

# Wisconsin

## 2016 Small Game Hunting Regulations, 2016 Fall Turkey Regulations and 2017 Spring Turkey Regulations

**Note:** To hunt turkey, a turkey hunting license, stamp and permit are required. A small game license is not needed for hunting turkey and is NOT interchangeable with a turkey hunting license.



*2016 Pheasant Stamp art  
by Terry Doughty*



*2016 Wild Turkey Stamp art  
by Robert Andrea*



This pamphlet gives you a summary of Wisconsin's small game and wild turkey hunting laws and how they affect you; it is not a complete set of all the hunting-related laws.

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**  
**PUB-WM-430 2016**



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## Report Natural Resource Violations

CALL or TEXT:

800-TIP-WDNR

(800-847-9367)

Toll Free•Statewide•24-Hour•Confidential

## Questions?

**Call or visit our website to find a DNR Service Center near you:**

**888-WDNR INFO (888-936-7463) • local (608) 266-2621**

**TTY Access via relay - 711**



**Staff are available 7 days a week from 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM.**

**Hmong- and Spanish-speaking representatives are available.**

***[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)***

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (608) 266-8204.

## NEW IN 2016

- The possession limit for game birds and small game mammals is three times the daily bag limit. See pages 11 and 16.
- Opening day shooting hours for pheasant, bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge and South Zone cottontail rabbits begin at 9 AM. See pages 11 and 16.
- Fall turkey hunting season will be extended. See page 16.
  - In Zones 1 through 5, it will run from the Saturday nearest September 15 through December 31 (Sept. 17–Dec. 31 in 2016).
  - In Zones 6 & 7, it will run from the Saturday nearest September 15 through the Friday before gun deer season (Sept. 17–Nov. 18. in 2016).
- Attaching a tag immediately after kill is no longer required for wild turkeys or sharp-tailed grouse. However, no person may leave a wild turkey or sharp-tailed grouse carcass unless the validated carcass tag has been attached to it. If you leave it, tag it. See page 17.
- The legal definition of *flashlight* has changed following the passage of Act 249. See *flashlight* entry below in “Definitions for the Purpose of this Pamphlet.”

## NEW IN SPRING 2017

- Spring turkey season will begin on the third Wednesday in April instead of the Wednesday nearest April 13 (April 19 in 2017). See page 16.

## DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAMPHLET

- **Daily bag or bag limit** means the total number of a particular game species that a person may harvest in one day, no matter how long or often that person hunted on that day.
- **Flashlight** means a battery-operated light designed to be carried and held by hand or attached to clothing or part of the body.
- **Furbearing animal** means raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat, skunk, opossum and weasel.
- **Game bird** refers to ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, pheasant, gray (Hungarian) partridge, bobwhite quail and crow. **Note:** For the purposes of this pamphlet, wild turkey are not considered game birds.
- **Harvest Information Program (HIP)** refers to a series of questions that individuals must answer before hunting any species of migratory game bird including waterfowl, mourning dove and woodcock. HIP registration can be done at a license agent, by phone or via the internet. HIP registration is free of charge. All hunters must have in their possession proof of HIP registration while hunting migratory game birds. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “harvest information program” for more information.
- **Hunt or hunting** means shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, catching or killing any wild animal.
- **Migratory game bird** means mourning dove, woodcock, snipe, sora rail and Virginia rail. Waterfowl are also migratory game birds; those regulations are printed in a separate pamphlet. All migratory game bird hunters must be HIP-certified (see above for more information on HIP).
- **Possession limit** means the total number of a particular game species that a person may possess at any given time.
- **Protected species** means the following mammals, reptiles and birds may not be hunted, trapped or possessed without first obtaining appropriate DNR authorization: Protected species include all endangered and threatened species. All game animals (including elk) which have an open and closed season, bag limit, size limit or possession limit are protected during their closed season.
  - Mammals:** badger, bats, Canada lynx, cougar, flying squirrel, jack rabbit, pine marten, moose, white or albino deer (all white except for hooves, tarsal glands, head and parts of the head), wolverine and woodchucks (see landowner exemption, page 20);
  - Reptiles:** black rat snake, bull snake, timber rattlesnake and yellow-bellied (blue) racer;
  - Birds:** all wild birds (including songbirds and blackbirds) not specifically mentioned in the hunting, trapping and migratory bird regulation pamphlets are protected.
- **Small game mammal** means squirrel, rabbit and hare.
- **Unprotected species** means mammals and birds that can be hunted year-round without bag limits or hunting hours restrictions, and includes starling, English (house) sparrow, chukar partridge, coturnix quail, opossum, skunk, weasel, porcupines and all other wild mammals not specifically mentioned in the hunting, trapping and migratory game bird regulation pamphlets and not listed as an endangered, threatened or protected species (see “protected species” listed above). A small game license is needed for hunting unprotected species.
- **Waterfowl** means ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and gallinules.

# GENERAL SMALL GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS

## General Firearm, Bow and Crossbow Restrictions

### *It is illegal to:*

- Possess or use any firearm for hunting if you are a **felon** or have been **prohibited from possessing a firearm** under Wisconsin law. A hunting license **does not** authorize the purchaser the ability to possess a **firearm** for hunting. Most hunting licenses allow the choice of hunting with a firearm, air rifle, bow and arrow or crossbow. Unless otherwise prohibited, a felon can generally hunt small game mammals legally with an air rifle, or most species with a bow and arrow or crossbow;
- Hunt with a fully automatic firearm;
- Possess or use while hunting any tracer or incendiary shells, cartridges or ammunition;
- Discharge a firearm at or towards power and utility lines and any related equipment;
- Hunt with any means other than a gun discharged from the shoulder, a legal handgun, bow and arrow or crossbow;
- Shoot a firearm within 100 yards of a building devoted to human occupancy, while on lands you do not own, without the permission of the owner or occupant of that building:\*(  
    (\***Note:** Be sure to check with local authorities before using firearms in urbanized or populated areas.)
- Operate or go armed with a firearm while under the influence of an intoxicant.

### Rifles

**Rifle** means a firearm or airgun designed to be fired from the shoulder by the energy of an explosive propellant or compressed air used to fire a single projectile through a rifled or smooth barrel for each pull of the trigger.

It is legal to hunt **unprotected species** (page 10), furbearing animals (page 14) and small game mammals (page 16) with a rifle, except that *it is illegal to:*

- Hunt with a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or with an overall length of less than 26 inches, unless you hold a federal license to possess a short-barreled rifle;
- Hunt any game bird (page 11), migratory game bird (page 13) or wild turkey (page 16) with a rifle.

### Shotguns

**Shotgun** means a smoothbore-barreled firearm designed to shoot pellets. It is legal to hunt unprotected species (page 10), game birds (page 11), migratory game birds (page 13), furbearing animals (page 14), small game mammals (page 16) and wild turkey (page 16) with a shotgun, except that *it is illegal to:*

- Hunt with a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches or with an overall length of less than 26 inches, unless you hold a federal license to possess a short-barreled shotgun;
- Hunt any migratory game bird (including mourning dove, woodcock, rail and snipe) with any shotgun capable of holding more than three shells (magazine and chamber combined).

### **Wildlife Violator Compact**

The State of Wisconsin is a participating member of the Wildlife Violator Compact. The Wildlife Violator Compact is an agreement between participating states that prohibits a person whose hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges are suspended in one state from obtaining licenses, permits, or participating in those activities in another state. The participating states include: AL, AK, AR, AZ, CA, CT, CO, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NH, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY and VT. *Additional states may have joined the compact since the printing of this pamphlet.* For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords "wildlife violator compact."

### Shot and Shotshells

#### *It is illegal to:*

- Hunt game birds or wild turkey with **lead or other toxic shot** while on federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs);
- Hunt mourning dove with or while in possession of lead or other **toxic shot** while on DNR managed land;
- Hunt snipe or rail statewide with or while in possession of lead or other **toxic shot**;

- Hunt migratory game birds with or while in possession of shotshells larger than no. 10 gauge;
- Hunt wild turkey with or while in possession of shotshells loaded with shot larger than no. 4 lead or other non-steel shot, or shot larger than no. 2 steel;
- Hunt any game bird with a shotgun or muzzleloader loaded with shot larger than no. BB; with a single slug or ball; or which is chambered for a shotshell larger than no. 10 gauge;
- Possess or control shotshells loaded with a single slug or ball while hunting any game bird or wild turkey except during open gun deer or bear seasons. Shotshells loaded with a single slug or ball are legal during any season for hunting small game species, including coyote, fox and bobcat, but not for hunting game birds or wild turkey;
- Hunt while in possession of shot or shotshells loaded with shot larger than no. BB (including buckshot) from June 1–Dec. 13 **except:**
  - Non-toxic shot size BBB and T may be used for hunting waterfowl;
  - Shot larger than BB may be possessed and used for the purpose of hunting bobcat.

### Handguns

**Handgun** means a weapon designed and intended to be fired while held in one hand and to use the energy of an explosive, propellant or compressed air to expel a projectile(s) through a smooth or rifled bore. Modifying a rifle or shotgun so it can be used like a handgun does not make it a legal handgun, and may violate state law prohibiting short-barreled shotguns and short-barreled rifles. It is legal to hunt small game, furbearing animals and unprotected species with a handgun except that **it is illegal to:**

- Hunt with or possess a handgun if under the age of 18.\* This does **not** apply to air guns.
 

(\*Note: Target shooting with handguns that are firearms by persons under the age of 18 years is allowed only when supervised by an adult.)
- Hunt with a handgun or pellet gun less than .17 caliber;
- Hunt small game using a handgun with a barrel shorter than 4 inches measured from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed or from the muzzle to the breech face;
- Possess a concealed handgun unless authorized by a Carry Concealed Weapon License or otherwise authorized to possess a concealed firearm;
- Hunt any game bird (pages 3 & 11), migratory game bird (pages 3 & 13) or wild turkey (page 16) with a handgun, **except** persons possessing a Class A, certain Class B or Class C Disabled Permit may use handguns chambered for .410 or larger shotshells for hunting game birds.

### Muzzleloaders and Muzzleloading Handguns

**Muzzleloader** means any caliber of muzzleloading firearm. It is legal to hunt the following with a muzzleloader, but additional ammunition restrictions may apply for certain species (e.g., migratory game birds): small game mammals, game birds, migratory game birds, furbearing animals, wild turkey and unprotected species **except that:**

- Muzzleloading *handguns* are not legal for hunting game birds, wild turkeys or migratory game birds;
- If hunting small game mammals, muzzleloading handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 4 inches measured from the muzzle to the breech face.

### Bows, Arrows and Crossbows

- A **crossbow** means any device using a bow which, once drawn, is held solely by means other than the effort of the person firing it.
- **Crossbows** are legal for any person to use for hunting wild turkey under the authority of a turkey hunting license; or for hunting migratory birds and small game under the authority of a small game hunting license, non-resident furbearer hunting license or crossbow license.
- Crossbows are not legal to use for hunting small game under the authority of an archer license.
- When authorized, crossbows shall have a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a workable safety and use at least 14-inch-long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads. Bows that are equipped with a *draw-lock type mechanism* which holds the bow at full draw are considered crossbows, but are exempt from the 100-pound minimum requirement.

**It is illegal to:**

- Hunt with or while in possession of a poisoned or drugged arrow or those with an explosive tip.

## Arms Transportation

### *It is illegal to:*

- Possess or transport in a moving vehicle any firearm (other than a handgun), bow or crossbow unless it is unloaded;\*

(\***Note:** A loaded firearm can be placed on, but not in, a vehicle which is stationary.

Qualified disabled persons with the authority to shoot from a stationary vehicle must have all firearms [other than handguns] unloaded while the vehicle is in motion.)

- Place, possess or transport a cocked crossbow in or on a motorized vehicle unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case;
- Load a firearm (other than a handgun) while it is in a vehicle;
- Discharge any firearm in or from any moving vehicle or a stationary motorized\* vehicle, except for certain disabled hunters with proper permits;

(\***Note:** A person may load and discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow from a stationary **non-motorized** vehicle such as a wagon, trailer or a blind with wheels, which is not attached to a motor vehicle.)

### **Unloaded** means **any** of the following:

1. Having no shell or cartridge in the chamber of a firearm or in the magazine, clip or cylinder attached to a firearm;
2. Having the cap removed from a percussion muzzleloading firearm;
3. Having the flashpan cleaned of powder from a flintlock muzzleloading firearm;
4. Having the battery disconnected and removed from an electronic-ignition system muzzleloader.

## Hunting Near Roadways

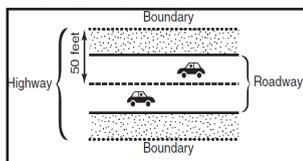
**Highway** means the entire width between the boundary lines of every public road, but does not include private roads and driveways.

**Roadway** means the portion of the highway that is improved or ordinarily used for vehicle travel, excluding the berm or shoulder.

**Public road** means those roads shown on the current official county highway map available from the Department of Transportation.

### *It is illegal to:*

- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center; **or**
- Discharge a firearm, shoot an arrow from a bow or bolt from a crossbow:
  - From or across a highway, **or**
  - Within 50 feet of the roadway's center.



(\***Note:** These prohibitions apply to all public roads [defined above]. However, anyone hunting small game or turkey with a muzzleloader or shotgun loaded with shot size BB or smaller is **exempt** from these prohibitions **if** the roadway is unpaved [i.e., dirt, sand or gravel] and if the adjacent land is not open to public hunting, you must first have permission of the adjacent landowner.)

**Exceptions:** Certain exceptions are allowed for Class A and certain Class B disabled permit holders. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) or call the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for an explanation of these exceptions and request publication number WM-352, *What You Should Know About Permits for People with Disabilities*.

## Shining

### *It is illegal to:*

- Use or possess with intent to use a light, including vehicle headlights or laser sights\* on firearms, bows and crossbows, for shining any wild animal while hunting or in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow;

(\***Note:** Visually handicapped hunters with a Class C Disabled Permit may use a laser sight for hunting.)

- Use or possess with intent to use a light, including vehicle headlights, for shining wild animals between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM from Sept. 15 through Dec. 31 whether or not in possession of a firearm, bow or crossbow.

**Exceptions:** A flashlight or firearm-mounted light may be used at the point of kill while hunting on foot for coyote, raccoon, fox or unprotected species. See page 3 for new definition of **flashlight**.

(**Note:** Some areas may prohibit shining by local ordinance. Check with the local sheriff's department or township officials for local shining restrictions.)

## Dogs

Dogs are considered private property and are protected by law. Owners may be held responsible for damage caused by their dogs while hunting or for dogs running at large.

### ***It is illegal to:***

- Allow a dog to run at large, **except that** a dog actively engaged in a legal hunting activity, including training, is not considered to be running at large if it is monitored or supervised by a person **and** the dog is on land open to public hunting or on land for which the person has obtained permission to hunt with or to train a dog.

## Use of Dogs for Hunting

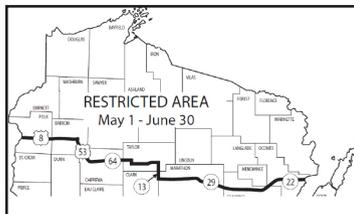
Dogs are legal to use for hunting small game mammals, game birds, furbearing animals, migratory game birds and unprotected species, except dogs may be used for hunting wild turkeys **only** during the fall season. Dogs must be leashed at all times on Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) unless engaged in a legal hunting activity.

## Dog Training

For information about dog training opportunities on DNR lands, regulations and license information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords "dog training."

### ***It is illegal to:***

- Allow dogs to run on DNR lands from April 15–July 31 unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet. This rule does not apply to Class 1 field trial grounds, DNR lands open to dog training or trials—or after June 30 when training dogs to track bear, rabbit or raccoon on lands open to hunting;
- Allow a dog to kill any wild animal at any time;
- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog from May 1 to June 30 in the portion of the state north of the highways shown on the map at right, except as authorized for raccoon and rabbit dog trials or training under the authority of a dog trial or training license.



## Use of Devices

### ***It is illegal to:***

- Hunt any animal with the aid of any aircraft, including unmanned aircraft and drones;
- Use any device other than legal firearms, airguns, bows or crossbows to kill or catch wild animals, except that traps and falconry birds may be used under the appropriate license or permit and seasons;
- Use *draw-lock type mechanisms* that can hold a compound bow at full draw unless authorized to use a crossbow;\*

(\***Note:** This is not allowed under an archer license.)

- Use or possess any electronic or electronically-amplified calls<sup>▲</sup> while hunting migratory game birds or wild turkey;\*\*

(**▲ Note:** It is legal to use any type of call or amplified sound for attracting foxes, raccoon, crows, coyotes and unprotected species during the open season.)

(\*\***Exceptions:** A person with a Class A or B Disabled Hunting Permit issued for more than one year and which authorizes hunting from a stationary vehicle may use electronic calls for hunting wild turkeys.)

- Use live or electronic decoys for the purposes of enticing wild turkeys;
- Use or possess laser sights while hunting unless you are visually handicapped and possess a Class C Disabled Permit;
- Possess or use a firearm suppressor/silencer unless you hold a federal license to possess the device.

## Transport and Sale of Game

### ***It is illegal to:***

- Sell, purchase or barter, or offer to sell, purchase or barter any migratory game bird or part thereof;
- Sell, purchase or barter, or offer to sell, purchase or barter any small game mammal or parts thereof **except** as noted in "Possession and Sale" on pages 10, 14 and 16;
- Sell, purchase or barter, or offer to sell, purchase or barter any game bird or turkey or parts thereof

except as noted in “Possession and Sale” on pages 11 and 17.

(**Note:** Although the sale of carcasses of certain wild animals is allowed if they were lawfully harvested, Dept. of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection Division of Food Safety rules do not allow the sale of uninspected meat for the purpose of human consumption.)

### **Serving Game to Guests**

*It is illegal to:*

- Serve wild-harvested game at any restaurant, club, hotel, tavern or boarding house; or
- Charge or collect a fee to participate in an event where wild-harvested game is served.

(**Note:** The DNR may issue a permit authorizing the serving of lawfully taken and possessed wild animals at these locations. For more information on Wild Game Serving Permits, contact the DNR at (888) 936-7463 or search for Form 9400-175 at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).)

### **Taking and Possession of Game**

*It is illegal to:*

- Take any wild animal which has been lawfully obtained by someone else without having that person’s consent;
- Not immediately kill, in a humane manner, all game taken and make it part of your daily bag;
- Tag game shot by another hunter or shoot game for another hunter unless participating in a gun deer group hunt. See *Deer Hunting Regulations* for details;
- Molest any squirrel nest or den, raccoon den or tree, mink den or muskrat house;
- Unreasonably destroy, molest or waste game. You must make every reasonable effort to retrieve all game killed or crippled. Until such effort is made, the killed or crippled game shall be included in the daily bag.\*

(\***Note:** This rule does **not** allow you to enter private lands without the permission of the landowner or shoot game beyond established shooting hours.)

- Possess any game while afield, unless you hold a valid hunting or trapping license or state permit carried on your person, or unless you are hunting certain game as a landowner or occupant of that land;
- Capture and tag, collar or mark and release any game taken from the wild unless issued the appropriate state and/or federal permit.

### **Ground Blinds on DNR-managed Lands**

During any gun or muzzleloader deer season, all ground blinds (except waterfowl blinds) on lands that are DNR-owned or DNR-managed must have a minimum of **144 square inches of solid blaze orange material visible from all directions**. Also, all unoccupied ground blinds must have the owner’s customer ID number or name and address attached in a manner that is legible and visible in a conspicuous location near the entrance. Ground blinds must be removed daily at the end of hunting hours except waterfowl blinds, which may be left up throughout the season but must be removed completely within seven days of the season closure.\*

(\***Exceptions:** Ground blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property do not need to be removed at the end of each day, do not need to display blaze orange and do not need to have name and address displayed.)

### **Highly Visible Clothing Requirements**

During any gun or muzzleloader deer season (see table page 9), no person may hunt any game unless at least 50% of the person’s outer clothing above the waist including a hat, if worn, is colored blaze orange or fluorescent pink. Although not as visible, camo-blaze is legal if 50% of the material is blaze orange or fluorescent pink.\*

(\***Exceptions:** The blaze clothing requirement does not apply to waterfowl hunters or during legal night hunting activities from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise while hunting coyote, fox, raccoon and unprotected species.)

## White-tailed Deer Seasons\*

Statewide Youth Gun Deer Hunt	Oct. 8–9, 2016
Gun	Nov. 19–27, 2016
Muzzleloader	Nov. 28–Dec. 7, 2016
December 4-day Antlerless Season	Dec. 8–11, 2016
Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt	Dec. 24, 2016–Jan. 1, 2017

\*Note: See the **2016 Deer Hunting Regulations** or call (888) 936-7463 for more information on deer hunting seasons. Holiday Hunt open only in select Farmland Zone counties; see regulations for open counties.

### Hunting Incidents

Any person who discharges a firearm, bow or crossbow and who injures or kills a person should first render necessary assistance and then immediately report the incident to the local sheriff or police. Every person involved in a shooting incident that injures or kills another must render a report to the DNR **within 10 days** of the injury or death.

### Baiting

It is illegal to use bait to hunt small game mammals, migratory birds, game birds, wild turkey and furbearing animals. However, hunting over agricultural crops and wildlife food plots planted and left standing is legal. Also, hunting over seeds dispersed from naturally occurring vegetation, grain or feed scattered solely by normal agricultural operations which include harvesting, post-harvest manipulations or other agricultural practices is not considered baiting. Manipulation of agricultural crops or natural vegetation prior to harvest by mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning or herbicide treatment is legal for hunting **doves**, but is **not legal** for hunting other species. For more information on baiting, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “baiting.”

### Vehicle-killed Game and Possession

Any person may claim a **deer, bear or turkey** that has been accidentally killed by a motor vehicle. The driver of a vehicle that collides with and kills a deer, bear or turkey has first priority to the carcass.

- **Deer:** Contact the DNR vehicle-killed deer hotline at (608) 267-7691 prior to possessing or removing the deer from the scene. Upon completing notification to DNR, a person may, without a tag, legally possess and transport a vehicle-killed deer; transport must be in compliance with chronic wasting disease transportation rules available in the annual *Deer Hunting Regulations* pamphlet.
- **Bear or Turkey:** Contact your local sheriff’s department to obtain a free tag before moving the bear or turkey so that the carcass can be legally possessed.
- **Small Game:** A person who accidentally kills small game animals while operating a motor vehicle on a highway can take possession of the carcass without the need to obtain a tag only if:
  1. The animal is **NOT** a fisher, otter, bobcat, wolf, migratory bird or a protected, endangered or threatened species;
  2. The person possesses a license authorizing the hunting or trapping of the kind of animal that was killed, **AND** the animal was killed during the open season for that species;
  3. If the operator of the vehicle that killed the animal does not want to take possession of the carcass, then any person with a license authorizing the hunting or trapping of that animal may take possession of the carcass if it is during an open season for the species.

### Trap Theft

Stealing or molesting lawfully set or placed traps or snares is a criminal act, punishable by a mandatory 5-year revocation of all hunting, fishing and trapping privileges, fines (\$300–\$1000), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or all three.



## Wisconsin Conservation Congress

*Attend the Spring Hearings and get involved!*

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is the only statutory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin’s natural resources for present and future generations. The Congress accomplishes this through open, impartial, broad-ranged actions. For more information on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “conservation congress.”

## UNPROTECTED SPECIES REGULATIONS

In addition to the general small game regulations listed on pages 4 to 9, the following regulations are specific to unprotected species.

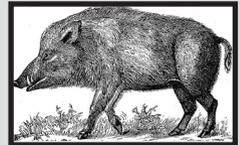


- **Unprotected Species:** See description on page 3 of this pamphlet.
  - **Season:** These species can be hunted year-round in areas open to hunting.
  - **Possession Limits:** There is **no** daily bag limit and **no** possession limit.
  - **Possession and Sale:** It is legal to sell the carcass, skins or feathers of legally harvested unprotected species.
- **Licenses, Stamps and Permits:** A small game hunting license or trapping license is required, **except that:**
1. Landowners do not need a license to shoot or trap unprotected species causing damage or nuisance. (See page 20 for details, exceptions, and free licenses for qualified individuals and landowners.)
  2. Persons, including landowners, hunting or trapping unprotected species must comply with all methods of taking requirements and restrictions unless otherwise authorized by a permit from the DNR.
- **Night Hunting:** Unprotected species (as well as coyote, fox and raccoon) may be hunted **without** hunting hour restrictions **except:**
1. If hunting with a bow or crossbow, the hours listed on pages 31–32 apply for hunting all species\* during the bear and archery deer seasons.
  2. If hunting with a gun, the hours listed on pages 31–32 apply for hunting all species\* during the regular 9-day November gun deer season. In the Southern Farmland Management Zone during this season, however, unprotected species **may** be hunted without hunting hour restrictions. This restriction does not apply, in any deer management zone or unit, during the 4-day antlerless deer season, youth deer hunt or muzzleloader season. See deer season dates on page 9.
- \*Migratory game bird hunters should follow hunting hours given in *2016 Wisconsin Migratory Bird Regulations*.
- **Highly Visible Clothing Requirement:** Hunters of unprotected species are exempt from the blaze clothing requirement on page 8 if hunting 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- **Use of Lights:** A flashlight or firearm-mounted light may be used at the **point of kill** while hunting on foot for coyote, raccoon, fox or unprotected species. Lights may not be used to shine for these animals while in possession of firearm, bow or crossbow.

### Nuisance Wild Hogs

European wild hogs and Russian wild boars are not common, nor are they native to Wisconsin. These animals damage the environment and pose health risks to native wildlife and domestic livestock. Please consider shooting any wild hogs you encounter in the field. You may legally shoot a wild or feral hog if:

- you are a landowner with or without a hunting license and the hog is on your property;
- you have a license which authorizes hunting small game; or
- you have first called the DNR and received authorization to shoot a hog (you may be required to turn the hog over to the DNR if you are not the landowner or if you do not have the appropriate hunting license).



# SMALL GAME HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

## Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Regulations

In addition to the general small game hunting regulations listed on pages 4–9, the following are regulations specific to game birds:



### Small Game Limits and Season Dates\*

Species	Daily Bag	Area	2016 (except as noted)	
			Opens	Closes
Pheasants	See below**	Statewide	Oct. 15 (9 AM)	Dec. 31
Bobwhite Quail	5	Statewide	Oct. 15 (9 AM)	Dec. 7
Ruffed Grouse	5	Zone A	Sept. 17	Jan. 31, 2017
	2	Zone B	Oct. 15	Dec. 8
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	3	Statewide <sup>▲</sup>	Oct. 15 (9 AM)	Dec. 31
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Permit availability is currently under review. Visit <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov">dnr.wi.gov</a> for updates.			
Crows	15	Statewide	Sept. 17	Nov. 17
			Jan. 18, 2017	Mar. 20, 2017

(\*Note: Turkey season dates and hunting regulations are published on pages 16–20.)

(\*\*Note: Pheasant: One rooster daily on Oct. 15–16; two roosters daily for the remainder of season.)

(<sup>▲</sup>Note: Gray [Hungarian] partridge season **CLOSED** in Clark, Marathon and Taylor Counties.)

### Possession and Sale

**Possession Limits:** Three times the daily bag limit for that species.

*It is illegal to:*

- Sell, purchase or trade any game bird or wild turkeys or the parts of game birds or wild turkeys **except that** the naturally shed feathers of game birds or wild turkey—or feathers from lawfully taken game birds or wild turkey— may be sold, purchased or bartered or offered for sale, purchase or barter.
- Completely dress any pheasant while in the field or during transportation from the field. The head, one fully feathered wing or an entire leg must remain attached to the dressed carcass while in the field or during transportation from the field.

### Licenses/Stamps/Permits

• A small game hunting license is required. See pages 20 and 25–26 for exceptions for qualified individuals and landowners;

• Pheasant: **a Pheasant Stamp is required statewide** regardless of age (see exemption on pages 25 and 26);

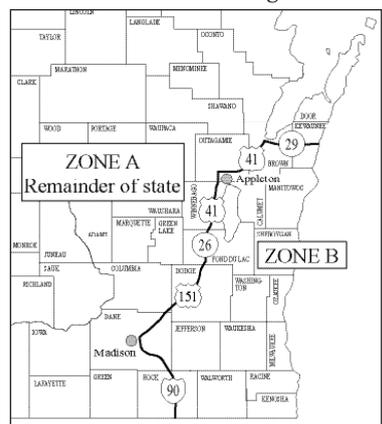
• Ruffed grouse, quail, partridge and crow: no other special stamps or permits are required;

• Sharp-tailed grouse: \* Hunters must apply for a permit for specified areas. No stamp is required. It is illegal to possess more than one copy of a sharp-tailed grouse permit while afield.

(\*Note: 2016 season permit availability is currently under review. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for updates.)

•HIP certification is **not** required for hunting the game birds listed in the table above. However, hunters who may want to harvest migratory game birds as part of a mixed bag—for instance, a grouse hunter who has the chance to harvest woodcock—must be HIP-certified.

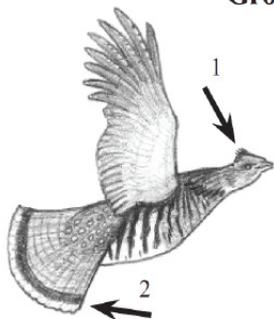
### Ruffed Grouse Hunting Zones



## Attention Grouse Hunters

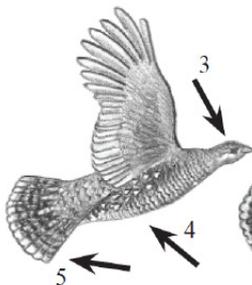
When in coniferous forest (especially jack pine or near spruce bogs) in the northern two tiers of counties, be aware of the presence of spruce grouse. Spruce grouse are state threatened and no harvest is permitted. Spruce grouse lack the crest and thick black tail bands shown by ruffed grouse. Spruce grouse are more likely to allow close approach than ruffed grouse. To learn more, see the Grouse Identification Guide below or go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “ruffed grouse.”

## Grouse Identification Guide



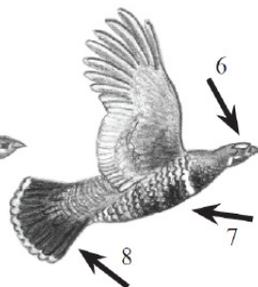
**Ruffed Grouse**

1. Crest
2. Broad black band



**Spruce Grouse - Female**

3. No crest
4. Horizontal barring
5. No broad black band



**Spruce Grouse - Male**

6. Red eye comb and no crest
7. Black and white breast
8. Black with rust-colored tip



## Special Pheasant Hunting Regulations

### 2:00 P.M. Pheasant Hunting Closure Areas

The boundaries of the following properties are posted with signs indicating that pheasant hours close at 2:00 P.M. on weekdays between Oct. 17–Nov. 3.

**For more information refer to the 2016 Stocking Information Sheet.**

Allenton Wildlife Area (W.A.) (Washington County)	Mazomanie Unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (Dane)
Brooklyn W.A. (Dane and Green)	Mud Lake W.A. (Dodge)
C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Fish and W.A. (Kewaunee)	Mud Lake W.A. (Columbia)
Dunnville W.A. (Dunn)	New Munster W.A. (Kenosha)
Eldorado Marsh W.A. (Fond Du Lac)	Nichols Creek W.A. (Sheboygan)
Goose Lake W.A. (Dane)	Richard Bong State Recreation Area*
Grand River W.A. (Green Lake and Marquette)	Pine Island W.A. (Columbia and Sauk)
Holland W.A. (Brown)	Theresa W.A. (Dodge and Washington)
Horicon W.A. (Dodge)	Tichigan W.A. (Racine)
Jackson Marsh W.A. (Washington)	Vernon W.A. (Waukesha)
Killsnake W.A. (Calumet and Manitowoc)	White River W.A. (Green Lake and Marquette)

(\***Note:** After Oct. 15, the daily closing of hunting hours for all species at Richard Bong State Recreation Area is 2 P.M. **except** that normal hunting hours apply while hunting waterfowl south of Hwy 142 or while archery deer hunting.)

**Hen and Rooster Hunting Areas and Regulations** (applicable on Hen and Rooster Areas only)  
 For more information, refer to the 2016 Stocking Information Sheet at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).

Avoca Unit of the Lower Wisc. State Riverway (Iowa county)	Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit/ Scuppernong (Waukesha)
Boscobel Unit of the Lower Wisc. State Riverway (Grant)	Kickapoo Valley Reserve (Vernon)
C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Fish and W. A. (Kewaunee)	Richard Bong State Recreation Area (see <a href="http://www.bongnaturalistassociation.org">www.bongnaturalistassociation.org</a> for additional regulations.)
Tom Lawin W.A. (Chippewa)	Sand Creek Fishery Area (Monroe)
Vernon W.A. (Waukesha)	

1. During transportation from the field, the head, one fully feathered wing or an entire leg must remain attached to any pheasant carcass that was dressed out in the field.
2. The daily bag limit on Hen/Rooster Hunting Areas is one pheasant daily on Oct. 15 and 16; two pheasants daily from Oct. 17 to Dec. 31. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

**Does not include waterfowl.\***

In addition to the general small game hunting regulations listed on pages 4–9, the following are regulations specific to migratory game birds.



Species	Daily Bag	Area	2016	
			Opens	Closes
Mourning Dove	15	Statewide	Sept. 1	Nov. 29
Woodcock	3	Statewide	Sept. 24	Nov. 7
Snipe	8	Statewide	Concurrent with duck season <sup>▲</sup>	
Sora & Virginia Rails	25	Statewide	Concurrent with duck season <sup>▲</sup>	

(\*Waterfowl regulations are printed in a separate publication available in summer 2016.)

(<sup>▲</sup>Duck seasons are determined in summer 2016. Contact the DNR Call Center for dates.)

**Possession Limits:** Three times the daily bag limit for that species.

**Possession and Sale:** *It is illegal* to sell, purchase or trade any wild migratory game bird or the parts of any wild migratory game bird.

**Transportation:** Birds may be field dressed, but the head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached while in the field and while being transported (1) from the field to the person’s permanent residence and (2) between a hunting cabin, camp, motel or other temporary residence to the person’s permanent residence.

**Licenses/Permits:** A small game hunting license is required (state or federal waterfowl stamps are not required) to hunt the species in the table above. See pages 25–26 for details and exceptions for qualified individuals.

**HIP Certification:** Hunters must be enrolled in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP). See page 3 of this pamphlet or visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “harvest information program.”

### Attention Dove Hunters

**Dove Hunting Safety!** Hunters need to be absolutely aware of their target and beyond, especially when hunting on public grounds where other hunters may be wearing camouflaged clothing. Avoid shooting horizontally at low-flying birds or at birds on the ground. When in doubt, limit shooting to birds flying overhead.

**Look for Dove Bands:** Doves are banded to help with population monitoring and harvest management. Please look for a small silver band on one leg of harvested doves and follow reporting instructions on the band.

**For more information** on doves and DNR dove hunting fields, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “dove.”

**Weapons and Ammunition:** Only shotguns that are chambered for 10 gauge or smaller shotshells and are capable of holding three shells or fewer are legal for hunting migratory game birds. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells (magazine and chamber combined) must be plugged with a one-piece filler that limits the capacity of the gun to three shells. The filler must be such that it cannot be removed without disassembling the gun. Hunters are **required** to use non-toxic shot while hunting snipe and rail, and while hunting mourning dove on DNR-managed land. Hunters are encouraged to use non-toxic shot for mourning dove on private lands as well as for hunting woodcock. It is not legal to possess shotshells larger than size 10 gauge while hunting migratory game birds. See additional handgun restrictions on page 5.

**Hunting Hours** end at sunset each day. You must subtract 20 minutes from PM hours each day in the tables listed on pages 31–32 or refer to the hours printed in the *2016 Migratory Bird Regulations*.



## FURBEARING ANIMAL HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

In addition to the general small game hunting regulations listed on pages 4–9, the following are regulations specific to furbearing animals.

Species	Daily Bag	Area	2016 (except as noted)		
			Opens	Closes	
Raccoons—Residents	Unlimited	Statewide	Oct. 15	Feb. 15, 2017	
Raccoons—Nonresidents	Unlimited	Statewide	Oct. 29	Feb. 15, 2017	
Fox—Red & Gray	Unlimited	Statewide	Oct. 15	Feb. 15, 2017	
Coyote	Unlimited	Statewide	Year-round open hunting season		
Bobcat*	1 by permit*	Northern Zone, Southern Zone: Hwy 64 is zone boundary	Period 1	Oct. 15	Dec. 25
			Period 2	Dec. 26	Jan. 31, 2017

\***Note:** The application deadline for a bobcat permit or preference point is August 1. Bobcat permits may be transferred to youth under the age of 18 no later than 15 days before the open season. The youth receiving the permit will retain his/her accumulated preference points. Preference points may also be transferred from a deceased person to a youth. Contact the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for more information about transfers.

**Possession Limits:** Unlimited for above-listed species, except that bobcat may be possessed only under the authority of a valid bobcat permit. See page 15 for additional information.

**Possession and Sale:** Lawfully harvested carcasses and pelts may be sold at any time. After their skin is removed, bobcat carcasses may be retained by the DNR for research purposes. **It is illegal** to possess the green skin of a bobcat which has not been registered beginning on the 6th day after the season closes.

**Licenses/Permits:** Residents are required to have a small game hunting license and non-residents are required to have a furbearer license. See pages 20 and 25–26 for details and exceptions for qualified individuals and landowners. A bobcat permit and tag are required to hunt or trap a bobcat.

**Night Hunting:** Coyote, fox, raccoon, and unprotected species may be hunted **without** hunting hour restrictions. See exceptions under **Night Hunting** on page 10.

**Highly Visible Clothing Requirement:** Hunters of unprotected species are exempt from the blaze clothing requirement on page 8 if hunting 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.

**Use of Lights:** A flashlight or firearm-mounted light may be used at the **point of kill** while hunting on foot for coyote, raccoon, fox or unprotected species. Lights may not be used to shine for these animals while in possession of firearm, bow or crossbow.

## Bobcat

- A bobcat harvest permit and unfilled carcass tag for the appropriate bobcat management zone are required to be in your possession while hunting bobcat (see page 14).
- Immediately upon dispatching a bobcat, the pelt tag must be validated and attached. Validate the tag by slitting the month and date of kill on the tag. Attach the validated pelt tag to the carcass using wire or other similar attachment device and passing it through the animal's mouth to eye opening, just beneath the skin.
- You must notify the DNR **within 24 hours** of the harvest by visiting [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) or by calling (844) GAME-REG (844-426-3734) **AND** you must exhibit your bobcat to an authorized DNR representative (usually a conservation warden) for registration and tagging **no later than five days after the month of harvest**. The bobcat pelt must be separated from the carcass and both parts must be presented at the time of registration and tagging.
- The registration tag shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation.
- You may **not** possess bobcat pelts *longer than five days after the month of harvest* without registering the pelt with an authorized DNR representative.
- No person may transfer, give, trade, sell or purchase any bobcat pelt unless it bears a DNR carcass tag and registration tag attached by an authorized DNR representative.
- The bobcat carcass will be retained by the DNR for research purposes. Carcasses are used for determining population trends which aid in establishing harvest quotas. See *2016 Trapping Regulations* for more information.

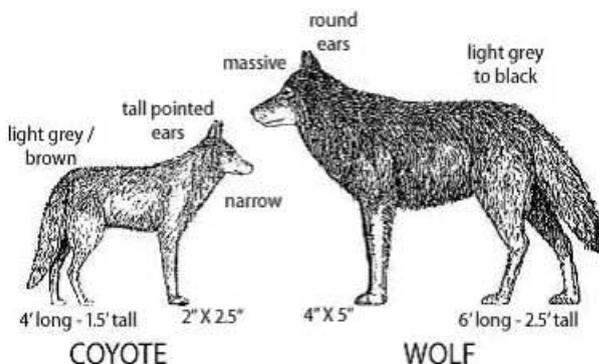
### Bobcat Registration

You must skin your bobcat and separate the pelt from the carcass before registering the pelt at a designated DNR registration station. The only exception is for specimens going to a taxidermist. You must retrieve the carcass from the taxidermist and deliver it to the DNR within 30 days of registration. (Note: These animals must be registered prior to taxidermy.) Bobcats do not need to be registered in the zone of harvest, but they must be registered by an authorized DNR representative. Fur tagging is by appointment only, unless stated otherwise. Contact your local conservation warden to have your bobcat registered. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keyword "trap" or call (888) 936-7463 for conservation warden contact information. A map of game management units can also be found on the webpage.

**Carcass Collection for 2016–17:** The DNR will collect bobcat carcasses statewide. The DNR retains the carcasses for important species management and research purposes.

*Note: Either period may be closed before the listed date if the harvest quota for that zone is reached early. For zone status, please visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keyword "trap."*

## Coyote vs. Wolf: Know the Difference



Primary wolf range is northern and central Wisconsin, but they travel throughout the state. Wolf season is currently closed in Wisconsin. Always be sure of your target. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keyword "wolf" for more information.



## SMALL GAME MAMMAL HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

In addition to the general small game hunting regulations listed on pages 4-9, the following are regulations specific to small game mammals:

Species	Daily Bag	Area	2016 (except as noted)	
			Opens	Closes
Squirrels—Gray & Fox	5	Statewide	Sept. 17	Jan. 31, 2017
Snowshoe Hare	Unlimited	Statewide	Year-round open season	
Cottontail Rabbit	3	North Zone (north of Hwy 10 to Waupaca and north of Hwy 54 to Algoma)	Sept. 17	Feb. 28, 2017
	3	South Zone (south of Hwy 10 to Waupaca and south of Hwy 54 to Algoma)	Oct. 15 (9 AM)	Feb. 28, 2017

- **Possession Limits:** Three times the daily bag limit.
- **Possession and Sale:** The tails, skins and skulls of lawfully-taken squirrels may be bought and sold if severed from the rest of the carcass. Carcasses and skins of rabbits and hares can be sold, but only during their open season (see table above).
- **Licenses/Stamps/Permits:** A small game hunting license is required. See pages 20 and 25–26 for details and exemptions for qualified individuals and landowners.

## FALL AND SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

### Turkey Hunting Seasons



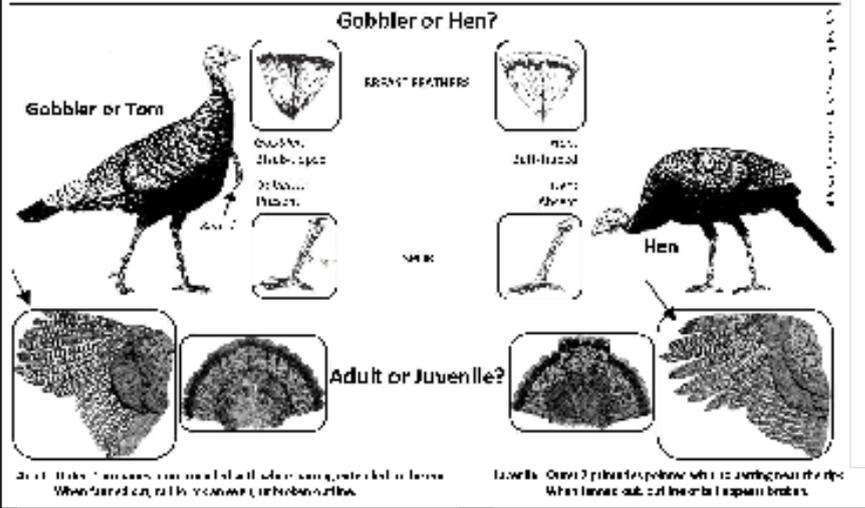
In addition to the general small game and hunting regulations listed on pages 4–9, the following regulations are specific to the fall and spring wild turkey seasons.

Season	Bag Limit	Area	Opens	Closes
<b>Fall 2016</b>	One turkey of any age or sex* per permit. Applicants with more than one permit may harvest more than one turkey on the same day. <i>You may only hunt in the zone specified on your turkey hunting permit. See map on page 18.</i>	Zones 1–5	Sept. 17	Dec. 31
		Zones 6 & 7	Sept. 17	Nov. 18
<b>Spring 2017</b>	One bearded or male turkey* per permit. Applicants with more than one permit may only harvest more than one turkey on the same day if the permits are for the same time period. <i>You may only hunt in the zone and time period specified on your turkey hunting permit. See map on page 18.</i>	Period A	Apr. 19	Apr. 25
		Period B	Apr. 26	May 2
		Period C	May 3	May 9
		Period D	May 10	May 16
		Period E	May 17	May 23
<b>Spring 2017 Youth Hunt</b>	One bearded or male turkey* only during this two-day hunt	Youth hunters are limited to the turkey management zone for which their carcass tag was issued.	Apr. 15	Apr. 16

(\*Note: Turkeys with white plumage may be harvested and must be tagged in accordance with proper tagging procedure. A bearded turkey is a turkey with a bristle-like appendage protruding from the upper part of the breast.)

Preliminary permit levels will be available prior to each application deadline. Final permit levels will be posted prior to the opening of each season. For the latest numbers, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “turkey.”

# AGING AND SEXING EASTERN WILD TURKEYS



## Hunting Hours

See pages 30 and 31–32 for hunting area map and hunting hour charts;

- **Spring Turkey:** Hunting hours begin ½ hour before sunrise and end at sunset.
- **Fall Turkey:** Hunting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset.

## Weapons and Ammunition

See pages 4–6 for regulations.

## Validation and Tagging

Upon killing a turkey, hunters must immediately validate the carcass tag by writing the date and time of kill in the space provided. No hunter may leave the turkey carcass unless the validated carcass tag has been attached to it. Hunters must provide their own fastener (such as string, plastic ties or wire). It is the hunter's responsibility to keep carcass tags protected and in legible condition; consider protecting them in a plastic bag. You must show the tag to the department upon request. **It is illegal to possess more than one copy of a carcass tag while afield.**

## Registration

All harvested turkeys must be registered either online ([gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)), or by phone at 844 GAME-REG (844 426 3734) by 5:00 PM on the day after harvest. No in-person registration stations are available. Hunters will be given a harvest registration confirmation number and must record it on their carcass tag at the time of registration.

## Possession and Sale

**It is illegal to:**

- Sell, purchase or trade any game bird, or wild turkeys, or the parts of game birds, or wild turkeys **except that** the naturally shed feathers of game birds or wild turkey—or feathers from lawfully taken game birds or wild turkey—may be sold, purchased or bartered or offered for sale, purchase or barter.

## Licenses/Stamps/Permits

Hunters must purchase a turkey license, turkey stamp, and permit (also called a carcass tag) valid for a specific season. These items must be carried while hunting and presented to a conservation warden if requested. It is illegal to possess more than one copy of a turkey permit while afield. Permits are awarded to applicants via preference drawing, and successful applicants will be notified by postcard.

**Please note: permits will not be mailed.**

**Exception:** Patron license holders successful in the *fall* drawing will receive their tag in the mail. Patron license holders successful in the *spring* drawing will be issued a permit at the time they purchase a patron or spring turkey license for the upcoming season. Senior Citizen Recreation Card holders awarded a permit must present their card to a license agent to obtain their free permit.

- **Permit Drawing System:** Turkey permits are distributed by a drawing using a cumulative preference system that determines when applications go into the drawing. Spring and fall applications are tracked separately. Preference is as follows\*:

- 1) Resident landowners with 50 or more contiguous acres;
- 2) Residents with one or more preference points for the same season;
- 3) All other residents;
- 4) Non-resident landowners;
- 5) Other non-resident applicants.

(\*Note: If members of a group turkey hunting application have different preference status, the **lowest preference** will be used for all members of the group. For more information on group applications, go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “turkey questions.”)

- **Deadlines:** Application deadlines are **Aug. 1** for the 2016 fall hunting season and **Dec. 10** for the 2017 spring hunting season. A \$3.00 application fee is required of all applicants except Conservation Patron license holders. Turkey applications can be obtained and submitted online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) or in person at a license agent or DNR service center.

- **Leftover Fall or Spring Turkey Permits:** All permits that are not awarded through the permit drawing will be sold at license sales locations and at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov). Residents and non-residents can purchase these permits at a rate of one permit, per person, per day; doing so will not affect your preference status for future spring or fall turkey permit drawings. For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “turkey.”

- **Transfer of Turkey Permit:** A turkey permit awarded through the drawing process may only be transferred to a person aged 10–17 by submitting form 9400-403Y to the DNR at least 15 days prior to the start of the turkey season. Preference points or approvals can be transferred to a minor from a deceased customer using form 9400-592. Youth may be transferred each of these only ONE time. Leftover permits cannot be transferred.

### Wild Turkey Management Zones



- To hunt turkey in a state park that is open to hunting, you must hold a permit/carcass tag for the general zone (i.e. zones 1–7) in which the park is located.

- Spring turkey hunting is allowed in state parks during the 2-day Spring Youth Turkey Hunt and during the first three time periods of the regular season.

### Assisting Other Hunters

- 18
- During the spring turkey seasons, you must possess a turkey hunting license, stamp and valid, unused carcass tag if you possess a firearm, bow or crossbow and:

- 1) A turkey decoy or calling device; **or**
  - 2) A member of your hunting party possesses a turkey decoy or calling device.
- No license is required to call turkeys for another hunter if the caller does not possess a firearm, bow or crossbow. However, a guide license is required if a fee is charged.

### Fort McCoy

Fort McCoy conducts its own spring and fall turkey hunts, independent of the DNR's season. See page 27 for application information. You may not apply for a Ft. McCoy fall turkey permit if you plan to or have already applied for a fall turkey permit through the DNR. You may not apply for a Ft. McCoy spring turkey permit if you receive an approval to hunt turkeys through the DNR's drawing for the 2017 spring season. However, if you are issued a Ft. McCoy spring turkey permit, it does not prevent you from being able to purchase a leftover permit from the DNR.

### Special Turkey Hunts for Disabled Hunters

Hunters with a Class A or C permit, or a Class B permit issued for more than one year and which authorizes hunting from a stationary vehicle are eligible to participate in a special disabled spring turkey hunt on private land. Interested hunters are required to obtain permission from a landowner willing to sponsor a hunt and meet all application requirements. **Note:** A hunter who applies for a disabled turkey hunt on private lands may not apply for a permit through the regular spring turkey drawing. For information or special hunt applications (Forms 2300-271 and 2300-271A) please contact the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 or the Assistant Upland Wildlife Ecologist at (608) 261-8458, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

### Learn to Hunt Turkey

Hunters interested in learning more about turkey hunting are encouraged to participate in one of the "Learn to Hunt Turkey" events, held statewide just prior to the opening of the spring turkey season. These events combine classroom instruction and field work to prepare novice hunters for a mentored hunt. To learn more, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "LTH."

### **Finding Land Open to Hunting**

Wisconsin has an abundance of land open to hunting, including state-managed wildlife, fisheries, and natural areas, forests, and private land enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL), Forest Crop Law (FCL), Voluntary Public Access (VPA) or Wisconsin Damage Abatement and Claims (WDACP) programs. Combined, hunters have access to nearly seven million acres of land throughout Wisconsin. If you are looking for a place to hunt, please visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords "state lands" or "public access to tax law land."

### Youth Turkey Hunt Rules and Regulations: April 15 and 16, 2017

- Open to residents and non-residents who are 10–15 years of age and possess a spring turkey license stamp, and valid permit for spring 2017. Youth ages 10–11 and youth without hunter education must hunt under the Hunting Mentorship Program. See pages 20 and 26 for details.
- Permits issued for any spring 2017 turkey hunting time period may be used during the youth hunt, but youth hunters are limited to the turkey management zone in which their permit is valid. Please note state parks are now considered part of the turkey management zone in which they are located.
- Youth hunters may harvest only one male or bearded turkey during the two-day youth hunt. Additional permits that the youth possesses must be used during the time period for which they were issued.
- A youth who does not successfully harvest a turkey during the two-day youth hunt may use his or her unfilled permit during the time period and in the zone for which the permit was issued.
- Youth hunters must be **accompanied** by an adult 18 years of age or older during the two-day youth hunt:
  - Hunters who **do not possess a hunter education certificate or are 10–11 years of age:**
    - "Accompany" means the adult must be within arm's reach at all times during the hunt. Adult mentors must possess a Wisconsin hunting license valid in the current year for **any** type of game. If the mentor was born on or after Jan. 1, 1973 they must be a graduate of

a hunter education course or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces. Mentors may only mentor one youth aged 10 or 11, or who has not completed hunter education, at a time. Only one firearm, bow or crossbow may be possessed between the mentor and youth.\*

(\*Note: A concealed weapon, legally possessed by a permit holder, is counted toward the one weapon limit. Certain exemptions to the license requirements apply if mentoring on a licensed bird hunting preserve or on land the mentor owns or occupies; contact DNR for details.)

- Hunters **12–15 years of age** who possess a hunter education certificate:

– “Accompany” means the adult is within both visual and voice contact of the youth. The adult does not have to be a licensed hunter or a hunter education graduate, and can accompany up to two youth at one time.

## **PRIVATE LANDS AND LAND OWNER INFORMATION**

### **License Requirements**

A landowner is required to have a license to hunt deer, bear, turkey, game birds, migratory game birds and bobcat, or to trap otter, muskrat, mink, bobcat or fishers. The owner or occupant of any land and members of their family\* may, **without a license** and subject to all other restrictions except seasons, hunt or trap on their own property for beaver, fox, coyote, raccoon, woodchuck, rabbit and squirrel year-round, and unprotected species causing damage or a nuisance, and may sell the skins of these species (except for woodchucks).<sup>▲</sup>

(\*Note: Family members who **do not** live with the owner or occupant of the land may also hunt or trap certain species without a license on this land only if they are siblings and/or children of the owner or occupant and are under the age of 18.\*\*)

(\*\*Note: hunting is illegal for anyone under the age of 10. Mentorship rules apply to youth ages 10 and 11; see page 26 for more details.)

(<sup>▲</sup>Note: Grackles, red-winged blackbirds and cowbirds are protected species and may not be hunted for recreational purposes. They may be killed on private lands without a hunting license or federal permit **ONLY IF** they are causing damage or are about to cause damage to trees, crops, livestock, or wildlife, or if they are concentrated in large numbers that may constitute a health hazard or other nuisance. Crows may also be killed without a federal permit and outside the normal crow season in these situations. Non-toxic shot is required when shooting crows outside the normal season and when shooting grackles, red-winged blackbirds and cowbirds which are causing damage or a nuisance.)

### **Liability**

Under sec. 895.52 of the Wisconsin Statutes, landowners are generally immune from liability for injuries received by individuals recreating on their lands. This law provides landowners with liability protection for injury or death of individuals participating in outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, camping, boating and berry picking on their land. This immunity does not apply when the landowner receives more than \$2,000 a year in income from the recreational activity or when the landowner acted maliciously with an intent to harm the recreator. There is also an exception for social guests invited specifically for an occasion on residential or platted property or property within 300 feet of a commercial building or structure. Courts have consistently interpreted this statute to protect landowners and encourage them to allow others to recreate on their lands.

### **Trespassing**

Landowners suspecting that individuals are trespassing on their property should **contact their local sheriff or other local law enforcement**. Conservation wardens do not have the authority to investigate trespassing complaints. Any person convicted of trespassing is subject to a penalty of up to \$1,359. According to sec. 943.13 of the Wisconsin statutes, **it is illegal to:**

- Enter land of another without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant of the land. This includes railroad tracks and their adjacent properties;
- Enter or remain on a property after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain. Notification can be made personally (i.e., orally or in writing) by the owner or occupant or through posting the land.

**Remember:** Although hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve game they have killed or injured, hunters may not trespass to retrieve game, even if it was shot outside the posted area.

## Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law

This section refers to rules on private land enrolled in either the Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. *It is illegal to:*

- Build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree and is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.
- Damage trees.

(\*Note: Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal.)

- Operate any vehicle including, but not limited to, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles and trail bikes except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit.\*\*

(\*\*Note: This does not apply to owners of lands enrolled in either program or to those who have the landowner's authorization.)

## STATE-OWNED LANDS (INCLUDING STATE FORESTS)

This section refers to rules for all lands and property owned by or under control of the DNR including lands under easement to or lease by the state of Wisconsin. State-owned lands **do not** include lands enrolled in Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. See above for rules regarding these properties.

### Trail Cameras

The placement and unattended, overnight use of trail cameras is authorized on department lands only under the **following conditions:**

- 1) Placement only occurs in areas where hunting is allowed and outside of designated special use zones (such as designated hiking trails, beaches or buildings);
- 2) Trail cameras bear the name and address or department-issued customer identification number of the owner or operator permanently attached or engraved to the outside of the camera so that it is clearly visible without the need to move or adjust the camera;
- 3) Cameras may not cause damage to natural vegetation or other department property;
- 4) Placement of trail cameras on department-managed lands is done at your own risk. The department is not responsible for theft or damage of trail cameras on department-managed lands.

*It is illegal to:*

- Hunt or possess a firearm or bow in a wildlife refuge, or possess a firearm, air gun, slingshot or bow in a state park,\* state fish hatchery or within 100 yards of a state campground, picnic area or within the exterior boundaries of a state recreational trail (except as posted open to hunting) unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case. A bow/crossbow must be unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

(\*Note: This section does not prohibit a person authorized to possess a concealed weapon from possessing a loaded, uncased handgun on these properties, or a hunter from possessing or discharging a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow in areas of state parks that are open to hunting during those portions of the year when hunting is open in that state park.)

- Pursue, drive or chase animals on lands that are closed to hunting;
- Use a ground blind during any open season or special hunt for deer with firearms unless a **minimum of 144 square inches** of solid blaze orange or fluorescent orange material is **visible from all directions**;\*\*

(\*\*Note: Blinds used for waterfowl hunting are exempt from this rule.)

- Build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree and is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours;▲

(▲Note: Blinds used for waterfowl hunting do not need to be removed daily. See waterfowl regulations for details.)

- Leave a tree stand or ground blind unoccupied during legal hunting hours unless the owner's customer ID number or name and address have been attached in a manner that is visible and legible to a person on the ground;▼

(▼Note: Ground blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property do not need to be removed at the end of each day, do not need to display blaze orange and do not need to have name and address displayed.)

- Damage trees. Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal;
- Possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun while within the exterior boundary of state-owned lands posted with department signs in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties or on state forests, state recreation areas, state natural areas or on state trails established on railroad grades, except as follows:
  1. While engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons listed on pages 10–17.
  2. While shooting at an established target range (this is the only target shooting permitted on these state lands).
  3. While training or trialing dogs under department license within designated areas.
 

(\*Note: This section does not prohibit possession of a loaded, uncased handgun by persons authorized to carry a concealed or openly exposed handgun in areas not posted against firearm possession.)
- Camp on any state lands except in designated campgrounds or on state-owned islands on the Mississippi and Lower Wisconsin State Riverway unless a special camp registration permit is obtained from the DNR prior to setting up camp;
- Allow dogs to run on DNR lands from April 15 through July 31 unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet. This rule does not apply to Class 1 field trial grounds, DNR lands open to dog training or after June 30 when training dogs to track bears, rabbits or raccoons on lands open to hunting. Also, there are exceptions for the training and trialing of dogs on raccoon and rabbits with a training license. See the *Wisconsin Dog Training and Trialing Regulations* (PUB-WM-444) for more information, license requirements and restrictions;
- Operate any vehicle including, but not limited to, snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all-terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit. This prohibition does not apply to public roadways and trails held open to the public for the type of vehicle being operated. *Bicycles are permitted in all areas of northern state forests and the Turtle-Flambeau and Willow Flowage Scenic Water Areas, except where posted against such use.*

## STATE PARK HUNTING

Hunting is allowed in most state parks, except that in some state parks, hunting is limited to bow and crossbow. Additionally, hunting is not allowed in the following areas: Copper Culture, Cross Plains, Governor Nelson, Heritage Hill and Lakeshore State Parks, Hank Aaron State Trail, Fischer Creek State Recreation Area, Havenwoods State Forest, Lapham Peak and Pike Lake units of Kettle Moraine State Forest, and most of Lost Dauphin State Park. A state park sticker or pass is required for all vehicles in any state park.

All legal hunting methods are allowed during any open season during the following dates:\*

Hunting Method	Fall 2016	Spring 2017
Hunting with Firearms	Nov. 15–Dec. 15	Apr. 1–May 2, 2017
Hunting with Bow or Crossbow	Nov. 15–Jan. 8, 2017	Apr. 1–May 2, 2017

(\*Note: For more regulations specific to hunting opportunities in state parks not described above or for information on individual state parks, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “hunting state parks.”)

**Season Dates for Buckhorn State Park:** The bow hunting deer season at Buckhorn State Park will run from Sept. 17, 2016–Jan. 8, 2017.

**Property Access:** Hunters may enter a state park or state trail property starting at 6 AM or one hour prior to the hunting hours for the species they will be pursuing (whichever is earlier) and remain on the property until 11 PM.

**Hunting Hours:** Normal hunting hours apply **except** for those species that are legal to hunt at night (i.e., raccoon, fox, coyote and unprotected species). On any state park or state trail property, hunting hours for species that do not have hour restrictions begin one hour before sunrise and run until 11 PM, except when the 9-day November gun deer season is open, during which normal hunting hour restrictions apply to hunting for all species. See pages 31–32 for hunting hours.

**It is illegal to:**

- Discharge a firearm, gun, bow and arrow or crossbow from, on or across any state trail corridor or other state park area closed to hunting;
- Hunt outside of the hunting hours listed on pages 31–32, unless hunting a species that is legal to hunt at night;
- Hunt or remain on the state property past 11 PM daily;\*  
 (\*Note: Hunters who are staying in a designated campsite within a state park are not required to leave the property, but may not hunt or use other areas of the park after 11 PM.)
- Hunt within 100 yards of designated use areas such as picnic areas, campgrounds, beaches and certain designated trails or any areas indicated as closed to hunting on that property’s hunting area map;
- Hunt with a firearm or airgun in any state property restricted to archery gear only;
- Hunt during the closed season for any species;
- If hunting with the use of dogs, they shall be kept on a leash no longer than 8 feet at all times except when being used for hunting in an area open to hunting.

For more information regarding regulations specific to state parks, including maps of areas open to hunting, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “hunting state parks.”

**Warden Authority**

Conservation wardens performing their duties may enter private lands at any time. Wardens may also seize as evidence all game taken or possessed in violation of the law, and any equipment used in connection with a violation. Wardens do not have the authority to enforce trespass laws.

**TRIBAL LANDS**

Special rules apply on tribal lands in Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Sawyer and Vilas counties. For more information, contact the tribal chairpersons.

**FEDERAL LANDS**

**Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Information**

Additional information and regulations can be found at [www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf) or by contacting the headquarter offices listed below:

Headquarter Offices		
Location	Phone Number	TTY Number
Park Falls	(715) 762-2461	(715) 762-5701
Rhinelanders	(715) 362-1300	(715) 362-1383

(\*Note: Motorized access to these forest lands has changed. Contact the headquarter offices listed above for further details.)

**National Wildlife Refuge and Waterfowl Production Area Regulations**

Portions of the National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are open to hunting and trapping in accordance with state and federal regulations. Federal regulations will vary. In order to avoid violating federal regulations, contact the office of the NWR or WPA you will be hunting to get regulations specific to that property.\*

(\*Note: Contact information can be found at [midwest.fws.gov](http://midwest.fws.gov).)

The following is a partial list of general NWR and WPA regulations. Be sure to check with the property manager for complete regulations specific to the property on which you will be hunting:

- Blaze orange on ground blinds is currently not required on federal lands, but it is recommended during gun deer seasons.

**It is illegal to:**

- Possess any firearm, bow or other weapons unless engaged in legal hunting;\*  
(\***Note:** Concealed weapons are illegal unless you are authorized by law to possess a concealed weapon in Wisconsin.)
- Possess lead shot;\*\*  
(\*\***Note:** Only non-toxic shot may be possessed for hunting game birds and animals, including wild turkey, on WPAs, Horicon NWR, Necedah NWR and Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges [UMRNWFR]. This rule does not apply to hunting small game mammals or deer with rifles and shotguns loaded with a single projectile [slugs].)
- Leave spent shells on the ground. Spent shells are considered litter on these properties and must be removed. The federal citation for littering is \$125.00;
- Build or use a ground blind or any elevated device, unless it does not damage the tree (i.e. no use of screws, nails, etc.) **and** is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours;
- Construct permanent blinds out of man-made material;▲  
(▲**Note:** Portable blinds constructed of man-made materials are allowed, but must be removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.)
- Possess alcoholic beverages while hunting.

**LICENSE, STAMP AND PRIVILEGE INFORMATION**

**Applications for Permit Programs**

In addition to hunting or trapping licenses (and stamps, if applicable), hunters and trappers must have a permit to pursue the following species:

Species	Application Deadline	Fee
2016 Fall Turkey	August 1	\$3
Sharp-tailed Grouse*	August 1	\$3
Bobcat	August 1	\$6
Otter (trapping only)	August 1	\$3
Fisher (trapping only)	August 1	\$3
2017 Spring Turkey	December 10	\$3
2017 Bear	December 10	\$4.50

(\***Note:** Sharp-tailed grouse permit availability is currently under review. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for updates.)

**To obtain a permit,** a customer must pay the required application fee (unless exempt) and submit their application choices prior to the application deadline.

**Preference Points:** If an applicant is drawn for a permit, he or she will not receive a preference point. If a valid application is submitted and the applicant is not successful in the drawing, a preference point is recorded. Applicants with preference points who submit valid applications will have a better chance of being drawn for a permit than if they had no preference points. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.\*Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) to check for drawing results or for information on preference point status and transfers.

(\***Note:** Customers may apply for a **preference point only** for bobcat, fisher or otter. Applicants who do not want to hunt or trap these furbearers in 2016, but would like a preference point, need to pay the application fee and submit their application choices by **Aug. 1, 2016** to be awarded a preference point.)

**Interference with Hunting**

No person may interfere with lawful hunting with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal: harassing wild animals, impeding lawful hunters or disturbing lawfully placed blinds, among other actions, may constitute unlawful interference.

## Licensing and Stamp Requirements

- No person may hunt without first obtaining the appropriate license, permits and tags.
- Hunters must carry on their person a valid hunting license and necessary stamps (or acceptable forms of proof as defined on page 27, “License Authorizations, Forms of Proof, Types and Fees”) while engaged in hunting and present them to a warden upon request.
- Hunters must meet hunter education requirements in order to obtain a license unless they hunt under the Hunting Mentorship Program rules (see page 26 for more details).
- It is illegal to allow someone else to use or carry your license or tag, or for you to use or carry another person’s license or tag when engaged in hunting.
- No person younger than 10 years old may hunt or obtain a license which authorizes hunting.
- Reprints of licenses and stamps can be obtained free of charge by visiting a DNR Service Center or printing them yourself. They can be obtained at license agents for a \$2 fee.
- First time purchasers of a Wisconsin hunting license must provide their social security number or DNR customer ID number.

## Resident Licenses

### **Residency Requirements to Purchase a Resident Hunting License**

- A person must have maintained a permanent residence in Wisconsin for 30 consecutive days immediately before purchasing a license. Domiciliary intent is required. Evidence of domiciliary intent includes, but is not limited to, where the person votes, pays personal income taxes, or obtains a driver’s license. Mere presence in the state for a 30-day period or ownership of property is not sufficient to establish residency.\*

(\*Note: Non-residents ages 10–17 who have a parent who is a Wisconsin resident may purchase licenses at resident rates.)

## **NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN**

- Full-time students in residence at a public or private Wisconsin college or university and foreign citizens residing in the state and attending a Wisconsin high school or a university agricultural short course may purchase gun deer, archery, small game, fishing and sports licenses at resident prices.

## Effective Dates

- All hunting licenses are effective immediately after purchase and with the opening of the specific seasons except for the following:
  - Non-resident 5-day small game licenses which are valid beginning on the date specified on the license and for four consecutive days thereafter.
  - All 2016 hunting licenses expire on Mar. 31, 2017** with the exception of the non-resident 5-day small game license which expires on the date stated on the license.

## Armed Forces Members

Armed Forces members are entitled to the following:

- Exemption from hunter education requirements (see below);
- A U.S. Armed Forces member who exhibits proof that he or she is a Wisconsin resident in **active service** with the Armed Forces and **on furlough or leave** may receive a free Armed Forces small game and fishing license\* (available at any license agent);
  - (\*Note: The state waterfowl, pheasant, Great Lakes and trout stamps are not required with this free combination license.)
- Any **non-resident active duty** U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or Wisconsin National Guard member **stationed in Wisconsin** may purchase a hunting, trapping or fishing license at the resident fee;
- Any **non-resident active duty** U.S. Armed Forces or Reserves member **NOT stationed in Wisconsin** and who **was a Wisconsin resident** when they entered active service may purchase a hunting, trapping or fishing license at the resident fee;
- Any U.S. Armed Forces member who is unable to use his/her bobcat, otter, fisher, turkey or sharp-tailed grouse permit due to active duty service may request to defer use of the permit. Contact the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for more information.

## HUNTER EDUCATION AND HUNTING MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

### Hunter Education Requirements

Persons born on or after January 1, 1973 must present their Wisconsin Hunter Education Certificate or proof of a hunter safety course recognized by the department from another state, province or country; or a Wisconsin hunting license from a previous year that has the hunter safety number printed on it; or proof of successful completion of basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, reserves or national guard to purchase any hunting license. A certificate of successful completion of a Bow Hunter Education course can be used to purchase an archer or crossbow license.

- If a person has not completed hunter education, they may only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program rules. See below for more information or visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “hunter education” or contact the DNR call center (888-936-7463) for Hunter Safety Course information.
- A parent or guardian who is at least 18 years of age must accompany hunters who are ages 12 to 13 and who have completed Hunter Education. *Accompanied* means within sight and voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid. Persons under the age of 12 may not hunt unless participating in a DNR Learn to Hunt event or the Hunting Mentorship Program. Persons under age 18 may not possess firearms for non-hunting purposes unless accompanied by an adult, except that persons ages 14–17 who have completed Hunter Education can possess legal shotguns and rifles without being accompanied by an adult.

### First-time Hunter Education Graduates

Residents 10 years of age and older who are graduates of a Wisconsin Hunter Education course for the **first time** are entitled to the following:

- Certificates issued after Jan. 1, 2016 will serve as your small game license and are valid for hunting small game until Mar. 31, 2017. You must carry your Hunter Education Certificate with you while hunting if it is acting as your small game hunting authorization.
- Exemption from the requirement to purchase the pheasant and state waterfowl stamps while the certificate is valid for small game hunting\*.  
(\***Note:** This does not exempt a person from the requirement to purchase goose permits, a federal waterfowl stamp if age 16 and over or from becoming HIP registered [see definition on page 3].)

### Hunter Mentorship Program

This program allows a person to hunt without the need to first take hunter education, provided the hunter and the mentor comply with the following rules.

#### **Rules that apply to the hunter. The hunter must:**

- be at least 10 years old,
- possess the appropriate hunting license, permits, stamps and tags,
- hunt within arms-reach of their mentor regardless of the age of the hunter,
- comply with all other hunting laws, seasons and bag limits.

#### **Rules that apply to the mentor. The mentor must:**

- be at least 18 years old,
- be a hunter education graduate unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1973 or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces,
- be the hunter’s parent or guardian, or have the permission of the hunter’s parent or guardian before acting as a mentor for a person under 18,
- possess a current year’s Wisconsin hunting license. The type of hunting license does not matter unless the mentor will also be attempting to harvest the same type of game,

**Note:** certain exemptions for the hunting license requirement apply if mentoring on a licensed bird or deer hunting preserve or on land the mentor owns or occupies. For more information call the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463.

- only serve as a mentor for one hunter at a time if the hunter is either of the following:
  - age 10 or 11, or
  - born on or after Jan. 1, 1973 and has not yet completed a hunter education course.

Only one firearm, bow or crossbow may be possessed jointly between the hunter and the mentor while participating in the Hunting Mentorship Program. A concealed weapon, legally possessed by a Concealed Carry license holder, is counted toward the one weapon limit.

For more information on mentored hunting, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords “mentored hunting.”

## **OTHER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Disabled Hunters**

Qualified disabled persons may obtain a permit to hunt from a stationary vehicle. Visually handicapped persons may be able to obtain a permit to use a laser sighting device while hunting with a firearm, bow, or crossbow. Contact the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for further information. Allow six weeks for processing.

### **Disabled Veteran Recreation Card**

Resident disabled veterans who are receiving disability compensation benefits due to a disability rating of at least 50% or greater for a service-related disability or who are individually unemployable are eligible to receive the annual Disabled Veteran Recreation Card. Privileges include fishing, small game, state park admission and trail pass.

### **Senior Citizen Recreation Card Holders**

The Senior Citizen Recreation Card was once issued to persons born before 1927, but it is no longer offered. It continues to convey lifetime privileges to the holder as long as the holder possesses the card and remains a resident. Please contact the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for more information.

### **Special Hunts**

- A school board may decide to allow hunting for game in its **School Forest** consistent with the open and closed season for game on adjacent land.
- For hunting information on **Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (formerly Badger Army Ammunition Plant)**, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Steve Schmelzer, Devils Lake State Park, S5975 Park Rd., Baraboo, WI 53913-9299; or, call (608) 356-8301.
- Hunting information on **Fort McCoy Military Reservation** can be found under “Hunting and Fishing Information” at [www.mccoy.army.mil](http://www.mccoy.army.mil) or by calling the Permit Sales Office at (608) 388-3337.

## **LICENSE AUTHORIZATIONS, FORMS OF PROOF, TYPES AND FEES**

### **Authorizations and Forms of Proof**

DNR law enforcement staff will accept the following forms of proof of a particular hunting license or stamp: an original paper copy of a license, a hard copy (paper) reprint of the original, an authenticated Wisconsin driver’s license, a Conservation Card or a digital PDF file issued by the department and displayed on an electronic device. **For carcass tags (deer, bear, turkey and sharp-tail grouse), only an original hard copy or reprint will be accepted.**

### **What is FLIGHT?**

The **Fields & Forest Lands Interactive Gamebird Hunting Tool** ( or FFLIGHT) is an online mapping application designed to help upland game bird hunters locate cover suitable for ruffed grouse and woodcock, managed dove fields and properties stocked with game farm pheasants. For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/fflight.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/fflight.html), search keyword “flight” at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) or contact the Assistant Upland Ecologist at (608) 261-8458.



## License Type and Fees

License	Resident	Non-Resident	Privileges Included
Conservation Patron	\$165	\$600	Small game,* spring and fall turkey licenses and stamp, pheasant stamp, deer firearm, archery, trapping, fishing, state fishing and waterfowl stamps, most permit fees, DNR magazine subscription and vehicle admission to state parks and related areas (including state trail pass). <b>Non-resident license does not include hunting furbearing animals. Junior license does not include the DNR magazine or park sticker.</b>
Junior Conservation Patron (ages 12–17)	\$75	\$77	
Sports	\$60	\$275	General fishing, hunting with a firearm, bow or crossbow for deer during a firearm deer season, and small game* hunting with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow. <b>Non-resident license does not include hunting furbearing animals.</b> Bobcat requires a permit; see pages 14 and 15.
Junior Sports (ages 12–17)	\$35	\$36	
Archer	\$24	\$160	Small game* and deer may be harvested with a bow. Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15. <b>Non-resident license does not include hunting furbearing animals.</b>
Junior Archer (ages 12–17)	\$20	N/A	
Crossbow	\$24	\$160	Small game* and deer may be harvested with a crossbow. Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15. <b>Non-resident license does not include hunting furbearing animals.</b> (Note: Archer licenses may be purchased for an additional \$3 if you have already purchased a crossbow license; crossbow licenses may be purchased for an additional \$3 if you already have an archer license.)
Junior Crossbow	\$20	N/A	
Small Game	\$18	\$85	Small game* and unprotected species may be harvested with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow. Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15. <b>Non-resident small game license does not include hunting furbearing animals.</b>
Junior Small Game (ages 12-17)	\$9	N/A	Small game* and unprotected species may be harvested with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow. Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15.
Senior Citizen Small Game (age 65 or Over)	\$9	N/A	Small game* and unprotected species may be harvested with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow. Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15.
5-Day Small Game	N/A	\$55	Small game* and unprotected species may be hunted with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow, during a specified period of five consecutive days. Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15. <b>Does not include furbearing animals.</b>
Non-Resident Furbearer Hunting**	N/A	\$160	Hunting skunk, raccoon, coyote, fox, weasel and opossum with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow. Bobcat requires a permit; see pages 14 and 15.

\***Small Game** means all varieties of wild animals and birds (including unprotected species) for which there is an open season, but does not include waterfowl, deer, moose, elk, wolf, bear or wild turkey or endangered, threatened or protected species.

\*\***Non-residents** need to purchase the non-resident furbearer license to hunt furbearing animals.

License	Resident	Non-Resident	Privileges Included
2016 Fall Turkey	\$15	\$60	Hunting wild turkey with a firearm, bow or crossbow during the 2016 fall season. An additional \$5.25 turkey stamp fee will automatically be added at time of purchase unless the customer purchased a 2016 spring turkey license, stamp, and carcass tag.
2017 Spring Turkey	\$15	\$60	Hunting wild turkey with a firearm, bow or crossbow during the 2017 spring season. An additional \$5.25 turkey stamp fee will automatically be added at time of purchase.
Additional Fall or Spring Turkey Permits	\$10	\$15	If the number of turkey permits exceeds the number of applicants for a specific zone and time period for either the fall or spring turkey season, the DNR may sell them at license sales locations. Call the DNR Call Center or check online for how these permits will be issued.
Armed Forces Small Game and Fishing	FREE	N/A	General fishing and small game* hunting with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow (see page 25 for stamp exemptions and qualifications). Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15.
Disabled Veteran Recreation Card	\$7	N/A	General fishing and small game*with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow (see page 27 for details, vehicle admission to state parks and related areas (including state trail pass). Bobcat requires an additional permit; see pages 14 and 15.
State Waterfowl Stamp	\$7	\$7	Required for hunters age 16 and older for waterfowl hunting, in addition to the federal migratory bird stamp and a small game, archer, crossbow or sports license (see pages 25 and 26 for exemptions).
Pheasant Stamp	\$10	\$10	Required statewide to hunt pheasants in addition to a small game, archer, crossbow or sports license (see pages 25 and 26 for exemptions).
Wild Turkey Stamp	\$5.25	\$5.25	Required statewide to hunt turkeys in either the fall or spring season in addition to a fall or spring turkey license.

### **License Sales and Applications**

All licenses and stamps are available at DNR Service Centers, license sales agents and at *gowild.wi.gov*. Residents and non-residents can purchase their hunting licenses and submit their permit applications online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Carcass tags can be printed at home. When submitting permit applications purchased online, customers will receive an immediate printable confirmation that their data was received. Visit *dnr.wi.gov* or call the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for more information.

### **Reduced Rates for Qualifying Hunters**

Qualifying hunters can purchase certain hunting licenses and permits at reduced rates. Visit *dnr.wi.gov* or contact the DNR Call Center at (888) 936-7463 for more information. Reduced rates are available to:

- Youth ages 10 and 11;
- Hunters purchasing a qualifying license for the first time; or

- Hunters who have not purchased a qualifying licenses in the preceding 10 years;
- Hunters who have recruited three first time-hunters, trappers or anglers in the previous license year;
- Purple Heart recipients.

**Weapons Authorized by Hunting Licenses**

- Archer License: Hunting deer during the archery deer season and small game with a bow and arrow only.
- Crossbow License: Hunting deer during the crossbow season and small game with a crossbow only.
- Non-Resident Furbearing Animal Hunting License: Hunting furbearer animals (listed on page 3) with a firearm, airgun, bow or crossbow.
- Small Game License: Small game hunting with legal firearms, airguns, bows and crossbows.
- Turkey License: Turkey hunting with legal firearms, bows and crossbows.

**HUNTING HOURS**

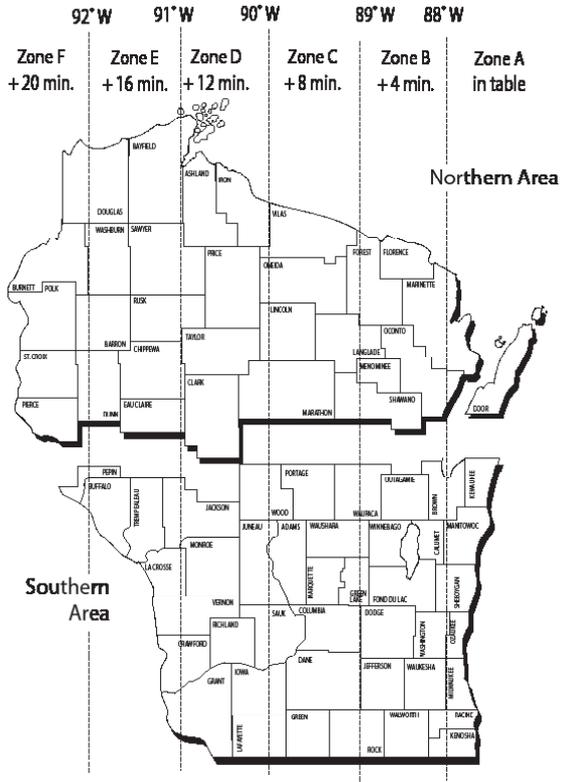
No person shall hunt any game before or after the hunting hours listed in the tables on pages 31–32 unless other hours are specified in the species-specific sections of this pamphlet (pages 10–17). “Hunt” or “hunting” includes shooting at, pursuing, taking, capturing or killing or attempting to capture or kill any wild animal.

- Times listed in the hunting hours tables are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset.
- **Calculating Hunting Hours**: Determine your location in either the Northern or Southern Area and add the minutes shown in the zone in which you are hunting to the opening and closing times listed in either the Northern or Southern Area Hunting Hours table.
- **Night Hunting**: Coyote, fox, raccoon and unprotected species may be hunted *without* hunting hour restrictions *except*:

1. If hunting with a bow or crossbow, the hours listed on pages 31–32 apply for hunting all species during the bear and bow deer seasons.
2. If hunting with a gun in the Forest or Central Farmland deer management zones, the hours listed on pages 31–32 apply for hunting all species during the regular 9-day November gun deer season.\*

(\*Note: Coyote, fox, raccoon and unprotected species may be hunted at night during the following deer seasons, but only in the Southern Farmland deer management zone: youth hunt, traditional 9-day November firearm, muzzleloader and 4-day antlerless-only.)

**You must subtract 20 minutes from the P.M column on pages 31 and 32 to determine the daily closure for mourning dove, woodcock, rails and snipe, as well as for turkey during the spring season.**



# NORTHERN AREA HUNTING HOURS 2016–2017: ZONE A

*Note: Spring turkey and migratory game bird hunters need to subtract 20 minutes from evening times.*

Day	September 2016		October 2016		November 2016		December 2016		January 2017		February 2017		March 2017		April 2017		May 2017	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	5:42	7:47	6:19	6:49	7:01	5:56	6:41	4:28	7:01	4:37	6:40	5:17	5:58	5:57	6:00	7:39	5:07	8:18
2	5:43	7:45	6:20	6:47	7:01	5:55	6:42	4:27	7:01	4:38	6:40	5:18	5:56	5:59	6:00	7:40	5:06	8:19
3	5:44	7:43	6:22	6:45	7:04	5:53	6:43	4:27	7:01	4:39	6:39	5:20	5:55	6:00	5:56	7:41	5:04	8:20
4	5:46	7:41	6:23	6:44	7:05	5:52	6:44	4:27	7:01	4:40	6:37	5:21	5:53	6:02	5:54	7:43	5:03	8:22
5	5:47	7:39	6:24	6:42	7:09	5:51	6:45	4:26	7:01	4:41	6:36	5:23	5:51	6:03	5:52	7:44	5:02	8:23
6	5:48	7:38	6:25	6:40	6:08	4:49	6:46	4:26	7:00	4:42	6:35	5:24	5:49	6:04	5:50	7:45	5:00	8:24
7	5:49	7:36	6:27	6:38	6:09	4:48	6:47	4:26	7:00	4:43	6:33	5:26	5:47	6:06	5:48	7:47	4:59	8:25
8	5:50	7:34	6:28	6:36	6:11	4:47	6:48	4:26	7:00	4:44	6:32	5:27	5:45	6:07	5:47	7:48	4:57	8:27
9	5:52	7:32	6:29	6:34	6:12	4:45	6:49	4:26	7:00	4:46	6:31	5:29	5:43	6:08	5:45	7:49	4:56	8:28
10	5:53	7:30	6:31	6:32	6:13	4:44	6:50	4:26	6:59	4:47	6:29	5:30	5:41	6:10	5:43	7:51	4:55	8:29
11	5:54	7:28	6:32	6:31	6:15	4:43	6:51	4:26	6:59	4:48	6:28	5:32	5:39	6:11	5:41	7:52	4:54	8:30
12	5:55	7:26	6:33	6:29	6:16	4:42	6:52	4:26	6:58	4:49	6:26	5:33	6:38	7:12	5:39	7:53	4:52	8:31
13	5:57	7:24	6:35	6:27	6:18	4:41	6:53	4:26	6:58	4:50	6:25	5:34	6:36	7:14	5:38	7:54	4:51	8:33
14	5:58	7:22	6:36	6:25	6:19	4:40	6:54	4:26	6:57	4:52	6:23	5:36	6:34	7:15	5:36	7:56	4:50	8:34
15	5:59	7:20	6:37	6:23	6:20	4:39	6:54	4:27	6:57	4:53	6:22	5:37	6:32	7:16	5:34	7:57	4:49	8:35
16	6:00	7:18	6:39	6:22	6:22	4:38	6:55	4:27	6:56	4:54	6:20	5:39	6:30	7:18	5:32	7:58	4:48	8:36
17	6:02	7:16	6:40	6:20	6:23	4:37	6:56	4:27	6:55	4:56	6:19	5:40	6:28	7:19	5:30	8:00	4:46	8:37
18	6:03	7:14	6:41	6:18	6:25	4:36	6:56	4:28	6:55	4:57	6:17	5:42	6:26	7:20	5:29	8:01	4:45	8:38
19	6:04	7:12	6:43	6:17	6:26	4:35	6:57	4:28	6:54	4:58	6:15	5:43	6:25	7:22	5:27	8:02	4:44	8:40
20	6:05	7:11	6:44	6:15	6:27	4:34	6:58	4:28	6:53	5:00	6:14	5:45	6:23	7:23	5:25	8:04	4:43	8:41
21	6:07	7:09	6:45	6:13	6:29	4:33	6:58	4:29	6:52	5:01	6:12	5:46	6:21	7:24	5:24	8:05	4:42	8:42
22	6:08	7:07	6:47	6:12	6:30	4:33	6:59	4:30	6:52	5:02	6:10	5:47	6:19	7:26	5:22	8:06	4:41	8:43
23	6:09	7:05	6:48	6:10	6:31	4:32	6:59	4:30	6:51	5:04	6:09	5:49	6:17	7:27	5:20	8:07	4:41	8:44
24	6:10	7:03	6:50	6:08	6:32	4:31	6:59	4:31	6:50	5:05	6:07	5:50	6:15	7:28	5:19	8:09	4:40	8:45
25	6:11	7:01	6:51	6:07	6:34	4:31	7:00	4:31	6:49	5:07	6:05	5:52	6:13	7:30	5:17	8:10	4:39	8:46
26	6:13	6:59	6:52	6:05	6:35	4:30	7:00	4:32	6:48	5:08	6:03	5:53	6:11	7:31	5:15	8:11	4:38	8:47
27	6:14	6:57	6:54	6:04	6:36	4:29	7:00	4:33	6:47	5:10	6:02	5:55	6:09	7:32	5:14	8:13	4:37	8:48
28	6:15	6:55	6:55	6:02	6:37	4:29	7:00	4:34	6:46	5:11	6:00	5:56	6:07	7:34	5:12	8:14	4:37	8:49
29	6:17	6:53	6:57	6:00	6:39	4:28	7:01	4:34	6:45	5:12	6:00	5:56	6:05	7:35	5:11	8:15	4:36	8:50
30	6:18	6:51	6:58	5:59	6:40	4:28	7:01	4:35	6:44	5:14	6:00	5:56	6:04	7:36	5:09	8:16	4:35	8:51
31	6:19	6:50	6:59	5:58	6:41	4:28	7:01	4:36	6:42	5:15	6:00	5:56	6:02	7:37	5:08	8:17	4:34	8:52

# SOUTHERN AREA HUNTING HOURS 2016–2017 ZONE A:

*Note: Spring turkey and migratory game bird hunters need to subtract 20 minutes from evening times.*

Day	September 2016		October 2016		November 2016		December 2016		January 2017		February 2017		March 2017		April 2017		May 2017		Day
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	
1	5:45	7:45	6:19	6:51	6:58	6:01	6:35	4:35	6:55	4:45	6:37	5:22	5:57	6:00	6:02	7:38	5:13	8:14	1
2	5:46	7:44	6:20	6:49	7:02	6:00	6:36	4:35	6:55	4:46	6:36	5:24	5:55	6:01	6:00	7:39	5:11	8:15	2
3	5:47	7:42	6:21	6:47	7:04	5:58	6:37	4:34	6:55	4:47	6:36	5:25	5:54	6:03	5:58	7:40	5:10	8:16	3
4	5:48	7:40	6:23	6:46	7:05	5:57	6:38	4:34	6:55	4:48	6:34	5:26	5:52	6:04	5:57	7:42	5:09	8:17	4
5	5:50	7:38	6:24	6:44	7:06	5:56	6:39	4:34	6:55	4:48	6:33	5:28	5:50	6:05	5:55	7:44	5:07	8:19	5
6	5:51	7:37	6:25	6:42	7:04	5:55	6:40	4:34	6:54	4:50	6:31	5:29	5:48	6:06	5:53	7:44	5:06	8:20	6
7	5:52	7:35	6:26	6:40	7:05	5:53	6:41	4:34	6:54	4:51	6:31	5:31	5:47	6:08	5:51	7:45	5:05	8:21	7
8	5:53	7:33	6:27	6:38	7:07	4:52	6:42	4:34	6:54	4:52	6:30	5:32	5:45	6:09	5:50	7:46	5:03	8:22	8
9	5:54	7:31	6:29	6:37	7:08	4:51	6:43	4:34	6:54	4:53	6:29	5:33	5:43	6:10	5:48	7:48	5:02	8:23	9
10	5:55	7:29	6:30	6:35	7:09	4:50	6:44	4:34	6:54	4:54	6:26	5:35	5:41	6:12	5:46	7:49	5:01	8:24	10
11	5:56	7:27	6:31	6:33	7:11	4:49	6:45	4:34	6:53	4:55	6:25	5:36	5:39	6:13	5:44	7:50	5:00	8:25	11
12	5:57	7:26	6:32	6:32	7:12	4:48	6:46	4:34	6:53	4:56	6:23	5:37	6:38	7:14	5:43	7:51	4:59	8:27	12
13	5:59	7:24	6:33	6:30	7:13	4:47	6:47	4:34	6:52	4:58	6:22	5:39	6:36	7:15	5:41	7:52	4:58	8:28	13
14	6:00	7:22	6:35	6:28	7:15	4:46	6:47	4:34	6:52	4:59	6:21	5:40	6:34	7:16	5:39	7:54	4:56	8:29	14
15	6:01	7:20	6:36	6:27	7:16	4:45	6:48	4:35	6:51	5:00	6:19	5:41	6:33	7:18	5:38	7:55	4:55	8:30	15
16	6:02	7:18	6:37	6:25	7:17	4:44	6:49	4:35	6:51	5:01	6:18	5:43	6:31	7:19	5:36	7:56	4:54	8:31	16
17	6:03	7:17	6:38	6:23	7:18	4:43	6:49	4:35	6:50	5:02	6:16	5:44	6:29	7:20	5:34	7:57	4:53	8:32	17
18	6:04	7:15	6:40	6:22	7:20	4:42	6:50	4:36	6:50	5:04	6:15	5:45	6:27	7:21	5:33	7:58	4:52	8:33	18
19	6:05	7:13	6:41	6:20	7:21	4:42	6:51	4:36	6:49	5:05	6:13	5:47	6:25	7:22	5:31	8:00	4:51	8:34	19
20	6:06	7:11	6:42	6:18	7:22	4:41	6:51	4:36	6:48	5:06	6:12	5:48	6:24	7:24	5:29	8:01	4:50	8:35	20
21	6:08	7:09	6:43	6:17	7:23	4:40	6:52	4:37	6:48	5:08	6:10	5:49	6:22	7:25	5:28	8:02	4:50	8:36	21
22	6:09	7:07	6:45	6:15	7:25	4:39	6:52	4:37	6:47	5:09	6:09	5:51	6:20	7:26	5:26	8:03	4:49	8:37	22
23	6:10	7:05	6:46	6:14	7:26	4:39	6:53	4:38	6:46	5:10	6:07	5:53	6:18	7:27	5:25	8:04	4:48	8:38	23
24	6:11	7:04	6:47	6:12	7:27	4:38	6:53	4:39	6:45	5:12	6:05	5:53	6:16	7:28	5:23	8:06	4:47	8:39	24
25	6:12	7:02	6:48	6:11	7:28	4:37	6:53	4:39	6:44	5:13	6:04	5:55	6:15	7:30	5:22	8:07	4:46	8:40	25
26	6:13	7:00	6:50	6:09	7:30	4:37	6:54	4:40	6:43	5:14	6:02	5:56	6:13	7:31	5:20	8:08	4:44	8:41	26
27	6:14	6:58	6:51	6:08	7:31	4:36	6:54	4:41	6:43	5:16	6:00	5:57	6:11	7:32	5:19	8:09	4:45	8:42	27
28	6:16	6:56	6:52	6:06	7:32	4:36	6:54	4:41	6:41	5:17	5:59	5:59	6:09	7:33	5:17	8:10	4:44	8:43	28
29	6:17	6:55	6:54	6:05	7:33	4:36	6:54	4:42	6:40	5:18			6:07	7:34	5:16	8:12	4:44	8:44	29
30	6:18	6:53	6:55	6:04	7:34	4:35	6:55	4:43	6:40	5:20			6:06	7:36	5:14	8:13	4:43	8:44	30
31			6:56	6:02			6:55	4:44	6:38	5:21			6:04	7:37			4:42	8:45	31