



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Mark Belton, Secretary*  
*Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary*

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## **2017- 2018 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS**

**NOTE:**

- 1. Information is subject to change due to legislation passed during the 2017 General Assembly.**
- 2. These dates are for the 2017-2018 hunting seasons only, dates for 2016-2017 can be found [here](#).**
- 3. The 2017-18 season dates and bag limits for migratory game birds will be available in mid-April.**

**Wildlife and Heritage Service  
Tawes State Office Building E-1  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-260-8540 phone  
410-260-8596 fax**

**Selected Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits  
2017-2018**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 4 – Feb 28	All counties	4 per day	8
Crow	<b>2017-2018</b> Aug 15 – Mar 15  Wed – Sat Only	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Pheasant (male only)	<b>2017</b> Nov 4 – Dec 31	All counties	1 per day	2
Quail	<b>2017</b> Nov 4 – Dec 15	Lands owned or managed by DNR – excluding Garrett and Allegany counties	6 per day	12
Quail	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 4 – Jan 15	Private lands west of I-83 from PA south to I-695 to I-95 south to VA.; excluding Garrett and Allegany counties	No more than 3 on lands owned or managed by DNR	
Quail	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 4 – Feb 15	Private lands east of I-83 from PA south to I-695 to I-95 south to VA		
Quail	<b>CLOSED SEASON</b>	Garrett and Allegany counties		

**Selected Falconry Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits  
2017-2018**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (falconry)  Quail (falconry)	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	4 per day	8
Pheasant - either sex (falconry)	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	1 per day	2

**Selected Falconry Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits  
2017-2018**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Ruffed grouse (falconry)	<b>2017-2018</b> Oct 1 – Mar 31	All counties	2 per day	4
Squirrel – Gray, Eastern Fox, Red or Piney* (falconry)	<b>2017-2018</b> Sep 1 – Mar 31	All counties	6 per day  * no limit for Red or Piney	12  * no limit for Red or Piney

**Selected Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits  
2017-2018**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Black Bear	<b>2017</b> Oct 23 – Oct 26 <b>Permit Required</b>	Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington counties	1 per day with no more than 1 per permitted bear hunting team	1 per season with no more than 1 per permitted bear hunting team
Wild Turkey, fall season, either sex	<b>2017</b> Oct 28 – Nov 4	Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties	1	1 per fall/winter season combined
Wild Turkey, winter season, either sex	<b>2018</b> Jan 18 – Jan 20	All counties	1	
Wild Turkey, spring season, Junior Hunt  (Hunters age 16 or younger only)	<b>2018</b> April 14–15*	All counties *Sunday hunting in certain counties	1 bearded turkey	2 bearded turkeys per season
Wild Turkey	<b>2018</b> Apr 18 – May 23*	All counties *Sunday hunting in certain counties	1 bearded turkey	
Squirrel - Gray & Eastern Fox	<b>2017-2018</b> Sep 2 – Feb 28	All counties	6 per day	12
Squirrel - Red or Piney	<b>2017-2018</b> Sep 2 – Feb 28	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Delmarva Fox Squirrel	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Ruffed grouse	<b>2017-2018</b> Oct 7 – Jan 31	All counties	2 per day	4

**Selected Furbearer Seasons & Bag Limits  
2017-2018**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Beaver Closed to Nonresidents	<b>2017-2018</b> Dec 15– Mar 15	All counties <i>except</i> Garrett and Allegany counties	No Limit	No Limit
Beaver Closed to Nonresidents	<b>2017-2018</b> Dec 1 – Mar 15	Garrett and Allegany counties	No Limit	No Limit
Bobcat	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Coyote Firearms, Bow and Crossbow only.	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties year-round during daylight hours (1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset) except Sunday.		No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2017-2018</b> Oct 14 – Mar 15	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties day and night, except Sundays	No Limit	No Limit
Coyote and Long- Tailed Weasel Trapping	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Feb 1	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 15 –Feb 15	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray) Firearms, Bow, Crossbow and Trapping	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Feb 1	Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 15 –Feb 15	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2017-2018</b> Aug 1 – Jul. 31	Charles and Dorchester counties	No Limit	No Limit
Fisher	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Feb 1	All counties	2 per day	2 per season
Nutria	<b>2017-2018</b> Aug 1 – Jul 31	All counties*	No Limit	No Limit

Muskrat and Mink	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 15 – Feb 15	Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2017-2018</b> Dec 15– Mar 15	Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2018</b> Jan 1 – Mar 15	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Talbot and Wicomico counties	No Limit	No Limit
Otter Closed to Nonresidents	<b>2017-2018</b> Dec 15 – Mar 15	In Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties	2 per day	2 per season
		In all other counties (except Allegany and Garrett counties)	10 per day	10 per season
Otter Closed to Nonresidents	<b>2017-2018</b> Dec 1 – Mar 15	Garrett and Allegany counties	1 Per day	1 Per season
Raccoon and Opossum Chasing No Kill	<b>2017-2018</b> Aug 1 – Oct 13 Mar 16 – Jul 31	All counties		
Raccoon and Opossum Firearms, Bow, Crossbow and Dog	<b>2017-2018</b> Oct 14 – Mar 15	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Raccoon, Skunk, and Opossum Trapping	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Mar 15	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 15 – Mar 15	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Skunk Firearms, Bow and Crossbow only.	<b>2017-2018</b> Nov 1 – Mar 15	All counties	No Limit	No Limit

\*On lands owned or controlled by DNR in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties only leaseholders or their appointees can hunt or trap furbearers and nutria between Nov 15 and Mar 15.

## Selected 2017-2018 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

### Antlered Deer – Statewide

An antlered white-tailed deer is a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 8 – Oct 18  Oct 22 (Sunday, see Notes)  Oct 23 – Nov 24  Dec 11 – Dec 15  Jan 1 – Jan 4  Jan 5 – Jan 6 (Region A only, see Notes)  Jan 8 – Jan 31	1 Antlered*	<p><b>Fluorescent orange requirement:</b> Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open.</p> <p><b>Sunday deer hunting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 15, 22, and 29 and November 5 and 12, 2017.</li> <li>• In Carroll and Frederick counties on private lands only – Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and November 5, 12 and 19, 2017.</li> <li>• Deer archery season is open on Sunday November 5, 2017 in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Kent &amp; Montgomery counties on private land only.</li> <li>• In Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties on private and DESIGNATED public lands only – Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and November 5, 12 and 19, 2017. See below for a list of designated public lands.</li> </ul>
Muzzle-loader	Oct 19 – Oct 21  Dec 16 – Dec 30	1 Antlered*	<p>The <b>Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp</b> may not be used during the Oct. 19 – 21, 2017 muzzleloader season.</p> <p><b>Region A muzzleloader bag limit:</b> Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 19 – 21, 2017 muzzleloader season. This deer must be antlered if it is taken on DNR public land.</p> <p><b>Sunday deer hunting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer muzzleloader season is open on Sundays December 17 and 24, 2017 in Carroll and Frederick counties on private lands only.</li> <li>• Deer muzzleloader season is open on Sundays December 17 and 24, 2017 in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties on private and DESIGNATED public lands only. See below for a list of designated public lands.</li> </ul>
Firearm	Nov 25 – Dec 9  Jan 5 – Jan 6 (Region B only, see Notes)  Jan 7 (Sunday, see Notes)	1 Antlered*	<p><b>Sunday deer hunting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Anne Arundel, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot &amp; Wicomico counties on private lands only – Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday November 26, 2017.</li> <li>• In Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Washington (Zone 1), &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018.</li> <li>• In Allegany, Garrett, and Washington (Zone 2) counties on private and DESIGNATED public lands only – Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017. See below for a list of designated public lands.</li> </ul> <p><b>Deer Firearm Season is open during the January 2018 dates in Region B only.</b> Deer Archery season is open January 5 &amp; 6 in Region A only.</p>

			Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the Deer Firearm Season bag limit.
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\*A hunter may harvest 2 antlered deer during a license year that have any number of antler points. But no more than two antlered deer taken during the license year may have two points or less per antler present. The remaining antlered deer must have at least 3 points on one antler. One additional (bonus) antlered deer may be taken per year in Region B only for a total of 4 antlered deer. The bonus antlered deer may be taken in any weapon season. Before taking a bonus antlered deer, a hunter must first purchase a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp and harvest two antlerless deer in Region B. These antlerless deer may be taken in any weapon season. Junior hunters (16 years old or younger) are exempt from the three antler point requirement.

Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: ONLY Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan’s Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather’s Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.

**Selected 2017-2018 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits**  
**Antlerless Deer – Region A**  
**Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties**

Region A DNR public lands include: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan’s Mountain WMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park (Designated Areas Only), Green Ridge State Forest, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Prather’s Neck WMA, Rocky Gap State Park (Designated Areas Only), Savage River State Forest, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA, Woodmont NRMA, Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA and Youghiogheny Scenic Wild River.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 8 – Oct 18	1 Antlerless*	<b>Fluorescent orange requirement:</b> Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open.  <b>Sunday deer hunting:</b> Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and November 5, 12 and 19, 2017 on private and DESIGNATED public lands only. See below for a list of designated public lands.
	Oct 22 – Nov 24		
	Dec 11 – Dec 15		
	Jan 1 – Jan 31		
Muzzleloader DNR Public Lands	Dec 30	1 Antlerless*	<b>Region A muzzleloader bag limit:</b> Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 19 – 21, 2017 muzzleloader season. This deer must be antlered if it is taken on DNR public land.
Muzzleloader All Other Lands	Oct 19 – Oct 21 Dec 28 – Dec 30		
Firearm DNR Public Lands	Dec 9	1 Antlerless*	
Firearm All Other Lands	Dec 8 – Dec 9		

\*No more than two antlerless deer total can be taken in Region A per license year.

Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: ONLY Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan’s Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather’s Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.



**Selected 2017-2018 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits**  
**Antlerless Deer – Region B**

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 8 – Oct 18 Oct 22 (Sunday, see Notes) Oct 23 – Nov 24 Dec 11 – Dec 15 Jan 1 – Jan 4 Jan 8 – Jan 31	Unlimited Antlerless	<b>Fluorescent orange requirement:</b> Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Frederick and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. <b>Sunday deer hunting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 15, 22, and 29 and November 5 and 12, 2017.</li> <li>• In Carroll, Frederick and Washington (Zone 1) counties on private lands only – Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and November 5, 12 and 19, 2017.</li> <li>• Deer archery season is open on Sunday November 5, 2017 in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Kent &amp; Montgomery counties on private land only.</li> </ul>
Muzzleloader	Oct 19 – Oct 28 Dec 16 – Dec 30	10 Antlerless	<b>Sunday deer hunting:</b> Deer muzzleloader season is open on Sundays December 17 and 24, 2017 in Carroll, Frederick, and Washington (Zone 1) counties on private lands only.
Firearm	Nov 25 – Dec 9 Jan 5 – Jan 6 Jan 7 (Sunday, see Notes)	10 Antlerless	<b>Sunday Deer Hunting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Anne Arundel, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot &amp; Wicomico counties on private lands only – Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday November 26, 2017.</li> <li>• In Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Washington (Zone 1) &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018.</li> </ul>

## Selected 2017-2018 Junior Deer Hunt Antlered & Antlerless Deer

The Junior Deer Hunt is for hunters age 16 or younger only. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement) unarmed adult age 21 or older. Junior hunters are not required to comply with the antler point restrictions.

Region	Description	Total Bag Limit	Dates	Notes
Region A	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer	Nov 11  Nov 12 (Sunday, see Notes)	<p><b>Separate Bag Limit:</b> Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Hunt Season do not count towards the regular archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits.</p> <p><b>Sunday Deer Hunting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only – the Junior Deer Hunt is open on Sunday November 12, 2017.</li> <li>• In Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties on private and DESIGNATED public lands only – the Junior Deer Hunt is open on Sunday November 12, 2017. See below for designated public lands.</li> </ul>
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered		
Where present	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		

Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: ONLY Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.

**Selected 2017-2018 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits**  
**Antlered & Antlerless Deer – Statewide**

An antlered sika deer is a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline.

Season	Description	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Antlered or Antlerless	Sep 8 – Oct 18	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p><b>Fluorescent orange requirement:</b> Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting.</p> <p><b>Sunday deer hunting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Archery Season is open on Sundays October 15, 22, and 29 and November 5 and 12, 2017.</li> <li>• Deer archery season is open on Sunday November 5, 2017 in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Kent &amp; Montgomery counties on private land only.</li> </ul>
		Oct 22 (Sunday, see Notes)		
		Oct 23 – Nov 24		
		Dec 11 – Dec 15		
		Jan 1 – Jan 4		
		Jan 5 – Jan 6 (Region A only, see Notes)		
Jan 8 – Jan 31				
Muzzleloader	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 19 – Oct 21	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p><b>October 23 – 28:</b> Deer muzzleloader season is open during these dates in Region B only.</p>
	Antlerless Only	Oct 23 – 28 (Region B only)		
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 16 – Dec 30		
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 25 – Dec 9	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p><b>Sunday deer hunting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Anne Arundel, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot &amp; Wicomico counties on private lands only – Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday November 26, 2017.</li> <li>• In Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Washington (Zone 1), &amp; Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018.</li> </ul> <p><b>January 5 – 6:</b> Deer Firearm Season is open in Region B only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the Deer Firearm Season bag limit.</p>
		Jan 5 – Jan 6 (Region B only, see Notes)		
		Jan 7 (Sunday, see Notes)		