

## Prohibitions

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- hunt in state parks (except as otherwise designated), in safety zones in state forests or wildlife management areas, and in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- shoot, hunt or trap upon the fenced, enclosed, purple paint marked or posted lands of another person without having in possession written permission from the landowner.
- have a bow with a nocked arrow, or a crossbow with a nocked bolt, or a rifle or shotgun with cartridges that have not been removed or a magazine that has not been detached, in or on any vehicle or conveyance (including ATVs/UTVs) or its attachments. You can have a loaded clip or magazine in the vehicle as long as it is not in or attached to the firearm. Exception for legally carried concealed weapons (see page 7).
- carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods of this state or in state parks, state forests, state wildlife management areas, or state rail trails, except during open firearms hunting seasons where hunting is lawful. It is legal to hunt unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds and migratory game birds during the open season in fields, waters and marshes of the state where hunting is lawful.
- hunt with a fully automatic firearm.
- hunt small game in counties having a buck firearms season during the first three days of this season. It is legal to hunt waterfowl during this period on lakes, rivers, and waterways during the open waterfowl season, to hunt bear in specified counties, and to hunt coyotes.
- hunt deer, bear or boar between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise or with an electronic call.
- be afield with a gun and bow, or with a gun and any arrow, except that a handgun, rifle or shotgun may be carried, by whom is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law, for self-defense purposes only. The exception does not apply to an uncased rifle or shotgun carried specifically in state park or state forest recreational facilities and marked trails within state park or state forest borders.
- carry any firearm, bow, or crossbow in or on any vehicle or conveyance, or its attachments, that is not in a case or taken apart and securely wrapped between 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise provided, time periods can be extended for one hour before sunrise or one hour after sunset if transporting uncased and unloaded firearms or crossbow to or from a hunting site, campsite, home or other abode.
- shoot a firearm within 500 feet of a school, church or dwelling, or on or near a park; provided, a resident or guest of a dwelling may shoot a firearm within 500 feet of the dwelling where the person lives, if all residents of the dwelling consent and no other dwellings are within 500 feet.
- hunt while under the influence of alcohol, controlled substance or any other drug.
- for anyone under the age of 15 to hunt on public land or the lands of another unless accompanied by a licensed adult, at least 18 years of age, who remains near enough to render advice and assistance (see exception for youth seasons pages 32 and 42).
- hunt or fish with a modified bow without a special permit issued by the Director.
- get out of a motor vehicle along a public road and shoot a bow, crossbow or firearm unless you are at least 25 yards from the vehicle.
- shoot at any wild bird or animal unless it is plainly visible.
- shoot at a deer or boar while it is in water.
- hunt or conduct hunts for a fee when the person is not physically present in the same location as the wildlife being hunted within West Virginia.
- use or attempt to use any artificial light or any night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination while hunting, locating, attracting, taking, killing or trapping wild birds or wild animals. However, artificial lights or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging, or active illumination, may be used for taking coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk and opossum. Coyotes and fox may be hunted using any color artificial light in open season (see pages 2 and 8).
- smoke wildlife from its den or place of refuge except as provided by law or regulation.
- catch, kill, or attempt to do so by seine, net, bait, trap, deadfall, snare, or like device, any bear, game bird, protected bird or mammal, or wild boar.
- bait or feed bear at any time.
- hunt, harass, or shoot at wild animals or wild birds from an airborne conveyance, a drone or other unmanned aircraft (including the use of a drone or unmanned aircraft to drive or herd any wild bird or wild animal for the purpose of hunting, trapping, wounding, harassing, transporting, or killing), from a vehicle or other land conveyance, from a motor-driven water conveyance, or from or across a public road, unless specifically authorized to do so by law or regulation. You may shoot from a motorized watercraft if the motor has been completely shut off and progress from the motor has ceased.
- use poisons, chemicals or explosives in taking any furbearing animal, game animal, game bird or protected song and insectivorous bird, provided that groundhogs may be controlled on private land by landowners, their resident children or resident parents, or a resident tenant from April 1-September 30.
- use shot larger than No. 4 or solid ball ammunition, except for .22 caliber or smaller centerfire during the buck firearms season in the four counties closed to the buck firearms season.
- hunt between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise with any firearm larger than .22 caliber centerfire, a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot shells larger than No. 2 shot.
- dispose of animal carcasses by dumping them along any public road or highway or on public or private property.

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## Prohibitions continued

- bait or feed any wildlife on public land at any time.
- cause through carelessness, neglect, or otherwise to let edible portion of any big game go to waste needlessly (see page 10).
- take any big game and detach or remove from the carcass the head, hide, antlers, tusks, paws, claws, gallbladder, teeth, beards, or spurs only and leave the carcass to waste. Any person that is unable to locate the carcass of any lawfully taken big game prior to spoilage or decay may remove those parts, provided the big game is registered and shall count towards the daily and seasonal bag and possession limits.

## Trapping Regulations

A trap is a device used to catch and hold animals and includes box or cage traps, body gripping or killer-type traps, foot or leghold traps, encapsulating traps and snares.

No traps shall be set before 8 a.m. on the first day of the season or either set or left set after 12 noon on the last day of the season.

All traps **MUST** be checked and tended daily.

Nonresidents must possess a valid Class E, XXJ, AAH or AAHJ license and a CS/LE stamp to trap.

All traps used for taking furbearing animals shall be marked with a durable plate or tag attached to the snare, trap or trap chain bearing the owner's name and address or the owner's DNR ID number.

A person who unintentionally traps and kills more than the season bag limit shall deliver excess animals to a Natural Resource Police officer within 24 hours.

West Virginia trappers will be allowed to sell live foxes to hound coursing pens in West Virginia during the 2021-2022 trapping season. All foxes used in hound coursing pens must be live-trapped in the county in which the pen is located.

The trapping of furbearing animals is permitted during the first three days of buck firearms season.

### Foot snares are legal when the snare loop:

1. does not exceed 6 1/2 inches in diameter.
2. is at ground level.
3. is horizontal to ground level.

### Terrestrial body-gripping snares are legal when the snare:

1. has a relaxing-type lock system with either a breaking point of 350 pounds or less or a stop with a minimum loop diameter of at least 2 inches.
2. is set with an average loop diameter not greater than 15 inches.
3. is anchored at the trap site.

## WV GAMECHECK

All hunters must check big game electronically in one of three ways:

- online at [WVdnr.gov](http://WVdnr.gov)
- at a license agent
- by calling 844-WVcheck (844-982-4325)

You must have your DNR ID number (*which is valid for your lifetime*) to successfully check big game, beaver, otter, fisher and bobcat.

**TIP: Hunters and trappers need to make sure their DNR ID account is updated with current information and password before going afield.**

## IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- have in possession an untagged beaver, bobcat, otter or fisher pelt or parts thereof, after 30 days following the close of the respective season.
- set deadfalls for taking wildlife.
- set or use foothold traps with an open inside jaw spread of more than 6 1/2 inches unless the trap is used underwater.
- set traps or trapping devices in human foot trails or livestock paths.
- set body-gripping or killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread of more than 5 inches, as measured between striking surfaces of jaws when set for terrestrial trapping. These types of traps may be used in water sets.
- set spring pole snares.
- use exposed animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof to bait an animal to a trap set that is within 50 feet of the carcass. Animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof that are completely covered and concealed from sight may be used as a lure at the immediate trap site.
- trap on fenced, enclosed, purple paint marked or posted lands of another person without written permission of the landowner.
- take beaver, fisher, mink, otter or muskrat by any means other than by trap.
- use steel jaw traps with any teeth on or attached to them.
- set a trap, trapset or snare upon a tree, post or other natural or man-made object at any point more than three (3) linear feet from the surface of the earth (whether such surface is water, soil or rock) measured at right angle from the surface to the trap or trapset. Traps may be set on natural earthen mounds, such as ant hills or muskrat houses, constructed without human assistance.
- set traps during the month of March for the taking of beaver unless the traps are in water.
- trap in state parks, in safety zones located in state forests and wildlife management areas, in Harpers Ferry NHP and on National Park Service land within the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve.
- trap on a WMA or State Forest without obtaining a permit from the District Wildlife Biologist.

## Trapping Regulations continued

### TAGGING AND SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

Bobcat hunters and trappers and otter trappers should obtain a plastic Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) seal for each bobcat and/or otter pelt they plan to sell out of state. All bobcat and/or otter pelts being sold by licensed fur dealers must have a CITES seal from the state where the animal was harvested before being sold on the international market. CITES seals are only available at DNR offices (see inside front cover).

Trappers shall electronically register beaver, bobcat, otter and fisher pelts within 30 days after the close of the respective trapping season. The DNR-issued game tag number shall be recorded in writing with the trapper's name and address, or on a field tag and shall be attached and remain attached to each beaver, bobcat, otter and fisher pelt until it has been sold, tanned, processed into commercial fur or mounted.

A person may not ship or transport any raw furs, pelts, skins, carcasses, carcass parts, including skulls, claws and bones, and urine of wild furbearers outside of the state unless such shipment has a special shipping tag visibly attached. Shipping tags must be obtained from the DNR. One part shall be attached to the outside of the package or container and the other part completed and returned to the DNR within 24 hours of shipping furs out of state.

The dealer or buyer of raw furs, pelts, skins, carcasses, carcass parts, including skulls, claws and bones, and urine of furbearers in this state shall have a dealer's license and shall submit to the Director a completed fur dealer transaction report as provided by the Director.

### RIVER OTTER CARCASSES REWARD – \$20

Trappers who turn in skinned river otter carcasses to a DNR district office or local DNR official will receive a \$20 gift card for each usable carcass. Data collected will be used to monitor otter populations and guide management decisions.

## ADVENTURE ON! -FREEDOM FESTIVAL- AT THE SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE

### FEATURING WV'S NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAYS CELEBRATION

Sept. 10-12

THE SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE

Glen Jean, W.Va.






### Join us for an event unlike any other!

Our National Hunting & Fishing Days return this year as part of the new Adventure On! Freedom Festival. Activities include the Outdoor Youth Challenge, big buck and trophy fish displays and a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. We're celebrating with dozens of vendors and the event also will include a GNCC Mountaineer Race and a 9/11 Tribute to American Heroes Concert.

Don't miss out!

WEST VIRGINIA  
**DNR**

WVDNR.GOV | 304-558-2771 |   

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## Archery and Crossbow Regulations

Nonresident bow and crossbow hunters, except holders of Class DT licenses, must possess a Class EE license, and Class CS/LE and DS stamps to hunt bear.

For bow fishing, a resident or nonresident is required to have a valid fishing license.

A bow may be substituted for a firearm during any season for which firearms are legal except during the muzzleloader deer season. A crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during established big game firearms seasons except for muzzleloader season. In addition, a crossbow cannot be used to hunt deer in Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties unless you have a Class Y/YY permit.

A Class Y or YY permit allows a qualified, physically challenged person to hunt with a crossbow during designated archery seasons.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- have a gun and bow afield together, except that persons who aren't prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law may carry a firearm for self-defense only.
- have a crossbow with a nocked bolt or bow with nocked arrow in or on any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments.
- carry any crossbow or bow in or on any vehicle or conveyance, or its attachments, that is not in a case between 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise provided, time periods can be extended for one hour before sunrise or one hour after sunset if transporting a crossbow to or from a hunting site, campsite, home or other place of abode.
- hunt with a crossbow that does not have:
  - » a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
  - » a working safety.
  - » bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock.
  - » broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4-inch wide.
- hunt wild turkey, bear, deer or boar with arrows with broadheads having less than two sharp-cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4 of an inch in width.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- have a bow in the woods during closed seasons on game animals and non-migratory game birds.
- use dogs while bow hunting for black bear except when the use of dogs is legal during the bear firearms season (this exception is only for counties where dogs are legal – see page 40). See page 8 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded bear.
- hunt with a locking device capable of holding a bow at full draw, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- bow hunt on state parks (except as otherwise designated), Harpers Ferry NHP, and safety zones on state forests and wildlife management areas. All wildlife refuges are appropriately posted.
- use bow or crossbow on Bright McCausland Homestead WMA.



**SHOW SUPPORT FOR  
WEST VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE**

Purchase a specialty wildlife license plate.  
When you order or renew your plate, \$15 of the registration cost goes directly to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources wildlife education programs. Show your support today.

Order a specialty wildlife license plate online at  
**DMV.WV.GOV.**

WEST VIRGINIA  
**DNR**

*almost heaven*

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## REGULATIONS PUBLIC MEETINGS

WVDNR staff will be available to discuss and take public comments for proposed 2022-2023 regulations.

### March 14, 2022

Buckhannon, Grafton, Martinsburg, Milton, Mullens, Spencer

### March 15, 2022

Lewisburg, Logan, Moorefield, Parkersburg, Summersville, Triadelphia

## Tagging and Transporting

Refer to deer, bear, wild turkey, boar and trapping sections for specific tagging and transporting requirements.

No persons may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the game tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

## Handgun Laws and Regulations

A person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by state or federal law may carry a firearm for self-defense.

Only persons 21 years old or older are eligible for a Class A1 stamp.

Only revolvers or pistols having a barrel at least 4 inches in length are legal for hunting.

While hunting, the licensee shall carry the revolver or pistol outside his/her outer clothing, in an unconcealed and easily visible place.

A revolver or pistol may be used only during established hunting seasons. Only single-shot muzzleloading pistols of .38 caliber or larger are legal for hunting deer during the muzzleloader season.

It is legal to hunt groundhogs in open fields with a revolver or pistol.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- take migratory game birds with a pistol.
- hunt between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise with a revolver or pistol larger than .22 caliber centerfire.
- hunt bear, deer, or wild boar with a revolver or pistol using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- hunt bear, deer or wild boar with a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.

## Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Licenses Information (Class AH, AHJ, AAH and AAHJ)

Persons who wish to try hunting and/or trapping without taking a hunter education course may buy an Apprentice Hunting License at any license agent or [WVdnr.gov](http://WVdnr.gov) (see page 45).

No one who has ever had a base hunting license may buy the Apprentice License. A hunter who buys the Apprentice Hunting License must possess all other required documentation and stamps while hunting and must be accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed adult.

See page 45-46 for license fees.

## When Licenses or Permits are not Required

1. Resident landowners or their resident children or their resident parents or resident tenants of such land, may hunt or trap on their own land without a license during open seasons (see definition of resident landowner privileges on page 10).
2. Residents honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces receiving total permanent service connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of a motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, may apply for a Disabled Veterans and Former Prisoner of War License (Class V) which when in possession provides the recipient the same privileges as someone who possesses the following: AB-O-L and DS. Should this resident desire the privileges contained within the Class N, RB, RG, RM and/or A1, those stamps must be purchased separately. This Class V license is forfeited should the license holder's state residency change.
3. Ohio residents who carry valid Ohio hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on the Ohio River and its embayments or tributaries to points identified by the Director or from the West Virginia banks of said river without obtaining West Virginia licenses, and West Virginia residents who carry valid West Virginia hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on Ohio River embayments or tributaries to designated points in Ohio or from the river's banks in Ohio without obtaining Ohio licenses. Ohio hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting or fishing from Ohio banks or in Ohio embayment areas. West Virginia hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting or fishing on the Ohio River proper or from West Virginia banks and embayment areas.
4. Residents 65 years of age or older, who have attained that age prior to January 1, 2012, do not need a license to hunt or trap, but shall carry a WV driver's license or WV photo ID card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles (see page 45). Residents who have not reached their 15th birthday may hunt without a license but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult who remains near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. Some additional stamps may be required (see pages 11 and 44).
5. West Virginia residents on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, while on military leave, may hunt or trap in season without obtaining a license. Leave papers shall be carried while hunting or trapping. Some additional hunting stamps may be required (see pages 11 and 44).
6. Persons participating in field trials permitted by the Director shall not be required to have a hunting license.
7. Persons under 16 years of age do not need a migratory waterfowl stamp.

## Mandatory Hunter Education and Identification Requirement

No base hunting license may be issued to a person born on or after January 1, 1975, (exemption - see [Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Licenses information on previous page](#)) unless the person presents to the license agent: a certificate of satisfactory completion of a Hunter Education Course approved by the Hunter Education Association or the Director, or the previous years resident or nonresident WV hunting license bearing certification, or attests to certification when purchasing a license online. Persons who purchase a lifetime hunting license before their 15th birthday must complete a certified hunter education course before using the license.

A person may not legally hunt unless he/she has on his/her person: a) the proper licenses, stamps or permits, or other proof that a valid license has been issued b) a state-issued photo ID, and c) proof of hunter safety certification (if required).

Hunters who have lost their hunter education card may obtain a duplicate from their local DNR District Law Enforcement Office. Applications for duplicate cards are available at license agents or [www.WVdnr.gov](http://www.WVdnr.gov). The fee is \$10.

### Hunter Education Classes Information

Contact the WVDNR District Office which covers the county in which you live or visit [www.wvhuntered.com](http://www.wvhuntered.com) or [www.WVdnr.gov](http://www.WVdnr.gov) and look for the Hunter Education class search link.

## THE USE OF LEASHED DOGS FOR TRACKING MORTALLY WOUNDED DEER OR BEAR

- It is legal for leashed dogs to be used for tracking and locating mortally wounded deer or bear. The hunter is also permitted to use a dog handler of the leashed dogs for tracking and locating the mortally wounded deer or bear. The hunter or the handler shall maintain physical control of the leashed dogs at all times.
- The use of dogs for tracking mortally wounded deer or bear is considered hunting and thus the hunter and handler are subject to all applicable laws and rules and must possess a valid hunting license (see pages 11-12 and 35), unless exempt from licensing requirements (see page 7).
- The hunter must accompany the dog handler and only the hunter may kill a mortally wounded deer or bear, and the deer or bear counts towards the hunter's bag limit.
- Any dog handler providing tracking services for profit must be licensed as an outfitter or guide.

## Dog Training

Persons training dogs shall not have a firearm or other implement for taking wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds, except that a person, who is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law, may carry a firearm for self-defense purposes only. Persons participating in dog training must have a hunting license.

A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, providing no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals killed or damage done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.

No person, other than the owner of a registered dog, may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog, or is done by a law enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

**Residents** may train dogs and hold field trials on wild animals and birds on public lands or on private land with the landowner's written permission at any time. Dogs may not be trained on deer or wild turkey.

**Nonresidents** may train dogs during any open small game hunting season. If their state offers WV hunters reciprocal dog training privileges, they may train dogs on raccoons from August 15 through February 28. See additional information on bear dog training on page 36.

### Bird Dog Training

A permit may be obtained to train dogs on pigeons or commercially pen-raised quail on private land if training during a closed season and if birds are being killed.

## Coyote Hunting Regulations

Coyotes may be hunted year round.

Hunting coyotes at night using any color artificial light or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging, or active illumination, is legal from January 1 through August 31, 2021.

Coyote hunting at night with artificial lights is legal on private property from September 1 through December 31, 2021, with the condition that the hunter must notify the local Natural Resources Police Officer or District Office, and provide hunter's name, landowner's name, and hunting location during working hours for approval.

Firearms legal for night coyote hunting are shotguns with No. 2 or smaller shot and rifles and handguns of .22 caliber centerfire or smaller and .22 caliber rimfire or smaller.

During closed small game seasons, coyotes may only be hunted in open fields. Guns must be cased while being transported to and from the open field.

Electronic calls are legal.

There is no daily, annual or season bag limit on coyotes.

## REPORTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW VIOLATIONS

**In progress** – dial 911

**Not in progress** – call your DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours or report online at [WVdnr.gov/lenforce/poachers.shtm](http://WVdnr.gov/lenforce/poachers.shtm). You also may report on [Facebook.com/DNRpolice](https://www.facebook.com/DNRpolice).

1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
2. Don't confront the violator.
3. Contact a local Natural Resources Police Officer or county communication center as soon as possible.

**Become involved in protecting your sport, be willing to testify in court.**

## Point System for Hunting Violations

Persons found guilty of negligent shooting of humans or livestock will have their hunting licenses revoked for five years.

For bear hunting violation penalties see page 35.

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges revoked for one year.

Points are assigned for other hunting violations:

- 10 points** use of spotlight with firearms or other implement or illegally killing a bear.
- 6 points** illegal possession or sale of wildlife or illegally killing deer, boar, or turkey.
- 6 points** hunting from a motor vehicle.
- 4 points** all other hunting violations.

When a person accumulates 10 or more hunting and/or fishing violation points combined, his/her licenses will be revoked for a period of two years.

Points will be removed on the second anniversary or upon restoration of the license.

License revocations may be made for cause, pursuant to statutory authority, or through an accumulation of points. Not all instances leading to revocation are listed herein. For more information, please see the W. Va. Code and the State Code of State Rules.

## Sunday Hunting

Sunday hunting is legal statewide on private land with written permission from the landowner, and it is lawful to hunt throughout the State of West Virginia on federal land where hunting is permitted, in a state forest, on land owned or leased by the state for wildlife purposes, and on land managed by the state for wildlife purposes pursuant to a cooperative agreement.

## National Forests

National Forests are managed under cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

Each wildlife management area on the national forests contains interspersed private land within its boundaries. Written permission is required on all private land before hunting, fishing or trapping.

Contact each National Forest for current rules and regulations applicable to the WMA areas.

### George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

5162 Valleypointe Parkway • Roanoke, VA 24019  
(540) 265-5100 • Toll Free: 1-888-265-0019  
[www.fs.usda.gov/gwj](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj)

### Monongahela National Forest

200 Sycamore Street • Elkins, WV 26241  
Voice and TDD: (304) 636-1800  
[www.fs.usda.gov/mnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf)

## National Wildlife Refuges

A free refuge hunting permit is required to hunt on the National Wildlife Refuges in West Virginia. Please contact the appropriate National Wildlife Refuge to obtain a permit and for rules and regulations governing hunting and fishing;

### Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

3982 Waverly Road • Williamstown, WV 26187  
(304) 375-2923 • [www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio\\_river\\_islands/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio_river_islands/)

### Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

6263 Appalachian Highway • Davis, WV 26260  
(304) 866-3858 • [www.fws.gov/refuge/canaan\\_valley/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/canaan_valley/)

## National Park Service Lands

Hunting is permitted on New River Gorge National Preserve, but is prohibited on New River Gorge National Park. Trapping is not permitted on New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, but is permitted on Gauley River National Recreation Area. Participants must possess the proper licenses/stamps and follow the regulations established by the WV Division of Natural Resources. Please observe no hunting areas, such as safety zones and private property. Tree stands left more than 24 hours will be removed. Feeding and baiting of wildlife, and use of ATVs/UTVs are not permitted on NPS property. Please respect the numerous private landowners' properties within the areas.

All lands are managed out of the Glen Jean headquarters.  
P.O. Box 246 • Glen Jean, WV 25846 • (304) 465-0508

### New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

[www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/hunting.htm](http://www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/hunting.htm)

### Gauley River National Recreation Area

[www.nps.gov/gari/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gari/index.htm)

## Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests

Rules and regulations governing hunting and trapping on state owned and leased lands are the same as on adjacent private lands except as follows:

1. Trapping permit, available from District Wildlife Biologist, required on all areas.
2. It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land at any time.
3. Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, Bright McCausland Homestead, Burnsville Lake, Green Bottom, Fox Forest, Hillcrest, Little Kanawha River and McClintic WMAs and Calvin Price and Coopers Rock State Forests — Hunting only in accordance with special rules established for the area (see pages 6, 13, 18-20, 27, 29 and 31).
4. WMAs and state forests with camping areas require a permit and fee (see regulations posted at each area).
5. Camping is lawful ONLY in designated areas.
6. Use of ATVs and snowmobiles is prohibited. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) means any motor vehicle designed for off-road use not subject to the vehicle registration requirements of Chapter 17A of the West Virginia Code.
7. Driving a vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile so as to harass or chase wildlife is prohibited.
8. Maximum speed limit for vehicles on WMAs and state forests is 30 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. All traffic signs and directions must be observed.
9. Driving a vehicle in a manner that creates a nuisance to other persons by repetitive or continuous cruising is prohibited.
10. Class Q/QQ hunting access is available on some WMAs. Contact the District Wildlife Biologist for more information or check online at [WVDnr.gov](http://WVDnr.gov) under Disability Services.
11. Only portable tree stands may be used on public lands.

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

**Bait:** any feed or edible enticement or any non-edible facsimile of an edible enticement. See page 35 for bait restrictions specific to bear.

**Baiting:** the direct or indirect placing or exposing of bait so as to attract or entice wildlife to an area where hunters are attempting to take them. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after bait is removed.

**Big Game:** black bear, deer, wild turkey and boar.

**Bow:** a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is hand-drawn, hand-held and held at full draw without the aid of any mechanical device. Triggering devices or release aids are legal.

**Concurrent hunting:** hunting of the same and/or other species during a legally prescribed season.

**Crossbow:** a device consisting of a bow fixed transversely on a stock, the string of which is released by a trigger mechanism and propels a bolt.

**Edible portion of big game:** one or more of the following: (A) the meat of the front quarters to the knee; (B) the meat of the hind-quarters to the hock; or (C) the meat along the backbone between the front quarter and hind quarters. The edible portion of a wild turkey is the breast meat only.

**Hunt:** to chase, catch or take wild birds or animals.

**Licensed adult:** an individual who has attained the age of 18 years and possesses a valid West Virginia hunting and trapping license or is exempt from having to purchase a West Virginia hunting and trapping license.

**Life-threatening condition:** a terminal condition or illness that according to current diagnosis has a high probability of death within two years even with treatment with an existing generally accepted protocol.

**Modified bow:** a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that has been modified to hold the bow at full draw to accommodate a physical impairment of the user.

**Nonresident:** person who does not meet the requirements of a resident.

**Possession limit:** game taken in WV that is in any way under the hunter's control. Example: the total of all game in a car, truck, home freezer, commercial food locker, or any other storage place.

**Private lands:** lands owned by an individual(s), partnership, heirship, club, organization or company and/or not qualifying as public land.

**Protected:** no open season. Hunting at any time shall be illegal for protected wildlife.

**Public lands:** lands owned, leased, licensed, managed under cooperative agreement with or under the control of the Division for wildlife management purposes.

**Resident:** a person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and full-time students of a college or university of this state. Non-resident, full-time students of any West Virginia college or university are eligible to purchase lifetime licenses. Absentee ownership of land in West Virginia does not constitute legal residence.

**Resident landowner privileges:** apply to West Virginia residents who own land in West Virginia, their resident children and resident parents, or resident tenants when hunting or trapping on their own land. Resident tenants must permanently live on the land.

**Small Game:** all game and furbearing animals and game birds except big game.