



VERMONT

HUNTING & Trapping Guide

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

2021



The Modern
Vermont Hunter

pg.14



GEICO[®]
MOTORCYCLE

Get a GEICO quote for your bike and, in just 15 minutes, you'll know how much you could be saving. If you like what you hear, you can buy your policy right on the spot. Then let us do the rest while you enjoy your free time with peace of mind.

[geico.com/cycle](https://www.geico.com/cycle) | 1-800-442-9253

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2020 GEICO



A Special Message from the Commissioner

Last year was one of profound change.

The pandemic changed much about how we hunt and fish. But while change is difficult, it brought with it new opportunities for growth and learning, and it prompted significant increases in the number of Vermonters participating in those great outdoor pursuits.

It also brought a painful loss for those of us in Vermont's interconnected community of hunters, anglers, and lovers of wildlife and wild land. Steve Wright, one of our state's conservation legends, died in January.

Steve and I were not terribly close, but we were friends. And we had ties that connected us beyond our jobs as Commissioner of this wonderful department. Both of us had connections to Sterling College – he as a long-time teacher and president, I for a far shorter time as a student. Steve was from Georgia, my father moved from Alabama for similar reasons.

But what always impressed me about Steve was not his high-profile jobs, or even his immense skill as an angler and hunter. It was the fact that his dedication to protecting the land and the living things on it did not diminish one bit either with his retirement, or with health and other struggles. I truly benefitted from his polite, but very firm, commitment to his principles. Vermont did as well.

So here's looking forward to a less tumultuous year, and one in which we both advocate for the landscape we believe in, and take the opportunity to enjoy it. It is what Steve would have done.

Louis Porter, Commissioner

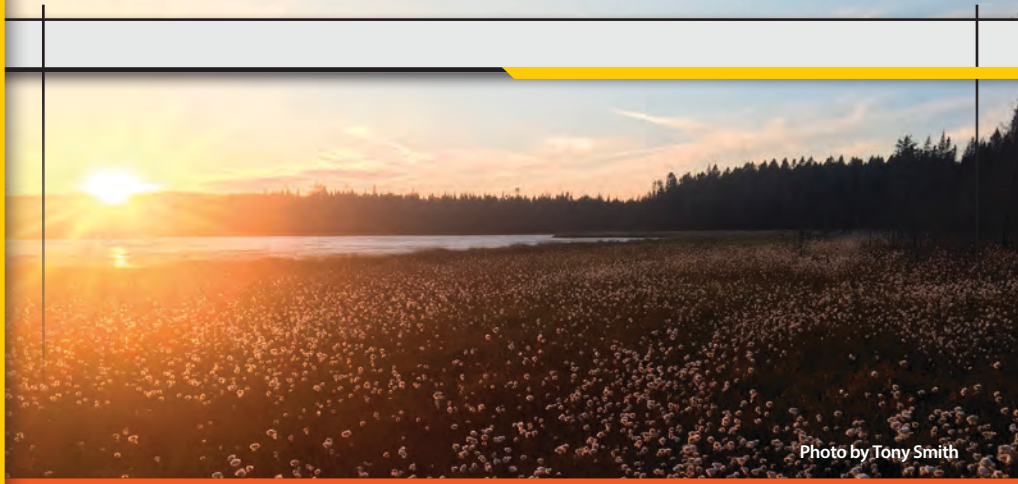


Photo by Tony Smith

Features

13....Reducing Risks-Go Non-Lead

14....Today's Hunter

15....Today's Hunter and the Coyote

16....Gaining Hunting Access

17....Wildlife Research

CONTENTS

What's NEW in 2021

24..... Big Game reporting requirements may be modified

32..... Liberated shot sizes for turkey hunting

33..... Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend

General Information

4..... License Information

9..... General Regulations

44..... Fish & Wildlife Department Contact Information

45..... Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board

48..... Sunrise-Sunset Tables

Hunting & Trapping Information

18..... General Hunting Information

24..... Big Game

25..... Deer Hunting

28..... Chronic Wasting Disease

29..... Moose Hunting

30..... Bear Hunting

32..... Turkey Hunting

34..... Game Bird Hunting

36..... Small Game Hunting

37..... Trapping Information

Cover Photo:

Today's hunters, whether an eager novice or a seasoned mentor, share a common bond—their enduring support for the conservation of the land and habitat.

Photo by Chris Ingram, VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Fish & Wildlife Laws

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

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

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



***Indoor Archery Range!
Weigh Station***

**Sporting Goods • Archery
Guns • Ammo • Outdoors
Work & Technical Apparel
Camping • Live Bait • Fishing
Kayaking & other
outdoor ventures!**



RACK 'N REEL

5343 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven, VT • 802-453-2000

2021 Quick Reference Guide

All dates inclusive.

Big Game Hunting

SPECIES	SEASON	NOTES	DATES	
Deer	Archery	Closed during regular Nov. season	Oct. 1 – Nov. 12 & Nov. 29 – Dec. 15	
	Youth & Novice Deer Weekend		Oct. 23 – 24	
	Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Season	By permit only, if available. Check website.	Oct. 28 – 31	
	16 Day Regular Season		Nov. 13 – 28	
	Muzzleloader		Dec. 4 – 12	
Black Bear			Early Season: Sept. 1 – Nov. 12 Late Season: Nov. 13 – 21	
Turkey	Youth & Novice Turkey Weekend		April 24 – 25	
	Spring Season		May 1 – 31	
	Fall Seasons	Archery only	In all WMUs statewide	Oct. 2 – 22
		Shotgun or Archery	WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q WMUs F, K, and N	Oct. 23 – 31 Oct. 23 – Nov. 7
Moose			Check website	

Furbearer Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 24, 2020 – Feb. 14, 2021 & Oct. 23, 2021 – Feb. 13, 2022
Raccoon	Oct. 9 – 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. 26, 2020 – Mar. 14, 2021 & Sept. 25, 2021 – Mar. 13, 2022 WMUs D&E remain open through March 31
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	Sept. 25 – Dec. 31
Woodcock, Waterfowl	To Be Announced
Crow	Jan. 15 – April 11 & Aug. 20 – Dec. 19 Friday – Monday only, closed Tues – Thurs

Furbearer Trapping

SPECIES	DATES
Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel	Oct. 23 – Dec. 31
Otter, Muskrat, Beaver	Oct. 24, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2021 & Oct. 23, 2021 – Mar. 31, 2022
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion	No open season



BUY YOUR LICENSE ONLINE

It's fast and easy, anytime, anywhere!

www.vtfishandwildlife.com



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/vtfishandwildlife

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

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 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 and novice turkey and deer 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.



SPECIALIZING IN:

» Driveways » Clearing/Grading /Restoration	» Septic/Sewer » Underground Utility
--	---





Serving Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts

802.681.6610

AbilityExcavationVT@gmail.com

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. 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. 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 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

 VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2021 License Fees

Licenses and permit applications and their fees are available online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Resident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
Hunting	\$28.00	\$134.00
Youth Hunting (age 17 or under)	\$8.00	
Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$47.00	\$229.00
Youth Combination (age 17 or under)	\$12.00	
Mentored Hunting	\$10.00	
Trapping	\$23.00	\$109.00
Youth Trapping (age 17 or under)	\$10.00	
Archery-Deer (hunting license needed) ²	\$23.00	
Turkey (hunting license needed)	\$23.00	
Bear (Sept. 1 – Nov. 12 early season – hunting license needed)	\$5.00	
Muzzleloader-Deer (hunting license needed) ³	\$23.00	
Permanent license (Residents only, 66 or older)	\$60.00	

Nonresident

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

WILDLIFE DESIGN
TAXIDERMY STUDIO

GEORGE REED
747 N. BIRCH HILL
BRANDON, VT
802-855-1134

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

Resident or Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR
Vermont Waterfowl Stamp	\$7.50

Vermont and federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt migratory waterfowl for hunters 16 and older. Federal stamps are sold at post offices, federal wildlife refuges, and online at 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.

WILDLIFEDESIGN1.COM

General Regulations

“Take” and “Taking” mean pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, disturbing, harrising, 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.

COMING SPRING 2021
NEW BUILDING AND RANGE!



Parro's is more than a gun shop!

Come see our Huge Inventory
and 4,000 Square Ft. Showroom!



@parrosgunshop

www.parros.com

Parro's Gun Shop and Police Supplies, Inc. 95 U.S. Route 2, Waterbury, VT 05676
Phone: (802) 244-8401 • Fax: (802) 244-5256

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). 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 100 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), two conservation camps, five fish culture stations, and other conservation lands totaling more than 130,000 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 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
 - 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);
- 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>

- 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 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 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 Hammond 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.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Conservation Group

A group of dedicated volunteers that promote a positive land ethic, natural resource conservation and the sporting lifestyle.

Join Us!

www.vtfwcg.org

Call 802-723-6678 for information or email:

vermontfwconservationgroup@gmail.com



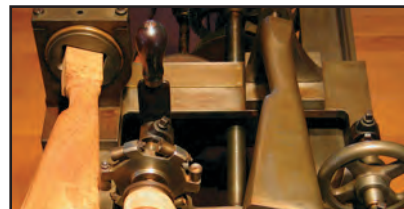
IGNITING INGENUITY
INNOVATION THAT
CHANGED THE WORLD

At the old Robbins & Lawrence armory, gunmakers launched a new industry of machine tools.

See how manufacturing has since evolved.



Robbins & Lawrence Rifiling Machine (1853)



Ames Blanchard Lathe (1857)



Pitkin "Le Boulenger" Ballistic Chronograph (1915)

196 Main St.
Windsor, Vermont

www.americanprecision.org
802-674-5781

REDUCING RISKS

Take the Lead and Go Non-lead

Venison 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.

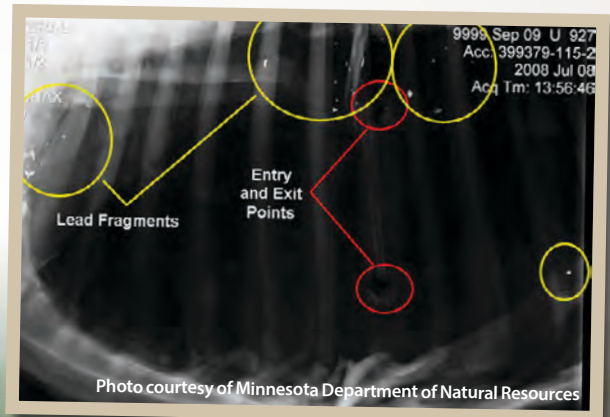


Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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



Photo by Tom Rogers

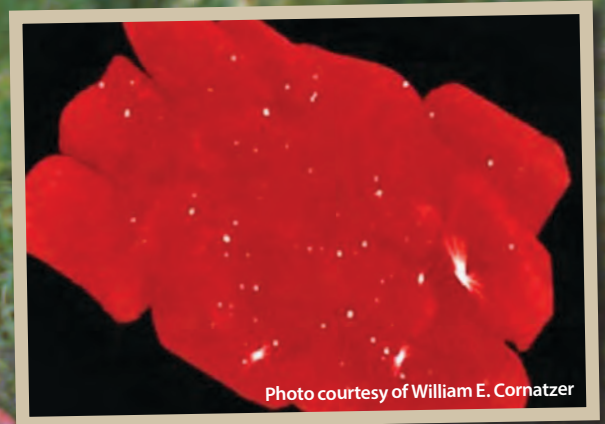


Photo courtesy of William E. Cornatzer

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

THE MODERN VERMONT HUNTER

Today's Hunter

By Adam Miller,
Department Wildlife Species Program Manager

Who is the modern hunter? We all have an image in our mind. Personally, my initial image is someone donning cutting edge camo patterns and the newest gear while traversing treacherous terrain silhouetted against a mountain background of fall foliage surveying the landscape. Weathered and fit, they're ready for any challenge the elements can throw at them. On their back they carry the bounty of a successful harvest, packing it to where their hunting journey began miles ago. I revel in the image of what this person represents to me, but is this image an accurate portrayal of Vermont's modern hunter?

Appearances vs. Reality

Many times we, as a hunting community, can get caught up in the details and appearances of what we believe the "ideal" hunter or outdoors enthusiast should resemble. However, looking deeper, it's our participation in hunting, angling and trapping that facilitates a common bond more profound than outward appearances suggest. It's a love and connection to nature that links us to our primitive roots of sustaining off the land, reprising our role in the natural ecosystem. It's being present in the moment when it counts the most, in the pursuit of the animal we care so deeply about. It's acknowledging that an animal's sacrifice of its most precious commodity, its life, is something that we, as a hunting community, don't take lightly. Today's hunter, whether an eager novice or a seasoned mentor, recognizes their connection and responsibility to the land and its inhabitants.

WHY I HUNT

Reflections from Hunters Across Vermont

Mike Covey, Williamstown, VT

"I hunt because from start to finish it allows me to know my food. I process all my own game, and it's not only healthy and clean, it's socially and environmentally responsible."

Matt Breton, Charleston, VT

"Why do I hunt? For the connections - connection to the land and wild places that I get to roam; connection to the food that sustains me; connections to people- friends new and old, to my family and my heritage; and, lastly, a connection to a primal need for pursuit, solitude and adventure."

Wendy Butler, New Haven, VT

"I believe going into the woods, fields and mountains as a hunter has allowed me to experience the natural world with all my senses. From watching a bobcat hunting with her young, smelling the stink of an elk wallow in the Rocky Mountains or hearing the howls of wolves in Ontario, experiencing nature more fully in this way has been my biggest incentive for hunting. Bringing home wild game for the table is a bonus."

Tim Biebel, Windsor, VT

"The final measure of a successful day in the outdoors should never be whether a harvest is made — that is merely the icing on an already tasty cake. At the end of the day, success is found in the oft-overlooked mundane activities, such as witnessing the sunset with your child or sharing a cup of coffee with your dad on a frosty November morning. It's the little moments that make for big memories."



Photo by Tom Rogers

While acknowledging the importance of our previous experiences and the backgrounds that bring us into this world of hunting, angling and trapping, perhaps more important is recognizing the bond of common values shared as modern-day conservationists. This bond goes beyond gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, and politics. It's more complex than our affinity for big bucks or the satisfaction of a venison steak. Rather, our commonality is our connection with the land, the water, the fish, and the wildlife, and the role we as conservationists play in the long-term sustainability of this world for future generations. We all have individual specialties, but whether it's tracking whitetail bucks through miles of snow, reading the landscape to the exact square inch where a roaming bobcat will walk the next day, or seducing a reluctant longbeard through the early morning fog, the thread that brings us together is our appreciation of the land. Despite potential differences, our enduring support for the conservation of the land and habitat is what binds us and is the platform upon which we find common ground.

Ties That Bind

Our respect not only for the physical land itself, but the living things that inhabit it, helps maintain today's hunters as some of the most dedicated, successful conservationists of the modern era. This respect is shown through our financial contributions and support of self-imposed excise taxes on hunting and angling equipment; our continual donations to habitat improvement programs like the Vermont Habitat Stamp; our

intense advocacy of public and private land to promote diverse, healthy ecosystems; and our support of, and involvement in, the proper management of wildlife populations. And this respect doesn't just extend to animals we pursue but a diversity of species that play pivotal roles in our world, from bats to birds to butterflies.

Today's hunter, angler and trapper knows that to effectively continue the work and land ethic that's been so successful in conserving wildlife species, it's imperative we work with all people, especially those who don't fully understand or subscribe to our values. We know that not all our friends and neighbors connect with nature as we do. They may never choose to join us in the pursuit of wild game or reconcile the presumed paradox of harvesting an animal while simultaneously holding absolute respect for it, but it's important we serve as ambassadors to help promote an understanding of the vital roles hunting, angling and trapping play in conservation. It's critical to develop and implement a shared vision among us all for properly conserving and promoting our natural world for the long term.

So, while that "ideal" modern hunter might be out somewhere on the skyline of the Green Mountains, today's hunter is likely much more complex and continuing to evolve. As true conservationists we must continue our work to represent the values of a land ethic: tolerance and respect for the land, others and wildlife, both in our actions and our words. Given our changing world, this is more important today than ever – holding ourselves and others to these high standards will ensure the successful transition from today's hunter into tomorrow.

COYOTES IN VERMONT

Today's Hunter and the Coyote

By Kim Royar, Department Furbearer Project Leader

Coyotes are an integral component of a healthy ecosystem and are here to stay in Vermont. Predators, such as coyotes, evolved over eons with deer and other prey species, and, in good habitat, don't pose a threat to their populations. In fact, they often help maintain prey in balance with available habitat. Therefore, the department supports maintaining a healthy, functioning population of coyotes in the state.

Like all wildlife, coyotes are part of the public trust; that is, they are owned by everyone, hunters and non-hunters alike, and are managed in trust by the department for future generations. Wildlife has intrinsic worth and the department manages populations, including coyotes, for all the values they provide to society – from hunting and the use of their pelts to the viewing of a family group stalking field mice to simply hearing their night time yips and howls.

Today's hunter recognizes the vital role that coyotes play in the ecosystem and appreciates their unique ability to successfully adapt to living here in a new environment. Like all wildlife that are hunted, they deserve admiration and respect from those that hunt them. Humans and coyotes share a common legacy in that we are both hunters, often competing for the same quarry. We both have the right to pursue that quarry. The way we relate to coyotes, and how we view them, could be a guide to better understanding our own connection to, and role in, the natural world.

Looking for more?

<https://tinyurl.com/coyotesinVT>



Photo by Everett Marshall

TIPS FROM THE PROS

Gaining Hunting Access

By Andrea Shortsleeve,
Department Private Lands Habitat Biologist

Finding a quality hunting spot and asking for landowner permission to hunt can be a daunting task. Here are a few tips to improve your chance of gaining access:

Do your homework.

- Start asking landowners for permission BEFORE the hunting season starts.
- Bring a map to explain where you'd like to hunt and to demonstrate you know where the property boundaries are.

Be respectful.

- Arrive in clean, non-camouflage clothes.
- If it's a new landowner on a property you've previously hunted, don't assume you'll get permission again.
- Be mindful of a landowner's time and potential inexperience with hunting and firearms.
- Avoid knocking on someone's door at dinnertime.

Provide references.

- Bring a business card with your contact information, it can help give you context as a stranger showing up unannounced.
- Bring a list of other property owners who have given you access in the past and can act as references.

Show gratitude.

- Offer to help with a project the landowner has in exchange for permission.
- Follow-up by sharing your observations while out on the property, sharing your harvest, or with a card acknowledging your appreciation.

Remember you are a guest.

- Follow landowner requests; treat the property better than you would your own.
- Hunting on someone else's property is a privilege. The best way to ensure you'll have the privilege again next year is to be a good guest this year.



Photo courtesy VFWD

Photo courtesy VFWD

SCIENCE IN ACTION

Wildlife Research

Science is the foundation of modern wildlife conservation and is central to everything the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department does.

In practice, wildlife science takes many forms. Staff monitor hibernation locations of bats and rattlesnakes and measure the nesting success of species from Canada geese to threatened spiny softshell turtles. We set game cameras deep in the Green Mountains to detect American marten and Canada lynx and boat to remote Champlain islands to tally endangered common terns. This is the glamorous stuff. We also count beechnuts and acorns, examine carcasses, and run complex statistical models. Even taking your buck to the local check station is science used to track trends in deer population health.

Most of the above represents everyday science for long-term projects. However, we also work on innovative wildlife research, including:

Moose and Winter Ticks

Research confirmed that winter ticks are behind the decline in the Northeast Kingdom moose population and continue to suppress the herd. From 2017 to 2019, we partnered with the University of Vermont to track 126 moose in WMUs E1 and E2 using GPS collars. Nearly half (49%) of the collared calves died in their first year, primarily from winter tick infestations. Most collared cows survived but were in poor condition with low birth rates.

This research helped inform a decision to reinstitute Vermont's moose hunting season to lower

moose densities, decrease winter tick effects and consequentially improve the long-term health of moose in the Northeast Kingdom.

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/VTmoosestudy>

West Nile Virus in Ruffed Grouse

West Nile virus (WNV) might seem like old news, but the virus is increasingly linked to regional declines in ruffed grouse populations and, as a result, we are partnering with hunters on a multi-year surveillance study. Using blood samples from hunter-killed grouse, researchers are estimating regional WNV infection and exposure rates and evaluating its impact on Vermont



grouse. Preliminary results from the study's first year detected WNV in Vermont grouse, but it's too early to know what that means.

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/VTgrousestudy>

Deerfield Wind Black Bear Study

Since 2011, we have been looking at the impacts of a wind energy project on black bears. The Deerfield Wind Energy Project was built in some of the largest concentrations of mature beech trees remaining in southern Vermont, and beechnuts are a critical food source for bears.

This study should help us determine how the Deerfield Wind Energy Project affects bear use of this critical food source. To date, forty-six bears have been fitted with GPS collars to track their movements. Wildlife trail cameras have also been deployed to monitor bear activity near the facility. This information will document changes in bear habitat use that result from the wind project.

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/deerfieldwindstudy>



Woodcock Migration

We are working with the University of Maine and other partners from the U.S. and Canada to study American woodcock migration. Woodcock have declined steadily range-wide, over the last five decades. After years of focusing on breeding habitat, researchers are now looking at the impact of migration. Woodcock must contend with development, tall buildings and other threats on their way back and forth from their wintering grounds in the Southeast. Biologists fitted 18 birds with GPS transmitters as part of 100 that were tagged for the study in 2020. Over three hundred GPS transmitters have been deployed in the region since 2017.



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.

It is illegal to carry, possess or use a gun suppressor while hunting. "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

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

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.

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 Other Game

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.

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.

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.

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 30;
- **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 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

Riteway Sports

OVER 3500 FIREARMS IN THE STORE!





Plus all the accessories for them!
Fishing tackle too!
ALWAYS BUYING USED GUNS
7 days a week

RITEWAY SPORTS, INC.
241 Wolcott Street, Hardwick, VT
(802) 472-5916
ritewaysportsinc@gmail.com
www.ritewaysports.com

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

or blind is located as appropriate (for guidance, a United States quarter is 0.9 inch in diameter);

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

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* (<https://www.boat-ed.com/vermont/handbook/>) for additional laws governing boating in Vermont.



United States Department of Agriculture

Hunt and trap Vermont's only

National Forest

It's All Yours!

Enjoy over 400,000 acres for hunting and trapping on the Green Mountain National Forest

- Big woods hunting in remote backcountry areas
- Thousands of acres managed for habitat and game species diversity using timber harvesting to create a mix of early successional habitat and older forests

Youth deer season - October 23-24, 2021

Youth turkey season - April 24-25, 2021



FOREST SERVICE
GREEN MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL FOREST

www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl

Rutland, VT 802-747-6700 • Manchester, VT 802-362-2307 • Rochester, VT 802-767-4261



@GreenMountainFingerLakesNF

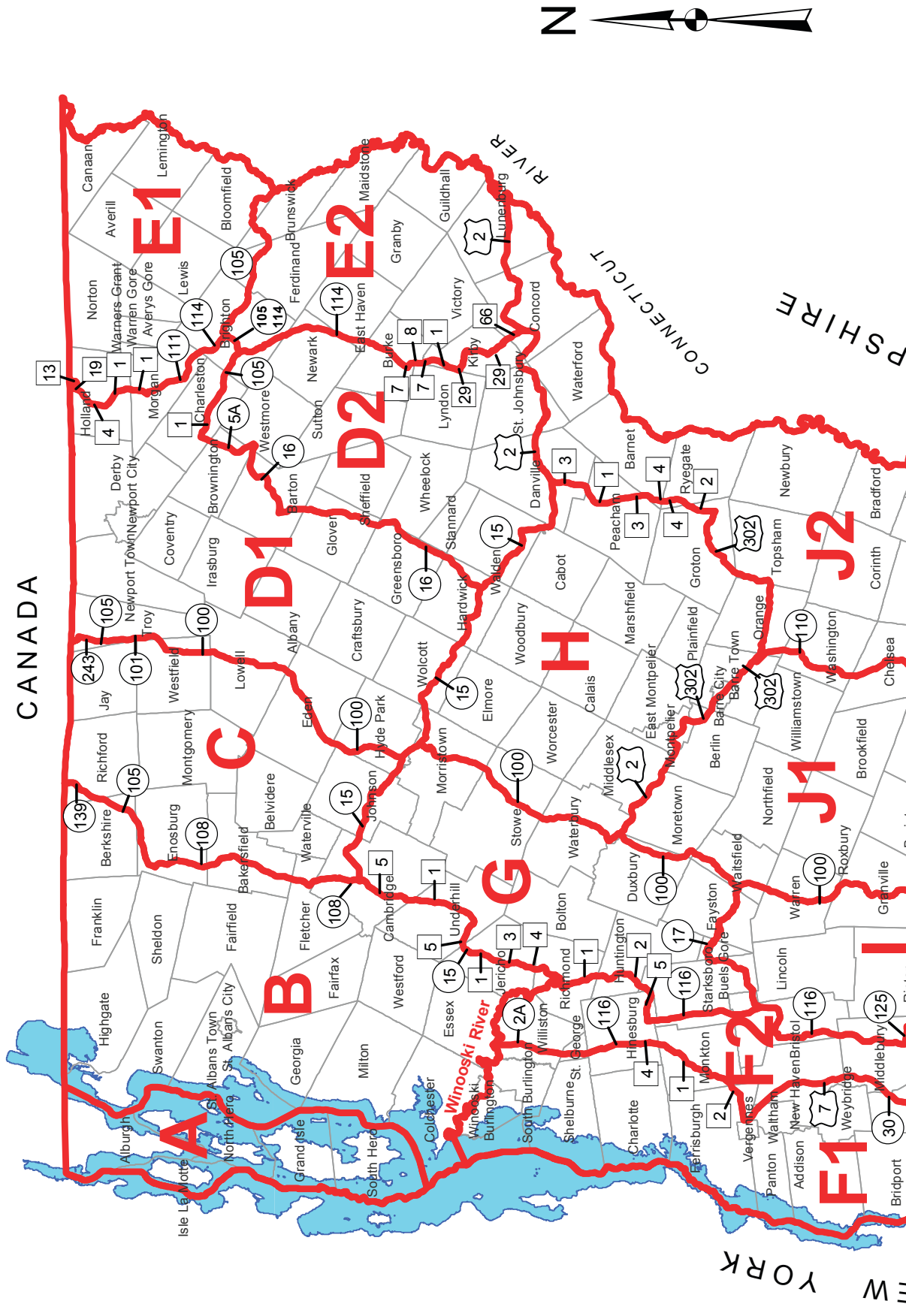


@GMFL_nfs

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

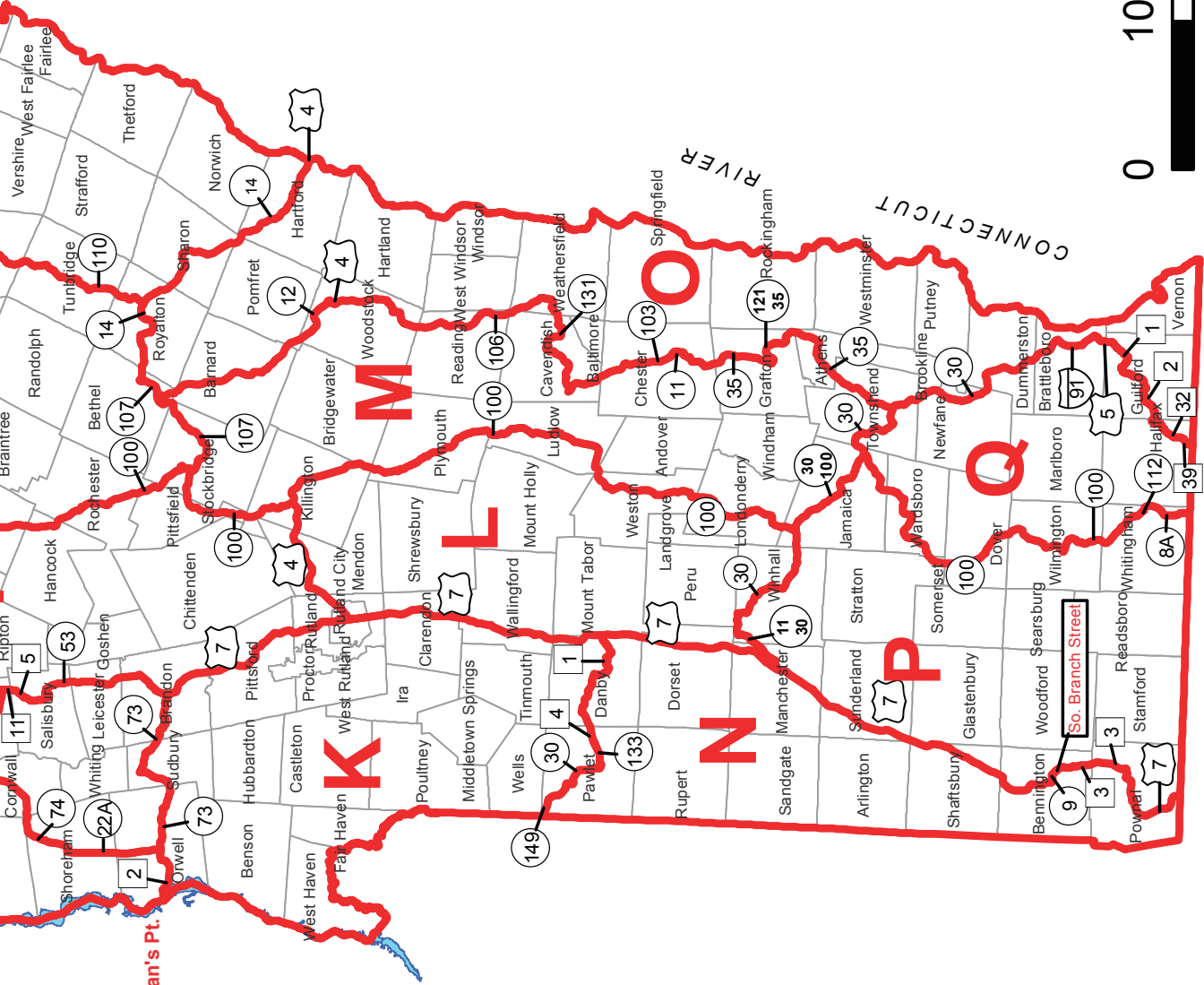


Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Map





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Chipman's Pt.

(Bounded by Indicated VT. Highways)

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

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



MASSACHUSETTS

Big Game Hunting

Definition

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

Tagging

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

Reporting

A person taking big game shall within 48 hours report the taking and exhibit the carcass to the nearest game warden, official Fish & Wildlife Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive the reports. 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.

NEW THIS YEAR As designated by the department, a person taking big game may report their harvest electronically, by phone, or any other specified means. **Check our website** prior to the season to see if an electronic reporting option is available or for any other changes in reporting requirements.

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.

**MAKE YOUR OWN WILD GAME
SUMMER SAUSAGE AND SALAMI.**

WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PROCESS
YOUR MEAT INTO DELICIOUS SAUSAGE
RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME.



COMPLETE KITS STARTING AT \$13.95

B Butcher & Packer Supply
P.O. Box 71748
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071

Call 1-800-521-3188
www.butcher-packer.com



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.

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.

Deer Limits and Regulation Updates

Antlerless deer harvest opportunities for each WMU are determined annually by the Fish and Wildlife Board in early summer after public notice and hearings. The Board determines if antlerless deer may be taken during archery, novice, youth, and muzzleloader seasons and the number of muzzleloader antlerless permits available by lottery. Check our website www.vtfishandwildlife.com for these and other new regulations.

Annual Deer Limit

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.

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.

NEW THIS YEAR Check our Website for any changes in these requirements such as online reporting.

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, 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.

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 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. The following four circumstances are not considered baiting:

- 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.

It is also illegal to sell feed meant for deer per Vermont statute 6 V.S.A. Section 324 (d) No person shall distribute a commercial feed product in the State that is labeled as bait or feed for white-tailed deer.

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

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.



A legal buck has:

- One antler with 2 or more points
- One antler 3" or longer

Archery Deer Season — Oct. 1 – Nov. 12 & Nov. 29 – Dec. 15, 2021

Archery 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 in August to see which WMUs are open to antlerless deer hunting in archery season. In WMUs that are open to antlerless hunting, up to 4 deer may be taken with 4 archery licenses 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

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. 23 – 24, 2021

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. 23 – 24, 2021

(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 deer hunt, a qualified person must have a Vermont hunting license, follow the requirements of the youth deer season, and get a free novice deer tag.

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

If antlerless permits are available, a muzzleloader antlerless deer season will occur for four consecutive days beginning on the Thursday 16 days prior to the opening of the regular November rifle season (Oct. 28 – 31, 2021) — 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. 13 – 28, 2021

Limit

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. 4 – 12, 2021

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 wheel-lock 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 hunting deer in a muzzleloader deer season shall not possess any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm, and shall not possess or substitute any archery equipment or crossbow while hunting deer under a muzzleloader deer hunting license.



VERMONT FIELD SPORTS
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
388-3572
OUTFITTING YOU SINCE 1983

One-Stop Shopping for All Your Outdoor Needs!

GUNS
Bought, Traded & Sold
Remington • Browning • Winchester
Savage • Ruger • Thompson Center

BOWS & CROSSBOWS
PSE • Bear • 10 Point • Raven
Barnett • Excalibur and accessories

BOOTS
Rocky • Lacrosse • Irish Setter • Danner

CAMO
Browning • Codet Wool • Gamehide

VERMONT FIELD SPORTS
1458 Route 7 South, Middlebury
802-388-3572
Email: vtfieldsports@comcast.net
VTFIELDSPORTS.COM

Uniting the Bowhunters of Vermont to Foster, Protect and Preserve the Sports of Bowhunting and Archery



Join Today and Make a Difference!

Memberships available online at vermontbowhuntersassociation.org

Let's Talk About Bow Hunting!
802 579-8471

Email us at info@vermontbowhuntersassociation.org

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

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

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

Plan On Attending Our Annual Banquet on **March 13, 2021**
Mail to:
14 Stafford Avenue, Morrisville, VT 05661

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

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.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp

Canoeing, campfires, fishing and fun.
What a great way to spend a week this Summer!

Discover Vermont's wildlife and master outdoor skills. Vermont Fish & Wildlife offers one-week sessions for boys and girls, ages 12 to 14.

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

For more information call 802-522-2925 or visit our website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com



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 nearly 6,600 moose have been harvested, yielding an estimated 925 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 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.



Photo by Wayne LaRoche

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.

www.vtfishandwildlife.com

BOSSMAN OUTDOORS



SHOP ONLINE 24/7

Store OPEN: Mon-Fri 9-5; Sat 9-4

Dart System
Guns & Ammo • Bows & Arrows
**MATTHEWS • RAVIN
BARNETT • XPEDITION
BOWTECH • DIAMOND**

Over 800 Guns In Stock & Growing
WE BUY GUNS

24 Railroad Street • Woodsville, NH 03785
603-243-0550 • www.bossmanoutdoors.com

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. 12, 2021

Late Season:
Nov. 13 – 21, 2021

- 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.

Reporting Bear

A person taking a 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.

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.

Any bear taken with the use of dogs must be accompanied by the bear dog permit holder at the time of reporting.

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.

NEW THIS YEAR Check our Website for any changes in these requirements such as on-line reporting.

Transporting

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

Use of Dogs to Hunt Bear

Permit Required

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.

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



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

VERMONT BEARHOUND ASSOCIATION
A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION
www.vermontbearhoundassociation.com
Take a youth hunting, they are our future!

BE BEAR AWARE

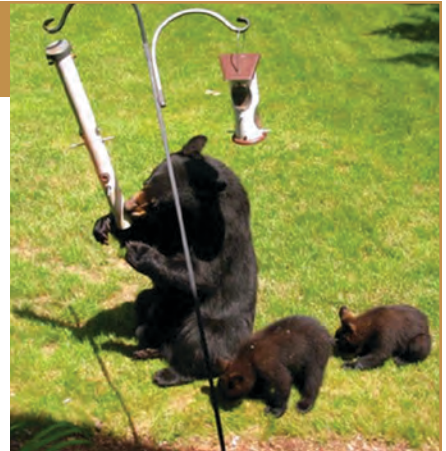
People often encourage bears to come out of the forest by providing food without realizing it. Feeding a bear increases the bear's chance of being struck by a vehicle, causing property damage, and threatening human safety. Feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear, **it's also illegal**.

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

Some measures you can take to avoid attracting 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.



Learn more about living with bears at: www.vtfishandwildlife.com

Vermont's Bear Population

Vermont's bear population, less than 3,000 thirty years ago, has increased and, although numbers vary year to year, is now well within the 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan population objective of 3,500-5,500 bears—a successful, planned result of bear management in the state.

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.

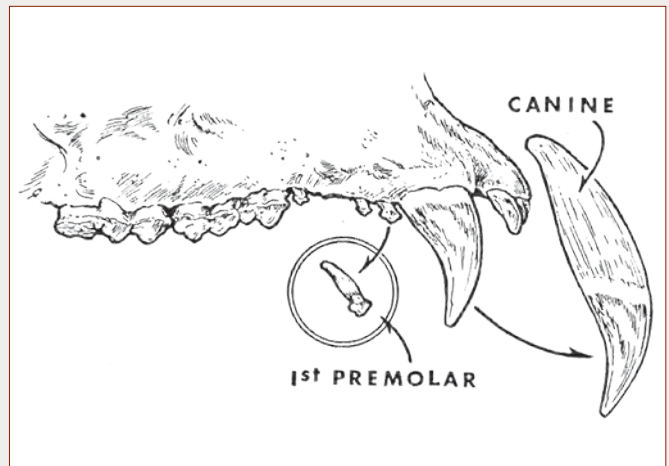
HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?

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.



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 all-natural, local and sustainably harvested turkey meat.

License Requirements Tagging

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.

NEW THIS YEAR Only number 2 and smaller 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.

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.

NEW THIS YEAR Check our Website for any changes in these requirements such as on-line reporting.

Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend— April 24 – 25, 2021

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 this weekend season only.

The youth hunter may take one bearded turkey during Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend



Photo courtesy NWTf, Henry Zeman

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.

NEW THIS YEAR

Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend — April 24 – 25, 2021

(also Youth Turkey Weekend)

Novice: A person who has 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, turkey license and a novice turkey hunting tag and follow the requirements of the youth turkey hunting weekend.

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 on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. for this weekend season only.

Limit

One bearded turkey per novice. A novice may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

Spring Turkey Season

Spring Season

May 1–31, 2021

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. 2 – 22, 2021 in all WMUs statewide
- **Shotgun or Archery:** Oct. 23 – 31, 2021 in WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q
- **Shotgun or Archery:** Oct. 23 – Nov. 7, 2021 in WMUs F, K, and N.

Don't Dig Yourself into Trouble!

CALL DIG SAFE® BEFORE YOU DIG.

IT'S SMART, IT'S FREE, IT'S THE LAW.



The Perfect Excavation:

- Pre-mark the location of intended excavation using white stakes, paint or flags.
- In MA, ME, NH and RI, notify Dig Safe® at least 72 hours in advance.*
- In Vermont, notify Dig Safe® at least 48 hours in advance.*
- Notify non-member facility owners.
- Maintain the marks placed by underground facility owners.
- Use caution and dig by hand when working within 18" of a marked facility.
- If a line is damaged, do not backfill. Notify the affected utility company immediately if the facility, its protective coating, or a tracer wire is damaged.
- Call 911 if damage to pipeline results in a gas release.
- Know your state's excavation requirements.
- Go to digsafe.com for educational material and current laws.

* NOT INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.



DigSafe
MA • ME • NH • RI • VT

Game Bird Hunting

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

Seasons & Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	LIMITS
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	September 25 – December 31	4 daily; 8 possession
Pheasant *	September 25 – December 31	2 daily; 4 possession
Bobwhite Quail *	No Closed Season	No limit
Chukar Partridge *	No Closed Season	No limit
Crow	Friday – Monday only, inclusive, January 15 – April 11 and August 20 – December 19, 2021	No limit

* Practically nonexistent except by private stocking. A permit is required from the Fish & Wildlife Department to raise and stock 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. 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
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 2021 Waterfowl Syllabus.

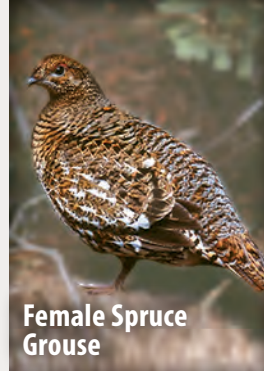
Woodcock and common snipe are migratory game birds. Migratory game birds, including waterfowl, may be taken only by shotgun with a one-piece plug or manufactured to restrict it to three-shot capacity. State and federal duck stamps are not required for woodcock or snipe hunting. A H.I.P. number is required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

SPRUCE OR RUFFED GROUSE?

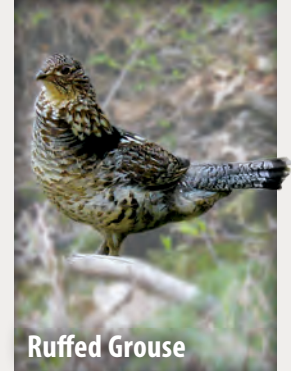
Know the Difference



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. 26, 2020 – March 14, 2021 & Sept. 25, 2021 – March 13, 2022 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.



Barnaul
Performance Steel Case Ammunition

Barnaul Ammunition offers a wide variety of rifle and handgun cartridges to supply modern sporting shooters and hunters with accurate and reliable ammunition, with proven performance.

Barnaul cartridges are available in Lacquer and Polymer coated steel cases with a wide selection of FMJ, HP and SP bullets to ensure you are getting the best bang for your buck for your everyday shooting and hunting needs.
visit: barnaufammo.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

Furbearer Hunting & Trapping

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 24, 2020 – Feb. 14, 2021 & Oct. 23, 2021 – Feb. 13, 2022
Raccoon	Oct. 9 – 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. 23 – Dec. 31
Otter, Muskrat, Beaver	Oct. 24, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2021 & Oct. 23, 2021 – Mar. 31, 2022
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Lion	No Open Season

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 fur-bearing 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.
- 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.

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

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.

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.

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.



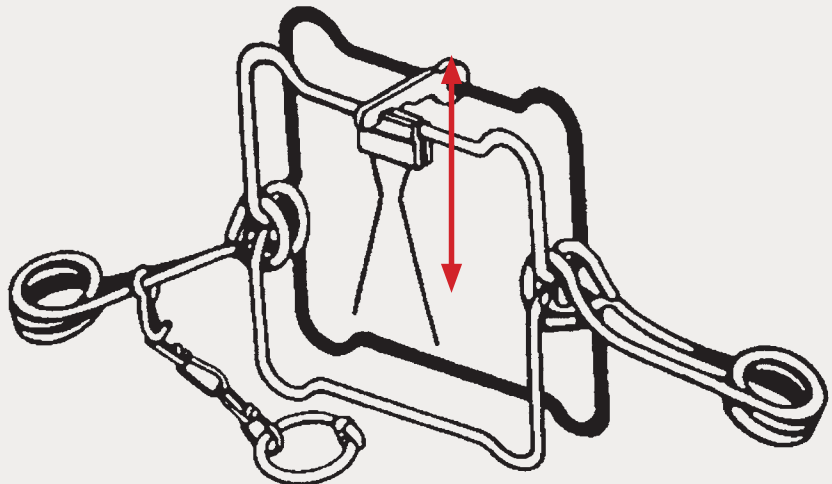
Join the VTA!
Memberships and tanned fur for sale on our website.

VtTrappers.com

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:





**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Enjoy Corps Lands & Waters in Vermont at:

- Ball Mountain Lake
- North Hartland Lake
- North Springfield Lake
- Townshend Lake
- Union Village Dam



Canada Lynx or Bobcat?

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

Fur

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

Tail

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

Hind Legs and Feet

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

What Trappers Need to Know

- Learn the key identifying features of Canada lynx and bobcat.
- **Go to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) or contact us for the trapping regulations in WMU E designed to protect lynx.**
- Because the possibility exists for lynx to be encountered outside of WMU E, all trappers should familiarize themselves with lynx sign and be prepared to adjust their methods to avoid incidentally capturing a lynx.
- Trappers who incidentally trap a lynx **must notify the department as soon as possible before removing the animal from the trap**, unless a department official cannot be reached in time to avoid injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to the department within 24 hours from the time it was discovered. To report an incidental capture, call Kim Royar at 802-747-8412 or contact your local game warden.

Bobcat Hunting Methods to Help Avoid Taking Lynx

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

Trappers or hunters who encounter lynx or lynx sign should quickly report their observations to wildlife biologist Kim Royar at 802-747-8412.

Canada Lynx - state endangered

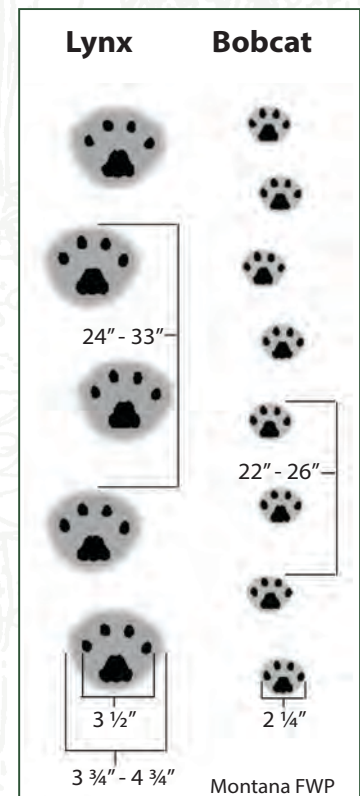


PHOTO CREDIT: KEITH WILLIAMS

Bobcat



PHOTO CREDIT: DEB JAMES



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



HELP MANAGE VERMONT'S DEER HERD

Apply for an antlerless deer permit in Vermont's muzzleloader season annual lottery.

1,000s of permits are issued every year.

LOTTERY APPLICATIONS

\$10 RESIDENTS, \$25 NONRESIDENTS

Apply online at the Fish & Wildlife website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com or at your local license agent.

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



© GEORGE POSWORTH

respect. protect. enjoy.

OPERATION GAME THIEF 911 FOR WILDLIFE



The future of Vermont's fish and wildlife depends on all of us.

To report a fish or wildlife violation call

1-800-75ALERT

or visit our website

www.vtfishandwildlife.com



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 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.



You have the power to protect Vermont's trees and forests!



DONTMOVE FIREWOOD.org



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 130,000 acres of important wildlife habitat and natural communities on 100 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.





MAKING IT LAST

From the Champlain Islands and the spruce forests of the Northeast Kingdom, to the southern regions of the state, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are the gems of wildlife habitat, representing some of the most unique habitats and natural communities in Vermont.

Be Safe. Be Seen. Wear Orange.

FLUORESCENT HUNTER ORANGE IS ALWAYS IN STYLE IN THE WOODS

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

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



**HUNT SMART
CHOOSE TO WEAR
ORANGE**





Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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

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

General Information (802) 828-1000
Email 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

Chief Warden: Col. Jason Batchelder 828-1483
Deputy Chief: Maj. Justin Stedman 828-1529
Northwestern District Supervisor: Lt. Carl Wedin 879-5669
Northeastern District Supervisor: Lt. Sean Fowler 751-0103
Southern District Supervisor: Lt. Keith Gallant 289-0630

Northwestern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Wedin, Carl	Essex Office 879-5669		St. Albans
Sgt Barrett, Chad	229-9191	224-6324	Waterbury
Spl. Whitlock, Dale	388-4919	777-6269	E. Middlebury
Butler, Wesley	773-9101	793-2757	Middlebury
Coffey, Ethan	878-7111	793-3114	Morrisville
Currier, Robert	878-7111	498-7712	Essex Jct.
Hungerford, Josh	524-5993	498-5468	Sheldon
Joyal, Dana	878-7111	498-5469	Charlotte
Schmid, Jeremy	878-7111	595-4815	Cambridge
Snyder, Dustin	524-5993	279-9275	Fairfax

Northeastern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Fowler, Sean	St. Johnsbury Office 751-0103		Plainfield
Sgt Szymanowski, Trevor	748-3111	535-5058	Waterford
Spl. Shopland, Russell	748-3111	535-5124	E. Hardwick
Brown, Paul	229-9191	793-5285	Northfield
Circe, Dustin	229-9191	793-6629	Montpelier
Hazard, Randy	334-8881	793-3321	Bloomfield
Jackman, Cody	748-3111	279-3560	East Haven
Reed, Jenna	334-8881	279-9058	Newport Ctr.
Scott, Mike	229-9191	279-7817	Washington
Seegers, Will	748-3111	498-5351	W. Danville
Whipple, Jeffrey	234-9933	535-5220	Vershire

Southern District

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	DIRECT (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Gallant, Keith	Springfield Office 289-0603		E. Braintree
Sgt Buttle, Travis	442-5421	777-6281	Shaftsbury
Spl. Sterling, Robert	773-9101	777-6289	Fair Haven
Carey, Timothy	773-9101	793-2776	Shrewsbury
Gravelle, Jason	234-9933	498-8501	Hartland
Isherwood, Kyle	722-4600	279-8935	Londonderry
Price, Kelly	257-7101	380-3723	Brattleboro
Sargent, Asa	722-4600	793-6705	S. Woodstock
Serra, Abigail	773-9101	793-1270	Rutland
Taddei, David	722-4600	498-7078	Townshend
Turner, Justin	442-5421	595-8754	Arlington
Watkin, Richard	722-4600	793-9416	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

Rabies Hotline 1-800-472-2437 (800-4-RABIES)

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)

Vt Chamber of Commerce

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

Vt Dept. of Tourism

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

Rochester Ranger District

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

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

Martin Van Buren
Poultney, VT
fwboard.rutland@gmail.com
Term:
January 1, 2020-February 28, 2023

Essex County

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

Chittenden County

Nancy Mathews
South Burlington, VT
fwboard.chittendenco@gmail.com
Term:
June 19, 2020 – February 28, 2026

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

Brad Farland
Hardwick, VT 05843
fwboard.caledonia@gmail.com
Term:
November 1, 2020 – February 28, 2026

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
Wolcott, VT 05680
fwboard.lamoille@gmail.com
Term:
April 1, 2015 – February 28, 2021

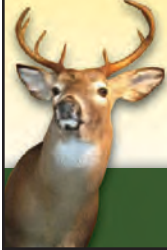
Buy Your License Online
www.vtfishandwildlife.com



TAXIDERMY

Bragg's Taxidermy

Award-Winning Trophies in VT, NY, NJ & New England!



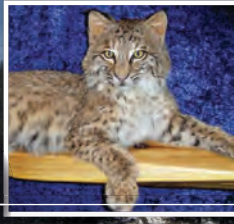
- Deer & Bear
 - Small Mammals
 - Fish & Waterfowl
 - Upland Birds
 - Many Masters Awards!
- by Ernie "Butch" Bragg

1-802-388-4264
BraggsTaxidermy.net

Preserving God's Creation Taxidermy

802.537.2145 — Benson, VT
CREATIONTAXIDERMY.COM

Enjoy Your Trophy for Years!
Many awards at the Masters level



LAND FOR SALE



YANKEE FARM CREDIT
Agriculture Loans & Business Services
800.639.3053 yankeefarmcredit.com

LAND MANAGEMENT

GRANBERG ALASKAN MILLS.
DURABILITY. RELIABILITY. AFFORDABILITY.
SINCE 1957, GRANBERG INTERNATIONAL HAS BEEN PRODUCING THE HIGHEST QUALITY CHAIN SAW MILLS AND ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE ANYWHERE. OUR AMERICAN-MADE ALASKAN® CHAIN SAW MILLS GIVE YOU THE CAPABILITY AND ACCURACY OF A PROFESSIONAL-GRADE SAW MILL AT A PRICE THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK.
CALL 1-800-233-6499
FOR A FREE CATALOG OR TO FIND A DEALER, VISIT WWW.GRANBERG.COM




MORE WILDLIFE
Seed & Fertilizer Sales
Food Plot Supplies • Trail Cams
Food plot consultation, over 15 years experience
Building and maintaining wildlife food plots
Mike Farnham
802-249-1585
www.morewildlife.net
morewildlife@hotmail.com

OUT-OF-STATE GUIDES

PATEY AND SONS LTD.

Newfoundland, Canada



95-100% SUCCESS RATE!

Big Game Outfitters for Moose and Black Bear in Newfoundland's Northern peninsula



(709) 225-3221
www.PateyOutfitting.com

ARCHERY PRODUCTS



Pelkey's Archery, Inc.
Pro Shop & Indoor Range
"Home of VT Junior Archers"
Certified Instruction for All Ages
Sales • Service • Leagues
(802) 524-2582
PelkeysArchery.com

HUNTING PRODUCTS

RANCHO SAFARI.com

← **Catquiver Mini** → **Shaggie Bowhunter Ghillie** →

MADE IN THE USA
CUSTOM ORDERS WELCOME

BLINDS • FIELD BLANKETS • BOAT BLINDS

EMAIL FOR CATALOG
jerry@ranchosafari.com
(760) 789-2094



GAME PROCESSING

Allied Kenco Sales
Supplying Everything But The Meat!



SAUSAGE & JERKY MAKING SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

FREE CATALOG
Call 800-356-5189 or visit our website: **www.alliedkenco.com**

EST. 2004
J.F. GRIFFIN PUBLISHING

Showcase your business!



For advertising inquiries, please call **(413) 884-1001**

Missed the printed edition?
Ask about year-round digital opportunities.

eRegs

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 and novice turkey and deer hunting weekends. While landowner permission is not required for hunters on private lands, hunters should still ask the permission of the landowner before proceeding. Hunters who treat the land and landowner with respect usually find that landowners are happy to grant permission.

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

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

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



wildlife-related outdoor activities except in specifically designated areas. Check out the WMA maps on the Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com), and in the “Guide to Wildlife Management Areas of Vermont” guidebook, available through the online store.

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

“Conservation is a state of harmony between the people and the land.”

—Aldo Leopold

VERMONT HABITAT STAMP

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

And you provide access to places to hunt, fish, trap, view and enjoy wildlife and wild places, now and forever.

Donate when you purchase your license or online today.



www.vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitatstamp

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	7:32	5:36	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	7:33	5:34	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	7:34	5:33	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	6:09	5:52	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
12	7:24	4:34	6:54	5:16	6:08	5:53	6:11	7:31	5:27	8:07	5:06	8:35	5:18	8:33	5:50	7:59	6:26	7:06	7:02	6:11	6:42	4:26	7:17	4:11
13	7:23	4:35	6:52	5:17	6:06	5:54	6:10	7:32	5:25	8:08	5:06	8:35	5:19	8:33	5:52	7:58	6:27	7:04	7:03	6:09	6:44	4:25	7:18	4:12
14	7:23	4:36	6:51	5:18	7:04	6:56	6:08	7:34	5:24	8:10	5:06	8:36	5:20	8:32	5:53	7:56	6:28	7:02	7:04	6:07	6:45	4:24	7:18	4:12
15	7:22	4:38	6:49	5:20	7:02	6:57	6:06	7:35	5:23	8:11	5:06	8:36	5:21	8:31	5:54	7:55	6:30	7:00	7:05	6:06	6:46	4:23	7:19	4:12
16	7:22	4:39	6:48	5:21	7:00	6:58	6:05	7:36	5:22	8:12	5:06	8:36	5:22	8:31	5:55	7:53	6:31	6:58	7:07	6:04	6:48	4:22	7:20	4:12
17	7:21	4:40	6:46	5:23	6:59	6:59	6:03	7:37	5:21	8:13	5:06	8:37	5:23	8:30	5:56	7:52	6:32	6:57	7:08	6:02	6:49	4:21	7:21	4:13
18	7:21	4:41	6:45	5:24	6:57	7:01	6:01	7:39	5:20	8:14	5:06	8:37	5:24	8:29	5:57	7:50	6:33	6:55	7:09	6:01	6:50	4:20	7:21	4:13
19	7:20	4:43	6:43	5:25	6:55	7:02	6:00	7:40	5:19	8:15	5:06	8:37	5:24	8:28	5:59	7:48	6:34	6:53	7:11	5:59	6:52	4:20	7:22	4:13
20	7:19	4:44	6:42	5:27	6:53	7:03	5:58	7:41	5:18	8:16	5:06	8:38	5:25	8:27	6:00	7:47	6:35	6:51	7:12	5:58	6:53	4:19	7:22	4:14
21	7:18	4:45	6:40	5:28	6:51	7:04	5:56	7:42	5:17	8:17	5:07	8:38	5:26	8:26	6:01	7:45	6:37	6:49	7:13	5:56	6:54	4:18	7:23	4:14
22	7:18	4:47	6:39	5:29	6:49	7:05	5:55	7:44	5:16	8:18	5:07	8:38	5:27	8:25	6:02	7:43	6:38	6:47	7:14	5:54	6:55	4:17	7:23	4:15
23	7:17	4:48	6:37	5:31	6:48	7:07	5:53	7:45	5:16	8:19	5:07	8:38	5:28	8:25	6:03	7:42	6:39	6:45	7:16	5:53	6:57	4:17	7:24	4:15
24	7:16	4:49	6:35	5:32	6:46	7:08	5:52	7:46	5:15	8:20	5:07	8:38	5:29	8:24	6:04	7:40	6:40	6:44	7:17	5:51	6:58	4:16	7:24	4:16
25	7:15	4:51	6:34	5:33	6:44	7:09	5:50	7:47	5:14	8:21	5:08	8:38	5:31	8:22	6:05	7:38	6:41	6:42	7:18	5:50	6:59	4:15	7:25	4:17
26	7:14	4:52	6:32	5:35	6:42	7:10	5:48	7:48	5:13	8:22	5:08	8:38	5:32	8:21	6:07	7:37	6:42	6:40	7:20	5:48	7:00	4:15	7:25	4:17
27	7:13	4:53	6:30	5:36	6:40	7:12	5:47	7:50	5:12	8:23	5:09	8:38	5:33	8:20	6:08	7:35	6:44	6:38	7:21	5:47	7:01	4:14	7:25	4:18
28	7:12	4:55	6:29	5:37	6:38	7:13	5:45	7:51	5:12	8:24	5:09	8:38	5:34	8:19	6:09	7:33	6:45	6:36	7:22	5:45	7:03	4:14	7:25	4:19
29	7:11	4:56			6:37	7:14	5:44	7:52	5:11	8:25	5:09	8:38	5:35	8:18	6:10	7:31	6:46	6:34	7:24	5:44	7:04	4:13	7:26	4:20
30	7:10	4:58			6:35	7:15	5:42	7:53	5:11	8:26	5:10	8:38	5:36	8:17	6:11	7:30	6:47	6:32	7:25	5:42	7:05	4:13	7:26	4:20
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 14 – Eastern Standard Time changes to Daylight Savings Time
 November 7 – Daylight Savings Time changes to Eastern Standard Time

ABOUT THIS DIGEST

Fish & Wildlife Laws

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

Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service

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

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

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.



12/2020
Circulation: 90,000

ANTICOSTI ISLAND

THE ULTIMATE
HUNTING TRIP



EUROPEAN PLAN +GUIDE

Starting at **\$2,091** /hunter
(USD)*

*Taxes and hunting licence not included. Product priced in Canadian dollar; based on 2021 rates. Prices in U.S. dollars may vary according to exchange rate fluctuations and fees by credit card issuers. Departures available from Mont-Joli, Montreal and Québec City. Certain conditions apply.

Photo: Steve Deschênes

All packages include:

2 DEER/HUNTER

Huge & exclusive territory

Air transportation

4x4 truck

1 guide for 4 hunters

Cabin accommodation

sepaq.com/anticosti | 1-800-463-0863


Sépaq



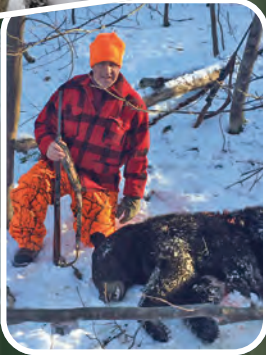
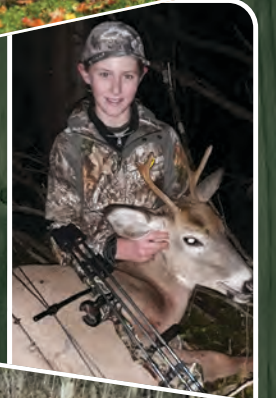
... MORE than just archery

**Family-owned, family-operated,
family-oriented for over 45 years!**

**R&L Archery INC.
70 Smith Street • Barre, VT
www.RLArchery.com
rlarchery@aol.com**



1-800-269-9151



LET OUR EXPERIENCE HELP YOU EXPLORE AND ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS!
Firearms – Buy, Sell, Trade, Appraisals • Archery – Bows, Crossbows, 20-yard indoor lanes
Fishing • Kayaks • Muzzleloaders • Reloading • Gun Safes • Prospecting • AND MORE!
Fishing and Hunting licenses for Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, New York
Discounts for active military and emergency responders