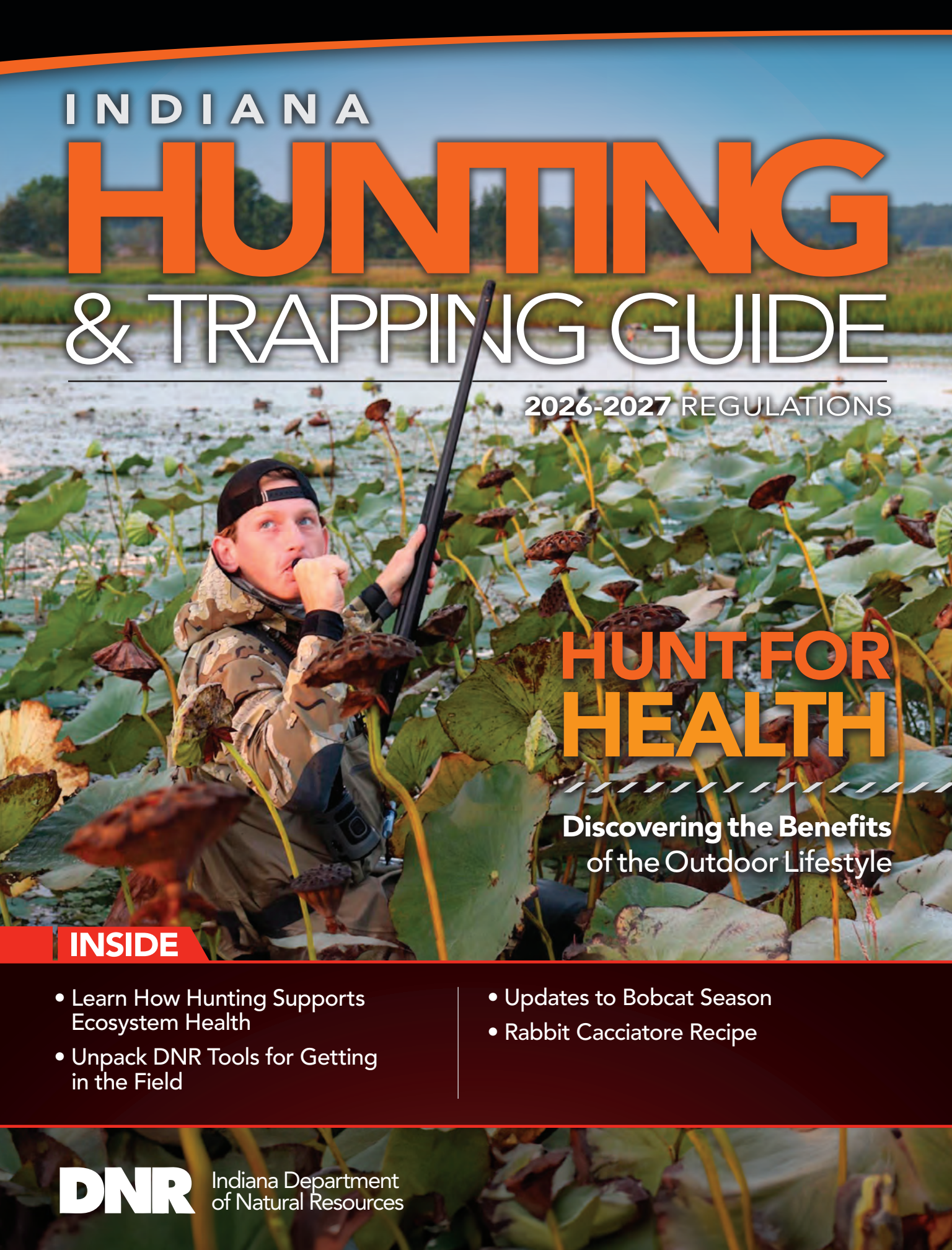


INDIANA HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

2026-2027 REGULATIONS

HUNT FOR HEALTH

Discovering the Benefits of the Outdoor Lifestyle

INSIDE

- Learn How Hunting Supports Ecosystem Health
- Unpack DNR Tools for Getting in the Field
- Updates to Bobcat Season
- Rabbit Cacciatore Recipe

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources


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INDIANA HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE



18

Hunt for Health: Discovering the Benefits of the Outdoor Lifestyle



19

Hunting Pack of DNR Resources



38

Beyond the Harvest: The Conservation Benefits of Hunting

Content

Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits 4
Important Updates 4
License Information & Fees 8
Conservation Funding: A Benefit for All 10
Youth Hunting 12
General Information 14
Tree Stand Safety 17
Hunt for Health 18
Recipe: Rabbit Cacciatore 18
Your Resource Hunting Pack 19
Deer Information 20
Deer Equipment Chart 28
Deer Seasons, Licenses, & Equipment 30
County Antlerless Deer Bag Limits 31
Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance 32
Wildlife Conflicts 33
Shooting Ranges 33
Small Game 34
Reptiles and Amphibians 35
Waterfowl & Migratory Birds 36
Wildlife Health 38
Gamebirds 39
Wild Turkey 40
Furbearers 42
Trapping Seasons 43
Ginseng Information 43
Bobcats 44
Trap Regulations 45
Wildlife Biologists 46
Public Hunting Areas 47
Law Enforcement Districts 48
Public Shooting Ranges 48

Governor:
Mike Braun

DNR Director:
Alan Morrison

Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves Director:
Amanda Wuestefeld

The Hunting & Trapping Guide is a publication of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This is a summary of Indiana hunting and trapping regulations. It is designed as a service to sportsmen and women and is not intended to be a complete digest of all hunting and trapping regulations. Most regulations are subject to change by administrative rule. Contact the Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves before reproducing any part of this booklet. Paid advertisements that appear in this guide do not imply endorsement by the DNR or by the State of Indiana for the businesses or products advertised. The Department is not responsible for any advertising claims contained herein.



Hunting for teal at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area



A good day in the woods can fill more than your freezer: it can help fill someone else's dinner table. Through Indiana DNR's *Hunt for Hunger* program, your harvest can support families who don't always know where their next meal will come from.

Hunger can be hard to see, but it's real. Across our state, one in seven Hoosiers — and one in five children — face food insecurity. Your deer could be the difference for a family in your own community.

Participating is easy. Just take your field dressed deer to one of more than 50 processors across Indiana. Find the closest location at **on.IN.gov/huntforhunger**. From there, the processor turns your deer into nutritious venison for local food banks. DNR covers all processing costs, so this gift comes at no expense to you.

Last season, Hoosier hunters donated more than 1,400 deer — a 40% jump from the year before — thanks to our ongoing work with the Dubois County Sportsmen Club, Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, and Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry. With your help, we can continue to grow that impact.

If you're fortunate enough to harvest an extra deer this season, I hope you'll consider donating it through Hunt for Hunger. Wishing you a safe and successful season!



Alan Morrison
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



Over the years, the many days my family and I have spent in the field have shaped how we think about the outdoors. We've found that some of our favorite memories come from simply being together outside, taking a break from everyday routines, and enjoying the peace we find there. Bringing home healthy wild game is always a bonus, but even on the days when our game bags are light, we still feel we've gained something meaningful.

Time outdoors has a way of refreshing both the mind and body. Whether it's the quiet moments that help ease day-to-day stress, the steady movement that keeps us active, or the connection we feel to the natural places we care about, being outside offers the kind of reset that's hard to find anywhere else. For anyone who enjoys hunting, these health benefits feel familiar, almost second nature, and begin drawing us back to the field as soon as we leave it.

The value of these moments is found not only in what we take home, but also in the impact we leave behind. Responsible hunting supports healthy ecosystems, and every license purchased directly contributes to conservation efforts like habitat management, creating access, research, education, and more. That investment ensures future generations will have the same opportunities to explore, enjoy, and care for Indiana's wild places.



Amanda Wuestefeld
Director, DNR Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves

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

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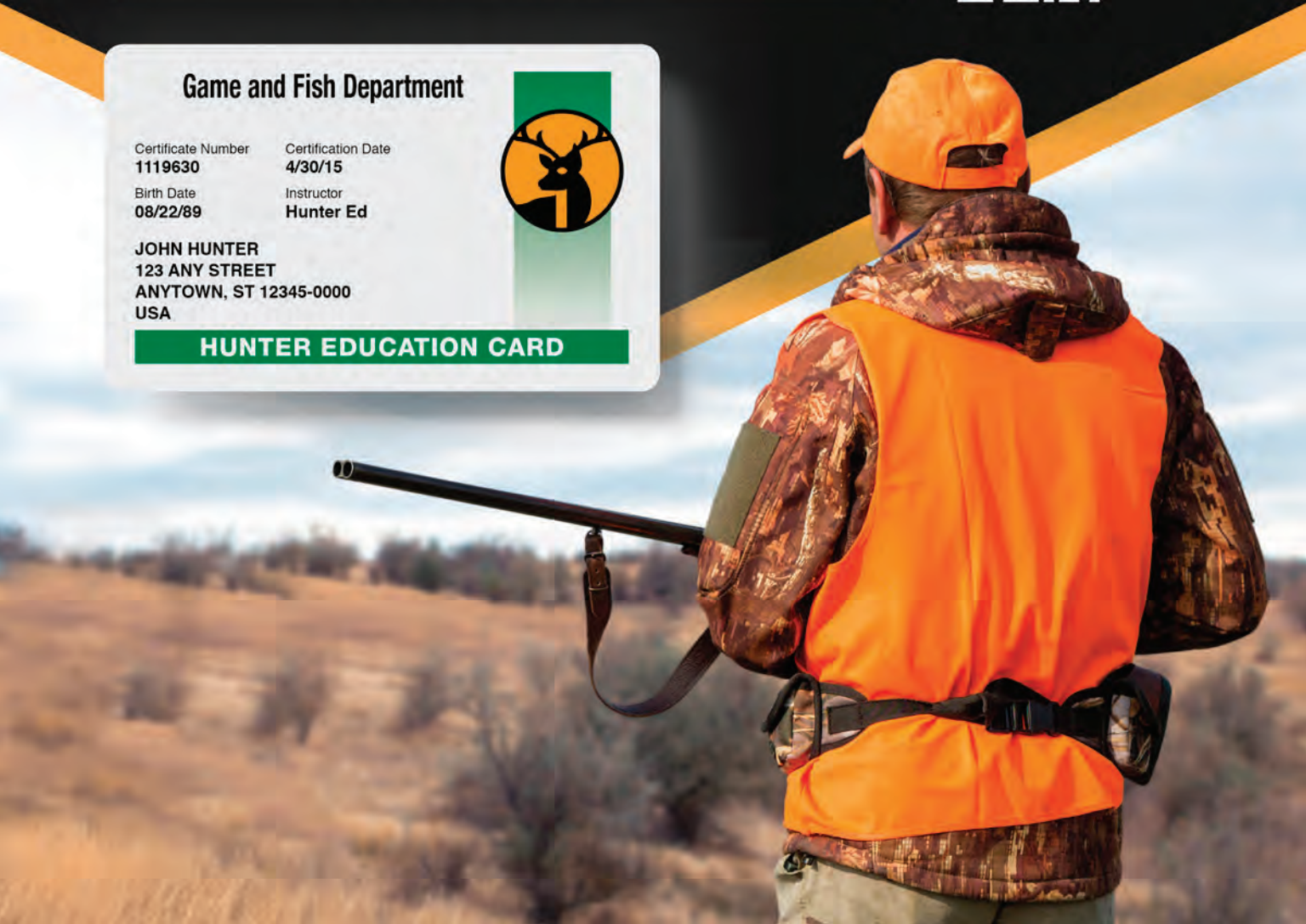
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To Hunters & Trappers in the Hoosier State

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Indiana DNR Hunting & Trapping Guide. We hope you find it helpful as you prepare for the upcoming hunting and trapping seasons.

Any corrections or updates to information published in this guide will be made to the online version found at **on.IN.gov/huntingguide.**

This guide provides a summary of Indiana hunting and trapping regulations. If you need complete versions of Indiana rules and regulations for hunting and trapping, they can be found in Indiana Code, Title 14, Article 22 (**iga.IN.gov**) and Indiana Administrative Code, Title 312, Article 9, (**iar.iga.in.gov/code**).

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

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

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

Activity Hub

The Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves' (DFWNP) Activity Hub completed its first year of serving hunters and anglers after replacing the previous license system in December 2024. Logging in through Access Indiana gives access to license sales, game check-in, HIP registration, donations, and other core functions. For resources helping navigate the new system, visit **GoOutdoorsIN.com/help-support**.

In 2026, DFWNP introduced a new mobile app, GoOutdoorsIN. Download now to purchase licenses and check in your harvest.

Customers who have questions regarding their accounts should call the DNR Customer Service Center at 317-232-4200 or 877-463-6367, or email INHuntFish@dnr.IN.gov.

Learn More

Stay up to date with regulation changes, projects, and wildlife news by following us on YouTube, Facebook **@INFishandWildlife** and Instagram **@INFishWildlife** and signing up for DFWNP newsletters in your Activity Hub account.

2026-2027 INDIANA HUNTING SEASONS

Furbearers	Hunting Dates	Limit
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 15, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	No limit
Coyote & Striped Skunk	Oct. 15, 2026 - March 15, 2027	No limit
Bobcat (in designated counties)	Nov. 8, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027 (or until quota is met)	1 bobcat per hunter
Raccoon & Opossum	Nov. 8, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027	No limit
Mink, Muskrat & Long-Tailed Weasel	Nov. 15, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027	No limit
Beaver	Nov. 15, 2026 - March 15, 2027	No limit
Dog Running (Raccoon, Opossum) Chasing season only - no hunting	Feb. 1, 2026 - Oct. 25, 2026	Not applicable

Wild Turkey	Hunting Dates	Limit
Youth Spring	April 17-18, 2027	1 bearded or male turkey per hunter in youth/spring
Spring	April 21 - May 9, 2027	
Fall Archery (statewide)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 1, 2026	1 turkey of either sex per hunter each fall
	Dec. 5, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027	
Fall Firearms	Oct. 21 - Nov. 1, 2026 (see page 41 for counties)	

Deer	Hunting Dates	Limit
Reduction Zone*	Sept. 15, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027 (see page 26 for details)	See page 31 for deer bag limits
Youth	Sept. 26 & 27, 2026	
Archery	Oct. 1, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027	
Firearms	Nov. 14 - Nov. 29, 2026	
Muzzleloader	Dec. 5 -20, 2026	

* Designated counties or portions of counties

Gamebirds	Hunting Dates	Limit
Pheasant (cock only)	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2026	2 per day
Northern Bobwhite Quail		
North of Interstate 74*	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2026	4 per day*
South of Interstate 74**	Nov. 1, 2026 - Jan. 10, 2027	8 per day**
Crow	July 1 - Aug. 15, 2026	No limit
	Dec. 13, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	

The possession limit on gamebirds is two times the daily bag limit.

* 2 per day on North Zone Fish & Wildlife areas, Mississinewa Lake, and Salamonie Lake

** 4 per day on South Zone Fish & Wildlife areas and Patoka Lake

Small Game	Hunting Dates	Limit
Squirrel (Gray & Fox)	Aug. 15, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027	5 per day
Rabbit	Nov. 1, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027	5 per day
Green Frog & Bullfrog	June 15, 2026 - April 30, 2027	25 per day
Game Turtles *	July 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	4 per day**

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

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

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

Waterfowl & Migratory Gamebirds	Hunting Dates	Limit
See table on page 36 for species and season dates.		

Trapping seasons listed on page 43.

Important Rule Changes

The bobcat season now includes hunting and a season quota of 400 bobcats for the 2026-2027 season. More details can be found on pg. 44.

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General License Regulations

- **Hunting licenses:** A valid hunting license issued by the Indiana DNR is required to hunt any species of wild animal on both private and public land in Indiana. License exemptions can be found below. Some species also require state and/or federal stamps.
- **Resident licenses:** To qualify for resident hunting licenses, a person must have established a true fixed and permanent home and primary residence in Indiana for 60 consecutive days prior to purchasing a license or permit and not claim residency for hunting, trapping, or fishing in another state or country. All other individuals are nonresidents.
- **Licenses and stamps:** A hunting license (and applicable stamps, permits, and HIP number) must have an original signature in ink and be carried with the licensee while hunting or the licensee must produce an electronic copy of the license while hunting. The license or electronic copy of the license must be produced upon the request of an Indiana Conservation Officer or other authorized law enforcement officer.
- **Hunter education:** Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must successfully complete a DNR-offered hunter education class to purchase an Indiana hunting license or must purchase an apprentice hunting license. See page 10 for more information on apprentice licenses.
- **License reprints:** Lost or damaged licenses can be reprinted online at no cost to the customer. Reprints at retail locations may come with a service charge.
- **License revoked:** DNR-issued licenses may be revoked at the discretion of a court upon conviction of fish and wildlife law violations, or at the discretion of the Department, for noncompliance with conditions under which licenses are issued.
- **License refunds:** Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable.

How to Purchase a License

License purchases have an additional tech fee on each transaction.

Online

Go to **GoOutdoorsIN.com**. Online license purchases have an additional tech fee and credit card processing fee on each transaction. Fees are subject to change.

In the App

Download DFWNP's new 'GoOutdoorsIN' app to purchase your license from your smartphone.

In Person

Visit one of more than 500 retailers statewide listed at **on.IN.gov/HuntFishLicenseRetailers**.

By Mail

Send a check or money order (payable to DNR) or credit card information (include number, CVV, and expiration date) to DNR Customer Service, Attention: Licenses. Be sure to include the $1 tech fee.

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include:

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

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

402 W. Washington St.
W255C
Indianapolis, IN 46204

By Phone

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

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





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INDIANA LICENSE FEES

Resident Licenses	Fee
Small Game Hunting & Trapping	
Annual Small Game Hunting & Fishing Combo	$32
Annual Youth Consolidated Hunt/Trap*	$12
Annual Small Game Hunting	$20
Disabled American Veteran Hunting & Fishing (does not include deer or turkey)	$2.75
10-Year Disabled American Veteran Hunting & Fishing (does not include deer or turkey)	$27.50
Annual Trapping	$20
Spring Turkey	$32
Fall Turkey	$32
Bobcat	$15
Deer	
Deer License Bundle**	$91
Annual Youth Consolidated Hunt/Trap*	$12
Deer Archery (Archery Season), includes Crossbow	$39
Deer Firearms (Buck Only – Firearms Season)	$39
Deer Military/Refuge (federal military and national wildlife refuges only)	$39
Deer Multi-Season Antlerless (First)	$39
Deer Multi-Season Antlerless (Second and Additional)***	$24
Deer Muzzleloader (Muzzleloader Season Only)	$39
Deer Reduction Zone (Reduction Zones only during the reduction zone season only)	$39
Stamps	
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Privilege****	$11
Waterfowl Stamp Privilege*****	$11

Nonresident Licenses	Fee
Small Game Hunting & Trapping	
Annual Small Game Hunting	$90
Annual Youth Small Game Hunting	$20
Annual 5-Day Small Game Hunting	$50
Annual Trapping	$140
Annual Youth Trapping	$20
Spring Turkey	$175
Youth Spring Turkey	$32
Fall Turkey	$175
Youth Fall Turkey	$32
Bobcat	$120
Youth Bobcat	$24
Deer	
Deer License Bundle**	$550
Deer Archery (Archery Season), includes Crossbow	$240
Deer Firearms (Buck Only – Firearms Season)	$240
Deer Military/Refuge (federal military and national wildlife refuges only)	$240
Deer Multi-Season Antlerless (First)	$240
Deer Multi-Season Antlerless (Second and Additional)***	$39
Deer Muzzleloader (Muzzleloader Season Only)	$240
Deer Reduction Zone (reductions zones only in reduction zone season)	$240
Youth Deer License Bundle	$91
Youth Deer Archery (Archery Season), includes Crossbow	$39
Youth Deer Firearms (Buck Only – Firearms Season)	$39
Youth Deer Military/Refuge (federal military and national wildlife refuges only)	$39
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Youth Deer Muzzleloader (Muzzleloader Season Only)	$39
Youth Deer Reduction Zone	$39
Stamps	
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Waterfowl Stamp Privilege*****	$11

Apprentice hunting licenses are available for all hunting licenses, other than DAV licenses; see page 10 for more information about apprentice licenses.

* Youth consolidated hunt/trap licenses are for residents 17 or younger. All youth hunting licenses are valid for the designated license year, even if the individual turns 18 during that year, but the license must be purchased before the youth turns 18. Nonresident youth that have a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian that is a resident of Indiana may purchase a resident youth consolidated hunt/trap license.

** The deer license bundle is one license that includes privileges to harvest two antlerless deer and one antlered deer. The deer license bundle cannot be used to satisfy deer reduction zone bag limits. The deer license bundle can be used in the special youth, archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons.

*** A person must first purchase a multi-season antlerless deer license at the rate of $39 (residents) or $240 (nonresidents) before purchasing the second and any additional multi-season antlerless deer licenses at the reduced rate. No other deer license type counts toward the reduced price for the second and any additional multi-season antlerless licenses.

**** Gamebird Habitat Stamp is required to hunt turkey, dove, northern bobwhite quail, and ring-necked pheasant, in addition to the hunting license. Youth (resident and nonresident) are exempt from this stamp.

***** Waterfowl Stamp privilege is required to hunt waterfowl (see page 36). Youth (resident and nonresident) are exempt from this stamp.

State Stamp & License Exemptions

The following are exempt from license requirements (all other hunting regulations apply):

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

  Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber, or the raising of livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. There is no acreage requirement to qualify for this exemption.
- Trustees and named trust beneficiaries comprised solely of the members of an immediate family that are residents of Indiana when hunting on the trust property (as defined in Indiana Code 30-4-1-2).
- Youth less than 13 years of age who are accompanying a licensed hunter who is at least 18 years of age; as long as the youth is not carrying a bow or firearm.
- Youth participating in free youth hunting days.

The following nonresidents can hunt with a resident license:

- A nonresident younger than 18 years old may hunt, trap, or fish with a resident license if a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian is an Indiana resident.

Veterans & Active Duty Military

Residents who are catastrophically disabled veterans as defined in 38 CFR 17.36(e) may hunt on any of the following four free hunting days without a state license or stamp: Sept. 5-6 and Nov. 28-29, 2026. All other hunting regulations apply (bag limits, legal equipment, etc.). The catastrophically disabled veteran must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age. The adult partner must be in close enough proximity to monitor and communicate with the veteran at all times. The adult may help the veteran with calling game but may not carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, except for a handgun carried lawfully. The adult partner must possess a valid hunting license unless exempt from needing a license.

Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service and who are carrying their leave orders and a valid Indiana driver's license or Indiana voter registration card are exempt from license requirements.

Nonresident military personnel on active duty and stationed in Indiana may hunt or fish with a resident license.

A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number is still required to hunt waterfowl or other migratory birds as well as a Federal Duck Stamp when hunting waterfowl. For more information, visit our website at **on.IN.gov/dav-licenses**.

Nonresident Landowners

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

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

* For example, if a nonresident is from state X that only allows Indiana residents who own land in that state an exemption to hunt small game on land they own without a license, then the same exemption would apply in Indiana for a nonresident who owns Indiana farmland and is hunting small game on that

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farmland. If state X does not include other species in the exemption, then the nonresident must have a valid nonresident license and any applicable stamps to hunt those species in Indiana.

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

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

Nonresident Private Shooting Preserve

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

Persons with Disabilities

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

Special permits may allow those who cannot walk or have serious walking limitations to hunt from a vehicle or gain special vehicle access on public property. Individuals with a disability permit must also have the appropriate valid hunting license for that species, unless exempt from a license under state law while hunting on their farmland.

For rules or application forms, contact the Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves by calling 317-234-8440 or visit **on.IN.gov/dav-licenses.**

Individuals with certain permanent developmental disabilities as defined in state law may apply for a conditional hunter education card. The individual must first take the hunter education class.

To find out where to hunt on a DNR property with a disability permit, contact the property manager (page 47).

Hunting Guide License

Law requires hunting guide or outfitter services that are offered or provided for money or other consideration to possess a valid annual Hunting Guide License issued under Indiana Code 14-22-15.5. The annual license expires on March 31 of the following year in which the license was issued. Applications for these licenses can be found at **on.IN.gov/dfw-license-permits** by clicking on "Permits & Commercial Licenses."

Apprentice Licenses

A resident or nonresident can buy an apprentice hunting license without having to take a hunter education class. An individual can purchase up to three apprentice licenses of any combination in a lifetime before having to take a DNR-offered hunter education class. Apprentice licenses are required for those born after Dec. 31, 1986 unless a DNR-offered hunter education class has been completed.

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

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

Landowners or lessees of farmland and their children living with them who meet the requirements for license exemptions (pages 8-9) are also exempt from needing an apprentice hunting license.

Hunter Education

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

The DNR offers hunter education courses in counties throughout the state. These courses are available only to Indiana residents. Hunters 11 years old and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian during every session. To find classes in your area, visit **indianahuntereducation.com** or contact:

- Hunter Education North, 317-605-1028; email **chclark@dnr.IN.gov**
- Hunter Education South, 317-694-7531; email **tbeck@dnr.IN.gov**

Indiana offers an online hunter safety course for hunters age 12 and older to obtain their hunter education card. For more information please visit **hunter-ed.com/Indiana**. If you have lost your hunter education card, visit **ilostmycard.com.**

Trapper Education

The DNR offers trapper education courses that describe basic methods for trapping furbearers, handling the catch, and the responsibilities of the trapper. It is not mandatory but recommended if you are new to regulated trapping.

To find information on classes in your area, go to **register-ed.com/programs/Indiana**.

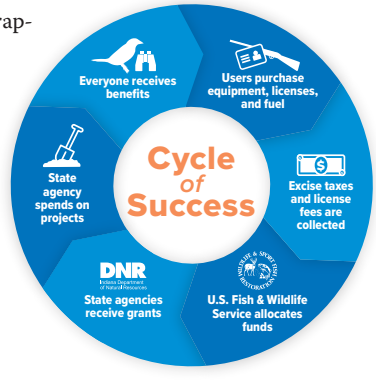
Conservation Funding: A Benefit for All

All wildlife need great habitat to thrive. The purchase of licenses and equipment for hunting and trapping directly supports keeping the habitat and the wildlife species flourishing.

Each license sale contributes even more to conservation with a matched contribution from a federal fund. The federal fund was established by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937. Under the act, manufacturers and importers pay an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service distributes the money from the excise tax back to each state and territory using a formula that is based on the land area and the area's number of licensed hunters and trappers.

The combination of license dollars and federal funds are designated solely for conservation, restoration of wild birds and mammals, habitat management, hunter education, and hunting and recreational shooting opportunities.

Whether you're a hunter, trapper, recreational shooter, angler, birder, wildlife viewer, or an outdoor enthusiast of any other type, you benefit from the cycle of conservation funding. To all of you who contribute to this important work, thank you.



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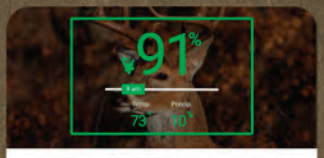


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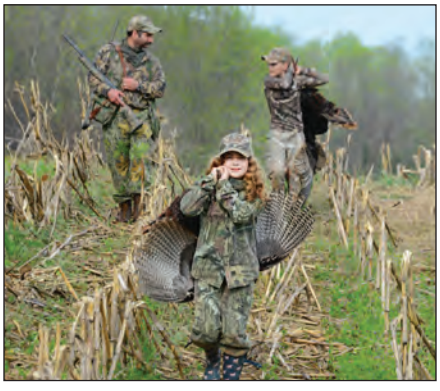
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Perks for Youth Hunters

In Indiana, youth hunters have many opportunities to help them get outdoors.



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

The resident youth hunt/trap license is $12 for any Indiana resident age 17 or younger. It includes all hunting and trapping licenses and stamp privileges, including small game, deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl. No additional licenses are needed, except when a Federal Duck Stamp is required (for hunters age 16 and older). All hunters of waterfowl and other migratory birds must have a free Harvest Information Program (HIP) number (page 37).

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

Nonresident youth who don't qualify for the $12 license can buy the appropriate nonresident youth license—annual hunting, deer, turkey, or trapping—at the same rate as a resident adult license, which is less than nonresident adult licenses.

There also are special hunt dates for youth age 17 and younger, and many DNR-managed properties offer youth hunting events. For more details, check **wildlife.IN.gov/hunting-and-trapping/youth-hunts.**

Free Hunting Days

The free youth hunting dates in 2026 are Sept. 5-6 and Nov. 28-29.

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

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

To hunt waterfowl, a Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years or older.

The youth's adult partner must be in close enough proximity to monitor and be able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times. The adult may help the youth hunter with calling game but may not carry a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, except for a handgun carried lawfully. The adult must possess a valid hunting license, unless exempted from needing a license.

Youth Deer Season

Youth deer season for properly licensed youth hunters is Sept. 26-27, 2026. Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age.

The youth hunter may harvest both antlered and antlerless deer. The antlered deer counts toward the statewide bag limit of one antlered deer. The number of antlerless deer harvested is determined by the antlerless bag limit for the county hunted.

The youth hunter must possess a valid license for hunting deer while in the field unless exempt from needing a license. The youth's adult partner must possess a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license.

The youth hunter and adult partner must wear hunter orange.

The youth hunter may use a legal rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, air gun, bow and arrow, or crossbow to take a deer.

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

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

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

Youth Waterfowl Season

The 2026 youth waterfowl season dates for properly licensed youth hunters are Oct. 17-18 (North Zone), Oct. 24-25 (Central Zone), and Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 (South Zone). Youth 17 or younger on the date of the hunt can participate, but must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years of age. A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years of age or older. A Harvest Information Program number (HIP) is required during the youth waterfowl season. A State Waterfowl Stamp is not required to hunt waterfowl or other migratory birds for resident and nonresident youth license holders.

Youth Turkey Season

The youth wild turkey season for properly licensed youth hunters is April 17-18, 2027.

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

A resident youth hunter must have the resident youth hunt/trap combo license (no stamp required). A nonresident youth hunter must have a valid nonresident youth turkey hunting license (no stamp required). A youth hunter possessing a youth license during the youth turkey season needs to be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The accompanying adult does not need to possess a hunting license unless the adult partner is participating in the hunt (e.g., calling turkeys), at which time the adult would need a valid turkey license and gamebird stamp privilege for turkey hunting, unless that adult is exempt from license requirements (see pages 8-9).

A youth hunter possessing an apprentice license during the youth turkey season needs to be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who possesses a valid hunting license, unless that adult is exempt from license requirements (see pages 8-9).

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

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

Youth Reserved Hunts

Youth have the opportunity to apply for youth reserved hunts for deer, gamebirds, and wild turkey. These opportunities are available across the state and include state and federal lands. Most of these opportunities are facilitated through the Indiana DNR Reserved Draw Program. You can apply and find more information on specific opportunities at **on.IN.gov/reservedhunt**.

If you have any questions regarding youth reserved hunt opportunities, please email DFWReservedHunts@dnr.IN.gov



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Bag and Possession Limits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Hunting Hours

Turkey: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (the hunting hours may differ on state-owned property—page 40).

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

Furbearer: Trapping/Hunting/Running: No restrictions.

Small Game: No restrictions, except for rabbits on designated DNR properties in February (page 34).

Waterfowl (ducks and geese): One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except for teals, which are sunrise to sunset. Shooting hours may differ on state-owned property (page 47).

Wild Animals Found Dead

If a deer, wild turkey, river otter, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, Eastern cottontail rabbit, Northern bobwhite, pheasant, or furbearer (e.g., beaver, bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, skunk, long-tailed weasel) dies after a collision with a motor vehicle, an Indiana Conservation Officer (page 48) or other law enforcement officer, DNR property manager or assistant property manager (page 47), or wildlife biologist (page 46) may issue a permit to an individual to possess the dead animal.

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

Wildlife found deceased from unknown causes can be reported at **on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.**

Disturbing Nests or Dens

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

A person must not wear or use a device to climb poles or trees or possess an ax or saw while in the field at night. This is to ensure the prevention of dislodging a wild animal from its home or other location where it has hidden itself for security or protection.

Trespassing

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

Always ask permission before entering private property. A form requesting permission to access private land can be found at **hunting.IN.gov.**

Use of Drones

State law prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to search for, scout, locate, or detect a wild animal as an aid to take that animal during the hunting season and for 14 days prior to the hunting season for that animal. There are a few exceptions for purposes such as agricultural production, nuisance wild animal control, and scientific research. Drones with infrared abilities may be used to locate and recover a legally taken wild animal, including deer that have already been lawfully killed. Permission from the landowner must be obtained to enter the property or recover the wild animal.

An "unmanned aerial vehicle" means an aircraft that does not carry a human operator and is capable of flight under remote control or autonomous programming. Drones are not permitted on a DNR property without a special permit from the property.

Party Hunting

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

Spotlighting

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

It is also illegal to shine a spotlight, searchlight, or other artificial light for the purpose of taking, attempting to take, or assisting another person to take any wild animal, excluding furbearing mammals, crayfish, and frogs or while fishing.

Red Dot Sights

Red dot sights are legal for all hunting.

Hunting from a Vehicle or Boat

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

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

It is illegal to ride an off-road vehicle with a loaded firearm unless it's a legally possessed handgun or if the person carrying the firearm is operating the vehicle on property the person owns, has a contractual interest in, or has permission from the landowner to possess the firearm on the property in accordance with Indiana Code 14-16-1-23.

Wanton Waste

It is illegal to kill or cripple any wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and include it in the bag limit. It is also illegal to enter private property without permission to retrieve downed game. Before hunting, individuals should make sure they have permission to track game on land adjoining their hunting area.

Handguns

While hunting, an individual may carry a handgun without a handgun license in accordance with Indiana Code 35-47-2-1 found at **iga.IN.gov**. It is illegal to take a deer with a handgun except during the firearms season, during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloading handgun, and when in compliance with DNR regulations.

Trail/Game Cameras on DNR Properties

Trail or game cameras can be placed on Fish & Wildlife areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests, and State Recreation Areas as long as the camera is legibly marked with (A) the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the camera in the English language; or (B) the individual's customer identification number issued by the department. Trail or game cameras are not allowed on State Parks or on Dedicated Nature Preserves (that are **not** part of one of the properties named at the beginning of the paragraph).

HUNT KENTUCKY ELK

Scan to get in on the action:



Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources

fw.ky.gov

Illustration by Rick Hill

Disposing of Carcasses

The DNR recommends all discarded carcasses and unwanted animal parts be double-bagged and sent to a permitted landfill that accepts these materials. Other disposal options include burial, incineration, rendering, and composting.

Disposal on the landscape requires landowner permission. Do not dispose of carcasses in waterways as this can be considered littering.

Shooting Across Roads or Waters

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

Where to Hunt

Indiana's Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves manages over 170,000 acres of land. Some of this land includes Fish & Wildlife areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas. Reservoir properties and State Forests add another 200,000-plus acres.

Purple Paint = No Trespassing

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

- To find a hunting spot near you, visit **on.IN.gov/where2hunt.**
- Reserved hunt draws are available at select Indiana DNR properties across the state. For details on specific hunts and application windows, visit on.IN.gov/reservedhunt.
- The Indiana Private Lands Access program provides opportunities for hunters on privately-owned land. To learn more about these hunts or enrolling your land in the program, visit **on.IN.gov/private-lands-access**.

Harassment of Hunters & Trappers

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with the legal taking of a game animal by another person with the intent to prevent the taking of said animal. A person who knowingly or intentionally enters or remains on public land or upon private land which they do not have permission to be on, with the intent to interfere with the legal taking of a game animal violates the statute.

Selling of Wild Game

Protected or regulated wild animals, live, dead, or the meat therefrom, cannot be sold, traded or bartered. (Exceptions: furbearers; river otters; bobcats; squirrel tails & hides; deer hides, antlers & hooves; and cured pheasant, Northern bobwhite quail and turkey feathers may be sold. All must be lawfully taken.)

DNR, Federal Property Rules

Hunting and trapping regulations may vary on some state or federal properties. Please check with the property manager for current regulations before hunting or trapping on state or federal areas (page 47).

Violation Penalties

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

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

Hunter Orange Requirements

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

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

Fluorescent orange must be worn during the following periods:

- deer season (during times listed on pg. 24)
- fall turkey season (when overlapping deer muzzleloader season — see pg. 41)
- rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, northern bobwhite quail, and woodcock seasons
- squirrel season from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31

Silencers/Suppressors

Silencers/suppressors can be used to take wild animals in accordance with federal law. See Indiana Code 14-22-38-4.5 regarding violations related to their use when hunting.



Stay Connected



SCAN FOR
Tree Stand Set-up Videos

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

"Once your feet leave the ground, it is imperative to stay connected to the tree for the entire duration of the hunt," said Lt. Travis Stewart of the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. "This would be from the moment you start to climb, while you are hunting, and during your descent. Your harness needs to be connected to a tree belt, tree stand safety line, or tether system."

Of the 137 hunting accident reports filed by DNR Law Enforcement over the past five years, 91 involved falls from tree stands, only 9 of which were in 2025. Over 93% of the victims were not wearing any form of fall arrest device or full-body harness, which could have prevented serious injuries.

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

Before the Hunt

- Know your equipment.
  - Read and understand manufacturer's instructions and warnings before using your tree stand and full-body harness (FBH).
  - Check stands and climbing aids (including straps and chains) every season and before each use for signs of wear, fatigue, cracks, and loose or missing nuts and bolts. Replace as necessary. It is recommended to remove stands after the season ends. (See page 24 for laws for tree stands on public lands.)
  - Practice at ground level with your tree stand and FBH with another person present.
  - Learn how to properly use your FBH with a suspension release device.
- Select the right tree for your stand.
  - Find a healthy, straight tree that is the right size for your tree stand.
  - Check the tree for insect nests and animal dens.
  - Avoid using climbing stands on smooth-barked trees, especially during icy or wet conditions.
  - Clear debris from the base of the tree to minimize injury from a fall and to ensure a safe base if using a ladder stand.

During the Hunt

- Wear an FBH. Simply owning an FBH does not make you safe. You must wear it.
- Make sure your FBH is attached to the tree as soon as you start to climb.
- For an additional level of safety, use a tree stand safety rope.
- In the case of ladder stands, attach the FBH before securing the platform to the tree or stepping onto it.
- When climbing a ladder, keep three points of contact with the ladder at all times. Both hands and a foot or both of your feet and one hand should be used to support your body weight when using a ladder.
- Always be sure to use a supplied tether between the base and seat portion of the stand to connect the two sections.
- When using a platform stand, climb higher than the stand and then step down onto the platform. Slowly put your weight onto your stand to be sure of your balance.
- Use boots with nonslip soles to avoid slipping, especially in wet weather.

In the Stand

- Properly adjust your FBH. Whether standing or sitting, keep the tether-line distance between you and the tree as short as possible with no slack in the tether while in a seated position. This will minimize the distance in the case of a fall.
- Use a haul line. Always raise and lower your firearm, bow, or other equipment with a haul line.
- Make sure firearms have the muzzle pointed down, are unloaded, with the action open, and with the safety on, before attaching a haul line near the trigger or trigger guard.
- Make sure broadheads are covered before raising or lowering a bow with a haul line.
- If you fall, stay calm. By planning ahead, you can avoid additional problems.



- Have emergency equipment, such as a knife, cellphone, flashlight, and/or whistle on your person.
- Practice the three Rs: recover, relief, and rescue. Attempt to recover and return to your stand. If this is not possible, exercise your legs by pushing against the tree, using another form of motion or your suspension relief device until help arrives.
- Use a hunt plan. Let someone know where you are hunting and when you will return.

Saddle Hunting

With the rising popularity of saddle hunting systems, here are a few key safety elements to additionally consider.

- Hunting saddles are not a replacement for a full-body harness (FBH) in other elevated hunting platforms.
- Never modify or alter the manufacturer's product.
- Always keep the tether at the proper height, and the lineman belt attached at a proper distance away from the tree and not below the waist.
- Always ensure that carabiners are properly closed when the load is applied.
- Never untie the stopper knot at the end of the bridge of the hunting saddle.

The Best Tip of All?

Don't take chances and stay connected!

Hunt for Health: Discovering the Benefits of the Outdoor Lifestyle

Hunting offers numerous benefits for people, wildlife populations, and the ecosystems we share. For individuals, it supports physical health, mental well-being, and a stronger sense of community. Whether you're new to the activity, an experienced hunter, or somewhere in between, there's never been a better time to get outdoors and experience these benefits firsthand.

Time spent in the field helps build strength, stamina, and balance through activities like hiking, tracking, and harvesting game. Research also shows that spending at least 120 minutes in nature each week can improve overall health, reduce stress, and enhance physical well-being.[1] Additional studies have found that time spent in nature can lower cortisol levels, ease muscle tension, and reduce heart rate and blood pressure. Hunting also promotes dietary health and self-sufficiency by providing access to lean, locally sourced meat for individuals and their families, reducing reliance on commercially produced food and saving money. Hunters in Indiana generated approximately 10 million pounds of wild game meat last season alone, highlighting the significant contribution of hunting to sustainable food systems.

Indiana hunters don't just keep this meat to themselves. Ninety-six percent of Indiana hunters shared their harvest with others. Of all the meat harvested from recreational hunting, 57 percent was shared, either inside or outside the household.[2] That equates to roughly 3.9 million pounds of wild game meat being shared to 233,000 people inside hunter households, and an additional 1.9 million pounds being shared to 388,000 people outside hunter households in the 2024-2025 hunting season alone.[2] Indiana hunters also donate meat to Hunt for Hunger, a program that allows hunters to donate deer at participating processors to feed Hoosiers in need. In 2025, hunters donated 1,457 deer or 72,850 pounds of game meat to the program, creating approximately 291,200 meals. For more information or ways to donate, visit **on.IN.gov/huntforhunger**.

Hunting also has major benefits for hunters' mental health. Time in nature is shown to be associated with increases in happiness and subjective well-being and decreases in mental distress. Hunting also fosters patience, mindfulness, and focus. Time spent in nature while hunting has been linked to improved concentration and attention. Successful hunters must remain fully present in the moment, practicing controlled breathing, steady movement, and mental clarity, all of which support ethical, safe, and quick decision-making in the field.

No matter the species you pursue or methods you employ, hunting offers benefits for everyone. Ready to experience them for yourself? Indiana DNR is eager to help you get started on or continue your hunting journey. Visit **Hunting.IN.gov** for information and resources. To find places to hunt, visit our Where to Hunt map at **on.IN.gov/where2hunt**.

To learn more about how hunting supports environmental and wildlife health, check out the article on page 38.

References:

1: White, M. P., Alcock, I., Grellier, J., Wheeler, B. W., Hartig, T., Warber, S. L., Bone, A., Depledge, M. H., & Fleming, L. E. (2019). Spending at Least 120 minutes a Week in Nature Is Associated with Good Health and Wellbeing. Scientific Reports, 9(1). **https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-44097-3**

2: Conservation Visions. 2025. Wild meat sharing and consumption index survey: Indiana. St. John's (NL) [Unpublished report]: Conservation Visions, Wild Harvest Initiative®





YOUR Resource Hunting Pack

Hunter Education
on.IN.gov/hunter-education

Before entering the field, get educated on how to hunt safely and ethically in a hunter education class.

Fish & Wildlife Events
IN.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/events

Find hunting skill-building events near you on our *Events* page.

Hunting and Trapping Webpage
IN.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/hunting-and-trapping

Learn more about huntable species, season dates, and regulations, and get tips for learning to hunt, trap, and shoot.

Youth Hunting Webpage
on.IN.gov/youth-hunts

Learn about special hunting opportunities for youth.

Which License Do I Need? – Sport License Finder
on.IN.gov/dnr-license-finder

Find out which license you need before you hit the field with the *Sport License Finder* tool or *Which License Do I Need* flowcharts.

Licenses & Permits
on.IN.gov/huntinglicense

Be sure you have a valid Indiana hunting license. Purchase online at the Indiana DNR webpage, in the GoOutdoorsIN mobile app, or in person at participating outdoor retailers or DNR properties.

Where to Hunt Map
on.IN.gov/where2hunt

Discover your next hunting spot using the interactive Where to Hunt map.

DNR App
IN.gov/core/mobile/dnr-app.html

Download the Indiana DNR Mobile App to access maps, regulations, public hunting locations, and more.

Shooting Range Information
on.IN.gov/dnrshootingranges

Find a place to sight in your rifle, target shoot, or practice for your next hunt on the *Shooting Ranges* page.

Property Information
on.IN.gov/dfwproperties

Discover new public hunting properties near you by visiting the *Find a Property* page.

Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Webpage
on.IN.gov/tip

Call TIP if you see, hear, or learn about poaching or other fish and wildlife violations. If your "TIP" leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a $500 reward, and you can remain anonymous.

Indiana DNR YouTube Channel
youtube.com/idnrvideos

Visit the Indiana DNR YouTube channel for videos covering hunting regulations, tips, tricks, game processing instructions, recipes, and more.

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Deer Regulations

Overview

For deer hunting in Indiana, it is important to note the following:

- Visit the Where to Hunt online map at **on.IN.gov/where2hunt** to find **deer hunting locations**.
- The **legal deer hunting hours** in Indiana are from half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset.
- The **statewide bag limit** is 6 antlerless deer and 1 antlered deer. Additional bag limits apply within the deer reduction zones if you are using deer reduction zone licenses.
- You must comply with each **county's antlerless bag limit**, which can be found on page 31 and online at **on.IN.gov/deer-quota**.
- A deer is considered an **antlered deer** if it has at least one antler that is 3 inches or longer. If the deer doesn't have an antler that is at least 3 inches long, it is considered an **antlerless deer**.

As you are reading through this hunting guide, please be aware of the differences between *season* requirements and *license* requirements, which often have the same names. A ***season*** refers to a specific time window, the *licenses* and legal equipment that can be used to harvest a deer during that time window, and other limitations or requirements. A ***license*** provides the opportunity to harvest one or more deer (depending on the license) during specific *seasons*. For example, there is a deer firearms season and a deer firearms license. The deer firearms license can only be used during the deer firearms season. However, the multi-season antlerless deer license and the license bundle can also be used during firearms season as well as other deer seasons. You must be aware of the state bag limit, which is the total number of deer that can be taken in all seasons combined.

Deer Hunting License Requirements

To hunt deer in Indiana, you must have a valid license unless you meet an exemption criteria in the law (check pages 8-9 for details). While hunting on any land (public or private) you must carry a physical or digital license or license hard card displaying one of the following licenses:

- Deer Hunting License (Bundle, Archery, Firearms, Muzzleloader, Reduction Zone, Military/Refuge, or Multi-season Antlerless)
- Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License
- Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License
- Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing License



Number of Deer Per License

With most licenses, you can only take one deer per license. However, you can harvest more than one deer with a deer license bundle, lifetime comprehensive hunting license, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license, or youth hunt/trap license. The total number of deer taken with these licenses or with all regular deer licenses (archery, muzzleloader, firearms, and multi-season antlerless) combined cannot exceed the state bag limit of 1 antlered deer and 6 antlerless deer or the county bag limits (listed on page 31).

Deer License Bundle

The deer license bundle allows you to hunt deer in all deer seasons, but cannot be counted toward the reduction zone bag limit.

With the deer license bundle, you can harvest up to **two antlerless deer** AND **one antlered deer**.

When you harvest antlerless deer with this bundle, those deer count toward the county's antlerless deer bag limit (see page 31 for details) as well as the statewide antlerless deer bag limit of 6 for the 2026-27 hunting seasons.

The antlered deer you harvest will count as the one antlered deer you can harvest under the statewide bag limit for the 2026-27 hunting seasons.

You can use this bundle to hunt deer with legal equipment during the archery, firearms, or muzzleloader seasons.

Note: On some DNR properties, you **cannot** use the bundle to take antlerless deer with a firearm during firearms season. To find out if a specific property has restrictions, check page 47 for property contacts or visit **on.IN.gov/deer-quota** for more information.

Seasonal Bag Limits

- **Youth Season** – During youth season, youth cannot exceed county bag limits (see page 31) or the state bag limit of 1 antlered deer and 6 antlerless deer. On some DNR properties, youth can harvest only 1 antlerless deer across all these properties, along with 1 antlered deer. See **on.IN.gov/deer-quota** for more details.
- **Youth licenses during regular deer hunting seasons** – To comply with the season bag limits during the remainder of the deer seasons, youth must subtract any deer harvested during the youth season from the statewide bag limits. For example, if a youth hunter harvested 1 antlered deer during youth season, they could not harvest another antlered deer during the regular deer hunting seasons.
- **Archery, Firearms, and Muzzleloader Seasons** – You may use the lifetime comprehensive, youth hunt/trap, archery, firearms (for antlered deer only), muzzleloader, and multi-season antlerless licenses to harvest the statewide bag limit of 1 antlered deer and 6 antlerless deer. The antlerless bag limit for each county specifies the total number of antlerless deer you may harvest from that county (page 31).

- **Reduction Zone Season** – You may harvest 10 total deer in addition to statewide bag limits from within a deer reduction zone during the DRZ season. They can be either 1 antlered deer (see "earn a buck" on page 26) AND 9 antlerless deer OR 10 antlerless deer and no antlered deer. You may only take one deer per license and must take an antlerless deer before taking an antlered deer.

License Requirements for Specific Seasons:

- **Archery Season:** To use a bow (long bow, compound bow, recurve bow, or crossbow) during archery season, you must have at least one of the following:
  - Archery License
  - Deer License Bundle
  - Multi-season Antlerless License
  - Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License
  - Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing License or Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License.
- **Firearms Season:** If you plan to hunt using firearms during firearms season, you need one of the following licenses:
  - Deer Firearms License (antlered deer only)
  - Deer License Bundle
  - Multi-season Antlerless License
  - Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License
  - Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License or Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing License.

Note: You cannot use a muzzleloader license during firearms season.

- **Muzzleloader Season:** To hunt with a muzzleloader during muzzleloader season, you need one of the following licenses:
  - Muzzleloader License
  - Deer License Bundle
  - Multi-season Antlerless License
  - Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License
  - Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing License or Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License

Note: A firearms license cannot be used during muzzleloader season.

Still not sure? Use our Sport License Finder at **on.IN.gov/dnr-license-finder.**

How Deer Season Dates are Determined

Reduction Zone: From Sept. 15 through Jan. 31 of the following year in a deer reduction zone.

Youth: Two consecutive days beginning on the Saturday immediately before Oct. 1.

Archery: Oct. 1 through the first Sunday in January.

Firearms: From the first Saturday after Nov. 11 and continues for an additional 15 days.

Muzzleloader: From the first Saturday after the closing day of firearms season and continues for an additional 15 days.

Find complete regulations in Indiana Administrative Code, Title 312, Article 9, (**iar.iga.in.gov/code**).



Legal Deer Hunting Equipment

Hunters can use any legal hunting equipment for deer as long as that deer hunting season is open and they have the appropriate license or meet a license exemption.

- For example, if you have a deer license bundle, you can carry both a bow and a rifle during firearms season because archery season is also open.
- You can carry more than one type of firearm when hunting during the firearms season, youth season, and in reduction zones (but only in areas where local laws permit the use of firearms).
- Additionally, hunters are allowed to use firearms with suppressors to hunt deer if they are also following federal regulations to possess a suppressor.

Legal Rifles for Deer Hunting

You can use any centerfire rifle with a bullet diameter of at least .219 inches (5.56mm) for deer hunting on both public and private land. Full-metal jacketed bullets are **not** allowed. Hunters may carry only 10 cartridges at a time. If you own a short-barreled rifle legally, you can also use it on public or private land during the firearms season.

When can you use rifles? Rifles are permitted during youth hunting season (Sept. 26-27, 2026), firearms season (Nov. 14-29, 2026), and deer reduction zone season (only from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027) where local ordinances allow.

Legal Handguns for Deer Hunting

To hunt deer with a handgun, the barrel must be at least 4 inches long, the bullet diameter must be at least .243 inches, AND the case length must be at least 1.16 inches. The exception to these rules is the 10 mm and .40 Smith & Wesson. These do not fully meet these requirements; however, they are still allowed for deer hunting.

The following ammunition **cannot** be used for deer hunting: .25-20 Winchester, .32-20 Winchester, .30 Carbine, and .38 Special.

Also, keep in mind that short-barreled rifles with barrels shorter than 18 inches are not considered handguns. Handguns are not allowed for hunting on military properties.

When can you use handguns? You can use handguns during firearms season (Nov. 14-29, 2026), and deer reduction zone season (only from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027) where local ordinances allow.

Legal Shotguns for Deer Hunting

You can use any common shotgun for deer hunting, including those with the following gauges: 10, 12, 16, 20, 28, or .410 inch. However, you must use only slugs or saboted bullets for hunting.

Combination guns that work as both a rifle and shotgun are also allowed.

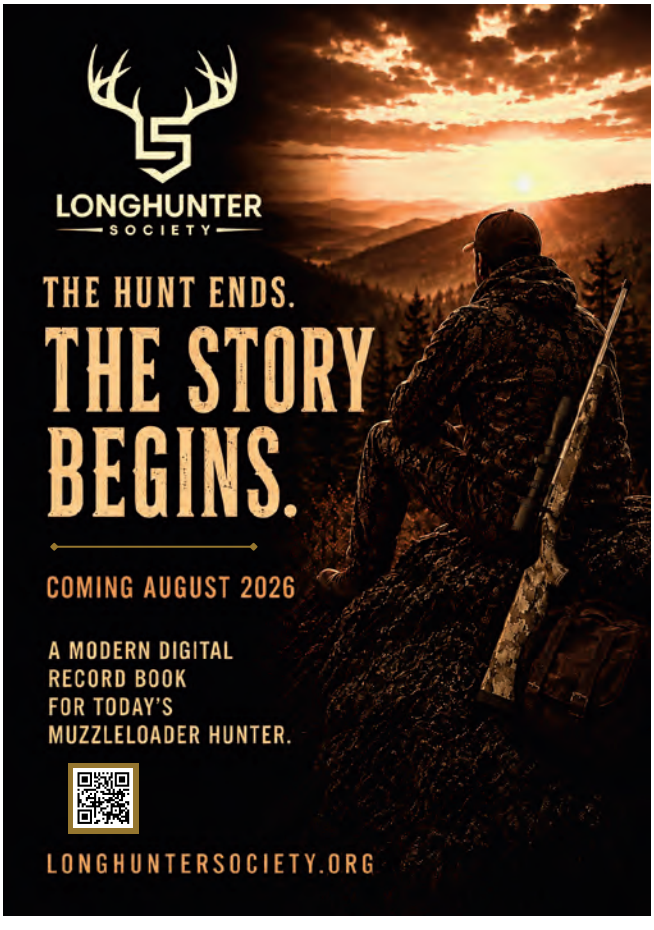
When can you use shotguns? Shotguns can be used during youth hunting season (Sept. 26 & 27, 2026), firearms season (Nov. 14-29, 2026), and deer reduction zone season (only from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027) where local ordinances allow.

Legal Muzzleloaders for Deer Hunting

If you want to hunt deer with a muzzleloader, there are some rules you need to follow:

- For muzzleloading **rifles and shotguns**, the barrel must be at least .40 inches in diameter, and the bullet must be at least .357 inches in diameter.
- For muzzleloading **handguns**, the barrel must be at least 12 inches long and must fire a bullet that is at least .44 inches in diameter, while the barrel caliber needs to be .50 inches minimum.
- A muzzleloading long gun must be only capable of loading a bullet from the barrel (the muzzle). It is acceptable to use muzzleloading long guns that can load powder through the breech.
- You can only load one bullet at a time, which means no shotgun pellets are allowed. You can use saboted bullets and guns with multiple barrels.
- Black powder revolvers cannot be used for deer hunting.






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When can you use muzzleloaders? Muzzleloaders can be used during muzzleloader season (Dec. 5-20, 2026), youth hunting season (Sept. 26 & 27, 2026), firearms season (Nov. 14-29, 2026), and deer reduction zone season (only from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027) where local ordinances allow.

Legal Equipment for Archery Season

During the archery season, you can use both vertical bows (such as long bows, compound bows, and recurve bows) and crossbows to hunt deer.

- **Vertical Bows:** You can use your hands or a method other than your hands to draw, hold, or release the bowstring. You can use a hand-held release aid such as a draw-loc device if you prefer. The arrows you shoot must have broadheads made of metal or other specified materials, including napped flint, chert, or obsidian. Additionally, the bow needs to have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds.
- **Crossbows:** The crossbow must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds.
- Explosive or poisoned arrows and bolts are **not** legal.

When can you use archery equipment and crossbows? You can use archery equipment during youth hunting season, archery season, and deer reduction zone season.

Legal Air Guns for Deer Hunting

To use an air gun for deer hunting, the bullet must have a diameter of at least .40 caliber and generate a minimum of 400 foot-pounds of energy when fired. The arrow or bolt must have a sharpened metal broadhead and fire at a speed of at least 300 feet per second.

When can you use air guns? You are allowed to hunt with air guns during youth hunting season (Sept. 26 & 27, 2026), firearms season (Nov. 14-29, 2026), and deer reduction zone season (only from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027) where local ordinances allow.

Carrying a Handgun While Hunting

In Indiana, you can carry a handgun while hunting without needing a special handgun license unless prohibited from carrying a handgun under state law. See state law (Indiana Code 35-47-2-1) for more information.

Infrared Sensors, Drones, and Electronic Calls for Hunting Deer

It is against the law to use infrared sensors, drones, or electronic calls to hunt deer. However, if you have already shot a deer, you are allowed to use a drone or an infrared sensor to help find it.

Hunter Orange Requirements

To stay safe while hunting, you must wear bright fluorescent orange clothing during certain seasons. This can include items like a vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat, or cap. The orange must be solid (not camouflage patterned) and visible at all times.

You're required to wear hunter orange when hunting deer from Nov. 14-29, 2026 (firearms season), Dec. 5-20, 2026 (muzzleloader season), and Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027, in deer reduction zones. It's also necessary during youth deer season from Sept. 26-27, 2026.

If you're using a ground blind while hunting on private or public land, the blind must have at least 144 square inches of visible hunter orange on each side. This applies to blinds that are on or within 4 feet off the ground and made of man-made materials. This rule is for both public and private land. Placing a flag on top of the blind does not meet the requirement.

Tree Stands on Public Land

You can use tree stands for hunting deer during all hunting seasons. However, it's against the law to set up or hunt from a *permanent* tree stand on state-owned or state-leased land. You can use *portable* tree stands on DNR properties.

On DNR properties where deer hunting is allowed, you can leave your portable tree stand in place overnight from noon on Sept. 15 to Jan. 10 and on DNR property within deer reductions zones from noon on Sept. 1 to Feb. 8.

If you're using any fasteners to attach the tree stand, they can't go deeper than half an inch into the tree. You must also clearly mark your stand with your name, address, and phone number, or your DNR Customer ID number if it's on public land.

Fair Chase Rules for Deer Hunting

To ensure fair hunting practices, here are the key rules you need to know:

- It is against the law to use snares, salt, or bait to attract and harvest deer. Bait includes anything you bring into a hunting area to feed the animals, such as salt, mineral blocks, prepared food, apples, and other forms of food. Once you've placed the bait, that area is considered "baited" for 10 days after the bait has been removed. After 11 days, it is no longer considered baited, and you can hunt there.
  - If salt, or minerals, or other bait have gone into the soil, that soil will also need to be removed before it can be considered as being bait free.
- You cannot use dogs or other pets to hunt deer. However, you can use dogs on a leash to help track or find injured deer.
- Using artificial deer decoys for hunting deer *is* allowed.

To promote fair hunting and conservation, make sure to follow these rules.

What to Do After Harvesting a Deer

Transportation Tag for Harvested Deer

When you harvest a deer, you need to do the following to tag it properly:

1. Immediately after you harvest the deer, **write a temporary transportation tag** on a piece of paper. This tag must include:
   - Your name and address
   - The sex of the deer (male or female)
   - Your license number (if you have one)
   - The date (month and day) you harvested the deer
2. You don't have to attach the tag to the deer while you're dragging it out of the field, but you must have the completed tag with you.
3. Always keep the deer within eyesight until you've attached the completed temporary tag to it.

Reporting Your Deer Harvest

After harvesting a deer, you must check it in with the DNR within 48 hours. You can do this in one of three ways. Remember to have your customer ID number ready:

1. **Online:** Go to **GoOutdoorsIN.com** and select CheckIN Game.
2. **Phone:** Call 260-368-5880 (no fee)
3. **In Person:** Visit a check station or a store that sells licenses, and they can help register the deer for you.

After you check in the deer, you'll get a confirmation number. Write this number down and keep it with the deer until it is processed.

Email INHuntFish@dnr.IN.gov or call 317-232-4200 if you need to correct a check-in. Include your name and confirmation number.

Remember that the deer's head must stay attached to the body until you have checked in the deer and received your confirmation number. Check-in is also required before the deer leaves the state.

Rules for Bringing Harvested Deer and Elk into Indiana

The Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has rules for bringing deer and elk carcasses from other states into Indiana. You may bring in whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, de-boned meat, or meat that has been commercially processed, but it must not have the head, spinal cord, or small intestine attached. However, there are a few exceptions:

- If a carcass does include the head, spinal cord, or small intestine, it must be taken to a DNR-registered meat processor or licensed taxidermist within 72 hours of entering the state. These professionals must follow specific rules for disposing of any remains.
- You can also bring antlers (with the skull cap as long as it is cleaned of brain and muscle), hides, and upper canine teeth (which are sometimes called "buglers," "whistlers," or "ivories").
- Deer heads can also be brought in if they are taken to a licensed taxidermist within 72 hours upon entering the state, who will also follow the rules for disposing of any remaining tissues.
- Finished taxidermy mounts may also be imported.



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Deer Reduction Zones Explained

Deer reduction zones (DRZs) are special areas where hunters can help manage high deer populations. Here's what you need to know:

- **Season Dates:** The deer reduction zone season runs from Sept. 15, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027.
- **Bag Limit & Earn-A-Buck:** In these zones, you can harvest up to 10 deer, but only one can be antlered (this antlered deer does *not* count toward your statewide bag limit). If you want to take an antlered deer, you first need to harvest an antlerless deer (this is called "earn-a-buck").
- **Licenses Needed:** To hunt in a reduction zone and fulfill the DRZ bag limit, you must have one of the following licenses: a deer reduction zone license, a resident youth hunt/trap license, a lifetime comprehensive hunting license, a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license, or meet a license exemption. Note that the standard deer license bundle **cannot** be used to fulfill the reduction zone bag limit. You need a valid deer reduction zone license for *each* deer you take (i.e., you need 10 DRZ licenses to harvest 10 deer).
- **Local Laws:** The rules for the reduction zone do not override local laws about discharging projectiles. Make sure to follow any local regulations regarding the use of firearms or other equipment. You also need to get permission from landowners to hunt on private property and make sure that public lands are open for hunting.
- **Equipment Use:** In these zones, you can use archery equipment from Sept. 15, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027. Firearms and other legal hunting equipment can be used from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027.
- **Hunter Orange Requirements:** If you hunt a DRZ from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027, you must wear hunter orange clothing.
- **Restrictions:** There are specific rules about licenses when hunting on DNR-managed properties. Check with the property where you plan to hunt for details.

For more information and to see a map of the deer reduction zones, visit **on.IN.gov/deer-reduction**.

Reporting Deer Harvested in a Deer Reduction Zone

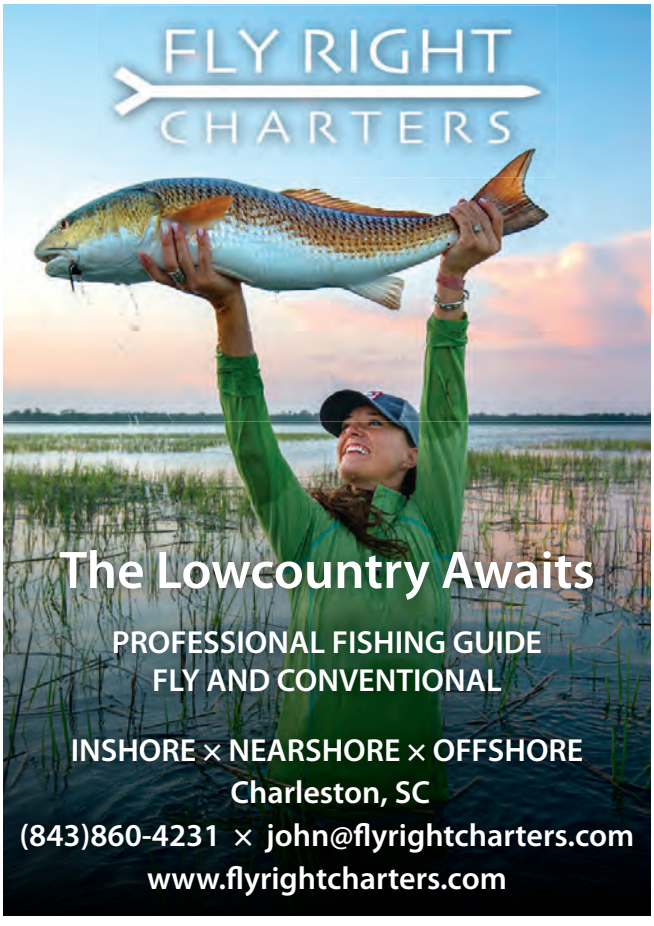
If you harvest a deer within a deer reduction zone, you need to follow these steps to check it in correctly:

- **Check-In Requirement:** In counties with a deer reduction zone, you must register your deer through **the CheckIN Game system by going online at GoOutdoorsIN.com, calling** 260-368-5880, or in-person by visiting a check station or a store that sells licenses. You need to indicate whether the deer was harvested in a reduction zone.
- **Count Toward Bag Limit:** If the deer was harvested in a reduction zone, you must decide if you want that deer to count toward your limit for the zone. If you're using the zone to take a second antlered deer or to reach your limit for antlerless deer, make sure to count those deer toward the zone limit.
- **Not Counting Toward Bag Limit:** If you're hunting in a deer reduction zone but don't want your harvested deer to count toward the zone limit, or if you're using a license that isn't valid for the reduction zone, you should indicate that the deer will not count toward the limit.

Reserved Hunts

Reserved deer hunts are scheduled at select state and federal-managed properties. These draws are designed to provide access to hunters on public lands where demand **for hunting opportunities** exceeds supply. Applications and draws are managed through the online DNR reserved hunt system. A $1 tech fee is charged for each hunt application.

For details and to apply during open applications, go to **on.IN.gov/reservedhunt**.






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DEER EQUIPMENT CHART

	Equipment	Specifications		Legal Season
Firearms	**Centerfire Rifle**	**Bullet diameter:** .219 inch minimum **Barrel length:** No state designated minimum; ATF minimum barrel length is 16 inches; use of a short-barreled rifle is legal if registered with ATF and legally possessed. • full metal jacketed bullets are illegal • A hunter can carry no more than 10 cartridges for deer hunting on public and private land.		Youth, firearms, deer reduction zone*
	Centerfire Handgun	**Barrel length:** 4 inch minimum **Bullet diameter:** .243 inch minimum **Case length:** 1.16 inch minimum, except for 10 mm Auto and .40 S&W • 10 mm also legal cartridges (i.e., 10 mm Auto and .40 S&W) • rifles with barrels less than 18 inches are NOT considered handguns • .25-20 Winchester, .32-20 Winchester, .30 carbine, and .38 special ammunition are prohibited • NOT permitted for hunting on military areas		Firearms, deer reduction zone*
	Shotgun	**Bore:** 10, 12, 16, 20, or 28 gauge or .410 inch • shooting slugs and saboted bullets only • combination rifle-shotguns are allowed		Youth, firearms, deer reduction zone*
Muzzleloaders	**Muzzleloading Rifle/Shotgun**	**Barrel caliber:** .40 inch minimum **Bullet diameter:** .357 inch minimum • single bullet, loaded from muzzle • saboted bullets permitted • multiple barreled guns permitted • powder may be loaded from the breech		Youth, firearms, muzzleloader, deer reduction zone*
	Muzzeloading Handgun	**Barrel length:** 12 inch minimum, measured from the base of the breech plug (excluding tangs and other projections to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown) **Barrel caliber:** .50 inch minimum **Bullet diameter:** .44 inch minimum • loaded from muzzle and single shot		
Archery	**Vertical Bow**	Long bows, compound bows, or recurve bows and arrows **Draw weight:** 35 lbs. minimum	• bows drawn, held, or released by means other than by hand or hand-held releases may be used • arrows must have metal, metal-edged, napped flint, chert, or obsidian broadheads	Archery, youth, deer reduction zone
	Crossbow	Defined as a device for propelling an arrow by means of limbs mounted on a stock and a string, and having a working safety that may be drawn or held **Draw weight:** 125 lbs. minimum		
Special	**Air guns**	Using nonignited compressed air or other gas charged by external high compression power source **Projectiles:** Must shoot .40 caliber or larger single bullet generating 400 ft. lbs. of muzzle energy; or an arrow or bolt with a sharpened metal or metal-edged broadhead at minimum of 300 fps at release		Youth, firearms, deer reduction zone*

* from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027

Deer Information Line

If you need information about deer, take advantage of our Deer Information Line. Call 812-334-3795, 8:30 a.m - 4 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday or email INDeerInfo@dnr.IN.gov with your questions. Find additional information at **deer.dnr.IN.gov**.



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DEER SEASONS, LICENSES, & EQUIPMENT

	Legal Equipment Types							
	Archery	Crossbow	Centerfire Handgun	Muzzleloading Handgun	Muzzleloading Long Gun	Shotgun	Centerfire Rifle	Air Guns
Youth Season – Sept. 26 & 27, 2026								
Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License	•	•			•	•	•	•
Nonresident Youth Deer License (incl. Deer License Bundle)	•	•			•	•	•	•
Reduction Zone Season* – Sept. 15, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027								
Deer Reduction Zone License	•	•	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License	•	•	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License	•	•	*	*	*	*	*	*
Youth License	•	•	*	*	*	*	*	*
Archery Season – Oct. 1, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027								
Archery License	•	•						
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License	•	•						
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License	•	•						
Deer License Bundle	•	•						
Multi-season Antlerless License	•	•						
Youth License	•	•						
Firearms Season – Nov. 14 - Nov. 29, 2026								
Firearms License (antlered deer only)			•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Deer License Bundle			•	•	•	•	•	•
Multi-season Antlerless License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Youth License			•	•	•	•	•	•
Muzzleloader Season – Dec. 5 -20, 2026								
Muzzleloader License				•	•			
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License				•	•			
Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting/Fishing License				•	•			
Deer License Bundle				•	•			
Multi-season Antlerless License				•	•			
Youth License				•	•			

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

* If allowed by local ordinances, firearms, muzzleloaders, and air guns may be used to hunt deer in designated reduction zones from Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027.

NOTE: You cannot harvest an antlerless deer with a firearm during firearms season on some DNR properties. Contact the property you want to hunt or visit **on.IN.gov/deer-quota** for details.

Statewide Bag Limit

The statewide bag limits for deer hunting are 1 antlered deer and 6 antlerless deer harvested in all counties and seasons combined. Hunters cannot exceed these limits during the regular deer hunting seasons, including youth, firearms, archery, and muzzleloader seasons, regardless of the licenses or exemptions used. Hunters must also comply with the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested in each individual county.

The Deer Reduction Zone season and properties with special hunts, such as the reserved hunts for military and federal lands and the state park management hunts have their own bag limits in addition to the statewide bag limits.

County Antlerless Bag Limits

The county antlerless bag limit is the total number of antlerless deer that can be harvested in each county during youth, archery, firearms (only with the use of a multi-season antlerless license), and muzzleloader seasons combined.

Hunters may use an archery license, muzzleloader license, multi-season antlerless license, license bundle, youth hunt/trap license, comprehensive lifetime hunting license, or license exemption to harvest antlerless deer. Firearms licenses are "buck only," and cannot be used to harvest antlerless deer. Antlerless deer harvested with the deer license bundle must be used toward the bag limit for antlerless deer in the county where the deer was harvested. The number of antlerless deer harvested from all Indiana counties combined cannot exceed the statewide bag limit.

County antlerless bag limits are determined using a variety of population indicators such as hunter harvest trends, deer observation rates, crop damage reports, deer-vehicle collision rates, and hunter surveys that measure individual satisfaction level with deer populations in each county.

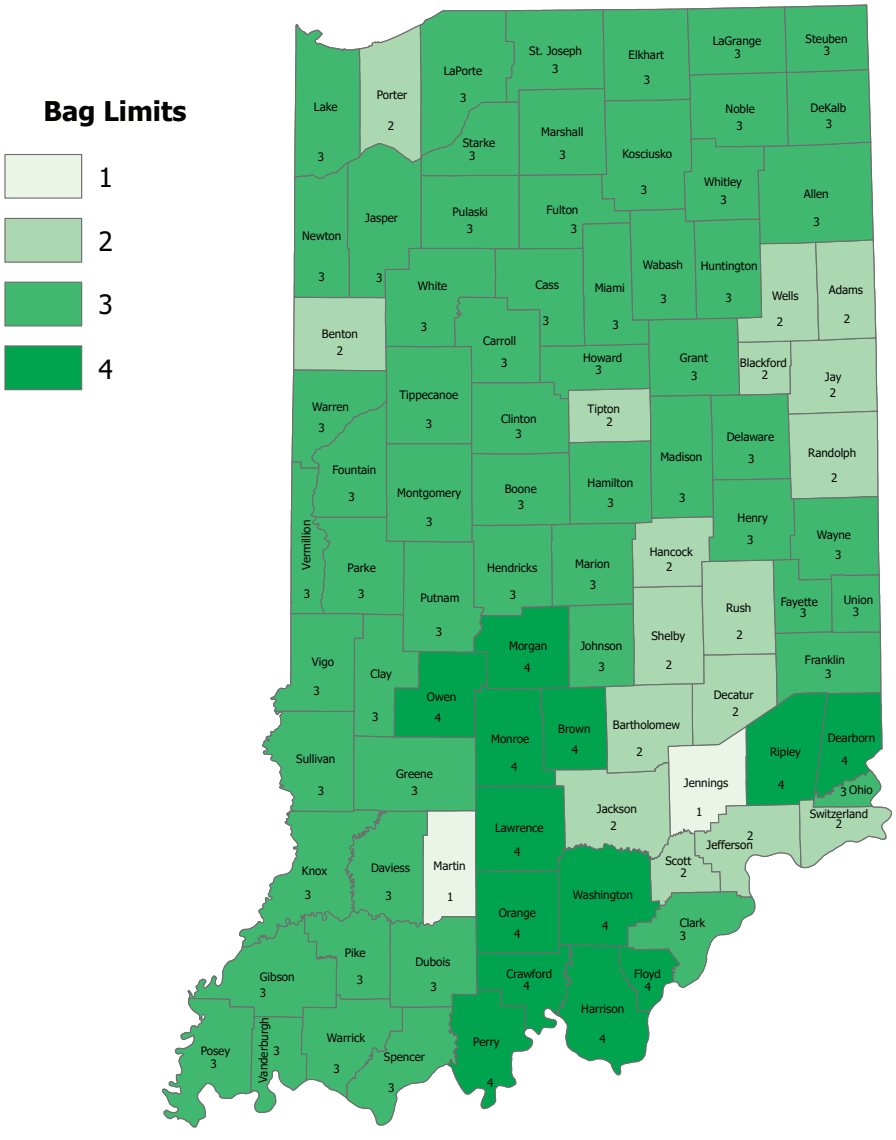
Bag limits may change in the event of a disease outbreak prior to the deer hunting season, so be sure to check the bag limit in the weeks before the season begins. Learn more about county antlerless bag limits at **on.IN.gov/deer-quota**.

Multi-Season Antlerless License

The multi-season antlerless license can be used in the youth, archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons only. Hunters must use the equipment that is legal during the season that is being hunted. Only one antlerless deer may be harvested per multi-season antlerless deer license. Additional licenses must be purchased to harvest additional deer.

Multi-season antlerless licenses may be used on public land, but they cannot be used on a DNR-managed Fish & Wildlife area and some other DNR properties to harvest an antlerless deer with a firearm during firearms season. This includes using muzzleloaders during firearms season. The multi-season antlerless license may be used on these properties during firearms season if you are hunting with archery equipment. See a list of properties with antlerless restrictions at **on.IN.gov/deer-quota**.

2026-2027 County Antlerless Deer Bag Limits



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Season	Bag Limit*
Deer Reduction Zone Season	1 antlered deer (see "earn-a-buck" page 28) AND 9 antlerless deer OR 10 antlerless deer
NOTE: Porter County will not be included in the 2026-2027 DRZ season.	
Military/Refuge Properties (by reserved hunt drawing or invitation only)	1 deer of either sex per Military/Refuge Deer License

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

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

ABOUT

CWD & EHD: Key Facts for Hunters

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD affects the nervous systems of cervids, such as deer, elk, reindeer, and moose. It is a fatal, untreatable disease caused by misfolded prions that are shed from infected deer through bodily secretions like saliva and urine. CWD is always fatal once an animal is infected.

Deer show signs of CWD about 18 to 24 months after the deer is infected, such as weight loss, drooping head, tremors, staggering, excessive drooling, and changes in behavior, such as confusion or loss of fear of humans. If you see a deer displaying signs of CWD, report the case at **on.IN.gov/sickwildlife**.

CWD prions are highly resistant to disinfectants, freezing, and heat; cooking or burning will not inactivate them. Although it is not currently known to infect humans, DNR recommends testing your harvested deer for CWD. If the deer tests positive, DNR suggests not eating the meat.

Indiana DNR CWD Response Plan

In Indiana, CWD has been detected in five counties. These detections resulted in a CWD Positive Area and two CWD Enhanced Surveillance Zones (see map). **There are no changes to hunting rules or regulations in Positive Areas or ESZs.**

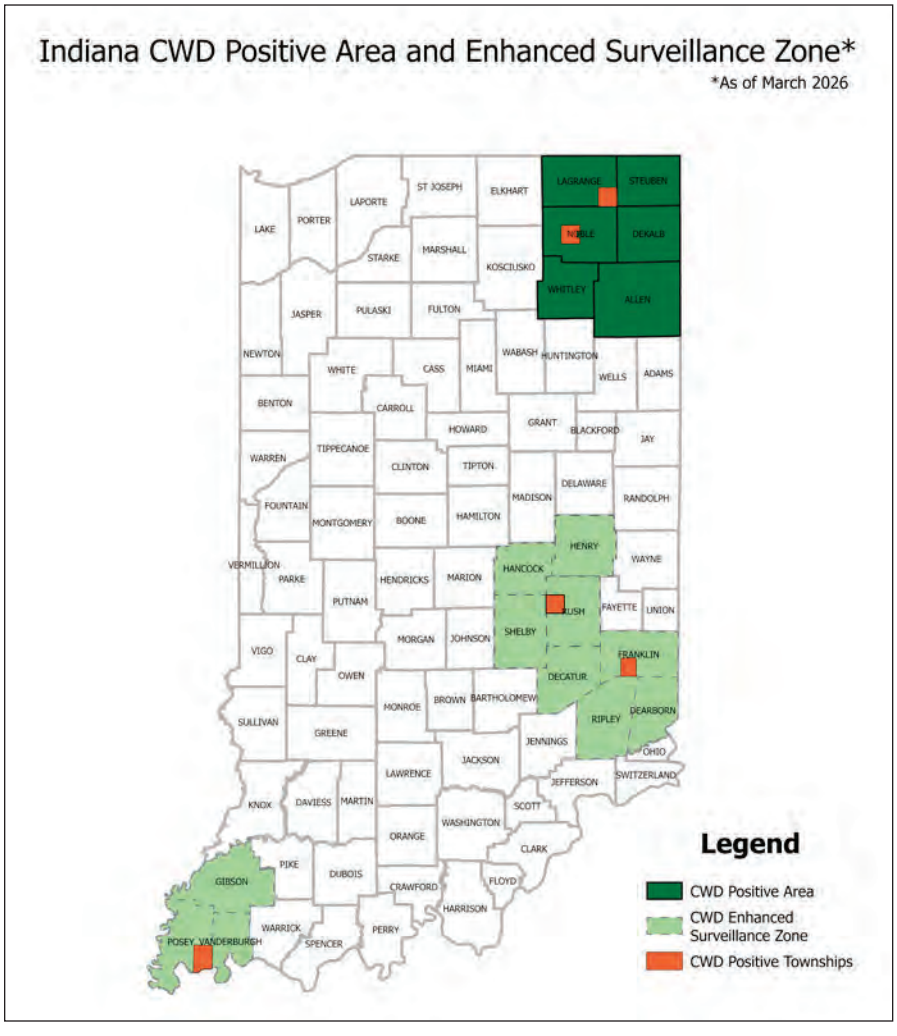
CWD Positive Areas

CWD Positive Areas include the location where CWD has been detected and additional areas where DNR biologists have determined CWD is likely present based on surveillance of nearby deer populations. The current Positive Area includes six counties in northeastern Indiana (see map).

CWD Enhanced Surveillance Zones

CWD Enhanced Surveillance Zones (ESZs) are areas where a positive detection has occurred, CWD has not previously been detected nearby, and increased surveillance is needed to determine the best response. Voluntary hunter participation is used to achieve surveillance goals in these areas. Indiana currently has three ESZs (see map).

CWD Positive Areas and ESZs are adjusted as new cases are detected in Indiana. You can read more about the Indiana CWD Response Plan and find updated information on our website at **on.IN.gov/cwd**.



Surveillance for CWD

Indiana DNR conducts statewide surveillance for CWD annually. If you would like to have your harvested deer tested for CWD you can:

1. Submit your deer's head to a DNR drop-off cooler **(all hunting seasons)**.
2. Select private businesses take samples across the state **(all hunting seasons)**.
3. Submit samples directly to Purdue's Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (ADDL) for a fee.

See on.IN.gov/cwd for more details about testing options.

Epizootic Hemmorhagic Disease (EHD)

EHD is a viral disease that affects white-tailed deer and is transmitted by biting midges. While cases of EHD are detected in Indiana every year, outbreaks typically occur in late summer and early fall and end once freezing temperatures kill the insects that spread the virus. EHD does not infect humans.

Deer infected with EHD may develop fever, seek water, and show clinical signs such as a blue tongue or oral lesions. If you find sick or dead deer near water, especially if they are alive and acting strange, report the sighting at **on.IN.gov/sickwildlife**.

EHD outbreak severity varies by environmental conditions, midge abundance, location, and herd immunity, with notable cycles every few years. Indiana had major outbreaks in both 2024 and 2025 in different parts of the state. While EHD can cause significant local die offs, long term impacts on Indiana's statewide deer herd have historically been limited. To reduce localized impacts, Indiana DNR adjusts county antlerless bag limits based on the number of EHD cases in each affected county. See page 31 for current quotas. Learn more at **on.IN.gov/EHD**.

Wildlife Conflicts

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

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

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

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

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

For assistance with wildlife conflicts, contact your District Wildlife Biologist (page 46).



Deer Health & Carcass Disposal Tips

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

SCAN TO
Report deer that appear sick

Shooting Ranges of All Shapes and Sizes



RANGE OPTIONS

- Trap and skeet
- Shotgun patterning
- Rifle ranges with distances up to 200 yards
- Handgun distances up to 25 yards
- 2D and 3D archery

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Safety first! Ear and eye protection is required on all firearm ranges. Know the rules of the range.

Your participation in recreational shooting helps fund wildlife conservation and habitat restoration. Thank you!

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

FIND OUT MORE AT
ON.IN.GOV/DNRSHOOTINGRANGES

Durable Hard Cards Now Available

Take your license anywhere with new cards designed by Hoosier artists!



Available to order anywhere licenses are sold.



Rabbit

Cottontail rabbit season is from Nov. 1, 2026, through Feb. 28, 2027.

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

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for rabbit hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 7½-size shot is recommended.

It is illegal to remove a rabbit from a hole, den, or tree hollow with the aid of a ferret or other small animal or other means. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be met while hunting rabbits (page 16).

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

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

Squirrel

Gray and fox squirrel season is from Aug. 15, 2026, through Jan. 31, 2027.

Hunter orange clothing requirements (page 16) must be met while hunting squirrels from Nov. 1, 2026 through Jan. 31, 2027.

There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for squirrel hunting. A 20-gauge or smaller shotgun loaded with 6- to 7 ½-size shot or a .22-caliber rimfire rifle is recommended. Trapping of squirrels is illegal.

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

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

Gray and fox squirrels can be chased with dogs year-round with a hunting license. Certain restrictions apply on DNR-managed properties (page 47).

HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL GAME, GAMEBIRDS & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Animal	License & Stamps Required
Small Game	
Rabbit, Squirrel*	Valid hunting license
Frog, Turtle	Valid hunting or fishing license
Gamebirds	
Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite Quail	Valid hunting license and Gamebird Habitat Stamp
Crow	Valid hunting license
Wild Turkey**	Turkey license and Gamebird Habitat Stamp
Migratory Birds	
Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks, Coots, Mergansers, Teal)	• Youth 15 and younger: Valid youth hunting license, HIP number • Youth 16-17: Valid youth hunting license, HIP number, Federal Duck Stamp • Adults 18+: Valid hunting license, HIP number, Federal Duck Stamp, State Waterfowl Stamp
Mourning Dove	Valid hunting license, HIP Number, and Gamebird Habitat Stamp
Woodcock, Sora, Snipe	Valid hunting license and HIP Number

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

* Hunter orange is required from Nov. 1, 2026 through Jan. 31, 2027.

** Hunter orange is required from Dec. 5-20, 2026.

Choose Your Volunteer Adventure!

Contribute to the conservation of Indiana's fish, wildlife, and their habitats while sharing skills and building community.



DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Learn more and sign up at:
on.IN.gov/dfwvolunteer



REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SEASONS & LIMITS

	Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Game Turtles	Eastern Snapping Turtle	July 1 - March 31	4*	8*
	Smooth Softshell Turtle			
	Spiny Softshell Turtle			
Restrictions	Turtle traps may be used, but may not have an opening below the water surface. 12-inch minimum carapace length.			
Game Frogs	Green Frog & Bullfrog	June 15 - April 30	25*	50*
Restrictions	Frogs may be taken with the following: a gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in width and a single row of tines; bow and arrow; club; hands alone; hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached; .22-caliber firearm loaded with bird shot only; or an air rifle that fires a lead pellet (.177 diameter minimum) at least 500 feet per second where legal to use.			

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

Reptiles and Amphibians

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated species.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Leave box turtles in the wild!

In Indiana, box turtles are protected, and it is illegal to take them from the wild.

Box turtles don't make good pets. They can live for several decades and can easily outlive their owner. They are difficult and expensive to care for and cannot legally be released into the wild after being captive. DNR does not accept unwanted box turtles.

Anonymously report any collection or sale of box turtles to the DNR Division of Law Enforcement at **812-837-9536.**

on.IN.gov/box-turtle

Visit Our Fish & Wildlife Areas

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

At Fish & Wildlife areas (FWAs) you can:

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

Check-in is required for all hunters, range users, and dog runners prior to entering the field. Camping is also available at Glendale, J.E. Roush Lake, and Willow Slough FWAs. To plan a visit and learn more about FWAs, go to:

on.IN.gov/dfwproperties

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRD SEASON DATES

Regular Seasons	2026-2027 Season Dates	Bag Limits	Poss. Limits
Mourning Doves			
Statewide	Sept. 1 - Oct. 18, 2026	15 **	45 **
	Nov. 1 - Nov. 29, 2026	15 **	45 **
	Dec. 19-31, 2026	15 **	45 **
Sora			
Statewide	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2026	25	75
American Woodcock			
Statewide	Oct. 15 - Nov. 28, 2026	3	9
Snipe			
Statewide	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16, 2026	8	24
Teal			
Statewide *	Sept. 5-13, 2026	6	18
Ducks, Coots, & Mergansers			
North Zone	Oct. 24 - Dec. 13, 2026	***	***
	Dec. 19-27, 2026	***	***
Central Zone	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8, 2026	***	***
	Nov. 21, 2026 - Jan. 10, 2027	***	***
South Zone	Nov. 7-8, 2026	***	***
	Nov. 28, 2026 - Jan. 24, 2027	***	***
Canada Geese, Light geese, & Brant			
North Zone	Sept. 5-13, 2026	****	****
	Oct. 24 - Nov. 1, 2026	****	****
	Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	****	****
Central Zone	Sept. 5-13, 2026	****	****
	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8, 2026	****	****
	Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	****	****
South Zone	Sept. 1-13, 2026	****	****
	Nov. 7-11, 2026	****	****
	Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	****	****
White-fronted Geese			
North Zone	Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	2	6
Central Zone	Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	2	6
South Zone	Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	2	6

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

Zones	Dates	Bag Limits
North Zone	Oct. 17-18, 2026	Same as Regular Season *****
Central Zone	Oct. 24-25, 2026	Same as Regular Season *****
South Zone	Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2026	Same as Regular Season *****

* Shooting hours during early teal season are from sunrise to sunset.

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

*** The daily bag limit for coots is 15. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, which may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers. The daily bag limit for ducks is 6, which may include no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 or 2 scaup. The daily bag limit may include only 1 scaup on or before November 7 in the North Zone, November 26 in the Central Zone, and December 10 in the South Zone. The daily bag limit may include 2 scaup after those dates. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

**** The daily bag limit for Canada geese and brant is 5 in the aggregate. The possession limit for Canada geese and brant is 3 times the daily bag limit. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow, blue, Ross's) is 20. There is no possession limit for light geese.

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

State and Federal Regulations

- Based on an individual's age, the following are needed to hunt waterfowl in Indiana:
  - Youth 15 and younger: Valid hunting license and HIP number
  - Youth 16-17: Valid youth hunting license, HIP number, and Federal Duck Stamp
  - Adults 18+: Valid hunting license, HIP number, Federal Duck Stamp or Federal Duck E-Stamp, and State Waterfowl Stamp.
- Lifetime license holders and those exempt from Indiana license and stamp requirements must still obtain a Federal Duck Stamp and HIP number to hunt waterfowl.
- Migratory gamebirds may be hunted from a motorboat provided it is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or without motion other than that imparted by wind, current acting upon the hull, or hand-operated oars or paddles.
- Hunters may retrieve dead or injured birds by hand or from a motorboat under power but may NOT shoot from a boat under power or in motion due to motor power.
- Migratory gamebirds in a hunter's possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification when the hunter is in the field or traveling from the field to home.
- All migratory gamebirds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.
- No person shall give, put, or leave any migratory gamebirds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the hunter's signature, address, total number of birds involved by species, and dates birds were killed.
- No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory gamebirds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.
- Shooting hours for all migratory birds (except for teal during early teal season) is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Nontoxic shot is required when hunting migratory waterfowl. It is also required when hunting mourning doves on DNR properties.

Reminders

- Indiana enforces all federal migratory bird laws. Violating any provision of a state law regarding federally protected migratory birds is also a violation of federal law.
- Starting in 2026, physical Federal Duck Stamps will no longer be available for purchase at Indiana DNR properties. They will be available at most U.S. Post Offices, select sporting goods stores, and through **DuckStamp.com**. Federal Duck E-Stamps for immediate use may be purchased online at **GoOutdoorsIN.com** or

Zones



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

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

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

DuckStamp.com, and at authorized license retailers. Hunters who purchase an E-Stamp will receive their physical Federal Duck Stamp in the mail between March 10 - June 30 the following year. State Waterfowl Stamps are available from authorized license retailers and online at **GoOutdoorsIN.com**.

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

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

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

All hunters in Indiana, including those exempt from purchasing a license, must register with HIP before hunting coots, doves, ducks, mergansers, geese, snipe, sora, teal, and woodcock.

Hunters must register at **GoOutdoorsIN.com** or by calling 260-323-5378. At the end of the registration, the hunter is given a validation number to record on their license. This number is valid from the date of registration through the close of the last current migratory bird hunting season.

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

Hunters need to register with HIP only once each season, not each time they hunt; however, hunters must register in each state they hunt.

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

Nontoxic Shot

Hunters are required to use approved nontoxic shot while hunting all waterfowl (ducks, including teal and mergansers, coots, and geese). Hunters are also required to use nontoxic shot to hunt mourning doves on DNR properties. Some DNR properties have additional nontoxic shot restrictions for other species. Nontoxic shot currently approved for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are:

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

Coatings of copper, nickel, tin, zinc, zinc chloride, zinc chrome, and fluoropolymers on approved nontoxic shot types are allowed. Lead shot plated with copper, nickel, or other material does not qualify.

It is illegal to possess shells loaded with anything other than approved nontoxic shot while hunting ducks, geese, and coots anywhere in the state. It is illegal to possess lead shot while hunting mourning doves on any state-managed property.

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

Waterfowl Hunting on State Properties

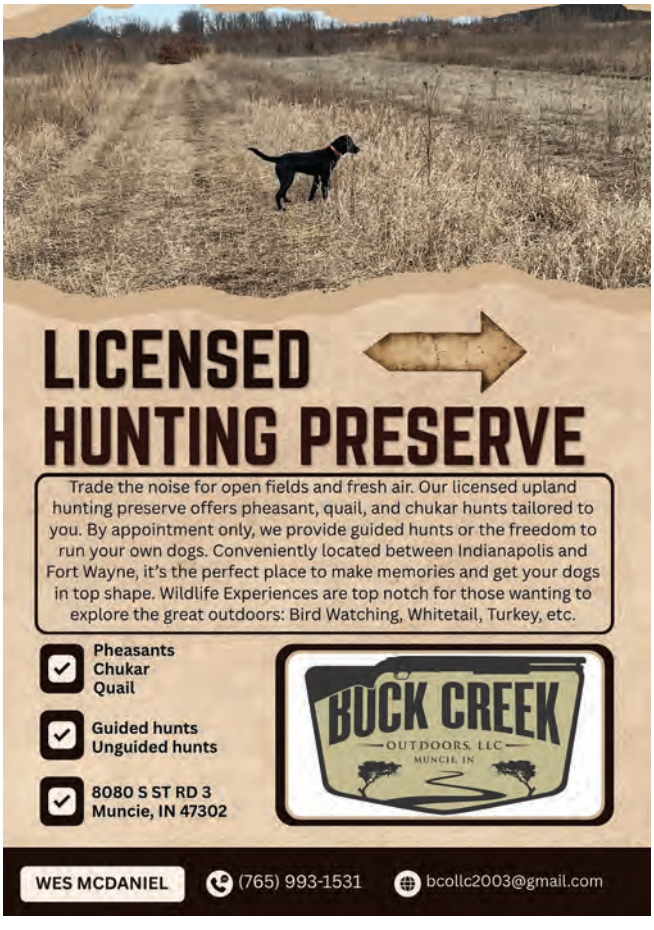
Hunters can apply for reserved waterfowl hunts by completing the reserved waterfowl hunt application at **on.IN.gov/reservedhunt.**

For more information concerning waterfowl hunting on state-owned properties, contact the property (page 47).

Restrictions

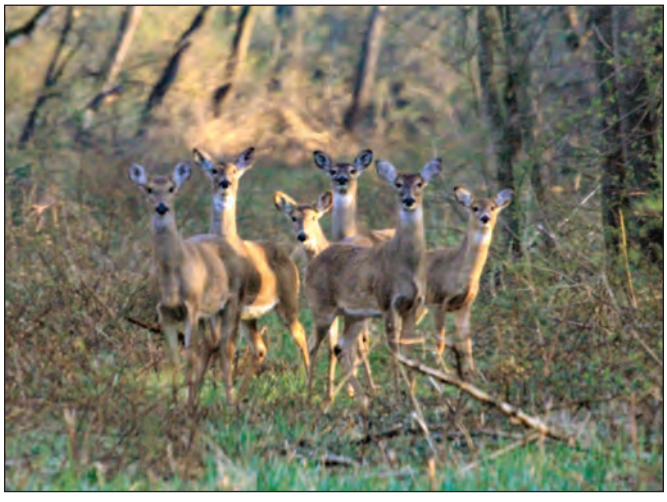
No person shall take migratory gamebirds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low, floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From any aircraft or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land vehicle, except that persons with paraplegia and persons with single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land vehicle.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All tame or captive live ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure that substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized vehicle or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By baiting or by hunting on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Baiting includes the placing of corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory gamebirds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. It is a separate offense to place, or direct placement of bait, on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing or allowing hunters to take or attempt to take birds. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties for hunting over bait are $15,000/6 months jail time and for placing bait are $100,000/1 year jail time. For more information on baiting, visit **on.IN.gov/gamebird-seasons.**
- By the use of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.



ONE HEALTH

Beyond the Harvest: The Conservation Benefits of Hunting



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

Hunting is a favorite recreational activity for many Hoosiers. The mental and physical perks for hunters are numerous — you can learn more about them on page 18 — but hunting also provides many benefits for wildlife health. It can help with issues like overpopulation, disease spread, and habitat degradation, while also helping to fund conservation through license sales.

One of the most significant benefits of hunting for wildlife health is population management. Some wildlife species, such as adult white-tailed deer, thrive in landscapes altered by human activity. This leads to undesirable population levels. Overpopulation can lead to severe ecosystem degradation as overabundant species may be susceptible to starvation and disease while also damaging the habitat by overbrowsing. Additionally, negative human-wildlife interactions, such as vehicle collisions, property damage, and crop destruction may occur more frequently. Hunting helps sustain populations and reduces stress on vegetation and other species that share the habitat.

Hunting also contributes to reducing the spread of wildlife disease. Dense wildlife populations can experience higher rates of disease such as Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in deer and Avian Influenza and Avian Cholera in waterfowl. When populations are maintained at healthy levels, disease transmission slows, leading to stronger and more resilient wildlife communities overall.

Hunting funds conservation practices through the revenue generated by license fees and excise taxes on hunting equipment and ammunition. These funds directly contribute to habitat restoration, wildlife surveys, reintroduction programs, and research. This funding ensures conservation and management work continues for game and nongame species alike.

By using a One Health approach that encourages cooperation, coordination, and communication among professionals and the public, hunting can play an important role in maintaining wildlife health. When practiced responsibly, hunting helps keep animal populations balanced, supports healthier ecosystems, and contributes to long-term conservation efforts that protect the natural world for future generations.

Have you seen these mammals? *Tell Us!*

- Armadillo
- Badger
- Bobcat
- Franklin's Ground Squirrel
- Gray Fox
- Otter
- Southern Flying Squirrel
- Star-Nosed Mole
- Thirteen-Lined Ground Squirrel
- Weasels

REPORT AT:
on.IN.gov/report-a-mammal

Report Sick or Dead Wildlife
Help keep our wildlife healthy!

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

DON'T REPORT:
- Roadkill.
- Orphaned or injured animals.
- Bird window collisions.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

REPORT AT:
ON.IN.GOV/SICKWILDLIFE



Ring-necked Pheasant

Ring-necked pheasant season is from Nov. 1 - Dec. 15. A valid hunting license and Indiana Gamebird Habitat Stamp are required to hunt ring-necked pheasants. Hunter orange clothing requirements (page 16) must be met while hunting ring-necked pheasants. The daily bag limit for ring-necked pheasants is two male (cock) pheasants.

It is illegal to shoot female ring-necked pheasants (hens), except during put-and-take hunts in designated areas. If you take a ring-necked pheasant, you must leave the head and head plumage attached while you are transporting the bird. There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for ring-necked pheasant hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 4- to 6-size shot is recommended. Nontoxic shot is required when hunting pheasant on some DNR properties. Call the property for additional information.

Put-and-Take

Ring-necked pheasants are released for put-and-take hunting on Atterbury, Glendale, J.E. Roush Lake, Pigeon River, Tri-County and Winamac FWAs. Put-and-take pheasant hunting on these DNR properties starts on November 21, 2026.

There is a per-person fee of $30 per spot to participate in put-and-take hunts. The bag limit for put-and-take pheasant hunting is two birds of either sex , except at Pigeon River and Winamac FWAs, where the limit is two roosters only. A hunter filling their limit in the put-and-take hunt may not take any more ring-necked pheasants that day.

When applications are being accepted, hunters can reserve put-and-take pheasant hunts online at **on.IN.gov/reservedhunt**. Hunts are no longer available first-come, first-served at the property.

Hunters can select the date, property, and area for their hunt.

Pheasant hunters in designated put-and-take areas are prohibited from harvesting game animals other than pheasants on days when ring-necked pheasants are released and hunted. This restriction is only for pheasant hunters and only in their designated units.

Gamebird Habitat Areas

The Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves conducts reserved pheasant hunts on Gamebird Habitat Areas in northern Indiana (Benton, Jasper, Newton, Warren, and White counties). When the application period is open, hunters can apply at **hunting.IN.gov.**

Northern Bobwhite Quail

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

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

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

A valid hunting license and an Indiana Gamebird Habitat Stamp are required to hunt northern bobwhite quail in Indiana. Hunter orange clothing requirements (page 16) must be met while hunting northern bobwhite quail.

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

Some DNR properties may have additional regulations for northern bobwhite quail hunting. Check with the property for details (page 47).

Other Wild Birds

English sparrows, European starlings, monk parakeets, and feral pigeons (except homing pigeons) may be killed at any time without a permit from DNR.

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

Crow

Crow hunting season is July 1 - Aug. 15 and Dec. 13 - Feb. 28.

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

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

Grasslands
for Gamebirds & Songbirds

GRASSLAND WILDLIFE DEPENDS ON YOU!

Creating and enhancing grassland and pollinator-friendly habitat through financial and technical assistance to landowners. View our expanded focal regions on our website.



TO PARTICIPATE OR DONATE:
on.IN.gov/grasslands

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

License Requirements

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

Those who have a lifetime comprehensive hunting, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing, resident youth hunt/trap license, or nonresident youth turkey hunting license can hunt turkey and do not need to purchase the Gamebird Habitat Stamp because it is included with those license types.

A separate turkey hunting license is required when hunting during the spring and fall seasons.

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

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

Season and Bag Limits

Fall 2026 - The bag and possession limit for the fall seasons is one bird of either sex, regardless of hunting equipment used or what portion of the season. Fall archery season (including crossbows) is statewide from Oct. 1 - Nov. 1, 2026, and Dec. 5, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027. Fall firearms season is from Oct. 21 - Nov. 1, 2026 in specific counties. See the map on page 41.

Spring 2027 - The spring season runs from April 21 - May 9, 2027. The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season. Spring turkey hunting is allowed statewide, with no county limits on use of firearms.

How Wild Turkey Season Dates are Determined

Youth Spring: Two consecutive days beginning on the Saturday immediately before the start of the spring turkey season.

Spring: The first Wednesday after April 20 and continuing for an additional 18 consecutive days.

Fall Archery: Oct. 1 to the end of the fall turkey firearms season; the first Saturday after the closing day of deer firearms season through the first Sunday in January.

Fall Firearms: The first Wednesday after Oct. 14 and continuing for an additional 11 consecutive days.

Find complete regulations in Indiana Administrative Code, Title 312, Article 9, (**IN.gov/legislative/iac**).

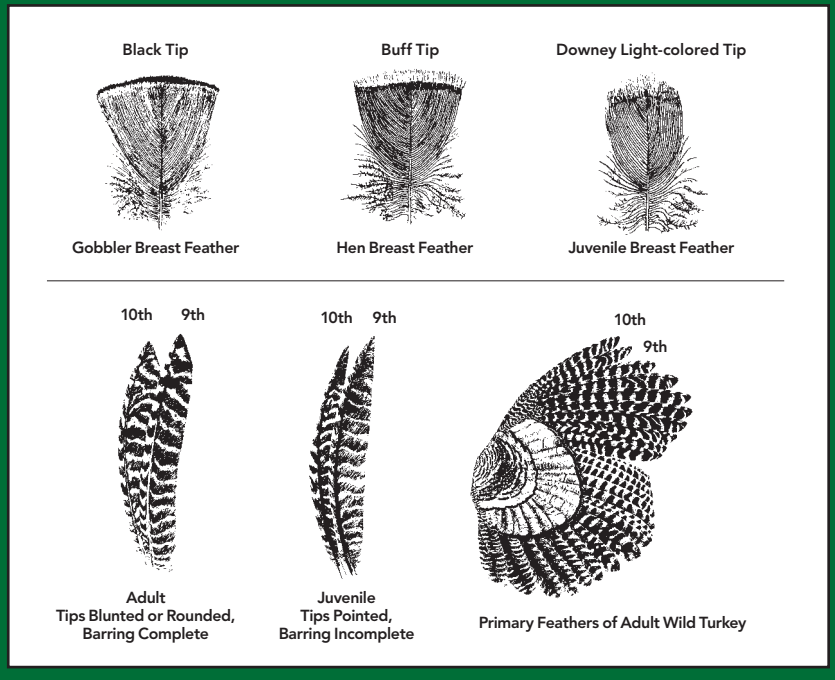
Fall Wild Turkey Sex and Age Determination

If no obvious leg spur:

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

If obvious leg spur, then bird is a male:

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



Art by Dave Hamilton. Used by permission of MDC.

Reserved Hunts

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

Reserved turkey hunts also take place at Big Oaks and Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuges. Applications and draws are managed through the DNR reserved hunt system. A $1 tech fee is charged for each hunt application. For details and to apply during open applications, go to **on.IN.gov/reservedhunt**.

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

Youth Season

Information about the youth season is on page 12.

Legal Equipment

Turkeys can be hunted only with:

- A .410 caliber and 10-, 12-, 16-, 20-, or 28-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7½, or with Tungsten Super Shot 7, 8, 9, or 10. Shot sizes smaller than size 7½ must be comprised of tungsten or equivalent pellet density only. Plugs are not required for turkey hunting. Non-lead shot is required while hunting turkey on some DNR properties. Call the property you are interested in hunting on for additional information.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size 4, 5, 6, 7, 7½, or Tungsten Super Shot 7, 8, 9, and 10. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- Bow and arrow
- A crossbow

Hunting Hours

Wild turkeys may be hunted only from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. All DNR properties managed by the Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves have spring season hunting hours one-half hour before sunrise until noon for properties on CT and until 1 p.m. for properties on ET. Mushroom hunters are required to stay out of the field until after this time during the spring season.

On Division of Forestry properties, hunting is permitted within legal hunting hours and mushroom hunting is always permitted.

Tagging Requirements

Immediately upon killing a turkey, the hunter must complete a temporary transportation tag on paper stating the hunter's full name, address, sex of the turkey, license number (if applicable), and the date the turkey was taken before transporting the turkey from the field. For a printable version of a temporary transportation tag, visit the season resources section at **on.IN.gov/turkey**.

Reporting Requirements

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

- Self reporting online through the DNR's CheckIN Game system on the IN DFW Activity Hub (**GoOutdoorsIN.com**)
- Calling 260-368-5880 (No fee)
- Finding a check station, license vendor, or retailer who will file the information for you through CheckIN Game at **CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov** or calling DNR Customer Service at **317-232-4200** or **877-463-6367** (toll-free).

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

Hunter Orange

Turkey hunters must meet hunter orange requirements while hunting turkeys Dec. 5 -20, 2026. See hunter orange requirements on page 16.

Prohibited Activities

While hunting wild turkey, it is illegal to:

- Use or possess a dog or other domesticated animal.
- Use or possess a live decoy, a recorded call, or an electronically powered or controlled decoy.
- Hunt near bait. An area is considered baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait and affected soil, but not considered to be baited if it is attractive to wild turkeys due to normal agricultural practices.

Turkey Info Line

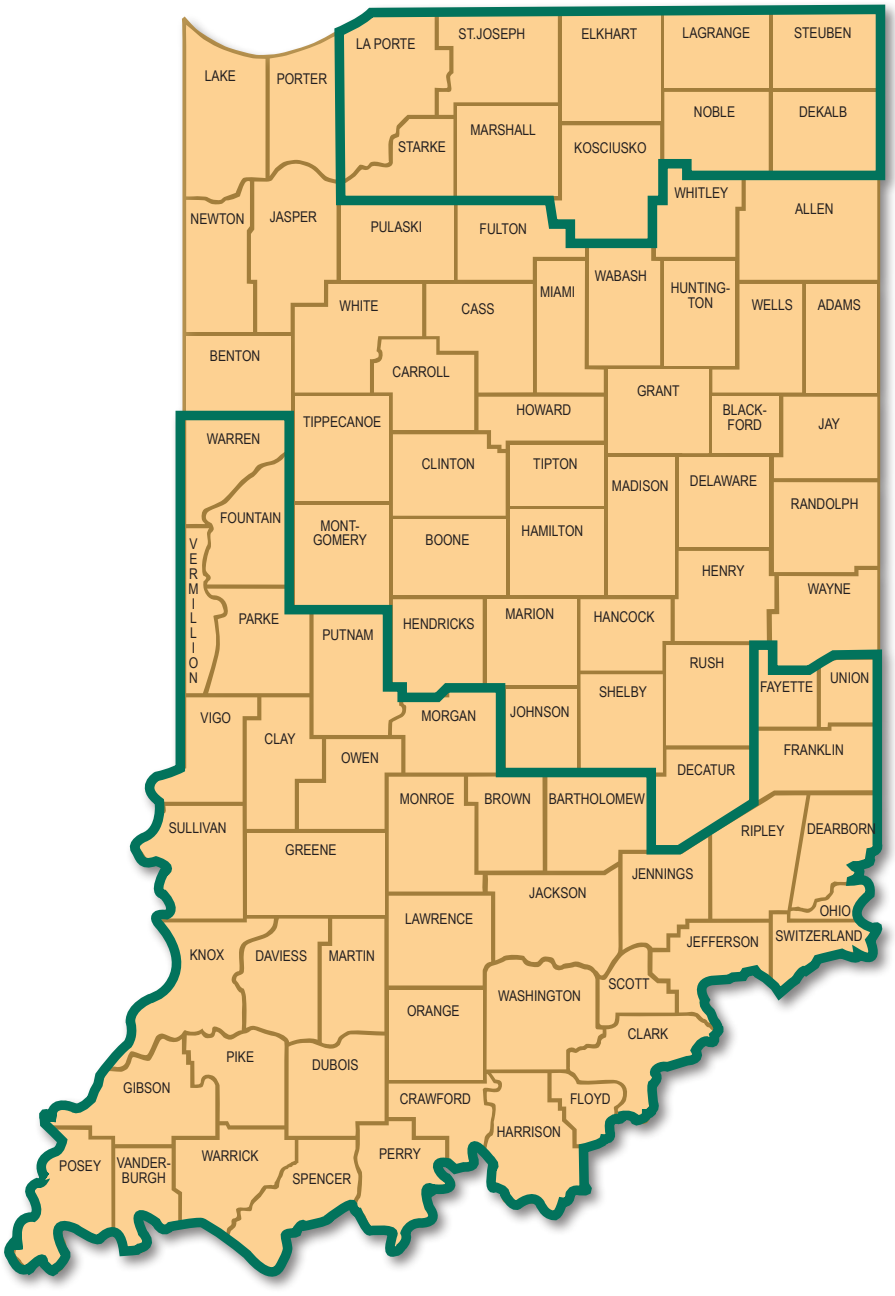
Have questions about turkey hunting regulations? Call the Turkey Info Line at 812-353-8281.

2026 Fall Turkey Firearms & Archery Seasons Map

Note: there are no county limits on firearms in spring turkey season

Archery (statewide)
Oct. 1 - Nov. 1, 2026
and
Dec. 5, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027

Fall Firearms & Archery
Oct. 21 - Nov. 1, 2026



Report Turkey Broods:

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

FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS

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

Furbearer Hunting

A valid hunting license is needed to hunt beaver, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk. See the chart above for season dates.

- A continuously burning light that can be seen for at least 500 feet must be carried while pursuing furbearing animals between sunset and sunrise. It is illegal to:
- Remove wild animals from any cavity or den
- Disturb the den or nest of any animal by shooting, digging, cutting, or chipping with the aid of smoke, fire, fumes, chemicals, ferrets or other small animals, or with any device introduced into the hole where the animal is sheltered
- Use or carry tree-climbing or cutting equipment for the purpose of dislodging an animal from a tree
- Hunt furbearers from a boat

Dog Running

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



Fox & Coyote Hunting

It is legal to hunt fox and coyote with the use of mouth or hand-operated calls, or with the use of recorded calls. Spotlights may be used to take fox and coyote. There are no restrictions on hunting hours or firearms for hunting fox and coyote. It is illegal to hunt fox or coyote from a roadway or with the use of any motor-driven conveyance.

Badgers

It is illegal to take a badger in Indiana. If you accidentally trap a badger, and the badger is dead, report it to an Indiana Conservation Officer (page 48). The carcass must be surrendered to an Indiana Conservation Officer. If released alive, report to **on.IN.gov/report-a-mammal**. There is no penalty for accidental captures. Information provided by hunters and trappers about badgers is an important means of determining the status and distribution of this species in Indiana. If you experience a conflict with a badger on property you own or lease, a nuisance wild animal control permit is required to capture or kill one; the application form can be found at: **on.IN.gov/dfw-license-permits.**

Possession of Furbearers

Lawfully obtained untanned hides or unprocessed carcasses of furbearers may be possessed year-round.

Legally harvested furbearers or untanned hides of furbearers can only be sold to licensed fur buyers. Live furbearers (lawfully acquired) may only be sold to licensed fur buyers during the open season or to those with a game breeders license year-round.

Go to **on.IN.gov/trapping** to find a link to a list of Indiana licensed fur buyers or call the Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves at 317-232-4200 or 877-463-6367 (toll-free).

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

Raccoons, foxes, or coyotes that are removed from a trap and kept alive must be confined in a cage or other enclosure that: (a) makes escape of the mammal unlikely and prevents the entrance of a free-roaming mammal of the same species; (b) is structurally sound; (c) is of sufficient strength for the species involved; (d) is maintained in good repair and smoothly secured to prevent escape or injury to the mammal in the enclosure; (e) is constructed to allow sufficient space for individual posture, to turn about freely, and make normal social movements; (f) is secured when unattended with protective devices at entrances and exits to prevent escapes if kept outdoors and if needed to prevent injuries to human or the mammal's health; (g) and has ambient ventilation by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning to protect the health of the mammal and to minimize drafts, odors, and condensation. Night quarters, transportation cages, and nesting boxes may not be used as primary housing. Surface water must be adequately drained from a cage or enclosure where the mammal is housed. If necessary for the mammal in possession, adequate lighting must be provided by artificial or natural means and cycled for an appropriate photoperiod. The cages or enclosures must also have adequate shelter from the elements and provide adequate shade for the animals.

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

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

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

Trapping Regulations

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

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

Traps must be checked and animals removed at least once every 24 hours with the following exception: Traps that are designed to capture and kill the animal as a result of

submerging the animal in water or crushing or asphyxiating the animal must be checked at least once every 48 hours. The DNR recommends checking every trap within 24 hours.

Traps may be set at any distance from openings to tile drains or entrances to beaver or muskrat lodges. Tree-climbing equipment may not be used as an aid in removing wild animals from trees. The use of motor-driven watercraft is permitted for purposes of setting or checking trap lines.

River Otter Rules

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

River otter harvest is trapping only, no hunting is allowed. The bag limit is two otters per trapper per season. An individual who sets a trap that catches a river otter must count the animal toward their season limit. River otters taken during the trapping season must be reported to the DNR CheckIN Game system (**GoOutdoorsIN.com** or call 260-368-5880) within 24 hours of harvest. A CheckIN Game confirmation number will be provided and must be kept with the river otter until the animal is physically registered by a designated Indiana DNR employee or at an official DNR furbearer check station. Check online at **on.IN.gov/ottertrapping** for locations.

There is a season quota of 750 river otters for the 2026-2027 season. The season will close early if the quota is reached prior to March 15, 2027. Trappers are responsible for knowing if the quota has been met. The current reported river otter take can be found at **on.IN.gov/ottertrapping** or by calling 317-232-4200. If the season closes early, an exception may be made for an individual who traps a river otter within 48 hours after the close of the season and has not yet reached their bag limit.

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

River otter pelts will be sealed with a CITES tag and the carcass collected so DNR biologists can evaluate reproductive and age data from the animal. The information is critical to the population model, allowing the DNR to set quotas and bag limits effectively.

Individuals who kill river otters during the season but after the statewide quota has been met, after they have reached their bag limit or outside the season must notify the DNR within 48 hours of capture and make arrangements for the DNR to take the carcass. Call your local DNR District Wildlife Biologist (page 46), local DNR Conservation Officer (page 48), or Law Enforcement Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536.

TRAPPING SEASONS

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

What is a CITES tag?

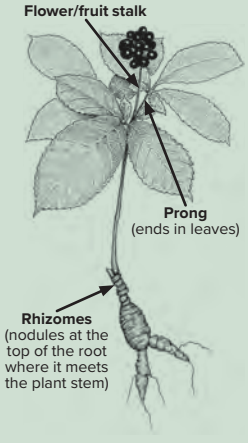
CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement governing trade of endangered species. As a CITES participant, the United States follows certain requirements. River otters and bobcats are in Appendix II of CITES. These species are "look-alikes" to other endangered species around the world, such as the Iberian lynx or Asian small-clawed otter. To ensure river otters and bobcats entering international trade were harvested legally in the United States, an unaltered CITES tag must be affixed to the pelt while it is in raw, untanned form. Each state has uniquely marked tags. An otter or bobcat pelt must have a CITES tag before it can be sold.



Harvesting Ginseng?

Harvest responsibly. Help protect the only internationally regulated plant in Indiana by following these regulations:

- Collect only plants that have either a) at least 3 prongs and a flowering or fruiting stalk, or b) at least 4 nodes on the rhizome
- Harvest with landowner permission during the harvest season (Sept. 1 – Dec. 31). Harvesting ginseng on public property is illegal.
- Allow young plants to grow and produce seed
- Replant mature fruits and seeds near the harvested plant by lightly raking them into the soil and covering them with leaf litter
- Only a licensed ginseng dealer may buy ginseng for resale or exportation. (Sept. 1 – March 31)



on.IN.gov/ginseng

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Bobcat Rules

General Information

The bobcat season runs from Nov. 8, 2026, until Jan. 31, 2027, or until the season quota is met. The bag limit is one bobcat per person per season. Bobcat harvest is limited to certain counties (see map). There is a season quota of 400 bobcats for the 2026-2027 season. The season will close early if the quota is reached prior to Jan. 31, 2027. Harvesters are responsible for knowing if the quota has been met. The current reported bobcat harvest can be found at **GoOutdoorsIN.com/available-quota** or by calling 317-232-4200.

Bobcats taken during the season must be registered with the DNR CheckIN Game system (**GoOutdoorsIN.com** or call 260-368-5880) within 24 hours of harvest. A CheckIN Game confirmation number will be provided and must be kept with the bobcat until the animal is physically registered by a designated Indiana DNR employee or at an official DNR furbearer check station. Harvesters must take the skinned and separated pelt to a designated DNR employee or furbearer registration station for physical registration and CITES tagging within 15 days after the month of harvest. Find furbearer registration stations at **on.IN.gov/bobcat-season**.

Bobcat pelts will be sealed with a CITES tag by staff at a furbearer registration station. All bobcats must be tagged regardless of plans to use or sell. Bobcat carcasses are not required to be turned in to DNR at this time. Indiana DNR uses a habitat-based population model for bobcats, as opposed to the age-at-harvest model used for river otters that requires carcass submission.

Individuals who kill a bobcat after the season quota has been met, after they have reached their bag limit, in a closed county, or outside the season must notify DNR within 24 hours of capture and make arrangements for DNR to take the bobcat. Call your local DNR District Wildlife Biologist (page 46), local DNR Conservation Officer (page 48), or DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536.

Trapping

A valid Indiana bobcat license is required to set traps for and harvest a bobcat unless you have a lifetime trapping license or resident youth hunt/trap combo license. In addition to the bobcat license, a valid trapping license is required to set traps for any species, including bobcats. An individual who sets a trap that catches and kills a bobcat must count the animal toward their season limit. Only foothold, cage, and cable devices (e.g., snares) may be used to trap a bobcat.

Hunting

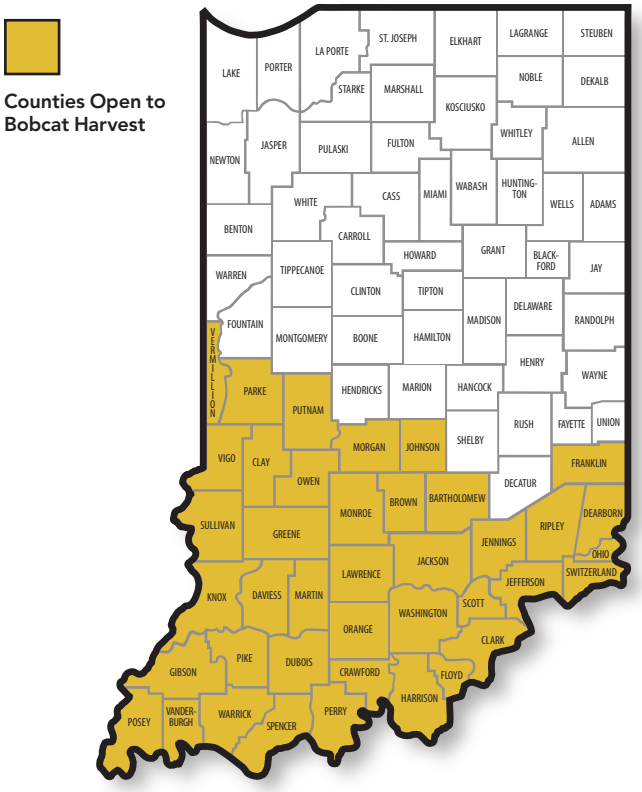
Hunting hours are one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset. Dogs may not be used to assist in hunting bobcats. A valid Indiana bobcat license is required to hunt a bobcat unless you have a resident youth hunt/trap combo license, lifetime comprehensive hunting or lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license. In addition to the bobcat license, a license that authorizes hunting is also required. These include:

- Resident annual small game hunting license
- Nonresident five-day hunting license
- Nonresident annual hunting license (youth or adult)
- Disabled American veteran's hunting license
- Lifetime basic hunting license

The following equipment are allowed for bobcats:

- Bow and arrow
- Crossbow
- Shotgun (any gauge)
- Handgun (no minimum caliber)
- Muzzleloading long gun or muzzleloading handgun
- Rifle (no minimum caliber)
- Air gun of at least .177 caliber

Counties Open to Bobcat Season



Poachers give all hunters & anglers a bad name.

TURN IN A POACHER
1-800-TIP-IDNR

Help us stop these criminals.

If you witness poaching or know someone who is stealing Hoosiers' wildlife, **call the Turn In a Poacher (TIP) hotline: 1-800-TIP-IDNR.**

- You do not have to provide your name or contact information.
- Rewards of $500 are available if your information leads to the arrest of someone who has taken fish and/or wildlife illegally. TIP also provides rewards for pollution cases that lead to the death of fish or wildlife.
- TIP is monitored 24 hours a day—you may call any time.

tip.IN.gov

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Body Gripping Traps

A person must not take a wild animal with a Conibear, Dahlgren, Bigelow, or other body-gripping trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured at the horizontal center of the trap's jaws (Figure 1) and the widest horizontal inside jaw-spread measured at the vertical center of the trap's jaws (Figure 2) is:

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

Otherwise, when set, at least 50% of the opening of the trap must be submerged in water.

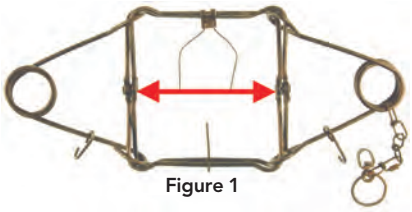


Figure 1

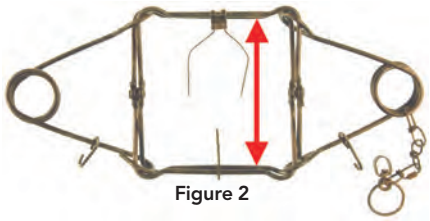


Figure 2

Snares

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

Box Traps

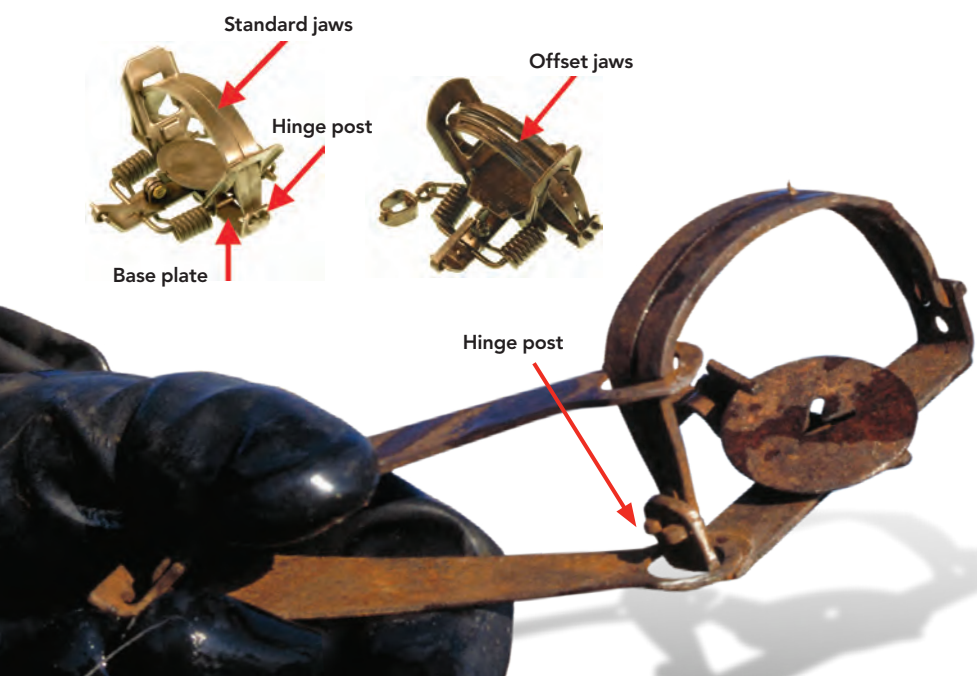
Furbearers may be captured in box traps used on land or underwater.

Foothold Traps

It is illegal to use a foothold trap with saw-toothed or spiked jaws. It is illegal to take a wild animal with a foothold trap if the widest inside jaw-spread measured perpendicular to the trap's base plate and the inside width between the trap's hinge posts (both measurements) is greater than 5¾ inches and less than or equal to 6½ inches, unless the jaws of the trap have at least a ⅛-inch offset, the gap of the offset is filled with securely attached rubber pads, or the trap is completely covered by water.

Securely attached rubber pads are those attached with bolts or rivets. The trap's hinge posts must be maintained at a 90-degree angle to the trap's base plate. It is illegal to take a wild animal with a foothold trap on land if the widest inside jaw-spread measured perpendicular to the trap's base plate and the inside width between the trap's hinge posts is greater than 6½ inches.

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



Measuring Your Foothold Trap

1. Measure the widest inside jaw spread perpendicular to the trap's base plate as in Figure 3 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 1.
2. Measure the inside width between the trap's hinge posts as in Figure 4 and circle the measurement (or closest measurement) in Column 2.
3. If both measurements fall in Box 1, then the trap can have standard jaws (offset jaws are not required).
4. If either measurement falls in Box 2, then the jaws of the trap must have at least a ⅛ inch offset or the gap of the offset can be filled with securely attached rubber pads. "Securely attached" means with bolts or rivets, not tape.
5. If either measurements fall in Box 3, then the trap must be completely covered by water.



Figure 3

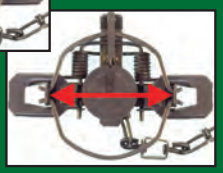


Figure 4

BOX	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
1	5 inches or less	5 inches or less
	5¼ inches	5¼ inches
	5½ inches	5½ inches
	5¾ inches	5¾ inches
2	5¾ inches or more	5¾ inches or more
	6 inches	6 inches
	6¼ inches	6¼ inches
	6½ inches	6½ inches
3	6½ inches or more	6½ inches or more
	6¾ inches	6¾ inches
	7 inches	7 inches
	7¼ inches or more	7¼ inches or more

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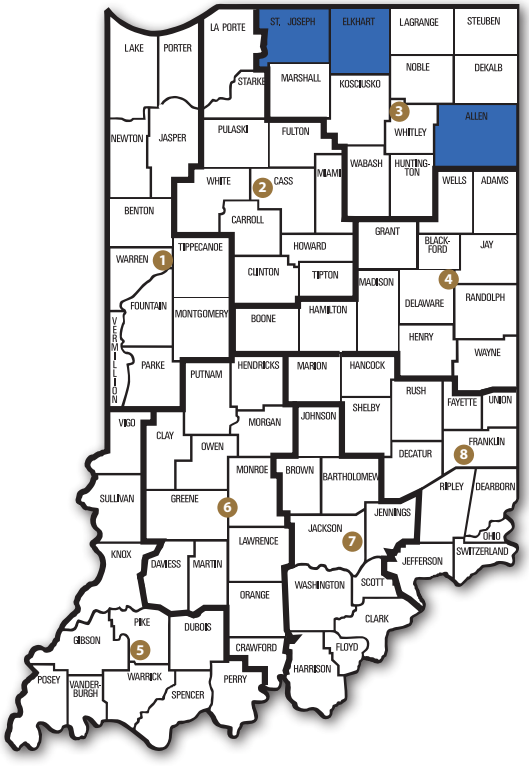
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What a Wildlife Biologist Can Help You With:

- Information on and help with wildlife habitat improvements on private lands
- Assistance with living and interacting with wildlife
- For more information and resources, visit: **on.IN.gov/landowner-and-habitat-assistance**



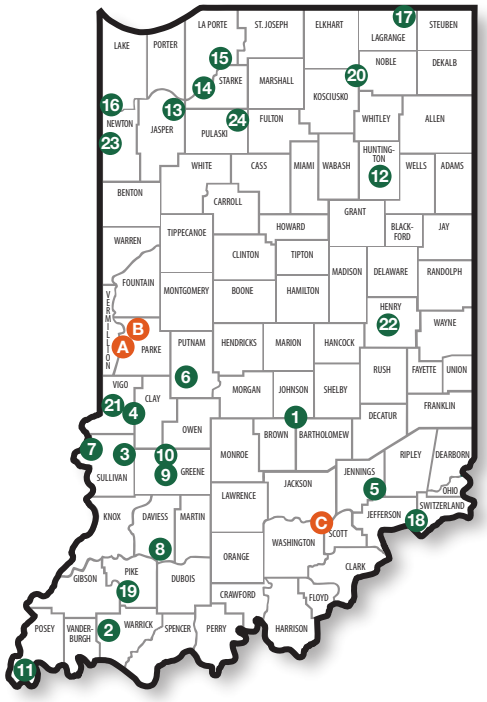
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   812-526-2051
2. **Blue Grass FWA**
   11699 New Harmony Rd.
   Elberfeld, IN 47613
   812-789-2724
3. **Busseron Creek FWA**
   CR 300 N and CR 525 E
   Sullivan, IN
   812-512-9185
4. **Chinook FWA**
   N. Cory Staunton Road
   Brazil, IN 47834
   765-653-0453
5. **Crosley FWA**
   2010 S. SR 3
   North Vernon, IN 47265
   812-346-5596
6. **Deer Creek FWA**
   2001 W. CR 600 S.
   Greencastle, IN 46135
   765-653-0453
7. **Fairbanks Landing FWA**
   925 N. & N. CR, 800 W.
   Fairbanks, IN 47849
   765-653-0453
8. **Glendale FWA**
   6001 E. 600 S.
   Montgomery, IN 47558
   812-674-0168
9. **Goose Pond FWA**
   13540 W. CR 400 S.
   Linton, IN 47441
   812-512-9185
10. **Hillenbrand FWA**
    700 N. & SR 59
    Jasonville, IN 47438
    812-512-9185
11. **Hovey Lake FWA**
    8401 SR 69 S.
    Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
    812-838-2927
12. **J.E. Roush Lake FWA**
    517 N. Warren Road
    Huntington, IN 46750
    260-468-2165
13. **Jasper-Pulaski FWA**
    5822 Fish & Wildlife Ln
    Medaryville, IN 47957
    219-843-4841
14. **Kankakee FWA**
    4320 W. Toto Road
    North Judson, IN 46366
    574-896-3522
15. **Kingsbury FWA**
    5344 S. Hupp Road
    LaPorte, IN 46350
    219-393-3612
16. **LaSalle FWA**
    4752 W. 1050 N.
    Lake Village, IN 46349
    219-992-3019
17. **Pigeon River FWA**
    8310 E. 300 N.
    Howe, IN 46746
    260-367-2164
18. **Splinter Ridge FWA**
    9935 E. Little Doe Run Rd.
    Madison, IN 47250
    812-346-5596
19. **Sugar Ridge FWA**
    2310 E. SR 364
    Winslow, IN 47598
    812-789-2724
20. **Tri-County FWA**
    8432 N. 850 E.
    Syracuse, IN 46567
    574-834-4461
21. **Wabashiki FWA**
    3286 Darwin Road
    West Terre Haute, IN 47885
    765-653-0453
22. **Wilbur Wright FWA**
    2239 N. SR 103
    New Castle, IN 47362
    765-529-9581
23. **Willow Slough FWA**
    1803 S. 700 W.
    Morocco, IN 47963
    219-285-2704
24. **Winamac FWA**
    1493 W. 500 N.
    Winamac, IN 46996
    574-946-4422



A. Wabash River (HRI)
Contact Deer Creek FWA

B. Sugar Creek (HRI)
Contact Deer Creek FWA

C. Austin Bottoms (HRI)
Contact Crosley FWA

State Lakes, State Park Forest Recreation Areas & State Forests

A. Brookville Lake
14108 SR 101
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-2657

B. Cagles Mill Lake
1317 W. Lieber Road
Suite 1
Cloverdale, IN 46120
765-276-0194

C. Cecil M. Harden Lake
1588 S. Raccoon Parkway
Rockville, IN 47872
765-344-1412

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

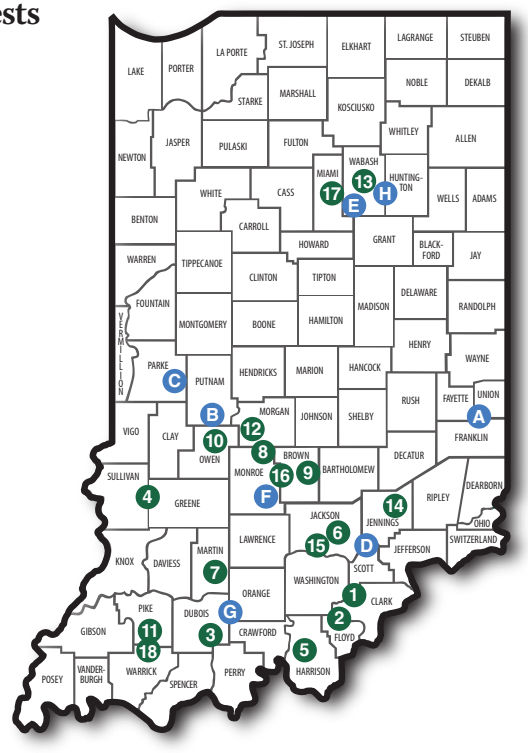
E. Mississinewa Lake
4673 S. 625 E.
Peru, IN 46970
765-473-6528

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

G. Patoka Lake
3084 N. Dillard Road
Birdseye, IN 47513
812-338-5589

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

1. **Clark SF**
   #2 Service Road
   Henryville, IN 47126
   812-294-4306
2. **Deam Lake SRA**
   1217 Deam Lake Road
   Borden, IN 47106
   812-246-5421
3. **Ferdinand SF**
   6583 E. SR 264
   Ferdinand, IN 47532
   812-827-2857
4. **Greene-Sullivan SF**
   2551 S. SR 159
   Dugger, IN 47848
   812-648-2810
5. **Harrison-Crawford SF**
   7240 Old Forest
   Road S.W.
   Corydon, IN 47112
   812-738-7694
6. **Jackson-Washington SF**
   1278 E. SR 250
   Brownstown, IN 47220
   812-358-2160
7. **Martin SF**
   14040 Williams Road
   Shoals, IN 47581
   812-247-3491
8. **Morgan-Monroe SF**
   6220 Forest Road
   Martinsville, IN 46151
   765-792-4654
9. **Mountain Tea SF**
   Pumpkin Ridge Road
   Nashville, IN 47448
   812-988-7945
10. **Owen-Putnam SF**
    2153 Fish Creek Road
    Spencer, IN 47460
    812-829-2462
11. **Pike SF**
    5994 E. SR 364
    Winslow, IN 47598
    812-827-2857
12. **Ravinia SF**
    N. Duckworth Road
    Paragon IN, 46166
    765-792-4654
13. **Salamonie River SF**
    5400 E. Salamonie
    Forest Road
    Lagro, IN 46941
    260-782-0430
14. **Selmier SF**
    905 E. CR 350 N.
    North Vernon, IN 47265
    812-346-2286
15. **Starve Hollow SRA**
    4345 S. CR 275 W.
    Vallonia, IN 47281-9741
    812-358-3464
16. **Yellowwood SF**
    772 Yellowwood Lake Road
    Nashville, IN 47448
    812-988-7945



17. Frances Slocum SF
CR 510 E.
Peru, IN 46970
260-782-0430

18. Interlake OSRA
200 E. SR 68
Lynnville, IN 47619
812-922-0002

DNR Law Enforcement Districts

Contact DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch (24 hours) to report violations or if you need assistance from an Indiana Conservation Officer. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR (1-800-847-4367) to report any poaching activities.

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

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

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

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

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

5. **District 5 Headquarters**
1317 W. Lieber Road
Suite 2
Cloverdale, IN 46120
765-276-0196

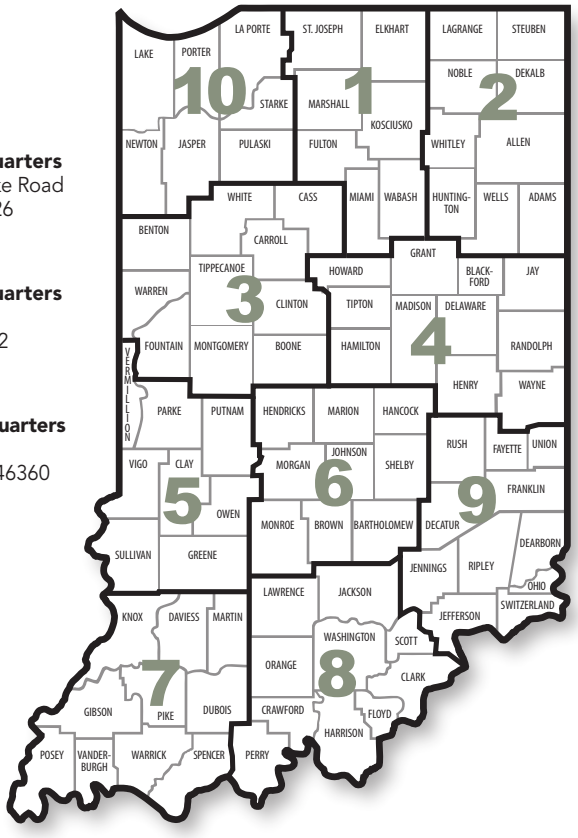
6. **District 6 Headquarters**
7937 Durbin St.
Building 9A
Edinburgh, IN 46124
812-526-4101

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

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

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

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



Public Shooting Ranges

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

1. **Atterbury FWA $**
rifle/shotgun/handgun/
trap/skeet
archery (no fee)
812-526-6552
2. **Brookville Lake $**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
765-647-2657
3. **Cecil M. Harden Lake**
archery
765-344-1412
4. **Clark State Forest $**
rifle/shotgun/handgun
812-294-4306
5. **Crosley FWA**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
812-346-5596
6. **Deer Creek FWA $**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
765-276-3032
7. **Hardy Lake**
archery
812-794-3800
8. **J. E. Roush Lake FWA $**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun/trap/skeet
260-468-2416
9. **Jackson-Washington State Forest**
archery
812-358-2160
10. **Jasper-Pulaski FWA**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
219-843-4841
11. **Kingsbury FWA $**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
219-393-1128
12. **Mississinewa Lake**
archery
765-473-6528
13. **Patoka Lake**
archery
812-338-5589
14. **Pigeon River FWA**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
260-367-2164
15. **Sugar Ridge FWA**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
812-789-2724
16. **Tri-County FWA**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
574-834-4461
17. **Wilbur Wright FWA**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
765-686-4200
18. **Willow Slough FWA $**
archery/rifle/shotgun/
handgun
219-285-2060
19. **Winamac FWA**
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The Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area, in northern Pulaski County, along U.S. 35, offers tremendous opportunities for hunting deer, wild turkey, rabbit, quail, squirrel, woodcock, dove, and furbearers. Waterfowl huntingis offered, but is limited due to the small amount of wetlands, and opportunities exists for pheasant, quail and dove hunting. Wetland trapping is always permitted. Two two-acre ponds are home to bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass waiting to challenge master anglers and recreational fishers alike.

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





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