HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATION PROPOSALS

For 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

(All dates inclusive.)

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building
E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

See below for the goals and background of proposed changes and the proposed season dates and bag limits for all resident game species.

Proposed Changes For Upland Game

Proposed Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Species	Open Season	Open Season Location		Possession Limit	
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	2024-2025 Nov 2 – Feb 28	All counties	4 per day	8	
	2025-2026 Nov 1 – Feb 28				
Crow	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Aug 15 – Mar 15 Wed – Sat Only	All counties	No Limit	No Limit	
Pheasant	2024-2025 Nov 2 – Feb 28 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Feb 28	All counties	2 per day, either sex	4	
Quail	2024-2025 Nov 2 – Jan 15 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Jan 15	Private lands east of the Susquehanna River; All lands west of Susquehanna River, excluding Garrett and Allegany counties	6 per day	12	
Quail	CLOSED SEASON	Lands owned or managed by DNR east of the Susquehanna River			
Quail	CLOSED SEASON	Garrett and Allegany counties			

Proposed Falconry Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (falconry)	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	4 per day	8
Quail (falconry)	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	4 per day	8
Pheasant (falconry)	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	2 per day, either sex	4

Proposed Falconry Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Ruffed grouse (falconry)	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Oct 1 – Mar 31	All counties	2 per day	4
Squirrel – Gray, Eastern Fox, Red or Piney (falconry)	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Sep 1 – Mar 31	All counties	6 per day	12

Proposed Changes For Migratory Game Birds

Waterfowl Hunting

<u>Proposed Action:</u> Expand both the Sea Duck and Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Zone boundaries to include the largest extent of both zones. This proposed change would exclude the Kent County Shoreline, lower Chester River, Eastern Bay, lower Choptank River, and lower Little Choptank River. These areas will remain open to sea duck (scoters, long-tailed duck, eiders) harvest by allowing the traditional Sea Duck Zone boundaries to remain in place.

<u>Rationale/Goal:</u> Expanding the Sea Duck and Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Zones will simplify regulations by reducing the discrepancies between the two zone descriptions and create additional hunting opportunity on public waters. This proposed change will also improve winter boating safety by allowing hunters to legally pursue crippled ducks while under power in these large open water zones as that practice is only allowed in the Sea Duck Zone as per Federal law.

Comments: Reducing regulation complexity within the matrix of migratory game bird hunting laws wherever possible is a guiding principle of regulation formulation and a common "ask" by hunters. Hunter opportunity will be expanded in areas that were formerly Sea Duck Harvest only (ex. Atlantic Ocean) by allowing harvest of all waterfowl species open to hunting when the regular duck season is open. The USFWS allows the pursuit of crippled waterfowl under power within a States described/delineated Sea Duck Zone as a winter boating safety measure. Expanding the Sea Duck Zone to geographic areas formerly occupied only by the Offshore Waterfowl Zone expands this important winter boating safety capability to a larger area. While this proposal increases hunter opportunity and access, we do not feel that it will appreciably increase hunter harvest and may reduce crippling loss.

Note

Seasons, bag limits and possession limits for migratory game birds must conform to regulations and season frameworks adopted by the Secretary of the Interior. Proposed migratory bird hunting seasons are available in a separate link.

Proposed Changes For Forest Game (except Deer)

Black Bears

NOTE: This proposal is not a draft regulation proposal but is a continued discussion on a draft policy change related to bear hunting. The concept below is set outside of the regulatory process but in an ongoing effort to be fully transparent, the Department is seeking comment on this policy change. The Department is planning to adjust the process by which an individual applies for and selects a county hunting location for the black bear hunt.

<u>Proposed Action:</u> Add additional black bear hunting opportunities in the eastern portion of the bear range through a modified black bear lottery.

<u>Rationale/Goal</u>: The current black bear hunting season is working to slow the growth of our statewide bear population and limit expansion of resident bear populations in eastern counties. However, several factors suggest we should offer additional hunting opportunities beyond the established permitting system. It is important to note that we are not proposing a significant increase in the number of permits, rather an increase in opportunity for hunters in the eastern portion of the bear range in an effort to mitigate the expansion of the black bear population.

<u>Comments:</u> Though hunters can harvest a black bear in all four western counties, roughly 68% of the bear harvest occurs in the western most portion of the occupied bear range, Garrett County. Recently, reports of black bears in more developed portions of the eastern bear range, and beyond, have become more frequent. This is an indication that the bear population is growing and expanding eastward.

Currently, bear hunters who are drawn in the lottery can hunt in any of the four counties within the occupied bear range but most hunters choose to hunt in the far western portion of the state. To increase hunter participation in the eastern portion of the bear range, and provide greater opportunity to hunters living in these areas, we propose:

- 1. Providing two separate lottery options. The first being 950 permits to be used anywhere within the existing occupied black bear range. The second lottery option being 100 bear permits that can only be filled in Washington or Frederick counties.
 - a. This option would increase the number of bear permits and provide hunters in the eastern portion of the occupied bear range a greater chance of obtaining a bear permit. By providing two lottery options, hunters can designate the area they wish to hunt and increase hunting opportunities and participation in the eastern portion of the bear range. Hunters would be required to choose one of the two lottery options when they purchase their lottery application.

Red (Piney) Squirrel

<u>Proposed Action:</u> Eliminate the unlimited bag limit for red squirrels. Consolidate red squirrels with gray squirrel and eastern fox squirrel into a single bag limit.

<u>Rationale/Goal</u>: Utilizing the same bag limit for all squirrel species eliminates the potential for limitless take of red squirrels and simplifies regulations.

<u>Comments:</u> Elimination of separate bag limits for different squirrel species simplifies regulation and reduces the potential for confusion.

Proposed Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Black Bear	2024 Oct 21 – Oct 26 2025 Oct 20 – Oct 25 Permit Required	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	2024 Nov 2– Nov 10 2025 Nov 1 – Nov 9	Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties	1 either sex	1 either sex per fall/winter season combined
Wild Turkey, winter season	2025 Jan 23 – Jan 25 2026 Jan 22 – Jan 24	All counties	1 either sex	
Wild Turkey, spring season, Junior Hunt (Hunters age 16 or younger only)	2025 Apr 12 – 13 2026 Apr 11 – 12	All counties	1 bearded turkey	2 bearded turkeys per season
Wild Turkey, Spring season	2025 Apr 18 – May 23 2026 Apr 18 - May 23	All counties	1 bearded turkey	
Squirrel - Gray, Red (Piney) & Eastern Fox	2024-2025 Sep 2 – Feb 28 2025-2026 Sep 1 – Feb 28	All counties	6 per day	12
Delmarva Fox Squirrel	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Ruffed grouse	2024 Oct 5 – Dec 31 2025 Oct 4 – Dec 31	All counties	2 per day	4

Proposed Changes For Furbearers

Red fox, Gray Fox, Coyote Proposed Action: Extend the fox and coyote trapping seasons in both zones in order to furnish additional opportunity for trappers. Land trapping seasons closing on February 1 would extend to February 15. Seasons closing February 15 would extend until the last day in February.

<u>Rationale/Goal:</u> Extending land trapping seasons past the closure of the February primitive weapons deer season will reduce competition for private land access among user groups and function in trapper retention/re-activation.

<u>Comments:</u> Extensions of deer hunting seasons may contribute to limited access to private land that previously supported other pursuits such as trapping and small game hunting. Providing fox and coyote trappers with additional opportunity to pursue late season foxes is not likely to have population level effects, but may help to retain existing trappers. Proposed season extensions would make Maryland trapping seasons comparable to equivalent seasons in adjacent states such as West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Fisher, long-tailed weasel, raccoon and opossum trapping seasons will remain unchanged.

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Beaver Trapping Only	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Dec 15 – Mar 15	All counties <i>except</i> Garrett and Allegany counties		
Beaver Trapping Only	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Dec 1 – Mar 15	Garrett and Allegany counties	No Limit	No Limit
Bobcat	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Coyote Firearms, Archery, & Airgun Hunting	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Aug 1 - Jul 31	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties year-round during both daylight & nighttime hours	No Limit	No Limit
Coyote Trapping Only	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 - Feb 15	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit

	•			
	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 15 - Feb 28	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Long-Tailed Weasel	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 - Feb 1	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Trapping Only	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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) Trapping, Firearms,	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 - Feb 15	Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
Archery, & Airgun Hunting	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 15 – Feb 28	Caroline,Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Aug 1 – Jul 31	Charles and Dorchester counties	No Limit	No Limit
Fisher Trapping,Firearm, Archery,& Airgun Hunting	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 - Feb 1	All Counties	2	2
	2024-2025 and 2026-2026 Nov 15 - Feb 15	Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
Muskrat and Mink Trapping Only	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Dec 15 – Mar 15	Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit

	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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
	2024-2025 and	In Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties	2 per day	2 per season
Otter Trapping Only	2025-2026 Dec 15 - Mar 15	In all other counties (except Allegany and Garrett counties)	10 per day	10 per season
	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Dec 1 – Mar 15	Garrett and Allegany counties	1 Per day	1 Per season
Raccoon and Opossum Chasing No Kill	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 August 1 – Oct 14 Mar 16 – Jul 31	All counties		
Raccoon and Opossum Firearms, Archery, Airgun & Dog Hunting	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Oct 15-Mar 15	Raccoons may be hunted in all counties day and night	No Limit	No Limit
Raccoon and	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Mar 15	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Trapping	Dipossum Frapping 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 15 – Mar 15 In that portion of the Chesapeake Susquehanna		No Limit	No Limit
Skunk Trapping	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Nov 1 – Mar 15	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Skunk Firearms, Archery, & Airgun Hunting	2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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.

Proposed Changes For White-tailed Deer

White-tailed Deer

<u>Proposed Action:</u> Alter the period in which hunters in Region A may harvest their bag limit of two antlerless deer during the deer hunting season. The two antlerless deer may both be harvested during the archery season, the second week of the firearms season (last 8 days of the season), the second week of the late muzzleloader season (last 8 days of the season), OR one antlerless deer harvested during two separate weapon seasons for an all seasons combined total of two antlerless deer. No more than one antlerless deer may be harvested per day.

<u>Rationale/Goal:</u> Currently, hunters in Region A can harvest two antlerless deer but they must be harvested during two different weapon seasons. The management concept would increase antlerless deer hunting opportunities for hunters in Region A but would not increase the overall bag limit.

<u>Comments</u>: Increasing antlerless harvest opportunities is a very common request from hunters and the agricultural community seeking to mitigate damage to crops. Not unlike the black bear season, bad weather during the limited muzzleloader and firearms deer season can create a significant decline in antlerless harvest in Region A. By allowing hunters to harvest two antlerless deer during a single weapon season, it will create additional opportunities to harvest a deer by extending what is otherwise a short antlerless season for those hunters that have already harvested one antlerless deer or do not archery hunt.

It is important to note that we are not proposing an increase in the bag limit, only an increase in opportunity.

Proposed 2024-2025 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlered Deer – Statewide

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

Antler Point Restriction: Deer hunters may harvest one antlered deer during a license year within the established statewide bag limit (including bonus antlered deer) that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any remaining antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must have at least three points on one antler. Antlered deer can be taken in any order. Junior hunters (16 years old or younger) and apprentice license holders are exempt from the three antler point requirement.

Season	Dates	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 6 – Oct 16 Sunday, Oct 20 – Nov 29 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 16 – Dec 20 Sunday, Jan 5 – Jan 9 (Sunday, see Notes) Jan 10 – Sunday, Jan 12 (Region A only, see Notes) Jan 13 – Jan 31	1 Antlered ¹		Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader	Oct 17 – Oct 19 Dec 21 – Jan 4	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp may not be used during the October 17 – 19, 2024 muzzleloader season. Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 17 – 19, 2024 muzzleloader season. Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Firearm	Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Jan 11 (Region B only, see Notes) Jan 12 (Sunday, see Notes)	1 Antlered ¹		Deer Firearm Season is open during the January 2025 dates in Region B only. Deer Archery Season is open these dates in Region A 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. Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Primitive Hunt Days (See Notes)	Feb 1, 3 –4	See Notes		Primitive Hunt Days: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. Antlered deer taken with long bows and recurve bows will count towards the regular archery bag limit. Antlered deer taken with flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders will count towards the regular muzzleloader bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Days hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

¹The statewide antlered white-tailed deer regular bag limit is two deer total, no more than one in any weapon season. A third antlered whitetail may be taken in Region B only with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp. In Region B, hunters must use a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp in order to take a second antlered whitetail in one weapon season or, if the hunter has already taken an antlered whitetail in two weapon seasons under the regular bag limit, they may use the bonus stamp to take an antlered whitetail in the remaining weapon season.

If a hunter harvests an antlered whitetail in Region B first, they may use the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp in Region A to take another antlered deer in the same weapon season. <u>Hunters may not take more than two antlered whitetails total</u>, or more than one antlered whitetail in any weapon season, while hunting in Region A.

The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp cannot be used the same day that a hunter harvests an antlered whitetail under the regular statewide bag limit (daily antlered bag limit of one).

Proposed 2024-2025 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlerless Deer – Region A

Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties

Definition: 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	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 6 – Oct 16 Sunday, Oct 20 – Nov 29 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 16 – Dec 20 Sunday, Jan 5 – Jan 31 (Sunday, see Notes)	2 Antlerless ¹	2 Antlerless ¹	Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader All Lands	Oct 17 – Oct 19 Dec 28 – Jan 4	2 Antlerless¹ (See Notes)		Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 17 – 19, 2024 muzzleloader season.
Firearm All Lands	Dec 7 – Dec 14	2 Antlerless ¹		Sunday Deer Hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Primitive Hunt Days (See Notes)	Feb 1, 3 – 4	1 Antlerless	1 Antlerless ¹	Primitive Hunt Days: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. An antlerless deer taken during these days does not count against the hunter's regular Region A antlerless bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Days hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

¹ Up to two antlerless deer may be harvested during a weapon season but no more than two total for the combined season. Only one antlerless deer per day may be harvested in Region A. A third antlerless deer may be harvested during the designated Primitive Hunt Days.

Proposed 2024-2025 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlerless Deer – Region B

Anne Arundel², Baltimore¹, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard¹, Kent, Montgomery¹, Prince George's¹, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

Definition: 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 to	p of the skull as the deer is in li		
Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 6 – Oct 16 Sunday, Oct 20 – Nov 29 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 16 – Dec 20 Sunday, Jan 5 – Jan 9 (Sunday, see Notes) Sunday, Jan 13 - Jan 31 (Sunday, see Notes)	15 Antlerless (Unlimited antlerless in the Suburban Deer Management Zone, see Notes)	Suburban Deer Management Zone: During the designated Archery season, hunters in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties may use vertical bows or crossbows to take an unlimited number of antlerless deer. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain
			Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader	Oct 17 – Oct 19 Oct 21 – Oct 26 Dec 21 – Jan 4	10 Antlerless	Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Firearm	Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Sunday, Jan 12 (Sunday, see Notes)	10 Antlerless	Sunday Deer Hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Primitive Season (See Notes)	Feb 1, 3 – 4	See notes	Primitive Season: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. Antlerless deer taken with long bows and recurve bows will count towards the Region B archery bag limit. Antlerless deer taken with flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders will count towards the Region B muzzleloader bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Season hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

_

² Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties comprise the Suburban Deer Management Zone. This zone has an unlimited bag limit for antlerless deer harvested during the designated archery season.

Proposed 2024-2025 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		Separate Bag Limit: Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Deer Hunt do not count towards the
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered	Nov 16 Nov 17 (Sunday, see Notes)	regular archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits. Sunday Deer Hunting: The Junior Deer Hunt is open on
Where present	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		Sunday November 17, 2024 in all counties except Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's. See chart.

Proposed 2024-2025 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlered & Antlerless Deer

Definition: 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 6 – Oct 16 Sunday, Oct 20 – Nov 29 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 16 – Dec 20 Sunday, Jan 5 – Jan 9 (Sunday, see Notes) Jan 13 – Jan 31	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 17 – Oct 19		October 21 – 26: Deer muzzleloader season is open during these dates in Region B only.
Muzzleloader	Antlerless Only	Oct 21 – 26 (Region B only)	than 1 antlered Sunday deer hunting: Muzzl	Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 21 – Jan 4		moraulo commi sumunjo m socioli comministra
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Sunday, Jan 12	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Primitive Season (See Notes)	Antlered or Antlerless	Feb 1, 3 – 4	See Notes	Primitive Season: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. Sika deer taken with long bows and recurve bows will count towards the sika deer archery bag limit. Sika deer taken with flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders will count towards the sika deer muzzleloader bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Season hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

Tentative 2024-2025 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates

- Archery

								Archery	Season								LANDS
County	Sept. 8	Sept.	Sept.	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov.	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	OPEN
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹							
Anne Arundel									Open								Private Only
Baltimore																	None
Calvert	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Caroline	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Carroll					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open				Private Only
Cecil	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹							
Charles	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Dorchester	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only
Frederick					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open				Private Only
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹							
Harford						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open							Private Only
Howard																	None
Kent	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Private Only							
Montgomery	Open ²	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only							
Prince George's																	None

Tentative 2024-2025 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates

- Archery (continued)

							Arch	ery Seas	on								LANDS
County	Sept. 8	Sept.	Sept.	Sept.	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov.	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	OPEN
Queen Anne's	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
St. Mary's	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Private & Designated Public
Somerset	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private & Designated Public ³				
Talbot	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Private Only
Wicomico	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private & Designated Public ¹				
Worcester	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Private & Designated Public ¹				

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), Cecil (Earlville WMA, C&D Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), Garrett (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), St. Mary's (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), Washington (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), Wicomico (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and Worcester (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA).

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30 am on this Sunday (applies only where footnoted).

³Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Somerset County are those lands leased to hunt clubs for the purpose of hunting.

Tentative 2024-2025 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates

- Firearm and Muzzleloader

		Firearm	Season		Muzzleload	ler Season	LANDS OPEN		
County	Nov. 17 (Jr Hunt)	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Jan. 12	Dec. 22	Dec. 29	LANDS OPEN		
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹		
Anne Arundel	Open	Open					Private Only		
Baltimore							None		
Calvert	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only		
Caroline	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only		
Carroll	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only		
Cecil	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹		
Charles	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only		
Dorchester	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only		
Frederick	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only		
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹		
Harford	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only		
Howard							None		
Kent	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Private Only		
Montgomery	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only		
Prince George's							None		
Queen Anne's	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only		
St. Mary's	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹		
Somerset	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private & Designated Public ³		
Talbot	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only		
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹		
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only		
Wicomico	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private & Designated Public ¹		
Worcester	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private & Designated Public ¹		

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), Cecil (Earlville WMA, C&D Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), Garrett (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), St. Mary's (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), Washington (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), Wicomico (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and Worcester (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA).

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30 am on this Sunday (applies only where footnoted).

³Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Somerset County are those lands leased to hunt clubs for the purpose of hunting.

Proposed 2025-2026 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlered Deer – Statewide

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

Antler Point Restriction: Deer hunters may harvest one antlered deer during a license year within the established statewide bag limit (including bonus antlered deer) that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any remaining antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must have at least three points on one antler. Antlered deer can be taken in any order. Junior

hunters (16 years old or younger) and apprentice license holders are exempt from the three antler point requirement.

Season	Dates	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 5 – Oct 15 Sunday, Oct 19 – Nov 28 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 15 – Dec 19 Sunday, Jan 4 – Jan 8 (Sunday, see Notes) Jan 9 – Sunday, Jan 11 (Region A only, See Notes) Jan 12 – Feb 1 (Sunday, see Notes)	1 Antlered ¹		Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader	Oct 16 – Oct 18 Dec 20 – Jan 3	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp may not be used during the October 16 – 18, 2025 muzzleloader season. Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 16 – 18, 2025 muzzleloader season. Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Firearm	Nov 29 – Dec 13 Jan 9 – Jan 10 (Region B only, see Notes) Jan 11 (Sunday, see Notes)	1 Antlered ¹		Deer Firearm Season is open during the January 2026 dates in Region B only. Deer Archery Season is open these dates in Region A 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. Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.

Primitive Season (See Notes)	Feb 2 – 4	See Notes	Primitive Season: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. Antlered deer taken with long bows and recurve bows will count towards the regular archery bag limit. Antlered deer taken with flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders will count towards the regular muzzleloader bag limit.
			Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Season hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

¹The statewide antlered white-tailed deer regular bag limit is two deer total, no more than one in any weapon season. A third antlered whitetail may be taken in Region B only with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp. In Region B, hunters must use a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp in order to take a second antlered whitetail in one weapon season or, if the hunter has already taken an antlered whitetail in two weapon seasons under the regular bag limit, they may use the bonus stamp to take an antlered whitetail in the remaining weapon season.

If a hunter harvests an antlered whitetail in Region B first, they may use the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp in Region A to take another antlered deer in the same weapon season. Hunters may not take more than two antlered whitetails total, or more than one antlered whitetail in any weapon season, while hunting in Region A.

The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp cannot be used the same day that a hunter harvests an antlered whitetail under the regular statewide bag limit (daily antlered bag limit of one).

Proposed 2025-2026 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlerless Deer – Region A Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties

Definition: 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	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 5 – Oct 15 Sunday, Oct 19 – Nov 28 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 15 – Dec 19 Sunday, Jan 4 – Feb 1 (Sunday, see Notes)	2 Antlerless ³	2 Antlerless ³	Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader All Lands	Oct 16 – Oct 18 Dec 27 – Jan 3	2 Antlerless ³		Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 16 – 18, 2025 muzzleloader season.
Firearm All Lands	Dec 6 – Dec 13	2 Antlerless ³		Sunday Deer Hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.

³ Up to two antlerless deer may be harvested during a weapon season but no more than two total for the combined season. Only one antlerless deer per day may be harvested in Region A. A third antlerless deer may be harvested during the designated Primitive Season.

Primitive Season (See Notes)	Feb 2 – 4	1 Antlerless	1 Antlerless ¹	Primitive Season: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. An antlerless deer taken during these days does not count against the hunter's regular Region A antlerless bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Season hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

Proposed 2025-2026 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlerless Deer – Region B

Anne Arundel⁴, Baltimore¹, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard¹, Kent, Montgomery¹, Prince George's¹, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

Definition: 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 5 – Oct 15 Sunday, Oct 19 – Nov 28 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 15 – Dec 19 Sunday, Jan 4 – Jan 8 (Sunday, see Notes) Jan 12 – Sunday, Feb 1 (Sunday, see Notes)	15 Antlerless (Unlimited antlerless in the Suburban Deer Management Zone, see Notes)	Suburban Deer Management Zone: During the designated Archery season, hunters in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties may use vertical bows or crossbows to take an unlimited number of antlerless deer. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink 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 or pink when the Black Bear Season is open.
			Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
	Oct 16 – Oct 18		
Muzzleloader	Oct 20 – Oct 25	10 Antlerless	Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
	Dec 20 – Jan 3		
	Nov 29 – Dec 13		Sunday Deer Hunting: Firearm season dates include certain
Firearm	Jan 9 – Sunday, Jan 11 (Sunday, see Notes)	10 Antlerless	Sundays in select counties. See chart.

⁴ Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties comprise the Suburban Deer Management Zone. This zone has an unlimited bag limit for antlerless deer harvested during the designated archery season.

Primitive Season (See Notes)	Feb 2 – 4	See notes	Primitive Season: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. Antlerless deer taken with long bows and recurve bows will count towards the Region B archery bag limit. Antlerless deer taken with flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders will count towards the Region B muzzleloader bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive
			Season hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink.

Proposed 2025-2026 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		Separate Bag Limit: Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Deer Hunt do not count towards the
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered	Nov 15 Nov 16 (Sunday, see Notes)	regular archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits. Sunday Deer Hunting: The Junior Deer Hunt is open on
Where present	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		Sunday November 16, 2025 in all counties except Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's. See chart.

Proposed 2025-2026 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlered & Antlerless Deer

Definition: 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 5 – Oct 15 Sunday, Oct 19 – Nov 28 (Sunday, see Notes) Dec 15 – Dec 19 Sunday, Jan 4 – Jan 8 (Sunday, see Notes) Jan 12 – Feb 1 (Sunday, see Notes)	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.				
	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 16 – Oct 18	3 deer, no	October 20 – 25: Deer muzzleloader season is open during these dates in Region B only.				
Muzzleloader	Antlerless Only	Oct 20 – 25 (Region B only)	more than 1 antlered	Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.				
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 20 – Jan 3						
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 29 – Dec 13 Jan 9 – Sunday, Jan 11 (Sunday, see Notes)	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.				
Primitive Season (See Notes)	Antlered or Antlerless	Feb 2 – 4	See Notes	Primitive Season: Hunters may use long bows, recurve bows, flintlock, or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders during these days. The use of telescopic or modern optics is prohibited. Sika deer taken with long bows an recurve bows will count towards the sika deer archery bag limit. Sika deer taken with flintlock or sidelock percussion muzzleloaders will count towards the sika deer muzzleloader bag limit. Fluorescent orange or pink requirement: All Primitive Season hunters must wear fluorescent orange				

Tentative 2025-2026 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates

- Archery

								Arc	hery Sea	son								LANDG
County	Sept.	Sept.	Sept. 21	Sept.	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25	Feb. 1	LANDS OPEN
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹							
Anne Arundel									Open									Private Only
Baltimore																		None
Calvert	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Caroline	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Carroll					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Cecil	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹							
Charles	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Dorchester	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only
Frederick					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹							
Harford						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open								Private Only
Howard																		None
Kent	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Private Only							
Montgomery	Open ²	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only							
Prince George's																		None

Tentative 2025-2026 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates

- Archery (continued)

County	Archery Season														LANDS			
	Sept.	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25	Feb. 1	OPEN
Queen Anne's	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
St. Mary's	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public
Somerset	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Talbot	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Wicomico	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				
Worcester	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²		Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only				

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), Cecil (Earlville WMA, C&D Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), Garrett (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), St. Mary's (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), Washington (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), Wicomico (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and Worcester (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA).

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30 am on this Sunday (applies only where footnoted).

³Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Somerset County are those lands leased to hunt clubs for the purpose of hunting.

Tentative 2025-2026 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates

- Firearm and Muzzleloader

		Firearm	Season		Muzzleload	er Season	LANDS OPEN	
County	Nov. 16 (Jr Hunt)	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Jan. 11	Dec. 21	Dec 28		
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹	
Anne Arundel	Open	Open					Private Only	
Baltimore							None	
Calvert	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Caroline	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Carroll	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only	
Cecil	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹	
Charles	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Dorchester	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only	
Frederick	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only	
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹	
Harford	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only	
Howard							None	
Kent	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Private Only	
Montgomery	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Prince George's							None	
Queen Anne's	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
St. Mary's	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹	
Somerset	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Talbot	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Washington Region A	Open	Open Open		No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹	
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only	
Wicomico	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	
Worcester	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only	

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany (Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge SF, McCoole FMA, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA), Cecil (Earlville WMA, C&D Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA), Garrett (Cunningham Swamp WMA, Garrett SF, Mt. Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Savage River SF), St. Mary's (Salem SF, Saint Inigoes SF), Washington (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Sideling Hill WMA), Wicomico (Ellis Bay WMA, Chesapeake Forest Lands, Johnson WMA, Nanticoke WMA, Wetipquin WMA), and Worcester (Chesapeake Forest Lands, E. A. Vaughn WMA, Hickory Pt. Wildlands, Isle of Wight WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA).

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30 am on this Sunday (applies only where footnoted).

³Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Somerset County are those lands leased to hunt clubs for the purpose of hunting.