



2017 VERMONT SPRING AND FALL TURKEY SEASONS



2017 SPRING TURKEY SEASON

SPRING SEASON: May 1-31, 2017

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon.

LIMIT: Two bearded turkeys for the spring season.

All Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are open to hunting during the spring season.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A current hunting or combination license, and a current turkey license with tag are required to hunt turkey. A digital version of your license carried with you is also acceptable, except for minor children who must still carry a paper license signed by their parent.

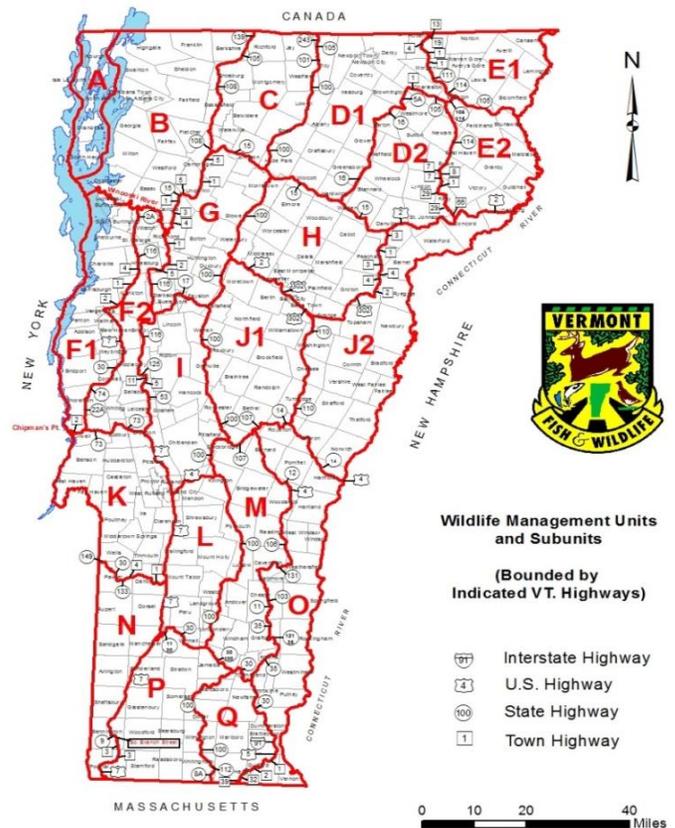
LIFETIME AND PERMANENT LICENSE RENEWAL

If you intend to hunt, fish, or trap in 2017, you must update your lifetime, permanent disability, or permanent license regardless of whether or not you used your tags. This is a new statutory requirement, and it has been put in place to allow the department to collect accurate harvest and licensing information for lifetime licenses.

This updated license will include current year tags. You may update your license at no cost on-line at our [website](#). If you are unable to go on-line, you may go to any authorized license agent or Fish & Wildlife Office and request to have your license updated. You can also call us at 802-828-1190 to be updated. A license agent may charge you up to \$1.50 for a reprint.

[Purchase a License Online](#)

[Update a Permanent License](#)



LEGAL METHODS OF TAKING

Only a shotgun or vertical bow and arrow may be used by any hunter. Hunters 50 years old and older may use crossbows. Only number 2 through number 8 shot shall be used or possessed, and an arrowhead must be at least 7/8 of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

Rifles and handguns shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. No person shall use electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives. No person shall use dogs in the spring season.

TAGGING

A hunter who takes a turkey shall immediately attach the proper tag to the carcass. The tag must remain on the carcass until the carcass is prepared for consumption.

OPTIONAL VERMONT BIG GAME TAG

Optional Vermont Big Game Tags are available from license agents as durable alternatives to the paper tags on licenses. Optional tags may be used to tag deer, bear, or turkeys, but they are not for use with moose or muzzleloader antlerless deer. Record your CONSERVATION ID number (top left corner of your license) on the Optional Big Game Tag. A qualifying landowner may use the tag by writing "landowner" in the same space. The existing paper tag that comes with a license may also be used.

DURABLE VT BIG GAME TAGS Available at License Agents Statewide	
VERMONT TRANSPORTATION TAG 1. Fill out all information below 2. Affix tag to animal (circle size) deer bear turkey 3. Transport to nearest Game Check Station Name _____ Date ____/____/____ Address _____ Conservation ID# _____	Report Poachers To report fish and wildlife violations and remain anonymous call: OPERATION GAME THIEF 1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-5378) or web http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com Big Game Biological Data Needed Please provide all biological data, including a tooth from black bears and info from white-tailed deer, to designated big game reporting stations. This data is critical to the sound management of Vermont's big game populations.

REPORTING TURKEY

A person taking turkey shall, within 48 hours, report the taking and exhibit the carcass to the nearest game warden, official Fish & Wildlife Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive the reports. No turkey carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

[Big Game Check Stations](#)

YOUTH HUNT WEEKEND

WHEN: Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30, 2017

WHERE: Statewide

LIMIT: One bearded turkey. This turkey does not count towards your regular season spring limit of two bearded turkeys.

WHO: Anyone who is 15 years old or younger on the weekend of the hunt and who has successfully completed a hunter education course and possesses a hunting license, turkey license, and youth turkey tag.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. for youth weekend only.



[Find a Hunter Education Course](#)

Any resident or nonresident youth, 15 years of age or younger on the weekend of the hunt, who has successfully completed a hunter safety course may obtain a free youth turkey hunting tag. A qualified youth must also purchase a Vermont hunting license and turkey license at a license agent by either showing proof of satisfactorily completing the hunter safety course or proof of having held a valid hunting license previously. The youth hunter's parent or guardian must sign the hunting license application in the presence of the license agent.

When hunting, the youth hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 18 years of age who holds a valid Vermont hunting license. The adult may accompany no more than two youth hunters at any given time. The adult must have **direct control and supervision**, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

The youth hunter may take one bearded turkey during youth turkey hunting weekend and may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

Landowner permission is required in order to hunt on private land with a youth turkey tag. All relevant game laws and regulations apply during Youth Turkey Hunting weekend, including the prohibition on baiting and road hunting.

The amount of a fine will be doubled for a violation on Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the youth and who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

[Youth Turkey Hunting Events](#)

[For more information on Youth Hunting Programs](#)

2017 FALL TURKEY SEASONS

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

LIMIT: One turkey of either sex for the fall season.

DATES AND WMUs OPEN TO HUNTING:

- ↘ Bow and Arrow only: October 7-20, 2017 in all WMUs statewide
- ↘ Shotgun or Bow and Arrow: October 21-29, 2017 in WMUs B, D1, D2, G, H, I, J1, J2, L, M, O, P and Q.
- ↘ Shotgun or Bow and Arrow: October 21-November 5, 2017 in WMUs F1, F2, K, and N.

CROSSBOWS

A crossbow may be used by anyone 50 years of age or older to take any game that may be taken by bow and arrow. Anyone 49 years of age or younger may hunt with a crossbow, provided they possess a crossbow disability permit. The crossbow disability permit is issued to a person so physically impaired that he or she cannot operate a standard bow and allows that person to hunt with a crossbow. A permit applicant must produce a licensed physician's certificate certifying that the disability requires the use of a crossbow. Obtain an application from Fish & Wildlife before visiting your doctor. Applicant must also appear before a state game warden to obtain a crossbow license. Be sure to make an appointment ahead of time.

[Crossbow Disability Permit Application](#) (49 years and younger)

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

While hunting-related shootings are rare, precautions are necessary. Because birds can see color, camouflage or drab colored clothing is almost mandatory to outwit a keen-sighted turkey. Unfortunately, camouflage also prevents other hunters from seeing you.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department urges hunters to review the following safety tips:

1. **Never shoot unless you're absolutely sure of your target and what is beyond it.** Look for a beard as only turkeys with beards are legal during the spring season. If you're not sure, skip the shot. Lack of positive identification could result in shooting an illegal bird, or worse, another hunter. Be sure to have a good backstop any time you shoot a firearm or bow. 
2. **Never stalk a gobbling turkey.** Your chances of getting close are poor, and you may be sneaking up on another hunter.
3. **Avoid red, white, blue and black in clothing and equipment.** A tom turkey's head has similar colors.
4. **Stick with hen calls.** A gobbler call might draw in other hunters.
5. **Avoid unnecessary movement.** This alerts turkeys and attracts hunters.
6. **Don't hide so well that you impair your own field of vision.**
7. **Wrap your turkey in blaze orange for the hike back to the car.**
8. **Always sit with your back against a tree trunk, big log, or a boulder that is wider than your body.** This protects you from being accidentally struck by pellets fired from behind you.
9. **Place decoys on the far side of a tree trunk or a rock.** This prevents you from being directly in the line of fire should another hunter mistakenly shoot at your decoy.
10. **Wear hunter orange while moving from set-up to set-up.** Take it off when you are in position.

Remember, only turkeys stalk turkeys! Hunt smart. Hunt safe.

WHERE CAN I HUNT IN VERMONT?

Vermont has more than 800,000 acres of federal and state public land open to hunting: **National Wildlife Refuges**, the **Green Mountain National Forest**, and all **state forests**. **State Parks** are open to hunting outside the operating season.

Perhaps the crown jewel of hunting in Vermont is the state's system of 91 **Wildlife Management Areas**, or **WMAs**. All WMAs are open to hunting, trapping, fishing and other wildlife related outdoor activities.

Information about shooting ranges is available on our website.

Wildlife Management Areas	Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
Green Mountain National Forest	Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation
Hammonds Cove Public Shooting Range	Shooting Range Directory

2016 Wild Turkey Harvest Report	Past Turkey Harvest Reports
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TIPS FOR HUNTERS – Being a Good Land User

Landowners who permit you to hunt on their land are doing you a favor and placing their trust in you. Here are some recommendations to prove their trust was not misplaced, help with your relationship with the landowner, and portray a positive image of hunting.

- ↘ Respect the landowner's property – hunting, fishing, trapping or otherwise using it only when and where the landowner approves.
- ↘ Understand clearly where you can and cannot drive or park your vehicle and abide by those restrictions.
- ↘ Leave your name, address, phone number and also make, model, and license number of

your vehicle with the landowner or use the [Courtesy Permission Cards](#).

- ↘ If you have permission to return, find out if there are certain times or places that you should avoid. Always attempt to let the landowner know where you will be and when.
- ↘ Know the property boundaries and do not trespass on adjacent property.
- ↘ Try to keep the size of your hunting party small and always let the landowner know exactly who else will be hunting with you.
- ↘ Don't walk through unharvested crops or hunt near livestock or buildings.
- ↘ Leave gates as you find them. Cross fences in a manner that will not break or loosen wires or posts.
- ↘ Don't litter. Carry away litter left by others.

[Courtesy Permission Card](#)

VERMONT HABITAT STAMP

Monies raised from sales of Vermont Habitat Stamps go to the Species and Habitat Conservation Fund, which is used to purchase and maintain Wildlife Management Areas.

Projects Supported by the Fund Include:

- ↘ Purchase lands for Wildlife Management Areas
- ↘ Improve public access to land for fish and wildlife-based activities such as bird-watching, hunting, fishing, enjoying wildlife or simply connecting with nature
- ↘ Protect and improve wetlands
- ↘ Protect and enhance deer wintering areas
- ↘ Implement wildlife habitat enhancement for turkeys, bears, deer, songbirds, bats, moose, and all of Vermont's native wildlife
- ↘ Use our [online donation form](#).

↓ **Hunting and Fishing License Purchase:**

Donate when purchasing a hunting or fishing license by simply including your contribution when applying.

When you purchase a Vermont Habitat Stamp, you help improve wildlife habitat and open land for outdoor recreation.

Please note: A stamp is not required to hunt, fish or trap, nor do you have to buy a sporting license to donate for a stamp.



[Vermont Habitat Stamp Online Donation Form](#)



VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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www.facebook.com/vtfishandwildlife



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