



VERMONT

# HUNTING

## & Trapping Guide

2020



### A New Era for Vermont Deer Hunting Begins

pg.14

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## A Special Message from the Commissioner

This year is an exciting one for our department, our partners, allies and friends.

As you know, this fall will usher in a comprehensive set of new deer hunting regulations which we and the Fish and Wildlife Board developed with input from sportsmen and women, landowners, and others. The goal of these regulations is to expand opportunity wherever possible, better manage deer populations and to continue having larger, older, bucks in Vermont.

You will see that archery season has been expanded, we've narrowed the use of the antler point restriction to zones where it makes the most sense and gives us needed biological data, we have put in place a one buck limit, we've expanded crossbow use to all licensed hunters, and we have initiated a new novice season.

Together, we have restored species once nearly, or entirely, eliminated in Vermont, from turkey to bald eagles. I hope you will join us as we consider how best to continue that legacy, as we make sure fish and wildlife populations are healthy and abundant, and that there are ample opportunities for wildlife adventures of all kinds, from bird watching to trapping.

I hope you will enjoy your time in the woods.

See you afield,

Louis Porter, Commissioner

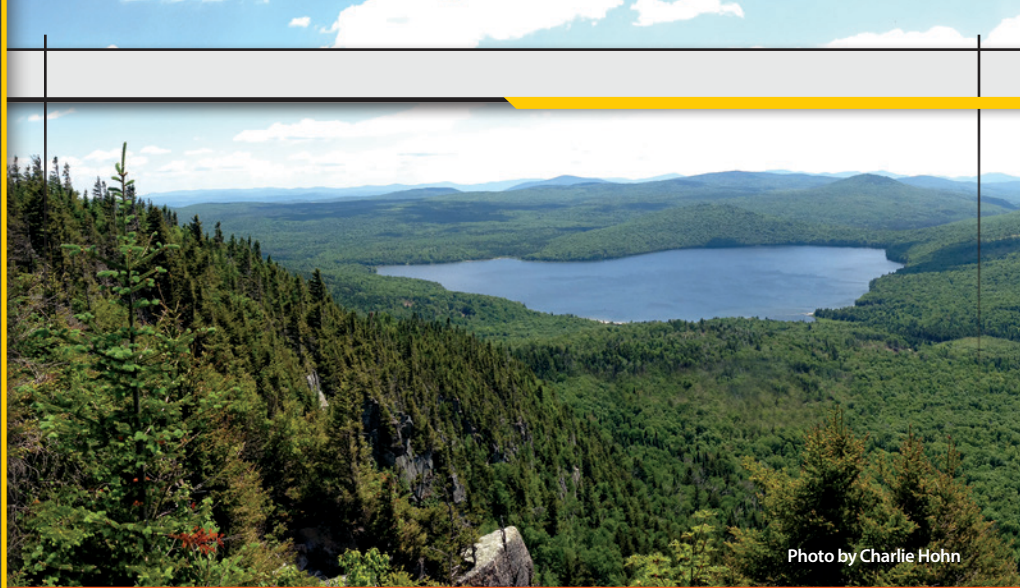


Photo by Charlie Hohn

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#### Cover Photo:

White-tailed buck deer.  
Photo by Roger Irwin.

#### 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](http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10). Any questions you have regarding these laws should be directed to your local game warden.

Whatever your need is, we are here to serve you!

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# 2020 Quick Reference Guide

All dates inclusive.

## Big Game Hunting

SPECIES	SEASON	NOTES	DATES	
Deer	Archery		Oct. 1 – Dec. 15 except closed during regular Nov. Season	
	Youth & Novice Deer Weekend		Oct. 24 – 25	
	Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Season	If antlerless permits are available. Check website.	Oct. 29 – Nov. 1	
	16 Day Regular Season		Nov. 14 – 29	
	Muzzleloader		Dec. 5 – 13	
Black Bear			Early Season: Sept. 1 – Nov. 13 Late Season: Nov. 14 – 22	
Turkey	Youth Turkey Weekend		April 25 – 26	
	Spring Season		May 1 – 31	
	Fall Seasons	Archery only	In all WMUs statewide	Oct. 3 – 23
		Shotgun or Archery	WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q WMUs F, K, and N	Oct. 24 – Nov. 1 Oct. 24 – Nov. 8
Moose			Check website	

## Furbearer Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 26, 2019 – Feb. 9, 2020 & Oct. 24, 2020 – Feb. 14, 2021
Raccoon	Oct. 10 – Dec. 31
Muskrat	Mar. 20 – April 19
Coyote, Skunk, Weasel, and Opossum	Open Year Round
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion, Mink, Otter, Beaver, Fisher	No open season

## Small Game Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Hare, Rabbit	Sept. 28, 2019 – March 8, 2020 & Sept. 26, 2020 – March 14, 2021 WMUs D&E remain open through March 31
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	Sept. 26 – Dec. 31
Woodcock, Waterfowl	To Be Announced
Crow	Jan. 17 – April 11 & Aug. 21 – Dec. 19 Friday – Monday only, closed Tues – Thurs

## Furbearer Trapping

SPECIES	DATES
Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel	Oct. 24 – Dec. 31
Otter, Muskrat, Beaver	Oct. 26, 2019 – Mar. 31, 2020 & Oct. 24, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2021
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion	No open season



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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 seasons).

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 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 complete an affidavit stating you have held a hunting license.

A **nonresident** member of the armed forces of the United States who is on active duty and

## BUYING YOUR LICENSE

### We offer three easy ways to purchase your license:

#### 1 Online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

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

- Acrobat Reader on your computer. You can download the free Acrobat Reader software from our website.
- A **credit card**. We accept Visa, MasterCard, or Discover for payment.

#### Pro Tips:

- Have your Conservation Identification Number or CID # ready. You can look up your Conservation ID on the website or find it on your previous license.
- Be sure to check that your personal information, such as your address, is up to date every time you buy a 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. Big game or transportation tags are required to be carried when hunting big game. A transportation tag, available for free at license agents, is an acceptable tag. Minor children who are hunting 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.

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 [fwlicensing@vermont.gov](mailto:fwlicensing@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 secondary school, college or university, must present an admission card, and must pay the resident fee.

## Mentored Hunting License

Mentored Hunting licenses are available everywhere licenses are sold.

**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 licensed adult hunter may take hunting only one person with 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

Any Vermont resident who is 66 or older may apply for a permanent license on our website, at an authorized license agent, at our district offices or through the mail to the Fish & Wildlife office. Permanent licenses have a one-time fee of \$60.

If a permanent license holder wishes to hunt for more than one archery deer, he/she must purchase additional archery licenses. 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, but if you choose to go to a license agent, they may charge up to \$1.50.

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## 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% or more 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 the service connected disability rating.

To see if you qualify for this license, call the Licensing office at 802-828-1190. If you meet the requirements, you will need to present a copy of your VA documentation listing your service-connected disability rating. You can obtain a copy of this documentation from [benefits.va.gov/benefits](http://benefits.va.gov/benefits). 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 = 8x 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 this year, you must update by reprinting your lifetime, permanent disability, or permanent license regardless of whether or not you used your tags.** This statutory requirement 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 online at our website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). If you are unable to go online 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 Violator 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 *13 V.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, including muzzleloaders with #209 primers. 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](http://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. Sect. 4266*. An electronic or digital copy of the license is acceptable. Tags are required to be carried while big game hunting. Minor children who are hunting 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)*).

**Hunting season is tick season.**

**Protect** with EPA-registered repellents and permethrin-treated clothing.  
**Check** your skin, clothing and pets for ticks after being outside.  
**Remove** attached ticks right away with tweezers.  
**Watch** for symptoms of tickborne illnesses and see your doctor if you get sick.

[healthvermont.gov/BeTickSmart](http://healthvermont.gov/BeTickSmart)

VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# 2020 License Fees

Licenses and permit applications and their fees are available online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## Resident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
<b>Hunting</b>	\$28.00	\$134.00
<b>Youth Hunting</b> (age 17 or under)	\$8.00	
<b>Combination Hunting/Fishing</b>	\$47.00	\$229.00
<b>Youth Combination</b> (age 17 or under)	\$12.00	
<b>Mentored Hunting</b>	\$10.00	
<b>Trapping</b>	\$23.00	\$109.00
<b>Youth Trapping</b> (age 17 or under)	\$10.00	
<b>Archery-Deer</b> (hunting license needed) <sup>2</sup>	\$23.00	
<b>Turkey</b> (hunting license needed)	\$23.00	
<b>Bear</b> (Sept. 1 – Nov. 13 early season – hunting license needed)	\$5.00	
<b>Muzzleloader-Deer</b> (hunting license needed) <sup>3</sup>	\$23.00	
<b>Permanent license</b> (Residents only, 66 or older)	\$60.00	

## Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
<b>Hunting</b>	\$102.00	\$504.00
<b>Youth Hunting</b> (age 17 or under)	\$25.00	
<b>Combination Hunting/Fishing</b>	\$143.00	\$709.00
<b>Youth Combination</b> (age 17 or under)	\$30.00	
<b>Mentored Hunting</b>	\$10.00	
<b>Trapping</b>	\$305.00	\$1,519.00
<b>Small Game</b> <sup>1</sup>	\$50.00	
<b>Archery-Deer</b> (hunting license needed) <sup>2</sup>	\$38.00	
<b>Archery Only-Deer</b> (hunting license NOT needed) <sup>2</sup>	\$75.00	
<b>Turkey</b> (hunting license needed)	\$38.00	
<b>Bear</b> (Sept. 1 – Nov. 13 early season – hunting license needed)	\$15.00	
<b>Muzzleloader-Deer</b> (hunting license needed) <sup>3</sup>	\$40.00	



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- <sup>1</sup> – 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.
- <sup>2</sup> – Archery deer tag is only for use in archery deer season.
- <sup>3</sup> – Muzzleloader deer licenses are only valid for use in muzzleloader deer season.

## Resident or Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR
<b>Vermont Waterfowl Stamp</b>	\$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, federal wildlife refuges, and online at [www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php). 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. The federal stamp still requires a signature.

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.

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# General Regulations

**“Take” and “Taking”** mean pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, disturbing, harrasing, 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, Trappers, or their equipment

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.

## Private Roads and Lands

Vermont 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

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

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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## Fines & Penalties

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 may be fined up to \$1,000 for the first conviction. 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](http://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**. In order to be properly posted, the landowner must file with the town clerk and the Fish & Wildlife Department. See 10 V.S.A., Sect. 5201-5206.

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. 14c 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 no more than 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

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 shall not be transported out of state if sold. 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 in Springfield (phone 802-289-0613).

### 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 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, 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 permitted 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.

## Public Use of Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Lands

Vermont Fish & Wildlife owns 99 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), two conservation camps, five fish culture stations, and other conservation lands totaling more than 145,000 acres throughout Vermont. 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](http://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:

- A. Hunting, fishing, trapping, target shooting at *designated shooting ranges*;
- B. Fish and wildlife viewing and photography;
- C. Boating, including launching and landing, for fish-based and wildlife-based activities where not otherwise prohibited by any other relevant regulations or statutes;
- D. Dispersed, wildlife-based pedestrian activities including walking, snowshoeing, swimming, cross-country skiing, and collection of shed antlers;
- E. Non-commercial picking of berries, nuts, fungi and other wild edibles except ginseng;
- F. Guiding for purposes of fishing, hunting and trapping;
- G. 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 on [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)
  - 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, Atherton Meadows (not Allowed south or east of Route 100), Bald Hill, Bill Sladyk, Birdseye, Buck Lake (not allowed June, July, August), Calendar Brook, Clover Hill, East Hill (not allowed on Hunting Rights Only parcels), Hawks Mountain, Les Newell, Middlesex, Middlesex Notch, Pine Mountain, Plymbsbury, Podunk, Pomainville (not allowed west of Route 7), Riley Bostwick, Roaring Brook (allowed only on WMA contiguous with Vernon Town Forest; not allowed on private inholdings and Hunting Rights Only parcels), Roy Mountain, Steam Mill Brook (not allowed on Flagg Pond Parcel), Victory Basin, Washington, West Fairlee, West Mountain, Whipple Hollow, Whipstock Hill, White River (not allowed east of the White River), Wild Branch, Willoughby Falls WMA (allowed only on main parcel in area not mapped as wetland, west of Tarbox Hill Rd and east of Interstate 91), Worcester Woods.

### 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 issued in accordance with Vermont law and the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Use of motorized vehicles except on roads specifically designated for such use (see WMA maps on [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com));
- Snowmobiling except as approved by the department and on designated corridors (see WMA maps);

## GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

### Hunt and Trap in the Green Mountain National Forest—It's All Yours

As hunters and trappers, it is important to know that 400,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) awaits you. Located in central and southern Vermont, the U. S. Forest Service manages this large tract of federal public land for multiple uses including road and trail access, commercial logging, and outdoor recreation such as hunting and trapping. The Forest Service is responsible for wildlife habitat management on national forest land, while fish and wildlife populations, including seasons and harvest limits, are managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. All State fish and game laws and regulations apply on National Forest lands.

Like much of the Vermont, GMNF is dominated by maturing forest best suited for species such as bear and squirrels. To help re-establish young forest, the Forest Service is implementing a variety of forest management and wildlife habitat treatments throughout the GMNF. Timber harvest is the primary and most cost-effective tool to diversify the age structure and species composition of our forest, while also addressing forest health concerns such as disease and insect prevention.

Over the past five years, GMNF has improved annually about 2500 acres of wildlife habitat. The resulting young forest is providing excellent hunting and trapping opportunities forest-wide and benefiting local economies. Deer, ruffed grouse, rabbits, woodcock and wild turkey populations are thriving and we encourage hunters and trappers to come enjoy the GMNF – "IT'S ALL YOURS".

For more information, please visit our website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfi>

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 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;
- 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;
- 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:

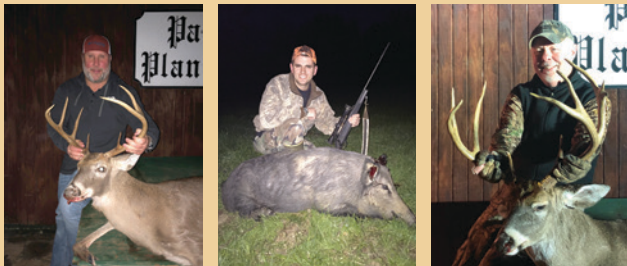
- Have a valid Vermont hunting, fishing or combination license as required for individu-

- als 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.

## PA-KO PLANTATION

MIDWAY, ALABAMA  
Est. 1954



### Hunt prime land in Barbour & Bullock Counties.

- Highest deer density in Alabama. Coyotes and bobcats (no charge, no limit with paid deer hunt)
- 6,000 acre family-owned plantation. NO LEASED LAND.
- 50 Food Plots with elevated shooting houses surrounded by pines and oak bottoms.
- Daytime and nighttime trophy wild hog hunting on 8,000 acres
- New cottages with private bedrooms and baths. First class lodge.
- All meals included.



**To plan your hunt, call J. Paul Taylor  
877-539-5699 • www.pa-ko.com**



## 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. They 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 USDA Wildlife Services  
by calling 1-866-487-3297 or emailing  
fwinformation@vermont.gov**



Manage the Damage  
Stop Feral Swine

REDUCING RISKS

# Take the Lead and Go Non-lead

**V**enison and bear meat are fantastic table fare providing a healthy, natural, locally sourced alternative to meats and other proteins purchased in stores. Knowing where your food came from and that it is free of additives is important to many hunters and their families.

Traditional lead-based bullets which have been in popular use for big game hunting can fragment and leave small unseen particles in your meat, often a distance from the wound channel exposing you to lead. In addition, portions of the carcass (gut piles) left in the field can expose scavenging animals to lead sometimes with deadly results. Lead is a well known toxin to people and animals and even in small amounts can have adverse health effects. This is especially true for many birds.

Non-lead alternative ammunition is available in most popular big game calibers as well as for shotguns and muzzle-loading firearms. The performance is excellent and the cost continues to come down as more people give it a try. Look to pay about the same for it as any premium quality ammunition. Best of all, you will help ensure that the quality, locally sourced and delicious table fare you worked hard for will be just that. And you will be reducing risks to the wildlife around you. It's a win-win.



Photo courtesy of National Parks Service

A recovered .270 caliber copper jacket lead-core bullet (left) is heavily fragmented compared to the solid copper bullet (right) that retained its original shape upon impact.

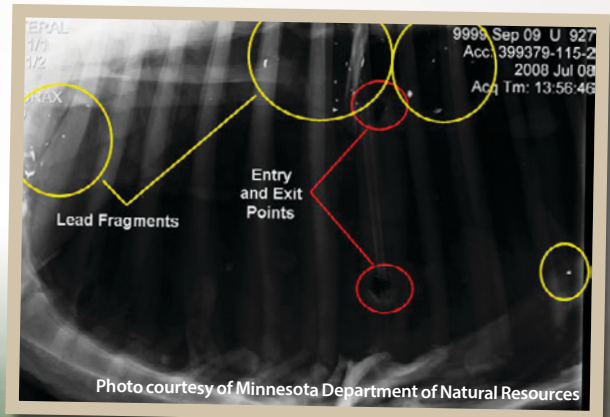


Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Deer chest X-ray illustrating lead fragmentation of a rifle bullet.



Photo by Tom Rogers

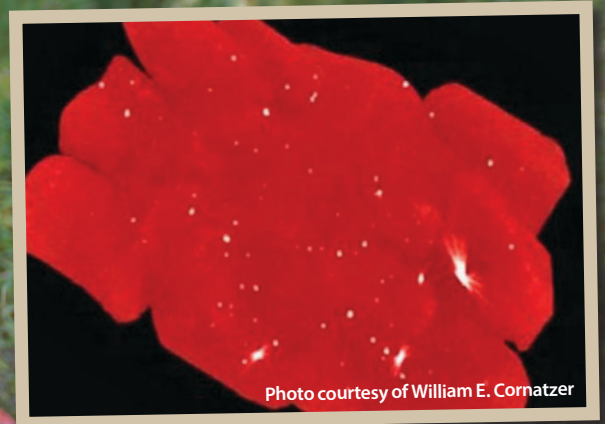


Photo courtesy of William E. Cornatzer

CT-scan showing lead fragments (appearing white) in 20 one-pound packages of ground venison.

## QUALITY HUNTING AND EFFECTIVE DEER MANAGEMENT

# A New Era for Vermont Deer Hunting Begins

**P**eriodic changes to Vermont's hunting regulations are necessary when new issues arise, conditions change, and new opportunities become available. Hunter numbers have been falling and continue to decline across the state, and the average age of hunters is becoming older. Deer numbers and their distribution are changing across Vermont, and winter mortality is becoming less significant as winters become shorter and milder. The desires of hunters and the general public are also evolving. Vermont's previous deer hunting seasons and regulations were the result of many small changes instituted over time which were easy for hunters to adjust to. However, because all deer hunting regulations and seasons are intertwined, everything effects everything else. Large, substantive changes simply cannot be made piece-by-piece.



Rather than continue this piecemeal approach, the department and Fish and Wildlife Board decided that a comprehensive evaluation of deer management approaches and the entire hunting regulation and season structure would be more effective. Basically, if Vermont could start from scratch, what would be the best way to do it?

The Comprehensive Deer Management Evaluation began in 2013, involved significant hunter input, and culminated with a broad suite of changes that take effect this year. The department didn't really start from scratch because traditions are important and previous regulations — for the most part — worked pretty well. The department hopes this updated regulation and season structure will provide a quality hunting experience for as many hunters as possible while also allowing for more effective deer management. (See pages 18–21, for *General Hunting Information* and 25–28 for *Deer Hunting specific regulations*.)

## What's New?

### Buck Age Structure Management

Recent surveys have clearly shown that the majority of Vermont hunters are interested in managing for older, larger bucks. With a strong interest in bucks and relatively high hunting pressure for a northern state with relatively low deer numbers, the pressure on Vermont's buck population is high. For perspective, an estimated 70,000 active deer hunters in Vermont pursue roughly 25,000 bucks, or about 2.8 hunters for every buck. If hunters want to have a reasonable number of older bucks on the landscape, the number of bucks harvested must be limited. The antler restriction enacted in 2005 was an attempt to do just that, and it worked reasonably well in some areas. But in other areas it had little or no effect on the number of older bucks. The department believes that this new approach will be more effective at achieving buck age structure goals and help meet other population management and hunter satisfaction objectives.

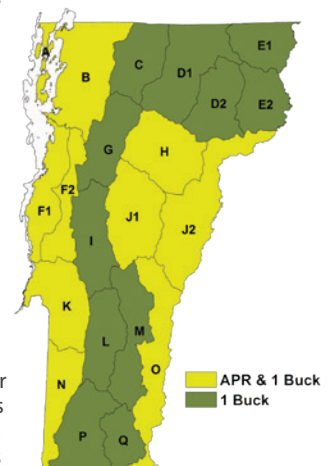
### One Buck Annual Limit

This change will reduce the harvest pressure on the buck population, thereby allowing more to survive to older age classes. Typically, around five percent of the total buck harvest each year is a hunter's second buck. However, this regulation will also result in many hunters passing opportunities to harvest bucks, particularly younger bucks early in the season, because they do not want to be done buck hunting. Therefore, this change is expected to reduce the buck harvest rate by about ten percent in most areas.

Not only does this change help the state manage for older, larger bucks, but it also shifts some of the harvest pressure from bucks to antlerless deer. To manage deer effectively as hunter numbers continue to decline, more focus will need to be placed on hunting antlerless deer.

### Regional Antler Point Restriction

Vermont is a small state, but substantial regional differences exist in deer habitat, deer density, hunting pressure, and winter severity. As a result, the effect of regulations such as an antler restriction differs from one region to another. What works in parts





of Vermont is unnecessarily restrictive in some areas and ineffective in others. Therefore, the antler restriction will remain in effect in some WMUs but be removed in others.

In some areas, the reduced buck harvest rate caused by the one buck limit eliminates the need for an antler restriction. These are areas with large blocks of forest, low deer numbers, and relatively few hunters. Bucks grow older in these areas because they rarely cross paths with a hunter, not because they are protected by antler restrictions. In other areas, where hunting pressure is higher, relatively few bucks currently survive beyond two years old and the antler restriction will remain in effect. The combination of the antler restriction and a one buck limit will allow more bucks to survive to older age classes.

### Extended Archery Season

The archery season will now run from October 1 thru December 15, with the exception of the 16-day rifle season, during which it will be closed. This longer season provides additional hunting opportunity, counteracts impacts to this season from the one buck limit, and helps to manage locally overabundant deer.

With the one buck limit in place, the buck harvest is not expected to increase during this longer season. Importantly, this extension should maintain or slightly increase the archery antlerless harvest. Because archery hunters tend to hunt in areas with higher deer densities, the antlerless harvest during this season comes from the areas where it is most needed. Archers are also more effective at harvesting deer in more developed landscapes where firearm hunting is prohibited by local ordinances, less tolerated by the public, or simply not the experience most hunters are looking for. Thus, maintaining and promoting the harvest of antlerless deer during the archery season is, and will continue to be, a key component of deer management in Vermont. (See page 26, for more information on archery deer season.)

### All Archery Hunters Can Use Crossbows

All big game hunters can now use crossbows any time a vertical bow can be used. This change will potentially help recruit new people into archery hunting and keep existing archery hunters hunting longer.

Success rates tend to be greater with crossbows, so this change will likely cause a small increase in the archery harvest. The exact impact will depend on the number of new archery hunters recruited and how many hunters currently using vertical bows switch to crossbows. Again, an increase in the archery antlerless harvest is generally desirable. (See page 18, for more information on crossbow regulations, and page 26, archery deer season.)

### An Antlerless Season

This new four-day season in late October gives hunters with an antlerless permit some extra time to fill that permit. This season is for antlerless deer only, and hunters must have both an antlerless permit and a muzzleloader license. Antlerless permits can be filled during this season or during the December muzzleloader season.

Antlerless permit fill rates during the December muzzleloader season have been averaging about 15 percent in recent years. This low fill rate means the department needs to recommend high numbers of permits to harvest the desired number of antlerless deer. In some areas, the number



of permits required to achieve harvest objectives often exceeds the number of muzzleloader hunters.

The weather in late October is more favorable to many hunters and holding this season prior to the rifle season means that deer will have been less pressured, won't have adjusted their behavior to avoid hunters, and will be less concentrated in areas hunters don't have access to. These factors will likely result in higher antlerless permit fill rates, meaning the state should be able to achieve antlerless harvest objectives with, in most cases, fewer permits. Additionally, many firearm hunters will be able to harvest an antlerless deer for meat before the buck-only rifle season, which might make it a little easier for them to let that 4-pointer walk on opening weekend.

### A Novice Season

New, first-time hunters age 16 or older are now able to participate in the youth season for one year. Technically, this is a separate season, but it's held at the same time as youth season. Additionally, novice hunters must also follow all the same rules as youth hunters during youth season. Novice hunters must have passed a hunter safety course and must have purchased their first hunting license in the past 12 months and be 16 years or older. This new opportunity will help recruit new hunters from non-hunting families, which is important for slowing the overall decline in hunter numbers. (See page 26, for regulations and more information on novice season.)

### Youth Season is Earlier

Youth season is now two weeks earlier than it used to be. This timing provides more favorable weather conditions, more evening hunting time, and continues to give youth hunters the first opportunity to harvest deer with a gun. (See page 26, for regulations and more information on youth season.)

### Bag Limits

The annual bag limit is now four deer, of which only one can be a buck. Hunters can harvest all four of these deer during the archery season (if they purchase additional archery licenses) or the antlerless or muzzleloader seasons (if unallocated antlerless permits are available). This change will help increase the antlerless deer harvest in areas where it is most needed.

## What's Next?

### Expanded Archery Zones

The department can now identify areas that will benefit from additional archery antlerless harvest and will work with affected communities to create several of these within the next few years. Generally, these expanded archery zones will be developed areas around major cities and towns where deer can't be effectively managed with firearm hunting.

### Evaluation

The department's wildlife biologists will spend several years monitoring how these changes affect the deer harvest, buck age structure, and hunter satisfaction. If the results aren't what was expected, or if the objectives of the 2020–2030 Big Game Management Plan are not being met, the Department and Fish and Wildlife Board will make the necessary changes at that time. In the long run, hunting regulations will continue to evolve to meet new challenges and to provide new hunting opportunities.



## NEW HUNTERS

# New Hunters: Lifelong Pursuit

Vermont makes it easy for new hunters to learn and enjoy hunting by offering special 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-round, 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](http://www.register-ed.com/programs/vermont)

**To find a course or for more information visit us online:**  
<http://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunter-education>

## 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.



Photo by VFWD

Photo by Nicole Meier

## Special Seasons for New Hunters

The department offers three special youth-only hunting seasons—spring turkey, waterfowl and deer. In addition, there is the option of a mentored hunting license (see page 5 for details) as well as a new, special adult novice deer hunting season to ensure new 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 and many adults hunt and hunting regularly during one's youth leads to lifelong hunting participation.

These seasons are helping to produce confident, avid hunters who go on to become successful, enthusiastic supporters of conservation for the future.

## GIVING BACK

### Mentoring New Hunters

A person'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.** New hunters are among the safest hunters when accompanied by an alert mentor.
- **Go often.** Don't just hunt the youth or novice weekends. Lifelong hunting participation is directly related to the amount of time spent hunting, 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.
- **Teach Hunting Ethics.** Respect wildlife, the land, and other people. Remember that you and your mentee represent all hunters.
- **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 new hunters than harvesting game. Don't push too hard but help new hunters learn to appreciate the special opportunity that hunting offers. Above all, new hunters need positive reinforcement and encouragement.

## EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF COYOTES

# Coyotes in Vermont

**T**he coyote in Vermont is perhaps one of our most polarizing species—admired by some for its adaptability and persistence and loathed by others as a secretive predator and opportunistic hunter. This complex animal has an equally intriguing history and complicated role in the state's ecosystem. Both are worth considering as Vermont explores how best to manage and coexist with coyotes.

Just as Europeans are relative newcomers to Vermont, the coyote was not believed to exist in the state historically. As European settlers moved west and eliminated the native wolf, the more adaptable coyote started moving east from the western prairies. As coyotes spread eastward, they bred with wolves in southern Canada, giving them a broader skull and larger, heavier bodies than their western counterparts. First sighted in Vermont in the 1940s, the coyote now lives in every corner of the state in territorial family units whose populations are highly self-regulated. Because of these traits, and unless food and habitat availability change, Vermont's coyote population is unlikely to increase significantly beyond its current level.

While it is true that coyotes kill and consume deer, they are habitat generalists and their diet changes depending on what foods are available. They eat everything from woodchucks to small mammals to fruits, nuts, and insects. Coyotes can also occupy a variety of habitat niches, even those affected by humans. Whether it's in Central Park in New York City, downtown Chicago, suburban South Burlington, or the rural Northeast Kingdom, the coyote has found a way to exist in ecosystems people have altered.

Many hunters are concerned about coyotes affecting deer populations in the Northeast. Several scientific studies have been undertaken in the last 20 to 30 years to examine what factors impact deer survival. Generally, they found that only about half of fawns survived to 6 months, with most dying as a result of predation by a combination of bobcats, black bears, and coyotes. The most recent study done in Delaware—in an area lacking any predators—saw fawns dying due to starvation or, interestingly, rain events, **at the same rates as those in study areas with predators**. While habitat quality and harsh winter conditions are the most important factors influencing deer numbers in Vermont, the department also factors in predation when developing deer management recommendations. We, therefore, do not believe that coyotes are negatively affecting the deer population in this state.

Today, the coyote is a permanent and valuable resident of the state. Although it has not been here as long as some of Vermont's other native predators, such as the bobcat and the red and gray fox, coyotes in particular contribute to filling an important ecological niche left vacant by the wolf. Both predator and prey species are vital components of a healthy ecosystem. Deer and other prey evolved with predators and as such, wildlife biologists neither regard predators as undesirable, nor do they view them as a significant threat to healthy game populations.

The Fish & Wildlife Department works hard to dispel the myths and soften the public's attitude towards predators in general. Coyotes are expected to continue to thrive in Vermont into the future so as we work to conserve all species of wildlife in Vermont, the coyote too, will be included for the valuable role that it serves.



Photo by John Hall

# 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 shootings could have been prevented if the hunters had been 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.

It is illegal to carry, possess or use 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 or Crossbow

**NEW THIS YEAR** A crossbow may be used as a means of take by any person during any hunting season that permits the use of a bow and arrow.

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

All arrows, including crossbow arrows, must have an arrowhead of at least 7/8 of an inch wide and at least two cutting sides.

A crossbow may not be transported cocked in a motor vehicle.

Any person wishing to hunt **turkey, bear or deer** with a bow and arrow or crossbow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada.

At the time of **moose** permit issuance, archery moose season permit recipients and designated sub-permittees must show proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada. Archery moose season permit recipients must also have a Vermont big game hunting license.

## 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.



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## 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**— 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.

### 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 are not permitted on state lands, except on designated trails on which motor vehicles are explicitly authorized.

### 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 a public highway 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 the traveled portion of any public highway (class 1, 2, 3, or 4), nor within 25 feet of a class 1, 2, or 3 public highway as designated on a town highway map. 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.

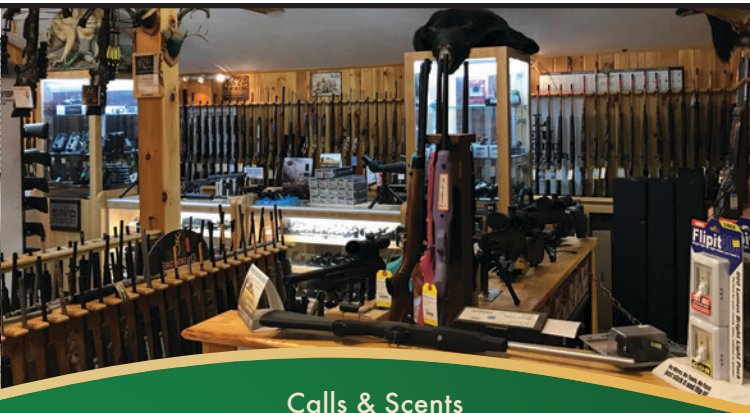
### Aerial Hunting

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.



### Calls & Scents

Hunting & Fishing Licenses • Official VT Weigh Station  
Skeet Accessories • Scopes, Binoculars & Cameras  
Gun Safes, Blinds & Tree Stands • Muzzleloaders,  
Supplies & Accessories • Good Selection of New/Used  
Rifles & Handguns • Ice Fishing Accessories including  
Augers & Shanties • Slings, Swivels, Holsters, Belts &  
Pouches • Knives and Gun Cleaning Products



## 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 their license(s) may be revoked.

### 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; non-resident bear hunters can train dogs in Vermont only if their home state has a concurrent training season. See bear hound information, page 32;
- **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, Moose, 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

It is illegal to damage or remove another person's legally erected 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

*"Conservation is a state of harmony between the people and the land."*

—Aldo Leopold

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[www.vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitatstamp](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitatstamp)

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 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 access-

ing 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.

**Boating**

Boat owners are required to inspect their boats and remove aquatic plants when entering and leaving waters, and to drain ballast tanks and bilge waters when transporting vessels. Law enforcement officers may issue tickets for violations of Vermont's aquatic invasive species laws. See *The Handbook of Vermont Boating Laws and Responsibilities* ([www.boat-ed.com/vermont/handbook/book.html](http://www.boat-ed.com/vermont/handbook/book.html)) for additional laws governing boating in Vermont.



“Celebrate the deer hunting tradition by attending a



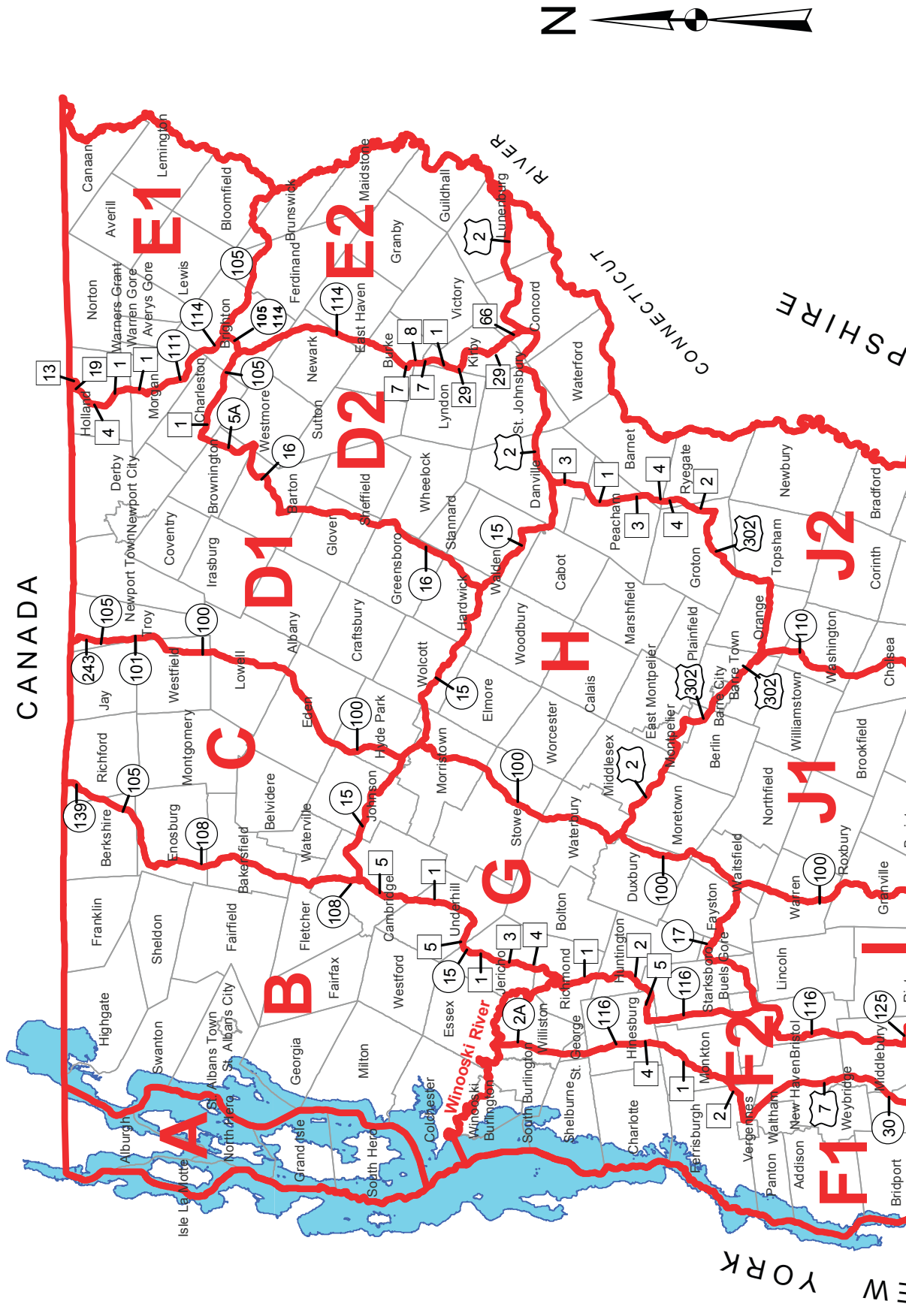
event near you.”

~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner

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

For information, please call WTU’s New England Field Director Bill Bailey at (413) 244-2304. [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)

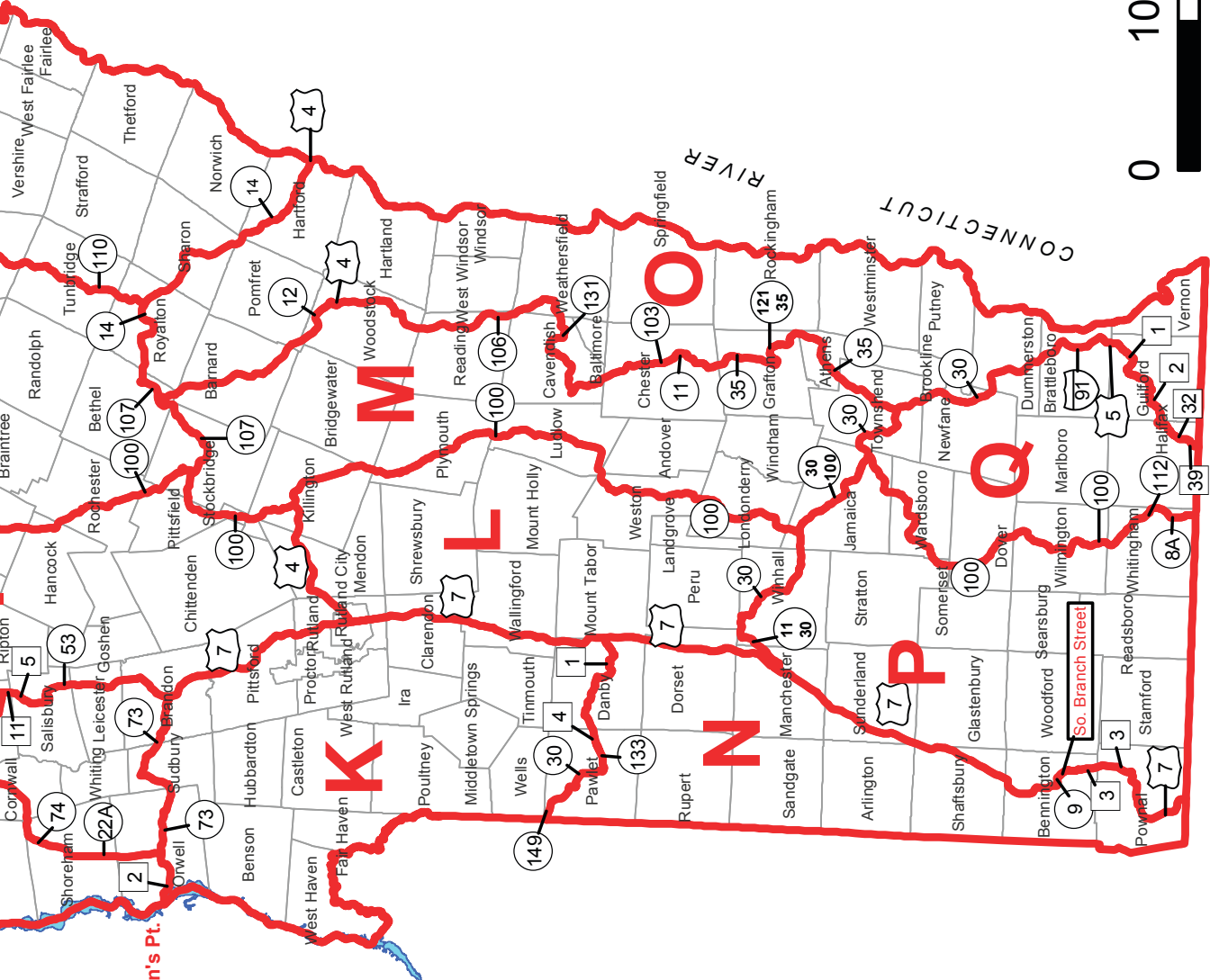
# Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Map











NEW HAMPSHIRE



Chipman's Pt.

## (Bounded by Indicated VT. Highways)

For WMU boundary descriptions visit our website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://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, along with time and date of kill, 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. Deer and bear must be field dressed prior to reporting. No big game carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

A hunter must take a warden to the kill site of a deer or bear if requested by a warden.

## 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.

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## OPTIONAL TAG

### Optional Vermont Big Game Tag

Optional Vermont Big Game Tags are available free from license agents as durable alternatives to the paper tags on licenses. Optional tags may be used to tag deer, bear, turkeys, or moose. 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. Optional Big Game Tags may only be used by a person who has purchased the appropriate license and tag for the species they are hunting.

# Deer Hunting

**Vermont has high-quality deer hunting** due to a rural landscape, lots of public and private land open to hunting, regulations allowing 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 along the Connecticut River. The high elevation mountains that run north to south and the northeastern quarter of the state have fewer deer but more remote country for hunters who like to get into bigger woods.

Vermont has a four-deer annual limit, only one of which may be a legal buck. Archery deer hunting opportunities have expanded with a lengthened archery season and crossbows allowed, plus the potential for multiple archery licenses. Youth and novice hunts occur before the 16-day regular rifle season. Muzzleloader season comes in December. A four-day muzzleloader season only for antlerless deer (with permits) may be held 16 days prior to the regular rifle season. Check for latest regulations at our website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## Deer Limits and Regulation Updates

Antlerless deer hunting regulations are updated annually. Antlerless deer harvest opportunities for each WMU are determined in the late spring or early summer. After public notice and hearings, the Fish and Wildlife Board determines which Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) will be open for antlerless deer hunting during archery season, and the number of antlerless permits available by lottery for use during the antlerless and muzzleloader seasons. Check the Fish & Wildlife website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) for these and other new regulations.

## Annual Deer Limit

**NEW THIS YEAR** A person shall not take more than four deer in a calendar year, only one of which may be a legal buck (see page 26). Youth and novice hunters shall be allowed to take two legal bucks, provided that one is taken during the youth or novice season, not to exceed the annual limit of four deer.

## 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.

**NEW THIS YEAR** A deer must be field dressed prior to reporting. A hunter must take a warden to the kill site of a deer if requested by a warden. 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, 2) reporting their deer at select biological check stations during the youth and rifle season weekend, and 3) collecting a tooth from their deer during rifle season. This will enable biologists to record key information such as age, antler characteristics, and health of the harvested deer.



Photo courtesy of VTBGTC

## 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 sender and receiver, 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

**NEW THIS YEAR** In Wildlife Management Units C, D1, D2 E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck shall be any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length.

In Wildlife Management Units A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck shall be any deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

### 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.

## Archery Deer Season — Oct. 1 – Dec. 15

**NEW THIS YEAR** Archery season has been extended, however, the season is closed during the regular rifle season.

### Licenses

Any person wishing to hunt deer with a bow and arrow or crossbow 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

One legal buck (see definition of Legal Buck on p. 26) may be taken during the archery season anywhere in the state not to exceed the annual limit. Check Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) in August to see which WMUs are open to antlerless deer hunting in archery season.

Deer must be taken by bow and arrow or crossbow. 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 muzzleloader while archery hunting deer in the archery deer season.**

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

### Crossbow

**NEW THIS YEAR** A crossbow may be used by anyone to take game that may be taken by bow and arrow.

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

### Recovery of Archery 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 Weekend — Oct. 24 – 25, 2020

**NEW THIS YEAR** Vermont's youth deer weekend is on the Saturday and Sunday **three weeks** 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.

**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 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 Weekend, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

## Novice Weekend — Oct. 24 – 25, 2020

**NEW THIS YEAR** (concurrent with Youth Deer Weekend)

**Novice: A person who purchased their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.**

To participate in the novice season, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting license and follow the requirements of the youth deer season.

The novice hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. "Accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means **direct control and supervision**, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

**No Novice hunter shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.**

### Limit

One legal buck (see definition of Legal Buck on p. 26) may be taken during this season, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.

## Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Season

**NEW THIS YEAR** If antlerless permits are available, a muzzleloader antlerless deer season will occur for four consecutive days beginning on the Thursday 16 days prior the opening of the regular November rifle season (Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2020) — check our website in June for an announcement. A muzzleloader license and an antlerless permit are required for this season. If this 4-day season is held, the antlerless permit may be used during this season or during the regular muzzleloader deer season.

## November Rifle Deer Season — Nov. 14 – 29, 2020

### Limit

**NEW THIS YEAR** One legal buck (see definition of Legal Buck on p. 26) may be taken anywhere in the state. A person shall not take more than four white-tailed deer in a year in all deer hunting seasons, only one of which may be a legal buck.

## Muzzleloader Deer Season — Dec. 5 – 13, 2020

### Licenses

Muzzleloader license and hunting license required.

### Limit

One legal buck (see definition of Legal Buck on p. 26) 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.

### Definition of Muzzleloading Firearm

A single-shot, single-barrel rifle or smoothbore 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.



**VERMONT FIELD SPORTS**  
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# 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. In some parts of Wisconsin more than 50 percent of adult bucks now have the disease.

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.

There is no reliable live-test for CWD, and infected animals can appear healthy for years. This disease continues to spread over long distances by the movement of captive deer and elk involved in the captive deer and elk industry. Captive white-tailed deer and moose are prohibited in Vermont and the Agency of Agriculture closely regulates other captive deer and elk facilities.

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.

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, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

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

## IMPORTATION

Restrictions apply for the importation of deer or elk carcasses or parts from states or provinces that have, or have had, CWD. To date, the disease has been documented in 25 states and 3 Canadian provinces including New York State, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts have not documented CWD. **Quebec has recently confirmed CWD in a captive red deer facility and is now on the list of states and provinces from which it is illegal to import deer carcasses or parts.** It is illegal to import deer or moose carcasses or parts from New York, Quebec, and all other states and provinces on the list. See Importing under the Big Game section for details.

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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/or 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 6,543 moose have been harvested, yielding an estimated 920 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 and the introduction of bulls-only hunting throughout the state in order to grow regional populations. In addition, there may be some years when no permits will be issued.

Moose lottery winners must wait 5 years before applying again for the moose lottery.



## 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
- 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



Be in the know about all Vermont Fish & Wildlife News by joining our E-mail mailing list.

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# 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, and threatening human safety. Sadly, sometimes the department must euthanize bears that have become a threat to human safety. 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.**

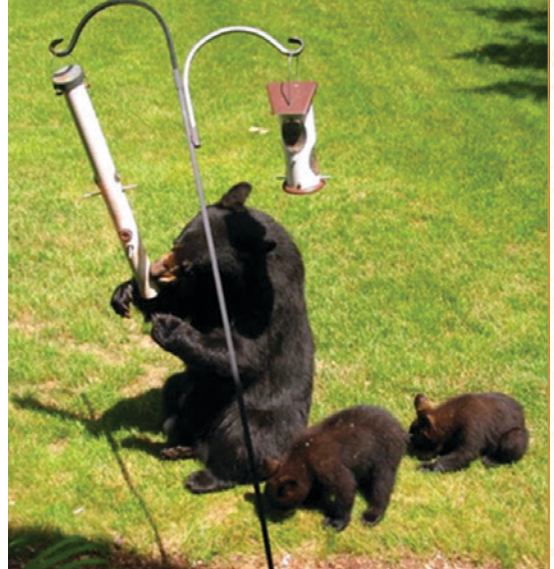
Vermont law also states that residents must take reasonable measures to protect their property from bears before lethal force can be taken.

Some 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.

## Some measures you can take to avoid creating nuisance bears:

- Birdfeeders are the most common bear attractant. Feed birds only during the winter months, from Dec 1 to March 31.
- Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence or other bear-proof enclosure.
- 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.**



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

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

## Vermont’s Bear Population

Vermont’s bear population, less than 3,000 thirty years ago, has increased and is now within the 2010-2020 Big Game Management Plan population objective of 4,500-6,000 bears—a successful, planned result of hunting season changes.

Incidents of bear damage and bear-human interactions have also increased, especially in areas where bears have recently expanded their range. 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 abundant bear population. Bears can be found all over 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. 13, 2020

### Late Season: Nov. 14 – 22, 2020

- An early season tag is required from September 1 through the day before the first day of the November rifle deer season.
- 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 any animal, vegetable, fruit, mineral matter, 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*.)

## Archery Hunting

In addition to a hunting license, a bear hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a previous or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

## 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 Vicki Combs

## 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** A person who takes a bear shall collect a premolar tooth from the bear and submit it to a game warden, official Fish & Wildlife Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive it **within 30 days** of taking the bear.

No bear carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

A hunter must take a warden to the kill site of a bear if requested to do so by a warden.

**Bears must be field dressed prior to reporting.**

## Transporting

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



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- **Donates:** To VT Fish & Wildlife a live bear trap for research & relocating bears
- **Advocates:** Removing bird feeders from April 1 thru November 30

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A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION

[www.vermontbearhoundassociation.com](http://www.vermontbearhoundassociation.com)  
*Take a youth hunting, they are our future!*

## Use of Dogs to Hunt Bear

### Permit Required

Any person hunting, pursuing, harvesting, or in any manner involved in the taking of a black bear with the use of dogs must hold a valid Vermont Big Game Hunting License, use only department-registered dogs and have purchased a valid bear tag. In addition, the person hunting, pursuing, harvesting, or in any manner involved in the taking of a black bear with the use of dogs must hold a valid bear dog permit or accompany a bear dog permit holder. The license and permit are also required for training dogs to pursue bear.

Regulations on use of dogs in bear hunting and resident and nonresident bear dog permit applications are available from Vermont Fish & Wildlife or at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Nonresident bear hound hunters may not hunt in Vermont until September 15.

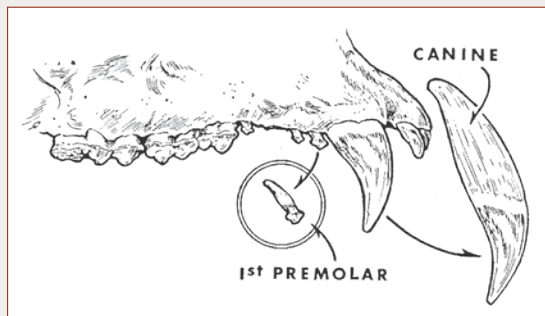
## HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?

### Black Bear Tooth Collection is Required

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. A premolar tooth is required by law to be submitted by the hunter from every bear harvested in Vermont.

Removing the bear's premolar 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 so you can remove the tooth and seal it in the envelope and deposit it in the green tooth bucket at any check station. Remember to clearly print your name and Conservation ID Number on the envelope. If you don't put it in the check station bucket, you must give it to a warden within 30 days. Every tooth we receive from hunters helps the bear project.

The age of your bear will be available on the department's website in the spring after it is returned from the lab. Thank you.



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# Turkey Hunting

**By the mid-1800s turkeys had disappeared from the state** as a result of unregulated hunting and deforestation. In 1969, Vermont wildlife biologists began the decades long effort to restore wild turkeys to the state with the release of 31 New York wild turkeys into Rutland county. Vermont's turkey population is now estimated to be greater than 45,000 birds and their distribution in the state far exceeds their historical range with turkeys occurring in nearly every town.

Vermont has become a turkey hunting destination. With its unique patchwork of fields, forests and farmland, Vermont's diverse landscape not only supports a healthy, abundant population of turkeys but it offers a variety of productive hunting opportunities as well. In fact, Vermont's spring turkey hunters routinely achieve success rates greater than 25% and more than 35% of successful spring hunters take a second turkey to fill their two bird bag limit. In recent years, more than 6,000 turkeys have been harvested annually across the state providing hunters with an enduring connection to their environment and over 140,000 servings of local, organic and sustainably harvested turkey meat.

## License Requirements

A current hunting or combination license and current turkey license with tag are required to hunt turkey. In addition to a hunting license and a turkey license, a turkey hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a previous or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

## Legal Methods of Taking

Only a shotgun, bow and arrow or crossbow may be used to take turkeys. 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 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 gobble 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.

## Reporting Turkey

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

## Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend— April 25 – 26, 2020

Vermont's **Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend** 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

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, 2020

### 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

- **Archery only:** Oct. 3–23, 2020 in all WMUs statewide
- **Shotgun or Archery:** Oct. 24 – Nov.1, 2020 in WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q
- **Shotgun or Archery:** Oct. 24 – Nov 8, 2020 in WMUs F, 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
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b> (Partridge)	September 26 – December 31	4 daily; 8 possession
<b>Pheasant</b> *	September 26 – December 31	2 daily; 4 possession
<b>Bobwhite Quail</b> *	No Closed Season	No limit
<b>Chukar Partridge</b> *	No Closed Season	No limit
<b>Crow</b>	Friday – Monday only, inclusive, January 17 – April 11 and August 21 – December 19, 2020	No limit

\* Practically nonexistent except by private stocking. A permit is required from the Fish & Wildlife Department to raise and stock pheasants in Vermont.

## 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 Birds* in Vermont 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, federal wildlife refuges, and online at [www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php). 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, federal wildlife refuges, and online at [www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php)
3. A Vermont state duck stamp, available wherever Vermont hunting licenses are sold
4. A H.I.P. number, available at <http://vtfishandwildlife.com/waterfowl/HIP> 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

## 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 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.

September for hunters 17 and under. Check the migratory bird hunting rules syllabus for details.

## 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 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. Shot should be of a size no larger than size T.

## 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 migratory birds are pushed out of Canada by cold weather. The best hunting is generally in the Champlain Valley and Northeast Kingdom.

### Season

Set annually, see 2020 Waterfowl Syllabus.

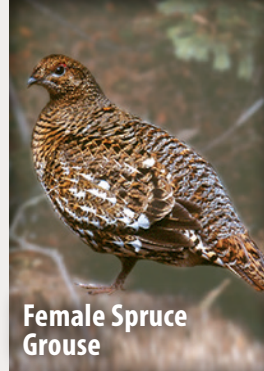
Woodcock and common snipe are migratory game birds. Migratory game birds, including waterfowl, may be taken only by shotgun with a one-piece plug or manufactured to restrict it to three-shot capacity. State and federal duck stamps are not required for woodcock or snipe hunting. A H.I.P. number is required 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 may be 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 <http://vtfishandwildlife.com/waterfowl/HIP> 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. 28, 2019 – March 8, 2020 & Sept. 26, 2020 – March 14, 2021 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.

### VERMONT TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

- Protects and supports your right to trap and hunt in VT and nationwide.
- Sponsors children to attend conservation camps annually.
- Awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the field of natural resource management.
- Donates a lifetime hunting & fishing license to a child under 15 years of age each year.
- Provides instruction for trapping education courses which are required to obtain a trapping license.



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# Furbearer Hunting & Trapping

## Furbearer Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 26, 2019 – Feb. 9, 2020 & Oct. 24, 2020 – Feb. 14, 2021
Raccoon	Oct. 10 – 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. 24 – Dec. 31
Otter, Muskrat, Beaver	Oct. 26, 2019 – Mar. 31, 2020 & Oct. 24, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2021
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Lion	No Open Season

## 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.

## Fur Buyer's License

Anyone dealing in pelts must have a valid fur buyer's license. The fur buyer's license is available from Fish & Wildlife in Springfield (phone 802-289-0613).

## 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.

**It is mandatory for trappers to fill out and return an Annual Trapper's Report for each year they possess a trapping license.**

## 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.
- Landowner permission is required to trap on all private property not owned by the trapper.
- Trappers are required to check their traps at least once a day and dispatch or release any captured animal. The only exceptions are body gripping traps set in the water or set under the ice, colony/cage traps set underwater, or foothold traps under the ice, which trappers are

required to check every three calendar days and remove any animal caught.

- Every trap a trapper sets on lands they do not own is required to have their name and address permanently and legibly attached to the trap or engraved on the trap.
- All traps under ice will be marked with a tag visible above the ice.
- Body gripping traps with a jaw spread over eight inches must be set five feet or higher above the ground, or in the water (see diagram, page 39).
- 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 that was taken illegally.
- 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.

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Your anonymous participation advances fish and wildlife conservation, helps protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot, and guides companies in developing better outdoor products.

- A person who incidentally traps a dog or cat shall notify a Vermont State Game Warden or the department within 24 hours of discovering the animal.

## Trapping License Required of Nuisance Trapper

A person who for compensation sets a trap for rabbits or furbearing animals on the property of another person in defense of that property shall possess a valid trapping license.

## Coyote Hunting Competitions Prohibited

It is illegal to participate in a coyote hunting competition for a prize. Fine for first offense is \$400 to \$1,000 and ten points on a hunter's license and second offense is \$2,000 to \$4,000 and twenty points on a hunter's license.

## Beaver, Muskrat

- A person shall not disturb or destroy a beaver or muskrat den or place a trap on or in the den, or in the entrance to the den.
- 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.
- An offset trigger is no longer required on beaver traps during the month of March. Otter trapping season now includes the entire month of March.

## 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 (see diagram).

- 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.

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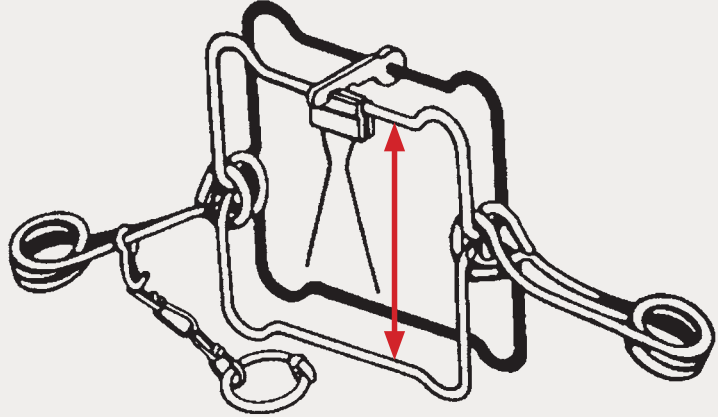
## Raccoons

- A person shooting raccoons during the raccoon hunting season shall use a .22 caliber rimfire firearm or a shotgun with #2 shot or smaller.
- 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 training season.

### BODY-GRIPPING TRAP

#### 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:



# FETCH

## Your Tickets

Don't let the next DU event pass you by. When you attend your local event, you can have a great time while helping us fill the skies with waterfowl. To find an event near you, visit [ducks.org/events](https://ducks.org/events).







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For more details email [fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov) or call 802-828-1000.



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## FIREWOOD ALERT!

Pests like the invasive emerald ash borer can hitchhike in your firewood. Help slow the spread of pests- buy local firewood, buy heat treated firewood, or gather firewood on site when allowable.

# BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

Help us slow the spread of forest pests by going to [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org) for:

- ▶ Recommendations on when and how to move firewood.
- ▶ Recommendations for homeowners, campers, forest landowners and loggers.
- ▶ Updated map with locations of confirmed emerald ash borer infestations.



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# VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE BENEFITS ALL VERMONTERS



When you purchase a hunting or fishing license, pay an excise tax on hunting, fishing or boating equipment, buy a Habitat Stamp or Conservation Plate, or give to the Nongame Fund, you're helping the department fulfill our mission of conserving all species of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

## WHAT WE DO

### Conservation

Restoring native species such as beaver, moose, wild turkey, and peregrine falcon, and conserving endangered species including lake sturgeon, bald eagles, turtles, and bats.



Working with private landowners and towns 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.

Sustaining wildlife for the next generation and ensuring that our grandchildren will still be able to see brook trout, butterflies, birds, and bears.

### Safety

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.

Assisting in searches for people who are lost or injured in remote areas by our highly skilled and experienced wardens.

### Education

Educating almost 900 campers a year on ecology and natural history at our Green Mountain Conservation Camps at Kehoe and Buck Lake.



Certifying nearly 4,000 Vermonters a year through hunter safety courses, and teaching 7,000 students to fish through the Let's Go Fishing Program.

Keeping the public informed about wildlife through news articles, public meetings, Facebook, wildlife festivals, and other events.

### Public Access

Managing 145,000 acres of important wildlife habitat and natural communities on 99 Wildlife Management Areas for all to enjoy.



Partnering with land trusts to put conservation easements on private property that improve habitat and provide public access.

Maintaining 196 fishing access sites, parking areas and wildlife viewing platforms.



# Drive Yourself WILD.



Help Protect Vermont's Wildlife 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 endangered wildlife at [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).



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## 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](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

**General Information** ..... (802) 828-1000  
**Email** ..... [fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)

**Hunter Education** ..... (802) 828-1193

**Law Enforcement**..... (802) 828-1483

**License Center**.....(802) 828-1190  
Dewey Building  
National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05620

**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

374 Emerson Falls Rd, Suite 4  
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) 289-0603  
(802) 885-8890 (fax)

#### 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

Col. Jason Batchelder ..... 828-1483  
Maj. George Scribner ..... 828-1483  
Lt. Carl Wedin (NW district) ..... 879-5669  
Lt. Sean Fowler (NE district) ..... 751-0103  
Lt. Justin Stedman (CE district) ..... 786-3865  
Lt. Dennis Amsden (SO district) ..... 289-0630

### Northwestern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Sgt. Barrett, Chad	229-9191	224-6324	Waterbury
Brown, Paul	229-9191	485-4432	Northfield
Coffey, Ethan	878-7111	888-2964	Morrisville
Currier, Robert	878-7111	498-7712	Essex Jct.
Hungerford, Josh	524-5993	933-9313	Sheldon
Joyal, Dana	878-7111	498-5469	Charlotte
Schmid, Jeremy	878-7111	644-6352	Cambridge
Snyder, Dustin	524-5993	279-9275	Fairfax
Thiel, Matthew	524-5993	868-6325	Swanton

### Northeastern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Sgt. Szymanowski, Trevor	748-3111	695-1314	N. Concord
Spl. Shopland, Russell	748-3111	472-3040	E. Hardwick
Dukette, Jason	334-8881	793-2697	Brownington
Hazard, Randy	334-8881	962-3492	Bloomfield
Jackman, Cody	748-3111	279-3560	E. Haven
Reed, Jenna	334-8881	334-1215	Newport Ctr
Schichtle, Mark	222-4680	757-2121	Wells River
Scott, T. Mike	229-9191	685-2151	Washington
Seegers, Will	748-3111	498-5351	W. Danville

### Central District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Sgt. Gallant, Keith	234-9933	728-9215	E. Braintree
Spl. Whitlock, Dale	388-4919	777-6269	E. Middlebury
Spl. Sterling, Robert	773-9101	265-4602	Fair Haven
Butler, Wesley	773-9101	382-9097	Middlebury
Gravelle, Jason	234-9933	484-7435	Hartland
Serra, Abigail	773-9101	747-3303	Rutland
Whipple, Jeffrey	234-9933	685-7813	Vershire

### Southern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Sgt. Buttle, Travis	442-5421	442-4383	Shaftsbury
Carey, Timothy	773-9101	492-8292	Shrewsbury
Circe, Dustin	773-9101	793-6629	Wells
Isherwood, Kyle	279-8935	875-3707	Peru
Price, Kelly	257-7101	251-2171	Brattleboro
Sargent, Asa	722-4600	698-8371	Hartland
Taddei, David	722-4600	221-4066	Townshend
Turner, Justin	442-5421	595-8754	Arlington
Watkin, Richard	722-4600	368-7302	Wilmington

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Northeast Regional Office**  
(413) 253-8516

**Law Enforcement**  
(413) 253-8274

**Lake Champlain Office**  
(802) 662-5300

**White River Hatchery**  
(802) 234-5937

**Agency of Natural Resources**

**Forests, Parks, & Recreation**..... (802) 828-1534

**Park Reservations**.....(888) 409-7579

**Department of Environmental Conservation**.....(802) 828-1556

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**USDA Wildlife Services**.....802-223-8690

**Eisenhower Fish Hatchery**  
(802) 483-6618

**Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge**  
(802) 868-4781

**Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge**  
(802) 962-5240 x112

**Green Mountain National Forest**

**Green Mountain National Forest Headquarters**

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

**Windsor County**

**Tim Biebel, Chair**  
Windsor, VT 05089  
fwboard.windsor@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

**Orange County**

**Michael Bancroft**  
West Topsham, VT 05086  
fwboard.orange@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2019 – February 28, 2025

**Washington County**

**Brian Bailey**  
Barre, VT 05641  
fwboard.washington@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2019 – February 28, 2025

**Franklin County**

**Jay Sweeny**  
St. Albans, VT 05478  
fwboard.franklin@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2019 – February 28, 2025

**Bennington County**

**David Fielding Jr.**  
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255  
fwboard.bennington@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

**Rutland County**

**To Be Announced**  
fwboard.rutland@gmail.com

**Essex County**

**Michael W. Kolsun**  
Brighton, VT 05846  
fwboard.essex@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2018 – February 29, 2024

**Chittenden County**

**Cheryl Frank Sullivan**  
Underhill, VT 05489  
vtfwbchittenden@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2014 – February 29, 2020

**Windham County**

**Dennis Mewes**  
Dummerston, VT 05301  
fwboard.windham@gmail.com  
Term:  
April 1, 2015 – February 28, 2021

**Orleans County**

**David Robillard**  
North Troy, VT 05859  
fwboard.orleans@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2023

**Caledonia County**

**Johanna Laggis**  
East Hardwick, VT 05836  
fwboard.caledonia@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2014 – February 29, 2020

**Addison County**

**Wendy Butler**  
New Haven, Vermont, 05472  
fwboard.addison@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2022

**Grand Isle County**

**Bryan H. McCarthy**  
North Hero, Vermont, 05474  
fwboard.grandisle@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2018 – February 29, 2024

**Lamoille County**

**William Pickens**  
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fwboard.lamoille@gmail.com  
Term:  
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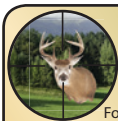
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## Where Can I Hunt in Vermont?

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, youth deer hunting and novice 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](http://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](http://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.

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FROM FIELD  
TO TABLE  
AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.

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THIS INNOVATIVE PLATFORM FEATURES A VARIETY OF RELIABLE ADD-ON BLADES DESIGNED TO MAKE CLEAN WORK OF THE DIRTY WORK ALL THE WAY FROM FIELD TO TABLE.

TALON

BY HAVALON KNIVES

# 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	7:08	5:00	6:27	5:39	6:31	7:18	5:41	7:54	5:09	8:27	5:10	8:38	5:38	8:14	6:13	7:26	6:48	6:31	7:28	5:40	7:06	4:13
2	7:26	4:23	7:07	5:02	6:25	5:40	6:29	7:19	5:40	7:56	5:09	8:28	5:11	8:38	5:39	8:13	6:15	7:24	6:50	6:29	7:29	5:38	7:07	4:12
3	7:26	4:24	7:06	5:03	6:24	5:41	6:27	7:20	5:38	7:57	5:08	8:29	5:12	8:37	5:40	8:12	6:16	7:22	6:51	6:27	7:30	5:37	7:08	4:12
4	7:26	4:25	7:04	5:05	6:22	5:43	6:26	7:21	5:37	7:58	5:08	8:30	5:12	8:37	5:41	8:11	6:17	7:21	6:52	6:25	6:32	4:36	7:09	4:12
5	7:26	4:26	7:03	5:06	6:20	5:44	6:24	7:23	5:35	7:59	5:08	8:30	5:13	8:37	5:43	8:09	6:18	7:19	6:53	6:23	6:33	4:34	7:10	4:12
6	7:26	4:27	7:02	5:07	6:18	5:45	6:22	7:24	5:34	8:00	5:07	8:31	5:14	8:36	5:44	8:08	6:19	7:17	6:54	6:21	6:34	4:33	7:11	4:11
7	7:25	4:28	7:01	5:09	6:17	5:47	6:20	7:25	5:33	8:02	5:07	8:32	5:14	8:36	5:45	8:07	6:20	7:15	6:56	6:20	6:36	4:32	7:12	4:11
8	7:25	4:29	6:59	5:10	6:15	5:48	6:18	7:26	5:32	8:03	5:07	8:32	5:15	8:35	5:46	8:05	6:22	7:13	6:57	6:18	6:37	4:31	7:13	4:11
9	7:25	4:31	6:58	5:12	6:13	5:49	6:17	7:28	5:30	8:04	5:06	8:33	5:16	8:35	5:47	8:04	6:23	7:11	6:58	6:16	6:38	4:29	7:14	4:11
10	7:25	4:32	6:57	5:13	6:11	5:50	6:15	7:29	5:29	8:05	5:06	8:34	5:17	8:34	5:48	8:02	6:24	7:10	6:59	6:14	6:40	4:28	7:15	4:11
11	7:24	4:33	6:55	5:14	7:09	6:52	6:13	7:30	5:28	8:06	5:06	8:34	5:17	8:34	5:49	8:01	6:25	7:08	7:00	6:13	6:41	4:27	7:16	4:11
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31	7:09	4:59			6:33	7:17			5:10	8:27			5:37	8:16	6:12	7:28			7:26	5:41			7:26	4:21

**Eastern Standard Time—Montpelier, VT**  
 March 8 – Eastern Standard Time changes to Daylight Savings Time  
 November 1 – 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](http://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.

This program receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in education programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, please contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for public access.



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