MARYLAND GUIDE TO

HUNTING & TRAPPING

2026–2027

New Regulations Concerning the Use of Drones while Hunting

Page 14

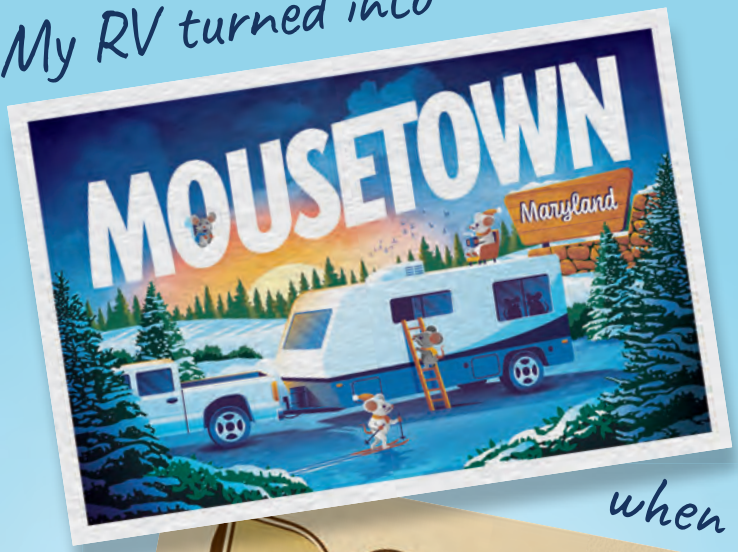
Pages 30 and 51

New muzzle energy requirements for rifles used to hunt deer and black bear.

Page 54

Gray fox harvested while hunting or trapping are now required to be checked in.

My RV turned into



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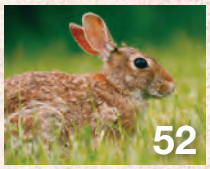

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Wes Moore, *Governor*

Aruna Miller, *Lieutenant Governor*

Josh Kurtz, *Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources*

Karina E. Stonesifer, *Director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service*

Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission
The Wildlife Advisory Commission was created by legislation to advise the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources on wildlife matters. All members are appointed by the governor. Contact the Wildlife Advisory Commission by writing to:
Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building, E-1
580 Taylor Ave. Annapolis, MD 21401
or email *wac.dnr@maryland.gov*

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J. Jeremy Parks
William R. Rasche, Jr.
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Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building, E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-8540, FAX 410-260-8596
Toll free in Maryland: 877-620-8367
TTY users call via the MD Relay
dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife

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- **Laws:** *lawlib.state.md.us*
- **Regulations:** *dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARHome.aspx*

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580 Taylor Ave., C-3
Annapolis MD 21401
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Email: ndc.dnr@maryland.gov

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Josh Kurtz
Secretary
Maryland Department
of Natural Resources

Welcome to another season of hunting and trapping in Maryland!

Dear Hunters and Trappers,

Maryland's thousands of acres of varied terrain in our wildlife management areas, state parks, state forests, and private lands make the state a destination for hunters around the world. The Department of Natural Resources continues to acquire, conserve, and protect habitat for our wildlife so that generations of Marylanders can enjoy them.

All of this is possible thanks to our hunting community. The money from hunting license purchases goes toward recruiting, educating, and certifying new hunters. The revenue is also used for acquiring and restoring wildlife habitats; maintaining and improving existing Wildlife Management Areas; providing technical assistance to landowners; and helping enforce wildlife laws and regulations for the benefit of all Marylanders.

Last year, DNR made the licensing process easier with our new MD Outdoors website. Hunters and trappers can easily keep their necessary licenses, stamps, and permits updated; access lotteries such as our annual Black Bear Hunt and numerous managed hunts; register boats and off-road vehicles, and other features. You can also order a hard card license displaying your information on one side and a Maryland wildlife image on the other. Importantly, hunters can use the MD Outdoors App to check in harvests.

So be sure to keep your licenses and permits up to date, familiarize yourself with these regulations and safety guidelines, and enjoy your time afield this season. Your time spent hunting helps preserve a proud tradition and history, and contributes to the future of conservation and outdoor recreation in our beautiful state.

Karina Stonesifer
Director of the
Maryland Wildlife
& Heritage Service

Welcome to another exciting year of hunting and trapping in Maryland.

For hunters and trappers, it's the best time of the year. Hunting season is upon us and a chance to get outside and enjoy the season. Over the past year our team has been working to ensure our hunting and trapping season is all that it can be for all our customers. We are striving to make access easier to all things hunting and trapping related, including the launch of our new licensing system that provides easier access to licenses, stamps, permits and hunting information.

This past year we have been fortunate to expand our Outreach and Community Engagement Program, most notably by welcoming the Hunter Education Team into the program. By combining these programs, our goal is to build on the phenomenal work the Hunter Education Team and the Hunter Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Team have been doing and utilize this merger to offer new and expanded opportunities. As a singular team, we plan to offer more opportunities to get new hunters afield and to help current hunters build their skillset. We are also planning on kicking off some exciting new shooting sports programming in the coming year so keep an eye out for those events.

As you head out into the field this year, consider volunteering some of your time to take a new hunter with you. If you don't know someone who would like to learn we have a mentor program that is always in need of new mentors to share their wisdom and passion for the outdoors. We also offer a variety of workshops throughout the year designed to introduce people interested in learning about hunting and shooting sports. We offer programs for all ages across the state throughout the year.

As someone who grew up in the outdoors, I never want access to be the reason someone does not participate in hunting. Together, and only together, can we collectively build a sustainable network of existing and future hunters that will ensure our love of the outdoors, and in particular hunting, is around for generations to come.

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Maryland Natural Resources Police Offices

24-Hour Emergency, to report a Natural Resources Violation or immediate assistance: 1-800-628-9944 or 410-260-8888

For all general questions, contact the appropriate area office listed below.

Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties
Johnson Office- 410-548-7072
32144 Mt. Olive Rd.
Salisbury, MD 21804

Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties
Hillsboro Office- 410-820-1317
3001 Starr Rd.
Queen Anne, MD 21657

Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties
Broadneck Office- 410-295-4600
1070 East College Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21409

Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties
Indian Creek Office- 1-800-419-0743
17823 Prince Frederick Road
Hughesville, MD 20637

Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery counties and Baltimore City
Gwynnbrook Office- 410-356-7060
3738 Gwynnbrook Ave.
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Frederick and Washington counties
Echo Lake Office- 301-293-1940 (for immediate assistance call 410-260-8888)
2011 Monument Rd.
Myersville, MD 21773

Allegany and Garrett counties
Town Hill Office- 301-777-7771
11701 Mountain Rd. N.E.
Flintstone, MD 21530

Maryland Natural Resources Police Outreach Unit
305 Marine Academy Drive, Suite 1
Stevensville, MD 21666
410-643-8502
Email address:
nrpsafetyed.dnr@maryland.gov

Emergencies on Boats
Use VHF Marine Channel 16 (156.800 MHz, the nearest Natural Resources Police or Coast Guard will assist you) or dial 911

Maryland Natural Resources Police has partnered with **Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers** to prevent poaching of our fish and wildlife resources. Are you aware of a poaching situation? Have you witnessed a wildlife crime? You can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward. Call or text Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers at 1-443-433-4112 or email *mwc.dnr@maryland.gov*. You can also report violations from your phone using the Maryland DNR App!

Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
410-694-9590 (Baltimore)

Wildlife and Heritage Service Offices

Please contact local offices listed below for more information on any of the following issues: bag limits, hunting licenses, hunting permits and their requirements, hunting seasons, Junior Hunt Days, managed hunts, permits and their requirements, public hunting areas, stamps, trapping seasons and wildlife regulations. For information on specific public lands use the phone numbers listed in the Public Hunting Lands section of this guide (pg. 60).

Headquarters
Tawes State Office Building, E-1
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-8540; FAX 410-260-8596

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties
Southern Region Main Office
5625 Myrtle Grove Rd.
LaPlata, MD 20646
301-743-5161

Myrtle Grove WMA
5625 Myrtle Grove Rd.
LaPlata, MD 20646
Reservations and permits are only available through 301-743-5161,
Aug 17, 2026 - Feb 12, 2027:
Mon-Fri, 8am-noon.
Feb 16, 2027 - Mar 9, 2027:
Tues & Fri, 8am-9am.
Apr 5, 2027 - May 17, 2027:
Mondays only, 8am-noon.

Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties
Western Region Main Office
12512 Pleasant Valley Road N.E.
Flintstone, MD 21530
301-777-2136; FAX 301-777-2029

Mt. Nebo WMA
1728 Kings Run Rd.,
Oakland, MD 21550
301-334-4255; FAX
301-334-6541

Billmeyer WMA
11701 Mountain Rd., NE
Flintstone, MD 21530
301-478-2525; FAX 301-777-9723

Indian Springs WMA
14038 Blairs Valley Rd.
Clear Spring, MD 21722
301-842-2702; FAX 301-842-1026

Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery counties and Baltimore City
Central Region Main Office
3740 Gwynnbrook Ave.
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-356-0941

Gwynnbrook WMA
3740 Gwynnbrook Ave.
Owings Mills, MD 21117
Reservations and permits are only available through 410-356-9272,
Hours: 7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.,
Aug. 17, 2026–Feb. 12, 2027
Email:
gwynnbrook.wma@maryland.gov

Bel Air Wildlife Office
2 S. Bond St., Suite 101
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-836-4559; FAX 410-836-4552

Seneca Wildlife Office
11960 Clopper Rd,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-258-7308

Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties
Eastern Region Main Office
4220 Steele Neck Rd.
Vienna, MD 21869
410-376-3236

Millington WMA
P.O. Box 52
33626 Maryland Line Rd.
Massey, MD 21650
410-928-3650

LeCompte WMA
4220 Steele Neck Rd.
Vienna, MD 21869
410-376-3236,
FAX 410-376-3916

Wellington WMA
32733 Dublin Rd.
Princess Anne, MD 21853
410-651-2065

Licensing and Registration Service Centers

Licensing and Registration Service Centers are open by appointment only. For more information, please visit *https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/licensing.aspx* or call 866-344-8889.

Annapolis Service Center
160 Harry S Truman Pkwy.
Mailing address: PO Box 1869
Annapolis, MD 21404
410-260-3220; FAX 410-260-3281
Email:
Annapolisrsc.dnr@maryland.gov

Bel Air Service Center
501 West MacPhail Rd. #2
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-836-4550; FAX 410-836-4562
Email:
Belairrsc.dnr@maryland.gov

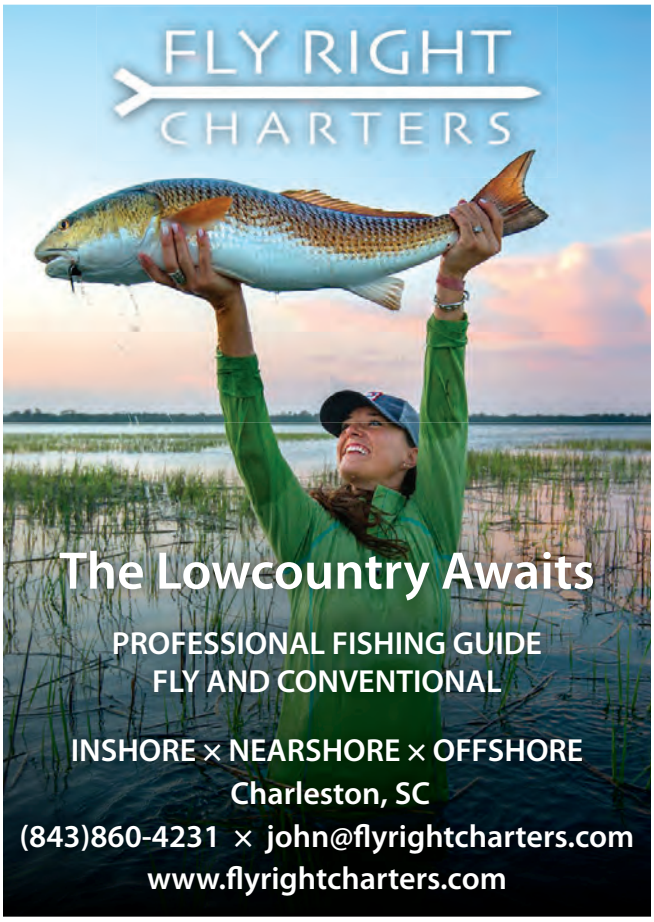
Centreville Service Center
120 Broadway Ave., STE 5
Centreville, MD 21617
410-819-4100; FAX 410-819-4110
Email:
Centrevillersc.dnr@maryland.gov

Cumberland Service Center
13300 Winchester Rd., SW
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-777-2134; FAX 301-777-5865
Tuesday and Thursday; no mail in applications
Email:
Cumberlandrsc.dnr@maryland.gov

Frederick Service Center
1601-A Bowmans Farm Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701
240-236-9950; FAX 240-236-9953
Email:
Frederickrsc.dnr@maryland.gov

Solomons Service Center
14175 Solomons Island Rd. S
Mailing address: P.O.Box 1309
Solomons, MD 20688
410-535-3382; FAX 410-535-4737
Email:
Solomonsrsc.dnr@maryland.gov

Salisbury Service Center
251 Tilghman Rd., Room #2
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-713-3840; FAX 410-713-3849
Email:
Salisburyrsc.dnr@maryland.gov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Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits

Full Season Hunting Licenses **are valid from** the day they are issued through the next July 31. A hunting license year is August 1 through the next July 31.

Be aware that a hunting license holder is required **to have a printed paper copy or electronic copy of their hunting license** in their possession while hunting.

Hunter Education and Safety Requirement

To **hunt or purchase a hunting license** state law **requires**:

- Presentation of a Certificate of Competency in Firearms and Hunting Safety (required of all first time hunters), or
- Certification that you held a hunting license issued prior to July 1, 1977, or
- Certification that you hunted on private property prior to July 1, 1977, and were legally exempt from purchasing a hunting license, or
- Certification that you are purchasing a nonresident 3-day license (pg. 10) and will only hunt waterfowl.

Exceptions: Compliance with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement does not apply to those who are hunting only waterfowl with a Nonresident 3-day Waterfowl and Small Game License (pg. 10) and those shooting under a Regulated Shooting Area Hunting License who are not hunting wild or free-flying captive-raised mallards (see Regulated Shooting Area Hunting License, pg. 10).

The Wildlife and Heritage Service **provides the Hunter Education Course** required to obtain the **Certificate of Competency in Firearms and Hunter Safety**. In addition to traditional classroom courses, an online course is available for those age 13 and older that requires a **mandatory** one day Hunter Education Field Day Workshop.

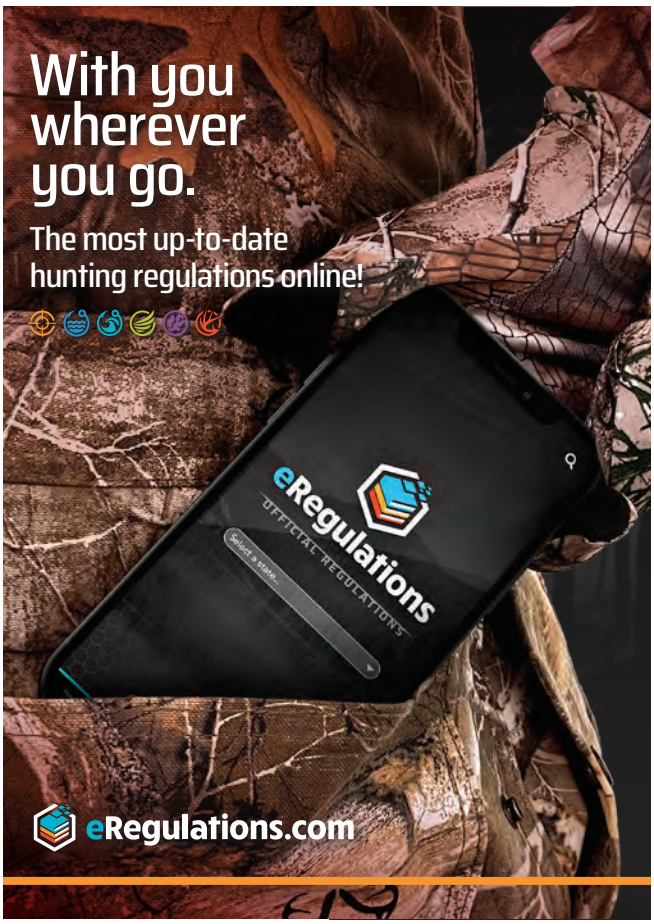
Information about Hunter Education Courses, Safety Education Courses and Trapper Education is **available from the Wildlife and Heritage Service,** Tawes State Office Building E-1, 580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-260-8540, or by visiting the website at *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/default.aspx*

Note: RESIDENT Junior Hunters (under 16 years of age) are entitled to a **one-time FREE annual hunting license, Archery, Sika and Muzzleloader Stamps** upon successful completion of a Hunter Education Course. Please email or fax the form provided by the course instructor (include a daytime phone number) to any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6). A Maryland resident who completes a Hunter Education Course in another state may contact a Licensing Service Center for the required application form.

Full Season Hunting Licenses

A Full Season Hunting License allows a person to hunt all legal game birds and mammals that are in season. There are **additional stamps or permits required** for hunting deer, migratory game birds, furbearers and bear (see each game section for its requirements).

An Apprentice Hunting License is available for first time hunters or junior hunters who are not ready for a regular hunting license. The Apprentice Hunting License is available to both residents and nonresidents. A person may not purchase an Apprentice Hunting License if they have previously obtained a hunting license in



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026–2027

- Migratory Game Bird season dates and bag limits for 2026-2027 are contingent upon approval from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Please verify at the department website in September.
- The muzzle energy requirements for rifles used to hunt deer and black bear have changed. See pages 30 and 51.
- Hunters with a Universal Disability Pass who are hunting from a vehicle may now use straight-walled cartridge rifles during the muzzleloader season. See page 13.
- Bear lottery preference points accumulated from previous seasons are no longer subject to loss if a point is not acquired for the current season. See page 50.
- There is a new electronic check-in requirement for gray fox. See page 54.
- Trapping seasons and bag limits for river otter, fisher, and long-tailed weasel have changed. See page 55.
- There are new regulations for the use of drones. See page 14.
- Field tags for deer, bear, and turkeys are no longer provided in the Guide to Hunting and Trapping. See page 38.
- Archery hunting is now allowed on Sundays in Baltimore City and Sunday time restrictions have changed in Kent, Talbot, and Wicomico counties. See pages 24, 37, 52, and 54.
- The venison donation tax credit has increased. See page 33.
- The archery safety zone in Baltimore City is now 50 yards. See page 14.

Maryland that was anything other than an Apprentice Hunting License.

Use of an Apprentice Hunting License requires the following:

- Successful completion of a short, online hunter safety course that is required prior to purchasing this license.
- Appropriate stamps are required to hunt migratory birds (federal and state duck stamps) and deer (Archery, Sika and Muzzleloader Stamps) (pg. 10).
- The apprentice hunter must be accompanied and directly supervised by a mentor who is a Maryland resident at least 18 years old who possesses a valid Maryland non-apprentice hunting license.
- The apprentice and mentor hunter must hunt in close proximity so that the mentor can take immediate control of the apprentice hunter's hunting device.
- The apprentice hunter can hunt unaccompanied if the full hunter safety course was taken and a Certificate of Competency in Firearms and Hunting Safety was acquired.

Resident Apprentice Hunting License $15

Adult resident hunters age 17 and older, who never held a Maryland hunting license may purchase this license one time. Junior resident hunters may purchase the license annually through age 16. Junior hunters must take the required online education course each year before purchasing the Apprentice Hunting License.

Nonresident Apprentice Hunting License $40

Adult nonresident hunters age 17 and older, who never held a Maryland hunting license may purchase this license one time. Junior nonresident hunters may purchase the license annually through age 16. Junior hunters must take the required online education course each year before purchasing the Apprentice Hunting License.

Resident Regular Hunting License.....$35

For Maryland residents age 16 to 64.

Resident Junior Hunting License.....$15

For Maryland residents under 16 years of age. Written permission of parent or guardian is required.

Resident Senior Hunting License $5

For Maryland residents age 65 and above. It may be purchased in the calendar year in which a resident attains the age of 65.

Senior Lifetime Consolidated License

This license **is no longer available for purchase**. Persons who already hold this license are "grandfathered" and:

- Do not need to purchase the Senior Hunting License, Archery or Muzzleloader Stamps.
- Must buy a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp to hunt a bonus antlered deer.
- Must purchase a Sika Deer Stamp to hunt sika deer.
- Must purchase a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp to hunt migratory game birds.
- Must obtain a Free Public Hunting Permit (where required).
- Must purchase a Furbearer Permit to hunt or chase furbearers.
- Hunters must keep a record of their confirmation numbers by using the Big Game Harvest Record provided with their license, creating their own record or storing a record electronically on their mobile device. Proof of harvest must be furnished upon request. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking (pgs. 38–42).

ONLINE LICENSE SYSTEM

The web-based MD Outdoors licensing system provides the fastest and greenest way to purchase your hunting license. In addition to our seven Licensing and Registration Service Centers and various sport license agents located throughout the state, this web-based system is available 24/7 for self-service online purchases. Connect to MD Outdoors via our portal at *https://mdoutdoors.maryland.gov.*

If you are an existing COMPASS user and have a DNRid number then nothing changes, you'll login and proceed as you would have in the COMPASS system. If you are a new user, you will supply your personal information. You will receive a free DNRid number and can then print your free DNRid Card. Your DNRid number is all that will be needed to locate your account for future purchases. You may print your license and receipt at the end of your purchase. A confirmation email will be provided shortly after purchase. Hunting and recreational fishing licenses can be reprinted at any time, free of charge. Hunters can print additional Big Game Harvest Records and check your harvest through MD Outdoors.

MARYLAND
mdoutdoors.maryland.gov

1701 TURKEY POINT ROAD
NORTH EAST, MD
(443) 553-8544

DEER PROCESSING PRICE LIST

Basic Cut - $120
Includes skinning, deboning, steaks, roasts & burger
Vacuum Seal Everything - additional $20
Shoulder Mount - $20
Head Skinned - $20
Grind Whole Deer - $100

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Bologna (approx. 2 lbs.) **$10/stick**
Specialty Bologna (approx. 2 lbs.) **$12/stick**
Jalapeño Cheddar, Cheddar, Pepper Jack, Chesapeake, Honey, Lebanon, BBQ
Chip Steak - $2/lb.
Bacon Burger - $3/lb.
Snack Sticks - $10/lb.
Specialty Snack Sticks - $12/lb. *Cheddar, Jalapeño Cheddar or BBQ*
Hot Dogs (approx. 1 lb. packs) **$8/pack**
Specialty Hot Dogs (approx. 1 lb. packs) **$10/pack** *Cheddar, Jalapeño Cheddar*
Jerky - $10/pack (1/2 lb. dry weight) *Pepper, Jalapeño, Hickory or Teriyaki*

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Nonresident Hunting License $160
For hunters who are not Maryland residents and are age 16 to 64.

Nonresident Junior Hunting License $80
For hunters who are not Maryland residents and are under 16 years of age. Written permission of parent or guardian is required.

Nonresident Senior Hunting License $65
For hunters who are not Maryland residents and are age 65 or older. This license may be purchased in the calendar year in which a nonresident attains the age of 65.

Other Hunting Licenses

Nonresident 3-Day Waterfowl and Small Game License $65

- This license **allows nonresidents of Maryland** to hunt all legal game in season except deer, bear and turkey for three consecutive legal hunting days.
- A **Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp is required** to hunt migratory game birds with this license.
- A **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required** to hunt waterfowl and coots.
- A **Furbearer Permit is required to hunt, chase or trap furbearers** with a Nonresident 3-Day Waterfowl and Small Game License.
- The **Hunter Education and Safety Requirement** does not apply to hunting **only wild waterfowl with this license**.

Nonresident Trapping License $50
This license **is required** for nonresidents to trap furbearers (pg. 54–58) in Maryland **in addition** to a Nonresident Hunting License and an Individual Furbearer Permit.

Regulated Shooting Area Hunting License $6
This license allows a person to shoot **captive-raised game birds** on a state-licensed Regulated Shooting Area only.

- A **Regulated Shooting Area Hunting License** and the purchase of a **Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp** allows a person to shoot tower-released, flighted mallards on a Regulated Shooting Area.
- This license **cannot be used** to hunt wild or free-flying, captive-raised waterfowl on a Regulated Shooting Area.
- To hunt **free-flying, captive-raised mallard ducks or wild waterfowl** on a state-licensed Regulated Shooting Area a hunter **must possess a Maryland hunting license**, the printed validation showing proof of purchase of the **Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp and Harvest Information Program certification** and a **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp** or its proof of purchase (if over the age of 15).
- A Regulated Shooting Area Hunting License **is not required** if you have a valid **Full Season Hunting License**.
- Hunters on Regulated Shooting Areas may shoot captive-raised game birds on Sundays.

Stationary Blind and Blind Site License $20
A Stationary Blind and Blind Site License allows a person to have an **offshore waterfowl blind** or blind site in Maryland public waters. This open licensing process is available only by lottery and online appointments. For more information refer to: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/Licenses/Offshore-Blind-Site-Licensing-Information.aspx*, 410-260-8538

Hunting Stamps

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp at National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Post Offices and at *duckstamp.com* $25
From MD Outdoors OR any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) OR a Sport License agent $29
A Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (federal duck stamp) is required of all hunters 16 years of age or older to hunt brant, coots, ducks and geese (pg. 43).

Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp .. $15
A Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters to hunt all migratory game birds in Maryland. The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp now consists of a printed validation on your hunting license that serves as proof of purchase. Hunters must possess this validation while hunting migratory game birds.

Resident Archery Stamp $6
Nonresident Archery Stamp $25
An Archery Stamp is required to hunt deer during the Archery Season (pg. 20–27).

Resident Muzzleloader Stamp $6
Nonresident Muzzleloader Stamp $25
A Muzzleloader Stamp is required to hunt deer during the Muzzleloader Season (pg. 20–28).

NOTE: Exceptions to the Archery and Muzzleloader Stamp requirements: Hunters entitled to hunt without a license and hunters with a Senior Lifetime Consolidated License do not need to purchase an Archery or Muzzleloader Stamp.

Resident Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp $10
Nonresident Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp $25
A Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp allows hunting license holders to take one additional antlered white-tailed deer during one of the hunting seasons (Archery, Muzzleloader or Firearms), (pg. 20–21).

Resident Sika Deer Stamp $10
Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp $200
An annual Sika Deer Stamp is required to hunt sika deer during any of the deer hunting seasons.

Hunting Permits

Archery Hunting Permit for the Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs ..... FREE
Issued in cooperation of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service and the City of Baltimore Bureau of Water and Wastewater. Allows archery hunting only on the Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs (pg. 63).

Free Public Hunting Permit ..... FREE
Replaces the former Central and Southern Region Public Hunting Permits. This permit is required for certain public hunting areas in Maryland. To obtain this free permit go to MD Outdoors. Contact either the Gwynnbrook Wildlife Office at 410-356-9272 or the Myrtle Grove Wildlife Office at 301-743-5161 for more information or other options for obtaining the permit.

Individual Furbearer Permit $5
Group Furbearer Permit $50
A Furbearer Permit is required to hunt, chase or trap any furbearer (pg. 54–58).

Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit $5
A Maryland Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit is required to participate in the Light Goose Conservation Order Season (pg. 47).

Hunting Fees

Black Bear Hunt Lottery Application Fee $15
A Black Bear Hunting Permit is only available through the Maryland Black Bear Lottery process. The lottery application fee is nonrefundable (pg. 50).

Nonresidents Attending College in Maryland

Nonresidents of Maryland who attend college in Maryland may purchase a hunting license at a resident rate upon providing proof of enrollment in a Maryland College. In order

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to complete this purchase you must apply directly to one of the Department's Regional Licensing and Registration Service Centers (pg. 6).

Purple Heart Recipients

Maryland residents who were recipients of the Purple Heart Award are eligible for a discounted hunting license and any associated stamps and permits. This year's discounted rate is 50 percent of the regular price of the license or stamp. These discounted hunting licenses and stamps are **available by either emailing or visiting** (by appointment only) a Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) or by emailing customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov. Documentation proving the Purple Heart Award was received by the hunter must be provided at the time of purchase. The Purple Heart medal does not suffice as proof of receiving the award. All other requirements apply for obtaining a hunting license and stamps.

Complimentary DAV-POW Hunting Licenses

A Complimentary Lifetime Hunting License is available to Maryland residents certified as a former prisoner of war or a 100 percent service-connected disabled American veteran (Veterans Administration documentation is required).

- This free lifetime hunting license **is available by either emailing or visiting** (by appointment only) a Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) or by emailing customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov.
- This **license also includes** free, lifetime Archery Stamps, Muzzleloader Stamps, Sika Deer Stamps, and Furbearer Permits.
- The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp **are required to be purchased** annually and **are not included** with this license.
- Deer and turkey hunters must keep a record of their confirmation numbers by using the Big Game Harvest Record provided with their license, creating their own record or storing a record electronically on their mobile device. Proof of harvest must be furnished upon request. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking (pgs. 38–42).

American Veterans Complimentary Hunting License

American veterans who are officially deemed as unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may be eligible for a complimentary lifetime hunting license.

Members of the Armed Forces Hunting in Maryland

Active duty members of the Armed Forces **stationed in Maryland**:

- are considered residents of Maryland.
- must comply with the **Hunter Education and Safety Requirement** (pg. 8).
- **must purchase** a Resident Hunting License and all required stamps and permits before hunting, **unless** they are on official leave and possess a copy of their official leave orders.
- while hunting **during official leave in Maryland with a copy of their official leave orders**:
  - » do not need to purchase a hunting license or deer stamps.
  - » **must purchase** a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and a Furbearer Permit to pursue migratory game birds and furbearers.

Any **nonresident** serving in the Armed Forces who is on leave in Maryland, but **not stationed in Maryland**, must purchase a **Nonresident Hunting License** before hunting.

Who May Hunt Without a Hunting License

All Maryland hunters must comply with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement (pg. 8).

You are not required to possess a Maryland hunting license if you are:

- a resident of Maryland (or their spouse) who owns property and who **hunts only on** that property. This also applies to:
  - » The landowner's children and grandchildren if they are **under the age of 16**.
  - » The landowner's children and grandchildren, and the spouse of the children or grandchildren, regardless of age, if the child, grandchild, or their spouse **lives on the property**, or has **worked on the property** for at least 30 days during the preceding 12 months, or **manages the property**. (Each person must individually qualify under these criteria. To qualify for this exemption, a landowner does not need to live on the property but must be able to prove ownership.)
- A person (or their spouse) who **holds land under lease for agricultural purposes** (or a sharecropper), and **lives on this farmland**, and **hunts only on** this farmland. This also applies to:
  - » The lessee's children and grandchildren if they are **under the age of 16**.
  - » The lessee's children and grandchildren, and their spouses, if the child, grandchild, or spouse of the child or grandchild**, lives on the property**, or has **worked on the property** for at least 30 days during the preceding 12 months, or **manages the property**.
- A nonresident (or their spouse) who owns a **contiguous piece of farmland** that is in both Virginia and Maryland and the person's primary residence is on the Virginia portion of the property. Thus, they may hunt on the Maryland portion of the property without a Maryland hunting license. This also applies to the owner's children and grandchildren if they are under the age of 16.
- A Maryland resident serving in the **Armed Forces** who is **on official leave** in Maryland (whether stationed in Maryland or outside Maryland) **and possesses a copy of official leave orders** while hunting.
- A person serving in the **Armed Forces** who has a **service-connected disability** and possesses a valid military identification while hunting.
- A person who is a **retired former member of the Armed Services** and hunting on farmland that is in active farming status and owned by the person or the person's spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, niece or nephew. A retired former armed forces member who hunts on farmland without a hunting license **must possess the retired military identification card and written permission** from the owner of the farm property specifying the relationship of the person to the owner of the property.

Be aware that hunters not required to have a license:

- **must obtain** a free **DNRid number** available through MD Outdoors OR any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) OR a Sport License agent.
- **must keep a record** of their deer and turkey confirmation numbers by using the Big Game Harvest Record provided with their license, creating their own record or storing a record electronically on their mobile device. Proof of harvest must be furnished upon request. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking (pgs. 38–42).
- must have a **Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp** to hunt migratory game birds.

- must possess a proof of purchase of the **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp** to hunt waterfowl and coots.
- must obtain a **Furbearer Permit** to hunt, trap or chase any furbearer.
- are **not required to purchase Archery Deer Stamps, Sika Deer Stamps, Muzzleloader Deer Stamps or Bonus Antlered Deer Stamps**.

Nonresidents of Maryland who own property in the state and hunt on that property **are required to** purchase a Nonresident Hunting License and all other appropriate stamps and permits.

Individuals who are exempt from Maryland hunting license requirements **are subject to all state and federal laws and regulations** relative to hunting and trapping.

Universal Disability Pass

Hunters with mobility impairments may obtain a free Universal Disability Pass that will allow them to **hunt from a vehicle** in designated areas. Applications are available from the website *dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Documents/UDisabilityPass.pdf*. See Public Hunting Lands (pgs. 60–63) for areas that have provisions for the mobility impaired. Please contact each area for their specific conditions.

Please note that hunters with a Universal Disability Pass **may use a straight-walled cartridge rifle in place of a muzzleloader** when hunting from a vehicle during the designated deer muzzleloader seasons."

Purchasing Your Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits

A **DNRid number is required** to obtain hunting and trapping licenses, stamps and permits.

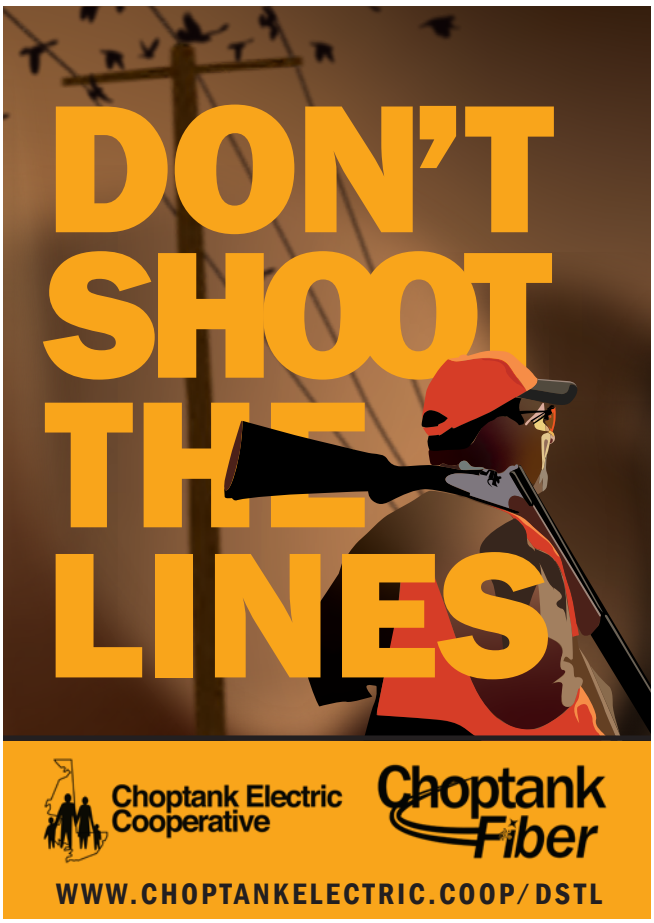
A DNRid Card and number, hunting licenses, stamps, permits, commemorative hard cards and Big Game Harvest Records **are available through**:

- **MD Outdoors** – *https://mdoutdoors.maryland.gov*.
- **Licensing and Registration Service Centers by appointment only** – Hours, addresses and phone numbers are listed on page 6.
- **Sport License Agents** – A list of agents is available at: *dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/licensing.aspx* and your local Licensing and Registration Service Center can provide the location for Sport License agents near you.

You may obtain a hunting license 24 hours a day, seven days a week through MD Outdoors. You may print your license and receipt at the end of your purchase and/or reprint anytime through MD Outdoors. A confirmation email will be provided shortly after purchase. The license immediately authorizes your participation in all purchased activities, including deer and turkey hunting. Supporting documents for some privileges will be mailed. Payment can be made by Visa, Master Card or Discover.

You may obtain a **Hunting License Application** by calling a Licensing and Registration Service Center or from the website: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/dnrforms.aspx*. Complete all applicable sections and mail it with the appropriate fee to any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6).

Lost or damaged hunting licenses can be reprinted for free. Call any Licensing and Registration Service Center , email *customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov* or log into your account at MD Outdoors (*https://mdoutdoors.maryland.gov*).



Hunting Regulations and Requirements

General Regulations

- A hunter **must carry personal photo identification** (such as a driver's license) or a secondary form of positive identification while hunting.
- A hunting license holder is required to have **a printed paper copy or electronic copy of their hunting license** in their possession while hunting.
- It is unlawful to hunt any game bird or mammal while **under the influence** of alcohol or any narcotic drug.
- It is unlawful to hunt any animal other than deer on the **first day of Deer Firearms Season** except coyotes.
- It is a violation of law to cast the rays of an artificial light from a vehicle on dwellings or buildings, fields, livestock, orchards, wild mammals and birds, or woods. However, in Baltimore City, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, a person may cast the rays of an artificial light from a vehicle for the sole purpose of observing or photographing wildlife until 9 p.m. A person may not have a hunting device in their possession while casting rays of an artificial light. Note: coyotes, foxes, opossums or raccoons may be hunted on foot at nighttime during open season with the use of a dog and light and hunters may use a light when pursuing and killing a wounded deer after legal shooting hours.
- **Safety Zones:** It is illegal to **hunt, shoot or trap wildlife within 150 yards** of any building or camp occupied by human beings without permission of the owner or occupant. For archery hunters this distance is 100 yards in Anne Arundel County and 50 yards in Allegany, Baltimore City, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester counties. In Harford, archers must use a tree stand when hunting between 50 and 100 yards of any building or camp occupied by human beings. In Howard County, the safety zone for anyone using archery equipment while operating under the authority of a Deer Management Permit or participating in a Managed Hunt Program administered by the County is now 50 yards. In Montgomery and Washington counties, archers must be in an elevated position when hunting between 50 and 100 yards of any building or camp occupied by human beings.
  - » A person may not shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within the safety zone.
- It is unlawful to **discharge a firearm within 300 yards** of a public or nonpublic school while hunting. This prohibition only applies during school hours or when the building is occupied. This safety zone does not apply to colleges, universities or home schools.
- **It is unlawful to tamper with** and remove the catch from **any legally set trap.**

Drones

It is unlawful to use a drone (i.e., Unmanned Aircraft System) to hunt, trap, or pursue wildlife with the exception that a drone may be used to assist with the recovery of a wounded or expired animal. Drones may not be used to locate, drive, or flush game. It is also unlawful to scout or surveil for game and then hunt, or assist someone else to hunt, on the surveilled property within 24 hours of the last drone flight. Drone operators must contact Natural Resources Police at 800-628-9944 (available 24/7) before attempting to locate a wounded or expired animal and at the conclusion of the search. Drone operators must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning the use of drones when attempting to recover game.

Hunting on Private Property

Written permission is required from the property owner **to hunt or trap** on private property in all counties.

Liability

Any person hunting on private property shall be liable for any damage caused by that person to private property while hunting. The landowner may not be liable for accidental injury or damage to the hunter, whether or not the landowner or the landowner's agent or lessee has given permission to hunt. For additional information regarding landowner liability read Bulletin EB357 (Landowner Liability and Recreational Access) at the University of Maryland Extension's website *(https://extension.umd.edu/resource/landowner-liability-and-recreational-access-eb-357).*

Controlling Hunter Use of Private Property

Posting property boundaries in a conspicuous manner makes it illegal to trespass or for any person to enter without the landowner's permission. Maryland law allows the use of blue paint stripes and/or signs to indicate private property boundaries. Vertical paint marks at least 2 inches in width and 8 inches in length must be centered at least 3 feet, but no more than 6 feet, from the ground or water surface. The paint must be oil-based and bright blue.

Sunday Hunting

- A person who possesses a **Falconry Permit** may hunt specified resident game birds and mammals on Sundays during the open season (pgs. 47 and 58).
- An unarmed person participating in an **organized fox chase** may chase foxes on Sundays.
- Persons hunting on **Regulated Shooting Areas** may shoot captive raised game birds (except free-flying captive-raised waterfowl) on Sundays.
- Persons may hunt **deer** (pg. 24), **turkeys** (pg. 37), **small game** (pg. 52) and **furbearers** (pg. 54) **on certain Sundays in certain areas**.

State Owned Lands

- It is illegal to **target shoot on state lands** except in designated areas.
- It is unlawful to **construct or use permanent blinds or tree stands on state-owned** or controlled properties, unless provided by DNR. Tree stands and blinds are limited to those of a temporary nature which must be removed at the end of each day. **Hunters may not pierce the bark of a tree** on state lands for any reason, including to install tree stands or cameras.
- It is unlawful **to trap on state lands** without written permission from the controlling agency.
- It is **illegal to place bait** for hunting on state lands.

Fluorescent Color Clothing Requirements and Exceptions

Daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink clothing **promotes hunter safety** because it is easy for other hunters to see outdoors. Except as noted in the exemptions below, a daylight fluorescent color outer garment or hat **must be worn by all** people who hunt any wildlife or accompany, aid or assist a hunter in a field, marsh, wooded area or on the water. Even those who are exempt from this requirement are encouraged to wear fluorescent color clothing when hunting.

Whenever hunting, both hunters and companions **must wear either**:

- a **cap of solid daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink** color worn as an outer garment on the head at all times;
- a **vest or jacket containing** back and front panels of at least 250 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink color worn as an outer garment at all times; or
- an **outer garment of camouflage daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink** worn above the waist which contains at least 50 percent daylight fluorescent color.

Persons required to wear fluorescent color clothing that **hunt from a ground blind** that has four sides, a top and is placed 4 feet or less above the ground **must display**, on or within 25 feet of the blind, a cap of solid daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink color or a panel, band, strip, or garment containing at least 250 square inches (approximately 16 inches by 16 inches) of solid **daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink** color.

Be aware that:

- **Property owners and their spouses and children** (while hunting on the property owned) **are required** to wear fluorescent color clothing.
- Those **who hunt with archery equipment** during the Junior Deer Hunt Days, Deer Firearms Season, Deer Muzzleloader Season and Primitive Deer Hunt Days **are required** to wear fluorescent color clothing.
- Deer **archery hunters** hunting in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties during the open **black bear season are required** to wear fluorescent color clothing.

Those exempt from the requirement of wearing fluorescent color clothing are:

- **except as noted above**, a person who hunts deer during the Deer Archery Season.
- a person authorized by a Falconry Permit who hunts game birds or mammals using falcons, hawks or owls.
- a person who hunts or accompanies, aids or assists another person hunting the following species: brant, coot, crow, dove, ducks, furbearing mammals, geese, rails, snipe, wild turkey.

SAFETY TIPS

HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

Tree stand accidents are the leading cause of hunter injuries in Maryland. Most tree stand accidents occur in the transition between a climbing device and the tree stand.

- Always practice and understand the manufacturer's recommendations for use of any climbing equipment or tree stand.
- Keep all tree stands, and climbing equipment in good repair.
- Practice with stands, harness, and climbing equipment at ground level first.
- Use only full-body safety harness/fall restraint systems and a lifeline when climbing a tree or in a tree stand.
- Only climb healthy trees. Even live branches may give way under your weight.
- Use three points of contact with the tree or climbing device for a secure hold.
- Climb higher than your stand and step down onto it.
- Wear boots with non-skid soles to prevent slips.
- Use a haul line to get hunting equipment into and out of your stand. Guns should be unloaded and broad heads covered.
- Don't fall asleep in your stand.
- Tell others where you will hunt and when you will return.

FIREARMS SAFETY TIPS

- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Never point a gun at anything you don't want to shoot.
- Always control the muzzle direction in case of a fall.
- Keep the barrel and action clear of obstructions. Carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
- Unload guns and open the action when not in use.
- Never climb or jump with a loaded gun.
- Never pull the gun toward you by the muzzle.
- Never shoot a bullet at flat, hard surfaces or water.
- Store guns and ammunition safely and securely.
- Never use alcoholic beverages or medications before or during the use of a firearm.

ARCHERY SAFETY TIPS

- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it before you shoot.
- Keep broadheads covered and only knock an arrow or load a bolt when you are ready to shoot.
- Never run, climb or jump with knocked arrow or a bolt loaded in a crossbow.
- Keep hands away from drawn crossbow strings and cables.
- Practice frequently with your hunting arrows and bolts to know your accuracy and distance limitations.
- Always use manufacturer recommended arrow or bolt weights.

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Follow all firearms hunting safety recommendations.
- Call out in a loud, clear voice to announce your presence to other approaching hunters.
- Don't wear red, white, blue or black colors that may be mistaken for the colors of a wild turkey gobbler.
- Cover harvested turkeys and decoys when carrying them.
- Stalking turkey sounds may put you and the hunter making them in danger.
- Protect your back from other hunters approaching from behind.

Deer hunting regulations are divided by regions. There are two Deer Management Regions whose dividing line is in Washington County (see map, pg. 18). There are also rules and seasons for archery, firearms (including air guns) and muzzleloader deer hunting.

Junior Deer Hunt Days....pg. 20
Antlered White-tailed Deer, Statewide Seasons....pg. 20
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Seasons, Region A....pg. 21
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Seasons, Region B....pg. 22
Sika Deer Seasons....pg. 23
Sunday Deer Hunting....pg. 24
Archery Deer Hunting Regulations....pg. 26
Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Regulations....pg. 27
Firearms and Air Gun Deer Hunting Regulations....pg. 28
Chronic Wasting Disease in Maryland....pg. 30
Managed Deer Hunting Programs....pg. 32
Deer Processors....pg. 35

General Deer Hunting Rules

- A hunter must carry **personal photo identification** (such as a driver's license) or a secondary form of positive identification while hunting.
- **Written permission is required** to hunt on private land.
- A **hunting license is required to hunt deer** (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- An Archery Stamp is required for Archery Deer Season **and when using bows during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.** A Muzzleloader Stamp is required for Muzzleloader Deer Season **and when using a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** (pgs. 20–23).
- **A Sika Stamp is required to take sika deer** (pg. 23).
- There are tagging and checking requirements for all deer harvested. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking for instructions (pgs. 38–42).
- There are **daylight fluorescent color clothing requirements to hunt deer**. See Fluorescent Color Clothing Requirements and Exceptions (pg. 15).
- **Archery equipment may be used** to hunt deer during all of the deer hunting seasons. This includes the Junior Deer Hunt Days. **During the Primitive Deer Hunt Days, hunters may only use long bows and recurve bows.**
- **Muzzleloading firearms may only be used** to hunt deer during the Muzzleloader Season, Firearms Season, Junior Deer Hunt Days and Primitive Deer Hunt Days. During the Primitive Deer Hunt Days, hunters may only use flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders. Muzzleloading revolvers are prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- **Shotguns or rifles and handguns that fire straight-walled cartridges may be used** to hunt deer in all counties during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days.
- **Rifles and handguns that shoot bottleneck cartridges may only be used** to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in certain counties and areas (see map and description, pg. 19).
- **Air guns** that shoot bullets, arrows or bolts may be used to hunt deer in all counties **during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days only**.
- **Deer harvested must count toward the bag limit of the season** in which they are taken, **please note**:
  - » Deer harvested with archery equipment during the antlerless-only second split of the early Muzzleloader Season in Region B must count toward the Archery Season bag limit.
- Hunters **may not carry archery equipment and muzzleloaders at the same time** when Archery Season and Muzzleloader Season are in concurrently. This includes the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- **Telescopic and electronic aiming devices** may be used on all devices legal for hunting deer during the Archery, Muzzleloader and Firearms Seasons and Junior Deer Hunt Days. **Telescopic and electronic aiming devices may not be used during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.**
- The **antlered white-tailed deer bag limit is statewide**. It applies to both Region A and Region B together.
- **Antlerless white-tailed deer bag limits are separate** and independent for Region A and Region B.
- **Sika deer bag limits are independent** of the white-tailed deer bag limits.
- **Only one antlered white-tailed deer may be taken per day** within the season bag limits. There is no restriction on the number of **antlerless deer that may be taken per day in Region B** within the season bag limit. **Only one antlerless deer may be taken per day in Region A** within the season bag limit.
- Antlered and antlerless deer may be harvested the same day within their prescribed bag limits.
- Daily deer **shooting hours** are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset with the exception of certain Sundays in certain counties (see Sunday hunting chart, pg. 24).
- **Recorded or electrically amplified calls** or sounds are prohibited for deer hunting.
- **Hunters may dispatch wounded deer after legal shooting hours on the evening the wounding occurs.** The hunter must use a weapon legal for the current season to kill the deer. Artificial lights may be used to assist with dispatching a wounded deer. Hunters must notify the Natural Resources Police by telephone at 800-628-9944 if they suspect they will need to kill a wounded deer they are pursuing after legal shooting hours and must call again when finished.
- **Dogs and drones cannot be used** to hunt deer. However, they may be used to find dead, wounded or injured deer. If using a dog, the handler must maintain physical control at all times. Only the hunter, dog handler, or drone operator may carry a hunting device and dispatch a wounded deer while tracking it. Prior to tracking the deer, the hunter must notify the Natural Resources Police by telephone at 800-628-9944. See page 14 for additional drone information.
- Deer may not be hunted while they are **swimming or taking refuge in water**.
- **Fallow deer** (where they are found) may be taken in place of white-tailed deer during each of the deer hunting seasons.
- It is **legal to bait deer except** on state-owned or state-controlled properties.
- A person that intentionally wounds or kills a deer must make **a reasonable attempt to retrieve** and make use of the deer. This includes hunters and persons shooting under the authority of a Deer Management Permit.
- A person **must have written permission** when entering lands owned by another person or organization for the purpose of retrieving a deer. Some publicly owned properties also require permission before a person may access them.

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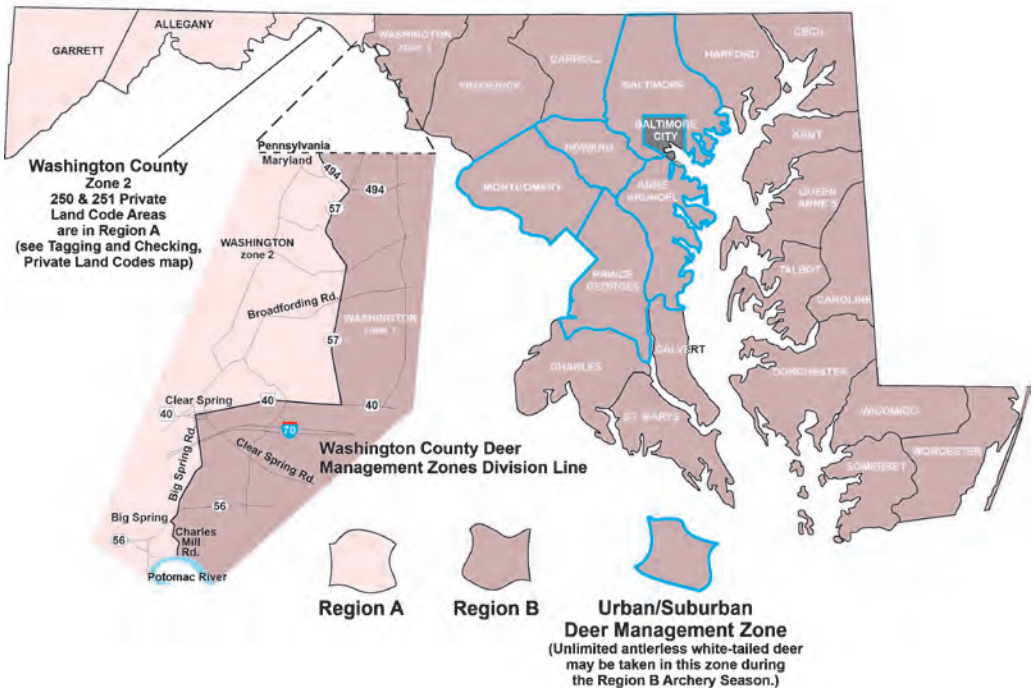
"For I was hungry, and you fed me." Matthew 25:35

REGION A: Allegany County, Garrett County and the western portion of Washington County (Zone 2, Private Land Code Areas 250 and 251) that lies west of a line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 494 and the Pennsylvania line, south on Rt. 494 to Rt. 57, south on Rt. 57 to Rt. 40 at St. Paul's Church, west on Rt. 40 to the junction of Big Spring Rd. and Rt. 40 in Clear Spring, south on Big Spring Rd. to the junction of Rt. 56 at Big Spring, following Rt. 56 west to the junction of Charles Mill Rd., then south on Charles Mill Rd. to the Potomac River.

REGION B: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, the eastern portion of Washington County, Zone 1, Private Land Code Area 252, that lies east of a line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 494 and the Pennsylvania line, south on Rt. 494 to Rt. 57, south on Rt. 57 to Rt. 40 at St. Paul's Church, west on Rt. 40 to the junction of Big Spring Rd. and Rt. 40 in Clear Spring, south on Big Spring Rd. to the junction of Rt. 56 at Big Spring, following Rt. 56 west to the junction of Charles Mill Rd., then south on Charles Mill Rd. to the Potomac River), Wicomico and Worcester counties.

DEER MANAGEMENT REGIONS/ZONES MAP



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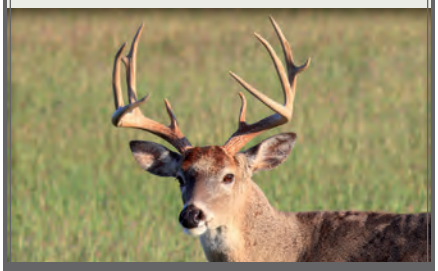

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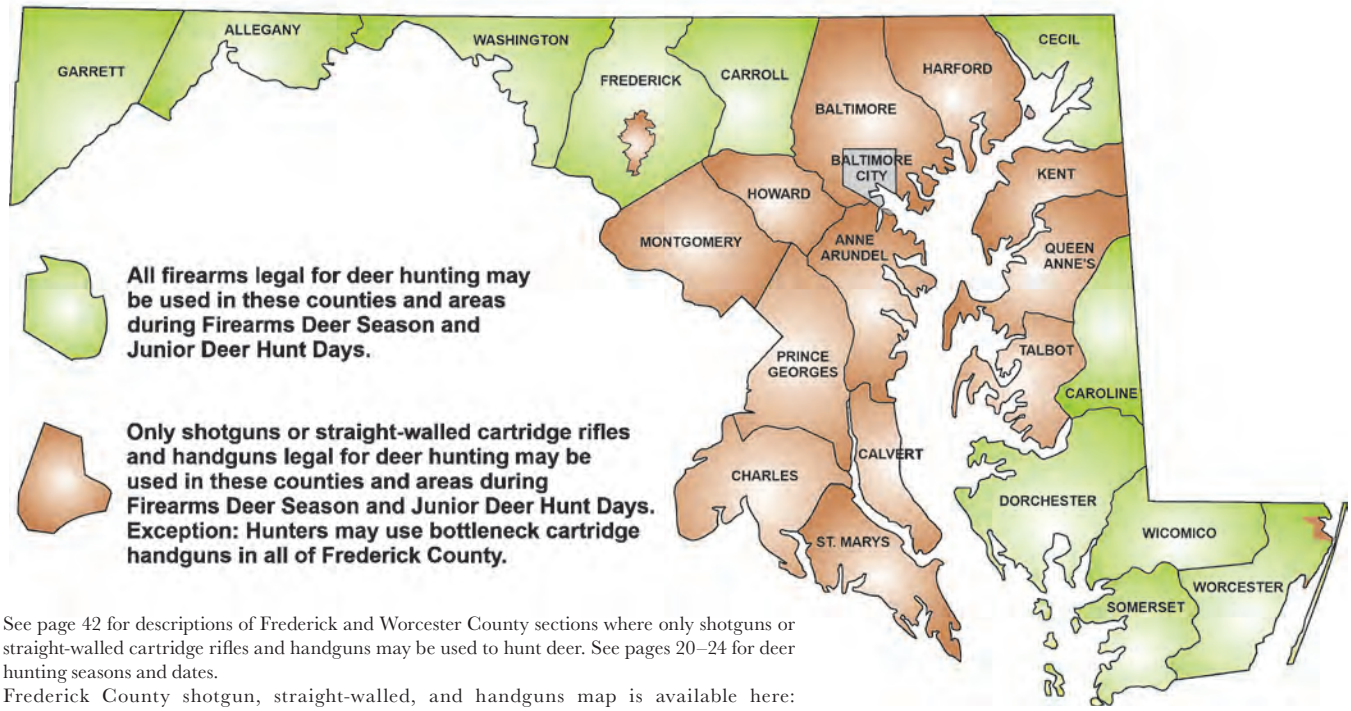
DESIGNATED RIFLE, SHOTGUN AND HANDGUN COUNTIES AND AREAS FOR FIREARMS SEASON DEER HUNTING



See page 42 for descriptions of Frederick and Worcester County sections where only shotguns or straight-walled cartridge rifles and handguns may be used to hunt deer. See pages 20–24 for deer hunting seasons and dates.
Frederick County shotgun, straight-walled, and handguns map is available here: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/FredCty_DeerHuntingZones.aspx*

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JUNIOR DEER HUNT DAYS AND BAG LIMITS 2026		
DATES	REGION/DEER	BAG LIMIT
NOV. 14 STATEWIDE; SUNDAY, NOV. 15 IN CERTAIN COUNTIES (SEE SUNDAY HUNTING CHART, PG. 24.)	**Region A** White-Tailed Deer	1 antlered or 1 antlerless deer
	Region B White-Tailed Deer	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered
	Sika Deer	1 antlered or 1 antlerless deer
(See map for regions, pg. 18.)		

Junior Deer Hunt Days are for hunters age 16 or younger only.
To hunt during these days:

- Junior hunters must have a hunting license or be exempt from the license requirement (see Who May Hunt Without a License, pg. 12).
- They must be accompanied in the field by an individual who:
  - » is 21 years old or older.
  - » possesses a valid Maryland hunting license (an Apprentice Hunting License does not meet this requirement) or is exempt from hunting license requirements.
  - » is unarmed.
- Junior Deer Hunt Days have a **separate bag limit**. Deer taken by junior hunters during these days do not count towards the regular Archery, Muzzleloader or Firearms seasons bag limits.
- Daily deer **shooting hours** for Junior Hunt Days are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
- Junior hunters are NOT required to comply with the **antler point restriction** during any of the deer seasons (see White-tailed Deer Antler Point Restrictions).

ANTLERED WHITE-TAILED DEER STATEWIDE SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027		
SEASON	DATES ALL SUNDAY HUNTING DATES ARE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES ONLY, SEE CHART ON PG. 24.	BAG LIMIT
ARCHERY	Sept. 11–Oct. 21, Sunday Oct. 25–Nov. 27, Dec. 14–Dec. 18, Sunday Jan. 3–Jan. 7, Jan. 8–Sunday Jan. 10 (Region A Only), Jan. 11–Jan. 31 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	2 total for all seasons combined No more than 1 in any weapon season A third antlered white-tailed deer may be taken only in Region B as a bonus antlered deer (see requirements below)
MUZZLELOADER	*Oct. 22–Oct. 24, Dec. 19–Jan. 2 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	
FIREARMS	Nov. 28–Dec. 12 Jan. 8–Sunday, Jan. 10 (Region B Only)	
* The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp may not be used during the Oct. 22–24, 2026 Muzzleloader Season. On these same dates, only one (1) deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A. See map for regions, pg. 18.		

- The **antlered white-tailed deer bag limit** is statewide and applies to both Region A and Region B together.
- Hunters may only harvest **one antlered white-tailed deer per day** within the season bag limits.
- **An antlered white-tailed deer is** defined as a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.
- **An antler point is** defined as any antler projection one inch or more in length and includes the brow tine. The tip of the main beam is also considered a point.
- **A statewide Antler Point Restriction is in effect** on some, but not all, of the antlered white-tailed deer a hunter may harvest during the license year. The Antler Point Restriction includes these regulations:
  - » Hunters may harvest one antlered white-tailed deer within the yearly bag limit that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any additional antlered white-tailed deer taken within the yearly bag limit must have at least three points on one antler.
  - » These deer may be taken in any order within the existing bag limit.
  - » All **Junior hunters**, 16 years of age or younger, are NOT required to comply with the antler point restriction during any of the deer seasons.

Primitive Deer Hunt Days

- Hunters **may only use long bows, recurve bows or flintlock and side-lock percussion muzzleloading rifles or handguns** during these days. Muzzleloading revolvers are prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- The use of draw-locks and telescopic or other electronic aiming devices are prohibited.
- **Antlered** white-tailed deer **taken with a bow during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular antlered archery bag limit.
- **Antlered** white-tailed deer **taken with a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular antlered muzzleloader bag limit.
- All deer hunters must wear fluorescent color clothing during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

Bonus Antlered Deer

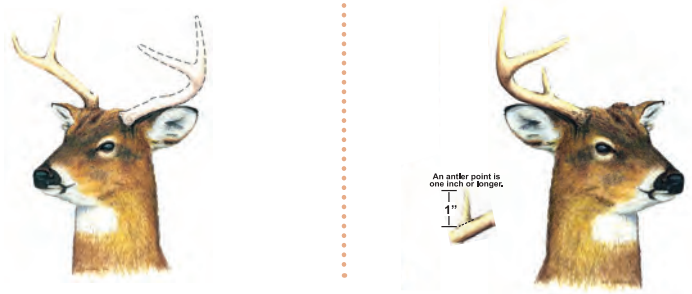
- Hunting license holders may **purchase one** Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp per license year and use it during the weapon season of their choice (Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms); however, the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp **MAY NOT** be used during the Oct. 22 – Oct. 24, 2026 portion of the Muzzleloader Season.
- A Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp **must be purchased** by hunting license holders **prior to pursuing** the bonus antlered deer.
- The **statewide antlered deer bag limit is still 2 antlered deer**; however, a third antlered deer may be taken by using the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp with some restrictions in Region A.

» A hunter **may not** harvest more than two antlered deer in Region A during a license year.
» A hunter **may not** harvest two antlered deer in Region A during the same weapon season.

- The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp may **only** be used in one of the following ways:
  » In Region B: For a hunter to take a second antlered white-tailed deer during the same weapon season;
  » In Region B: For a hunter to take a third antlered white-tailed deer in the remaining weapon season that they have not harvested an antlered white-tailed deer;
  » In Region A: For a hunter to take one antlered white-tailed deer during the same weapon season in which they have already taken an antlered white-tailed deer in Region B;
  » In Region A: For a hunter to take a third antlered white-tailed deer during the remaining weapon season, as long as the hunter's two previously harvested antlered white-tailed deer **were not** both taken in Region A.
- A hunter may not take a bonus antlered deer on the same day an antlered deer is taken under the regular bag limit.
- A hunter may take only one antlered deer within the yearly bag limit, including the use of a bonus antlered deer stamp, that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler.
- **Sika deer may not be taken** as a bonus antlered deer.
- Those who may hunt without a license (pg. 12) and those who possess an Apprentice Hunting License (pg. 8) **do not need to purchase** a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp to take the bonus antlered white-tailed deer.

ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION

Doesn't meet point restriction. | Meets point restriction.



These deer may be taken in any order within the bag limit.

Hunters may harvest one antlered white-tailed deer within the yearly bag limit that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. **Any additional antlered white-tailed deer taken** within the yearly bag limit must meet the minimum point restriction.

ANTLERLESS WHITE-TAILED DEER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS REGION A 2026–2027

SEASON	DATES ALL SUNDAY HUNTING DATES ARE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES ONLY, SEE CHART ON PG. 24.	BAG LIMIT
ARCHERY	Sep. 11–Oct. 21, Sunday Oct. 25–Nov. 27, Dec. 14–Dec. 18, Sunday Jan. 3–Jan. 31 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	Up to two antlerless deer may be harvested during a weapon season but no more than two total for all seasons combined Only one antlerless deer per day may be harvested in Region A An additonal antlerless deer may be taken during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days
MUZZLELOADER	*Oct. 22–Oct. 24, Dec. 26–Jan. 2 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	
FIREARMS	Dec. 5–Dec. 12	

*Only one (1) deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the Oct. 22–24, 2026 Muzzleloader Season.
See map for regions, pg. 18.

- In Region A, hunters may harvest **only two antlerless deer** total during the Archery, Muzzleloader, and Firearms seasons combined. **Up to two antlerless deer** may be harvested during a weapon season but no more than two total for the combined seasons. Only one antlerless deer per day may be harvested in Region A. Hunters may take **one additional antlerless deer** during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- **An antlerless white-tailed deer is** a female deer or a male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Primitive Deer Hunt Days

- Hunters **may only use long bows, recurve bows or flintlock and side-lock percussion muzzleloaders** during these days. Muzzleloading revolvers are prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- The use of draw-locks and telescopic or other electronic aiming devices are prohibited.
- Antlerless deer taken during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days **do not count against the regular Region A antlerless bag limits.**
- All deer hunters must wear fluorescent color clothing during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

Region A Public Lands

- Region A Department of Natural Resources Public Lands open to antlerless white-tailed deer hunting are: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park (Designated Areas Only), Garrett State Forest, Green Ridge State Forest, Indian Springs WMA, McCoole FMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac State Forest, Prather's Neck WMA, Rocky Gap State Park (Designated Areas Only), Sang Run State Park (Designated Areas Only), Savage River State Forest, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA, Wolf Den Run State Park, Woodmont NRMA, Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA and Youghiogheny Scenic Wild River NEA.

ANTLERLESS WHITE-TAILED DEER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS REGION B 2026–2027

SEASON	DATES ALL SUNDAY HUNTING DATES ARE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES ONLY, SEE CHART ON PG. 24.	BAG LIMIT
ARCHERY	Sep. 11–Oct. 21, Sunday Oct. 25–Nov. 27, Dec. 14–Dec. 18, Sunday Jan. 3–Jan. 7, Jan. 11–Jan. 31 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	15 (Unlimited antlerless in the Suburban Deer Management Zone*)
MUZZLELOADER	Oct. 22–Oct. 24, Oct. 26–Oct. 31, Dec. 19–Jan. 2 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	10
FIREARMS	Nov. 28–Dec. 12, Jan. 8–Sunday Jan. 10.	10

* Suburban Deer Management Zone is comprised of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.

See map for regions, pg. 18.

- An **antlerless white-tailed deer** is a female deer or a male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Primitive Deer Hunt Days

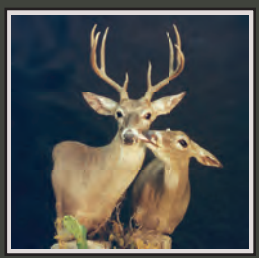
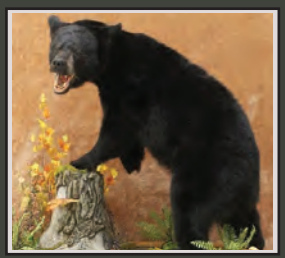
- Hunters **may only use long bows, recurve bows or flintlock and side-lock percussion muzzleloaders** during these days. Muzzleloading revolvers are prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- The use of draw-locks and telescopic or other electronic aiming devices are prohibited.
- **Region B antlerless** white-tailed deer **taken with a bow during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular Region B archery bag limit.
- **Region B antlerless** white-tailed deer **taken with a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular Region B muzzleloader bag limit.
- All deer hunters must wear fluorescent color clothing during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

SIKA DEER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027		
SEASON	DATES ALL SUNDAY HUNTING DATES ARE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES ONLY, SEE CHART ON PG. 24.	BAG LIMIT
ARCHERY	Sep. 11–Oct. 21, Sunday Oct. 25–Nov. 27, Dec. 14–Dec. 18, Sunday, Jan. 3–Jan. 7, Jan. 11–Jan. 31 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered
MUZZLELOADER	Antlered or Antlerless: Oct. 22–Oct. 24 and Dec. 19–Jan. 2 Antlerless Only (Region B Only): Oct. 26–Oct. 31 Feb. 1–Feb. 3 for Primitive Deer Hunt Days, see the following regulations.	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered
FIREARMS	Nov. 28–Dec. 12, Jan. 8–Sunday, Jan. 10	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered

- **An annual Sika Deer Stamp is required to hunt sika deer** during any of the deer hunting seasons.
- **Sika deer bag limits** are independent of the white-tailed deer bag limits.
- Sika deer daily shooting hours are the same as white-tailed deer; one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset with the exception of certain Sundays in certain counties (see Sunday hunting chart, pg. 24).
- **An antlered sika deer is** a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline.
- Bonus Antlered Deer Stamps may not be used to take sika deer.

Primitive Deer Hunt Days

- Hunters **may only use long bows, recurve bows, or flintlock and side-lock percussion muzzleloaders** during these days. Muzzleloading revolvers are prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- The use of draw-locks and telescopic or other electronic aiming devices are prohibited.
- **Sika deer taken with a bow during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular sika archery bag limit.
- **Sika deer taken with a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular sika muzzleloader bag limit.
- All deer hunters must wear fluorescent color clothing during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

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SUNDAY DEER HUNTING 2026-2027 (FOR WHITE-TAILED AND SIKA DEER) – DAYS, TIMES, & COUNTIES OPEN

Sunday deer hunting is open with these restrictions, in these counties and locations on these dates.

COUNTY	LANDS OPEN	ARCHERY SEASON																FIREARM SEASON				MUZZLELOADER SEASON	
		SEPT. 13	SEPT. 20	SEPT. 27	OCT. 4	OCT. 11	OCT. 18	OCT. 25	NOV. 1	NOV. 8	NOV. 15	NOV. 22	JAN. 3	JAN. 10	JAN. 17	JAN. 24	JAN. 31	NOV. 15 (JR. HUNT)	NOV. 29	DEC. 6	JAN. 10	DEC. 20	DEC. 27
ALLEGANY	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
ANNE ARUNDEL	Private Only								Open									Open	Open				
BALTIMORE	None																						
BALTIMORE CITY	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open						
CALVERT	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]
CAROLINE	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]
CARROLL	Private Only				Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
CECIL	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
CHARLES	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]
DORCHESTER	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
FREDERICK	Private Only				Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
GARRETT	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
HARFORD	Private Only					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open								Open	Open	Open	Open		
HOWARD	None																						
KENT	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[4]	Open[4]	Open	Open
MONTGOMERY	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]
PRINCE GEORGE'S	None																						
QUEEN ANNE'S	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]
ST. MARY'S	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
SOMERSET	Private & Designated Public[3]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]
TALBOT	Private Only	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open[4]	Open[4]	Open[2]	Open[2]
WASHINGTON REGION A	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
WASHINGTON REGION B	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
WICOMICO	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open[5]	Open[5]	Open[5]	Open[5]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[5]	Open[5]	Open[5]		Open[5]	Open[5]	Open[5]	Open	Open	Open[6]	Open[6]	Open[5]	Open[5]
WORCESTER	Private & Designated Public[1]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]		Open[2]	Open[2]	Open[2]	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open[2]	Open[2]

1 – Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in **Allegany** (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), **Cecil** (C&D Canal Lands, Earlville WMA, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), **Garrett** (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), **St.Mary's** (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), **Washington** (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), **Wicomico** (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke River WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and **Worcester** (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA).

2 – Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only where footnoted).

3 – Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Somerset County are those lands leased to hunt clubs for the purpose of hunting.

4 – Legal shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am and 3:00pm to sunset on this Sunday.

5 – On this Sunday, legal shooting hours on private lands are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and legal shooting hours on designated public lands are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am.

6 – On this Sunday, legal shooting hours on private lands are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and legal shooting hours on designated public lands are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am and 3:00pm to sunset.

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Archery Deer Hunting Regulations

- A **hunting license is required** to hunt deer during the Archery Season (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- An **Archery Stamp (pg. 10) is required** to hunt deer during the Archery Season and when using archery equipment during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days except that:
  - » Hunters entitled to hunt without a license and hunters with a Senior Lifetime Consolidated License do not need to purchase an Archery Stamp.
- Persons who hunt with archery equipment during the Muzzleloader Season **must purchase a Muzzleloader Stamp** (see Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Regulations, pg. 27).
- An annual **Sika Deer Stamp** is required to hunt sika deer during any of the deer hunting seasons. (pgs. 10, 23).
- There are tagging and checking requirements for all deer harvested. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking for instructions (pgs. 38–42).
- **Archery equipment may be used** to hunt deer during the Archery Season, Muzzleloader Season, Firearms Season, Junior Deer Hunt Days and Primitive Deer Hunt Days. Archery hunters **may only use long bows and recurve bows** during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- Deer taken with archery equipment during the Archery Season, Muzzleloader Season, Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days must count towards the bag limit of the season in which they are taken, please note:
  - » **Antlered** white-tailed deer **taken with a bow during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular antlered archery bag limit.
  - » **Region A antlerless** white-tailed deer **taken during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days do not count against the regular Region A antlerless bag limit**.
  - » **Region B antlerless** white-tailed deer **taken with a bow during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular Region B archery bag limit.
  - » **Sika deer taken with a bow during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular sika archery bag limit.
  - » Deer harvested with archery equipment during the antlerless-only second split of the early Muzzleloader Season in Region B must count toward the Archery Season bag limit.
- Hunters **may not carry archery equipment and muzzleloaders at the same time** when Archery Season and Muzzleloader Season are in concurrently. This includes the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- It is **illegal to shoot on, from or across** any public road.
- Archery hunters are not required to wear **fluorescent color clothing** (pg. 15) within the regular Archery Season dates. Archery hunters **are required to wear** fluorescent color clothing when hunting during the:
  - » Junior Deer Hunt Days;
  - » Black Bear Season in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties.
  - » Deer Muzzleloader Season (including the Region B antlerless white-tailed

Muzzleloader Season when it overlaps the Archery Season);
  - » Deer Firearms Season; and
  - » Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- **Firearms or airguns may not be carried** while hunting deer during the Archery Season **with the following exception**. In Deer Management Region **A, persons 21 years old or older may carry a handgun for personal protection against bear while hunting deer during the Archery Season.**
- **The handgun:**
  - » **May not** be used for hunting any game species while the person is archery hunting for deer;
  - » **May not** have a barrel length of more than six inches;
  - » **May not** have a telescopic sight or electronic aiming device attached; and
  - » **May not** be used to kill wildlife wounded by a vertical bow or crossbow.

Vertical Bow Regulations

- The vertical bow shall have a full draw and **pull of 30 pounds or more** for deer hunting.
- Draw locking devices and release aids are legal on all vertical bows, except during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

Crossbow Regulations

- A crossbow used for deer hunting shall have **a draw of 75 pounds or more**.
- All crossbows should have a **working safety**.
- **It is unlawful** to have a loaded crossbow in, on or leaning against any vehicle.
- A cocked crossbow **without a bolt or arrow in the firing position is considered to be unloaded.**
- The use of crossbows is prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

Regulations for Both Vertical Bows and Crossbows

- Arrows or bolts used for deer hunting must have a **sharpened broadhead** with metal points and a minimum width of 7/8 of an inch.
- The use of poisoned or explosive tipped arrows or bolts **is not permitted.**

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Regulations

- **A hunting license is required** to hunt deer during the Muzzleloader Season (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types**.**
- **A Muzzleloader Stamp (pg. 10) is required** to hunt deer during the Muzzleloader Season and when using a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days **except that:**
  - » Hunters entitled to hunt without a license and hunters with a Senior Lifetime Consolidated License do not need to purchase a Muzzleloader Stamp.
- An annual **Sika Deer Stamp** is required to hunt sika deer during any of the deer hunting seasons. (pgs. 10, 23).
- There are tagging and checking requirements for all deer harvested. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking for instructions (pgs. 38–42).

- **Muzzleloading firearms may only be used** to hunt deer during the Muzzleloader Season, Firearms Season, Junior Deer Hunt Days and Primitive Deer Hunt Days. During the Primitive Deer Hunt Days, hunters **may only use flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders**.
- Deer taken with a muzzleloader during the Muzzleloader Season, Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days must **count towards the bag limit of the season** in which they are taken, please note:
  - » **Antlered** white-tailed deer **taken with a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular antlered muzzleloader bag limit.
  - » **Region A antlerless** white-tailed deer **taken during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days do not count against the regular Region A antlerless bag limit.**
  - » **Region B antlerless** white-tailed deer **taken with a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular Region B muzzleloader bag limit.
  - » **Sika deer taken with a muzzleloader during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days** will count towards the regular sika muzzleloader bag limit.
- All deer hunters are required to wear **daylight fluorescent color clothing** (pg. 14) during the Muzzleloader Season, Firearms Season and Primitive Deer Hunt Days.
- It is **illegal to shoot on, from or across** any public road.

Muzzleloader Regulations

- Deer may be hunted with a **muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading shotgun or muzzleloading handgun** (both single shot and revolvers) in all Maryland counties.
- To be considered a muzzleloader, a rifle, shotgun or handgun **must have the projectile loaded from the muzzle. Powder can be loaded from the muzzle or the breach.** A revolver must be loaded from the front of the cylinder.
- **Flintlock, percussion cap and inline ignition muzzleloaders** are legal hunting devices for deer.
- Only flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders **may be used during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days. Muzzleloading revolvers are prohibited during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days**
- **Muzzleloading rifles or shotguns used for deer hunting** must be at least .40 caliber in size and must use 60 grains of black powder or more (a black powder equivalent is acceptable) and propel one all lead, lead alloy or copper soft-nosed or expanding bullet or ball at a single discharge.
- **Muzzleloading handguns** used for deer hunting must be at least .40 caliber with a barrel length of at least 6 inches and must use 40 grains of black powder or more (a black powder equivalent is acceptable) and propel one all-lead, lead alloy or copper soft-nosed or expanding bullet or ball at a single discharge.
- Muzzleoaders that use smokeless powder are legal for deer hunting. These muzzleloaders must use the equivalent of 60 grains of black powder in rifles or shotguns, and the equivalent of 40 grains of black powder in handguns. Hunters are encouraged to exercise caution when using these types of muzzleloaders, and never use smokeless powder in a muzzleloader not designed for its use.
- **Sabot loads are legal** for use in muzzleloaders used for deer hunting.
- **Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded** if the ignition system is disabled by removal of the cap, primer, battery or primer powder.
- It is unlawful to have a loaded firearm **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes a **muzzleloader ready to fire**.

Firearms and Air Guns Deer Hunting Regulations

- A **hunting license is required** to hunt deer during the Firearms Season (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- An annual **Sika Deer Stamp** is required to hunt sika deer during any of the deer hunting seasons. (pgs. 10, 23).
- There are tagging and checking requirements for all deer harvested. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking for instructions (pgs. 38–42).
- Shotguns, rifles and handguns that fire straight-walled cartridges, muzzleloading firearms, air guns and archery equipment **may be used to hunt deer in all counties during the Firearms Season and Junior Hunt Days.**
- **Rifles and handguns that shoot bottleneck cartridges may only be used** to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in certain counties and areas (see map and description, pg. 19).
- Deer taken with any firearm, muzzleloader, air gun or archery equipment during the Firearms Season **must count toward the Firearms Season bag limit.**
- All deer hunters are required to wear **daylight fluorescent color clothing** (pg. 15) during the Firearms Season dates.
- It is **illegal to hunt any animal other than deer on the first day of Deer Firearms Season except coyotes.**
- It is **illegal to shoot on, from or across** any public road.
- Deer may not be hunted with a firearm that is loaded with more than **eight cartridges or shells**. Magazines do not have to be physically blocked.
- Except in Dorchester County where #1 buckshot or larger may be used, **firearms used for deer hunting may only shoot one** all lead, lead alloy or copper

HUNTERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF LEAD POISONING RISKS WHEN USING LEAD PROJECTILES

Even small amounts of lead can cause serious health problems. Young children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning. Meat from game animals taken with lead fragmenting bullets and shot is a lead poisoning risk. Avoid the use of meat from possibly contaminated wound channels, especially in ground meat. Inspection for and removal of fragments and shot is recommended. To avoid lead contamination further from the impact area, careful shot placement to avoid large bone masses and bullet fragmentation is also recommended.

Finally, hunters are encouraged to investigate and use non-lead ammunition alternatives. Many non-lead centerfire rifle calibers are now available that are proven to be as effective as lead versions. Likewise, steel and non-lead shotgun shells are also readily available for small game and turkey hunting.

For more information, please visit the North American Lead-Free Partnership at *https://www.leadfreepartnership.org/*.

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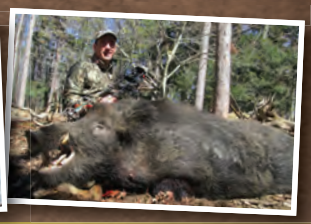

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soft nosed or expanding bullet or ball. Sabots are permitted. Non-expanding full metal jacketed, incendiary and tracer bullets are not permitted.

- It is unlawful to have a loaded firearm **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes ammunition in the magazine that is currently attached to the firearm or a muzzleloader ready to fire.
- It is unlawful to hunt with **an automatic firearm** capable of firing a series of shots with one continuous pull of the trigger.
- **Firearms or air guns may not be carried** while hunting deer during the Archery Season **with the following exception**. In Deer Management Region A, persons 21 years old or older may carry a handgun for personal protection against bear while hunting deer during the Archery Season. The handgun:
  - » **May not** be used for hunting any game species while the person is archery hunting for deer;
  - » **May not** have a barrel length of more than six inches;
  - » **May not** have a telescopic sight or electronic aiming device attached; and
  - » **May not** be used to kill wildlife wounded by a vertical bow or crossbow.

Rifle Regulations

- The rifles referred to here are **loaded from the breech** of the barrel and use cartridges.
- ***NEW*** Rifles smaller than .30 caliber (7.62mm) used for deer hunting must develop a **muzzle energy of at least 1,200 foot pounds**. Rifles .30 caliber (7.62mm) and larger used for deer hunting have no minimum muzzle energy requirements. Consult ammunition guides for ballistics information.
- Bottleneck cartridge rifles may only be used to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in certain counties and locations (see map, pg. 19), subject to local and county ordinances.
- Straight-walled cartridge rifles may be used to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in all counties and locations in Maryland, subject to local and county ordinances.

Shotgun Regulations

- The shotguns referred to here are **loaded from the breech** of the barrel and use shells.
- Shotguns used for deer hunting must be **28 gauge or larger**.
- **Shotgun ammunition** used for deer hunting must shoot a single solid projectile **except** in Dorchester County, where #1 buckshot or larger may be used.
- Shotguns may be used to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in all counties and locations in Maryland, subject to local and county ordinances.

Handgun Regulations

- The handguns referred to here are **loaded from the breech** of the barrel or rear of the cylinder and use cartridges.
- Handguns used for deer hunting must have **a barrel length of six inches or more** and use ammunition which produces a **muzzle energy of 700 foot pounds or more.** Consult ammunition guides for ballistics information.
- Bottleneck cartridge handguns may only be used to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in certain counties and locations (see map, pg. 19), subject to local and county ordinances.
- Straight-walled cartridge handguns may be used to hunt deer during the Firearms Season and Junior Deer Hunt Days in all counties and locations in Maryland, subject to local and county ordinances.

Air Gun Regulations

- An **air gun is defined** as any gun that propels a projectile by means of non-ignited compressed air or other gas. Projectiles include bullets, arrows or bolts.
- **Certain air guns may be used** to hunt deer in all counties during the deer Firearms Season only.
- To be legal for deer hunting **an air gun must**:
  - » Shoot one **.40 caliber** or larger bullet or ball at a single discharge which generates at least **400 foot pounds of muzzle energy**; or
  - » Shoot an **arrow or bolt at least 18" in length** with a minimum speed of **300 feet per second** at release with a sharpened broadhead with metal points and a **minimum width of 7/8 inch**.
- The use of poisoned or explosive-tipped arrows or bolts **is not permitted**.
- It is unlawful to have a loaded air gun **in, on or leaning against a vehicle**.
- An air gun with the projectile removed **is considered to be unloaded**.

Chronic Wasting Disease in Maryland

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a disease of the brain and nervous system in the deer family (Cervidae). It has been found in the following free-ranging cervids: elk, moose, mule deer, reindeer and white-tailed deer.

This malady is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy and attacks the brain of cervids, producing small lesions that eventually result in death. The Department of Natural Resources has tested 17,778 deer for chronic wasting disease since 2002, and it was first detected in November 2010. The first infected deer was harvested by a hunter in Allegany County and was most likely part of an outbreak discovered nearby in Hampshire County, West Virginia, in 2005. To date, 354 infected deer have been detected in Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties.

Number of Maryland White-tailed Deer that have Tested Positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. Listed by Private Land Codes through the years 2010–2025. (See pages 40-41 for Private Land Codes map.)

COUNTY	LAND CODE	NUMBER TESTED POSITIVE
ALLEGANY	230	5
	231	63
	232	22
	233	112
	234	4
WASHINGTON	250	30
	251	47
	252	27
FREDERICK	270	0
	271	9
	272	2
	273	2
	274	15
CARROLL	310	1
	311	1
	312	1
BALTIMORE	330	3
	331	0
	332	0
	333	0
	334	0
HOWARD	410	0
	411	2
	412	0
MONTGOMERY	430	1
	431	7
	432	0
	433	0
TOTAL		354

White-tailed deer harvested on public lands are included in the appropriate private land code.

For more specific and up-to-date information on where chronic wasting disease has been found in Maryland, please consult the

website at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx*.

Concerns over chronic wasting disease **should not stop hunters** from enjoying the hunting season or any venison they may acquire. To date, this encephalopathy has not been shown to be transmissible to humans. However, it is recommended that hunters field dressing or butchering deer take the same precautions as they might to protect against other pathogens or diseases and not consume venison from animals known to be infected. The following **common sense precautionary measures** are recommended for the safe handling, field dressing and processing of venison:

- Avoid shooting or handling a deer that appears sick.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing or butchering deer.
- Remove all internal organs.
- Remove the meat from the bones and spinal column if home processing a deer.
- Do not use household knives or utensils when field dressing or home processing a deer.
- Avoid cutting through bones or the spinal column (backbone).
- If you saw off antlers or through a bone or if you sever the spinal column with a knife, be sure to disinfect these tools prior to using them for the butchering or removal of meat.
- Remove all fat, membranes and connective tissue from the meat. Note that normal field dressing and trimming of fat from meat will remove lymph nodes.
- Always wash hands and instruments thoroughly after dressing and processing game meat.
- Use a 50/50 solution of household chlorine bleach and water to disinfect tools and work surfaces. Wipe down counters and let them dry; soak knives for one hour.

Certain **taxidermists and meat processors** are currently approved to prepare or process deer carcasses or deer parts taken from within the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area. This provision provides an opportunity for hunters harvesting deer within the disease management area to transport carcasses or other deer parts directly to one of these approved businesses for meat processing, taxidermy services or for preparation for transport to another taxidermist. Approved chronic wasting disease processors are indicated in the *Deer Processors* section (pg. 35). For an up-to-date list of approved processors and taxidermists, please consult the website at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx*.

Management of Chronic Wasting Disease

Due to the detection of this disease in Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties, the Department of Natural Resources has implemented a number of measures to **prevent the unintentional spread** of this contagion to other locations in Maryland or surrounding states. The changes outlined below apply only to the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area (Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties) on private and public land.

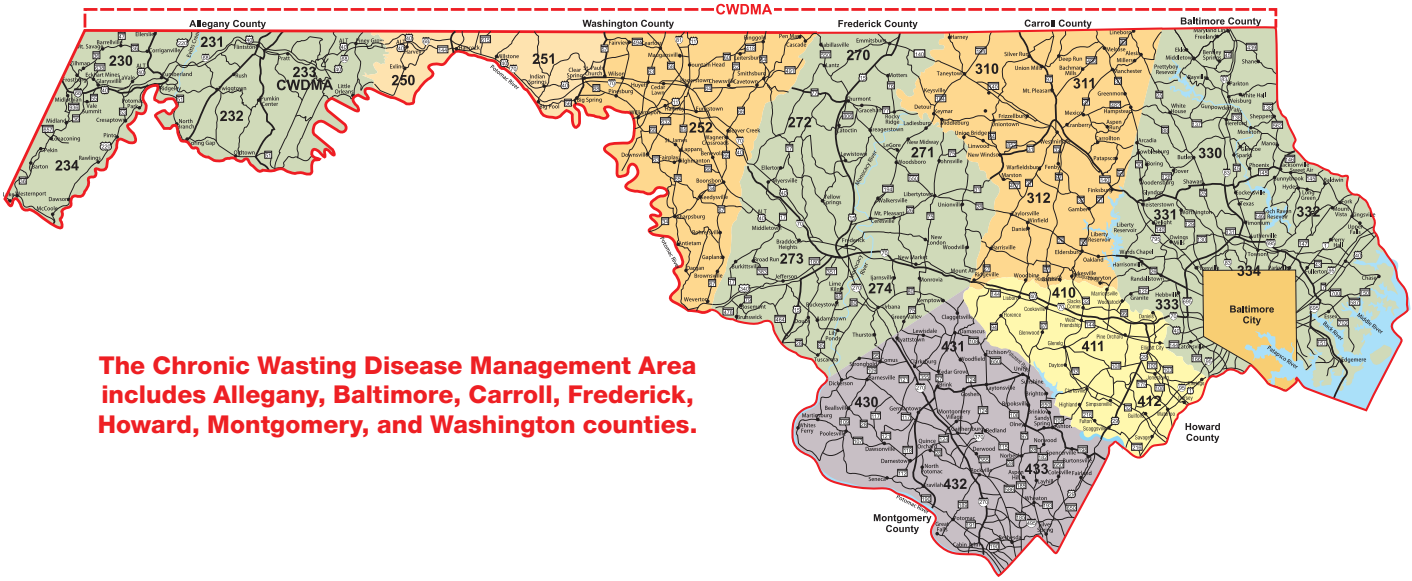
Whole deer carcasses or deer parts **cannot be transported out** of the disease management area except for:

- Meat with no part of the spinal column, backbone or head attached;
- Hindquarters and front shoulders with no spinal column or backbone attached;
- Cleaned hide with no head attached;
- Skull plate cleaned of all meat and brain tissue;
- Antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached;
- Finished taxidermy mounts or tanned hides;
- Whole deer carcasses or parts being transported directly to approved meat processors or taxidermists.

Please check the website *(https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx)* for updates on chronic wasting disease surveillance and management in Maryland. Hunter assistance and cooperation is essential to the Department of Natural Resources' efforts to monitor and manage chronic wasting disease in Maryland.

Carcass Importation Ban

The primary objective in the management of chronic wasting disease is **to prevent its spread into new areas**. One possible mode of disease transmission is by the movement and disposal of infected carcasses. In an effort to minimize the risk for disease spread, Maryland along with many other states, has adopted regulations that restrict the importation of whole carcasses and certain carcass parts of deer, moose and elk harvested from



The Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area includes Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington counties.

states or areas in states that have chronic wasting disease.

A person **may not import the whole carcass** of a dead deer, elk or moose into Maryland from another state or province's designated chronic wasting disease containment, surveillance or management area, unless the final destination of the carcass is within the Maryland Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area or with a chronic wasting disease-approved Maryland processor or taxidermist. Travelers may pass through any part of Maryland with whole carcasses from other state/province chronic wasting disease management areas if the carcasses will not remain in the state for more than 24 hours, and no parts are disposed of or remain in the state. A person **may import only the following parts** of a carcass into Maryland if the final destination is within the state but outside the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area:

- Meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached;
- Hindquarters and front shoulders with no spinal column or backbone attached;
- Meat without backbone;
- Cleaned hide with no head attached;
- Skull plate cleaned of all meat and brain tissue;
- Antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached;
- Upper canine teeth also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories; and
- Finished taxidermy mount or tanned hides.

Please consult the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance's website at: *cwd-info.org* for a complete list of state and province chronic wasting disease containment, surveillance and management areas.

Any person who imports or possesses a cervid carcass or part of a cervid that was tested for chronic wasting disease in another state or province and is notified that the cervid tested positive, **must report the test results** to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours of receiving such notification by telephone at 301-842-0332; or by email to *kevin.lamp1@maryland.gov*.

If you hunt deer, elk, moose or other cervids in other states and/or provinces, particularly those in which chronic wasting disease has been detected, **check with the respective fish and wildlife agencies** regarding special regulations or specific advice for hunters. Also check with your home state fish and wildlife agency to ensure that animals lawfully killed elsewhere may be imported and possessed in your state. Additional information can be found at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance's website *cwd-info.org* and the department's website *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx*.

Taking Deer Carcasses Out of Maryland

Because Maryland is considered a chronic wasting disease positive state, deer hunters **must follow carcass importation regulations in other states** when they transport a deer carcass out of Maryland. The surrounding states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia each have specific regulations as to whether they will allow whole deer carcasses or only parts of carcasses to enter from Maryland. Likewise, the regulations for each of these states vary as to whether they apply to deer from anywhere in Maryland, or just to deer taken within the chronic wasting disease management area. Hunters are strongly encouraged to check state regulations before transporting deer carcasses.

Managed Deer Hunting Programs

Department of Natural Resources Shooter Qualification Card Program

Through the Shooter Qualification Program local sportsman's clubs, shooting clubs and other groups avail their facilities and expertise to **certify hunters** for the program. Hunters who meet certain shooting qualification standards become certified and receive a **Maryland State Shooter Qualification Card** valid for the current hunting license year. This card serves as "proof of proficiency" and enables a qualified hunter to be eligible for many of the managed deer hunts held across Maryland.

Shooter Qualification events are held at different times and locations throughout the year. Many of the organizations that host these events charge a fee. The Department of Natural Resources will issue a press release in the summer announcing the dates for the various qualifications and will list the website addresses of participating sportsmen's clubs and other locations where Shooter Qualifications will be held. The website address for all this information is: *dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/documents/shoot_qual_cal.pdf*. Hunters interested in participating in managed hunts should contact the organization holding the hunt to learn more about their program and any additional requirements.

The Seneca Creek State Park managed deer hunt in Montgomery County has a limit of 30 hunters. For more information call 410-356-9272 or email-gwynnbrook.wma@maryland.gov. The Seneca Creek application can be found on the DNR website at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/publiclands/wmacentral.aspx*

The Anne Arundel County managed deer hunt has a limit of 140 hunters. For more information call 410-222-2844 or email *rpdeer00@aacounty.org*.

Please visit their website for an application form and a complete list of rules and regulations. *aacounty.org/services-and-programs/deer-management-program*

The Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks Department managed deer hunt in Anne Arundel County has these provisions:

- A Shooter Qualification Card and verification that the hunter has complied with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement are required to participate in this hunt.
- Hunters and hunting dates will be chosen by lottery.
- Hunters must pass background checks and participate in an interview.
- Rifles that fire straight-walled cartridges, Shotguns and Muzzleloaders are the only firearms allowed for these hunts. Ammunition type is restricted.
- MD residency or active duty military with proof of station in MD is required.
- Hunters must provide their own and use a portable tree stand.
- The use of iron sights and/or scopes is required.
- There is a mandatory pre-hunt meeting as well as mandatory scout dates.
- Additional fees apply.

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Managed Deer Hunt** in Anne Arundel County has these provisions:

- A Shooter Qualification Card and verification that the hunter has complied with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement are required to participate in this hunt.
- Hunters will be chosen by lottery. Only one application allowed per hunter. Group applications of up to three hunters will be accepted.
- Shotguns with slugs and straight-walled cartridge rifles are now allowed during Firearms Season hunts. Ammunition and rifle must meet all regulations set forth by MD DNR for Anne Arundel County in the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping.

- Hunters are responsible for their own safety and the use of a tree harness is encouraged.
- The use of scopes is encouraged.
- The use of a portable tree stand is required.
- Must be at least 16 years old to qualify for the hunt. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a guardian.
- Accommodations will be made for hunters with a Universal Disability Pass that will allow them to hunt from a vehicle.
- Pre-hunt mandatory scout dates are Oct. 31st and Nov. 1st, 2026.
- The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center application form can be found at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/pages/publiclands/wmasouthern.aspx*

2026-2027 Lottery Hunt Dates:
Application Deadline – October 2, 2026
Lottery Drawing – October 9, 2026
Mandatory Scout Days – October 31st & November 1st, 2026
Hunt Day 1 – November 28, 2026
Hunt Day 2 – December 12, 2026
Hunt Day 3 – December 19, 2026
Hunt Day 4 – January 9, 2027
Hunt Day 5 – January 23, 2027

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- You can be eligible to take a tax credit for the qualified expenses of donating processed deer meat to a nonprofit venison donation program.
- An individual can claim a credit of up to $75 per deer, capped at $600 for the tax year, for the butchering and processing expenses for an antlerless deer.
- To qualify, a hunter must comply with applicable state hunting laws and regulations. The actual tax credit will be part of your annual Maryland tax filing.

POTOMAC RIVER BOATING REGULATIONS

A person aboard a vessel, raft or tube shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device at all times while underway on the Upper Potomac River (that portion of the Potomac River and its tributaries above the Maryland/District of Columbia boundary near Little Falls) and its tributaries, during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each November 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding May 15. At all other times a vessel, raft or tube shall be equipped with a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device for each person aboard while underway on the Upper Potomac River and its tributaries.

An individual using a vessel, raft or tube upon any white water portion of any designated stream segment shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type III or V personal flotation device at all times; see COMAR 08.18.01.08 for a complete listing. Furthermore, an individual using a kayak or covered canoe vessel on a white water portion of a designated stream segment shall wear a safety helmet.

Additionally, no person may use a recreational vessel 16 feet or more in length unless one Type IV throwable personal flotation device is onboard in addition to the total number of wearable personal flotation devices required.

STOP ALL POACHING

TO REPORT A VIOLATION:
Call or text: 443-433-4112 or Email: Mwc.dnr@maryland.gov

For more information about Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers find us on Facebook: Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES AND THE DESIRE TO SERVE, WE'RE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO YOU.
To begin your career as a Maryland Natural Resources Police officer, please contact us at NRPrecruiting.dnr@maryland.gov, or visit the Maryland Natural Resources Police Careers page at joinnrp.com

Below are permission forms that landowners and hunters may use.

PERMISSION TO HUNT AND/OR TRAP

I hereby grant permission to the person named below to hunt and/or trap on my property located at _____

_____

_____

on the following dates: _____

Signed: _____

AGREEMENT

In return for the privilege of hunting and/or trapping on this property, I agree to obey the laws, to observe all safety precautions and practices, to observe all property boundaries, to take every precaution against fire, and to assume all responsibility and liability for my person and my property while hunting on the landowners property.

Signed: _____

Address *(street)*: _____

(city, state, zip): _____

DNR ID #: _____

Date: _____

PERMISSION TO HUNT AND/OR TRAP

I hereby grant permission to the person named below to hunt and/or trap on my property located at _____

_____

_____

on the following dates: _____

Signed: _____

AGREEMENT

In return for the privilege of hunting and/or trapping on this property, I agree to obey the laws, to observe all safety precautions and practices, to observe all property boundaries, to take every precaution against fire, and to assume all responsibility and liability for my person and my property while hunting on the landowners property.

Signed: _____

Address *(street)*: _____

(city, state, zip): _____

DNR ID #: _____

Date: _____

BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND

Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett, Frederick and Washington counties) is home to a healthy black bear population. Accordingly, people may find themselves encountering bears, especially in areas with natural or artificial food sources, such as berry patches, oak groves or in areas where bait, such as corn, has been left to attract wildlife. If you encounter a bear, the Department of Natural Resources recommends that you make your presence known by making noise. Clap your hands and speak with a firm voice to be sure the bear knows you are there. Remain upright and do not run. Back away slowly and leave the area. Although black bears are generally shy and run when confronted by people, they are wild animals that should be treated with respect.

For people wishing to carry a form of personal protection, the department recommends the use of bear pepper spray as an effective, legal and safe bear deterrent. It has a large volume and long shelf life and is discharged in an expanding cloud that will reach its target up to 35 feet away. There are a variety of bear pepper sprays on the market that can be purchased at local sporting goods stores or on the internet. When purchasing bear pepper spray, be sure that the label states that it is for use on bears and has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

MARYLAND ARCHERY HUNTER SURVEY COOPERATORS NEEDED

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Archery hunters are among the most active outdoor enthusiasts in Maryland. The time you spend afield and the experiences you enjoy are of great value to us. The hunting observations you make, day after day and year after year, can be used as a powerful tool to effectively track fluctuations in many different wildlife populations (e.g. deer, bear, turkey, small game and furbearers). Therefore, we are asking you to take the time to become a cooperator and document information about each of your archery hunts. The data you provide will be added to the data already collected by over 300 other archery hunter cooperators and will make the results even stronger.

If you are interested in becoming an Archery Hunter Survey Cooperator, the survey can be accessed through the MD DNR app under the hunting section. You can also download a copy of the survey at *dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/bhsurvey.aspx*, or contact Joshua Tabora at 240-609-5100 (joshua.tabora@maryland.gov). Cooperators will use the annual survey form to complete during the deer archery season and an annual report of the results will be provided after they are compiled. We appreciate your interest and cooperation.

Deer Processors

The Department of Natural Resources would like to thank the deer processors listed below for their service and cooperation in the Wildlife and Heritage Service's annual collection of information on Maryland deer. Their efforts help supply the data necessary to manage this popular species. We appreciate their support of the stewardship and management of deer.

♦ **Indicates a Chronic Wasting Disease approved processor.** An updated list of processors can be found at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx*

Allegany
♦ B&B Butchering 301-478-2558
♦ B&B Country Meats 301-689-6225

Anne Arundel
Harwood Butcher Shop 410-212-8803
♦ Hitchcock's Wildlife Processing 410-987-6990
♦ Mack Processing..... 410-415-8015

Baltimore
♦ Trophy Care Taxidermy & Deer Processing..... 410-282-1118

Calvert
Baker's Meathouse Butcher Shop..... 410-610-3311
Big Boys Butcher & Deer Processing ... 443-534-4555
Rowell's Butcher Shop 443-295-7449

Caroline
Frases' Meat Shop 410-673-7249
Knife Box Custom Cuts 443-262-5694
Richard's Deer Shop..... 410-279-0622
Tuckahoe River Deer Processing 443-786-5199

Carroll
♦ All Star Deer Processing (formerly C & L Deer Processing) 410-374-6424
♦ Burnies Processing 410-878-3334
♦ JB Farms 410-756-5656
♦ M & G Wild Game Processing 443-375-7138

Charles
Chuck's Butcher Shop ..... 301-283-0743 or 301-375-8371

Dorchester
Bucktown Butcher Shop..... 443-521-4286
Kramer's Butcher Shop..... 443-521-7501
The Duck Stop ..... 443-521-7128 or 443-521-2026

Frederick
♦ Clint's Cuts ..... 301-865-5120 or 301-748-1505
♦ KD Deer Processing..... 240-285-6143
♦ Pry's Deer Processing..... 301-834-8752
♦ Rob's Deer Shop..... 301-271-7780

Garrett
♦ Back Woods Mountaintop Meat Shop..... 240-321-3788 or 240-321-4784
♦ EJ's Meat Processing 301-245-4409
♦ Yoder's Butcher Barn 240-807-9361

Harford
♦ All-Star Deer Processing..... 410-830-0275

Kent
Alexander's Deer Processing 410-441-4121

Montgomery
♦ KS Kuts ..... 301-606-5203 or 240-457-1844

Somerset
Holland's Deer Cutting..... 410-251-7608

St. Mary's
Country Lane Enterprises..... 25500 Maidenside Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650
Mike McWilliams Wild Game Processors ..... 301-475-9667 or 240-925-6994
Ridgells Whitetail Butcher Shop 301-904-0406
Stauffer's Butcher Barn 240-270-4295

Washington
♦ Banzhoff's Custom Butchering 301-223-9326
♦ Ernst Market..... 301-842-2292
♦ Holsinger's Meats & Deli ..... 301-733-9263 or 800-733-8883
♦ Leitersburg Butcher Shop 301-491-9911
♦ Mountain Trail Butchers 301-842-1407
♦ Sunnyland/Ray Burger's Meats 301-223-9637
♦ Wolford's Meat Shop..... 301-842-3156

Wicomico
Longhorn Butcher Shop..... 410-422-3942
T's Meats..... 443-880-5027
Wright's Butcher Shop and European Skull Mounts..... 410-546-2053

Worcester
Captain Ron's Deer Processing 410-627-8189

Sussex County, Delaware
Mark's Meats and More,LLC..... 302-933-0307

Win a $100 Gift Card!

Take the monthly

TargetShootingSurvey.com
HunterSurvey.com

And be entered to win a $100 gift certificate to your sporting good retailer of choice.

Your anonymous participation advances fish and wildlife conservation, helps protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot, and guides companies in developing better outdoor products.

MAKE YOUR OWN WILD GAME SUMMER SAUSAGE AND SALAMI.

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

COMPLETE KITS STARTING AT $13.95

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

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

General Turkey Hunting Rules

- A hunter **must carry personal photo identification** (such as a driver's license) or a secondary form of positive identification while hunting.
- **Written permission is required** to hunt on private land.
- A **hunting license is required to hunt wild turkeys** (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- There are **tagging and checking requirements** for all turkeys harvested. See Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking for instructions (pgs. 38–42).
- It is **illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait or over any baited area**. Feed or bait placed for deer or other wildlife may be considered baiting if turkeys are being hunted. An area is considered by law to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. Salt and mineral supplements are no longer considered as a source of bait for turkeys.
- It is **illegal to use** recorded or electronically amplified calls, or use motorized or electronic turkey decoys.
- **Daylight fluorescent color clothing** is not required for hunting turkeys. However, turkey hunters are encouraged to wear it as a precaution. Successful turkey hunters are also encouraged to put an orange ribbon on the turkey when carrying it out of the woods. See Hunting Safety Tips (pg. 15) for a guide to courteous and safe turkey hunting.

Turkey Hunting Devices and Regulations

- Shotguns **cannot hold more than three shells** in the magazine and chamber combined. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells **must be plugged** with a one-piece filler which cannot be removed from the loading end.
- During the Junior Turkey Hunting Days, Spring Season and Winter Season, hunters **may only use** shotguns (loaded with #4 shot or smaller), crossbows, air guns that shoot arrows or bolts or vertical bows.
- In the Fall Season, turkey hunters **may only use** air guns (that shoot arrows, bolts or bullets), crossbows, handguns, shotguns (loaded with #4 shot or smaller or a solid, single projectile), rifles or vertical bows.
- **Drones** may only be used to assist in the recovery of wounded or expired turkeys. See page 14 for additional information.

Other Hunting Device Regulations

- It is illegal to have a loaded air gun or firearm **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes ammunition in the magazine or a muzzleloader ready to fire.
- It is unlawful to have a loaded crossbow **in, on or leaning against a vehicle**.
- A cocked crossbow **without a bolt or arrow in the firing position is considered to be unloaded.**
- **It is against the law to shoot on, from or across** any public road.

JUNIOR TURKEY HUNT DAYS AND BAG LIMITS 2027

DATES	AREA	BAG LIMIT
April 17	STATEWIDE	1 bearded turkey per day
Sunday, April 18	in certain counties, see chart	

The **Junior Turkey Hunting Days** are for hunters **age 16 or younger** only. To hunt during these days:

- Junior hunters **must have a Hunting License or be exempt** from the license requirement (see Who May Hunt Without a License, pg. 12).
- Junior turkey hunters **must be accompanied in the field by** an individual who:
  - » Is 21 years old or older;
  - » Possesses a valid Maryland hunting license (an Apprentice Hunting License does not meet this requirement) or is exempt from hunting license requirements; and
  - » Is unarmed.
- **Only bearded turkeys may be harvested** in the Junior Turkey Hunting Days and Spring Season.
- Turkeys taken by junior hunters during these days **count toward the entire Spring Season bag limit**.
- The Junior Turkey Hunting Days bag limit is **one bearded turkey per day.**
- Daily **shooting hours are** one half hour before sunrise to sunset for Junior Turkey Hunting Days, except on Sundays in certain counties. See the Sunday hunting chart for Sunday hours within certain counties.
- **Hunting Devices for the Junior Turkey Hunting Days are only** shotguns (loaded with #4 shot or smaller), crossbows, vertical bows or air guns that shoot arrows or bolts.
- **It is illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait** or to place bait for turkeys during any turkey season.
- **Dogs and organized drives** may not be used.

SPRING TURKEY SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2027

DATES	AREA	BAG LIMIT
April 19–May 24 (includes Sundays in certain counties, see chart)	STATEWIDE	1 bearded turkey per day, 2 bearded turkeys per season

- **Only bearded turkeys** may be harvested in the Spring Season.
- The Spring Season **bag limit is one** bearded turkey **per day** and **two** bearded turkeys **for the season**.
- Spring Turkey Season daily **shooting hours for April 19 through May 10 are** one-half hour before sunrise to noon. See the Sunday hunting chart for Sunday hours within certain counties.
- Spring Turkey Season **daily shooting hours for May 11 through May 24 are** one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except on Sundays in certain counties. See the Sunday hunting chart for Sunday hours within certain counties.
- **Hunting Devices for Spring Turkey Season are** only shotguns (loaded with #4 shot or smaller), crossbows, vertical bows or air guns that shoot arrows or bolts.
- **It is illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait** or to place bait for turkeys during any turkey season.
- **Dogs and organized drives** may not be used.

FALL TURKEY SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026

DATES	AREA	BAG LIMIT
Oct. 31–Nov. 8 (includes Sundays in hunt area counties, see chart)	Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties	Fall and Winter Seasons have a combined bag limit of 1 turkey of either sex

- The **combined bag limit for the 2026 Fall and 2027 Winter Seasons is one** turkey of either sex.
- Fall Turkey Season daily **shooting hours are** one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
- **Hunting Devices for Fall Turkey Season are only** airguns (that shoot arrows, bolts or bullets), crossbows, handguns, shotguns (loaded with #4 shot or smaller or a solid, single projectile), rifles or vertical bows.
- **It is illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait** or to place bait for turkeys during any turkey season. However, **during the fall season only**, it is not considered to be hunting with the aid of bait if a hunter and any turkey that a hunter shoots at are at least 150 yards from any bait legally placed for other species (e.g. corn placed to attract deer).
- Be aware: Fall turkey hunters **are encouraged to wear daylight fluorescent color clothing** especially when other hunting seasons are open at the same time.

WINTER TURKEY SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2027

DATES	AREA	BAG LIMIT
Jan. 21–23	STATEWIDE	Fall and Winter Seasons have a combined bag limit of 1 turkey of either sex

- **The combined bag limit for the 2027 Winter and 2026 Fall Seasons is one** turkey of either sex.
- Winter Turkey Season daily **shooting hours are** one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
- **Hunting Devices for Winter Turkey Season are only** shotguns (loaded with #4 shot or smaller), crossbows, vertical bows, or air guns that shoot arrows or bolts.
- **It is illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait** or to place bait for turkeys during any turkey season.

SUNDAY TURKEY HUNTING 2026–2027

Sunday hunting is permitted on April 18 (Junior Hunt Day) and **all Sundays during any open turkey season** with these restrictions, in these counties and locations.

COUNTY	LOCATION	SHOOTING HOURS
Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Kent, Queen Anne's	Private lands only	Shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday
Allegany, Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, St. Mary's, and Washington	Private and **designated public lands***	Shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday
Talbot	Private lands only	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am
Somerset	Private lands and public land leased to a hunt club only	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am
Wicomico	Private and **designated public lands***	On private lands, legal shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday. On public lands, they are ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am.
Worcester	Private and **designated public lands***	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am

* **Designated public lands** open to Sunday hunting in **Allegany** (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), **Cecil** (C&D Canal Lands, Earlville WMA, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), **Dorchester** (Chesapeake Forest Lands, Fishing Bay WMA, LeCompte WMA, Linkwood WMA, Nanticoke River WMA, Taylor's Island WMA), **Garrett** (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), **St. Mary's** (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), **Washington** (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), **Wicomico** (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke River WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and **Worcester** (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA)

All hunters, including those who may hunt without a license (pg. 12), must complete the tagging and checking procedure for each deer and turkey taken. In order to check in their deer or turkey, hunters must have a DNRid number that is available through MD Outdoors OR any Department of Natural Resources Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) OR a Department of Natural Resources Sport License Agent.

Before moving a deer or turkey from the place of kill, hunters must do the following:

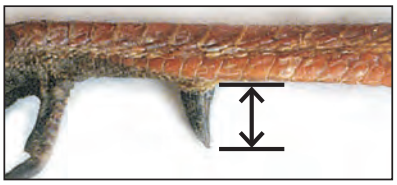
1. Complete a Field Tag at the place of kill in ink and attach it to the animal, or;
2. Check in the animal at the place of kill and receive a confirmation number that can be furnished upon request.
   - » Place of kill is the location where the animal expired and was recovered.

Field tags should be made by the hunter and include Harvest Date, County of Kill, Hunter's Name and DNRid number, or a Confirmation Number and Hunter's Name if the animal has been checked in. If a confirmation number is obtained at the place of kill, the deer or turkey can be moved/transported untagged. Deer and turkeys cannot be moved or transported untagged if a confirmation number has not been received. Deer and turkeys must also be field tagged when giving, putting, or leaving them in possession of another person, or when left unattended; whether or not a confirmation number has been received. In this case, the tag shall remain attached until the animal is processed by the hunter for consumption, disposed of by a processing facility or left with a taxidermist.

When required, the field tag must be attached to the head of the deer or leg of the turkey. Hunters who plan to have their deer mounted should attach the tag to the antler and not through a hole cut in the ear.

TURKEY MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED FOR CHECKING

SPURS: measure from the leg to the tip of the spur.



BEARD: measure from the skin to the tip of the beard.

Within 24 hours of recovering a deer or turkey harvest, hunters must:

1. Register their game with the Department of Natural Resources using one of the following:
   - » MD Outdoors – *https://mdoutdoors.maryland.gov*
   - » the Maryland Big Game Registration Phone Line 888-800-0121
   - » The Department of Natural Resources official mobile app (MD Outdoors)

TTY users, call through the Maryland Relay. For ease of use, deaf and hard of hearing hunters are encouraged to use the internet check-in site or mobile app.

2. Make a permanent record of their deer or turkey registration by either:
   - » Recording the confirmation number on a Big Game Harvest Record (provided with a hunting license) or creating a hard copy record of their own, or;
   - » Maintaining an electronic record of the confirmation number on a mobile device.

Harvest records, whether recorded electronically or in hard copy format, must be furnished upon request and remain in possession of the hunter.

Please remember:

- Hunters should indicate the actual hunting device used to take the deer or turkey when checking their animal (not the season in which it is taken).
- Hunters must use their DNRid number when checking in a deer or turkey. The DNRid number is printed on all hunting licenses.
- Each deer or turkey checked in will have its own confirmation number. If you have a question or need to retrieve a confirmation number, call your local Wildlife and Heritage Service office (pg. 6).
- A hunter may not remove the head or hide or any part from any deer (except internal organs), or cut the meat into parts, until the deer has been registered and the confirmation number received.
- Hunters are required to furnish the confirmation number to taxidermists and processors/butchers before they can leave their deer or turkey.
- If the hunter uses all of the spaces on the Big Game Harvest Record attached to the hunting license, additional Big Game Harvest Records can be created by the hunter or obtained free of charge through MD Outdoors OR any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) OR a Sport License Agent.

Maryland
National Wild Turkey Federation

Making Maryland the best it can be for the people and wildlife who call it home.

NWTF Maryland, along with our partners in conservation, actively manage our precious natural resources for our kids and grandkids and for the future of the wild turkey and all wildlife in Maryland.

Do you know a person, family member, or like-minded group that would have an interest in helping a current local charter or starting a new chapter in a vacant area on the map?

CONTACT:

Regional Director	Ray Smith	570-220-1535
State Chapter President	Tom Maliszewski	442-677-6110
District Biologist	Mitchell Blake	814-977-0007
Director or Annual Giving - Mid-Atlantic	Mark Kleinschmidt	804-313-7171
Bay Shore Gobblers	Dean Ennis	410-603-7281
Central Maryland	William Wilson	443-790-9312
Cheasapeake Longbeards	Jay Johnson	301-399-0880
Free State	Jen Mrok	443-414-9034
Gunpowder Gobblers	Jeffrey Kreit Jr.	443-826-8910
Mid Shore	Allen Spray	302-922-0549
Monocacy Valley	Lee Jernigan	301-748-6390
Patuxent River	Billy Price	301-481-1226
South Mountain	Corey Brigham	240-409-0438
Tri-State	Andy Norris	717-552-1174
State Line Strutters	Mike Moore	443-206-9105
Southern Maryland	Steven Berry	310-752-4292
Upper Bay Chapter	Jason Bradford	302-236-8136
Western Maryland	Joe Mills	304-590-4300
Wye Oak Longspurs	Kenneth Ervin, Jr.	410-708-0787
Blackwater	Michelle Tucker	804-894-3478
Legacy Chapter (Mont. County)	Niko Sofelkanik	301-467-5949

HABITAT WORK (2023–2025)

SPENDING

$33,148
Public land habitat management

$25,941
Habitat management equipment

ACRES IMPACTED

380 acres
Eastern Shore WMAs & State Forest

95 acres
Central Maryland WMAs & State Forest

40 acres
Western Maryland WMAs & State Forest

3,000+ acres
Impacted by equipment purchases (prescribed fire tools, UTV, herbicide skid unit)

WILD TURKEY RESEARCH (2023–2025)

SPENDING

$20,000
GPS transmitters

$3,253
Wild turkey holding boxes

$8,085
Reward band returns (harvest & survival analysis)

$1,000
Capture myopathy study

RESEARCH FOCUS

- Survival & reproductive success of hens
- Gobbler harvest & survival rates
- Breeding season timing
- Effects of weather, predators, disease, and habitat

NWTF CONSERVATION SEED PROGRAM

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

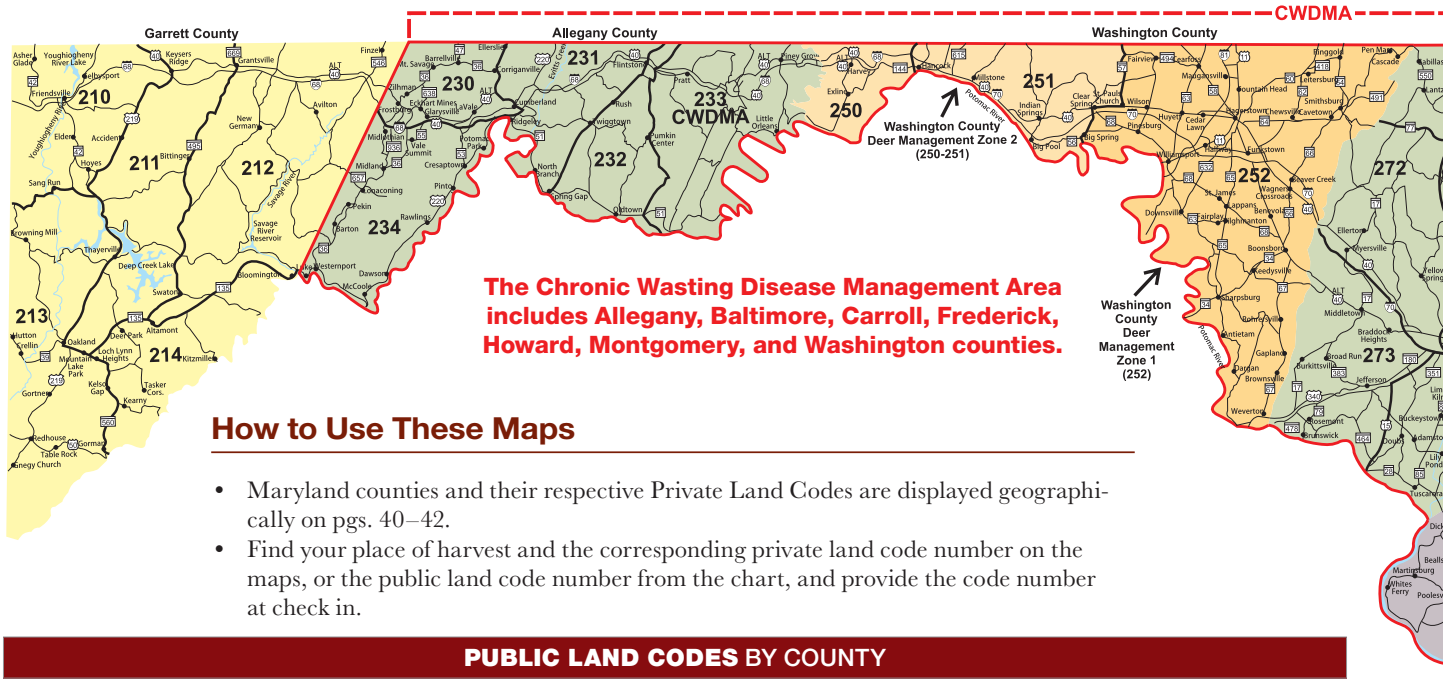
- Distributes otherwise-unused commercial seed for conservation only
- Offered at nominal cost to NWTF members
- Used for wildlife conservation & land management

ACRES PLANTED

~5,800 acres
of public & private land planted in the last 3 years

Scan for a Chance to win a Franchi Affinity 3 Turkey Elite 20ga. Semi Automatic Shotgun

DEER AND TURKEY TAGGING & CHECKING



How to Use These Maps

- Maryland counties and their respective Private Land Codes are displayed geographically on pgs. 40–42.
- Find your place of harvest and the corresponding private land code number on the maps, or the public land code number from the chart, and provide the code number at check in.

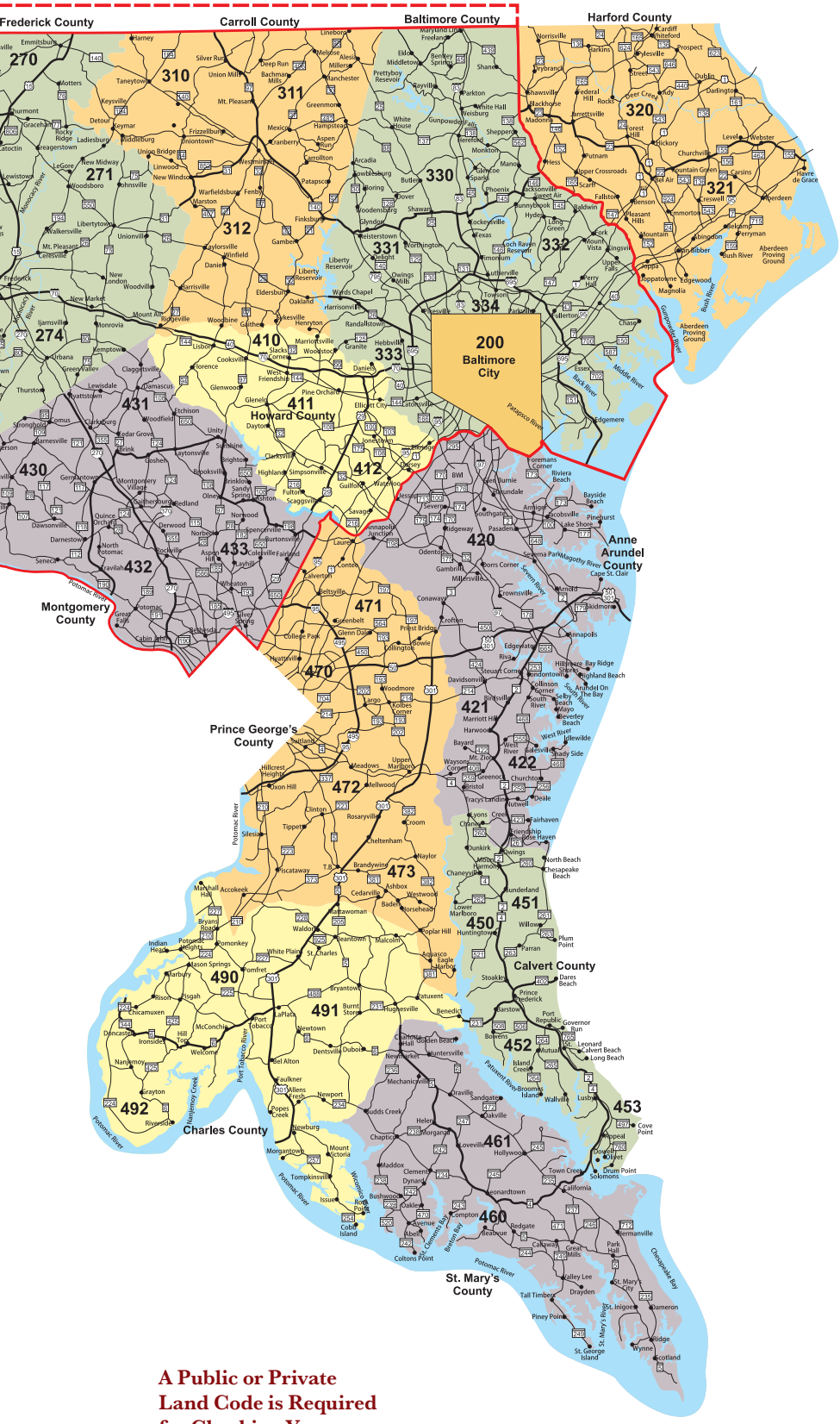
PUBLIC LAND CODES BY COUNTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY	01
Dan's Mountain WMA	240
Warrior Mountain WMA	241
Green Ridge SF	242
Billmeyer WMA	243
Rocky Gap SP	244
Belle Grove WMA	245
Sideling Hill WMA	246
McCoole Fishery Management Area	247
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY	**02**
Davidsonville Receiver Station	424
Ft. Meade/Patuxent Refuge (North Tract)	425
Smithsonian	427
Crownsville CWMA	428
Sandy Point SP	429
Severn Run NEA	607
Patapsco Valley SP	608
Holly Beach Farm NRMA	609
BALTIMORE CITY	**24**
Currently No Public Land Codes	
BALTIMORE COUNTY	**03**
Prettyboy Watershed	340
Liberty Watershed	341
Loch Raven Watershed	342
Gunpowder Falls SP	343
Patapsco Valley SP	344
Gwynnbrook WMA	345
Soldiers Delight NEA	346
North Point SP	348
CALVERT COUNTY	**04**
Parkers Creek WMA	454
Calvert Cliffs SP	455
Flag Pond CWMA	456
Huntingtown Area	457
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA	458
Hall Creek NRMA	459
Hughes Tree Farm CWMA	611
CAROLINE COUNTY	**05**
Idylwild WMA	525
Tuckahoe SP	526
Chesapeake Forest Lands	527
CARROLL COUNTY	**06**
Morgan Run NEA	314
Liberty Watershed	315
Hanover Watershed	316
Sawmill-Speigel CWMA	317
Patapsco Valley SP	319
Avondale WMA	630
Woodbrook CWMA	632
Maring CWMA	633
Hahn CWMA	634
Farver CWMA	635

CECIL COUNTY	07
Elk Neck SP	360
Elk Neck SF	361
C and D Canal Lands	362
Earleville WMA	363
Fair Hill NRMA	364
Bohemia River State Park	365
Grove Farm WMA	366
Old Bohemia WMA	367
CHARLES COUNTY	**08**
Riverside WMA	395
Popes Creek WMA	396
Chapman SP (Mt. Aventine)	397
Nanjemoy WMA	398
Cedar Point WMA	399
Indian Head Naval Ordinance Area	400
Myrtle Grove WMA	401
Doncaster SF or Tayloes Neck	402
Chapel Point SP	403
Nanjemoy Creek WMA	404
Cedarville SF	405
Indian Creek NRMA	406
Chicamuxen WMA	407
Blossom Point Field Test Facility	408
Swanson Creek WMA	660
DORCHESTER COUNTY	**09**
LeCompte WMA	540
Linkwood WMA	541
Fishing Bay WMA	542
Blackwater NWR	543
Taylor's Island WMA	544
Chesapeake Forest Lands	545
FREDERICK COUNTY	**10**
Frederick City Watershed	280
Gravel Hill Swamp WMA	280
Ridenour Swamp WMA	280
Cunningham Falls SP, Thurmont WS	281
Monocacy NRMA	282
South Mountain SP	283
Emmitsburg Watershed	284
Heaters Island WMA	286
Urbana Fishery Management Area	287
GARRETT COUNTY	**11**
Sang Run SP	218
Youghiogheny NEA	219
Savage River SF	220
Potomac SF	221
Garrett SF	222
Mount Nebo WMA	223
Deep Creek Lake SP	224
Youghiogheny Reservoir	225

4H Center	226
Frostburg Watershed	227
Cunningham Swamp WMA	228
Wolf Den Run SP	229
HARFORD COUNTY	**12**
Rocks SP	325
Aberdeen Proving Ground	326
Gunpowder Falls SP	327
Susquehanna SP	328
Stoney Demonstration Forest	329
HOWARD COUNTY	**13**
Hugg-Thomas WMA	415
Patuxent River SP	416
Patapsco Valley SP	417
Triadelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	604
KENT COUNTY	**14**
Millington WMA	375
Eastern Neck NWR	376
Sassafras NRMA	378
Cypress Branch State Park	379
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	**15**
Patuxent River SP	440
Mckee-Beshers WMA	441
Seneca Creek SP	442
Cherrington CWMA	443
Strider WMA	444
Islands of the Potomac	445
Triadelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	447
Seneca Schaeffer Farm Tract	625
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	**16**
Merkle NRMA	474
Queen Anne Bridge Rd. CWMA	475
Belt Woods NEA	476
Gardner Road Park CWMA	477
Cheltenham WMA	478
Aquasco Farms CWMA	480
Spice Creek (Patuxent River) NRMA	481
Marlboro Natural Area CWMA	710
Milltown Landing NRMA	482
Nottingham NRMA	483
Beltsville	484
Rosaryville SP	485
Brandywine Receiver Station	486
Patuxent Refuge (Central Tract)	487
Billingsley Tract (Patuxent River Park)	488
Triadelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	489
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY	**17**
Tuckahoe SP	390
Wye Island NRMA	391
Browns Branch WMA	392

ST. MARY'S COUNTY	18
Newtowne Neck SP	462
St. Inigoes SF	463
Point Lookout SP (Jacobs Property)	464
Patuxent Naval Air Station	465
Elm's CWMA	466
St. Mary's River SP or Salem Tract	467
Historic St. Mary's City CWMA	468
Greenwell SP	469
Myrtle Point CWMA	600
Saint Clements State Park	610
SOMERSET COUNTY	**19**
Deal Island WMA	500
Fairmount WMA	501
Cedar Island WMA	503
Pocomoke Sound WMA	504
Maryland Marine Properties WMA	505
Wellington WMA	506
South Marsh Island WMA	507
Chesapeake Forest Lands	508
TALBOT COUNTY	**20**
Seth CFL	515
WASHINGTON COUNTY	**21**
Indian Springs WMA	260
Sideling Hill WMA	261
South Mountain SP	262
W. Maryland Ag. Research Station (B)	264
Greenbrier SP	265
Fort Frederick SP	266
Woodmont NRMA	267
Maryland Correctional Training Center	268
Prather's Neck WMA	269
WICOMICO COUNTY	**22**
Wetipquin WMA	554
Ellis Bay WMA	555
Wicomico Demo Forest CFL	556
Johnson WMA	557
Nanticoke WMA	558
Chesapeake Forest Lands	559
Blackwater NWR	560
WORCESTER COUNTY	**23**
Pocomoke SF	580
E.A. Vaughn WMA	581
Hickory Point	582
Pocomoke River WMA	583
Isle of Wight WMA	584
Assateague NS	585
Chesapeake Forest Lands	586
Assateague SP	700



A Public or Private Land Code is Required for Checking Your Deer or Turkey.

To check in your deer or turkey the following will be required:

- Your DNRid number: _____
- The year of your birth in digits as it appears on your hunting license, e.g., 1955: _____
- The date of harvest: _____
- The county code number for the place of harvest: _____
- The private land code number for the place of harvest (pgs. 40–42): _____

— Or —

- The public land code for the place of harvest (this page): _____

For Deer:

☐ White-tailed ☐ Fallow ☐ Sika

- Button buck, female or antlerless male, or antlered male? _____
- Number of antler points: _____
- Was this deer taken with a shotgun, rifle, vertical bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, handgun or other (air gun, etc.)? _____

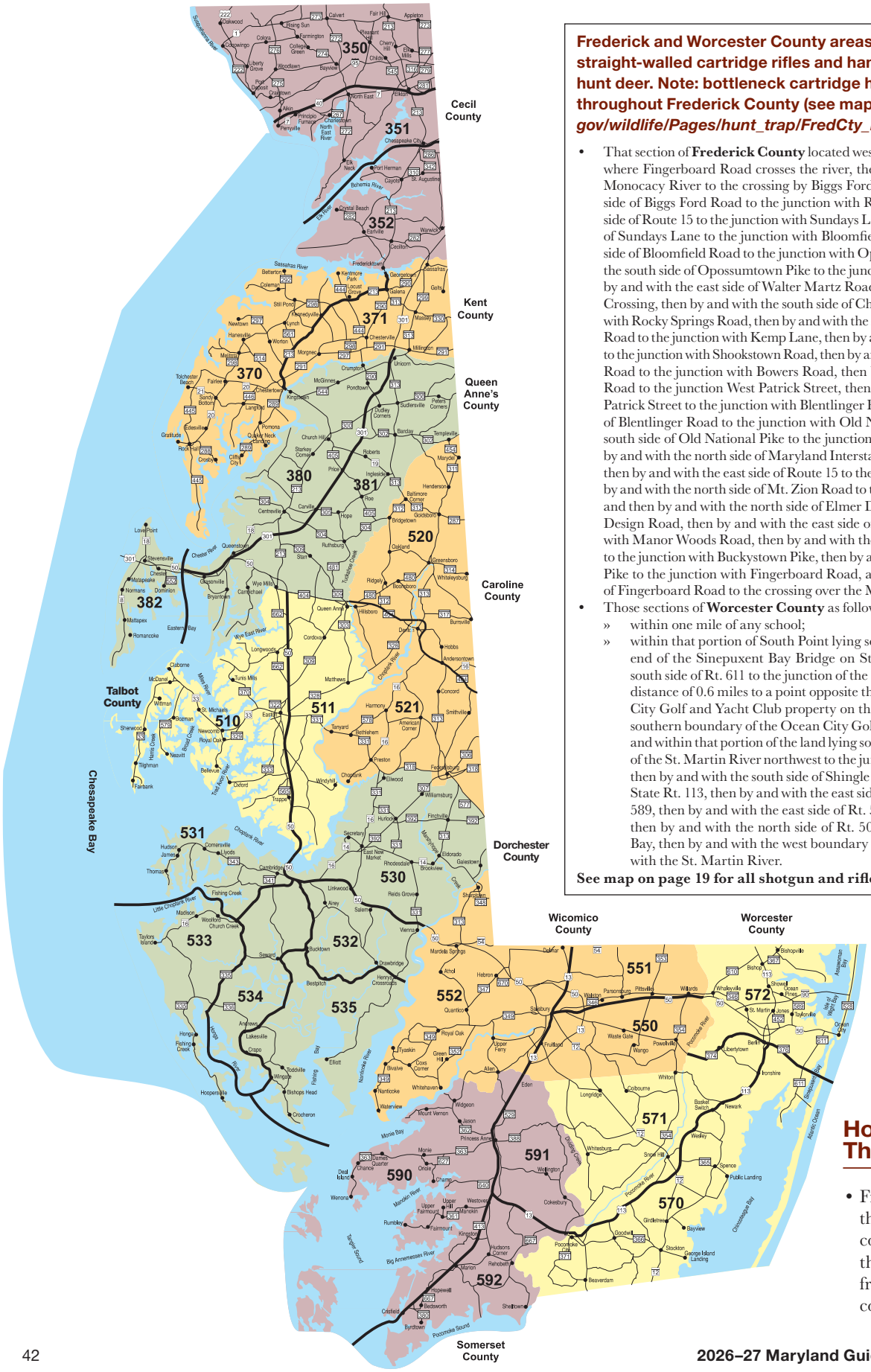
For Turkey:

- Was this turkey taken with a shotgun, rifle, vertical bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, handgun or other (air gun, etc.)? _____
- How long is the beard? ☐ <6" or ☐ >6"
- How long are the spurs? ☐ <1/2" or ☐ >1/2"

Record the Confirmation Number on your Big Game Harvest Record.

County Code Numbers

Allegany	01	Howard	13
Anne Arundel	02	Kent	14
Baltimore	03	Montgomery	15
Calvert	04	Prince George's	16
Caroline	05	Queen Anne's	17
Carroll	06	St. Mary's	18
Cecil	07	Somerset	19
Charles	08	Talbot	20
Dorchester	09	Washington	21
Frederick	10	Wicomico	22
Garrett	11	Worcester	23
Harford	12		



Frederick and Worcester County areas where only shotguns or straight-walled cartridge rifles and handguns may be used to hunt deer. Note: bottleneck cartridge handguns can be used throughout Frederick County (see maps at *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/FredCty_DeerHuntingZones.aspx*).

- That section of **Frederick County** located west of the Monocacy River beginning where Fingerboard Road crosses the river, then by and with the west side of the Monocacy River to the crossing by Biggs Ford Road, then by and with the south side of Biggs Ford Road to the junction with Route 15, then by and with the west side of Route 15 to the junction with Sundays Lane, then by and with the south side of Sundays Lane to the junction with Bloomfield Road, then by and with the east side of Bloomfield Road to the junction with Opossumtown Pike, then by and with the south side of Opossumtown Pike to the junction with Walter Martz Road, then by and with the east side of Walter Martz Road to the junction with Christopher's Crossing, then by and with the south side of Christopher's Crossing to the junction with Rocky Springs Road, then by and with the south and east side of Rocky Springs Road to the junction with Kemp Lane, then by and with the east side of Kemp Lane to the junction with Shookstown Road, then by and with the north side of Shookstown Road to the junction with Bowers Road, then by and with the east side of Bowers Road to the junction West Patrick Street, then by and with the north side of West Patrick Street to the junction with Blentlinger Road, then by and with the east side of Blentlinger Road to the junction with Old National Pike, then by and with the south side of Old National Pike to the junction with Maryland Interstate 70, then by and with the north side of Maryland Interstate 70 to the junction with Route 15, then by and with the east side of Route 15 to the junction with Mt. Zion Road, then by and with the north side of Mt. Zion Road to the junction with Elmer Derr Road, and then by and with the north side of Elmer Derr Road to the junction with New Design Road, then by and with the east side of New Design Road to the junction with Manor Woods Road, then by and with the north side of Manor Woods Road to the junction with Buckystown Pike, then by and with the east side of Buckystown Pike to the junction with Fingerboard Road, and then by and with the north side of Fingerboard Road to the crossing over the Monocacy River.
- Those sections of **Worcester County** as follows:
  - » within one mile of any school;
  - » within that portion of South Point lying south of a line beginning at the west end of the Sinepuxent Bay Bridge on State Rt. 611, then by and with the south side of Rt. 611 to the junction of the South Point Road going south for a distance of 0.6 miles to a point opposite the southern boundary of the Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club property on the west side of the road, then by the southern boundary of the Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club to Trappe Creek; and within that portion of the land lying south of a line beginning at the mouth of the St. Martin River northwest to the junction with Shingle Landing Road, then by and with the south side of Shingle Landing Road to the junction with State Rt. 113, then by and with the east side of Rt. 113 to the junction with Rt. 589, then by and with the east side of Rt. 589 to the junction with US Rt. 50, then by and with the north side of Rt. 50 to the junction with Isle of Wight Bay, then by and with the west boundary of Isle of Wight Bay to the junction with the St. Martin River.

See map on page 19 for all shotgun and rifle counties/areas.

How to Use These Maps

- Find your place of harvest and the corresponding private land code number on the maps, or the public land code number from the chart, and provide the code number at check in.

Migratory Game Birds are: brant, coots, doves, ducks, geese, rails, snipe and woodcock. Brant, ducks and geese are referred to as waterfowl.

September Teal Season ..... pg. 44
Regular Duck Season ..... pg. 44
Sea Ducks ..... pg. 44
Youth, Veteran and Military Waterfowl Hunting Days ..... pg. 44
Brant Season ..... pg. 45
Early Canada Goose Seasons ..... pg. 45
Migratory and Late Canada Goose Seasons ..... pg. 46
Light Goose Seasons ..... pg. 46
Dove, Woodcock, Rails and Snipe Seasons ..... pg. 47
Extended Falconry Seasons ..... pg. 47
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Rules and Regulations ..... pg. 48
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Devices and Regulations ..... pg. 49

There is no open season for gallinules, harlequin ducks, moorhens or swans.

Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations can be viewed at: *dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/MGB_FederalHuntingRegs.pdf*

Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Rules and Regulations (offshore duck blinds, sea duck and offshore waterfowl hunting zones) can be viewed at: *dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/offshore_intro.aspx*

General Migratory Game Bird Hunting Rules

- Migratory game birds **may not** be hunted on Sundays.
- A hunter **must carry personal photo identification** (such as driver's license) or a secondary form of identification while hunting.
- **Written permission is required** to hunt on private land.
- **A hunting license is required to hunt migratory game birds** (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- **A Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp (printed validation, pg. 10) is required of all hunters** to hunt **all migratory game birds** in Maryland. This includes persons not required to have a hunting license and holders of senior hunting licenses. An actual stamp is no longer produced.
  - » This validation may be obtained through MD Outdoors OR any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) OR a Sport License agent.
- **A Harvest Information Program Certification is required of all hunters to hunt all migratory game birds.** The certification is free and issued with the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp. When you purchase your Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, you will be asked the following Harvest Information Program questions that are used for harvest survey sampling only:
  - » Do you plan to hunt brant this coming hunting season?
  - » About how many ducks, geese, doves and woodcock did you bag last season?
  - » Did you hunt coots, sea ducks (eiders, long-tailed ducks and scoters), snipe or rails last season?
- **Hunters must have the printed validation showing proof of purchase** of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp and Harvest Information Program certification **in their possession while hunting migratory game birds.**
- A **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp** (pg. 10) is required of all hunters **16 years of age or older** to hunt brant, coots, ducks and geese. This includes persons not required to have a hunting license (see Who May Hunt Without a License, pg. 12). Legal methods of Federal Duck Stamp possession include:
  - » A traditional Federal Duck Stamp may be purchased from National Wildlife Refuges, Post Offices, or at *duckstamp.com*. Hunters who choose this option must have the physical, signed stamp on their person while hunting.
  - » An E-Stamp may be purchased online at *duckstamp.com* and through MD Outdoors OR any Licensing and Registration Service Center (pg. 6) OR a Sport License agent. Hunters will receive a printed validation showing proof of purchase. This proof of purchase, either printed on a hunting license or separate printed validation must be kept on the hunters person while hunting waterfowl. Waterfowl hunters are no longer required to have the physical Federal Duck Stamp in their possession while hunting.
  - » Additionally, hunters that purchase an E-Stamp through *duckstamp.com* can add the stamp to their mobile wallet (via Apple Pay or Google Pay) and must be kept on the hunters person while hunting waterfowl.
  - » The U.S. Department of the Interior intends to mail physical stamps to hunters that purchased an E-stamp by March 10 each year.
- **A Maryland Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit** (pg. 10) is required **to participate in the Light Goose Conservation Order Season**. Hunters must possess the printed validation showing proof of the purchase of this permit while hunting (see Light Goose Seasons and Bag Limits, pg. 47).
- A **Regulated Shooting Area Hunting License** allows you to shoot only captive-raised game birds on a state-licensed Regulated Shooting Area (see Other Licenses, pg. 10). To hunt **free-flying, captive-raised mallard ducks or wild waterfowl** on a state-licensed Regulated Shooting Area, a hunter **must possess** a Maryland hunting license, the **printed validation** showing proof of purchase of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp and a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp or its proof of purchase (if over the age of 15).
- A **Stationary Blind and Blind Site License** is required to hunt from an **offshore waterfowl blind or blind site** in Maryland public waters (see Other Licenses pg. 10). For all Maryland Offshore Waterfowl Hunting information including riparian landowners refer to: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/offshore_intro.aspx*, 410-260-8538.

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026	
DATES	BAG LIMIT
Sept. 17, 2026–Sept. 26, 2026	6 teal per day possession limit of 18

The September Teal Season is open in these counties:

- Calvert
- Caroline
- Cecil
- Dorchester
- Harford
- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- St. Mary's
- Somerset
- Talbot
- Wicomico
- Worcester; and
- that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; and
- that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and
- that part of Charles County east of Route 301.

- The **daily bag limit is six** teal. The bag limit may include blue-winged and green-winged teal. The possession limit is 18.
- **Shooting hours are** one-half hour before sunrise to sunset for September Teal Season.

DUCK SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027 (INCLUDING COOTS)		
ZONES	DATES	BAG LIMIT
EASTERN ZONE Regular Duck Season	**Oct. 10, 2026–Oct. 17, 2026** **Nov. 14, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026** **Dec. 15, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027**	see listing below
EASTERN ZONE Black Duck Season	**Nov. 14, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026** **Dec. 15, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027**	2 black ducks
WESTERN ZONE Regular Duck Season	**Oct. 3, 2026–Oct. 17, 2026** **Nov. 21, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026** **Dec. 15, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027**	see listing below
WESTERN ZONE Black Duck Season	**Nov. 21, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026** **Dec. 15, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027**	2 black ducks
Black ducks may only be taken during the Black Duck Season.		

The Eastern Duck Season Zone is open in these counties: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Saint Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester counties; and those portions of Baltimore, Howard, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties **east** of a line beginning at I83 at the Pennsylvania state line, following I83 south to the intersection of I83 and I695 (Outer Loop), south following I695 (Outer Loop) to its intersection with I95, south following I95 to its intersection with I495 (Outer Loop), and following I495 (Outer Loop) to the Virginia shore of the Potomac River.

The Western Duck Season Zone open in these counties: Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Frederick and Washington counties; and: those portions of Baltimore, Howard, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties **west** of a line beginning at I83 at the Pennsylvania state line, following I83 south to the intersection of I83 and I695 (Outer Loop), south following I695 (Outer Loop) to its intersection with I95, south following I95 to its intersection with I495 (Outer Loop), and following I495 (Outer Loop) to the Virginia shore of the Potomac River.

To view a Duck Zone Map, please see: (*https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=caf337498c1b4da2b2081f542be6d6bc*).

The **daily bag limit** for the Regular Duck Season in **both** the Eastern and Western Duck Zones is:

- 6 ducks, no more than:
  - » 4 mallards (only 2 can be hens)
  - » 3 wood ducks
  - » 2 black ducks (Black Duck Season only)
  - » 2 canvasbacks
  - » 3 pintails
  - » 2 redheads
  - » 1 scaup per day (2 per day from Jan. 8 – Jan. 30)
  - » 1 fulvous tree duck
  - » 1 mottled duck
  - » 4 sea ducks: no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders (only 1 eider hen).
- All **other species of ducks** may be taken up to the six duck limit.
- There is no open season for **harlequin ducks**.
- The **possession limit is** three times the daily bag limit.
- **Shooting hours** for all duck and coot seasons are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take **15 coots per day**.

SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Eiders)

- The Special Sea Duck Season is no longer included as an option for states in the federal framework of regulations for migratory game birds. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has retained the Sea Duck Zone in its entirety and sea ducks can be harvested within that zone, or anywhere else in Maryland, as part of the 6 duck daily bag limit during the regular duck season. The bag limit includes 4 sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders (only 1 eider hen). For maps and more information on the Special Sea Duck Zone see: *dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/seaducks.aspx*
- In the portions of the Special Sea Duck Zone that do not overlap the Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Zone, hunters may only shoot sea ducks.These ducks will count towards their regular daily duck bag limit. Maps of the zones can be found at: *https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=caf337498c1b4da2b2081f542be6d6bc*
- Prominent locations where the Sea Duck Zone does not overlap the Offshore Waterfowl Zone include the Eastern Bay, and the lower Chester, Choptank, and Little Choptank Rivers.

YOUTH, VETERAN AND MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027	
DATES	BAG LIMIT
Nov. 7, 2026 and Feb. 6, 2027	see listing below

Statewide Youth, Veteran and Military Waterfowl Hunting Days are open for hunters age 16 or younger, military veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) of any age and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training).

To hunt during these days:

- Youth hunters, military veterans and active duty military personnel **must have a hunting license or be exempt** from the license requirement (see Who May Hunt Without a license, pg. 12). Military Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel must also carry appropriate credentials identifying them as such.
- These hunters must possess the printed validation showing proof of purchase of the **Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp** and Harvest Information Program certification.

- A **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp** is not required of those under 16 years of age. This stamp is required of those who are at least 16 years old.
- Youth hunters hunting on these days **must be accompanied in the field by** an individual who:
  - » Is 21 years old or older;
  - » Possesses a valid Maryland hunting license (an Apprentice Hunting License does not meet this requirement), or is exempt from hunting license requirements;
  - » Is unarmed;
  - » Is not participating in other waterfowl seasons that are open on the youth days; and
  - » May assist with decoys, call waterfowl and retrieve downed birds.

Note: Active military and honorably discharged veterans at least 21 years old may possess hunting weapons and hunt while also providing assistance to eligible youth hunters.

The **daily bag limit** for each Youth, Veteran and Military Waterfowl Hunting Day is:

- 6 ducks, no more than:
  - » 4 sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks or 3 eiders)
  - » 4 mallards (only 2 can be hens)
  - » 3 wood ducks
  - » 2 black ducks
  - » 2 canvasbacks
  - » 3 pintails
  - » 2 redheads
  - » 2 scaup
  - » 1 fulvous tree duck
  - » 1 mottled duck
- 1 brant
- 2 Canada goose in the Atlantic Population Goose Hunt Zone or
- 5 Canada geese in the Late Southern or Western Resident Goose Hunt Zone
- 15 coots
- 25 light geese
- **Shooting hours are** one-half hour before sunrise to sunset for Youth, Veteran and Military Waterfowl Hunting Days.

BRANT STATEWIDE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Dec. 28, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027	1 per day, possession limit of 3

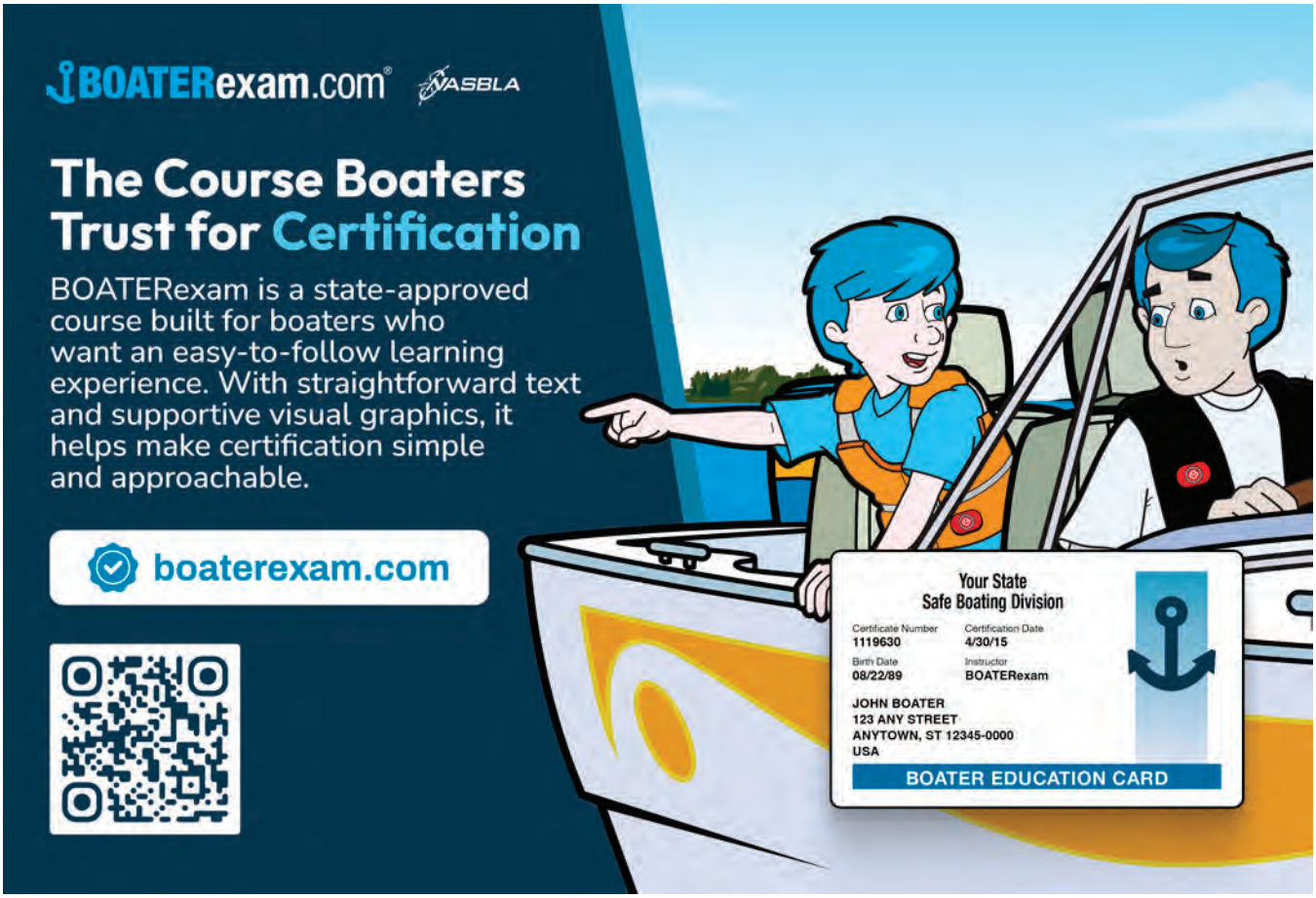
- The **daily bag limit is one** brant and the **possession limit is three**.
- **Shooting hours are** from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

EARLY RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026 — EASTERN & WESTERN ZONES

DATES	BAG LIMIT
EASTERN ZONE - Sept. 1, 2026–Sept. 15, 2026 WESTERN ZONE - Sept. 1, 2026–Sept. 25, 2026	8 per day possession limit of 24

The Eastern Zone season is open in these counties:

- Calvert
- Caroline
- Cecil
- Dorchester
- Harford
- Kent



- Queen Anne's
- St. Mary's
- Somerset
- Talbot
- Wicomico
- Worcester; and
- that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; and
- that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and
- that part of Charles County east of Route 301.

The Western Zone season is open in these counties:

- Allegany
- Baltimore
- Carroll
- Frederick
- Garrett
- Howard
- Montgomery
- Washington; and
- that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; and
- that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and
- that part of Charles County west of Route 301.

- The Eastern and Western Zone **daily bag limit is eight** geese and the **possession limit is 24**.
- **Shooting hours are** from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset for both zones.
- Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells may be used to take resident Canada geese **during these September seasons only**.

MIGRATORY CANADA GOOSE (ATLANTIC POPULATION) SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Nov. 24, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026 Dec. 15, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027	2 per day possession limit of 6

The Atlantic Population Hunt Zone includes these counties:

- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore
- Calvert
- Caroline
- Cecil
- Dorchester
- Harford
- Howard
- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- Somerset
- St. Mary's
- Talbot
- Wicomico
- Worcester; and
- that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and
- that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and
- that portion of Charles County east of Route 301.

- The **daily bag limit is 2 geese** (in the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone) and the **possession limit is six**.
- The bag limit may include Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese.
- **Shooting hours** for this season and zone are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

LATE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE ZONE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Nov. 21, 2026–Nov. 23, 2026	5 per day, possession limit of 15
Nov. 24, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026	2 per day, possession limit of 6
Dec. 15, 2026–Jan. 30, 2027	2 per day, possession limit of 6
Feb. 1, 2027–Mar. 10, 2027	5 per day, possession limit of 15

The Late Resident Southern Maryland Zone includes these counties: Montgomery County; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301.

- Includes Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.
- Shooting hours for this season and zone are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

LATE WESTERN MARYLAND RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Nov. 21, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026	5 per day, possession limit of 15
Dec. 15, 2026–Mar. 10, 2027	5 per day, possession limit of 15

The Late Resident Western Maryland Canada Goose Zone includes these counties: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Washington, and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line.

- Includes Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.
- Shooting hours for this season and zone are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

LIGHT GOOSE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
STATEWIDE–Nov. 7, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026 STATEWIDE–Nov. 30, 2026–Feb. 6, 2027 EASTERN ZONE ONLY–Feb. 8, 2027–March 10, 2027*	25 per day, no possession limit

The Eastern Zone includes these counties:

- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore
- Calvert
- Caroline
- Cecil
- Dorchester
- Harford
- Howard
- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- Somerset
- St. Mary's
- Talbot
- Wicomico
- Worcester and
- that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line and
- that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and
- that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

- The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.
- **A Maryland hunting license (or resident Delaware hunting license) is required** to hunt light geese in Maryland during the Light Goose Season (see Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits, pgs. 8–13).
- The **daily bag limit is** 25 light geese and there is **no possession limit**.
- The **bag limit may include** greater snow geese, lesser snow geese and Ross's geese.
- **Shooting hours are** from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset in all three segments.

* The following special methods may be used from February 8, 2027 – March 10, 2027: (1) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (2) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
There will be no 2026-2027 Light Goose Conservation Order Season	

The Light Goose Conservation Order Season Zone includes these counties:

- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore
- Calvert
- Caroline
- Cecil
- Dorchester
- Harford
- Howard
- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- Somerset
- St. Mary's
- Talbot
- Wicomico
- Worcester; and
- that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and
- that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and
- that portion of Charles County east of Route 301.

- The **Light Goose Conservation Order Season provides additional hunting** opportunities and methods to help reduce light goose over-population.
- **A Maryland hunting license (or resident Delaware hunting license) is required** to hunt light geese in Maryland during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season (see Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits, pgs. 8–13).
- **Hunters must possess** the printed validation showing proof of purchase of **the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp** (pg. 10) and Harvest Information Program certification to hunt during the Maryland Light Goose Conservation Order Season.
- **A $5 Maryland Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit is required** to participate in the Light Goose Conservation Order Season. Hunters must possess the printed validation showing proof of the purchase of this permit while hunting.
- **A Federal Duck Stamp is not required** when hunting during the Conservation Order Season.
- The Light Goose Conservation Order Season and Zone **does not include areas mapped or described as Sea Duck Zone only**.
- There is **no bag limit or possession limit** for the Light Goose Conservation Order Season.
- **Hunters may take** greater snow geese, lesser snow geese and Ross's geese.
- **Shooting hours are** from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season.
- Shotguns capable of holding **more than three shells and electronic calls of light geese may be used** during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season.

MOURNING DOVE STATEWIDE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Sept. 1, 2026–Oct. 17, 2026 **Oct. 24, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026** **Dec. 19, 2026–Jan. 9, 2027**	15 per day, possession limit of 45

- The **daily bag limit is** 15 for doves. The **possession limit** for doves is 45.
- **Shooting hours** for the Sept. 1, 2026–Oct. 17, 2026 dove season segment are 12 noon to sunset. For dove season dates after Oct. 19, 2026, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

WOODCOCK STATEWIDE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Oct. 24, 2026–Nov. 27, 2026 **Jan. 11, 2027–Jan. 27, 2027**	3 per day, possession limit of 9

- The **daily bag limit is** three woodcock and the possession limit is nine.
- **Shooting hours are** one-half hour before sunrise to sunset for woodcock.

RAIL STATEWIDE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Sept. 1, 2026–Nov. 20, 2026	see listing below

- **Clapper and King Rails: The daily bag limit is 10** (with no more than one king rail). The **possession limit is 30** clapper and king rails (with no more than three king rails).
- **Sora and Virginia Rails: The daily bag limit is 25** and the **possession limit for these rails is 75.**
- **Shooting hours are** one-half hour before sunrise to sunset for rails.

COMMON SNIPE STATEWIDE SEASON AND BAG LIMITS 2026-2027

DATES	BAG LIMIT
Sept. 26, 2026–Jan. 28, 2027	8 per day, possession limit of 24

- The daily bag limit is eight common snipe and the possession limit is 24.
- Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset for common snipe.

FALCONRY, EXTENDED STATEWIDE SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS 2026–2027

In addition to the regular open seasons, the Extended Falconry Season dates are as follows for hunting migratory game birds:

- Mourning Doves: Jan. 9, 2027–Jan. 28, 2027
- Rails: Nov. 20, 2026–Jan. 1, 2027
- Woodcock: Oct. 1, 2026–Oct. 24, 2026
  Feb. 1, 2027–Mar. 10, 2027
- Ducks: Feb. 1, 2027–Mar. 10, 2027
- Brant: Feb. 2, 2027–Mar. 10, 2027

Bag limits for each species is three per day, with a possession limit of nine.

- Hunting with birds of prey (here referred to as Falconry) **is permitted one half hour before sunrise to sunset**, Monday through Saturday. No Sundays are open to hunt migratory birds.
- A valid hunting license, migratory game bird stamps and a Falconry Permit **are required to hunt migratory game birds with birds of prey**.
- A bird of prey **may be used to hunt migratory game birds during any open season**.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Rules and Regulations

(For brant, coots, doves, ducks, geese, rails, snipe and woodcock.)

- Daylight fluorescent color clothing **is not required** to hunt migratory game birds **except** woodcock. See Fluorescent Color Clothing Requirements and Exceptions (pg. 15).
- The **daily bag limit** is the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season.
- The **field possession limit** is the one daily bag limit that you may possess while in the field or returning from the field to your principle means of land transportation, hunting camp, or personal abode.
- The **possession limit** is the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person.
- A person may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a **reasonable effort to retrieve** the bird and include it in the daily bag limit.
- **Wounded birds** reduced to possession shall immediately be killed and included in your daily bag limit.
- **It is unlawful to completely field dress** or breast-out any migratory game bird (except dove) before transporting the birds from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all birds (except doves) while being transported from the field until they have arrived at your personal abode or a migratory bird processing facility.
- If you are giving, putting or leaving migratory game birds at any place or in the possession of another person, you **must tag each bird** with the hunter's signature, address, hunting license number or DNRid number, the total number and species of birds killed and dates the birds were killed. Tagging is required even if someone else is transporting the bird for you or the bird has been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.
- **To ship tagged migratory game birds** the package must be conspicuously marked on the outside with the name and address of the person sending the birds, name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent and number of birds by species contained in the package.
- **It is illegal to take migratory game birds with** air guns shooting bullets, drugs, explosives, traps, fish hooks, nets, pistols, poisons, rifles, snares, stupefying substances or swivel guns.
- **It is against the law to bait** migratory game birds and hunt them by placing a lure or enticement such as salt, corn, wheat, or any other grain or feed.
- An area is considered by law to be baited **for 10 days after removal of the bait.**
- Migratory game birds **may not be hunted over any area where seed has been top sown** or broadcast on top of the soil leaving the seed available to feeding birds. Before hunting can occur on areas where seeds or small grains have been top sown or broadcast as a normal agricultural practice, all seed must have either germinated, or the seed must be covered with soil or completely removed by other means at least 10 days before hunting.
- **Doves may be hunted** in areas where seed producing plants such as corn, sunflowers, wheat and other small grains are manipulated (burned, knocked down, mowed) to attract doves for hunting. In this instance, the 10 day rule does not apply.
- It is **unlawful to hunt waterfowl** with the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation for any person to take wild waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks, geese or swans (live decoys) are present unless the birds are, and have been for a period of ten (10) consecutive days before hunting, removed from the area or confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals the birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- **Live decoys** may include but are not limited to the following:
  - » Captive-raised and domestic waterfowl that have been released that do not exhibit the natural wariness of man associated with a wild bird.
  - » Waterfowl that do not leave the area when hands are clapped and/or a shotgun is discharged.
  - » Wounded waterfowl that have gone un-retrieved.
  - » Waterfowl whose wings are either pinioned or whose outer primary feathers have been cut or removed to render flight impossible.
  - » Captive-raised domestic ducks and geese (such as Muscovy ducks, Egyptian geese, etc.) may be considered live decoys if they do not exhibit the natural wariness of man associated with a wild bird.
  - » Live ducks, geese, or swans that are either tethered or penned at or near a hunting location.
- It is unlawful to sell **taxidermy-mounted migratory game birds for use as decoys**.
- **It is illegal to use common reed** (i.e. Phragmites) in any manner for the construction of hunting blinds on lands owned or controlled by the Department of Natural Resources.
- It is against the law to construct, or cause to be constructed, **permanent hunting blinds** or tree stands and to leave waterfowl decoys set overnight **on lands owned or controlled by the Department of Natural Resources**, except with written permission from the department.
- It is unlawful to hunt wild **migratory game birds on Sunday**.
- It is against the law to **hunt waterfowl from a sink box** (low-floating device with depression that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water).
- It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl **from or with the aid or use of a motor vehicle** or any other motor-driven land conveyance or any aircraft.
- It is illegal to hunt waterfowl **from or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless** the motor has been completely shut off and /or the sails furled and the boat's progress has ceased.
- It is against the law to hunt migratory game birds **while in possession of any electronic calling device** from which bird calls are conveyed or amplified and to use recordings of migratory game bird calls or sounds or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls **except** in authorized portions of light goose seasons (regular and Conservation Order) where special hunting methods are allowed.
- It is unlawful to **drive, rally or chase waterfowl with any motorized conveyance** or any sailboat to put the birds in the range of hunters.
- **Drones** may only be used to assist in the recovery of wounded or expired migratory game birds. See page 14 for additional information.
- **Captive-raised mallard ducks may not be released to the wild except** under the authority of a Regulated Shooting Area Permit (see Regulated Shooting Areas Requirements, pg. 10), Retriever Training

Permit or a Field Trial Permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Devices and Regulations

(For brant, coots, doves, ducks, geese, rails, snipe and woodcock.)

- It is unlawful to possess an air gun, rifle or pistol at any time while hunting brant, coots, ducks and geese.
- **Only shotguns and some archery equipment may be used** to hunt migratory game birds.
- It is illegal to have a loaded air gun or firearm **in, on, or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes ammunition in the magazine or a muzzleloader ready to fire.
- It is unlawful to hunt with **an automatic firearm** capable of firing a series of shots with one continuous pull of the trigger.
- It is unlawful to have a loaded crossbow **in, on or leaning against a vehicle**.
- A cocked crossbow **without a bolt or arrow in the firing position is considered to be unloaded**.
- **It is against the law to shoot on, from or across** any public road.

Shotguns

- Only shotguns that are **10-gauge or smaller** may be used to hunt migratory game birds.
- Shotguns capable of holding more than three (3) shells **must be plugged** with a one-piece filler which cannot be removed from the loading end. Shotguns **cannot hold more than three shells** in the magazine and chamber combined with the following **exceptions**:
  - » when hunting resident Canada geese during the **September Seasons**.
  - » in authorized portions of regular and Conservation Order light goose seasons that allow special hunting methods.
- **Muzzleloading shotguns may be used** to hunt all migratory game birds.
- **It is illegal** to take brant, coots, ducks, geese, rails and snipe with **lead shot** and to possess lead shot while hunting them. This restriction includes muzzleloading shotguns and taking captive-raised mallards on licensed Regulated Shooting Areas.
- **Nontoxic shot** (as determined by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service) **must be used** when hunting brant, coots, ducks, geese, rails and snipe. See *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/waterfowl_nontoxic_shot.aspx* for current information on nontoxic shot.
- Nontoxic **shot larger than No. T** (.20 inches in diameter) **may not be used** to hunt brant, coots, ducks, geese, rails and snipe.
- **Hunters may not use** or possess **shotgun pumpkin balls, sabots or slugs** while hunting brant, coots, ducks, geese, rails and snipe.
- Doves and woodcock **may be taken** with lead shot.

Archery Equipment

- **Vertical bows may be used** to hunt migratory game birds.
- **Draw locking devices on vertical bows are not permitted** when hunting brant, coots, ducks and geese.
- **Crossbows may not be used** to hunt brant, coots, ducks and geese.
- Crossbows **may be used** to hunt doves, rails, snipe and woodcock.
- The use of poisoned or explosive tipped arrows or bolts **is not permitted**.

Air Guns

- **Air guns may not be used** to hunt migratory birds, **except** air guns that shoot an arrow or bolt may be used to hunt doves and woodcock.

REPORT YOUR BIRD BANDS ONLINE: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

Each year state and federal biologists mark tens of thousands of migratory birds with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report bands recovered from harvested birds receive specific information on when and where the bird was banded while providing important information for migratory bird management. The 1-800 telephone number for reporting bird bands has been discontinued. Hunters who recover a banded migratory bird should now use *www.reportband.gov*. Anyone reporting a band will need the following information: the band number, hunters name and address and the date and location (nearest town) of the harvest.

2026–2027 WATERFOWL SEASONS, DATES AND BAG LIMITS POCKET GUIDE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PRINT OR SAVE A DIGITAL COPY

AYTON TREE NURSERY JUNIOR DOVE HUNT APPLICATION

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY

BLACK BEAR SEASON AND BAG LIMIT 2026	
DATES	BAG LIMIT
Oct. 26–31	1 per hunter/1 per hunting team

- Black Bear hunting season is open in **Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties only**.
- **Only one black bear** may be harvested by a permittee/subpermittee hunting team for the season.
- **Only one** black bear may be harvested per person for the season.
- Black bear **shooting hours are** one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

General Black Bear Hunting Rules

- A hunter **must carry personal photo identification** (such as a driver's license) or a secondary form of positive identification while hunting.
- **Written permission is required** to hunt on private land.
- A **hunting license is required to hunt black bear** (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- A **Black Bear Hunting Permit is required** to hunt black bear. The bear hunting permit is only available through the **Maryland Black Bear Lottery** process as follows:
  - » The 2026 Maryland Black Bear Lottery will be open to receive applications July 15 through August 31.
  - » Hunters have the opportunity to enter a secondary lottery for Washington and Frederick counties.
  - » Hunters will be able to apply through **MD Outdoors** or at any Sport License Agent (see *dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/service_agents.aspx*).
  - » Each applicant must pay a **$15 nonrefundable application fee** and **may only enter once**.
  - » Applicants must comply with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement (pg. 8).
  - » The random **lottery drawing** will be held on September 3, 2026.
- Hunters will be able to check lottery results by viewing a list of the winning DNRid's at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife* by close of business on Thursday, September 3, 2026.
- The Department of Natural Resources will issue a limited number of **Bear Hunting Permits** that will be **valid in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington** counties and **a limited number valid only in Frederick or Washington counties.**
- Each successful applicant (permittee) **may designate up to two sub-permittees** who will be allowed to participate in every aspect of the hunt.

Preference Point System for the Bear Hunting Permit

- Applicants of the bear permit lottery receive one preference point for each year that they enter the drawing but are not selected. Each preference point represents one chance in the next lottery drawing the applicant enters.
- Hunters may elect to purchase a preference point in lieu of entering the lottery in a given year.
- ***NEW*** - Hunters will no longer lose accumulated preference points if they fail to enter the lottery drawing or purchase a preference point in a given year.
- Upon being selected in the permit lottery, the hunter's preference point count resets to zero. This includes applicants that choose to give up their Bear Hunting Permit.
- Applicants will retain their preference points if they participate in the bear hunt as a subpermitte.

Black Bear Hunting Regulations

- Only a member of a bear hunting team **may carry a firearm, air gun or bow** while tracking a wounded bear.
- A retrieved black bear shall **count toward the bag limit of the hunter** who first killed or wounded the bear.
- **Dogs and drones cannot be used** to hunt black bear. **However,** they may be used to find dead, wounded or injured bears. If using a dog, the handler must maintain physical control at all times. Only the hunter, dog handler, or drone operator may carry a hunting device and dispatch a wounded bear while tracking it. Landowner permission must be obtained before tracking. Prior to tracking the bear, the hunter must notify the Natural Resources Police at 410-260-8888 with the following information:
  - » The name, address, telephone number and DNRid of the hunter and dog handler/drone operator;
  - » The general location of the wounded bear; and
  - » The name of the landowner where the search will be conducted.

See page 14 for more information on drones.

- Hunters **may not sell parts of any bear** that has been killed in Maryland.
- **Bait, scent attractants and electronic calls are prohibited** for bear hunting and any potential bait must be removed at least 10 days prior to bear hunting.
- It is not considered to be hunting with the aid of bait if a hunter AND any bear that a hunter shoots at are at least 150 yards from any bait placed for other species (e.g. corn placed to attract deer) that the hunter knows or should have known is present. Salt and mineral supplements are not considered as a source of bait for this species.
- Hunters may not chase or disturb any bear that has **taken refuge in a den**.
- All **bear hunters and people assisting** bear hunters **must wear daylight fluorescent color clothing** (see Fluorescent Color Clothing Requirements and Exceptions, pg. 15).
- A **person that assists** with the removal of a dead bear or escorts hunters into or out of a bear hunting area is **not required to possess a bear hunting permit and must be unarmed**.

Black Bear Tagging and Check-In Procedures

- A hunter killing a black bear shall **attach a field tag to the carcass** of the black bear **before moving the carcass** from the place of the kill**.**
- The **field tag must include** the hunter's name, hunter's DNRid, date of kill, time of kill and the county of kill. Hunters should create their own field tag that includes this information.
- Proof of sex shall remain attached to all field-dressed bear carcasses.
- **The bear carcass may be quartered** or separated into pieces to facilitate retrieval. However, the **head and hide shall remain together** and **proof of sex shall remain attached** to one hindquarter.
- The bear must be **taken to an official bear checking station within 24 hours**. Questions and requests concerning check-in may be referred to the Wildlife and Heritage Service at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area at 301-334-4255.
- The field tag will be exchanged **for a black bear possession tag** which will be securely attached to the carcass.
- Successful black bear hunters **shall forfeit any biological data** or specimens necessary to properly manage this species.

Black Bear Hunting Devices and Regulations

- It is unlawful to have a loaded weapon **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes ammunition in the magazine or a **muzzleloader, airgun, crossbow, or vertical bow** ready to fire.
- **Telescopic and laser sights** may be used on all devices legal for hunting bear.
- Firearms used for bear hunting may only shoot one all-lead, lead alloy, or copper soft-nosed or expanding bullet or ball. Sabots are permitted.
- It is **illegal to shoot on, from or across** any public road.

Rifle Regulations

- Breech-loading rifles smaller than .30 caliber used for bear hunting must develop a **muzzle energy of** at least 1,200 foot pounds. Breech-loading rifles .30 caliber (7.62mm) and larger used for bear hunting have no minimum muzzle energy requirements. Consult ammunition guides for ballistics information.

Shotgun Regulations

- The shotguns referred to here are **loaded from the breech** of the barrel and use shells.
- **Shotguns** used for bear hunting must be **28 gauge or larger**.
- **Shotgun ammunition** used for bear hunting must shoot **a single solid projectile**.

Handgun Regulations

- The handguns referred to here are **loaded from the breech** of the barrel or rear of the cylinder and use cartridges.
- Handguns used for bear hunting must have a **barrel length of six inches** or more and use ammunition which produces a **muzzle energy of** 700 foot-pounds or more. Consult ammunition guides for ballistics information.

Muzzleloader Regulations

- Bear may be hunted with a **muzzleloading rifle, shotgun or handgun** (both single shot and revolvers).
- To be considered a muzzleloader, a rifle, shotgun or handgun **must be loaded from the muzzle**, and a revolver must be loaded from the front of the cylinder.
- **Flintlock, percussion cap and inline ignition muzzleloaders** are legal hunting devices for bear.
- **Muzzleloading rifles or shotguns used for bear hunting** must be at least .40 caliber in size and must use 60 grains of black powder or more (a black powder equivalent is acceptable) and propel one all-lead, lead alloy or copper soft-nosed or expanding bullet or ball at a single discharge.
- **Muzzleloading handguns used for bear hunting must** be at least .40 caliber with a barrel length of at least six inches and must use 40 grains of black powder or more (a black powder equivalent is acceptable) and propel one all-lead, lead alloy or copper soft-nosed or expanding bullet or ball at a single discharge.
- **Sabot loads are legal** for use in muzzleloaders used for bear hunting.
- **Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded** if the ignition system is disabled by removal of the cap, primer, battery or primer powder.

Vertical Bow Regulations

- The **vertical bow** shall have a full draw and **pull of 30 pounds or more** for bear hunting.
- **Draw locking devices** and **release aids** are permitted. Vertical bows using a draw locking device are considered unloaded if there is no arrow nocked.

Crossbow Regulations

- A **crossbow** used for bear hunting shall have **a draw of 75 pounds or more**.
- All crossbows should have a **working safety**.
- A cocked crossbow **without a bolt or arrow in the firing position is considered to be unloaded**.

Air Gun Regulations

- An air gun is defined as any gun that propels a projectile by means of non-ignited compressed air or other gas. Projectiles include bullets, arrows or bolts.
- Certain air guns may be used to hunt bear.
- To be legal for bear hunting an air gun must:
  - » Shoot one .40 caliber or larger bullet or ball at a single discharge which generates at least 400 foot-pounds of muzzle energy; or
  - » Shoot an arrow or bolt at least 18 inches in length with a minimum speed of 300 feet per second at release with a sharpened broadhead with metal points and a minimum width of 7/8 inch.
- The use of poisoned or explosive-tipped arrows or bolts is not permitted.
- An air gun with the projectile removed **is considered to be unloaded.**

Regulations Pertaining to Both Vertical Bows and Crossbows

- Arrows used for bear hunting **must have a sharpened broadhead** with metal points and a minimum width of 7/8 of an inch.
- The use of poisoned or explosive-tipped arrows **is not permitted**.

SUNDAY SMALL GAME HUNTING 2026–2027

The following small game species may be hunted on all Sundays during their open seasons with these restrictions, in these counties and locations.

Eastern cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, eastern fox squirrels, red squirrels, quail (closed in Garrett and Allegany counties), ruffed grouse and pheasants.

COUNTY	LOCATION	SHOOTING HOURS
Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington	Private and **designated public lands***	Shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday
Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Talbot	Private lands only	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am
Somerset	Private lands and public land leased to a hunt club only	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am
Wicomico	Private and **designated public lands***	On private lands, legal shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday. On public lands, they are ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am.
Worcester	Private and **designated public lands***	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am

* **Designated public lands** open to Sunday hunting in **Allegany** (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), **Cecil** (C&D Canal Lands, Earlville WMA, C&D Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), **Garrett** (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), **St. Mary's** (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), **Washington** (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), **Wicomico** (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke River WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and **Worcester** (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA)

Small Game Includes: crows, pheasant, quail, rabbits, ruffed grouse and squirrels.

The Delmarva fox squirrel and snowshoe hare may not be hunted in Maryland.

General Small Game Hunting Rules

- Daily small game shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. See the Sunday hunting chart for Sunday hours within certain counties.
- A hunter **must carry personal photo identification** (such as a driver's license) or a secondary form of positive identification while hunting.
- **Written permission is required** to hunt on private land.
- **A hunting license is required to hunt small game** (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- **Daylight fluorescent color clothing is required** to hunt small game except crows (see Fluorescent Color Clothing Requirements and Exceptions, pg. 15).
- The use of decoys, calls and/or recordings **may be used for crow hunting**.
- It is **against the law to hunt any animal other than deer on the first day of Deer Firearms Season, except coyotes.**

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW, LAPSED AND YOUTH HUNTERS: STOCKED PHEASANT HUNTS

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will once again be offering "do-it-yourself" hunts for stocked pheasants. **Apprentice license holders, junior license holders, new hunters and hunters who have previously held a Maryland hunting license but have let it lapse are eligible to apply.** The pheasant hunts will take place on public lands across the state on November 21 and 22, 2026. Application information, days, locations and other resources are available at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/Mentored-Hunt-Program.aspx*.

Small Game Hunting Devices and Regulations

- Firearms, archery equipment and air guns that shoot bullets, arrows or bolts may be used to hunt small game.
- Shotguns **cannot hold more than three shells** in the magazine and chamber combined. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells **must be plugged** with a one-piece filler which cannot be removed from the loading end.
- **Telescopic and laser sights** may be used on all devices legal for hunting small game.
- **Drones** may only be used to assist in the recovery of wounded or expired small game. See page 14 for additional information.
- It is illegal to have a loaded air gun or firearm **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes ammunition in the magazine or a muzzleloader ready to fire.
- All crossbows should have a **working safety**.
- It is unlawful to have a loaded crossbow **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. A cocked crossbow **without a bolt or arrow in the firing position is considered to be unloaded.**
- It is **illegal to shoot** on, from or across any public road.
- It is unlawful to cast the rays of **an artificial light** from a vehicle on woods, fields, orchards, livestock, wild mammals or birds, dwellings or buildings (see General Regulations for exceptions, pg. 15).

SMALL GAME SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, LOCATIONS 2026–2027

ALL SUNDAY HUNTING DATES ARE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES ONLY, SEE CHART.

	SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	LOCATION	BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
MAMMALS	EASTERN COTTONTAIL RABBIT	Nov. 7–Feb. 28	All counties	4 per day	8
MAMMALS	SQUIRREL GRAY, RED (PINEY) AND EASTERN FOX	Sept. 5–Feb. 28	All counties	6 per day	12
MAMMALS	DELMARVA FOX SQUIRREL	Closed Season			
BIRDS	QUAIL	Closed Season	Allegany and Garrett counties	—	—
BIRDS	QUAIL	Closed Season	Lands owned or managed by the Department of Natural Resources east of the Susquehanna River	—	—
BIRDS	QUAIL	Nov. 7–Jan. 15	Private lands east the Susquehanna River and all lands west of the Susquehanna River, excluding Garrett and Allegany Counties	6 per day	12
BIRDS	RUFFED GROUSE	Oct. 3–Dec. 31	All counties	2 per day	4
BIRDS	PHEASANT	Nov. 7–Feb. 28	All counties	2 per day- either sex	4
BIRDS	CROW	Aug. 15–Mar. 15 Wed.–Sat. only	All counties	No limit	No limit

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Birds Offered:
Pheasant, Chukar and Quail.

Hunting Season:
Open October 1st through March 31st, seven days a week. Only one hunt party is on the preserve at a time, so every hunt is a private hunt.

Dog Training:
Gun dog training offered for all pointing & flushing breeds.
Annual Huntsmith training seminars.

410.836.1800 | Kim@masondixonoutfitters.com
www.masondixonoutfitters.com | Pylesville, MD

SUNDAY FURBEARER HUNTING 2026–2027

The following furbearer species may be hunted on all Sundays during their open seasons with these restrictions, in these counties and locations.

Coyotes, fishers, foxes, opossums, raccoons and skunks.

COUNTY	LOCATION	SHOOTING HOURS
Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington	Private and **designated public lands***	Shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday
Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester and Queen Anne's	Private lands only	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am
Somerset	Private lands and public land leased to a hunt club only	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am
Wicomico	Private and **designated public lands***	On private lands, legal shooting hours are the same as Monday through Saturday. On public lands, they are ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am.
Worcester Only trapping permit holders or their appointees may hunt furbearers on WMAs from Nov. 15–March 15	Private and **designated public lands***	Legal shooting hours on Sundays are from ½ hour before sunrise until 10:30 am

* **Designated public lands** open to Sunday hunting in **Allegany** (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), **Cecil** (C&D Canal Lands, Earlville WMA, C&D Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), **Garrett** (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), **St. Mary's** (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), **Washington** (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), **Wicomico** (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke River WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and **Worcester** (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA)

Furbearers include: beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox, river otter and skunk

Bobcat may not be taken in Maryland.

Woodchuck and Nutria

The **woodchuck (groundhog)** is classified as an **"unprotected mammal."** As such:

- A **hunting license and furbearer permit are not required** to hunt woodchucks.
- Woodchucks **may be hunted throughout the year**, including Sundays.
- Hunters **must wear daylight fluorescent color clothing** while hunting woodchucks.
- All **hunting devices legal for other game animals** may be used to hunt woodchucks.

Through the long-term efforts of state and federal agencies, nutria are now considered to be eradicated within Maryland.

Daily furbearer **shooting hours** are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset (unless otherwise specified).

Furbearer Seasons, Bag Limits, Locations and Resident Requirements ..... pg. 55
Furbearer Permit and Exceptions and Trapper Education Requirements ..... pg. 56
Furbearer Hunting and Chasing Regulations ..... pg. 56
Furbearer Trapping Regulations ..... pg. 57

General Furbearer Regulations

- A hunter **must carry personal photo identification** (such as a driver's license) or a secondary form of positive identification while hunting.
- **Written permission is required** to hunt or trap on private land.
- A **hunting license is required to hunt or trap** furbearers (with exceptions). See Hunting Licenses, Stamps and Permits (pgs. 8–13) for Armed Forces information and hunting license costs, exceptions, purchasing, requirements and types.
- A **Nonresident Hunting License and Nonresident Trapping License are required** of nonresidents **to trap furbearers** in Maryland (pg. 10).
- A Furbearer Permit **is required to hunt, chase or trap any furbearer in Maryland** (see Furbearer Permit and Exceptions, pg. 56).
- The furbearers that **may be hunted and trapped** are:
  - » coyote
  - » fisher
  - » gray fox
  - » opossum
  - » raccoon
  - » red fox
  - » skunk
- The following species **may only be trapped**:
  - » beaver
  - » long-tailed weasel
  - » mink
  - » muskrat
  - » river otter
- Destroying or disturbing **furbearer dens** is prohibited.
- A permit is required to possess **the meat or skinned carcass of a furbearer** for more than 10 days after the season has closed. Permits can be obtained from the Natural Resources Police (see pg. 6 for addresses).
- The pelt or unskinned carcasses of all **fisher and river otter** harvested must be tagged within 15 days after the season has closed. Fisher and otter pelt tags may be obtained by contacting local offices of either the Wildlife and Heritage Service or Natural Resources Police (pg. 6).
- Trappers are required to submit the whole, skinned carcass of any **river otter harvested in Allegany and Garrett** counties to the Wildlife and Heritage Service. Call 301-777-2136 for assistance.
- The pelts or unskinned carcasses of furbearers harvested in Maryland that are transported across the state line must have a "**Fur Shipping Tag**" accompanying them. These tags are available through MD Outdoors or by contacting local offices of either the Wildlife and Heritage Service or Natural Resources Police.
- **On Wildlife Management Areas** in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties: only trapping permit holders or their appointees **can hunt or trap furbearers** between Nov. 15 and March 15.
- ***NEW*** - Within 48 hours of harvesting a gray fox, hunters and trappers must register their game with the Department of Natural Resources using one of the following:
  - » MD Outdoors
  - » The Department of Natural Resources official mobile app (MD Outdoors)
  - » Call 410-260-8900
- **Fox Restrictions**: Some counties have local restrictions governing fox hunting and trapping and the possession of foxes and/or their pelts. For detailed information, contact local law enforcement authorities. The following regulations apply:
  - » In Charles and Dorchester counties, a person may hunt and trap fox or possess the pelt of a fox any time of the year.
  - » It is unlawful to kill a fox being pursued by dogs in Cecil, Harford, Kent and Wicomico counties.

FURBEARER SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, LOCATIONS AND RESIDENT REQUIREMENTS 2026–2027

ALL SUNDAY HUNTING DATES ARE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES ONLY, SEE CHART.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	LOCATION	BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
BEAVER – TRAPPING ONLY	Dec. 15–March 15	All counties **except** Allegany and Garrett	No limit	No limit
	Dec. 1–March 15	Allegany and Garrett counties	No limit	No limit
BOBCAT	Closed Season			
COYOTE FIREARMS, ARCHERY AND AIRGUN HUNTING	Coyotes may be hunted year-round in all counties, day and night		No limit	No limit
COYOTE TRAPPING	Coyote: Nov. 14–Feb. 28	in that portion of the state east of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No limit	No limit
	Coyote: Oct. 31–Feb. 15	in that portion of the state west of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No limit	No limit
FISHER AND LONG-TAILED WEASEL	Oct. 31–Feb. 1	All counties	4 per day	4 per season
FOX (RED AND GRAY) TRAPPING, FIREARMS, ARCHERY AND AIRGUN HUNTING	Aug. 1–July 31	Charles and Dorchester counties	No limit	No limit
	Nov. 14–Feb. 28	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties	No limit	No limit
	Oct. 31–Feb. 15	Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Washington counties	No limit	No limit
MUSKRAT AND MINK TRAPPING ONLY	Nov. 14–Feb. 15	Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard and Washington counties	No limit	No limit
	Jan. 1–March 15	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Talbot and Wicomico counties	No limit	No limit
	Dec. 15–March 15	Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Worcester counties	No limit	No limit
RIVER OTTER – TRAPPING ONLY	Dec. 15–March 15	All counties except Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington	10 per day	10 per season
	Dec. 15–March 15	Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties	2 per day	2 per season
	Dec. 1–March 15	Allegany and Garrett counties		
	Trappers are required to submit the whole, skinned carcass of any river otter taken in Allegany or Garrett counties. Call 301-777-2136, Western Regional Office.			
RACCOON AND OPOSSUM CHASING - NO KILL	Aug. 1–Oct. 14 March 16–July 31	All counties	—	—
RACCOON AND OPOSSUM FIREARMS, ARCHERY, AIRGUN AND DOG HUNTING	Oct. 15–March 15	Raccoons and opossums may be hunted in all counties, day and night	No limit	No limit
RACCOON, SKUNK AND OPOSSUM TRAPPING	Nov. 14–Mar. 15	in that portion of the state east of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No limit	No limit
	Oct. 31–Mar 15.	in that portion of the state west of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River		
SKUNK – FIREARMS, ARCHERY AND AIRGUN HUNTING	Oct. 31–Mar. 15	All counties	No limit	No limit

- **Daylight fluorescent color** clothing is not required to hunt or trap furbearers.
- **Sunday hunting for certain furbearers is permitted** with restrictions in some counties and locations. See the Sunday hunting chart.

Furbearer Permit and Exceptions and Trapper Education Requirements

Furbearer Permit

- A Furbearer Permit **is required to hunt, chase or trap any furbearer.**
- **A Furbearer Permit (pg. 10) is required** of persons participating in the **unarmed chasing of fox and raccoons** and **it is required** of those **Who May Hunt Without a License** (pg. 12) to hunt, chase or trap any furbearer.
- **An Individual Furbearer Permit** can be purchased by anyone. Those who use it for trapping must meet the conditions of the Trapper Education Requirement listed on this page.

- A representative of an association or group that chases or hunts furbearers may obtain the **Group Furbearer Permit**. Members or guests of an association or group with a Group Furbearer Permit are not required to have an Individual Furbearer Permit. A Group Furbearer Permit holder must submit a report to the Department of Natural Resources by September 1 following the end of each permit year.

Furbearer Permit Exceptions

Those who are not required to have a Furbearer Permit are:

- A person who possesses a **Wildlife Damage Control Permit** and is engaging in the control of fur-bearing mammals in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit.
- A landowner who possesses a **Landowner Wildlife Damage Control Permit**.
- A person who possesses an Apprentice Hunting License.
- A Furbearer Permit is also not required for:
  - » A **landowner** to destroy a muskrat that is damaging an embankment or impoundment.
  - » A **landowner** to hunt or trap a coyote, fox or skunk that is damaging or destroying the personal or real property of the landowner on their land.
  - » The **owner of a marsh** or the owner's employees to hunt any raccoon which destroys a muskrat or its home in a marsh area within the state.
  - » A **landowner** or the landowner's agent to set or use traps or similar devices at any time to trap raccoons or opossums which are damaging property.

Trapper Education Requirement

- **Any person who traps or attempts to trap furbearers under the authority of a Furbearer Permit must first obtain a Certificate of Trapper Education from the Department of Natural Resources (or a designee of the department).**
- **The Certificate is not required if** the person possesses an apprentice hunting license or held a Furbearer Permit prior to August 1, 2007.
- Any similar certificate **issued by another state is acceptable** as complying with the educational requirements if the privileges are reciprocal for Maryland residents.
- For information about Trapper Education Courses, please contact the **Wildlife and Heritage Service,** 410-260-8540 or customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov or visit: *dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/Pages/trappered.aspx*
- **All trappers** are encouraged to participate in a trapper education course. These courses are held statewide.

Furbearer Hunting and Chasing Regulations

- **Firearms, archery equipment and air guns may be used to hunt** coyote, fisher, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk.
- A hunter pursuing these furbearers must possess a valid Furbearer Permit.
- It is **illegal to shoot** a beaver, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat or river otter.
- Some counties have local **restrictions governing fox** hunting, trapping and the possession of foxes and/or their pelts. For detailed information, contact local law enforcement authorities. The following regulations apply:
  - » In **Charles and Dorchester** counties, a person may hunt and trap fox or possess the pelt of a fox any time of the year.
  - » It is unlawful to kill a fox being pursued by dogs in **Cecil, Harford, Kent and Wicomico** counties.
- An unarmed person participating in an **organized fox chase** may chase foxes on Sundays.
- Fox hunting **with the aid of dogs** is prohibited during the deer Firearms Season with the exception of unarmed fox chasing.
- **Daytime and nighttime hunting for foxes** is permitted during the legal harvest season for foxes.
- It is unlawful to hunt any animal other than deer on the first day of Deer Firearms Season, except coyotes.
- **Coyotes** may be hunted, day and night, year-round in all counties.
- **Raccoons** that are destroying muskrats and/or their dens may be hunted any time of the year by owners of the affected marshlands or their employees.
- The **use of artificial light** and/or dogs is permitted while hunting coyotes, foxes, opossums or raccoons on foot.
- Coyotes, fishers, foxes, opossums, raccoons and skunks can be hunted with the aid of **electronic calling devices**.
- **Telescopic and laser sights** may be used on all devices legal for hunting furbearers.
- It is **against the law to shoot** on, from or across any public road.

- **Drones** may only be used to assist in the recovery of wounded or expired furbearers. See page 14 for additional information.

Firearms

Taking coyote, fisher, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk with firearms is subject to these regulations:

- A shotgun **may not** hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- **Rifles and handguns** may be used. Full metal-jacketed, incendiary, or tracer bullets **may not be used.**
- **Muzzleloading** rifles, shotguns and handguns may be used. To be considered a muzzleloader, a rifle, shotgun or handgun must be loaded from the muzzle, and a revolver must be loaded from the front of the cylinder. Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded if the ignition system is disabled by removal of the cap, primer, battery or primer powder.
- It is illegal to have a loaded firearm **in, on or leaning against any vehicle**. This includes ammunition in the magazine or a muzzleloader ready to fire.

Archery Equipment

Taking coyote, fisher, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk with archery equipment is subject to these regulations:

- **Vertical bows** may be used. Draw locking devices and release aids are legal for hunting these furbearers.
- **Crossbows** may be used. All crossbows should have a **working safety**.
- The use of poisoned or explosive-tipped arrows or bolts **is not permitted**.
- It is illegal to have a **loaded crossbow** in, on or leaning against a vehicle.
- A cocked crossbow **without a bolt or arrow in the firing position is considered to be unloaded**.

Air Guns

- Air guns that shoot bolts, bullets, or arrows **may be used** to take coyote, fisher, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk.
- It is unlawful to have a loaded air gun **in, on or leaning against a vehicle.**
- An air gun with the projectile removed **is considered to be unloaded.**

Unarmed Fox Chasing

Unarmed fox chasing is not included in the statutory definition of hunting. However, it is subject to Department of Natural Resources regulations. Individuals participating in the unarmed chasing of fox must possess an **Individual Furbearer Permit** or be a part of an organized group that possesses a **Group Furbearer Permit** (see pgs. 10 and 56). Additional permits may also be required to chase foxes on certain public lands. All activities on Department of Natural Resources owned and managed properties are subject to the department public land regulations.

Furbearer Trapping Regulations

- Anyone who uses a snare, trap or another similar device to capture wildlife must include their DNRid number either stamped on the device or affixed by metal tag. Any trap placed on private property that is owned or rented by the person placing the device, is exempt from this requirement.

FURBEARER HUNTING & TRAPPING

- **It is unlawful to tamper with** and remove the catch from **any legally set trap.**
- All individuals who trap furbearers must possess a **Furbearer Permit** (pgs. 10 and 56) unless exempt from the requirement.
- **Written permission is required** to trap or hunt on another person's property, including publicly owned properties. See 'Public Hunting lands' (pgs. 60-63) for additional information.
- It is illegal to set or maintain any **foothold, body-gripping or snare trap** within 150 yards of a permanent human residence with the following **exceptions**:
  - » These traps can be used on state, federal or private wetlands.
  - » These traps can be used on lands that qualify for agricultural assessment, timberlands and lands used for reforestation.
  - » Body-gripping traps with a diameter of less than six inches can be used when completely submerged in water.
  - » In Harford and Howard counties: landowners and lessees of privately-owned land may use these traps **on their property** as long as they are not within 150 yards of **another person's permanent residence**.
- **Traps must be checked** once per calendar day except those traps that are set in water or tidal marshes which must be checked once per two days.
- **In tidal areas**, landowners and their agents or lessees have **exclusive rights to muskrats** and other furbearers above the mean low water line.
- Any furbearer caught during the legal trapping season for that species **may be released** on site, but **may not be transported** from the point of capture unless it has been killed.
- Animals caught during the closed season for that species **must be released on site**.

Legal Trapping Devices

Body-gripping traps, box traps, foothold traps and snares are legal trapping devices and are subject to compliance with the following restrictions and conditions:

Body-Gripping Traps

Body-gripping traps with a diameter **greater than eight inches** can be set when partially or totally submerged in water.

Body-gripping traps with a diameter of **eight inches or less** can be set above ground in bogs, flooded non-tidal wetlands, fresh water marshes, tidal wetlands, wooded swamps, in areas where water covers the surface of the soil or in areas where the soil is waterlogged to the surface. In all other areas these traps may be set when partially or totally submerged in water.

Foothold Traps

The use of **toothed or serrated jawed** traps is prohibited. All traps must possess smooth jaws.

Traps set above the waterline must not exceed a maximum jaw spread of 5¾ inches. Traps set below the waterline and completely submerged cannot exceed a maximum jaw spread of 7¾ inches. (Jaw spread means the distance between the inside of both jaws, when measured across the trap jaws on a line perpendicular to a line drawn through the jaw pivot points when the trap is in the set position.)

In Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties **foothold traps cannot be set to capture furbearers unless** completely submerged in water with the following exceptions:

- Traps can be set above the waterline on farmland by the owner(s) of the property, members of owner(s) immediate family that reside on the property and the landowner(s) agent, tenant or lessee.
- Traps can be set above the waterline in response to wildlife control concerns by authorized agents of the Department of Natural Resources, and according to guidelines established by the department.

Snare Traps

It is **illegal** to use, sell, possess, set, place or maintain **a snare trap** in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

FALCONRY HUNTING

Falconry Regulations

- Hunting with birds of prey (here referred to as Falconry) is permitted **one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset**, Sunday through Saturday **except**:
  - » Migratory game birds may not be hunted on Sunday.
- **A valid hunting license and a Falconry Permit** are required to hunt with birds of prey.
- **A Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, a valid hunting license and a Falconry Permit are required** to hunt migratory game birds with birds of prey.
- Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds are listed on page 47.
- The Falconry Season for squirrels (red, gray and eastern fox) is from September 1 to March 31.
- The Falconry Season for ruffed grouse is from October 1 to March 31.
- The Falconry Season for ring-necked pheasant (either sex), bobwhite quail and cottontail rabbit is from November 1 to March 31. All bobwhite quail hunting is prohibited on lands owned or managed by the Department of Natural Resources east of the Susquehanna River.
- Hunters using birds of prey are required to follow the daily **bag limits and possession limits** set for those species being taken.
- Hunters using birds of prey are encouraged, but **not required to wear daylight fluorescent color clothing**.
- Potential falconers should know the possession of birds of prey is closely regulated by federal and state law.

For more information, contact the Permits Coordinator for the Wildlife and Heritage Service at wildlifepermits.dnr@maryland.gov or 301-501-0202.

BRING ARCHERY TO YOUR SCHOOL!

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NASP
National Archery in the Schools Program

Discover

The National Archery in the Schools Program is an in-school program for students in grades 4-12 that gives every student the opportunity to learn to shoot a bow safely.

Enroll

Getting started is easy! Contact the state coordinator, and select educators to teach NASP lessons. These educators will receive training to become certified archery instructors.

Next, purchase a set of NASP approved equipment to safely set up their range. There are opportunities available for new schools that cover nearly half of your equipment costs!

Compete

NASP can expand into extra curricular opportunities such as after school programs, clubs, and competition teams.

Students can represent their school at tournaments held throughout the state, where they can compete for awards, recognition, and even scholarships!

Maryland State Coordinator
Ashley Moreland
ashleym.moreland@maryland.gov

Visit our website for more information!

Connect·Discover·Hunt
Maryland Mentored Hunt Program

Interested in learning to hunt or mentoring a new hunter?

Scan the code to get involved!

Scan the QR Code for a First Harvest Certificate

You can receive a certificate for each of your first harvests of many game species.

All hunters are invited to participate including Mentored Hunters.

Use this QR code to access the First Harvest Certificate order form.

Email a photograph to be included on the certificate.

The Maryland Wildlife and Heritage will create the certificate and send you a hard copy and/or electronic copy.

First Harvest

Public Hunting Lands

Public hunting lands consist of Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas, Fishery Management Areas, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission managed lands, State Forests including Chesapeake Forest Lands, State Parks (which include Natural Environment Areas and Natural Resources Management Areas), Wildlife Management Areas and other county, federal, municipal and state properties that allow hunting. The following bullets and list contain information about those public hunting lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

- Hunting and trapping is permitted in accordance with state and federal laws and the restrictions for each area.
- Only temporary stands and blinds may be used and must be removed at the end of each day.
- Target shooting is permitted only at designated shooting ranges.
- The use of hunting dogs is permitted.
- Possession or use of hunting devices is prohibited in state forests and state parks outside of regular open hunting seasons.
- On Chesapeake Forest Lands an individual may not hunt within 150 yards of an occupied building or camp and within 150 feet of any exterior Chesapeake Forest Lands boundary. See *dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/chesapeakeforestlands.aspx* for maps, conditions, regulations and information on CFLs.
- Maps of public hunting lands are available on the Department of Natural Resources website (*dnr.maryland.gov*). A consolidated listing of areas for hunters with mobility impairments can also be found on this website at *dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/accessibleactivities.aspx?activity=AccessibleHunting*.
- Hunters should contact the appropriate managing authority for information on public hunting opportunities not listed here, such as National Wildlife Refuges, military installations, or other government-owned properties.
- CFL - Chesapeake Forest Land
- CWMA - Cooperative Wildlife Management Area
- FMA - Fishery Management Area
- MNCPPC - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- NEA - Natural Environment Area
- NRMA - Natural Resources Management Area
- WMA - Wildlife Management Area

ALLEGANY

Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA S
1,114 acres. Call 301-478-2525.

Dan's Mountain WMA S
10,622 acres. Call 301-478-2525.

Green Ridge State Forest S
49,000 acres. Free permit required for trapping, call 301-478-3124.

McCoole FMA S
16 acres. Includes boat ramp to North Branch Potomac River 301-334-8218.

Rocky Gap State Park
1,451 acres (general hunting), 300 acres (archery only). Special provisions to assist mobility-impaired hunters during the deer Firearms Season. Hunting permitted Monday-Saturday. 301-722-1480.

Warrior Mountain WMA S
Warrior Mt 5,305 acres. Call 301-478-2525.

Key

- .....public archery range
- ...provisions to hunt from a vehicle, call each area for other conditions that may apply
- .....provisions for hunters with mobility impairments, call each area for site conditions
- FREE ....free permit required
- .....public shooting range
- .....daily sign-in required
- .....trapping allowed by permit
- S .....limited Sunday hunting allowed
- RR ...reservation required

ANNE ARUNDEL

Holly Beach Farm NRMA FREE RR
293 acres. Deer and small game hunting. Waterfowl hunting at designated blind sites. Reservations required to access the property. 301-743-5161

Sandy Point State Park FREE RR
258 acres. Deer archery hunting. Waterfowl hunting at designated offshore sites during the third split of the waterfowl season only. Boat access only for waterfowl. For deer and waterfowl reservations contact: 301-743-5161.

Crownsville CWMA FREE RR
550 acres. Deer hunting only. Opens the Monday after Thanksgiving. 301-743-5161.

Patapsco Valley State Park
See Baltimore County.

Severn Run NEA FREE RR
490 acres. Deer archery hunting. 301-743-5161.

BALTIMORE

Gunpowder Falls State Park FREE
3,000 acres.

- **Hammerman, Hart-Miller Island, Days Cove and North Point Areas:** Waterfowl blinds by lottery and/or by daily reservation. 410-356-9272 FREE RR
- **Hereford Area and Jarrettsville Pike Area:** Archery Deer FREE
- **Sweet Air Area, Franklinville Area and Dundee Creek Area:** Archery deer FREE RR

Gwynnbrook WMA FREE
35 acres. Archery hunting only. 410-356-9272.

Liberty Reservoir FREE
9,200 acres. Archery hunting only for all game species. No waterfowl hunting. Archery hunting permit available on page 63 or online at *dnr.maryland.gov*. 410-356-9272.

Loch Raven Reservoir FREE
1,600 acres. Deer archery hunting only. Archery hunting permit available on page 63 or online at *dnr.maryland.gov*. 410-356-9272.

North Point State Park FREE
300 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-356-9272.

Patapsco Valley State Park FREE
(For the Norbeck Area formerly known as the Mercer property, see Carroll County) 4,219 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-356-9272 Park information: 410-461-5005.

Prettyboy Reservoir FREE
7,380 acres. Archery hunting only for all game species. No waterfowl hunting. Archery hunting permit available on page 63 or online at *dnr.maryland.gov*. 410-356-9272.

Soldiers Delight NEA FREE RR
1,425 acres. Deer hunting by permit only. 410-356-9272.

CALVERT

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA FREE RR
175 acres. Deer and turkey hunting only. No Sat. hunting for deer until Dec. 1. No Sat. hunting during Spring Turkey except youth day.

Calvert Cliffs State Park FREE
600 acres. 301-743-5161.

Flag Ponds Park CWMA FREE RR
100 acres. Deer archery hunting only. Opens to hunting the Monday before the late Muzzleloader Season split. 301-743-5161.

Hall Creek NRMA FREE RR
275 acres. Reservation required for waterfowl site. 301-743-5161.

Hughes Tree Farm CWMA FREE RR
170 acres. Deer and turkey hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Huntingtown Area of King's Landing NRMA FREE RR
960 acres. Hunting within King's Landing NRMA is allowed only in the Huntingtown Area which is north of Cocktown Creek. Hunting is not permitted in the Calvert County managed King's Landing Park. Reservation required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Parkers Creek WMA
1,810 acres. Deer hunting only. 301-743-5161.

CAROLINE

Ayton Tree Nursery
5 acres. Dove hunting by lottery only. Limited to youth age 16 and under with unarmed licensed adult. Limited to 4 junior hunters per day. Application (see page 49) due by 2 p.m. August 18, 2026 with drawing on August 18th, 2026 410-673-2467, *https://nursery.dnr.maryland.gov/*

ATTENTION HUNTERS

Commercial computer and cell phone map applications are not to be construed or used as a legal description of public land boundaries. Hunters are personally responsible for following rules and regulations concerning property boundaries and trespassing. Trespassing on private property is a serious crime and punishable under Maryland law. This includes all private property land adjacent to public hunting lands.

Bridgetown Ponds
100 acres. Deer archery hunting only. Restricted season, contact park for season details. Daily sign-in required. 410-820-1668.

Idylwild WMA
3,600 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-376-3236.

Merrikan Gordy Complex CFL
399 acres. 410-632-3732.

Messenger Branch Complex CFL
372 acres. 410-632-3732.

Seipp Complex CFL
30 acres. 410-632-3732.

Tuckahoe State Park
1,000 acres. General Hunting. Migratory goose hunting by lottery. Applications available online at: *dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/Tuckahoe/Hunting.aspx* 410-820-1668.

CARROLL

Avondale WMA
180 acres. 410-356-9272.

Farver CWMA
45 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-356-9272.

Hahn CWMA
25 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-356-9272.

Hanover Watershed CWMA
337 acres. 410-356-9272.

Maring CWMA
237 acres. 410-356-9272.

Morgan Run NEA
600 acres. Deer hunting by permit only. 410-356-9272.

Patapsco Valley State Park
See Baltimore County.
Norbeck Area: 150 acres. Deer hunting by permit only 410-356-9272.

Sawmill CWMA
600 acres. 410-356-9272.

Speigel CWMA
250 acres. 410-356-9272.

Woodbrook CWMA
522 acres. 410-356-9272.

CECIL

Bohemia River State Park
270 acres. Deer hunting only. Archery, and firearms (limited firearms dates, see permit packet for more information, shotgun or straight wall rifle only). 410-356-9272.

C & D Canal Lands
410-356-9272.
- **Bethel**: 400 acres. Archery hunting only for deer on Saturday and Sunday only;
- **Courthouse Point**: 315 acres. Archery hunting only for deer;
- **Elk Forest**: 242 acres;
- **Grove Neck**: Waterfowl only from two blind sites on the Sassafras River. No on site boat access available;
- **Stemmers Run**: 750 acres. Boat access restricted to waterfowl hunting only; Closed until further notice;
- **Welch Point**: 77 acres;

Earleville WMA
195 acres. 410-356-9272.

Elk Neck State Forest
3,695 acres. 410-287-5675.

Elk Neck State Park
394 acres. Deer and waterfowl hunting by permit only. 410-356-9272. Area information 410-287-5333

Fair Hill NRMA
4,350 acres. Deer archery hunting (3,605 acres), raccoon hunting (3,500 acres), and a falconry program for small game (870 acres). 410-398-1246.

Grove Farm WMA
1230 acres. 410-356-9272.

Old Bohemia WMA
975 acres. 410-356-9272.

CHARLES

Cedar Point WMA
1,920 acres. Permit and reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Cedarville State Forest
1,600 acres. Sign-in required. 301-743-5161.

Chapel Point State Park
550 acres. Call for mobility impaired hunting access. 301-743-5161.

Chapman State Park (Mt. Aventine Parcel)
800 acres. Deer and waterfowl only. Waterfowl by boat access only. Permit required. Call for mobility impaired hunting access. 301-743-5161.

Chicamuxen WMA
381 acres. Permit and reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Doncaster Demonstration Forest
1,700 acres. 301-743-5161.

Indian Creek NRMA
650 acres. 301-743-5161.

Maxwell Hall NRMA
Waterfowl Hunting at designated blind sites. Water access only. 301-743-5161

Myrtle Grove WMA
5,191 acres. 301-743-5161.

Nanjemoy Creek WMA
277 acres. Permit and reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Nanjemoy WMA
1,806 acres (general hunting), 140 acres (archery only). Permit and reservations only required for the Douglas Point waterfowl site. 301-743-5161.

Popes Creek WMA
522 acres. 301-743-5161.

Riverside WMA
1110 acres. Permit and reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Smallwood State Park
Newburg Area. Waterfowl Hunting only. Access is by boat. 301-743-5161

Swanson Creek WMA
70 acres. General hunting by permit and reservation. Deer hunting is archery only. 301-743-5161.

Tayloes Neck Tract (State Forest)
470 acres. Permit and reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Zekiah Swamp NEA
Waterfowl hunting only. Boat access only. 301-743-5161.

DORCHESTER

Baumgarthner-Southam Complex CFL
210 acres. 410-632-3732.

Fishing Bay WMA
30,387 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-376-3236.

Hoernicke-Oliphant Complex CFL
368 acres. 410-632-3732.

Insley Complex CFL
450 acres. 410-632-3732.

LeCompte WMA
747 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. No squirrel hunting. Waterfowl hunting on tidal waters of Chicamacomico River. Waterfowl hunting blinds for mobility-impaired only on managed impoundment (permit required). 410-376-3236.

Lewis Complex CFL
1,562 acres. Waterfowl hunting allowed in designated areas within State boundary only. Refer to map at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/300_D26_Lewis.pdf.* 410-632-3732.

Linkwood WMA
313 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-376-3236.

Marshyhope Complex CFL
3,454 acres. 410-632-3732.

Nanticoke River WMA
See also Wicomico County 410-376-3236
- **Calloway Wharf:** 55 acres. Water access only;
- **Lower Marshyhope Swamp:** 415 acres. Water access only. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process;

Tar Bay WMA
12 acres. Waterfowl (water access only). 410-376-3236

Taylors Island WMA
1,114 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Primarily boat access. 410-376-3236.

FREDERICK

Cunningham Falls State Park
4,400 acres. General Hunting. Limited free reservations required for limited mobility hunters (call number below). Free permit required to hunt furbearers at night. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-271-7574.

Frederick City Watershed CWMA
7,300 acres. Free permit required to hunt furbearers at night. 301-842-2702. Hunting permitted Monday-Saturday.

Gravel Hill Swamp WMA
69 acres. Archery hunting only. 301-842-2702

Heater's Island WMA
194 acres. Boat access only. 301-842-2702.

Monocacy NRMA
1,800 acres. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-924-2127

Ridenour Swamp WMA
82 acres. Archery hunting only. 301-842-2702.

South Mountain State Park
1,115 acres. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday on designated state owned property; call park for areas. Hunting prohibited on National Park Service property. 301-791-4767

Urbana FMA
60 acres. Archery hunting only - all legal species. 301-898-5443.

GARRETT

Cunningham Swamp WMA
328 acres. 301-334-4255.

Deep Creek Lake NRMA
Goose hunting at designated sites. For information call 301-387-5563. For trapping permit call 301-334-4255.

Deep Creek Lake State Park
551 acres. No firearms hunting until Oct. 15, 2024. Special Goose Season in November. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-387-5563.

Mt. Nebo WMA
1,854 acres. 301-334-4255.

Potomac-Garrett State Forest
19,000 acres. For trapping permit call 301-334-4255.

Sang Run State Park
122 acres. Hunting permitted Monday-Saturday. 301-387-5563.

Savage River State Forest
55,185 acres. For trapping permit call 301-895-5759.

Wolf Den Run State Park
1986 acres. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-334-9180.

Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA
900 acres. 301-334-4255.

Youghiogheny Wild River NEA
1,200 acres. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-387-5563.

HARFORD

Gunpowder Falls State Park
See Baltimore County.

Rocks State Park
- **Deer Creek Area**: 120 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-557-7994.
- **Cameron Area**: 105 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-356-9272.

Stoney Demonstration Forest FREE RR

- **James Run Tract:** 318 acres. 410-356-9272.
- **Grays Run Tract:** 528 acres, 410-356-9272

Susquehanna State Park FREE RR

650 acres. Deer archery hunting only. Waterfowl blinds by daily reservation. 410-356-9272, Park information: 410-557-7994.

HOWARD

Hugg-Thomas WMA FREE RR

276 acres. 410-356-9272.

Patapsco Valley State Park

See Baltimore County.

Patuxent River State Park

4,750 acres. 301-924-2127

KENT

Cypress Branch State Park

75 acres. Archery deer hunting only. Due to the very limited wooded area, only 3 hunters in the morning and 3 hunters in the afternoon are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis. Daily sign in required. 410-820-1668.

Millington WMA FREE RR

4,002 acres. 410-928-3650. Free Public Hunting Permit and reservation required for spring turkey hunting and waterfowl blinds. 410-356-9272.

Sassafras NRMA

1,000 acres. General hunting with restrictions. Migratory goose hunting by lottery only. Restrictions and applications available online at: *dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands*. 410-820-1668.

MONTGOMERY

Cherrington CWMA (MNCPPC)

275 acres. Deer hunting only. 410-356-9272.

Islands of the Potomac WMA

Boat access only. 410-356-9272.

- **Mason Island**: 274 acres
- **Oxley Island**: 35 acres
- **Maddox Island**: 169 acres

Key

- ..... public archery range
- ... provisions to hunt from a vehicle, call each area for other conditions that may apply
- ..... provisions for hunters with mobility impairments, call each area for site conditions
- FREE .... free permit required
- ..... public shooting range
- ..... daily sign-in required
- ..... trapping allowed by permit
- S ..... limited Sunday hunting allowed
- RR ... reservation required

McKee-Beshers WMA

1,960 acres. 410-356-9272.

Patuxent River State Park

See Howard County.

Seneca Creek State Park

650 acres for general hunting and 2,500 acres for deer archery hunting only.

- **Schaeffer Farm**: Deer hunting; RR 410-356-9272.

Strider WMA FREE RR

170 acres. Archery hunting only. 410-356-9272.

PRINCE GEORGE'S

Aquasco Farm CWMA (MNCPPC) FREE RR

150 acres. Deer hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Belt Woods NEA FREE RR

458 acres. Deer hunting only. Reservations only required during muzzleloader and firearms seasons. 301-743-5161.

Bowen WMA FREE RR

300 acres. Waterfowl and rail hunting only. Boat access only. 301-743-5161.

Cedarville State Forest

See Charles County.

Cheltenham WMA FREE RR

60 acres. Dove and deer archery hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Gardner Road Park CWMA (MNCPPC) FREE RR

120 acres. Deer hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Marlboro Natural Area CWMA (MNCPPC) FREE RR

637 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Merkle NRMA FREE RR

1500 acres, deer archery hunting only. 301-743-5161. Dove hunting on designated fields T, Th, S in September by reservation.

Milltown Landing NRMA FREE RR

250 acres. Reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

National Park Service Blind Sites FREE RR

Waterfowl hunting only. Boat access only. 301-743-5161.

Nottingham NRMA FREE RR

329 acres. Reservations only required for waterfowl sites. 301-743-5161.

Billingsley CWMA (MNCPPC) FREE RR

400 acres. Deer archery hunting only. Open Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. to one and a half hours after sunset. 301-743-5161.

Queen Anne Bridge Rd. CWMA (MNCPPC) FREE RR

182 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Rosaryville State Park FREE

460 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 301-743-5161.

Spice Creek NRMA FREE RR

230 acres. Reservations only required for waterfowl site. 301-743-5161.

QUEEN ANNE'S

Browns Branch WMA RR FREE

1,172 acres. 410-356-9272.

Tuckahoe State Park

See Caroline County.

Wye Island NRMA

2,500 acres. Archery hunting is available first come first served during deer archery season. Archery hunting is not permitted on youth firearm Saturday.
Deer firearms and goose hunting by lottery. Raccoon Hunting - Limited season *https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/WyeIsland/Hunting.aspx 410-820-1668*

SOMERSET

Brice Stump Complex CFL

1,663 acres. Located off Allen Road and Route 13. 410-632-3732

Cedar Island WMA

3,081 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Boat access only. 410-651-2065

Deal Island WMA

13,565 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Impoundment areas open to hunting during: September Resident Canada goose season and Youth/Veteran/Military waterfowl hunting days. **Lottery permit required for all regular duck season impoundment hunting days, as follows:** October segment on opening day and any Saturday; November segment on opening day, any Saturday, and the Friday following Thanksgiving; December/January segment on opening day, any Saturday, and Wednesdays beginning January 1. The impoundment will be closed to hunting on all other days. Lottery application available online at *dnr.maryland.gov*. Application deadline is Sept. 8, 2026. Motorized boats, except those powered by electric motors, are prohibited in the impoundments between October 1 and March 31. 410-651-2065.

E. Mace Smith Complex CFL

1,737 acres. 410-632-3732.

Fairmount WMA

5,240 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Impoundment areas open to hunting during September Resident Canada goose season, early teal season, Youth/Veteran/Military waterfowl hunting days, and during regular duck seasons as follows: October segment on opening day and any Saturday; November segment on opening day, any Saturday, and the Friday following Thanksgiving; December/January segment on opening day, any Saturday, and Wednesdays beginning January 1. Lottery permit required for opening day of each regular duck season segment. The impoundments will be closed to hunting on all other days. Lottery application available online at *dnr.maryland.gov*. Application deadline is Sept. 8, 2026. Motorized boats, except those powered by electric motors, are prohibited in the impoundments between October 1 and March 31. 410-651-2065.

Marumsco Complex CFL

1,083 acres. 410-632-3732.

Janes Island State Park

2,900 acres. Waterfowl hunting only. Park information: 410-968-1565

Maryland Marine Properties WMA

1,030 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-651-2065.

Oriole Complex CFL

693 acres. 410-632-3732

Peters McAllen Complex CFL

683 acres. 410-632-3732.

Pocomoke Sound WMA

922 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Boat access only. 410-651-2065.

South Marsh WMA

2,969 acres. Furbearers trapping permits issued by bid process. Boat access only. 410-651-2065.

Wellington WMA

684 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-651-2065.

Wells Complex CFL

1,900 acres. 410-632-3732. No public access on or across railroad property.

ST. MARY'S

Elms CWMA FREE

545 acres. Sign-in required. 301-743-5161.

Greenwell State Park

187 acres. 301-872-5688.

Historic St. Mary's City CWMA FREE RR

175 acres. Deer hunting only, beginning Dec. 1st. Open Tues.–Sat. (closed Christmas). Reservation required. 301-743-5161.

Newtowne Neck State Park FREE RR

360 acres. Permit required for all hunting. Reservation required, except for waterfowl hunters utilizing the waterfowl hunting zone. The waterfowl zone is only accessable by water. Hunters must use archery equipment during early muzzleloader season. Spring turkey season restricted to monday - Friday. Hunting reservations 301-743-5161. Park information 301-872-5688.

Myrtle Point CWMA FREE RR

192 acres. Deer and waterfowl hunting only. Permit and reservation required. Deer archery hunting only; open Oct. 15–Jan. 31. Waterfowl hunting by boat only in the third split of the season. 301-743-5161.

Point Lookout State Park (Jacobs Tract Only)

240 acres. Deer, turkey (winter season only) and waterfowl hunting only. Hunters must use archery equipment during the early muzzleloader season. Waterfowl hunting at designated blind sites only. Access by boat only. 301-872-5688.

St. Clement's Island State Park FREE RR

42 acres. Deer, small game and waterfowl hunting. Deer hunting with archery equipment only. Contact 301-743-5161. Accessible only by boat. Park information: 301-872-5688.

Salem Tract (State Forest) S

1550 acres. 301-743-5161.

St. Inigoes State Forest FREE S RR
600 acres. Permit and reservation required at all times. 301-743-5161.

St. Mary's River State Park - Lake Site 1 FREE RR
Waterfowl hunting at designated sites only. Access by boat only (no gas motors). Permit and reservation required. 301-743-5161. Park information 301-872-5688.

St. Mary's River State Park
2,200 acres. 301-872-5688.

TALBOT

Seth Demonstration Forest CFL
121 acres. Deer archery hunting only. 410-632-3732

WASHINGTON

Fort Frederick State Park
260 acres. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. Deer archery hunting by reservation only. 301-842-2155.

Gathland State Park
170 acres (archery only). Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday on designated state owned property; call for areas. Hunting prohibited on National Park Service property. 301-791-4767.

Greenbrier State Park
500 acres. Free permit required to hunt furbearers at night. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-791-4767

Indian Springs WMA S
6,600 acres. 301-842-2702.

Prather's Neck WMA S
205 acres (general hunting), 10 acres (archery hunting only). 301-842-2702. For trapping permit call 301-842-2702.

Sideling Hill WMA S
3,005 acres. 301-842-2702. For trapping permit call 301-842-2702.

South Mountain State Park
2,885 acres (general hunting). Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday on designated state owned property; call for areas. Hunting prohibited on National Park Service property. 301-791-4767.

Woodmont NRMA
2,400 acres. Hunting permitted Monday–Saturday. 301-842-2155.

WICOMICO

Athol Complex CFL
682 acres. 410-632-3732.

Aughty Naughty Complex CFL
1,243 acres. 410-632-3732.

Ellis Bay WMA
3,354 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-376-3236.

Fair Meadow Complex CFL
362 acres. 410-632-3732.

Greenhill Complex CFL
3,957 acres. 410-632-3732.

Johnson WMA
468 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Deer hunting with bow only. 410-651-2065.

Lathrop Complex CFL
Waterfowl hunting only along shoreline north of Stump Gut. 410-632-3732.

Nanticoke River WMA
See also Dorchester County 410-376-3236

- **Nutter's Neck:** 1,587 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process.
- **Sharptown Dunes:** 198 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process.

Wetipquin WMA
211 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-376-3236.

Wicomico Demonstration Forest CFL
3,463 acres. 410-632-3732.

WORCESTER

Assateague State Park
Archery-only deer hunting in a 450 acre designated hunting area; limit 10 hunters per day plus one HFV site. Daily sign-in required. Hunting permitted from the second Monday of November to the end of primitive season, excluding Sundays. HFV/ADA zone must have Universal Disability Pass & reservation, call 443-614-4393 at least 24 hours in advance and leave a message. No hunting north of Route 611 except for designated ADA.

Bay Club/Old Joseph Farm CFL
674 acres located off Libertytown Road approx. 1 mile west of Berlin. No parking or hunting from Cedar Lane Road. 410-632-3732.

Bethards Tract CFL
33 acres. 410-632-3732.

Buck Harbor Complex CFL
1095 acres located off Stevens Road. 410-632-3732

Cordery Complex CFL
588 acres. 410-632-3732.

Creek Complex CFL
868 acres. This complex is comprised of the Creek, Chatham and Tankard Farm tracts. 410-632-3732.

Dunn Swamp Complex CFL
1,146 acres. 410-632-3732.

E. A. Vaughn WMA
2,630 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Caution squirrel hunters: Delmarva Fox Squirrel may not be hunted. 410-651-2065.

Foster Complex CFL
4,808 acres located off Route 12/Snow Hill Road. 410-632-3732

Isle of Wight WMA
224 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. Area south of Rt. 90 closed to hunting. 410-651-2065.

Johnson & Johnson Tract CFL
853 acres. 410-632-3732.

Pocomoke State Forest FREE
18,492 acres. Free permit required for furbearer trapping. Limited vehicle access. Note: the 226-acre Summerfield tract near Snow Hill is archery hunting only. Refer to maps located at: *https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/pocomoke/PSF_Location_Maps.pdf* 410-632-3732.

Pocomoke River WMA
1,024 acres. Furbearer trapping permits issued by bid process. 410-651-2065.

Selby Complex CFL
460 acres. 410-632-3732.

Shockley Complex CFL
1,032 acres. This complex is in Wicomico and Worcester Counties. 410-632-3732

Sinepuxent Islands WMA
25 acres. Boat access only. 410-651-2065

Timmons Complex CFL
477 acres. 410-632-3732.

Twigg Fooks Complex CFL
1,103 acres. Located off MD Rt. 12/Spearin Road adjacent to Pocomoke State Forest. This complex is in Wicomico and Worcester Counties. 410-632-3732.

Whitesburg Complex CFL
375 acres. 410-632-3732.

ARCHERY HUNTING AT LIBERTY, LOCH RAVEN AND PRETTYBOY RESERVOIRS

Special rules and regulations for hunting are in effect on the Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs. By accepting the permit, the permittee agrees to having read and accepted these rules and regulations governing the Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs established by the City of Baltimore, Director of Public Works.

- Parking or driving motor vehicles of any description except on hard surfaced roads is prohibited.
- No fires are permitted on the watershed areas at any time.
- Hunting is permitted only from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
- No hunting within 50 feet of high water shoreline.
- No hunting is allowed south of Liberty Road (MD Rt. 26) on Liberty Reservoir in Baltimore County.
- Hunters must adhere to all regulations established by the Baltimore City Bureau of Water and Wastewater.
- Hunters are warned against the disposal of refuse and trash on the watershed area, and violators will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.
- Although not recommended by Baltimore City Department of Public Works, the use of patented portable tree stands is permitted.
- Portable tree stands must be removed at the end of each day.
- Masks or other face gear shall be removed upon leaving the woods and when approaching within 100 yards of another person.
- Permits are valid for the entire season for the taking of game, except waterfowl, WITH ARCHERY EQUIPMENT ONLY at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs.
- On Loch Raven Reservoir, the permit is valid for deer hunting only with archery equipment in designated areas.
- It is illegal to bait for hunting.
- On Loch Raven Reservoir hunting is prohibited on the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail/NCR Trail.
- Deer archery hunters hunting during the Junior Deer Hunting Days, Deer Firearms and Deer Muzzleloader Seasons are required to wear daylight fluorescent color clothing.
- Archery Hunting Permits for Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs are available online at *dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/Reservoir-Permit.pdf.*
- For reservoir hunting questions call 410-356-9272.

ARCHERY HUNTING PERMIT FOR THE LIBERTY, LOCH RAVEN AND PRETTYBOY RESERVOIRS 2026–2027

Complete the information below and keep this section with your hunting license. **This permit must be in your possession while hunting on the above areas.**

Name:_____

Address *(street)*: _____

(city, state, zip):_____

DNR ID #: _____

Vehicle Tag(s) #: _____

Issued in cooperation between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service and the City of Baltimore Bureau of Water and Wastewater.

Maps of the watersheds are available online at *dnr.maryland.gov* or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
3740 Gwynnbrook Ave., Owings Mills, MD 21117

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SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT BALTIMORE, MD (EASTERN STANDARD TIME)
SEPTEMBER 2026 THROUGH MAY 2027

DAY	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.
1	6:35	7:37	7:03	6:49	6:34	5:05	7:07	4:44	7:26	4:54	7:14	5:27	6:39	5:59	6:51	7:30	6:08	8:00
2	6:36	7:36	7:04	6:47	6:36	5:04	7:08	4:43	7:26	4:55	7:13	5:28	6:38	6:00	6:50	7:31	6:07	8:01
3	6:37	7:34	7:05	6:46	6:37	5:03	7:09	4:43	7:27	4:56	7:12	5:29	6:37	6:01	6:48	7:32	6:06	8:02
4	6:38	7:32	7:05	6:44	6:38	5:02	7:10	4:43	7:27	4:56	7:11	5:30	6:35	6:02	6:46	7:33	6:05	8:03
5	6:39	7:31	7:06	6:43	6:39	5:01	7:11	4:43	7:27	4:57	7:10	5:32	6:34	6:03	6:45	7:34	6:03	8:04
6	6:40	7:29	7:07	6:41	6:40	5:00	7:12	4:43	7:27	4:58	7:09	5:33	6:32	6:04	6:43	7:35	6:02	8:05
7	6:41	7:28	7:08	6:39	6:41	4:59	7:13	4:43	7:26	4:59	7:08	5:34	6:31	6:05	6:42	7:36	6:01	8:06
8	6:41	7:26	7:09	6:28	6:42	4:58	7:14	4:43	7:26	5:00	7:07	5:35	6:29	6:06	6:40	7:37	6:00	8:07
9	6:42	7:24	7:10	6:36	6:43	4:57	7:15	4:43	7:26	5:01	7:06	5:36	6:27	6:07	6:29	7:38	5:59	8:07
10	6:43	7:23	7:11	6:35	6:45	4:56	7:15	4:43	7:26	5:02	7:04	5:37	6:26	6:08	6:37	7:39	5:58	8:08
11	6:44	7:21	7:12	6:33	6:46	4:55	7:16	4:43	7:26	5:03	7:03	5:39	6:24	6:09	6:36	7:40	5:57	8:09
12	6:45	7:20	7:13	6:32	6:47	4:54	7:17	4:43	7:26	5:04	7:02	5:40	6:23	6:10	6:34	7:41	5:56	8:10
13	6:45	7:18	7:14	6:30	6:48	4:53	7:18	4:44	7:25	5:05	7:01	5:41	6:21	6:11	6:33	7:42	5:55	8:11
14	6:47	7:16	7:15	6:29	6:49	4:52	7:18	4:44	7:25	5:06	7:00	5:42	7:20	7:12	6:31	7:43	5:54	8:12
15	6:48	7:15	7:16	6:27	6:50	4:52	7:19	4:44	7:25	5:07	6:58	5:43	7:18	7:13	6:30	7:44	5:53	8:13
16	6:49	7:13	7:17	6:26	6:51	4:51	7:20	4:45	7:24	5:08	6:57	5:44	7:17	7:14	6:28	7:45	5:52	8:14
17	6:50	7:12	7:18	6:25	6:52	4:50	7:20	4:45	7:24	5:10	6:56	5:45	7:15	7:15	6:27	7:46	5:51	8:15
18	6:51	7:10	7:19	6:23	6:54	4:50	7:21	4:45	7:23	5:11	6:55	5:47	7:13	7:16	6:25	7:47	5:51	8:16
19	6:51	7:08	7:21	6:22	6:55	4:49	7:22	4:46	7:23	5:12	6:53	5:48	7:12	7:17	6:24	7:48	5:50	8:17
20	6:52	7:07	7:22	6:20	6:56	4:48	7:22	4:46	7:22	5:13	6:52	5:49	7:10	7:18	6:23	7:49	5:49	8:18
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24	6:56	7:00	7:26	6:15	7:00	4:46	7:24	4:48	7:20	5:17	6:47	5:53	7:04	7:22	6:17	7:53	5:46	8:21
25	6:57	6:59	7:27	6:14	7:01	4:46	7:24	4:49	7:19	5:19	6:45	5:54	7:02	7:23	6:16	7:54	5:45	8:22
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27	6:59	6:55	7:29	6:11	7:03	4:45	7:25	4:50	7:18	5:21	6:42	5:57	6:59	7:25	6:13	7:56	5:44	8:23
28	7:00	6:54	7:30	6:10	7:04	4:44	7:25	4:51	7:17	5:22	6:41	5:58	6:57	7:26	6:12	7:57	5:44	8:24
29	7:01	6:52	7:31	6:09	7:05	4:44	7:26	4:52	7:16	5:23	—	—	6:56	7:27	6:11	7:58	5:43	8:25
30	7:02	6:50	7:32	6:07	7:06	4:44	7:26	4:52	7:15	5:24	—	—	6:54	7:28	6:09	7:59	5:43	8:26
31	—	—	7:33	6:06	—	—	7:26	4:53	7:15	5:26	—	—	6:53	7:29	—	—	5:42	8:26

Source: Astronomical Applications Department, U.S. Naval Observatory. Daylight Saving Time is included in the chart (in red). These times are for Baltimore, Maryland and are for reference only. Consult local newspaper or other media for actual times in your area.

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