



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Antler restrictions: Three Up in WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 2D, Wildlife Management Units (WMUs): Pennsylvania uses WMUs to manage all game, except elk, waterfowl and other migratory game birds. Larger maps and boundaries are available at www.pgc.pa.gov.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

If you plan to hunt in a Disease Management Area (DMA) or the CWD Established Area (EA) this season, there are specific rules to follow.

Pennsylvania has seven active DMAs and one EA. All are geographic regions where CWD has been found in deer. Special rules apply in each, including bans on feeding deer, the use and possession of cervid urine-based attractants, and export of high-risk parts, all designed to limit the human-assisted spread of CWD. Maps showing boundaries are available on the Game Commission's website at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

Placing on the landscape any high-risk cervid parts from deer killed outside of Pennsylvania or within a DMA or EA is prohibited. Any hunter who harvests a deer out-of-state or within a DMA or EA is able to take it directly to a cooperating processor or taxidermist anywhere in the state. A list of cooperating processors and taxidermists can be found at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

The Game Commission encourages hunters within DMAs to get their harvest tested and has provided head collection containers throughout DMAs and the EA. Head bin locations are listed at www.arcg.is/1G4TLr.

Hunters can drop their deer's head, double-bagged, in a bin with the harvest tag filled out and firmly attached to the deer's ear to have it tested for CWD for free. Hunters can review test results by calling the CWD hotline (1-833-INFOCWD) or by using the Game Commission's CWD Test Results page at <https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/CWDResultsLookup>.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Baiting: It is unlawful to hunt in or around any area where artificial or natural bait has been used within the past 30 days. Baiting of deer is allowed conditionally on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area outside of any Disease Management Area (DMA). See Digest for details.

Mistake Kill: Any person who kills any wildlife while hunting or trapping by accident or mistake shall immediately field-dress any edible game and deliver the carcass to a state game warden in the county where it was killed.

Road Hunting: It is unlawful to 1) hunt from a vehicle, or assist another while hunting from a vehicle; 2) shoot at wildlife that are on a public road or right-of-way open to public travel; 3) shoot across a road unless the line of fire is high enough to preclude any danger to road users; and 4) alight from a vehicle and shoot at any wildlife until the shooter is at least 25 yards from the traveled portion of the roadway.

Safety Zones: It is unlawful to hunt, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards.

Spotlighting Wildlife: It is unlawful to shine a light on wildlife after 11 p.m., during regular firearms, or while in possession of a device capable of killing wildlife.

Tagging Big Game: Hunters harvesting big game must follow instructions printed on the harvest tags supplied with licenses. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before carcass is moved. The tag must be attached to the ear of a deer or bear, or the body of an elk and remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. Turkey tags must be attached to the bird's leg.

Dual Carry: Possession of any firearm while archery hunting is prohibited unless the individual possesses a license to carry a concealed firearm. Archery hunters are permitted to carry a muzzleloading firearm only during overlaps of archery deer or bear season with a muzzleloader deer or bear season.

STATE GAME LANDS

On State Game Lands, it is lawful to hunt, trap and fish, as well as pick berries or mushrooms.

Hunting blinds or stands may be used provided they do not cause damage to trees, and are not placed out earlier than two weeks prior to deer season, and must be removed no later than two weeks after the close of deer season. Portable hunting blinds or stands must be marked with a durable identification tag that legibly includes the owner's first name, last name and legal home address or must bear the Equipment ID number issued by the Commission for this purpose.

State Game Lands are set aside for hunting and trapping and the preservation and maintenance of wildlife habitat. While on a game lands, it is unlawful to:

- Camp or use campsites.
- Start a fire. Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes are permitted, except when the Fire Index Rating used by the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, is high, very high or extreme. Fires must be contained and tended at all times.
- Ride a nonmotorized vehicle, conveyance or animal, except on roads normally open to public travel, or designated routes as posted, or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Consume, possess or transport an alcoholic beverage.
- Feed wildlife or place any food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals.
- Use State Game Lands for any personal, organizational or commercial purpose other than the intended use.
- Engage in dog training activities on small game from the Monday prior to the start of the youth pheasant season until the opening of the statewide pheasant season.
- Be present on State Game Lands from Nov. 15 through Dec. 15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. Orange material must be visible 360 degrees. Persons using shooting ranges are exempted.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

When fluorescent orange is required, the requirement for that season must be **worn at all times** while hunting and when moving from one hour prior to the start of legal hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours. When not required, the use of orange is strongly recommended, especially while moving.

* Fluorescent orange is required when hunting coyotes during any big-game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Woodchuck Hunting

Woodchuck hunters must wear a hat made of solid fluorescent orange that is visible from 360 degrees.

All Small Game Seasons | Deer, Bear and Elk Firearms Seasons | October Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer and Bear Seasons | Extended Antlerless Firearms Seasons

During the above seasons, hunters must wear a minimum of 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined and it must be visible from 360 degrees. An orange hat and vest satisfies this requirement.

Blinds & Enclosed Tree Stands

When using a blind or enclosed tree stand during the firearms deer, bear or elk seasons, a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind or stand and visible from 360 degrees. This is in addition to wearing orange while inside. Refer to the turkey section of the Digest for details on blind use while turkey hunting.

Wearing Orange

No fluorescent orange is required **during archery seasons** when hunting for deer, bear or elk, or when hunting waterfowl, doves, turkeys, furbearers* or crows. In firearms seasons for deer, bear or elk, orange is required, regardless of the sporting arm carried. Hunters participating in the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season are not required to wear fluorescent orange.

CAMOUFLAGE FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy orange regulations when 250 square inches of safety material is required if the orange content is at least 250 square inches. When a hat containing 100 square inches of orange is specified, the cap must be solid fluorescent orange.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

Legal hunting hours for all small and big game are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Please consult the Digest for tables of lawful hunting hours, including migratory game birds, and the accompanying Pennsylvania Meridian Map.

ELK elk license required
One elk per license year - visit a check station within 24 hours

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) Sept. 14 - Sept. 28
Regular (Antlered and Antlerless) Nov. 4 - Nov. 9
Late (Antlered and Antlerless) Dec. 28 - Jan. 4, 2025

SUNDAY HUNTING

Sunday hunting is **permitted for foxes, coyotes and crows** during open seasons. Additional Sunday hunting opportunities in 2024 are **Nov. 17**, **Nov. 24** and **Dec. 1**. On these three Sundays, **hunters on private land** must carry written permission from the landowner. Permission should include the landowner's signature, address and phone number as well as the hunter's name, address and CID license number. **Turkeys and migratory game birds** may not be hunted on any Sunday. Aside from these exceptions, Sunday hunting is **unlawful** in Pennsylvania.

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| <p>1 Sunday, Nov. 17</p> <p>Deer (archery), Bear (archery in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D only), Squirrel, Pheasant, Rabbit, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck, Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel and Porcupine</p> | <p>2 Sunday, Nov. 24</p> <p>Bear, Deer (archery in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D only) Squirrel, Pheasant, Rabbit, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck, Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel and Porcupine</p> <p><i>Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements.</i></p> | <p>3 Sunday, Dec. 1</p> <p>Deer, Bear (only in WMUs with Extended Season), Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk and Weasel</p> <p><i>Raccoons, foxes, opossums, striped skunks and weasels may be hunted only after legal hunting hours for deer. Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements. Crows may not be hunted during the Regular Deer Firearms season.</i></p> |
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