

FROM THE VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT



VERMONT

HUNTING

& Trapping Guide

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS DIGEST

2017

Hunters and Trappers:

Wildlife Stewards

pg.14

The most capable full-size

TRUCK ON THE ROAD

AMERICA'S
LONGEST-LASTING
PICKUPS¹

IN THE FIELD
AND OFF THE GRID

2016 HEAVY



DUTY

BEST-IN-CLASS PAYLOAD
7,390 LBS^{2,3}

The MOST CAPABLE
FULL-SIZE PICKUP^{2,3}
ON THE ROAD TODAY

BEST-IN-CLASS GAS TOWING
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RAM

1) Based on IHS Automotive V10 registration data for all brands of GVW 1-3 pickup trucks continuously sold in the US since 1988. Dodge and Ram have the highest overall percentage still on the road.
2) When properly equipped. 3) Based on latest available competitive information. Class based on 350/3500 pickups and Ram 3500 maximum payload, torque and towing comparisons.
2500 Heavy Duty model shown. Ram is a registered trademark of FCA U.S. LLC.



A Special Message from the Commissioner

As 2017 opens, we are reminded that open, accessible land in Vermont has become more limited each year. The department is working to moderate that trend by expanding WMAs and access areas. Our conservation and land trust partners also help by welcoming sportsmen and women onto their lands and streambanks. But quality hunting, fishing, and trapping experiences more frequently occur only with the support of Vermont's private landowners.

Public access on private land allows us to properly manage Vermont's fish and wildlife species, while allowing for the harvest of fresh local meat. Access to land helps ensure that Vermont's sporting heritage is enjoyed by the next generation, and Vermont's strong connection to the land is maintained.

Landowners have also been instrumental in maintaining quality habitat in Vermont. Whether through easements, enrolling their land in "Current Use," or simply maintaining a healthy, connected, natural landscape on their property, landowners are key to the future of fish and wildlife in Vermont. This season, remember to thank landowners whose unposted lands provide places to enjoy fish and wildlife, and as always, be a courteous guest.

New for 2017, you'll notice the hunting/trapping guide is separate from the fishing guide. Splitting them up saves money and makes them easier to carry. As fishing regulations are updated every two years, the fishing regulations will be printed every other year, which will also keep costs down.

May this year bring you many opportunities to enjoy Vermont's incredible fish and wildlife!

Louis Porter, Commissioner

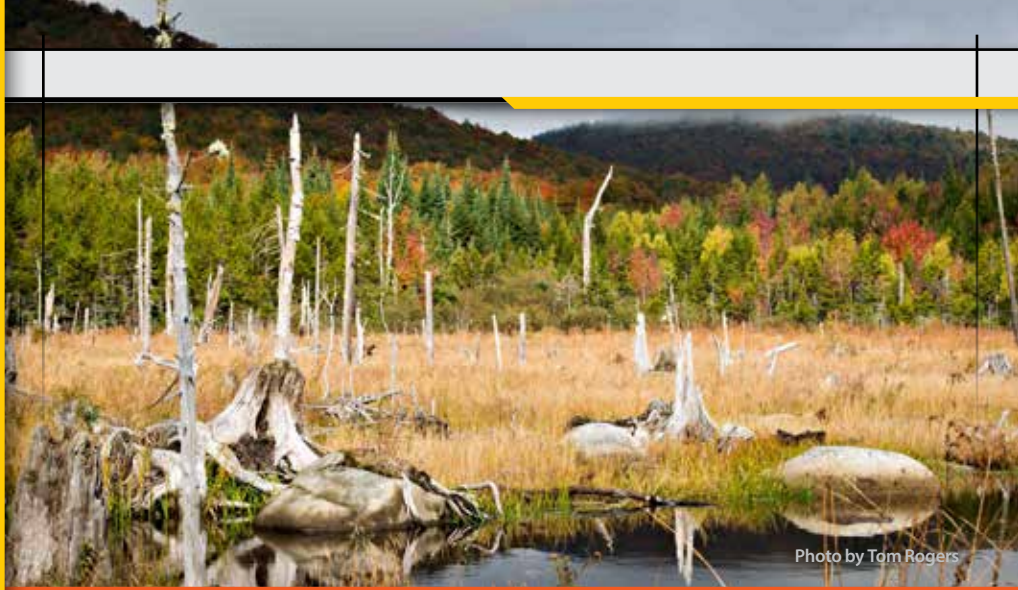


Photo by Tom Rogers

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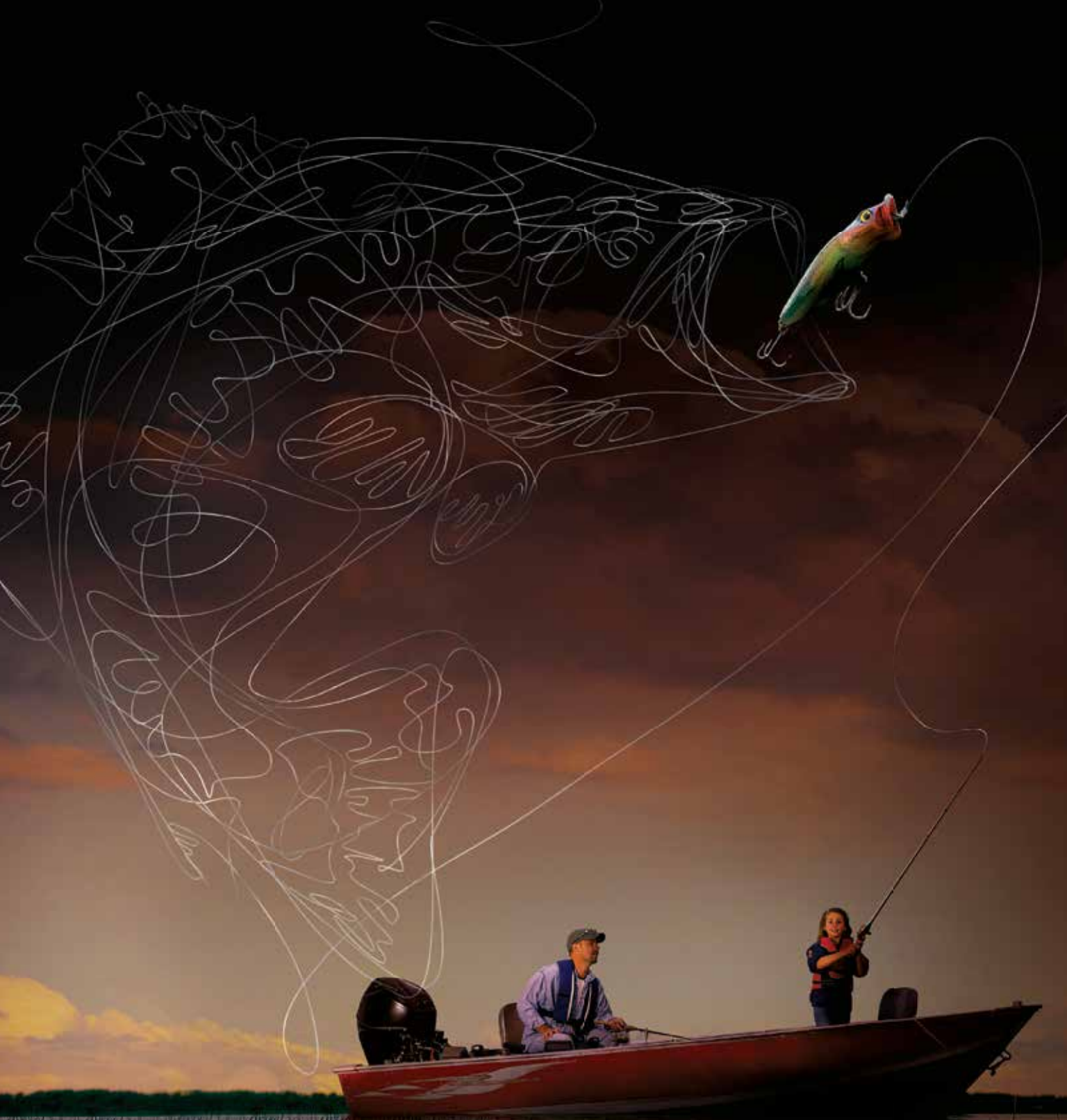
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Cover Photo:
by Tom Rogers, Vt Fish & Wildlife Dept

Fish & Wildlife Laws

The purpose of Vermont Fish & Wildlife laws is to help protect, manage, control and conserve the fish and wildlife of the state. Every individual who hunts, fishes or traps is responsible for knowing the fish and wildlife laws. This lawbook provides the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's interpretation of these laws. It is formatted to make the laws easier to read and understand. For a complete wording of Vermont's fish and wildlife statutes and regulations, consult *Vermont Statutes Annotated, Part 4, Title 10*, available at Town Clerks' offices and on the Internet at legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10. Any questions you have regarding these laws should be directed to your local game warden.



THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at [TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation](https://www.TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation)



TAKEMEFISHING.org



2017 Quick Reference Guide

All dates inclusive.

Big Game Hunting

SPECIES	SEASON	NOTES	DATES
Deer	Bow & Arrow		Oct. 7-Nov. 3 & Dec. 2-10
	Youth Deer Weekend		Nov. 4-5
	16 Day Regular Season		Nov. 11-26
	Muzzleloader		Dec. 2-10
Black Bear			Early Season: Sept. 1-Nov. 10 Late Season: Nov. 11-19
Turkey	Youth Turkey Weekend		April 29-30
	Spring Season		May 1 – 31
	Fall Seasons	Bow & Arrow only	In all WMUs statewide October 7-20
		Shotgun or Bow & Arrow	WMUs B, D1, D2, G, H, I, J1, J2, L, M, O, P, and Q WMUs F1, F2, K, and N October 21-29 Oct. 21-Nov. 5
Moose			Season set annually

Small Game Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Hare, Rabbit	Sept. 24, 2016-Mar. 12, 2017 & Sept. 30, 2017-Mar. 11, 2018 WMUs D & E remain open through March 31
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	Sept. 30-Dec. 31
Woodcock, Waterfowl	To Be Announced
Crow	Jan. 15 – April 11 & Aug. 19 – Dec. 19 Friday - Monday inclusive

Furbearer Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 22, 2016-Feb. 12, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017-Feb. 11, 2018
Raccoon	Oct. 14-Dec. 31
Muskrat	Mar. 20 – April 19
Coyote	Open Year Round
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion	No open season

Furbearer Trapping

SPECIES	DATES
Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel	Oct. 28-Dec. 31
Otter	Oct. 22, 2016-Feb. 28, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017-Feb. 28, 2018
Muskrat	Oct. 22, 2016-Mar. 31, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017-Mar. 31, 2018
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Beaver	Oct. 22, 2016-Mar. 31, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017-Mar. 31, 2018
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion	No open season



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www.vtfishandwildlife.com



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License Information

Licenses are Required

Any person engaged in fishing, hunting, trapping or taking any wild animals must be properly licensed, except as listed below under exceptions. Wild animals are defined by law as ALL animals, including birds, amphibians, and reptiles, other than domestic animals.

Exceptions to License Requirements

A **resident** owner of land in Vermont, his or her spouse, and minor children may hunt within the boundary of that land and take fish from a private pond within the boundary of that land without a license within season (except if their right to obtain a license is under suspension, or for seasons requiring a special tag such as moose, antlerless muzzleloader, and waterfowl).

A **nonresident** owner of land has equal privilege if his or her land is NOT posted (except if their right to obtain a license is under suspension). "Posted" means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land, except for "Safety Zone" signs.

My License Covers What?

Basic Hunting Licenses include a late season bear tag, and a November season legal buck tag. They also cover small game hunting. Combination licenses include a late season bear tag, November buck tag, small game hunting, and fishing. Add-on licenses are required for early season bear, archery deer season, muzzleloader deer season, and turkey seasons (each with their own tags).

Military Personnel

Any **resident** of Vermont who certifies that he or she is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or is performing, or is under orders to perform, a homeland defense or state-side contingency operation for a period of 120 or more consecutive days may obtain at no cost a hunting or fishing license or combination hunting and fishing license.

A person who obtains a license under this provision may keep the license until it expires, whether or not the person continues to serve in the armed forces.

If requesting a hunting or combination license, you also need to submit a copy of your hunter education certification, a previous hunting license, or sign an affidavit stating you have held a hunting license.

A **nonresident** member of the armed forces of the United States who certifies that he or she

BUYING YOUR LICENSE

We offer three easy ways to purchase your license:

1 Online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com

The online license buying process is easy. **You will need:**

- **A printer to print your license.** Printing requires Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer. You can download the free Acrobat Reader software from our website.
- **A credit card.** We accept Visa or MasterCard for payment.

Nice to have ready if you have one:

- Your Conservation Identification Number or CID #. You can look up your Conservation ID on the website or find it on your previous license.

To purchase a hunting, combination, archery or trapping license:

- You must have held a previous hunting, combination, archery or trapping license in Vermont, any other state or Canada or have passed a State approved safety course. You may complete the license affidavit form certifying that you have held this type of license previously or passed a State approved safety course.

Important things to remember:

- Type your information as you wish it to appear on your license. Your license and a photo ID should be carried whenever you go fishing, hunting or trapping.
- 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.

2 Purchase your license at one of our district offices or from an authorized license agent.

A list of license agents is available on our website or you can call 802-828-1190 for an agent closest to you.

3 Print a license application from our website to fill out and send in with your payment.

is on active duty and stationed at a military, air or naval post, station or base within Vermont may buy a license to hunt or fish at the resident fee.

These licenses are available from Fish & Wildlife offices, license agents and our website.

Any questions on eligibility for military licenses should be directed to 802-828-1190 or anr.fwinformation@vermont.gov or sent to:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Attn: Licensing
1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208

Resident Status

In order to obtain resident licenses, a person must have lived in Vermont for the six months immediately prior to applying for a license and NOT claimed residence elsewhere for any other reason.

An applicant for a resident lifetime license must have been a resident for at least 12 months or must be a dependent of a resident.

A nonresident student who is enrolled in a high school, college or university within the state is entitled to a resident fishing, hunting or combination license.

To qualify, the student must have successfully completed two successive semesters at his or her Vermont school or college, must present an admission card, and must pay the resident fee.

Mentored Hunting License

Mentored Hunting licenses are available from Fish & Wildlife offices and our website.

A mentored hunting license is available to a resident or nonresident who:

- Has **never** successfully completed a hunter safety course.
- Has **never** held a hunting license in Vermont or any other state or province.

A person issued a mentored hunting license may hunt when:

- Accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older who holds a valid Vermont hunting license. In these circumstances, the term "accompanied" means the mentored hunter is in the direct control and supervision of the fully licensed adult hunter and is within 15 feet of the fully licensed adult hunter.
- A parent or legal guardian has also signed the license if the applicant is 15 years old or younger.

The fully licensed adult hunter may take afield only one person at a time who holds a mentored hunting license. The licensed adult must have purchased all tags and stamps appropriate

for the type of hunting they are participating in (for example, a turkey tag for mentored turkey hunting).

A person holding a mentored hunting license is subject to the bag limit of the fully licensed adult accompanying hunter.

When game is taken by a person holding a mentored hunting license, it shall be deemed taken by the fully licensed adult accompanying hunter.

After tagging and reporting game, if required, a person who holds a mentored hunting license may, unaccompanied by the fully licensed adult hunter, transport game he or she has taken.

There are limitations on a person who holds a mentored hunting license:

- A person who holds a mentored hunting license is not eligible to hold a moose permit or accompany moose hunters, or participate in youth deer, or youth turkey hunting weekends.
- A person who holds a mentored hunting license who is 16 or older is required to purchase and carry a federal duck stamp in order to hunt waterfowl.
- A mentored hunting license shall only be issued twice to any one individual.

Penalties for violations

Fines for a violation of this section or any fish and wildlife law are doubled and assessed against the fully licensed adult hunter accompanying the mentored license hunter. Points for the violation(s) will be assessed against the fully licensed adult hunter.

Permanent Licenses

NEW THIS YEAR Any Vermont resident who is 70 or older may apply for a free permanent license on our website, at an authorized license agent, at our district offices or through the mail to the Fish & Wildlife office.

If a permanent license holder wishes to hunt for a second archery deer, he/she must purchase the additional archery license. If waterfowl hunting, he/she must also purchase state and federal duck stamps and register with H.I.P. each year.

Permanent licenses do not include duck stamps or entries into the moose and antlerless lotteries or permits.

Permanent licenses must be renewed each year. Renewal is free.

Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.
ORGANIZED 1875
PLEASE JOIN & SUPPORT
A Federation Member Club

IS YOUR SPORTING CLUB A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION? WHY JOIN?

- We are the Oldest and Largest Sportsmen's Club in VT
- We are the NRA State Association
- We are a voice between Sportsmen/Sportswomen and the VT Legislature
- We Fight to Protect Your Rights to Hunt, Fish, Trap and Own Firearms
- We Sponsor and Support the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Conservation Camps
- We Manage Operation Game Thief
- Federation Fund for Conservation & Training is our 501(c)(3) affiliate

Please Plan On Attending Our Annual Banquet on March 18, 2017
Mail to:
14 Stafford Avenue, Morrisville, VT 05661

For more information, visit our website at www.vtfsc.org

Permanent Disability Licenses

A legally blind person who is a Vermont resident may apply for a free permanent fishing license. Information is available from the Fish & Wildlife office or our website.

A Vermont resident who is paraplegic or who is certified by a physician to have permanent severe physical mobility disability, may receive a free permanent fishing, hunting or combination license, if qualified, with the proper proof of disability.

“Paraplegic” is a person with permanent paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement or loss of both legs. A Statement of Disability form is available from the office or our website.

A Vermont resident who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and who is 60% disabled due to a service connected disability, may receive a free permanent fishing or combination license, if qualified, upon presentation of a letter from the Veterans Administration specifically indicating your service connected disability rating.

To see if you qualify for the license, call the Veterans Benefits Section at 1-800-828-1190. If you qualify for a combination license, you will also receive turkey and muzzleloader deer licenses. If you qualify for an archery license, you will receive one.

Permanent licenses do not include duck stamps or entries into the moose and antlerless lotteries or permits.

Lifetime Licenses

A resident or nonresident lifetime fishing, hunting, or combination fishing and hunting license may be obtained from the Fish & Wildlife Department. Applications are available on our website or from the main office in Montpelier. Fees are as follows:

- for children < 1 year old = 6x current adult license price.
- for children 1–15 years old = 16x current adult license price.
- for adults 16–24 years old = 31x current adult license price.
- for adults 25–64 years old = 26x current adult license price.

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 www.vtfishandwildlife.com. 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.

Requirements for Hunting, Combination Hunting and Fishing, Archery & Trapping Licenses

An applicant for a hunting, combination hunting and fishing, archery, or trapping license must present either:

1. A previous or current hunting, combination, archery or trapping license from Vermont or any state or Canadian province; or
2. A certificate or a letter of proof showing satisfactory completion of an approved hunter safety, archery, or trapping education course from Vermont or any other state or province; or
3. Completed affidavit attesting to having a prior hunting, combination, archery, or trapping license from Vermont or any other state or province.

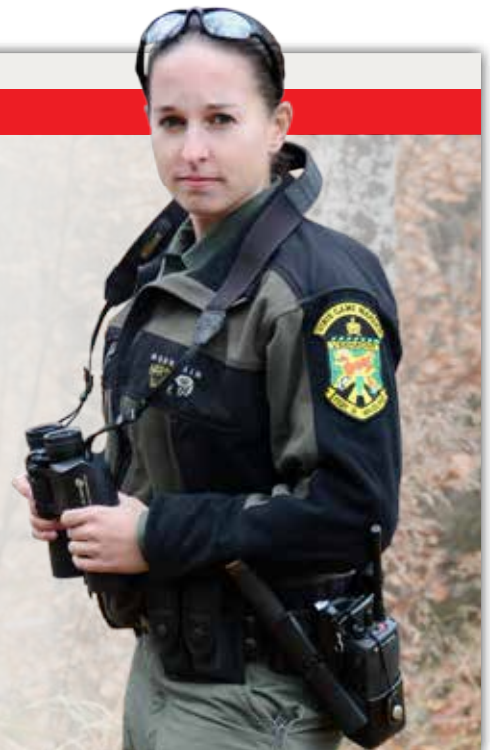
VERMONT IS A MEMBER OF THE

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

The Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (IWVC) ensures that in participating states, nonresident violators will receive the same treatment as resident violators. IWVC member states reciprocate in the suspension or revocation of licenses and permits resulting from violation of hunting, fishing or trapping laws.

If an individual’s license or permit privileges are revoked in one compact member state, they are subject to suspension or revocation in all other member states. For example, if a Vermont resident has their hunting privileges suspended in Minnesota, their privileges may also be suspended in Vermont and in all other compact states. This helps prevent habitual violators from relocating their illegal activities to other member’s states.

The IWVC also has established procedures that cause a nonresident violator who fails to comply with the terms of a citation issued in a participating state to face the possibility of the suspension of their wildlife license privileges in their home state until the terms of the citation are met. The goal of the IWVC is to facilitate improved enforcement of hunting, fishing and trapping laws through the cooperation of law enforcement units in member states.



A person under age 16 must have his or her parent or guardian sign to obtain a hunting license.

NOTE—State firearms laws, found at *13V.S.A. Sect. 4017*, prohibit certain individuals, including those convicted of felonies or any domestic violence offense, those subject to a final relief from abuse order and unlawful users of controlled substances from possessing centerfire and rimfire firearms. For a complete list of prohibitions, contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at 802-865-4020.

Hunter Education Courses

A list of upcoming hunter education courses is available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com or, by calling 802-828-1193.

License Possession

Appropriate licenses must be carried while hunting, fishing, trapping or transporting fish, game or furbearers. The licenses must be exhibited on demand of a State Game Warden or other

enforcement officer, or the owner of the land on which such person is hunting, fishing or trapping. See *10 V.S.A. Section 4266*. An electronic or digital copy of the license is acceptable, except for minor children who must still carry a paper license signed by their parent.

License Revocation

10 V.S.A. Sect. 4502—the “Uniform Point System”—provides that hunting, fishing and trapping licenses will be revoked based on the number of points received when a person is convicted of violating a fish or wildlife law.

Suspensions

- For 10 to 14 points accumulated in 5 years: 1 year suspension
- For 15 to 19 points accumulated in 5 years: 2 year suspension
- For 20 points or more accumulated in 5 years: 3 year suspension

Conviction of carelessly or negligently wounding a person by gunshot, or manslaughter by the careless and negligent use of firearms, will, by statute, revoke the hunting license privilege

or the right to obtain such license for five years. It is illegal to hunt, fish or trap while a license or right to obtain a license is under suspension in Vermont or any other state that is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Landowners may not hunt, fish or trap on their land if their license is suspended.

Fine

Up to \$4,000 and additional suspension period and up to 60 days in jail.

Remedial Course

A person whose license is revoked with 15 or more points accumulated in five years must successfully complete a remedial course designed to teach hunters, trappers and anglers correct legal and ethical behavior while hunting, trapping and fishing.

Suspension Per Family Court Orders

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and permits may be suspended for failure to comply with child support orders of the Family Court. *15 V.S.A. Sect. 798(b)*.



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2017 License Fees

Licenses, moose permit applications, and antlerless deer permit applications and their fees are available on-line at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Resident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
Hunting	\$26.00	\$124.00
Youth Hunting (age 17 or under)	\$8.00	
Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42.00	\$204.00
Youth Combination (age 17 or under)	\$12.00	
Mentored Hunting	\$10.00	
Trapping	\$23.00	\$109.00
Youth Trapping (age 17 or under)	\$10.00	
Archery-Deer (hunting license needed) ²	\$23.00	
Turkey (hunting license needed)	\$23.00	
Bear (Sept. 1 – Nov. 10 early season – hunting license needed)	\$5.00	
Muzzleloader-Deer (hunting license needed) ³	\$23.00	
Permanent license (Residents only, 70 or older)	Free	

Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
Hunting	\$100.00	\$494.00
Youth Hunting (age 17 or under)	\$25.00	
Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$138.00	\$684.00
Youth Combination (age 17 or under)	\$30.00	
Mentored Hunting	\$10.00	
Trapping	\$305.00	\$1,519.00
Small Game ¹	\$50.00	
Archery-Deer (hunting license needed) ²	\$38.00	
Archery Only-Deer (hunting license NOT needed) ²	\$75.00	
Turkey (hunting license needed)	\$38.00	
Bear (Sept. 1 – Nov. 11 early season – hunting license needed)	\$15.00	
Muzzleloader-Deer (hunting license needed) ³	\$40.00	



Northern Lights Credit Union with offices in the Northeast Kingdom of VT and the White Mountain Region of NH, understand the importance of outdoor recreation vehicles to reach your favorite back country spot.

So whether it's a new or used Truck, UTV, ATV, Tractor or Snow-Machine, we are confident you will find Great Service, Great Rates and knowledgeable staff at Northern Lights Credit Union. Visit us on the web or stop into one of our convenient offices in Littleton, NH and St. Johnsbury, VT.



1004 Memorial Drive, St. Johnsbury, VT 800.856.0026
 218 Dells Road, Littleton, NH 800.370.6455
www.northernlightscu.com

*Rates may vary. Some restrictions may apply.



- ¹ – Small Game Licenses: Entitles the holder to take small game, furbearers and other wild animals (except big game) by any lawful means other than a trap.
- ² – Archery deer licenses are only valid for use in archery deer season.
- ³ – Muzzleloader deer licenses are only valid for use in muzzleloader deer season.

Resident or Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR
Vermont Waterfowl Stamp	\$7.50

Vermont and federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt migratory waterfowl for hunters 16 and older. Federal stamps are sold at post offices. Vermont State Waterfowl "Stamps" are available on the Fish & Wildlife website, from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department offices and license agents statewide.

A state waterfowl stamp is good for the calendar year and no longer needs to be signed by the hunter.

State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for a hunter holding a mentored hunting license and taking out a mentee hunter. A mentored hunter is also required to purchase federal waterfowl stamp and to register for a H.I.P. number. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for hunters 16 and 17 years old taking part in youth waterfowl weekend in the Champlain and Interior Zones.

General Regulations

“Take” and “Taking” mean pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, disturbing, harrying, worrying, wounding, snaring or netting fish, birds or other animals. It includes placing, setting, drawing or using any net or other device commonly used to take fish or wild animals, whether they result in taking or not. It includes every attempt to take and every act of assistance to another person in taking or attempting to take fish or wild animals.

Camping and Trespass

It is illegal to park, drive or camp on another person's land without permission of the landowner. You must immediately leave the property when the landowner requests it, whether the property is posted or not. Roadside or public highway turnouts are not legal for overnight camping.

Importation of Wildlife

It is illegal to bring live wild mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, or fish into Vermont without previously obtaining an importation permit from the Fish & Wildlife Department.

Interfering with Hunters, Anglers and Trappers

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with someone who is lawfully taking fish or wild animals, or to disrupt the taking of any fish or wild animal by harassing or disturbing the fish or animal.

Interstate Highways

No one may legally travel on foot within the right-of-way or cross boundary fences along interstate highways. Rest areas and pullouts are NOT access areas for hunting, fishing or entering on adjacent lands unless posted as such.

Private Roads and Lands

Law prohibits obstructing private driveways, barways, or gateways with motor vehicles. People shall not drive over private lands or enter these lands for the purpose of camping without the permission of the landowner.

Season Dates

All season dates in this book are inclusive.

Violators

NEW THIS YEAR A person who drives, transports, scouts, counsels, or otherwise aids another person in a violation, or who knowingly possesses, consumes, or otherwise shares in the proceeds of such a violation by receiving or possessing fish or wild animals, or any parts thereof, shall be punished as a principal.

Damage to Fish & Wildlife Property

NEW THIS YEAR A person who damages or destroys a wildlife facsimile (decoy) owned by the Fish & Wildlife Department shall pay restitution for its replacement or repair.

Whoever intentionally or recklessly damages, injures, interferes with, or destroys any property, real or personal, belonging to or controlled by the state for fish, game, or wildlife purposes shall be fined not more than \$2,500 and pay restitution to repair or replace the damaged property.



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~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner

Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson and co-host of Michael Waddell's *Bone Collector* TV Show.

For information, please call WTU's Vermont Field Director Bill Bailey at (413) 244-2304.
www.whitetailsunlimited.com

Fines & Penalties

NEW THIS YEAR A person who violates state law or regulation while taking, possessing, transporting, buying or selling big game or Threatened or Endangered Species will face penalties that include fines, imprisonment, license revocation and forfeiture of equipment used in the violation. Violators shall be fined not more than \$1,000, nor less than \$400 for the first conviction. They also may face additional civil penalties. Upon a second and all subsequent convictions, the violator shall be fined not more than \$4,000 nor less than \$2,000. Violators may also be imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or may face both fine and imprisonment and restitution payments to the Fish and Wildlife Fund. License revocation is based on the point system (10 V.S.A. Sect. 4502).

Reimbursement for Illegally Taken Fish or Wildlife

In addition to any court penalties, anyone convicted of illegally taking, destroying, or possessing wild animals must pay, as restitution, into the fish and wildlife fund no more than the following amounts:

- Big Game up to \$2,000.00**
- Endangered Threatened Species up to \$2,000.00**
- Small Game up to \$500.00**

Fish up to \$50.00

Threatened & Endangered Species

In lieu of criminal prosecution for injuring or taking Threatened or Endangered Species, the Agency of Natural Resources can pursue civil enforcement. Civil penalties are capped at \$42,500 for a single violation. The complete list of threatened and endangered species is available on the Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). The list includes: lake sturgeon, stonecat, timber rattlesnake, bald eagle, spruce grouse, beach heather, great laurel, Canada lynx, marten, little brown bat and Indiana bat. Federal penalties also may apply.

Posted Property Under Fish & Wildlife Law

Hunting, fishing or trapping on properly posted land is illegal without **written permission**. This includes land posted for hunting, fishing or trapping **by permission only**. Properly posted land will have records filed with the town clerk and the Fish & Wildlife Department. See 10, V.S.A., Sections 5201 to 5206.

Whether the property is posted or not, a hunter or angler shall show their license if requested by the landowner.

It is illegal to damage or remove posters prohibiting hunting, fishing or trapping.

A person must leave the land immediately

on demand of the owner, whether the land is posted or not.

Posting & Permission Only Signs

A landowner, or a person having the exclusive right to take game on land or the waters thereon may maintain signs stating that hunting, fishing, or trapping or any combination of the three is **prohibited** or **by permission only**.

See 10 V.S.A. Appendix Sect. 14 for fish stocking requirements to post against fishing.

Permission Only signs shall state the owner's name and a method by which to contact the owner or a person authorized to provide permission to hunt, fish or trap on the property.

Posting and Permission Only Signs

- The owner or person posting the land, shall annually record the posting at the town clerk's office for a fee of \$5.00.
- Signs must be not less than 8 ½ inches by 11 inches.
- Lettering and background on the signs must be of contrasting colors.
- Signs must be maintained at all times and dated each year.
- Signs must be erected on or near all boundaries, at each corner, and not over 400 feet apart.
- Signs shall not be considered void if other language is added, as long as a reasonable person would understand that hunting, fishing or trapping are prohibited.

Location of Posting Signs

Posting signs and "By Permission Only" signs must be erected on or near all the boundaries, at each corner and not over 400 feet apart.

Safety Zone

A property owner may establish a 500-foot Safety Zone around an occupied dwelling, residence, barn, stable or other building with signs provided by the Fish & Wildlife Department. These signs shall be placed at each corner of the safety zone and no more than 200 feet apart. Shooting is prohibited in the Safety Zone and no wild animal may be taken within it without permission from the owner.

Falconry

Falconry is legal by special permit. Contact Fish & Wildlife for information at (802) 828-1483. Only the State permit is required.

Sale or Purchase of Game

Small Game

It is illegal to buy or sell a wild bird, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, or gray squirrel.

Big Game



Photo by Tom Rogers

The only time it is legal to buy or sell big game or the meat of big game within the state is during the open season and for 20 days after the season ends. The meat of big game animals is not to be bought or sold to be transported out of the state. It is illegal to buy or sell anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River Basin and/or to buy or sell wild turkey at any time.

Other than the meat mentioned above, a person may buy or sell at any time:

- The head, hide and hoofs of legally taken deer or moose; or
- The head, hide, paws and internal organs of a legally taken black bear.

Deer Hides

Anyone wishing to engage in the business of buying furs or skins of furbearers or deer hides must have a valid Fur Buyer's License. Contact Fish & Wildlife.

Bear Parts

International trade in hides, claws, skulls, or teeth of black bear is regulated by federal law and international treaty. If you plan to sell your own bear hide or parts outside of the United States, you must obtain an export permit (for a fee) from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, 1-800-358-2104. These products must be shipped through one of eleven designated ports (Boston is the nearest), or through another port under special permit (for a fee) from the same office. You do not need export permits and declarations to sell to domestic or foreign buyers within Vermont or the rest of the United States, or to sell through brokers who possess the necessary permits.

Game Suppers

Game suppers may be held at any time by a church, volunteer fire department, fish and game club, or other nonprofit organization with a permit issued by a State Game Warden.

Wild animals and fish legally taken in this state, or another state or country, may be transported and sold as part of a game supper authorized by permit. Big game provided by the Fish & Wildlife Department may also be sold at such suppers. Migratory waterfowl, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hare, and anadromous salmon may not be sold. Permits for game suppers must state the name of the organization holding the supper, as well as the date and location of the supper. A permit needs to be applied for at least 10 days before the date of the supper. Contact the Law Enforcement Division for a permit application at 802-828-1483.

Transportation of Fish or Game

Transportation of fish or game is only permit-

ted in the presence of the person who took that fish or game.

A person shall not transport fish or game:

- Taken by someone else unless the person who took the fish or game accompanies it;
- During closed season for that fish or game;
- If it exceeds the number or limit of fish or game that may legally be taken in a day.

However, a person traveling on land between a temporary abode such as a hunting camp and his or her home may transport in one day the number of fish or game that may legally be taken in two days.

While on the waters of the state, a person may not transport more than one day's limit of fish unless the fish is frozen, processed and packaged for storage.

Public Use of Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Lands

Vermont Fish & Wildlife owns 89 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), two conservation camps, five fish culture stations, and other conservation lands totaling more than 133,000 acres throughout Vermont. A rule enacted in 2013 allows the department to better protect the public's use of and interests in these lands. WMAs were created for the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitats, and to provide people with opportunities to enjoy these resources through fish- and wildlife-based outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing and photography. Wildlife Management Area maps are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com or at VT Fish & Wildlife District Offices.

Definitions

Commercial activity means any activity or service that produces income for any person, group, business or entity, including any activity or service by any non-profit entity where a fee is required or requested.

Emergency situation means an unintended or unforeseen situation that poses a risk to health or life of a person or animal.

Authorized Activities

The following activities are authorized activities on all lands under this rule:

- Hunting, fishing, trapping, target shooting at designated shooting ranges, and associated activities in accordance with all applicable Vermont Fish & Wildlife laws and regulations;
- Fish and wildlife viewing and photography;
- Boating, including launching and landing, for fish-based and wildlife-based activities where not otherwise prohibited by any

- other relevant regulations or statutes;
- Dispersed, wildlife-based pedestrian activities including walking, snowshoeing, swimming, cross-country skiing, and collection of shed antlers;
- Non-commercial picking of berries, nuts, fungi and other wild edibles except ginseng;
- Guiding for purposes of fishing, hunting and trapping;
- Camping for purposes of hunting, fishing or trapping:
 - Non-primitive camping with a portable shelter equipped with a self-contained, portable, sanitary toilet on sites designated by the department for this purpose, for no more than 16 days during the periods of May 1-31, September 1 through December 15; See WMA maps for designated camp site locations.
 - Primitive camping (occupying a site in a natural environment with no developed facilities, leaving the site in its original condition so there is no or minimal evidence of human visitation) on the following WMAs for no more than 3 consecutive nights; Camp sites must be at least 200 feet from any waterbody, property line, or road within the following WMAs:
 - Arthur Davis, Bald Hill, Bill Sladyk, Les Newell, Pine Mountain, Plymbsbury, Roy Mountain, Steam Mill Brook, Victory Basin, West Mountain.

Prohibited Activities

- The operation of any ATV, UTV, or any wheeled or tracked motorized vehicle not registered for public highway use, except as provided under special permit from the Commissioner to accommodate a person with a qualified disability pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Use of motorized vehicles except on roads specifically designated for such use (see WMA maps);
- Snowmobiling except as approved by the department and on designated corridors (see WMA maps);
- Horseback riding, dog sledding, non-motorized cycle riding, or use of motorized vehicles except on designated corridors (see WMA maps);
- Draft and pack animals, except for retrieval of legally harvested moose, deer and black bear during the respective hunting season(s);
- Commercial activities, except for guiding for purposes of fishing, hunting and trapping, or wildlife viewing;
- Artifact or fossil collection;
- Fires except in emergency situations, or for non-primitive and primitive camping as specified in this rule;
- Abandoning, or disposing of any animal carcass, or their parts, except that portions of fish or game legally harvested on the property may be deposited on site during routine field processing for preservation

- and transport, or parts used in conjunction with legal trapping;
- Construction or placement of temporary or permanent structures, except for tree stands and ground blinds as specified for use on State Wildlife Management Areas under **General Hunting Information**, and duck blinds as specified under the **Game Bird Hunting** section of this guidebook;
- Collection of plants, trees, evergreen brush or limbs, except wild edibles when allowed under of this rule;
- Use of any fireworks or pyrotechnic devices except signal flares in an emergency situation;
- Feeding or baiting of wildlife except if otherwise authorized by law;
- Taking of fish from a fish culture station except during special events established by the department, including but not limited to fishing derbies, clinics and educational events;
- Entering within 500 feet of any building or other associated infrastructure that is associated with a department fish culture station or conservation camp during times of the day other than those times posted for public use;

- Parking of vehicles except while engaged in an Authorized Activity;
- All other activities not specifically authorized by this rule, or authorized in writing by the Commissioner including, but not limited to: para-sailing, hang-gliding, recreational rock climbing, and geocaching.

Shooting Ranges

The department maintains two publicly accessible shooting ranges – at Hammond’s Cove in Hartland and West Mountain in Ferdinand. Users of these ranges shall:

- Have a valid Vermont hunting, fishing or combination license as required for individuals 15 years of age and older, unless attending an event sponsored by the Department;
- Be limited to one unlicensed visitor and shall be held accountable for the visitor. All visitors shall be required to purchase his or her own license after 3 visits in a year.
- Obey all other range rules pertaining to safety and hours of usage, including instructions given by the range officer.
- Avoid the use of prohibited articles such as tracers, armor piercing or steel core ammunition, fireworks, pyrotechnics, or any other explosive targets, including

tannerite. Firing more than one round per second is prohibited at Hammond’s Cove. Alcohol, tobacco products, and pets are also prohibited on the range.

- Be accompanied by an individual over the age of 18 if aged 15 or younger, unless at an official department-sponsored event.

The Hammonds Cove Shooting Range is open to the public April 1 to December 14, Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., except Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The range is closed on state and federal holidays. The West Mountain Shooting Range is open to the public April 16 to December 14, weekdays from 8 a.m. to sunset, and weekends from 9 a.m. to sunset.

OUR 54 NATURAL AREAS ARE OPEN FOR HUNTING

The Nature Conservancy owns and manages natural areas throughout Vermont. We protect the lands and waters that provide the habitat for Vermont’s wildlife.



To learn more, visit: www.nature.org/vthunting

HELP KEEP VERMONT SWINE FREE



REPORT FERAL SWINE SIGHTINGS

Feral swine come in many colors and shapes but are most often black or brown and weigh anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds. They leave behind unique signs, such as rooting, wallows and tree rubs, and have tracks similar to deer, although swine hoofs are rounder in overall shape and tend to be more splayed and blunt at the tips than deer tracks.

Report sightings to Vermont Wildlife Services by calling 1-800-472-2437 or emailing fwinformation@vermont.gov



HUNTING IN VERMONT

Where Can I Hunt in Vermont?

Vermonters have a proud heritage of living close to the land in our very rural state. Hunting is a way of life here. In fact, the Vermont Constitution guarantees the right to hunt. Article 67 states "The inhabitants of this State shall have liberty in seasonable times, to hunt and fowl on the lands they hold, and on other lands not enclosed." But what does that mean?

All **private land** in Vermont is open to hunters unless that land is "Posted" against hunting. The only exception is that landowner permission is required for youth turkey and youth deer hunting. While landowner permission is not required for hunters on private lands, hunters should still ask the permission of the landowner before proceeding. Hunters who treat the land and landowner with respect usually find that landowners are happy to grant permission.

Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com for tips on hunting on private land.

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 **Wildlife Management Areas**, or **WMAs**. All WMAs are open to hunting, trapping, fishing and other wildlife related outdoor activities except in specifically designated areas. Check out the WMA maps on the Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com), and in the "Guide to Wildlife Management Areas of Vermont" guidebook, available through the online store.

To learn more about Vermont hunting, check our website, call (802) 828-1000, or 'Like' our Facebook page.



Photo by Tom Rogers

CALLING ALL HUNTERS

Our Eyes and Ears On the Ground

Why information submitted by hunters and trappers is essential to wildlife management

Hunters, anglers and trappers are the original conservationists, from Teddy Roosevelt to Aldo Leopold. The sporting legacy includes the conservation of numerous species from moose to muskies to bald eagles.

Not only do sportsmen and women contribute money to conservation every time they buy a license or pay taxes on equipment, but we also contribute important biological information that plays a crucial role in the management of wildlife. To pass on these traditions to the next generation, Vermonters have a responsibility to contribute to the sound management of the species all enjoy.

Calling all deer hunters

The Fish & Wildlife Board is currently examining the antler point restriction (or spike horn rule) using data submitted by hunters. To gather information, they are asking that all successful hunters submit a tooth at a check station from any bucks they harvest during the rifle season.

Deer hunters also help monitor deer and moose by submitting sighting surveys. Sighting surveys are mailed to a random sample of deer hunters and, for the first time this year deer hunters may also visit the department's website to complete the sighting survey.



Photo by Tom Rogers



Mandatory bear tooth submission

NEW THIS YEAR Successful bear hunters are now required to submit a tooth from their bear. The tooth is small and easy to remove, and doesn't affect taxidermy mounts. It should be turned in using a designated envelope available at all check stations. This information will allow our biologists to fine tune the bear population estimate to better manage bears.

Submit your trapper survey

Information provided by trappers is essential in conserving furbearer species. Data collected from trapper surveys help track furbearer population trends. Vermont's trappers have always gone above and beyond to conserve wildlife, partnering with department staff to set trapping regulations, conduct studies, identify habitats for protection, improve animal welfare through trap testing, and submit observations from their time afield. Because these animals are so elusive, trapper information is crucial in monitoring these species. The department encourages trappers to submit their harvest survey annually so trappers can continue to be active stewards of Vermont's wildlife.

Fortunate moose hunters

With fewer moose permits being given out, it's more important than ever that all successful moose hunters turn in samples from their harvest. The department collects teeth from all moose, in addition to checking antlers on bulls, and collecting udders and ovaries from cows. Collecting ovaries helps biologists determine the percentage of cow moose that are producing twins – a sign of good health for a moose cow.

Ducks and geese

All waterfowl hunters are asked about previous year bag numbers when they purchase a new waterfowl stamp. This information helps the department track duck populations to help set annual bag limits.

**Thank you for your help
conserving Vermont's wildlife!**

KEEPING HEALTHY MOOSE HERDS

Moose Matters

Trends, ticks, and the modern moose hunt

“What’s going on with Vermont’s moose herd?” Fish & Wildlife hears this question from the public perhaps more than any other. People express concerns about winter ticks and warming temperatures. They talk about seeing more moose in the woods in the past, or ask what’s being done to promote moose habitat.

The Fish & Wildlife Department is working hard to ensure that the moose herd stays healthy so that this quintessential symbol of Vermont remains a part of our landscape forever.

Moose population trends

Moose first started reappearing in Vermont’s woods in significant numbers in the late 1970s. By the turn of the 21st Century, moose had become so numerous they were starting to destroy habitat, particularly in the Northeast Kingdom. A larger number of moose hunting permits was issued to deliberately reduce the population to come into better balance with available habitat.

Moose thrive in areas with younger forest, which is becoming less common as Vermont’s forests age. We work to maintain a variety of forest ages on department-owned lands and when working with landowners.

Winter ticks

Overly dense moose populations and warmer, shorter winters have caused a new problem for moose: winter ticks. The parasites can number in the tens of thousands on a single moose, sucking blood and nutrients from a moose and causing it to rub insulating hair off its body in an attempt to rid itself of the ticks.

Moose brought in to check stations are monitored for winter ticks. On average, moose in Vermont have lower levels of winter ticks than in neighboring New Hampshire or Maine, perhaps due in part to our recent efforts to reduce Vermont’s moose population density. When moose are too densely packed, winter ticks can spread more rapidly.

The moose hunt

Moose thrive at medium densities. When their numbers become overly dense, they can destroy habitat and more easily spread diseases and parasites. Hunting serves as a valuable tool to maintain moose at these medium densities. But hunting also provides opportunities for people to connect with nature and to harvest local, free-range meat from natural habitat. The 2016 moose season continued to allow hunting of both cows and bulls to maintain medium densities in some parts of the state, while most of the state was restricted to bulls-only hunting to promote the growth of the herd. The department’s goal is to increase Vermont’s moose herd statewide, but we will continue to provide hunting opportunities wherever local populations are sufficient.

The future

Moose face an increasing number of challenges, from warmer year-round temperatures to emerging diseases. The foundation of our approach to facing these challenges is to ensure that moose have appropriate and well-connected habitat to flourish.



Photo by Tom Rogers

Youth Hunting: Lifelong Pursuit

Vermont makes it easy for families to take time out and focus on young hunters by offering special youth seasons



Hunter Education: The First Step

No matter their age, all aspiring hunters, bowhunters and trappers must first successfully complete their respective hunter education course before purchasing their first license. The courses are free, led by certified volunteer instructors, and open to all ages and experience levels. The courses include basic firearm, bowhunter, combination hunter-bowhunter, and trapper education. Though available year-around, most courses are offered between August and October. All courses include a hands-on field day. Finding a course is easy using

online registration. Just pick your desired class type, and sign up! You can even search by location or date for specific classes in your area. Check back frequently as the website is updated often when new courses are scheduled. Bookmark this link for all our course listings: www.register-ed.com/programs/vermont

To find a course or for more information visit us online:
www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunter_education

GIVING BACK

Mentoring Young Hunters

A youngster's first hunt can mark the beginning of a lifelong passion for the outdoors and a commitment to wildlife conservation.

To make the most of your time together:

- **Hunt Safe.** No matter what the age, hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities. Youth hunters are among the safest hunters when accompanied by an alert mentor.
- **Go often.** Don't just hunt the youth weekends. Lifelong hunting participation is directly related to the amount of time spent hunting in youth, especially when this experience occurs with a family member or mentor.
- **Hunt Smart.** Scouting and range practice are necessary and exciting ingredients in any successful hunt.
- **Model Behavior.** Safe and responsible hunters are mentored by safe and responsible hunters.
- **Have Fun!** Being with family and friends, and generally having a good time, is more important to youth hunters than harvesting game. Don't push too hard but help young hunters learn to appreciate the special opportunity that hunting offers. Above all, young hunters need positive reinforcement and encouragement.

Homestudy Option

Most courses are offered in a homestudy format to meet the needs of today's busy lifestyles. Rather than attending a series of classroom lectures, students complete a workbook or an online course, before attending a field day.

Youth Season: Special Opportunities to Hunt

The department offers three special youth-only hunting seasons – spring turkey, waterfowl and deer – to ensure young hunters get the quality training they need from experienced hunters. These special, weekend-long seasons increase confidence in the hands-on use of firearms, reinforce the principles of hunting safety and promote interest in hunting and wildlife conservation. Most importantly, they take place under the supervision of an experienced, unarmed mentor. Being with family and friends is the most important reason why kids hunt and hunting regularly during one's youth leads to lifelong hunting participation. Thus these seasons are helping to produce confident, avid young hunters who go on to become successful, enthusiastic adult hunters.



SAFE HUNTING

Four Basic Rules of Safe Hunting:

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Point your gun in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.



KEEP VERMONT'S PROUD HERITAGE OF HUNTING, TRAPPING AND CONSERVATION STRONG

If you have special knowledge or skilled in Firearms, Archery, Trapping, Survival, Conservation or Wildlife Management...

Why not share it?

Learn how you can make a difference, by contacting the Hunter Education Program at 802-828-1000.



www.vtfishandwildlife.com



DON'T BRING FIREWOOD INTO VERMONT: IT'S THE LAW

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

Tree-killing pests can hitchhike on your firewood!

Pests like the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle threaten our trees, forests, and communities. New infestations can spread by the movement of firewood.

Protect the places you love:

- Buy local or heat-treated firewood
- Be aware of firewood laws
- Tell your friends



For Vermont firewood information visit:

firewood.vt.gov

General Hunting Information

Fluorescent Orange

Hunter orange is not required by law in Vermont, but wearing it might save your life. Almost all of Vermont's hunting related accidents would have been prevented if the hunters were wearing hunter orange.

A New York study found that 94% of hunters involved in mistaken for game accidents were not wearing hunter orange. This is even more startling when you consider that 81% of New York hunters wear hunter orange.

Most states and Canadian provinces require it for hunting upland and big game animals.

Wearing at least a fluorescent orange hat and vest will help other hunters see you. It's your responsibility to follow the four basic rules of safe hunting:

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Point your gun in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.

Machine Guns & Autoloading Rifles & Suppressors

It is illegal while hunting in Vermont to use, carry, or have in your possession a machine gun of any kind or description or an autoloading rifle with a magazine capacity of over 6 cartridges, except a .22 caliber rifle using rimfire cartridges, or a gun suppressor.

"Gun suppressor" means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

Handguns

Wherever a rifle may be used in hunting, a handgun is permitted.

Muzzleloaders

Muzzleloading rifles, shotguns and pistols may be used for hunting whenever modern firearms may be used. See muzzleloader deer season for more information.

Bow and Arrow

Unless otherwise provided, any game which may be taken by shooting may be taken by use of bow and arrow.

Crossbows

Crossbows may be used as a means of take during any season that permits the use of bow and arrow by any person 50 years or older, or anyone with a disability permit. Crossbows may not be used to hunt waterfowl, and may not be transported cocked in a motor vehicle. Airbows are not permitted to be used.

Lights/Laser Sights

It is illegal to intentionally throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, jack, or other artificial light on any highway, or any field, woodland, or forest, in order to spot, locate, take, or attempt to spot, locate or take any wild animal.

A light may be used to illuminate and shoot a raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the raccoon hunting season. A light may also be used to illuminate a raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the raccoon training season.

Laser sights are illegal for hunting.

Hunting Hours

Waterfowl & Other Migratory Birds

See the Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Birds In Vermont available each year in September.

Turkey

- **Youth Turkey**— **NEW THIS YEAR** One-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m.
- **Spring**—One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.
- **Fall**—One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

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Raccoon

Any hour within hunting season.

Coyote

Any hour, no lights allowed.

All Others

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

Motor Vehicles, ATVs, Snowmobiles, Road Hunting

State Lands

Motor vehicles, including ATVs (all terrain vehicles) motorcycles, or snowmobiles may only be operated on designated trails in state wildlife management areas, state parks or state forests.

Private Lands

It is illegal to operate an ATV or snowmobile on any privately owned land or body of private water unless the operator has written permission of the owner or is a member of a club which has landowner permission. It is illegal to obstruct private driveways, barways, or gateways with a motor vehicle. It is illegal to park or drive a snowmobile, ATV, or motor vehicle of any kind on private land without permission.

Hunting from Motor Vehicle

It is illegal to take any wild animal by shooting with firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow from any motor vehicle. Motor vehicles include cars, trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs, motorboats, airplanes and any conveyance or trailer towed by these.

Permanently Disabled Hunters

A permanently disabled hunter with a proper permit may hunt from a stationary boat, or a motor vehicle that is at least 10 feet from the traveled portion of the road and when he or she has the landowner's permission to park. Shooting across the road is prohibited. Contact Fish & Wildlife at 802-828-1190.

Transporting Firearms & Crossbows in Motor Vehicles

A person shall not carry or possess while in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within the right of way of a public highway a rifle or shotgun containing a loaded cartridge or shell in the chamber, mechanism, or in a magazine or clip within a rifle or shotgun, or a muzzleloading rifle or muzzleloading shotgun that has been charged with powder and projectile and the ignition system of which has been enabled by having an affixed or attached percussion cap, primer, battery, or priming powder. Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, ATV, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle.

Road Hunting

A person shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow or crossbow while on or within 25 feet of the traveled portion of a public highway, except a public highway designated Class 4 on a town highway map. A person while on or within the traveled portion of a Class 4 public highway shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow. It is illegal to shoot a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow over or across the travelled portion of a public highway. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.

Aerial Hunting

It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take wild animals while a person is in an aircraft. Aircraft includes, but is not limited to, planes and helicopters.

It shall be unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take wild animals by use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or drone. "Drone" means any device capable of flying in the air which is remotely, automatically or otherwise piloted without an occupant.

It is unlawful for any person to use an aerial vehicle, drone or unmanned aircraft to:

- Attempt to locate, surveil, or aid or assist in attempting to locate or surveil any wild animal for the purpose of taking or attempting to take a wild animal; or
- Communicate the location of any wild animal to any person on the ground for the purpose of taking or attempting to take a wild animal; or
- Drive, harass, or otherwise assist or aid in the taking or attempting to take a wild animal.

Dogs

Deer and Moose

Dogs may not be used in taking deer or moose. Dog owners are responsible for keeping their dogs restricted so they cannot take or harass deer or moose at any time of year. Dogs may be shot by wardens and certain other law officers when the dogs are caught harassing deer or moose and the dog owner may be fined and have sporting licenses revoked.

PACE
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Training Hunting Dogs

A person with a hunting license may train a dog to hunt and pursue the species listed below during the specified times:

- **Bear:** Permit Required — June 1 to September 15, sunrise to sunset; see additional regulations;
- **Rabbits, hare and game birds:** June 1 to the last Saturday in September, from sunrise to sunset;
- **Raccoon:** June 1 through the day before the opening day of raccoon hunting season, any time of day or night;
- **Fox and bobcat:** June 1 to March 15, except during regular deer season.

By Fish & Wildlife permit, a person with a hunting license, may train and condition a hunting dog to hunt and pursue game from the second Monday in March to June 1 from sunrise to sunset inside an area fenced sufficiently to contain the breed of dogs being trained or conditioned. An agent of the commissioner must inspect this fenced area before a permit may be issued. The owner, trainer or handler must accompany dogs being trained or conditioned inside the fence.

A person training a hunting dog may possess a handgun while training, provided that the person shall not take game by any method. A long gun may not be carried while training a dog with game.

Leashed Tracking Dog to Recover Deer or Bear

A hunter who believes he or she has legally killed or wounded a deer or bear during hunting season may engage a person who has a "Leashed Tracking Dog Certificate" issued by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to track and recover the animal during the season or within 24 hours after the season ends. Except as otherwise permitted in bear hunting, no person may use a dog to track dead or wounded deer or bear. A permitted bear houndsman may not pursue any bear for any hunter beyond a half-hour after sunset.

Applications for the "Leashed Tracking Dog Certificate" cost \$25.00. First-time leashed tracking dog certificates, valid for five years, cost \$100.00 for residents and \$200.00 for nonresidents. Applicants must pass a test. Renewal certificates are \$125.00 for residents and \$225.00 for nonresidents.

Tree Stands & Ground Blinds

Blinds protected

NEW THIS YEAR It is illegal to damage or remove another person's blind.

Private Land

A person must have the landowner's permission to build, erect, maintain, use or occupy a permanent or portable tree stand or ground blind for any purpose on any private land in Vermont. Anyone who builds, erects, or maintains a tree stand or ground blind shall permanently mark the stand or blind with the owner's name and address. Marking must be legible and placed so it can be read conveniently and easily. This does not apply to a landowner who builds, erects, or maintains a tree stand or ground blind on his or her own land. It is illegal to use someone else's stand or blind without landowner permission.

State Wildlife Management Areas

Permanent tree stands and ground blinds are prohibited on state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Temporary tree stands and ground

Vermont Habitat Stamp
What's habitat worth to you?

Your 2017 Vermont Habitat Stamp contributes directly to conserving and improving Vermont Wildlife Management Areas.

And you help provide access to places to hunt, fish and trap, now and forever.



Donate when you purchase your license or online today.
www.vtfishandwildlife.com



blinds are allowed without written permission from the department from the third Sunday in August through the third Saturday in December, May 1-31 (dates inclusive), or during any Youth Hunting Day or Youth Hunting Weekend. Blinds used during any other time (for wildlife viewing or photography) may be erected and used with prior written permission from the District Manager of the WMA. For information on placement of blinds on or in waters of the state for the purpose of waterfowl hunting, see *Duck Blinds* under the **Game Bird Hunting** section.

Temporary blinds on state WMAs must be constructed according to the following requirements:

- No damage may be done to any living tree in erecting, maintaining, using or accessing the stand or blind except that:
 - Dead limbs, trees or shrubs may be removed as needed to erect and use the stand or blind;
 - No live limbs, trees or shrubs may be cut for any purpose except those one inch or less in diameter at either ground level or from the main stem or branch of the tree where the stand or blind is located as appropriate (for guidance, a United

States quarter is 0.9 inch in diameter);

- No nails, bolts, screws (including access steps), wire, chain or other material that penetrates through a living tree's bark into the wood below shall be used in erecting, attaching, maintaining or using any stand or blind;
- All tree stands or ground blinds used on wildlife management areas must be clearly, permanently and legibly marked with the owner's name and address. The marking must be placed in a manner that enables it to be read conveniently and easily.
- Tree stands and ground blinds that do not conform to this regulation are prohibited and may be confiscated and/or destroyed by the department. Building, erecting, maintaining, using or occupying a non-conforming tree stand or ground blind is prohibited. Construction of any tree stand or ground blind does not confer exclusive use of its location to the person who built it. Any person may use that location for purposes consistent with this rule.

OPERATION GAME THIEF

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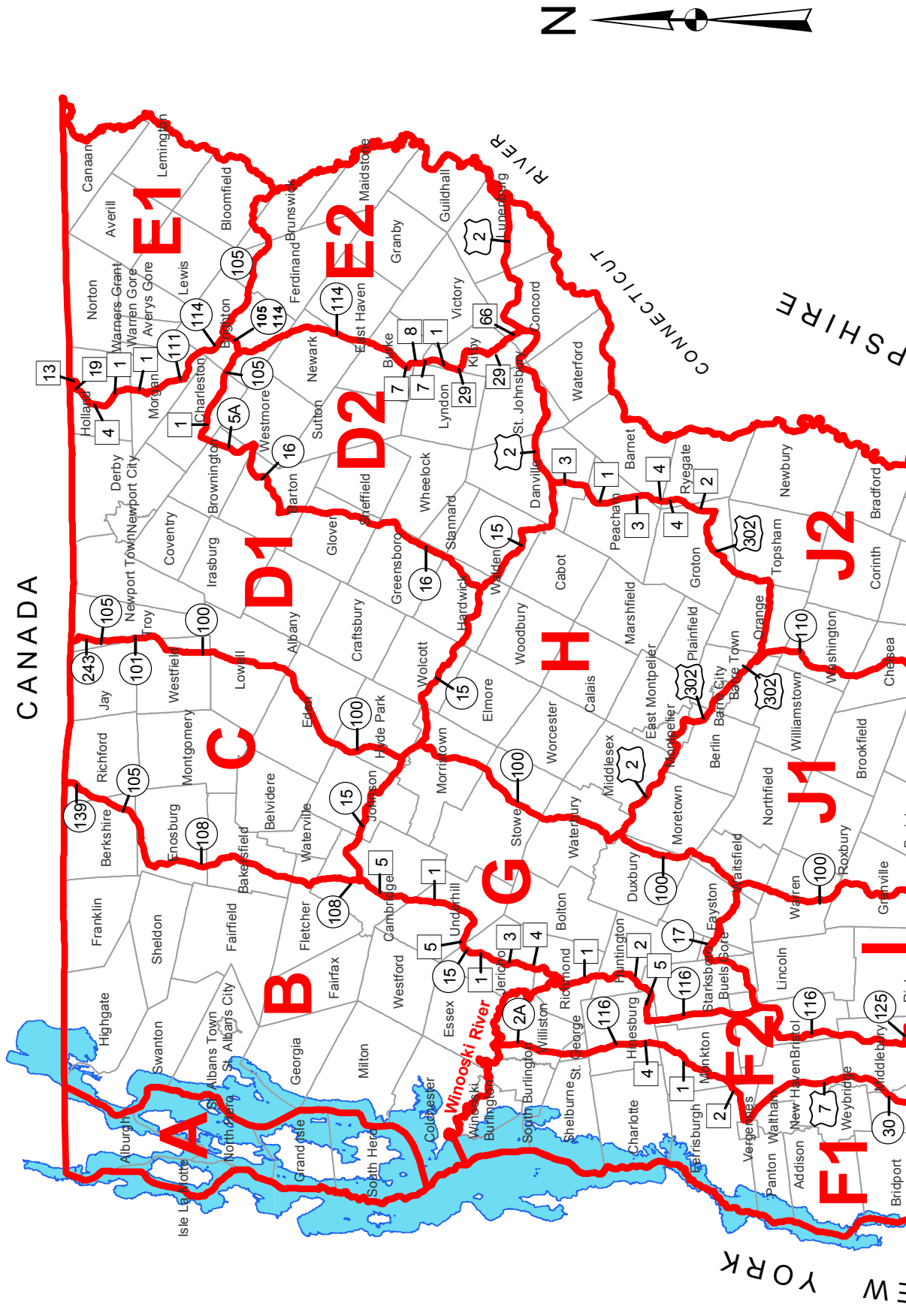
or visit our website at

www.vtfishandwildlife.com

DUCKS UNLIMITED

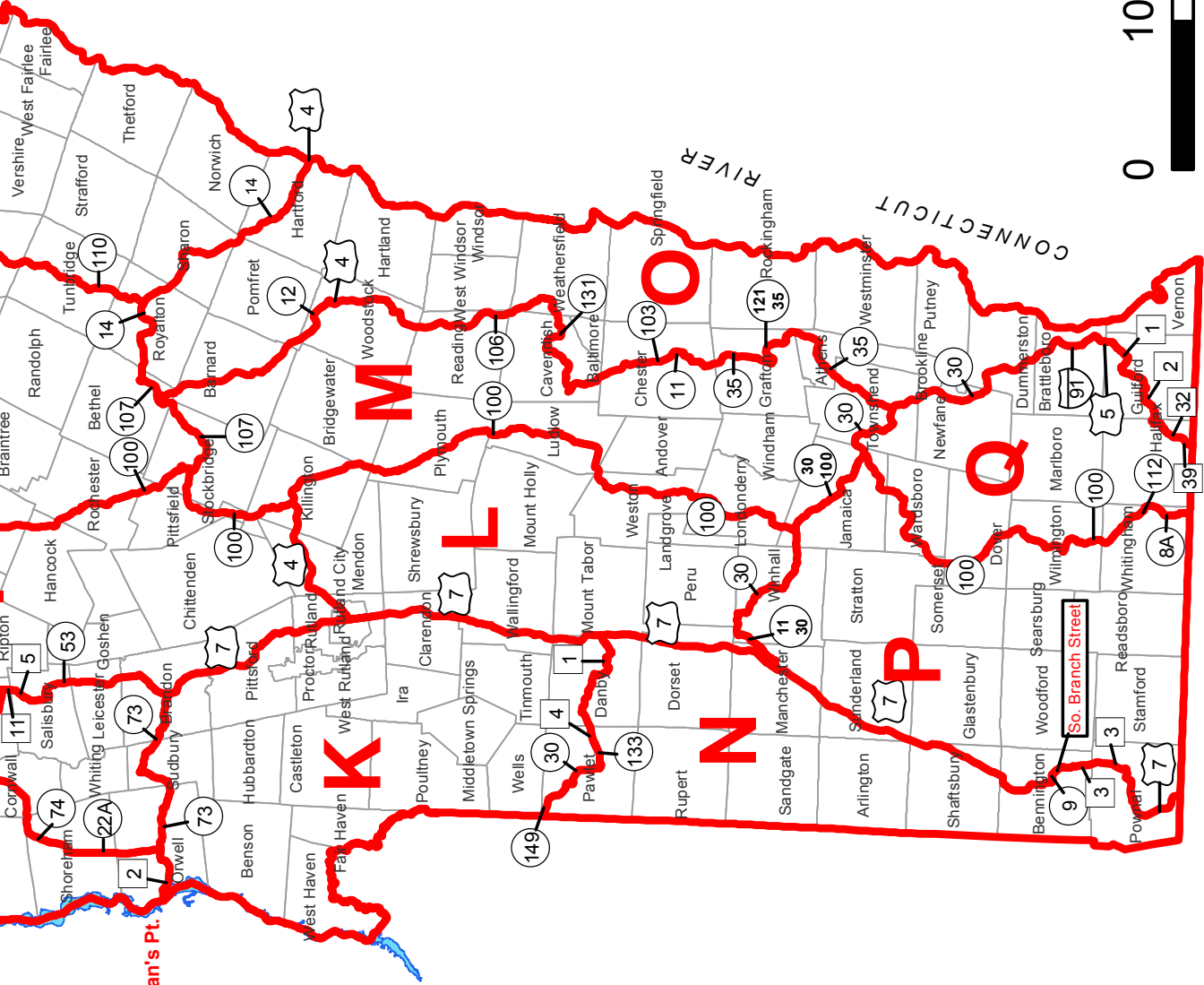
There are over 4,000 DU events held across the country each year. By attending a local event, you can have a great time while helping us fill the skies with waterfowl. To find one near you, visit ducks.org/events.

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Map









NEW HAMPSHIRE



Chipman's Pt.

(Bounded by Indicated VT. Highways)

For WMU boundary descriptions
visit our website:
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

-  Interstate Highway
-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway
-  Town Highway



MASSACHUSETTS

Big Game Hunting

Definition

Deer, bear, moose, wild turkey, caribou, elk, and anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River Basin are considered "big game."

Tagging

A big game animal must immediately be tagged when taken. The tag shall be placed on the carcass in a location that is open to view and shall remain there during possession and transportation, until the animal is cut up for consumption. Either a paper tag or durable tag may be used. Any tag used must include the information (name or Conservation ID number) on the tag identifying the person that took the animal before transporting the carcass.

Reporting

A person taking big game 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 big game carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

Biological Information

Proper management of big game populations requires the collection of critical biological data that is used to estimate the size and health of the populations. Successful hunters need to make every effort to provide this information when reporting a big game animal.

Transporting

It is illegal to transport big game taken by any illegal means, or taken in closed season. Deer do not need to be visible when transported. A person shall not transport game taken by someone else unless the person who took the game accompanies it.

All other regulations regarding the transportation of fish or game apply to the transportation of big game. Transporting parts of big game is prohibited unless the parts or the package containing them are marked with the name and address of the person who killed the animal(s).

Importing

In order to legally transport into Vermont and possess big game that was legally taken in another state or country, a person must keep the tag that is required by the state or the country where the big game was taken. Each package of meat must be marked with the name of the person who took the animal, tag number, date, and state or country of origin.

Rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and captive hunt areas or farms:

It is illegal to import or possess legally taken deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states and Canadian provinces that have, or have had

Chronic Wasting Disease, or from any captive hunt or farm facilities, regardless of its disease history, with the following exceptions:

- Meat that is boneless.
- Hides or capes with no part of the head attached.
- Clean skull-cap with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no other meat or tissue attached.
- Finished taxidermy heads.
- Upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

Other fish or game legally taken in another state or country may be possessed and transported into Vermont in the presence of the person who took that fish or game.

Illegal Means of Taking

The following means of taking big game are not allowed: baiting, snares, traps, salt licks, jacks or other lights.

It is illegal to use a dog to hunt big game. Hunters are also prohibited from harboring or possessing while hunting a dog used for this purpose. Exceptions for hunting black bear and wild turkey with dogs are provided in Fish & Wildlife rules.

Possession

Legally taken big game may be possessed during the open season and for a reasonable time after the season has closed.

It is illegal to possess big game taken by any illegal devices or, any big game taken in closed season.

Any part of the carcass of legally taken big game may be possessed at any time in cans or in a cold storage locker or home freezer.



OPTIONAL TAG

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.

Deer Hunting

Vermont has high quality deer hunting due to a rural landscape, good habitat, lots of public land open to hunting, regulations allowing ample opportunities to hunt with archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, and plenty of deer.

The greatest deer densities are found in the northwest and southwest corners of the state and a few places along the Connecticut river. Generally, the Green Mountain range and the Northeast Kingdom have fewer deer but more remote country for hunters who like to get into bigger woods.

Vermont has a three-deer annual limit, only two of which may be legal bucks which must be taken during different seasons.. Two archery licenses are allowed in archery season. November brings a youth weekend and the traditional 16-day rifle season for bucks with one antler having two or more points one inch or longer. A hunting license comes with a buck tag for the November rifle season. The muzzleloader season offers more deer hunting opportunity in early December with an additional muzzleloader license. Check for latest regulations at our website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Deer Limits and Regulation Updates

Deer regulations are usually updated annually. The deer permit numbers for antlerless deer hunting for each WMU are issued in the late spring or early summer. After public notice and hearings, the Board lists the Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) that are open for antlerless deer hunting during archery season and during muzzleloader season by a lottery for a limited number of permits. Check the Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for these and other new regulations.

Annual Deer Limit

A person shall not take more than three deer in a calendar year, only two of which may be "legal bucks" (See definition below) which must be taken during different seasons. A hunter may take no more than one legal buck per season (youth, archery, rifle, muzzleloader). Although archery season is divided into an early and late portion, it is considered a single season.

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

Tagging Deer

Deer must be tagged immediately when taken. The tag must be placed on the carcass open to view and remain there until the carcass is cut up for consumption.

Reporting Deer

A person taking deer 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 deer carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

Biological information

Deer hunters can contribute valuable information for the management of Vermont's deer herd by 1) completing the annual rifle season hunter effort surveys should they receive one in the mail, and 2) reporting their deer at select biological check stations during the youth and rifle season weekend. This will enable biologists to record key information such as age, antler characteristics, and health of the harvested deer.

Transporting Deer

A tagged deer may be transported only during the open season and for 20 days thereafter.

Deer may be legally transported only under these conditions:

- By the person who shot the deer.
- When accompanied by the person who shot the deer (including moving the deer from kill-site to camp or motor vehicle).
- By a person who holds a mentored hunting license, unaccompanied by the fully licensed adult hunter.

- When transported by common carrier (for example, a shipping company) and tagged with the name of the consignor and consignee, name of station shipped from and its destination.

The appropriate deer tag must be securely attached to the deer in these circumstances.

When transporting parts of a deer, the parts or package must be marked with name and address of the person who killed the deer.

Deer do not need to be visible when transported.

Also, see the Transporting and Importing sections under Big Game and the general transporting section.

Baiting Deer and Deer Lures

It is illegal to hunt or take any wild animal by using bait during any deer hunting season, except that trappers may use bait in taking furbearers. Bait is defined as any animal, vegetable, fruit or mineral matter placed with the intention of attracting wildlife. Artificial scents and lures are legal, provided they are not designed to be consumed by eating or licking. Deer lures containing any cervid urine, blood, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids, are illegal to use in Vermont.



It is illegal to take deer by using bait with the following exceptions:

- Incidental feeding of wildlife within active livestock operations;
- Standing crops planted and left standing as food plots for wildlife;
- Grain or other feed scattered or distributed solely as a result of normal agricultural, gardening, or soil stabilization, and logging practices; and
- Vegetation or food/seed naturally deposited.

Feeding Deer

It is illegal to feed wild deer at any time except:

- Under a license or permit issued by Fish & Wildlife for scientific research, mitigation of wildlife damage or nuisance problems, or wildlife population reduction programs;
- By planting, cultivating or harvesting of crops directly associated with agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots.

Swimming Deer

It is illegal to take a deer that is swimming in any lake, pond, river or other body of water.

Definitions of Terms for Deer Seasons

Legal Buck

A white-tailed deer with at least one antler having two or more points.

Point

An antler projection of at least one inch measured from its base at the main beam to its tip. A broken main beam shall count as a point, regardless of length.



Antlerless Deer

Those deer without antlers or with antlers less than three (3) inches in length.

Spike Yearlings Protected

Deer with spike antlers may not be taken except during Youth Deer Hunting Weekend and only if allowed annually by the Fish & Wildlife Board.

Bow & Arrow Deer Season — Oct. 7-Nov. 3 and Dec. 2-10, 2017

Licenses

Any person wishing to hunt deer with a bow and arrow during archery deer season must have an archery license/tag. A hunting or combination hunting and fishing license is required in addition to an archery license, except for nonresident archery-only deer license.

Limit

No more than two deer may be taken during the archery season only one of which may be a legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit. One legal buck may be taken during the two-part October and December archery season anywhere in the state. For purposes of the one legal buck annual archery season limit, the October and December seasons are considered one season and hunters may take only one legal buck during the entire season. In 2016, all WMUs were open to the taking of antlerless deer during archery season. Check Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) in August to see which WMUs are open to antlerless deer hunting in archery season.

Deer must be taken by bow (long bow, re-curve bow or compound bow) and arrows or with crossbow by a person 50 years of age or older, or by crossbow by a person with a disability permit. The arrowhead must be at least 7/8 of an inch in width with two or more cutting edges.

It is illegal to carry a rifle, shotgun or muzzle-loader while archery hunting deer in the bow and arrow season.

A hunter may possess a pistol or revolver while archery hunting. The pistol or revolver MAY NOT be used to take game or dispatch the deer.

Crossbows

A crossbow may be used by anyone 49 years of age or younger with a crossbow disability permit or by anyone 50 years of age or older to take any game that may be taken by bow and arrow. 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.

Unless it is uncocked, it is illegal to possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motor boat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle.

Recovery of Bow & Arrow Deer After Hours

Contact a licensed leashed dog tracker to pursue and recover a deer wounded with an arrow after the close of legal shooting time. In the alternative, a hunter must secure permission from the state game warden by calling the nearest state police office, giving the exact location and circumstances. Any recovered deer must be tagged, reported and exhibited to the nearest game warden.

Youth Deer Hunting Weekend — Nov. 4-5, 2017

Vermont's youth deer hunting weekend is on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the opening of the regular November rifle deer season.

A resident or nonresident youth, 15 years of age or younger on the weekend of the hunt, who has successfully completed a hunter safety course must obtain a free youth deer hunting tag to hunt during this season. The youth must also purchase a Vermont youth hunting 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.

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Landowner permission is required by law in order to hunt on private land with a youth deer tag during youth deer weekend. All relevant game laws and regulations apply during the **Youth Deer Hunting Weekend**, including the prohibition on baiting and road hunting. Landowners are not exempt from the requirement to purchase tags to hunt on their own property on youth weekends.

A Vermont youth deer hunting tag is valid for one deer on youth deer hunting weekend in accordance with the rules of the Fish & Wildlife Board announced annually.

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

November Rifle Deer Season — Nov. 11-26, 2017

Limit

One legal buck with at least one antler having two or more points may be taken anywhere in

the state. A person shall not take more than three white-tailed deer in a year in all deer hunting seasons, only two of which may be legal bucks.

Muzzleloader Deer Season — Dec. 2-10, 2017

Licenses

Muzzleloader license and hunting license required.

Limit

One legal buck with at least one antler having two or more points may be taken anywhere in the state. In addition, with an antlerless permit issued by the department, a person may take an antlerless deer within the authorized WMU. No more than two deer may be taken total, and a second deer may only be taken by hunters possessing an antlerless muzzleloader deer permit.

Definition of Muzzleloading Firearm

A single-shot, single-barrel rifle or smooth-bore firearm with a minimum barrel length

of 20 inches, designed to be fired from the shoulder or a single-shot pistol with a minimum barrel length of 10 inches. Both rifle and pistol must be incapable of being loaded from the breach without the use of tools, and must have a minimum bore diameter of 0.43 inches and an ignition system of traditional or modern flintlock, caplock, matchlock, in-line or wheellock style.

Definition of Ammunition for Muzzleloaders

Black powder or other suitable non-smokeless propellant, and a single ball or bullet.

Definition of Loaded Muzzleloader

The muzzleloading firearm shall be considered loaded when it has been charged with powder and projectile and is primed or capped.

Special Provisions

A person who purchases a muzzleloader deer license shall not carry, while deer hunting during the muzzleloader deer season, any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm.

AD SPACE

1/6 page

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AD SPACE

1/6 page

A Threat to Vermont's Deer Herd

Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a serious threat to Vermont's deer and moose populations. It is fatal to deer and is impossible to eliminate once it has been established in a population. While CWD is not known to be transmissible to humans, it has been devastating to free-ranging deer in many states and Canadian provinces.

Prevention of CWD is key. If CWD is ever discovered in a new area such as Vermont, wildlife officials must work immediately to stop it from spreading further. You can help by learning the signs of CWD and reporting sick deer to your local game warden or by calling Vermont Fish & Wildlife at 802-828-1000. Deer infected with CWD are usually weak and skinny. Other symptoms include excessive drinking and urination, drooling, listlessness, drooping ears and lowered head.

CWD is frequently spread from captive white-tailed deer. The state of Vermont prohibits captive deer or moose from entering

the state. This disease continues to spread over long distances by the movement of captive deer and elk involved in the captive deer and elk industry. There is no reliable live-test for CWD, and infected animals can appear healthy for years.

It is illegal to feed or bait deer in Vermont. Deer that are fed gather in large numbers and can quickly spread CWD and other diseases.

Restrictions apply for the importation of deer or moose carcasses or parts from states or provinces that have, or have had, CWD. To date, the disease has been documented in more than 20 states and two Canadian provinces including New York State. New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts have not documented CWD. See Importing under the **Big Game** section for details.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has been testing Vermont deer for CWD since 2002. Results indicate that Vermont is currently free of CWD.

URINE LURES

It is illegal to use deer urine lures. They present a serious threat of introducing CWD to Vermont. CWD infectious prions can be present in deer urine lures. Use synthetic alternatives instead.

STATES WITH CWD

The Following States & Provinces Have or Have Had CWD

Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Other states or provinces could be added to the list during the year.



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Sessions run from June through August at two beautiful lake-side locations.

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Moose Hunting

Vermont moose hunting permit lotteries may be held for hunting permits for a 7-day archery season (Oct. 1-7) and a regular season (6 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in Oct.). Moose hunting information will be available on Fish & Wildlife's website in April. Modern, regulated moose hunting began in 1993, and since then 6,421 moose have been harvested, yielding an estimated 906 tons of boneless moose meat.

Each winter department biologists review biological data from hunter- and road-killed moose, sighting data from moose and deer hunters, and other information to develop a hunting season proposal for the Fish & Wildlife Board.

In recent years, declining moose populations have led to reductions in permit numbers for most Wildlife Management Units, and the introduction of bull-only hunting across much of the State, in order to grow regional populations.



CAUTION

It is Unlawful to –

- Hunt or take deer, bear, turkeys or waterfowl with bait
- Feed deer or bear
- Pick up carcasses of protected wildlife
- Take game except with a gun, bow and arrow, or crossbow by permit or by a person 50 and older
- Set or use a snare
- Set or use any device to discharge a firearm for the purpose of taking any wild animal
- Take waterfowl, wild turkeys, or moose with the aid of an electronic calling device
- Use dogs to hunt deer or moose
- Use laser sights for hunting
- Cast the rays of a light in order to spot, locate, take or attempt to take any wild animal. The only exception is for raccoon hunting with a dog and only after the raccoon has been treed.
- Use planes, helicopters, or unmanned aerial drones to scout for game, hunt, or assist in hunting.

E-mail News



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— Alabama's Black Belt —

BE BEAR AWARE



People often encourage bears to come out of the forest by providing food without realizing it. Once bears become used to these food sources and come into frequent human contact, people sometimes call them “nuisance bears.” Feeding a bear increases the bear’s chance of being struck by a vehicle, causing property damage, threatening human safety, and eventually having to be destroyed. If one individual in an area feeds bears, the bear will often cause problems in the entire neighborhood.

Purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear, **it’s also illegal.**

Vermont law also states that residents must take reasonable measures to protect their property from bears before lethal force can be taken.

Some measures you can take to avoid creating nuisance bears:

- ❖ Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence or other bear-proof enclosure.
- ❖ Birdfeeders are the most common bear attractant. Feed birds only during the winter months, from Dec 1 to March 31.
- ❖ Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.
- ❖ Feed your pets indoors.
- ❖ Clean outdoor grills after each use, including the grease trap underneath.
- ❖ Store bird seed, pet food, livestock feed, and bio-fuels such as grease indoors in air-tight containers.
- ❖ If you have livestock, dispose of animal carcasses immediately by burying or incinerating.
- ❖ Dispose of garbage frequently and store in bear-proof containers.
- ❖ Support state and local efforts to conserve bear habitat.

The Fish & Wildlife Department will no longer reimburse claimants for damage by bears to livestock, fruit, or bees. Farmers will still be reimbursed as long as their land is not posted against hunting.

It is your responsibility to avoid attracting bears. Bears are wild animals that belong in their natural habitat—the forest.

For additional information on avoiding conflicts with black bears and reporting incidents, visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website:

www.vtfishandwildlife.com



Some of the most common sources of food that attract bears are: pet food, bird feeders, barbecue grills, garbage, household trash containers, open dumpsters, and campsites with accessible food and food wastes.

Vermont’s Bear Population

Vermont’s bear population, less than 3,000 twenty-five years ago, is now at approximately 6,000 — a successful, planned result of hunting regulation changes. The 2010-2020 Big Game Management Plan population objective is 4,500-6,000 bears. Incidents of bear damage and bear-human interactions have increased, especially in areas where few bears existed earlier. The ‘early season’ bear hunting regulation changes are intended to help stabilize the bear population while providing the Fish & Wildlife Department with information that is important in improving Vermont’s bear management program.

Bear Hunting

Vermont has an excellent bear population with bears found in all of the state except the Champlain Islands. Your hunting license comes with a “late season bear tag” good from the first day of November rifle deer season through the second Sunday of the November rifle deer season. An “early season tag” for September 1 through the day before the first day of the November rifle deer season may be purchased separately (hunting license required).

Hunting bears over bait is prohibited. Bear dogs may be used with a permit, but no commercial guiding is allowed with bear dogs.

Some of the best bear hunting occurs in September and October when you can stalk bears by finding concentrated food sources near prime bear habitat. Early in the season, preferred foods include berries, cherries, and standing corn. As the season progresses, wild apples, beechnuts and acorns become more important. Stalking bears in a stand of nut-rich beech trees half way up a mountain on a crisp October morning is one of hunting’s most exciting challenges. The reward is also great-tasting, nutritious meat. When properly prepared, bear meat compares favorably to pork.

General Bear Hunting Seasons—

Early Season:
Sept. 1-Nov. 10, 2017

Late Season:
Nov. 11-19, 2017

- A hunter may take one black bear in a calendar year.
- Bears may not be taken alive.
- Bears may not be trapped.
- Hunters may not use bait or a baited area to take a bear. A “baited area” is defined as an area where meat, carrion, honey, or any other substance capable of luring or attracting bear has been placed or deposited.

- It is illegal to shoot a bear that is visiting a bird feeder.
- It is illegal to feed bears, even when not hunting for them.
- We recommend that you do not shoot a bear with cubs or a bear with a radio collar around its neck.

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

Tagging Bear

Bear must be tagged immediately when taken. The tag must be placed on the carcass open to view and remain there until the carcass is cut up for consumption.



Photo by Jacob Zorn

Reporting Bear

A person taking bear 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. **NEW THIS YEAR** It is now mandatory that the hunter provide a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the same time. No bear carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

Transporting

A tagged bear may be transported only during the open season and for 20 days thereafter. See also *Transporting* under **Big Game**.

Use of Dogs to Hunt Bear

Permit Required

Hunters may use dogs to take bear only when the person in control of the dogs has a bear-dog permit available from the Vermont Fish &



- **Protects, Restores and Manages** Wildlife & Natural Resources
- **Preserves:** Hunting including with hounds, fish, trap & own firearms
- **Promotes:** Sportsmanship and educates the public on conservation
- **Provides Tools:** For VT Fish & Wildlife Dept. for nuisance bears
- **Encourages:** Good landowner—sporting community relationships
- **Promotes Appreciation:** Of nature and working with our dogs
- **Sponsors:** VT Fish & Wildlife Green Mtn. Conservation Camps and Teachers in the Wild programs at VT Fish & Wildlife Conservation Camps
- **Donates:** To VT Fish & Wildlife a live bear trap for research & relocating bears
- **Advocates:** Removing bird feeders from April 1 thru November 30

VERMONT BEARHOUND ASSOCIATION
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Wildlife Department. The permit is required to pursue black bear with the aid of dogs for training purposes or for hunting and taking a bear. It is unlawful to shoot a bear that was pursued by dogs without a permit.

A copy of the regulation on use of dogs in bear hunting is available from Vermont Fish & Wildlife or at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. Resident and nonresident permit applications also are available with the regulation.

A person shall not advertise, barter, exchange goods or services, expose or otherwise sell the use of a dog or dogs for the purpose of taking black bear. It is unlawful to take a bear that is being pursued by hounds if you are not a permit or sub-permit holder.

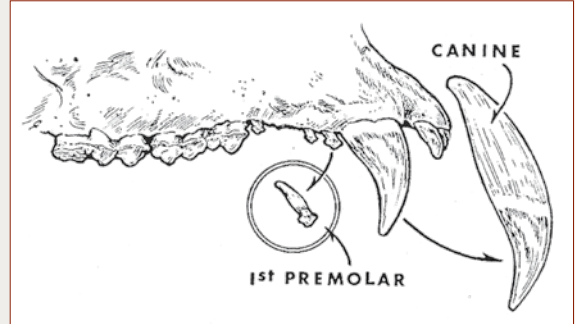
HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?

Black Bear Tooth Collection is Required

NEW THIS YEAR The Fish & Wildlife Department needs your help. Knowing the age of the bears that are harvested by hunters is a very important part of Vermont's scientific bear management program. Starting in 2017, a tooth is required to be submitted by the hunter from every bear harvested in Vermont.

Removing the bear's pre-molar tooth is easy and does not affect the mounting quality of the bear. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/BearToothRemoval> for a video on removing the pre-molar. Please ask the check station operator for a tooth envelope for you to send your bear's tooth sample to the department. Every tooth we receive from hunters helps the bear project.

You will receive the age information in the spring when the age information is returned from the lab. Thank you.



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- Notify non-member facility owners.
- Maintain the marks placed by underground facility owners.
- Use caution and dig by hand when working within 18" of a marked facility.
- If a line is damaged, do not backfill. Notify the affected utility company immediately if the facility, its protective coating, or a tracer wire is damaged.
- Call 911 if the damaged facility poses a risk to public safety.
- Know your state's excavation requirements. Go to digsafe.com for educational material and current laws.



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Turkey Hunting

Wild turkeys represent one of Vermont's greatest conservation success stories. By the mid-1800s turkeys had disappeared from the state. In 1969 and 1970, Vermont wildlife biologists live-trapped 31 wild turkeys in New York and stocked them in Pawlet and Hubbardton. Vermont now has an estimated 50,000 wild turkeys throughout most of the state.

Vermont offers some of the best turkey hunting in New England. Youth turkey hunting comes on the weekend prior to opening day of the spring turkey hunting season. The spring hunting season occurs May 1–31, with two bearded birds allowed on a turkey hunting license. The turkey hunting license also includes a fall tag for one turkey of either sex in selected Wildlife Management Units. Hunters have recently taken nearly more than 5,000 gobblers in the spring season and more than 1,000 birds in the fall.

License Requirements Reporting Turkey

A current hunting or combination license and current turkey license with tag are required to hunt turkey.

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.

Safety

Turkey hunting requires some additional measures of safety that may not be practiced in other forms of hunting. Never stalk a gobbling turkey — your chances of getting close are poor and you may be sneaking up on another hunter.

Wear blaze orange when walking in and out of your hunting site, and wrap any turkeys you bag in blaze orange. Use only hen calls to avoid potentially attracting another hunter with a gobbler call. Sit with your back against a tree in a spot with a good field of vision, and avoid sitting in the potential line of fire should another hunter mistakenly shoot at your decoy.

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.

Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend—April 29-30, 2017

Vermont's **Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend** was initiated in 2002 and has been a great success. Most recently, more than 650 turkeys were harvested by resident and nonresident youth hunters during this special weekend, which is held on the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of the spring turkey hunting season.

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.

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. Landowners are not exempt from the requirement to purchase tags to hunt on their own property on youth weekends.

Shooting Hours

NEW THIS YEAR One-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. for youth weekend only.

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. 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.

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.

Fall Turkey Season

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

Limit

One turkey of either sex for the fall season.

Dates and Wildlife Management Units (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 WMUs F1, F2, K, and N.

Game Bird Hunting

Ruffed grouse are the most widely available upland game in Vermont. Good numbers of “partridge” can be found wherever brushy forest stands provide nesting cover, protection from predators and food in the form of berries and buds. Overgrown apple orchards, abandoned hillside farms and regenerating clear cuts covered with hardwood thickets are all grouse hot spots. Although grouse are found statewide, the Northeast Kingdom offers some of the best grouse hunting.

Seasons & Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	LIMITS
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	September 30 – December 31	4 daily; 8 possession
Pheasant *	September 30 – December 31	2 daily; 4 possession
Bobwhite Quail *	No Closed Season	No limit
Chukar Partridge *	No Closed Season	No limit
Crow	Friday – Monday only, inclusive, January 15 - April 11 and August 19 – December 19	No limit

* Practically nonexistent except by private stocking.

Definitions

The following are classified as game birds: quail, ruffed grouse, chukar partridge, woodcock, pheasant, common snipe, coot, wild ducks, wild geese, and wild turkey (which is classified as big game). Other wild birds including spruce grouse and Hungarian partridge have no open season.

Migratory Game Bird Regulations

The Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Game Birds will be available on the VTF&W website and from license agents.

Waterfowl Hunting

Both Vermont and federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt migratory waterfowl for hunters 16 and older. Federal stamps are sold at post offices. Vermont State Migratory Waterfowl (“Duck”) Stamps are available on the Fish & Wildlife website, from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department offices and license agents for \$7.50. A state waterfowl stamp is good for the calendar year and no longer needs to be signed by the hunter. Note that the federal waterfowl stamp must be signed.

Before you start waterfowl hunting, make sure you have the following four things:

1. A valid Vermont hunting license.
2. A Federal duck stamp, available at most post offices
3. A Vermont state duck stamp, available wherever Vermont hunting licenses are sold
4. A H.I.P. number, available at www.vtfishand-wildlife.com or at 1-877-306-7091

(State and federal duck stamps are required only for hunters 16 and older)

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend

A **Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend** for residents and nonresidents is usually held in late September for hunters 17 and under. Check the migratory bird hunting rules, available in September, for details.

WATERFOWL

For a mountainous state, Vermont offers surprisingly good hunting for a variety of waterfowl. To maximize hunting opportunities, Vermont is divided into three waterfowl zones: the Lake Champlain Zone, which includes Lake Champlain and the adjoining Champlain Valley lowlands, the Interior Zone, and the Connecticut River Zone.

Seasons are set in late August in accordance with migratory bird hunting frameworks established by the federal government.

During the October portion of duck season, most hunting is for “puddle ducks” on shallow-water marshes, beaver flows, ponds, and rivers. The most common species are mallards, wood ducks, black ducks and greenwing teal. As the season progresses and marshes begin to freeze in November, open water hunting for migrating “diving ducks” on Vermont’s larger lakes swings into full gear. Goldeneyes, lesser scaup, ringnecks, and buffleheads are the most common diving ducks. Excellent

hunting for goldeneyes and late-migrating mallards and black ducks can often be had from mid-November through the close of the season in December.

Canada geese and snow geese are found in areas with farm fields that provide waste grains and green grasses as food. Snow goose seasons are liberal, reflecting the record number of greater snow geese in the Atlantic Flyway. A September Canada goose hunting season offers an opportunity to hunt resident Canada geese that have increased in numbers in recent years. An October season for Canada geese is open when additional geese are migrating through the state.

The best waterfowl hunting opportunities are in the Champlain Valley, where numerous public wetlands provide excellent hunting for ducks and geese. Elsewhere, good waterfowl hunting can also be had in the Northeast Kingdom on and along Lake Memphremagog and its tributary rivers.

Duck Blinds

Waterfowl blinds may not be placed on or in the waters of the state earlier than the first Saturday of September of any year.

Anyone who places a blind must have their name and address permanently and legibly affixed on the blind by waterproof paint or rustproof tag.

Waterfowl blinds located on or in any waters of the state except Lake Champlain must be removed, together with contents and any surrounding debris, on or before May 15 of the following year. A waterfowl blind located on or in Lake Champlain must be removed on or before February 15 of the following year. Also see **Tree Stands** and **Ground Blinds** sections.

Placement of signs for the purposes of claiming duck blind locations has no basis in law and is unenforceable.

The use of Phragmites or other invasive plants in duck blinds is prohibited. This does not apply to non-invasive plants used for camouflage such as corn stalks or cedar.

Nontoxic Shot

It is illegal to take waterfowl or coots in Vermont while possessing loose shot or shot shells loaded with shot other than nontoxic shot. Shot should be of a size no larger than size T.

It is illegal to take a group or combination of waterfowl/coots and other species in Vermont while possessing loose shot or shot shells loaded with any shot other than nontoxic shot.

Woodcock & Common Snipe

Woodcock are found statewide. "Timberdoodles" feed primarily on worms, and they favor areas with moist, rich soils covered with dense stands of woody shrubs and sapling-stage hardwoods. Alder swales, regenerating clear cuts and abandoned pastures covered with thickets of dogwood, sumac, birch and aspen are all likely woodcock covers. Locally hatched native birds provide hunting early in the season, but the best shooting is in mid to late October, when large numbers of flight birds are pushed out of Canada by cold weather. The best hunting is generally in the Champlain Valley and Northeast Kingdom.

Season

Set annually.

Woodcock and common snipe are migratory game birds. Migratory game birds, including waterfowl, may be taken only by shotgun with a one-piece plug or manufactured to restrict it to three-shot capacity. State and federal duck stamps are not required for woodcock or snipe hunting. A H.I.P. number is required to hunt woodcock and common snipe.

SPRUCE OR RUFFED GROUSE?

Know the Difference



Male Spruce Grouse



Female Spruce Grouse



Ruffed Grouse

Spruce grouse occur in the Nulhegan Basin near Moose and Yellow Bogs on the Conte National Wildlife Refuge and Wenlock Wildlife Management Area (WMA). They also are found in Victory Basin WMA and Victory State Forest.

Ruffed grouse hunters are reminded that wounding or killing a spruce grouse is a violation of the Vermont Endangered Species Act and subject to significant fines. Any spruce grouse killed by hunters must be reported to a game warden.

H.I.P PROGRAM

Harvest Information Program for Migratory Game Birds

Compliance

If you are hunting migratory game birds, federal law requires you to annually register with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.). Migratory game birds include ducks, geese, brant, coots, snipe, and woodcock. Visit www.vtfwdsales.com/online/hip-entry.php or call Toll Free 1-877-306-7091 (Monday–Friday, 7:45 am to 4:30 pm EST) to register and obtain your H.I.P. permit number. Write the H.I.P. number on your hunting license. Vermont and federal migratory waterfowl stamps are also needed to hunt ducks or geese.

How does the H.I.P. work?

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) will ask a sample of hunters to record daily hunt information on survey cards and return completed cards at the end of hunting season. The survey will enable the USFWS to more accurately determine the status of migratory game birds. Inadequate harvest information has been used to legally challenge hunting seasons in some states.

We thank you for your help!

Cooperation and support from hunters is the key to sound wildlife management. The Harvest Information Program for Migratory Game Birds will help ensure the future of migratory bird hunting.

Small Game Hunting

Gray squirrels are Vermont's most overlooked small-game animal. "Bushytails" can be found wherever mature stands of oak, hickory and beech trees provide them with abundant nuts, especially in the southwestern portion of the state at lower elevations, the Champlain Valley, and along the Connecticut River. Although lightly hunted in Vermont, squirrels are a real challenge when stalked with a .22 rifle, and their delicate meat compares favorably with rabbit.

Cottontail rabbits are found primarily in the Southwestern Foothills and Champlain Valley, including the Champlain Islands. "Cottontails" favor the varied habitat found in agricultural lowlands and are commonly encountered in brushy hedgerows, overgrown fields, briar thickets, and shrub-filled creek bottoms. Kicking up cottontails on a crisp fall day is

excellent sport, whether hunters elect to chase them with a beagle and shotgun or stalk them with a .22 rifle.

Snowshoe hare are found statewide but are most abundant in areas with active forest management, particularly in the Green Mountains and Northeast Kingdom. The greatest concentrations of hare are found in areas with dense, low-growing softwood, such as cedar swamps, spruce bogs and cut-over areas with thickets of young spruce and fir. Snowshoe hare have seasonally white coats and large hind feet, adaptations that let them remain active throughout the winter. They are a favorite of hunters with hounds because they prefer to run a hard race rather than hole-up, as cottontails often do when hard-pressed.

Seasons & Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31	4 daily; 8 possession
Rabbit & Hare	Sept. 24, 2016 – Mar. 12, 2017 & Sept. 30, 2017 – Mar. 11, 2018 WMUs D & E remain open through March 31	3 daily; 6 possession

Sale of Small Game

It is illegal to buy or sell a wild bird, rabbit, hare or gray squirrel at any time.

Need to Know On the Go?

The Vermont Hunting Digest is now available online through your mobile devices!



eRegulations



eregulations.com

Furbearer Hunting & Trapping

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 22, 2016 – Feb. 12, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018
Raccoon	Oct. 14 – Dec. 31
Muskrat	Mar. 20 – April 19
Coyote, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	No Closed Season
Beaver, Otter, Mink, Fisher, Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Lion	No Open Season

Furbearer Trapping Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON
Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel	Oct. 28 – Dec. 31
Otter	Oct. 22, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018
Muskrat	Oct. 22, 2016 – Mar. 31, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017 – Mar. 31, 2018
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Beaver	Oct. 22, 2016 – Mar. 31, 2017 & Oct. 28, 2017 – Mar. 31, 2018
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Lion	No Open Season

cage traps under the ice shall visit his/her traps at least once every three calendar days and remove any animal caught.

- A person shall not set a trap on lands other than his/her own which does not have his/her name and address permanently and legibly stamped or engraved thereon, or on a tag of rustless material securely attached thereto.
- All traps under ice will be marked with a tag visible above the ice.
- A person shall not set a body gripping trap with a jaw spread over eight inches measured inside the jaws unless the trap is set five feet or more above the ground, or in the water.
- A person shall not use toothed foothold traps or snares when trapping.
- A person shall not set a trap between December 31 and the following fourth Saturday in October unless the trap is in the water, under the ice, or on a float in the water.
- A person shall not possess a living furbearing animal, except as provided by rules of the board or part 4 of Title 10.
- A person shall not possess a fur-bearing animal trapped outside of its legal season without the written authorization of the department, not to include animals taken pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4828.
- A person shall not possess fur or skin of a fur-bearing animal unlawfully taken.

Furbearing Animals

The following are classified as furbearing animals: beaver, otter, marten, mink, raccoon, fisher, fox, skunk, muskrat, bobcat, coyote, weasel, opossum, lynx, and wolf.

able from Fish & Wildlife in Montpelier (phone 802-828-1190).

Trapping License Requirements

An applicant for a trapping license must have either:

- A previous or current trapping license from any state or Canadian province; or
- A certificate showing satisfactory completion of a trapper education course, in any state or Canadian province; or
- A signed affidavit attesting to having a prior trapping license.

Fur Buyer's License

Anyone dealing in pelts must have a valid fur buyer's license. The fur buyer's license is avail-

Restrictions

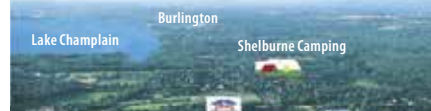
- Trapping in Wildlife Management Unit-E requires setting traps under special restrictions designed to avoid Canada lynx. This regulation is available on the Fish & Wildlife website and from our offices.
- A person who intends to set a trap for any animal on the property of another shall, prior to setting the trap, notify the owner of the property of his or her intention to set the trap and of the prospective location of the trap. The owner of the property may, at any time, refuse to grant permission to set a trap or revoke the permission if previously granted.
- A person trapping fur-bearing animals shall visit his/her traps at least once every calendar day, except as provided below, and dispatch or release any animal caught therein.
- A person who sets body gripping traps in the water or under the ice, or foothold or

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- A person shall not take a fur-bearing animal by use of any poisonous mixture.
- A person shall not take a fur-bearing animal from its den by cutting, digging, smoking, by the use of chemicals, or by the use of mechanical devices.

Beaver, Muskrat

- When trapping muskrat between March 1 and March 31, body gripping traps are restricted to 5 inches or less.
- A person shall not disturb or destroy a beaver or muskrat house or den or place a trap therein, thereon, or in the entrance thereof.
- A person may set a trap within 10 feet of the nearest point, above the water, of a beaver house or dam only from the 4th Saturday in October through the last day of February, all dates inclusive.
- Except for the setting of traps as provided above, a person shall not interfere in any manner with dams, dens, or houses of beaver except upon prior written approval from the Commissioner.
- When trapping beaver between March 1 and March 31, body gripping traps shall:

1. Have a parallel trigger and trigger stop. Acceptable trigger stops include twisted wire, cable ties, wire wrap, or welded bead. The trigger should be offset at least 8 inches from one side of the trap and be no longer than 6 1/2 inches. Trigger wires must be joined together.
2. Include tension adjustable, square-notch trigger brackets. Four-way and/or V-notch triggers are illegal to use. Diagrams on the next page illustrate these requirements.

Bobcat, Otter, Fisher

- From December 17 to December 31, both dates inclusive, in order to minimize incidental bobcat harvest during the remainder of the fisher season, a person shall not set a body-gripping trap with a jaw spread over 6 inches measured inside the jaws unless the trap is set 5 or more feet above the ground, or in the water.
- The skins of bobcat, otter and fisher legally taken may be possessed, transported, bought and sold only when tagged and marked as hereinafter provided.
- A person who takes bobcats, otter or fisher during these seasons shall notify authorized department staff within 48 hours of the close of the season. Pelts shall be presented to authorized department staff for tagging. Such tags shall remain affixed

- to the pelts until tanned. Carcasses shall be surrendered to authorized department staff at the time of tagging.
- No bobcat, otter or fisher pelts or carcasses taken during these seasons shall be transported out of the state of Vermont prior to being tagged by authorized department staff.
- A person who takes bobcat, fisher and otter pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4828 and who desires to keep the pelt shall notify authorized department staff within 84 hours of the taking. Pelts shall be presented to authorized department staff for tagging. Such tags shall remain affixed to the pelts until tanned. Carcasses shall be surrendered to authorized department staff at the time of tagging.

Raccoons

- A person shooting raccoons during the raccoon hunting season shall use a 0.22 caliber rimfire firearm or a shotgun with #2 shot or smaller.
- A light may be used to illuminate and shoot raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the raccoon hunting season. A light may also be used to illuminate a raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the training season.

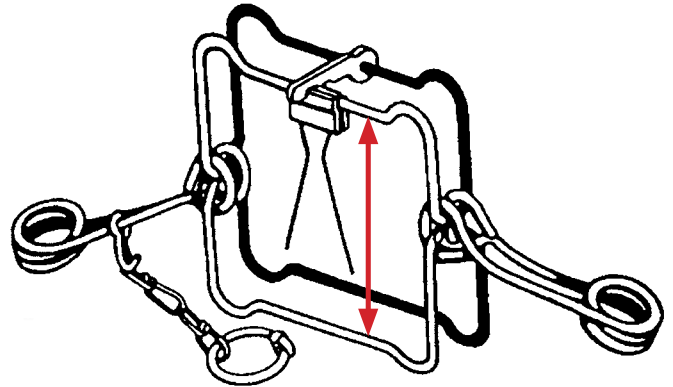


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Body-Gripping Trap Diagrams

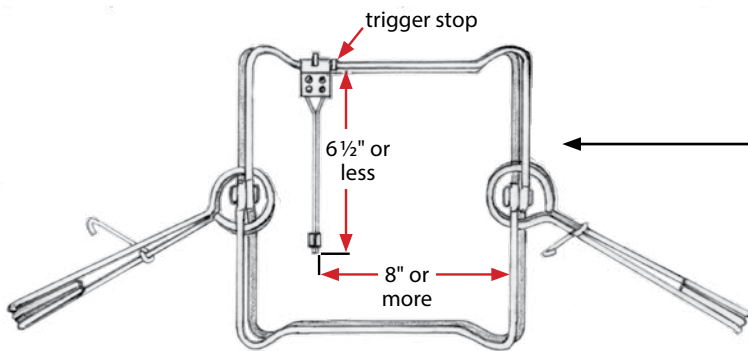
How to measure a body-gripping trap:

Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame **does not** change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the **MAXIMUM** distance as shown in this picture:

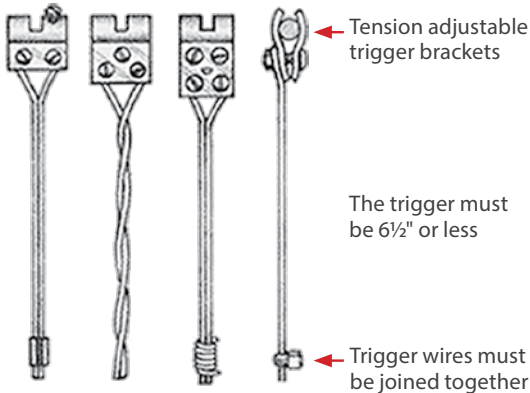


Specific Requirements of the March Beaver Season Trap Configuration are shown in this Diagram:

Body-gripping trap with tension adjustable/parallel trigger & trigger stop.

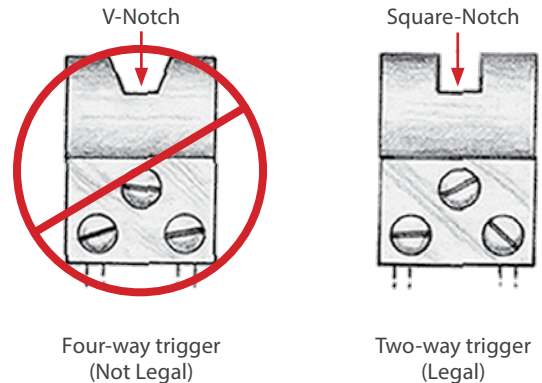


Examples of Acceptable Tension Adjustable/Parallel Triggers

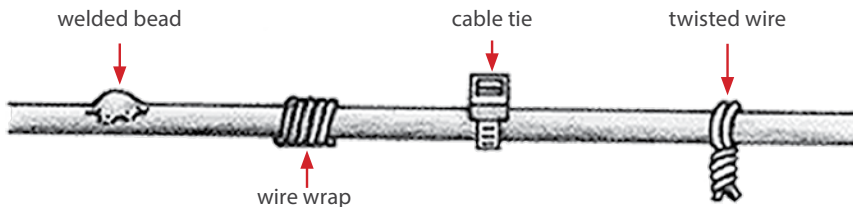


Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.

Examples of Non-legal vs. Legal Trigger Brackets



Examples of Acceptable Trigger Stops



Canada Lynx or Bobcat?

Canada Lynx are a state endangered and federally threatened species. They are very similar in appearance and habits to bobcats, and their range overlaps with them and other furbearer species. Therefore it is important for trappers and hunters to know how to distinguish lynx from bobcats, to recognize their preferred habitat types, and to avoid capturing or harvesting lynx.

Fur

- Lynx pelts are relatively bland and grayish.
- Bobcat pelts are variably colored, often appearing reddish brown or gray, and have more distinct spots and streaks.

Tail

- Lynx tails appear much the same viewed top or bottom. The lynx tail tip is completely black all around.
- Bobcat tails show black bars with a white tip when viewed from above and show a lot of white underneath.

Hind Legs and Feet

- The hind legs of lynx are disproportionately longer, causing them to have a "stooped" appearance.
- Lynx feet are snowshoe-like and are at least twice the size of bobcat feet.

What Trappers Need to Know

- Learn the key identifying features of Canada lynx and bobcat.
- **Go to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) or contact us for the trapping regulations in WMU E designed to protect lynx.**
- Because the possibility exists for lynx to be encountered outside of WMU E, all trappers should familiarize themselves with lynx sign and be prepared to adjust their methods to avoid incidentally capturing a lynx.
- Trappers who incidentally trap a lynx **must notify the department as soon as possible before removing the animal from the trap**, unless a department official cannot be reached in time to avoid injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to the department within 24 hours from the time it was discovered. To report an incidental capture, call Chris Bernier at (802)777-0823 or contact your local game warden.

Bobcat Hunting Methods to Help Avoid Taking Lynx

- Tracks should be closely examined and measured before any trailing dogs are released.
- Any treed bobcat should carefully be identified and confirmed as not being a lynx before it is harvested. A treed lynx should be abandoned immediately with harnessed dogs in tow.
- If predator calls are used in areas lynx may frequent, it is essential to identify and confirm any responding animals to assure a lynx is not shot.
- Since it may be difficult or impossible to positively identify a moving or partially hidden animal as a lynx or bobcat, it is best not to shoot at all whenever positive identity is unknown.

Trappers or hunters who encounter lynx or lynx sign should quickly report their observations to wildlife biologist Chris Bernier at (802) 885-8833.

Canada Lynx - state endangered



PHOTO CREDIT: KEITH WILLIAMS

Bobcat

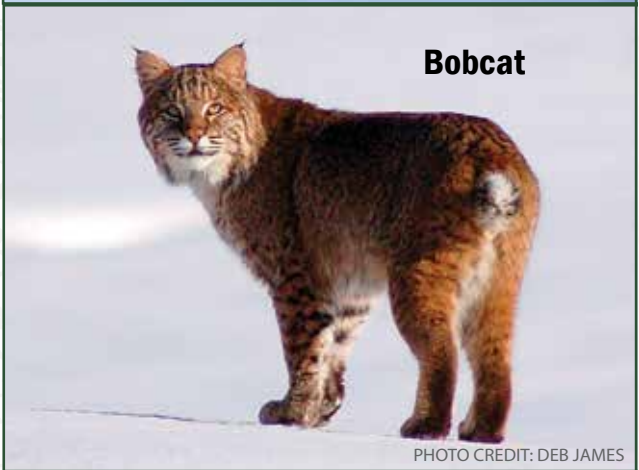
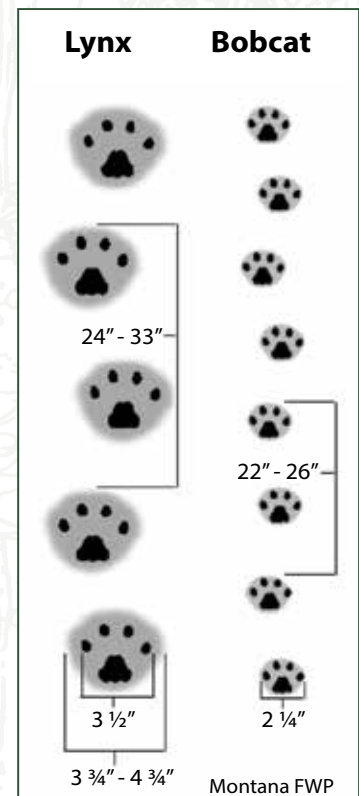


PHOTO CREDIT: DEB JAMES



Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow

HABITAT HELP IS HERE FOR LANDOWNERS



Vermont landowners play a critical role in ensuring the future health of Vermont's lands, waters, habitats, and wildlife. This 134-page guide will help you as a landowner manage your land to benefit wildlife while managing for other goals you might have, such as timber or hiking trails.

Whether you're a landowner, forester, biologist, or other land manager, this guide will help you recognize various wildlife habitats and improve them for wildlife and for future generations of Vermonters.

Get your guide today by visiting the Fish & Wildlife Store online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com

Price is \$12.00 plus tax and shipping.

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For more details email fwinformation@vermont.gov or call 802-828-1000.



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VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE



Our mission is the conservation of all species of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

When you purchase a hunting or fishing license, pay an excise tax on hunting, fishing or boating equipment, or contribute to the Nongame Fund through the tax check-off, you're contributing to fish and wildlife conservation in Vermont. While the Fish & Wildlife Department is funded primarily by hunters and anglers, the department provides services that benefit all Vermonters.

Here's how the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department benefits all Vermonters:

Conserving our natural heritage

- Restoring native species including marten, beaver, moose, fisher, wild turkey, common loon, osprey and peregrine falcon
- Conserving endangered species such as lynx, bald eagles, turtles, and bats
- Sustaining wildlife for the next generation and ensuring that our grandchildren will still be able to see brook trout, butterflies, birds, and bears

Education

- Educating 1,000 campers a year on ecology and natural history at our Green Mountain Conservation Camps at Kehoe and Buck Lake
- Providing fish and wildlife management graduate courses for teachers and other educators
- Keeping the public informed about wildlife through news articles, public meetings, Facebook, wildlife festivals, and other events
- Connecting kids with nature through Project WILD and Growing Up WILD

Search and rescue (State Game Wardens)

- Offering their extensive outdoor knowledge and skills, wardens are invaluable contributors to searches for people who are lost or injured in remote areas

Land conservation and public access

- Managing more than 133,000 acres of Fish & Wildlife Department-owned land for all to enjoy
- Partnering with land trusts to put conservation easements on private property that improve habitat and provide public access
- Maintaining boat ramps, parking areas and wildlife viewing platforms

Land use planning and habitat improvement

- Working with towns, state forests and parks, and private landowners to create habitat management plans and conservation planning initiatives
- Reviewing Act 250 and Act 248 land use permits to address impacts to important wildlife habitat

Keeping Vermonters and wildlife at a safe distance

- Improving wildlife crossings to keep large animals such as moose and deer off highways
- Dealing with nuisance wildlife, including rabid animal response, beaver damage mitigation, and black bear conflicts



Drive Yourself WILD.

Help Protect Vermont's Natural Heritage and Watersheds with a Vermont Conservation License Plate.

Proceeds from conservation plates support efforts to protect endangered wildlife and keep Vermont's watersheds healthy. Pick up an application for a conservation plate at Department of Motor Vehicles offices statewide. Learn more about Vermont's natural heritage at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Be Safe. Be Seen. Wear Orange.

FLUORESCENT HUNTER ORANGE IS ALWAYS IN STYLE IN THE WOODS

Blaze orange is highly visible to humans, but not to deer. Smart hunters who wear it are just as likely to be successful, yet, nationwide, seven times less likely to be shot by another hunter.

Hunter orange is a choice in Vermont but that's no excuse. Research has shown hunting accidents decline dramatically when orange is worn.



**HUNT SMART
CHOOSE TO WEAR
ORANGE**





Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702
(802) 828-1000

Office Hours: 7:45 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday
Website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com

The **MISSION** of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

General Information (802) 828-1000
Email fwinformation@vermont.gov

Hunter Education (802) 828-1193

Law Enforcement.....(802) 828-1529

Licensing.....(802) 828-1190

Wildlife..... (802) 828-1000

Commissioner’s Office(802) 828-1454

Business Office..... (802) 828-1000

Fish (802) 828-1000

Public Outreach (802) 828-1000

Fish Culture Stations

Bald Hill(802) 467-3660
Bennington.....(802) 447-2844
Grand Isle(802) 372-3171
Roxbury.....(802) 485-7568
Salisbury (802) 352-4371

District Fish & Wildlife Offices

Barre District Natural Resources Office

5 Perry Street, Suite 40
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-0199
(802) 476-0129 (fax)

Fish & Wildlife Laboratory

Roxbury, VT 05669
(802) 485-7566

Essex District Natural Resources Office

111 West Street
Essex Jct, VT 05452
(802) 878-1564
(802) 879-5649 (fax)

Rutland District Natural Resources Office

271 North Main Street, Suite 215
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 786-0040
(802) 786-3870 (fax)

St. Johnsbury District Natural Resources Office

1229 Portland Street, Suite 201
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-2099
(802) 751-0100
(802) 748-6687 (fax)

Springfield District Natural Resources Office

100 Mineral Street, Suite 302
Springfield, VT 05156
(802) 828-1000

Dead Creek Waterfowl Management Area

Addison, VT 05491
(802) 759-2398

Education Ctr. Kehoe Conservation Camp

636 Point of Pines Road
Castleton, VT 05735
(802) 265-2279

State Game Wardens

Northwestern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Wedin, Carl	879-5669	868-9110	St. Albans
Sgt. Barrett, Chad	229-9191	224-6324	Waterbury Ctr
Brown, Paul	229-9191	485-4432	Northfield
Coffey, Ethan	878-7111	888-2964	Morrisville
Currier, Robert	878-7111	497-2136	Colchester
Fowler, Sean	229-9191	454-9919	Plainfield
Joyal, Dana	878-7111	425-4506	Charlotte
Schmid, Jeremy	878-7111	288-7222	Essex
Snyder, Dustin	524-5993	849-9980	Fairfax
Thiel, Matthew	524-5993	868-6325	Swanton

Northeastern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Gregory, David	751-0103	626-4390	Lyndonville
Sgt. Szymanowski, Trevor	748-3111	695-1314	N. Concord
Spl. Shopland, Russell	748-3111	472-3040	E. Hardwick
Amsden, Dennis	234-9933	751-7695	St. Johnsbury
Dukette, Jason	334-8881	334-2904	Derby
Hazard, Randy	334-8881	962-3492	Bloomfield
Reed, Jenna	334-8881	334-1215	Newport Ctr
Schichtle, Mark	222-4680	757-2121	Wells River
Scott, T. Mike	334-8881	525-5501	Barton

Central District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Stedman, Justin	786-3865	325-9333	Pawlet
Sgt. Gallant, Keith	234-9933	728-9215	E. Braintree
Spl. Whitlock, Dale	388-4919	388-4875	E. Middlebury
Spl. Sterling, Robert	773-9101	265-4602	Fair Haven
Butler, Wesley	773-9101	483-9392	Pittsford
Gravelle, Jason	234-9933	484-7435	Hartland
Hungerford, Josh	388-4919	352-9011	Salisbury
Whipple, Jeffrey	234-9933	685-7813	Vershire

Southern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Eckhardt, Greg	885-8830	824-5785	Landgrove
Sgt. Buttle, Travis	442-5421	442-4383	Shaftsbury
Carey, Timothy	773-9101	259-9533	Mount Holly
Jackman, Cody	442-5421	867-7012	Dorset
Price, Kelly	257-7101	251-2171	Brattleboro
Taddei, David	722-4600	221-4066	Townshend
Watkin, Richard	257-7101	368-7302	Wilmington

Trainees

Dustin Circe, Asa Sargent

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lake Champlain Office

11 Lincoln Street,
Essex Jct, VT 05452
(802) 872-0629

Law Enforcement

(802) 879-1859

White River Hatchery

Rte 107,
Bethel, VT 05032
(802) 234-5400

Eisenhower Fish Hatcher

4 Holden Road,
N. Chittenden, VT 05763
(802) 483-6618

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

29 Tabor Point Road,
Swanton, VT 05488
(802) 868-4781

Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Nulhegan Basin Division
5396 Rte 105,
Brunswick, VT 05905
(802) 962-5240 x112

Agency of Natural Resources

Forests, Parks, & Recreation.....(802) 828-1534
Park Reservations.....(888) 409-7579
Department of Environmental Conservation.....(802) 828-1556

Green Mountain National Forest

Green Mountain National Forest Headquarters

231 North Main Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-6700
(802) 747-6765 (TDD)

Middlebury Ranger District

1007 Route 7 South
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-6688
(voice/TDD)

Manchester Ranger District

2538 Depot Street
Manchester Center, VT 05255
(802) 362-2307
(voice/TDD)

Rochester Ranger District

99 Ranger Road
Rochester, VT 05767-9431
(802) 767-4261
(voice/TDD)

Vt Chamber of Commerce

www.visitvt.com.....802-223-3443

Vt Dept. of Tourism

www.VermontVacation.com.....1-800-VERMONT

VT FISH & WILDLIFE BOARD

The Fish and Wildlife Board has fourteen members—one from each county. They are appointed by the governor for six year terms. The board enacts hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

Orange County

Kevin Lawrence, Chair
5449 Main Street
Newbury, VT 05051
802-280-5884
fwboard.orange@gmail.com
Term:
March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2019

Washington County

Theresa Elmer, Vice Chair
1308 Loop Road
Northfield, VT 05663
802-485-7184
fwboard.washington@gmail.com
Term:
March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2019

Franklin County

Peter W. Allard
18 Country Club Estates
Swanton, VT 05488
802-527-7381
fwboard.franklin@gmail.com
Term:
March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2019

Bennington County

David Fielding Jr.
47 Cross Road
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255
Fielding08@myfairpoint.net
(802) 362-0049
Term:
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

Rutland County

Justin Lindholm
P.O. Box 6166
Rutland, VT 05702
802-773-4249
fwboard.rutland@gmail.com
Term:
March 24, 2011 – February 28, 2017

Windsor County

Tim Biebel
267 Taylor Drive
Windsor, VT 05089
timbiebel@gmail.com
(603) 738-9776
Term:
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

Essex County

Craig Nolan
227 Cottage Road
Averill, VT 05903
802-822-9926
Cnolan1@myfairpoint.net
Term:
March 21, 2012 – March 21, 2018

Chittenden County

Cheryl Frank Sullivan
P.O. Box 371
Underhill, VT 05489
802-233-6192
vtfwbchittenden@gmail.com
Term:
March 1, 2014 – February 29, 2020

Windham County

Dennis Mewes
1037 Kipling Road
Dummerston, VT 05301
802-257-1633
fwboard.windham@gmail.com
Term:
April 1, 2015 – February 28, 2021

Orleans County

Grant H. Spates
619 Goodall Road
Derby Line, VT 05830
802-895-4012
grant@spatesconstruction.com
Term:
March 1, 2011 – February 28, 2017

Caledonia County

Johanna Laggis
589 Hardwick Farms Road
East Hardwick, VT 05836
802-472-6161
fwboard.caledonia@gmail.com
Term:
March 1, 2014 – February 29, 2020

Addison County

Patrick Berry
403 East Main Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
phberr@gmail.com
(802) 388-3650
Term:
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

Grand Isle County

Craig Greene
137 Border Road
Alburg, VT 05440
802-233-0125
Go2buck@gmail.com
Term:
April 25, 2012 – April 25, 2018

Lamoille County

William Pickens
2984 Elmore Pond Road
Wolcott, VT 05680
802-888-3736
fwboard.lamoille@gmail.com
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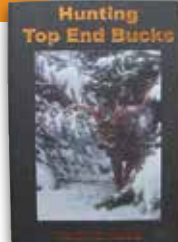
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Sunset/Sunrise Table

DAY	JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APR.		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.
1	7:26	4:22	7:09	4:59	6:27	5:39	6:31	7:18	5:41	7:55	5:09	8:28	5:11	8:38	5:38	8:14	6:14	7:26	6:49	6:30	7:28	5:39	7:06	4:12
2	7:26	4:23	7:08	5:01	6:25	5:40	6:29	7:19	5:39	7:56	5:09	8:28	5:11	8:37	5:39	8:13	6:15	7:24	6:50	6:28	7:29	5:38	7:07	4:12
3	7:26	4:23	7:06	5:02	6:23	5:42	6:27	7:21	5:38	7:57	5:08	8:29	5:12	8:37	5:41	8:12	6:16	7:22	6:51	6:26	7:31	5:37	7:08	4:12
4	7:26	4:24	7:05	5:04	6:21	5:43	6:25	7:22	5:36	7:58	5:08	8:30	5:12	8:37	5:42	8:10	6:17	7:20	6:52	6:25	7:32	5:35	7:10	4:12
5	7:26	4:25	7:04	5:05	6:20	5:44	6:23	7:23	5:35	7:59	5:08	8:31	5:13	8:37	5:43	8:09	6:18	7:18	6:53	6:23	6:33	4:34	7:11	4:12
6	7:26	4:26	7:03	5:06	6:18	5:46	6:22	7:24	5:34	8:01	5:07	8:31	5:14	8:36	5:44	8:08	6:20	7:16	6:55	6:21	6:35	4:33	7:12	4:11
7	7:26	4:27	7:02	5:08	6:16	5:47	6:20	7:25	5:32	8:02	5:07	8:32	5:14	8:36	5:45	8:06	6:21	7:15	6:56	6:19	6:36	4:32	7:13	4:11
8	7:25	4:29	7:00	5:09	6:14	5:48	6:18	7:27	5:31	8:03	5:07	8:33	5:15	8:35	5:46	8:05	6:22	7:13	6:57	6:17	6:37	4:30	7:13	4:11
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12	7:24	4:33	6:55	5:15	7:07	6:53	6:11	7:32	5:26	8:08	5:06	8:35	5:18	8:33	5:51	7:59	6:26	7:05	7:02	6:10	6:43	4:26	7:17	4:11
13	7:24	4:34	6:54	5:16	7:05	6:55	6:09	7:33	5:25	8:09	5:06	8:35	5:19	8:33	5:52	7:57	6:28	7:04	7:03	6:09	6:44	4:25	7:18	4:12
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16	7:22	4:38	6:49	5:20	7:00	6:58	6:04	7:36	5:22	8:12	5:06	8:36	5:22	8:30	5:55	7:53	6:31	6:58	7:07	6:04	6:48	4:22	7:20	4:12
17	7:22	4:39	6:48	5:22	6:58	7:00	6:03	7:38	5:21	8:13	5:06	8:37	5:23	8:30	5:56	7:51	6:32	6:56	7:08	6:02	6:49	4:21	7:21	4:13
18	7:21	4:40	6:46	5:23	6:56	7:01	6:01	7:39	5:20	8:14	5:06	8:37	5:24	8:29	5:58	7:50	6:33	6:54	7:10	6:00	6:51	4:20	7:21	4:13
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24	7:17	4:48	6:37	5:31	6:45	7:08	5:51	7:46	5:15	8:20	5:07	8:38	5:30	8:23	6:05	7:40	6:40	6:43	7:17	5:51	6:58	4:16	7:24	4:16
25	7:16	4:50	6:35	5:32	6:43	7:09	5:50	7:47	5:14	8:21	5:08	8:38	5:31	8:22	6:06	7:38	6:41	6:41	7:19	5:49	6:59	4:15	7:25	4:17
26	7:15	4:51	6:33	5:34	6:42	7:11	5:48	7:49	5:13	8:22	5:08	8:38	5:32	8:21	6:07	7:36	6:43	6:39	7:20	5:48	7:01	4:15	7:25	4:17
27	7:14	4:52	6:32	5:35	6:40	7:12	5:47	7:50	5:12	8:23	5:09	8:38	5:33	8:20	6:08	7:34	6:44	6:37	7:21	5:46	7:02	4:14	7:25	4:18
28	7:13	4:54	6:30	5:36	6:38	7:13	5:45	7:51	5:12	8:24	5:09	8:38	5:34	8:19	6:09	7:33	6:45	6:36	7:23	5:45	7:03	4:14	7:25	4:19
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31	7:10	4:58			6:32	7:17			5:10	8:27			5:37	8:15	6:13	7:27			7:27	5:41			7:26	4:21

Eastern Standard time—Montpelier, VT
 March 12 – Eastern Standard Time changes to Daylight Savings Time
 November 5 – Daylight Savings Time changes to Eastern Standard Time

ABOUT THIS DIGEST

Fish & Wildlife Laws

The purpose of Vermont Fish & Wildlife laws is to help protect, manage, and conserve the fish and wildlife of the state. It is the responsibility of each individual who hunts, fishes or traps to know these laws. This Guide provides the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's interpretation of these laws. It is formatted to make the laws easier to read and understand. For a complete wording of Vermont's fish and wildlife statutes and regulations, consult Vermont Statutes Annotated, Part 4, Title 10, available at Town Clerks' offices and on the Internet at legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10. Any questions you have regarding these laws should be directed to your local game warden.

Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service

VTRS has trained people who will relay messages between hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired or deaf people who have a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) and people who can hear. This service may be

used to call the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

If you have a TDD and wish to call a hearing person without a TDD: Dial 1-800-253-0191.

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SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

The target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



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