

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Important! This is a *summary* of Minnesota's hunting and trapping regulations. For complete regulations, consult the state statutes and rules. These regulations are valid from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2004 Minnesota hunting seasons. New regulations for this year are listed below. Have a safe and enjoyable hunt.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) INFORMATION

- For general information about CWD, this fall's testing, and where you can find the latest information (see [pages 8 and 53-54](#)).

NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2004

- Minnesota's first mourning dove migratory game bird season since 1946 begins September 1 (see [page 51](#)).
- The pheasant season is extended to December 31 (see [page 40](#)).
- Minnesota's first elk season since 1998 will be held this fall; the application deadline was July 16 (see [page 93](#)).
- Prairie chicken hunters may take sharp-tailed grouse (see [page 118](#)).
- Deer Management and Intensive Harvest Permits have been eliminated and replaced by Bonus Permits (see [page 63](#)).
- Firearms and All-season deer hunters will no longer be restricted to taking antlerless deer in an area declared in advance, but will be asked what permit area they hunt most often (see [pages 8 and 58](#)).
- Hunters cannot bring entire carcasses of deer, elk or moose into Minnesota from areas of other states or provinces where CWD has been found in wild deer or elk (see [pages 8 and 53](#)).
- Youth under 18 years of age may purchase a half-price archery or firearms deer license and may take deer of either sex statewide (see [page 70](#)).
- Youth deer hunts have been expanded; youth hunters may now apply through ELS; a special youth season will be held in northwest Minnesota. (see [page 81](#)).
- Party hunting is now legal with the All-season Deer License (see [page 63](#)).
- Waterfowl shooting hours on opening day now begin at 9:00 a.m. (see [page 99](#)).
- Other miscellaneous hunting and trapping provisions have changed (see [pages 15, 20, 21, 40, 54, 112, 114 and 125](#)).

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ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. *Mourning doves are classified as migratory game birds by the federal government. Does that mean I need to be certified for the Harvest Information Program (HIP) to legally hunt doves?*
- A. Yes. To legally hunt any migratory game bird, including doves, ducks, geese, coots, woodcock, snipe, and rails, hunters must be certified for the HIP program on their small game license. Certification is accomplished by answering “yes” to the question at license purchase asking if you intend to hunt migratory birds. If you have already purchased your license and it does not say “HIP Certified” then you need to register for the HIP program at any ELS agent to legally hunt doves or other migratory game birds. HIP certification is available at no charge. See page 37 for additional information.
- Q. *Why do I have to indicate the deer permit area that I hunt most often when I purchase a license to hunt deer by firearms?*
- A. The DNR uses this information to help assess hunting pressure and harvest success rates. This information is used in setting quotas for taking antlerless deer and in evaluating season and zone options. This year, the permit area indicated will not restrict where antlerless deer may be taken for persons indicating Intensive or Managed Deer Permit areas. However, persons hunting in Lottery Deer Permit Areas who wish to take antlerless deer need to apply for the area and are restricted to taking an antlerless deer in the lottery area where their either-sex permit is valid. The application deadline is Sept. 9, 2004.
- Q. *If I'm big game hunting outside the state, are there any restrictions on bringing back carcasses?*
- A. Yes, Minnesota has a new law on bringing carcasses into the state (see box on page 53). Hunters taking deer, moose, elk or caribou **from areas in other states and provinces where CWD has been found in wild deer or elk** may only bring the following carcass parts back into Minnesota:
- 1) Meat that is boned out or that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately);
 - 2) Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached;
 - 3) Hides and teeth;
 - 4) Antlers or clean (no brain tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached; or
 - 5) Finished taxidermy mounts.
- See www.dnr.state.mn.us for a list of areas in other states that are endemic for CWD in wild deer or elk and where this restriction applies.**

TRESPASS LAW

Trespass is the most frequent complaint landowners have against hunters. Trespassing is illegal and can ruin hunters' and the DNR's relations with private landowners. This could in turn hamper habitat programs, cut off land access, and possibly eliminate the future of hunting in many areas of Minnesota.

Always ask permission before entering private land. Any entry onto the private property of another without permission is considered trespass. Landowners may be able to pursue court action against trespassers whether the property is posted or not. If you are caught trespassing, you may be issued a citation and assessed a fine under civil penalties, and repeat violators can lose their license or registration. Or, if you are convicted of violating trespass laws under criminal procedures, you may lose your hunting privileges for up to two years, lose hunting equipment, and be subject to fines and possibly a jail sentence. All DNR conservation officers and all other licensed peace officers enforce trespass laws and may issue a citation to a person who trespasses in violation of the law or who removes a sign without authorization. A summary of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Trespass Law begins below.

RESTRICTIONS (See below for exceptions, definitions, and posting requirements)

- A person may not enter legally posted land for outdoor recreation purposes without permission.
- A person may not enter agricultural land for outdoor recreation purposes without permission.
- A person may not remain on private land for outdoor recreation purposes after being told to leave.
- On another person's private land or a public right-of-way, a person may not take a wild animal with a firearm within 500 feet of a building occupied by humans or livestock without written permission.
- A person may not take a wild animal with a firearm within 500 feet of a corral containing livestock without permission.
- A person may not take a wild animal on any land where the person is prohibited from lawfully entering by this law.
- A person may not wound or kill another person's domestic animal, destroy private property, or pass through a closed gate without returning it to the original position.

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Exceptions

- A person on foot may, without permission, enter land that is not posted to retrieve a wounded animal that was lawfully shot, but may not remain on the land after being told to leave.
- A person on foot may, without permission, enter private land without a firearm to retrieve a hunting dog. After retrieving the dog, the person must immediately leave the premises. This exception does not authorize the taking of the wild animal.

DEFINITIONS AND POSTING REQUIREMENTS

- “Outdoor Recreation” means any activity including hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, camping, and engaging in winter sports which is conducted primarily for the purposes of pleasure, rest or relaxation and is dependent on or derives its principal benefit from natural surroundings.
- “Agricultural land” is land that: 1) is plowed or tilled; 2) has standing crops or crop residues; 3) is within a maintained fence for enclosing domestic livestock; 4) is planted to native or introduced grassland or hay land; or 5) is planted to short-rotation woody crops (hybrid poplar and other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting).

IMPORTANT NOTE: *All planted grassland and hayland and all hybrid poplar and other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting meet this definition, including grasslands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), or the state Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program. These lands do not need to be posted to prevent unauthorized trespass. However, land that is brush or trees, including CRP, CREP, and RIM Reserve that is brush or trees, (except short-rotation woody crops as defined above) does not meet this definition and must be posted or verbal notice given to trespassers for criminal enforcement to occur.*

Hunters and trappers: *Always respect private lands. Ask first before entering lands not posted as being open to hunting and trapping. You will improve relationships between landowners and recreationists, and you will have a more enjoyable time in the field.*

- To be legally posted, land must have signs:
 - posted once each year that state “no trespassing” or similar terms either: 1) along the boundaries every 1,000 feet or less, or in wooded areas where boundaries are less clear, at intervals of 500 feet or less; or 2) at the primary corners of each parcel of land and at access roads

and trails at points of entrance to each parcel, except corners only accessible through agricultural land need not be posted. —with lettering at least 2 inches high and the signature or the legible name and telephone number of the owner, occupant, lessee, or authorized manager. An unauthorized person may not post land with signs prohibiting outdoor recreation or trespass.

- Notification to stay off private land, authorization to remove a sign posted to prevent trespass, or legal permission to enter private land or to take wild animals near occupied buildings or corrals, may only be given by the owner, occupant, or lessee.

Penalties

- Violating the Minnesota Trespass Law can make you subject to either civil or criminal penalties:
- Civil penalties are: 1) \$50 for the first violation; 2) \$200 for the second violation in a 3-year period; 3) \$500 and loss of every license and registration being used for a third or subsequent violation in a 3-year period; and 4) \$50 for unauthorized removal of a sign posted under this law.
- Criminal penalties are at least a misdemeanor for violation of this law. In addition, it becomes a gross misdemeanor to: knowingly disregard signs prohibiting trespass, trespass after being told not to do so, or to violate the trespass law twice within a three-year period. Anyone convicted of a gross misdemeanor violation of the trespass law while hunting, fishing, trapping, or snowmobiling will have the applicable license and registration for that activity revoked and will have all hunting privileges suspended for two years.

Rules of Thumb for Water Access and Recreational Use

These are simple rules of thumb and are not intended to address all water access and recreational use situations. If you have doubts about whether you may be trespassing on private land, we recommend that you ask the landowner for permission.

1. What is lawful access?

A stream or lake is lawfully accessible if there is a public access, or if public land or a public road right-of-way abuts the surface of the water, or if you have permission to cross private land to reach the surface of the water.

2. What is recreational use?

Recreational use includes boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, trapping, and similar activities. It includes walking in the water in connection with such activities regardless of who owns the land beneath the surface of the water.

3. What waters are open to recreational use?

A stream or lake is open to recreational use over its entire surface if it is capable of recreational use and if it is lawfully accessible. Any water that will float a canoe is capable of recreational use, but other waters may also qualify depending upon the circumstances.

Landowner Liability (Minn. Stat. 604A.23)

An owner who gives written or oral permission for the use of the land for recreational purposes without charge does not, by that action:

- extend any assurance that the land is safe for any purpose,
- confer upon the person the legal status of an invitee or licensee to whom a duty of care is owed, or
- assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to the person or property caused by an act or omission of the person.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHVS)

The summary below provides a guide to off-road vehicle rules and regulations related to hunting and trapping found in this handbook:

- General restrictions on ATVs and snowmobiles: page 28
- Use of ATVs and snowmobiles during firearms deer season: page 65
- Use of ATVs, snowmobiles, and other vehicles in Wildlife Management Areas: pages 121-123
- Use of ATVs and motor vehicles on State Forests: pages 129-131
- Use of motor vehicles on federal lands: pages 134
- Shooting at grouse near motor vehicles prohibited: page 38



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Public Hunting Land Maps

Find the exact boundaries of WMAs, WPAs, state forests, national forests, and national wildlife refuges on DNR Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM). The maps are available at major sports retailers and the DNR Gift Shop in St. Paul for \$4.95.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

2004 Hunting and Trapping License Fees

(Price does not include any additional fees charged for issuing licenses. There is no issuing fee for stamps, special goose permits, or Turkey Licenses.)

RESIDENT LICENSES

Deer – Firearms (age 18 or over)	\$26.00
Deer – Youth Firearms (ages 12-17)	\$13.00
Deer – Archery (age 18 or over)	\$26.00
Deer – Youth Archery (ages 12-17)	\$13.00
Deer – Multi-Zone Buck	52.00
Deer – All-Season	78.00
Deer – Bonus Permit	13.00
Moose (per party of two, three, or four)	310.00*
Elk (per party of one or two)	250.00*
Bear	38.00*
Small Game (ages 18-64)	19.00**
Youth Small Game (ages 16-17)	12.50**
Senior Citizen Small Game (age 65 or over)	12.50**
Wild Turkey	18.00*
Prairie Chicken	20.00*
State Wild Turkey Stamp	5.00
State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp	7.50
State Pheasant Stamp	7.50
Special Canada goose seasons permit	4.00
Trapping (age 18 and older)	20.00
Junior Trapping (age 13 to 18)	6.00
Individual Sports (small game hunting and individual angling)	29.50**
Combination Sports (small game hunting & husband-wife angling)	38.50**
Wild Rice Harvest (Season)	25.00
Wild Rice Harvest (One Day)	15.00
NONRESIDENT LICENSES	
Deer – Firearms	135.00
Deer – Archery***	135.00
Deer – Multi-Zone Buck	270.00
Deer – Bonus Permit	67.50
Bear	195.00*
Small Game	79.50**
Wild Turkey	73.00*
Furbearer Hunting	155.00
Trapping (landowner only)	73.00
Wild Rice Harvest (One Day)	30.00

* Available through lottery drawings or the DNR License Center in St. Paul only, except the No-Quota Bear License (see page 82).

** Includes a \$6.50 surcharge. This \$6.50 surcharge is being paid by hunters for the acquisition and development of wildlife lands.

*** Nonresident fees from states that charge more than Minnesota for this license will be the same as a Minnesota resident would pay in that state.

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These are general license requirements. For license requirements to take specific species, refer to the other sections of this booklet.

Lifetime Licenses

Minnesota residents (one-year residency required) may now purchase certain lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. Licenses may be purchased as a gift or for yourself. License applications are available only by mail or telephone from the DNR License Center in St. Paul (see address and phone number on page 129) or by internet at the DNR web site (www.dnr.state.mn.us).

Available Lifetime Hunting License Types and Fees

Small Game

Age 3 or under.....	\$217
Age 4 to 15.....	\$290
Age 16 to 50.....	\$363
Age 51 and over.....	\$213

Deer (Firearms or Archery)

Age 3 or under.....	\$337
Age 4 to 15.....	\$450
Age 16 to 50.....	\$573
Age 51 and over.....	\$383

Individual Sports (Small Game Hunting and Fishing)

Age 3 or under.....	\$357
Age 4 to 15.....	\$480
Age 16 to 50.....	\$613
Age 51 and over.....	\$413

Holders of lifetime licenses must obtain an annual printed license (at no fee) at any ELS location each year the license is used. Licenses do not include any of the hunting stamps required by law or HIP certification for hunting migratory birds. Lifetime deer license holders must apply for either-sex or special area permits, if desired. Deer licenses can be upgraded by paying the difference between the regular license and the cost of the upgraded license.

PURCHASE AND POSSESSION

Electronic Licensing

The Department's **Electronic Licensing System (ELS)** issues licenses through 1,800 license agent locations throughout Minnesota or via the DNR web site at (www.dnr.state.mn.us) or via a toll free telephone number (1-888-665-4236). An additional \$3.50 convenience fee is added for sales via the internet or telephone.

- **ELS Special Agents** are agents who have been authorized to handle special license types (such as disability, foreign exchange students, veterans, military, landowner, and firearms deer replacement licenses). Find an ELS special license agent by checking the DNR web page under special agents or calling the DNR Information Center.
- **Residents** must meet legal residency requirements and must provide their MN Driver's License, MN Public Safety ID, or

Social Security Number Required

Legislation passed in 2003 requires the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to collect a customer's Social Security Number before issuing a non-commercial game and fish license. This legislation was passed to meet federal requirements of the 1996 National Welfare Reform Act to assist states in enforcement of child support programs.

To purchase a game and fish license, a customer, **regardless of age**, must either have their social security number on file with the DNR, or must provide it as part of the license application. This is a one-time requirement for each customer. About two-thirds of customers may already have their social security numbers assigned from driver's license records. Once your social security number is in the customer records, the federal requirement has been met and you will not be asked again for your social security number. Customers who have a social security number, but refuse to provide it, will be denied a game and fish license.

United States residents who do not have a social security number must complete and sign a form stating that they have not been issued a social security number. These forms must be submitted to an ELS Special Agent (see page 16) or the DNR's License Bureau in St. Paul to receive authorization to purchase the license. These forms are available from ELS Special Agents, the DNR website or the DNR Information Center.

We appreciate the sensitivity of this issue to our customers and have taken steps to ensure the security of these records. The social security number will not be printed on any document and will be kept in a highly secure database.

MN Firearms Safety Certificate number, or provide a Snowmobile Safety Certificate or DNR number from a prior ELS license to obtain a license.

- **Nonresidents** must provide their nonresident driver's license number, Minnesota DNR number from a prior ELS license, or social security number to obtain a license.
- The printed ELS licenses have a backing on the adhesive side that contains important information. After purchase, customers should fold the license **without taking off the backing**. The

Moved or Driver's License Number Changed?

If you have recently moved, please request the license agent to update your address when you purchase your license. If you have changed driver's license numbers due to a name change, please contact the DNR Information Center (see page 139).

backing should be removed only when using the squares as carcass tags or shelter tags.

- **Stamp** validations (waterfowl, pheasant) printed on the license are **valid for hunting for 30 days after issuance**. The DNR will mail the pictorial stamp to the customer. At that time, the customer must sign the face of the pictorial stamp and carry both the signed pictorial stamp and the stamp validation when engaged in that license activity as required by law. Stamp validations for wild turkey are valid for hunting without a pictorial stamp (purchasers can request the optional pictorial stamp for an additional \$2, but it is not needed for hunting).
- **HIP Certification** for legally taking migratory game birds, including mourning doves, must be printed on your license (see page 37).
- **Public Record Notice.** Most of the data that you supply when buying a license becomes a public record. If you do not wish to have this data made available for bulk mailings, contact the DNR at (651) 296-6157 (Twin Cities Metro Area), 1-888-646-6367 (toll free), or info@dnr.state.mn.us.
- **Buy early:** Customers are advised to avoid delays by buying early and far ahead of license or application deadlines.

License Possession

- All persons required to have a license (including stamps or stamp validations) must have it *in their personal possession* while hunting or trapping and while traveling from an area where they hunted or trapped.
- A person may not take, buy, sell, transport, or possess protected wild animals without a license, except as provided in this booklet.

License Year

Licenses are valid during legal seasons between March 1 and the end of February. New licenses are required beginning March 1 each year.

Purchase

Minnesota Small Game and Deer Hunting licenses, Special Canada goose permits, state Migratory Waterfowl Stamps, and Pheasant Stamps can be purchased from ELS license agents and the DNR License Center in St. Paul. Wild turkey, prairie chicken, moose, antlerless deer, and most bear licenses are awarded through a statewide lottery. Applications are made through ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul.

Instant Hunting Licenses

For a convenience fee of \$3.50 plus the regular license fee, you can immediately purchase a hunting license. Call 1-888-MNLicense (1-888-665-4236) or check out internet licensing on the DNR website (www.dnr.state.mn.us). For licenses without a tag, you will receive a Temporary Authorization Number (TAN) for instant use of the license. For licenses with a tag (such as deer or wild turkey), licenses will be mailed to the customer and are not valid until received and in possession. Telephone and internet license services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Border Waters

On all border waters with adjacent states or provinces, persons acting under a Minnesota hunting or trapping license may only take wild animals on the Minnesota side of the border.

Revocation of Hunting Privileges

- Small game hunting privileges may be revoked for one year for two or more convictions for a violation under a license to take small game within a three-year period.
- Big game hunting privileges may be revoked for three years for any of the following violations:
 1. Two or more convictions of any violation relating to big game animals within a three-year period.
 2. One conviction of any of the following: shining while in possession of a firearm or bow; knowingly transporting an illegally taken big game animal; hunting, taking, transporting or possessing big game without the required license; over limit of big game; hunting, taking or possessing big game in closed season; buying or selling big game animals (revocation of all privileges if sale is over \$300).
- Under new gross overlimits penalty provisions, your license privileges can be revoked for three or five years, depending on the severity of the violation.
- Big game and small game hunting privileges may be revoked for five years for hunting while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- Violations of hunting laws in other states may affect your hunting privileges in Minnesota.

Lost License

You may obtain a duplicate license at any ELS license agent or from the DNR License Center in St. Paul. The fee is \$5.75 for a duplicate Big Game License and \$2.50 for all others.

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Replacement Firearms Deer Licenses

A person who has purchased a firearms deer license and wishes to change a zone or season option before November 6 may submit their original license and obtain a replacement license for a different zone or season option. There is a fee of \$5 (plus a \$1 issuing fee) for the replacement license, plus any increase in cost for the new license. Replacement licenses are available from any ELS **special** license agent.

FIREARMS SAFETY CERTIFICATES

Important! Youth must meet all license and certificate requirements. See the chart on page 23. In addition, anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 must have a Firearms Safety Certificate (or equivalent), a previous hunting license, or other evidence of successfully completing a hunter safety course to obtain a license to take wild animals with firearms in Minnesota.

- A Firearms Safety Certificate is not valid before age 12. A certificate may be issued at age 11, but is not valid until the person reaches age 12.
- Anyone under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to possess a firearm. “Guardian” means a legal guardian or someone age 18 or older selected by the parent or legal guardian to supervise the youth.
- Youth age 12 and under may hunt small game without a firearms safety certificate, if accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- A person on active duty who has successfully completed basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard may purchase a license or obtain approval that authorizes hunting without possessing a Firearms Safety Certificate.
- A duplicate of a lost or destroyed Minnesota Firearms Safety, Snowmobile, or ATV Safety Certificate can be obtained at any ELS license agent. A duplicate certificate is \$3.50.

RESIDENTS

A Minnesota resident is defined as follows:

- A United States citizen or resident alien who has maintained a legal residence in the state for at least 60 consecutive days before purchasing a license, or
- A person in the U.S. Armed Forces who is stationed in the state, or
- A nonresident under age 21 whose parent is a Minnesota resident.

Military Personnel

- Residents who have maintained legal residency in Minnesota and

who are serving in the U.S. Military and stationed outside the state may hunt small game without a license while on leave. They do not need a Minnesota Waterfowl Stamp or Pheasant Stamp but must have a Federal Duck Stamp to hunt waterfowl. They may hunt deer, bear, and wild turkeys without charge after obtaining the appropriate licenses and tags from an ELS **special** license agent by presenting official leave papers, except they may not obtain moose, all-season deer, or multi-zone buck licenses or deer management permits. Such service personnel must carry proof of residency and official leave papers on their person while hunting.

- Residents discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces during or within 10 days before the Firearms Deer Season may purchase a Firearms Deer License during the season upon showing official discharge papers. The license is valid immediately after purchase.
- Resident veterans with proof of a 100 percent service-related disability may obtain a free Small Game License and a free Firearms or Archery Deer License from an ELS special license agent.

Note: Military personnel who are issued firearms deer licenses under these provisions may take antlerless deer, but are restricted to bucks-only hunting in those lottery deer permit areas that have an either-sex permit quota of zero. To participate in special deer hunts, they must apply and be drawn (see page 73). They may also purchase bonus permits.

NONRESIDENTS

General

- All nonresidents, regardless of age, must have an appropriate hunting license to hunt in Minnesota. A nonresident under age 16 may obtain a small game license at the resident fee if the nonresident possesses a firearms safety certificate or, if age 13 or under, is accompanied by a parent or guardian when purchasing the license. A nonresident age 13 or under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to take small game.
- Applications allowing nonresidents to purchase licenses by mail are available from the DNR License Center or on the DNR website (addresses on page 139).
- Purchase hunting licenses by telephone or internet: Call **1-888-MNLicense** (1-888-665-4236) or go to www.dnr.state.mn.us. See box on page 19 for additional information.
- 👉 Nonresidents may trap in Minnesota only on their own land and with a nonresident trapping license.

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- Nonresidents may not take raccoon, bobcat, gray fox, red fox, or coyote without first buying a nonresident Furbearer Hunting License *and* a nonresident Small Game License.
- *Note to deer hunters:* A Deer License issued after the opening day of the respective season (archery, regular firearms, or muzzleloader) is not valid until the second day *after* it is issued.

Students

- Nonresident, full-time students at a Minnesota educational institution who live in the state during the school year may purchase a resident Small Game, Deer, or Bear License with proof of student status.
- A full-time high school foreign exchange student who resides with Minnesota residents may buy a resident license to take deer or bear.

STAMPS

Most hunters must possess the appropriate stamps to hunt pheasants and waterfowl in Minnesota (see below). Stamp validations printed on electronically issued licenses are **valid for 30 days**. The actual stamp will be mailed to the hunter. For a stamp to be valid, **hunters must sign their name across its face**. Federal stamps must be signed in ink.

Pheasant Stamp

Resident hunters ages 18 through 64, and all nonresident hunters, must have a valid Minnesota Pheasant Stamp or valid stamp validation (valid for 30 days after purchase only) in their possession when hunting or taking pheasants, except: a) residents hunting on land they occupy as a principal residence, b) a person hunting on a licensed *commercial* shooting preserve, or c) residents on military leave.

Continued on page 24

Decedent Youth License and Safety Certificate Requirements

News you can use		From the Minnesota DNR
Hunting on the Web		tions, harvest statistics from each permit area, a hunters' forum discussion site, and hunting tips.
GET THE LATEST HUNTING reports, waterfowl migration updates, public hunting area maps, hunting-related news releases, and more off the DNR's web site.		Also on the DNR Web Site you can purchase hunting and trapping licenses for an additional \$3.50 convenience fee.
The site also contains regula-		www.dnr.state.mn.us

Resident Youth License and Safety Certificate Requirements

AGE	11 years old and younger	12 years old	13 years old	14 years old	15 years old	16 years old and older
Small Game License	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Not required.	Must buy. ^Δ
Firearms Safety Cert.	Not required.*	Not required, except for big-game or turkey hunting.*	Must have in possession.*	Must have in possession.	Must have in possession.	Required if born on or after 1/1/80 (see p. 20).
Wild Turkey License	May not hunt.	Must buy.*	Must buy.*	Must buy.	Must buy.	Must buy.
Trapping License	Not required.	Not required.	Must have a Jr. Trapping License.	Must have a Jr. Trapping License.	Must have a Jr. Trapping License.	Must have a Jr. Trapping License.**
Pheasant Stamp	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Not required.	Ages 18–64 must buy. ^Δ
Duck Stamps	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Not required.	Ages 16 and up must buy federal stamp.***
Special Canada Goose Permit	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Not required.	Ages 18 to 64 must buy. ^Δ
Big Game Firearms Licenses†	May not hunt.	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.*	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.*	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.	Must buy (see above and page 20 for firearms safety requirements).
Big Game Archery Licenses†	May not hunt.	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.*	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.*	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.	Must buy and must have a Firearms Safety Cert. to buy.	Must buy (firearms safety certificate not required).

* Must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. ** Age 18 and up must have a regular Trapping License.
 † Youth under age 16 may not hunt moose. *** Age 18 and up must also buy a state stamp, except persons hunting on their own land.
 Δ Except persons hunting on their own land.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

TYPE OF LICENSE

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Wild Turkey Stamp

See page 111.

State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp

Resident hunters ages 18 through 64, and all nonresident hunters, must have a valid Minnesota Migratory Waterfowl Stamp (State Duck Stamp) or valid stamp validation (valid for 30 days after purchase only) in their possession while hunting or taking migratory waterfowl (see definition, page 94), except: a) residents who are hunting on their own property, b) persons taking only marked waterfowl released on a commercial shooting preserve, or c) residents on military leave.

Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and over must have a valid Federal Duck Stamp in their possession while hunting or taking migratory waterfowl. Federal Duck Stamps can be purchased at post offices or from many license agents.

GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION

The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Big Game, Small Game, Trapping, Waterfowl, and Wild Turkey sections of this booklet.

BLAZE ORANGE REQUIREMENTS

A visible portion of at least one article of clothing above the waist must be blaze orange for anyone taking small game, except for those hunting wild turkeys, migratory birds, raccoons or predators, or when hunting with nontoxic shot or while trapping. This restriction does not apply to persons hunting by falconry. In addition, *all* hunters and trappers must wear blaze orange clothing in areas open under applicable laws and ordinances to firearms deer hunting, (including special hunts, youth seasons, and the Muzzleloader Season), except for migratory waterfowl hunters on waters or in a stationary shooting location, or trappers on waters. See page 31 for additional details.

GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION

ARMS RESTRICTIONS

Firearms Transportation

A person may not transport a firearm, including a handgun, in or on a motor vehicle unless the firearm is:

- unloaded* and cased;**
- unloaded* and in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle; or
- carried under a valid permit to carry a pistol or handgun.

Transportation of Bows

No person may transport an archery bow in a motor vehicle unless the bow is:

- unstrung, or
- completely contained in a case, or

* An “unloaded” firearm is defined as a firearm without ammunition in the barrels and magazine, if the magazine is in the firearm. A muzzle-loading firearm with a flintlock ignition is unloaded if it does not have priming powder in a pan. A muzzle-loading firearm with percussion ignition is unloaded if it does not have a percussion cap on a nipple.

** A “cased” firearm is defined as a firearm in a gun case expressly made to contain a firearm, when the case fully encloses the firearm by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened, with no portion of the firearm exposed. A holster is not a legal case.

- in the closed trunk or rear-most enclosed portion of a motor vehicle that is not accessible from the passenger compartment.

Handguns

Persons age 18 or older may carry a handgun in the woods and fields or upon waters to hunt or target shoot. Persons under age 18 may carry handguns for hunting if in the actual presence or under the direct supervision of the person's parent or guardian, and if they meet firearms safety requirements (see page 23). A person may not carry a handgun while bowhunting except a person may take bear by archery while in possession of a firearm. Questions regarding handguns should be directed to local law enforcement authorities.

The "**Concealed carry**" provisions apply to certain hunting activities. Persons with a permit under this law generally may carry their handguns uncased and loaded while hunting, and while traveling to or from hunting locations by motor vehicle under the hunting firearms transportation laws. However, possession of the handgun while 'shining' or while hunting deer by archery would still subject the possessor to the provisions of these laws (see page 34, artificial lights, for more info).

Crossbows



A person may not hunt with a crossbow or possess a crossbow outdoors or in a motor vehicle during the open season for any game unless the crossbow is unstrung and in a case, or in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle, except for disabled persons with a valid crossbow permit (see page 55).

Explosive and Poisoned Arrows

A person may not hunt with poisoned (drugged) or explosive-tipped arrows.

Silencers

A person may not own or possess a silencer for a firearm or a firearm equipped to have a silencer attached.

Possession of Firearms Before, During, and After the Firearms Deer Season

(Note: This section does not apply to the Muzzleloader Season, see page 83, except that muzzleloaders legal for deer may be possessed only by persons with a muzzleloader or all-season deer license during that season.)

No person may possess a firearm or ammunition outdoors during the period beginning the fifth day before the open firearms season and ending the second day after the close of the season within an area

where deer may be legally taken by firearms (see page 33), except:

- A person who has a valid firearms big game license in possession may hunt big game during the open season with a firearm and ammunition authorized for big game.
- Possession is also legal under these conditions:
 - a) An unloaded firearm that is in a case or in a closed trunk of a motor vehicle.
 - b) A shotgun and shells containing No. 4 buckshot or smaller diameter lead shot or nontoxic shot.
 - c) A .22 caliber rimfire handgun or rifle with .22 caliber short, long, or long rifle cartridges.
 - d) Handguns possessed by a person with a carry permit.
 - e) On an authorized target range.

“TAKING” DEFINED

“Taking” means pursuing, shooting, killing, capturing, trapping, snaring, angling, spearing, or netting wild animals; or placing, setting, drawing, or using a net, trap, or other device to take wild animals. Taking also includes *attempting* to take wild animals or *assisting* another person in taking wild animals.

“POSSESSION” DEFINED

Game animals are in a person’s possession whether on hand, in cold storage, in transport, or elsewhere.

PROTECTED ANIMALS

The following birds and mammals are protected in Minnesota by state or federal laws:

Protected Birds

- All birds for which seasons are established in these regulations are protected birds but may be taken as authorized.
- There is no open season on bobwhite quail, cranes, swans, hawks, owls, eagles, herons, bitterns, cormorants, loons, grebes, or any other species of birds except unprotected birds.

Crows

- Crows may be taken without a license in season or at any time when they are doing or are about to do damage.
- Electronic calls or sounds may be used for crow hunting.
- Crows may be taken with a legal firearm (shotgun not larger than 10 gauge, rifle, or handgun), bow and arrow, or by falconry.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Mammals

- All mammals for which seasons are established in these regulations are protected mammals, but may be taken as authorized.
- There is no open season on caribou, antelope, lynx, gray wolf, wolverine, cougar, or spotted skunk (“civet cat”).

Taking Protected Species

- No protected species may be taken in any manner in any area of the state except in accordance with these regulations.
- All protected species must be killed before being removed from the site where taken.

UNPROTECTED ANIMALS

Residents are not required to have a license to take unprotected species.

Unprotected Mammals

Weasels, coyotes, gophers, porcupines, striped skunks, and all other mammals for which there are no closed seasons or other protection are unprotected animals. They may be taken in any manner, except with the aid of artificial lights or by using a motor vehicle to drive, chase, run over, or kill the animal. Poisons may not be used except in accordance with all label regulations of the state Dept. of Agriculture and federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Unprotected Birds

House sparrows, starlings, common pigeons, chukar partridge, quail other than northern bobwhite, and monk parakeets are unprotected and may be taken at any time.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS**Motor Vehicles**

- No person may take a wild animal with a firearm or by archery from a motor vehicle except a disabled person with an appropriate permit. A disabled person with a permit to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle may take a deer of either sex without an antlerless permit except in those Lottery Deer Permit Areas that have an either-sex permit quota of zero. Other members of the hunting party may not shoot antlerless deer for the disabled person.
- Permits to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle may be issued to a person who obtains the required licenses and who has a permanent physical disability that is more substantial than discomfort from walking. The permit recipient must: be unable to step from a

vehicle without aid of a wheelchair, crutches, braces, or other mechanical support or prosthetic device; or be unable to walk any distance because of a permanent lung, heart, or other internal disease that requires the person to use supplemental oxygen to assist breathing. The permanent disability must be verified in writing by a licensed physician or chiropractor. In addition to providing the medical evidence of permanent disability, the applicant must possess a valid disability parking certificate or license plates issued by the Department of Public Safety. Permit applications are available from any DNR regional office or by calling the information numbers on page 139.

- No person may use a motor vehicle to intentionally drive, chase, run over, or kill any wild animal. Road-killed animals may not be legally possessed, except by special permit from a DNR conservation officer.
- Shooting from a motorized vehicle is unlawful.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), including All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

A person may not intentionally operate an off-highway vehicle:

- in a wildlife management area, a state park, or a scientific and natural area, except as specifically authorized by law or rule;
- in unfrozen public waters (lakes, rivers, streams and certain wetlands), or in calcareous fens as identified by the commissioner;
- on a trail on public land that is designated or signed for non-motorized use only;
- on restricted areas within public lands that are posted or where gates or other clearly visible structures are placed to prevent unauthorized motorized vehicle access; or
- transport an uncased firearm on or shoot at a wild animal from an OHV.

Additional restrictions apply during the grouse and deer seasons (see pages 38 and 65).

OHVs and Wetland Disturbance

A person may not operate an OHV in a manner to:

- indicate a willful, wanton, or reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property;
- carelessly upset the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland; or
- impact a wetland or public waters wetland in excess of minimum amounts established under law (these vary by area of the state and other criteria check the DNR website for more information www.dnr.state.mn.us).

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Dog Training

A person may not train hunting dogs afield from April 16 to July 14, except by special permit. A person may obtain a free special permit to train hunting dogs afield on land owned by the trainer or on other land with written permission of the owner. The written permission must be carried while training the dogs. Applications are available through the DNR Information Center and regional DNR Enforcement offices.

A person training a dog afield and carrying a firearm may only have blank cartridges and shells in possession when the season is not open for any game bird, except by permit. An organization or individual may obtain a free permit to use firearms and live ammunition on domesticated birds or banded game birds from game farms for holding field trials and training hunting dogs.

Dogs Pursuing Big Game

No persons may allow their dog to chase or kill big game.

Between January 1 and July 14 a dog that is observed wounding, killing, or pursuing in a way that endangers big game may be killed by any person. A peace officer or conservation officer may kill a dog that endangers big game at any time of the year. The officer or person is not liable for damages for killing the dog.

Important: Other hunting seasons are open before, during, and after the deer season. Many hunters use dogs to hunt upland game, waterfowl, rabbits, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes. Dogs may not be shot during fall hunting seasons, even if seen pursuing big game, except by a conservation or peace officer.

Hunting While Under the Influence

A person may not take protected wild animals with a firearm or by archery or be afield with a loaded or uncased firearm or an uncased bow while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Wanton Waste

A person may not wantonly waste or destroy a usable part of a protected wild animal unless authorized.

Ferrets

A person may not take protected animals with the aid of a ferret.

Radios and Other Wireless Devices

- Using walkie talkies, cell phones, or other radio equipment to take big game or small game is unlawful.
- A DNR permit is required to take unprotected animals with the aid of radio equipment.

Lands Closed to Hunting

A person may not hunt within state Game Refuges, State Parks, Scientific and Natural Areas, or other lands closed to hunting, except as provided in these regulations.

English Language Required

All reports, forms, tags, or signs required by these regulations must be completed in the English language.

Multiple Applications

A person may not submit more than one application in a drawing for a permit or license.

Dates and Times Inclusive

All dates and times specified in these regulations are inclusive unless specified otherwise.

GIFTS

Lawfully taken wild animals may be transferred as a gift if accompanied by a receipt containing: name and address of the owner; name and address of the recipient, date of transfer, description of the gift (for example: "Three 1-pound venison steaks") and the license number under which the animal was taken. The receipt must remain with the gift.

GAME FOR CONSUMPTION AT FUND RAISING EVENTS

Nonprofit organizations may charge a fee for admission to fundraising events when lawfully taken and possessed big game and small game (excluding migratory game birds that cannot be sold under federal law), is donated to the organization and is served for consumption on the premises where the fundraising event is held. Records of donations must be kept for two years.

HUNTER HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

A person may not prevent or disrupt another person from taking or preparing to take a wild animal. A person may not disturb or interfere with the person who is taking or preparing to take wild animals, and may not disturb wild animals with the intent to prevent or disrupt another person from hunting. Placing bait for the purpose of preventing or disrupting another person from lawfully hunting deer would be considered unlawful under the hunter harassment laws.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

SALE OF ANIMAL PARTS

Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, a person may possess, transport, buy, or sell the following inedible portions of lawfully taken or acquired big game, furbearers, and game birds (other than migratory birds): bones (including skulls), sinews, hides, hooves, teeth, claws, and antlers. A person may not sell bear meat or organs (including gall bladders) and may not sell bear paws unless attached to the hide.

A hunter or trapper may sell the pelts of lawfully taken furbearers. A person may not buy raw furs without a fur buyer's license, except a fur manufacturer or licensed taxidermist may buy raw furs from a licensed fur buyer.

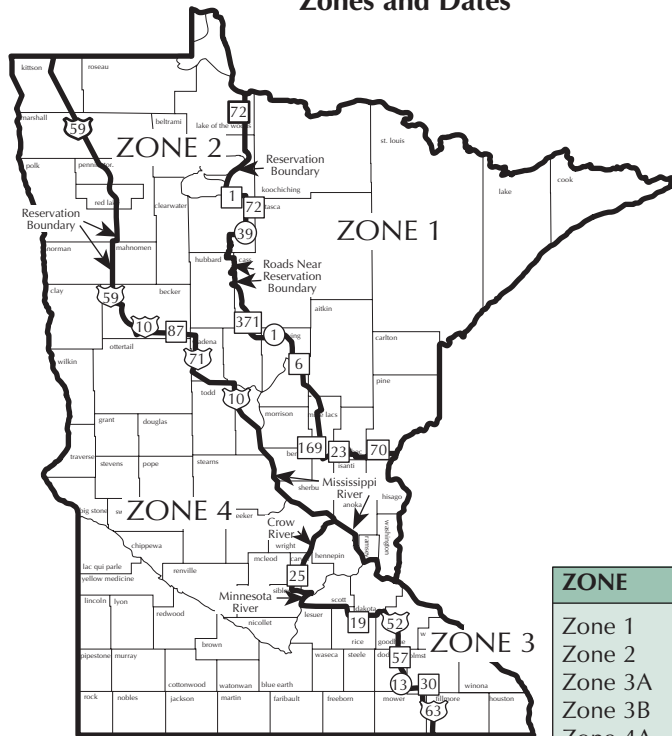
BLAZE ORANGE REQUIREMENTS

Small Game Seasons: You may not take small game unless a visible portion of at least one article of clothing above the waist is blaze orange, except when hunting wild turkeys, migratory birds, raccoons, or predators, or when hunting by falconry, with nontoxic shot or while trapping.

Deer Season: Also, you may not hunt or trap during the open season where deer may be taken by firearms (including special hunts, youth seasons, and muzzleloaders) under applicable laws and ordinances unless the visible portion of your cap and outer clothing above the waist, excluding sleeves and gloves, is blaze orange. Red is not a legal color, except for those who qualify under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. Blaze orange includes a camouflage pattern of at least 50 percent blaze orange within each square foot. This restriction does not apply to migratory waterfowl hunters on waters or in a stationary shooting location or to trappers on waters. Times and zones for firearms are shown in the map on next page. Muzzleloader season is open statewide, except for closed areas (see page 83).

Continued on page 33

Blaze Orange Requirements Zones and Dates



GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION

ZONE	DATE
Zone 1	Nov. 6–21
Zone 2	Nov. 6–14
Zone 3A	Nov. 6–12
Zone 3B	Nov. 20–28
Zone 4A	Nov. 6-7
Zone 4B	Nov. 13–16
NW Youth (5-County)	Oct. 23–24
Muzzle- loader	Nov. 27– Dec. 12

Note: Consult the deer regulations section for restrictions within the dates in the box above or see the fold-out map between pages 72-73 for additional details.

Band Seasons: Indian bands may be hunting deer by firearms before and after state firearms seasons. The Fond du Lac band may be hunting deer from late September until mid-December in the 1854 ceded territory (Cook, Lake, eastern and southern St. Louis, most of Carlton, and extreme northern Pine counties). Bands signatory to the 1837 Treaty (east-central Minnesota from Pine and Chisago counties west to the Mississippi River) may be hunting deer from the day after Labor Day through the end of December.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

DUTY TO RENDER AID

A person who shoots and injures another person with a firearm, or has reason to believe that another person might have been injured, and any witnesses to such a shooting, must immediately investigate the extent of the person's injuries and give reasonable assistance, including calling law enforcement or medical personnel to the scene. Failure to do so can result in imprisonment and a fine for the shooter and witnesses.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

A person may not cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light onto a highway or into a field, woodland, or forest to spot, locate, or take a wild animal while possessing, either individually or as one of a group, a firearm, bow, or other implement that could be used to kill big game. The exceptions to this regulation are:

- a) A firearm that is unloaded, cased, and in the closed trunk* of a motor vehicle (see definitions of "unloaded" and "cased," page 25); or
- b) A bow that is completely encased or unstrung and in the trunk* of a motor vehicle.

Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

- With or without a firearm or bow, no person may cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light into a field, woodland, or forest to spot, locate, or take a wild animal between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. from September 1 to December 31.
- With or without a firearm, between one-half hour after sunset until sunrise, a person may not cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to spot, locate, or take a wild animal on fenced, agricultural land containing livestock or poultry that is marked with signs prohibiting the shining of lights. The signs must: 1) display reflectorized letters that are at least two inches in height and state "no shining" or similar terms; and 2) be placed at intervals of 1,000 feet or less along the boundary of the area.
- It is not a violation of this law to shine lights while doing any agricultural, occupational, or recreational activity, including snowmobiling, not related to spotting, locating, or taking a wild animal.
- With or without a firearm, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., a person may not project a spotlight or hand-held light onto residential property or building sites from a moving motor vehicle being operated on land, except for the following purposes: 1) safety; 2) emergency response; 3) normal vehicle operations; or 4) performing an occupational duty.

*If the motor vehicle does not have a trunk, the firearm or bow must be in the rearmost portion of the vehicle.

Note: This regulation does not apply to taking raccoons or tending traps according to all other regulations in this booklet.

A Message From The Minnesota Trapper's Association

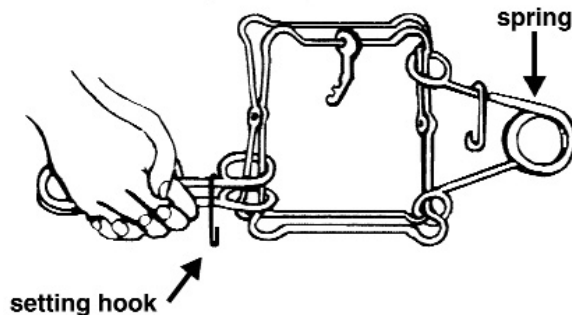
We all care about the welfare of animals. Toward that end, we in the Minnesota Trappers Association (MTA) have launched a major educational effort to help trappers improve and modernize the technology of trapping.

MTA urges all trappers to place the highest priority on their responsibility to set and tend traps in strict adherence to all trapping and trespass regulations. Trappers are also asked to take the utmost care to avoid placing body-grip traps in areas where they might accidentally capture a dog and to dog-proof traps whenever possible.

In the unlikely event a dog does become caught in a trap, the accompanying diagram provides directions on how to free it.

Regulated trapping is supported by all 50 state wildlife agencies: the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Wildlife Society, Wildlife Management Institute, Utah State University's Berryman Institute, and many other conservation organizations that recognize the important role trapping plays in wildlife management.

Diagram directions: There are two springs on a body-grip trap; one on either side of the trap. Compress the spring and lock it with the wire setting hook. Repeat the process on the other side (This works more easily with two people, as the spring has considerable tension).



For more information, contact the Minnesota Trappers Association at 1-320-256-5184 or visit the Web site at www.mntrappers.com

Paid Advertisement

ENFORCEMENT

- DNR conservation officers and other peace officers may arrest, without a warrant, any person detected in the actual violation of wildlife, fish, or water laws and may enter any lands to carry out these duties.
- No person may hinder, resist, or obstruct an enforcement officer or authorized DNR agent in the performance of official duties.
- A person must allow inspection of firearms, licenses, wild animals, motor vehicles, boats, or other conveyances used while taking or transporting wild animals.

**SHIPPING BY COMMON CARRIER (COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION)****Statements and Receipts Required for Shipping**

- A person who transports wild animals or raw furs by common carrier (commercial transportation), including animals carried in baggage, must attach a statement to each shipment. The statement must include the name, address, and license number of the person shipping the animals, the number and species of the animals and furs in the shipment, and the signature of the licensee.
- The waybill or receipt issued by a common carrier to a shipper must specify the number and species of wild animals being shipped.

Shipments by Residents to Themselves

- Residents may transport wild animals within the state by common carrier if they have the licenses required to take the animals and the shipment is made to themselves. The wild animals that may be transported by common carrier are: deer, bear, moose, “undressed” game birds (see page 43 for definition), and fish.
- Residents who ship game birds to themselves may not make more than three shipments during a license year. A shipment may not contain more than the resident’s daily limit.

Shipments by Nonresidents to Themselves

- Nonresidents may transport wild animals by common carrier without being in the vehicle if they have the license required to take the animals and the shipment is made to themselves.
- Nonresidents who ship game birds to themselves by common carrier without being in the vehicle must obtain a shipping permit (free) from a DNR conservation officer.

Shipments to Other Persons

- A person may ship game birds to another person if the shipper is licensed and obtains a permit from a DNR conservation officer.

HUNTING WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities may be granted special permits or exceptions to some hunting regulations:



- Crossbows: See pages 26 and 55.
- Motor Vehicles: See page 28.
- Grouse Hunting Near Motor Vehicles: see page 38.
- Special Seasons: See page 67.
- Federal Waterfowl Hunting: see page 108.
- Blinds at some major WMAs: See page 123.
- Deer Stands, Agassiz, Rydell and Big Stone NWR: See pages 134-136.



SMALL GAME

Important Dates:

See hunting and trapping season chart, pages 40-41.

A license year runs from March 1 through the end of February.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

See pages 94-110.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Small Game Hunting

- All residents age 16 and over, and all nonresidents, must have a valid Small Game License in their possession to take small game, except residents may hunt small game without a license on their own land if they occupy it as their principal residence.
- All residents age 18 or over and under age 65, and all nonresident hunters, must have a valid Minnesota Pheasant Stamp or stamp validation in their possession to take pheasants. For exceptions, see page 22.
- All licensed hunters of migratory game birds (mourning doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, waterfowl, or coots) must identify themselves as migratory bird hunters at the time they purchase a small game or sports license and be HIP certified (see box below).
- A nonresident must have a nonresident Furbearer Hunting License and a nonresident Small Game License to take raccoon, bobcat, gray fox, red fox, or coyote.

SMALL GAME

HUNTING

Important Information:

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All hunters of migratory game birds (mourning doves, ducks, geese, mergansers, woodcock, snipe, rails, coots, or gallinules) **must** identify themselves as migratory bird hunters at the time they purchase a small game or sports license.

Evidence of compliance, which will be noted on your small game license as "HIP Certified," must be carried while hunting migratory game birds.

Anyone who has hunted or intends to hunt migratory game birds must answer "yes" to the question on the license. **If the license agent**

does not ask you this question at the time of license purchase, please remind them to do so. This information is important. If you did not answer “yes” at the time you purchased your license, you may do so later at no cost and get a receipt showing you are HIP certified at any ELS agent prior to hunting migratory game birds.

The answers to the screening questions about migratory bird hunting on the license will be used to survey hunters at a later date to more accurately estimate actual harvests. Improved harvest information will be used to better manage migratory bird populations and preserve hunting opportunities.

Trapping

- Every resident age 16 and over must have both a Small Game and a Trapping License in possession to take small game (including furbearers) with traps, except that persons may trap without a Small Game License on their own land if they occupy it as their principal residence. That person must still have a Trapping License.
- Residents age 13 through 17 must have a Jr. Trapping License and residents age 18 or over must have a regular trapping license to trap. Residents under age 13 do not need a trapping license.
- Nonresidents may obtain a license to trap on land they own in Minnesota.
- No person may be issued more than one Trapping License in a license year (except duplicate licenses).

SMALL GAME HUNTING

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

Blaze Orange

Blaze orange is required for much small game hunting. See pages 24 and 31 for specifics.

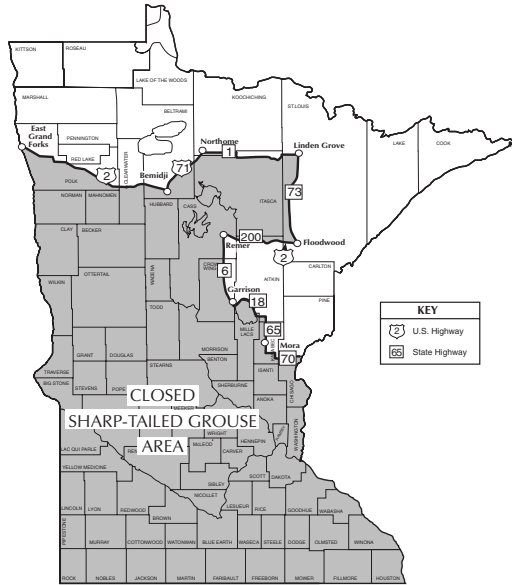
Grouse Hunting Near Motor Vehicles

- A person in the vicinity of a motor vehicle may not shoot a firearm or an arrow from a bow at a grouse, or at a decoy of a grouse placed by an enforcement officer, unless the person is at least 20 yards (60 feet) from the vehicle and the vehicle’s engine is shut off. This provision does not apply to a person with a disability who has a permit to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle (see page 28). This restriction includes all motorized vehicles.



Closed Sharp-tailed Grouse Area

The shaded area on the map at right is closed to sharp-tailed grouse hunting. Few sharptails live in the area, and the closure protects remnant populations of sharptails and prairie chickens (a similar-looking species). There is an exception for licensed prairie chicken hunters (see page 118.)



SMALL GAME HUNTING

Party Hunting for Small Game

A “party” is defined as a group of two or more persons maintaining unaided visual and vocal contact with each other while taking non-migratory small game. “Party hunting” means that members of a party may take animals for other members’ limits. A party may lawfully take small game in accordance with the following regulations:

- A member of the party may take more than an individual limit, but the total number of small game taken and possessed by the party may not exceed the combined limits of members of the party.
- Each party member may transport only an individual limit of small game.
- Party hunting is not allowed for migratory game birds (doves, ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, woodcock, rail, and snipe).
- For wild turkey party hunting restrictions, see page 112.

Use of Lead Shot

- No person may take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, or moorhens with lead shot or while having lead shot in possession.
- Lead shot may be used statewide for hunting other small game in accordance with firearms restrictions in this booklet, except in federal Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas (see pages 132-137).

Continued on page 42

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

2004 Small Game Hunting Seasons

Small Game	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Shooting/Hunting Hours
Mammals*				
Cottontail Rabbit, Jack-rabbit and Snowshoe Hare	Sept. 18–Feb. 28	10 combined	20 combined	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Gray and Fox Squirrel	Sept. 18–Feb. 28	7 combined	14 combined	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Non-Migratory Birds				
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	Sept. 18–Dec. 31	5 combined	10 combined	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Sharp-tailed Grouse (in open zone)	Sept. 18–Nov. 30	3	6	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Hungarian Partridge	Sept. 18–Dec. 31	5	10	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Pheasant	Oct. 16–Dec. 31	2 roosters	6 roosters	9 a.m. to sunset
Prairie chicken (by special permit only)	Oct. 23–27	2	2	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Non-Migratory Small Game by Falconry				
	Sept. 1–Feb. 28	3 combined, not to include more than 1 hen pheasant	6 combined, not to include more than 2 hen pheasants	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset except pheasants may not be taken before 9 a.m.
Migratory Birds (except waterfowl; waterfowl season regulations are distributed in September)				
Mourning Doves***	Sept. 1–Oct. 30	15	30	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset ^{††}
Woodcock***	Sept. 25–Nov. 8	3	6	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Sora and Virginia Rail***	Sept. 1–Nov. 4	25 in aggregate	25 in aggregate	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Common Snipe*** (Wilson's or Jacksnipe)	Sept. 1–Nov. 4	8	16	except same as waterfowl during waterfowl seasons
Crow**	March 1–31 and July 15–Oct. 15	No limit	No limit	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset

*Rabbits, hares, and squirrels may also be taken by trapping. **Crows may also be taken at any time whenever committing or about to commit damage. ***HIP certification required to hunt, see page 37. ^{††}Except shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. on opening day of duck season.



2004 Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Seasons

Furbearers	Open Season	Daily, Season, and Possession Limit	Shooting/Trapping Hours
Furbearers (trapping) Raccoon and Red Fox**** Gray Fox, Badger, Opossum Bobcat (open north of I-94 and US 10 only)*	Continuous Sept. 18–Mar. 15 Nov. 27–Jan. 9	No limit No limit 5 (includes hunting limit)	Trap setting and tending hours on all wild animals are 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. except traps may not be set or tended for gray fox, badger, opossum, mink, muskrat, beaver, or otter before 9 a.m. on opening day within the zone of the respective seasons.
Fisher and Pine Marten (open north of I-94 and US 10 only)* Mink and Muskrat (North Zone*) Mink and Muskrat (South Zone*) Beaver (North Zone*) Beaver (South Zone*) Otter (North Zone*) Otter (South Zone—open North of I-94 and US10 only)	Nov. 27–Dec.12 Oct. 23–Feb. 28 Oct. 30–Feb. 28 Oct. 23–May 15 Oct. 30–May 15 Oct. 23–Jan. 9 Oct. 30–Jan. 9	5 combined No limit No limit No limit No limit 4 4	
Furbearers (hunting) Raccoon** and Red Fox****	Continuous	No limit	Day or night. Artificial lights may not be used for red fox.
Badger, Opossum	Sept. 18–Mar. 15	No limit	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset except 9 a.m. to sunset opening day.
Gray Fox***	Sept. 18–Mar. 15	No limit	Day or night except not before 9 a.m. on opening day. Artificial lights may not be used.
Bobcat (open north of I-94 and US 10 only)* Coyote, striped skunk & other unprotected	Nov. 27–Jan. 9 Continuous	5 (includes trapping limit) No limit	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset. See page 28

*Furbearer Zone maps are on page 47.
**Between sunset and sunrise raccoon hunters must be on foot and may use an artificial light to locate, attempt to locate, or shoot a raccoon only if the raccoon has been treed or put at bay by dogs.
*** Foxes may be run by use of dogs during the closed season without being taken, except from March 16 to July 14.
****Red fox scheduled to close March 15.



2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Prairie Chickens

- Portions of western Minnesota are open to prairie chicken hunting through a limited license drawing (see page 118).

Woodcock, Rails, and Snipe

- Duck Stamps (state or federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamps) are not required to hunt woodcock, rails, snipe, or mourning doves.
- Compliance with the migratory bird harvest information program is required by indicating “yes” in response to the migratory bird hunting question on the license (see page 37).
- Shotguns used to hunt these birds must not be capable of holding more than three shells, unless plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.

Prohibited Methods

- A person may not take a grouse while within 20 yards of a motor vehicle (see page 36).
- A person may not take protected birds by the following methods: with a trap, net, or snare; using bird lime; with a swivel or set gun; by dragging a rope, wire, or other device across a field; or by using fire.
- A person may not shoot pheasants or Hungarian partridge with a rifle or handgun other than a .22 caliber rimfire using short, long, or long rifle ammunition.
- A person may not set fire to a tree or use smoke to take squirrels or raccoons.

Continued on page 44

TAKE A KID HUNTING WEEKEND Sept. 25-26 YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY Sept. 18 (tentative)

Becoming a hunter doesn't happen by accident. It takes an experienced parent or mentor to make a commitment of time, talent and treasure to pass on the hunting tradition.

Even if you don't normally hunt small game, the Minnesota DNR encourages you to commit time and talent this fall to introduce a young person to the small game opportunities that abound in our state. Adult residents who go small game hunting with a youth under age 16 on Sept. 25-26 can do so without a license. Squirrels, rabbits, grouse and doves provide opportunities throughout the state. Firearms safety certificates are required for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1980 and older than 13.

On Youth Waterfowl Day (Sept. 18, tentatively), young people under age 16 may hunt waterfowl in Minnesota. An adult must accompany kids under 14. Adults may not hunt. If you are an experienced waterfowl hunter, the DNR encourages you to use this opportunity to recruit a young person to the sport. If your children already hunt waterfowl, have them invite a non-hunting friend and spend the day teaching them to hunt safely and ethically.



TRANSPORTATION OF GAME BIRDS

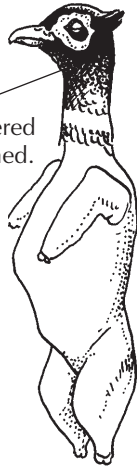
Game birds possessed in the field or being transported must be “undressed.” An “undressed” game bird is defined as:

- Non-migratory upland game birds (pheasants, grouse, Hungarian partridge, prairie chicken) must have one leg and foot or the fully feathered head or a fully feathered wing intact.
- Ducks and mergansers must have a fully feathered wing and the fully feathered head attached.
- Geese must have a fully feathered wing attached.
- Wild turkey (see page 114).
- Other migratory game birds (doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots, and moorhens) must have feet and a fully feathered head attached.

SMALL GAME HUNTING

Pheasant, Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Hungarian Partridge

Option 1
Fully feathered head attached.



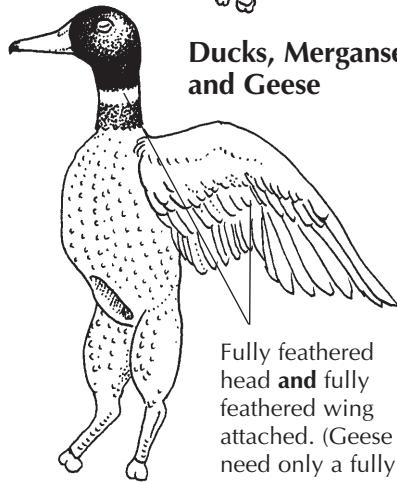
Option 2
Fully feathered wing attached.



Option 3
One leg and foot intact.



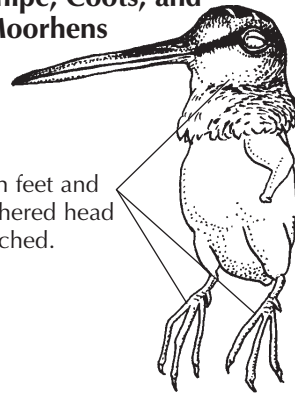
Ducks, Mergansers, and Geese



Fully feathered head **and** fully feathered wing attached. (Geese need only a fully feathered wing.)

Woodcock, Rails, Doves, Snipe, Coots, and Moorhens

Both feet and feathered head attached.



2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

(Prohibited Methods - cont.)

- A person may not remove a fox from a den, or trap fox within 300 feet of a fox den, from April 1 to August 31.
- A person may not disturb the burrow or den of any wild animal between November 1 and April 1 without a permit.
- A person may not take pine marten, fisher, mink, muskrat, beaver, or otter by hunting.

Raccoons**Night Hunting**

A person may take raccoons between sunset and sunrise only in accordance with the following regulations:

- Hunters must be on foot.
- Artificial lights may be used to locate, attempt to locate, or shoot a raccoon only if the raccoon has been treed or put at bay by dogs.
- Rifles and handguns used must be .22 caliber rimfire loaded with short, long, or long rifle ammunition.
- Shotgun shells may not contain shot larger than No. 4 bird shot.

Other Restrictions

- A DNR permit is required to pursue and tree raccoons for raccoon dog field trials held from April 16 through July 14.
- A person may not take a raccoon in a den or hollow tree, or by cutting down a tree occupied by a raccoon.



TRAPPING

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

License Requirements

See page 37.

Seasons

See page 41.

Important! Many other outdoor enthusiasts are afield, with their dogs, during the trapping seasons. Although accidental captures of dogs by trappers are infrequent in Minnesota, the occasional accidents that do occur lead to calls for increased regulation of trapping activities. Trappers must be aware of their responsibility to set and tend traps in strict adherence to all trapping and trespass regulations, and should take great care to avoid areas and sets that may accidentally capture dogs.

SMALL GAME

TRAPPING

Trap and Snare Identification

A person may not set or place a trap or snare, other than on property owned or occupied by the person, unless the following information is affixed to the trap or snare in a way that ensures the information remains legible while the trap or snare is on the land or in the water:

- 1) The number and state of the person's driver's license; or
- 2) The person's Minnesota identification card number; or
- 3) The person's name and mailing address.

Note: From April 1 to August 31, the trap identification provisions listed above do not apply to traps set for the taking of unprotected wild animals.

Traps

A person may not set, place, or operate:

- any foot or leghold trap with a jaw opening greater than 8¼ inches;
- any body-gripping or conibear-type trap with a jaw opening greater than 7½ inches, except as a waterset*;
- any body-gripping or conibear-type trap with a jaw opening greater than 6½ inches in or within 3 feet of a culvert, except when completely submerged in water.

* A waterset is defined as any body-gripping trap or snare set so that the trap jaws or the snare loop are at least half-submerged in water.

Trap Setting and Tending

- A person may set or tend traps only from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- A person on foot may use an artificial light to set or tend traps during the legal hours. However, that person may not possess or use a bow and arrow or a firearm other than a handgun of .22 caliber with short, long, or long rifle ammunition while using the light in the field.
- A person may not set a trap within 50 feet of any water other than temporary surface water within 30 days before the open season for mink and muskrat in that area, except by permit.
- Any trap capable of capturing a protected animal and not capable of drowning the animal must be tended at least once each calendar day, except for body-gripping or conibear-type traps. Any trap capable of drowning the captured animal and any body-gripping or conibear-type trap must be tended at least once each third calendar day, except for traps set under the ice. A trap may not be left untended for more than three consecutive days (for example, a trap set or tended on Saturday would have to be tended again by Tuesday). When a trap is tended, any animal captured must be removed.

Trap Tampering

- No person may remove or tamper with a trap legally set to take fur-bearing or unprotected wild animals without authorization by the trapper, a DNR agent, or the owner or lessee of the land where the trap is located.
- A trapper may authorize, in writing, an agent who possesses all necessary licenses to tend traps set by the trapper, including resetting the trap at the same set. The agent may remove animals from a trap.

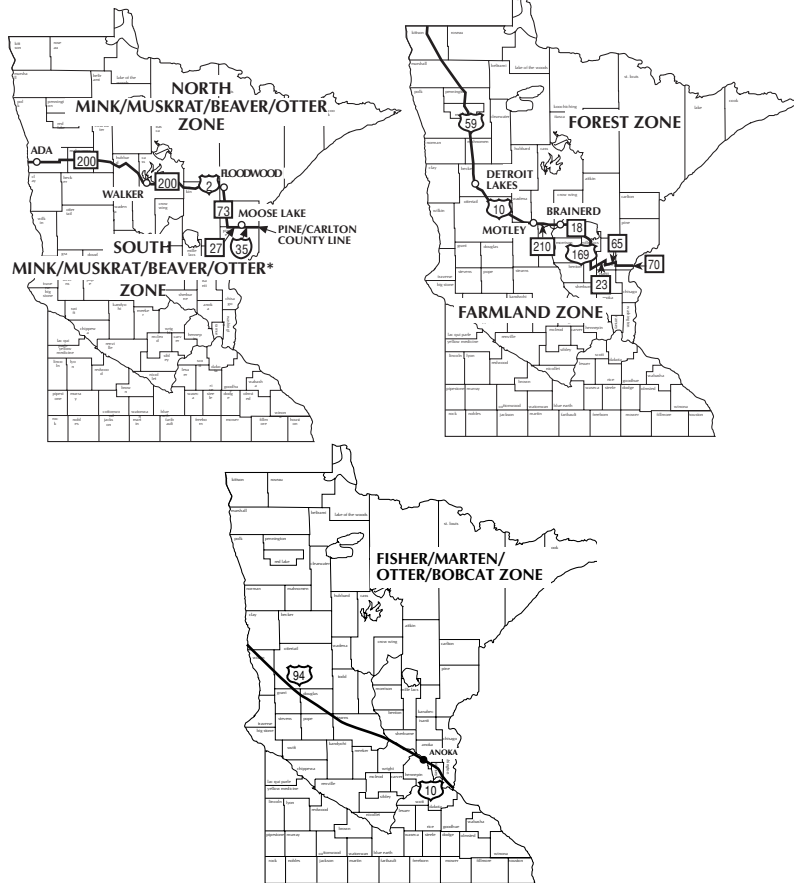
General Trapping Restrictions

- No trap, either set or unset, may be placed or staked, and no flag, stake, or other device may be placed to mark or pre-empt a trapping site before the opening of any trapping season.
- No person may leave any trap for a protected wild animal in place, either set or unset, after the close of the applicable trapping season.
- No person may disturb, injure, or destroy any muskrat house or den, except that traps may be set at natural entrances to muskrat burrows and openings may be made in muskrat houses for trapping if all material removed is wetted and used to plug the opening.
- Animals must be killed before being removed from a site.
- No person may disturb, injure, or destroy any beaver house, dam, burrow, or den.



- No person may set a trap inside any beaver house or upon the outside of any beaver house above the waterline.
- Mink may not be taken by digging or with the aid of dogs.
- Unattended electronic devices may not be used for taking wild animals.

FURBEARER ZONES



SMALL GAME TRAPPING

- No person may set or maintain any leghold trap within 20 feet of bait located in such a way that it may be seen by soaring birds. "Bait" is any animal or animal parts, including live or dead fish, except that small pieces of fur and feathers may be used for flagging.
- No person may take a bird with a foot or leghold trap on a pole, post, tree stump, or other perch more than 3 feet above the ground, except by federal permit.

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- No person may trap beaver or otter on a state Wildlife Management Area without a permit from the wildlife manager.

Snaring Regulations

Snares may be used by licensed trappers for taking all species of protected wild mammals that may be taken by the use of traps, except bobcat. The use of snares is subject to the following regulations and all trapping regulations not inconsistent with these snaring restrictions.

General Restrictions for Snares

- Fox may be snared only in the Forest Furbearer Zone (see map below) with a permit issued by any DNR conservation officer. Permits are effective during the regular fox trapping season and are valid until revoked.
- Bobcats and bears cannot be taken with snares.
- In the Farmland Furbearer Zone no person may set, place, or operate any snare except as a waterset. A waterset is defined as any snare set so that the snare loop is at least half-submerged under water.

Use of Snares

- The diameter of the snare loop may not exceed 10 inches.
- Snare cable or wire may not have a diameter exceeding $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
- No person may set, place, or operate a snare in a culvert, except as a completely submerged waterset.
- Snares may not be set in deer trails.
- Snares may not be used with spring poles or other devices that wholly or partly lift from the ground an animal caught in the snare.
- No snare may be set in such a way that the top of the loop is more than 16 inches above the ground or, when the ground is snow-covered, more than 16 inches above the bottom of a person's footprint made in the snow beneath the snare with the full body weight on the foot.
- All snares not capable of drowning the captured animal must be tended at least once each calendar day.
- No snare set for a protected animal may be left in place after the applicable trapping season has closed.

Fur Export

Otter, Bobcat, or Black Bear

- International trade in raw furs of otter, bobcat, and hides, claws, skulls, or teeth of black bear is regulated by federal law and international treaty. If you plan to sell your own otter, bobcat, or bear furs or parts in Canada, you must obtain an export permit (for a fee) from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240.



All Furs

- To export any furs for sale in Canada, a completed “Declaration for Import or Export of Fish and Wildlife” (Form 3–177), signed by the exporter, must be filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before export at the U.S. Customs Port where exported.

Furbearer Registration

- The pelt of each bobcat, fisher, pine marten, and otter, the carcass of each bobcat, and the head of each pine marten must be presented, by the person taking it, to a DNR registration station (see page 50) or area wildlife office (by appointment) for registration before the pelt is sold or is removed from the state, and no more than 48 hours after the season closes.
- The entire carcass of the bobcat and head of the pine marten must be surrendered at the time of registration.
- To speed up registration, please bring the following written information for each animal to be registered: species, sex; method of take, date taken and county, township and range where taken. Include your MDNR number, as shown on your license.

Releasing Protected Species

Every effort should be made to avoid catching fully protected species. If possible, a trapper should release accidentally captured protected species back into the wild. If a fully protected species is dead in the trap or otherwise cannot be released, you must notify a DNR conservation officer.

Furbearer Registration Stations

Furbearers may be registered between 12 noon and 7 p.m. on December 14, and between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on January 11 at the locations listed on the next page or with any DNR area wildlife office throughout the season **by appointment only**.

Important! The Canada lynx is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Any taking or possession of lynx, including accidental taking, is a violation of federal law.

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LOCATIONS

Aitkin	DNR Wildlife Office
Backus	DNR Forestry Office
Bemidji	DNR Area Fish & Wildlife Office
Big Falls	DNR Forestry Office
Brainerd	DNR Area Wildlife Office (1601 Minnesota Drive)
Cambridge	DNR Forestry Office
Cloquet	DNR Wildlife Office
Cook	DNR Forestry Office
Deer River	DNR Forestry Office
Duluth	DNR Forestry Office (4805 Rice Lake Road)
Effie	DNR Forestry Office
Eveleth	DNR Wildlife Office
Finland	DNR Forestry Office
Forest Lake	DNR Carlos Avery Game Farm Office
Grand Marais	DNR Wildlife Office (Dec. 14 only)
Grand Rapids	DNR Regional Headquarters
Hibbing	DNR Forestry Office
Hinckley	DNR Fisheries Office
International Falls	DNR Wildlife Office
Middle River	DNR Thief Lake Wildlife Office
Northome	DNR Forestry Office
Onamia	DNR Mille Lacs Wildlife Area Office
Orr	DNR Forestry Office
Park Rapids	DNR Wildlife Office
Roseau	DNR Roseau River WMA Office
Roosevelt	DNR Red Lake WMA Office
Rochester	DNR Area Wildlife Office
St. Cloud	DNR Office (940 Industrial Drive, Suite 103, Sauk Rapids, MN)
Tower	DNR Office
Two Harbors	DNR Wildlife Office (Dec. 14 only)

Furbearer Pelting and Transportation

- A person who performs a service by recovering and preserving the pelt of a protected furbearer (except muskrat) that was accidentally killed or lawfully killed while doing damage, may be entitled to a pelting fee of up to 50% of the proceeds from the sale of the pelt. Contact a local DNR conservation officer or regional DNR Enforcement office within 24 hours for authorization to pelt the animal.
- No person may possess, transport, or pelt a fisher, otter, pine marten, fox, bobcat, lynx, or gray wolf that was accidentally killed, except when authorized beforehand.



MOURNING DOVE

SEASON DATES, LIMITS AND HOURS

Sept. 1 to Oct. 30, from one half hour before sunrise to sunset except opening day of waterfowl season when shooting hours begin at 9 a.m. Daily bag limit is 15; possession limit 30.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All residents age 16 and over and all nonresidents must have a valid small game license in their possession. Residents may hunt doves without a license on property they occupy as their principal residence. **All dove hunters must have evidence that they are HIP certified (see page 37).**

BLAZE ORANGE

Blaze orange is not required when hunting mourning doves and other migratory game birds (see page 32).

PARTY HUNTING

Party hunting for mourning doves and other migratory birds is prohibited. Individual hunters may take only their limit and may not shoot migratory game birds for other hunters.

FIREARM AND AMMUNITION RESTRICTIONS

Shotguns used for taking doves may not be capable of holding more than three shells, unless the gun is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND BAITING

Bait, seeds or grain may not be placed or brought into a field.

Doves may be hunted on, over or from:

- Lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural operations, which include normal agricultural harvestings, normal agricultural post-harvest manipulations, or normal agricultural practices.
- Lands planted by top-sowing or aerial seeding where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, a planting for agricultural soil erosion control, or a planting for post-mining land reclamation.
- Standing crops, and standing or manipulated natural vegetation
- Lands planted as wildlife food plots, provided the seed is planted in a manner consistent with Cooperative State Research,

DOVES

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Education, and Extension Service recommendations for the planting of wildlife food plots.

- Lands planted as pasture improvements or for the purpose of grazing livestock.
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- Lands or areas where grain or feed has been distributed or scattered solely by manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown. Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities such as mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. Manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of seeds, grains, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

NOTE: Although doves may be hunted over manipulated agricultural crops, waterfowl may not, except after the field has been subject to a normal harvest and at least 10 days has elapsed since the complete removal of all manipulated grain.

The complete Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations can be found in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations part 20 (http://www.le.fws.gov/pdffiles/50_CFR_20.pdf).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dove hunting

This is Minnesota's first dove hunting season since 1946. This information is provided to help you avoid common mistakes.

- Pre-season scouting is best in the morning and late afternoon, when doves are most active.
- Doves are most abundant in agricultural areas of western and southern Minnesota.
- Hunt in areas between food, water, grit and roosting locations.
- Doves often feed in wheat, oat and sunflower fields. Landowner permission is required to hunt private agricultural fields.
- Doves fly 30 to 40 mph and can reach 60 mph. Practice estimating extra wingshooting lead distance.
- Downed doves blend well with vegetation. Mark and retrieve birds immediately. Dogs can be very useful in retrieving doves.
- Early dove season weather may be hot; bring sufficient water for your dogs.
- Shooting doves or other game birds from power lines is unethical.

BIG GAME



Important! Minnesota Carcass Import Restrictions

To help prevent the spread of CWD, hunters cannot bring whole cervid (deer, elk, moose, caribou) carcasses into Minnesota from areas of other states or provinces where CWD has been found in wild deer or elk. A list of known areas from which carcass import is restricted can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us or by calling the DNR information number (see page 139). From these areas, hunters may bring only the following parts into Minnesota:

- Meat that is boned out or that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately)
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- Hides and teeth
- Antlers or clean (no brain tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached
- Finished taxidermy mounts

Nonresidents transporting whole carcasses on a direct route through Minnesota are exempt from this regulation.

BIG GAME

LEGAL FIREARMS FOR BIG GAME

Note: see www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/hunting/legalcartridges.html for a listing of legal big game cartridges.

A rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, or handgun is legal for taking deer if:

- it is at least .23 caliber;
- it is loaded only with single projectile ammunition;
- the projectile used has a soft point or is an expanding bullet type; and
- the ammunition has a case length of at least 1.285 inches, with the exception of a 10 mm cartridge that is at least .95 inches long, a .45 Winchester magnum, or a .50 A.E. (Action Express) handgun cartridge;
- the muzzleloader (long gun or handgun) used cannot be loaded at the breech (muzzleloading revolvers are not legal for taking big game);
- the smooth-bore muzzleloader used is at least .45 caliber; and
- the rifled muzzleloader used is at least .40 caliber;

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- muzzleloaders with scopes are legal during the regular firearms deer seasons only, except nonmagnifying scopes may be used by muzzleloader season hunters with a medically certified visual impairment and a DNR permit.

Other Restrictions

- A person may not take big game with a .30 caliber M-1 carbine cartridge.
- Rifled barrels on shotguns are legal statewide.
- No person may discharge a firearm or an arrow from a bow on, over, across, or within the right-of-way of an improved public highway (including but not limited to federal, state, county, and township roadways) at a big game animal or a decoy of a big game animal that has been set out by a licensed peace officer.
- A person may not use a dog or horse to take big game.
- A person may not take big game by archery while in possession of a firearm, except a person may take bear by archery while in possession of a firearm.

Handguns

- Big game may be taken statewide with handguns that meet the definition of legal firearms.
- The most common calibers of handguns legal for big game are .357, .41, .44 magnum, and .45 Winchester magnum.


Muzzleloader

- Big game may be taken with muzzleloaders that meet the definition of legal firearms.
- Only open and “peep” type sights (including those with fiber optic material) are legal during the Muzzleloader Deer Season. Scopes, including holographic or “red dot” scopes, are not legal for this season, except for use of nonmagnifying scopes by special permit for persons with medically verified visual impairments.

LEGAL BOWS AND ARROWS FOR BIG GAME

- Bows must have a pull no less than 40 pounds at or before full draw.
Note: This is a *minimum* draw weight. Some short-draw-length (under 28") bows shooting light arrows may not effectively kill big game at a 40-pound draw weight.
- Arrowheads used for taking big game must be sharp, have a minimum of two metal cutting edges, be of barbless broadhead design, and have a diameter of at least $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.
- “Expandable” broadheads may be used to take big game if they meet the requirements above and: 1) are at least $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in width and no

more than 2 inches in width at or after impact; and 2) are of a barbless design and function in a barbless manner.

- No person may hunt with a bow drawn, held, or released by a mechanical device, except disabled hunters who have a crossbow permit.
- A hand-held mechanical release attached to the bowstring may be used if the person's own strength draws and holds the bowstring.
- A person may not hunt big game or small game with a crossbow, except  by a special permit issued to hunters unable to hunt by archery because of a temporary or permanent disability. This disability must be verified in writing by a licensed physician or chiropractor. The permit application is available from any DNR regional office or by calling the information number on page 139.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for big game are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

TRANSPORTATION OF HEADS OR HIDES

A resident who has a license to take deer, bear, or moose may transport the head or hide of the animal for mounting or tanning.

POSSESSION OF BIG GAME

Any person who takes a big game animal must retain the license, site tag, permit, and possession (registration) tag for as long as any part of the meat is in possession.

BIG GAME

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Big Game Registration Stations

Big game registration provides essential information for managing deer populations. Many of the nearly 1,000 registration stations in the state donate the use of their business and the time of their staff to help collect this information. This is a very valuable service.

Station operators are not required to inspect deer or verify registration information. This is the hunter's responsibility.

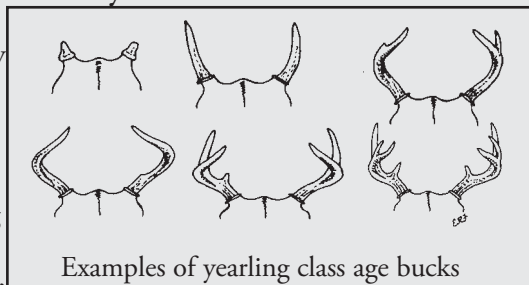
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Buck antler growth and deer management

Minnesota offers a truly special opportunity for deer hunters. Deer are abundant, antlerless hunting has been greatly expanded, and hunters have never had more options for spending time in the field. As we set the course for the future of deer management, it will become increasingly important to manage deer populations through adequate antlerless harvest. To promote antlerless deer harvest and protect young bucks, a few states have limited buck harvest by implementing antler point restrictions, earn-a-buck, shortened seasons, or buck lotteries. Over the next several years, the Minnesota DNR will be asking hunters how they feel about potential alternative deer management strategies. In the meantime, the following information is provided to help hunters understand the differences between age classes of bucks.

Yearling buck antler variability

Buck antler size is strongly influenced by 3 factors: age, nutrition, and genetics. In the forested part of the state, a higher percentage of yearling bucks will be spikes, while in the farmland, a majority will have 3 or 4 total points and yearlings with 6, 8, or even 10-point antlers are common.



Examples of yearling class age bucks

Typical antler growth by age

As a buck matures, the antlers typically retain their general shape but increase in size over time. Each year, they will get wider and gain mass. Points will probably increase as well.

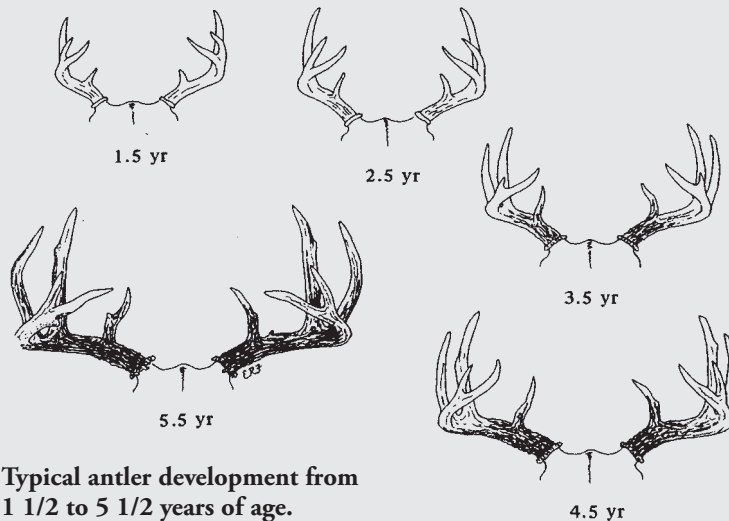
Field judging buck age

Besides antlers, there are other ways to field judge the age of a buck.

Antler growth, deer management (cont.)

While it is very difficult to tell the difference between a 4 1/2 and 7 1/2 year old buck, here are some tips on determining if the buck is a yearling or older.

- Yearling bucks will have smaller faces and relatively thin necks, even during the rut.
- At 2 1/2 years old, a buck will look heavier and be more muscular in the head, neck, and chest. In November, a swollen neck is a good sign that the deer is not a yearling.
- As a buck gets past 2 1/2 years, you will see annual increases in body mass and neck size. Also, the belly may start to sag and the back may dip along the spine.



This information is provided for reference only. There are currently no regulations limiting what type of buck a hunter may harvest. Ultimately, it is up to the individual hunter to decide what type of deer he or she wants to bring home.

DEER—GENERAL

Important Dates:

- Sept. 9 (Thursday): Antlerless Deer and Special Area Permit application deadline.
- Sept. 18: Archery opening date.
- Nov. 6: General Firearms opening date.
- Nov. 27: Muzzleloader opening date.
- Nov. 5, 2005: Firearms Deer opening date for next year (2005).

GENERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to those listed below, deer hunters must know the Big Game general hunting regulations on pages 53-55.



Important! Statewide Antlerless Deer Information

In many deer permit areas there is no longer a lottery application process for either-sex permits – hunters are authorized to take deer of either sex by purchasing a license over the counter. Deer permit areas are now divided into three categories: **1) Lottery Deer Permit Areas; 2) Managed Deer Permit Areas; and 3) Intensive Deer Permit Areas.**

In Lottery Deer Permit Areas, hunters still need to apply for either-sex permits. The deadline is September 9, 2004.

In Managed and Intensive Deer Permit Areas, applications are not necessary. In these areas, either-sex and multiple-deer permits are available over the counter.

At the time of license purchase, all firearms hunters will need to indicate which permit area they primarily hunt. Firearms hunters may hunt throughout the zone(s) where licensed or may hunt antlerless deer on their regular license in any managed or intensive deer permit area where licensed.

See details in the box on the next page, the firearms, archery, and muzzleloader deer sections of this handbook, and the color map and table on the back of the fold-out deer map (between pages 72-73) for more information.

DEER PERMIT AREA CLASSIFICATIONS

Lottery Deer Permit Areas. These areas function like the old antlerless permit areas. If you hunt a Lottery Deer Permit Area and want to be able to take an antlerless deer, you must apply for an either-sex permit by Sept. 9. If you are drawn, you will receive an authorization to take a deer of either sex in that area. If you have an All-Season Deer License, the authorization will allow you to take an antlerless deer in that area during the firearms season with the antlerless portion of your all-season license.

Managed Deer Permit Areas. If you hunt a Managed Deer Permit Area, you may take a deer of either sex by firearms on a regular license, or you may hunt bucks throughout the zone(s) licensed for. No application for an either-sex permit is necessary. Firearms hunters (including All-Season and Multi-Zone licensees) who hunt a Managed Deer Permit Area may also purchase a bonus permit, valid for taking one antlerless deer. Bonus permits are available over the counter throughout the firearms season; there is no need to apply for these permits. All-Season license holders who hunt a managed deer permit area may use the antlerless portion of their regular license to take an antlerless deer and may purchase one Bonus Permit. For example, if you have a Zone 1 license, you may take a deer of either-sex in any managed or intensive permit area and you can use one bonus permit in only one managed deer permit area.

Note: Archery and muzzleloaders may use one bonus permit in a Managed Deer Permit Area.

Intensive Deer Permit Areas. If you hunt an Intensive Deer Permit Area, you may take a deer of either sex by firearms on a regular license, or you may hunt bucks throughout the zone(s) licensed for. No application for an either-sex permit is necessary. Firearms hunters (including All-Season Deer and Multi-Zone licensees) who are licensed to hunt in a zone that has Intensive Deer Permit Areas may purchase and use bonus permits in any of those areas. Bonus permits are valid for taking additional antlerless deer any may be used in any Intensive Deer Permit Area for which you have a valid regular license. For example: if you have a Zone 1 license, you may use bonus permits to take antlerless deer by firearms in any Intensive Deer Permit Area in Zone 1. All-Season license holders may use the antlerless portion of their regular license and purchase up to 3 additional bonus permits to take antlerless deer by firearms in any Intensive Deer Permit Area, except in Zone 3B.

Note: Archery and muzzleloader hunters, including All-Season licensees, may use bonus permits in Intensive Deer Permit Areas to take up to a grand total of five deer.

LICENSING

License Purchase and Validity

All deer licenses (archery, firearms, muzzleloader) may be purchased at any time before or during the season. However, a license purchased on or after the day the respective season opens is not valid until the second day after the day it is issued (for example, a license issued on Saturday would not be valid until Monday). A “day” means midnight to midnight. The “respective season” refers to the first season for which the license is valid. The exceptions are bonus permits, which are valid immediately when issued as long as the appropriate regular license is also valid.

- A resident under the age of 16 or a disabled person who has been issued a permit to shoot from a stationary vehicle who has a valid deer license may take a deer of either sex. Only the authorized youth or disabled hunter may shoot and tag the antlerless deer (no party hunting). Also, this provision does not apply to special hunts.
- **A person may purchase no more than one Firearms Deer License and one Archery Deer License in a calendar year**, except that bonus permits, which allow the taking of additional antlerless deer, may be purchased.
- Multi-Zone Buck Licenses are **not** valid for the Muzzleloader Season or Zone 3B.
- All-Season Deer Licenses are **not** valid for Zone 3B.
- Bonus permits may be purchased throughout the season, but you must purchase the permit and have it in possession when taking the deer. The permit is valid when your regular license to hunt in that season is valid. Regular License, and Bonus Permit tags may be used in any order.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD is an invariably fatal disease of the deer family that is present in wild deer and elk populations in isolated areas of the United States. Federal health officials say that it is unlikely that chronic wasting disease is ever transmitted to humans or to animals other than deer or elk. There have been no cases of CWD transmission to humans.

DNR will be taking samples from deer at various deer registration stations this year to be tested for CWD. Test results will not be immediately available, and may take several weeks to several months, depending on testing lab capacity. In the remote event CWD is detected in an animal, the person who registered that deer will be immediately notified.



The CWD sampling procedure should not be considered an indication that CWD is suspected of being present in the area. Rather, it is part of a large-scale DNR effort to try and determine if CWD exists anywhere in the state. To date, CWD has not been detected in wild deer in Minnesota.

The sampling process involves making an incision at the base of the deer's skull in order to remove the lymph nodes. That sample will then be sent to a laboratory for testing.

Clinical Signs of CWD

Animals infected with CWD typically exhibit one or more of the following clinical signs, which may be apparent to an observer.

- Severe emaciation and dehydration.
- Excessive salivation.
- Stumbling, weakness, loss of coordination, or tremors.
- Drooping of the head and ears.
- Excessively rough, dull coat.
- Loss of fear of humans (other than habituation through feeding).

Hunters who notice an animal that exhibits these symptoms or is acting strangely should not shoot the animal. Rather, they should contact the local wildlife office or DNR conservation officer to provide information on what was observed and where. The DNR will attempt to locate the animal, dispatch it and have it tested for CWD.

For the latest information on the status of CWD testing and information in Minnesota, go to the DNR website www.dnr.state.mn.us. Also, see the frequently asked questions on page 8.

Guidelines For Field Dressing, Processing, and Preparing Venison for Consumption

- Hunters should not consume meat from any deer that appears or acts sick.
- Hunters should wear durable rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses and wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing.
- Do not consume brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, or lymph nodes from any deer.

Landowner Free Deer License in Selected Areas

These licenses allow the taking of one antlerless deer per farm (in managed and intensive deer permit areas). The free license can be for firearms, archery, or muzzleloader.

An owner or tenant who is living and actively farming on at least 80 acres of agricultural or grazing land **in deer permit**

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DEER—GENERAL

areas 104, 107, 110, 115, 126, 154, 156, 157, 159, 168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178, 181, 183, 201-211, 214, 221-223, 225, 227, 228, 236, 242-249, 251, 283, 284, 285, 297, 298, 337-349, 401-416, 418-423, 429, 452, 456, 461, 462, 464-467 (applies to both A and B seasons) may obtain a free license to take an antlerless deer by firearms, muzzleloader or archery. These licenses can be obtained from any ELS **special** license agent (see page 16). A person may receive only one license per year. For land with co-owners or co-tenants, only one co-owner or co-tenant may receive a license per year. The license is valid only on the land owned or leased by the license-holder within the permit area where the qualifying land is located. The license holder may give the license to the license-holder's spouse or dependent. A license issued under this provision does not affect the license-holder's eligibility to purchase additional deer licenses.

A person who obtains a license under this provision **must allow public deer hunting** on their land during the deer hunting season for that license, except for the first Saturday and Sunday of the season selected.

- A person may not take or tag deer without the appropriate license or permit. The term "taking" includes attempting to take deer, and driving, spotting, or otherwise assisting another person in taking deer.

BAG LIMIT FOR DEER

No one may tag more than one deer per calendar year, except as follows:

Lottery deer permit areas: The bag limit is one deer except all-season license holders may take two deer.

Managed deer permit areas: The bag limit for managed deer permit areas is two deer, except all-season license holders may take three deer. Archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunters may not tag antlerless deer using a bonus permit in more than one managed deer permit area per year.

Intensive deer permit areas: The bag limit for intensive deer permit areas is five deer.

Northwest Two-Deer Area

In Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, and Roseau counties (extreme northwestern Minnesota), a person may tag one deer with a regular Archery License and another with a regular Firearms License (including the muzzleloader option or the Multi-Zone Buck license). Both deer must be taken and registered in these counties.



All-Season Deer License

- All-Season Deer Licenses are available from any ELS license agent, the DNR License Center, by telephone, or by internet (see page 139).
- Two deer may be harvested with this license.
- It comes with a buck tag and an antlerless tag. A buck must be harvested on the buck tag and an antlerless deer must be harvested on the antlerless tag.
- **Buck tag:**
 - o Can be used statewide during the archery or muzzleloader seasons.
 - o Can be used in all regular firearms zones/areas except 3B.
- **Antlerless tag:**
 - o Can be used statewide during the archery or muzzleloader seasons.
 - o To take an antlerless deer during the firearms season you must apply for and draw an either-sex permit in lottery or special hunt areas, or harvest the antlerless deer in a managed or intensive permit area.
- ☞ Party hunting is now **legal** with this license.
- No other deer-hunting license (archery, regular firearms, or muzzleloader) may be purchased in addition to this license, except hunters may purchase bonus permits.
- Holders of this license may hunt in any open archery, regular firearms (**except 3B**), or muzzleloader season and area, using the legal firearm or bow and arrows for the respective season and zone.
- **Bonus permits** may be purchased and used in managed and intensive permit areas.
- **Bag Limits**
 - o Can harvest a total of 2 deer (1 buck and 1 antlerless) using the tags that come with the license in a lottery area if hunting during archery or muzzleloader season or during the firearms season if successful in the lottery.
 - o Can harvest a total of 3 deer (1 buck and 2 antlerless) using the tags that come with the license and a bonus permit in one managed area.
 - o Can harvest up to 5 deer (1 buck and 4 antlerless) using the tags that come with the license and 3 bonus permits in intensive areas.

☞ Bonus Permits

Bonus permits replace the deer management and intensive harvest permits. They are available to archery, firearms, and muzzleloader hunters to take additional antlerless deer in designated areas. Bonus permits are available for one-half the cost of regular licenses. One bonus permit may be used per year in one managed deer permit area. Up to four bonus permits may be used in intensive deer permit areas

and some special hunts. Deer taken under bonus permits are in addition to deer authorized to be taken under Regular Licenses. The maximum number of deer any individual may tag is 5 by any combination of licenses and permits, except eligible landowners may take an additional antlerless deer on a free landowner license.

Bonus permits are valid for archery, muzzleloader or firearms, but hunters must have the appropriate Regular License for the area, season and method they are using.

HUNTING METHOD RESTRICTIONS

Bait

- No person may place or use bait for the purpose of taking deer. “Bait” is defined as grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay, or other food transported and placed for the purpose of attracting or enticing deer. This restriction does not apply to foods resulting from normal or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife management, orchard management, or similar land management activities.
- Liquid scents, salt, and minerals are not considered bait.

Elevated Stands

- No person may take deer from a constructed platform or other structure that is higher than 16 feet above the ground. This restriction does not apply to a portable stand that is chained, belted, clamped, or tied with rope.
- In Wildlife Management Areas and State Parks open to hunting (see pages 76, 81, 82, 85, 119-121), only portable stands may be used. They must not be left overnight. Portable stand use is encouraged in State Forests (see page 128-129).
- In Scientific and Natural Areas open to hunting, no stands (including portable stands) may be used (see pages 131-132).
- Any permanent stand on public land when not in use is considered public and not the property of the person who constructed the stand. Any use of threat or force against another person to gain possession of a stand is unlawful.

PARTY HUNTING

- A “party” is defined as any group of two or more licensed deer hunters who are all afield; hunting together at the same time; **and** all using firearms (including muzzleloaders) or all using archery.



IMPORTANT! The intent of the party hunting regulation is to prevent parties from shooting more deer than the available number of tags. The party hunting regulation requires that all hunters who intend to tag deer for each other be hunting together, in the field, at the time the deer are taken. Party members who are not afield hunting with the individual who takes a deer at the time it is taken may not legally tag that deer. Hunters may not lend licenses to or borrow licenses from other hunters.

- A mixed group of firearms and archery hunters is considered two separate parties.
- Any member of a party meeting this definition may kill a deer for any other member of the party who has an unused tag valid for that deer, **except party members may not kill an antlerless deer in a lottery deer permit area for: 1) a member of the party who is a resident under age 18; or 2) a disabled person authorized to take antlerless deer under a permit to shoot from a motor vehicle.**
- Multi-Zone Buck license-holders may party hunt with Regular Firearms license-holders, **except in Zone 3B and the Muzzleloader Season.**
- **All-Season Deer license-holders may party hunt (see page 63).**

USING SNOWMOBILES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

To reduce disturbance during the prime hunting times, a person possessing any valid deer license is restricted to the following hours of operation for snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs*) during the firearms deer season, including the muzzleloader season.

Such vehicles may only be operated:

- a) before legal shooting time (one-half hour before sunrise),
 - b) from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m, and
 - c) after legal shooting hours (one-half hour after sunset).
- This regulation applies to all public and private lands and waters except for persons using an ATV as a part of their occupation on their own land who are not in possession of a firearm.
 - A permit to operate snowmobiles or ATVs during the closed time periods may be issued by a DNR conservation officer in an emergency or other unusual condition.

* ATVs are defined for the purposes of these regulations as all vehicles not requiring Minnesota Department of Public Safety licensing, including trail bikes, 3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, 6-wheelers, tracked vehicles, and other similarly manufactured or homemade vehicles.

- ATVs and snowmobiles are not allowed in State Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, Scientific and Natural Areas, or Wildlife Management Areas. ATV use is regulated in state and national forests. (See rules on using public lands, pages 119-139.)

REGISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Deer Registration

Every deer taken must be registered. Registration stations display large, orange “Big Game Registration” signs. You may view a complete list of all stations at any DNR Wildlife office or on the DNR website.

The person whose tag is on the deer must personally present the deer at an official deer registration station and receive a Big Game Possession Tag. This tag must be attached to the hind leg, ear, or antler where the Site Tag was attached.

A Possession Tag must be obtained:

- a) within 24 hours after the expiration of the season under which the deer was taken (for example, a deer taken during the Zone 4A firearms season must be registered within 24 hours after the close of the 4A season, even if the deer is tagged by a Multi-Zone or All-Season Deer licensee); and
- b) before the deer is processed, either privately or commercially.
Deer may be transported out of the zone where taken without being registered first.

ELS Registration

At registration stations in the Cloquet, Twin Cities Metro, Pine Country, Winona, and Little Falls areas, Minnesota possession tags will be printed by the ELS terminal and must be attached with a string or wire like the site tag (see page 68). This system should improve the efficiency and accuracy of deer harvest estimates and provide more timely information to hunters.

Transportation

- A legally registered animal may be transported any time during and after the deer hunting season.
- The licensee must accompany the deer in transport except as follows:
A deer that has been registered may be transported by another person, if the signature, address, and license number of the licensee and the origin and destination of the transport are written on the back of the possession tag. A licensee also does not have to accompany an animal transported by commercial transportation (see page 36).
- All deer in transport must be readily accessible for inspection by DNR conservation officers.



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SPECIAL SEASONS FOR HUNTERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
Special deer hunts for hunters with physical disabilities are tentatively scheduled to be offered in the Camp Ripley Military Reservation in Morrison County, the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area Sanctuary in Anoka County, a portion of the Lac qui Parle Game Refuge in Chippewa and Lac qui Parle counties, the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge in Polk County (see page 136), Lake Bemidji State Park in Beltrami County, and in antlerless permit areas 244 and 245. For more information, call the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINN DNR (888-646-6367).

- The head of a deer must remain attached to the carcass until the deer is registered. Skin and entrails may be removed before registration. Deer may be quartered before being registered, but the animal's head must remain attached to one of the quarters.
- Whole deer, elk, caribou, or moose carcasses from other states or provinces may not be brought into Minnesota from areas known to have CWD in wild deer or elk (see page 53).

SITE TAGGING

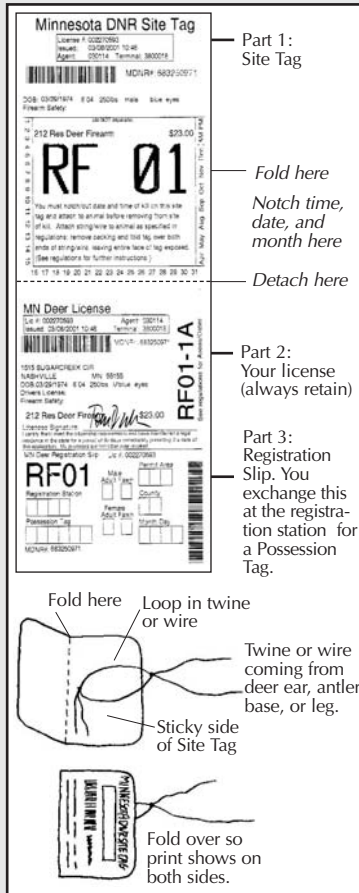
How to Tag Your Deer and Validate Your Site Tag

Your Deer License and Site Tag comes as a 3-part form. The upper half is the Site Tag for tagging the deer in the field. The lower half is the Deer License and Registration Slip. The Slip will be cut off and turned in to a registration station when you register your deer (see page 66).

Before you move your deer from the site of kill:

1. Detach the Site Tag from the Deer License/Registration Slip.
2. Validate the tag by using a knife or similar sharp object to cut out, or a pen to mark, the appropriate notches indicating:
 - Month the deer was killed,
 - Date it was killed, and
 - Time of day it was killed (a.m. or p.m.).

Mark carefully—if more than one month, date, or time is cut out or marked, the tag becomes invalid.
3. Follow the instructions below to apply the tag to the deer:
 - Tie or attach a 10- to 12-inch twine or wire securely to the deer around the base of an antler, through a slit cut in either ear, or between the tendon and bone of a hind leg, leaving the two long ends of the string or wire free;
 - Wrap the ends of the twine or wire together to make a loop;
 - Remove the backing material from the Site Tag and fold the Tag over the loop of twine or wire (sticky sides together). The printed information on both sides of the tag should remain visible after the sticky sides are folded together over the twine or wire.





DEER—FIREARMS

Shooting Hours

Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Legal Buck and Antlerless Deer

- A “legal buck” is a deer having one antler at least 3 inches long. Fawn bucks, sometimes called button bucks, are not legal bucks.
- “Antlerless deer” are those without an antler at least 3 inches long.

Rifle-Shotgun Boundary

- In the Shotgun Zone (see map on the back of the large, fold-out deer zone map, between pages 72-73), deer hunters may use only legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, or legal handguns.
- Legal shotguns include those with rifled barrels.

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DEER—GENERAL

LICENSE OPTIONS

Regular Firearms License

- A regular firearms or muzzleloader deer hunter may select a hunting period and zone from the seven options listed below. The hunter’s choice will be printed on the license at the time of purchase. Only one option is allowed, and hunting is not allowed under any choice other than the one selected and printed on the license.

ZONE/TIME OPTION*	DESCRIPTION	DATES
1A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 6–21
2A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 6–14
3A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 6–12
3B	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 20–28
4A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 6–7
4B	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 13–16
Muzzleloader	Either Sex, Statewide except closed areas	Nov. 27– Dec. 12
* Resident youth hunters under age 18 may take deer of either sex without an either-sex permit.		

- Hunters who choose any of the zones 1A, 2A, 3A, 3B, 4A, or 4B options may hunt using muzzle-loading guns, but must follow regular firearms rules and cannot hunt during the Muzzleloader Season.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Bonus Permits

These permits allow the taking of additional deer in specified areas (see pages 63-64).

Landowner Free Deer License

These licenses allow the taking of one antlerless deer per farm in managed and intensive deer permit areas. (See page 61).

Multi-Zone Buck License

- Multi-Zone Buck Licenses are available from any ELS-POS license agent, from the DNR License Center in St. Paul, by telephone, or by internet (see page 139).
- These licenses allow hunters to hunt and to tag a legal buck in any open Regular Firearms Season, **except Zone 3B and the Muzzleloader Season.**
- Those who have a Multi-Zone Buck License may hunt as a party with anyone holding a Regular Firearms or All-Season License during any of the zone and time options except in Zone 3B and the Muzzleloader season. However, the license can only be used to tag a legal buck.
- You may not purchase both a Multi-Zone Buck License and a Regular Firearms License. If you have a Multi-Zone Buck License, you may not apply for Antlerless or Special Area Permits, however, you may purchase bonus permits (see page 63).

All-Season Deer License

This license allows the taking of one legal buck and one antlerless deer (see page 63).

Youth Licensing and Hunting Options

Residents under age 18 as of November 6 have three options for the Regular Firearms Deer Season:

1. **Youth Deer License (\$13.00 plus issuing fee).** Residents under age 18 as of November 6 may purchase half-price youth deer hunting licenses for firearms deer hunting. The license comes with the same tag and season options as for adult regular season firearms and archery licenses. Youth firearms hunters may take a deer of either-sex in any permit area for which they have a valid license. Youth hunters must select a permit area but do not need to apply for either-sex permits in lottery deer areas. This provision does not allow the taking of antlerless deer in lottery areas by another member of the youth's hunting party.

2. **Multi-Zone Buck License.** Residents under age 18 may purchase a Multi-Zone Buck License (see above), but may only tag a legal buck.



3. All-Season Deer License. Residents under age 18 may purchase an All-Season Deer License and may take one legal buck and one antlerless deer (see page 63).

Northwest Minnesota Youth Deer Season

Youth age 12-14 may hunt Oct. 23-24 (see page 82).


Hunters With Disabilities: Either-Sex Deer Hunting

A disabled person with a permit to shoot from a motor vehicle may take deer of either sex without an antlerless permit.

EITHER-SEX AND SPECIAL HUNT AREA PERMITS

Important!

- The application deadline for Lottery either-sex and Special Area Permits is Thursday, Sept. 9. The deadline for special youth hunts (except the Northwest Special Youth Season) is Friday, August 20. Applications must be made at an ELS license agent, the DNR License Center, or by telephone, by these dates. To apply, you must first purchase a deer license.

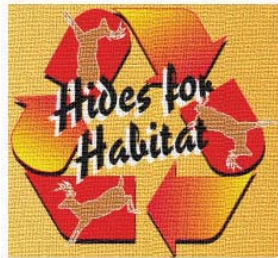
- **Residents under the age of 18 as of November 6 and disabled persons with a permit to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle may take a deer of either sex in lottery deer permit areas without having to apply for or obtain an either-sex permit.** Youth ages 12-17 who qualify under this provision may **not** apply for an either-sex permit or accrue additional preference for these areas. All hunters must apply if they wish to participate in a special hunt.
- Regular Firearms Deer hunters may apply for a lottery either-sex permit *or* a Special Hunt Area Permit within the zone and time option printed on their license. Hunters licensed for the Muzzleloader Season may also apply for Special Hunt Area Permits during that season (see pages 84-85).
-  Multi-Zone Buck hunters may not apply for either-sex permits or Special Hunt Area Permits. Multi-Zone Buck hunters may purchase bonus permits (see page 63).
- All-Season Deer hunters may apply in lottery deer permit areas or special hunts and may purchase bonus permits (see page 63).

Lottery Either-Sex Permits

- Either-sex permits allow a person to take a deer of either sex within the specified lottery deer permit area.
- Areas and permit quotas are shown on the fold-out map (between *Continued on page 75*)

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Minnesota Deer Hunters Association



MDHA's Hides for Habitat Program has generated over **\$2.3 million** for Minnesota habitat projects since 1985. Donations in 2003 broke all previous records by earning more than \$290,000 with 57,000 donated hides. Hides for Habitat's success, largely thanks to donating hunters and local MDHA volunteers, has a bright future with increased donations and volunteers. **VOLUNTEER AND/OR DONATE YOUR DEER HIDE TODAY!** For information, visit www.mndeerhunters.com or call Mary at 1-800-450-DEER, ext 12.

MDHA's **Big Game Record Book** is under way for printing early in 2006. If you have a moose, elk, bear or whitetail trophy (current or old) that was harvested in Minnesota, submit it for listing in MDHA's book! Entry is only \$10 per rack or skull and \$5 per shed antler. The book will include educational and research articles, as well as entertaining stories about past hunts. For information about trophy entries or Minnesota Official Measurers (M.O.M), visit www.mndeerhunters.com or call 1-800-450-DEER!




Josh Lubben with his Dad at 2003 Arden Hills mentored youth archery deer hunt sponsored by MDHA, MSAA, Dept. of Military Affairs and MN DNR.

MDHA "Balanced Deer Herd Management" philosophy encourages hunters to let younger bucks walk and harvest does this year. Due to a high whitetail population in most parts of Minnesota, deer/auto collisions are up, deer depredation is up, and hunter harvest opportunity is the best it has been in years. An increased doe harvest will contribute to a more controlled deer herd, a closer buck-to-doe ratio and larger bucks for next year. The "good old days" are now. Make the most of them by using management and intensive harvest permits. For tips on how to use or donate extra venison, visit www.mndeerhunters.com. Help preserve these "good old days."


Minnesota Deer Hunters Association


Do you hunt? If so, SIGN UP NOW! Why?

 **Education:** MDHA strives to educate Minnesota's hunters through seminar sponsorship, organization and funding of youth Forkhorn Camps, mentor programs, and publication of educational materials.



2004 Print of the Year, *Autumn Whitetails*, by Jim Hautman

 **Habitat:** MDHA and our chapters throughout Minnesota spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on habitat acquisition and improvement.

 **Legislation:** MDHA employs a full time lobbyist to address the issues pertaining to MDHA members.

SIGN ME UP!

- 1 Year Membership.....\$20
- 3 Year Membership.....\$55
- Supporting Membership and Free MDHA Mini-Print Collection of the Year from 2002-2004 (by Joe, Bob, and Jim Hautman).....\$100
- Lifetime Membership and Free signed, limited edition *Buck Fever Challenge* print by Roger Dullinger.....\$400
- Sr. Lifetime Membership (60+) and Free signed, limited edition *Buck Fever Challenge* print by Roger Dullinger.....\$200

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Payment Method: • Check; • Visa; • MasterCard; • Discover
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 1-800-450-DEER (Minnesota only), 218-327-1103, 218-327-1349 (fax) www.mndeerhunters.com

Credit Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____



pages 72-73) that accompanies these regulations.

- Either-sex permit holders may take antlerless deer only in the area specified on the permit, but they may hunt deer anywhere in the zone during the time period indicated on the license.

LOTTERY DEER PERMIT AREAS

Firearms hunters who hunt a Lottery Deer Permit area may apply for an either-sex permit by Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004. Winners will be notified by mail and will receive an authorization to take deer of either-sex in that Lottery Deer Permit area. All-Season Deer license holders successful in the lottery may use the antlerless portion of their license to tag the deer. Hunters in lottery areas may also hunt deer throughout the zone(s) where their license is valid.

2004 Lottery Deer Permit Areas— In the following areas, firearms hunters may take antlerless deer unless they have applied for and received an either-sex permit in the lottery application process: 116, 122, 127, 152, 167, 180, 197, 199, 338A, 339A, 341A, 342A, 343A, 344A, 345A, 346A, 347A, 348A, 349A, 417A, 417B, 424A, 424B, 425A, 425B, 426A, 426B, 427A, 427B, 428A, 428B, 431A, 431B, 433A, 433B, 435A, 435B, 440A, 440B, 442A, 442B, 443A, 443B, 446A, 446B, 447A, 447B, 448A, 448B, 449A, 449B, 450A, 450B, 451A, 451B, 453A, 453B, 454A, 454B, 455A, 455B, 457A, 457B, 458A, 458B, 459A, 459B, 463A, 463B. (See fold-out map between pages 72-73).

Special Hunt Permit Areas

- Special Hunt Permits are required to hunt deer in Special Permit Areas (such as parks) where the number of hunters must be limited to control the harvest or for public safety.
- Special Hunt Permit Areas for regular firearms hunters are listed in the table.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

2004 Special Permit Areas for Firearm Hunters

AREA NAME	COUNTY	AREA ZONE NO.	DATES	NO. OF PERMITS	IH PERMIT?
Rice Lake Nat. Wildlife Refuge	Aitkin	901 1A	11/13–11/21	40*	No
St. Croix State Park ²	Pine	902 1A	11/13–11/14	550*	Yes ¹
Savanna Portage State Park	Aitkin	903 1A	11/13–11/21	25**	Yes ¹
Gooseberry Falls State Park	Lake	904 1A	11/6–11/21	25*	Yes ¹
Split Rock Lighthouse State Park	Lake	905 1A	11/6–11/21	25*	Yes ¹
Tettegouche State Park	Lake	906 1A	11/6–11/21	125*	Yes ¹
Scenic State Park	Itasca	907 1A	11/6–11/21	30*	Yes ¹
Lake Bronson State Park	Kittson	908 2A	11/6–11/8	25**	Yes ¹
William O'Brien State Park	Washington	909 2A	11/6–11/7	65*	Yes ¹
Zippel Bay State Park	Lake of the Woods	910 2A	11/6–11/14	55**	Yes ¹
Wild River State Park ³	Chisago	911 2A	11/6–11/9	150*	Yes ¹
Lake Bemidji State Park	Beltrami	912 2A	11/6–11/9	35**	Yes ¹
Hayes Lake State Park	Roseau	913 2A	11/6–11/14	60**	Yes ¹
Elm Creek Park Reserve ⁴	Hennepin	914 3B	11/20–11/21	145*	Yes ¹
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve ⁴	Hennepin	915 3B	11/20–11/21	75*	Yes ¹
Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park	Filmore	916 3B	11/20–11/28	110**	Yes ¹
Frontenac State Park	Goodhue	917 3B	11/20–11/23	50*	Yes ¹
Great River Bluffs State Park	Winona	918 3B	11/20–11/22 11/26–11/28	100**	Yes ¹
Zumbro Falls Woods SNA	Wabasha	919 3B	11/20–11/28	10**	Yes ¹
Whitewater State Game Refuge	Winona	920 3B	11/20–11/28	75**	No
Rydell National Wildlife Refuge	Polk	921 4AB	11/13–11/16	10**	Yes ¹
Maplewood State Park	Ottertail	922 4B	11/13–11/16	100*	Yes ¹
Glacial Lakes State Park	Pope	923 4B	11/13–11/16	30**	Yes ¹

*Either Sex **Antlerless Only

¹Up to 4 Bonus Permits may be purchased.²No camping will be allowed in the park during the hunt.³ Accessible elevated platforms for disabled hunters available.⁴Shotguns and muzzleloaders only.⁵A \$5 fee will be charged to each successful applicant.*Continued on page 78*

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

- Those who receive Special Hunt Area Permits may also hunt deer outside that Special Hunt Area but only in the zone and during the time period indicated on the license.
- You may apply for Special Hunt Permit Areas in parties of up to 4 hunters. See application instructions below.

How To Apply For Permits

Note: The drawings for all firearms Special Hunt Area Permits are combined as part of the Either-Sex Permit Preference System.

General Instructions

- Applications for Either-Sex Permits and Special Hunt Area Permits must be made at one of the 1,800 ELS agents at the DNR License Center, by telephone, or by internet before the **Sept. 9 deadline**. Applications can be completed as part of the process of purchasing your Regular Deer License.
- You may apply for only one firearms permit. You may not apply for both an Either-Sex Deer Permit and a Special Area Permit.
- Residents and nonresidents are eligible for permits.
- A permit is not transferable between persons or between areas.
- Residents under the age of 18 as of Nov. 6 do not need to apply for an Antlerless Permit to take an antlerless deer. They must apply for a Special Area Permit to participate in a special hunt.
- All residents who will reach their 18th birthday by Sept. 9 must present their Minnesota Driver's License, Minnesota Identification Card, 13-digit Firearms Safety Certificate number, or a Minnesota DNR number found on their fishing or hunting license at time of application.

Antlerless and Special Area Permit Application Instructions

The ELS license agent will ask you a series of questions in order to complete the transaction. The questions are as follows.

- Do you qualify for resident license? (Present your resident identification; see above)
- Type of license applying for? (Resident firearm license: Code-212 or 219 or Lifetime 414; nonresident firearm license: Code-222)
- Zone you are hunting in? (See fold-out map between pages 72-73).
- If you select one of the Lottery Deer Permit Areas shown on the fold-out map and listed in the quota table (on the map), you must submit an application for an either-sex permit before you can be authorized to take an antlerless deer. Deer Permit Areas are identified by three-digit numbers within the white boundary lines. Permit quotas are shown on the table to the right of the map. Or, if interested in a **Special Hunt Permit Area**, see pages 76 for a listing of special firearms hunt areas and provide the appropriate 3-digit number for the special area you select.
- **Group option for Special Hunt Permit Area Only:** You may apply for special hunt area permits individually or as a member of a group. When applying as a group, either all members will be selected or none. All



group members must apply for the same special hunt. The first applicant of each group will "create a new group" in the ELS system and will receive a group ID number that is printed on the receipt and must be supplied to the rest of the group to use when they apply. Those group members will ask the ELS license agent to "join an existing group" and will provide the group number. The preference of a group is determined by the member with the lowest preference.

This will complete the application/license transaction. **Immediately check your receipt and deer license to make sure the agent entered your information correctly. This is the only time this information can be changed.** Your either-sex deer application will be sent to Minnesota DNR automatically for the lottery permit drawing.

Selection and Notification of Successful Applicants

- If permit applications exceed quotas, computerized drawings will be used to determine who will be issued permits.
- Drawings for Special Area Permits are based on a preference system. Applicants for Special Area Permits accumulate preference in the same manner as applicants for Either-Sex Permits. This system gives the highest preference to those who have applied the most times without receiving a permit. A person's preference is the same whether applying for an Either-Sex Permit or a Special Area Permit.
- Preference is not affected if a person applies for an area different from the year before or if a person does not apply for one or more years.
- The preference for Special Area applicants who apply as a group is based on the individual in the group with the lowest preference.
- Only successful applicants will be notified.
- Permits will be drawn and mailed by October 25. Information about the drawings and individual applications is not available until after this date. Applicants may check the DNR web page (www.dnr.state.mn.us) on October 25 to view antlerless permit lottery results.
- If you submitted a valid application and are not notified by Oct. 25, you can assume your application was not selected this year, and that your preference will increase if you apply in a future year.

BIG GAME
DEER—FIREARMS

MANAGED DEER PERMIT AREAS

Firearms deer hunters who hunt in a Managed Deer Permit Area may take a deer of either sex on their regular license and they may

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also purchase and use one bonus permit. Bonus permits are available for one-half the cost of a regular license from ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul. Bonus permits allow the taking of one antlerless deer.

Note: All-Season Deer license holders may take one buck and one antlerless-only deer on their regular license and may purchase additional bonus permits. Multi-Zone Buck license holders may also purchase bonus permits.

2004 Managed Deer Permit Areas – Bonus permits are valid for taking one, antlerless-only deer in the following Managed Deer Permit Areas: 104, 107, 115, 126, 168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178, 181, 183, 201, 211, 214, 224, 235, 251, 297, 298, 338B, 339B, 344B, 345B, 416*, 418*, 422*, 452*, 456* 461*, 462*, 464*, 465*, 466*, 467* (See fold-out map between pages 72-73).

INTENSIVE DEER PERMIT AREAS

Firearms deer hunters who are hunting in Intensive Deer Permit Areas may take a deer of either sex on their regular license and may also purchase and use up to four bonus permits. Bonus permits are available for one-half the cost of a regular license from ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul.

Firearms hunters may use bonus permits to take antlerless deer.

Note: All-Season Deer license holders may purchase and use up to three bonus permits. The total individual harvest may not exceed five deer. Bonus permits are valid in any Intensive Deer Permit Area for which you have a valid regular license, including Multi-Zone Buck and All-Season Deer licenses.

2004 Intensive Deer Permit Areas – Bonus permits are valid for taking additional antlerless deer, up to a total of five deer, in the following Deer Permit Areas: 110, 154, 156, 157, 159, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 221, 222, 223, 225, 227, 228, 236, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 283, 284, 285, 287, 337*, 341B, 342B, 343B, 346B, 347B, 348B, 349B, 401*, 402*, 403*, 404*, 405*, 406*, 407*, 408*, 409*, 410*, 411*, 412*, 413*, 414*, 415*, 419*, 420*, 421*, 423*, 429* (See fold-out map between pages 72-73).

2004 Special Hunt Permit Areas – With the exception of the Whitewater State Game Refuge, Bonus Permits are valid to take a second, third, fourth, or fifth antlerless-only deer for hunters with special hunt permits.

*denotes both A and B seasons.



Deer

ITASCA STATE PARK

Itasca State Park (Becker, Clearwater, and Hubbard counties) is open to firearms deer hunting for legal bucks (Zone 2, Multi-Zone, or All-Season Deer License holders) and for antlerless deer (using bonus permits), except where posted as closed. The park is not open during the Archery or Muzzleloader Seasons.

GENERAL YOUTH DEER HUNT REGULATIONS

All participating youth must attend a mandatory orientation prior to the hunt (details will be included in notices to successful applicants). An adult mentor, who may not hunt, must accompany participants during the orientation and the hunt. Party hunting is not allowed. Each person must apply at an ELS agent or the Department of Natural Resources License Center. Group applications are not allowed. A drawing will be held if applications exceed available permits for each hunt. Unsuccessful applicants will receive preference for future youth hunt lotteries of the same type. Applicants may only apply for one youth archery hunt and one youth firearms hunt. Participation in a youth hunt does not affect one's eligibility to participate in regular deer seasons. **The application deadline is Friday, August 20th.**

Youth Firearms Deer Hunts

Applicants for youth firearms special deer hunts must be at least 12 years old and under age 16 by October 20. Participants must have a firearms safety certificate and must obtain a license for taking deer by firearms, valid for any zone or season option, by the beginning date of the respective hunt. Blaze orange requirements are in effect in areas open during firearms youth deer hunts. The Rifle-Shotgun boundary is in effect (see page 69)

Youth Archery Deer Hunts

Applicants for archery special youth hunts must be at least 12 years old and under age 18 by October 7. Persons participating in youth archery deer hunts must obtain a valid license for taking deer by archery at least two days prior to the start of the hunt.

Whitewater Refuge Youth Archery and Firearms Hunt

Hunters using archery equipment must comply with blaze orange and youth firearms age requirements, and must have a valid license for taking deer by archery two days prior to the start of the hunt.

BIG GAME

DEER—FIREARMS

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

2004 Special Permit Youth Deer Hunts

AREA NAME	TYPE	COUNTY	AREA NO.	DATES	NO. OF PERMITS	BONUS PERMIT?
Camp Ripley Youth Archery	Archery	Morrison	950	10/9–10/10	150*	Y ¹
Arden Hills Army Training Site A	Archery	Ramsey	951	10/21–10/22	30*	Y ¹
Arden Hills Army Training Site B	Archery	Ramsey	952	10/23–10/24	30*	Y ¹
Whitewater WMA Refuge	Archery & Firearms	Winona	953	10/21–10/24	50*	Y ¹
Lake Bemidji State Park	Firearms	Beltrami	954	10/21–10/24	25**	Y ²
St. Croix State Park	Firearms	Pine	956	10/30–10/31	37**	Y ¹
Rydell National Wildlife Refuge	Firearms	Polk	957	10/30–10/31	25*	Y ¹

*Either Sex **Antlerless Only

¹One bonus permit may be used, but participants may take only one deer.²Up to four bonus permits may be used.

Northwest Minnesota Special Youth Antlerless Deer Season October 23-24

Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, and Roseau counties are open October 23 to October 24 for the taking of antlerless deer by firearms for youth **at least age 12 and under age 15 by October 23. Participating youth must have a firearms safety certificate and must obtain a license for taking deer by firearms valid for any zone or season option, and must obtain a free Northwest Minnesota youth deer season license endorsement by the beginning date of the special season.** The northwest Minnesota youth season license endorsement may be obtained at any ELS agent for no fee.

Participant numbers are not limited. Participants may use one bonus permit, but may only take one deer during the youth season. An adult mentor age 18 or older must accompany the youth hunter at all times during the hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. Party hunting is not allowed. **The blaze orange requirements apply to all hunters and trappers, and all adult mentors of youth hunters, in the areas open to youth firearms deer hunting during the special youth season.** Participation in the youth season does not affect eligibility to participate in regular deer seasons. If a bonus permit tag is used, the regular license tag may still be used in the regular season.



DEER—MUZZLELOADER

Important! All hunters and trappers during the 16-day Muzzleloader Season must meet blaze orange requirements (see page 32-33).

Important Dates:

Nov. 27–Dec. 12: Open Muzzleloader Season.

Shooting Hours:

Legal hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Open Area:

Muzzleloader hunters may hunt on both public and private lands statewide except for the closed areas listed below.

Closed Area:

1. Permit Areas 116, 126, and 127 are closed to muzzleloader hunting to protect wintering deer.
2. Permit areas 203 (Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge) and 224 (Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge)
3. Permit Area 287 (Itasca State Park)
4. Refuges and other areas closed to firearms hunting are also closed to muzzleloader hunting.
5. Rice Lake, Sandstone, and Rydell National Wildlife Refuges.

Legal Muzzleloader:

See definitions of legal muzzleloaders on pages 53-54.

BIG GAME
DEER—MUZZLELOADERS

The muzzleloader option allows hunters to take a deer of either-sex, except in some special hunts (see table on page 85). Muzzleloader hunters may also apply for one of the Muzzleloader Special Area Permits listed on page 85.

MANAGED DEER PERMIT AREAS

Hunters who select the Muzzleloader option on their Firearms License and are hunting in a Managed Deer Permit Area may purchase and use one Bonus Permit to take an additional antlerless deer in one Managed Deer Permit Area. The Bonus Permit can be purchased for one-half the cost of a regular license from ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul. A muzzleloader hunter can use one Bonus Permit to tag one, antlerless-only deer in any of the following areas:

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

2004 Managed Deer Permit Areas – Bonus Permits issued to Muzzleloader hunters are valid for taking one, antlerless-only deer in any one of the following Managed Deer Permit Areas: 104, 107, 115, 168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178, 181, 183, 201, 211, 214, 235, 251, 297, 298, 338, 339, 344, 345, 416, 418, 422, 452, 456, 461, 462, 464, 465, 466, 467 (See fold-out map between pages 72-73).

2004 Special Hunt Permit Areas – Bonus Permits are also valid to take one, antlerless-only deer for muzzleloader hunters with permits for Rice Lake state park.

INTENSIVE DEER PERMIT AREAS

Hunters who select the Muzzleloader option on their Firearms License and are hunting in an Intensive Deer Permit Area may purchase and use up to four Bonus Permits to take additional antlerless deer. These permits may be purchased for one-half the cost of a regular license from ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul. The total individual harvest may not exceed five deer. Note: All-Season license holders who hunt with a muzzleloader may purchase and use up to three Bonus Permits.

2004 Intensive Deer Permit Areas – Intensive Harvest Permits issued to Muzzleloader hunters are valid for taking up to four antlerless-only deer in the following Intensive Deer Permit Areas: 110, 154, 156, 157, 159, 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 221, 222, 223, 225, 227, 228, 236, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 283, 284, 285, 337, 341, 342, 343, 346, 347, 348, 349, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 419, 420, 421, 423, 429 (see fold-out map between pages 72-73).

2004 Special Hunt Permit Areas – Muzzleloader hunters with special hunt permits for Jay Cooke, Crow Wing, Afton, Lake Louise, and Interstate State Parks may purchase and use up to four Bonus Permits.

SPECIAL PERMIT AREAS FOR MUZZLELOADER HUNTERS

The following are Special Permit Areas open during the Muzzleloader Season. Application instructions are the same as for other Firearms Special Permit Areas and are described on pages 78-79.

Note: Applicants for Special Permit Areas may apply in parties of up to four hunters.



2004 Special Permit Areas for Muzzleloader Hunters

AREA NAME	ZONE	COUNTY	AREA NO.	DATES	NO. OF PERMITS	IH PERMITS?
Jay Cooke State Park	ML	Carlton	931	11/27-12/1	90*	Yes ¹
Crow Wing State Park	ML	Crow Wing	932	12/10-12/12	40**	Yes ¹
Afton State Park	ML	Washington	933	12/10-12/11	40***	Yes ¹
Lake Shetek State Park	ML	Murray	934	12/4-12/7	25***	No
Sibley State Park	ML	Kandiyohi	935	12/4-12/5	50***	No
Rice Lake State Park	ML	Steele and Dodge	936	11/27-11/29 12/4-12/5	15***	Yes ²
Lake Louise State Park	ML	Mower	937	11/27-11/28	25***	Yes ¹
Interstate State Park	ML	Chisago	938	11/27-12/5	15***	Yes ¹

- * Either sex 11/27-11/28. Antlerless only 11/29-12/1
- ** Either Sex
- *** Antlerless Only
- ¹ Up to 4 Bonus Permits may be purchased.
- ² 1 Bonus Permit may be purchased.

BIG GAME
DEER—MUZZLELOADERS

DEER—ARCHERY

SHOOTING HOURS

Shootings hours for archery deer hunting are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

YOUTH LICENSE

Residents under age 18 as of September 18 may purchase half-price youth archery deer hunting licenses with the same hunting and tagging options as for adult archery deer licenses.

ARCHERY DEER SEASON

Northeast Border Zone (Permit Areas 116 and 127): September 18–November 21.

Remainder of State: September 18–December 31.

Permit Area 287 (Itasca State Park) is closed to Archery Hunting.

Legal Deer

Antlerless deer and legal bucks may be taken by archery.

General Restrictions

- A person possessing both a Regular License and a Bonus Permit may use any tag first.
- No person may take deer by archery while in possession of a firearm, including persons with concealed carry permits (see page 26).

Archery Special Permit Areas

Important! Application deadlines vary by hunt. Please check each hunt individually.

How To Apply For Archery Special Area Permits

An application for an Archery Special Area Permit must be made on a form supplied separately by each special area. No other form of application will be accepted. Send your request for an application form **with a stamped, self-addressed, business-sized envelope** to the address listed for the special area where you wish to hunt. A person may apply for more than one special area, but not more than once for a specific hunt.

The following areas are open for archery hunting by Special Area Permit:

Deer



1. Camp Ripley Bow Hunt

A total of 2,250 permits will be issued for each of the hunting periods: October 21-22 (Thursday-Friday) and October 30-31 (Saturday-Sunday). All Camp Ripley Archery hunters will apply for a Camp Ripley hunting permit through the DNR's computerized Electronic License System (ELS) at one of the 1,800 statewide Point-of-Sale (POS) agents, at the DNR's St. Paul License Center, or by the Department's ELS telephone system (additional \$3.50 charge per customer call). There is an \$8 fee per group member to apply for a Camp Ripley Archery Permit. This fee must be paid at the time of application and is non-refundable. The application must be made by Friday, August 20.

Note: Hunters may use one bonus permit in Camp Ripley and the bag limit is two deer.

2. **Crow-Hassan Park Reserve** in Hennepin County and **Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve** in Hennepin County and **Cleary Lake Regional Park** in Scott County are open to either-sex archery hunting November 12-14. Hunters may apply through September 9. There will be 130 permits for the Crow-Hassan hunt, 180 for the Murphy-Hanrehan hunt and 55 for the Cleary Lake hunt. Hunters must specify on the application which hunt they are applying for. A \$5.00 application fee will be charged at the time of application. Up to four Bonus Permits may be used to take and tag antlerless deer during the hunt. Application forms may be downloaded from the Three Rivers Park District web site at: <http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/nrm/> An application form can also be obtained by mail by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to: Three Rivers Park District Bow Hunt, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

3. New Ulm City Deer Hunt

Portions of the city of New Ulm will be open to archery hunting by special permit. A proficiency test and \$5 administrative fee will be required. A maximum of 50 individuals will be issued city permits for this hunt, valid for October 9 through December 31. Applicants must purchase a Regular Archery License or All-Season Deer License and one bonus permit to qualify. For an application form and description of the hunt requirements, write to: New Ulm City Deer Hunt, City Manager's Office, 100 N. Broadway, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073, or call (507) 359-8236. Applications must be postmarked no later than August 30, 2004.

BIG GAME

DEER—MUZZLELOADER/ARCHERY

4. City of Red Wing Deer Hunt

Portions of the City of Red Wing are open to archery hunting Sept. 18–Dec. 31 by special permit from the city. A proficiency test and a \$5 city back tag are required. Hunters must possess a valid Regular Archery or All-Season Deer License to apply. Hunting is allowed on private land within these areas with written landowner permission and in certain city park areas under special hunting rules. Bonus Permits are available and strongly encouraged for participants in the City Hunt. For more information on the City Hunt and to obtain permits, write to:

Red Wing Public Works, 229 Tyler Road S., Red Wing, MN 55066, or call the Administration Department at (651) 385-3674.

5. City of Sandstone Archery Deer Hunt

Portions of the City of Sandstone are open to archery hunting Sept. 18–Dec. 31 by special permit from the city. Hunters must possess a valid Regular Archery or All-Season Deer License to participate. Hunting is allowed on private land within these areas with written landowner permission and on certain city-owned lands under special hunting rules. Intensive Harvest Permits are available and strongly encouraged for participants in the City hunt. For more information on the City Hunt and regulations contact:

samg@sandstonemn.com or City of Sandstone, 119 Fourth Street, PO Box 641, Sandstone, MN 55072 (320) 245-5241.

6. Mankato City Deer Hunt

Portions of the city of Mankato will be open to archery hunting by special permit. A proficiency test and \$5 administrative fee will be required. A maximum of 30 individuals will be issued city permits for this hunt, valid for October 23 through December 31.

Applicants must possess a Regular Archery License or All-Season Deer license and one Bonus Permit to qualify (see page 00). For an application form and description of the hunt requirements, write to: City of Mankato Public Works, Mankato City Deer Hunt, P0 Box 3368, Mankato, MN 56001. Or call (507) 387-8649.

Applications must be postmarked no later than October 1, 2004.

7. Granite Falls City Deer Hunt

Portions of the city of Granite Falls will be open to archery hunting by special permit. A proficiency test and \$10 administrative fee will be required. A maximum of 10 individuals will be issued city permits for this hunt, valid for September 18 through December 31.

Applicants must possess a Regular Archery or All Season Deer License and one Bonus Permit to qualify (see page 00). For an application form and description of the hunt requirements, write to:



Granite Falls City Deer Hunt, C/O Granite Falls Police Dept., 930 4th Street, Suite 3, Granite Falls, Minnesota 56241, or call (320) 564-2129. Applications must be postmarked no later than August 15, 2004.

Other Archery Areas

Carver Rapids State Wayside, the Rice Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area, and Minnesota Valley NWR (Wilkie and Louisville Units) are open to archery deer hunting. (No other portions of the refuge are open to archery deer hunting. See page 135.)

MANAGED DEER PERMIT AREAS

Archery license holders who are hunting in a Managed Deer Permit Area may purchase and use one Bonus Permit to take an additional antlerless deer in one Managed Deer Permit Area. The Bonus Permit can be purchased for one-half the cost of a regular license from ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul. An archery deer hunter can use one Bonus Permit to tag one, antlerless-only deer in any of the following areas:

2004 Managed Deer Permit Areas – A Bonus Permit issued to an Archery hunter is valid for taking one, antlerless-only deer in any one of the following Managed Deer Permit Areas: 104, 107, 115, 126, 168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178, 181, 183, 201, 211, 214, 224, 235, 251, 297, 298, 338, 339, 344, 345, 416, 418, 422, 452, 456, 461, 462, 464, 465, 466, 467 (see fold-out map between pages 66-67).

2004 Special Hunt Permit Areas – A Bonus Permit is also valid to take one, antlerless-only deer for hunters with a special hunt permit for the New Ulm, Mankato, and Granite Falls Special Hunt Permit Areas (see pages 87-88).

Other Areas – Bonus Permits are also valid for taking one, antlerless-only deer within the East Minnesota River State Game Refuge in Blue Earth and Le Sueur counties.

INTENSIVE DEER PERMIT AREAS

Archery hunters who are hunting in an Intensive Deer Permit Areas may purchase and use up to four Bonus Permits to take additional antlerless deer, up to a grand total of five deer. These permits may be purchased for one-half the cost of a regular license from ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul. The total harvest may not exceed five deer. Note: All-season license holders who hunt with a bow may purchase and use up to 3 Bonus Permits.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

2004 Intensive Deer Permit Areas – Bonus Permits issued to Archery hunters are valid for taking up to four antlerless-only deer in the following Intensive Deer Permit Areas: 110, 154, 156, 157, 159, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 221, 222, 223, 225, 227, 228, 236, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 283, 284, 285, 337, 341, 342, 343, 346, 347, 348, 349, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 419, 420, 421, 423, 429 (see fold-out map between pages 72-73).

2004 Special Hunt Permit Areas – Bonus Permits are also valid to take up to four antlerless-only deer for hunters with special hunt permits for Crow-Hassan, Murphy-Hanrehan, Cleary Lake, Sandstone, or Red Wing Special Permit Areas (see pages 87-88).

Bear



BEAR

REGULATIONS

Bear hunting regulations booklets have been distributed to all Permit Area hunters and are available to No-Quota hunters at license agents.

- The bag limit for bears is one per season in quota areas and two per season in the no-quota area.
- White bears may not be taken.
- Cub bears may not be taken.

See bear hunting regulations booklet for additional information.

Important Dates:

August 13: Start of baiting.

September 1–October 17: Bear Season.

Late March 2005: Applications available.

May 6, 2005: Application deadline for the 2005 season.

BIG GAME

BEAR

LICENSING

Residents and nonresidents can participate in a drawing for licenses within Bear Permit Areas, or they may purchase a license over the counter for the No-Quota Area. Leftover licenses remaining after the drawing will be available beginning in early August. Preference is not affected by purchasing leftover licenses. No person may purchase more than one bear license in a calendar year. Bear licenses must be validated at the site of kill before the bear is removed from the site.

Bear Permit Area Licenses

Applications for Bear Permit Area Licenses (see map, next page) are available in mid-March. The application deadline is the first Friday in May. Applications may be made individually or as part of a group of up to four individuals.

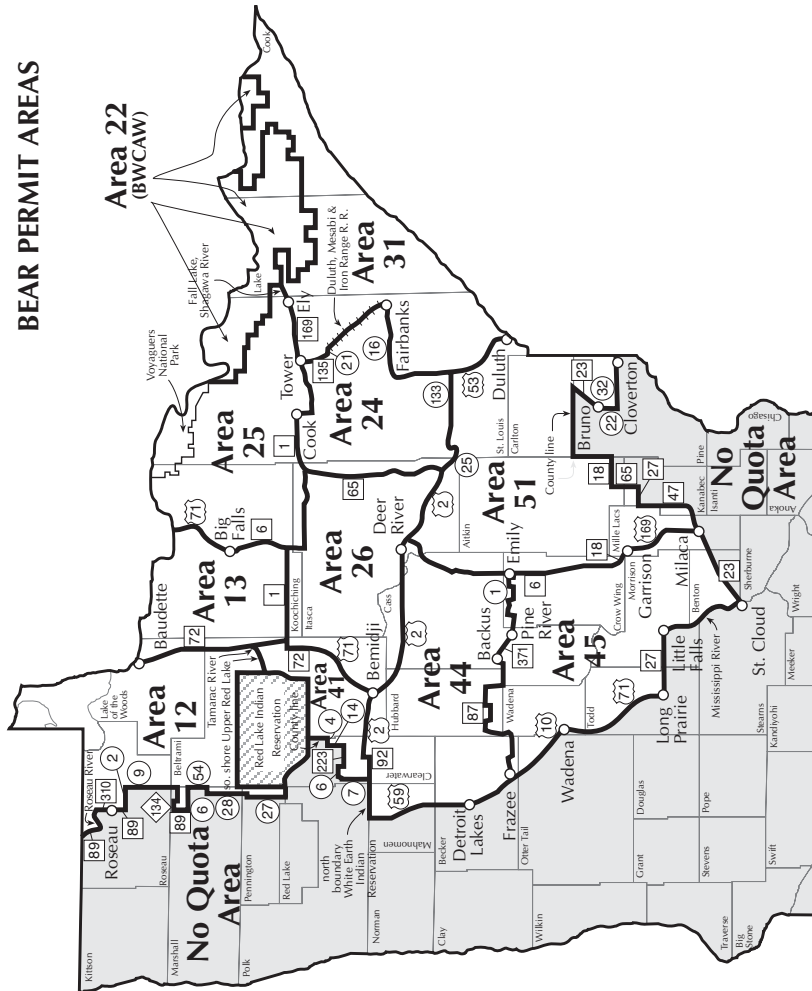
Applicants receive higher preference the more times they have been unsuccessful in past drawings. All accumulated preference is lost once you are issued a Bear Permit Area License. Obtaining a No-Quota Bear License has no effect on preference.

No-Quota Licenses

A person who hunts bears outside the permit areas does not have to participate in a drawing and may purchase a No-Quota Bear License from any ELS license agent or from the DNR License Center in St. Paul. A hunter with a No-Quota License may only hunt outside the Permit Areas.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

BEAR PERMIT AREAS



Quotas
The following permit quotas were available by area for the 2004 season:

AREA NO.	NO. OF PERMITS
12	700
13	900
22	150
24	1,200
25	1,900
26	1,500
31	2,100
41	500
44	2,000
45	1,500
51	4,000
TOTAL	16,450



MOOSE

The application deadline for the 2004 moose hunt was June 18, 2004. A total of 246 licenses were available in 30 zones in the northeastern part of the state. Northwestern Minnesota remains closed to moose hunting due to low population levels. Successful applicants will be notified in August and regulations and hunt information will be sent to each license holder.


Season dates for the 2004 moose hunt are October 2 to 17. Hunters and trappers should be aware that there is a big game season open during the above dates in northeastern Minnesota. The 1854 Authority and the Red Lake, Fond du Lac, and White Earth Indian Bands will also be conducting moose hunts in these areas of the state.

Minnesota's moose hunt is for residents only, and since 1991 it has been a "once-in-a-lifetime" hunt.

BIG GAME



ELK

 The application deadline for the 2004 elk hunt was July 16, 2004. One bull permit and four antlerless permits were available. The bull season will be Sept. 18-26 and the cow season will be Nov. 20-28 in the primary elk zone near Grygla, Minnesota.

If there is an elk hunt in 2005, application information will be available in June and the application deadline will be in July. There is a \$10 application fee per hunter and a license for a party of up to two hunters costs \$250.

WATERFOWL

Important! Because waterfowl seasons and limits aren't approved until late summer, final information on waterfowl was not available when this booklet was printed.

Be sure to consult the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement available from ELS license agents and the DNR License Center in early September for specific information on seasons and limits.

Migratory waterfowl are subject to both state and federal regulations. A summary of federal waterfowl regulations begins on page 108.

Important Dates:

Season Openers: The regular waterfowl season opener will be announced through news releases and in the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement, available in early September.

Blind Reservations—Lac qui Parle: Hunters may apply to reserve hunting stations at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Applications with the earliest postmark between August 23 and Sept. 15 will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional details will be announced in early August (see page 104-105).

Youth Waterfowl Hunt: This will be announced in late August and in the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement. The tentative date is Sept. 18.

Definitions

- **“Migratory game birds”** means ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens (gallinules), woodcock, rails, snipe, and mourning doves.
- **“Migratory waterfowl”** means ducks, geese, and mergansers.
- **“Undressed bird”** means ducks and mergansers with one fully feathered wing **and** head attached or geese with one fully feathered wing attached (other migratory and small game birds must be transported as described on page 43).

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

All migratory bird hunters, including waterfowl hunters, must be in compliance with the harvest information program by indicating that they intend to hunt migratory birds when answering the migratory bird hunting survey questions on the Electronic Licensing System (ELS) terminal.

Waterfowl



MOTORIZED DECOYS

From the opening day of the duck season through Oct. 9, motorized decoys with visible, moving parts that are above the surface of the water may not be used on public waters to take migratory waterfowl, except geese (see waterfowl regulations supplement available in early Spetember for details).

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Waterfowl hunters must have a Minnesota Small Game License in their possession while hunting unless they are exempt from a license requirement. See page 35 for small game licensing details.

STAMP REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota Migratory Waterfowl Stamp

- State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps (State Duck Stamp) cost \$7.50 and are available from ELS license agents and the DNR License Center. There is no issuing fee for stamps. An electronically issued stamp validation is valid for 30 days. Actual pictorial stamps will be mailed to hunters. A pictorial stamp is not valid unless the licensee signs it across the face.
- All resident hunters except those under age 18 or age 65 and over, and all nonresident hunters, are required to have a valid State Duck Stamp or valid stamp validation in their possession while hunting or taking migratory waterfowl. The exceptions are as follows:
 - a) Residents who are hunting on their own property don't need a State Duck Stamp, but must possess a Federal Duck Stamp.
 - b) Residents who are in the U.S. Armed Forces and are stationed out of state may hunt waterfowl without a small game license and without a State Duck Stamp, if they have official military leave papers on their person. However, they must possess a Federal Duck Stamp.

Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp

- Waterfowl hunters aged 16 and older must carry on their person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) signed in ink across the face.
- Federal Duck Stamps cost \$15 and are available at post offices and some license agents.

Stamp Requirements For Shooting Preserves

Persons hunting waterfowl on commercial shooting preserves are required to have both a Federal and a State Duck Stamp in addition to a Small Game License. The only exception is when taking only marked, pen-reared mallards.

WATERFOWL

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AVOID SPREADING INVASIVE SPECIES


Invasive species such as purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, and zebra mussels can damage habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife. It is illegal to transport most aquatic plants and zebra mussels in or on boats, trailers, or decoys in boats, when on public roads. However, waterfowl hunters *may* use emergent aquatic plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, *cut above the waterline*, for building blinds.

How to help:

- Switch to elliptical, bulb-shaped, or strap decoy anchors that won't collect submergent aquatic plants as easily.
- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and mud that are attached to decoy lines or anchors, and waders.
- Drain the water from boats and equipment.

TAX TIME IS YOUR TIME TO HELP WILDLIFE

Look for the line with the loon on your Minnesota tax form and donate to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff. It's fast, easy, and tax deductible. Be part of the wildlife success story.

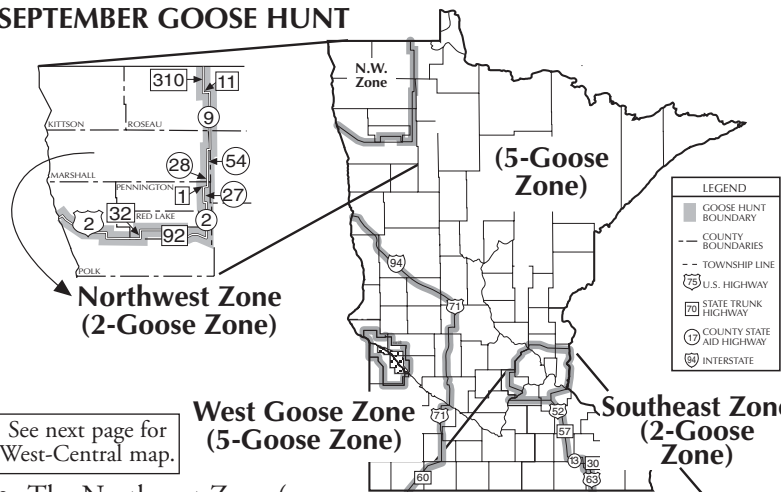




SPECIAL GOOSE HUNTS

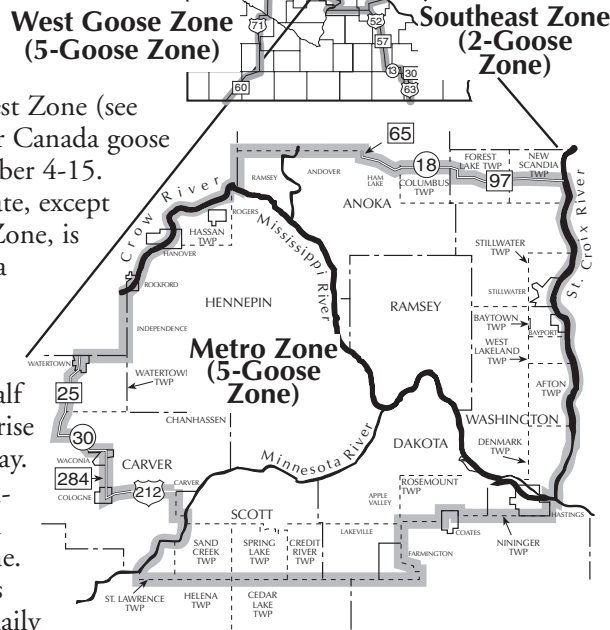
- A special \$4 permit is required to hunt Canada geese during the special September and late December seasons. One permit is good for both seasons. All persons must have the permit to participate in these hunts, except residents under age 18 or age 65 and over, and persons hunting on their own property. The permit is available from ELS license agents and the DNR License Center or by telephone. There is no deadline for purchasing the permit.

SEPTEMBER GOOSE HUNT



See next page for West-Central map.

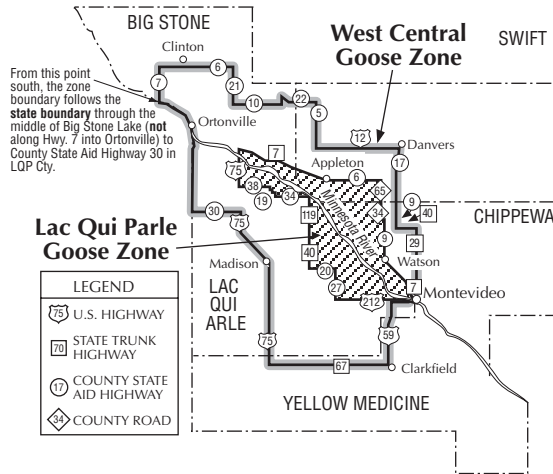
- The Northwest Zone (see map) is open for Canada goose hunting September 4-15.
- The entire state, except the Northwest Zone, is open for Canada goose hunting Sept. 4-22.
- Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.
- Daily bag limits are shown on the maps by zone. Possession limits are double the daily bag limits.



Continued on next page.



2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

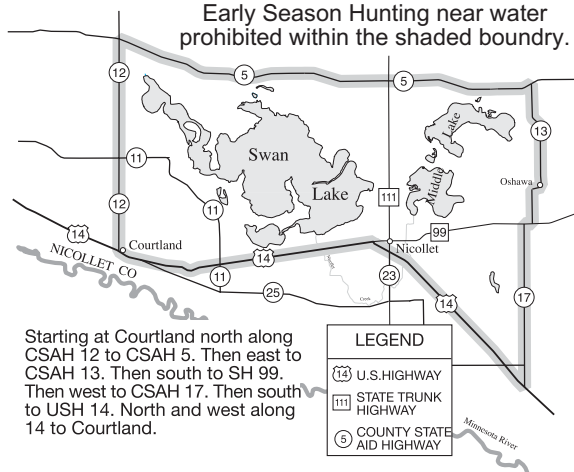


• In the areas listed below, a person may not shoot at geese while the person is within 100 yards of any surface water. “Surface water” includes, but is not limited to wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams, except temporarily flooded cropland, hayland, pasture, or other temporarily flooded areas (unless they are contiguous with lakes, wetlands, rivers, or streams). This restriction does not apply to youth participating in the youth Waterfowl Hunt or in other areas as specifically authorized by the commissioner. A person may not hunt geese within 100 yards of surface water:

1. in the Northwest, Southeast, and Twin Cities Metro Goose Zones;
2. in the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area; and
3. in the Swan Lake Area (see map below).

Swan Lake Area

Early Season Hunting near water prohibited within the shaded boundary.



Waterfowl



- All other goose hunting regulations in this handbook apply during the September season.
- The controlled hunting zone at Lac qui Parle WMA is closed to hunting during the September season.
- The controlled hunting zones at Talcot Lake WMA and Thief Lake WMA are open to hunting during the early September goose season, subject to the controlled hunting zone regulations on pages 104-107. The Talcot Lake CHZ is also open for the special December goose hunt.
- These goose and waterfowl refuges are open to hunting during the Sept. season: Goose Refuges: Douglas County; Southwest Otter Tail County (Fergus Falls); Ashby in Grant County and Sauk Rapids–Rice in Benton County; Waterfowl Refuges: Harstad Slough in Stevens County; Rickert Lake in Steele County (note: The Waterfowl Sanctuary within this refuge is closed to hunting and trespassing, as posted).

NOTE: The Evansville State Game Refuge in Douglas County and the Bemidji State Game Refuge (except Lake Bemidji, Mississippi River and Stump Lake) in Beltrami County are open for taking of Canada geese only during the early September season (see pages 125-127 for a list of all state game refuges open to goose hunting).

- Taking Canada geese on public roads and rights-of-way is prohibited during the early season in the Metro Zone and in Goose Refuges open to goose hunting.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

A youth waterfowl hunting day has been tentatively set for Saturday, Sept. 18. Additional details will be announced in late August and in the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

Non-toxic Shot Required

It is unlawful to take geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, or moorhens with lead shot or while having any lead shot in possession. This restriction includes muzzle-loading shotguns and taking pen-reared mallards on commercial shooting preserves. **Only steel shot, copper-, nickel-, or zinc-plated steel shot, bismuth tin shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-nickel-iron shot, tungsten-polymer shot, tungsten-matrix shot, or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used.**

Shooting Hours

Opening day shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. See separate Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement, available in early September.

Opening Day Possession Limit

On the opening day of the season, no person may possess more freshly killed migratory game birds than is allowed by the daily bag limit.

Harvest Information Program

All hunters of migratory game birds must be Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified to legally hunt (see page 37).

Retrieval

A person may not kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in the daily bag limit.

Taking in Open Water

A person may not take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails in open water unless that person is:

- a) within a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal the person or boat, or
- b) pursuing or shooting wounded birds (while in compliance with the watercraft restrictions listed below).

Watercraft

- A person using watercraft to take migratory waterfowl must comply with the provisions for “Taking in Open Water” specified above.
- Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a floating watercraft if the craft is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled by paddle, oars, or pole.
- Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a watercraft propelled by motor or sails only if the motor is shut off and the sails are furled and the watercraft has stopped.
- A person may not transport any firearm in a boat or other watercraft being propelled by motor or sail unless the firearm is unloaded and contained in a case. (See pages 25-27 for complete arms restrictions.)
- All watercraft (including boats used for duck hunting during the duck season) are required to carry and have readily accessible, one U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved **wearable** (Type I, II, or III) personal flotation device (PFD or life preserver) for each person on board. **In addition, boats 16 feet or longer** (except canoes and kayaks) must carry at least one USCG approved Type IV throwable device (boat cushion or ring buoy) for the boat. Due to change in federal requirements, **boat cushions are no longer acceptable as primary life saving devices.**
- During open waterfowl seasons, a person may not leave an unattended boat used for hunting waterfowl in public waters

Waterfowl



between sunset and one hour before sunrise unless the boat is adjacent to private land under control of the person and the water does not contain a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal a hunter or a boat.

- A duck boat does not have to be licensed during the Waterfowl Hunting Season for waterfowl hunting only.

Blinds and Sink Boxes

- No person may erect a blind in public waters or on public land more than one hour before the open season for waterfowl.
- No person may take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails using a sink box* or in public waters from a permanent artificial blind.
- Any blind on public land or in public waters when not in use is considered public and not the property of the person who constructed it. Any use of threat or force against another person to gain possession of a blind is unlawful.

* A sink box is a structure that allows a hunter to partially hide beneath the water surface.

Decoys

- No person may place decoys on public lands or in public waters more than one hour before legal shooting hours for waterfowl.
- No person may leave decoys on public waters between sunset and one hour before legal shooting hours, except decoys may be left in waters adjacent to private land under control of the hunter where there is not sufficient natural vegetation growing in the water to partially conceal a hunter. A person may not leave decoys in public waters between sunset and one hour before shooting hours if the decoys constitute a navigational hazard.

Whitefish Netting Season Open

The whitefish netting season on Leech Lake and other lakes is open during duck season. Be careful when venturing near buoys.

Possessing and Transporting Migratory Waterfowl

- A person may not possess or transport unlawfully taken migratory game birds. Migratory waterfowl must be transported in an undressed condition (ducks and mergansers with head and wing attached; geese with wing attached) at all times until delivery to either the taker's residence or a commercial processing facility.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

Airboats Prohibited on Lakes Designated for Wildlife Use

The use of airboats is prohibited at all times on the following lakes, which have been designated for wildlife management purposes, except as specifically authorized:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Lake</u>	<u>County</u>
White Elk	Aitkin	Heron	Jackson
Cottonwood	Blue Earth	Sanborn	LeSueur
Perch	Blue Earth	Pierce	Martin
Eagle	Blue Earth	Onamia	Mille Lacs
Rice	Blue Earth	Maria	Murray
Hanska	Brown	South Badger	Murray
Patterson	Carver	North Badger	Murray
Tiger	Carver	Swan	Nicollet
Big Rice	Cass	Little Rice	St. Louis
Augusta	Cottonwood	Big Rice	St. Louis
Dog	Crow Wing	Sand	Sibley
Christina	Douglas/Grant	Rice	Steele/Dodge
Rice	Faribault	Hassel	Swift
Minnesota	Faribault	Buffalo	Waseca
Bear	Freeborn	Goose	Waseca
Lower Twin	Freeborn	Willis	Waseca
Geneva	Freeborn	Pelican	Wright
Upper Twin	Freeborn	Spellman (N. and S.)	Yellow Medicine
Ash	Grant		
Towner	Grant		

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Report Your Bands. Call 1-800-327-BAND

Each year, state and federal waterfowl biologists mark thousands of waterfowl with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report recovered bands receive specific information on where and when the bird was banded while providing important information for duck management. To make reporting your bands easier, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now has a toll-free phone number. To report bands you recover, call 1-800-327-BAND (2263).

Protecting wetlands is crucial to ensuring healthy populations of ducks, pheasants, herons, and even deer. Minnesota leads the nation in protecting wetlands. Let's not lose that honor.

“Save the Wetlands”

Waterfowl



MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREAS

The following areas have been designated Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas, when posted as such during the open waterfowl season.

No person may use any motor-propelled watercraft or aircraft in posted migratory waterfowl feeding and resting areas during the open waterfowl season, except electric trolling motors of less than 30 pounds thrust may be used on lakes as indicated by the asterisk (*) in the table below:

COUNTY	LAKES
Beltrami Big Stone, Lac qui Parle and Swift	Puposky Lake* and Little Puposky Lake* Part of Marsh Lake
Blue Earth	Cottonwood Lake
Carver	Tiger Lake*
Cass	Big Rice Lake
Clearwater	Upper Rice Lake
Faribault	Part of Minnesota Lake*
Freeborn	Bear Lake*
Grant and Douglas	Part of Lake Christina
Itasca	Rice Lake (near Max) and Nature's (Squaw) Lake
Jackson	Part of South Heron Lake* and all of North Heron Lake* except Winzer Bay and North Marsh
Kandiyohi	Wagonga Lake* and Lake Lillian*
LeSueur	Dora, Diamond, Rice, Sanborn and Scotch lakes
McLeod	Bakers Lake* and the unnamed lake* in Sec. 28, Twp. 114N., R. 29 W. (Penn Twp.)
Nicollet	Oakleaf Lake
Otter Tail	That part of Lake Lizzie , also known as Rush Lake, located in Sec. 3-9, Twp. 136 N., R. 42 (Lida Twp.); and Mud Lake in Aastad Twp.
Polk	Turtle Lake*
Pope	Lake Nelson* and Lake Johanna
Scott	Pleasant Lake
Sibley	Washington Lake and Mud Lake in Washington Lake Twp.
Traverse	Part of Mud Lake*



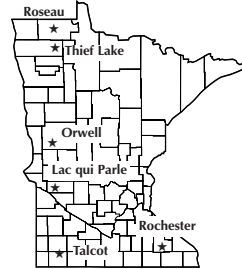
STATE DUCK REFUGES

In those portions of state Wildlife Management Areas and federal Waterfowl Production Areas posted as duck refuges, trespass is prohibited from September 1 through the final day of the open duck season, or as otherwise posted.

CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl or small game hunting, as specified, is restricted to designated hunting stations in the portions posted as controlled hunting zones on or adjacent to the Lac qui Parle, Roseau River, Thief Lake, Talcot Lake, and Orwell Wildlife Management Areas, and the Rochester Game Refuge.

For additional information on wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas and refuges see pages 119–139.



General Restrictions

The following regulations apply to persons within all the controlled hunting zones during the open Canada goose seasons or as otherwise specified:

- No more than one hunting party, consisting of no more than three hunters, may occupy any hunting station at one time.
- Waterfowl hunters must have their guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.
- The hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl is limited to a distance within 10 feet of each designated hunting station, except hunters may retrieve downed birds away from a posted station if they comply with all other refuge and trespass regulations.
- On public lands, dogs must be on a leash except within 10 feet of stations or while retrieving, and must be under control at all times.
- All persons occupying a hunting station must meet all license requirements to hunt waterfowl in Minnesota.
- No person may leave any refuse, offal, or feathers on public lands in the controlled hunting zone or in any parking lot or designated overnight use area on the management area.
- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or possessed at any of the hunting stations on public lands.
- No person may loiter between the designated hunting stations on public lands.
- On public lands, after each party member has bagged a limit of Canada geese or expended their limit of shells (if applicable), the party must promptly leave the station.
- No trailers of any kind are allowed in designated parking lots.

Lac qui Parle

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Lac qui Parle Controlled Hunting Zone during the regular Canada Goose Season for that zone:

Waterfowl



Reservations and Permits

- Waterfowl and small game hunters may reserve hunting stations in accordance with rules available at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area headquarters (see page 94). Reserved dates will not be changed. For information, contact: Lac qui Parle WMA, 14040 20th St. NW, Watson, MN 56295.
- On public lands, no person may hunt migratory waterfowl or small game in the controlled hunting zone without first registering at the check station and obtaining an entry permit. *There is a daily fee of \$3 per hunter 18 years and older.*
- The transfer of entry permits to other hunters is prohibited.

Hunting Restrictions

- Waterfowl and small game hunters are limited to six shells per day in possession.
- Not more than six hunting groups per day may occupy a designated hunting station.
- Within one hour of hunt completion, each party member must submit any geese taken for inspection at the Lac qui Parle WMA headquarters and, if hunting on public lands, personally return their entry permit to the check station.
- Waterfowl and small game hunters are limited to three trips to the stations during the Canada goose season, either as a guest or a successful applicant, except when vacant stations exist.
 - Waterfowl and small game hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of assigned hunting stations.
 - Hunters are limited to one trip per day to the hunting stations.

Thief Lake

The following regulations apply to waterfowl and small game hunters in the Thief Lake Controlled Hunting Zone (CHZ) during all open waterfowl seasons (including Early September and Late December Canada Goose and Youth Waterfowl Seasons). The restriction on small game hunting in the CHZ applies from the opening of the regular waterfowl season through October 25.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.
- Hunters are limited to six shells per trip in possession.
- Hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of the hunting stations.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

- Selected blinds will be posted closed during the early September Canada Goose Season because of their proximity to open water.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated CHZ parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Orwell

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Orwell Controlled Hunting Zone during the Regular Goose Season:

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited.
- No person may enter the controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in the designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone.
- No persons other than those hunting at a station in the controlled hunting zone may occupy a numbered stall in a designated parking lot.
- Hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having a number corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station during any two consecutive days or from one hour after the close of daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.
- All guns must be unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station

Rochester and Roseau River

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Rochester and Roseau River Controlled Hunting Zones during the open Goose Season:

- The wildlife manager may limit all persons to one day of hunting in every three. If hunting is limited, the manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of every person at each restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No one may be in a hunting station or designated parking lot from one hour after the close of the daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.

Talcot Lake**Closed Area**

All waterfowl hunting is prohibited upon or from the 1.5 mile segment of State Trunk Highway 62 and its right-of-way along the

Waterfowl



south boundary of the Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge (between the Cottonwood County line on the west and County Highway 7 on the east).

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Talcot Lake controlled hunting zones during Canada Goose Seasons:

General Restrictions

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited on public land in the East and West Side Controlled Hunting Zones.
- The wildlife manager may limit persons to one day of hunting in every three. The manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of each person at a restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No persons may occupy a hunting station within a controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in a designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone. No persons other than those hunting at a hunting station may occupy a numbered stall or park in a designated parking lot.
- Waterfowl hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having numbers corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Spring Snow Goose Reduction (Light Goose Conservation Action)

Minnesota again plans to participate in a cooperative light goose conservation action in March and April of 2005. This action is being taken in an attempt to reduce an overabundance of snow geese that is threatening their arctic breeding habitat. All participants must have a *Light Goose Conservation Permit* in their possession while attempting to take light geese. Details will be announced early in 2005.

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting, and storing of migratory game birds:

RESTRICTIONS

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than a 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal chord.
- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls, or sounds, or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunters.
- By the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. Baiting includes placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Waterfowl



Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area that causes, induces, or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait or over a baited area. Hunters are responsible for ensuring that an area has not been baited and should verify its legality prior to hunting. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait: \$15,000/6 months jail, and placing bait \$100,000/1 year jail.

Closed Season

No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

Shooting or Hawking Hours

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

Daily Bag Limit

No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

Field Possession Limit

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

Wanton Waste

All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

Tagging

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: a) hunter's signature; b) hunter's address; c) total number of birds involved, by species; and d) dates such birds were killed.

Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.


Possession of Live Birds

Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Dressing

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. (Note: state law requires head *and* wing for ducks and mergansers, a

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 wing only for geese, and all other migratory game birds require a head and foot (see page 43), unless the migratory game birds were lawfully tagged and packed by a federally permitted migratory bird preservation facility.

Shipment

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: a) the name and address of the person sending the birds; b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent; and c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Importation

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over must carry on their person a valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("Duck Stamp") signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under 16 may voluntarily purchase a Duck Stamp and help preserve wetlands.)

Nontoxic Shot Regulations and Zone Descriptions

No person shall take migratory game birds while possessing shot other than approved nontoxic shot (see page 99). This restriction applies only to ducks, geese, brant, swans, and coots except on federally owned Waterfowl Production Areas and National Wildlife Refuges where all small game hunters are required to use nontoxic shot.

Dual Violation

Violation of state migratory game bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

Reference

Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

Caution: More-restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas open to public hunting. See pages 132–137. For more information on federal regulations, call (651) 778-8360.

Wild Turkeys



WILD TURKEYS

Important Dates:

Fall Season

Oct. 13, 2004: First 2004 Fall Season opens.
 June, 2005: Applications available for 2005 Fall Season.

Spring Season (2005)

Nov., 2004: Applications available for 2005 Spring Season.
 Dec. 3, 2004: Application deadline for 2005 Spring Season.
 Apr. 13, 2005: First 2005 Spring Season opens.

Important! Applications must be submitted by the deadline date.

The following general regulations apply to the taking of wild turkeys during Fall and Spring Hunts in Minnesota:

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Licenses for the Fall and Spring Wild Turkey Hunts are awarded in separate computerized preference drawings. A small game license is not required to hunt wild turkeys.

Wild Turkey Stamp Hunters age 18 or over must possess a valid Wild Turkey Stamp validation to hunt wild turkeys in Minnesota. Created at the request of turkey hunters, the stamp proceeds are dedicated to wild turkey management and research.

LEGAL FIREARMS AND BOWS AND ARROWS

Firearms

- A person may only use shotguns 20 gauge or larger, or muzzle-loading shotguns 12 gauge or larger.
- Only fine shot size No. 4 and smaller diameter may be used.

Bows and Arrows

- Bows must have a pull of no less than 40 pounds at or before full draw.
- Bows may not be drawn, held, or released by mechanical means, except by permit. A person may use a mechanical device attached to the bowstring if the person's own strength draws and holds the bowstring.
- Arrowheads must be broadheads that are sharp, have at least two

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metal cutting edges, are of barbless design, and are at least $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter; or must be of a blunthead design.

- “Retractable” broadheads that meet all other requirements of law are legal for wild turkeys if they: 1) are at least $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in width at or after impact; and 2) are of a barbless design and function in a barbless manner.
- No person may use any arrow that is poisoned or has an explosive tip.

How to Apply for Wild Turkey Licenses

Eligibility

- Residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply.
- A Small Game License is *not* required to hunt wild turkeys.
- Applicants must not have had any small game hunting privileges revoked within one year before purchasing a Wild Turkey License.
- Applicants under the age of 16 must possess a valid Firearms Safety Certificate, before the opening of the season.
- Preference is determined by the number of years that a person has submitted *valid* but unsuccessful applications since last receiving a license. The Fall and Spring Hunt preference systems are separate from one another. Success or failure in obtaining a license for one season has no effect on your preference in the other.

Applications

- Applications for the Spring and Fall Hunts are submitted through an ELS terminal at an ELS-POS license agent, the DNR License Center, ELS-Telephone, or ELS-Internet.
- There is a non-refundable fee of \$3 per applicant.
- Persons may apply individually or in a group of up to four persons.

Landowner–Tenant Special Drawing

Up to 20 percent of the permits for each Wild Turkey Permit Area and time period will be issued to applicants who live as landowners or tenants on 40 or more acres of land within the Permit Area. The qualifying land may be noncontiguous. Successful landowner/tenant drawing applicants may only hunt on land they own or lease within the permit area where their qualifying land is located.

ASSISTING

- A licensed wild turkey hunter may assist another turkey hunter licensed for the same permit area and time period, but may not shoot or tag a turkey for another hunter. An unlicensed adult may assist a licensed wild turkey hunter. The unlicensed adult may not shoot or possess a firearm or bow while assisting a hunter, and may not charge a fee for the assistance.



GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

- Wild turkeys may not be taken with the aid of dogs. No person may be accompanied by a dog or dogs while hunting or assisting in hunting wild turkeys.
- Wild turkeys may not be taken with the aid of any electronic device, except that a hearing aid or other device designated to enhance hearing may be used.
- The use of live turkey decoys is prohibited.
- No persons who are afield hunting wild turkeys may have in their possession or in their control any firearm or bow and arrow except those defined as legal for taking wild turkeys.

TAGGING

- The tag provided with the license must be punched with the date of the kill, signed, and attached to the wild turkey immediately after taking the bird.
- The tag must remain attached to the bird during transit.

FALL WILD TURKEY HUNT

Dates, Wild Turkey Permit Areas and Quotas

2004 Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Permits have already been allocated by a computerized drawing for five-day hunting periods running October 13–17 and October 20–24. Applications for 2005 Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Permits will be available June, 2005:

Legal Shooting Hours

The legal shooting hours for the Fall Wild Turkey Hunt are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit

The bag limit for the Fall Hunt is one wild turkey of either sex.

Registration

- Every person who takes a wild turkey must register the bird at a designated registration station no later than 24 hours after the time when taken.
- The feathers, head and feet must remain on the wild turkey until it is registered. Once registered, head and feet must remain attached during transportation.
- No person may possess an unregistered wild turkey outside the permit area where the bird was taken unless it is being transported in a direct route to a registration station.

SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNT (2005)

The following general regulations apply to Minnesota's Spring Wild Turkey Hunt. Complete information on 2005 spring wild turkey season dates, permit areas, and quotas was not available when this booklet was printed. This information will be provided with application materials available in November, 2004. Resident wild turkey applications will be made through ELS license agents.

Bag Limit

The spring bag limit is one wild turkey with a visible beard. The beard is a feathered appendage protruding from the breast that is generally found only on males.

Registration

- Every person who takes a wild turkey must personally present the bird for registration.
- The feathers, head, and feet must remain on the wild turkey until it is registered. Once registered, the head and feet must remain attached during transportation.
- No person may possess an unregistered wild turkey outside the permit area where it was taken unless it is being transported in a direct route to a registration station.

🔪 Archery Turkey Season and License

A person who did not apply, or who applied unsuccessfully, for a spring wild turkey license may purchase a turkey hunting license to hunt by archery that is valid during the last 14 days of the spring wild turkey seasons. The license is valid in any spring wild turkey permit area that has at least 50 permits per time period. A person purchasing this license does not gain or lose preference for the spring turkey license lottery. These licenses can be purchased for the same fee as a regular turkey license at any electronic licensing system agent.

A message from your DNR conservation officers:

As you go afield, be safe, be ethical, and be the most responsible hunter you can possibly be. If these are your goals, you will always succeed.

Conservation officers will be afield with you this fall, as they have been for 117 years. Our aim is to stop poaching, promote safety, and make sure that laws that protect habitat and wildlife populations are followed.

Minnesota's abundance of wildlife is no accident. It is the direct product of habitat, management, and compliance with the law. When you follow the regulations you are on the trail to a safe, rewarding, and successful hunt. And that's the kind of hunt that we, your DNR conservation officers, want you to find.



L.C. Duke

WILD RICE

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- Harvesting wild rice is open to Minnesota residents and nonresidents. Nonresidents must purchase a one-day license and residents may purchase either a season or one-day license. All harvesters are required to be licensed unless they are under 16 years of age and accompanied by a licensed harvester. Wild rice licenses are available from ELS license agents. Fees from wild rice harvest and buyer licenses are deposited in a special account for wild rice management.

SEASON DATES AND HOURS

- July 15 to September 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily.
- The harvest of green (unripe) wild rice is unlawful.

RESTRICTED AREAS

Conservation officers and other authorized agents of the Commissioner of Natural Resources may close the harvest on any public water by posting the known access points.

National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges are closed to wild rice harvesting, except when authorized by special permits. Harvest is allowed on state wildlife management areas, except where specifically closed by posting or rule.

VEGETATION

Destruction of wild rice plants by cutting, pulling, or removing is unlawful. All aquatic vegetation must be removed from watercraft before leaving any body of water to prevent the spread of exotic vegetation such as purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil.

WATERCRAFT

Watercraft used in harvesting wild rice may not exceed 18 feet in length or 36 inches in maximum width. Any extension that increases normal capacity is prohibited.

PUSH POLES

Push poles used to propel watercraft for harvesting wild rice must be forked at the end. The forks must be less than 12 inches in length.

FLAILS

Flails used to harvest wild rice must be made of round, smooth wood no longer than 30 inches and weigh no more than one pound. Flails must be hand held and operated.

MECHANICAL DEVICES

The use of any machine or mechanical device to harvest wild rice is prohibited unless the operator holds fee title to all the property that surrounds the public water where the harvest is taking place and the public water is less than 125 acres in size, within the original boundaries of any Indian reservation, and there is no public access directly or through a channel or watercourse.

PENALTIES

Any person violating any of the laws or rules pertaining to wild rice is subject to a fine up to \$1000 and/or 90 days in jail.

INDIAN RESERVATION RESTRICTIONS (GENERAL)

All native wild rice within the existing boundaries of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, and Mille Lacs Indian Reservations is managed by the respective reservation wild rice committees. These committees establish the opening date, days, and hours of harvest no less than 24 hours prior to the opening. These regulations may be altered by the wild rice committees after the season has been announced by posting the major entrances to affected waters no less than 12 hours prior to the changes taking effect.

Only the Commissioner of Natural Resources, authorized agents, tribal members, and persons who are residents of the reservation within which they are harvesting may harvest or gather wild rice within the boundaries of reservations.

SPECIAL LEECH LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION RESTRICTIONS

In addition to the above regulations, all non-tribal members must have Leech Lake Reservation permits to harvest or buy wild rice within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION**Threats to Wild Rice**

Wild rice typically grows in shallow water over soft mucky bottoms. Rapidly increasing water levels can destroy an entire crop of wild rice by uprooting plants. Manmade water control structures, beaver dams, and other channel-clogging debris downstream of wild rice areas are the biggest threats to wild rice.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Wild Rice

Wild Rice Plants are fragile. Don't break the stalks when picking or pulling them straight down over the canoe. Instead, bend the plants forward and away from your body. Use a light brushing or raking motion to tap loose the ripened seeds. Wild rice is not ready for harvest if you have to use much force to knock the seeds loose from the plant. Harvesting should not be attempted during rainy days because the moisture makes the seeds more difficult to tap loose from the stalk.

Minnesota's wild rice harvesting season opens July 15 each year, although no rice is ripe enough to harvest at that time. The earliest wild rice will mature is sometime after the third week in August. How soon depends on the individual stands and the weather. Rice is ready for harvest when the seeds fall easily from the plant. Attempting to harvest "green" or unripe rice damages the plant and is illegal.

Wild rice is an important food plant for both people and wildlife. Low in fat but high in protein, fiber, B vitamins and minerals, wild rice is higher in overall nutritional value than white rice, oats, barley, wheat or rye. This aquatic member of the grass family is also an important part of the ecology of many Minnesota lakes and rivers. Unfortunately, it is also becoming less abundant because of pollution, exotic species, changing water levels and wakes from careless boaters.

Sprouting from seeds each year, wild rice generally reaches the water surface by mid June. The leaves lay flat on the surface until July when the plant begins to strengthen and grow erect. It is during the floating leaf stage that plants are particularly vulnerable to uprooting. By August wild rice will reach two to eight feet above the water and the seed heads will begin to fill out.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN

Dates, Prairie Chicken Permit Areas and Quotas

2004 Prairie Chicken Hunting Licenses have already been allocated by a computerized drawing for the five-day hunting season, which will run Oct. 23-27. Prairie chicken hunters must have a prairie chicken hunting license; no small game license is required. Applications for next year's season will be available to Minnesota residents only in June, 2005. Applications will be due on July 29, 2005 and the season will begin Oct. 22, 2005.

Legal Shooting Hours

The legal shooting hours for the prairie chicken hunt are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit

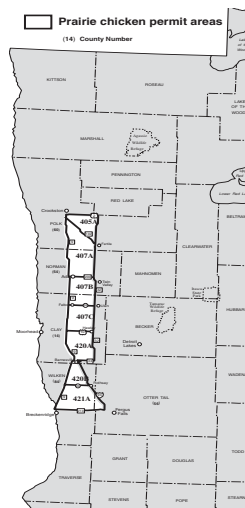
The bag limit for prairie chickens is two of either sex for the season. A licensed prairie chicken hunter may also take sharp-tailed grouse in the area and time that the prairie chicken license is valid, subject to all other restrictions for taking sharp-tailed grouse.

Registration

- Every person who takes a prairie chicken must register the bird at a designated registration station no later than 24 hours after the time when taken.
- The fully-feathered head, a fully-feathered wing or one leg and foot must remain on the prairie chicken in the field or while being transported.

Tagging

- The tag provided with the license must be punched with the date of the kill, signed and attached to the prairie chicken immediately after taking the bird.
- The tag must remain attached to the bird during transit.



2003 FALL PRAIRIE CHICKEN PERMIT AREA QUOTAS

PERMIT AREA	QUOTA
405 A	12
407A	13
407B	15
407C	13
420A	14
420B	18
421A	15
TOTAL	100

PUBLIC LANDS & WILDLIFE REFUGES

STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

All public land in state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) is open to the hunting of all species of protected wild animals and trapping of mammals during the established seasons found in this booklet, except as follows:

General Restrictions

- **Trespass:** Portions of WMAs posted closed to trespassing may not be entered without DNR authorization.
- **Closed Hours:** WMAs may not be entered or used during closed hours if posted with these restrictions at major access points, except by permit.
- **Camping:** Camping is prohibited except in designated overnight-use areas or with a permit from the wildlife manager.
- **Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed, except by persons lawfully occupying an overnight-use area.
- **Firearms and Target Shooting:** Target, skeet, trap, or indiscriminate shooting is prohibited. A person may not possess an uncased or loaded firearm or an uncased or strung bow, except when lawfully taking a wild animal or by permit.
- **Destruction or Removal of Property:** Signs, posts, fences, gates, buildings, trees, shrubs, vines, plants, or other property may not be destroyed or removed (including use of metal detectors to remove property), except as follows: Wetland vegetation may be used to build blinds on the area, and edible fruits and seeds, or decorative portions of plants may be removed for personal use.
- **Garbage Disposal and Animal Abandonment:** Disposing of or abandoning live animals, carcasses, garbage, trash, spoil, sludge, rocks, vehicles, or other debris or personal property on any WMA is prohibited.
- **Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Equipment:** Boats, decoys, and other equipment must not be left unattended overnight, with the exception of traps in areas open to trapping and fish houses or dark houses in certain designated WMAs.
- **Blinds and Structures:** A person may not construct or maintain any building, dock, fence, billboard, sign, or other structure on any WMA, except that temporary waterfowl blinds may be erected, but may not become private property or be used to

preempt hunting rights. Any materials brought into a WMA for the construction of a blind must be removed each day at the close of hunting hours.

- **Elevated Stands:** A person may not construct, occupy, or use any elevated scaffold or other elevated device for the purpose of hunting, watching, or killing wild animals, except that portable stands may be used if they are removed each day at the close of hunting hours and do no permanent damage.
- **Dogs:** Dogs are permitted on WMAs only when accompanied by or under the control of the owner. From April 16 through July 14, dogs must be on a leash. A person training a dog on a WMA may not use live ammunition or blank cartridges, including the use of blanks in dummy launchers or similar devices.
- **Other Domestic Animals:** Livestock, horses, and other domestic animals, are not permitted on WMAs except under cooperative agreement or permit approved by the wildlife manager.
- **Unprotected Animals:** Unprotected wild animals may be taken from September 1 through the last day of February, or by any person legally hunting a protected species, unless the area is specifically closed.
- **Beaver and Otter:** Beavers and otters may only be taken by permit issued by the wildlife manager.
- **Crows:** Crows may be taken during established seasons, except from March 1 through August 31, unless the area is specifically closed.

WMAs with Special Restrictions

- **Bayport WMA** (Washington County) and **Raguet WMA** (Scott and Carver counties): These areas are closed to the trapping of unprotected mammals except when there is an open trapping season for any protected species. Firearms must be unloaded and contained in a case, except in designated hunting areas during the season for the taking of small game when shotgun with fine shot only is permitted. The possession and use of bows and arrows are limited to the designated hunting areas during established hunting seasons.
- **Boerner WMA** (Sibley County), **Buelow WMA** (Steele County), **Bryson WMA** (Freeborn County), **Sand Prairie WMA** (Stearns County), **Chapa Kak-Say-Za WMA** (Steele County), and **Hutchinson WMA** (McCleod County): These areas are closed to the hunting and trapping of all species.
- **Carl and Verna Schmidt WMA** (LeSueur County) and **Bur Oak WMA** (LeSueur County) are closed to hunting of all species.
 - **Gold Portage WMA** (Koochiching and St. Louis counties): This area is open only to waterfowl hunting.
- **Hearding Island WMA** (St. Louis County): This area is closed to the hunting of all species.

- **Uppgaard WMA** (Crow Wing County): This area is open to hunting beginning on the opening day of waterfowl hunting or on the second Saturday in October, whichever comes first.
- **Four Brooks WMA** (Mille Lacs County): This area is open to woodcock hunting.
- **Gordon F. Yeager** (Rochester) **WMA** (in the Rochester Refuge, Olmsted County) **Eastside WMA** (Olmsted County), and **Carl Schmidt WMA** (Morrison County): These areas are closed to waterfowl hunting. Firearms are restricted to shotgun with fine shot only for small game hunting on **Gordon F. Yeager WMA**.
- **Lac qui Parle, Thief Lake, Talcot Lake, and Orwell WMAs**: Small game hunting is restricted in the Controlled Goose Hunting Zones (see pages 104-107).
- **Lake Blanche WMA** (Ottertail County): This area is closed to firearms deer hunting.
- **Timber Lake WMA** (Jackson County): A portion of this area is closed to firearms deer hunting (as posted).
- **Pike Bay WMA** (St. Louis County): This area is closed to trapping of all species.
- **Schrafel WMA** (Mower County): This area is closed to trapping and firearms hunting. Open to archery deer hunting.
- **Hvoslef WMA** (Fillmore County): This area is open to archery hunting only from September 1 through October 31 and during the spring turkey season. Firearms hunting (no centerfire rifles) is allowed from November 1 through December 15.

Note: Trappers must obtain a permit from the area manager on the following WMAs: **Carlos Avery** (Anoka and Chisago counties), **Hubbel Pond** (Becker County), **Red Lake** (Beltrami and Lake of the Woods counties), **Lac qui Parle** (Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Swift, and Chippewa counties), **Mille Lacs** (Mille Lacs and Kanabec counties), **Roseau River** (Roseau County), **Talcot Lake** (Cottonwood and Murray counties), **Thief Lake** (Marshall County), and **Whitewater** (Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties).

Wild Rice

A person may harvest wild rice in a WMA, except where specifically closed.

Ginseng

A person may not harvest wild ginseng in a WMA, except by permit.

Motor Vehicles

The following regulations apply to motor vehicle use on WMAs other than on federal, state, county, or township roads:

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- Motor vehicles licensed for use on a public highway may be operated on established roads on the following WMAs, but not at speeds over 20 m.p.h. unless posted otherwise. No vehicles may be driven beyond a sign prohibiting vehicular use, beyond any constructed vehicle barrier, or in a reckless or careless manner. The areas are: **Carlos Avery** (Anoka and Chisago counties), **Hubbel Pond** (Becker County), **Mille Lacs** (Kanabec and Mille Lacs counties), **Red Lake** (Beltrami and Lake of the Woods counties), **Roseau River** (Roseau County), and **Thief Lake** (Marshall County).
- Vehicles are prohibited on all other WMAs. The exception is that vehicles may be operated at speeds of 20 mph or less, on travel routes designated with signs for travel purposes.
- No vehicle may be parked in front of any gate or where it obstructs travel.
- No person may operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), all-terrain cycle (ATC), hang glider, air boat, personal watercraft (jet-ski), or hovercraft in a WMA except by disability permit or as specifically authorized.
- On Wildlife Management Areas north and west of the line described below an ATV may be used by a licensed firearms deer hunter who does not possess a firearm (cased or uncased) to retrieve and transport a deer that is known to be dead from the close of shooting hours to two hours after the close of shooting hours during the regular firearms deer season and for one day after the season: beginning at State Highway 1 from the west boundary of the state to State Highway 89, then north along State Highway 89 to Fourtown, then north on County State Aid Highway 44 to County Road 704, Beltrami County, then north on County Road 704 to Dick's Parkway State Forest Road, then north on Dick's Parkway to County State Aid Highway 5, then north on County State Aid Highway 5 to Warroad, then north on State Highway 11 to State Highway 313, then north on State Highway 313 to the north boundary of the state.
- On wildlife management areas within the area described as follows, a licensed deer hunter may operate an all-terrain vehicle during the firearms deer season before and after shooting hours and from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: from State Highway 1 and the west boundary of the Red Lake Indian Reservation; then west to State Highway 219; then north on State Highway 219 to State Highway 89; then north to State Highway 89 to County Highway 6; then east on County Highway 6 to County Highway 54 and County Highway 1 (Beltrami/Marshall county line); then north along the Beltrami/Marshall county line to the Roseau

county line; east on the Beltrami/Roseau county line to Dick's Parkway, then south on Dick's Parkway to County Road 704, Beltrami county; then south to County State-aid Highway 44 to Fourtown; then south on State Highway 89 to the north boundary of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, then west and south following the boundary of the Red Lake Indian Reservation to the beginning.

- Without written permission from the DNR, no person may operate a snowmobile in a WMA south of a line described as follows: U.S. Highway 2 from Grand Forks east to Bemidji, then south along U.S. Highway 71 to Wadena, then east along U.S. Highway 10 to Staples and U.S. Highway 210 to the eastern boundary of the state.
- No person may use aircraft over a WMA in a manner that chases, herds, scares, or otherwise disturbs wildlife, except in emergencies or by authorization of the wildlife manager.

Blinds for Hunters With Disabilities



Both the Lac qui Parle and the Talcot Lake Wildlife Management Areas have a limited number of goose hunting blinds for hunters with disabilities. Talcot Lake WMA and Roseau River WMA each have a wheelchair accessible deer blind for firearms hunting. For more information, write to: Lac qui Parle WMA, 14040 20th St. NW, Watson, MN 56295; Talcot Lake WMA, Box 40, Rt. 1, Dundee, MN 56126; or Roseau River WMA, HCR#5 Box 103, Roseau, MN 56751.

Motorized Watercraft

The use of outboard motors (including electric trolling motors) or motorized water vehicles (including amphibious vehicles) is prohibited on waters within the boundaries of most state WMAs, except as follows:

Motorized Watercraft Permitted

AREA	COUNTY
Gold Portage WMA	Koochiching and St. Louis
Gores (Mississippi River Pool 3) WMA	Goodhue and Dakota
Lac qui Parle WMA (except where posted)	Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa, and Swift
Mud-Goose WMA* (except on any day the waterfowl season is open)	Cass
Orwell Reservoir*	Otter Tail
Roseau River WMA**	Roseau
South Walnut Lake WMA*	Faribault
Swamp River WMA	Cook

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Talcot Lake WMA***
Thief Lake WMA*

Cottonwood and Murray
Marshall

* Motor size is restricted to 10 horsepower or less on these units.

** There are no motor limits on the main channel and oxbows of the Roseau River. Elsewhere on the Roseau River, only motors of 10 horsepower or less may be used and only on days that the waterfowl season is open.

*** On the Talcot Lake WMA, motors are permitted on the lake (except on any day that the waterfowl season is open) but are prohibited on the river and marshes at any time of year.

STATE REFUGES

GAME REFUGES

A state game refuge is closed to the hunting and trapping of wild animals unless listed below or in the table (pages 125-127). *Even though a refuge may be open, it could contain privately owned land on which the landowner may prohibit hunting.*

General Restrictions

- A person may not trap beaver or otter within any state-owned game refuge without first obtaining a permit from the appropriate wildlife manager.
- Unprotected wild animals may be taken when there is an open season for any protected species, but only during the hours and by methods allowed for the protected species.

Lac qui Parle Game Refuge (Chippewa and Lac qui Parle counties) is open under the following restrictions:

The portions of the refuge within the Lac qui Parle Recreation Reserve, Lac qui Parle Mission Site, or portions that are posted with "No Trespassing" signs are closed to hunting or the carrying or possession of firearms or bows unless the firearm is unloaded and cased or unloaded and contained in the closed trunk of a vehicle, and the bow is unstrung and cased or contained in the closed trunk of a vehicle. The remainder of the refuge is open to: 1) waterfowl hunting only during the open Canada goose season in the Lac qui Parle Zone, only at designated hunting stations; 2) deer hunting; and 3) small game hunting other than waterfowl, except from the first day of the open Canada goose season through the last day of the open Canada goose season each year in the Lac qui Parle Goose Zone when small game hunting is allowed only at designated hunting stations. Small game hunting is not allowed on closed Canada goose hunting days during a split goose season. No

Continued on page 128

Hunting and Trapping on State Game Refuges

County	Refuge	Small Game (Except waterfowl)	Trapping	Waterfowl	Deer & Bear (Firearms)	Deer & Bear (Archery)
Beltrami	Bemidji	Open through Nov. 4	Open for beaver, mink, muskrat & otter	Closed*	Open	Open
Blue Earth & Le Sueur	East Minnesota River	Closed ^{††}	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Chisago Clay	Linn Lake Clay County	Open*	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Clearwater	Clearbrook	Closed ^{††}	Closed	Closed ^{***}	Open	Open
Crow Wing	Cross Lake	Open until Dec. 31	Open until Dec. 31	Open	Open	Open
Dakota	Bellwood	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Open
Dakota & Rice	Carleton	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open from Nov. 25 through end of season ^{†††}
Dodge	Claremont	Open*	Open	Closed ^{**}	Closed [†]	Open
Douglas	Evansville	Closed	Open	Closed ^{***}	Open	Closed
Douglas	Lake Winona	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fillmore	Lost Lake	Open*	Open	Open	Open	Open
Freeborn	Moscow	Open*	Open	Closed ^{**}	Open	Open
Freeborn	Albert Lea	Open*	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Hubbard	Paul Bunyan	Open through Nov. 4	Open	Closed	Closed except during muzzleloader season	Open
Hubbard	Park Rapids	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed

* Also open to wild turkey hunting.
 ** Except open to Canada Goose Hunting during early September season.
 *** Except open to Canada Goose Hunting during early September season.
 † Except during muzzleloader season.
 †† Except open for prairie chicken.
 ††† Except turkey hunting by archery only during early September season.
 †††† Must have written landowner permission.

Continued on next page.

PUBLIC LANDS & WILDLIFE REFUGES

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County	Refuge	Small Game (Except waterfowl)	Trapping	Waterfowl	Deer & Bear (Firearms)	Deer & Bear (Archery)
Hubbard	Schoolcraft	Open through Nov. 4	Open	Closed	Closed	Open
Isanti	Elizabeth Lake	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Isanti	German Lake	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Itasca	Lower Pigeon Lake	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Itasca	Pigeon River Flowage	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Kanabec	Fish Lake-Ann River	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Martin	Fox Lake	Open	Open	Closed**	Open	Open
Martin	Mud-Bardwell	Open	Open	Closed**	Open	Open
McLeod	Glencoe Izaak Walton League	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
McLeod	Gopher Campfire	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Meeker	Lake Ripley	Open after duck season	Open after duck season	Closed	Closed	Closed
Morrison	Camp Ripley	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open for deer only by permit
Mower	Austin	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Nicollet	Swan Lake No. 2 (south island only)	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Nobles	Ocheda Lake	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Olmsted	Rochester	Open*	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Otter Tail	Erhard's Grove	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Otter Tail	Little Pine Lake	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Pine	Pine County Unit 2***	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Open

* Also open to wild turkey hunting. ** Except for Canada geese as announced separately. ***The boundaries of this refuge have changed as posted.

County	Refuge	Small Game (Except waterfowl)	Trapping Waterfowl	Deer & Bear (Firearms)	Deer & Bear (Archery)
Pipestone Polk	Hiawatha	Open (shotgun only)	Open	Closed	Open
	Oak Lake	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Polk and Clearwater	Polk-Clearwater	Closed	Open	Closed	Open
	Nerstrand	Open*	Open**	Open**	Open**
Rice	Roseau WMA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
	Pool 1 Sanctuary			Open except during muzzleloader season	
Roseau	Warroad	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
	Clear Lake	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Sherburne	Sand Dunes	Open	Open	Open	Open
	Stearns County	Open*	Open	Open	Open
Stearns	(south of Kimball)				
	Collegeville (St. Johns)	Closed	Closed	Open**	Closed
Watonwan	Madelia	Open	Open	Open	Open
	St. James	Closed	Open	Closed**	Closed
Washington	St. Croix River	Open*	Open	Open	Open
	Stillwater	Open*	Open	Open	Open
Wilkin	Sunnyside Twp.	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
	Whitewater	Open*	Open by Closed permit	Open by permit	Closed
Wright Yellow Medicine	Howard Lake	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
	Hanley Falls ^{††}	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open

*Also open to wild turkey hunting.

**Except for Canada geese as announced separately.

††By written permission of landowners only.

**Boundary changed, as posted.

PUBLIC LANDS & WILDLIFE REFUGES

Continued on next page.

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unauthorized person may trespass during the dates posted on any part of the refuge posted with “No Trespassing” signs. The exceptions are as follows: 1) Fishing is permitted in the posted closed area within the Lac qui Parle Goose Zone on any day when goose hunting in the zone is closed; and 2) no person may trespass on Rosemoen Island at any time of the year, except for permitted participants in disability hunts or those with specific authorization.

Rochester Refuge (Olmsted County)

Unprotected animals may be taken at any time and by any legal method.

Talcot Lake Game Refuge (Cottonwood County)

The Talcot Lake Game Refuge is open to waterfowl hunting only at designated hunting stations only during the Canada goose season. The Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge is closed to waterfowl hunting, except for persons with disabilities hunting geese at designated hunting stations.

DUCK REFUGES

From September 1 through the final day of the duck season, or as otherwise posted, a person may not hunt, trap, fish, or trespass on portions of state wildlife management areas or federal waterfowl production areas that are posted to prohibit trespass.

GOOSE OR WATERFOWL REFUGES

State goose refuges are closed to goose or waterfowl hunting (as posted) except when specifically opened during special seasons (see page 97 and the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement available in mid-September). Other forms of hunting and trapping are permitted during the established seasons.

STATE FORESTS

State forest lands are generally open for hunting and other types of outdoor recreation. Hunting on private land within a state forest is subject to state trespass laws. A partial summary of state forest use regulations is included below. A complete listing is available from the DNR.

Elevated Scaffolds

- The use of portable tree stands is recommended, especially those which can be secured without driving nails into trees. Nails are a safety hazard for woodcutters and harm the forest. Personal property must be removed from State Forest lands. It is illegal to destroy state property, including the cutting of trees of four inches or more

in diameter at four and one-half feet above the ground for shooting lanes. Littering and erecting permanent buildings are prohibited.

Firewood

- Wood that is dead and lying on the ground may be gathered for campfire use on site.

Campfires

- No permit is required for recreational campfires of less than 3 feet in diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 feet around the fire.

Firearms

- Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands that are not posted closed to firearm discharge.
- Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day use area, parking area), except that during open hunting seasons a person may carry an unloaded, uncased firearm or a strung, uncased bow to hunt outside the recreation area.

Camping

- Camping on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is permitted, with some conditions.

Personal Property

- Personal property may not be left or positioned so as to obstruct use of a road or trail. Personal property left unattended for 14 days shall be deemed abandoned.

Motor Vehicle and Off-Road Rules

- State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

State Forest Lands Classified as “Managed”:

- Motor vehicles may operate only on forest roads and forest trails **unless** they are posted or designated **closed**.

State Forest Lands Classified as “Limited”:

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest **roads**, **unless** they are posted or designated **closed**.
- Motor vehicles may operate **only** on forest **trails or areas** that are **posted and designated open**.

State Forest Lands Classified as “Closed”:

- Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are **not allowed** except:
 - Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.
 - Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.
 - Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

Closed and Limited State Forests

The following state forests are classified as LIMITED:

Chengwatana State Forest; D.A.R. State Forest; General C.C. Andrews State Forest; R.J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest; Foothills State Forest (S. of U.S. Hwy. 2); Nemadji State Forest; Rum River State Forest; St. Croix State Forest; Snake River State Forest

The following state forests are classified as CLOSED: Birch Lakes State Forest; Insula State Forest; Lake Isabella State Forest; San Dunes State Forest

Note: these lists are subject to change as additional forest review is completed. See the following link for the most current status, or contact the DNR Information Center (see page 139):

www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/status.html

General Motor Vehicle Operating Restrictions (Anywhere on state forest lands and county lands within state forests that motor vehicles are allowed)

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated nonmotorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.
- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, or that damages or destroys trees or growing crops. The no-rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.
- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.
- Motor vehicles on state forest roads must: travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.
- Cross country travel is prohibited. Cross country travel is travel off roads and trails. Exceptions to the cross-country travel ban (for both limited and managed forests) are:
 - ATV use for big game hunting or constructing stands during October through December is allowed;
 - ATV use for retrieving harvested big game is allowed during September through December; and
 - ATV use for trapping is allowed during open seasons.

Note: *These exceptions apply only to All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) less than 800 cc engine displacement and 900 pounds total weight — motorcycles and trucks are not allowed to cross-country travel.*

- No person may construct an unauthorized permanent trail on forest lands.
- In the **Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest**, motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate only on forest roads that are not posted closed and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances. *Motorized trails are open to ATVs and OHMs from May 1 to November 1.*

Nonmotorized Trails

- Nonmotorized trails are generally open to nonmotorized uses, but may be limited by postings, which must be observed. In the Richard J. Dorer Forest, horses and bicycles may travel only on designated trails.

STATE SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS

State Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) are closed by law to hunting unless listed below. No person may damage vegetation on SNAs and no elevated stands (including portable stands) or motor vehicles may be used.

In 2004 the following SNAs are open to hunting:

COUNTY	AREA	OPEN FOR:
Aitkin	McGregor Marsh SNA	All hunting
Beltrami	Maurice O'Link SNA	All hunting
Brown	Joseph A. Tauer Prairie SNA	All hunting and trapping
Clay	Bicentennial Prairie SNA	Deer only
Clearwater	Iron Springs Bog SNA	Deer only
Clearwater	Itasca Wilderness SNA	Deer only
Cook	Hovland Woods SNA	All hunting
Cook	Lutsen SNA	All hunting
Fillmore	Rushford Sand Barrens SNA	All hunting
Goodhue	Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA	All hunting
Houston	Mound Prairie SNA (Only the portion north of Highway 16.)	All hunting
Itasca	Ladies Tresses Swamp SNA	All hunting
Itasca	Lost 40 SNA	All hunting
Itasca	Wabu Woods	All hunting
Koochiching	Caldwell Brook SNA	All hunting
Lake of the Woods	Gustafson's Camp SNA	All hunting and trapping
Lake of the Woods	Pine/Curry Island SNA	Waterfowl only
Mahnomen	Santee Prairie SNA	All hunting
Pine	Black Lake Bog SNA	All hunting and trapping
Polk	Gully Fen SNA	Deer only by archery
Rice	Prairie Creek Woods SNA	Deer, by permit only
Roseau	Two Rivers Aspen Parkland Prairie SNA	All hunting

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Sherburne	Uncas Dunes SNA (only the portion in Sections 28-29, 34, 35, and that portion of 21 South of the DNR fire lane, Orrock Twp.)	All hunting
St. Louis Wabasha	Big Island SNA Zumbro Falls Woods SNA	Waterfowl only Deer only, by permit

Peatland SNAs Open to All Trapping and Hunting

COUNTY	PEATLAND SNA
Beltrami	Red Lake Peatland
Cass	Hole-in-the-Bog Peatland (Except Hole-in-the-Bog Lake, which is a waterfowl refuge.)
Koochiching	East Rat Root River Peatland
Koochiching	Lost River Peatland
Koochiching	Myrtle Lake Peatland
Koochiching	Nett Lake Peatland
Koochiching	North Black River Peatland
Koochiching	South Black River Peatland
Koochiching	West Rat Root River Peatland
Lake	Sand Lake Peatland
Lake of the Woods/Beltrami	Mulligan Lake Peatland
Lake of the Woods	Norris Camp Peatland
Lake of the Woods	Winter Road Lake Peatland
Roseau	Luxemborg Peatland
Roseau	Pine Creek Peatland
Roseau	Sprague Creek Peatland
St. Louis	Lost Lake Peatland
St. Louis	Wawina Peatland

STATE PARKS

All state parks are refuges by law, but some are opened to hunting by permit. State park vehicle permits are required on all vehicles taken into Minnesota State Parks. Forestville State Park (Fillmore County) is open to taking raccoons, by permit. Itasca State Park is open to firearms deer hunting during the Zone 2A season but is closed during the Muzzleloader and Archery Seasons (see page 81). Other information about State Parks open to hunting is found on pages 76, 82 and 85.

FEDERAL LANDS

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS

Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are open to public hunting except where posted otherwise. Migratory birds, upland game birds,

small game, big game, and furbearers may be hunted and trapped in accordance with state and federal seasons and regulations. Consult federal Wetland District Managers for other specific public use regulations.

General Restrictions

- Small game hunters using shotguns are required to use and possess only nontoxic shot.
- Motorized vehicles and motorized watercraft are prohibited on all waterfowl production areas, except on designated parking areas, access roads, and public roads. Permits to operate vehicles on other roads may be available for hunters with disabilities—consult the Wetland District Manager.
- Camping, campfires, and overnight parking are prohibited on all waterfowl production areas, including designated parking areas.
- The use of nails, wire, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter, is prohibited. Portable or temporary hunting blinds or stands must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- The destruction, defacement, disturbance, or unauthorized removal of any natural object or government property is prohibited.
- Plants and animals cannot be introduced, liberated, or placed on WPAs.
- Disposing of animal carcasses, trash, refuse, rocks, wood, or other debris is prohibited.
- Cutting, mowing, sawing, digging, collecting, injuring, or removing vegetation is prohibited.
- Distribution of feed or bait, or hunting over bait is prohibited.

Artificial Lights

A person may not use or direct the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any wild animal within the boundaries of a WPA.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Portions of National Wildlife Refuges are open to hunting and trapping in accordance with state and federal regulations. For hunting maps and regulations, write either to the specific refuge office or to: Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056.

General Restrictions

- Hunting with the use of any type of bait, including salt or mineral blocks, is prohibited on all National Wildlife Refuges.
- It is illegal to possess alcoholic beverages while hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges.

Motorized Use

- Motorized vehicles and motorized watercraft are prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges except on designated access roads and parking areas, on public roads, or when authorized with a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Motorized watercraft are allowed without a permit on designated waters of the Tamarac and Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuges.

Trapping

A person may not trap in a National Wildlife Refuge without first obtaining a permit issued by the refuge manager.

Artificial Lights

A person may not use or direct the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal within the boundaries of any national wildlife refuge or along rights-of-way for public or private roads within a national wildlife refuge.

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (Marshall County)

Big Game: This refuge is open only to firearms deer hunting in accordance with the Zone 2A season, except in areas posted with “Area Closed” signs or as shown on a maps available at parking areas and in deer hunting brochures available at kiosks along Marshall County Road 7 and at Refuge Headquarters. It is closed during the muzzle loader season. A wheelchair-accessible hunting platform is available for reservation at Refuge Headquarters, 22996 290th Street NE, Middle River, MN 56737-9754, phone 218/449-4115. The refuge is in Antlerless Permit Area No. 203, which includes Elm Lake, Eckvoll, and Mud Lac state wildlife management areas.



Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

(Big Stone and Lac qui Parle Counties)

Small Game: Portions of the refuge are open to cottontail rabbit, jack rabbit, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, red and gray fox, Hungarian partridge, and pheasant firearms hunting. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting partridge or pheasants. Open areas are posted with “Public Hunting Area” signs or shown on maps avail-

able at parking areas and Refuge Headquarters, RR1 Box 25, Odessa, MN 56276.

Deer: Portions of the refuge are open to firearms, muzzleloader, and archery deer hunting. Open areas are posted with “Public Hunting Area” signs or shown on maps available at refuge headquarters. This is part of Antlerless Permit Area 433. Portions of the refuge are open for the Muzzleloader Season. A wheelchair-accessible hunting platform is available for reservation—call (320) 273-2191.

Wild Turkey: Portions of the refuge are open to wild turkey hunting subject to state regulations and permit. Open areas are posted with “Public Hunting Area” signs or shown on maps available at refuge headquarters.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Hennepin, Scott, Carver and Dakota Counties)

Small Game: The Minnesota State seasons and limits apply on the Rapids Lake Unit. The Louisville Swamp Unit, south of the Middle Road is open to small game hunting except for furbearers and crows consistent with state regulations. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed in both units. The use or possession of center-fire rifles and handguns is prohibited on the refuge. Single projectiles may not be used or possessed in the Louisville Swamp Unit.

Wild Turkey: The Rapids Lake Unit and the Louisville Swamp Unit south of the Middle Road are open to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may use bow and arrow or modern shotguns (20 gauge or larger) in both units. Muzzleloading shotguns may also be used in the Rapids Lake Unit. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed.

Waterfowl: Rice Lake, within the Wilkie Unit, east of old Highway 18 and west of Eagle Creek, is open to public waterfowl hunting. Waterfowl hunting is also permitted south of the Middle Road in the Louisville Swamp Unit and also in the Rapids Lake Unit. Other areas may be open to waterfowl hunting by special permit for hunters with disabilities or through the Young Waterfowlers Program. The use of gas or electric motors is prohibited on all refuge waters.

Deer: The Wilkie and Louisville Units and the Carver Rapids State Wayside are open to archery deer hunting in accordance with state regulations. The Rapids Lake Unit is open to archery, shotgun and muzzleloader deer hunting in accordance with state regulations. Only portable stands may be used and must not be left overnight. For additional information, contact the Refuge Visitor Center, 3815 E. 80th Street, Bloomington, MN 55425. Phone: (952) 854-5900.



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Rice Lake and Sandstone National Wildlife Refuges (Aitkin and Pine Counties)

Small Game: Portions of these refuges are open to cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, woodcock, and snipe firearms hunting. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting with shotguns for upland game or any migratory game birds. Open areas are posted with “Public Hunting Area” signs or shown on maps available at Refuge Headquarters, 36289 State Hwy. 65, McGregor, MN 55760.

Deer: Archery hunting is allowed on the Rice Lake and Sandstone Refuges in designated areas. Rice Lake refuge is also open to firearms either-sex deer hunting November 13–21 as Special Permit Area 901 (see page 76). Maps showing open areas are available from refuge headquarters or by calling (218) 768-2402.

The refuges are closed to muzzleloader hunting during the Muzzleloader Season.



Rydell National Wildlife Refuge (Polk County)

Deer: The Refuge will be open for a special, antlerless firearms deer hunt for persons with disabilities on October 14–16. There will be a special youth-only antlerless hunt on October 30–31. Contact the Refuge headquarters for permit and hunt area information, Rydell NWR, Route 3, Box 105, Erskine, MN 56535. Phone (800) 841-0172, or (218) 687-2229.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Sherburne County)

Small Game and Waterfowl: Portions of the Refuge are open to cottontail rabbit, jack rabbit, snowshoe hare, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, ruffed grouse, pheasant, woodcock, snipe, rail, and waterfowl firearms hunting. The Refuge is not open for bear, coyote, fox, raccoon, crow, or wild turkey hunting. The Refuge is closed to goose hunting during the state special goose seasons. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting with shotguns for upland game or any migratory game birds. Target shooting is prohibited. No person may hunt or possess firearms (including bows and arrows) in closed areas. Trapping is conducted only by Special Use Permit. Maps and additional information are available at Refuge Headquarters, 17076 293rd Avenue, Zimmerman, MN 55398. Phone (763) 389-3323.

Deer: Portions of the Refuge are open to archery and firearms deer hunting; maps are available at Refuge Headquarters. This is Deer Permit Area 224. Only portable tree stands or blinds that are removed at the end of each day are permitted. Occupying or using a

permanent stand or a stand left overnight is prohibited. The Refuge is closed to muzzleloader hunting during the Muzzleloader Season.

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (Becker County)

Small Game and Waterfowl: Portions of the refuge are open to firearms hunting of cottontail rabbit, jack rabbit, snowshoe hare, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, ruffed grouse, snipe, woodcock, ducks, rails, coots, geese, red fox, striped skunk, and raccoon. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting with shotguns for small game or any migratory birds. Dogs may not be used for fox or raccoon hunting. The refuge is not open for bear, moose, or wild turkey hunting. Open areas are marked on maps available at Refuge Headquarters, 35704 County Road 26, Rochert, MN 56578.

Deer: Portions of the refuge are open to archery, muzzleloader, and firearms deer hunting. This is Antlerless Permit Area 251. Maps showing open areas are available at refuge headquarters.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Wabasha, Winona, and Houston Counties)

Portions of the refuge are open to hunting, with the following exceptions: Hunting is prohibited between March 15 and the opening of the Fall Hunting seasons, except that wild turkey hunting is allowed during the spring turkey season. In posted closed areas, hunting for all legal species except migratory birds is permitted beginning after the close of the state duck hunting season. Only non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting with shotguns for any permitted birds or other small game, except wild turkeys. Lead shot may be used for turkey hunting. All decoys must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt. For more information, contact: Refuge Headquarters, 51 East 4th Street, Room 101, Winona, MN 55987.

NATIONAL FOREST LANDS IN MINNESOTA

National Forest lands in Minnesota are open to hunting and trapping. For information, contact: Chippewa National Forest, 200 Ash Ave. NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633, (218) 335-8600; or Superior National Forest, 8901 Grand Ave. Place, Duluth, MN 55808, (218) 626-4300.

General Regulations on National Forest Lands:

State hunting, and other OHV regulations apply on National Forest lands, except as otherwise stated below or in National Forest regulations, 36 CFR Part 261.

- Only portable tree stands or blinds that do not damage trees and that are removed at the end of the hunt are permitted. Portable

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stand anchor devices, screw-in steps and minimal limbing of lateral branches to facilitate stand placement are allowed.

- Commercial activities such as outfitting and guiding may not be conducted without a Forest Service permit.

The following are prohibited:

- Cutting or damaging of trees (for example: shooting lanes).
- Constructing or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure or improvement (for example: ATV trail or permanent stand).
- Occupying or using a permanent stand.
- Storing or abandoning any personal property.
- Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property: 1) within 150 yards of a building, campground, developed recreation site or occupied area, or 2) across or on a forest road or body of water adjacent thereto, or in a manner or place where a person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.
- Dumping of any refuse, debris, trash or litter.
- Damaging or removing any natural feature or federal property.

Chippewa National Forest (Beltrami, Cass, and Itasca Counties)

- RMVs may operate on forest roads or trails unless posted closed, gated or bermed to restrict motorized use.
- Snowmobiles may operate on unplowed forest roads.
- RMV cross-country travel off roads and trails is prohibited.
- Launching or retrieving a boat with a trailer is prohibited except at a designated boat ramp.

Superior National Forest (Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties)

- RMVs are allowed on “minor woods roads” (roads not maintained for passenger cars) and trails except those designated as closed.
- Snowmobiles may be used on unplowed roads except those posted as closed.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LANDS

Voyageurs National Park

Hunting and trapping wild animals on public land within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park is prohibited. Maps showing the boundaries of the park are available from Voyageurs National Park, Box 50, International Falls, MN, 56649.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Trapping of wild animals on certain lands within the boundaries of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is prohibited by federal

law. Maps showing the closed areas are available from: National Park Service, P.O. Box 708, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024.

COUNTY LANDS

Cass County Managed Forest Lands

- Tree stands that damage trees are not allowed; no nails, bolts, or screws. All new tree stands that damage trees will be removed; old tree stands will be removed as timber sales take place in an area.
- The county encourages portable tree stands, freestanding stands, and any tree stands that do not damage trees.

TRIBAL LANDS

LANDS OF THE RED LAKE CHIPPEWA BAND

Lands belonging to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties are closed to non-band members except by special authorization of the tribal council. Persons taking, tagging, and transporting deer from reservation lands on the Northwest Angle in accordance with the Red Lake Band Code do not need a state license.

OTHER TRIBAL LANDS

- Nett Lake in Koochiching and St. Louis counties is closed to hunting by non-band members, except for duck hunting when accompanied by a band-member guide.
- Other reservation lands may be open for hunting or trapping to non-band members by authorization of the reservations. All non-band members who are hunting or trapping on reservation lands must comply with all state regulations, including licensing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

General Information and Licensing

DNR Information and License Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
Metro: (651) 296-6157
Toll-free: (888) 646-6367
Telecommunications for the Deaf:
(651) 296-5484 or (800) 657-3929 TDD
Internet: www.dnr.state.mn.us

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**TO REPORT GAME AND FISH LAW
VIOLATIONS, CALL 24 HOURS A
DAY 1-800-652-9093**



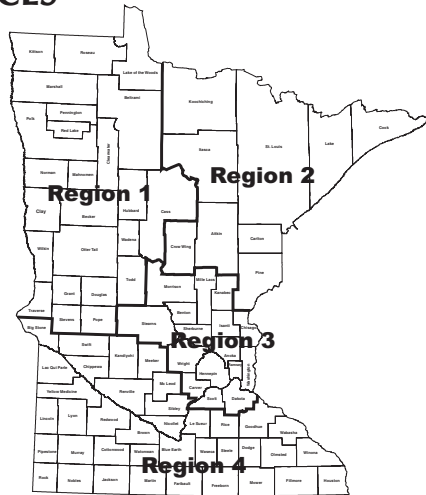
DNR WILDLIFE OFFICES

NORTHWEST (REGION 1)
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

NORTHEAST (REGION 2)
1201 E. Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

CENTRAL (REGION 3)
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

SOUTH (REGION 4)
261 Highway 15 South
New Ulm, MN 56073



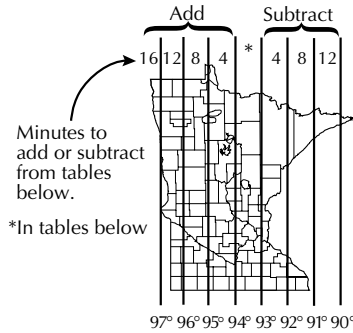
SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

Nine hunting time zones are shown on the map to the right. Sunrise and sunset times to be used for hunting purposes in the "In Table" zone are shown in the table* below and at right. To determine times for other zones, add or subtract, as appropriate, the minutes shown at the top of the map to the times shown in the table. Times shown are Central Daylight Saving Time through October 30, 2004 and Central Standard Time thereafter.

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.	
	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM
1	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:53	6:52	5:01
2	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	6:53	4:59
3	6:38	7:46	7:14	6:49	6:55	4:58
4	6:39	7:44	7:15	6:47	6:56	4:57
5	6:40	7:42	7:17	6:45	6:58	4:55
6	6:42	7:40	7:18	6:44	6:59	4:54
7	6:43	7:38	7:19	6:42	7:00	4:53
8	6:44	7:36	7:20	6:40	7:02	4:52
9	6:45	7:34	7:22	6:38	7:03	4:50
10	6:46	7:33	7:23	6:36	7:04	4:49
11	6:48	7:31	7:24	6:34	7:06	4:48
12	6:49	7:29	7:25	6:33	7:07	4:47
13	6:50	7:27	7:27	6:31	7:09	4:46
14	6:51	7:25	7:28	6:29	7:10	4:45
15	6:52	7:23	7:29	6:27	7:11	4:44
16	6:53	7:21	7:31	6:26	7:13	4:43
17	6:55	7:19	7:32	6:24	7:14	4:42
18	6:56	7:17	7:33	6:22	7:15	4:41
19	6:57	7:15	7:35	6:21	7:17	4:40
20	6:58	7:14	7:36	6:19	7:18	4:39
21	6:59	7:12	7:37	6:17	7:19	4:39
22	7:01	7:10	7:39	6:16	7:20	4:38
23	7:02	7:08	7:40	6:14	7:22	4:37
24	7:03	7:06	7:41	6:13	7:23	4:37
25	7:04	7:04	7:43	6:11	7:24	4:36
26	7:05	7:02	7:44	6:09	7:26	4:35
27	7:07	7:00	7:45	6:08	7:27	4:35
28	7:08	6:58	7:47	6:06	7:28	4:34
29	7:09	6:57	7:48	6:05	7:29	4:34
30	7:10	6:55	7:49	6:04	7:30	4:33
31			6:51	5:02		

PUBLIC LANDS & WILDLIFE REFUGES

2004 Minnesota Hunting Regulations



Source: U.S. Naval Observatory

DEC.		JAN.		FEB.		DAY
Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	
7:31	4:33	7:51	4:42	7:33	5:20	1
7:33	4:33	7:51	4:43	7:32	5:22	2
7:34	4:32	7:51	4:44	7:31	5:23	3
7:35	4:32	7:51	4:45	7:30	5:25	4
7:36	4:32	7:51	4:46	7:29	5:26	5
7:37	4:32	7:51	4:47	7:27	5:28	6
7:38	4:32	7:51	4:48	7:26	5:29	7
7:39	4:32	7:51	4:49	7:25	5:30	8
7:40	4:32	7:50	4:50	7:23	5:32	9
7:41	4:32	7:50	4:51	7:22	5:33	10
7:41	4:32	7:50	4:52	7:21	5:35	11
7:42	4:32	7:49	4:54	7:19	5:36	12
7:43	4:32	7:49	4:55	7:18	5:38	13
7:44	4:32	7:48	4:56	7:16	5:39	14
7:45	4:32	7:48	4:57	7:15	5:40	15
7:45	4:33	7:47	4:58	7:13	5:42	16
7:46	4:33	7:47	5:00	7:12	5:43	17
7:47	4:33	7:46	5:01	7:10	5:45	18
7:47	4:34	7:45	5:02	7:09	5:46	19
7:48	4:34	7:45	5:04	7:07	5:47	20
7:48	4:35	7:44	5:05	7:05	5:49	21
7:49	4:35	7:43	5:06	7:04	5:50	22
7:49	4:36	7:42	5:08	7:02	5:52	23
7:50	4:36	7:42	5:09	7:00	5:53	24
7:50	4:37	7:41	5:10	6:59	5:54	25
7:50	4:38	7:40	5:12	6:57	5:56	26
7:51	4:38	7:39	5:13	6:55	5:57	27
7:51	4:39	7:38	5:15	6:54	5:58	28
7:51	4:40	7:37	5:16			29
7:51	4:41	7:36	5:17			30
7:51	4:42	7:35	5:19			31

What do tens of thousands of Minnesota motorists have in common?



They've already joined the effort to protect Minnesota's natural resources by purchasing a Critical Habitat License Plate for their vehicles. These special plates, also known as Conservation License Plates, have generated more than \$10 million since they went on sale, enabling the Department of Natural Resources to purchase critical habitat lands for wildlife management, scientific research, and conservation.

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