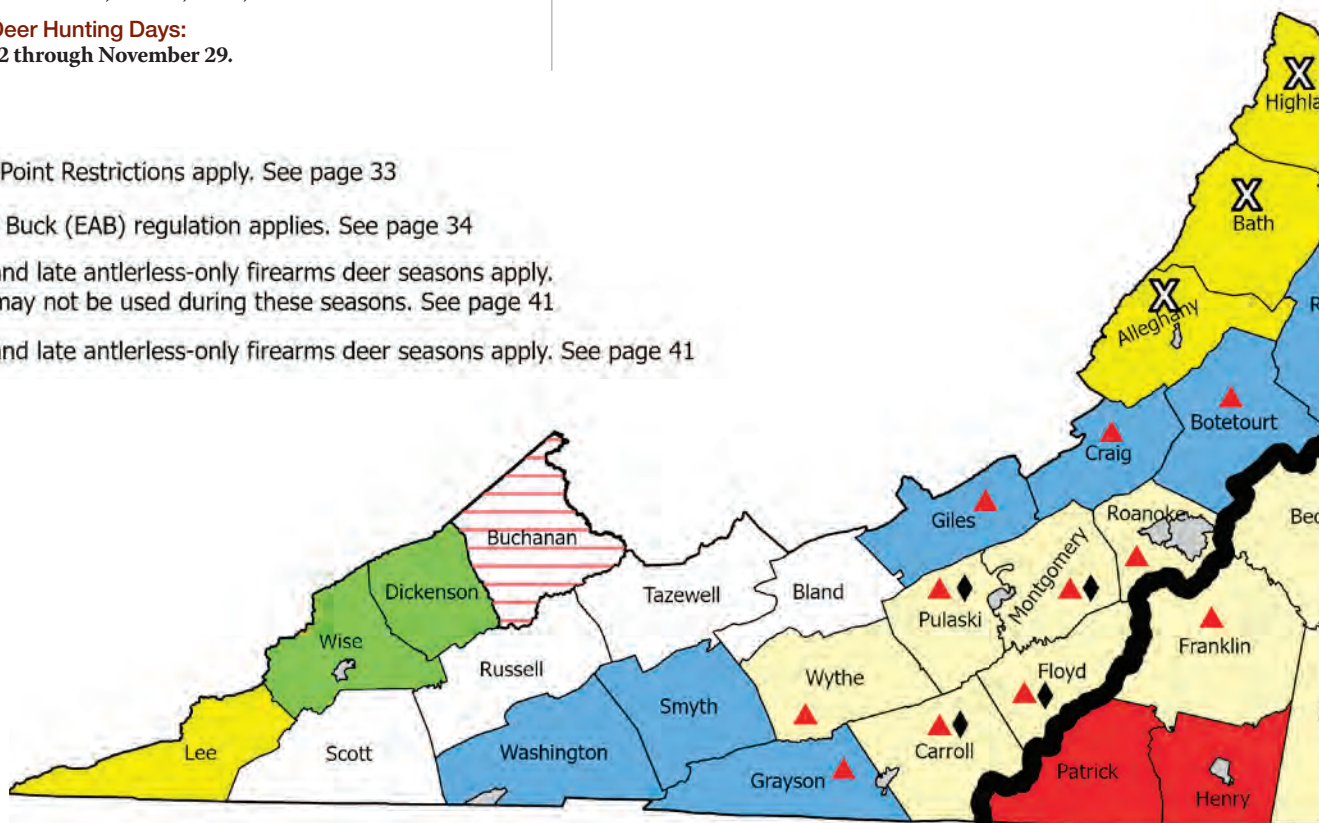
In the counties of Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Dinwiddie, Essex, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, and Prince Edward.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 22, 29, and December 29 through January 3.

November 15 through January 3

In the counties of Accomack*, Albemarle*, Amherst*, Arlington*, Bedford*, Campbell, Carroll*, Charles City, Chesterfield*, Clarke*, Culpeper*, Fairfax*, Fauquier*, Floyd*, Fluvanna, Franklin*, Frederick*, Goochland, Greene*, Greenville, Halifax, Hanover*, Henrico*, Isle of Wight, James City*, King George, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison*, Montgomery*, Nelson, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland,



West of the Blue Ridge

Orange*, Page*, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince George*, Prince William*, Pulaski*, Rappahannock*, Richmond, Roanoke*, Rockingham (east of Routes 613 and 731)*, Shenandoah*, Southampton, Spotsylvania*, Stafford*, Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp line), Surry, Sussex, Warren*, Westmoreland, Wythe* and York*.

- In Arlington County*, City of Hampton*, and City of Richmond* (in the City of Richmond: archery only, no special permit is required for archery deer hunting). Note: Local Ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in these three areas (see Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23).
- In the City of Lynchburg* (on private lands for which a special permit has been issued by the Chief of Police).
- In the City of Newport News*: archery only, no special permit is required for archery deer hunting.
- In Fairfax County*, firearms hunting is restricted by location and parcel size. Contact the Div. Of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details. No parcel size restrictions exist for archery deer hunting.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 15 through January 3 (full season).

October 1 through November 30

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

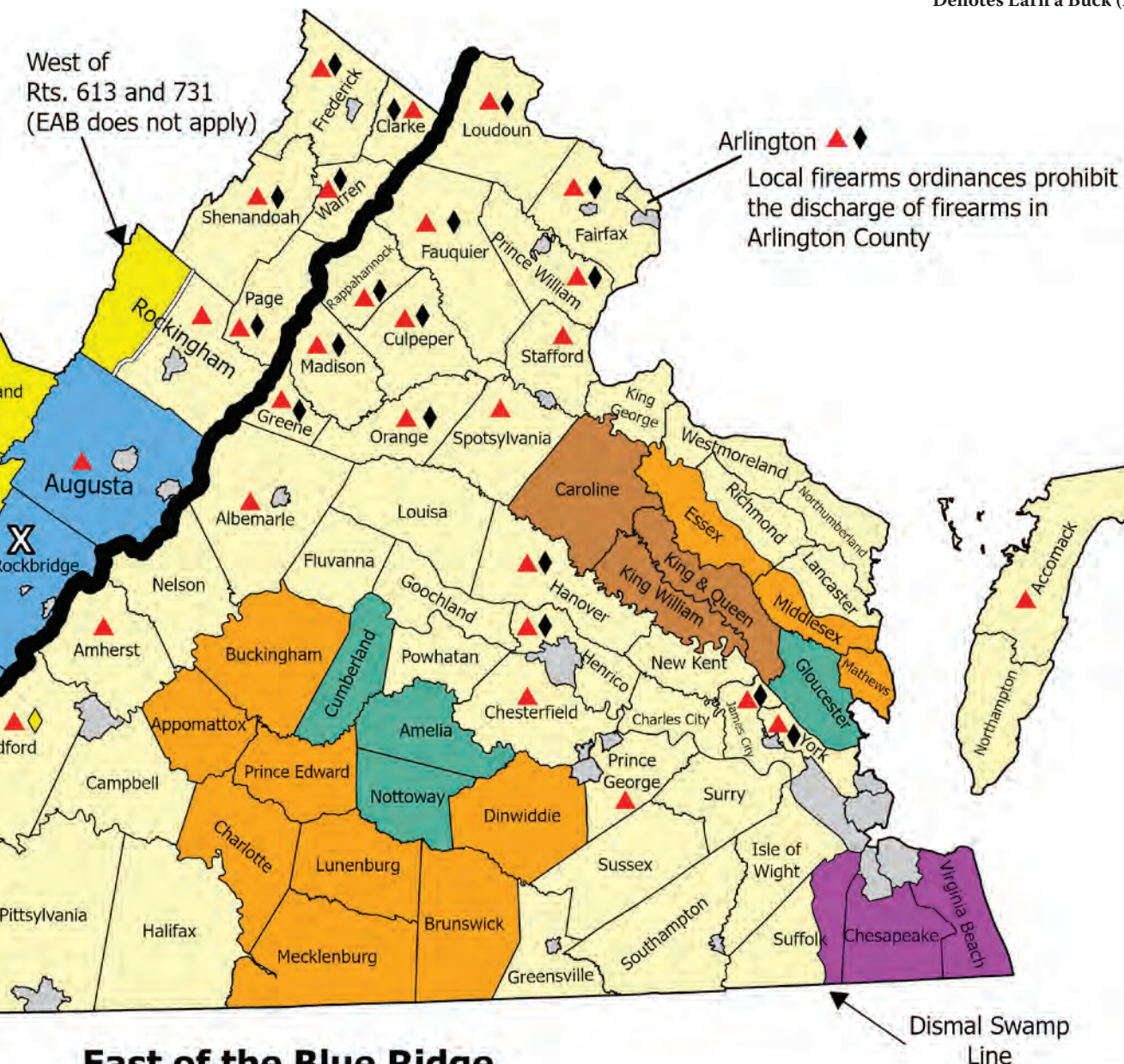
Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

October 1 through November 30 (full season).

November 15 through January 3

- Within the incorporated limits of any city or town in Virginia that allows firearms deer hunting (except in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach), but only with the specific weapons authorized by each individual city or town.
- Deer of either sex may be taken full season.
- Earn a Buck applies to all cities and towns except Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. See page 34.

***Denotes Earn a Buck (EAB) County**



East of the Blue Ridge

Early and Late Antlerless Only Firearms Deer Seasons

During these seasons only antlerless deer may be taken. Dogs may not be used to hunt deer during these seasons.

September 6 through October 3 and January 4, 2026 through March 29, 2026

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Arlington*, Fairfax*, Loudoun*, Prince William* (except on Department-owned lands), and on private lands in Carroll*, Culpeper*, Clarke*, Fauquier*, Floyd*, Frederick*, Greene*, Hanover*, Henrico*, James City*, Madison*, Montgomery*, Orange*, Page*, Pulaski*, Rappahannock*, Shenandoah*, Warren*, and York* counties.

September 6 through October 3 and January 4, 2026 through January 31, 2026

On private lands in Bedford* County

Public Land Firearms Deer Seasons and Either-Sex Days

NOTE: Seasons shown in the map (see page 38) apply to all public lands unless otherwise noted in the tables below.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forest

COUNTY	SEASON DATES	EITHER-SEX DAYS
All counties unless otherwise noted	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Bland	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22, Nov. 28, and Nov. 29
Carroll	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
Craig	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22, Nov. 28, and Nov. 29
Dickenson	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	antlered deer only
Giles	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22, Nov. 28, and Nov. 29
Lee	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	antlered deer only
Montgomery	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
Pulaski	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
Scott	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	antlered deer only

State Forests, State Parks, and Army Corps Lands

OWNER	NAME	SEASON DATES	EITHER-SEX DAYS
State Forest	Appomattox-Buckingham SF	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
	Cumberland SF	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 6
	Prince Edward SF	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
	Channels SF	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
	Big Woods SF	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 15 through Jan. 3 (full season)
State Parks	Grayson Highlands SP	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
	Fairystone SP (designated areas)	Nov. 15–Dec.13	Nov. 22 and Dec. 8–13
	Hungry Mother SP	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Army Corps	Flannagan Reservoir	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	antlered deer only
	Philpott Reservoir	Nov. 15–Dec.13	Nov. 22 and Dec. 8–13

Wildlife Management Areas

NAME	SEASON DATES	EITHER-SEX DAYS
Amelia WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 22–Jan. 3
Big Survey WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22, Nov. 28, and Nov. 29
Big Woods WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 15 through Jan. 3 (full season)
Briery Creek WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
C.F. Phelps WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22
Cavalier WMA	Oct. 1–Nov. 30	Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Nov. 18–30
Chickahominy WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	antlered deer only, does by quota
Clinch Mountain WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Crooked Creek WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
Dick Cross WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
Fairstone Farms WMA	Nov. 15–Dec.13	Nov. 22 and Dec. 8–13
Featherfin WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6–Jan. 3
Flippo-Gentry WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 15 through Jan. 3 (full season)
Gathright WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Goshen WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Hardware River WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 22–Jan. 3
Havens WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Hidden Valley WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Highland WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22, Nov. 28, and Nov. 29
Hog Island WMA	Refer to quota hunt	Refer to quota hunt
Horsepen Lake WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
James River WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22 and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
Little North Mountain WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Mattaponi and Mattaponi Bluffs WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
Merrimac Farm WMA	Refer to quota hunt	Refer to quota hunt
Oakley Forest WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 22–Jan. 3
Pettigrew WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
Powhatan WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 22–Jan. 3
Princess Anne WMA	Oct. 1–Nov. 30, quota first 2 wks Nov.	Oct. 4–Nov. 30
Ragged Island WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	antlered deer only
Rapidan WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 22–Jan. 3
Robert W. Duncan WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
Short Hills WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 29
Stewarts Creek WMA	Nov. 15–Nov. 29	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29
Thompson WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 22–Jan. 3
Turkeycock WMA	Nov. 15–Dec.13	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Dec. 8–13
Tye River WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22 and Dec. 29–Jan. 3
White Oak Mountain WMA	Nov. 15–Jan. 3	Nov. 22, Nov. 29, and Jan. 1–3



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

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Firearms Deer Seasons

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23, for details.

- Modern firearms
- Pneumatic arrowguns are allowed
- Air rifles must be .35 caliber or larger

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

Dogs May Not Be Used For Deer Hunting

- West of the Blue Ridge.
- East of the Blue Ridge in Bedford, Fairfax, Franklin, Henry, Loudoun, Northampton, and Patrick counties, and Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the City of Lynchburg.
- On Sunday while hunting with any firearm, bow, crossbow, or any weapon capable of taking a deer.
- When hunting during archery and muzzleloading seasons and on the Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend.
- On many military areas. Check individual Post regulations.
- On Amelia, Cavalier, Doe Creek, Featherfin, Mattaponi, Mattaponi Bluffs, Merrimac Farm, Oakley Forest, Flippo-Gentry, Pettigrew, C. F. Phelps, G. Richard Thompson, Robert W. Duncan, Tye River, and Ware Creek Wildlife Management Areas.
- November 15 through November 28 in Madison and Greene counties.
- During an early or late antlerless-only firearms deer season.

Tracking Dogs

Allowed (see page 17 for details).

HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY



Our hope is that you will consider helping the Hunters for the Hungry program. We would ask you as a hunter, if you are able, to consider donating to help us feed those who struggle with hunger. There are two ways to donate:

First, you can donate a deer, or multiple deer. If you are blessed in your hunting efforts, your deer can be donated to us through participating processors and/or collection sites all across Virginia. These donated deer are professionally processed and the venison distributed to local feeding programs statewide at no cost, helping men, women, and children who struggle with hunger.

Second, if you are able, please contribute financially to help us pay the processing costs for the donated deer. Financial gifts are a blessing to our feeding efforts. In 2003, legislation honoring our program's founder David Horne was passed enabling hunters to voluntarily make a donation of any amount when they purchase their hunting licenses. You can also donate through our website.

No financial donations are required to donate deer to our program; however, for every \$1.00 hunters contribute we are able to process and distribute three quarter-pound servings of venison to those in need as well as to promote our hunting heritage in a positive way.

Since 1991, for over 33 years, our program, through the generous support of many hunters and non-hunters working together, has been able to process and distribute over 8.1 million pounds of venison to feeding programs throughout our state. This volume of meat equates to over 32.6 million quarter-pound servings! **Please consider helping us in some way to help those who hunger.**

For more information about our program, how you can get involved, or to donate please call 1-800-352-4868 or visit our website at www.h4hungry.org or you can write us at P.O. Box 304, Big Island, VA 24526

Please consider helping us in some way to help those who hunger.

****WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL PROCESSORS TO WORK WITH US TO EXPAND OUR IMPACT!****
If you are a processor, or know someone who is, please have them reach out to our charity!

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an infectious, fatal, neurologic disease of deer. Since 2009, a total of 362 CWD-positive deer have been confirmed in Virginia. While the majority of these detections have occurred in Frederick and northern Shenandoah counties, CWD has also been confirmed in Carroll, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Tazewell, and Warren counties. DWR cannot manage CWD alone and needs your help to slow the spread of this disease. Visit dwr.virginia.gov/cwd/ for details on what DWR is doing to fight CWD. Please read the following text carefully to learn what you can do to help.

2025 Disease Management Areas

All counties located within 10 miles of a CWD detection are included in a Disease Management Area (DMA).

- **DMA1:** Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.
- **DMA2:** Arlington, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, and Rockingham (new for 2025–2026) counties.
- **DMA3:** Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Wythe counties.
- **DMA4:** Bland, Smyth, and Tazewell counties.

CWD Surveillance

When hunting in a CWD DMA, one of the most important things you can do to help fight this fatal disease is to submit your deer for CWD testing. CWD can be slow to spread in an affected deer population, therefore several years of testing data is critical to allow DWR to assess the status of the disease in the population. Testing helps DWR do several important things, like monitor the infection rate of the local deer population and map the geographic spread. This information is crucial to helping DWR slow the spread of this disease. Hunters are a vital partner in DWR's CWD surveillance efforts and their assistance is appreciated.

Mandatory DMA CWD Testing

DWR will be conducting mandatory CWD sampling on November 15 in DMA1 (Shenandoah County only), DMA3 (Patrick, Roanoke, and Wythe), and DMA4 (Smyth and Tazewell). All deer killed in these counties on November 15 must be brought to a CWD mandatory sampling station OR a voluntary fridge station for CWD testing. Sample stations are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and fridge stations are open 24/7. Sample station locations can be found online at dwr.virginia.gov/cwd/.

Mandatory Sampling Stations

Open only on November 15, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

DMA1 (Shenandoah County):

- Larkin's Grocery
19004 Senedo Rd., Edinburg
- Country Road Antiques and Gifts
1371 Caverns Rd., New Market

DMA3 (Patrick, Roanoke, and Wythe counties):

- **Patrick:**
 - » Howell's Grocery
139 Woolwine Hwy., Stuart
- **Roanoke:**
 - » Cave Spring Volunteer Fire Department
4212 Old Cave Spring Rd., Roanoke
- **Wythe:**
 - » Wytheville Community College parking lot,
1000 East Main St., Wytheville

DMA4 (Smyth and Tazewell counties):

- **Smyth:**
 - » Atkins Volunteer Fire Department
5758 Lee Hwy., Atkins
- **Tazewell:**
 - » Richland Farmer's Market
1851 Cranwell Dr., Richlands
 - » Tazewell County Fairgrounds
135 Fieldcrest Circle, Tazewell

There will be no mandatory CWD testing in any other counties not listed above in 2025, however, voluntary testing is always available and encouraged.

Voluntary DMA and Statewide CWD Testing

Voluntary CWD testing is available free of charge for any deer harvested in Virginia at any time during the deer season. Interested hunters should drop off the deer head, plus 3–4 inches of neck, at a DWR refrigerator and follow posted instructions. Please see our website at dwr.virginia.gov/cwd/ for a map of the most up-to-date voluntary fridge stations.

CWD Management

DMA1

- All counties in DMA1 are open for early (Sept. 6–Oct. 3) and late (Jan. 4–March 29) antlerless-only general firearms season on private lands.
- Earn a Buck (EAB) is in effect for all counties within DMA1.

DMA2

- Early (Sept. 6–Oct. 3) and late (Jan. 4–March 29) antlerless-only general firearms season on private lands in all counties in DMA2 **except** Rockingham County. See p. 40 for additional details.
- Earn a Buck is in effect for all counties within DMA2 **except** in the area of Rockingham County west of Rts. 613 and 731.

DMA3

- Early (Sept. 6–Oct. 3) and late (Jan. 4–March 29) antlerless-only general firearms season on private lands in Carroll, Floyd, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties. Please

note: Franklin, Patrick, Roanoke, and Wythe counties are not included in the early or late antlerless-only general firearms season. See page 40 for additional details.

- Earn a Buck is in effect for all counties in DMA3 **except** Patrick County. See page 34 for additional details.

DMA4

- No counties in DMA4 are currently included in the early or late antlerless-only general firearms season, nor is EAB in effect.

Deer Carcass Transport

The movement of whole deer carcasses and certain carcass parts can spread CWD to new areas. As such, DWR has restricted deer carcass part movements from higher-risk areas to lower-risk areas.

Restricted Transport of Deer Carcasses and Parts Originating from a DMA

Whole deer carcasses originating from within a DMA cannot be transported into a non-DMA county. Carcass parts allowed to be transported out of a DMA into a non-DMA county include:

- Boned-out meat.
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Hides and capes with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skulls and skull plates with or without antlers attached.
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers,” “whistlers,” or “ivories.”
- Cleaned jaw bones.
- Finished taxidermy products.

Restricted Transport of Deer Carcasses and Parts Between and Within DMAs

- **Deer originating from DMA1:** Whole deer carcasses, and parts not listed above, may only be transported within DMA1.
- **Deer originating from DMA2:** Whole deer carcasses, and parts not listed above, may only be transported within both DMA1 and DMA2.
- **Deer originating from DMA3:** Whole deer carcasses, and parts not listed above, may only be transported within DMA3.
- **Deer originating from DMA4:** Whole deer carcasses, and parts not listed above, may only be transported within both DMA3 and DMA4.

Restricted Out-of-State Deer Carcass Importation

Importation or possession of whole deer carcasses originating from anywhere outside of Virginia is prohibited. This includes all members of the deer family, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, etc. See list above for deer carcass parts originating from anywhere that can be legally imported and possessed in Virginia.

A legible label shall be affixed to packages or containers holding the allowed carcass parts with the following information: the species of

animal, the state or province from where the animal originated, and the name and address of the person who killed or possesses the allowed parts of the animal in Virginia. Any person who imports into Virginia any deer parts described above and is notified that the animal has tested positive for CWD must report the test results to the Department (see website for details) within 72 hours of receiving the notification.

Transport of Deer Carcasses from a Non-DMA County

Whole deer carcasses (and all associated carcass parts) harvested in a non-DMA county in Virginia may be legally transported anywhere within Virginia. However, due to potential disease transmission risks, it is advisable to avoid transporting whole carcasses long distances.

Carcass Disposal Recommendations

All hunters are strongly encouraged to dispose of deer carcass remains in local dumpsters, lined landfills, or using regular trash pick-up that will be taken to a landfill. See the agency website listed below for disposal options for deer harvested in a DMA. If it is necessary to bury a carcass, hunters are advised to bury it as close to the kill site as possible and deep enough to prevent scavengers from digging it up.

Deer Feeding and Use of Attractants

Deer Feeding Prohibitions

Feeding of deer is prohibited year-round in Albemarle, Arlington, Augusta, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Henry, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison, Montgomery, Orange, Page, Patrick, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockingham, Russell, Shenandoah, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise, and Wythe counties, and all cities and towns within these counties.

Natural Deer Urine Attractants Illegal in Virginia

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

REDUCING LEAD EXPOSURE

As dedicated conservationists, hunters can take steps to prevent lead poisoning of eagles, hawks, and other scavengers following ingestion of hunter-harvested game carcasses and gut piles. Fragments of lead can be embedded in internal organs that are routinely left in the field and research in other states has documented lead contamination in 90 percent of deer gut piles! Birds and mammals that scavenge gut piles also ingest the lead fragments. Varying levels of lead are routinely found in the blood and tissues of raptors in Virginia.

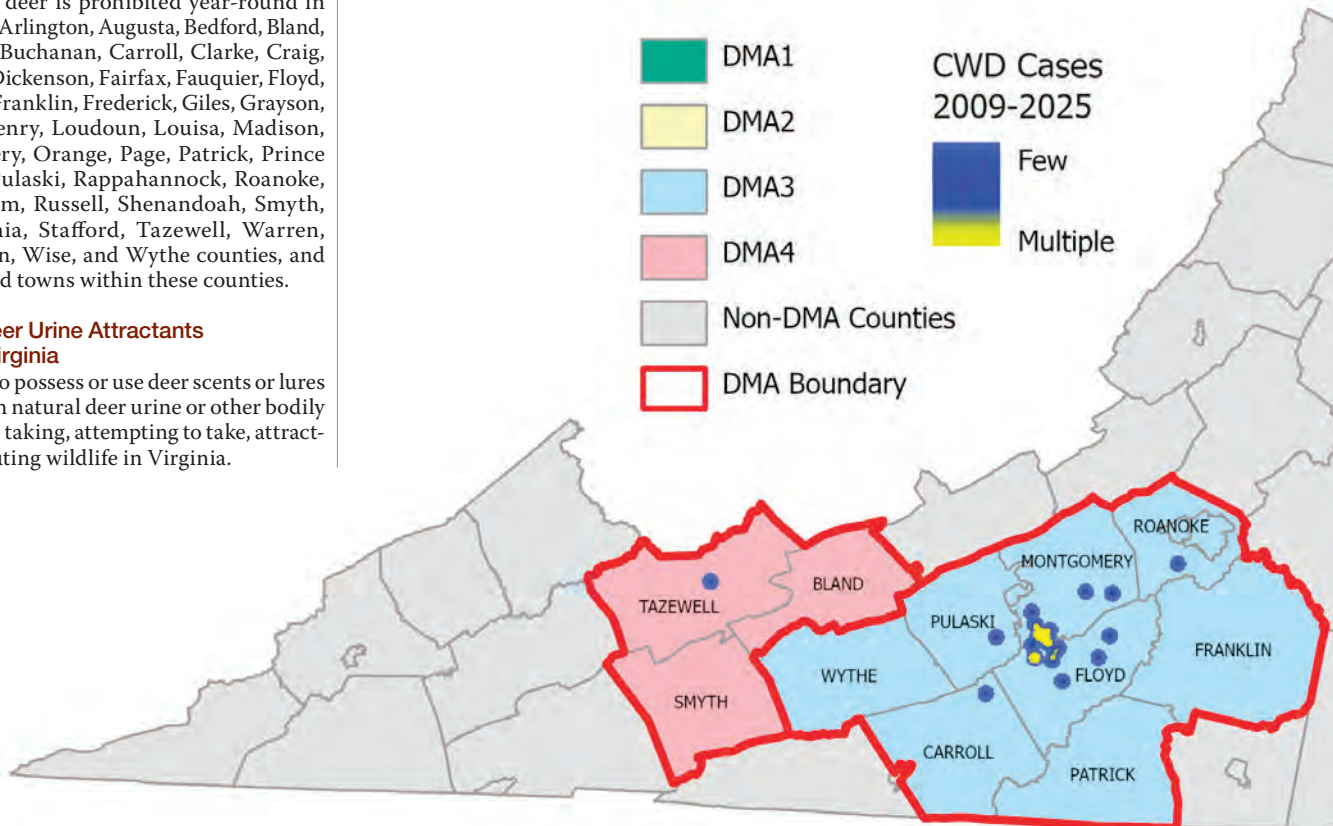


What You Can Do to Help Fight CWD

- Keep hunting!
- Don't feed deer and remove mineral licks
- Get deer harvested in a DMA tested for CWD
- Avoid long-distance movements of a whole deer carcass
- Don't discard leftover deer carcass parts on the landscape – dispose in a landfill or bury
- Stay informed about CWD

For more information on CWD in Virginia, go to:

dwr.virginia.gov/cwd



Animals can consume a toxic amount of lead in a single exposure or may gradually increase their levels to a toxic point via multiple smaller exposures over a longer timeframe. Birds with clinical lead poisoning may exhibit seizures, paralysis, inability to fly, droopy head or wings, or death, however even low levels of lead can have unseen, negative physiological effects.

The best way to reduce lead exposure in raptors and other scavengers is to use non-toxic, non-lead ammunition, such as copper or copper alloys. If using lead ammunition for big-game hunting, the following measures are recommended:

- Bury gut piles and unused carcass parts or remove them from the field entirely.
- Cover buried materials with rocks or brush to prevent access by scavengers.
- Double-bag non-buried materials and dispose in a landfill.

Human lead exposure can also be reduced by liberally trimming meat from around the wound tract and avoiding consumption of internal organs.

RMA OUTFITTERS



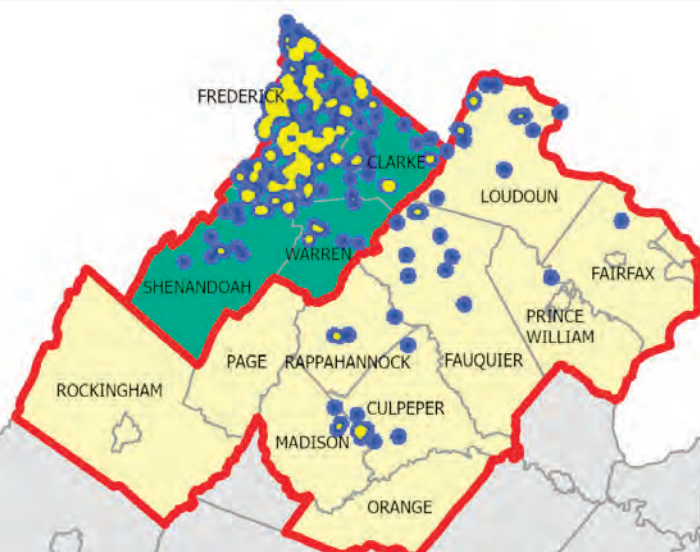
Affordable
Trophy Whitetail
Hunts in
N.W. Missouri



Welcome to RMA Outfitters
in NW Missouri
Come harvest the buck of
a lifetime with us!
(free range)

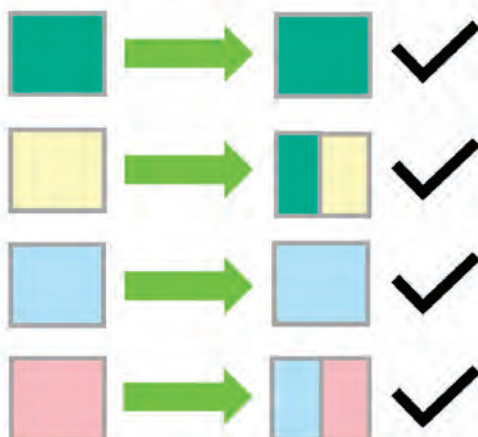
Call for info: Ray 305-606-1611
Insta: @rma_outfitters

www.rmaoutfitters.com



Carcass Transportation

See page 43 for more information



General Information

Bag Limits

General

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

Archery and Fall Firearms Season

One per day, either sex may be taken.

Spring Turkey Season

One per day, bearded turkeys only.

Reporting Fall and Spring Turkeys

- All wild turkeys killed in the fall or spring seasons must be reported using the telephone, mobile app, or internet reporting system.

Archery Turkey Season

Season Dates

October 4 through November 14

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

Legal Methods and Restrictions for Archery Turkey Season

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23 for more details.

- Archery tackle only.
- Persons with a disability that prevents them from drawing a bow or crossbow may hunt with an arrowgun during the special archery season provided they have in possession an authorization form provided by the Department that has been completed by their physician.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead turkeys (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).
- Using firearms to hunt prohibited. It shall be unlawful to use firearms to hunt any game species while hunting with archery equipment or a slingbow during the special archery season.

Youth and Apprentice Fall Turkey Hunting Weekend

Season Dates

October 11 and 12

- Statewide in counties, cities, and areas with a fall turkey season.
- Bag limit is one turkey (either sex) per youth/apprentice hunter, per weekend.**
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
- Hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons

October 18 through October 31, and November 27

In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Greene, Highland, Madison, Page, and Rockingham.

October 18 through October 31, November 26 and 27, December 1 through December 27, and January 10 through 24

In the counties of Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Caroline, Carroll, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Lee, Loudoun, Montgomery, Nelson, Northumberland, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Richmond, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Stafford, Washington, Westmoreland, Wise, and Wythe, and on Camp Peary, and the cities of Hampton and Newport News.

Closed

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

October 18 through October 31, November 26 and 27, and December 1 through December 13

In the counties of Accomack, Amelia, Dinwiddie, Gloucester, Greensville, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Powhatan, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, York (except on Camp Peary), and the City of Suffolk.

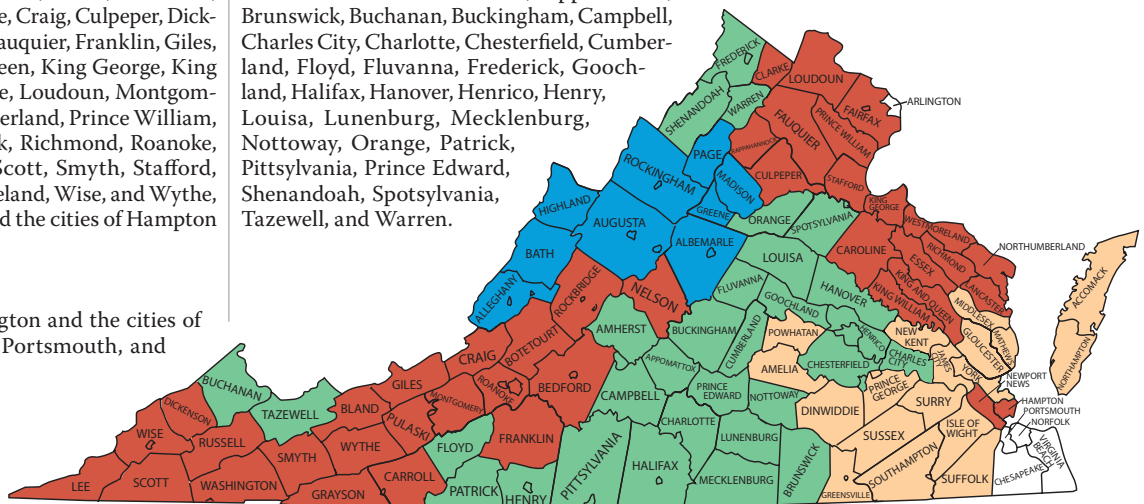
October 18 through October 31, November 26 and 27, December 1 through December 13, and January 10 through January 24

In the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buchanan, Buckingham, Campbell, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Floyd, Fluvanna, Frederick, Goochland, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Orange, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, and Warren.

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

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23, for more details.

- Modern firearms.
- Arrowguns are allowed.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Dogs may be used.
- Unlawful to use electronic calls.



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

Youth and Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend

Season Dates

April 4 and 5

- Statewide.
- **Bag limit is one turkey (bearded bird only) per youth/apprentice hunter, per weekend.**
- Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under or holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and licenses, may hunt when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult over the age of 18 who has a valid Virginia hunting license or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Nonresident youth of any age need to have the appropriate licenses (unless exempt from purchasing a license).
- Hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Turkeys harvested by youth or apprentice hunters count against their daily and season bag limit.
- Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice turkey hunters:
 - » do not need a deer/turkey license on this weekend.
 - » may assist with calling.
 - » shall not carry or discharge a weapon.
 - » shall maintain close visual and verbal contact with, provide adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm.



Meghan Marchetti/DWR

Spring Turkey Season

Bag Limit

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

Season Dates

April 11–26

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

April 27 through May 16

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

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

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during these seasons. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23, for more details.

- Arrowguns are allowed.
- Modern firearms.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- It is unlawful to use electronic calls.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, except that dogs may be used to track wounded or dead turkeys (see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).
- When using a shotgun it is unlawful to use or have in possession any shot with a diameter larger than number 2 fine shot during spring turkey season.

SPRING TURKEY QUOTA HUNTS

Quota spring turkey hunting opportunities are offered on seven WMAs, the New Kent Forestry Center, the Adams Daniel Farm, and Progress Park in 2026. For more information about these hunts see page 67. To apply see information on page 64.

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

A: Our research shows that there is an elevated risk of accidentally shooting a hen turkey during the early portion of the spring turkey season. Hens are more active earlier in the season as most have not yet begun to incubate eggs. After the first two weeks of the season, many hens will have started incubating eggs, so all-day hunting presents less risk to hens after this time.

General Information Quail & Pheasant

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Arrowguns are allowed.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Dogs may be used.

Crow

Season Dates

August 16 through March 20
on Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, and Saturdays.

September 1 through March 9

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

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

Groundhog

Season Dates

Continuous open season on private lands.

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

Grouse

Season Dates

October 25 through February 14:
west of I-95.

Continuous closed season: east of I-95.

Bag Limit

Three per day.

Season Dates

November 8 through January 31

Quail is closed on all public lands west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and, until further notice, on Flippo-Gentry WMA in Sussex County.

Bag Limits

Quail: six per day.

Pheasant: no daily or seasonal bag limit.

Rabbit

Important Regulation Additions, see “Attention Rabbit Hunters” page 49.

Season Dates

November 1 through February 28

Bag Limit

Six per day.

Squirrel (Gray, Red, Fox)

Bag Limit

All squirrels combined—six per day.

Fall Seasons

Gray and Red Squirrels: September 6
through February 28
Statewide.

Fox Squirrels: September 6
through January 31 in the following
designated areas only:

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

Spring Season

June 6 through 20, 2026:
Closed on National Forest lands.

During the Spring Season:

Gray and red squirrels may be harvested statewide, unless otherwise posted, and on the following WMAs: Amelia, Big Survey, Big Woods, Briery Creek, Cavalier, Chickahominy, Clinch Mountain, Coastal Forest, Crooked Creek, Dick Cross, Doe Creek, Fairystone (including Fairystone State Park and Philpott Reservoir), Featherfin, Flippo-Gentry, Gathright, Goshen, Hardware River, Havens, Hidden Valley, Highland, Hog Island (Carlisle Tract only), Horsepen, James River, Lake Robertson, Land’s End (Salem Church tract only), Little North Mountain, Mattaponi, Mattaponi Bluffs, Merrimac Farm, Oakley Forest, Pettigrew, Phelps, Powhatan (including the Goochland Tract), Rapidan, Short Hills, Stewarts Creek, G. Richard Thompson,

Robert W. Duncan, Turkeycock Mountain, Tye River, Ware Creek, and White Oak Mountain.

Fox squirrels may be harvested on all lands, unless otherwise posted, in all counties with an open fall fox squirrel season and on the following WMAs: Big Survey, Clinch Mountain, Crooked Creek, Gathright, Goshen, Havens, Hidden Valley, Highland, Lake Robertson, Little North Mountain, Merrimac Farm, C. F. Phelps, Rapidan, Short Hills, Stewarts Creek, G. Richard Thompson, and Turkeycock Mountain.

Hunting Preserves

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

GROUSE HUNTING SURVEY

The Department annually monitors fall populations of ruffed grouse by surveying avid grouse hunter success rates flushing and harvesting grouse. Grouse populations have been declining so we are very interested in getting more help with this survey. If you are an avid grouse hunter and are willing to participate please consider joining the survey. Hunters are asked to provide information on the number of grouse they flush and kill on a daily basis. In addition, we ask cooperators to send us some tail and wing feathers so we can estimate age and sex ratios of hunter-killed birds. All survey instructions and materials will be provided. We invite active grouse hunters to participate in our annual Ruffed Grouse Hunter Survey. This survey assists DWR biologists monitor populations of ruffed grouse and provides critical data to reversing the declines of this native gamebird. Please visit our website www.dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/grouse and fill out the form to join the survey.

ATTENTION RABBIT HUNTERS

DWR continues to monitor the status of a highly infectious virus of rabbits, known as rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2). RHDV2 is not a human health concern, but causes significant mortality in wild and domestic rabbits. It was detected for the first time in North American wild rabbits in the southwestern United States in 2020 and since then many western states have experienced outbreaks. Although RHDV2 has not been detected in wild rabbits in the east, it is important to remain vigilant.

RHDV2 outbreaks typically involve at least three dead rabbits of any age in a small, localized area, over a period of less than seven days. Most infected rabbits are in good body condition with no obvious wounds at the time of death. Bright red blood may be observed around the nose. Actions that can help minimize the introduction into or spread of RHDV2 within Virginia include:

- Reporting multiple dead rabbits fitting the description above to the nearest DWR regional office
- **IMPORTANT!** Per regulation, properly disposing of all portions of rabbits harvested in Virginia not saved for human consumption via burial (at least two feet), incineration, or double-bagging and placing in trash for transport to a landfill
- **IMPORTANT!** Per regulation, fully dressing (skin, feet, head, and internal organs removed) all rabbits harvested out-of-state before importing into Virginia (rabbits harvested on out-of-state properties that span the Commonwealth's boundary will not be considered imported and should be handled as described for rabbits harvested in Virginia)
- Wearing gloves when dressing rabbits and avoiding contact with pet rabbits before showering and changing clothes after handling wild rabbits



Lynda Richardson / DWR



HELP KEEP VIRGINIA'S WILD PLACES *Wild!*

DWR invites all Virginians to join us in our mission to ensure wildlife has healthy places to live and thrive by becoming a Restore the Wild member. Your membership will help support projects across the state designed to restore and create wildlife habitat vital for their survival.

Virginia has over 900 species of wildlife whose numbers are in decline mostly because of impacts to their natural areas that provide necessary food, water and shelter. Together we can ensure continuation of our conservation efforts and expand our work to keep Virginia's wild places wild.

Photo credits: Barking treefrog by JD Kleopfer/DWR.
Red-cockaded woodpecker. Elk by Lynda Richardson/DWR.
Other photos by ©Shutterstock.



LEARN MORE AT DWR.VIRGINIA.GOV/RESTORE-THE-WILD

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during these seasons. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Tackle, page 22, and Local Firearms Ordinances, page 23, for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Arrowguns are allowed.
- Archery tackle.
- Muzzleloading firearms.
- Dogs may be used (except where prohibited, see Hunting with Dogs, page 17).
- Electronic calls may be used on private lands for bobcat, coyote, fox, and raccoons with written permission of the landowner and on public lands except where specifically prohibited.
- Hunting permitted day or night.
- Lights may be used as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle.
- Night vision scopes and laser sights may be used.

Bobcat

Bag Limit

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

Archery Season

October 4 through October 31:
Statewide.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- It is unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery tackle during the bobcat archery season.
- Using firearms to hunt prohibited. It shall be unlawful to use firearms to hunt any game species while hunting with bow and arrow, crossbow, or slingbow during the special archery seasons.
- Persons with a disability that prevents them from drawing a bow or crossbow may hunt with an arrowgun during the special archery season provided they have in possession an authorization form provided by the Department that has been completed by their physician.

Firearms Season

November 1 through February 28:
Statewide.

Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Bobcats

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

Electronic Reporting Requirement for Bobcats

All hunters or trappers who kill a bobcat are required to report the kill within 24 hours through the Department's electronic harvest reporting system. Bobcats can be reported with a touch-tone telephone (a rotary phone will not work) by calling the toll-free number 866-GOT-GAME (468-4263). Bobcats can also be reported using the Internet. Successful hunters and trappers can go to www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com and click on "Harvest Reporting."

Before using the telephone or Internet reporting system, you will need your hunting license number, a pen, and a piece of paper to record your confirmation number. If you are exempt from purchasing a license, you will need your date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY), the last four digits of your Social Security number and your 5-digit zip code.

At the end of the reporting session, you will be provided with an 8-digit confirmation number. **Write this number down and store it in a secure location where it can be retrieved to prove compliance with the reporting requirement or to request CITES tags.** If your telephone or Internet session is cut off before you get a complete confirmation number, start the session again and continue until the complete confirmation number is obtained. If you have more than one bobcat to report, you will have the opportunity to report additional animals at the end of the session.

If you plan to take the bobcat to a taxidermist, you must securely attach written documenta-

tion to the carcass that includes the full name of the hunter or trapper, date of kill, and the harvest confirmation number.

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

Coyote

Season

Continuous open season except on National Forest lands and Department lands. Coyote hunting on National Forest lands and Department lands is permitted from September 1 through March 10 and during the spring turkey season. Coyotes may also be hunted on Department lands during the spring squirrel season unless otherwise posted (see page 48 for list of open areas).

Coyote Bounty Law

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

CITES TAGGING REQUIREMENT FOR BOBCATS

Raw bobcat pelts and unskinned carcasses that are bought, sold, bartered, traded, solicited for purchase, or transported out of state must also have a CITES tag affixed to each pelt by the trapper or hunter who harvested the animal. A valid confirmation number will be needed to obtain a CITES tag. No CITES tag is needed to have a bobcat mounted by a Virginia taxidermist or to ship a bobcat pelt out-of-state for tanning purposes (unless required by the state where the tannery is located).

Before a sale, the trapper or hunter harvesting the animal needs to obtain a CITES tag. To obtain a CITES tag for a bobcat, contact Customer Service at (804) 367-1000 during regular business hours. If you cannot reach Customer Service, you can contact a Conservation Police Officer through your nearest Department regional office (listed on page 4) or your local Sheriff's Office (after hours). Every effort will be made to provide CITES tags as quickly as possible, but we may not be able to accommodate short notice requests received on weekends or after hours. Nonresident hunters or trappers who need to leave the state before they are able to secure a CITES tag should plan to leave the bobcat pelt or carcass in the care of someone in Virginia until a tag can be attached.

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

Fisher

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

Fox

Red Fox

Firearms Season

November 1 through February 28:

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

Gray Fox

Bag Limit

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

Firearms Season

January 1 through February 28:

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

Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Foxes:

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

Continued on page 52

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

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



**THIS
COULD
BE
YOUR
OFFICE**

Find out more at:
virginiawildlife.gov/recruit



FURBEARER HUNTING

REGULATIONS

All harvested gray foxes must be reported within 24 hours. Please see page 25 for details regarding harvest reporting requirements.

Chase-Only Season

NO FOXES MAY BE TAKEN EXCEPT DURING THE FIREARMS SEASON.

Licenses Required

License requirements are the same as those for hunting foxes with firearms. However, a Fox Hunting License to hunt foxes on horseback with hounds without firearms may be purchased in lieu of a basic hunting license. This license exempts the licensee from having to complete the hunter education program.

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

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

Restrictions

- Unlawful to have in possession a firearm when hunting fox outside of the firearms fox season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any firearm in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance.

Opossum

Firearms Season

October 15 through March 10:

Statewide.

Raccoon

Bag Limits

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

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

Firearms Season

October 15 through March 10:

Statewide.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Lights may be used as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle.

Chase-Only Seasons

NO RACCOON MAY BE TAKEN EXCEPT DURING THE FIREARMS SEASON.

Licenses Required

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

Continuous open season statewide (including Sundays) unless noted below:

Except that raccoons may only be chased on Department-controlled lands west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on National Forest lands where bears can be chased on those lands from August 1 through September 27 (see map on page 29).

Restrictions

It shall be unlawful to use for the purpose of chasing or taking a raccoon a firearm, bow, or crossbow, and have in possession an axe, saw, or any tree climbing device while hunting during this chase season. Possession shall include, but

not be limited to, having these devices in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance while engaged in the act of chasing.

Skunk

Season

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

Striped skunk hunting on National Forest lands and Department lands is permitted from September 1 through March 10 and during the spring turkey season. Striped skunks may also be hunted on Department lands during the spring squirrel season unless otherwise posted. (See page 48 for list of open areas.)

Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunks, and the pelts of spotted skunks may not be sold. Please report verifiable sightings (see p. 51).

Q: Can electronic calls be used?

A: Electronic calls may be used to hunt bobcats, coyotes, crows, foxes and raccoons, but not other species. With the exception of crows (see page 48), written permission of the landowner is required to hunt with electronic calls on private lands. Electronic calls may also be used on public lands (except where specifically prohibited) during periods when the use of firearms is allowed.

REPORT A NUTRIA IN VIRGINIA

As part of a multi-agency effort, the DWR is continuing to monitor the distribution of nutria in Virginia. The nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) is an invasive semi-aquatic mammal native to South America. A casual observer may misidentify a muskrat or beaver as a nutria. Compared to a muskrat, nutria are considerably larger (average 12 pounds), have a round tail, white whiskers, and orange teeth. Nutria cause considerable damage to North American wetlands and are legally defined as a nuisance species in Virginia. Although the current distribution of nutria in the Commonwealth is not completely known, confirmed reports have generally been limited to areas east of Interstate 95 and south of the James River. Improving our understanding of where nutria occur is necessary to support potential eradication efforts. If you believe you have seen a nutria in Virginia, please visit the website below and report your sighting. The information you provide will assist us with the management of this invasive species: <https://cmi.vt.edu/ReportNutria.html>.



©Rob & Ann Simpson

General Trapping Regulations

- Residents under 16 years of age do not need a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid state or county license to trap. Residents under 16 years of age who hold a resident junior trapping license are not required to be accompanied by a licensed adult while trapping. County residents 65 years of age and over do not need a license to trap on private property in their county of residence. Resident or nonresident landowners, and their spouses, children, grandchildren, spouses of such children and grandchildren, and the landowner's parents do not need a license to trap within the boundaries of their own lands.
- Trapping is allowed on any day of the week, including Sundays. In addition, trappers may shoot wild animals caught in traps on any day of the week (including Sundays) in order to dispatch them. No additional license is required other than a valid Virginia trapping license (unless you are license exempt).
- Trapping on Department-owned or controlled lands and waters is allowed under the regulations of the Board unless prohibited by posted rules. The posted rules may require written authorization to trap on some areas or may specify other restrictions. National

Forest lands will be open during the regular trapping seasons. Check with the Va. Department of Transportation and local authorities before trapping near highways.

- It is lawful to set traps in water from December 1 through the last day of February, both dates inclusive, and at any time within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke, and York, except as otherwise specifically provided by Department permit.
- Any person setting or in possession of a steel foothold or body gripping trap or snare shall have it marked by means of a non-ferrous (does not contain iron) metal tag bearing his/her name and address or a permanent identification number issued by the Department. This requirement shall not apply to landowners on their own land, nor to a bona fide tenant or lessee within the bounds of land rented or leased by him/her, nor to anyone transporting any such trap from its place of purchase.
- Trappers must visit all traps once each day and remove all animals caught therein, except for completely submerged body-gripping traps which must be visited at least once every 72 hours.
- Remote trap-checking systems may be used in lieu of a physical trap visit (remote cameras), but must provide notifications of trap closures or activity at the trap site once every

24 hours. Platforms must display status of signal strength and battery condition. If the device fails and does not report its status within a 24-hour check-in period, the user is required to physically check the trap within 24 hours of the last communication with the device or platform.

- The use of body gripping traps with a jaw spread in excess of 7½ inches is prohibited except when such traps are at least half submerged by water.
- It is unlawful to set on land any steel foothold trap with teeth set upon the jaws or with a maximum inside jaw spread exceeding 6½ inches measured perpendicular to the hinges.
- It is unlawful to set above the ground any body gripping trap with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches when using any bait, lure or scent. However, baited body-gripping traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 inches and up to 7½ inches may be used within an enclosure with openings no greater than 60 square inches and the trap trigger recessed at least 12 inches from all openings (see diagram page 54). Traps must be staked to prevent enclosures from turning over and may only be used on private lands with written permission of the landowner.
- It is unlawful to intentionally set foothold traps, body-gripping traps, or snares within 50 feet of an animal carcass or animal parts, unless the carcass or parts are completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. For the purposes of this requirement, completely



**With you
wherever
you go.**

**The most up-to-date
hunting regulations online!**



 **eRegulations.com**

FURBEARER TRAPPING

REGULATIONS

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

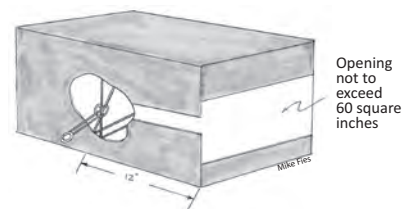
- No deadfall traps may be used. Snares set on land must have loops 38 inches or less in circumference (12 inches or less in diameter) with the bottom of the snare loop no more than 12 inches above ground level. Snares with the top of the snare loop set higher than 12 inches above ground level must include a single-piece lock that is not power-assisted, a cable stop that prevents the snare loop from closing smaller

than 2½ inches in diameter, and a break-away device that has been tested to break or disassemble at no more than 285 pounds pull (see diagrams and text box below). Locks with moving parts (i.e., cam locks, Amberg wedge locks, and similar locks) and dispatch or compression springs may not be used on snares set with the top of the snare loop higher than 12 inches above ground level. Land snares may only be used with written permission of the landowner.

- It shall be lawful to kill wild animals legally captured in live traps using any humane method of dispatch not specifically prohibited by law.
- It is unlawful to willfully molest, damage, or remove any trap, or remove any lawfully caught bird or animal from a trap, or in any way disturb traps or snares legally set by another person.

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

Body-gripping Trap Enclosure



SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SNARES SET WITH LOOPS HIGHER THAN 12" ABOVE GROUND LEVEL

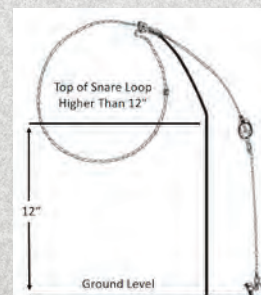
It is important that trappers fully understand and comply with all regulations pertaining to the use of snares in Virginia. Additional requirements are in place for snares with the top of the snare loop set higher than 12" above ground level. These sets are more likely to catch certain non-target species (including dogs), and these measures help ensure the safety and welfare of these captured animals. Specifically, snares with the top of the loop set higher than 12" must have a one-piece lock that has no moving parts and cannot be power assisted (no dispatch or compression springs). Examples of locks that meet this requirement include the washer lock, penny lock, micro lock, relax-a-lock, and numerous others. Examples of locks that do **NOT** meet this requirement include the cam lock, wedge lock, and other two-piece locks.



Snares with the top of the loop set higher than 12" must also have a cable stop that prevents the snare loop from closing smaller than 2½" in diameter and a breakaway device that

breaks or disassembles at a force of 285 pounds pull or less. There are many different types of breakaway devices, including J-hooks, S-hooks, ferrules that pull off, or locks made of thin metal that tear away. In areas where domestic dogs might encounter your snare, especially during hunting seasons, you should also try to avoid entanglement of the cable in fences, brush, trees, or logs.

A snare should never be set with the intent of capturing a dog or other domestic animal, or as a deterrent to keeping domestic animals off your property. In fact, it is illegal to set a snare to intentionally capture a dog if it results in the animal's injury or death. Remember that the future of snare use in Virginia depends on your actions. In addition to your legal responsibility to follow all regulations, you also have a moral obligation to use your equipment ethically. For more information on snares and their proper use: fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/2002/6134/Modern_Snares_final.pdf



PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FOR TRAP TAGS

Trappers have the option of using a permanent identification number on their trap tags instead of their name and address. Trappers can use their customer identification number (CID) to mark their trap tags if they prefer not to use their name and address. This 7-digit number is assigned when a trapper registers to purchase a license. A trapper's CID number is confidential and the database containing this information can only be accessed by Department personnel. Please remember that marking your trap tags with a CID number is **OPTIONAL**. You may continue to use tags with your name and address. Prior to June 1, 2019, some trappers were issued a 5-digit permanent trapper ID number that is also valid to use for marking traps.



Trapping Seasons

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

There is a continuous open season to trap opossum and raccoon upon private lands throughout the state with the permission of the landowner.

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

A landowner may trap or shoot fur-bearing animals upon his/her land during closed season when these animals are causing damage to crops or property, or are posing a threat to human health or safety. This provision applies to the landowner only and not his/her agent.

Beaver

December 1 through February 28

Bobcat

November 15 through February 28

All trapped bobcats must be reported within 24 hours through the Department's electronic harvest reporting system. A CITES tag may also be required for some bobcats. Please see page 50 for details regarding electronic bobcat reporting and CITES tagging procedures.

Coyote

Continuous open season.

Fisher

Continuous closed season. Please report verifiable sightings (see p. 51).

Fox

Red Fox

November 15 through February 28:

Gray Fox

November 15 through February 28.

Fox (red and gray) trapping is prohibited in Clarke (except on G. R. Thompson WMA), Fauquier (except on C. F. Phelps WMA and G. R. Thompson WMA), Loudoun, and Rapahannock counties.

All trapped gray foxes must be reported within 24 hours. Please see page 25 for details regarding harvest reporting requirements.

Mink

December 1 through February 28

Muskrat

December 1 through February 28

Nutria

Continuous open season. Please report verifiable sightings (see p. 52).

Opossum

November 15 through February 28

Otter

December 1 through February 28

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

CITES Tagging Requirement for Otter

Raw otter pelts and unskinned carcasses that are bought, sold, bartered, traded, solicited for purchase, or transported out of state must have a CITES tag affixed to each animal. No CITES tag is needed to have an otter mounted by a Virginia taxidermist or ship an otter pelt out-of-state for tanning purposes (unless required by the state where the tannery is located).

To obtain a CITES tag, contact Customer Service at (804) 367-1000 during regular business hours. If you cannot reach Customer Service, you can contact a Conservation Police Officer through your nearest Department regional office (listed on page 4) or your local Sheriff's Office (after hours). Every effort will be made to provide CITES tags as quickly as possible, but we may not be able to accommodate short notice requests received on weekends or after hours. Nonresident trappers who need to leave the state before they are able to secure a CITES tag should plan to leave the otter pelt or carcass in the care of someone in Virginia until a tag can be attached.

Tags ordered from our Customer Service Center will be mailed directly to the trapper, along with instructions for tagging. If an otter pelt is required to have a CITES tag affixed, it must be tagged by April 1 of the season of harvest.

Rabbit

October 15th–January 31st (box traps only). No traps shall be set on another's land without written permission of the landowner. No license required to box trap rabbits. Live box-trapped rabbits may not be moved outside the county of capture. For rabbits box-trapped for human consumption; all parts not saved for consumption must be disposed of according to regulations described on page 49.

Raccoon

November 15 through February 28

Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunk. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunk, and the pelts of spotted skunk may not be sold. Please report verifiable spotted skunk sightings (see p. 31).

Weasel

December 1 through February 28

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Sustaining the Future of Regulated Trapping

Trapping in North America is heavily regulated by state and provincial wildlife agencies, providing a critical wildlife management technique used to:

- 1) capture wildlife for sustainable use by the public,
- 2) protect property,
- 3) recover and protect endangered species,
- 4) manage population levels, and
- 5) capture animals for scientific research.

Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs) are carefully researched **recommendations** designed to ensure animals are **humanely captured**. Developed as part of the largest trap research effort ever conducted, BMPs feature the **latest scientific information** about trapping techniques and equipment, along with practical advice from experienced trappers and wildlife biologists. More than **600 types of traps** have been evaluated and trapping BMPs exist for **23 different species** of furbearers. Help **SPREAD THE WORD** about BMPs to sustain the future of regulated trapping methods and modern furbearer management.

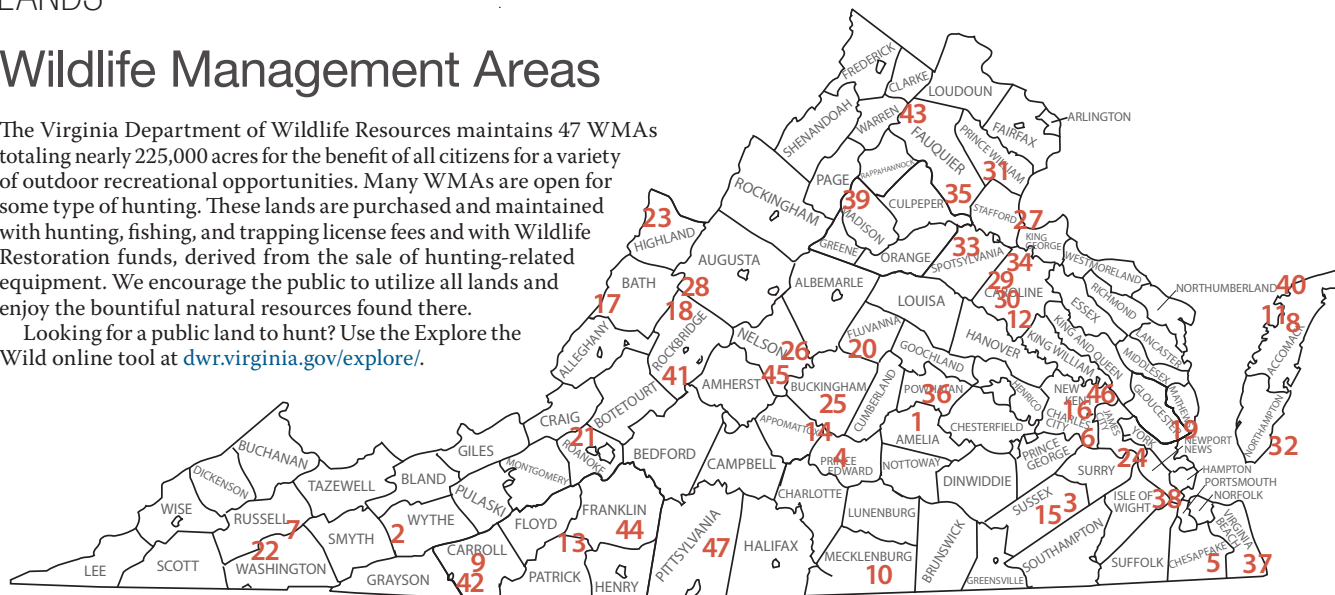
For more information visit furbearermanagement.com



Wildlife Management Areas

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources maintains 47 WMAs totaling nearly 225,000 acres for the benefit of all citizens for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Many WMAs are open for some type of hunting. These lands are purchased and maintained with hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees and with Wildlife Restoration funds, derived from the sale of hunting-related equipment. We encourage the public to utilize all lands and enjoy the bountiful natural resources found there.

Looking for a public land to hunt? Use the Explore the Wild online tool at dwr.virginia.gov/explore/.



WMA	ACRES
1. * Amelia WMA	2,217
2. Big Survey WMA	7,564
3. Big Woods WMA	2,208
4. Briery Creek WMA	3,164
5. Cavalier WMA/Bear Garden WCS	4,485
6. * Chickahominy WMA	5,218
7. Clinch Mountain WMA	25,477
8. Coastal Forest WMA	8,000
9. Crooked Creek WMA	1,882
10. * Dick Cross WMA	1,400
11. * Doe Creek WMA	637
12. Robert W. Duncan WMA	1,300
13. Fairystone Farms WMA	5,414
14. * Featherfin WMA	3,084
15. Flippo-Gentry WMA	2,000
16. * Game Farm Marsh WMA	530
17. T.M. Gathright WMA	13,428
18. Goshen WMA	16,163
19. Guinea Marsh WMA	728
20. Hardware River WMA	1,175
21. Havens WMA	9,023
22. Hidden Valley WMA	6,400
23. Highland WMA	14,283
24. * Hog Island WMA/Lawnes Creek WCS	3,908
25. Horsepen Lake WMA	2,910
26. James River WMA	1,213

WMA	ACRES
27. * Land's End WMA (Salem Church Tract is squirrel only)	450
28. Little North Mountain WMA	17,156
29. Mattaponi WMA	2,542
30. * Mattaponi Bluffs WMA	470
31. * Merrimac Farm WMA	301
32. * Mockhorn Island WMA/Jones Cove WCS	7,642
33. Oakley Forest WMA	4,459
34. Pettigrew WMA	934
35. # C. F. Phelps WMA	4,540
36. Powhatan WMA	4,463
37. */# Princess Anne WMA	1,546
38. Ragged Island WMA	1,537
39. Rapidan WMA	10,870
40. Saxis WMA	5,574
41. Short Hills WMA	4,232
42. Stewarts Creek WMA	1,138
43. G. Richard Thompson WMA	3,963
44. Turkeycock Mountain WMA	2,678
45. Tye River WMA	1,044
46. * Ware Creek WMA	2,600
47. White Oak Mountain WMA	2,748

* Some or all hunting by quota hunt drawing (see pages 64–68)

Managed hunt opportunities offered (see pages 68–70)

For additional information about WMAs, please visit: dwr.virginia.gov/wma/

Wildlife Management Area: General Rules and Regulations

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

Other uses of WMAs may be allowed by written authorization of the Director, as long as they do not interfere with the goals and uses of WMAs.

NOTE: Not all activities listed below are available on each WMA; check our website at www.virginiawildlife.gov/wma for specific WMA information.

Access Permit

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

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

Camping/Fires

- Temporary dispersed primitive camping is allowed at many of the Department's WMAs across the Commonwealth, when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. However, a camping authorization (no cost) is required to camp on WMAs.

The free authorization can be obtained at any license agent or at gooutdoorsva.com. The camping authorization can be found in the list of "Special Licenses".

- Camping and fires are not allowed at Guinea Marsh WMA and Land's End WMA. Camping is allowed on Smith Mountain Coop WMA, but no fires are permitted.
- Primitive camping is allowed for up to 14 consecutive nights when occupants are engaged in authorized activities (no more than 14 nights in any 28-day period). Camping is prohibited on or within 300 feet of any boat ramp, fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted or marked on WMA maps.
- All campers are required to store food in such a manner that it is not accessible by wildlife. Detailed camping regulations are found in 4VAC-15-20-155.
- It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 PM and midnight.

Cave Access

- All caves are closed to access without written authorization from the Department.

Disabled Hunter Access

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

Dogs

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

Firearms

- It shall be unlawful to use or discharge a firearm or hunting weapon on department-owned and managed lands other than to take legal wildlife while hunting or trapping during open seasons. Discharge of a firearm or hunting weapon for target shooting is prohibited on department-owned and managed lands, except on designated shooting ranges designed for specific firearms and hunting weapons on posted days and hours during which the range is open for operation.
- Target shooting is permitted only on designated ranges.

Fishing, Boating, & Swimming

- Refer to the current Freshwater Fishing & Boating in Virginia guide and posted signs for special fishing rules which apply to this WMA.

- It is unlawful to use boats propelled by a gasoline motor, sail, or mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel unless otherwise posted.
- Swimming is prohibited unless otherwise posted. Anglers, hunters, and trappers actively engaged in fishing, hunting, or trapping may wade in public waters.
- Only rod and reel angling is permitted. All other methods of take (trotlines, juglines, limblines, etc.) are prohibited.

General

- Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.
- Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages or marijuana in public is prohibited.
- Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

Horseback/Bicycle Riding & Hiking

- Horseback and bicycle riding only on roads designated for these uses. No riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas. No cross country riding is allowed.
- Class one and two electric power-assist bicycles as defined in § 46.2-100 can be used where traditional bicycles are allowed. These are bicycles with no more than three wheels, operable pedals, electric power-assist motors of no more than 750 watts and a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour. Class three electric power-assist bicycles, which are capable of speeds up to 28 miles per hour, are prohibited.
- Hiking is welcome.
- Riders, cyclists and hikers should be mindful of all open hunting and trapping seasons. Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers.
- Blaze orange hat or blaze pink clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

Resource & Property Damage

- It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- Portable tree stands which are not permanently affixed can be placed on department-owned lands on or after September 15th and must be removed on or prior to January 31st of the following calendar year. Tree stands will be considered abandoned and confiscated by the department if left on department-owned lands after January 31st.
- It is unlawful to plant, manipulate, cut, mutilate, destroy, or remove vegetation or to remove other minerals, artifacts or other property from this area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- Berry picking and gathering of mushrooms or other fruits is allowed.
- It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.
- No posting of unauthorized signs, notices, and flyers anywhere on the WMA.

Vehicles

- Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Cross-country motor vehicle travel is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.
- It shall be unlawful to use a drone or other unmanned aircraft on department-owned lands.
- Any motor driven vehicle, or trailer, using or parked on roads normally open to motor vehicles on Department-owned WMAs shall conform with all state laws for highway travel, including valid inspection and registration.

For more information on the Department's Wildlife Management Area System: www.virginiawildlife.gov/wma.



**FLY RIGHT
CHARTERS**

The Lowcountry Awaits

PROFESSIONAL FISHING GUIDE
FLY AND CONVENTIONAL

INSHORE × NEARSHORE × OFFSHORE
Charleston, SC
(843)860-4231 × john@flyrightcharters.com
www.flyrightcharters.com

Public Ranges on WMAs and National Forests

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

It shall be unlawful to use or discharge a firearm or hunting weapon on department-owned and managed lands other than to take legal wildlife while hunting or trapping during open seasons. Discharge of a firearm or hunting weapon for target shooting is prohibited on department-owned and managed lands, except on designated shooting ranges designed for specific firearms and hunting weapons on posted days and hours during which the range is open for operation.

DWR Sighting-In Ranges

Amelia Wildlife Management Area:

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

Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area:

Ten covered bench shooting positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun sighting-in at stationary paper targets. Additional covered area for stand up shotgun patterning. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of

state holidays, the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Charles City Regional Office, (804) 829-6580.

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area:

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

Gathright Wildlife Management Area:

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

C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area:

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

White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area:

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

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

National Forest Shooting Ranges

These ranges are open sunrise to sunset during the operating season. Users must bring their own paper targets to all ranges. Use stationary paper targets only. Moving targets, including skeet and/or clay targets, are prohibited except at the Blacksburg Range where clay targets are allowed. No tracer or incendiary type ammunition is allowed. Shooters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. All of the ranges have

vault toilet restroom buildings. None of these sites have drinking water.

The Blacksburg Shooting Range in Montgomery County:

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

The Bath County Shooting Range:

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

The Hite Hollow Shooting Range in Augusta County:

A 6-lane rifle range for shooting approximately 50, 100, and 150 yards, and a 2-lane pistol range for shooting approximately 25 yards. Both of these facilities have covered benches. This range is open from May 1 through December 31. For information contact: North River Ranger District, (540) 432-0187.

The Low Moor Shooting Range in Allegheny County:

Provides a 6-lane rifle range for shooting 50 and 100 yards, and a 4-lane pistol range for shooting up to 25 yards. **Shotguns are allowed only when shooting at a stationary paper target. Shooting at any moving target is strictly prohibited.** Both ranges offer covered benches. This range is open year round. For information contact: James River Ranger District, (540) 839-2521.

The Pott's Slope Shooting Range in Craig County:

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

The West Side Shooting Range:

Provides 8 shooting lanes of various lengths for rifles, shotguns and pistols. All 8 lanes have covered shooting benches. No moving targets are allowed. This range is open from May 1 to December 31. For more information contact: North River Ranger District, (540) 432-0187.

The Wythe Shooting Range:

Offers 10 lanes with covered benches. Five lanes allow shooting from 5–25 yards. The remaining five lanes offer shooting from 5–100 yards. Pistols and rifles may be used on any lane depending upon the shooting distance desired. No shotguns, moving targets, or archery allowed. The range is open year round, but closed from daylight to noon on Wednesdays for cleaning. For more information, contact: Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (800) 628-7202.

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

National Forests

For up-to-date information on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, visit [fs.usda.gov/gwj](https://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj).

Day use fees are required on certain recreation areas. Please visit the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest website, www.fs.usda.gov/gwj, or contact the appropriate office below for more information on fees and seasonal pass information.

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

Regulations Specific to National Forest and Wildlife Department Lands

It shall be unlawful to use or discharge a firearm or hunting weapon on department-owned and managed lands other than to take legal wildlife while hunting or trapping during open seasons. Discharge of a firearm or hunting weapon for target shooting is prohibited on department-owned and managed lands, except on designated shooting ranges designed for specific firearms and hunting weapons on posted days and hours during which the range is open for operation.

“Hunting weapon” is any weapon allowable for hunting as defined in 29.1-519 of the Code of Virginia.

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

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

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

Access Roads

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

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

Any motor driven vehicle, or trailer, using roads normally open to motor vehicles on Department-owned and National Forest lands shall conform with all state laws for highway travel, including valid inspection and registration. No cross country travel is allowed. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (OHV) travel is permitted only on designated National Forest roads and trails.

Camping Policy

Temporary dispersed primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms or other facilities) is allowed at many of the Department's WMAs across the Commonwealth, when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. However, a camping authorization (no cost) is required to camp on WMA's. The free authorization can be obtained at any license agent or at gooutdoorsva.com. The camping authorization can be found in the list of “Special Licenses”. Primitive camping is allowed for up to 14 consecutive nights and no more than 14 nights in any 28-day period. Camping is prohibited on or within 300 feet of any boat ramp, fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted or marked on WMA maps. All campers are required to store food in such a manner that it is not accessible by wildlife. Detailed camping regulations are found in 4VAC-15-20-155.

Camping on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest is prohibited 1) in or within 300 feet of any developed parking area or boat ramp and 2) for a period of time exceeding 14 days in any 30-day period.

For more information, please visit the National Forest website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r08/gwj> or call the appropriate Ranger District Office.

No trash service is provided. WMA and National Forest users should practice “Pack it In, Pack it out”.

Structures

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

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

Tree Stands

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

Other Public Access

PALS

The Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALS) program opens private lands for public access. The Department manages access to these properties for hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife viewing. A PALS Permit (\$18) is required to access these lands. PALS Permits are available through DWR license agents, online at the DWR website and through the GoOutdoors mobile app. For more information contact the appropriate regional office or check out our website <https://dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/publiclands/#pals>. Existing properties include:

- Coalfields PALS – 30,000 acres
- James City County PALS – 260 acres

POWRR

The Department was recently awarded federal grant funding to secure more public access for wildlife related recreation on private lands in the Coalfields region of southwest Virginia over the next few years. The Public Opportunities for Wildlife Related Recreation (POWRR) program will open private lands for the public to enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and wildlife viewing. The program also provides funding for access infrastructure (parking, gates, signs etc.) and habitat improvements. New properties are being evaluated and enrolled continuously. For more information about opportunities and rules check out our website at <https://dwr.virginia.gov/powrr/> or call the Marion Regional Office at 276-783-4860.

State Forests

The 26 State Forests of Virginia serve as working forests and research & demonstration sites for multiple-use management. Environmental protection, water quality, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, forest research and recreation are as important as a sustained timber harvest. The State Forests are administered under a self-supporting budget. Most operating funds are generated through timber sales but Use Permits for hunting and other activities are important as well.

General Hunting Regulations are allowed on many of the State Forest properties in Virginia including: **Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest**, **Big Woods State Forest** in Sussex County, **Chilton Woods State Forest** in Lancaster County (*dogs may not be used to hunt bear or deer*), **Cumberland State Forest**, **Devil's Backbone State Forest** in Shenandoah County (archery & black powder only), **Dragon Run State Forest** in King and Queen County, **First Mountain State Forest** in Rockingham County (archery & black powder only), **Lesesne State Forest** in Nelson County (archery & black powder only), **Moore's Creek State Forest** in Rockbridge County (must be accessed by hiking across George Washington & Jefferson National Forest) and **Prince Edward Gallion State Forest** (Gallion Management Unit of this forest is a game preserve and is closed to hunting) in Prince Edward County.

All of the above State Forests will allow Sunday hunting.

Hunting is not allowed on eight State Forests – some with Deed Restrictions such as **Niday Place State Forest**, **Bourassa State Forest**, and **Crawfords State Forest**, and others with access limitations for the public such as **South Quay State Forest**, **Old Flat State Forest & Hawks State Forest**, and some with such high public use that safety is a concern such as **Zoar State Forest**, and **Paul State Forest**.

General Hunting Regulations will also be allowed, **EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS**, on **Charlotte State Forest** in Charlotte County (waterfowl hunting limited to Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday only), **Matthews State Forest** in Grayson County (archery only in designated areas), **Chesterfield State Forest** in Chesterfield County (archery only, does not include the Urban archery season), and **Sandy Point State Forest** in King William County.

Conway Robinson State Forest in Prince William County and **Whitney State Forest** in Fauquier County will remain lottery permit-only hunts that will be advertised.

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

Further information on regulations governing the use of specific State Forest properties for hunting or other recreational activities is available at dof.virginia.gov/stateforest/recreation/hunting.htm or by calling 804-492-4121.

National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks in Virginia including on lands of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Permission must be obtained to track dogs from Parkway lands for the purpose of retrieving them within Parkway boundaries. Permission is granted for up to three (3) hours upon contacting (828) 348-3473 and leaving hunter contact information—full name, phone number, vehicle description for all vehicles in party and milepost if known. Hunters may park their vehicle in a safe location on Parkway lands (e.g., parking areas and pull-outs) and take a direct route to non-Parkway lands open to hunting. Contact (828) 298-2491 (Parkway dispatch) prior to transporting game across Parkway lands. For other current information, view Park-specific websites or contact via Park public information telephone lines.

- **Blue Ridge Parkway**
dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/Use-and-Access-of-Blue-Ridge-Parkway-Lands-for-Activities-Related-to-Hunting.pdf or call: (828) 348-3400

Military Areas

Fort A.P. Hill, **Fort Pickett**, **Fort Belvoir**, **Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Fort Eustis only)** and **Marine Corps Base Quantico** provide hunting opportunities. See each installation's iSportsman website (below) for details on access procedures and rules and regulations for hunting on base.

- **Fort A.P. Hill**
<https://aphill.isportsman.net/>
- **Fort Pickett**
<https://pickett.isportsman.net/>
- **Fort Belvoir**
<https://ftbelvoir.isportsman.net/>
- **Joint Base Langley-Eustis**
<https://jble.isportsman.net/>
- **Marine Corps Base Quantico**
<https://quantico.isportsman.net/>

Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Pickett, and Marine Corps Base Quantico provide hunting dog training opportunities. See each installation's iSportsman website for details on access procedures and rules and regulations for hunting dog training on base.

Federal Refuges

Hunting is allowed on the following National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia. For more information:

- **Back Bay**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/back-bay/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Chincoteague**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Great Dismal Swamp**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/great-dismal-swamp/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Eastern Shore**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/eastern-shore-virginia/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Rappahannock River Valley**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/rappahannock-river-valley/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **James River**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/james-river/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Plum Tree Island**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/plum-tree-island/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Presquile**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/presquile/visit-us/activities/hunting>
- **Mason Neck/Occoquan**
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/elizabeth-hartwell-mason-neck/visit-us/activities/hunting>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

John H. Kerr Reservoir

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1930 Mays Chapel Road, Boydton, VA 23917
Visitor Assistance Center (434) 738-6143 or Powerhouse (434)-738-6633 or <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/John-H-Kerr/>.

John W. Flannagan Reservoir

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2207 Flannagan Dam Rd., Haysi, VA 24256-9739
(276) 835-9544 or <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/visitors/projects.cfm?Id=H108550>

Philpott Lake

Philpott Lake lies along the border of Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties and includes a total of approximately 9,500 acres with 2,880 acres of water and approximately 6,500 acres of federally owned land and 240 acres of flowage easement lands on state property. Approximately 4,270 acres of this federal land are designated as wildlife management units, where hunting is permitted. Popular game species include deer, turkey, and bear. Other game includes squirrel, rabbit, fox, beaver, waterfowl, etc.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1058 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, VA 24055, (276) 629-2703 or www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-dams/Philpott or on the Philpott Lake Facebook page.

Hunters and Trappers

If you use a boat—remember to boat smart!

Wear Your Life Jacket

Safety Tips

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



Virginia

Don't forget: Boating Safety Classes are Required

www.virginiawildlife.gov/boating/education/requirement/

THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER

Protectors of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

The badge of the Conservation Police Officer (CPO) represents those who have dedicated their lives to the protection of wildlife and natural resources, as well as promoting a safe environment for anglers, hunters, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts. To earn it requires comprehensive training and highly specialized skills, along with a passion for the outdoors and its wildlife.

Conservation Police Officers are fully certified sworn officers through the Department of Criminal Justice Services, with the authority to enforce all of the laws of Virginia. However, due to the unique nature of this profession, those who wear the badge of the CPO are unlike any other police officer.

Each CPO must be able to take on many different roles — from educator and ambassador to outdoor enthusiast; from evidence technician to boat collision reconstructionist; and from crime analyst to wildlife crime detective responsible for managing informants. CPOs also provide public safety and emergency response, sometimes during severe weather conditions, requiring that they put their lives on the line to rescue others.

CPOs frequently conduct patrols in remote areas on foot, ATV, and boat — usually without back-up and often under the cover of darkness. In these types of stressful situations, CPOs must "...maintain calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; demonstrate self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others." (CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER'S CODE OF ETHICS)



CITIZEN FEEDBACK:

Your feedback, whether positive or negative, is important. Visit dwr.virginia.gov/ops to see how you can file an Officer Commendation or Complaint, or express a Law Enforcement Division Praise or Dissatisfaction.

State Parks

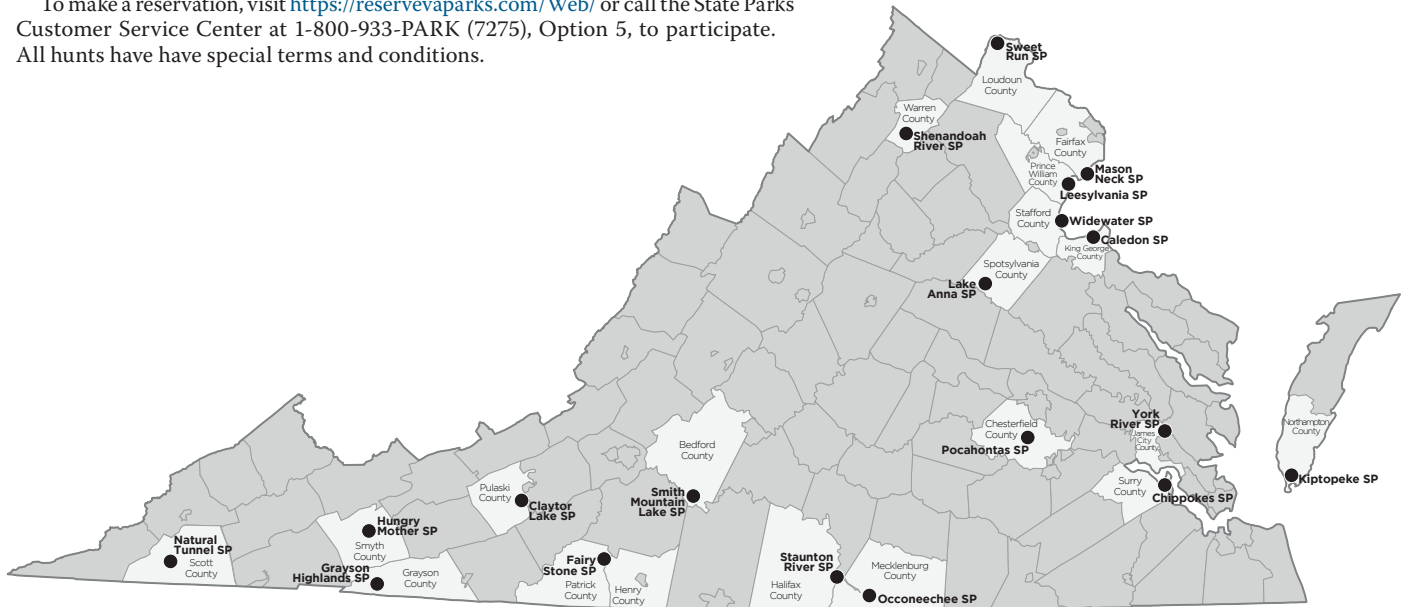
Virginia State Parks Hunting Opportunities 2025–2026 Season

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

Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year. Managed deer hunts are a tool in Virginia State Parks' overall deer management program. Participating hunters are asked to support our management efforts by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

Visit online at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting> for the most up-to-date information regarding hunting dates, opening dates for reservation periods, number of hunters per day, allowable weapon types, and other special requirements. All reservation hunts have a \$15 reservation fee. Hunter education certification is required.

To make a reservation, visit <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275), Option 5, to participate. All hunts have special terms and conditions.



VIRGINIA STATE PARK	PHONE NUMBER	COUNTY
Caledon State Park	540-663-3861	King George County
Chippokes State Park	757-294-3728	Surry County
Claytor Lake State Park	540-643-2500	Pulaski County
Fairy Stone State Park	276-930-2424	Patrick County, Henry County
Grayson Highlands State Park	276-579-7092	Grayson County
Hungry Mother State Park	276-781-7400	Smyth County
Kiptopeke State Park	757-331-2267	Northampton County
Lake Anna State Park	540-854-5503	Stafford County
Leesylvania State Park	703-730-8205	Prince William County
Mason Neck State Park	703-339-2384	Fairfax County
Natural Tunnel State Park	276-940-2674	Scott County
Occoneechee State Park	434-374-2210	Mecklenburg County
Pocahontas State Park	804-796-4255	Chesterfield County
Shenandoah River State Park	540-622-6840	Warren County
Smith Mountain Lake State Park	540-297-6066	Bedford County
Staunton River State Park	434-572-3694	Halifax County
Staunton River State Park (Falkland Farms)	434-572-3694	Halifax County
Sweet Run State Park	540-668-6230	Loudoun County
Widewater State Park	540-288-1400	Stafford County
York River State Park	757-566-3036	James City County

Reservation Hunts

Hunters may reserve a preferred day and, at some sites, a preferred stand or zone. There is a non-refundable reservation fee of \$15 per day; there may be limits to the number of reservations allowed per transaction. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. To make a reservation, visit online at <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) Option 5 to participate. Visit online at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting> to determine the reservation start date.

Special Youth Hunt

A special youth hunt is planned at Shenandoah River State Park (muzzleloader). To participate, youth ages 12–17 should follow the same process as for our other hunts. Note that youth ages 16–17 may hunt alone, youth ages 12–15 must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (with valid hunter safety certification).

Open Hunts

Open hunting opportunities are available at select Virginia State Parks. Additional information can be found at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting>.

Pocahontas Archery Hunt by Permit

Pocahontas State Park offers an opportunity for archery hunters to obtain a permit for archery hunting in special designated areas. Approximately 2,500 acres are open on designated days only to archery hunters who obtain a permit through the main park office. Permits are limited to a total of 100 permits. All normal DWR regulations and bag limits apply to this hunt. Proof of hunter safety education course completion is required to obtain a permit.

Cooperative Hunts

Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt

There are three special opportunities for people with mobility impairment disabilities to participate in hunts. Special Muzzleloader hunts will be held at Shenandoah River State Park and at Lake Anna State Park. A special General Firearms hunt will be held at Staunton River State Park. Applications will be available August 1, and the deadline is September 1. Apply or download the application at www.vanwtf.org. Contact Robin Clark, 434-249-6154, huntvaws@gmail.com for more info.

Mason Neck State Park

This hunt is run in conjunction with the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. All selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in

order to participate. Orientation and permit sales are administered on <https://potomacriver-refugehunts.recaccess.com/>.

Claytor Lake State Park Youth Deer Hunting Workshop

This workshop and hunt for youth (ages 12–17) is held in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife Resources. Workshop includes a Friday evening seminar on deer biology/management, hunting safety/ethics and muzzleloader safety, and a Saturday guided muzzleloader hunt. Participants must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, and meet all hunter education and licensing requirements. For more information and to register, contact Tracy Howard at 540-641-4455, tracydeanhoward@yahoo.com.

Widewater State Park Novice Hunter Workshop

This workshop is for novice hunters, age 18 and older, who would like to receive a supplemental education that goes beyond the required hunter education course. Held in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife Resources, novices will be paired one-on-one with an experienced mentor who will offer invaluable knowledge and expertise. Interested novice hunters should contact Jason Miller, DWR Region 4 Hunter Education Coordinator, jason.miller@dwr.virginia.gov. Instructions for the State Park hunting permit and related fees will be provided during the selection notification process.

Overnight Accommodations

Virginia State Parks also provides comfortable and economical overnight accommodations, with housekeeping cabins and campsites ranging from primitive sites to sites with electric and water hookups.

Accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season. To make hunting reservations, as well as to make reservations for overnight accommodations in Virginia State Parks, visit <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 800-933-7275 (PARK) option 5. Reservations may be made up to two days prior to the requested day of the hunt, provided payment can be made at the time of reservation, and that space is available. Learn about park cabins, camping and lodges at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/overnight-accom>.

Visit online at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting> for the most up-to-date information.

2025–2026 Quota Hunts

General Information/Application

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

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

A hunter may only apply online through the Department's website at www.gooutdoors-virginia.com. Applicants will be notified of their status via email. Successful applicants can find their hunt materials online by logging into their GoOutdoorsVirginia account and navigating to the Quota Hunts landing page. You will not receive hunt materials by mail.

Quota Hunts Having Early Application Deadlines:

- Princess Anne WMA Early Season Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunt #112 – Applications must be received on or before July 25, 2025
- Hog Island WMA September Goose and Teal Hunt #114 – Applications must be received on or before July 25, 2025.

Waterfowl

Hog Island WMA - Waterfowl Hunt - #101

Hunt waterfowl at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. For every hunt day, eight hunters will be randomly selected and assigned an exclusive hunting zone. Each hunter may bring up to three guests. Dogs are allowed and recommended. There will be no stand-by hunter draws for “no show” vacancies this year.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Princess Anne WMA - Waterfowl Hunts - #102

Hunt waterfowl on managed impoundments at Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunt includes half day hunting each Saturday during the general duck season. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each day of hunting and selected hunters may bring three guests. Hunter check-in is from 4:15 – 4:45 a.m. Stand-by drawings will be held promptly at 4:45 a.m. to replace “no show” vacancies; individuals with a current “unsuccessful draw notification letter” will be given priority. Draw notification letters must be shown at the time of check-in. Dogs are allowed and recommended. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the

impoundments by 2:00 p.m. Note: No decoys or blinds provided.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Dutch Gap Conservation Area - Waterfowl Hunts - #103

Hunt waterfowl on the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Hunt days are Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday during the last two segments of the general duck season. The last day of the season will be a single-day hunt. Three hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunting dates and selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunting is from floating blinds at designated blind stakes only.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Tundra Swan Permit - Series #104

Tundra Swan hunting is by permit only. Each permit holder will be authorized to take one tundra swan. The hunt area is limited to east of U.S. Route I-95 and south of Chopawamsic Creek on the Prince William / Stafford County line. Hunters who did not return the previous year's survey will not be eligible to be awarded this year's permit.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Lake Orange - Waterfowl Hunts - #105

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

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Dick Cross WMA - Waterfowl Hunts - #106

Hunt waterfowl on designated impoundments at Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Hunt days are every Wednesday during the last two segments of the general duck season. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date and selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunts begin one half hour before sunrise and end at 3:00 p.m. Hunters must provide decoys. Dogs are allowed. There are no boat landings or direct vehicular access provided. Small boats or canoes may be used but must be transported on foot.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Princess Anne WMA - Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts - #107

Hunt waterfowl for half days on the waters of Back Bay in Virginia Beach on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday and opening day during the last two segments of the general duck season. There are 43 floating blind stakes available for

hunting. Each hunter will be randomly assigned a number prior to the season for each day that they apply. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind based on their assigned number for that day, starting with the lowest number, until all hunters present have selected or all stakes have been drawn. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting after the quota drawing. Selected hunters may bring as many guests as their boat can legally hold as determined by the Coast Guard capacity placard. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/ float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time! See Princess Anne WMA web page for maps.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025
- Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be first-come, first-served. No check-in required on these dates.

Princess Anne WMA - Early Season Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunt - #112

Hunt September Canada geese/teal (during the September teal season) and waterfowl (during the October waterfowl season) on the waters of Back Bay in Virginia Beach on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, and opening day. Resident goose season prior to the teal season is open on a first-come, first-served basis. Quota hunting begins with the opening of teal season. There are 43 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Each hunter will be randomly assigned a number prior to the season for each day that they apply. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind based on their assigned number for that day, starting with the lowest number, until all hunters present have selected or all stakes have been drawn. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting after the quota drawing. Selected hunters may bring as many guests as their boat can legally hold as determined by the Coast Guard capacity placard. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/ float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time! See the Princess Anne WMA web page for maps.

- **Applications due:** July 25, 2025

Game Farm Marsh WMA - Waterfowl Hunts - #113

Hunting at Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County is by Quota Hunt drawing on the first two dates of the October segment and the opening day of the November and December segments. Seven parties will be randomly selected to hunt the area on these days. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. There is no standby for this hunt.

Hunt locations will be on a first-come, first-served basis and hunting parties are asked to maintain a respectful distance from each other. A limited number of DWR-licensed stationary blinds are available on the area. Hunters may use these blinds. Hunters may also hunt from floating blinds or while standing on Game Farm Marsh property. Hunting out of floating blinds is not permitted within 500 yards of any privately licensed stationary blinds. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m. No other equipment is provided. You will need a boat to access the WMA—access is not allowed through the adjacent New Kent Forestry Center. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

For the remainder of the October, November, and December/January segments of the duck season, Game Farm Marsh WMA is open for hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with no restrictions on the number of hunters. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Hog Island WMA – September Goose and Teal Hunt - #114

Hunt geese and/or teal at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Hunt days include September 1 and each Saturday in the month. For every hunt day five hunters will be randomly selected, and each may bring three guests. Dogs are allowed and recommended. There will be no stand-by hunter draws for “no show” vacancies this year.

- **Applications due:** July 25, 2025

Hog Island WMA – Waterfowl Youth Hunt - #115

This hunt allows youth hunters exclusive access to pursue waterfowl at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Eight youth hunters (15 years of age or younger) will be randomly selected and assigned a hunting zone. At least one licensed hunter (18 years of age or older) must attend as a guest mentor — up to two mentors are allowed. Only the youth may harvest. Blinds and boats are no longer provided. Individuals aged 16 years and older must present a government-issued ID to Dominion security the day of the hunt. Dogs are allowed and recommended. There will be no stand-by hunter draws for “no show” vacancies this year.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025



Deer

Hog Island WMA - Archery Deer Hunts - #201

Hunt for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the early archery deer season. Five hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and selected hunters may bring one guest. There will be no stand-by hunter draws for “no show” vacancies this year.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Hog Island WMA - Shotgun/Archery/ Muzzleloader Deer Hunts - #202

Shotgun, archery, or muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Five hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and selected hunters may bring one guest. There will be no stand-by hunter draws for “no show” vacancies this year. Beginning September 1, scouting is allowed on Sundays only.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

The Nature Conservancy, North Landing River - Deer Hunts - #203

Hunt deer on a 2,300-acre tract on the North Landing River in Virginia Beach during the entire deer season. Please note: this tract is accessible only by boat and is composed of very dense wetland habitat. Hunters must provide their own boat for access. There is no

high-ground access for foot travel, and hunters are highly recommended to provide their own map/GPS equipment to navigate interior travel. Fifty hunters will be selected to hunt this property and selected hunters may bring one guest. Successful applicants and their guests must each return a signed waiver prior to the season. Failure to submit a waiver will result in revocation of hunting privileges.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Mockhorn Island WMA - Deer Hunts - #204

Hunt for white-tailed deer on the 365-acre Jones Cove Wildlife Conservation site, formerly the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA, in Northampton County on the Eastern Shore during the muzzleloading deer season. This tract is accessible by vehicle. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt dates and selected hunters may bring one guest.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Princess Anne WMA - Archery Deer Hunts - #205

Archery hunt on the Whitehurst and Beasley tracts of Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach during the first two weeks of November. No Sunday hunting during this quota. Hunters must stay within the wooded areas, or along wooded edges, while hunting. No hunting in the impoundments. Hunters are required to park in

PUBLIC HUNTING

QUOTA HUNTS

the designated parking areas off Munden Road, and scouting is allowed prior to the start of the quota or on Sundays. Hunters must wear blaze orange or pink. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each segment and selected hunters may bring one guest.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Radford Army Ammunition Plant - Archery/Shotgun Deer Hunts - #211

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant deer quota hunt will be ending after the 2026–27 hunting season. No new applicants will be accepted, and all spaces available for the 2025–26 and 2026–27 hunts will be selected from the pool of 2024–25 applicants. For more information, please visit www.dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/quota-hunts/raap-faq/

Lone Star Lakes Park - Archery Deer Hunts - #212

Hunt for white-tailed deer within Suffolk's Lone Star Lakes Park in October using archery equipment. Eight hunters will be randomly selected for the hunt dates and selected hunters may bring one guest. Hunters must be present for a 5:00 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on the first hunt day of assigned period. Please note: For successful applicants, stand-by selections, and any guests there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25 due on the day of the hunt for the City of Suffolk. Please make all checks payable to Ronald H. Williams, Treasurer. Stand-by drawings for no-show slots will be held prior to the pre-hunt briefing the Friday of the hunt on a walk-in basis only.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Lone Star Lakes Park - Deer Hunts - #213

Hunt for white-tailed deer within Suffolk's Lone Star Lakes Park in November using archery equipment. Eight hunters will be randomly selected for hunt dates and selected hunters may bring one guest. Hunters must be present for a 5:00 a.m. pre-hunt briefing on the first day of assigned period. Please note: For successful applicants, stand-by selections, and any guests there will be an additional hunt fee of \$25 due on the day of the hunt for the City of Suffolk. Please make checks payable to Ronald H. Williams, Treasurer. Stand-by drawings for no-show slots will be held prior to the pre-hunt briefing the Friday of the hunt on a walk-in basis only.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Doe Creek WMA - Archery or Muzzleloader Deer Hunts - #217

Muzzleloader or archery hunt for white-tailed deer and turkey when in season on designated lands of the Doe Creek WMA and Mink Farm Tract in Accomack County. Five hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt dates and selected hunters may bring one guest.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

- Following muzzleloader quota hunts, the Mink Farm Tract is open without quota restriction to archery deer hunting; the Doe Creek tract is closed through the duck season.

York River - Archery/Crossbow Youth Hunter Deer Hunts - #218

This self-guided archery and crossbow hunt allows youth and mentor hunters to hunt during peak rut for deer for nine days on designated lands that are seldom hunted at the York River State Park in James City County. Ten hunters will be randomly selected. All successful adult applicants must bring one licensed youth hunter (age 12–15) as their guest to hunt. Youth hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a licensed adult hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt time:** Gates open 1 hour before sunrise till 1 hour after sunset
- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

New Kent Forestry Center - Archery/Muzzleloader/Firearms Apprentice Hunter Deer Hunt - #219

This hunt allows hunters to hunt for 7 days on designated lands at the New Kent Forestry Center in New Kent County. Twenty-five hunters will be randomly selected. All successful applicants must bring one Licensed Apprentice Hunter as their guest to hunt. Apprentice hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a Licensed Hunter as a guest.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Chickahominy WMA - Firearm Season Antlerless Deer Tag - #220

Firearm deer season on the Chickahominy WMA in Charles City County is limited to antlered deer only. This quota drawing allows 30 hunters to receive 1 antlerless deer tag good for the entire firearm season on Chickahominy WMA.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Hockley Experimental Forest - Apprentice Hunter Deer Hunt - #221

This hunt allows apprentice and mentor hunters to hunt deer (archery, muzzleloader, firearm — follow all VA state hunting regulations) on Saturdays and Federal Holidays at the Hockley Experimental Forest in King and Queen County. All successful applicants must bring one Licensed Apprentice Hunter as their guest to hunt. Apprentice hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a Licensed Hunter as a guest mentor. Six hunters will be selected for each hunt day.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Land's End WMA - Archery Deer Hunt - #222

Hunt deer with archery tackle only on 200 acres of woods and small fields at the Land's End WMA in King George County. Hunters will be

selected for one-week hunt segments through the deer season. One hunter will be selected for each segment and may bring up to two guests.

- **Application due:** August 29, 2025

Progress Park - Archery Deer Hunts - #223

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer in designated area in Progress Park, Wythe County, Virginia. Three randomly chosen hunters will be selected for week-long hunt segments in one of three randomly designated hunt areas in Progress Park. Hunters must be 18 years or older to apply for this hunt and may bring one guest 16 years or older. This hunt follows Earn a Buck rules and a doe must be harvested prior to hunting for antlered deer. A pre-hunt orientation will be held by Wythe County Parks and Recreation and is required for all hunters and their guest.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Multi-Species WMA Hunts

Merrimac Farm WMA - Multi-Species Hunts - #303

Hunt any game species in season (except quail) on Merrimac Farm WMA in Prince William County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt day and selected hunters may bring up to two guests. Two handicapped-accessible blinds are located on the WMA and are available for disabled hunter use. Dogs may be used to find and retrieve game, though dogs may not be used to pursue deer. Hunter quota restrictions do not apply on open hunting season dates before or after the quota hunt period.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Adams Daniel Farm - Multi-Species Hunts - #304

Hunt any game species in season on the Adams Daniel Farm in Pittsylvania County. This property is owned by the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia. One hunter will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and selected hunters may bring up to one licensed guest. Dogs may be used to find and retrieve game, except that dogs may not be used to pursue deer, turkey or bear. Selected applicants will be issued a hunting pass which must be carried, and a windshield pass which must be displayed. On Youth/Apprentice Hunting Days, adults are not permitted to carry firearms and must accompany a youth or apprentice hunter. All youth/apprentice hunting regulations apply for these days.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Mattaponi Bluffs WMA - Multi-Species Hunts - #308

Hunt any game species in season on the Mattaponi Bluffs WMA in Caroline County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and each successful applicant

may bring up to two guests. Applicants who do not receive their preferred hunt dates will be assigned random hunt dates. Hunter quota restrictions do not apply on open hunting season dates outside the quota hunt season.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

Spring Turkey Hunts **Featherfin WMA - Spring** **Gobbler Hunts - #401**

Hunt spring gobblers on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward counties. Six hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and selected hunters may bring one guest. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect on the Youth/Apprentice Hunt Day and for the last two weeks of the season.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Amelia WMA - Spring **Gobbler Hunts - #402**

Hunt spring gobblers on the Amelia WMA in Amelia County. Three hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and selected hunters may bring one guest. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect on the Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day and the last two weeks of the turkey season.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Merrimac Farm WMA - Spring **Gobbler Hunts - #404**

Hunt spring gobblers on Merrimac Farm WMA in Prince William County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt segment and selected hunters may bring one guest. Each hunter may harvest no more than one turkey for the entire spring season on Merrimac Farm WMA. On Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day, adults are not permitted to carry firearms and must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

New Kent Forestry Center - Apprentice **Hunter Spring Gobbler Hunts - #408**

This is a one-day opportunity to take and mentor an Apprentice Hunter on a Spring Turkey Hunt on designated lands at New Kent Forestry Center. Four hunters will be selected. All successful applicants must bring one Licensed Apprentice Hunter as their guest to hunt. Apprentice hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a Licensed Hunter as a guest.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Ware Creek WMA - Spring Gobbler **Hunts - # 409**

Hunt spring gobblers on the Ware Creek WMA in New Kent County. Five hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt segment and selected hunters may bring two guests. Guests

must hunt with the applicant. Successfully drawn hunters must have their award notification with them during the hunt period. On Youth/Apprentice Hunting Day only youth and apprentice licensed hunters may carry a weapon and must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect during May.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Adams Daniel Farm - **Spring Gobbler Hunts - #410**

Hunt spring gobblers on the Adams Daniel Farm in Pittsylvania County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each set of hunt days and selected hunters may bring one licensed guest. Each hunter may harvest only one turkey on Adams Daniel Farm during the spring season. On Youth/Apprentice Hunting Weekend, adults are not permitted to carry firearms and must chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger or an apprentice hunter. Selected applicants will be issued a hunting pass which must be carried and a windshield pass which must be displayed.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Mattaponi Bluffs WMA - Spring **Gobbler Hunts - #413**

Hunt spring gobblers on Mattaponi Bluffs WMA in Caroline County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt segment and each successful applicant may bring up to two guests. On Youth/Apprentice Hunting Weekend, only youth and apprentice-licensed hunters may carry a firearm and must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Hockley Experimental Forest - Apprentice **Hunter Spring Gobbler Hunts - #414**

This hunt allows apprentice and mentor hunters to hunt turkey during the spring season on Saturdays and Federal Holidays at the Hockley Experimental Forest in King and Queen County. One hunter will be selected for each hunt day. All successful applicants must bring one Licensed Apprentice Hunter as their guest to hunt. Apprentice hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a Licensed Hunter as a guest mentor.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Progress Park - Spring **Gobbler Hunts - #415**

Spring turkey hunt in designated areas in Progress Park, Wythe County, Virginia. Three randomly chosen hunters will be selected for week-long hunt segments in one of three randomly designated hunt areas in Progress Park. Hunters must be 18 years or older to apply for this hunt and may bring one guest 16 years of age or older. A pre-hunt orientation will be held by Wythe County Parks and Recreation and is required for all hunters and their guest.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Land's End WMA - Spring **Gobbler Hunts - #416**

Hunt spring turkey on the Land's End WMA in King George County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt segment and each successful applicant may bring two guests. On Youth/Apprentice Hunting Weekend, only youth and apprentice licensed hunters may carry a firearm and must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older.

- **Application due:** November 28, 2025

TIOGA RANCH

"We have hundreds of acres of the best hunting area in the east"

Experience is the Difference!

Year Round Hunting 7 Days A Week, No License Required



(570) 835-5341
www.TiogaBoarHunting.com
1552 Mann Hill Road | Tioga, PA 16946 | tiogaboarranch@gmail.com

PUBLIC HUNTING QUOTA HUNTS

Hog Island WMA - Spring Turkey Youth/Apprentice Hunts - #417

This hunt allows youth and apprentice hunters exclusive access to hunting gobblers on Saturdays during the spring turkey season at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt date. At least one licensed hunter (18 years of age or older) must attend as a guest mentor — up to two mentors are allowed. Only the youth or licensed apprentice hunter may harvest. There will be no stand-by hunter draws for “no show” vacancies this year.

- **Applications due:** November 28, 2025

Small Game

New Kent Forestry Center - Rabbit Hunts - #602

Hunt rabbits on designated lands at the New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Dogs are encouraged. One hunter will be randomly

selected for the hunt day and selected hunter may bring four licensed guests.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

New Kent Forestry Center Quail Hunts - #603

Hunt quail on designated lands at the Department of Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Dogs are encouraged. One hunter will be randomly selected for the hunt day and selected hunter may bring two guests.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

New Kent Forestry Center - Apprentice Hunter Rabbit Hunts - #606

Take this opportunity to hunt designated and managed lands for rabbits and mentor an Apprentice Licensed Hunter at New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Dogs are encouraged. One hunter will be randomly selected for

the hunt day and selected hunter may bring four guests. At least one guest must be an Apprentice Hunting Licensed hunter. Apprentice hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest.

- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

New Kent Forestry Center - Apprentice Hunter Quail Hunts - #607

Take this opportunity to hunt designated and managed lands for quail and mentor an Apprentice Licensed Hunter at New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge, New Kent County. Dogs are encouraged. One hunter will be randomly selected for the hunt day and selected hunter may bring two guests. One guest must be an Apprentice Hunting Licensed hunter. Apprentice hunters are also welcome to apply, but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest.

- **Hunt time:** Sunrise to sunset
- **Applications due:** September 26, 2025

Land's End WMA - Dove Hunts - #610

Hunt dove at the Land's End Wildlife Management Area in King George County. Hunts will take place on September 12 and 19, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ten hunters will be selected, and each hunter may bring one guest. Hunters and their guests must hunt together as a group. Only non-toxic shot will be allowed on the field, and each hunter will be limited to 50 shells.

- **Applications due:** August 29, 2025

The Department of Wildlife Resources reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

2025–2026 Managed Hunts & Workshops

Note to Managed Hunt Applicants

Managed Hunts are generally by on-site random drawings or by application through the local Resource Office. Hunting opportunities are provided on various Department Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges.

Managed Waterfowl Hunts

Princess Anne WMA Impoundments - September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts

This is an opportunity to hunt September Canada geese/teal on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's impoundment system will be open on a first-come, first-served basis for half-day hunting on Saturdays only. Due to ongoing habitat management, the impoundments may not be flooded at this time. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and



EXPLORE the Wild

Over 1,000 wild places to explore to your heart's content.

Explore the Wild is your online tool to find the best places in Virginia to hunt, fish, boat, paddle, view wildlife, hike, and go primitive camping. You can even sort results based on what kind of game you are looking to pursue!

Visit dwr.virginia.gov/explore to discover new opportunities today!

be away from the impoundments by 2:00 p.m. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking areas off Munden Road. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts.

- Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA - Light Goose Conservation Order Season (Snow and Ross' Geese)

This is an opportunity for hunters to hunt snow geese (light geese) at the Princess Anne WMA after the general duck season. The Princess Anne float blind stakes and impoundments at Back Bay are available for snow goose hunting after the general duck season. These hunts will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Daily hunting times will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The impoundments are open for late snow goose hunting on Wednesdays, Saturdays and state holidays only. The float blind stakes may be hunted seven days a week. A boat is required to hunt the float blind stakes.

Princess Anne WMA - Youth/Veteran Hunter Waterfowl Days

Float blind stakes and the impoundments will be open on a first-come, first-served basis to youth 15 years or younger when accompanied by an adult veteran hunter, during Youth/Veteran Waterfowl Hunting days. The impoundments will be open on Saturday only. The impoundments will be open on Saturday only. Only youth or veterans may hunt and carry a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Note: During the October hunt date there may also be deer hunters using the area around the impoundments.

- **Hunt days:** October and February Youth/Veteran Waterfowl Hunt Days
- Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m.

Managed Deer Hunts

Princess Anne WMA - October Archery

Archery hunt for deer on the Whitehurst and Beasley tracts of Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunters must stay within the wooded areas, or along wooded edges while hunting. No hunting in the impoundments. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking areas off Munden Road. Hunters must wear blaze orange or pink.

- **Hunt days:** October 1–7, 11, 31
- Hunters may not occupy area before 5:00 a.m.
- Closed Wednesday–Saturday the week of the October waterfowl split.

C. F. Phelps WMA/Hogue Tract - Deer Hunt for the Disabled

This is an opportunity for disabled hunters—disabled defined as mobility impaired due to a permanent physical condition—to



Meghan Marchetti/DWR

hunt deer on the Hogue Tract of C.F. Phelps WMA in Fauquier County with archery tackle, muzzleloader, or firearms. Two hunters will be chosen by random drawing to hunt each day during the archery, muzzleloader, and general firearms deer seasons. Each successful applicant may be accompanied by one companion, who may hunt if properly licensed. For more information and applications go to www.virginiawildlife.gov/wma/cfphelps/. Mail the application to: Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, ATTN: Hogue Tract Hunt, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Applications must be received by the close of business on September 12, 2025.

- **Hunting days:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and State Holidays

Mathews State Forest Workshop and Mentored Hunt

The Department of Wildlife Resources, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry, will offer an early-September deer hunting workshop and mentored hunt for youth and apprentice hunters at Mathews State Forest near Galax, Va. Youth hunters from 13 to 15 years of age, or any new hunters with an apprentice license, are welcome to apply. The workshop will cover biology, scouting and hunting techniques, law and safety, and field

dressings. A small number of the workshop participants will be drawn to have the opportunity to participate in a mentored deer hunt at Mathews State Forest during Youth and Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend in late September.

Participants under the age of 18 years of age that are selected for the mentored hunt will be required to have a parent or guardian present with them on the day of the hunt. For additional information call DOF (Mathews State Forest) at (276) 236-2322 or DWR (Marion Office) at (276) 783-4860.

Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve - Deer Hunt

This is an opportunity to hunt deer on Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Loudoun County. For more information go to <https://valoud-countyweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/> or call 703.737.8894.

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Deer Hunt

Selected hunters must attend an online orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is a hunt permit fee. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and State Park office at 703-490-4979 or online.

PUBLIC HUNTING

MANAGED HUNTS AND WORKSHOPS

Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and State Park - Deer Hunt

Selected hunters must attend an online orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is a hunt permit fee. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and State Park office at 703-490-4979 or online.

Novice Deer Hunter Workshops

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources has partnered with Loudoun County and Virginia State Parks to sponsor two novice deer hunter workshop and hunts. One will take place at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Loudoun County and the other will be at Widewater State Park in Stafford County. Check the DWR website for dates and details.

These workshops are to educate novice hunters beyond the state required hunter education course and to prepare them for real field experiences. These workshops for novice hunters 18 and over will consist of one day of classroom sessions that covers hunter safety, deer habitat, and hunting technique. Classroom sessions will be followed by hunting days of shotgun hunting (archery hunting also available at Banshee Reeks only) with an assigned mentor.

Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve - Workshop

Persons interested in the Banshee Reeks workshop must register for the lottery through Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS). The lottery registration fee is \$15 per chance. A \$30 fee is required if selected in the lottery.

Online registration begins August 1 and runs through 12:00 a.m. (midnight), August 31, 2025. In-person lottery registration will also be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the PRCS Administrative Office, 20145 Ashbrook Place, Ashburn, VA 20147. For additional registration assistance, call 703-737-8894.

Widewater State Park - Workshop

This workshop is for novice hunters, age 18 and older, who would like to receive a supplemental education that goes beyond the required hunter education course. Held in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife Resources, novices will be paired one-on-one with an experienced mentor who will offer invaluable knowledge and expertise. Any interested novice must e-mail or mail a completed application to Joanna.Arrighi@dcr.virginia.gov or to Widewater State Park at 101 Widewater State

Park Road, Stafford, VA 22554 by Aug. 16. Notifications will be sent out by Aug. 23. Upon selection, the final payment of \$15 for the State Park hunting permit must be paid by Sept. 15, 2025. The final payment for the workshop can be made with the Customer Service Center at 800-933-PARK.

The Department of Wildlife Resources reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

ilearntoboat™



BOATING AND FISHING GO HAND IN HAND

Just make sure you're doing them legally.
Get your official Boating Safety Certificate
today with our interactive safety course!

ILEARNTOBOAT.COM



Index

Access Permit	14, 56	East and West of Blue Ridge	16	Preserves (Hunting/Shooting)	14, 48
Access Roads (WMA/Nat.Forest)	59	Electronic Calls	20, 48, 50, 52	Private Property	
Air Guns	22	Elk	31	Hunting, Posting.....	18
Antler Point Restrictions	35	eNotch	24	Liability.....	18
Antlered & Antlerless Deer	34	Federal Refuges	61	Prohibited Lands (Definition)	16
Apprentice License	8, 11, 12	Feeding Wildlife (Unlawful)	21	Public Hunting Lands	56
Archery Tackle (Definition)	16	Firearm, Loaded (Definition)	22	Quail Mgmt. Assistance Prog.	18
Arrowgun (Definition)	16	Fisher	16, 51, 55	Quail and Pheasant Hunting	16, 48
Assisting with Hunt	20	Fox	16	Quota Hunts	64
ATV Laws	21	Chase Only	51	Rabbit	16
Bait	16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 54	Hunting	51	Training Dogs	18
Bear	16	Trapping.....	55	Hunting.....	48
Archery	26	Furbearer Species (Definition)	16	Trapping.....	55
Bag Limits, Size Requirements	26	Game Species (Definition)	16	Raccoon	16
Firearms.....	28	Groundhog, Hunting	16, 48	Chase-only Season.....	52
Harvest Reporting.....	24, 26	Grouse, Hunting	16, 48	Hunting	52
Hound Training/Chase Season.....	29	Harvest Reporting	6, 24	Trapping.....	55
Mange.....	30	HIP 1-844-802-4193		Ranges (Public)	58
Muzzleloader	27	Hogs, Feral	16, 25	Regions/Phone Numbers	4
Tooth Submission	27	Hours (Hunting)	15	Residency Qualifications	10
Youth/Apprentice Hunting Weekend	26	Hunter Education	8	Sale/Purchase of Wildlife	19
Beaver	16, 55	Hunters for the Hungry	42	Shooting	
Blaze Color Requirements	15	Hunting Shooting Preserves	14, 48	From Boat.....	22
Bobcat	16	Landowner Liability	18	From Road	22
Hunting/Trapping	50, 55	Lead Exposure	45	Over Public Water	22, 54
Electronic Reporting	50	Legal Use of Archery Equipment	22	Skunk	16
Tagging Requirements (CITES)	50	Legal Use of Firearms	22	Hunting	52
Bonus Deer Permits	14, 34	License Exemptions	10, 25	Trapping.....	55
Bowhunter Survey	36	License Requirements		Squirrel Hunting	16, 48
Camping Policy (WMA/Nat. Forest)	59	Hunting	10	Fox Squirrel	48
Carcass		Trapping.....	10	State Forest Hunting	60
Disposal of Deer.....	34	License (Replacement)	11	State Parks	62–63
Transferring/Left Unattended	26	Licenses & Fees	12–14	Structures (WMA/Nat.Forest)	59
CWD Carcass Movement (Deer)	44–45	Lifetime License Requirements	15	Sunday Hunting	15
Concealed Handguns	22	Lights (Use of)	22, 51	Sunrise/Sunset Table	72
Coyote Hunting/Trapping	50, 55	Local Firearms Ordinances	23	Tag Validation	24
Crossbow		Managed Hunts & Workshops	69	Telephone/Internet Reporting	24
Loaded (Definition)	22	Migratory Game Birds (Definition)	16	Tracking Dogs	17, 26, 42
Legal Use	22	Military Areas	60	Training Dogs	17–18
Crow Hunting	48	Mink	16, 55	Trap Tagging	54
CWD - Chronic Wasting Disease	43–45	Muskrat	16, 55	Trapper ID #'s	54
Deer	16	Muzzleloader		Trapping	16, 53
Antler Point Restrictions	33	Electronic Ignition	29, 39	Traps	
Archery - Early, Late, and		Loaded, Unloaded	22, 59	Checking.....	54
Late Antlerless-only	36	National Forest Hunting	59	Foothold.....	54
Bag Limits.....	32	National Parks	60	Tree Stands	57, 59
Firearms.....	38	Nonmigratory Game Birds (Definition) ..	16	Tree Stand Safety.....	35
Firearms, Early/Late Antlerless-Only	40	Nuisance Species (Definition)	16	Turkey	16
Harvest Reporting.....	24	Nutria	16, 52	Archery	46
Muzzleloader - Early	36	Trapping.....	55	Harvest Reporting.....	24
Muzzleloader - Late	37	Opossum	16	Fall Firearms	46
Urban Archery	36	Hunting	52	Spring	47
Youth /Apprentice Antlerless Deer Reg	35	Trapping.....	55	Youth/Apprentice Hunting	
Youth/Apprentice Hunting Weekend.....	35	Other Weapons Usage	22	Weekends	46–47
Definitions	16	Otter	16	Unlawful Feeding	21
Disabled Hunts	69	Tagging Requirements (CITES)	55	Unlawful Methods	20
Dismal Swamp Line (Definition)	16	Trapping.....	55	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	61
DMAP/DCAP	34	PALS	14, 59	Unplugged Shotguns	22
Dogs		Permission to Hunt Form	19, 20	Violations (Report) 1-800-237-5712	4, 16
Hunting with	17	Personal Check Card	27	Weasel	16, 55
Tracking	17, 26, 42	Pistols/Revolvers (Hunting with)	22	What's New	6
Training	17–18	Possession/Transporting Wildlife	16, 20	Wildlife Management Areas	41, 56
Earn a Buck	34	POWRR	14, 59		

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUNSET/SUNRISE TIMETABLE

Sunrise and Sunset Timetable – Richmond, Virginia

Times below are Eastern Standard Time and reflect Daylight Saving Time when in use.

	JULY 2025		AUG. 2025		SEPT. 2025		OCT. 2025		NOV. 2025		DEC. 2025		JAN. 2026		FEB. 2026		MAR. 2026		APR. 2026		MAY 2026		JUNE 2026	
DAY	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)
1	5:53	8:35	6:14	8:18	6:41	7:38	7:06	6:53	7:35	6:11	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:03	7:13	5:34	6:41	6:04	6:55	7:33	6:15	8:00	5:50	8:25
2	5:53	8:35	6:15	8:17	6:41	7:37	7:07	6:51	6:36	5:10	7:07	4:52	7:25	5:03	7:12	5:35	6:40	6:05	6:54	7:34	6:13	8:01	5:50	8:26
3	5:54	8:35	6:16	8:16	6:42	7:35	7:07	6:50	6:37	5:09	7:08	4:52	7:25	5:04	7:12	5:36	6:38	6:06	6:52	7:35	6:12	8:02	5:50	8:27
4	5:54	8:35	6:17	8:15	6:43	7:34	7:08	6:48	6:38	5:08	7:09	4:51	7:25	5:05	7:11	5:37	6:37	6:07	6:51	7:35	6:11	8:03	5:49	8:27
5	5:55	8:34	6:18	8:14	6:44	7:32	7:09	6:47	6:39	5:07	7:10	4:51	7:25	5:06	7:10	5:38	6:35	6:08	6:49	7:36	6:10	8:04	5:49	8:28
6	5:55	8:34	6:18	8:12	6:45	7:31	7:10	6:45	6:40	5:06	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:07	7:09	5:40	6:34	6:09	6:48	7:37	6:09	8:04	5:49	8:29
7	5:56	8:34	6:19	8:11	6:45	7:29	7:11	6:44	6:41	5:05	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:08	7:08	5:41	6:33	6:10	6:46	7:38	6:08	8:05	5:48	8:29
8	5:56	8:34	6:20	8:10	6:46	7:28	7:12	6:42	6:43	5:04	7:12	4:51	7:25	5:09	7:07	5:42	7:31	7:11	6:45	7:39	6:07	8:06	5:48	8:30
9	5:57	8:33	6:21	8:09	6:47	7:26	7:13	6:41	6:44	5:03	7:13	4:52	7:25	5:10	7:06	5:43	7:30	7:12	6:43	7:40	6:06	8:07	5:48	8:30
10	5:58	8:33	6:22	8:08	6:48	7:25	7:14	6:39	6:45	5:03	7:14	4:52	7:25	5:11	7:05	5:44	7:28	7:12	6:42	7:41	6:05	8:08	5:48	8:31
11	5:58	8:32	6:23	8:07	6:49	7:23	7:15	6:38	6:46	5:02	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:12	7:04	5:45	7:27	7:13	6:41	7:42	6:04	8:09	5:48	8:31
12	5:59	8:32	6:24	8:06	6:50	7:22	7:16	6:36	6:47	5:01	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:13	7:02	5:46	7:25	7:14	6:39	7:43	6:03	8:10	5:48	8:32
13	6:00	8:32	6:24	8:04	6:50	7:20	7:16	6:35	6:48	5:00	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:14	7:01	5:47	7:24	7:15	6:38	7:44	6:02	8:11	5:48	8:32
14	6:00	8:31	6:25	8:03	6:51	7:19	7:17	6:34	6:49	5:00	7:17	4:53	7:24	5:15	7:00	5:48	7:22	7:16	6:36	7:44	6:01	8:11	5:48	8:32
15	6:01	8:31	6:26	8:02	6:52	7:17	7:18	6:32	6:50	4:59	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:16	6:59	5:49	7:21	7:17	6:35	7:45	6:01	8:12	5:48	8:33
16	6:02	8:30	6:27	8:01	6:53	7:16	7:19	6:31	6:51	4:58	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:17	6:58	5:50	7:19	7:18	6:34	7:46	6:00	8:13	5:48	8:33
17	6:02	8:29	6:28	7:59	6:54	7:14	7:20	6:29	6:52	4:57	7:19	4:54	7:23	5:18	6:57	5:51	7:18	7:19	6:32	7:47	5:59	8:14	5:48	8:33
18	6:03	8:29	6:29	7:58	6:55	7:12	7:21	6:28	6:53	4:57	7:19	4:54	7:22	5:19	6:55	5:53	7:16	7:20	6:31	7:48	5:58	8:15	5:49	8:34
19	6:04	8:28	6:30	7:57	6:55	7:11	7:22	6:27	6:54	4:56	7:20	4:54	7:22	5:20	6:54	5:54	7:15	7:21	6:30	7:49	5:57	8:16	5:49	8:34
20	6:05	8:28	6:30	7:55	6:56	7:09	7:23	6:26	6:55	4:56	7:21	4:55	7:21	5:21	6:53	5:55	7:13	7:22	6:28	7:50	5:57	8:17	5:49	8:34
21	6:05	8:27	6:31	7:54	6:57	7:08	7:24	6:24	6:56	4:55	7:21	4:55	7:21	5:22	6:52	5:56	7:12	7:23	6:27	7:51	5:56	8:17	5:49	8:34
22	6:05	8:26	6:32	7:53	6:58	7:06	7:25	6:23	6:57	4:55	7:22	4:56	7:20	5:23	6:50	5:57	7:10	7:24	6:26	7:52	5:55	8:18	5:49	8:35
23	6:07	8:25	6:33	7:51	6:59	7:05	7:26	6:22	6:58	4:54	7:22	4:56	7:19	5:24	6:49	5:58	7:09	7:25	6:24	7:53	5:54	8:19	5:50	8:35
24	6:08	8:25	6:34	7:50	7:00	7:03	7:27	6:20	6:59	4:54	7:22	4:57	7:19	5:25	6:48	5:59	7:07	7:25	6:23	7:54	5:54	8:20	5:50	8:35
25	6:09	8:24	6:35	7:48	7:01	7:02	7:28	6:19	7:00	4:53	7:23	4:58	7:19	5:26	6:47	6:00	7:06	7:26	6:22	7:54	5:54	8:21	5:50	8:35
26	6:09	8:23	6:35	7:47	7:01	7:00	7:29	6:18	7:01	4:53	7:23	4:58	7:18	5:27	6:45	6:01	7:04	7:27	6:20	7:55	5:53	8:21	5:50	8:35
27	6:10	8:22	6:36	7:46	7:02	6:59	7:30	6:17	7:02	4:53	7:23	4:59	7:17	5:29	6:44	6:02	7:03	7:28	6:19	7:56	5:53	8:22	5:51	8:35
28	6:11	8:21	6:37	7:44	7:03	6:57	7:31	6:16	7:03	4:52	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:30	6:42	6:03	7:01	7:29	6:18	7:57	5:52	8:23	5:51	8:35
29	6:12	8:20	6:38	7:43	7:04	6:56	7:32	6:15	7:04	4:52	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:31			7:00	7:30	6:17	7:58	5:51	8:34	5:52	8:35
30	6:13	8:20	6:39	7:41	7:05	6:54	7:33	6:13	7:05	4:52	7:24	5:01	7:15	5:32			6:58	7:31	6:16	7:59	5:51	8:24	5:52	8:35
31	6:13	8:19	6:40	7:40			7:34	6:12			7:24	5:02	7:14	5:33			6:57	7:32			5:51	8:25		

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

LOCATION	CORRECTION	LOCATION	CORRECTION
Bristol.....	+19 minutes	Newport News.....	-5 minutes
Cape Charles.....	-6 minutes	Norfolk.....	-5 minutes
Charlottesville.....	+4 minutes	Roanoke.....	+10 minutes
Chincoteague.....	-8 minutes	Tazewell.....	+16 minutes
Danville.....	+8 minutes	Williamsburg.....	-3 minutes
Fredericksburg.....	0 minutes	Winchester.....	+3 minutes

Information obtained from:

Astronomical Applications Dept.
Location: Richmond, VA
U. S. Naval Observatory
Washington, DC 20392-5420
Eastern Standard Time

Right on Target.

Manufacturer-paid federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment — combined with state hunting licenses — play a crucial role in enhancing wildlife conservation efforts and expanding public access opportunities. Through the Wildlife Restoration program, your participation hits the mark, delivering meaningful benefits for wildlife, habitat, public access, and future generations of hunters and target shooters.

Each year, nationally, these benefits include:

*Reinforced
conservation
heritage*

36 Million+

Acres of publicly accessible
land managed and maintained

*Increased connection
and access to
wild places*

833+

Public target
ranges operated
and maintained

500+

Species of wild birds
and mammals studied
and managed

700,000+

Students who receive
hunter education

38+

Wildlife health
laboratories funded

*Strengthened
community bonds
through collaboration*

*Raised conservation
and stewardship
awareness*



Office of
**CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT**



Together, industry, state,
and federal partners
make conservation
happen. Scan the code
at right to learn more.



"The Best Hunting Blinds On The Planet"



TRY A REDNECK

At Redneck, we manufacture a wide variety of products for the outdoor industry. Be assured that despite our unique name, there is nothing Redneck about our product as we strive to provide high quality, unique products that are designed for hunters, by hunters.



FIBERGLASS BLINDS | HAY BALE BLINDS | FEEDERS | HUNTING CHAIRS | HUNTING ACCESSORIES

BEDFORD CO-OP • 540-586-8201

1053 Independence Blvd., Bedford, VA 24523

306 Main Street, Gretna, VA 24557

968 Halifax Rd, Chatham, VA 24531

742 Craghead street, Danville, VA 24541

www.RedneckBlinds.com

