

2010 - 2011 Hunting Booklet



**UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
2ND AMENDMENT**

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

**CONSTITUTION
of the
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

***ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS***

Right to Bear Arms

Section 21. The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.

GAME COMMISSIONERS ADOPTS 2010-11 SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today gave final approval to hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits for 2010-11, including broad changes to deer, bear, turkey and small game seasons.

Following are several articles on meeting highlights.

BOARD ADDS OTHER WMUS TO SPLIT RIFLE DEER SEASONS

The Board of Game Commissioners gave final approval to a slate of deer seasons for the 2010-11 seasons that includes holding a split, five-day antlered deer season (Nov. 29-Dec. 3) and seven-day concurrent season (Dec. 4-11) in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 2C, 2D, 2E, 2G, 3C, 4B, 4D and 4E. The package retains the two-week (Nov. 29-Dec. 11) concurrent, antlered and antlerless deer season in the remaining 14 WMUs.

Two other changes adopted are to eliminate the two-week antlerless deer season held following the close of the regular firearms season leading up to Christmas in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D, and to run a concurrent antlered/antlerless deer season for late-season archery hunters in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D from Dec. 27-Jan. 29.

Hunters with DMAP antlerless deer permits may use them on the lands for which they were issued during any established deer season, and will continue to be permitted to harvest antlerless deer from Nov. 29-Dec. 11 in WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2G, 3C, 4B, 4D and 4E.

Fees for DMAP permits are \$10 for residents and \$35 for nonresidents.

BOARD APPROVES ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE ALLOCATIONS

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today approved antlerless license allocations for each of the 22 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) for the 2010-11 seasons. After hunters purchase a general hunting license, they may apply for antlerless deer licenses based on staggered timelines, which are outlined in the Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest presented to each license buyer.

Based on a motion by Game Commissioner Thomas Boop, the antlerless deer license allocations approved by the Board will be reduced by the number of Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) antlerless deer permits issued in each WMU for the 2009-10 seasons. This reduced number will then be set aside as a maximum number of DMAP permits that will be made available for landowners during the 2010-11 seasons.

Boop's motion also prohibits the issuance of more DMAP permits for the 2010-11 that were issued for the 2009-10 seasons for each WMU without further Board action.

WMU 1A allocation will be 41,705, which is decrease from last year's allocation of 42,000.

WMU 1B allocation will be 27,844, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 30,000.

WMU 2A allocation will be 54,879, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 55,000.

WMU 2B allocation will be 68,000, which is the same as last year's. DMAP is not available this year for WMU 2B.

WMU 2C allocation will be 44,107, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 49,000.

WMU 2D allocation will be 50,123, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 56,000.

WMU 2E allocation will be 20,407, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 21,000.

WMU 2F allocation will be 22,148, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 28,000.

WMU 2G allocation will be 15,210, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 26,000.

WMU 3A allocation will be 25,247, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 26,000.

WMU 3B allocation will be 33,761, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 43,000.

WMU 3C allocation will be 26,358, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 27,000.

WMU 3D allocation will be 31,622, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 37,000.

WMU 4A allocation will be 27,521, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 29,000.

WMU 4B allocation will be 22,148, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 23,000.

WMU 4C allocation will be 34,351, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 35,000.

WMU 4D allocation will be 30,052, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 40,000.

WMU 4E allocation will be 26,899, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 30,000.

WMU 5A allocation will be 18,269, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 19,000.

WMU 5B allocation will be 50,812, which is a decrease from last year's allocation of 51,000.

WMU 5C allocation will be 121,960, which is an increase from last year's allocation of 113,000.

WMU 5D allocation will be 22,000, which is the same as last year's. DMAP is not available this year for WMU 5D.

BOARD ADDS NEW WILD PHEASANT RECOVERY AREA FOR 2010-11

The Board of Game Commissioners today gave final approval to continue with three Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas (WPRAs) for the 2010-11 seasons, which is an effort designed to re-establish wild pheasant populations in Pennsylvania.

The Board also gave preliminary approval to create a fourth WPRA, which is to be designated the Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRA, and will need to be approved by the Board in June before taking effect. Wild caught pheasants will be released in this WPRA in 2011.

The agency's Ring-necked Pheasant Management Plan seeks to restore self-sustaining and huntable populations of wild pheasants in suitable habitats, and specifically calls for the creation of four WPRAs by 2015. The agency is releasing wild-trapped pheasants into these areas, with a goal of achieving a density of 10 hen pheasants per square mile.

To give these wild pheasants the best opportunity to establish naturally reproducing populations, the Board has banned pheasant hunting or the releasing of any artificially propagated pheasants – including Game Commission-raised pheasants – within these WPRAs. Also, to limit disturbances to nesting hen pheasants, dog training of any manner

and small game hunting will be prohibited in WPRAs from the first Sunday in February through July 31 each year.

“Working with major partners, such as Pheasants Forever, the California University of Pennsylvania and local landowners, we already have a jump-start on creating WPRAs,” said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. “These groups have invested in creating the necessary pheasant habitat in these four areas of the state.

“The Game Commission will continue to raise and release pheasants on public lands with suitable pheasant habitat each fall. And, should we receive additional revenues, we plan to increase our pheasant production level to 250,000 birds, as noted in the Ring-necked Pheasant Management Plan.”

For the 2010-11 seasons, the WPRAs will be defined as follows:

(1) Pike Run WPRAs: The portion of Washington County, WMU 2A, bounded on the east by the Monongahela River, on the north by I-70, on the west by PA Rt. 917 to Swagler Rd. to Spring Valley Rd. to PA Rt. 2015 to Lone Pine Rd. to the intersection with Tenmile Creek in West Zollarsville, and bounded on the south by Tenmile Creek.

(2) Somerset WPRAs: That portion of Somerset County, WMU 2C, bounded on the western side starting at the intersection of Coleman Station Rd. and Stutzmantown Rd. proceeding south on Coleman Station Rd., crossing SR 31, to Brotherton Rd., continuing south to Round Hill Rd., then east onto Wills Church Rd., then to Archery Rd. The boundary then follows Berlin Plank Rd. (US Rt. 219) south into the town of Berlin where it joins the Mason Dixon Hwy. (US Rt. 219) proceeding south to Pine Hill Rd. to Walker School Rd. then east on Maple Valley Rd., to Sawmill Rd. to the Cumberland Hwy. (SR 160). The boundary then follows the Cumberland Hwy. (SR 160) south to Salco Rd. and then proceeds north on Salco Rd. to Huckleberry Hwy. (SR 160) in the town of Berlin. The boundary follows Huckleberry Hwy. (SR 160) north, crossing SR 31, to the intersection of Roxbury Rd., then north to Shanksville Rd. The boundary then proceeds north to Stutzmantown Rd., then west to the beginning at the intersection of Coleman Station Rd.

(3) Central Susquehanna WPRAs: Portions of WMU 4E in Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Lycoming counties from the West Branch of the Susquehanna River south to the intersection with PA Rt. 642 and the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Milton. The southern boundary is defined by PA Rt. 642 east from Milton to Mausdale, then north on PA Rt. 642 to just south of Jerseytown, proceeding east on Eyersgrove Rd. to Eyers Grove at PA Rt. 42. Proceeding south on PA Rt. 42 to Mordansville, northeast of Mordansville along Robbins Rd. (Rt. 600) to Mordansville Rd. (Rt. 541), south on Millertown Rd. (Rt. 4011), then continuing east to follow Mount Pleasant Rd. (Rt. 4020) and Mount Pleasant St. (PA Rt. 4034) to Orangeville at the southeast corner of the WPRAs. PA Rt. 487 lines the eastern boundary from Orangeville north to Maple Grove/intersection with PA Rt. 254. The northern boundary begins with PA Rt. 254 west of Maple Grove to the intersection with Winters Rd. (Rt. 459) proceeding west to the intersection with Austin Trail (PA Rt. 4039). Continuing west on Owl Rd. (Rt. 599), north and west on Reese Rd. (Rt. 578), and north and west on Trivelpiece Rd. (Rt. 576). Eagle Rd. (PA Rt. 4037) then continues northwest to the intersection with Whitehorse Rd./Whitehorse Pike (Rt. 661) heading west to just south of Sereno, and then south on PA Rt. 42 to Millville. From Millville, proceeding southwest on PA Rt. 254 to Jerseytown. Then northwest on PA Rt. 44, north on Swartz Rd., west on Shultz Rd., north on Ants Hill Rd., west on Wolf Hollow Rd., then north on Katy's Church Rd. Crossing into Lycoming County and proceeding northwest on G Wagner Rd., west on Ridge Rd., crossing into Montour County, southwest on County Line Rd., south on Muncy Exchange Rd. (PA Rt. 1003), west on Hickory Rd. (PA Rt. 1008), west on Mingle

Rd. (Rt. 433), west on Hickory Rd. (PA Rt. 1008) for the second time, and proceeding north on Gearhart Hollow Rd. (Rt. 441). Continuing west on Showers Rd. (PA Rt. 1010), crossing into Northumberland County, proceeding north and west on Pugmore Lane, north on Hockley Hill Rd. (PA Rt. 1011), west on Miller Rd. (Rt. 653), continuing southwest on Balliet Rd. (Rt. 664). Proceeding northwest and west on Schmidt Rd. (Rt. 564). continuing north on Susquehanna Trail (PA Rt. 1007), continuing west on Hughes Rd. (Rt. 655), crossing under I-180, proceeding south on Crawford Rd. (Rt. 507) to PA Rt. 54. Proceeding northwest on PA Rt. 54 to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

(4) Hegin-Gratz Valley WPRAs: That portion of WMU 4E in Schuylkill and Dauphin counties from Matterstown Road (Rt. 1007), to PA Rt. 901 at Taylorsville. The WPRAs are bounded on the north by the Mahantango Creek. Beginning at the town of Pillow in Dauphin county, proceeding east on Market Street (Rt. 1026) to the Mahantango Creek, which is the Northumberland and Dauphin county border until entering Schuylkill county at Klingerstown. Continuing northeast along the Mahantango Creek in Schuylkill county to Taylorsville Road (Rt. 4039) at Haas, to Taylorsville and then proceeding south on PA Rt. 901. Proceeding south and southeast on PA Rt. 901 to I-81. Proceeding southwest on I-81 and then west on PA Rt. 25, then from PA Rt. 25, proceeding south and west on Dell Road and then northwest and west on Pine Drive (State Hwy. 4009), continuing west on Pine Drive, T593 and north on T592 to Pine Creek. The southern boundary then follows Pine Creek west along the northern side of Broad Mountain to Spring Glen. From Spring Glen, continuing west on PA Rt. 25, crossing into Dauphin county to Gratz, then proceeding southwest from Gratz on Specktown Road (State Hwy. 1014) to South Crossroads Road (PA Rt. 1009). Proceeding south on South Crossroads Road (PA Rt. 1009) to PA Rt. 209 and southwest to Elizabethville. From Elizabethville continue west on Main Street (PA Rt. 209), then turn north onto Botts Road (T462). At the first intersection, turn north onto Feidt Road (T461), then turn 24 east onto West Matterstown Road (Rt. 4008), turn north onto Matterstown Road (Rt. 1007). Turn right or east onto Berrysburg Road (PA Rt. 25) which turns into Market St. Turn left or north onto Lykens St. Turn right or east onto Mountain Road (T639). Turn left or north on PA Rt. 225 into Pillow on PA Rt. 225, ending at Market St. (Rt. 1026).

A native of Asia, pheasants were brought to North America back in the mid 1700s, but these early attempts to introduce pheasants to the continent were unsuccessful. It wasn't until 1881, in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, that pheasants first became established.

During the early 1890s, Pennsylvania citizens purchased pheasants from English gamekeepers and released them in Lehigh and Northampton counties. For several decades, many other small releases were made across the Commonwealth to establish pheasants for sport hunting.

In the early 1900s, the Game Commission set aside a special appropriation of funds to purchase and propagate game. Pheasant eggs were purchased and given to agency refuge keepers, sportsmen's organizations and private individuals interested in raising pheasants. The first stocking of pheasants by the Game Commission occurred by 1915.

Habitat loss, from urban/suburban sprawl, to changes in agricultural practices, had an impact on Pennsylvania's naturally-reproducing pheasant populations. Additionally, budget constraints forced the Game Commission, in 2005, to reduce its annual pheasant stocking allocation from 200,000 to 100,000.

For more information on pheasants and the history of the agency's pheasant management plan and propagation program, visit the Game Commission's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), select "Wildlife," click on "Birds," and then choose "Pheasant Home."

BOARD RETAINS BOBWHITE QUAIL SEASON FOR 2010-11

Based on a recommendation from staff, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners reversed the proposed closure of the bobwhite quail season. Instead, a decision on the future of quail season will await the Bureau of Wildlife Management's efforts to finalize a Quail Management Plan.

Based on this reversal, quail season will be held Oct. 23-Nov. 27, and the daily bag limit is four, with a field possession limit of eight. Also, as in the past, quail season will be closed in Wildlife Management Units 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D.

Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director, noted that agency staff currently is working to complete a state bobwhite quail plan that carefully reviews the status and trend of Pennsylvania's quail population, restoration potential, and management practices.

"Once the draft plan is compiled, we will be seeking public comment, as we have with all other wildlife management plans, before presenting it to the Board," Roe said. "At that time, we will make a recommendation on whether it is appropriate to close the quail season."

BOARD CREATED JUNIOR RABBIT SEASON

To continue its efforts to recruit young hunters, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners gave final approval to a special cottontail rabbit junior hunter season that coincides with the ring-necked pheasant junior hunter season in early October. The proposal was requested by Game Commissioner Jay Delaney in July.

"Most people agree that one of the best ways to introduce youth to hunting and encourage their continued participation is via small game hunting," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "Rabbits are an underutilized game mammal, and are a perfect addition to the junior season offerings that have been implemented by the agency over the years."

Under the new opportunity, the junior rabbit season will be held Oct. 9-16. The season will be open to those juniors age 12-16, when properly accompanied by an adult as required by law, with or without a license. The daily and field possession limits will be the same as the general rabbit season, four daily and eight in possession.

Roe noted that the junior rabbit season will not be part of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, which is for those youth under the age of 12.

In other small game season action, based on a recommendation from Game Commissioner Robert Schlemmer, the late cottontail rabbit season will be Dec. 27-Feb. 26, which equates to a three additional weeks of hunting. The Board also gave final approval to include the use of crossbows for small game seasons.

BOARD ADOPTS ADJUSTMENTS TO BEAR SEASONS

The Board of Commissioners today gave final approval to sweeping changes to black bear seasons for 2010-11. Included in those changes are a statewide five-day archery bear season (Nov. 15-19), and a three-day statewide bear season that will open on Saturday, Nov. 20, and then continue on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 22 and 23. The Board also eliminated all extended bear seasons that previously were held during all or portions of the first week of the firearms deer season.

DRAMATIC CHANGES ADOPTED FOR 2010-11 TURKEY SEASONS

Several changes have been made to fall turkey and spring gobbler seasons under the 2010-11 seasons given final approval today by the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners, including dramatic changes to the fall seasons and a partial extension of legal hunting hours for the 2011 spring gobbler season.

In response to opening bear season on Saturday, Nov. 20, the Board adopted an amendment made by Game Commissioner Ralph Martone to avoid overlapping fall turkey and bear seasons. The new fall season structure sets season dates of Nov. 13-19 and Nov. 25-27 for Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D; Nov. 6-19 and Nov. 25-27 for WMUs 2B, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C and 4E. The closure from Nov. 20-24 was set to avoid overlapping with bear seasons.

Also, fall season dates of Nov. 16-18 were set for WMU 5A; and WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D will remain closed for the fall seasons.

For the 2011 spring gobbler season, which is set to run from April 30-May 31, the Board approved a change to the legal hunting hours. Under the change, legal hunting hours from the opening day of the spring gobbler season through the third Saturday (April 30-May 14) will retain the current one-half hour before sunrise until noon timeframe. However, the remainder of the season (May 16-31) will be expanded to run all day, from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The final turkey season change moves the closing day of the spring season to May 31. This later date provides additional recreational hunting without impacting the resource because disturbance of hens would be minimal since most hens would be in their later stages of nest incubation.

The Board gave final approval to set the one-day Spring Gobbler Youth Hunt on April 23, which will run from one-half hour before sunrise until noon.

FINAL APPROVAL GIVEN TO EXPAND ELK HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today gave final approval to a regulatory change to allow any unfilled antlered or antlerless elk license awarded for an annual elk season to be valid for taking either an antlered or antlerless elk anywhere within this Commonwealth outside of the elk management area during any designated extended elk season following the regular elk season.

“From time to time, elk wander outside the boundaries of the area in which the Game Commission is attempting to contain them in,” said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. “Because of elk-human conflicts, we do not want to have elk establish populations in areas outside a certain area.

“For this reason, we want to allow elk license holders who have not taken an elk during the regular season to be able to participate in an extended season to target elk that have gone outside the elk management area.”

The Board also approved the 2010 elk season to be held on Nov. 1-6, and to an extended elk hunting period for those with unfilled elk licenses to be Nov. 8-13.

In addition to the Special Conservation Tag, which will be auctioned at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation annual banquet, the Board approved an elk allocation of 17 antlered and 33 antlerless elk licenses to be awarded at a public drawing in September. Applications for the elk drawing will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 27, which is when licenses for the 2010-11 licenses go on sale, for \$10.

The Special Conservation Tag was created by Act 101 of 2008. Under the law, the Game Commission is authorized to provide one antlered elk license to a wildlife conservation

organization to auction. Of the auction proceeds, up to 20 percent may be retained by the wildlife conservation organization and the rest is turned over to the Game Commission for elk management. The new law sunsets on July 1, 2013, and requires the General Assembly to re-authorize the authority to allow for the auction of one antlered elk license per license year.

In related action, with the agency continuing to work to update and implement the elk management plan, the Board gave final approval to regulatory changes to address a somewhat confusing aspect of elk management policy. Under the proposal, terms such as “elk management area” and “elk hunt zones” will be clarified in the management plan and regulations.

Under the regulatory change, “elk management area” will be defined as that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 2G in McKean, Potter, Tioga, Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming, Clearfield and Centre counties, bounded on the north by Rt. 6, on the east by Rt. 287, on the south by Rt. 220 and I-80 and on the west by Rt. 219.

Also, “elk hunt zones” will be comprised of areas as established by the Executive Director on an annual basis prior to the opening of elk season. The divisional line between two or more elk hunt zones shall be the center of the highway, natural watercourse, other natural boundary or marked boundary.

ALL FURTAKERS HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOBCAT, FISHER

After 10 bobcat seasons with a specified number of permits, the Board of Game Commissioners gave final approval to shorten the length of the overall bobcat season to three weeks (Dec. 18-Jan. 8 for hunting, and Dec. 18-Jan. 9 for trapping), and allow all licensed furtakers the opportunity to purchase one permit to harvest a bobcat in Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4D and 4E. This action formally eliminates the need for the agency to hold a public drawing for bobcat permits.

The Board also approved the creation of a six-day fisher trapping season (Dec. 18-23) and will allow all licensed trappers the opportunity to obtain a fisher permit and try to trap one fisher in WMUs 2C 2D, 2E and 2F.

“Following careful review of recent seasons and, in consideration of hunter and trapper input received, beginning with the 2010-11 season, we are using season length to regulate bobcat taking in specified WMUs,” said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. “All indications suggest that bobcat populations have increased significantly during the previous years.

“In order to continue to assess interest, participation, effort and harvest, we believe it prudent to retain a permitting process. However, we believe that we can offer an unlimited number of permits to allow each licensed furtaker the opportunity to harvest one bobcat in the specified WMUs.”

Additionally, the Board approved the creation of a limited, one-week fisher season, which was part of the Game Commission’s initial plans when it reintroduced fishers back in the 1990s.

“Through this limited season, we will be able to gather additional biological samples for demographic and genetic analyses,” Roe said. “Mandatory reporting, along with fisher permits, is needed to better assess participation, effort and harvest for this new season.”

Resident and nonresident furtaker license-holders, as well as combination license holders, are eligible to participate in both the bobcat and fisher seasons. Bobcat and fisher permits will be available through the agency’s license sale system for \$6.70 each (\$5 for the

Game Commission, which is the same as the previous application fee; \$1 for the issuing agent; and 70 cents for the license sale system operator).

In other trapping-related action, the Board also gave final approval to open the cable restraint season on Dec. 26, rather than Jan. 1; and to increase the number of body-gripping traps that may be used to harvest beavers in Wildlife Management Unit 1B in northwestern Pennsylvania to address the increasing number of beaver nuisance complaints.

HUNTERS REMINDED ABOUT PROCESS FOR SETTING WATERFOWL SEASONS

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners gave final approval to nearly all of the 2010-11 seasons and bag limits; however, there is one group of seasons that won't be finalized until summer: waterfowl and migratory bird seasons.

In July, in concert with federal frameworks, the Game Commission will set seasons and bag limits for September resident Canada goose and webless migratory birds, such as doves, woodcock, snipe and moorhens.

In August, the Game Commission and waterfowl hunting organizations will host waterfowl organizations, individual sportsmen and the public to attend a briefing on the status of waterfowl populations and proposed preliminary federal frameworks for the 2009-10 hunting seasons.

In addition to reviewing frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for upcoming waterfowl and migratory bird seasons, Game Commission staff, along with conservation partners, will provide updates on current and planned research and management programs, as well as past hunting results.

Based on public comments received and gathered at the meeting, Game Commission staff will prepare and present recommended composite waterfowl and migratory bird seasons, bag limits and related criteria to the USFWS for final approval. All migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits must conform to frameworks set by the USFWS. States select their hunting seasons within these established frameworks.

By mid-August, once the final selections are made, the Game Commission will print and distribute brochures outlining the seasons and bag limits for waterfowl and migratory bird seasons to U.S. Post Offices, where hunters may purchase their mandatory federal duck stamp. The brochure also will be posted on the Game Commission's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us) along with a news release announcing the agency's final selections by mid-August.

ADOPTED 2010-11 HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

These are the seasons and bag limits for hunting and trapping from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. Licenses for 2010-11 will go on sale beginning June 14, 2010. For seasons and bag limits for the current year ending June 30, 2010, please see this [page](#), or consult your 2009-10 Digest.

SQUIRRELS, Red, Gray, Black and Fox (Combined): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license, and mentored youth – Oct. 9-15 (6 daily, 12 in possession limit after first day).

SQUIRRELS, Red, Gray, Black and Fox (Combined): Oct. 16-Nov. 27; Dec. 13-23 and Dec. 27-Feb. 5 (6 daily, 12 possession).

RUFFED GROUSE: Oct. 16–Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23 and Dec. 27-Jan. 22 (2 daily, 4 possession).

RABBIT (Cottontail) Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license: Oct. 9-16 (4 daily, 8 possession).

RABBIT (Cottontail): Oct. 23-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23 and Dec. 27-Feb. 26 (4 daily, 8 possession).

PHEASANT: Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license – Oct. 9-16 (2 daily, 4 in possession). Male pheasants only in WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B. Male and female pheasants may be taken in all other WMUs. There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas in any WMU.

PHEASANT: Male only in WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B – Oct. 23-Nov. 27. **Male and female may be taken in all other WMUs** – Oct. 23-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23 and Dec. 27-Feb. 5 (2 daily, 4 in possession). There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas in any WMU.

BOBWHITE QUAIL: Oct. 23-Nov. 27 (4 daily, 8 possession). **(Closed in WMUs 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D.)**

HARES (SNOWSHOE RABBITS) OR VARYING HARES: Dec. 27–Jan. 1 (1 daily, 2 possession).

WOODCHUCKS (GROUNDHOGS): No closed season, except: Sundays; during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons; and during legal hunting hours of the spring gobbler turkey season.

CROWS: July 2-April 10, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. No limit.

STARLINGS AND ENGLISH SPARROWS: No closed season, except during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons and during legal hunting hours of the spring gobbler turkey season. No limit.

WILD TURKEY (Male or Female): Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B and 2A (Shotgun and bow and arrow) –Nov. 13-19 and Nov. 25-27; **WMU 2B (Shotgun and bow and arrow)** – Nov. 6-19 and Nov. 25-27; **WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D** – Nov. 13-19 and Nov. 25-27; **WMUs 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C and 4E** – Nov. 6-19 and Nov. 25-27; **WMU 5A** – Nov. 16-18; **WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D** – CLOSED TO FALL TURKEY HUNTING.

SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with required license, and mentored youth – April 23, 2011. Only 1 spring gobbler may be taken during this hunt.

SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): April 30-May 31, 2011. Daily limit 1, season limit 2. (Second spring gobbler may be only taken by persons who possess a valid special wild turkey license.) From April 30-May 14, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon; from May 16-31, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

BLACK BEAR (Statewide) Bow and Arrow only: Nov. 15-19. Only 1 bear may be taken during the license year.

BLACK BEAR (Statewide): Nov. 20, and Nov. 22-23. Only 1 bear may be taken during the license year.

ELK (Antlered or Antlerless): Nov. 1-6. Only one elk may be taken during the license year.

ELK, EXTENDED (Antlered and Antlerless): Nov. 8-13. Only one elk may be taken during the license year. Eligible elk license recipients who haven't harvested an elk by Nov. 6, in designated areas.

Elk, Special Conservation Tag (Antlered or Antlerless): Sept. 1-Nov. 6. One elk tag for one antlered or antlerless elk will be auctioned at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation annual banquet.

DEER, ARCHERY (Antlerless Only) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D: Sept. 18-Oct. 1 and Nov. 15-27. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ARCHERY (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D: Oct. 2-Nov. 13 and Dec. 27-Jan. 29. One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ARCHERY (Antlered and Antlerless) Statewide: Oct. 2-Nov. 13 and Dec. 27-Jan. 15. One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 4A, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D: Nov. 29-Dec. 11. One antlered deer per hunting license year. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER (Antlered Only) WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2G, 3C, 4B, 4D and 4E: Nov. 29-Dec. 3. One antlered deer per hunting license year. *(Holders of valid DMAP antlerless deer permits may harvest antlerless deer on DMAP properties during this period.)*

DEER (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2G, 3C, 4B, 4D and 4E: Dec. 4-11. One antlered deer per hunting license year. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ANTLERLESS (Statewide): Oct. 21-23. Junior and Senior License Holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) Holders, and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Services or in the U.S. Coast Guard only, with required antlerless license. Also included are persons who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for a license and hold a valid adult license, or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER (Statewide): Oct. 16-23. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS FLINTLOCK (Statewide): Dec. 27-Jan. 15. One antlered deer per hunting license year, or one antlerless deer and an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS FLINTLOCK (WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D): Dec. 27-Jan. 29. One antlered deer per hunting license year, or one antlerless deer and an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, Antlerless (WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D): Dec. 27-Jan. 29. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER, ANTLERLESS (Military Bases): Hunting permitted on days established by the U.S. Department of the Army at Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County; New Cumberland Army Depot, York County; and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

ADOPTED 2010-11 FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS

COYOTES: No closed season. Unlimited. Outside of any deer or bear season, coyotes may be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker license, and without wearing orange. During any archery deer season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting deer or with a furtaker license. During the regular firearms deer and any bear seasons, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting deer or bear, or with a furtaker license while wearing 250 square inches of fluorescent orange. During the spring gobbler season, may be taken by those with a valid tag and meet fluorescent orange and shot size requirements.

RACCOON and FOXES: Oct. 23–Feb. 19, unlimited.

OPOSSUM, SKUNKS & WEASELS: No closed season, except Sundays and during legal hunting hours of the spring gobbler season. No limits.

BOBCAT (WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4D and 4E): Dec. 18-Jan. 8. One bobcat per license year, but all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit.

ADOPTED 2010-11 TRAPPING SEASONS

MINK and MUSKRAT: Nov. 20–Jan. 9. Unlimited.

COYOTE, FOXES, OPOSSUM, RACCOON, SKUNKS and WEASELS: Oct. 24–Feb. 20. No limit.

COYOTE and FOXES (Statewide) Cable Restraints: Dec. 26-Feb. 20. No limit. Participants must pass cable restraint certification course.

BEAVER (Statewide): Dec. 26–March 31 (Limits vary depending on WMU).

BOBCAT (WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4D and 4E): Dec. 18-Jan. 9. One bobcat per license year, and all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit.

FISHER (WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E and 2F): Dec. 18-23. One fisher per license year, and all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit.

ADOPTED 2010-11 FALCONRY SEASONS

SQUIRRELS (combined), BOBWHITE QUAIL, RUFFED GROUSE, COTTONTAIL RABBITS, SNOWSHOE OR VARYING HARE, RINGNECK PHEASANT (Male or Female combined): Sept. 1-March 31. Daily and Field Possession limits vary. (Migratory game bird seasons and bag limits for falconers will be set in accordance with federal regulations in August.)

No open season on other wild birds or mammals. Waterfowl and Migratory Game Bird seasons will be established in accordance with Federal Regulations this summer.






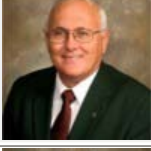


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Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners is comprised of eight board members, each selected by the Governor, and confirmed by majority vote of the state Senate. Title 34, the law that governs the Board, requires that each member be a citizen of the Commonwealth, and well informed about wildlife conservation and restoration. Commissioners are appointed from various geographical districts of the state to ensure uniform representation for all residents. These districts are not the same as Game Commission agency regions.

Game Commissioners individually hold office for terms of eight years, but may remain seated for an additional six months if no successor is named. Commissioners receive no compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Commissioners function as a board of directors, establishing policy for the agency. They are not agency employees. Although they are selected by district, they represent all Pennsylvanians and the state's 467 species of wild birds and mammals. The current Commissioners and their hometowns follow. Click on their names for more biographical information.

	<p><u>James Delaney, President</u></p> <p>District 7: Carbon, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties</p> <p>Term: April 17, 2007 to April 17, 2015</p> <p>Hometown: Wilkes-Barre</p>
	<p><u>Ronald Weaner, Vice-President</u></p> <p>District 6: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder and York counties</p> <p>Term: June 3, 2008 to June 3, 2016</p> <p>Hometown: Biglerville</p>
	<p><u>David Schreffler, Secretary</u></p> <p>District 4: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset counties</p> <p>Term: June 23, 2005 to June 23, 2013</p> <p>Hometown: Everett</p>
	<p><u>Tom Boop, Commissioner</u></p> <p>District 5: Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union counties</p> <p>Term: July 28, 2003 to July 28, 2011</p> <p>Hometown: Sunbury</p>
	<p><u>Greg Isabella, Commissioner</u></p> <p>District 8: Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Northampton, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware counties</p> <p>Term: July 28, 2003 to July 28, 2011</p> <p>Hometown: Philadelphia</p>
	<p><u>David J. Putnam, Commissioner</u></p> <p>District 3: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter counties</p> <p>Term: May 5, 2009 to May 5, 2017</p> <p>Hometown: Centre Hall</p>
	<p><u>Robert Schlemmer, Commissioner</u></p> <p>District 2: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties</p> <p>Term: June 16, 2009 to May 16, 2017</p> <p>Hometown: Export</p>
	<p><u>Ralph A. Martone, Commissioner</u></p> <p>District 1: Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence, Venango, Butler, Warren, Forest and Clarion counties</p> <p>Term: July 15, 2009 to October 16, 2014</p> <p>Hometown: New Castle</p>

The Board of Game Commissioners holds quarterly meetings, generally in January, April, June and October, and at other necessary times, if necessary. By law, it is the duty of the commission to protect, propagate, manage and preserve the game or wildlife of Pennsylvania. Specific duties include:

- Fix seasons, bag limits and hunting hours;
- Remove protection, declare an open season, or change or close a season;
- Revise bag limits;
- Define geographic limitations for hunting;
- Limit the number of hunters or trappers in an area;
- Prescribe methods of hunting and trapping;
- Govern the use of calls for taking game or furbearers;
- Prohibit the possession, importation, exportation, or release of animals considered harmful to the state;
- Revise the state classification of any wild bird or mammal, such as threatened or endangered;
- Manage and develop state game lands and private lands under public access programs;
- Collect data and preserve statistics about wildlife;
- Select an agency Executive Director; and
- Serve the interests of sportsmen and sportswomen by preserving and promoting recreational hunting and trapping by providing adequate opportunity to hunt or trap out wildlife resources.

The Board of Game Commissioners works hand-in-hand with the Executive Director and agency staff to ensure that all wild birds and mammals, and their habitats are managed for current and future generations.

Contact Us

E-Mail Comments and Suggestions to the Game Commission: pgccomments@state.pa.us

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS

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Real Estate
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Licensing
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Wildlife Management
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Information & Education
717-787-6286

Wildlife Protection
717-783-6526

Wildlife Habitat Management
717-787-6818

Automotive and Procurement
717-787-6594

Automated Technology Services
717-787-4076

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION REGIONAL OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION

Butler | Clarion | Crawford | Erie | Forest | Jefferson | Lawrence
| Mercer | Venango | Warren

Post Office Box 31
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-3187

SOUTHWEST REGION

Allegheny | Armstrong | Beaver | Cambria | Fayette | Greene |
Indiana | Somerset | Washington | Westmoreland

4820 Route 711
Bolivar, PA 15923
(724) 238-9523

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Cameron | Centre | Clearfield | Clinton | Elk | Lycoming |
McKean | Potter | Tioga | Union

Post Office Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
(570) 398-4744

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Adams | Bedford | Blair | Cumberland | Franklin | Fulton |
Huntingdon | Juniata | Mifflin | Perry | Snyder

8627 William Penn Highway
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643-1831

NORTHEAST REGION

Bradford | Carbon | Columbia | Lackawanna | Luzerne | Monroe
| Montour | Northumberland | Pike | Sullivan | Susquehanna |
Wayne | Wyoming

Post Office Box 220
Dallas, PA 18612-0220
(570) 675-1143

SOUTHEAST REGION

Berks | Bucks | Chester | Dauphin | Delaware | Lancaster |
Lebanon | Lehigh | Montgomery | Northampton | Philadelphia |
Schuylkill | York

448 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605
(610) 926-3136

Mentored Youth Hunting Program FAQs

In 2006, the Pennsylvania Game Commission launched the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. The objective behind the Mentored Youth Hunting Program is simple and clear: create expanded youth hunting opportunities while maintaining safety afield.

This program provides additional means for youngsters to nurture their early interest in hunting and allows them to take a more active role in those formative trips afield with mentoring adults. The program increases hands-on use of sporting arms and can promote a better understanding and interest in hunting and wildlife conservation that will help assure hunting's future, as well as reinforce the principles of hunting safely through the close supervision provided by dedicated mentors.

Following are a few of the answers to some of the more frequent questions being asked about the program.

Who Qualifies as a Mentor? Under the program, a mentor is defined as a properly licensed individual 21 years of age or older, who serves as a guide to a mentored youth while engaged in hunting or related activities, such as scouting, learning firearm or hunter safety and wildlife identification.

Does a Mentor Need to Obtain a Permit? Yes, beginning with the 2009-10 license year, a mentored youth will need a permit. The permit costs \$2.70 (\$1 for the Game Commission, \$1 for the issuing agent and 70 cents for the transaction fee). Benefits of this permit include that the youth will be provided with the necessary field harvest tags for one antlered deer and one spring gobbler. Also, by capturing data about how many youth are participating in the program and where they live, the Game Commission will be able to better plan on when, where and how many basic Hunter-Trapper Education courses will need to be held as these mentored youth approach 11 years of age, which is when a youth is eligible to take the course.

Who Qualifies as a Youth to Participate in the Program? A mentored youth is defined as an unlicensed individual under 12 years of age who is accompanied by a mentor while engaged in hunting or related activities.

Does the Youth Need to Be Hunter-Trapper Education Certified? No, the youth does not need to take and pass the Game Commission's mandatory Hunter-Trapper Education, which is required for all first-time license buyers. However, it is the responsibility of the mentor to ensure that each youth is trained in firearm and hunter safety before heading afield.

What Details Do I Need to Know About the Program? The Program stipulates that the mentor to mentored youth ratio be one-to-one, which means that the mentor may not have more than one youth hunting with them at a time. Also, the pair may possess only one sporting arm while hunting. While moving, the sporting arm must be carried by the mentor. When the pair reaches a stationary hunting location, the mentor may turn over possession of the sporting arm to the youth, and then must keep the youth within arm's length at all times while he or she is in possession of the sporting arm. The program also requires that both the mentor and the youth must abide by fluorescent orange regulations for the species being hunted.

Are There Safety Concerns With the Program? Based on data from other states - many of which have no hunting age limitations - there are no facts showing a decrease in safety by allowing individuals of any age to go hunting. As with any hunting situation, it is the responsibility of the hunter - and in this case, more specifically, the Mentor - to make sure that the youth is prepared to go hunting. Preparation includes, but is not limited to, firearm safety, hunting safety and physical and mental preparedness. Also, the Mentored Youth Hunting Program has several safety precautions built into it, such as the one-to-one ratio limitation on the mentor-to-youth; the pair may only have one sporting arm; the youth may possess the sporting arm and hunt only from a stationary position; and the youth must be within arm's length of the mentor at all times while in possession of the sporting arm.

What Species Can Be Taken By a Youth Participating in the Program? The species identified as legal for the Mentored Youth Hunting Program are squirrels, woodchucks (groundhogs), antlered deer, spring gobbler and coyotes. When hunting for antlered deer, those youth participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program are required to follow the same antler restrictions as a junior license holder, which is one antler of three or more inches in length or one antler with at least two points.

Can a Mentored Youth harvest an antlerless deer?

Presently, the Game Commission has not included the option of harvesting antlerless deer for mentored youth. The Game Commission manages deer population trends within each of the 22 Wildlife Management Units by regulating the antlerless deer harvest. To harvest an antlerless deer, a hunter must possess an antlerless deer license. As there is no legal method for mentored youth to acquire antlerless deer licenses, there is currently no option for a mentored youth to harvest an antlerless deer. However, the Game Commission has supported legislation introduced in the General Assembly to allow for the legal transfer of an antlerless deer license from an adult mentor to a youth that they are mentoring under the MYHP. For more information about this bill, House Bill 281, please click [here](#).

What About Tagging and Reporting Requirements for Big Game Taken By the Youth?

The mentored youth must tag and report any antlered deer or spring gobbler taken. With the new permit required for participants, youth will now have the field harvest tag that must be attached to any antlered deer or spring gobbler harvested. Also, the youth must report his or her harvest, which can be done online, or by mailing a harvest report card, within five days. Mentored youth can see a sample carcass tag and use the harvest report card available in the Digest, or in the Forms and Brochures section of the agency's website.

The mentored youth may not use the mentor's tags or harvest report cards if the youth harvests an antlered deer or spring gobbler.

PALS SUMMARY

2010-2011 Hunting License Information

Summary of Licensing Changes Related to the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS)

On June 14, the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS) will be activated fully for the sale of 2010 hunting licenses. This new automated licensing system is a joint project with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and our contractor, Automated Licensing Systems, a subsidiary of Active Outdoors.

All hunting licenses will be issued through PALS. Pre-printed, paper licenses no longer will be used. The new automated system provides licensing options that hunters have not had previously. A summary of the basic changes follows.

- **Customer Identification Number (CID):** If you already have purchased a hunting or fishing license through PALS, you were assigned a CID number which was printed on your license. Please use this number when applying for a license through PALS since this will identify you in the database and speed the license issuance process. If you have never purchased a license through PALS, you will need to provide your social security number when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you don't have or can't remember your CID. PALS provides more licensing options for and greater convenience, customer service and equal opportunity to all hunters. PALS provides improved information security to issuing agents and the Game Commission. As well as streamlined financial reporting and accountability and immediate and greater access to data. It's simply a better, more efficient and contemporary way to sell licenses. It was a move long overdue.

- **Senior Lifetime License Holders:** If you are a resident senior lifetime hunting or combination license holder, and have not purchased or renewed your license through PALS, you will need to provide your social security number (SSN) when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again, unless you don't have or can't remember your CID. Senior lifetime license ID cards are no longer required since PALS will recognize your record through your SSN or CID. You will still need to provide proof of residency when you renew your license, usually done through a valid PA driver's license.

- **Carcass Tags:** The big game tags that come with the license have two perforated holes in the center. These will be used with a string or twist tie to attach the tag to the carcass.

- **Harvest Reporting:** Licenses issued through PALS do not include pre-printed harvest report cards. To report a deer or turkey harvest, you may use the harvest report cards included with the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations or report on-line using this website.

- **Display:** Hunting and furtaker licenses - which are now a perforated series of foldable yellow panels - can be folded to fit in a license-holder, but at least the general hunting or furtaker license must be displayed at all times. If you are checked by a Wildlife Conservation Officer or the landowner while afield, you must have all applicable hunting and furtaker licenses on your person along with positive ID to confirm identification and residency.

- **Antlerless Deer Licenses:** Hunters will mail their applications directly to a County Treasurer of their choice, not the Game Commission. County Treasurers can issue antlerless deer licenses for any wildlife management unit (WMU), not just those their county is a part of. Hunters may use the application panel that comes with the license or the forms contained in the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations. Either type of application is valid. Hunters may select their first, second and third WMU preferences on the application. That way, if the first WMU of choice is sold out, the Treasurer can issue a license for the second or third WMU preferred based on license availability. Official application enve-

lopes are now pink in color and still available through all hunting license issuing agents. PALS automatically tracks allocations and monitors personal license limits so that hunters are not issued more licenses than they are entitled at any given point. Please refer to the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations and the “Antlerless Deer License” section elsewhere on this website for details on the application schedule and process.

- License/Permit Availability: Commercial issuing agents and County Treasurers are now able to offer more specialized licenses and permits through PALS that were not available at their locations in the past. These specialized licenses include the resident senior lifetime license categories (hunting, furtaker, combination and combo upgrades), disabled veteran lifetime renewals, resident landowner reduced-fee hunting licenses and special spring gobbler season licenses. In mid to late July, DMAP harvest permits also will be available for sale through any issuing agent. In addition, all agents can now accept elk and second spring gobbler license.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2010
Release #079-10

GAME COMMISSION POSTS DEER PLAN ON WEBSITE

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Game Commission has finalized its plan for managing the state’s whitetail population for the next 10 years. Want to see what’s coming and where we’re going? Then check out the plan.

The deer plan is now on the agency’s website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), all 148 pages of it. To access it, click on “White-Tailed Deer” in the row of photo-buttons on the homepage, then choose “Deer Mgmt Plans,” and select “2009-2018 White-Tailed Deer Management Plan.”

The agency’s deer management goals are to: manage deer for a healthy and sustainable deer herd; manage deer-human conflicts at levels considered safe and acceptable to Pennsylvania citizens; manage deer impacts for healthy and sustainable forest habitat; manage deer to provide recreational opportunities; and to improve the public’s knowledge and understanding of deer and the deer management program. Game Commission staff uses these guidelines when making deer management recommendations to the Board of Game Commissioners.

The agency’s deer management goals were identified by public stakeholders and supported by citizens who attended public open houses.

In addition, more than 200 public comments were received during the draft deer management plan’s comment period earlier this year.

For more information about the agency’s deer management program, visit the Game Commission’s website (www.pgc.state.pa.us) and click on “White-Tailed Deer” in the row of photo buttons in the center of the homepage. This section of the website features the latest brochures on deer and deer management developed by the agency; all issues of the biologist-written “Deer Chronicle,” top-notch references that cover agency research, solutions to deer-human conflicts, hunting tips and general information, deer photos and even an “Ask The Deer Biologist” section.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 09, 2010
Release #072-10

GAME COMMISSION PRAISES ENACTMENT OF BILL TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe today offered his praise to Governor Edward G. Rendell, House Game and Fisheries Committee Chairman Edward G. Staback (D-Lackawanna) and the General Assembly for enactment of a bill that will protect wildlife by cracking down on poaching. House Bill 1859, sponsored by Rep. Staback to increase penalties and fines for poaching committed against Pennsylvania wildlife, was signed into law today by Gov. Rendell.

“Increasing penalties for serious violations is one of the operational objectives within the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Strategic Plan, and we welcome enactment of House Bill 1859,” Roe said. “This marks the first comprehensive piece of legislation to increase Game and Wildlife Code penalties since 1987, and we believe it will significantly enhance wildlife protection in the Commonwealth.

“There is widespread public support for increasing in fines and penalties as indicated by surveys that showed 96 percent of Pennsylvania’s citizens feel that wildlife protection is a vitally important function.”

Roe said that the causes of poaching vary, but the myth that most poachers are committing their offenses to provide food for their families is, in reality, almost never the case.

“Most often, poaching today is committed by criminals driving \$30,000 vehicles, using expensive night-vision technology, illegal silencers and firearms,” Roe said. “Most commonly, the causes are simply greed, obsessive behavior in collecting antlers; in some cases poachers take great pride in their infamous status in local communities. A disturbing and increasingly common cause is killing simply for thrill with no intention of making use of any part of the animal.”

House Bill 1859 passed the House by a vote of 196 to 3 on July 21, and was unanimously approved by the Senate on July 3. After a concurrence vote of 189 to 6 in the House, on July 3, it was sent to Gov. Edward G. Rendell. The bill will become law in 60 days.

Turn in a poacher

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has established a "Turn-In-a-Poacher" program to strengthen the Commonwealth's efforts to apprehend people who are suspected of killing threatened or endangered species or multiple big game animals. The program encourages citizen involvement by offering a reward to callers who provide "tips" that lead to the prosecution of an individual(s) who kills endangered or threatened species or unlawfully take multiple big game animals (white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey and elk). You can get involved by either calling a toll-free-telephone number - **1-888-PGC-8001** - or filling out a "TIP" Reporting Form.

The TIP program was authorized by the General Assembly as part of a legislative package to deter crimes against wildlife. The act authorizes the Game Commission to increase by \$200 fines against individuals convicted of killing threatened or endangered species or unlawfully taking multiple big game animals. That money is then placed in a special fund from which \$100 will be used to pay the individual providing the "tip," and the remainder is used to help offset the costs of running the TIP program.



Calls to the TIP telephone number are always answered by a secure recording device. Tips submitted using the new on-line reporting system will be delivered electronically to a special email account in the agency's Bureau of Wildlife Protection. Access to the recording device and e-mail account is limited to ensure confidentiality and program integrity. Both methods of reporting are available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

People who provide "tips" can choose to remain completely anonymous, particularly if you're not interested in a reward for your efforts to help wildlife and fight criminal activity against it. But if you would like to claim a reward you're entitled to, you'll have to provide a way for the agency to let you know that your information led to the successful prosecution of the accused individual and that the reward is yours.

Information about other crimes against wildlife - the illegal harvest of a single deer, bear or elk, crimes on state game lands, etc. - is still of great interest to the Game Commission, but should be reported to the appropriate agency Region Office serving the county in which the violation(s) occurred. Remember, every time another individual gets involved with reporting crimes against wildlife and wild places, Pennsylvania's great outdoors improves.

Safety Tips

Positively identify that target! - Be sure your shooting at legal game and not another hunter. **Never shoot at sounds or movement!**



Stay in the zone! - Know your zone of fire - that area where you can safely shoot at game and not endanger your partners. Never shoot at game moving between you and someone else.

Be seen! - Wear fluorescent orange clothing. Check your hunting regulations to determine specific amounts for each season.

Plan your hunt, then hunt your plan! - Let someone know where you're hunting and when you'll return. Provide a detailed plan and stick to it!

Buckle up! - If you hunt from an elevated stand, always wear a fall-restraint device whenever your feet leave the ground until they return. A full-body harness is best!

Dress for success! - Layers of clothing that wick moisture, insulate and block wind or rain will keep you safe and comfortable all day.

Keep fit! - Hunting is hard work. Don't become a statistic - stay physically fit and enjoy your outdoor experience. Start with a check-up and follow the doctor's advice.

Do your homework! - Scout your hunting area and learn the habits of the game you hunt. Practice with your sporting arms to become a skilled and proficient shooter.

Stay found! - Become familiar with your hunting area. Learn how to use a map and compass or GPS unit.

Be prepared! - Anticipate problems and emergencies. Always carry a basic survival kit and know how to use it!

Safe hunting is NO accident! - Follow all firearm-handling and safe hunting rules



Safety Tips

Treestands

Stay away! - Avoid permanent stands; they weaken with age, damage trees and are eyesores.



Smart choice! - Used stands certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA). They are commercially designed and tested to meet high standards.

Read the directions! - Read and follow manufacture's guidelines. Practice with stands before hunting.

Look carefully! - Inspect all stands and climbing equipment before each use.

Choose wisely! - Select only suitable trees. Avoid dead trees or those with loose bark.

Buckle up! - Use a fall-restraint device, preferably a full-body harness, any time your feet leave the ground! This includes climbing up and down the tree. Choose a harness that will keep you upright and will not restrict your breathing.

Keep it short! - Make sure there is no slack in the fall-restraint tether when you are in a sitting position.

Hold on tight! - Maintain three points of contact with the climbing system, ladder or tree at all times while climbing.

Climb safely! - Use a haul line to pull up gear. If hunting with a firearm, make sure it is unloaded and the muzzle is covered! Never attach the line near the trigger or trigger guard.

Ask a friend! - Use 3 persons to set-up any ladder-type treestand.

Hunt with a plan! - In the event of a fall, be prepared to help yourself. Have someone contact authorities if you don't return at an established time.

Firearms

Handle all firearms as if they're loaded! - Never assume they're unloaded. Double check to be sure.



Take charge of that muzzle! - Always point it in a safe direction.

Identify your target! Don't rush. - Look for unmistakable, positive proof your shot will be safe. Make sure the area in front of and beyond your target is safe, too!

Don't ride the trigger! - Don't put your finger on the trigger until you're ready to shoot.

Keep the barrel and action clear! - Check for obstructions like mud or jammed cartridges. Only carry ammunition matching the caliber or gauge of the firearm you're using.

Unload all firearms not in use! - It eliminates unintentional discharges and saves lives. Transport unloaded firearms in cases with the action open.

Cross or climb safely! - Unload and place your firearm on the ground before crossing a fence, log or other obstacle, or climbing a tree. Retrieve it with your hand or hoist rope butt first.

Check your backstop! - Shoot only when a safe and adequate backstop exists. Don't shoot at hard, flat surfaces; water; or a target on the horizon.

Store firearms and ammunition separately! - Keep them locked and away from children or other inexperienced people.

Don't mix guns with drugs or alcohol! - Never take or drink anything that impairs your senses either before or while you're shooting.

Public Shooting Ranges



For your shooting enjoyment and to make you a better hunter, the Game Commission maintains numerous public shooting ranges across the state.

Unless otherwise posted, these ranges are open year-round, from 8 a.m. until sunset, Monday through Saturday, and noon to sunset on Sundays. And with stable benches, large backstops and well maintained grounds, they're great places to sight-in your rifles, test ammunition and hone your shooting skills.

Especially prior to the bear and deer seasons and on weekends, these ranges can be busy places. Users should review and follow the posted regulations, and be considerate of others, too. Of course, all rules of safety need to be followed, and by all means wear proper eye and ear protection. Also, anyone under 16 must be accompanied by someone 18 or older.

Users should also practice good shooting etiquette. The regulation, for example, that limits a shooter to having no more than three rounds in a rifle (six in a handgun) may not seem to make much sense.

What it does, though, is give shooters a chance to check their targets without having to wait for those who may want to shoot long strings. This same regulation prohibits people using firearms with large capacity magazines from monopolizing time on the range, and also causing inordinate damage, particularly to backstops.

The Game Commission has completed lead remediation and safety upgrade projects at all public shooting ranges. However, routine maintenance at these ranges will require closing them for several hours every month. This routine maintenance includes rebuilding target-line stations, cutting grass and other clean-up activities that vary depending on range use. Please contact the appropriate agency Region Office to check the daily status of the range(s) you wish to visit.

Shooters also should show consideration for others waiting for an open bench. It's not uncommon, especially leading up to the bear and deer seasons, to find an adult teaching a youngster how to shoot, or to find someone having difficulty sighting-in a rifle. Show some patience in such circumstances, and if it seems appropriate, offer some assistance.

Groups may reserve ranges from January 1 through October 1 by calling the region office at least 20 days in advance. The range is closed to individuals when it is reserved, and signs may be posted at other times indicating a closed range.

More than \$200,000 is spent annually on shooting range maintenance. So providing this service is not cheap. To help keep maintenance costs down, which will allow these funds to be diverted to other projects and programs, there are some things we, as users, should do:

First, don't shoot up the framework used to hold the backstop material. Second, clean up your spent cases, remove targets from backstops, keep shooting benches clean and dispose of all other litter.

Offering shooting ranges, free of charge to the public, is a valuable service the Game Commission provides. Use them, take care of them, and by all means, enjoy them. After all, they're provided for your shooting enjoyment.



Region/County	SGL	Access Route	Rifle		Handgun		
			Firing Points	Yards	Firing Points	Yards	
Northwest Region							
Clarion	72	SR 1005	6	100	---	---	
Erie	109	RT 97	10	100	3	25	
Forest	24	SR 3004	3	200	---	---	
Southwest Region							
Allegheny	203	RT 228	20	100	10	50	
Cambria	108	SR 4025	2	100	3	25	
Fayette	51	SR 1055	4	100	---	---	
Greene	179	SR 3005	7	300	---	---	
Greene	223	SR 2011	5	100	---	---	
Indiana	248	Chestnut Ridge Rd	4	100	5	50	
Somerset	50	SR 2031	6	50/100	4	10/25	
Washington	245	RT 231	6	100	---	---	
Westmoreland	42	RT 30	4	100	---	---	
Westmoreland	42	RT 711	6	100	3	25	
Northcentral Region							
Centre	176	RT 45	25	200	25	50	
Clearfield	77	RT 219	6	100	---	---	
Southcentral Region							
Cumberland	230	RT 34	9	300	25	25	
Northeast Region							
Carbon	141	RT 93	7	100/200/300	11	25/50	
Columbia	58	RT 339	7	100/150	---	---	
Lackawanna	300	SR 1012	17	50/100/200	6	25/50	
Luzerne	91	RT 2035	10	50/75/100	---	---	
Luzerne	206	RT 118	10	50/75/100	8	25	
Monroe	127	RT 423	12	50/100	6	10/25	
Pike	183	RT 6	11	25/50/100	---	---	
Wayne	159	RT 4007	11	25/50/100	---	---	
Southeast Region							
Chester	43	Rt 23/Rt345	12	50/100	---	---	
Berks	106	Pine Swamp Rd	10	100	---	---	
Lehigh	205	RT 100	13	50/100	---	---	
Dauphin	211	RT 325	8	100	---	---	
York	242	RT 74	8	100	12	50	
Region/County	SGL	Access Route	Firing Points	Yards	Firing Points	Yards	

White-Tailed Deer & Bear Harvest Information 1915 - Present

Year	Antlered Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Total Deer	Bear Harvest
<u>1915</u>	1,287	CLOSED	1,287	188
1916	1,722	CLOSED	1,722	435
1917	1,725	CLOSED	1,725	368
1918	1,754	CLOSED	1,754	387
1919	2,939	CLOSED	2,939	472
<u>1920</u>	3,300	CLOSED	3,300	420
1921	4,840	CLOSED	4,840	510
1922	6,115	CLOSED	6,115	563
1923	6,452	8	6,460	500
1924	7,778	126	7,904	929
1925	7,287	1,029	8,316	470
1926	11,646	1,295	12,941	660
1927	14,374	CLOSED	14,374	321
1928	CLOSED	25,097	25,097	427
1929	22,822	CLOSED	22,822	447
<u>1930</u>	20,115	5,979	26,294	707
1931	24,796	70,255	95,051	501
1932	19,724	CLOSED	19,724	216
1933	20,480	CLOSED	20,480	586
1934	21,137	CLOSED	21,137	CLOSED
1935	23,802	46,668	70,470	402
1936	18,804	CLOSED	18,084	356
1937	39,347	CLOSED	39,347	537
1938	CLOSED	171,662	171,662	384
1939	49,106	14,581	63,687	535
<u>1940</u>	40,995	145,580	186,575	524
1941	19,271	CLOSED	19,271	593
1942	30,860	CLOSED	30,860	149
1943	23,931	14,951	38,882	307
1944	28,411	CLOSED	28,411	295
1945	24,575	1,085	25,660	366
1946	31,110	4,209	35,319	325
1947	31,475	63,568	95,043	569
1948	33,608	CLOSED	33,608	388
1949	46,602	84,121	130,723	411
<u>1950</u>	23,302	31,515	54,817	354
1951	34,582	37,952	72,534	429
1952	27,164	37,829	64,993	261
1953	37,384	16,252	53,636	303
1954	40,915	CLOSED	40,915	403
1955	45,044	41,111	86,155	335
1956	41,921	CLOSED	41,921	335
1957	49,254	55,862	105,116	294
1958	46,738	65,187	111,925	439
1959	38,270	51,902	90,172	296

1960	38,776	29,887	68,663	392
1961	38,705	17,327	56,032	237
1962	42,266	30,647	72,913	554
1963	48,204	36,212	84,416	280
1964	49,231	41,903	91,134	526
1965	65,150	34,638	99,788	347
1966	58,722	60,031	118,753	605
1967	78,268	66,147	144,415	568
1968	62,038	79,836	141,874	218
1969	59,923	56,761	116,684	295
1970	53,350	46,336	99,686	CLOSED
1971	55,602	48,625	104,227	488
1972	62,633	44,582	107,215	370
1973	70,316	56,575	126,891	299
1974	70,689	54,963	125,652	223
1975	71,986	66,209	138,195	388
1976	64,084	57,949	122,033	605
1977	74,879	71,199	146,078	CLOSED
1978	61,698	59,543	121,241	CLOSED
1979	58,864	55,930	114,794	736
1980	73,196	62,281	135,477	921
1981	73,322	75,208	148,530	819
1982	72,113	66,109	138,222	588
1983	70,233	66,060	136,293	1,529
1984	76,500	63,680	140,180	1,547
1985	76,097	85,331	161,428	1,029
* 1986	150,359	149,655	300,014	1,362
* 1987	157,547	177,242	334,789	1,556
* 1988	163,106	218,293	381,399	1,614
* 1989	169,795	218,806	388,601	2,213
* 1990	170,101	245,460	415,561	1,200
* 1991	149,598	238,417	388,015	1,687
* 1992	163,159	198,065	361,224	1,589
* 1993	165,214	243,343	408,557	1,790
* 1994	157,030	238,051	395,081	1,365
* 1995	182,235	248,348	430,583	2,190
* 1996	153,432	197,565	350,997	1,796
* 1997	176,677	220,339	397,016	2,110
* 1998	181,449	196,040	377,489	2,598
* 1999	194,368	184,224	378,592	1,740
* 2000	203,221	301,379	504,600	3,075
* 2001	203,247	282,767	486,014	3,063
* 2002	165,416	352,113	517,529	2,686
* 2003	142,270	322,620	464,890	3,000
* 2004	124,410	284,910	409,320	2,972
* 2005	120,500	233,890	354,390	4,164
* 2006	135,290	226,270	361,560	3,122
* 2007	109,200	213,870	323,070	2,360
* 2008	122,410	213,440	335,850	3,458
* 2009	108,330	200,590	308,920	3,512
Year	Antlered Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Total Deer	Bear Harvest

* Deer harvests in these years are calculated harvest, rather than reported. The adjustment was made to reflect declines in successful hunter reporting rates.

GAME COMMISSION POSTS BEAR AGE DATA ON WEBSITE

HARRISBURG – Hunters interested in learning the age of the bear they harvested during the 2009 seasons can log onto the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s website (www.pgc.state.pa.us). To access the database, click on “[Hunt/Trap](#)” in the menu bar at the top of the page, click on “[Hunting](#),” scroll down and click on “[Black Bear](#)” in the “[Big Game](#)” listing, and then scroll down and click on “[Black Bear Age Data](#)” in the “[Reference](#)” listing.

“As a cost-cutting measure, the Game Commission no longer mails a certificate and letter to successful bear hunters notifying them of their bear’s age,” said Carl G. Roe, agency executive director. “To maintain this valued customer service, however, we provide hunters with a certificate at the check station when their bear is processed, and information about how and when they can find the age data, which is determined by examining a tooth from the bear that is extracted as part of the check station processing, on our website.”

Ages are available only for bears from which a tooth was pulled. To access the data and learn the age of their bear, a hunter will need to have their legal seal number from the check station certificate. If the hunter no longer has the seal number, age data also is provided in charts broken down by county of harvest.


In 2009, of the nearly 148,000 licensed bear hunters, 3,512 bears were harvested and taken to check stations, which is the second highest harvest recorded in Pennsylvania. The record bear harvest of 4,164 was set in 2005.

Instructions on the back of the certificates distributed at check stations to access this data on the agency’s website presently is incorrect. The certificates issued in 2009 were printed and distributed prior to the agency’s transition to a new website format, which has significantly changed the navigation features of the new website.

Living with Pennsylvania Black Bears



Living with Pennsylvania Black Bears

 **BLACK BEARS** have been roaming our forests, wallowing in our bogs and swamps, and living around our farms since the days before the earliest human settlements. Today, bears are many things to many people, from valued game animals to the highlight of an outdoor experience, to farm pillagers and neighborhood pests, to even a dangerous threat. Our perceptions of bears are a product of their mostly shy, mysterious nature and powerful presence, not to mention the timeless tales that have been told about them. Unfortunately, there's as much misinformation about bears in circulation as there is fact. And that's too bad, because bears needn't be feared, nor should they be dismissed as harmless. They simply need to be respected.

Pennsylvania's bear population has been increasing for decades, and at the same time, many people have moved into the areas where bears reside. As a result, bears and people are coming into contact more than ever. And most of these encounters occur when bears learn that where people live there's easy-to-obtain food. Learning about bears and being aware of their habits is important for people who live in bear country, which now includes most of the state.

The bear facts

Ursus americanus is the black bear's scientific name; it means "American bear." Although three species of bears inhabit North America, only the black bear is found in Pennsylvania. Population estimates in recent years have ranged up around 15,000. Black bears appear heavy, but they are surprisingly agile; they can run up to 35 mph, climb trees and swim well. They may live up to 25 years in the wild.

Black bears are intelligent and curious. Studies show that bears can see colors, recognize human forms, and notice even the slightest movement. However, bears usually rely on their acute sense of smell and, to a lesser degree, hearing to locate food and warn them of danger.

Despite their common name, black bears are not always black. They may be cinnamon or, even more rare, blond. Many bears have a white blaze or "V" on their chest.

Adults usually weigh around 200 pounds, with males being heavier than females, often more than twice as much. Some weigh up to 600 or more pounds and rare individuals up to 900 have been found. Males are called boars; females, sows. Black bears measure about three feet high when on all fours or about five to seven feet tall when standing upright.

Bear signs and sounds

Black bear tracks are distinctive. The hind footprint resembles a human's. Bears have five toes. The front foot is shorter than the rear, which is long and narrow. Claw marks may or may not be visible.



Bears use trails, just like people do. Look for tracks in soft earth or around mud puddles, and for claw marks on smooth-bark trees or rotten logs that have been ripped apart for insects. It's also easy to recognize a black bear's sizeable droppings of partly digested berries, corn or animal hair.

Adult black bears make a variety of sounds that include woofing, growls and jaw-popping. Sows communicate with their cubs by using low grunts or huffs. Cubs whimper, chuckle and bawl.



Feeding habits

Bears may be on the move at any time, but they're usually most active at dusk and dawn. Bears are omnivorous, eating almost anything, from berries, corn, acorns, beechnuts and even grass, to table scraps, carrion, honey and insects. During late summer and fall, black bears fatten up for winter hibernation. At this time they may actively feed for up to 20 hours a day, ingesting up to 20,000 calories.



Bears and winter

Bears are usually dormant in winter, remaining in their dens, which can be rock caverns, excavated holes beneath shrubs, trees or dead falls, in hollow trees or brushy thickets. A hibernating bear's heart rate and breathing slow, and its body temperature drops slightly. During this time they do not eat or pass body wastes. A hibernating bear relies on stored fat to make it through the winter, however, they may emerge if they're disturbed.



Mating and breeding

In Pennsylvania, bears mate primarily from early June to mid-July. Males are very aggressive towards each other at this time. Sows give birth in January; litters number one to five. The newborns, cubs, are blind, toothless, and covered with short, fine hair that seems to inadequately cover their pink skin. Cubs nurse in the den while the sow sleeps. Nurtured with the sow's rich milk, they grow from as light as 10 ounces at birth to as much as 10 pounds by the time they leave the den in early April. Males do not help rear young.

Most cubs stay with the sow for a little more than a year. They watch her every move and learn by imitating her. Cubs are playful, regularly romping and wrestling with their littermates. The sows are very protective of cubs, sending them up trees if danger threatens. Adult males occasionally kill and eat cubs. The family group disbands when the cubs are about a year and a half old and the sow is again ready to breed.



If you live in bear country

If you live or have a summer home in bear country, you may need to make some accommodations to coexist peacefully with these large animals. Make sure you don't encourage bears to become problem bears by putting your garbage where it's available to them or, even worse, by intentionally feeding them.

Black bears will consume almost anything. They will eat human food, garbage, bird feed, pet foods and livestock feed. They also raid cornfields and beehives. Once bears find easily accessible food sources, whether on a farm or in a housing development, they lose their wariness of people and will keep coming back as long as food is available. The best way to get rid of these unwanted visitors is to remove the food source for a month or more, but even then, there are no guarantees. A persistent bear may damage property, increase the risk of human injury, or become an unwanted visitor in other parts of the neighborhood. And, all too often,

fed bears become dead bears.

Perhaps the best way to keep bears from being attracted to your home is to keep them from finding food there in the first place. Store trash, bird seed and pet food inside a



building, garage or secure shed. Don't put out your trash until the morning of collection day. Be sure garbage cans are cleaned regularly, with hot water and chlorine bleach.

If you have pets, bring their food pans inside at night. And when it comes to dogs, bears generally steer clear of chained or penned dogs. Unleashed dogs that approach bears, however, may be injured or killed. If you have a dog in bear country, don't let it roam far from the house, leash it whenever you hike in the woods, and keep it in the house or in a kennel at night.

Other tips include cleaning the grill after every use, and properly disposing of grill grease. Don't dump the grease out back. If you feed birds during summer (and if you're living in bear country, you shouldn't be), you may want to bring all bird feeders, including hummingbird feeders, in at night. Bears also are attracted to fruit, vegetable wastes and other tasty items in mulch or compost piles, so keep your gardens and areas around fruit trees cleaned up, too.

Beehives attract bears, especially right after the bruins come out of hibernation in the spring and during the peak honey production period of late summer and fall. Electric fences are the best way to protect bees, honey and equipment. Contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission for more information about fencing.

Black bears are also attracted to corn, especially in the milk stage. Bears can devastate cornfields. Call the Game Commission if bears are causing extensive damage; officers may be able to help.

Recreational feeding areas — dumpsters, garbage pits and wildlife feeders where people gather to see bears — are particularly bad. Bears that frequent these areas often lose their natural fear of humans, and they're also the ones most likely to be found climbing onto porches or even breaking into houses to investigate enticing smells. Other times they raid bird feeders, clean out dog dishes, kill domestic animals, or rifle through garbage containers.

If a bear is visiting your property, there are two possible courses of action. The first is to make loud noises or shout at the bear, like you'd react to a dog getting into your trash, but keep your distance. The second option is to leave the bear alone, and clean up the bear's mess after it leaves. Follow up by making sure you eliminate whatever attracted the bear in the first place. You may need to talk to your neighbors, as well.

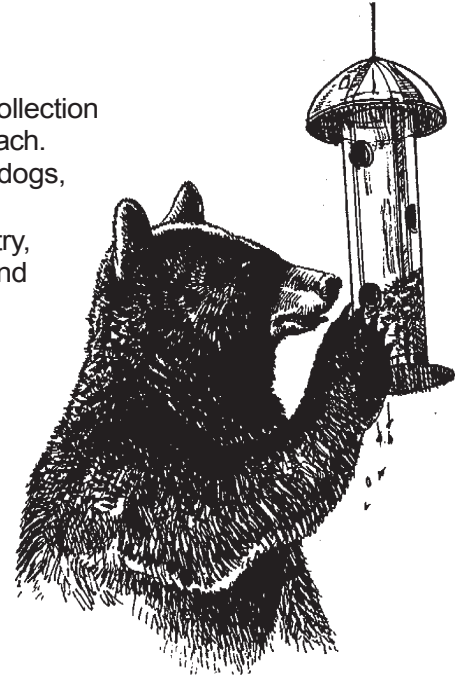
If bears are regularly feeding at a site, encourage your neighbors or community to clean up and close the area. Don't wait until bears start roaming the neighborhood or spectators become a problem. Eliminate the feeding source; it's what lured the bears to your area.

Because the feeding of bears is the cause of so many bear related problems, it is now against the law to put out food for bears. It's also against the law to put out any feed, for any wildlife, that is causing bears to congregate in or habituate to an area.

Camping and hiking in bear country

Although black bears are generally shy and avoid contact with humans, it's important to remember that bears must be respected for their size and strength. Do not deliberately approach a bear or try to become chummy with one, especially one that appears unafraid of you. Be smart: Keep your distance.

If you camp or hike in bear country, do everything you can to prevent close encounters and conflicts with bears. Giving a bear food will encourage it to approach other, unsuspecting people, which could then lead to an unpleasant or possibly dangerous encounter, and could lead to the bear having to be destroyed. In essence, never reward a bear for associating with people. It's what's best for you, the next person and the bear.



When afield in Penn's Woods:

1. Keep your camp clean and odor free. Wipe tables and clean eating utensils thoroughly after every meal. Burn all grease off grills and camp stoves.
 2. Store your food in safe or bear-proof places, in your car trunk, for example, or suspended from a tree branch. **Never have food in your tent.**
 3. Dispose of garbage properly. Use the camp receptacles if provided, or store trash in your vehicle. Pack out your garbage if you must, but never leave your garbage behind.
 4. If you hike at dawn or dusk, or where hearing or visibility is impaired (roar of fast moving water, thick vegetation), reduce your chances of surprising a bear by talking or making noise.
 5. Leave dogs at home or keep them on a leash.
- In short, keep your entire campsite free of all food smells.

What to do if you meet a bear

Bear attacks are extremely rare, especially considering how often people encounter them. In most cases, a bear will detect you first and leave the area long before you'll ever see it. However, if you do meet a bear before it's had time to leave, here are some suggestions. But remember, every bear encounter is different.

Stay calm — If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. While moving away, talk to help the bear discover your presence.

Get back — If you have a close encounter, back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, which a bear may perceive as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape.

Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If you're on a trail, step off on the downhill side and slowly leave the area.

Don't climb or run — If a cub is nearby, try to move away from it. But be alert, there could be other cubs. Never climb a tree to escape, because sows chase their cubs up trees when they detect danger. If you climb a tree, a sow may interpret that as an attempt to get her cubs. Stay on the ground and don't make any sudden movements. Running may prompt the bear to give chase; nobody can outrun a bear.

Pay attention — Bears will use all of their senses to figure out what you are. If they recognize you as a person, some may stand upright or move closer in their efforts to detect odors in the air currents. Don't consider this a sign of aggression. Once a bear identifies you, it will usually leave.

However, if the bear stays, it may pop its jaws as a warning sign that it's uncomfortable.

That's a sign for you to leave. Back away and slowly leave the area. If the jaw popping warning is ignored, some bears have been known to bluff charge to within a few feet. If this occurs, wave your arms wildly and shout at the bear.

Fight Back — Again, black bear attacks are extremely rare. However, they have occurred. If a bear attacks, fight back. Bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is responsible for managing, conserving and protecting all wildlife, and is committed to doing everything possible to keep bear problems to a minimum. Extending the bear season where bear problems are most common, and prohibiting the feeding of bears are but the latest measures taken to help alleviate problems with bears. If you are having a problem with a bear and have no success using these suggestions, or if you have been attacked by a bear, please contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at the following telephone numbers:



Northwest Region Office	814-432-3188	Southcentral Region Office	814-643-1831
Southwest Region Office	724-238-9523	Northeast Region Office	570-675-1143
Northcentral Region Office	570-398-4744	Southeast Region Office	610-926-3136
Harrisburg Headquarters		717-787-4250	

For more on the Pennsylvania Game Commission, visit www.pgc.state.pa.us

RCM 4/04



Wild Turkey

by Chuck Fergus

The wild turkey is a shy, permanent resident of Pennsylvania's woods and mountains. Infiltrating a flock of these big birds is no easy feat, and when the hunter or naturalist is finally discovered, he's treated to a spectacle as the flock breaks up. Turkeys flap upward on loud wings. Some run full tilt, heads extended on serpentine necks. Others sneak along through the understory. Eventually, quiet returns to the woods. And, with time the first tentative calls of regrouping birds break the silence

Turkeys have long been important to man in North America. Indians hunted them for food, and some even

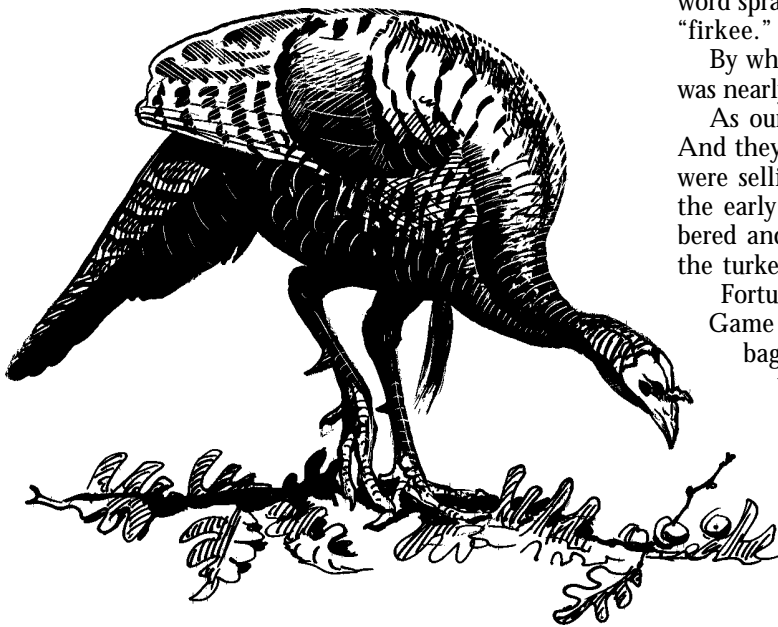
domesticated the big birds. Later, the wild turkey became a steady food source for white settlers. It earned a symbolic role as the main course of the Thanksgiving meal, which epitomized the successful harvest. Benjamin Franklin so admired the big bronze bird that he wanted it for our national emblem. Comparing it to the bald eagle, he said: "The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original Native of America."

Several theories explain how the bird got its name. Early naturalists may have confused it with a species of Old World guinea fowl found in Turkey. Or the word may describe one of the bird's calls, which sounds a bit like "turk, turk, turk." Still a third explanation is that the word sprang from an American Indian name for the bird, "firkee."

By whatever name, the fact remains that this big bird was nearly exterminated by the ax, the plow and the gun.

As our nation grew, settlers cleared forests for farms. And they shot turkeys for food. By 1800, market hunters were selling the birds for as little as six cents each. By the early 1900s — when eastern forests had been lumbered and periodic fires hampered their regeneration — the turkey was in trouble.

Fortunately, here in Pennsylvania, the newly-formed Game Commission stepped in. Through seasons and bag limits, the agency succeeded in safeguarding what remained of the state's once-thriving population. It was found in the mountains of the state's southcentral counties. Over time, the agency experimented with ways to return turkeys to the rest of Penn's Woods. A turkey farm was tried. So was placing hen turkeys in holding pens for wild gobblers to breed with. But neither technique faired well. What turkeys needed was habitat improve-



ments. In the 1950s, as the state's forests began to mature, turkeys began to expand their range. Expansion was furthered through a Game Commission wild turkey trap-and-transfer program that would become a model for every state interested in turkey restoration. Today, turkeys are found in every county, and this wily bird has developed quite a following among hunters.

Biology

North American turkeys — including the domesticated bird — belong to the single and highly variable species *Meleagris gallopavo*. Taxonomists recognize at least five subspecies; the variety found in Pennsylvania is known as the Eastern wild turkey. Turkeys are gallinaceous — “chicken-like” — birds (order Galliformes), related to grouse, quail, pheasants and chickens.

Adult males, also called “gobblers” or “toms,” stand 2½ to 3 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet long. Females (hens) are shorter by about a third and weigh about half as much. Gobblers weigh up to 25 pounds, averaging 16. Adult hens weigh 9 to 10 pounds, and six-month-old birds, 6 to 13 pounds.

The wild turkey looks much like the domesticated subspecies, except the wild bird is slimmer, has a smaller head, a longer neck, longer, rangier legs, and smaller fleshy head and neck adornments. Tail feathers and tail coverts are tipped chestnut brown on wild birds, white on domesticated ones.

Plumage is an overall rich brown. In shadows, turkeys appear black; in bright sunlight, their feathers gleam with copper, blue, green and mahogany highlights. A hen's plumage is duller and not quite as iridescent, and her breast feathers end in a brown or buff band, while those of a gobbler are tipped with black.

Gobblers have spurs — sharp, bony spikes on the backs of their legs that are used in fighting — and rough, black “beards,” growths of rudimentary, hair-like feathers called mesofiloplumes, which protrude from their breasts. These beards grow quickly for the first four or five years, then more slowly, until they're about 12 inches long. The ends may break off, though, so beard length isn't a reliable indicator of age. Usually, hens have neither spurs nor beards.

A gobbler's head is practically bare, while that of a hen is covered with hair and fine feathers. A fleshy, pencil-like appendage called a caruncle, or snood, dangles from between the gobbler's eyes. Heads of both sexes are bluish-gray, and their necks may have a pinkish flush. During mating season, a gobbler's head and neck are more red; during courtship display, his snood may become long and swollen, and the color of his head and neck changes quickly from red to blue, purple and white.

Food: In spring, turkeys eat tender greens, shoots, tubers, left-over nuts and early insects. As the weather

warms up, they eat more insects, including grasshoppers, walking-sticks, beetles, weevils, dragonflies and larvae. They also consume spiders, harvestmen, ticks, millipedes, centipedes, snails and slugs. But even in summer, a majority of the diet (perhaps 90 percent) is vegetable. A wide variety of plant species are eaten, as well as a number of plant parts, including fruits, seeds, seedheads, tubers, roots, bulbs, stems, leaves, flowers and buds.

In fall, turkeys eat mast (beechnuts, acorns); fruits (dogwood, grape, cherry, gum, thornapple); and seeds (grasses and sedges, ash, corn, oats, weeds). During winter, they rely on seeds, nuts, and fruits left over from autumn, and on green plants, crustaceans and insect larvae found in and around spring seeps. Temperature of this water is above freezing, so the seeps remain open all winter, providing food for turkeys and other wildlife.

A turkey often scratches for its food, kicking forest duff and leaves behind. If the bird finds an acorn, it picks up the nut in its beak, straightens its neck, and swallows.

The nut is stored in the bird's crop, a flexible bag in which juices and body heat work to soften it. Then the nut passes into the gizzard, an enlarged, thick-walled section of the food canal which contains small stones and gravel called grit. Strong muscles use the grit to grind down the acorn.

Turkeys may range up to several miles a day in search of food and water, sometimes establishing regular feeding areas if left undisturbed. In autumn, hunters “read” the food scratchings to determine when a flock passed by, what size the flock was, and which way the birds were headed.

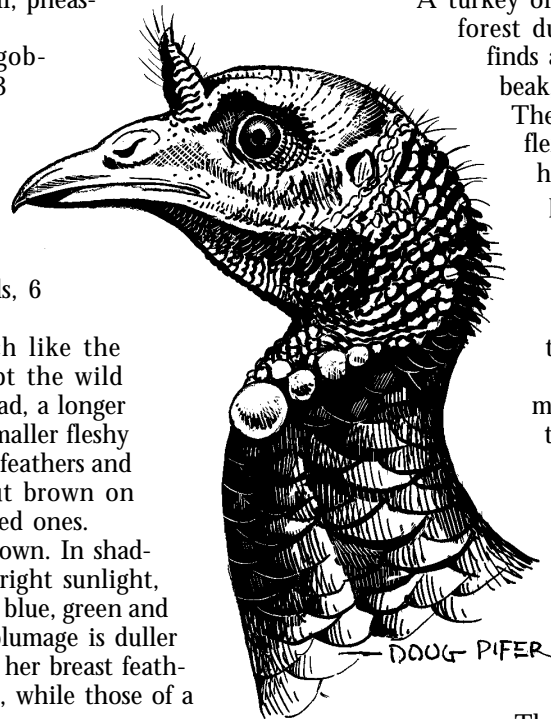
Physical properties, behavior: Like most birds, turkeys have keen eyesight and hearing.

They hide cleverly, fly 40 to 55 mph,

cover more than a mile while airborne, swim with ease — but they usually rely on their feet to escape danger. The strides of chased gobblers have been measured at four feet and their top speed estimated at 18 mph. Tracks vary somewhat by the age of the bird (a young tom, for example, might have a shorter print than an adult hen) but any track larger than 4¼ inches, from the back of the heel pad to the tip of middle toe, was probably made by a male.

Each evening, turkeys fly into trees to spend the night. A flock of up to 40 or more birds may roost in the same tree or in adjacent trees. They prefer the shelter of conifers during inclement weather. In early morning, the birds glide to the ground, call, and regroup for feeding.

Turkeys make a wide range of sounds. Best known is the male's gobble (described *ill-obble-obble-obble*), used in spring to attract females and proclaim territory. Other calls include yelps (*keouk, keouk, keouk*), made by both sexes; the cluck (*kut*), an assembly note; the whistle, or “kee-kee run” of a young bird (*kee, kee, kee*); and the



alarm note (*putt*). Gregarious birds, turkeys call when separated from the flock. By imitating such calls, hunters attract birds.

Reproduction: Toward the end of March, a male turkey changes physically. His fleshy crown swells and turns pale, his wattles redden and hang from his head, and he develops a thick, spongy breast layer containing oils and fats to help sustain him over breeding season. Toms gobble loudly in early morning and sometimes in late evening. Blowing a car horn, beating a tin pan, or making almost any loud noises may provoke lusty gobbles.

If hens are present, a gobbler will display by fanning his tail, erecting his feathers, and tucking his head back against his body. He will strut back and forth, hissing and dragging his wing tips on the ground. Rival males fight: each grasps the other's head or neck in his bill and tries to shove or pull his foe off balance. The first bird to let go or lose balance gets thrashed with wing and spur.

Year-old birds are sexually mature; hens often mate during their first spring, but young males usually can't compete with mature gobblers. A dominant male may collect a harem of 8 to 12 or even more hens. Males are polygamous: a gobbler mates with several hens and plays no part in nest site choice, brooding eggs or rearing young.

In late April, mated females slip away from the flock. They choose nesting spots in wooded or brushy areas, near water sources and usually close to forest clearings or old fields. Nest: a leaf-lined depression in the ground. It may be located under the curve of a fallen log, concealed by vegetation or fallen branches or at the base of a tree.

The gobbler's sperm is stored in the hen's oviduct, so that fertilized eggs may be laid up to four weeks after mating. One mating is usually sufficient to fertilize an entire clutch. A hen lays an egg nearly every day until her nest contains 8 to 15 (average, 12; smaller clutches by younger birds), but won't begin incubating constantly until after all eggs are laid.

Eggs are oval and pointed markedly at one end. The smooth, dull shells are colored pale buff and are evenly marked with reddish-brown spots or fine dots. Foxes, bobcats and great horned owls prey on nesting hens; eggs are eaten by the aforementioned predators plus mink, raccoons, opossums, black snakes, skunks, crows and red squirrels.

Incubation takes about 28 days. After young hatch, the hen broods them until they're dry and then, if the weather is mild, leads them away from the nest.

Poults: Young turkeys are called poults. They're covered with a fine, brownish fuzz and even at hatching have a wild turkey's distinctive long neck and legs. Easy game for predators, their main defense is to hide. They scatter and freeze at the hen's warning call, remaining motionless until she sounds the all-clear. A hen may feign injury to lure intruders away from her young.

Poults need high-protein food, and the hen soon leads them to open areas where insects abound. Poults eat leafhoppers, crickets, other insects and larvae, tender greens and fruits. The hen broods them nightly for at least two weeks, until their wings develop and they can roost in trees. When poults are about three weeks old, several family groups may merge to form a flock of hens and poults.

Six-week-old poults are fairly strong fliers, and by au-

tumn they're practically self-sufficient. Birds of the year can be identified by their middle tail feathers, which are longer than the others. In adults, the edge of the fanned tail forms an unbroken curved line.

In autumn, flocks often contain several old hens and their young, and occasionally hens that have not raised broods, for a total of 40 or more birds. Old toms usually remain apart, in pairs or trios. During early winter, family groups disperse and form new flocks by sex and age: hens, young toms and old toms.

Although susceptible to diseases turkeys are hardy animals. Disease outbreaks have been verified in the past, but none has had substantial population impacts over large areas. Periodically, a harsh winter may lead to starvation, especially if there is deep, powdery snow which makes it difficult for birds to become airborne.

Population

In 1900, few turkeys were left in the eastern United States, largely because widespread logging had destroyed their woodland habitat. An estimated 5,000 birds remained in Pennsylvania, a far cry from the large, healthy population that had existed here (mainly in southcentral Pennsylvania's oak and American chestnut forests) a century earlier.

Restoration of the species involved several steps. First, refuges were established and new game laws strictly enforced to protect remaining local populations. Half-wild turkeys were bred on the Game Commission's wild turkey farm, beginning in 1930. These birds proved to be nearly useless. As cut-over forests began to regrow, existing wild flocks began to move into new areas on their own. In addition, wild birds were trapped in areas where they were abundant and transferred to suitable, but unoccupied, habitat to speed up the dispersal that was naturally occurring. The superiority of this approach over game farm turkey releases has been obvious. Today turkeys are found throughout the state and are abundant in areas where, in the past, continual releases of game farm turkeys failed to establish even limited self-sustaining populations.

The Game Commission also works to improve turkey habitat, especially brood and winter range, which are necessary for population expansion to occur. Penn's Woods is currently home to about 250,000 wild turkeys.

What are a turkey's chances of survival, from egg to adult? The following statistics are from *The Wild Turkey - Biology and Management*, edited by James G. Dickson and published in 1992 by Stackpole Books: (a) nesting success of the turkey is 31 to 45 percent, about normal for a ground-nesting species; (b) 53 to 76 percent of poults perish, mostly within two weeks of hatching; (c) life expectancy of a turkey surviving its first two weeks of life is still less than 1½ years, although a few have been known to survive more than 10 years in the wild; (d) annual turkey survival generally ranges from 54 to 62 percent; (e) predation is generally the most common cause of wild turkey mortality; and (f) hunting-related turkey mortality is highly variable, depending largely on varying hunting season regulations, but can range from less than five percent to more than 50 percent of all losses.

Habitat

Turkeys have shown more tolerance for fragmented habitat (woodlots) and human disturbance than previously believed, but they still depend on forested habitats and do best with limited human activity. Habitat diversity — varying habitat types and differing ages — is the key to good turkey habitat. Turkeys seem to do best with a mix of forested, actively farmed and reverting farmland habitat types.

A turkey flock uses an extensive area — several thousand acres — during a year to meet its needs, so small landowners shouldn't expect to have resident flocks. However, anyone with forested land can do something to benefit turkeys, especially if neighboring landowners will cooperate.

Trees such as oaks, beech, cherries, etc., are most beneficial to turkeys when producing the maximum mast; this occurs when trees are 50 to 100 years old. Landowners can manage their woodlands for saw-timber by conventional even- or uneven-age silvicultural approaches and "pushing" young hardwood stands to maturity by culling out less-vigorous and non-mast-producing trees. Some woodland cuttings — which aren't economical in terms of timber management — can be made to allow more sunlight to reach grape, dogwood, greenbrier, hawthorn, viburnum and other food-producing understory species. Planting shrubs such as Japanese barberry, autumn olive, Asiatic crabapple and Washington hawthorne will provide abundant and persistent winter foods.

Forest clearings are especially used by hens and poults. Here, sunlight penetrates the tree canopy and allows

grasses and forbs to spring up; increased plant life gives rise to increased insect life, and insects form a key part of a young turkey's diet. Thus, forest openings resulting from cleared timberlands, old logging roads and logging camp sites, power line rights-of-way and old beaver meadows should be preserved, or planted with a grass-legume mixture if needed. Spring seeps are also important, as they provide insect and vegetable food over winter.

Free water (streams, lakes, ponds, springs, seeps, rain-water in shallow depressions) has never been demonstrated to be lacking for wild turkeys in the eastern United States. Artificial feeding? Turkeys don't generally need it, especially if they live in good habitat. Such feeding may actually pose a hazard by unnaturally concentrating a local population, thus increasing the danger of poaching and disease spread, and giving predators an unnatural advantage.

Every day, expanding towns and new roads cut into our state's limited amount of wildlife habitat. Second home development — booming in the northcentral's prime turkey range — is especially threatening. We cannot expect to continue taking land at this rate and still have animals like turkeys and bears which don't coexist well with man. Snowmobiles, trailbikes and four-wheel-drives disturb turkeys, even though the drivers of these vehicles may never see a single bird; if such intrusion goes on too long, it can cause flocks to leave a given area for good.

Pennsylvanians can be proud of the wild turkey's restoration to this state. With enough concern for meeting *all* the birds' needs, we can enjoy them well into the future.

Wildlife Notes are available from the
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Bureau of Information and Education
Dept. MS, 2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

www.pgc.state.pa.us

An Equal Opportunity Employer

2009-10 TURKEY HARVEST REPORT CARD

Notice: Report only **ONE** turkey per report card. Complete and mail this postage-paid card within 10 days after harvesting a turkey. **PRINT PLAINLY.**

CID No. _____ - _____ - _____

Name _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

- Fall/Spring Turkey
- Special Turkey (2nd Gobbler)



Tag No. _____

Check if no harvest

Sex (Check One) Male Female Unknown

Beard length (Check One)

- None ≤ 2 1/2 inches > 2 1/2 to ≤ 6 in. > 6 in. Unk.

Spur length (Check One)

- None ≤ 1/4 inches > 1/4 to ≤ 1/2 in. > 1/2 in. Unk.

Date of kill ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

WMU of kill _____

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with: (Check One)

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
- Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow

2009-10 DEER HARVEST REPORT CARD

Notice: Report only **ONE** deer per report card. Complete and mail this postage-paid card within 10 days after harvesting a deer. **PRINT PLAINLY.**

CID No. _____ - _____ - _____

Name _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

- Antlered deer: Points each antler — Left ____ Right ____

- Antlerless deer license

Tag No. _____

- DMAP Antlerless deer

Tag No. _____

DMAP Unit No. _____ Coupon No. _____

- Check if no harvest

- Antlerless deer (flintlock)

Antlerless deer category: (Check One)

- Female Button Buck Shed antlered buck

Date of kill ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

WMU of kill _____

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with: (Check One)

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
- Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow



2009-10 DEER HARVEST REPORT CARD

Notice: Report only **ONE** deer per report card. Complete and mail this postage-paid card within 10 days after harvesting a deer. **PRINT PLAINLY.**

CID No. _____ - _____ - _____

Name _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

- Antlered deer: Points each antler — Left ____ Right ____

- Antlerless deer license

Tag No. _____

- DMAP Antlerless deer

Tag No. _____

DMAP Unit No. _____ Coupon No. _____

- Check if no harvest

- Antlerless deer (flintlock)

Antlerless deer category: (Check One)

- Female Button Buck Shed antlered buck

Date of kill ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

WMU of kill _____

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with: (Check One)

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
- Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow



2009-10 DEER HARVEST REPORT CARD

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CID No. _____ - _____ - _____

Name _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

- Antlered deer: Points each antler — Left ____ Right ____

- Antlerless deer license

Tag No. _____

- DMAP Antlerless deer

Tag No. _____

DMAP Unit No. _____ Coupon No. _____

- Check if no harvest

- Antlerless deer (flintlock)

Antlerless deer category: (Check One)

- Female Button Buck Shed antlered buck

Date of kill ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

WMU of kill _____

County of kill _____

Township of kill _____

Taken with: (Check One)

- Rifle Shotgun Handgun Muzzleloader
- Bow/Compound Bow Crossbow



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
2010 DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
LANDOWNER/LESSEE APPLICATION

Application Type (check one)

- New**
- Renewal – Current DMAP Unit Number:** _____

Applicant Name and Contact Information

Applicant Name: _____
First *M.I.* *Last* *Suffix (Jr., Sr.)*

Name of Organization, Political Subdivision, or Agency

Applicant Address:

Street

City *State* *Zip*

(_____) _____ (_____) _____
Daytime Phone Number *Evening Phone Number*

Email Address

Type of Applicant (check one)

- Private Landowner** (Example: applicant is the landowner)
- Public Official or Employee** (Example: applicant is authorized officer or employee applying on behalf of a Federal or State agency or municipal political subdivision)
- Agriculture Leasee** (A “Landowner Authorization Form” on page 6 of this application must be completed for each landowner)
- Joint Applicant** (A “Landowner Authorization Form” on page 6 of this application must be completed for each landowner)

Type of Property (check one)

- Private Land**
- Public Land**
- Hunting Club** (see Instructions for eligibility requirements)

Property Information

Provide name of county or counties and township(s) where property is located. If property is located in more than 3 counties or more than 3 townships, check the appropriate box.

	Name of County	PGC Use Only	Township	PGC Use Only	Township	PGC Use Only	Township	PGC Use Only	More than 3 townships? (Check here)
County #1									<input type="checkbox"/>
County #2									<input type="checkbox"/>
County #3									<input type="checkbox"/>

More than 3 counties? (check here)



Pennsylvania Game Commission

PGC-707-LE
09/2007

Application for Disabled Person to Use a Vehicle as a Blind

Notice: Use of this form is required by the PGC for any application filed pursuant to Title 34, Pa. C.S., section 2923. The PGC will not consider your application unless you complete and submit this form. Personal information provided may be used to determine the identity of the applicant, eligibility for approvals and for other enforcement purposes.

Return completed form to:

Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY

SECTION I – TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT. TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Form with fields for Applicant's Name, Driver's License Number, Date of Birth, Street or Route #, Apartment #, Home Telephone Number, Sex, City, State, Zip Code, County of Residence, Township of Residence, and Signature/Date Signed.

SECTION II – TO BE COMPLETED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN (Please refer to physician's notice)

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL ENTRIES

Indicate 'yes' or 'no' to all questions

PERMANENT CONDITION

Complete this section only for conditions where the patient has reached Maximal Medical Improvement.

A. MOBILITY

- 1a. Does applicant have a permanent or irreversible physical disability and requires one or more of the following support devices for mobility?
1b. Which of the following does applicant require for mobility? Check all that apply.
a. Wheelchair
b. Walker
c. One leg brace or external prosthesis above the knee
d. Two leg braces or external prostheses below the knees
e. Two crutches or two canes (single crutch or cane does not qualify)

DESCRIBE SPECIFIC CONDITION THAT REQUIRES SUPPORT DEVICE AND PART OF BODY AFFECTED. If condition is the result of a specific incident (motor vehicle accident, work related injury, stroke, amputation, etc.) please give the date and nature of that incident. Attach additional sheets as needed.

2. Does the applicant have a disability or combination of disabilities creating a minimum impairment equivalent to 90% loss of function in one leg or no more than 10% maximal functional use in one leg regardless of the functional level of the other leg..... Yes No

DESCRIBE SPECIFIC CONDITION AND HOW IT LIMITS FUNCTIONAL USE OF LOWER EXTREMITY(S) TO THE DEGREE REQUIRED. Attach additional sheets as needed.

B. LUNG DISEASE

Does applicant suffer from lung disease to the extent that at least one of the following is met:

1. Forced expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter Yes No
 DATE OF TEST AND ACTUAL MEASUREMENT _____
2. The arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air at rest Yes No
 DATE OF TEST AND ACTUAL MEASUREMENT _____
3. Dependent upon oxygen apparatus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.. Yes No

C. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Does applicant suffer significantly from cardiovascular disease to the extent that functional limitations are classified in severity as **Class 3 or 4** according to current standards accepted by the American Heart Association?

The applicant must exhibit fatigue, palpitation, dyspnea or anginal pain with ordinary exertion such as light walking..... Yes No
 DATE OF ORIGINAL EVALUATION AND ACTUAL CLASSIFICATION _____

SECTION III – TO BE COMPLETED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN (IF APPLICABLE)

TEMPORARY CONDITION

Complete this section only for conditions where the patient has not reached Maximal Medical Improvement.

Does applicant have a temporary disability that restricts mobility or walking of any distance due to illness, injury or operative procedures and who either has a leg, hip or back, or any part thereof, casted by a licensed physician due to a fracture or had leg, hip or back surgery..... Yes No

Describe specific condition and body part effected:

Temporary permits expire June 30th of each year.

Physician Certification: I certify below that I have examined the applicant named above and read the physician's notice included with the application. I completed the application according to the instructions included and the information provided is true and correct and is an accurate and medically documented evaluation of the patient's condition and disability at the time of application. I understand that I may be required to appear and answer questions regarding this information at a hearing or other legal proceeding.
 DATE OF PATIENT'S MOST RECENT EXAMINATION _____.

Name of Physician (Please Print)	Medical License Number	Date Signed
Signature of Physician	Telephone # (include area code)	Fax #
Address	(PGC USE ONLY)	
City, State, Zip Code	APPROVED [] TEMP PERM DISAPPROVED []	
	Chief, Technical Services Signature	Date

TO THE APPLICANT

You are applying for a special permit to use a motor vehicle as a blind. This permit allows a person, who otherwise qualifies for a hunting license, to sit inside or on a stationary vehicle with a loaded firearm and shoot at game from the vehicle subject to all related laws and regulations.

Before applying, please consider that the law allows a person to hunt and discharge a firearm next to a legally parked vehicle without any special permits. Persons who have medical issues that restrict walking long distances or over rough terrain, but are able to exit their vehicles are encouraged to hunt outside, but next, to their vehicles. Remember that, without a permit, possessing a loaded firearm in, on or against any vehicle, parked or in motion, is a violation of game laws.

Possession of a similar permit issued by another state or a handicapped parking permit does not necessarily fulfill the requirements for this permit. This permit does not relate to an applicant's potential inability to field dress or remove downed game from the field. Permits are not granted for the purpose of operating motorized vehicles on State Game Lands.

To apply, the applicant completes Section I only. All spaces must be filled in, typewritten or legibly printed in ink. If you do not have a driver's license or phone number, enter 'none' in that blank. Applications with incomplete or illegible information will be returned to the applicant with all medical information attached. Only the physician may complete Section II or III. Be sure to provide them with the attached physicians notice along with the application. It will be helpful for you to read the application and be familiar with the information your doctor will be asked to provide. Please check with your doctor to be sure that all necessary releases have been signed allowing them to provide the PGC with your medical information. If your physician is unwilling to release information or discuss your medical condition and history with a PGC representative, the application will be returned to you. Any application that is returned may be resubmitted with additional information or necessary corrections.

After we receive the completed application, allow a minimum of 8 weeks for processing. During the months of August through November that period may be extended due to the large volume of applications received. If the application is approved, a permit certificate and a copy of the laws that apply to the permit will be sent by regular mail. This certificate will indicate if the permit is 'permanent' or 'temporary' and must be carried upon the person at all times while hunting. If the application is disapproved, a letter notifying the applicant of this will be sent by regular mail. Applicants who are denied the permit are encouraged to reapply if they have significant additional medical information to be considered or if their medical condition has changed over time. Physicians are encouraged to contact us to provide clarification or additional information. The denial letter will explain options allowing you to hunt next to the vehicle as well as the procedure for requesting an administrative hearing.

Applications will not be accepted or processed in person at any of our offices. Please send them via first class mail to the address on the face of the application.

Applicants with questions may contact us at: (717) 783-8164.

APPLICANT: GIVE THIS NOTICE TO YOUR PHYSICIAN WITH THE APPLICATION

TO THE PHYSICIAN

Your patient is applying for a special permit to use a vehicle as a blind to hunt. Simply put, with this permit, the applicant will be authorized to park a vehicle along a public highway and shoot at game from inside the vehicle, subject to all other hunting laws and regulations. Your part in the application process is important. Please devote the necessary time to the completion of this application and give each question due consideration. We depend on you to provide us with an honest and fair evaluation of the applicant's medical condition and resulting impairment from which an appropriate determination can be made. The standards, as listed to qualify for this permit, reflect the patient's *need* above their convenience or preference. This permit is designed for those individuals who, due to one of the listed conditions, would be unable to exit their vehicle and hunt outside or to do so would create a serious medical risk. It does not relate to their ability to walk long distances or over rough or difficult terrain as it is legal to hunt next to a parked vehicle.

Section 2741 a (2) of the Game and Wildlife Code provides that any person who is evaluated by a licensed medical authority or court and who has been certified to the commission as mentally or physically unfit or addicted to alcohol or a controlled substance to the degree that they are unfit to exercise any privilege granted by this title, including hunting, shall be denied a license to do so. Determining the suitability of the applicant to hunt is perhaps the greatest responsibility of the physician as to the welfare of the patient and the protection of the public. Comments on this issue may be included in a narrative.

The applicant will complete Section I, and the physician will complete Section II or III and the physician's certification. It will be helpful to read the application completely prior to filling it out. This will help eliminate common mistakes that may delay processing. Please type or print all entries and narratives. You may use commonly accepted medical abbreviations and symbols but the information should be in a form understandable to someone with basic medical knowledge. Provide detailed and complete narratives of the patient's condition and an assessment of impairment as a result of that condition where it is requested. Narratives may be done in the space provided or on separate sheets. Medical reports may be attached. Answer every question 'yes' or 'no' and provide information in the blanks where requested. Forms with unanswered questions or insufficient information will be returned to the applicant.

Determine if your patient's condition is permanent or temporary. Both sections may be completed only if the applicant suffers from two or more unrelated conditions involving both types, and this is clearly explained by narrative. Do not complete both sections for disabilities resulting from a single medical condition.

A temporary condition is one where recovery is expected, generally within a year and for which the patient has not reached maximal medical improvement. If recovery does not progress as expected, the patient may reapply as a temporary for an additional year. Common examples of temporary conditions are broken weight-bearing bones; knee, hip or back surgery; and certain serious illnesses or medical procedures. They must have a leg, hip or body cast or have undergone surgery on one or more of these areas and be disabled after the surgery. It must be a condition that reasonably restricts walking of any distance. Broken arms, ribs, clavicles, separated shoulders, for example, would not qualify.

Progressive diseases should be evaluated as permanent conditions.

Old injuries, surgeries or conditions for which the patient has reached maximal medical improvement should be evaluated as permanent conditions.

(over)

Permanent conditions are of three types: restricted mobility, lung disease or cardiovascular disease.

In order to qualify in the mobility category A.1, the condition must meet two criteria: 1) it is permanent and irreversible, and 2) the applicant is unable to walk without one or more of the artificial support devices listed. Occasional use of only one device is not acceptable. The patient must *require* a device for mobility and be unable to walk without one.

Category A.2 allows for other cases of restricted mobility. This may apply to a single, or multiple conditions that result in a minimum 90% loss of use of a lower extremity. This standard is substantial and is seldom met where the patient does not require artificial support to perform the activities of daily living. This category, in particular, requires a narrative description that accounts for loss of use of an extremity to this degree.

Permits will not be granted based solely on disability from pain, fatigue, etc. Due to their subjective nature, impairment due to pain and fatigue must be supported by specific causes and the loss of function due to such conditions substantiated.

Evaluate your patient's capabilities, including the effects of medication, for those conditions where medication is successfully controlling symptoms and improving their ability to ambulate.

Advanced age may be considered a contributing factor in a medical condition but will not be considered by itself as a qualifying condition.

The standards for lung disease are defined. Documentation of specific pulmonary function testing is required. The patient must have met the standard continuously from the date of the test to the date of application. A permit may be granted if any one of the three conditions is met.

The standards for cardiovascular disease are defined. The applicant must have functional limitations of class 3 or 4 as defined by the American Heart Association standards. The patient must experience fatigue, palpitation, dyspnea or anginal pain while performing ordinary physical activity such as light walking. The patient must meet this standard continuously from the date of evaluation to the date of application.

It may be necessary for us to contact you with questions about the information on the application. Please include a phone and fax number in the spaces provided.

Licensed chiropractors may complete the application as to mobility but not as to lung disease or cardiovascular disease. Chiropractors should refer their patients to the appropriate physician to evaluate those conditions.

Physicians may contact us at (717) 783-8164 to discuss any application.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
Hunter-Trapper Education Division
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Phone (717)787-7015

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATE AFFIDAVIT

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This affidavit is permitted only for that period in time when student certification records are not maintained. Any person who knowingly falsifies this affidavit is subject to the penalties provided in both Title 34 PA C.S. (Game & Wildlife Code) and Title 18 PA C.S. (Crimes Code).

Please Type or Print Legibly:

REPLACEMENT FEE: \$10.00 (est. 58 PA Code § 143.12)

Please complete the payment information on page 2 and submit with this form.

State of Residence _____]

County of Residence _____]

(Payment information must be included for affidavit to be processed.)

I, _____, _____, _____, _____, presently

FIRST NAME

MI

LAST NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

residing at _____, _____

STREET or RR

CITY

_____, _____, _____ do solemnly swear or affirm that

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE

I successfully completed the following Pennsylvania Game Commission course of instruction:

(Check Appropriate Box)

- Hunter Safety Education (1959 - 1985)
- Hunter-Trapper Education (1986 to present)
- Furtaker Education - Cable Restraint (2005 to present)
- Bowhunter Education (2000 to present)

in _____ County, Pennsylvania on or about _____

COUNTY

MONTH & YEAR

I further attest the information on this affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn and subscribed this

_____ day of _____, 20 _____.

SIGNATURE OF AFFIANT

MAGISTRATE OR NOTARY

SEAL

COMMISSION EXPIRATION DATE

Mail complete, notarized, original affidavit together with prescribed fee to the Hunter-Trapper Education Division of the PA Game Commission at the address shown above. **Facsimiles are not accepted.**

CAMP ROSTER FOR HUNTING DEER, BEAR, OR ELK

NAME OF CAMP OR PARTY: _____

LOCATED IN: TOWNSHIP: _____

COUNTY: _____

CAPTAIN OR LEADER: _____

	Name	Current Hunting License No.	Date Arrived	Date Departed	Caliber of Firearm	Big Game Killed	Sex	Approximate Weight (Hog Dressed)	Total No. of Points	Date Killed
S	1.									
A	2.									
F	3.									
E	4.									
H	5.									
U	6.									
N	7.									
T	8.									
I	9.									
N	10.									
G	11.									
I	12.									
S	13.									
A	14.									
L	15.									
W	16.									
A	17.									
Y	18.									
S	19.									
I	20.									
N	21.									
S	22.									
E	23.									
A	24.									
S	25.									
O										
N										

IMPORTANT - The Game and Wildlife Code and related regulations require FIVE OR MORE PERSONS who are members of a permanent camp and hunt together for deer, bear or elk or cooperate with others to hunt for deer, bear or elk, to maintain a roster. The roster shall be prepared in duplicate, with one copy being carried by the leader, and the other permanently posted at the headquarters so it can be read from outside camp. The posted copy shall remain posted for 30 days after the close of the season. ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED ON THE ROSTER MUST BE COMPLETED. Each member of the hunting party may be liable for the penalties provided for roster violations. PARTIES HUNTING DEER, BEAR OR ELK SHALL BE LIMITED TO 25 PERSONS. GAME KILLED SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY RECORDED ON COPY OF ROSTER CARRIED BY THE LEADER AND THE ROSTER AT THE HEADQUARTERS COMPLETED IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN TO THE HEADQUARTERS.

