

DEER • BEAR • MOOSE • SMALL GAME • WILD TURKEY • WILD RICE • WATERFOWL

# 2006 MINNESOTA HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS HANDBOOK



*CRP and RIM:  
Keys to future of  
hunting –  
back cover*

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**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, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

## WELCOME

Welcome to the 2006 Minnesota hunting seasons. New regulations for this year are listed below. Have a safe and enjoyable hunt.

### NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2006

- Complete waterfowl regulations can be found in the 2006 Waterfowl Supplement, available online in mid-August and wherever licenses are sold in late August.
- A youth firearms deer license for the firearms season is valid for all of the regular firearms zone/season options (see page 62).
- The price of the early antlerless permit has been reduced to \$6.50.
- The all-season deer license has three tags; no more than one buck may be tagged, and up to three antlerless deer may be tagged under certain conditions. Refer to individual deer season sections.
- Big game tags and licenses must be validated at the kill site. The animal may be transported by dragging, carrying, or carting to a motor vehicle or camp without being tagged, provided the validated tag is in the possession of the person transporting the animal. At all other times the validated tag must be attached to the animal (see page 65).
- Smokeless (nitro-based) powder is prohibited during the muzzleloader deer season (see page 58).
- The deer season rifle zone is expanded to include the Red River valley area of northwestern Minnesota (see page 75).

**(continued)**

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**On the Cover:** Illustration by Ron Finger, Red Pine Studios, Baxter, Minnesota.

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## NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2006 (CONTINUED)

- Deer other than white-tailed or mule deer are not protected by the Game and Fish laws. If you shoot another species of deer, you must report it to DNR within 7 days.
- Deer areas 410, 411, 414, 415, 419, and 429 have been moved to Zone 2 and renumbered. Refer to the large map prior to purchasing a license.
- Deer areas 417 and 418 have been split, with the portions north of Hwy 55 moved to Zone 2 and numbered deer area 218. Refer to the large map prior to purchasing a license.
- Deer areas 412 and 413 have been split, with the portions north of I-94 moved to Zone 2 and numbered deer area 213. Refer to the large map prior to purchasing a license.
- ATVs and snowmobiles may be used on private lands during the deer season (see page 28).
- Spring wild turkey shooting hours are extended to sunset (see page 97).
- Non-toxic shot is required when dove hunting on posted fields in certain Wildlife Management Areas (see page 56).
- Furbearer season opening dates have changed (see page 45).
- A reduced fee trapping license for residents age 65 or over will be available beginning March 1, 2007 (see page 42).
- Artificial lights may be used to take coyote and fox under certain conditions (see page 46).

### HUNTING WITH DISABILITIES

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

Crossbows: See pages 25 and 58.

Motor Vehicles: See page 27.


Grouse Hunting Near Motor Vehicles: see page 28.

Special Seasons: See page 73.

Blinds at some major WMAs: See page 105.

Deer Stands, Agassiz, Rydell and Big Stone NWR: See pages 116-121.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## What hunters should know about bird flu

Avian influenza (AI) occurs naturally in wild birds, especially waterfowl, gulls and shorebirds. There are many different strains of the disease, most of which only affect birds. However, the emergence of a particular Asian strain of this virus in 1996 and subsequent spread in Asia, Africa, and Europe has killed thousands of wild birds, millions of domestic poultry and more than 100 humans.

This highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) has not been found in North America. Because this strain could spread to this continent, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is actively cooperating with federal and state agencies to monitor for the disease in wild birds.

This fall, the DNR, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, will collect samples from approximately 2,000 wild birds statewide. Most samples will be collected from hunter harvested birds during bag checks. Other samples have been collected during banding efforts or from Canada geese being removed from urban areas.

By following these practical guidelines, hunters can significantly reduce their chance of exposure to a number of avian diseases, including salmonella and avian influenza:

- Do not handle or butcher birds that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning birds.
- Wear rubber gloves and washable clothing when cleaning game.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or disinfectant wipes immediately after handling game.
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach.
- Cook all meat to an internal temperature of 165° F as measured by a meat thermometer.

**More information on avian influenza, is available online at:**  
Minnesota DNR: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/waterfowl/  
avian\\_flu.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/waterfowl/avian_flu.html)

State of Minnesota: [www.birdflu.state.mn.us](http://www.birdflu.state.mn.us)

Federal: [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

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# 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.20-604.27)**

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.



## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Off-Highway Vehicles**

This year, off-highway vehicle information is listed on page 27.

### **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


## 2006 Hunting and Trapping License Fees

(Price does not include any additional fees charged for issuing license)

### 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
 Deer – Early Season Antlerless Permit	6.50
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
<b>LIFETIME LICENSES</b>	
<b>Fishing</b>	
age 3 and under	\$227
4 to age 15	\$300
16 to age 50	\$383
51 and over	\$203
<b>Small Game</b>	
age 3 and under	\$217
4 to age 15	\$290
16 to age 50	\$363
51 and over	\$213
<b>Sports</b>	
age 3 and under	\$357
4 to age 15	\$480
16 to age 50	\$612
51 and over	\$413
<b>Deer (firearms or archery)</b>	
age 3 and under	\$337
4 to age 15	\$450
16 to age 50	\$573
51 and over	\$383

### NONRESIDENT LICENSES

Deer – Firearms	135.00
Deer – Archery***	135.00
Deer – Multi-Zone Buck	270.00
Deer – Bonus Permit	67.50
 Deer – Early Season Antlerless Permit	33.75
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
<b>LIFETIME LICENSES</b>	
<b>Fishing</b>	
age 3 and under	\$447
4 to age 15	\$600
16 to age 50	\$773
51 and over	\$513
<b>Small Game</b>	
age 3 and under	\$947
4 to age 15	\$1,280
16 to age 50	\$1,633
51 and over	\$1,083

\* Available through lottery drawings only, except the No-Quota Bear License (see page 91).

\*\* 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.

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

## 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](http://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.

- **Residents** must meet legal residency requirements and if 21 or over must provide their MN Driver's License or MN Public Safety ID to obtain a license. Residents who have not purchased a Minnesota hunting or fishing license since 2003 must also provide their social security number.
- **Nonresidents** must provide their nonresident driver's license number or Minnesota DNR number from a prior ELS license, and social security number to obtain a license.
- To obtain a resident license, residents 21 years of age or older may present evidence showing proof of residency in cases when the requirement to possess a driver's license or identification card would violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, Public Law 103-141.
- **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 41).
- **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 state-wide lottery. Applications are made through ELS license agents or the DNR License Center in St. Paul.

## 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.

## Upgrading/Changing Firearms Deer Licenses

A person who has purchased a deer license and wishes to change a zone, license type, or season options may submit their original license and obtain a replacement license. There is a fee of \$5 (plus a 75¢ issuing fee) for the replacement license, plus any increase in cost for the new license. Replacement licenses are available from any ELS license agent. If a person submits both an archery and firearms license for replacement with an all season license, the value of both original licenses may be applied. Any replacement license may be issued before the season for the original license opens. A person may upgrade an archery or regular firearms license (or both) to a multi-zone buck license or all season license after the original season has opened, if none of the original tags have been used. The upgraded license is valid immediately upon issue.

## FIREARMS SAFETY CERTIFICATES

**Important!** Youth must meet all license and certificate requirements. See the chart on page 38. In addition, anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 must have a Firearms Safety Certificate (or equivalent), a previous hunting license with a valid firearms safety indicator 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.

### 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 125).

- Youth age 12 and under may hunt small game without a firearms safety certificate, if accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Youth age 11 and under may hunt wild turkeys without a firearms safety certificate if accompanied by a parent or guardian who has a certificate.
- 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 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.

### 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 Web site ([www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://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.

- 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 license agent (state stamps not required).
- Residents who are currently serving, or have served at any time during the past 24 months, in active service as a member of the United States armed forces, including the National Guard or other military reserves, will receive first preference in drawings for antlerless deer permits and turkey permits.  
Note: Military personnel and veterans 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 78). 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 Web site (addresses on page 125).
- Purchase hunting licenses by telephone or internet: Call **1-888-MNLICENSE** (1-888-665-4236) or go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). See box on page 21 for additional information.
- Nonresidents may trap in Minnesota only on their own land and with a nonresident trapping license.
- 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.

### Wild Turkey Stamp

See page 96.

### State Pheasant and Migratory Waterfowl Stamps

Resident hunters age 18 through 64, and all non-resident hunters, must have a valid Minnesota Pheasant Stamp or Minnesota Migratory Waterfowl Stamp (State Duck Stamp) or stamp validation (valid for 30 days after purchase only) in their possession while hunting or taking pheasants or migratory waterfowl respectively, except: a) residents who are hunting on their own land, b) persons hunting on a licensed commercial shooting preserve, c) persons taking only marked waterfowl released on a commercial shooting preserve, or d) 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.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### What are stamp dollars used for?

Funds generated by Duck, Pheasant, and Turkey Stamps are used for a variety of wildlife related projects such as Wildlife Management Area acquisitions; forest, grassland and wetland improvement projects; and research designed to improve our ability to manage wildlife populations. In 2005 \$1.675 million were generated to support these important activities.



# 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.

## 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
- 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 20). 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.

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\* 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.

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 33, 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 58).

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

(Note: This section does not apply to the Muzzleloader Season, see page 86, 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 32), 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.

### **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.

# MOTORIZED VEHICLES

## 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 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 125.
- 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.

### 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. This restriction includes all motorized vehicles.

### Using Motor Vehicles During Deer Season

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. Landowners or persons authorized by landowners may operate snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles on their property at any time.
- 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 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 101-124.)

\* 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.

## 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 Web site for more information [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)).

### See the Following Additional Regulations

- OHV operation on WMAs, pages 104-105
- OHV operation on state forests, pages 113-114
- Motor vehicles on federal lands, page 122

## Dog Training

A person may not train hunting dogs afield on DNR administered lands from April 16 to July 14. A person may train hunting dogs afield on other lands.

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.

### **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.

### **Dates and Times Inclusive**

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

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **SALE OF ANIMAL PARTS**

Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, a person may possess, transport, buy, or sell the following inedible portions of law-

fully 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 86).

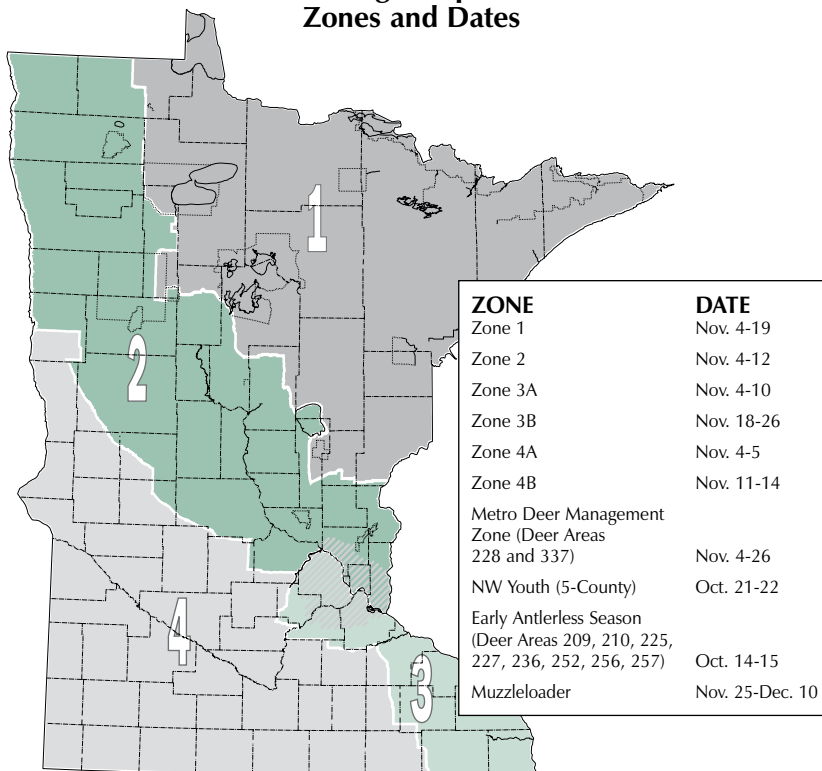


### TAX TIME IS YOUR TIME TO HELP WILDLIFE

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.



## Blaze Orange Requirements Zones and Dates



**Note:** Consult the deer regulations section for restrictions within the dates in the box or see the Deer Zone/Area Map (available anywhere hunting licenses are sold) for additional details. See large fold-out map for exact zone boundaries.


**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.

## 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 24); or
- b) A bow that is completely encased or unstrung and in the trunk\* of a motor vehicle.
-  c) A person hunting for coyote or red fox from Jan. 1 to March 15 may use an artificial handheld light under the following conditions:
  - While on foot and not within a public right of way
  - Using a shotgun
  - Using a calling device
  - Not within 200 feet of 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.

\* 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.

- 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.

## **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.

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# YOUTH HUNTING INFORMATION

## YOUTH SMALL GAME HUNTS

**Take a Kid Hunting Weekend—September 23-24** Small game hunting is one of the best ways to introduce young people to hunting. Even if you don't normally hunt small game, the DNR is encouraging you to take a young person. During Take-A-Kid-Hunting Weekend adults residents who are accompanied by a youth under age 16 may hunt small game without a license, but must comply with open seasons, limits and other regulations.

**Youth Waterfowl Day—September 16 (tentative)** To provide a quality opportunity to introduce young people to waterfowl hunting, youth age 15 or younger may hunt waterfowl for this one day. An adult mentor 18 years or older who is authorized by the youth's parent or guardian must accompany the youth hunter at all times. The DNR encourages you to introduce a young person that might not otherwise get a chance to hunt, and teach them how to hunt safely and ethically.

**Future Pheasant Hunters Weekend—October 28-29** Together with Pheasants Forever chapters in Minnesota, the DNR is encouraging Minnesota pheasant hunters to introduce a young person to pheasant hunting. Several PF chapters have been mentoring youngsters who have limited hunting opportunities, and will be taking them in the field this weekend as a culmination of their training. All regular pheasant hunting regulations are in effect.

**Other Special Youth Hunts** The DNR and partnering non-profit organizations offer other special youth hunts, particularly turkey hunts in the spring. The schedule of spring youth turkey hunts is not set until the winter. Visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/harr/index.html> for information.

## SPECIAL YOUTH DEER HUNTS

**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 at 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul. Group applications are not allowed. A drawing will be held if applications exceed available permits for each hunt. Unsuccessful appli-

cants 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 the regular deer seasons. The application deadline is August 18.

**Youth firearms deer hunts** Applicants for youth firearms special deer hunts must be at least 12 years old and under age 16 at the time of the hunt. 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 back of large deer zone map, available separately).

**Youth archery hunts** Applicants for special youth archery hunts must be at least 12 years old and under age 18 at the time of the hunt. 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 before the start of the hunt.

## SPECIAL YOUTH DEER SEASON

**Northwest Minnesota special youth antlerless deer season (Oct. 21-22)** Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington and Roseau counties are open Oct. 21-22 for taking antlerless deer by firearms for youth at least 12 and under age 15 at the time of the hunt. 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. No special permit is required.

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 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.

## Resident License and Firearms Safety Certificate Requirements

AGE		11 years and younger	12 years old	13 years old	14 and 15 years old	16 and 17 years old	18 years and older
Small Game License		Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Must Buy $\Delta$ (Youth License)	Must buy. $\Delta$
Firearms Safety (FAS) Certificate		Not required.*	Required, for big-game and turkey hunting.*	Must have in possession.*	Must have in possession.	Required**	Required if born on or after 1/1/80.**
Wild Turkey License		Must buy.*	Must buy.*	Must buy.*	Must buy.	Must buy.	Must buy. Turkey stamp also required.
Trapping License		Not required.	Not required.	Junior Trapping License required.	Junior Trapping License required.	Junior Trapping License required.	Regular Trapping License required.
Pheasant Stamp		Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Not required.	Ages 18-64 must buy. $\Delta$
Duck Stamps		Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Federal stamp required.	Federal stamp required.***
Special Canada Goose Permit		Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.*	Not required.	Not required.	Ages 18 to 64 must buy. $\Delta$
Big Game Firearms Licenses†		May not hunt.*	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.*	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.*	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.	Must buy. See FAS requirements above.
Big Game Archery Licenses †		May not hunt.*	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.*	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.*	Must buy and must possess FAS certificate.	Must buy.	Must buy.

## TYPE OF LICENSE

\* Must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

\*\* Not required to hunt by archery.

\*\*\* Age 18 to 64 must buy a state stamp, except persons hunting on their own land.

 $\Delta$  Except persons hunting on their own land.


## 2006 Special Youth Deer Hunt Schedule

Area Name	Type	County	Area No.	Dates	No. of Permits	Bag Limit	Orientation
Camp Ripley Youth Archery	Archery	Morrison	950	Oct. 6 to Oct. 8	150	1*	Oct. 6
Lake Alexander Preserve	Archery	Morrison	955	Oct. 6 to Oct. 8	20	1*	Oct. 6
Arden Hills Army Training Site A	Archery	Ramsey	951	Oct. 19 to Oct. 20	30	1*	Oct. 14
Arden Hills Army Training Site B	Archery	Ramsey	952	Oct. 21 to Oct. 22	30	1*	Oct. 14
Whitewater WMA Refuge	Archery & Firearms	Winona	953	Oct. 19 to Oct. 22	50	1*	Oct. 19
Lake Bemidji State Park	Firearms	Beltrami	954	Oct. 21 to Oct. 22	25	5*	Oct. 20
St. Croix State Park	Firearms	Pine	956	Oct. 28 to Oct. 29	100	1*	Oct. 27
Rydell National Wildlife Refuge	Firearms	Polk	957	Oct. 21 to Oct. 22	20	1*	Sept. 9
Savanna Portage	Firearms	Aitkin	958	Oct. 28 to Oct. 29	15	1*	Oct. 27

Bonus permits may be used to tag antlerless deer at all hunts.

\* Either sex.



**Youth Hunting Licenses** Reduced price individual youth licenses are available for residents under age 18 for firearms deer, archery deer and  small game (see page 17). The individual youth firearms license is valid in all firearms zones and seasons, except the muzzleloader season.

**Youth Antlerless Privilege in Lottery Deer Areas** Residents under the age of 18 may take a deer of either sex in lottery deer areas without having to apply for or obtain an either-sex permit. Youth age 12 to 17 should not apply for an either sex permit. **ONLY THE YOUTH LICENSEE MAY TAKE AN ANTLERLESS DEER IN A LOTTERY DEER AREA** without an either-sex permit. Other members of the hunting party cannot take antlerless deer for the youth.

**Firearms Safety Training** Demand for Firearms Safety Training Classes is high, and many classes fill very rapidly or have waiting lists. Finding a class well in advance of the hunting season is highly recommended. Youth may attend a class at age 11. Information on classes can be found on the DNR Web site at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/index.html>

## 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.

# SMALL GAME

## Important Dates:

See hunting and trapping season chart, pages 44-45.

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

## MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

See page 95.

## 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 23.
- All licensed hunters of migratory game birds (mourning doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, waterfowl, coots, or moorhens [gallinules]) 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.

## 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 through 64 must have a regular trapping license to trap. Residents age 65 and over must have a regular or reduced-fee trapping license (available March 1, 2007). Residents under age 13 do not need a trapping license.
- Any fisher, otter, bobcat, or pine marten taken by a resident under age five must be included in the limit of the accompanying parent or guardian.
- Nonresidents may obtain a license to trap on land they own in Minnesota.

# SMALL GAME HUNTING

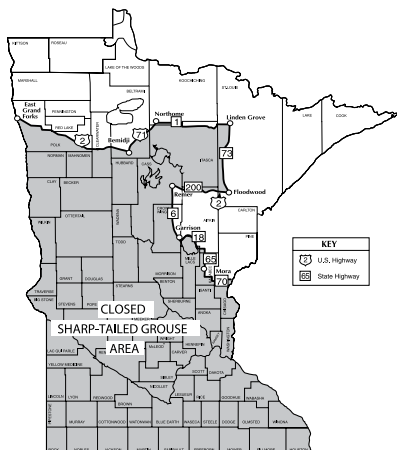
## GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

### Blaze Orange

Blaze orange is required for much small game hunting. See pages 31 and 32 for specifics.

### 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).

### 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, snipe, and moorhens [gallinules]).

### Use of Lead Shot

- No person may take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, or moorhens (gallinules) 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, and when hunting doves on posted dove fields in certain WMAs (see page 56).



### Prairie Chickens

- Portions of western Minnesota are open to prairie chicken hunting through a limited license drawing (see page 98).

### 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 41).
- 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.
- 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.

## 2006 Small Game Hunting Seasons

Small Game	Open Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Shooting/Hunting Hours
<b>Mammals*</b>				
Cottontail Rabbit, Jack-rabbit and Snowshoe Hare	Sept. 16–Feb. 28	10 combined	20 combined	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Gray and Fox Squirrel	Sept. 16–Feb. 28	7 combined	14 combined	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
<b>Non-Migratory Birds</b>				
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	Sept. 16–Jan. 1	5 combined	10 combined	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Sharp-tailed Grouse (in open zone)	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	3	6	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Hungarian Partridge	Sept. 16–Jan. 1	5	10	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Pheasant	Oct. 14–Jan. 1	2 roosters	6 roosters	9 a.m. to sunset
Prairie chicken (by special permit only)	Oct. 21–25	2	2	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
<b>Non-Migratory Small Game by Falconry</b>				
	Sept. 1–Feb. 28	10 rabbits, 7 squirrel, other small game: 3 combined, not to include more than 1 hen pheasant	20 rabbits, 14 squirrel, other small game: 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.
<b>Migratory Birds (except waterfowl; waterfowl season regulations are distributed in September)</b>				
Mourning Doves***	Sept. 1–Oct. 30	15	30	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset
Woodcock***	Sept. 23–Nov. 6	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	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset††
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 41.

††Except shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. on opening day of duck season, and end at 4 p.m. from the opening of the duck season through Oct. 7.



## 2006 Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Seasons

Furbearers	Open Season	Daily, Season, and Possession Limit	Shooting/Trapping Hours
<b>Furbearers (trapping)</b> Raccoon and Red Fox Gray Fox, Badger, Opossum Bobcat (open north of I-94 and US 10 only)*	Oct. 21–Mar. 15 Oct. 21–Mar. 15 Nov. 25–Jan. 7	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 Beaver Otter (open north of I-94 and US10 only)*	Nov. 25–Dec. 10 Oct. 28–Feb. 28 Oct. 28–May 15 Oct. 28–Jan. 7	5 combined No limit No limit 4	
<b>Furbearers (hunting)</b> Raccoon† and Red Fox***	Oct. 21–Mar. 15	No limit	Day or night except not before 9a.m. on opening day. Artificial lights see page 33.
Badger, Opossum	Oct. 21–Mar. 15	No limit	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset except 9 a.m. to sunset opening day.
Gray Fox***	Oct. 21–Mar. 15	No limit	Day or night except not before 9 a.m. on opening day.
Bobcat (open north of I-94 and US 10 only)* Coyote, striped skunk & other unprotected	Nov. 25–Jan. 7 Continuous	5 (includes trapping limit) No limit	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset. See page 26.

\* Furbearer Zone maps are on page 51.

\*\* 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.

† Raccoons may be run by the use of dogs during the closed season, without being taken, and without a license.

- 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 person may pursue and tree raccoons with dogs, during the closed season and without a license.
- A person may not take a raccoon in a den or hollow tree, or by cutting down a tree occupied by a raccoon.

## Fox and Coyote Night Hunting

A person hunting for coyote or red fox from Jan. 1 to March 15 may use an artificial handheld light under the following conditions:

- While on foot and not within a public right of way
- Using a shotgun
- Using a calling device
- Not within 200 feet of vehicle

## 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 (turkey, pheasant, 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.
- Other migratory game birds (doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots, and moorhens [gallinules]) must have feet and a fully feathered head attached.

### Turkey, Pheasant, Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Hungarian Partridge

**Option 1**  
Fully feathered head attached.



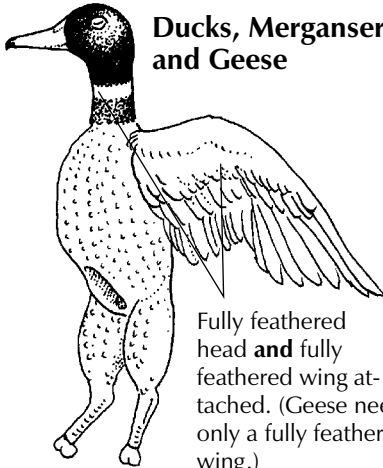
**Option 2**  
Fully feathered wing attached.



**Option 3**  
One leg and foot intact.



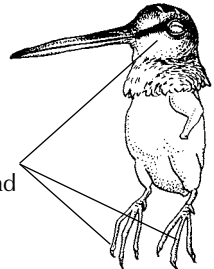
### Ducks, Mergansers, and Geese



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 fully feathered head attached.





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# TRAPPING

## GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

Any fisher, otter, bobcat, or pine marten taken by a resident under age five must be included in the limit of the accompanying parent or guardian.

### License Requirements

See page 41.

 Effective March 1, 2007, a person born after December 31, 1989, who has not been issued a trapping license in a previous license year may not obtain a trapping license without a trapper education certificate. The Minnesota Trappers Association will conduct trapper education courses statewide, free of charge to the participants, and issue certificates that satisfy this new trapping license requirement.

### Seasons

See page 45.

**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.

## 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 8¾ 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.

## 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.

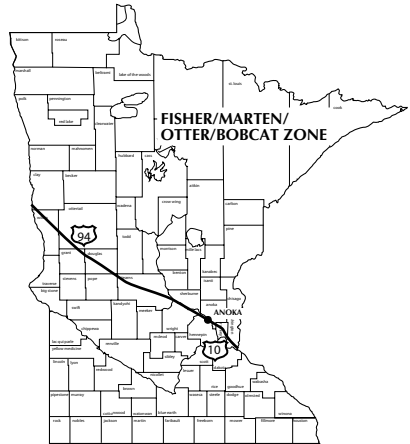
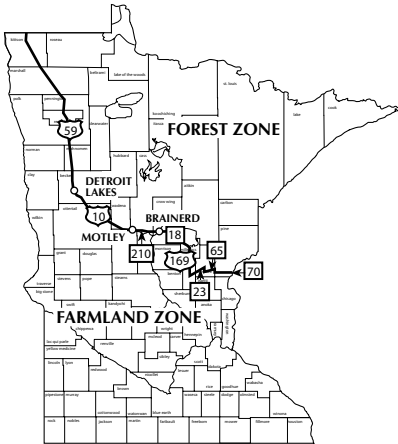
## Trap Tampering

- 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.

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\* 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.

## FURBEARER ZONES




### 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.
- 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.
- 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

- Bears cannot be taken with snares.
-  • In the Farmland Furbearer Zone no person may set, place, or operate any snare except as a waterset. Snares are allowed on land in the Farmland Furbearer Zone from December 1 to March 31 except on public lands, road rights-of-way, or in fence lines along road rights-of-way. 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 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.

### 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 54) 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. Forms are available at wildlife offices and on the DNR Web site.

### 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 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 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the pelt not to exceed \$25 per 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 by a conservation officer.

#### **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. Contact DNR for further information on avoiding the accidental capture of lynx.

## Furbearer Registration Stations

Furbearers may be registered between noon and 7 p.m. on December 12, and between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on January 9 at the locations listed below or with any DNR area wildlife office throughout the season **by appointment only**.

### 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 Wildlife 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 (Dec. 12 only)
Forest Lake	DNR Carlos Avery Game Farm Office
Grand Marais	DNR Wildlife Office (Dec. 12 only)
Grand Rapids	DNR Regional Headquarters
Hibbing	DNR Forestry Office
Hinckley	DNR Fisheries Office (closed—see Sandstone)
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
Sandstone	DNR Wildlife Office (613 Highway 23 South)
St. Cloud	DNR Office (940 Industrial Drive, Suite 103, Sauk Rapids, MN)
Tower	DNR Office
Two Harbors	DNR Wildlife Office (Dec. 12 only)

# 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 41).**

## 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 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, 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](http://www.le.fws.gov/pdffiles/50_CFR_20.pdf)).

### **MANAGED DOVE FIELDS**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will manage dove fields for hunting on selected Wildlife Management Areas. On posted dove hunting fields, hunters may not use or possess lead shot. The following Wildlife Management Areas will have posted dove hunting fields: Red Buffalo WMA, Lac Qui Parle County; Lac Qui Parle WMA, Swift, Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle Counties; Coteau Pit WMA, Lincoln County; Hole-in-the-Mountain WMA, Lincoln County; Two Rivers WMA, Redwood County; Tiedemann WMA, Goodhue County; Whitewater WMA, Winona and Olmsted Counties; Carlos Avery WMA, Anoka and Chisago Counties.

**Note:** Posted dove hunting fields are considered baited under Federal waterfowl baiting regulations.

## Dove Hunting

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

## 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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) or by calling the DNR information number (see page 125). 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.

## LEGAL FIREARMS FOR BIG GAME

**Note:** see [www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/hunting/legalcartridges.html](http://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, a .50 A.E. (Action Express) handgun cartridge or a .30 caliber M-1;
- 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;
- muzzleloaders with scopes are legal during the regular firearms deer seasons, but are not allowed during the muzzleloader season except by special permit for hunters with a medically certified visual impairment (see

muzzleloader information below).


### Other Restrictions

- 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.
- Except for bears, a person may not take big game by archery while in possession of a firearm.


### Handguns

- Big game may be taken statewide with handguns that meet the definition of legal firearms.

### 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 non-magnifying scopes by special permit for persons with medically verified visual impairments. A permit application is available by calling the DNR Information Center.
-  • Smokeless (nitro) powder is prohibited during the muzzleloader season (black powder substitutes such as Pyrodex and other brands are legal).

## 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 7/8 inch.
- “Expandable” broadheads may be used to take big game if they meet the requirements above and: 1) are at least 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

*(continued on page 61)*

## 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.

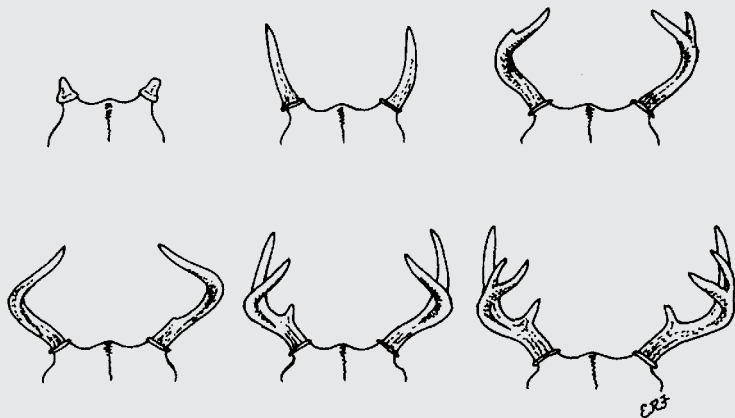
#### Yearling (1½ year old) buck antler variability

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.

#### 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.

#### Examples of 1½ year old bucks.



## Buck Antler Growth and Deer Management (cont.)

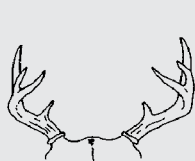
### Field judging buck age

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

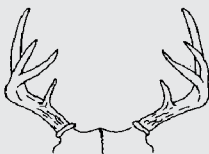
While it is very difficult to tell the difference between a 4½ and 7½ year old buck, here are some tips on determining if the buck is a yearling or older.

- Yearling bucks (1½ years old) will have smaller faces and relatively thin necks, even during the rut.
- At 2½ 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 2½ 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.

### Typical antler development from 1½ to 5½ years of age.



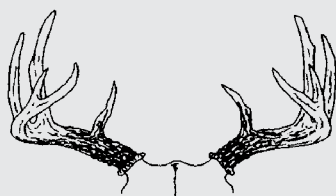
1½ years



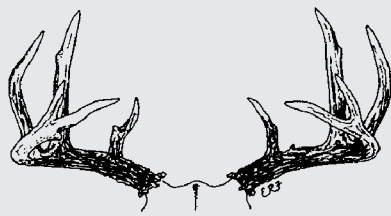
2½ years



3½ years



4½ years



5½ years

This information is provided for general reference only. Unless you are participating in a hunt with special regulations, it is up to the individual hunter to decide what type of deer he or she wants to bring home.

(continued from page 58)

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 125.

## SHOOTING HOURS

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

## 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.

# DEER—GENERAL

### Important Dates:

- Sept. 7 (Thursday): Antlerless Deer and Special Area Permit application deadline.
- Sept. 16: Archery opening date.
- Nov. 4: General Firearms opening date.
- Nov. 25: Muzzleloader opening date.
- Nov. 3, 2007: Firearms Deer opening date for 2007.

## GENERAL DEER INFORMATION

### 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 18 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 in a lottery deer area without an either-sex permit. Only the authorized youth or disabled hunters may shoot and tag the antlerless deer in a lottery deer area (no party hunting).
- A person may purchase no more than one Firearms Deer License and one Archery Deer License in a calendar year, except that bonus and early antlerless 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 during the Zone 3B season.
- 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.
- 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.

### Deer Licenses and Permit Types

**Youth archery license** – Residents under age 18 as of Sept. 16 may purchase a reduced-price youth archery deer hunting license that has the same hunting and tagging options as for adult archery deer licenses.

 **Youth firearm license** – Residents under age 18 as of Nov. 4 may purchase a reduced-price youth firearm license. The license is valid in all firearm zones and seasons, except the muzzleloader season.

**Regular archery license** – A regular archery license is valid for an either-sex deer statewide in any open area and season. Closed areas and season dates are listed on page 88.

**Regular firearm license** – A regular firearms or muzzleloader deer hunter must select a hunting period and zone from several options. 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, except any license choice is valid in the metro deer management zone (deer areas 228 and 337). The license is valid for an either-sex deer in any managed or intensive area or in a lottery area if successful in the lottery.

#### **All-Season Deer License**

- Up to three deer may be taken with this license, no more than one of which may be a legal buck.
- It comes with an either-sex tag (depending on area) and two antlerless only tags.
- **Either-sex tag options:**
  - o Can be used statewide during the archery or muzzleloader seasons.
  - o Can be used in all managed or intensive permit areas during the regular firearm season, except 3B
  - o The tag is valid for only bucks in lottery deer areas during the firearm season unless the hunter has obtained a lottery either-sex permit.
  - o In all deer areas, the tag is valid for only bucks in a specific season (archery, firearms, muzzleloader) if a hunter has already used both antlerless tags in the same season.

- **Antlerless only tag options:**

- o Both tags can be used during the archery or muzzleloader seasons in all open deer areas.
- o One tag can be used to take an antlerless deer during the firearm season if you apply for and draw an either-sex permit in a lottery deer area.
- o Both tags can be used during the firearm season in managed or intensive permit areas, except 3B.
- Party hunting is 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 and early season antlerless 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.
- Note: Only one antlerless deer can be taken during the firearm season in lottery deer areas and only if the hunter has obtained an either-sex permit for that deer area. Only two antlerless deer can be killed in any one season (archery, firearm, muzzleloader). To maximize opportunity, hunters should tag antlerless deer with their antlerless only tags first. For example, if you kill two antlerless deer in the firearm season, you should just use the antlerless only tags. That way, you can still take a buck during the firearm season or a deer of either sex in the muzzleloader or archery season. Using the tags in this order will maximize the number of antlerless deer you can take with this license.

### ***Multi-zone buck license***

- This license allows 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.
- You may not apply for antlerless or special area permits, however, you may purchase bonus permits

***Landowner deer license*** This license allow the taking of one antlerless deer per farm in managed and intensive deer areas. (See page 68).



### ***Bonus permits***

- Bonus permits are available to archery, firearms, and muzzleloader hunters to take antlerless deer in designated areas.
- One bonus permit may be used per year in one managed deer area. Up to four bonus permits may be used in intensive deer areas and some special hunts.
- 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.

### ***Early antlerless permits***

- Early season antlerless permits are available to hunters interested in participating in the early antlerless deer season in areas 209, 210, 225, 227, 236, 252, 256, and 257.
- Early season antlerless permits are only valid during the early antlerless deer season
- Up to two permits may be used during the early antlerless season.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) naturally occurs in North American deer and Rocky Mountain Elk. It belongs to a group of infectious diseases known as "transmissible spongiform encephalopathies" (TSEs). It is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion which affects the animal's brain and is invariably fatal. Usually, months to years pass from the time an animal is infected to when it shows signs of the disease.

Typical signs of the disease include drooping head or ears, poor body condition, tremors, stumbling, increased salivation, difficulty swallowing, or excessive thirst or urination. In Minnesota, nearly 28,000 deer have been tested and the disease has not been detected.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources continues surveillance of wild deer for the disease, but has completed statewide testing of hunter-harvested animals. The DNR will collect approximately 400 samples for CWD testing in Lac qui Parle County where a captive deer tested positive for the disease this past spring. See page 57 for information on importing deer, elk and other wild cervids.

## TAGGING

### How to Tag Your Deer and Validate Your License and 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 72).

#### At the kill site you must:

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 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. Validate the license by cutting out the validation notch.
4. 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. Note that this will require you to bring a piece of wire or string into the field with you.
  - Pull one end of the twine or wire through one of the pre-cut holes on the Site Tag. Secure ends of the wire or twine together. Note that tags no longer fold and are not adhesive.

#### Part 1: Site Tag

Minnesota DNR Site Tag

Traps # 01354297  
 Issued: 06/10/2006 11:50  
 Agent: 030114 Terminal: 3800034

MNDNR #: 002-004-729

JOSEPH SMITH SAMPLE  
 DOB: 05/20/1958 S/OB: 1923M M HAZEL eyes  
 Firearm Safety: MN000100604328

as NOT received

212 Res Deer Firearm

**RF 06**

AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION, PERSON LISTED ON LICENSE MUST PRESENT ANIMAL  
 You must notch/out date and time of kill on this site tag and attach to animal before removing from site of kill. Attach string/wire to animal as specified in regulations; place wire or string through one of the die cuts in license and tie tightly to animal.  
 (See regulations for further instructions.)

Notch time, date, and month here

Detach here

For May Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

MN Res Deer Firearm License/Reg Slip

Traps #01354297 Agent: 030114 Terminal: 3800034  
 Issued: 06/13/2006 09:11

MNDNR#: 999-912-348

JOHN TEST SMITH  
 123 CAPITAL DR  
 ST PAUL, MN 55105  
 DOB: 03/08/1948 S/OB: 200LBS M BLUE eyes  
 Drivers License: MN0123456789000  
 Firearm Safety: MN 999972348

212 Res Deer Firearm 27.00

Licensee Signature: [Signature]

License Fee: [Amount]

Month from which the registration fee was collected or date of license in the state for a period of 60 days commencing on the date of this registration. No license privileges and not otherwise needed.

MN Res Deer Firearm License/Reg Slip  
 MNDNR: 999-912-348

RF06-2A

Registration Station: [ ] Male Adult Faun [ ] Permit Area [ ]  
 [ ] Female Adult Faun [ ]  
 Possession Tag: [ ]  
 Month & Day of Kill (MM/DD): [ ] / [ ]

JOHN TEST SMITH

Cut out validation notch at kill site.

Part 2: License Always retain.

Part 3: Registration Slip You exchange this at the registration station for a Possession Tag.

Use twine or wire coming from deer ear, antler base, or leg and passing through one of the pre-cut holes in the Site Tag.



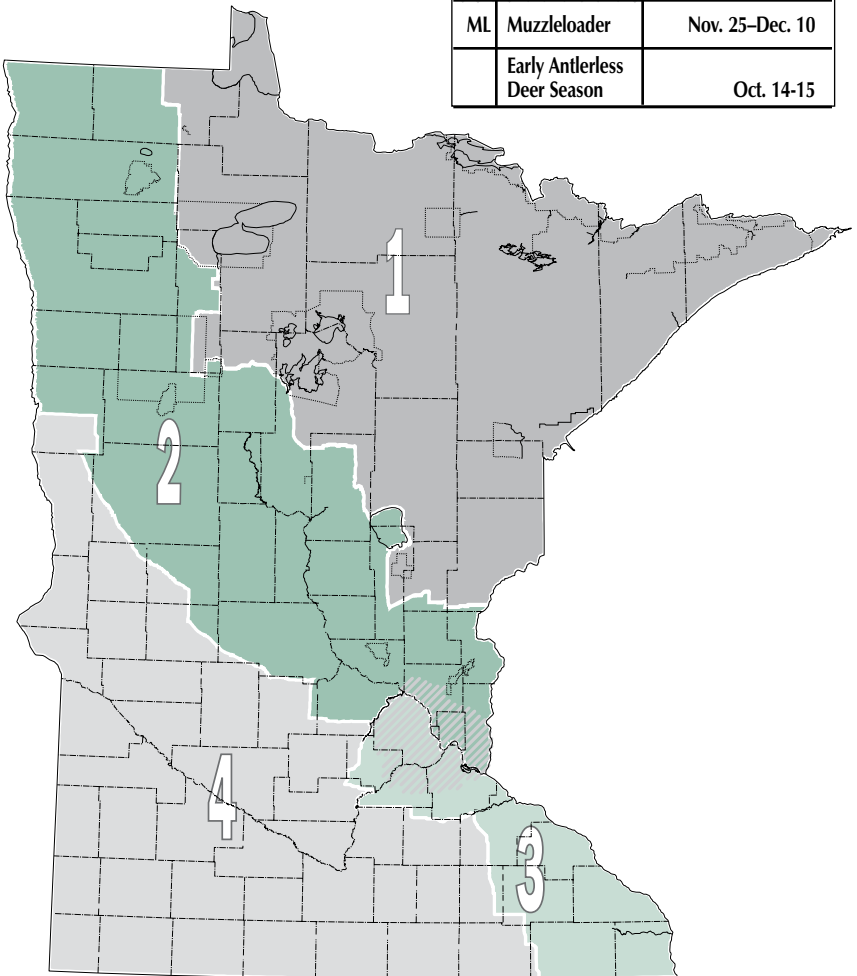
## NEW THIS YEAR

The animal may be moved from the kill site by dragging, carrying, or carting to a motor vehicle or camp without being tagged, provided the **validated** tag is in the possession of the person moving the animal. At all other times the validated tag must be attached to the animal.

# Minnesota 2006 Firearm Deer Season

Larger, complete map available separately.

1A	Zone 1A	Nov. 4-19
2A	Zone 2A	Nov. 4-12
3A	Zone 3A	Nov. 4-10
3B	Zone 3B	Nov. 18-26
4A	Zone 4A	Nov. 4-5
4B	Zone 4B	Nov. 11-14
Permit Areas 228 & 337	Metro Deer Mgmt. Zone	Nov. 4-26
ML	Muzzleloader	Nov. 25-Dec. 10
	Early Antlerless Deer Season	Oct. 14-15



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **Prevalence of Bovine TB remains low in deer**

In 2005, bovine tuberculosis (TB) was detected in five cattle herds in northwest Minnesota. Bovine TB is an infectious disease that affects cattle, however, other animals may become infected. Bovine TB is a progressive, chronic disease spread primarily through the exchange of respiratory secretions or sharing contaminated feed.

Continued testing by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has found no sign of widespread bovine TB among deer.

In the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006, the DNR tested 563 deer harvested by hunters or taken by landowners with shooting permits. Two deer tested positive for the disease. The deer were taken near or on farms where the disease was discovered in cattle herds. The DNR will conduct additional surveillance of hunter-harvested deer this fall to monitor infection in the local deer population.

To avoid contact with bovine TB and other wildlife pathogens the DNR recommends the following:

- Wear disposable rubber gloves when field dressing deer.
- Take precautions to avoid cutting yourself when field dressing a deer.
- All meats (including deer) should be thoroughly cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. This kills all known bacteria, including bovine TB and E. coli.

While it is possible to transmit bovine TB from animals to people, the likelihood is minimal. Most human tuberculosis is caused by the bacteria *M. tuberculosis*, which is spread from person to person and rarely infects animals.

## LANDOWNER FREE DEER LICENSE IN SELECTED AREAS

These licenses allow the taking of one antlerless deer per farm (in managed and intensive deer 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 areas **104, 105, 107, 110, 111, 114, 115, 122, 126, 154, 156, 157, 159, 167, 168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178, 180-184, 197, 201, 202, 204, 206-210, 213 -215, 218, 219, 221-223, 225, 227-229, 236, 239-249, 251-259, 297, 298, 337 -343, 345-349, 412, 420, 421, 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 license agent. 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 for agricultural purposes by the license holder within the deer 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 or permits. 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. Hunters must still obtain permission from the landowner, and it is up to the landowner to determine how much public hunting is appropriate on the property.

## BAG LIMITS FOR DEER


- Hunters may tag deer on both their firearms (including muzzleloader) and archery deer licenses. This provision applies statewide, however, hunters may only tag ONE buck per calendar year.
- Using all combinations of seasons, locations, and permits the maximum number of deer that can be tagged annually is five. The exceptions are:
  - o The early antlerless season where two additional deer may be taken.
  - o The metro deer management zone, which has no limit.
  - o Landowners can take one additional antlerless deer if they have a free landowner license.

**Lottery deer areas:** The bag limit is one deer except hunters tagging deer with both their archery and firearms license may take two deer and all-season hunters may take up to three deer. Bonus permits are not valid in lottery deer areas.

**Managed deer areas:** The bag limit for managed deer areas is two deer, except all-season license holders and hunters tagging deer with both their archery and firearms license may take three deer. Hunters may not

tag antlerless deer using a bonus permit in more than one managed deer area per year.

**Intensive deer areas:** Using any combination of licenses and permits, the bag limit for intensive deer areas is five deer.

 **Metro deer management zone:** There is no limit on the number of deer that may be taken in this zone.

## DEER AREA INFORMATION

### Statewide Antlerless Deer Information

In many deer 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 areas are divided into three categories: 1) lottery; 2) managed; and 3) intensive. In lottery deer areas, firearm hunters age 18 and over still need to apply for either-sex permits.

**The deadline is Sept. 7, 2006.** In managed and intensive deer areas, applications are not necessary. In these areas, either-sex and antlerless deer (bonus) 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 area where licensed. This information is being collected for survey purposes only. For more information, see details in this section of the handbook and the color map and table on the back of the large deer zone map (available separately).

### Deer Area Information

**Lottery deer areas.** If you hunt a lottery deer area and want to take an antlerless deer during the firearm season, you must apply for an either-sex permit by Sept. 7. If you are drawn, you will receive an authorization to take an either-sex deer in that area. If you have an all-season deer license, the authorization will allow you to take one antlerless deer in that area during the firearms season. Bonus permits are not valid in lottery deer areas.

In the following areas, firearms hunters may not take antlerless deer unless they have applied for and received an either-sex permit in the lottery application process. Archery and muzzleloader hunters may take a deer of either sex.

**2006 Lottery Deer Areas** – 116, 127, 152, 199, 203, 338A, 339A, 341A, 342A, 344\*, 416\*, 417\*, 422\*, 423\*, 424\*, 425\*, 426\*, 427\*, 428\*, 431\*, 433\*, 435\*, 440\*, 442\*, 443\*, 446\*, 447\*, 448\*, 449\*, 450\*, 451\*, 453\*, 454\*, 455\*, 457\*, 458\*, 459\*, 463\*

\*Denotes both the A and B seasons

(See large deer zone map, available separately.)

**Managed Deer areas.** If you hunt a managed deer area, you may take a deer of either sex by firearms on a regular or all-season license, or you may hunt bucks throughout your selected zone(s). No application for an either-sex permit is necessary.

In the following areas, firearm, archery, and muzzleloader hunters may take deer of either sex on their regular license and purchase one bonus permit to take an antlerless deer. All-season hunters may take an either-sex deer on their license but do not need to purchase bonus permits for use in managed areas because the license now comes with three tags. Multi-zone buck hunters must take an antlered buck on their license but may purchase one bonus permit.

**2006 Managed Deer Areas** – 104, 107, 114, 115, 122, 126, 154, 167, 168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178, 197, 201, 215, 218, 219, 223, 224, 235, 247, 249, 251, 297, 298, 343A, 345A, 347A, 348A, 338B, 339B, 412\*, 420\*, 421\*, 452\*, 456\*, 461\*, 462\*, 464\*, 465\*, 466\*

\*Denotes both the A and B seasons

**Intensive Deer areas.** If you hunt an intensive deer area, you may take a deer of either sex by firearms on a regular or all-season license, or you may hunt bucks throughout your selected zone(s). No application for an either-sex permit is necessary. In the following areas, firearm, archery, and muzzleloader hunters may take a deer of either sex on their regular license and purchase up to four bonus permits to take antlerless deer. All-season hunters may take an either-sex deer on their license, use both their antlerless tags, and purchase additional bonus permits. Multi-zone buck hunters must take an antlered buck on their license but may purchase up to four bonus permits.

**2006 Intensive Deer Areas**—Bonus permits are valid for taking additional antlerless deer, up to a grand total of five deer, in the following Intensive Deer Areas: 105, 110, 111, 156, 157, 159, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 202, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 213, 214, 221, 222, 225, 227, 228, 229, 236, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 287, 337\*, 341B, 342B, 343B, 345B, 346\*, 347B, 348B, 349\*, 467\*

\*Denotes both the A and B seasons

## HUNTING METHOD RESTRICTIONS



### Bait

- Liquid scents, salt, and minerals are not considered bait, unless they contain other foods defined below as bait.
- “Bait” is defined as grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay, or other food that is capable of attracting or enticing deer and that has been transported and placed by a person. This restriction does not apply to foods resulting

from normal or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities.

- Hunters are not allowed to use bait or hunt in the vicinity of bait that the hunter knows about or has reason to know about or hunt in the vicinity where bait has been placed within the previous ten days.

### Elevated Stands

- No person may take deer from a constructed platform or other structure that is higher than 16 feet. 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, only portable stands may be used. They must not be left overnight. Portable stand use is encouraged in State Forests (see page 111-114).
- In Scientific and Natural Areas open to hunting, no stands (including portable stands) may be used (however, see page 115 for possible changes in SNA rules).
- Any unoccupied, permanent stand or blind on public land is 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.
- 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 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, except by firearms in zone 3B.

**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.



## REGISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION

### Registration

- Every deer taken must be registered. Registration stations display large, orange “Big Game Registration” signs. You can find a complete list of all stations at any DNR Wildlife office or on the DNR Web site.
- 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 license); 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, except in the metro deer zone where they must be registered prior to transporting from the zone.

### 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.
- All deer in transport must be readily accessible for inspection by DNR conservation officers.
- 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 57).

## SPECIAL SEASONS FOR HUNTERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



Special deer hunts for hunters with physical disabilities are tentatively scheduled at a number of sites (table below). Additional hunts for disabled archers may be organized by Capable Partners, and are not listed here. For more information call the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINN DNR (888-646-6367).

Persons who are totally blind may use a laser sight to participate in assisted special hunting opportunities.

2006 Disabled Deer Hunts		
Hunt name	Dates	Location
Camp Ripley DAV St Cloud Veterans Hospital (320) 255-6480 x6059	Oct. 4-5	Morrison County
Carlos Avery WMA Sanctuary <a href="http://www.CapablePartners.org">www.CapablePartners.org</a> (763) 439-1038	Oct. 14-22	Anoka County
Lac Qui Parle Refuge <a href="http://www.CapablePartners.org">www.CapablePartners.org</a> (763) 439-1038	Sept. 16-24	Lac Qui Parle WMA
Rydell National Wildlife Refuge Options Resource Center (218) 773-6100	Oct. 12-14	Polk County
Lake Bemidji State Park MDHA(Bemidji Chapter) (800) 450-3337	Nov. 6-7	Beltrami County
Camp Wilderness Hunt United Foundation for Disabled Archers <a href="http://www.uffdaclub.com">http://www.uffdaclub.com</a>	Sept. 28–Oct 1	DMU 244, 245
Becklin Homestead Park WMA <a href="http://www.capablepartners.org">www.capablepartners.org</a> (763) 439-1038	Established seasons	Isanti County
Sand Prairie WMA <a href="http://www.capablepartners.org">www.capablepartners.org</a> (763) 439-1038	Oct. 14-Nov. 12	Sherburne County

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# DEER—FIREARMS

## Legal Buck and Antlerless Deer

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

## Rifle-Shotgun Boundary



- For 2006, the rifle-shotgun boundary has changed to include the Red River Valley. The new boundary goes west from state highway 32 along U.S. Highway 10 to the state line.
- In the shotgun zone (see map on the back of the large, deer zone map, available separately), deer hunters may use only legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzleloading long guns, or legal handguns.

## EARLY ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON

- Deer areas 209, 210, 225, 227, 236, 252, 256, and 257 are open October 14 and 15 for the taking of antlerless deer by firearms.
- Hunters must possess a valid zone license and an early antlerless deer permit. The following firearm licenses are valid:
  - Zone 2, multi-zone buck, all-season, and muzzleloader licenses are valid in all 8 deer areas.
- Zone 1, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B licensees cannot hunt during this season.
- Hunters may not tag deer with their regular firearms, multi-zone buck, antlerless tags of their all-season deer license, or bonus permit.
- All harvested deer must be tagged with an early season antlerless permit.
- All hunters may use any firearm that would be legal in these areas in the regular firearms season.

## METRO DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE

- The metro deer zone is comprised of deer areas 228 and 337.
- The season dates are November 4 to November 26.
- A firearm license valid for any zone or season option can be used in this zone. A person can hunt in the metro deer zone with a Zone 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, muzzleloader, multi-zone, or all-season license.
- At the time of license purchase, hunters should indicate the permit area they typically hunt during the regular deer season. The license is automatically valid in the metro deer management zone.
- All deer taken in this zone must be registered prior to transporting outside the zone.

ZONE/TIME OPTION*	DESCRIPTION	DATES
1A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 4–19
2A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 4–12
3A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 4–10
3B	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 18–26
4A	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 4-5
4B	Legal Buck or Antlerless as authorized	Nov. 11–14
Muzzleloader	Either Sex, Statewide except closed areas	Nov. 25–Dec. 10
* Resident youth hunters under age 18 may take deer of either sex without an either-sex permit.		

Northwest Minnesota Youth Deer Season – see page 37

Hunters with Disabilities: Either-Sex Deer Hunting – A disabled person with a permit to shoot from a motor vehicle may take a deer of either sex without an either-sex permit.

### EITHER-SEX AND SPECIAL HUNT AREA PERMITS

#### **Important!**

(The application deadline for Lottery either-sex and Special Area Permits is Thursday, Sept. 7. The deadline for special youth hunts (except the Northwest Special Youth Season) is Friday, August 18. 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 Nov. 4 and disabled persons with a permit to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle may take a deer of either sex in lottery deer 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.
- Multi-zone buck hunters may not apply for either-sex permits or special hunt area permits.
- All-Season deer hunters may apply in lottery deer areas or special hunts.

### Lottery Either-Sex Permits

- Either-sex permits allow a person to take a deer of either sex within the specified lottery deer area.
- Areas and permit quotas are shown on the large deer zone map, available separately.
- 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.

### Special Hunt Permits

- Special hunt permits are required to hunt deer in special permit areas 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.
- Those who receive a special hunt area permit 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 four hunters. See application instructions page 78.

## LOTTERY DEER AREAS

Firearms hunters who hunt a lottery deer area may apply for an either-sex permit by Thursday, Sept. 7, 2006. Winners will be notified by mail and will receive an authorization to take a deer of either-sex in that lottery deer area. Bonus permits cannot be used in lottery areas.

- Regular firearm – can take a buck or an either-sex deer if successful in the lottery
- Youth firearm and persons with a disability permit to shoot from a stationary motor vehicle – can take an either-sex deer without applying in the lottery
- All-season deer – can take a buck and one antlerless deer if successful in the lottery
- Multi-zone buck – can take a legal buck only

See page 69 for the list of lottery deer areas for 2006

## 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 by the Sept. 7 deadline. Applications can be completed as part of the process of purchasing your regular deer license.
- You may apply for only one area. 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. 4 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 21 or over must present their Minnesota Driver's License or Minnesota Identification Card 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 will be related to the type of license you are purchasing and the deer area you are interested in hunting. You can apply individually or as a group of up to four people. Make sure you check the large map and/or the tables in the book to ensure you are applying for the correct area. After completing the transaction, immediately check your receipt and deer license to make sure the agent entered your information correctly. This is the only time it can be changed.

### 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 23. 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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)) on Oct. 23 to view antlerless permit lottery results.
- If you submitted a valid application and are not notified by Oct. 23, you can assume your application was not selected this year, and that your preference will increase if you apply in a future year.

## MANAGED DEER AREAS

The number and type of deer you can kill in managed deer areas varies by license type. Below is a summary of the licenses and what type of deer may be harvested:

- Regular and youth firearm – can take a deer of either sex and use one bonus permit in one managed area. Hunters can take up to two deer total in managed deer areas.
- Multi-zone buck – can take a legal buck and use one bonus permit in one managed area. Hunters can take up to two deer total in managed areas.
- All-season deer - may take up to three deer in managed deer areas during the firearm season but only two can be antlerless. Hunters can tag an antlerless deer with their either-sex tag but are advised to use their antlerless-only tags first. All-season hunters do not need to purchase bonus permits for use in managed areas because the license now includes a third tag.

Refer to page 70 for a list of managed deer areas

## INTENSIVE DEER AREAS

Intensive deer areas have a bag limit of 5 deer total. Below is a summary of the licenses and what type of deer may be harvested:

- Regular and youth firearm – can take a deer of either sex and use up to four bonus permits in intensive permit areas.
- Multi-zone buck – can take a legal buck and use up to four bonus permits in intensive permit areas.
- All-season deer - may take up to three deer with that license during the firearm season but only two can be antlerless. Hunters can tag an antlerless deer with their either-sex tag but are advised to use their antlerless-only tags first. All-season hunters can purchase bonus permits and the bag limit in intensive areas is five deer.

Refer to page 70 for a list of intensive deer areas



## SPECIAL REGULATIONS ON SOME STATE PARKS

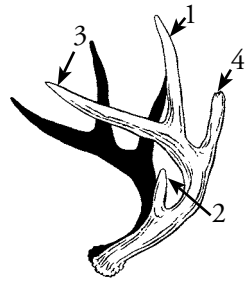
The Divisions of Parks and Fish and Wildlife are collaborating on a research project to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative regulations on deer populations. For 2006, two regulations will be tested: 1) antler point restrictions, and 2) the requirement to tag an antlerless deer prior to tagging a buck (earn-a-buck). Please refer to the following special hunt table to determine if your hunt has a special regulation. Successful applicants will be mailed additional information prior to the hunting season.

### Hunting in state parks with antler-point restrictions

#### How to count points

Depending on the park, a deer must have a minimum of either three or four points on one side to be taken.

- 1) An antler point, if it is at least 1-inch long
- 2) The brow tine, if it is at least 1-inch long
- 3) The end of the main beam
- 4) Any broken tine that is at least 1-inch long



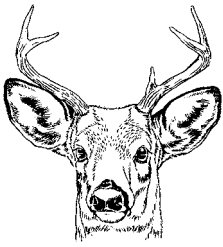
#### Hunting tips and how to field judge a buck

- The antler point restriction regulations are designed to protect at least half of the yearling (1½ year old) buck population. When field judging a buck, if it has a small body and thin neck, it may be a yearling.
- Bring binoculars and take the time to look at the antlers and count the points before you take a shot.
- Wait for the deer to turn broadside, it will make it easier to count points.

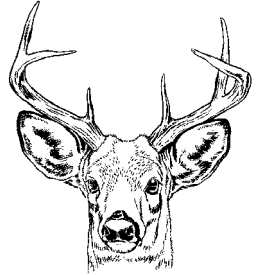
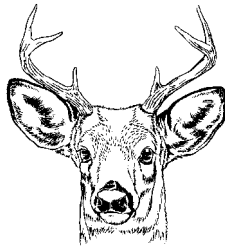
#### Legal to Harvest

At all state parks with antler point restrictions, does, button bucks, and bucks with spikes less than three inches are legal to take on regular licenses and bonus permits. However, to improve the effectiveness of the regulation, it is better to focus on does and not harvest button bucks or legal spikes. The following bucks meet the minimum standards for harvest. Bucks with more points than shown in the illustrations are also legal to harvest.

**Itasca and Savanna-Portage State Parks** – Bucks with at least three antler points on one side.

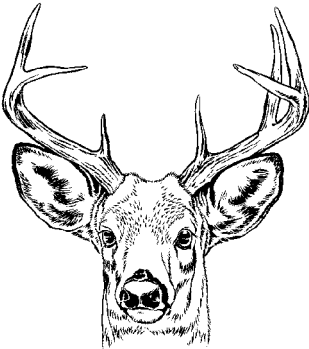


Five point buck with three points on one side



Six point bucks with three points on each side. Note the difference in antler sizes between the two deer

**Forestville State Park** – Bucks with at least four antler points on one side.



Seven point buck with four points on one side



Side view of a buck with four points on each side

## Hunting in State Parks with earn-a-buck regulations

### General Information

- In order to tag a buck, you must tag an antlerless deer in the park first.
- You cannot take a doe somewhere else in the state and hunt bucks only at the park.
- You do not have to register the antlerless deer prior to taking the buck, but you do need to validate your deer license and tag and have them available for inspection by a conservation officer. If you are found with a buck and no antlerless deer, you will be in violation of the hunt rules and subject to a citation.
- There will be no special validation for buck hunting. It will be the responsibility of the hunter to observe the rules and take their deer in the proper order.
- If you have already filled your buck license, you may still hunt antlerless deer at the park
- Deer taken at the park must be registered at the park.

### Licenses

- Hunters should plan on having at least two tags in their possession when they arrive to hunt.
- One of those tags must be valid for taking an antlerless deer and the other for taking a buck.
- Hunters who are only interested in taking an antlerless deer need only bring one license.

### Party Hunting

- Party hunting is legal in earn-a-buck areas.
- You can shoot a deer for a member of your party; however, only the person whose tag is on the antlerless deer will be authorized to tag a buck.
- If you shoot an antlerless deer that is tagged by someone else, you can-

**TO REPORT  
GAME AND FISH LAW  
VIOLATIONS**

**CALL 1-800-652-9093  
24 HOURS A DAY**



Cingular, Midwest Wireless, Unicel and Verizon cell phone customers can now report natural resource violations by typing #TIP on their cell phone.

not tag a buck with your license. An antlerless deer must be first tagged with your license before you tag a buck.

- Hunters should tag their first antlerless deer with their own license. If they have the opportunity to harvest another antlerless deer, they should then tag it with another person's license.

### **Itasca State Park**

Itasca State Park (deer area 287) is open to firearms deer hunting and for antlerless deer, except where posted closed. The park is not open during the archery or muzzleloader seasons. For 2006, only bucks with at least one three-point antler can be taken. Bucks not meeting this minimum antler-point restriction are protected and cannot be harvested. Antlerless deer can be taken with a regular license, the antlerless tags of an all-season license, or bonus permits.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Deer Carcass Disposal**

Hunters who process their own deer may not dispose of carcasses on public land, including wildlife management areas, state forests or in road rights of way. Deer carcasses may be disposed of in the following ways:

- On private land with the permission of the landowner.
- Through your refuse hauler after checking on how to properly bag the carcass.
- At a local landfill.

### **BIG GAME REGISTRATION STATIONS**

Big game registration provides essential information for managing deer populations. Many of the over 800 registration stations in the state donate the use of their business and the time of their staff to help collect this information.

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

## 2006 MINNESOTA STATE PARKS SPECIAL DEER HUNTS

AREA NAME	COUNTY	AREA NO	ZONE	DATES	NO. OF PERMITS	BONUS PERMIT	SPECIAL REGULATION
Rice Lake NWR	Aitkin	901	1A	11/11 - 11/19	100*	No	No
St. Croix State Park <sup>2</sup>	Pine	902	1A	11/11 - 11/14	550	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Earn-A-Buck
Savanna Portage State Park	Aitkin	903	1A	11/11 - 11/19	55	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Antler Point Restriction
Gooseberry Falls State Park	Lake	904	1A	11/4 - 11/19	30*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Split Rock Lighthouse SP	Lake	905	1A	11/4 - 11/19	30*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Tettegouche State Park	Lake	906	1A	11/4 - 11/19	125*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Scenic State Park	Itasca	907	1A	11/4 - 11/19	30*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Hayes Lake State Park	Roseau	908	1A	11/4 - 11/19	60**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Lake Bemidji State Park	Beltrami	909	1A	11/4 - 11/7	35**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Zippel Bay State Park	Lake of the Woods	910	1A	11/4 - 11/19	55**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Wild River State Park <sup>3</sup>	Chisago	911	2A	11/4 - 11/7	150	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Earn-A-Buck
Old Mill State Park	Marshall	912	2A	11/4 - 11/7	7**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
William O'Brien State Park	Washington	913	2A	11/4 - 11/5	65*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Lake Bronson State Park	Kittson	914	2A	11/4 - 11/12	25**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Buffalo River State Park	Clay	915	2A	11/4 - 11/5	12**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Maplewood State Park	Ottertail	916	2A	11/4 - 11/12	100	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Earn-A-Buck

AREA NAME	COUNTY	AREA NO	ZONE	DATES	NO. OF PERMITS	BONUS PERMIT	SPECIAL REGULATION
Rydell NWR	Polk	917	2A	11/4 - 11/12	5**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Lake Alexander SNA	Morrison	918	2A	11/4 - 11/12	40*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Beaver Creek Valley SP	Houston	919	3A	11/4 - 11/5	20*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Zumbro Falls SNA	Wabasha	920	3A	11/4 - 11/10	12**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Forestville/Mystery Cave SP	Fillmore	921	3B	11/18 - 11/20 11/24 - 11/26	110	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Antler Point Restriction
Frontenac State Park	Goodhue	922	3B	11/18 - 11/20	50	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Earn-A-Buck
Great River Bluffs SP	Winona	923	3B	11/18 - 11/20 11/24 - 11/26	100	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Earn-A-Buck
Zumbro Falls SNA	Wabasha	924	3B	11/18 - 11/26	12**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Kellogg-Weaver Dunes SNA	Wabasha	925	3B	11/18 - 11/26	15**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Elm Creek Park Reserve <sup>4</sup>	Hennepin	926	3B	11/18 - 11/19	145*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve <sup>4</sup>	Hennepin	927	3B	11/25 - 11/26	75*	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Whitewater State Game Refuge	Winona	928	3B	11/18 - 11/26	75**	No	No
Glacial Lakes State Park	Pope	929	4B	11/11 - 11/14	30**	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
Lake Louise State Park	Mower	930	4B	11/11 - 11/12	25	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Earn-A-Buck

\*Either Sex

\*\*Antlerless Only

<sup>1</sup>Up to 4 Bonus Permits may be used.<sup>2</sup>No camping will be allowed in the park during the hunt.<sup>3</sup>Accessible elevated platforms for disabled hunters available.<sup>4</sup>Shotguns and muzzleloaders only.

## DEER—MUZZLELOADER

**Important!** All hunters and trappers during the 16-day muzzleloader season must meet blaze orange requirements (see page 31-32).

**Season Dates:** Nov. 25–Dec. 10

**Open Areas:**

Muzzleloader hunters may hunt statewide except for the closed areas listed below.

**Closed Areas:**

1. Deer areas 116, 126, and 127 are closed to muzzleloader hunting to protect wintering deer.
2. Deer areas 203 (Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge) and 224 (Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge)
3. Deer 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.

The muzzleloader option allows hunters to take a deer of either-sex statewide in any open deer area. Muzzleloader hunters may also apply for one of the muzzleloader special area permits listed on page 87.

### LOTTERY DEER AREAS

Hunters who select the muzzleloader option on their firearm license may take a deer of either-sex in the lottery deer areas listed on page 69. All-season hunters may take up to three deer during the muzzleloader season but only two can be antlerless. Bonus permits are not valid in lottery deer areas.

### MANAGED DEER AREAS

Hunters who select the muzzleloader option on their firearms license and are hunting in a managed deer area may purchase and use one bonus permit to take an additional antlerless deer in one managed deer area. All-season hunters may take up to three deer during the muzzleloader season but only two can be antlerless. All-season license holders do not need to purchase bonus permits for use in managed areas because the license now includes a third tag. Refer to page 70 for a list of managed deer areas

## INTENSIVE DEER AREAS

Hunters who select the muzzleloader option on their firearms license and are hunting in an intensive deer area may purchase and use up to four bonus permits to take antlerless deer. All-season hunters may take up to three deer with that license during the muzzleloader season but only two can be antlerless. All-season license holder may purchase bonus permits and the total bag limit cannot exceed five deer. Refer to page 70 for a list of intensive deer areas

## 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 page 78.

2006 Special Permit Areas for Muzzleloader Hunters					
AREA NAME	COUNTY	AREA NO.	DATES	NO. OF PERMITS	BONUS PERMIT
Jay Cooke State Park	Carlton	931	11/25-11/29	120*	Yes <sup>1</sup>
Crow Wing State Park	Crow Wing	932	12/1-12/3	40*	Yes <sup>1</sup>
Lake Shetek State Park	Murray	933	12/2-12/5	25**	Yes <sup>1</sup>
Sibley State Park	Kandiyohi	934	12/2-12/3	40**	No
Rice Lake State Park <sup>3</sup>	Steele/Dodge	935	11/25-11/27	15**	Yes <sup>2</sup>
Interstate State Park	Chisago	936	11/25-11/29	10**	Yes <sup>1</sup>

\* Either sex

\*\* Antlerless Only

<sup>1</sup> Up to 4 Bonus Permits may be used

<sup>2</sup> Up to 1 Bonus Permit may be used

<sup>3</sup> Handicap accessible parking and blind available

## PRIVATE LANDS ASSISTANCE

Want to improve habitat on your land? The DNR Private Lands Program assists private landowners in developing and maintaining wildlife habitat.

More information is available online at

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/privatelandsprogram](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/privatelandsprogram)



## DEER—ARCHERY

**Northeast border zone season dates (permit areas 116 and 127):** Sept. 16 – Nov. 19

**Remainder of State:** Sept. 16 – Dec. 31

**Open Areas:** Archery hunters can hunt statewide except in areas designated closed and Itasca State Park (deer area 287).

- Archery hunters can fill both their archery license and their firearm license; however, only one buck can be taken per year.

### **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.

### **Archery special hunt areas**

Application dates and methods vary by special hunt. Please refer to the table for the basic information regarding the hunt. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the special hunt administrator.

### **Archery special permit areas**

Prior to making application, please check with the location you are interested in hunting. Different municipalities have different regulations such as requiring bonus permit use, taking an antlerless deer first, written permission, and/or proficiency tests.

## ARCHERY SPECIAL PERMIT AREAS

Prior to making application, please check with the location you are interested in hunting. Different municipalities have different regulations such as requiring bonus permit use, special regulations, written permission, and/or proficiency tests.

AREA NAME	NO. OF PERMITS	DATES	FEE	ADDRESS/WEBSITE	PHONE	DEADLINE
953 – Camp Ripley 1	2,500	10/19 - 20	\$8	www.dnr.state.mn.us – ELS application	888-646-6367	8/18
954 – Camp Ripley 2	2,500	10/28 - 29	\$8	www.dnr.state.mn.us – ELS application	888-646-6367	8/18
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve	130	11/10 - 12	\$5	Three Rivers Park District Bow Hunt, 3800 CR24, Maple Plain, MN 55359 or www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/nrm	763-694-7840	9/7
Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve	180	11/10 - 12	\$5	Three Rivers Park District Bow Hunt, 3800 CR24, Maple Plain, MN 55359 or www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/nrm	763-694-7840	9/7
Cleary Lake Regional Park	55	11/10 - 12	\$5	Three Rivers Park District Bow Hunt, 3800 CR24, Maple Plain, MN 55359 or www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/nrm	763-694-7840	9/7
New Ulm	50	10/14 - 12/31	\$5	New Ulm City Deer Hunt, City Managers Office, 100 N. Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073	507-359-8233	8/29
Red Wing	Unlimited	9/16 - 12/31	\$30*	Red Wing Public Works, 229 Tyler Rd. S., Red Wing, MN 55066	651-385-3674	None
Sandstone	Unlimited	9/16 - 12/31	None	City of Sandstone, 119 Fourth St., Sandstone, MN 55072 or samg@sandstonemn.com	320-245-5241	None
St. Cloud	40	9/16 - 12/31	\$10	St. Cloud Health and Inspections Dept. Deer Hunt, 400 2nd St. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301 or www.ci.stcloud.mn.us	320-255-7214	8/22
Taylors Falls	Unlimited	9/16 - 12/31	None	City of Taylors Falls, 637 1st St., Taylors Falls, MN 55084	651-465-5133	None
Mankato	40	10/21 - 12/31	\$5	Mankato City Deer Hunt, PO Box 3368, Mankato, MN 56001	507-387-8649	None
Granite Falls	10	9/16 - 12/31	\$10	Granite Falls City Deer Hunt, C/O Granite Falls Police Dept., 930 4th St., Suite 3, Granite Falls, MN 56241	320-564-2129	8/14
Ortonville	30	10/1 - 12/31	\$7.50	850 N. Hering St., Appleton, MN 56208	320-289-2493	9/2
Canby	20	9/16 - 12/31	None	110 Oscar Av. N., Canby, MN 56220	507-223-7295	None
Rochester	Unlimited	9/16 - 12/31	None	City of Rochester Deer Hunt, Room 266, City Hall, 201 4th St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904	507-285-8082	None

\*Portion refundable upon completion of harvest report.

## LOTTERY DEER AREAS

Archery hunters can take a deer of either-sex in the lottery deer areas listed on page 69. All-season hunters may take up to three deer during the archery season but only two can be antlerless. Bonus permits are not valid in lottery deer areas.

## MANAGED DEER AREAS

Archery license holders who are hunting in a managed deer area can take a deer of either sex and may purchase and use one bonus permit to take an additional antlerless deer in one managed deer area. All-season hunters may take up to three deer during the archery season but only two can be antlerless. All-season license holders do not need to purchase bonus permits for use in managed areas because the license now includes a third tag. Refer to page 70 for a list of managed deer areas.

## INTENSIVE DEER AREAS

Archery hunters who are hunting in an intensive deer area may purchase and use up to four bonus permits to take antlerless deer. All-season hunters may take up to three deer during the archery season but only two can be antlerless. All-season license holders may purchase bonus permits but the total bag limit cannot exceed five deer. Refer to page 70 for a list of intensive deer areas.

### **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 more than 100 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.



DNR photo file.

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”**

# 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 and 2006 bear quotas.
- A map of bear permit areas will be available at license agents.

### Important Dates:

August 11: Start of baiting.

September 1–October 16: 2006 Bear Season.

Late March 2007: Applications available.

May 4, 2007: Application deadline for the 2007 season.

## LICENSING

Residents and nonresidents can participate in a drawing for licenses within Bear Permit Areas, and 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. Bear licenses must be validated at the site of kill before the bear is removed from the site.

### News you can use

### From the Minnesota DNR

#### Hunting Info on the Web

GET THE LATEST HUNTING reports, waterfowl migration updates, public hunting area maps, hunting-related news releases, and more off the DNR's Web site.

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

The site also contains regulations, harvest statistics from each permit area, a hunters' forum discussion site, and hunting tips.

Also on the DNR Web site you can purchase hunting and trapping licenses for an additional \$3.50 convenience fee.

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## MOOSE

The application deadline for the 2006 moose hunt was June 16, 2006. A total of 279 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 2006 moose hunt are September 30 to October 15. 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 Fond du Lac 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.

## ELK

The application deadline for the 2006 elk hunt was July 14, 2006. Two bull permits and six antlerless permits were available. The bull season will be Sept. 16-24 and the cow seasons will be Nov. 18-26 and Dec. 2-10 in the primary elk zone near Grygla, Minnesota.

If there is an elk hunt in 2007, 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. Applications will be accepted at ELS agents statewide.

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# 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 online in mid August or from ELS license agents and the DNR License Center in late August.**

**Migratory waterfowl are subject to both state and federal regulations.**

## Important Dates:

**Season Openers:** The regular waterfowl season opener will be September 30, 2006. The early September Canada Goose opener will be Sept. 2. Other waterfowl season information 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 21 and Sept. 13 will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional details will be announced in early August.

**Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** This will be announced in late August and in the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement. The tentative date is Sept. 16.

## 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 ELS terminal.

## 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 41 for small game licensing details.



## 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.

## WILD TURKEYS

### **Important Dates:**

#### **Fall Season**

Oct. 18, 2006: First 2006 Fall Season opens.

June, 2007: Applications available for 2007 Fall Season.

#### **Spring Season (2007)**

Nov., 2006: Applications available for 2007 Spring Season.

Dec. 1, 2006: Application deadline for 2007 Spring Season.

Apr. 18, 2007: First 2007 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. Hunters age 18 or older must possess a wild turkey stamp validation.

A person under age 12 may apply for a turkey license and may take a turkey without a firearms safety certificate if the person is accompanied by an adult parent or guardian who has a firearms safety certificate.

## REGISTRATION

- Every person who takes a wild turkey must register the bird at a designated registration station no later than 24 hours after harvest.
- The feathers, head and feet must remain on the wild turkey until it is registered. Once registered, the fully feathered head or one leg and foot or one intact wing must remain attached during transport.
- 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.

## BAG LIMIT

- Fall: One wild turkey of either sex
- Spring: One wild turkey with a visible beard, a feathered appendage protruding from the breast, generally found only on males.

## LEGAL SHOOTING HOURS

- Fall: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset
- Spring: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.



## FALL WILD TURKEY HUNT

2006 Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Permits have already been allocated by a computerized drawing for five-day hunting periods running October 18-22 and October 25-29. Applications for 2007 Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Permits will be available June, 2007.

## SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNT (2007)

Complete information on 2007 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, 2006. Resident wild turkey applications will be made through ELS license agents.

# PRAIRIE CHICKEN

## Prairie Chicken

2006 Prairie Chicken Hunting Licenses have already been allocated by a computerized drawing for the five-day hunting season, which will run Oct. 21-25. 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, 2007. Applications will be due on July 27, 2007 and the season will begin Oct. 20, 2007.

# 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.

# 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. A vehicle, trailer or tent lawfully left overnight must be occupied or attended.
- **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



- **Becklin Homestead Park WMA** (Isanti County) is only open to special disabled hunts.
- **Bayport WMA** (Washington County), **Hastings WMA** (Dakota 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**, and deer hunting is archery only.
- **Lac qui Parle, Thief Lake, Talcot Lake, and Orwell WMAs**: Small game hunting is restricted in the Controlled Goose Hunting Zones.
- **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.
- ☞ • **Wesley E. Olson WMA** (Big Stone County), **Tom Cliff WMA** (Waseca County), **Somsen WMA** (Brown County), are closed to hunting.
- ☞ • **Lac Qui Parle WMA** (Lac Qui Parle County), **Moonan WMA** (Waseca County), **Two Rivers WMA** (Redwood County), and the **Perched Valley WMA** (Goodhue County) have buffer areas posted closed to hunting.

**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:

- 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 a.m. to 2 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

The Lac qui Parle, Talcot Lake, and Whitewater 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, 14047 20th St. NW, Watson, MN 56295; Talcot Lake WMA, Box 40, Rt. 1, Dundee, MN 56126; Roseau River WMA, HCR#5 Box 103, Roseau, MN 56751; or Whitewater WMA, 15035 Highway 75, Altura, MN 55910.



## 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
Talcot Lake WMA***	Cottonwood and Murray
Thief Lake WMA*	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 WMA, 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 107-109). *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.

(continued on page 110)

## 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. 2	Open for beaver, mink, muskrat & otter	Closed <sup>☆</sup>	Open	Open
Blue Earth & Le Sueur	East Minnesota River	Closed <sup>†††</sup>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Chisago	Linn Lake	Open*	Open	Open	Open	Open
Clay	Clay County	Closed <sup>††</sup>	Closed	Closed <sup>***</sup>	Open	Open
Crow Wing	Cross Lake	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Open
Dakota	Bellwood	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Open
Dakota & Rice	Carleton	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open from Nov. 23 through end of season <sup>††††</sup>
Dodge	Claremont	Open*	Open	Closed <sup>**</sup>	Closed <sup>†</sup>	Open
Douglas	Evansville	Closed	Open	Closed <sup>***</sup>	Open	Closed
Douglas	Lake Winona	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Freeborn	Moscow	Open*	Open	Closed <sup>**</sup>	Open	Open
Freeborn	Albert Lea	Open*	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Hubbard	Paul Bunyan	Open through Nov. 2	Open	Closed	Closed <sup>†</sup>	Open
Hubbard	Park Rapids	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed

\* Also open to wild turkey hunting.

\*\* Except goose hunting.

\*\*\* Except open to Canada Goose Hunting during early September season.

††† Except turkey hunting by archery only

†††† Must have written landowner permission.

† Except during muzzleloader deer season

†† Except open for prairie chicken.

††† Except turkey hunting by archery only

†††† Must have written landowner permission.

☆ Open to Canada goose during early September season, except Lake Bemidji, Mississippi River, and Stump Lake.



County	Refuge	Small Game (Except waterfowl)	Trapping	Waterfowl	Deer & Bear (Firearms)	Deer & Bear (Archery)
Hubbard	Schoolcraft	Open through Nov. 2	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	Open*	Open	Closed	Open	Open
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	Open*****	Open	Closed**	Open*****	Open*****
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.

\*\*\*\* Except for early goose seasons, and youth participating in designated hunting mentoring program.

\*\*\*\*\* Except from the first day of the duck season through December 1, excluding the Youth Waterfowl Hunt.

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

<sup>++</sup>By written permission of landowners only.

<sup>+++</sup>Boundary changed, as posted.

<sup>\*</sup>Also open to wild turkey hunting.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Except for Canada geese as announced separately.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Special permit from City of St. Cloud required.



*(continued from page 106)***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 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 the Waterfowl

Hunting Regulations Supplement available in August). 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.
- Any unoccupied stand or blind on public land is public and not the property of the person who constructed the stand.

### 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.



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## 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 County Road 2); Nemadji State Forest; Rum River State Forest; St. Croix State Forest; Snake River State Forest; Solana State Forest; Wealthwood State Forest.

The following state forests will be classified as LIMITED STARTING DEC. 31, 2006: Paul Bunyan State Forest; Badoura State Forest; Fond du Lac 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, Pillsbury State Forest, and Whiteface 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 125): [www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/status.html](http://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 Class 1 All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) less than 800 cc engine displacement and 900 pounds total weight— motorcycles and trucks are not allowed to travel cross-country.*

- 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.

### SNAs Open to Hunting in 2006

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
Cook	Myhr Creek Ridge SNA	All hunting
Cook	Spring Beauty Ridge 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 Hwy 16.)	All hunting
Itasca	Chisolm Point SNA	Deer only, archery season only
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
Morrison	Lake Alexander SNA	Deer, by permit only
Pine	Black Lake Bog SNA	All hunting and trapping
Polk	Gully Fen SNA	Deer only by archery
Redwood	Cedar Mountain SNA	Deer only by archery 10/14-12/31
Roseau	Two Rivers Aspen Parkland Prairie SNA	All hunting
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	Big Island SNA	Waterfowl only
St. Louis	Moose Mountain SNA	Deer only archery 9/16-11/19 firearm 11/4-11/19
Wabasha	Zumbro Falls Woods SNA	Deer only, by permit
Wabasha	Kellogg-Weaver Dunes SNA	Deer only, by permit
Winona	Queen and King's Bluff SNA*	Deer only, by permit

\* Hunts are associated with special hunts in State Parks.

DNR expects to adopt rules allowing the use of portable stands in SNAs open to deer hunting, but the rules were not in effect at the time this regulation handbook was published. When the new rules are adopted, DNR will notify hunters by news releases and on our website.

## 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. Other information about State Parks open to hunting is found on pages 39, 80-85 and 87.

## FEDERAL LANDS

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES & WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS

National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are open to public hunting except where prohibited 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 the NWRs and Wetland Management District (WMDs) managers for other specific public use regulations.

## General Restrictions

- Small game hunters using shotguns are required to use and possess only nontoxic shot.
- Small game hunters must wear an article of blaze orange clothing consistent to the state's regulations.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- During the small game season, hunting dogs must be under the immediate control of the hunter at all times. Training and allowing pets off leash are prohibited at all other times.
-  Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all NWRs and WPAs, 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 Managers.
- Motorized watercraft are prohibited on all WPAs and are restricted on most NWRs. Motorized watercraft are allowed without a permit on designated waters of the Tamarac and Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuges.
- Camping, campfires, and overnight parking are prohibited on all WPAs, including designated parking areas. Camping, campfires, and overnight parking are restricted on most NWRs. Consult the Managers.
- 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 or screwed to support a hunter, is prohibited. Portable or temporary hunting blinds or stands can only be set up the day of the hunt, and must be removed at the end of each day.
- All property brought onto the NWRs and WPAs must be removed after each day. This includes all vehicles, boats, decoys, and trash.
- 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 NWRs and 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.

## Trapping

A person may not trap in a National Wildlife Refuge without first obtaining a permit issued by the refuge manager. The trapping of otter is prohibited on all NWRs in Minnesota.

## 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 NWR and WPA.

## Specific Restrictions

**Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (Marshall County)** 22996  
290th Street NE, Middle River MN, 56737-9754 218/449-4115



**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, 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)** 44843 County Road 19, Odessa MN 56276  
320/273-2191

**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. Open areas are posted with “Public Hunting Area” signs or shown on maps available at parking areas and at the Refuge Headquarters.

**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. Open areas are posted with “Public Hunting Area” signs or shown on maps available at refuge headquarters.

**Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (Morrison County)**  
see Sherburne NWR for address information

Closed to all public hunting.

**Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Norman, & Polk Counties)** 26624 N Tower Road, Detroit Lakes MN, 56501-7959 218/847-4431

We allow hunting in the district in accordance with State regulations, except that we prohibit hunting on the Headquarters

Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Becker County, the Hitterdal WPA in Clay County, and the McIntosh WPA in Polk County.

**Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, & Wilken Counties)** 21932 State Hwy 210 East, Fergus Falls MN, 56537-7627 218/739-2291

We allow hunting throughout the district (except that we allow no hunting on the Townsend, HeadquartersM, avis, and Gilmore Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in Otter Tail County, and Larson WPA in Douglas County).

**Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge** Contact Rydell NWR 17788 349th St SE, Erskine MN 56535 218/687-2229 or 800/841-0172

**Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (Becker County)** 21212 210th Street, Audubon MN, 56511 218/439-6319

**Litchfield Wetland Management District (Meeker, Kandiyohi, Stearns, McLeod, Todd, Renville, & Wright Counties)** 22274 615th Avenue, Litchfield MN, 55355 320/693-2849

Hunting is allowed throughout the district except on the Phare Lake Waterfowl Production Area in Renville County.

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District (Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, Carver, Rice, Sibley, Blue Earth, Steele, Le Sueur, Waseca, Chisago, Goodhue, & Ramsey Counties)** 3815 American Blvd East, Bloomington MN 55425-1600 952/854-5900

**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. 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. Hunters using shotguns are required to use and possess only nontoxic shot. Muzzleloading shotguns may also be used in the Rapids Lake Unit.



**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. The Rapids Lake Unit is open to archery, shotgun and muzzleloader deer hunting.

**Morris Wetland Management District (Stevens, Traverse, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Pope & Swift Counties)** 43875 230th Street, Morris MN 56267 320/589-1001

Hunting is allowed throughout the district except on the designated portions of the Edward-Long Lake Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Stevens County.

**Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge**

Hunting is allowed on designated areas with the following conditions:

- Use of dogs for hunting furbearers prohibited.
- Hunters may take only species for which there is no closed season during a State-designated open season for other upland game species.

**Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge & Sandstone National Wildlife Refuge (Aitkin and Pine Counties)** 36289 State Hwy 65, McGregor MN 55760 218/768-2402

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. 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 12–20 as Special Permit Area 901 (see page 84). Maps showing open areas are available from refuge headquarters or by calling. The refuges are closed to muzzleloader hunting during the Muzzleloader Season.

**Rydell National Wildlife Refuge & (Polk County)** 17788 349th St SE, Erskine MN 56535 218/687-2229 or 800/841-0172

Deer: The Refuge will be open for a special, antlerless firearms deer hunt for persons with disabilities on October 12–14. There will be a special youth-only antlerless hunt on October 21–22. Contact the Refuge headquarters for permit and hunt area information.



**Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Sherburne County)**

17076 293rd Avenue, Zimmerman MN 55398 763/389-3323

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. 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 Area 224. The Refuge is closed to muzzleloader hunting during the Muzzleloader Season.

**Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (Becker County)**

35704 County Road 26, Rochert MN 56578 218/847-2641

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. 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.

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)**

51 East 4th Street Room 101, Winona MN 55987 507/452-4232

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 of possessed while hunting with shotguns for any permitted birds or other small game, except wild turkeys. Lead shot may be used of 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, [www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa); or Superior National Forest, 8901 Grand Ave. Place, Duluth, MN 55808, (218) 626-4300, [www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior).

### General Regulations for both Chippewa and Superior National Forest Lands:

- State hunting and other OHV regulations apply on National Forest lands, except as otherwise stated below.
- Special designation areas within National Forests, such as Wilderness Areas and Semi-Primitive Areas may have additional restrictions.
- The only tree stands or blinds allowed are those that are portable, do not damage trees and are removed at the end of the hunt.
- Permanent stands located on National Forest system lands will be removed as they are located, and resources are available to perform the work.
- Commercial activities such as outfitting and guiding can only be conducted with a Forest Service permit.
- Possession of firearms in the National Forest is allowed subject to state laws regarding carry and concealment and both state and federal laws regarding prohibited persons.

### The following are prohibited:

- Cross country or off-road OHV use for any purpose. This includes cross country or off-road use of OHVs for big game retrieval, bear baiting, and trapping.
- Cutting or damaging of trees, including the cutting of shooting lanes.
- Constructing or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure or improvement (for example: ATV trail or permanent stand).
- Building, occupying or using a permanent stand.
- Storing or abandoning any personal property.
- Camping for longer than 14 consecutive days in a developed campground or 30 consecutive days on the National Forest.
- Discharging a firearm within 150 yards of a building, campground, developed recreation site or occupied area, or from or across a forest road or body of water, 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.

### **Regulations Unique to the Chippewa National Forest (Beltrami, Cass, and Itasca Counties)**

- OHVs may only operate on numbered forest roads or trails except those roads and trails posted closed, gated or bermed to restrict motorized use.
- OHV riders are encouraged to contact a local Forest Service Office, because the status of roads and trails may be periodically updated.
- Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails or unplowed numbered forest roads except those posted as closed.
- Launching or retrieving a boat with a trailer is allowed only at designated boat ramps.

### **Regulations Unique to the Superior National Forest (Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties)**

- Maps showing where ATVs may ride are available from the Superior National Forest. Maps may be obtained from the website listed above, or by stopping at a Forest Service Office.
- ATV use is allowed on low maintenance and unclassified roads unless routes are posted closed.
- ATVs are allowed on designated ATV trails.
- OHV use is prohibited in some management areas.
- OHV travel is not allowed in ditches and/or shoulders of National Forest roads.
- Snowmobiles are allowed on unplowed roads except those posted as closed
- Snowmobiles are allowed off designated roads and trails except where restrictions are needed for resource protection.

## **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.

### **Crow Wing County Managed Forest Lands**

- Permanent hunting stands are prohibited by ordinance

## 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.

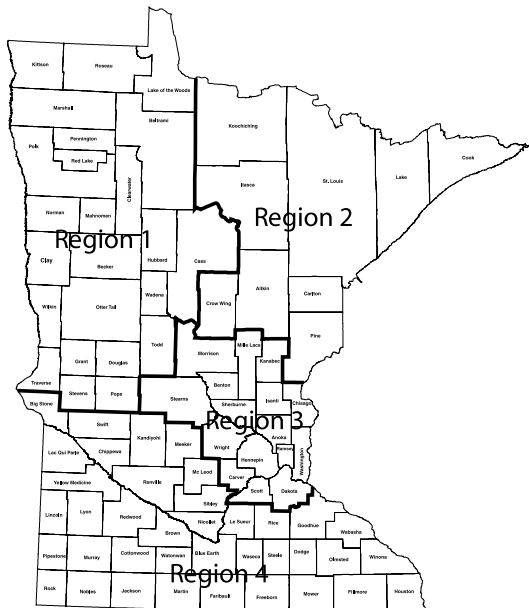
### OTHER TRIBAL LANDS

- 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 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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)



## DNR WILDLIFE OFFICES

### NORTHWEST (REGION 1)

2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE  
 Bemidji, MN 56601  
 (218) 755-3958

### NORTHEAST (REGION 2)

1201 E. Highway 2  
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
 (218) 999-7937

### SOUTH (REGION 4)

261 Highway 15 South  
 New Ulm, MN 56073  
 (507) 359-6000

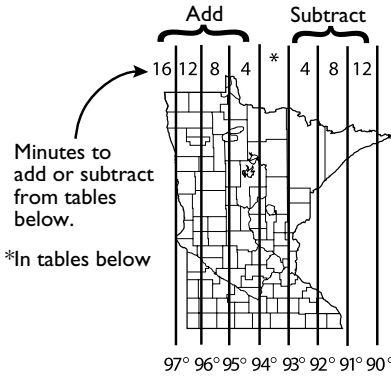
### CENTRAL (REGION 3)

1200 Warner Road  
 St. Paul, MN 55106  
 (651) 772-7983

# 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 28, 2006 and Central Standard Time thereafter.

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



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



2006 Pheasant Stamp, Scot Storm

**The importance** of private landowners to the future of hunting cannot be overstated.

And for that reason, this year's hunting regulations booklet features a rural landowner on its cover. We did this because we in the Department of Natural Resources recognize the value of their conservation contributions and the key role they play in wildlife production.

Indeed, 2006 is the 20th anniversary of two popular and successful conservation programs that depend upon private landowners: the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Currently, nearly 2 million acres of Minnesota grassland are idle thanks to CRP and RIM. These grasslands, as well as mild winters, are elements in the formula that has created some of the best pheasant hunting in decades.

Soon, CRP contracts that cover more than 1 million acres – an

area roughly the size of Rhode Island – are set to expire. Upcoming decisions will be critical to as to whether Minnesota landowners will have the option to re-enroll their acreage. If CRP is drastically altered, landowners will no longer have financial incentive to idle their most environmentally-sensitive lands. Pheasants could

quickly disappear.

The last large-scale land retirement program in Minnesota disappeared some forty years ago. The Soil Bank Program that began in the mid 1950s ended in 1964. Subsequently, the pheasant harvest dropped from a high of 1.6 million birds in 1958 to about 220,000 birds in 1965. If Minnesota is to avoid another drastic decline in the pheasant population, hunters, landowners, wildlife watchers and conservationists must make the case for CRP on a national and regional scale.

CRP and RIM have provided great benefits to Minnesota, especially for those who enjoy upland bird hunting in the agricultural regions of the state. Last year, for example, hunters harvested nearly 600,000 roosters. That could happen again this autumn.

So please support these important programs – Your DNR staff.