

USA

Alabama

A long season, abundant deer populations throughout the state, a generous bag limit, plenty of public land, and reasonable license fees make Alabama an excellent bowhunting destination, especially for out-of-staters, as non-resident hunters can bowhunt over 750,000 acres of public Wildlife Management Areas simply by purchasing a state hunting license and a \$16 WMA license. An additional 420,000 acres of USFS land is open for bowhunting and only requires the purchase of a state hunting license.

Alabama's bow season runs from mid October through the end of January. Hunters are allowed two antlered bucks of choice and one antlered buck with four or more antler points on at least one main beam, for a total of three antlered bucks for the year. Plus significant either-sex opportunities are offered throughout the Bow and Arrow season, with a two-deer-a-day bag in most counties, making it one of the country's most liberal deer seasons.

Alabama's northwest, west central, and east central regions remain the premier trophy-producing areas, though good quality deer can be found statewide, says Deer Studies Project Leader Chris Cook. Interest in Quality Deer Management is at an all-time high, and private or leased properties managed for quality bucks are among the best places to hunt. Public hunting lands in Alabama are underutilized by bowhunters. Hunting pressure is low and opportunities are ample in most areas. Some of the better public areas include: Barbour, Blue Spring, Cahaba River, Choccolocco, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Mulberry Fork, Sam R. Murphy, and Oakmulgee WMAs. Areas that offer a shot at a better-quality buck include: Barbour, Black Warrior, Coosa, Freedom Hills, William R. Ireland, Sr.—Cahaba River, Lauderdale, Lowndes, James D. Martin—Skyline, Mulberry Fork, Oakmulgee, Scotch, and Wolf Creek WMAs. Both crossbows and spears are permitted during the Bow and Arrow season.

Although not as widespread as whitetails, feral pigs also offer opportunities in many areas of Alabama.

There will be special archery-only deer hunts at Oak Mountain State Park near Birmingham again this year. Contact the Bowhunters of Alabama for more details (Bowhunters of Alabama, <http://alabamabowhunter.com/web/>; Barry Estes, president, 334-301-0179; bull.elk@charter.net).

ALLIGATOR

Season: Mobile Delta (nighttime only), Sunset Aug. 13-Sunrise Aug. 16; Sunset Aug. 20-Sunrise Aug. 23. Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, & Russell Counties (nighttime only) Sunset Aug. 13-Sunrise Aug. 29.

Application deadline: Must register on-line at www.outdooralabama.com between 8 a.m. June 1 and 8 a.m. July 12, 2010. Must be a resident of Alabama to register.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 15-Jan. 31. No hunting Tuesdays and Wednesdays on the Talladega (Talladega Division) National Forest each week except Nov. 23-24, Dec. 14-15, and Dec. 21-22. Limit: 2 deer per day, only 1 may be an antlered buck. 2 antlered bucks of choice and 1 antlered buck with four or more points on at least one main beam, for a total of 3 antlered bucks for the year.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$275 (annual), \$120 (3-day), \$170 (10-day). No license required for residents 65+ and children under age 16.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Nov. 21-Jan. 1, Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega Counties. Spring Mar. 15-Apr. 30 (varies by county).

Limit: 1 per day, 5 total for fall and spring seasons combined, gobblers only.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$275 (annual), \$120 (3-day), \$170 (10-day). No license required for residents 65+ and children under age 16.

WILD HOGS

Season: No closed season during daylight hours. No hunting Tuesdays and Wednesdays on the Talladega (Talladega Division) National Forest during the dates of the deer season, except Nov. 23-24, Dec. 14-15, and Dec. 21-22.

Limit: No bag limit.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$275 (annual), \$120 (3-day), \$170 (10-day). No license required for residents 65 and older and children under age 16.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs. within user's normal draw length for compound bows, recurves, and longbows; 90 percent maximum letoff at full draw. Bow draw locks illegal.

Arrows: Minimum length 20 inches from nock end to end of shaft. Crossbow bolts or arrows must be at least 14 inches in length from nock slot to end of shaft.

Sights: Sighting and aiming devices on all bows shall be void of any electronics with computational capabilities. The use of electrically assisted aiming devices shall be limited to illuminated sight pins/beads/markings that are attached to the bow. Sights with magnification or light projection (laser type) features are prohibited

Broadheads: 100-grain minimum weight, 7/8-inch minimum cutting diameter (all broadheads), .015-inch minimum blade thickness on fixed-blade broadheads, and .025-inch minimum blade thickness on expandable broadheads.

Crossbows: Legal for all hunters with open season dates Oct. 15-Jan. 31. Minimum peak tension of 100 pounds at normal draw length. Must be equipped with a working safety.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Baiting is illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Hunters using elevated stands or platforms must attach themselves to the tree or platform with a safety harness, rope, or strap capable of supporting their weight.

Permanent treestands or scaffolding is illegal on WMAs or without written permission from landowners. No portable stands may be used within 50 yards of the boundary line on Barbour WMA. Hunter orange does not have to be visible when hunting from an enclosed blind.

Decoys/Game Calls: Electrically amplified bird calls or sound, real or imitation, is illegal. Live decoys illegal, except when hunting unprotected birds or animals. Turkey decoys that have mechanical or electronic parts that make the decoy move or produce sounds are illegal. Turkey decoys allowed during spring turkey seasons only.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, but all hunters born after 9/1/77 must complete a state-certified hunter education course before buying a license.

Special permits: A \$16 license is required to hunt WMAs.

Estimated bowhunters in '08-'09: 58,800 (source: hunter mail survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters of Alabama, <http://alabamabowhunter.com/web/>; Barry Estes, president, (334) 301-0179; bull.elk@charter.net

Information/licenses: Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, 64 N. Union St., Ste. 567, Montgomery, AL 36730; (800) 848-6887; www.outdooralabama.com. Licenses are sold at 950 locations, including all county Probate Officer/License Commissioner offices, marinas, sporting goods retailers, by phone at (888) 848-6887, and at www.outdooralabama.com/licenses.

Alaska

Alaska has 12 species of big game animals spread across 365,000,000 acres, an area one-fifth the size of the entire United States. Big game densities are generally much lower than in the Lower 48. Many big game species in Alaska make long movements between seasonal ranges. The key to successful big game hunting in Alaska is in doing your homework to determine both the best areas and times to hunt the species you are seeking.

Because Alaska is such a big state, the best advice to bowhunters is to visit the state's website (www.wildlife.alaska.gov), select a GMU to hunt, and then contact the local biologist and state trooper in those areas. Hunting opportunities can vary depending on residency, so confirm your status before choosing units or setting dates.

Moose are the most sought-after big game animal in Alaska. Hunters report harvesting over 7,000 of Alaska's estimated 175,000 moose each year. Going out to "get a moose" is a fall ritual for tens of thousands of Alaskans. Moose may be found throughout most of Alaska except on the Aleutian Islands, but they are most commonly found in South Central and Interior Alaska. The Anchorage/Fairbanks areas generally are best Sept. 1-20. Fly-in hunts to more remote areas of the Alaska Peninsula provide some of the best trophy opportunities.

Caribou hunters traditionally experience feast or famine depending upon whether they are hunting where caribou are moving through, or in an area away from the herd's location. Again, doing your homework with local area biologists and air taxi operators can make the difference between success and failure.

Black-tailed deer are a largely underutilized resource in Alaska and represent a tremendous hunting opportunity. Bag limits are often liberal, including up to five antlered deer in some areas, and same-day-airborne hunting of deer is allowed. Best bets lie in southeast regions and Kodiak and Afognak Islands.

An estimated 100,000 black bears inhabit Alaska. Statewide, the annual harvest increased steadily between 2003 and 2007, from about 2,500 to 3,250 bears. Black bear hunting over bait is becoming more popular with bowhunters, with big bruins taken on Prince of Wales and the Quin Island areas in the southeast. The best times are normally the first two weeks in May. An IBEP Card is required, and a department-approved bear baiting course is required for certain areas of the state.

Brown bear (grizzly) populations are holding stable at about 30,000. Non-resident brown bear hunters are required to have a guide or be accompanied by an Alaska resident who is a relative.

Season dates listed below are for general seasons. Additional opportunities may be available (e.g., muskox, mountain goat, bison). Visit www.wildlife.alaska.gov for more information.

DEER

Season: Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1-5 (varies by unit).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$150 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$200 tag.

BROWN BEAR

Season: Dates vary by unit (year-round in some areas).

Limit: 1 every 1 to 4 years (some areas 1 or 2 every year).

Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$25 tag. Non-res. \$85 plus \$500 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$650 tag.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Dates vary by unit (year-round in some areas).

Limit: 1-3 (varies by unit).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$225 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$300 tag.

CARIBOU

Season: Dates vary by unit (year-round in some areas).

Limit: 1-10 (varies by unit).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$325 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$425 tag.

ELK

Season: Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 (either sex).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$300 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$400 tag.

MOOSE

Season: Aug. 1-Apr. 15 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$400 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$500 tag.

DALL SHEEP

Season: Aug. 1-Apr. 30 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 full-curl ram (more in some res.-only areas).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$425 tag. Non-res. alien \$300 plus \$550 tag.

Minimum draw weight: The bow is at least 40 pounds peak draw weight when hunting black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep and caribou; 50 pounds peak draw weight when hunting mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox and bison.

Broadheads: The arrow tipped with a broadhead must be at least 20 inches in overall length and at least 300 grains in total weight—no barbed broadheads. The broadhead will be a fixed, replaceable or mechanical/retractable blade type when taking black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep, and caribou; a fixed or replaceable blade type broadhead for taking mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox, and bison.

Crossbows: Crossbows are illegal in “archery-only” hunts and areas, but can be used where guns and bows are legal weapons as in any “open season” hunts.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal for deer. Bowhunters wishing to hunt black bears over bait are required to complete an IBEP course and/or a Department-approved bear baiting course if hunting in certain GMUs.

Treestands/Blinds: Unspecified.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls may be used for all game animals except moose.

Bowhunter education permit: Bowhunter certification is required for any big game hunt restricted to “bow and arrow only” or “certified bowhunters only.” Alaska recognizes bowhunter certification cards from any state-authorized program or the NBEF/IBEP card.

Special permits: Alaska offers lifetime hunting licenses to Alaskan residents 60 and older. Alaska youths do not need a license until age 16. Disabled Alaskan Vets (over 50 percent) get a free hunting and fishing license.

Special regulations: Non-residents must hire a registered guide to hunt sheep, goats and brown bear. Some non-residents with relatives in Alaska may be exempt from some guide requirements. Non-res. aliens must have a guide for all big game. Big game taken by hunters under age 10 are counted against the bag limit of the adult supervising the hunt.

Bowhunting organization(s): Alaskan Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 220830, Anchorage, AK 99522-0830; (907) 929-3600; www.akbowhunters.com.

Est. bowhunters in '09: 7,000; no separate license for bowhunting.

Information/licenses, contact: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518-1599; (907) 267-2347; www.wildlife.alaska.gov.

For information on where you can hunt, contact: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, (907) 271-5960; U.S. Forest Service, (907) 586-8806; Alaska State Parks, (907) 257-2649; National Wildlife Refuges, (800) 478-1456. Military and Regional Native Corps land also is available for hunting.

Arizona

There are no significant changes to archery hunting or archery seasons in Arizona this year. For deer, Arizona continues to offer most of its archery deer seasons as over-the-counter; however, permit-tags for a few units (12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B) are issued through the Big Game Draw (deadline was June 8, 2010).

Hunters are also advised that some season structures (dates) may have changed, which includes the lengthening of seasons in some units. All harvest data and population survey data can be found on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's website in the *Hunt Arizona–2010 Edition* document.

Mule deer, the state's most abundant big-game animal and found throughout the state, has an estimated population of 90,000. Rocky Mountain mule deer occur primarily in northern Arizona above the Mogollon Rim in GMUs 1 through 13, while the desert mule deer is found in all of the more southern units (15 through 46). All hunters took 8,301 muleys in 2009 (675 of these by archers), up from 6,937 in 2008. In recent years, bowhunters have been most successful in units 7, 12A, 22, 23, 24A, 24B, 33, 34A, 35A, 36A, and 36B.

The statewide population of pronghorn is estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 post-hunt adults. Hunters took 621 bucks; 119 of these were taken by archers. Arizona does not offer any doe hunts.

Arizona's elk population is approximately 25,000 to 30,000 post-hunt adults. In 2009, hunters took 9,453 elk. Archers took 1,410 in 2009, down from 1,694 in 2008.

Detailed hunting information written by Arizona's wildlife managers, covering hunt forecasts, areas to hunt, access information, and tips to improve hunt success for 80 game management units statewide, is available at www.azgfd.gov. Click on the "Hunting & Fishing" link, then follow the hunting options. The *Hunt Arizona–2010 Edition* as well as draw and bonus points information can also be found on the website.

DEER

Season: Archery (units vary, check regs) Aug. 20-Sept. 9; Dec. 10-Jan. 31, 2011 (inclusive); Aug. 20-Jan. 31, 2011 (Fort Huachuca). Archers are required call (866) 903-DEER to report their archery deer harvest.

Limit: 1 per calendar year (whether taken by archery or firearm).

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$34.75 archery deer non-permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$225.25 archery deer nonpermit-tag. Unit 12A requires a Unit 12A (Kaibab North) Habitat Management Stamp (\$15).

Application deadline: June 8, 2010.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 20-Sept. 2 (most units).

Limit: 1 buck per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$85 pronghorn hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$485 pronghorn hunt permit-tag.

Application deadline: Feb. 9, 2010.

ELK

Season: Archery Sept. 10-23 and Nov. 12-25 (earliest and latest dates, except Camp Navajo that begins Aug. 27). Over-the-counter opportunities are also available in specific areas Jan. 1-Mar. 31 and Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (inclusive).

Limit: 1 elk per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$121.50 elk hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$595 elk hunt permit-tag.

Application deadline: Feb. 9, 2010.

TURKEY

Season: Archery Aug. 20-Sept. 9, Aug. 27-Sept. 9 Camp Navajo; Spring Apr. 22-May 19 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 turkey per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$18 turkey non-permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$70.25 turkey non-permit-tag.

Application deadline: None for fall, tags are sold over-the-counter for archery. Spring is early October, date TBD.

JAVELINA

Season: Archery Jan. 1-21, 2010. Fall is juniors only, Oct. 8-17 or Nov. 19-25 depending on unit.

Limit: 1 per calendar year (whether taken during spring or fall).

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$28.75 javelina hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$105 javelina hunt permit-tag.

Application deadline: Fall June 8, 2010. Spring early October, date TBD.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Most seasons run Dec. 1-31 desert; a few units open in October or November, or are only a 2-week season.

Limit: 1 desert per lifetime and 1 Rocky Mountain per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$272.50 bighorn hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$1,407.50 bighorn hunt permit-tag.

Application deadline: June 8, 2010.

BISON

Season: Fall Sept. 24-26, Oct. 8-10. Spring Jan. 1-June 13 (inclusive, earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus buffalo hunt permit-tag—\$1,095 (bull), \$659.50 (cow or cow/yearling), \$362.75 (yearling). Non-res. \$151.25 plus buffalo hunt permit-tag—\$5,452.25 (bull), \$3,262.75 (cow or cow/yearling), \$1,754.75 (yearling).

Application deadline: Fall June 8, 2010. Spring early October, date TBD.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Archery Aug. 20-Sept. 30 (varies by unit). Fall General Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing). Spring Archery Mar. 18-July 31. Hunters must call (800) 970-BEAR before hunting to determine if desired hunt is still open and to report their bear harvest. All hunters must present their bear to the AZ Game and Fish Department for physical inspection.

Limit: 1 per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$22.25 bear nonpermit-tag or \$29.75 for a spring permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$237.50 bear nonpermit-tag or \$245 for a spring permit-tag.

Application deadline: Spring is early October, date TBD.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Aug. 20-May 19, 2011, statewide; dates vary in some units. Units 11M, 25M, 26M, 38M, and 47M archery-only. Hunters must call (877) 438-0447 before hunting to determine if desired hunt is still open and to report their mountain lion harvest. All hunters must present their lion to the AZ Game and Fish Department for physical inspection.

Limit: 1. Some units have multiple-lion harvest objectives.

Fees: Res \$32.25 plus \$14.50 lion nonpermit-tag. Non-res \$151.25 plus \$225 lion nonpermit-tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds. 50 pounds for buffalo.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Allowed during general firearms seasons, during H.A.M. (Handgun, Archery, Muzzleloader) seasons by physically challenged with permit or in the archery-only seasons.

Minimum draw weight 125 pounds, bolts minimum length 16 inches.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal except for bear.

Treestands/Blinds: It may be unlawful to cut any trees or branches while hanging treestands or setting blinds, to leave stands or blinds unattended, to construct permanent stands or blinds, or to pound climbing spikes or attach anything that penetrates the surface of a tree causing permanent injury or scarring. Check regulations governing the land you hunt.

Calls/Decoys: Decoys must be taken down at the end of each hunting day on public lands.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in '09: Approx. 25,000 (based on archery deer tag purchasers and hunters who chose archery as their first hunt choice for elk).

Bowhunting organization(s): Arizona Bowhunters Association, Box 67084, Phoenix, AZ 85084-7084; www.arizonabowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Arizona Game and Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Hwy., Phoenix, AZ 85086; (602) 942-3000; www.azgfd.gov.

Arkansas

A five-month season, liberal bag limits, and a deer population is estimated at 1 million animals make Arkansas an attractive deer hunting destination. For the second consecutive year, Arkansas deer hunters harvested almost record numbers of deer in The Natural State, reports AGFC Deer Program Coordinator Brad Miller. Last year, hunters checked about 185,000 deer. For the 2009-

10 season, the preliminary harvest total increased to 187,000 deer. The record deer harvest in Arkansas was 195,000 deer checked in 1999, the most in a single year since the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission began keeping records in 1938.

The largest increase came in the doe harvest where hunters took over 83,400 female deer. That number was over 11.4 percent higher than last year. The buck harvest was down about 5 percent.

Best prospects for 2010-2011 include the Delta and Crowley's Ridge areas for quality, and the Gulf Coastal Plain for quantity. Over 280,000 acres of state-owned Natural Areas and Wildlife Management Areas, 350,000 acres within the National Wildlife Refuges and two National Forests are available for public hunting. Maps of these areas as well as Arkansas Game and Fish Commission lakes and U.S. Corps of Engineers lakes are available online.

The 2010-2011 Arkansas Hunting Guidebook was not yet issued at press time. Be sure to check it for the latest changes and season adjustments.

DEER

Season: Oct. 1-Feb. 28.

Limit: 3 to 5 (specific doe and buck limits/mixes vary depending on zones and WMAs).

Fees: Res. Sportsman's License \$25. Non-res. annual all-game hunting license \$300, 5-day all-game \$150, 3-day all-game \$100.

BEAR

Season: Archery/Crossbow Oct. 1-Nov. 30 Bear Zone 1, Sept. 15-Nov. 30 Bear Zone 2. Closed in Bear Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as deer.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Sept. 20-24, Dec. 6-10.

Limit: 1

Fees: Same as deer.

Application deadline: End of May.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during archery seasons, except for elk. Must have minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and mechanical safety.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal for bear on private land only, dates vary by zone. Hunting deer over bait prohibited Feb. 1-28. An area is considered baited for 10 days following complete removal of the bait.

Treestands/Blinds: Permanent treestands on public land are prohibited. Portable treestands are allowed but must be removed by season's end.

Calls/Decoys: Mechanical or electronic turkey calls illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: If born after 1968, you must carry proof of hunter education training. Hunters under 16 do not need to have a card if they are under the direct supervision of a holder of a valid hunting license at least 21 years of age.

Special hunts: Youth-only deer on some WMAs. Call (501) 223-6300 for more information.

Licenses sold in '09: N/A.

Bowhunting organization(s): Arkansas Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 22832, Little Rock, AR 72221-2832; www.arkansasbowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205; (501) 223-6300; www.agfc.com.

California

Warning: "California experienced above average precipitation last year, resulting in improved habitat conditions which should benefit deer populations for the next few years. However, all the new growth could also result in extreme fire conditions during standard fall hunting seasons. We recommend that hunters planning on hunting public lands (USFS/BLM), especially in Southern California, regularly monitor the individual forest and/or resource area websites for updates on these potential closures." (California Department of Fish and Game)

Bowhunters in the Golden State can expect much of the same as in previous years, says Deer Program Coordinator Craig Stowers. "Big game populations are relatively stable as are habitat conditions and areas available to hunt," he says.

In 2009, hunters took 27,900 deer (453 does and 26,634 bucks). The overall statewide hunter success was estimated to be 15.4 percent (PLMs excluded). The estimated archery kill was 2,806 deer (PLMs excluded). The north and north central regions saw the greatest harvests.

California's black bear population has increased over the past 25 years. In 1982, the statewide bear population was estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000. The current estimate is between 25,000 and 30,000. Last year the bear season closed on December 16 when the 1,700-bear quota was reached, well before scheduled season end of December 31.

DEER

Season: July 11-Dec. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing date; varies by zone or hunt).

Limit: 2.

Fees: Res. Hunting \$41.50, First Deer Tag Application \$27.85, Second-Deer Tag Application \$34.65. Non-res. Hunting \$144.65, First or Second-Deer Tag Application \$244.90.

BEAR

Season: Aug. 21-Sept.12 (archery only).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$40.70. Non res. \$245.75.

ELK

Season: Aug. 14-Dec. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing date; varies by region and sub species).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$379.25. Non-res. \$1,172.50 (only 1 non-res. tag awarded annually).

Application deadline: June 2

PRONGHORN

Season: Aug.14-Aug. 22 (archery only).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Antelope Tag Fee res. \$126.25, non-res. \$390.75

Application deadline: June 2

TURKEY

Season: Fall Nov. 13-28, 2010 (archery); Spring Mar. 26-May 15, 2011.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex; Spring 1 bearded bird per day, 3 per season.

Fees: Res. \$41.50, plus game bird stamp \$8.40. Non res. \$144.65 (two-day non res license \$41.50), plus game bird stamp \$8.40.

WILD PIG

Season: Open all year.

Limit: No daily bag or possession limit.

Fees: Res. \$19.95 for single tag. Non-res. single tag \$66.70.

NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 21, 2010-Feb. 20, 2011 (earliest opening and latest closing date; varies by zone or hunt).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$357.50. Non-res. \$500 (only 1 non-res. tag awarded annually).

Application deadline: June 2

Minimum draw weight: Bows must be able to cast an arrow a minimum of 130 yards.

Broadheads: Fixed-blade and mechanical broadheads that “when open will not pass through a hole 7/8 of an inch in diameter.”

Crossbows: Legal only during general firearms seasons. Valid for archery use by disabled hunters with Department-issued “Disabled Archer” permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal. No one may take any resident game bird or mammal within 400 yards of any baited area.

Treestands/Blinds: No regulations.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Licenses shall be issued to hunters only upon presentation of one of the following: An annual California hunting license from a prior year or evidence of having held such a license; a two-day California nonresident hunting license issued after the 1999/2000 license year; a California hunter education completion or equivalency certificate; a certificate of competence or completion of a California approved hunter education training course from any state or province; or a current year hunting license from any state or province.

Big game application deadline: June 2, 2010 (antelope, deer, elk and sheep tags).

Est. number of bowhunters: 16,000 (95 percent residents, based on tag application sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): California Bowmen Hunters, CBH/SAA, P.O. Box 1930, Elk Grove, CA 95759-1930; President Ken Miller, (909) 393-1157; www.cbhsaa.net.

Information/licenses: General Information: California Department of Fish and Game, 1812 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95817, (916) 445-3418. Licenses: 1740 North Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834, (916) 928-5805. www.dfg.ca.gov.

Colorado

The 2010 season looks promising for Colorado bowhunters. Unseasonably warm weather throughout the regular rifle seasons during the last three years led to lower-than-average hunter success and reduced statewide deer and elk harvests. As a result, a good number of bulls and bucks evaded rifle hunters, which should mean excellent carryover of mature animals this fall in many areas of the state.

In addition, abundant spring and summer moisture leading up to the 2009 hunting seasons created ideal forage conditions, promoting overall herd health and exceptional antler growth. With good nutrition, antler growth was better in some areas than many long-time wildlife

managers had seen their entire careers. If Colorado experiences favorable weather this spring and summer, hunters could see exceptional quality elk and deer hunting again in 2010.

Colorado's elk hunting opportunities are unrivaled in the West, offering diverse seasons, easy-to-obtain licenses and more than 23 million acres of public hunting access. In 2009, 36,654 archers took 4,729 animals (3,167 of them bulls). Colorado remains the only state to offer over-the-counter bull elk licenses that are valid in most hunting units. In addition, recent estimates show Colorado is home to more than 280,000 elk—the largest population in North America. For more information and a glimpse into Colorado elk hunting, the Colorado Division of Wildlife offers a 12-minute high-definition online video, *Elk Camp Colorado*, that takes viewers on an intimate journey deep into Colorado's backcountry. The video also provides overviews of Colorado's big game hunting regulations and license application process. To view, go to: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/NewsMedia/Videos/>.

Thanks to sound management and fully limited licenses, Colorado deer hunting has improved greatly over the last decade. Mature bucks comprise the majority of the harvest (1,842 out of 2,617 archery deer harvested) and hunter satisfaction continues to grow.

Pronghorn hunters experienced a banner year in 2009, with hunter harvest (463 archery animals) and hunter participation (2,289 archers) reaching all-time highs. Colorado's pronghorn harvest has increased every year since 2002, and wildlife managers attribute this upward trend to a growing pronghorn population. According to recent estimates, Colorado is home to more than 74,000 pronghorn—the largest population in decades. Excellent pronghorn hunting should continue into 2010, as a liberal license allocation will again provide ample hunting opportunities.

DEER

Season: Aug. 28-Sept. 6 (west of I-25 and unit 140)

Limit: 1-2, depending on license type.

Fees: Res. \$34, non-res. \$329.

PLAINS DEER

Season: East of I-25 except unit 140. There will be two or three splits within the season (three in units with both regular & late plains rifle deer seasons) to avoid archery/rifle season overlap.

Oct. 1-22, Nov. 3-30, Dec. 15-31 OR Oct. 1-22, Nov. 3-Dec. 31 OR Oct. 1-Nov.30, Dec. 15-31.

Limit: 1-2, depending on license type.

Fees: Res. \$34, non-res. \$329.

ELK:

Season: Aug. 28-Sept. 6

Limit: Varies, depending on license types.

Fees: Res. \$49; non-res. bull \$544, cow \$354.

PRONGHORN

Season: Aug. 15-31 bucks. Sept. 1-20 either-sex.

Limit: Varies, depending on license types.

Fees: Res. \$34, non-res. \$329.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 11-26

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$254, non-res. \$1,819.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN

Season: Varies by unit.

Limit: 1 every 5 years.

Fees: Res. \$254, non-res. \$1,819.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Sept. 2-26

Limit: 1 over-the-counter; additional licenses may be available.

Fees: Res. \$44, non-res. \$354.

Minimum draw weight: 35 pounds with a maximum of 80 percent letoff.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and minimum 2 steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in same plane for the entire length of cutting surface.

Crossbows: Legal only during general firearms seasons. Draw weight minimum 125 pounds, draw length minimum 14 inches from front of bow to nocking point of drawstring. Bolt minimum 16 inches long.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal for mountain lion, bears, deer, elk, pronghorn, or moose. Scent sticks that smell like food are illegal for bears.

Treestands/Blinds: Check with land managers for specific regulations.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls are prohibited for big game hunting and turkeys.

Application Deadlines: Big Game Limited Draw April 6, 2010.

Licenses Leftover from the Limited Drawing: Big Game Leftover Licenses go on sale August 10 at statewide license agents and DOW offices, and may be purchased online August 11, 2010.

Over-the-Counter Licenses: Over-The-Counter big game licenses go on sale July 13 at statewide DOW offices and license agents.

Hunter education permit: Required for anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1949.

Archery licenses sold in 2010: 56,236 (19,930 nonresident archery season licenses and 36,306 resident).

Bowhunting organization(s): Colorado Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 1289, Conifer, CO 80433; (303) 697-9660; www.coloradobowhunting.org.

Information/licenses: Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216; (303) 297-1192; www.wildlife.state.co.us/.

Connecticut

Despite its size, the Nutmeg State is consistently among the top states in the region in terms of overall archery kill. Deer densities are at or near problem levels in many parts of the state. A land ownership pattern of mostly small, privately owned parcels also makes access sometimes problematic, but provides sanctuaries for mature bucks.

Connecticut has one of the longest bow seasons in the six-state region, one that includes liberal bag limits. About 1 in 4 deer taken in Connecticut in 2006 was harvested by a bowhunter. In 2009 bowhunters harvested 4,197 deer. Approximately 35 percent of all bowhunters harvested two or more deer during archery seasons. Bowhunter success rates were highest in Zones 4B, 7, 11, and 12. Firearms seasons are more limited in Zones 11 and 12, and bowhunting seasons are longer. The archery deer harvest in Zone 11 was at least three times higher than all other zones.

Although big, quality bucks can be found anywhere, the farmland in the northwestern and northeastern regions have the highest-quality deer habitat. For higher deer densities and older deer, look to the southwest.

The statewide turkey population is estimated at approximately 35,000 birds. Harvest and brood survey information during the past several years have indicated that annual productivity has had a downward trend, perhaps attributable to wet and cold spring weather conditions. Connecticut has opened more opportunities by lengthening the spring season by one week and starting it one week earlier. In 2009, 7,376 spring hunters took 1,502 bearded turkeys, a 3.6 percent decrease from 2008. The towns of Woodstock, Lebanon, Pomfret, and Cornwall reported the highest harvests.

Archery regulation changes for 2010-2011 include: elimination of interviews for physically disabled persons to obtain a crossbow permit; elimination of orange clothing requirements for bowhunting during firearms deer seasons on state lands that are designated as bowhunting-only when hunting from an elevated stand; addition of privileges for crossbow use on private lands in Deer Management Zones 11 and 12 during January bow season; allowance for archery deer hunters on private land to use a bow during the entire shotgun/rifle season on a statewide basis.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 15-Nov. 16 and Dec. 22-31 (state lands); Sept. 15-Dec. 31 (state land bowhunting-only areas); Sept. 15-Dec. 31 (private lands); Jan. 1-31 (private lands Zones 11-12). Limit: 4, 2 either sex and 2 antlerless. An additional one either-sex and one antlerless deer may be taken on private land in Zones 11 and 12 during January.

Fees: Res. \$41. Non-res. \$135. Junior (12-15) \$19.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Sep. 15-Nov. 16 and Dec. 22-Dec. 31 (state land); Sept. 15-Dec. 31 (state land bowhunting areas); Sep. 15-Dec. 31 (private lands); Jan. 1-Jan. 30 (private lands Zones 11-12). Spring Apr. 28-May 29, 2010.

Limit: Fall 2 either-sex. Spring 2 bearded birds on state land permits, 3 bearded birds for private land permits.

Fees: Res. \$41 plus \$19 turkey tag. Non-res. \$135 plus \$19 turkey tag. Junior (12-15) \$19 plus \$19 turkey tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have at least two blades with minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal for physically challenged hunters by permit, or for deer and turkey hunting on private land in Zones 11 and 12 during the January archery season.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal in Zones 1 to 10, or on state lands in Zones 11 and 12.

Treestands/Blinds: The construction or placement of permanent treestands involving damage to any tree or shrub is prohibited. Portable treestands permitted.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for turkey. Decoys legal during archery seasons; illegal during firearms seasons.

Bowhunter education permit: Required.

Archery deer permits sold in '09: 14,046.

Bowhunting organization: United Bowhunters of Connecticut; P.O. Box 485, Shelton, CT 06484; www.unitedbowhuntersofconnecticut.com.

Information/licenses: Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106; (860) 424-3000; www.dep.state.ct.us.

Delaware

“Deer densities in Delaware are relatively high and thus hunters have a very good chance at filling a tag if they visit the state,” says Game Mammal Biologist Joe Rogerson. Furthermore, due to excellent food availability (corn and soybeans), mild winters, and good habitat, the chances of harvesting a mature buck are very good. The harvest of B&C- and P&Y-caliber deer on a per-square-mile-of-area basis is comparable to that of many Midwestern states that are more commonly known for large deer. “Furthermore,” he adds, “those hunters who start to get stir-crazy in late summer waiting for deer season to arrive can visit Delaware and start hunting before their state’s season opens. Archery season in Delaware opens on September 1.”

Hunters should expect similar to better success as compared to the last few years. The Division has not made any major season/bag limit changes since 2004, and as a result harvest rates have remained stable. However, beginning this season hunters may use a crossbow throughout the five-month archery season, and the distance required to legally hunt from a house (safety zone) will likely be reduced from 100 yards to 50 yards for those hunters using archery equipment.

The coastal areas are still good spots, along with Deer Management Zone 1 in northern Delaware due to accessibility difficulties to this highly urbanized region. However, if a hunter is able to find a place to hunt in this area, he or she has the opportunity to harvest older-aged bucks due to limited harvest pressure. The safety zone distance reduction should help hunters gain additional access in urban areas. Other good places to hunt are the early successional pine stands in Sussex County. Areas that were timbered several years ago have begun to regenerate and are now nearly inaccessible to most hunters who are unwilling/unable to work at getting into them. Those who persevere can find some good, virtually unharvested areas.

Successful hunters will now be required to register their deer within 24 hours of harvest via the state’s toll-free phone or Internet systems. The check station option is no longer available.

Delaware bowhunters enjoy a full five-month season, September through January, with plenty of economical options. Resident and non-resident licenses include two antlerless tags and two doe tags. Residents may purchase a Hunter’s Choice tag, which can be used on an antlerless or antlered deer (any size) for \$10. This tag also comes with a Quality Buck tag (free) that can only be used on an antlered deer with a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. Antlered Deer tags and Quality Buck tags are \$25 each for non-residents, and hunters may purchase one of each. Both resident and non-resident hunters may purchase additional antlerless tags (unlimited) for \$10 each. This tagging structure was implemented to encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer and promote quality deer management.

DEER

Season: Sept. 1-Jan. 31, 2011.

Limit: 4 except by using Delaware Antlerless tags, Hunter’s Choice tag, Quality Buck tag, Deer Damage tags or non-res. Antlered deer tags.

Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$10 Quality Buck/Hunter’s Choice tag. Non-res. Minimum \$130 plus \$25 Quality Buck Tag and/or \$25 antlered buck tag.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 9-May 7, 2011, youth day (private land only) April 2. The season length will be increased from three weeks to four weeks.

Limit: 1 bearded bird.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. License fees are reciprocal; whatever your state of residence charges nonresidents for a license is what you will pay for a nonresident Delaware license (minimum of \$130).

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must be at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: A crossbow may be used from Sept. 1, 2010 through Jan. 31, 2011. Crossbows must have a minimum pull weight of 125 pounds, be manufactured after 1980, and have a mechanical safety. Scopes are allowed. Transporting a crossbow on or within any vehicle while the crossbow is in the cocked position is prohibited.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Baiting legal on private land only for deer, illegal on public land. Illegal for turkeys everywhere.

Treestands/Blinds: No restrictions on private lands as for public lands. Regulations vary by area; check first. In general, stands must be removed at the end of each hunt. Use of hunter orange with ground blinds required during firearms seasons.

Decoys/Game Calls: No turkey decoys allowed that are wholly or partially made from any part of a turkey that was formerly alive. Electronic calling devices illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Estimated bowhunters in '09: Approx. 6,500 (hunter mail survey).

Special permits: For \$10 hunters can buy a Hunter's Choice/Quality Buck tag. Deer must have an outside spread of 15 inches or more for a Quality tag. Hunters must purchase a \$20 annual permit to hunt out of deer stands during one of the state-run shotgun deer seasons on a Wildlife Area.

Information/licenses: Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, 89 Kings Hwy., Dover, DE 19901; (302) 739-9912; <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/>.

Florida

Bowhunting continues to be popular in the Sunshine State accounting for more than 10 percent of the overall deer harvested, 15 percent of the harvested does, and 25 percent of the deer taken on WMAs. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages hunting on more than 160 WMAs throughout the state, many of which offer "bow-only" hunts with several including rules that take into account quality deer management practices. WMAs in the southern part of the state offer hunters an unusual challenge because of their open-marsh landscape. Hunting these areas requires special vehicles, and the FWC has established quotas on the number of vehicles allowed. Permits to operate track vehicles on the Rotenberger, Everglades, Francis S. Taylor and Holey Land WMAs and permits to operate airboats on the Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMAs are issued in two random drawings.

The Florida Buck Registry, established in 1982, provides an opportunity for hunters to register antler scores and other information about white-tailed deer taken in Florida. To be listed in the registry, a minimum net Boone and Crockett score of 100 is needed for typical deer. Nontypical deer must score 125. According to the registry, the northwest and north central regions of the state have accounted for more than 60 percent of all records.

DEER

Season: Archery July 31-Aug. 29 Zone A, Oct. 16-Nov. 14 Zone B, Sept. 18-Oct. 17 Zone C, Oct. 23-Nov. 24 Zone D. Crossbow Aug. 30-Sept. 3 Zone A, Nov. 15-19 Zone B, Oct. 18-22 Zone C, Nov. 29-Dec. 3 Zone D. Bows may also be used during Muzzleloading and General gun seasons.

Limit: 2 deer per day; during antlerless deer season, only 1 may be a doe; during archery season 2 may be does. No more than 2 per day, regardless of season or permit. See regs for greater detail.

Fees: Res. annual hunting license \$17 plus \$5 deer permit. Non-res. 10-day \$46.50, annual \$151.50 plus \$5 deer permit. Archery permit \$5 (not required when using a bow during general gun season). Crossbow permit \$5 during crossbow season. Muzzleloading permit \$5 during muzzleloading gun season. Management area permit \$26.50 required when hunting WMAs.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery—same as deer. Fall Crossbow—same as deer. Spring 2011—Feb. 26-27 (youth only), Mar. 5-Apr. 10 Zone A. Mar. 12-13 (youth only), Mar. 19-Apr. 24 Zones B, C, D (except Holmes County). Mar. 12-13 (youth only), Mar. 19-Apr. 3 Holmes County.

Limit: 1 gobbler or bearded turkey per day; 2 per combined archery, crossbow, muzzleloading gun and fall turkey seasons and 2 during spring turkey season, except in Holmes County where there is no fall season and spring season limit is 1.

Fees: Same as for deer except for \$10 res./\$125 non-res. turkey permit in place of deer permit.

WILD HOG

Seasons: Either sex can be taken year-round on private lands with landowner written permission. Regulations and seasons vary on WMAs (consult regs).

Limit: None on private lands. Size and bag limits may apply on WMAs (see regs). No season limits on private or public lands.

Fees: No res./non-res. license or permits required on private lands. On WMAs, same fees as deer except for deer permit.

Minimum draw weight: 35 pounds.

Hand-held releases: Allowed.

Broadheads: Must have two sharpened edges with minimum width of 7/8 inch when hunting deer, wild hogs or turkeys.

Crossbows: May be used for deer and turkey during crossbow, muzzleloading gun, fall turkey, general gun and spring turkey seasons on private lands. On WMAs, crossbows can only be used during general gun, small game and spring turkey seasons. Crossbows are only allowed during archery season with a Disabled Crossbow Permit. Can use bow or crossbow for wild hogs on private property year-round.

Baiting/Mineral Use: It is legal to take deer and wild hogs over feed on private lands. Cannot shoot turkeys over feed and hunter must be at least 100 yards away from game-feeding station when feed is present while hunting on private property; baiting is not permitted on WMAs for any game.

Treestands/Blinds: Driving any metal object such as nails, screws or spikes into trees on WMAs is prohibited.

Decoys/Game Calls: Live decoys or recorded game calls or sounds are illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Hunter Safety Course required for persons born on or after June 1, 1975.

Special-opportunity hunts: Available for deer, spring turkey, wild hog, dove and released quail on a few WMAs; visit MyFWC.com/Hunting or call (850) 488-8573 for more information.

Bear hunting: Illegal in Florida

Archery permits sold in '08: 28,104 (last data available).

Bowhunting organization(s): Florida Bowhunters Council, 3311 San Jose St., Tampa, FL 33629-7155. Traditional Bowhunters of Florida, 21936 Freeman Dr., Umatilla, FL 32784-8390; (904) 669-5636.

Information/licenses: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Hunting and Game Management, 2574 Seagate Dr., Suite 101, Tallahassee, FL 32301; (850) 488-4676; MyFWC.com/Hunting.

Georgia

Georgia provides great opportunities for bowhunters, and many take up the state's invitation. About one out of every three deer hunters uses a bow at least once during hunting season. And why not? More than 90 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) throughout the state (one within an hour's drive of every Georgian) provide nearly one million acres of hunting land. Archery season opens prior to other seasons, and archery equipment—compounds, longbows, recurves, and crossbows—may be used during all other seasons. Plus Metro-Atlanta counties offer extended archery seasons on private lands produce some of the largest bucks in the state, and, with few exceptions, are archery-only throughout the deer season. Major components of the recently adopted Urban Deer Management Plan include facilitating hunter access and increasing hunter opportunity in urban areas. In 2008-2009, 91,243 bowhunters took 42,880 deer.

The best prospects with archery equipment are whitetails and feral hogs, but archers are also harvesting turkeys, bears, small game, and alligators (quota only).

Increased doe bag limits and either-sex days, voluntary restraint in the harvest of young bucks, and mandatory antler restrictions in some areas are improving Georgia's deer herd quality. Best bets occur in Hancock, Harris, Meriwether, Montgomery, Randolph, Talbot, and Troup counties, where only antlered bucks with at least four points on either side are legal; or Dooly and Macon counties, where only antlered bucks with a minimum 15-inch outside spread are legal. Statewide, one buck of the two-buck season limit must have at least four points on one side.

Statistics from the 2009 season harvest summary indicate that an estimated 56,113 resident Georgia hunters (all weapons) bagged 27,323 turkeys last year. The bird-to-hunter ratio (harvest rate) for 2009 was .49 birds per hunter, the same as in 2007 and 2008. Georgia's current turkey population is estimated at 300,000 birds.

At press time, there was a proposal under consideration by the Board of Natural Resources to expand alligator opportunities by increasing the number of applicants selected to participate from 700 to 850. The alligator population is estimated to be 200,000. Harvest rates and average size of harvested alligators has remained stable. In 2009, 700 hunters harvested 193 gators for a 28 percent success rate.

Georgia's 2010-2011 hunting regulations were not available at press time. Listed below are fees and regulations for 2009-2010. Seasons and limits, however, are updated for 2010-2011.

ALLIGATOR

Season: Sept. 4-Oct. 3

Limit: 1, Zone and Quota Limited

Fees: Res. hunting license \$10. Non-res. \$100. Res. Alligator hunting license \$50. Non-res \$200.

Permit application deadline: July 31

DEER

Season: Archery Either-Sex Statewide Sept. 11-Oct. 8, Primitive Weapons Either Sex Statewide-Oct. 9-15 (archers must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange above the waist). Extended Archery Season Jan. 2-31 in Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale Counties.

Limit: 12 (no more than 2 antlered bucks, 1 buck must have 4 points 1 inch or longer on one side)

Fees: Hunting license res: \$10, non-res: \$100. Big Game license res: \$9, non-res: \$195. WMA License res: \$19, non-res: \$73.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 11-Oct. 8. Primitive Weapons Oct. 9-15. Firearms Oct. 16-Dec. 5 (northern zone); Sept. 23-25; Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Oct 7-9 (southern zone).

Limit: 1 per season

Fees: Same as deer.

FERAL HOG

Season: Private Land—no closed season. State WMAs—Feral hogs may be harvested during any open season only with legal weapons for that season unless otherwise specified.

Limit: None.

Fees: Hunting license res. \$10, non-res: \$100. WMA license res: \$19, non-res: \$73.

TURKEY

Season: Mar. 26-May 15, 2011

Limit: 3 gobblers.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No specific requirements. Arrows for hunting deer, bear, or feral hog must be broadhead type.

Crossbows: Legal in all seasons.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal to hunt over.

Treestands/Blinds: On WMAs, hunters may not construct or hunt from any treestand that is not portable or natural. Portable stands must be removed from the WMA no later than 12 noon the day following each hunt. Treestands may not be placed on utility poles or other structures supporting utility lines.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls legal for feral hogs, illegal for other game. Live decoys prohibited.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required; persons born after Jan. 1, 1961, must complete hunter education course.

Special permits: Many major metropolitan areas have special archery hunts. Call (770) 918-6416 for more information.

Archery deer licenses in '09: 91,243 (estimate, telephone survey).

Treestands/Blinds: Orange must be visible above waist or outside ground blinds, except during archery season.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Baiting is illegal. Salt/mineral licks are considered bait.

Calls/Decoys: Decoys, except live decoys, allowed. Electronic calls prohibited.

Bowhunting organization(s): Georgia Bowhunters and Archery Association; www.gbaa-archery.com.

Information/licenses: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division/Game Management, 2070 Hwy. 278 S.E., Social Circle, GA 30025; (770) 918-6416; www.georgiawildlife.com

Hawaii

Hawaii's hunting opportunities are fittingly diverse and casual. Open season on private land is at the discretion of landowner. Public land bowhunting seasons, meanwhile, vary considerably by island and unit. Each of the state's six major islands has one or more state-designated public hunting areas and one or more of the six different introduced big game species, which include: black-tailed and Axis deer, Mouflon sheep, feral sheep, feral goats and feral pigs.

In the interest of animal control to protect Hawaii's delicate ecosystem, the Department of Land and Natural Resources occasionally announces archery-only hunts, so island hunters should monitor the Department's website for these opportunities. For example, in 2010, two feral goats hunts, one on Kaua'i, the other on the Big Island, offered liberal bag limits or none at all.

Visiting hunters are advised to study the regulations in detail before planning a trip. Also, all hunters must possess either a Hawaii Hunter Education Wallet Card or a Letter of Exemption. There is no charge for the latter, but you must apply in advance and include proof you have taken an approved hunter safety course (bowhunter safety course only will not meet conditions). The application form is available online. Unfortunately, many hunters don't plan or research their hunting trips before traveling to Hawaii and are turned away at the license agent's counter because they were unaware of this license requirement. As with any hunting trip, know before you go!

AXIS DEER

Season: Lanai—Archery season is eight consecutive days between and including the last two Saturdays in February. Maui and Molokai—No season; any axis deer encountered while hunting on a public hunting area may be taken regardless of sex.

Limit: Lanai—1 deer per season.

Fees: Res. \$10 plus \$10 conservation stamp. Non-res. \$95 plus \$10 conservation stamp. On Lanai, there is a \$5 application fee for all hunters, plus a \$10 tag res., \$50 tag non-res.

BLACKTAIL DEER

Season: Kauai—Generally six consecutive weekends, including and preceding the last full weekend in October, but varies by unit.

Limit: 1 buck in some units, 1 deer of either sex in others.

Fees: Res. \$10 plus \$10 conservation stamp plus \$5 tag. Non-res. \$95 plus \$10 conservation stamp plus a \$25 tag.

MOUFLON SHEEP

Season: Lanai—Archery is eight consecutive days, the last Saturday in July through the first Saturday in August; all weapons nine consecutive Saturdays, commencing the Saturday after the last Saturday of muzzleloader hunting. Variable on the Big Island.

Limit: 1 sheep per season on Lanai. Varies by area and season on the Big Island.

Fees: Same as axis deer on Lanai. Same general fees elsewhere.

FERAL SHEEP

Season: Big Island only, varies by hunting unit.

Limit: Varies by area and season.

Fees: Same as axis deer.

PIG & WILD GOAT

Season: Varies by island and unit. Some units year-round.

Limit: Varies; generally 1 pig per day, 1 goat per tag issued.

Fees: Same as axis deer.

TURKEY

Season: Molokai, Maui, Lanai, Big Island—First Saturday in November through Martin Luther King Day or the third Sunday in January, whichever occurs later; Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays. Spring turkey hunt on the Big Island—Mar. 1-31 (can vary).

Limit: 2 birds per day for fall-winter season, 2 birds per day for spring season; 3 birds season limit.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds for longbows, 35 pounds for recurve bows, 30 pounds for compound bows.

Broadheads: Minimum cutting diameter of 3/4 inch.

Crossbows: Permitted on private lands, or by special disabled permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: No restrictions.

Treestands/Blinds: No restrictions.

Calls/Decoys: No restrictions.

Bowhunter education permit: Proof of Hawaii or other state general hunter education course required for license purchase. Non-residents also need to apply for a Letter of Exemption.

Estimated number of bowhunters in '09: 350.

Bowhunting organization(s): Da 6 Pak Bushwackers, President Weyland Bailey, (808) 222-6104, weylandgsh@hawaii.rr.com; www.da6pakbushwackers.com.

Information/licenses: Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813; (808) 587-0166; www.dofaw.net.

Idaho

Idaho offers a wide variety of some of the best big game hunting in the West. Deer are found throughout Idaho. The more abundant mule deer (estimated at 300,000) occur mostly in the southern two-thirds of the state, with whitetails (200,000) found primarily north of the Salmon River. Pronghorn (15,000) predominate in southern Idaho, black bears (25,000) favor forested areas while mountain lions occur statewide. Meanwhile, hunting Idaho's estimated 200,000 elk is a world-class experience.

Black bear harvest data show the panhandle, Clearwater and southwest regions to be the most productive, with about equal percentages between spring and fall. Of particular note for bowhunters, bait and spot & stalk methods produce the highest number of kills.

Mountain lions may be pursued or hunted with hounds. Populations are maintained with strict control over the taking of female cats. Like bears, they are found in most of Idaho wherever development is not too intense. Also like bears, their numbers are stable or slightly increasing.

In 2009, all general archery pronghorn hunts were changed to unlimited controlled hunts. Because hunter numbers increased in some unit, some hunts have been modified for the 2010 season.

For archery-only hunts, you must have an archery permit (res. \$18.25, non-res. \$20) in addition to other required licenses and permits.

DEER

Season: Archery-only Aug. 30-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates, vary by unit).

Limit: 1, but additional controlled hunt opportunities may be available.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 for the license plus \$19.75 deer tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$301.75 deer tag.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery-only Aug. 30-Sept. 14 Unit 1. Fall Aug. 30-Nov. 18 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by unit). Spring Apr. 15-June 30 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; seasons vary according to unit and whether dogs and/or bait are used).

Limit: 1. Second tags may be used in Lolo, Selway or Middle Fork Zone units and that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River. No female black bear accompanied by young may be taken.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$11.50 bear tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$186 bear tag. Non-res. second bear tags \$31.75.

ELK

Season: Archery-only Aug. 30-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates, vary by unit).

Limit: 1. Hunters can purchase a second elk tag beginning Aug. 28; these are non-res. tags and are sold at non-res. prices.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$30.75 elk tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$416.75 elk tag.

PRONGHORN

Season: Aug. 15-Sept. 24 (varies by unit). All archery pronghorn now controlled hunts.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$31.25 antelope tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$311.75 antelope tag.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Earliest opening and latest closing dates Aug. 30-June 30, 2011 (varies by unit). Hunters must have a new license and tag beginning Jan. 1.

Limit: 1. (Some areas in north-central Idaho have a 2-lion limit.)

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$11.50 lion tag. Non-res. \$141.50 plus \$186 lion tag. Some areas in north central Idaho have non-res. reduced or second lion tags for \$31.75.

TURKEY

Seasons: Fall Sept. 15-Dec. 31 (earliest opening closing, varies by unit). Spring Apr. 8-May 25, 2011. Application period for Spring is Jan. 15-Feb. 15, and Fall May 1-June 5.

Limit: 1 bearded per day in the spring and 1 either-sex per day in the fall, except in Units 1, 2, 3 and 5 where 5 turkeys (either-sex) may be taken in a day during fall seasons. No more than 2 bearded turkeys may be taken per spring.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$19.75 general turkey tag, \$12.25 extra turkey tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$80 ea. turkey tag and extra turkey tag.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 30-Oct. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing dates), varies by unit. Available by controlled hunt (drawing) process only. Application period is Apr. 1-30.

Limit: 1 ram, 3/4 curl or greater per lifetime (both California and Rocky Mountain sub-species).

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$180.75 tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$2,101.75 tag.

MOOSE

Season: Aug. 30-Dec. 1 (varies by unit). Available by controlled hunt (drawing) process only.

Application period is Apr. 1-30.

Limit: 1 per lifetime; either-sex in some units/seasons.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$180.75 tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$2,101.75 tag.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Aug. 30-Nov. 12 (varies by unit). Available by controlled hunt (drawing) process only.

Application period is Apr. 1-30.

Limit: 1 per lifetime, either sex except nannies accompanied by kids.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$180.75 tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$2,101.75 tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds up to or at 28 inches with maximum letoff of 85 percent.

Broadheads: Must measure more than 7/8 inch in width with a primary cutting edge 0.015 inch thick or greater. Barbed broadheads and expandables are illegal. The arrow/broadhead combination must weigh at least 300 grains. Arrows must be greater than 24 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

Crossbows: Permitted during the general firearms season for big game or by permit for physically disabled persons. Bolts must be greater than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal for bear only in some areas—check regulations. Baiting permits (required) are \$12.75.

Treestands/Blinds: Portable pop-up blinds are encouraged. No permanent placement of materials is allowed, and all materials must be removable. Wire mesh not allowed. Digging, trenching, or other surface disturbances are prohibited. Cutting live vegetation to build, screen, or camouflage blinds is discouraged. The hunter's full name and zip code must be permanently attached, etched, engraved, or painted on the blind in an obvious location. Blinds may be placed no earlier than 10 days before the beginning of the hunting season for which the hunter has a valid tag and must be removed within seven days of the close of that season.

Calls/Decoys: No electronic calls may be used to attract big game for the purpose of harvest, except such calls may be used to attract mountain lions and bears in certain units.

Archery validation: Bowhunter education required of any archer who has not previously held a valid archery permit in Idaho or another state. The archery validation is only required in archery-only seasons.

Big game controlled hunt application period: May 1-31. Most archery hunts are general season only and the tag can be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis.

Archery licenses sold in '08: 33,460 (last data available).

Bowhunting organization(s): Idaho State Bowhunters, President Tom Haver, P.O. Box 4968, Boise, ID 83711-4968; (208) 378-9796; www.idahoarchery.com/isb/

Information/licenses: Idaho Department of Fish & Game, 600 S. Walnut, Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; (208) 334-3700; (800) 554-8685 (purchase licenses); www.fishandgame.idaho.gov.

Illinois

If it's deer, it's hard to beat Illinois. For one, there is no limit to the number of whitetails a deer hunter may take; there's just a two-antlered-animal limit. For another, resident archers have unlimited over-the-counter (OTC) access to archery deer permits. Non-resident archers have a 25,000 quota, but demand has been less than that for a couple years. All archers have unlimited OTC access to "antlerless only" deer permits. On top of all that, quality deer—trophy animals—may be taken anywhere in the state. West-central and southern Illinois deer hunters will find abundant whitail populations.

Even though populations are stable to slightly declining, prospects are still good, according to Deer Project Manager Tom Micetich. Bowhunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 64,824 deer during the 2009-2010 archery season compared with the archery harvest of 64,920 in 2008-2009 and 64,147 in 2007-2008. The record archery deer harvest was 66,094 in 2005.

This year's Special CWD Deer Season was limited to Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, and Winnebago Counties and Kane County west of Ill. Rt. 47, while 69 additional counties were open for the Late-Winter Antlerless-only Deer season. The Special CWD season is used to assist in controlling the spread of chronic wasting disease in the Illinois deer herd, while the Late-Winter Season provides additional "antlerless only" harvest opportunities as a population management tool. Both seasons were expanded (formerly three days) to a seven-day split with the first four-day segment (Thursday-Sunday) following Christmas and the final three days (Friday-Sunday) in the traditional mid-January period. Archery season was extended through the end of the late-winter deer season, an additional three days.

"Illinois deer hunters taking to the field for the last three days of deer hunting enjoyed some excellent conditions," said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forest Wildlife Program Manager Paul Shelton. "For mid-January weather, this was about as good as it gets—and a good way to close out another successful season."

For all seasons combined, the 2009-2010 harvest totaled 189,634 deer compared to 188,901 in 2008-2009. Illinois' record deer harvest occurred in 2005-2006, when 201,210 deer were taken.

Turkey hunters bagged a preliminary statewide total of 16,565 wild turkeys during the 2010 Spring Turkey Season, over the 15,490 in 2009. Hunters took a state-record 16,605 turkeys during the spring season in 2006.

Hunters this spring took a preliminary total of 6,916 wild turkeys during all seasons in the South Zone, an increase from the harvest of 6,353 last year. The North Zone total of 9,649 wild turkeys compares with last year's total of 9,137. Harvests during the 2006 record year were 6,530 in the south and 10,075 in the north. All results include harvest during the Youth Turkey Seasons.

"Weather was exceptionally cooperative during the first several seasons, particularly in the South Zone," said Shelton. "Hunters were on record pace until the very last season in the North Zone, when several days of morning thunderstorms slowed things down a bit. In spite of poor reproduction during the past several years, Illinois' turkey population has remained strong."

The top five counties for turkey harvest in the South Zone this spring were: Pope (397), Jefferson (396), Union (356), Marion (353), and Randolph (351). The top five counties for spring turkey harvest in the North Zone this year were: Jo Daviess (628), Pike (527), Fulton (455), Adams (406), and Schuyler (348).

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 16 in Cook, DuPage, Lake and portions of Kane County east of State Rt. 47. Oct. 1-Jan. 16 in all other counties with archery hunting CLOSED Nov. 19-21 and Dec. 2-5 for firearms deer. Hunters must wear blaze orange during Oct. 9-10 Youth, Dec. 10-12 Muzzleloader, and the Late-winter and CWD Seasons on Dec. 30-Jan. 2 and Jan. 14-16, 2011.

Limit: 2 antlered; anything beyond two permits must be antlerless.

Application deadlines: Firearms 1st lottery April 30 (res. only); 2nd lottery Aug. 14 for first-time applicants, non-res. & rejected res. applicants. Archery (non-res.) permit lottery held during June.

Fees: Res. archery combination permit \$26, archery single antlerless-only permit \$15.50. Non-res. archery deer combination \$411 either-sex and antlerless-only (non-res. hunters must reserve via telephone or Internet for a random lottery drawing) or single antlerless-only archery deer permit \$25.50, non-res. Hunting License \$35.75 (5-day) or \$57.75 (regular), and \$5.50 State Habitat Stamp.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Northern Zone Apr. 11-15, Apr. 16-21, Apr. 22-27, Apr. 28-May 4, May 5-12; Southern Zone Apr. 4-8, Apr. 9-14, Apr. 15-20, Apr. 21-27, Apr. 28-May 5. Fall archery Oct. 1-Jan. 16 (closed Oct. 23-31 for firearms season; open for all other seasons). All counties are open except Cook, Douglas, DuPage, Ford, Kane and Lake.

Limit: Fall 1 per permit with maximum two permits. Spring 1 gobbler or bearded hen per permit with maximum three permits.

Fees: Res. fall archery \$5.50; spring and fall firearm \$15. Non-res. fall archery \$75.50 (also need hunting license and habitat stamp); spring and fall firearm \$125 (also need hunting license and habitat stamp).

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds within a 28-inch draw; minimum arrow length without broadhead is 20 inches.

Broadheads: Fixed-blade broadheads must be metal-, flint-, chert-, or obsidian-knapped, be barbless and have minimum 7/8-inch diameter when fully opened. Broadheads with expandable blades must be metal.

Crossbows: Hunters 62 years of age and older are now permitted to hunt using a crossbow without a special permit. For those under 62 crossbows are legal only for physically challenged hunters by permit. Minimum peak draw weight of 125 pounds, maximum peak draw weight of 200 pounds, minimum limb width of 24 inches, minimum overall length (from butt of stock to front of limb) of 24 inches. Bolts must be 14 inches or greater in length (not including required broadhead). NOTE: At press time, pending change to crossbow dimensions includes elimination of the 24-inch minimum limb width requirement.

Bait/Mineral Use: Baiting and feeding of deer at any time is illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Nails, screws or any device which pierces or cuts the bark of the tree on public land is illegal. Stands must be portable and must be removed at the end of each day, unless otherwise specified in site-specific regulations. Only one treestand is allowed per deer permit holder at each site.

Calls/Decoys: Mechanical deer decoys or electronic calls are legal for deer hunting, illegal for turkey.

Bowhunter education: Not required, but persons born after January 1980 must complete hunter education course.

Licenses sold in '09: 176,174 (either-sex archery deer permits) (2008: 184,817 archery turkey and deer).

Bowhunting organization(s): Illinois Bowhunters Society; www.illinoisbowhunters.org. United Bowhunters of Illinois, 1806 E. 1850th St., Coatsburg, IL 62325; www.unitedbowhuntersofillinois.org. Illinois Archery Association, Judy McCutcheon, 23358 Virden Rd., Virden, IL. 62690; (217) 652-5836; www.il-archery.com. Southern Illinois Traditional Bowhunters, Bob Clark, 502 W. St. Louis St., Pinckneyville, IL 62274.

Information/licenses: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 782-7305; www.dnr.state.il.us.

Indiana

Deer hunting in Indiana remains exciting, says Deer Biologist Chad Stewart. A total of 132,752 deer (52,981 antlered) were legally harvested (all weapons) in Indiana during the 2009 season. This harvest was 2 percent higher than the 129,748 deer harvested during the 2008 season. The 2009 harvest for total deer and antlerless deer ranks as the highest reported kill for each category in history. The antlered harvest ranks second all-time.

The early archery season harvest (including the early Urban Deer Zones) of 27,818 deer comprised 21 percent of the total harvest and was nearly 8 percent more than the 25,800 harvested in 2008. The late archery season comprised 1 percent of the total harvest, similar to the 2008 season. The combined archery seasons yielded 29,416 deer, an increase of 9 percent from the 26,921 harvested in 2008. Antlerless deer comprised 65 percent of the total archery harvest, similar to 2008's antlerless composition. Antlerless harvest in early archery season was 64 percent, while in late archery it was 81 percent. Does made up 55 percent of the total harvest in early archery season and nearly 70 percent of the harvest in late archery season.

As part of its deer management program, the DNR offers bonus antlerless deer bag limits on a county-by-county basis, based on many different factors including crop depredation problems, previous years' deer harvests and input from Hoosiers interested in deer management. For questions about the bonus antlerless deer program, contact the Deer Hotline at (812) 334-3795.

Crossbows are legal hunting equipment during the late archery deer season and can be used to harvest deer of either sex only in the late archery season.

The spring 2009 turkey harvest was the second-highest harvest in 40 years, exceeding the 2008 harvest by 789 birds (a 6 percent increase). Hunters harvested 12,993 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties, their success estimated at around 22 percent. The majority of the birds were harvested in the early part of the season and the early morning hours. Juvenile and adult weights were up slightly compared to the mean weights of previous years. The south-central and southeastern regions supported 51 percent of the harvest followed by northern Indiana at 20 percent. Reasons for the increased harvest reflect general turkey population growth around the state, especially in some northern counties, and the continual increase in hunter numbers. There were some notable shifts in the top 20 county harvests with the primary trend being a decreased harvest in some west-central counties. Flooding in that region the past few spring/summers, especially 2008, may have temporarily depressed local turkey populations.

DEER

Season: Early Archery Oct. 1-Nov. 28. Late Archery Dec. 4-Jan. 2, 2011.

Limit: 2 antlerless OR 1 antlered and 1 antlerless. Additional antlered and antlerless deer are allowed in selected Urban, Bonus, Military/Refuge and State Park/Nature Preserve areas.
Fees: Res. \$17 hunting, \$24 deer. Non-res. \$80 hunting, \$150 deer.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 1-24 (limited areas open). Spring Apr. 27-May 15, 2011 (statewide).
Limit: 1 per season.
Fees: Res. \$17 hunting, \$25 turkey. Non-res. \$80 hunting, \$120 turkey or reciprocal.

Minimum draw weight: 35 pounds.

Broadheads: Must be metal-edged or knapped flint, chert or obsidian.

Crossbows: Legal only in late archery season, or for use by the physically challenged in the early archery season.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Illegal. Bait (which includes a solid or liquid food product, salt, or mineral) that is transported and intended for consumption is illegal. An area is considered baited for 10 days after removal of bait or baited soil.

Treestands/Blinds: It is illegal to hunt from a permanent treestand on public property, portable stands allowed and may be left overnight only between Sept. 1 and Jan. 10; contact the property manager for specific regulations and any additional restrictions. A treestand placed on public land must be legibly marked with the owner's name, address and telephone number.

Decoys/Calls: Deer—infrared sensors or electronic calls illegal. Turkeys—live decoys, electronically powered or controlled decoys, or recorded calls are illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required for general season; may be required for special hunts in urban zones and/or state parks.

Est. bowhunters in '09: 106,000 (license surveys).

Bowhunting organization(s): Indiana Bowhunter Association, 7112 E. Co. Rd. 975 N., Seymour, IN 47274; www.indianabowhunter.com.

Information/licenses: Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-4080; www.in.gov/dnr.

Iowa

The reported archery harvest in 2009-2010 was up slightly from the 2008 season with bowhunters reporting 24,960 deer; 49 percent of the harvest were antlerless deer, 41 percent of all deer killed were does. For the fifth year in a row, the number of does taken in the total statewide harvest (all hunting seasons) was higher than the number of bucks. Sixty-four percent of the total harvest was antlerless deer, and these animals have made up the majority of the harvest for the past seven seasons.

County-specific antlerless quotas have worked well with wildlife management units moving towards their population goal. Currently, about half of the state is at or near its population goals; in fact some northwestern and north-central units may have populations that are lower than desired.

For 2010 seasons there have been no changes to the season structure. Some adjustments to county antlerless quotas were made. In addition, Iowa continues using bowhunters to help control whitetail populations in and around urban areas such as Des Moines, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs and Coralville.

Bowhunters should enjoy a good season this fall, says Deer Biologist Tom Litchfield. However, due to declining deer numbers, hunters can expect to see fewer deer in many areas. The deer herd is in very good health, has well-balanced sex ratios throughout the majority of the state, and herd quality, in general, remains high.

According to Iowa Big Game Records, since 1953, the top trophy-producer is Allamakee County, in northeast Iowa. Next best is Clayton County, just to the south, followed by a handful of counties in south-central and southeast Iowa.

Iowa turkey populations have been faced with poor reproduction throughout most of the state the last several springs, resulting in reduced turkey numbers in Iowa. However, good turkey populations still remain, and hunter success has not declined. Turkey numbers are the strongest in western and northeastern regions.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Dec. 3, Dec. 20-Jan. 10, 2011.

Limit: 1 deer per license. Res.: 1 either-sex and unlimited antlerless as long as the quota is not filled. Non-res.: 1 either-sex and 1 antlerless.

Fees: Res. hunting \$19, habitat fee \$13, any-deer license \$28.50, antlerless-only deer license: first license \$28.50; second and subsequent licenses \$13.50. Non-res. hunting license \$112, habitat fee \$13, any-deer license and antlerless license combo \$426.

TURKEY

Season: Fall (res. only) Oct. 12-Dec. 3. Fall Bow-Only (res. only) Oct. 1-Dec. 3, Dec. 20-Jan. 10, 2011. Spring Youth (res. only) Apr. 8-10. Spring seasons: Apr. 11-14, Apr. 15-19, Apr. 20-26, Apr. 27-May 15.

Limit: 1 per license.

Fees: Res. hunting \$19, habitat fee \$13, turkey license \$24.50. Nonres. hunting \$112, habitat fee \$13, turkey license \$102.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must be at least 1 inch in diameter.

Crossbows: Permitted for use by the physically challenged during archery season.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required for general hunts, required for urban bowhunts.

Hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972, require proof of hunter education course to apply for or obtain a deer hunting license.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: You may not construct a permanent treestand on state public hunting areas. You may not drive or in any other way place any nail, spike, pin, or any other metal object into a tree on state public hunting areas to construct a blind or to provide hunting access to a location above the ground. Treestands may be left on a state public hunting area from 7 days prior to the start of a deer season until 7 days after the final day of that season. Hunters who fall from a treestand are required to report the hunting incident if injury occurs or if property damage exceeds \$100.

Calls/Decoys: No electronic or electronically amplified calls allowed. No live decoys allowed.

Special hunts: Numerous urban hunts for deer population control. Check current regulations under "Deer Population Management Hunts" or with local townships or city departments for more info.

Bowhunters in '09: 57,657, including hunters who only held an antlerless-only license (54,434 either-sex resident hunters, 2,162 either-sex nonresident hunters).

Special regulations: All non-res. archery licenses are issued by drawing. Application period for non-res. deer licenses was May 2-June 6, 2010. The reapplication period is July 31 through the last day of the archery season. During that time, licenses will be sold first-come, first-served until quota is filled. For deer licenses, call (800) 367-1188 or apply online.

Bowhunting organization(s): Iowa Bowhunters Assoc., Box 872, Waterloo, IA 50704; (515) 456-5244; www.iowabowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, License Bureau, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 52309; (515) 281-5918; www.iowadnr.gov

Kansas

One upon a time, Kansas did not allow non-resident deer hunting. Needless to say, things have changed with the dramatic increase in whitetail populations over the past two decades. Now the Sunflower State is one of the continent's top destinations for whitetails, and they can be found virtually statewide wherever suitable habitat exists. Highest whitetail densities are in the eastern one-third of the state. Whitetails have adapted well to Kansas' modern landscape, finding cover in natural woodlands, shelterbelts, old homesteads and grasslands, and abundant food in cropfields. The selective management program has created a healthy deer herd, with excellent potential for trophy-sized bucks in all regions.

Mule deer are restricted to the western one-third of the state, primarily on the High Plains, Smoky Hills, and Red Hills regions. As you travel west to east, mule deer are less abundant, and whitetail numbers increase.

There are about 2,000 pronghorn in the westernmost two to three tiers of counties. Firearm and muzzleloader antelope hunting is restricted to residents only; nonresidents are eligible for archery permits. Antelope hunting is limited to three management units that include parts or all of 25 western counties. Elk hunting is restricted to residents only by permit.

Wild turkey restoration has resulted in huntable populations in nearly every county. The Rio Grande subspecies dominates the western two-thirds of the state. The eastern subspecies is common in the eastern regions, where numbers have grown dramatically in recent years. Hybrid Rio Grande/eastern birds are found where the two ranges converge. With a long season and birds abundant in most of the state, there is ample opportunity to bag an eastern, Rio Grande, or hybrid tom. Good numbers of turkeys can be found in the northwest, north-central, northeast, central, and south-central portions of Kansas. In the southeast, numbers have been down in recent years due to poor hatch survival, and drought in the far southwest may affect hunting in that region. Total harvest (all weapons) during the spring 2009 season was 33,350 turkeys of which 7 percent were taken with archery equipment and 0.1 percent were taken with a crossbow. The age and sex structure of the spring 2009 harvest was 83.5 percent adult gobblers, 15.3 percent jakes, and 1.2 percent bearded hens. The percentage of all turkey hunters taking at least 1 bird was 61 percent during the 2009 season. The overall success rate has been over 60 percent for seven of the last eight spring turkey seasons in Kansas. During the 2009-2010 fall season an estimated 4,664 turkeys (772 archery and 3,892 firearms) were harvested which was similar to the previous year but about 15 percent below the previous 5-year average.

A hunting license (\$20.50 residents, \$72.50 nonresidents) is required in addition to deer, elk, antelope, or turkey permits.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 20-Dec. 31. Extended archery (urban units only) Jan. 10-31, 2011.

Limit: 1 deer per permit.

Fees: Res. antlered deer permit \$32.50 (\$17.50 for 15 and younger). Non-res. antlered deer permit \$322.50. Res. antlerless-only deer permit \$17.50 (\$10 for 15 and younger). Non-res antlerless-only deer permit \$77.50. Non-res. mule deer stamp \$102.50.

Application Deadlines: Non-res. deer draw April 30; resident any-deer draw July 9; resident any season permit Dec. 30; resident archery Jan. 30, 2011;

ELK (Res. only)

Season: Archery Sept. 20-Dec. 31 outside Fort Riley (except Morton County); Sept. 1-Oct. 3 on Fort Riley.

Limit: 1

Fees: General Resident Any Elk permit \$252.50. General Resident Antlerless-Only Elk permit \$102.50. Landowner/Tenant Any Elk permit \$127.50. Landowner/Tenant Antlerless Only Elk permit \$52.50; Hunt-Own-Land Antlerless Only \$52.50.

Application Deadline: July 9.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Sept. 18-Sept 26, Oct. 9-31.

Limit: One either sex.

Fees: Res. pronghorn permit \$42.50; res. landowner/tenant pronghorn permit \$22.50; non-res. archery pronghorn permit \$202.50.

TURKEY

Season: Fall 2010 Shotgun/Archery Oct. 1-Nov.30, Dec. 13-31, Jan. 10- 31, 2011. Spring 2010 was Apr. 14-May 31 (shotgun/archery); Apr. 1-13 (archery only).

Limit: 1 per permit, up to 3 game tags available, either-sex. Spring—an individual who has purchased a spring turkey permit is eligible for one second turkey game tag.

Fees: Res. \$22.50, non-res. \$32.50. Non-res. turkey game tag \$22.50. Second turkey game tags res. \$12.50, non-res. \$22.50.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Arrows used for hunting big game and turkeys must be equipped with broadhead points that cannot pass through a ring 3/4 inch in diameter when fully expanded.

Crossbows and draw locks: Legal only for permanently disabled hunters by permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal.

Treestand/Blinds: May be placed not more than 14 days prior to the hunting season for which the blind or stand will be used; must be removed within 14 days after hunting season.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal.

Bowhunter education: Hunter education is not required while hunting one's own land.

Otherwise, anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must have hunter education. Anyone under 27 years old must carry a Kansas or other state approved hunter education card while hunting.

Estimated bowhunters in '09: 21,563 (last data available).

Bowhunting organization: Kansas Bowhunter Association; www.thekbasite.com.

Information/licenses: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS 67124; (620) 672-5911; www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Kentucky

How is the hunting in Kentucky? Again in 2010, Wildlife Biologist David Yancy says, “Excellent! White-tailed deer and wild turkeys are widespread, numerous, and their populations are stable, while the elk herd in our 16-county ‘Southeastern Kentucky Elk Zone’ is holding steady at approximately 10,000 animals.”

At 10,000 animals, it is also the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi River. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will issue 800 elk permits in 2010, down from 1,000 last year (but up from 400 in 2008). While they might not be as high as last season (when 732 out of 927 participating elk hunters [1,007 were drawn] filled their tags), the odds for success, if you get selected, should still be extremely good. Hunters who harvest an elk outside the 16-county restoration zone must call (800) 245-4263 to report the kill.

Even with the continuation of normal autumn temperatures (and only a few scattered reports of epizootic hemorrhagic disease from across south-central and southeastern counties), deer hunting success declined slightly in Kentucky for the 2009 deer seasons. Last year’s overall deer kill of 113,585 was 7,025 (6 percent) less than in 2008. However, the 2008 season take was the third highest modern deer harvest total ever recorded in the state. During the 2009 Season, Kentucky bowhunters took 14,666; an increase of 617 more deer than in 2008. Detailed harvest results may be studied at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ website: www.fw.ky.gov.

In terms of big bucks, Kentucky is still probably the best-kept secret east of the Mississippi River. In each of the last five seasons, it has produced at least 20 deer that qualify for B&C record books, to say nothing of the number of P&Y entries. Fourteen year-old Michaela Monroe took a 219 5/8-inch non-typical buck in Spencer County, while Harlan Flinders, Jr. bagged a 187 2/8-inch typical in Lewis County.

Better still, the distribution of trophies is fairly widespread. While Lewis County (the state’s top trophy producer) in northeastern Kentucky accounted for three Boone and Crockett bucks, Greenup, Hardin, Henry, Madison, Muhlenberg, Ohio, and Woodford Counties in the west-central, central, and northeastern parts of the state all tied for second place with two trophy entries each. The state’s Appalachian region also delivered again during the 2009 Season, with Boone and Crockett bucks being taken in both Pike and Perry Counties. As this update went to press, a total of 42 deer that qualify for B&C record books were known to have been taken from 33 of Kentucky’s 120 counties during the 2009-2010 season.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 4, 2010-Jan. 17, 2011. Crossbow Oct. 1-17, Nov. 13-Dec. 31.

Limit: 4, 1 antlered and three antlerless deer, or all 4 antlerless deer. Unlimited antlerless deer can be taken in the 36 “Zone 1” counties.

Fees: Res. hunting \$20, deer permit \$30, bonus antlerless deer permit \$15. Non-res. annual hunting license \$130 plus \$60 non-res. deer permit; bonus antlerless permit same as res.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Sept. 4, 2010-Jan. 17, 2011. Fall Crossbow Oct. 1-17, Nov. 13-Dec. 31.

Fall shotgun Oct. 23-29, Dec. 4-10. Spring Youth Only Apr. 2-3, 2011. Spring Apr. 16-May 8, 2011.

Limit: 4 either-sex (fall), but only 2 in Archery/Crossbow seasons and 2 in Shotgun seasons, and no more than one with a >3-inch beard; 2 bearded-only (spring). In both fall and spring seasons, no more than 1 bird per day.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$20. Non-res. \$130. Spring turkey permit \$30, Non-res. \$60. Fall turkey permit \$30, Non-res. \$60.

ELK

Season: Antlered Quota Hunts—Archery Oct. 2-8, Oct. 9-15, Oct. 16-Jan. 17, 2011; Crossbow Oct. 2-8, Oct. 9-15, Oct. 16-17, Nov. 13-Dec. 31; Firearms Oct. 2-8, Oct. 9-15. Antlerless Quota Hunts—Archery Oct. 16, 2010-Jan. 17, 2011; Crossbow Oct. 16-17, Nov. 13-Dec. 31; Firearms Dec. 11-17, Dec. 18-24.

Limit: 1 (800 permits issued total).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$20, elk lottery application \$10, elk tag \$30 (if drawn). Non-res. hunting license \$130, elk lottery application \$10, elk tag \$365 (if drawn).

Application period: Dec. 1-Apr. 30, over the Internet only at www.fw.ky.gov

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must be barbless design with points at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: Permitted for small and big game during crossbow season, by permit for physically disabled during archery seasons, and general firearms seasons.

Treestands/Blinds: Only portable stands and tree climbers that do not injure trees may be used on public land. Use of nails, spikes, screws, wire, or tree climbers is prohibited. Additionally, stands must be marked with the owner's name and address. Portable stands, climbing sticks, etc., may be placed in trees no earlier than two weeks before the opening of the season and must be removed within one week after the season closes on the area. Use of any existing permanent treestands is prohibited. On state parks, treestands must not be left unattended for more than 24 hours.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Use of bait/minerals illegal on public lands. Illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed, or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes) Mar. 1-May 31. Deer on private land—legal. Turkey—illegal to use bait, hunt over bait, or hunt on a baited area for 30 days after all bait has been removed. Turkeys can't be hunted over any private land area baited for deer. An area where grains or other feeds exist as the result of legitimate agricultural practices, or from growing or manipulating a crop for wildlife management, is legal for hunting.

Decoys/Calls: Recorded or other electronically produced calls prohibited for turkey, deer, or elk hunting. Illegal to call or attempt to call wild turkeys, by mimicking the sounds made by them from March 1 until the opening day of Spring Turkey Season (in any area open to turkey hunting) if turkeys are reasonably expected to occur there. Locator calls, such as crow or owl calls, are permitted.

Bowhunter education permit: All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, must complete a valid hunter education course and carry proof of graduation while hunting.

Special hunts: Youth Deer Hunt Weekend on the second Saturday and Sunday of October. Free Youth Weekend Jan.1-2, 2011. There are two archery/crossbow-only quota deer hunts, and five hunts reserved just for disabled hunters. Call (877) 598-2401 to apply for quota deer hunts on state-managed lands. Additional opportunities exist on some federally owned/managed properties.

Bowhunters in '09: 106,000 (estimate).

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of Kentucky; President Gary Williams, 1395 Everett Lane, Hopkinsville, KY 42240; (270) 881-5009; www.unitedbowhuntersofkentucky.org.

Kentucky Bowhunters' Association, P.O. Box 662, Alexandria, KY 41001;
www.kentuckybowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Ln., Frankfort, KY 40601; licenses by phone (877) 598-2401 or online at www.fw.ky.gov.

Louisiana

Long seasons and liberal limits complemented by milder winters than more northern states make Louisiana an enticing bowhunting destination. "Summers can be hot, but that's when one can turn to the cooler nighttime sport of bowfishing," says DMAP Coordinator Emile P. LeBlanc.

"White-tailed deer and feral hogs are our top big game. Deer numbers are highest in the northwest mixed pine/hardwoods due mainly to the fact that these parishes are mostly rural. Higher-quality deer can be found along our more fertile riverine systems (Red River, Mississippi River) where agriculture also competes for land use. Hog populations are expanding exponentially across the state where year-round opportunity exist" he says.

If there are no hurricanes, prospects continued to look good. LeBlanc adds, "Deer kill estimates declined from the 2008-2009 season by 10,900 deer. However, the Department received comments about fewer deer again this year. Decreased access and visibility continued to be an issue along with near record rainfall amounts during October and December. A plausible explanation is that deer did not have to move as much because of abundant browse production in part due to storm events over the past 5 years. These storms not only hamper access from fallen trees but open vast areas of the forest canopy that result in an explosion of low growing vegetation. The effects of these habitat alterations (good or bad) can be felt for years to come. There was no evidence of massive die-offs after the hurricanes." "Hemorrhagic Disease" (EHD/Bluetongue) continue to be Louisiana's most significant disease affecting the deer population.

Louisiana's generous archery season runs Sept. 18-Feb 15, depending on the area. Generous bag limits (3 bucks, 3 does) for deer and no limit on hogs mean plenty of opportunities to fill the freezer. You can follow the rut from October to January: Areas 3, 7, and 8 display rut activity; Oct. 17-Nov. 1. Area 2 has a peak Nov. 17-30. Area 1 (early), 4, and 5's rut peaks Dec. 16-30. Area 1 (late) and 6 peak Jan 14-28. The use of crossbows during the archery season increased by 45 percent from the 2008-2009 season. Success rates are still similar to conventional archery equipment.

LeBlanc also says that with the exponential increase in the hog populations around the state, the problems associated with these animals has prompted the Department to offer nighttime shooting permits to landowners. There is legislation making its way through the Legislature to do away with the night shooting permit requirement. Upon passage and the Governor's signature, night hunting for hogs outside of the deer season for properly licensed hunters will be allowed. Survey estimates of 34,000 hog hunters killed 168,000 hogs in the 2009-2010 season. Late Hog seasons (Feb 16-Mar. 31) have been established on selective WMAs (see WMA schedules).

"A non-resident 1-day turkey permit, all-inclusive for \$36 (no turkey stamp required) is available for as many days as you want during the season—in case you find yourself here during turkey season with only one day to hunt," LeBlanc notes.

DEER

Season: Archery—Either-Sex Oct. 1-Jan. 31 (Areas 1, 2, 4, 5, 7), Sept. 18-Jan. 15 (Areas 3, 8). Bucks Only Oct. 1-15 (Area 6). Either-Sex Oct. 16-Feb. 15 (Area 6).

Limit: 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per day except during bucks-only gun season. A season limit of 3 antlered and 3 antlerless (button bucks included) will be in place again this year. All deer must be validated by either toll-free telephone number, website validation service or Department-managed hunt check stations during WMA-managed hunts.

Fees: Res. Basic Hunting \$15, Big Game \$14, Bow \$10.50. Non-res. Basic Hunting (season) \$150, Big Game (season), Bow \$26. One-day non-res. deer hunting license available for \$36/day. A 1-day \$29 non-res small game/ migratory bird license is required for hunting just hogs.

TURKEY

Season: Statewide Mar. 28-Apr. 26 (latest dates, varies by area).

Limit: 2.

Fees: Res. Basic Hunting \$15, Big Game \$14, Bow \$10.50, \$5.50 Turkey Stamp. Non-res. Basic Hunting (season) \$150, Big Game (season), Bow \$26, \$20.50 Turkey Stamp. One-day all-inclusive (no turkey stamp required) non-res. turkey permit is available for \$36/day.

Minimum draw weight: 30 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have a minimum cutting width of 7/8 inch. Stone points and other knapped materials may be used.

Crossbows: Legal during the open archery and turkey seasons.

Bowhunter education: No longer required to hunt all Federal Refuges open for hunting.

Special permits: Daily Self-Clearing Permits to hunt State WMAs and Season Permits required to hunt Federal Lands.

Baiting: Legal for deer and hogs, illegal for turkeys. Baiting or hunting over bait is prohibited on all WMAs (hogs included). Bait on private lands is legal except “raw sweet potatoes,” the use of which may potentially spread a mold that can cause emphysema in animals that eat it.

Treestand/Blinds: Hunting from utility poles, high-tension power lines, oil and gas facilities, or platforms is prohibited. Construction of permanent stands or blinds on WMAs is prohibited. The use of nails, screws, spikes, etc., are illegal. Tree climbing spurs or screw in steps are prohibited on the WMA and Refuge systems. Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 sq. in. of “Hunter Orange” above or around their blinds that is visible from 360 degrees. These regulations do not apply to private lands.

Calls/Decoys: Live decoys are illegal.

Special permits: Daily Self-Clearing permits to hunt State WMAs and Season permits required to hunt federal lands.

Bowhunters in '09: 36,500 (based on surveys).

Bowhunting Organizations: Bayou State Bowhunters Assoc., Director Pistol Young, 1300 Dossman Lake Rd., St. Landry, LA 71367-9704; (337)461-2331;

www.bayoustatebowhunters.org. Louisiana Traditional Bowmen, Singer, LA; Attn: Don N. Jackson, donnyjack@centurytel.net; (337)786-5982; www.traditionalbowmen.org. Amite River Traditional Archery Club, Mike Wesley; tradbow@cox.net; (225) 749-7260;

www.artactradbow.org.

Information/licenses: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000; Public Information (225)765-2925; www.wlf.la.gov.

Maine

“Bowhunting has become a critical part of Maine’s deer management program,” says Wildlife Biologist Lee Kantar. “In urban-suburban areas where there are firearm restriction ordinances, Maine offers an expanded archery season with a 1-buck and limitless antlerless deer opportunity. Bowhunters in these areas have been instrumental in helping maintain deer densities within district management objectives. As a management tool we expect the Expanded Archery season to continue to serve our needs for years to come.”

Archers will find the highest densities of deer in south-central and coastal areas of Maine, and if you are looking for the Big Woods experience, the western mountains and northern Maine offer the most unique opportunity in the Northeast to experience solitude and adventure.

Hunters registered 18,092 deer in 2009, 1,813 deer were taken during the expanded and special archery seasons. There were decreases in both the adult buck and doe harvest from 2008. Maine had a mild and very short winter with spring green-up arriving early. This will again help Maine’s deer herds in the south gain some momentum and provide ample hunting opportunity in the state’s southern, central, and south coastal Wildlife Management Districts.

Besides deer, Maine offers opportunities for bear, moose (more than any other state in the Lower 48), and turkey. Archers can hunt turkey both spring and fall, with southern and central Maine providing the best opportunities. Ten WMDs provide bowhunting-only fall turkey hunting opportunities.

There are more bears in Maine than in any other Eastern state. Archers seeking bear will find tremendous opportunity in the western mountains, northern Maine, the Moosehead area, and downeast Maine. Bear hunters can hunt over bait, allowing hunters a good look at bears and a clean shooting alley. Please visit www.maine.gov/ifw/index.shtml for more information.

Although Maine is mostly private land, access continues to be available throughout the state (ask permission first), and all of this against a diverse and dramatic landscape ranging from the bold coastline to rugged mountains.

DEER

Season: Regular Archery Sept. 30-Oct. 29. Expanded Archery (limited area) Sept. 11-Dec. 11.
Limit: Regular Archery 1 (bucks only statewide except either-sex in WMDs that have any-deer permits). Expanded Archery 1 antlered, unlimited antlerless with special permit.
Fees: Archery license res. \$25, non-res. \$74. Expanded archery permit antlered \$32, antlerless \$12.

BEAR

Season: General Aug. 30-Nov. 27. With dogs Sept. 13-Oct. 29. With bait Aug. 30-Sept. 25.
Limit: 1.
Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$27 bear permit required from Aug. 30-Oct. 29. Non-res. \$74 plus \$74 bear permit required from Aug. 30-Oct. 29. Late season bear permit \$40 required for non-res. Nov. 2-28.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 27-Oct. 2 in WMDs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 19; Oct. 11-16 in WMDs 1-14, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29; Nov. 1-6 in WMDs 2, 3, 6, and 11.; and Nov. 2-28 in WMDs 15, 16, 23, 26. Oct. 30 Maine residents only.
Limit: 1 (sex varies with permit).
Fees: Res. Hunting license \$25 plus \$52 permit. Non-res. \$74 plus \$484 permit.
Online Application Deadline: May 15.

Paper Application Deadline: Apr. 1.

TURKEY

Season: Spring May 3-June 5; Youth Spring Turkey Day May 1. Fall Oct. 9-23 in Zone 1, Sept. 30-Oct. 29 in Zone 2, Oct. 16-22 in Zone 3.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. Spring permit \$20, second Spring Turkey \$20, Fall permit \$20. Non-res. Spring permit \$54, second Spring Turkey \$20, Fall permit \$54.

Minimum draw weight: Bows must be capable of casting an arrow 150 yards or more.

Broadheads: Must have cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during firearms deer season and for bear, with special crossbow certification.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal, except for bear during the bear baiting season.

Treestands/Blinds: It is unlawful to erect and use any kind of stand or ladder, or insert any metallic or ceramic object into a tree on land of another for the purpose of erecting a ladder or treestand, without the landowner's (or his agent's) permission. Ladders or stands must be plainly labeled with a 2x4-inch tag identifying the name and address of the person or persons authorized by the landowner to use the stand or ladder. Portable treestands or ladders used on land within the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and attended by the person who owns the ladder or stand shall not require landowner permission or labeling, but permanent ones do.

Calls/Decoys: Live decoys illegal for turkey. Electronic calling devices legal for deer, bear, turkey, moose, and coyote.

Bowhunter education permit: Required.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '09: 13,724 license holders (12,671 res., 1,053 non-res.)

Bowhunting organization(s): Maine Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332-5026; www.mainebowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife, 284 State St., Station 41, Augusta, ME 04333; (207) 287-8000; www.mefishwildlife.com.

Maryland

Maryland hosts around 231,000 whitetails, according to DNR Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler. The highest densities are in the urban/suburban counties toward the center of the state and in the mountains of western Maryland. The Coastal Plain Province, which borders both sides of the Chesapeake Bay, has optimum soil, good food resources, and mild winters. As a result, some of the state's best trophies are found in this region. Maryland has recently produced a few 200+ inch deer, including a 260-inch world-class non-typical. Some counties on the Eastern Shore offer the unique opportunity to hunt free-ranging sika deer. The sika deer hunting regulations have been liberalized for the 2010-2011 season; check the *Guide to Hunting and Trapping* for more details.

Legislation passed during the 2010 Session of the General Assembly expanded Sunday bowhunting for deer on private land only in Allegany, Calvert, Garrett, and Talbot Counties. Turkey hunting during the spring season is now permitted on certain Sundays on public and private land in Allegany and Garrett Counties only. The 150-yard safety zone distance was reduced for bowhunting only in Frederick County, allowing bowhunters to hunt within 50 yards of an occupied dwelling without needing to obtain permission first.

All hunters are permitted to use crossbows for all game that can be hunted with a vertical bow with the exception of waterfowl. This means that crossbows are legal during the entire vertical bow season (Sept. 15-Jan. 31) in all counties starting in 2010. The western portion of Washington County has been put back into deer management Region A for the 2010-2011 season. This area was moved to Region B (where bag limits are more liberal) in 2004 in order to bring the deer population down to more sustainable levels. Moving western Washington County back into Region A is the end result of a multi-year plan to address the high deer densities in western Washington County.

Associate Director for Game Management Peter Jayne points out that wild turkeys are doing well in many areas, and huntable turkey populations now occur in all Maryland counties, offering extensive opportunities for bowhunting bearded birds during the five-week-long spring season. Recent changes in the turkey hunting regulations for 2010-2011 liberalized what shot sizes may be used, will allow all-day hunting during the last two weeks of the spring season, and made the spring season and fall season bag limits separate.

Garrett and Allegany counties are home to a very healthy black bear population. Bear hunters may use archery tackle (traditional, compound, or crossbows) during the bear hunting season.

WHITETAILS

Season: Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2011.

Limit: Region A (Garrett, Allegany and western Washington County) 1 antlered and 1 antlerless. Region B (all remaining counties and eastern Washington County) 2 antlered and 10 antlerless; unlimited antlerless in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties.

Fees: Res. \$24.50 plus \$6 bow stamp. Non-res. \$130 plus \$25 bow stamp.

SIKA DEER

Season: Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2011, in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties only.

Limit: 2, no more than 1 antlered.

Fees: Same as whitetails.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 18-May 23 (Youth Day Apr. 16). Fall Oct. 30-Nov. 6 (Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties only).

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall 1 either-sex.

Fees: Same as whitetails.

BEAR

Season: Oct. 25-30 (Garrett and Allegany counties). A bear hunting permit is required. Permits are awarded via a random drawing.

Limit: 1 bear per permit.

Fees: License fees same as for whitetails. No cost for bear hunting permit. \$15 application fee.

Application period: Aug. 2-Sept. 1. Up to 3 hunters per permit.

Minimum draw weight: 30 pounds.

Broadheads: Sharpened broadhead with minimum width of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Crossbows must have a draw of no less than 75 pounds and the use of telescopic sights is permitted. Deer hunting with a crossbow is allowed for all legal hunters for the entire deer season.

Bait/Mineral Use: Baiting for deer with food, salt, or minerals is legal on private land only. Baiting for bear and turkeys is not permitted anywhere.

Treestands/Blinds: Treestands and blinds on public land must be temporary in nature and removed at the end of each hunting day. Hunters using ground blinds (four sides and a top located less than four feet above the ground) will be required to display fluorescent orange outside the blind they are hunting in if they otherwise would be required to wear orange if not hunting in the blind.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic game calls are not permitted. Mechanized decoys are prohibited for turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '09: 51,350 resident, 7,530 non-resident (based on bow stamp sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Maryland Bowhunters Society, Box 697, Dunkirk, MD 20754; (800) 434-0811; www.marylandbowhunterssociety.org.

For license information: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, 1804 West St., Ste. 300, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-260-3220; Southern Region, (410) 535-3382; Western, (301) 777-2134; Central, (410) 836-4550; Eastern, (410) 713-3840.

For other deer information: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, 14038 Blairs Valley Rd., Clear Spring, MD 21722, (301) 842-0332; www.dnr.maryland.gov.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts has a robust and healthy whitetail herd statewide as most of the state offers adequate deer habitat year-round. Biologists estimate there are about 85,000 to 95,000 deer statewide. Densities range from about 10 deer per square mile in northwestern Massachusetts to 45 to 55 per square mile on Nantucket Island.

MassWildlife Deer Project Leader Sonja Christensen reports a total of 10,381 deer harvested by licensed hunters during the combined 2009 seasons, 3,492 of them taken in the archery season. Christensen noted that 2009 was the second-highest harvest for the archery season on record, falling slightly below the 2008 season. "Archery is an important management tool in suburban areas where deer densities are higher due to limited hunting access." However, she points out that there was a decrease from 2008 during the shotgun season. Many hunters noticed a large acorn crop in 2009, which often results in less deer movement as deer are not forced to move long distances for food resources.

"Quality deer are found throughout the Commonwealth," says Christensen. "We consistently see a balanced age structure among the deer checked in at our biological check stations, which means that young deer are surviving to older age classes."

Archers may hunt with a bow and arrow during the shotgun season and muzzleloader season but must comply with the shotgun or muzzleloader season regulations. In 2010, the state shifted archery deer hunting dates to consistently include Thanksgiving week.

Since Massachusetts is the third-most-densely populated state in the country, many people are surprised to hear that the state's 3,000-strong black bear population is healthy and

growing by 8 to 10 percent annually. Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties in northwestern Massachusetts have the highest densities. Hunting over bait is illegal, but farmers might welcome hunters willing to wait on a crop-raiding bear.

Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties are wild turkey hotspots, with 2008 harvests of 487, 445, and 323 birds, respectively. But your best bet is Worcester County, tallying in with 721 birds.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 18-Nov. 27.

Limit: 2 antlered statewide. Antlerless bag determined by permit and zone.

Fees: Res. \$27.50 plus \$5.10 archery stamp. Non-res. \$99.50 plus \$5.10 archery stamp.

Unlimited antlerless permits \$5 each until allocation is sold.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 7-25, Nov. 1-20

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$27.50 plus \$5 bear permit. Non-res. \$99.50 plus \$5 bear permit. Must apply for bear permit before season opens.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 26-May 22 (Zones 1-13). Fall Oct. 25-30 (Zones 1-9; 13).

Limit: 2. Either 2 bearded birds in spring, or 1 bearded bird in spring and one either-sex in fall.

No hunter may take 2 birds in the fall season.

Fees: Res. \$27.50 plus \$5 turkey permit. Non-res. \$99.50 plus \$5 turkey permit.

Minimum draw weight: at least 40 pounds at 28 inches draw.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Illegal, except for permanently handicapped persons who obtain permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Must have written permission of landowner to construct or use any treestand held in place with nails, bolts, etc., or in place for more than 30 days.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for deer and turkey. Decoys illegal for deer.

Bowhunter education permit: First-time hunting or sporting license (combination hunting and fishing) buyers must produce a certificate showing they have passed a basic hunter education course or show a hunting or sporting license from any previous year and/or any state or province.

Special permits: Bowhunters must have \$5.10 archery stamp for archery deer season, \$5.10 primitive firearms stamp to hunt with a bow during muzzleloader deer season.

Archery stamps in fiscal '09: 29,645.

State bowhunting organization: Massachusetts Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 184, Weymouth, MA 02191; President Dan Teague, (781) 828-9879; massbowhunters@gmail.com; www.massbowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA 01581; (508) 389-6300; www.mass.gov/masswildlife.

Michigan

The deer population in the Northern Lower Peninsula was up slightly in 2009 from 2008. The Southern Lower Peninsula deer population is stable but continues to be over DNR deer

population goals and hosts over half of the state's deer herd and 60 percent of the deer harvest. While the overall deer harvest was nearly 490,000 deer in 2008 (approximately the same number taken in 2007), the archery harvest declined 15 percent. Roughly 285,000 bowhunters spent 4.1 million days hunting and harvested approximately 106,000 deer.

In 2008, the DNR implemented new antler point restrictions for the taking of antlered deer (bucks) in the UP. Under this new regulation, the regular buck tag of a combination deer license could only be used to tag a buck with at least three antler points on one side. The restricted tag could only be placed on a buck with a minimum of four points on one side. Hunters who chose not to purchase the combination tag were restricted to one buck only (without any new antler point restrictions) in the UP, all seasons combined, even if they purchased both archery and firearms licenses.

Approximately 15,000-19,000 black bears (including cubs) roam the hardwood and conifer forests of northern Michigan. About 90 percent of the bear live in the Upper Peninsula, while the remaining ten percent are mainly found in the northern Lower Peninsula. However, it is becoming increasingly common to see bear in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula.

Bear and elk season dates for 2010 are below; 2010 dates for deer were not available at press time. Check with the *2010 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide*, available in early August, or the DNR website (www.michigan.gov/dnr) for complete information about deer hunting seasons and regulations in Michigan.

DEER

Archery season (2009 dates): Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 1, 2010 (Archery equipment allowed during the Youth Antlerless season Sept. 17-21 and Firearm season Nov. 15-30, however firearm regulations apply.)

Limit: 1 either-sex (2 either-sex with combination license; if both are bucks one must have four or more points on one side).

Fees: Archery license res. \$15, junior archery \$10, non-res. \$138; Combination licenses res. \$30, junior \$15, senior \$12, non-res. \$276; Antlerless deer licenses res. \$15, non-res. \$100 (where available, provide additional opportunities). Application required for public land antlerless license and private land antlerless licenses in Zones 1 (Upper Peninsula) and 2 (Northern Lower Peninsula). Antlerless licenses left over following the drawing will be sold over the counter. See DNR website for availability updates.

BEAR

Season: Archery-Only Red Oak-Unit-Only Oct. 8-14. Regular Season Sept. 10-Oct. 26 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by unit).

Limit: 1 (cubs and female bears accompanied by cubs are illegal).

Fees: Res. \$15 plus \$4 application fee; senior \$6 plus \$4 application fee. Non-res. \$150 plus \$4 application fee.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Season 1 Aug. 31-Sept. 3, Sept 24-27 on private and public lands in Elk Management Unit L. Season 2 Oct. 16-20 on private and public lands in Elk Management Unit L. Season 3 Dec. 4-12 on both public and private lands in Alpena, Antrim, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. Season 4—This hunt would be held Jan. 12-16, 2011, only in elk management units where additional harvest is necessary to achieve population management goals.

Limit: 1.

Fees: \$100 license if drawn plus \$4 application fee.

TURKEY

Season: Sept. 15-Nov. 14

Limit: 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$15 turkey license, non-res. \$69, plus \$4 application.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No restrictions.

Crossbows: Crossbows may be used by: A) Anyone 50 years of age or older during the bowhunting deer season statewide; B) By any hunter age 12 and older during any hunting season in Zone 3 (southern Michigan), including the bowhunting season; C) During any season in which a firearm may be used, for both big and small game statewide.

Bait/Mineral Use: Two gallons allowed during deer season Oct. 1-Jan. 1 in the Upper Peninsula only. Baiting is prohibited in the Lower Peninsula; call (517) 373-1263 for specific information. Illegal for turkey.

Treestands/Blinds: A bowhunter may use an elevated stand for any legal species. On public land treestands must have the owner's name and address permanently affixed and legible from the ground. Portable ground blinds must be removed daily. Ground blinds of natural materials may remain in place, the owner's name and address permanently affixed and legible. The name on the stand or blind does not provide exclusive right to use the stand or blind. Any stand or blind on public land may be use by any person.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls are prohibited. Non-mechanical decoys are legal for deer and turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, but must complete hunter safety course or have previously purchased a hunting license in order to buy a hunting license.

Bowhunters in '09: 285,000.

Bowhunting organization(s): Michigan Bowhunters Association;
www.michiganbowhunters.com. Michigan Traditional Bowhunters;
www.michigantraditionalbow.com

Information/licenses: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944; (517) 373-1263; www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Minnesota

Many factors make Minnesota bowhunter-friendly: inexpensive licenses (res \$26; non-res \$140), long season (100+ days), license if valid statewide (no zones), over 1.4 million acres of state wildlife management areas, a generous amount of public land in the form of state and national forest and county lands. And it is the only wilderness area in the Midwest.

“The 2010 archery season should continue to be a good one for Minnesota bowhunters,” reports Big Game Program Coordinator Lou Cornicelli. “They enjoy a 100+ day season and generally can take an either-sex deer without applying for a permit. In more than half the state, they can take more than one deer. Over the past six years, bowhunters have taken more than 20 thousand deer annually.” The state's deer herd remains at a healthy 1 million animals.

In 2009, 99,474 archers took 20,629 deer, a 17 percent success rate. The archery harvest was down 9 percent from 2008, however the number of bucks taken increased by 6 percent. Look to central and southeast Minnesota for the highest deer densities. Many public lands in

northern Minnesota also hold decent deer densities. Cornicelli points out a change for 2010. “We have instituted an antler point restriction in southeast Minnesota. A buck must have at least one 4-point antler in order to be legal. Youth hunters (10-17) are exempt from the regulation.”

Northern and North-central Minnesota are traditional bear habitat; however, bears can also be found in northwestern Minnesota, where the DNR sells licenses over-the-counter. Though the estimated 9,300 bear hunters field in 2009 was the lowest since 1994, total harvest (2,801) was higher than expected because the success rate (30 percent) was atypically high compared to the past six years. Harvest rates increased from 2008 to 2009 in every BMU except 22 and 45. The downward trend in BMU 45 may suggest a population decline. Other BMUs had harvests near the 5-year mean, or slightly below, simply reflecting the reduced number of hunters in most areas. BMU 11 (northwest, no quota) continues to show a strong harvest, reflecting an increased density of bears. Overall, natural food abundance was relatively normal in all parts of the state. However, several summer fruits, especially raspberry and chokecherry, tended to be higher than normal. Productivity of oak, dogwood and hazel, the three key fall foods for bears, was average or above average (especially in east-central regions). Highbush cranberry and mountain ash, secondary fall foods, fruited unusually well.

Minnesota has about 7,000 moose. Most live in northeastern coniferous forests. Hunters may carry a firearm while hunting moose.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 18-Dec. 31. Camp Ripley Archery Hunts Oct. 21-22, Oct. 30-31

Limit: 1 (additional tags for up to 5 deer available in some areas).

Fees: Res. \$26. Non-res. \$140.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 1-Oct. 17

Limit: One adult bear per licensed hunter in Quota Areas. Two adult bears per licensed hunter in No Quota areas.

Fees: Res. \$38. Non-res. \$200.

MOOSE (res. only)

Season: Oct. 2-17 (must apply in party of 2 to 4).

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fee: \$310 per party.

Application deadline: Early May

ELK (res. only)

Season: Season 1 Sept. 18-26. Season 2 Dec. 4-12. (Can apply alone or in parties of 2.)

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fee: \$250 per party, \$10 application fee.

Application deadline: July 16.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 2-31. Spring Apr. 17-May 23 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 either-sex in fall. 1 bearded bird in spring.

Fees: Res. \$18. Non-res. \$73.

Application deadlines: Fall—July 31. Spring—Jan. 8.

Minimum draw weight: 30 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have at least two metal edges of barbless design and a cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: A licensed hunter may use a crossbow as a choice of arms for bear, deer with a regular firearms license, turkey with a firearms license, or a crossbow disability permit and an archery license. Crossbow hunters may not party hunt with firearms or archery hunters.

Bait/Mineral Use: Liquid scents, salt, and minerals are not considered bait unless they contain other foods. Baiting allowed for bear, however a person may not place bait for bears on or after August 15 unless the person has a bear license or is operating under the direction of a person with a valid bear license. The tag displayed at the site must have identification information. Illegal for deer on public land.

Treestands/Blinds: 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 WMUs and state parks open to hunting, only portable stands may be used. They must not be left overnight. On scientific and nature preserves where hunting is allowed, a person may use an elevated scaffold or stand if it is removed each day at the close of shooting hours and does no damage to trees or other vegetation. A person may not use a portable stand that is nailed, spiked, or screwed into a tree, or that otherwise damages the bark of a tree. A person may not use spikes, nails, steps, or other devices that are driven or screwed into trees.

Calls/Decoys: No regulation.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special hunts: Camp Ripley Bow Hunt, 2,500 permits issued for two Saturday-Sunday hunts. Apply through DNR computerized Electronic License System (ELS) at one of the 1,800 statewide Point-of-Sale agents, at the DNR's St. Paul License Center, or by the Department's ELS telephone system.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 100,000 (based on consolidation of license types).

Bowhunting organization(s): Minnesota Bowhunters Inc., 1769 Lexington Ave. N #138, Roseville, MN 55113; Tony Kuehn, president, (651) 433-1130; www.mnbowhunters.org. Minnesota State Archery Association, 14502 249th Ave NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398; Tom Rose, president, (763) 241-4807; www.mnarchery.org.

Information/licenses: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4001; (888)-MINNDNR; www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Mississippi

A long hunting season (Oct. 1-Jan. 31), a good deer population, and quality bucks are all pluses for bowhunting in Mississippi. Deer numbers are good statewide for 2010, says Deer Program Coordinator Chad Dacus, with the best quality deer in the Delta. Spring/summer flooding for the last two years have reduced fawn production slightly on isolated areas but it is not a concern regionwide. Summer browse production is good statewide, and there should be a good mast crop (oaks) statewide again this year.

This is the second year for new antler regulations in three deer management zones. There are no point restrictions but there are inside spread/main beam regulations dependant on the deer management zone.

Zone 1—Private and open public lands east of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and east of U.S. Hwy. 61, excluding areas south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35.A

legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches.

Zone 2—Private and open public lands south of U.S. Hwy 84 and east of MS Hwy 35. A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches.

Zone 3—Private and open public lands west of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Hwy. 61. A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 12 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 15 inches.

Antler regulations on WMAs:

On 32 WMAs—Legal bucks must have either a minimum 12-inch inside spread OR one main beam 15 inches or longer.

Delta Region (9 WMAs)—Legal bucks must have either a minimum 15-inch inside spread OR one main beam 18 inches or longer.

Mahannah WMA—Legal bucks must have either a minimum 16-inch inside spread OR one main beam 20 inches or longer.

Check regulations for more details.

ALLIGATOR (res. only)

Season: Pearl Zone Sept. 10-11 and Sept. 17-18; Pascagoula Zone Sept. 24-25 and Oct. 1-2.

Limit: 2 alligators 4 feet in length or longer, only 1 may exceed 7 feet in length. Hunters must first harvest and properly attach a temporary possession tag on an alligator under 7 feet prior to harvesting any alligator that exceeds seven 7 feet in length.

Fees: Res. \$17 plus \$25 alligator hunting license and \$100 Alligator Possession Tag.

Application dates: June 1-15.

DEER

Season: Archery Zone 1&3 Oct. 1-Nov. 19 (either sex), Zone 2 Oct. 15-Nov. 19 (either sex).

Primitive weapon Zone 1&3 Jan. 20-31 (either-sex), Zone 2 Jan. 20-31 (either-sex) and Feb. 1-15 (either-sex). Special Archery Nov. 20-Jan. 19 (either-sex all zones private and open public land). Special Primitive Nov. 8-19 (antlerless all zones private and open public land).

Bag Limit: Antlered buck deer 1 buck per day, 3 per license year. Legal bucks must meet the antler criteria within the appropriate deer management zone (special conditions for youth under 15; see regs). Antlerless 1 per day, 5 per license year.

Fees: Res. \$17 plus \$14 primitive weapon permit; may buy \$32 Sportsman's license that covers archery. Non-res. \$300 plus \$5 non-res. deer permit plus \$75 primitive weapon permit, or 7-day non-res. all-game license \$125.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Mar. 12-May 1. Youth Mar. 5-11. Fall Oct. 15-Nov. 15.

Limit: Spring 3 adult gobblers per season, but only 1 per day. Fall 2 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$17 plus \$14 primitive weapon permit; residents may buy \$32 Sportsman's license that covers archery. Non-res. \$300 plus \$75 primitive weapon permit, or 7-day non-res. all-game license \$125.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Unspecified.

Crossbows: Permitted during primitive weapon and firearms season, and for use by the physically challenged and those age 65+ during archery season.

Bait/Mineral Use: Baiting is illegal. Supplemental feeding regulated. Please consult website for details.

Treestands/Blinds: No regulations. On all WMAs, while climbing a tree, installing a treestand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a treestand on a WMA, hunters must use a fall-arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal. Decoys legal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special permits: Mississippi offers lifetime hunting licenses to residents for \$500-\$1,000 depending on age; persons born in Mississippi who now live elsewhere may buy lifetime Native Son-Daughter license for \$1,500.

Estimated number of bowhunters in '08: 34,471 res., 5,334 non-res. (estimated, based on 2008-09 mail survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Mississippi Bowhunters Association, P.O.Box 6, Inverness, MS 38753; www.mississippibowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, 1505 Eastover Dr., Jackson, MS 39211; (601) 432-2400; www.mdwfp.com.

Missouri

“The 2010 archery deer season should be excellent with good deer numbers throughout most of the state,” says Resource Scientist Lonnie Hansen. “The highest densities and larger deer are found north of the Missouri River but good deer hunting can be found anywhere in the state.” Liberal harvests, good deer populations, and a pretty good buck age structure, especially in counties with an antler restriction, help make Missouri a bowhunting hotspot.

Missouri’s 2009 deer harvest was 296,297. Archers killed a record 49,010 deer last year, a 15 percent increase from 2008, and Texas County led the overall deer kill with 5,620. Benton County was second with 5,480, and Howell County came in third with 5,061. Other top-10 counties were: Franklin, 5,026; Macon, 4,781; Camden, 4,705; Callaway, 4,661; Morgan, 4,625; Wayne, 4,484; Oregon, 4,455. Bowhunting can be good statewide but deer densities tend to be highest and the habitat most conducive to bowhunting in agricultural areas north of the Missouri River.

The 2009 deer harvest was 49 percent male deer as compared to 50 percent in 2008. The statewide increase in harvest, which mostly resulted from high harvests south of the Missouri River, may be attributed to poor production of acorns in southern Missouri which concentrated deer on fields making them vulnerable to harvest. Decreasing deer numbers in parts of northern Missouri and presence of considerable standing corn led to a smaller overall harvest north of the Missouri River. The 4-point restriction, which requires that a deer have at least 4 points on one side to be legal during the archery or firearms seasons, continues to produce more bucks in older age classes. Counties included in the restriction are in northern, central, and west central Missouri.

Non-resident archery permit fees are \$225. There are no changes in resident permit prices. Resident and nonresident hunters can buy their permit over-the-counter; no quota.

DEER

Archery season: Sept. 15-Nov. 12. Nov. 24-Jan. 15, 2011 (closed during firearms season, orange required in areas open to youth and antlerless portions of the firearms season).

Limit: 2. Only 1 antlered before firearms season; 4 points per side restriction in 65 counties. Additional antlerless deer can be taken on archery antlerless permits, which can be used in most counties.

Fees: Res. \$19. Non-res. \$225.

TURKEY

Season: Same as deer.

Limit: 2.

Fees: Same as deer.

FERAL HOGS

Season: Feral hogs may be taken in any number throughout the year. During most of the year, no permit is required and any method, including baiting and the use of dogs, is allowed. Special restrictions apply during the fall firearms deer and turkey hunting seasons.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: All legal broadheads permitted.

Crossbows: Permitted during regular firearms season and small game seasons, and for use by the physically challenged in archery season.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal (must be removed 10 days before season). No grain/food-based items can be used to bait; salt and minerals are legal.

Treestands/Blinds: No specific laws.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls prohibited.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special permits: Permits for “above & beyond” archery-only managed deer hunting opportunities are available from Missouri Permit Vendors or the Wildlife Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation—res. \$17, non-res. \$225.

Special licenses: Lifetime hunting licenses are available to residents for \$400 but do not include deer.

Special hunts: Managed Deer Hunts occur on numerous public lands throughout the state. Dates and bag limits vary by area, but deer taken on managed hunts do not count toward regular season limits. Application period July 1-Aug. 15. Consult the 2010 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting booklet for details.

Bowhunters in '09: 177,471 but probably around 150,000 participated (based on license sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Missouri Bow Hunters Assn.; www.mobowhunters.org. United Bowhunters; www.unitedbowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Missouri Department of Conservation, Wildlife Division, Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; (573) 751-4115; www.conservation.state.mo.us.

Montana

Looking at the 2010 season, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Ron Aasheim says, “It should be a good year although in some areas there have been impacts associated with predators: north of Yellowstone National Park, the Gardner and upper Gallatin in particular. Also in the Bitterroot.” Wolves, because they eat deer, elk, and other big game, have been the focus of hunter concern. In Montana, elk numbers in some areas have declined and so has hunter opportunity, due in part to wolf activity. Yet in other areas where wolves and elk interact, elk numbers are stable or

increasing. FWP is increasing its monitoring and research efforts to study the effects of wolf-big game interactions and what that means for hunters. Unfortunately at press time, 2009 harvest reports were not available. For the latest, go to <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/harvestReports.html>.

A change in Montana's 2010 big game hunting regulations is causing confusion among some bowhunters. In the 2010 regulations, under "Archery & Crossbow Equipment," the 28-inch bow length regulation includes the phrase "axle to axle." To clarify, for FWP enforcement purposes, a bow is considered legal if it is at least 28 inches in total length. Bows shorter than 28 inches are prohibited for use in Montana.

All license purchases require prerequisite Conservation license (res. \$8, non-res. \$10) and Bow and Arrow license (\$10).

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 4-Oct. 17. Backcountry (hunting districts 150,151, 280, 316) Sept.15-Nov. 29. General Season Oct. 23-Nov. 28

Limit: 1 (sex, species and limit vary according to hunting district).

Fees: Res. Deer A \$16, Deer B \$15, Deer B Antlerless \$10. Non-res. Big Game Elk/Deer Combination (General) \$643; Big Game Elk/Deer Combination (Outfitter Sponsored) \$1,250.; Bow and Arrow \$10; Deer B \$80, Deer B Antlerless \$75; Deer Combination General and Landowner Sponsored \$343; Deer Combination Outfitter Sponsored \$995.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Sept. 15-Nov. 28. Spring Apr. 15-May 31. Archery Sept. 4-14

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$19. Non-res. \$350.

ELK

Season: Same as deer.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. Big Game Elk/Deer Combination (General) \$643, Big Game Elk/Deer Combination (Outfitter Sponsored) \$1,250., Elk Combination General \$593; Elk Combination Outfitter Sponsored \$995.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 15-Nov. 28 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; other dates in some districts).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$130. Non-res. \$755.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Sept. 4-Oct. 8. General Oct. 9-Nov. 14.

Limit: 1 either sex and 2 doe/fawn (Antelope B) (available by permit).

Fees: Res. \$19. Non-res. \$205.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Archery Sept. 5-14 General Sept 15-Nov. 28 (earlier opening in some districts).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$130. Non-res. \$755.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Sept. 15-Nov. 28 (earlier opening in some districts).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$130. Non-res. \$755.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Archery Sept 4-Oct 17 Fall Oct. 23-Nov. 28. Winter Dec. 1-April 14, 2011 (hounds permitted winter season only).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$19, plus \$50 trophy fee after kill. Non-res. \$320, plus \$50 trophy fee after kill.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 1-Jan. 1, 2011. Spring Apr. 10-May 16.

Limit: 1 per season.

Fees: Res. \$6.50, plus \$7.50 upland bird permit, plus \$5 spring or fall permit. Non-res. \$115 plus optional-(depending on area) \$5 spring or fall permit.

Minimum draw weight: Maximum letoff cannot exceed 80 percent. Bows cannot be shorter than 28 inches. A bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics are illegal during Archery-Only seasons or districts.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges and be at 7/8 inches at widest point and weigh at least 70 grains. Arrow must be at least 20 inches long broadhead tip to nock and weigh no less than 300 grains with broadhead attached.

Crossbows: Permitted for regular firearms season; prohibited during the archery season.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: No regulations.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for big game and turkey.

Hunter Orange: 400 square inches required above the waist during general hunting seasons or when pursuing moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, or mountain lion.

Bowhunter education permit: Hunter safety and education course required if born after January 1, 1985. NBEF-approved bowhunting education required or provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 40,314.

Bowhunting organization(s): Montana Bowhunters Association; www.mtba.org. Traditional Bowhunters of Montana, President Billy Lewis, 730 N. Yellowstone, Livingston, MT 59047; (406) 220-1837; billylewis71@yahoo.com; www.tradbowmt.org.

Information/licenses: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620; Info (406) 444-2535; Licensing (406) 444-2950; <http://fwp.mt.gov>; fwpgen@mt.gov.

Nebraska

The official 2010 deer season forecast from Nebraska officials is that "it will be defined as a year of record antlerless whitetail harvest."

There are, in fact, record numbers of whitetails and mule deer, reports Nebraska Game & Parks Kit Hams. And the average age of harvested bucks is the oldest on record and getting older, continuing the trends seen since 2007. Whitetail numbers are highest in the east where more rainfall creates more cover and food. More trees in the east makes treestand placement easiest. Muley numbers are highest in the western half of the state. Look for them in riparian systems.

According to the state's 2010 hunting guide, goals in eastern deer units (Blue Northwest, Blue Southeast, Wahoo, Elkhorn, and Missouri) call for a 25-percent herd reduction over the

next three years. An unlimited number of \$10 October antlerless permits are authorized, and 250,000 permits and bonus tags that allow the harvest of antlerless whitetail are available. A 20-year trend of increasingly older bucks is expected to continue in 2010. In 2009, 30 percent of bucks were age 3 or older. In some units, 90 percent of harvested bucks were age 2 or older. For those who are trophy hunters and for those who are meat hunters, the possibilities have never been better. More good news: In 2010, for the first time, archery equipment will be valid on firearms permits during the November firearms seasons (hunter orange required).

The age structure of antelope bucks continues to improve, with 88 percent of bucks harvested in 2009 age 2 or older. Archers had a record year, taking 156 antelope for a 22 percent success rate, and the 2010 hunting season should be another great one. There is a 150-percent increase in the number of landowner permits. Permit quotas are increased in several units. About 6,000 to 7,000 pronghorn occupy the western third of the state.

Nebraska's elk herds are also growing, and the population now exceeds 2,000, allowing increased permits to give hunters more opportunities to take a cow or trophy bull. In 2009, hunter success on bull permits was 80 percent. All but four harvested bulls had at least six points on one antler. Average beam length of these bulls was 49 inches. New records for bull and cow harvest should be set in 2010 as well.

As of 2009, turkey hunting became legal during the November firearm deer season. People hunting with a fall turkey permit are required to wear hunter orange when hunting during the November firearm deer season. Legal weapons include shotgun and archery only; rifles and crossbows are not allowed. Best areas for turkeys are in all northern, eastern, and southern border counties and major river corridors. The Pine Ridge area has the state's best Merriam's turkey population and plenty of public access. Best access areas: Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Fort Robinson State Park area, Gilbert Baker, Ponderosa, Peterson, Metcalf, Bordeaux and Bighorn wildlife management areas.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 15-Nov. 12, Nov. 22-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 or 2, varies by unit.

Fees: Res. \$30 plus \$20 habitat stamp. Non-res. \$209 plus \$20 habitat stamp.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Sept. 25-Oct. 24; or Aug. 15-Nov. 12 and Nov. 22-Dec. 31 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$159 plus \$20 habitat stamp.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug 20-Nov. 12 and Nov. 22-Dec. 31 (closed in all firearm units during firearm season).

Limit: 1 either-sex

Fees: Res. \$35, plus \$20 habitat stamp. Non-res. \$155.50, plus \$20 habitat stamp.

Application period: June 8 thru close of season

TURKEY

Season: Spring Archery Statewide Mar. 25-May 31. Fall Archery statewide Sept. 15- Dec. 31.

Limit: Fall 2 per permit, two permits allowed. Spring 1 male or female bearded per permit, three permits allowed

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$91 plus \$20 habitat stamp.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds at or before 28 inches. For elk and bighorn sheep, conventional longbows or compound bows with a pull of 50 pounds or more at or before 28 inch draw. Restrictions on draw weight of archery equipment have been lifted for turkey.

Broadheads: Must have cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch and cutting edge of at least 3 inches. Turkeys may be hunted with blunt bludgeon with diameter of at least 9/16 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during deer and pronghorn firearms season and for the physically challenged during archery season with authorization from NGPC. Must have a draw weight of 125 pounds or more.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: No nails, screws, bolts, or wire may be used to attach stands to trees. Stands must be removed within 15 days of the close of season.

Calls/Decoys: No electronic calls allowed for turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Required for people hunters ages 12-29. Hunters with either a firearm or crossbow must have on their person proof of successful completion of Firearm Hunter Education.

Licenses sold in '09: 17,265 (85 to 90 percent residents).

Bowhunting organization(s): Nebraska Bowhunters Association, 2917 N. Webb Rd., Grand Island, NE 68803; www.nebraskabowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503; (402) 471-0641; www.ngpc.state.ne.us/wildlife/.

Nevada

“Bowhunters should find good hunting conditions when they go afield this year,” says Outdoor Education Coordinator John R. McKay. “Mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope populations are all up from last year, the result of relatively mild winter and good precipitation. Elk numbers show an increase of about 13 percent and antelope 6 percent. Hunters who put in their best effort will have the best chance of harvesting their game.”

Mule deer populations showed a modest increase. Nevada’s biologists are optimistic that good body condition, low winter mortality, and mild winter conditions will help to increase fawn survival rates. More deer on the ground should equate to good hunter success. Antelope and elk numbers are at all-time highs and should provide archers with quality hunt opportunities.

McKay advises that successful outcomes all depend on the hunter, his or her capabilities and work ethic. “Virtually every unit in the state is capable of throwing a trophy-quality buck, if that’s what prospects are based on. The difference in hunt areas is usually one of game populations and terrain. Even the mountains near Las Vegas hold mule deer, for instance, but the population density is much lower than you will find in northern units. A hunter who is willing to put in the time and the physical effort, and park the four-wheeler, stands an excellent chance of tagging a Nevada buck. Of course there are no guarantees. Conversely, those who take a less prepared, less physical approach to hunting are more apt to find a lower success rate.”

Two changes may have an immediate impact on archers. Commission regulation (CGR 374) requires that “each person who shoots and woulds wildlife while hunting shall make a reasonable effort to take that wildlife, including, without limitation, pursuing and tracking it.” In other words, each hunter is required to make a reasonable effort to recover a game animal he has wounded in the course of hunting. Next, archers are permitted to use illuminated nocks, whether they are electronically or chemically illuminated. In other news, because of the decline in turkey

population numbers and low hunter success (20 to 30 percent), the 2010 fall turkey season is closed.

For comprehensive information about species and prospects, view Nevada's species- and unit-specific hunter information sheets at www.ndow.org/hunt/resources/infosheets/index.shtm.

MULE DEER

Season: Aug. 1-Jan. 1 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$30 deer tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$240 deer tag.

ELK

Season: Sept. 16-Dec. 7 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 elk tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 elk tag.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 1-Aug. 20. Any Weapon Aug. 22-Oct. 30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$60 antelope tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$300 antelope tag.

NELSON'S (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Res. Oct. 15-Jan. 2, (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Non-res. Nov. 20-Dec. 20.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 sheep tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 sheep tag.

CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sept. 1-Oct. 30.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 sheep tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 sheep tag.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sep. 1-Oct. 30.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 sheep tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 sheep tag.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Sept. 1-Oct. 30.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 goat tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 goat tag.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Mar. 1, 2010-Feb. 28, 2011, or earlier if harvest objective is met (by unit group).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$29 lion tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$104 lion tag.

Minimum draw weight: Longbows must be capable of casting a 400-grain arrow 150 yards over level terrain.

Broadheads: Hunting arrows must have tips at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: Permitted for use by any hunter during Any Legal Weapon season.

Baiting: Legal.

Treestands/Blinds: No regulations.

Calls/Decoys: No regulations.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special hunts: Nevada offers a special youth archery hunt. Approx. 2,800 tags are available to resident youths 12-16 years of age to archery hunt in units in which their tag is valid.

Big game application period: Mid March-mid April. Check regs for exact deadlines.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '09: 3,168.

Bowhunting organization(s): Nevada Bowhunters Association; www.nevadabowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; (775) 688-1500; www.ndow.org.

New Hampshire

Although small in area, New Hampshire offers more than 200,000 acres of state land and 750,000 acres of White Mountain National Forest open to hunters. Unlike several surrounding states, it also offers Sunday hunting.

New Hampshire has an estimated population of about 85,000 deer. In 2009, hunters harvested 10,390 deer, down about 5 percent from the actual 2008 deer kill of 10,916, but is comparable to season results prior to 2006. Based on these 2009 preliminary registration figures by county (which indicate where deer were registered, not necessarily killed), results were mixed, according to Kent Gustafson, Deer Project Leader for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. "Some areas experienced reduced deer movements this fall as a result of abundant acorn production and, until the very end of the regular firearm season, most of the state was snow-free," said Gustafson. "These factors combined with the residual effects of recently severe winters, especially 2007-08, have reduced recent harvests from the near record kill in 2007. In spite of this, New Hampshire's harvest again exceeded 10,000, which has only happened 15 times in the past 50 years."

New Hampshire boasts a strong and stable black bear population, estimated at about 4,800 animals. Bear success rates are consistent with other Northeastern states, averaging 5 percent. During an average fall, 10,500 hunters will take 500 bears. In 2009, they took 755, the second highest harvest on record. Bears are increasing in several areas, including agricultural areas of the Connecticut River Valley, northern Coos County and the White Mountains.

For gobbler-gettin', the state is a great destination. New Hampshire offers a three-month-long autumn archery season starting September 15, and its turkey license now covers both spring and fall seasons. The state turkey population stands at 40,000 birds. During the 2009 spring hunt alone, hunters harvested 4,056 turkeys statewide.

New Hampshire has an estimated 6,000 moose. During the 2009 season, 341 moose were taken. Average dressed weight of all yearling bulls taken in 2009 was 435 pounds, 751 pounds for all bulls aged 5.5 and older. The odds of winning a New Hampshire moose hunt permit in the

2009 lottery were 1 in 22 for New Hampshire residents and 1 in 63 for nonresidents, some of the best odds in the nation for moose draws.

An archery license (res. \$22/non-res. \$73), which covers one deer tag, and a \$2.50 Wildlife Habitat fee are required.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 15-Dec.15.

Limit: 2 (if using second archery tag).

Fees: First tag included in archery license. Res. \$16 special tag. Non-res. \$16 second tag.

BEAR

Season: General Sept. 1-Late November (closing dates vary by unit and method).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$16. Non-res. \$48.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 15-Dec. 15 (archery only). Spring May 3-31 (latest possible closing date; archery and shotgun).

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 1 bearded bird.

Fees: Res. \$16. Non-res. \$31.

MOOSE

Season: Oct. 16-24.

Limit: 1 (by lottery drawing only).

Fees: Res. \$150, non-res. \$500 moose tag.

Minimum draw weight: 30 pounds at 28 inches draw for turkey, 40 pounds for deer, 60 pounds for moose. Archers must have their name and address on arrows.

Broadheads: Fixed-blade broadheads can measure no less than 7/8 inch and no greater than 1.5 inches. Retractable-blade broadheads may be less than 7/8 inches wide in flight but must be at least 7/8 inches wide when open.

Crossbows: Legal for physically challenged hunters by permit, or with regular hunting license and crossbow permit during regular firearm deer season.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal during specific seasons; baiting permit required. Illegal Apr. 15-Aug. 31.

Treestands/Blinds: Written landowner permission required for any stand that damages or destroys a tree by inserting any object for mounting.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls and live decoys illegal for turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Required (or must have previous archery license).

Archery licenses sold in '09: 19,237.

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters Wildlife Management Association of New Hampshire; www.bwmanh.org.

Information/licenses: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH 03301; (603) 271-3422; www.wildlife.state.nh.us.

New Jersey

More than 500,000 acres of state-owned public open space providing a diversity of habitats from hardwood ridges and rolling hills to pine forests and salt marsh. This total includes more than 322,000 acres in 120 WMAs.

There are no major changes for bowhunters in 2010, says Principal Biologist Carole Kandoth. However, last year saw many hunters participating in the newly adopted legalization of crossbows for all hunters and the introduction of Sunday bowhunting on WMAs and private property. Hunters who have never purchased a New Jersey bow and arrow hunting license or have not purchased one since the implementation of the electronic licensing system must present one of the following to purchase a license: 1) a hunter education archery certificate, or 2) a prior year resident bow and arrow license (from New Jersey or any other state), or 3) a prior year nonresident New Jersey bow and arrow license.

In 2009 New Jersey hunters took 52,784, on a par with the 53,260 deer the previous year. Meanwhile, totals for the various bow seasons were all up: Fall Bow 14,161 compared to 2008's 13,299 ; Permit Bow 6,852 compared to 2008's 6,089, and Winter Bow 2,046 compared to 2008's 1,629.

The statewide wild turkey population is currently estimated at more than 22,000 birds. In 2010 hunters took 3,003 in the spring, 123 in the fall. Wild turkeys are now found throughout the state wherever there is suitable habitat. Best turkey spots in the north are the Hamburg Mountain, Wanaque, Walpack and Sparta Mountain WMAs. In the central region, the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area offers good hunting opportunities. In South Jersey abundant public land and a low density of hunters makes for great turkey hunting. The nearly 50,000 combined acres of the Peaslee and Millville (Bevans) Wildlife Management Areas make good choices in this part of the Garden State. Other good turkey hunting areas include the Newark Watershed properties, Stokes State Forest and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Bear numbers continue to increase and the population is expanding. The Fish and Game Council and DEP Commissioner are actively working on a Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy that, if adopted, would reestablish a firearms season this December. Monitor the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com for further updates.

DEER

Season: Fall Bow Sept. 11-Oct. 1 or Oct. 2-29, varies by zone. Permit Bow Oct. 30-Nov. 27 or Oct. 30-Dec. 24, 26-31, varies by zone. Winter Bow Jan. 1-30 or Jan. 1-Feb. 19, 2011, varies by zone).

Limits: Varies by season and zone.

Fees: Res. Bow and Arrow Hunting \$31.50, senior (65 years and older) \$16.50, All-Around Sportsmen \$72.25. Non-res. Bow and Arrow Hunting \$135.50. Permit Bow season permit (adult) \$28, (youth) \$12.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 25-30, permits are hunting area-specific. Spring Apr. 25-May 27 (earliest and latest dates), divided into six segments.

Limits: Fall 1 tom per day. Spring 1 either-sex per day.

Fees: Res. \$31.25, Senior (65 years and older) \$16.50, All-Around Sportsmen \$72.25. Non-res. \$135.50. Special Season Turkey permit (adult) \$21, (youth) \$12.

Minimum draw weight: 35 pounds.

Broadheads: Must be fitted with an edged head with metal cutting edges and a minimum width of 3/4 inch.

Crossbows: Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds and a minimum stock length of 25 inches. (Note that that crossbows are *not* legal for bowfishing at this time; bowfishing is covered by the Freshwater Fish Code.)

Bait/Mineral Use: Baiting for deer is legal, whether from a treestand or the ground. Hunters should check with landowners before placing bait. Baiting is not permitted on National Wildlife Refuges, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area or in select State/County Parks and Recreation Areas. Wild turkeys may not be hunted within 300 feet of bait.

Treestands/Blinds: No permanent treestands or screw-in steps are permitted at Delaware Water Gap.

Calls/Decoys: A bowhunter using a deer decoy must wear at least 200 sq. in. of hunter orange visible from all sides while transporting the decoy into and out of the woods and fields. Electronically operated decoys prohibited for turkey. All hunters are required to possess a calling device while turkey hunting. Electronic calls illegal for deer.

Bowhunter education permit: A previous resident bow license from New Jersey or any state, or a bowhunter safety course card indicating completion of course.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '09: 34,169 res., 2,241 non-res.

Special permits: In addition to the regular bow license, a bow permit for the deer management zone being hunted is required for the permit bow season.

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of New Jersey, Brian Dolobacs, president, (609) 838-7830; brian.dolobacs@ubnj.org; www.ubnj.org.

Information/licenses: New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402; (609) 292-2965; www.njfishandwildlife.com.

New Mexico

New Mexico is an attractive bowhunting destination due to its large amounts of public land, variety of species, and the opportunity to draw a permit year after year without having to collect preference points.

“This year with above average snowfall amounts, antler growth and recruitment should be above average for deer and elk,” say Public Information Officer Ross Morgan. “Hopefully the spring rains will follow and help with previous years of below average moisture. Antelope numbers remain stable, but with large snowfall amounts in some areas fawn survival rates could be down affecting next year’s numbers. Look for deer and elk hunting to above average this year with exceptional winter moisture providing a good spring green-up.

“For someone looking for a great opportunity at a P&Y mule deer, Game Management Unit (GMU) 2 is always the best choice,” Morgan advises. “This unit consistently produces 180-inch P&Y every year during the January hunt dates. Coues deer hunters should concentrate their efforts in GMUs 23 and 27. The Burro Mountains hunt area, although tough to draw remains to be unbelievable producing 90-inch P&Y bucks every year. As always, the Southwest part of the state produces the best elk hunting opportunities. GMUs 15 and 16 are always a good bet producing 350-inch-plus P&Y elk every year.”

For 2010, the application restriction-year holdout was removed by the State Game Commission. Hunters who successfully drew a Quality (Q) or High-Demand (HD) deer or elk

license or any pronghorn license last year, *are allowed* to apply for a Quality (Q) or High Demand (HD) hunt for deer or elk, or any pronghorn antelope license in the following years.

Application deadlines for many big-game species are in early April. New Mexico has a plethora of special hunts and more opportunities for archers during general seasons. Because of their complexity, they are not listed here. For more details, contact New Mexico Wildlife at the numbers or website listed below.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 1-22 (Sept. 1-24 in some units), Jan. 1-15, 2011 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1 deer with at least two points on one side.

Fees: Res. \$49. Non-res. \$297. Non-res. quality or high demand \$382.

Application deadline: Apr. 7 for public deer permits.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 1-22 (Sept. 1-24 in some units). Any Legal Weapon Aug. 16-Nov. 30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1 bear (no cub or sow with cub).

Fees: Res. \$47. Non-res. \$260.

COUGAR

Season: Oct. 1-Mar. 31, 2011; quota system within hunt zones; year-long season in Units 29, 30, 34 and selected bighorn sheep ranges.

Limit: 1. 2 cougars in Units 29, 30, 34, and designated bighorn sheep ranges. No kittens or females with kittens.

Fees: Res. \$43. Non-res. \$290.

ELK

Seasons: Bow Only Sept. 1-24 (earliest and latest dates; varies by unit).

Limit: 1 either-sex (during bow-only season).

Fees: Res. antlerless \$63, mature bull or either-sex \$93, quality antlerless \$63, quality mature bull or either-sex \$93. Non-res. antlerless \$352, mature bull or either-sex \$562, quality antlerless \$787, quality mature bull or either-sex \$787.

PRONGHORN

Season: Bows Only Aug. 7-24 (earliest and latest dates; varies by unit).

Limit: 1 mature buck.

Fees: Res. \$63. Non-res. \$297.

JAVELINA

Season: Bow-Only Jan. 1-31 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$68. Non-res. \$192.

BARBARY SHEEP

Season: Feb. 1-Mar. 15, 2011, Units 29, 31-34, 36 and 37. Feb. 1-28, 2011, Unit 30. April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011 statewide except closed areas—see regs for details.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$113. Non-res. \$387.

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Nov. 1-30 Unit 27 Peloncillo Mountains.

Limit: 1 ram.

Fees: Res. \$163. Non-res. \$3,187.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 14-Jan. 16, 2011 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1 ram.

Fees: Res. \$163. Non-res. \$3,187.

IBEX

Season: Bow Only Jan. 1-15, 2011, Florida Mountains in Unit 25. Muzzleloader and Bow Feb. 12-20, 2011, Florida Mountains in Unit 25.

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$103. Non-res. \$1,610.

ORYX

Season: Aug. 21, 2010-Mar. 20, 2011 (earliest and latest dates, varies by hunt area and weapon).

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$153. Non-res. \$1,610.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 15-May 10. Fall Sept. 6-14. Additional draw hunts available.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded. Fall 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$100. Second tag \$10 (spring only).

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: All legal broadheads (must have steel cutting edges) permitted.

Crossbows: Allowed only by certified Mobility Impaired Hunters during all hunts.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Illegal. Hunters may use animal scents on their person for masking their own scent but cannot apply scent to any item to use as a tool to draw in game. Exception: Turkey hunters on *private land* may hunt over bait.

Treestands/Blinds: Check with local land management agencies (USFS, BLM, or state land) regarding use of stands.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for big game or turkey. Live decoys illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required for archers.

Special hunts: Drawings available for youths 17 and younger and mobility-impaired hunters (must be certified as such by physician). Call (800) 862-9310 for details.

Special licenses: Resident disabled veterans are eligible for free small game, fishing and deer licenses. Call (800) 862-9310 for details. Many big game draw permits vary in price according to the number of hunters who apply as a group.

Estimated bowhunters in '09: 11,000.

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of New Mexico, Box 953, Silver City, NM 88062; (505) 662-2756. Sandia Crest Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 11333, Albuquerque, NM 87110; www.scbaarchery.org.

Information/licenses: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504; (505) 476-8000; www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

New York

New York's bowhunters increased their deer take in 2009: 34,546 compared to 32,366 in 2008 and 31,060 in 2007. New York has bowhunting opportunities that begin September 27 in the Northern Zone and continue through December 21 in the Southern Zone. "Bowhunters play a critical role in deer management on Long Island and in the bowhunting-only areas near the cities

of Albany and Rochester and in Westchester County,” says Wildlife Biologist Jeremy Hurst. “Deer can be found throughout the state, though bowhunters will be most successful in the mixed agriculture/forest areas of the Southern Zone.”

In 2009, Western New York continued to lead the state in total deer-harvest densities, but Orange County in southeastern New York also became a strong contender. The top five counties for 2009 were Yates (13.2 total deer per square mile), Wyoming (11.2), Orange (10.5), Genesee (9.9), and Ontario (9.5). Importantly, total harvest is strongly impacted by the number of Deer Management Permits (DMPs) available in an area, which directly affects the harvest of antlerless deer. A more accurate picture of relative deer population densities is revealed by the density of buck harvest. By this figure, the top counties for buck harvest density were: Wyoming County (4.6 bucks per square mile), Yates County (4.5 bucks per square mile), Allegany County (4.0), Orange County (3.9), and Cayuga County (3.7).

Bear harvest numbers in 2009 were the second-highest ever recorded in New York State. Statewide, firearms and archery hunters took 1,487 black bears, a nearly 15 percent increase over 2008 (1,295 bears). Harvest increased dramatically in the Adirondacks, with 814 bears taken in 2009 compared to 582 taken in 2008 and 544 taken in 2007. In the Central-Western (Allegany) range, hunters took 179 bears, down from the 193 harvested in 2008. In the Southeastern (Catskill) range, hunters took 494 bears, only slightly less than the 520 harvested in 2008. Bowhunters are especially important in these areas, accounting for over one-third of the bear take in the Southeastern area and almost 50 percent of the bear take in the Central-Western bear hunting area.

Look for zone maps and more detailed hunting season information at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/10003.html

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 27-Oct. 22 (Northern zone), Oct. 16-Nov. 19 and Dec. 13-21 (Southern zone), Oct. 1-Dec. 31 (Westchester and Suffolk Counties).

Limit: Depends on license privileges purchased.

Fees: Res. Small Game/Big Game \$29, Bowhunting Privilege \$21, Jr. Bowhunting \$9. Non res. Bowhunting \$140, Non-res. Jr. Bowhunting \$9.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 27-Oct. 22 (Northern zone), Oct. 16-Nov. 19 and Dec. 13-21 (Central-Western zone), Oct. 16-Nov. 19 and Dec. 13-Dec. 21 (Southeastern zone).

Limit: 1 per license year.

Fees: Res. Small Game/Big Game \$29, Bowhunting Privilege \$21, Jr. Archery \$9. Non-res. Bowhunting \$140, Bear Tag \$50, Jr. Archery \$9.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 1-Nov. 26 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Spring May 1-31, 2011.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall either-sex (1 or 2 bird bag limit varies by unit).

Fees: Same as deer plus turkey permit: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$50.

Minimum draw weight: greater than 35 pounds.

Broadheads: Broadheads with less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than two cutting edges are illegal. Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. Broadheads with retractable blades are legal.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Baiting/Mineral Use: Feeding wild deer or using salt or mineral licks is prohibited at all times of year. Hunting over bait is illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Portable and temporary treestands may be used on public land, though hunters may not damage the trees by cutting limbs, using screw-in steps, or erecting permanent stands.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for turkeys.

Bowhunter education and hunter education: Required.

Special licenses (combination): Res. Sportsman \$47, Senior Sportsman \$10, Military Disabled License \$5, Conservation Legacy \$96, Super Sportsman License \$88. Non-res Supersportsman \$280. Special permits also exist for persons with disabilities; call (518) 402-8985 for details.

Bowhunting privileges (licenses) sold in '09: 213,707 (204,907 res., 9,214 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): New York Bowhunters, Inc., P.O. Box 1157, Canandaigua, NY 14424; (585) 905-0961; www.newyorkbowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: New York State DEC license sales office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790; www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/hunting.html.

North Carolina

From the mountains to the coast, North Carolina has very diverse ecosystems. The foothills and mountain regions can be beautiful areas to hunt in the fall, and the coastal plain can be scenic as well. While temperatures in the mountains and foothills can become quite chilly in the winter, temperatures often remain moderate on the coastal plain. The number of quality deer harvested in North Carolina seems to be increasing every year. In 2009, bowhunters took 15,181 of the state's 169,273 harvested whitetails.

"We anticipate that the 2010 archery season will be very similar to the 2009 season for Tarheel bowhunters," says Surveys and Research Biologist Evin Stanford. "Bowhunters wishing to hunt areas with high deer densities should focus their efforts on the coastal plain and Piedmont. Urban/suburban areas should not be overlooked, when not prohibited by local law, as these areas often have high deer densities and receive little hunting pressure. Bowhunters should also be aware North Carolina has a special urban archery season that occurs in January and February. Hunters can find information on participating municipalities in the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's regulation digest. Bowhunters with the desire to maximize their potential to harvest a "trophy" deer should focus hunting efforts in the northern Piedmont, foothills, and northwestern corner of the state."

Total 2010 spring turkeys were a record 13,756, up 9 percent from 2009's 12,579 birds. Bowhunters will likely encounter higher turkey densities in rural Piedmont areas and the foothills. However, hunters should not discount coastal plain areas as turkey populations are rapidly expanding in range and increasing in density in many areas within this region of the state.

Another reason to consider North Carolina is that some of the biggest black bears on the continent are taken there, says Stanford. The 2008 bear harvest was 1,305 coast, 857 mountains. In 2009 it was 1,273 coast, 1,200 mountains. Bowhunters are most productive in the central and northern coastal plain where bears come to agricultural fields.

Archery hunters hunting during the muzzleloader and modern firearm season must wear hunter orange. In 2007 hunting with a bow became lawful during the muzzleloader season on private lands. Archery hunting during muzzleloader season is not lawful on game lands, except for archery-only areas. Also starting in 2007 was the Urban Archery season. See the *2010-2011*

Regulations Digest for participating cities and more information. A digest can be obtained from most license agents or online at www.ncwildlife.org.

Some details were still not finalized at press time. Check regs online for the latest.

DEER

Eastern Bow And Arrow Sept. 11-TBD, Muzzleloader TBD-Oct. 15, Gun Oct. 16-Jan. 1, 2011. *Central* Bow And Arrow Sept. 11-TBD, Muzzleloader TBD -Nov. 12, Gun Nov. 13-Jan. 1, 2011. *Northwestern* Bow And Arrow Sept. 11- TBD, Muzzleloader TBD-Nov. 19, Gun Nov. 20-TBD. *Western* Bow And Arrow Sept. 13-TBD And Oct. 18-Nov. 20, Muzzleloader TBD -Oct. 16, Gun Nov. 22-Dec. 11. Urban Archery Season Jan. 15-Feb. 19, 2011 (see regulation digest for participating municipalities).

Limit: TBD per day, 6 per season. All 6 can be antlerless for all areas of the state. 4 antlered per season in Eastern. 2 antlered per season Central, Northwestern, and Western. Bonus antlerless tags can be purchased for \$10 that allow the harvesting of two additional antlerless deer. The number of bonus tags available to each hunter is unlimited. The tags are only valid in areas with a maximum either sex season and areas in the urban archery season. Bonus tags are not valid for use on game lands.

Fees: Res. basic hunting license \$15 plus \$10 for big game privilege (\$25 total) or Sportsman's \$40 (includes fishing and big game). Non-res. \$60 for basic hunting license plus another \$60 for big game privilege (\$120 total), or \$40 for 6-day basic license plus another \$40 for 6-day big game privilege (\$80 total). Basic hunting license fees higher for South Carolina and Virginia residents. Big Game Hunting privilege fees for Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina residents are higher. Refer to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Regulations Digest for specific information on licensing options and seasons.

BEAR

Season: Oct. 18-Jan. 1, 2011 (earliest and latest dates; individual seasons include a segment of these dates and vary by county; no archery-only season).

Limit: 1

Fees: Same as for deer, but nonresidents also have to purchase the \$125 Bear/Wild Boar hunting privilege. Big Game Hunting fees for Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina residents are higher. Refer to the *North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Regulations Digest* for specific information on licensing options and seasons.

TURKEY

Season: Youth Apr. 2, 2011. Statewide April 9-May 7, 2011. Note: Winter season has been closed.

Limit: 1 per day, 2 per year, male turkeys or bearded turkeys only.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: Longbow and recurves, 40 pounds; compounds, 35 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch; expandable designs are legal.

Crossbows: Legal only for handicapped hunters by permit. Crossbows used under this permit must have a minimum draw weight of 150 pounds.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal for deer, illegal for bear and turkey. Illegal for wild boar in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties. (Feral pigs not regulated elsewhere.) No wild turkey may be taken from an area in which bait has been placed until the expiration of 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.

Treestands/Blinds: No regulation.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal.

Hunter Orange: Anyone hunting deer during a deer firearms season, regardless of weapon, must wear hunter orange.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Estimated bowhunters: 104,500 estimated bowhunters based on 2006 mail survey. (State does not collect specific bowhunter data, as it does not sell archery-specific licenses/tags.)

Special hunts: Several permit hunts are available. Go to www.ncwildlife.org for latest information.

Bowhunting organization(s): North Carolina Bowhunters Association, 7796 NC Hwy. 68 N., Stokesdale, NC 27357; www.ncbowhunter.com.

Information/licenses: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Wildlife Mgt. Mailing Address—1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1722; Location—1751 Varsity Dr., NCSU Centennial Campus, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 707-0050; www.ncwildlife.org.

North Dakota

The hard winter of 2008-2009 had a hard impact on North Dakota's deer herd. Randy Kreil, wildlife chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said a significant reduction in deer numbers was evident statewide this past year with statewide hunter success rates dropping to 59 percent, down considerably from 70 to 75 percent success rates that North Dakota deer hunters typically experience.

“The reduced deer numbers are a result of significant mortality from the past two difficult winters and subsequent low reproductive success,” Kreil said, “and nearly a decade of aggressive deer management by having a large number of antlerless licenses available in many units because the population was well above management goals.”

As a result, 35 of the 38 hunting units will have fewer deer licenses. The only exceptions are three units in the southwest where deer populations remain above management objectives and winter mortality was least evident.

“The mule deer population in the badlands was also hurt by the winter of 2008-2009, and probably by this past winter as well, and as a result there are fewer mule deer licenses available this fall,” Kreil said.

The primary range for muleys is the extreme southwest, extending into a secondary range that covers much of the southwestern third of the state. Western North Dakota's mule deer population has decreased slightly for the second consecutive year, based on observations during the Department's annual spring mule deer survey in April. Biologists counted 2,272 mule deer in 291 square miles, compared to 2,483 in 2009. Mule deer density per square mile was 7.8, a slight decrease from 8.5 in 2009. Bruce Stillings, big game biologist, Dickinson, said the badlands mule deer population index still remains higher than the long-term average.

The number of licenses available for 2010 includes 7,275 for mule deer, a decrease of 1,425 from last year; 2,190 for muzzleloader, down 524 from last year; and 320 restricted youth antlered mule deer, a decrease of 25 from 2009.

The use of lighted nocks on arrows is now allowed for big game archery seasons.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 3 (12 noon)-Jan. 2, 2011.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer certificate \$1; General Game and Habitat license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32 (includes Small Game, General Game and Habitat, Furbearer, and Fishing licenses), Deer Bow license \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16. Non-res. Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer certificate \$2, General Game and Habitat license \$13, Deer Bow license \$200 (two types available).

ELK

Season: Bow-Only Unit E1, E2 Sept. 3-26. Any Legal Weapon E1 Sept. 3-Dec. 31(earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1 per lifetime (residents only by drawing, sex varies by unit).

Fees: Res. FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Elk Bow license \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16. Non-res. FHF certificate \$2, GGH license \$13; plus drawing fees for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation drawing.

PRONGHORN

Season: Sept. 3 (noon)-Oct. 3.

Limit: 1 (either sex).

Fees: Res. FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Pronghorn Bow license \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16. Non-res. FHF certificate \$2, GGH license \$13; Pronghorn Bow license \$200.

BIGHORN SHEEP (res. only)

Season: Units B1, B3, B4. Bow Only Oct. 22-Nov. 4. Any legal weapon Oct. 15-Nov. 4.

Limit: 1 male per lifetime

Fees: FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13, or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Bighorn Sheep license, \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16.

MOOSE

Season: Bow Only Sept. 3-26 Units M4, M5, M6, M8, M9, M10. Any legal weapon Oct. 1-24 Units M4, M8, M9, M10; Nov. 19-Dec. 12 Units M5, M6.

Limit: 1 per lifetime (residents only by drawing).

Fees: FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13, or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Moose license, \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16.

Application deadline: Mar. 18.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 9-Jan. 9, 2011 (res. only first lottery). Spring Apr. 10-May 16 (res. only).

Limit: 1 (bearded in spring)

Fees: Res. FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Turkey license, \$8. Non-res. FHF certificate \$2, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Turkey license, \$80.

Minimum draw weight: A compound bow used for hunting deer must have at least 35 pounds of draw or pull at 28 inches or less draw length. Recurve and longbows used for hunting deer must have at least 35 pounds of draw or pull at 28 inches.

Arrows: Must be at least 24 inches long.

Broadheads: Must be barbless and metal with at least two cutting edges of at least 3/4 inch wide.

Crossbows: Legal for handicapped hunters by permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal on state, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and WPAs and U.S. Forest Service lands.

Treestands/Blinds: No permanent stands on public lands. Nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach treesteps or a stand to a tree are prohibited on national wildlife refuges prohibited. Screw-in steps allowed on state WMAs. Treestands allowed on WMAs Aug. 20-Jan. 31 (name tags with address and phone number required). Must be removed daily on national wildlife refuges.

Calls/Decoys: Unspecified.

Bowhunter education permit: Bowhunter-specific not required; general hunter ed required.

Special regulations: Non-residents are not allowed to bowhunt deer on Game & Fish WMAs or PLOTS areas Oct. 9-15.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '09: 21,218.

Bowhunting organization(s): North Dakota Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 374, Bismarck, 58502; info@ndbowhunters.org; www.ndbowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: North Dakota Game & Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; (701) 328-6300; www.gf.nd.gov

Ohio

Dr. Michael Tonkovich, deer project leader for the state of Ohio, has nothing but good news when it comes to archery deer. "I'll suffice to say the following: Archers reported harvesting 91,546 deer this year, 7 percent more than last season. Excluding a slight drop in 2005, this year's archery harvest marks the 11th consecutive year that the statewide archery harvest has increased. Archers now account for 35 percent of the entire harvest. By comparison, just a decade ago the archery harvest accounted for just over 22 percent of the annual harvest. The 2010 season should be no different." He also points out that archers can choose either vertical or horizontal bows—in Ohio it makes no difference.

Where are your best prospects? "Our deer herd is strong statewide," he says. "However, the greatest opportunities to access both public and private lands exists in the eastern half of the state, particularly the east-central and southeast regions. Hunters are encouraged to seek these areas out."

More good news is that hunters are no longer required to purchase the \$24 special deer permit before purchasing the \$15 antlerless permit. They now can hunt with either.

Tonkovich says the state continues to focus harvest pressure on the antlerless segment of the population. "Although there were no significant regulation changes in 2009-10 specifically targeting the antlerless segment of the herd, it was our hope that greater hunter awareness of both the \$15 antlerless permit, and greater participation in venison donation programs, would lead to even greater pressure on antlerless deer. In spite of a more than doubling of the number of deer donated by hunters in 2009, and a 10 percent increase in antlerless permit sales, the antlerless harvest rose by a modest 3 percent in 2009. The antlered harvest, on the other hand, jumped nearly 5 percent statewide. On the surface, this would suggest that the fall 2009 statewide deer herd was larger than what it was in 2008.

"However, because most of the bucks harvested in 2009 were born the spring of 2008, neither the 2008 nor 2009 antlerless harvests have yet to 'bear fruit.'" The fall 2010 buck harvest will be our first opportunity to gauge the impact of the 2008-09 antlerless harvest and similarly, not until 2011 will we know if progress was made in 2009. While we are pleased that the

antlerless harvest has increased more than 7 percent annually since 2007, we believe that there is an opportunity to do more.”

The 2010 Ohio spring turkey harvest was up for the third year in a row. Approximately 70,000 hunters checked 21,909 wild turkeys, representing a nearly 16 percent increase over 2009’s preliminary harvest number of 18,936. Ashtabula County again led the state in the number of turkeys killed with 923. Counties with additional high harvest numbers were: Clermont, 664; Harrison and Tuscarawas, 621; Guernsey, 618; Highland, 612; Adams, 606; Trumbull, 588; Monroe, 576; and Coshocton, 563.

Prior to the start of the spring hunting season, state wildlife biologists estimated the wild turkey population in Ohio to be more than 200,000 birds. Note the change to turkey hunting hours began this year: a half-hour before sunrise to noon from Apr. 19-May 2. From May 3-6, hunting hours end at sunset.

DEER

Season: Sept. 25-Feb. 6, 2011.

Limit: 1-3, varies by zone. Additional antlerless available.

Fees: Res. \$19 license plus \$24 deer permit. Non-res. \$125 license plus \$24 deer permits. Youth (res. and non-res.) \$10 license plus \$12 deer permit. Additional Antlerless \$15 may be purchased through Nov. 28.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 9-Nov 28. Spring Apr. 18-May 15, 2011.

Limit: 1 either sex (fall), 2 bearded birds (spring). One turkey per day.

Fees: Res. \$19 license plus \$24 turkey permit. Non-res. \$125 license plus \$24 turkey permit. Youth res. and non-res. \$10 license plus \$12 turkey permit.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Broadheads: Arrows for longbow and crossbow must be tipped with a broadhead not less than 3/4 inch wide while hunting deer or turkey. The arrow tip must have a minimum of two cutting edges which may be exposed or unexposed.

Arrows/Sights: Poisoned or explosive arrows are unlawful. While hunting, it is unlawful to have attached to a longbow or crossbow any mechanical, electrical, or electronic device capable of projecting a beam of light.

Crossbows: Legal during archery season; draw weight must not be less than 75 pounds (or greater than 200 pounds for deer and turkey). Must have a working safety and a stock longer than 25 inches.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal for deer, illegal for turkeys.

Treestands/Blinds: It is unlawful to construct, place or use a permanent-type treestand, or to place spikes, nails, wires or other metal objects into a tree to act as steps or to hold a treestand on public hunting lands. It is also unlawful to make any of these changes to trees on private property without first getting the permission of the landowner or the landowner’s authorized agent.

Officials strongly suggest marking a camouflaged ground blind with a hunter orange flag or band.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls and live decoys illegal for wild turkeys.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special permits: Urban deer permits, good for antlerless deer only, available in five cities. Call (614) 265-6300.

Estimated bowhunters in '09: 325,000-350,000.

State bowhunting organization: Ohio Bowhunters Association, 4478 Parkwick Dr., Columbus, OH 43228; www.ohiobowhunters.net.

Information/licenses: Ohio Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Rd., Building G, Columbus, OH 43229; (614) 265-6300; www.wildohio.com

Oklahoma

Oklahoma's deer herd is in great shape, and the state is working on making it even better. In 2007, in an effort to reduce the harvest of 1.5- and 2.5-year-old bucks, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation reduced the buck limit from three to two, hoping that hunters will be more selective in the bucks they target. Wildlife managers hope that, within the next few years, herd quality will continue to improve. In 2009, archers took 9,461 bucks and 8,991 does, up significantly for 2008's 7,936 bucks and 8,424 does, which themselves were up significantly from 2007's 5,095 bucks and 5,072 does.

In the meantime, look for state-record typical bucks in Bryan, Jackson, Oklahoma, and Atoka Counties. State-record non-typical bucks have come from Tillman, Hughes, Wagoner and Alfalfa. If you are trying to fill your freezer with meat, then Woods, Woodward and Beaver counties are great spots to bag a heavy whitetail, due to the fertile agricultural in those locales. The highest densities occur in the eastern portion of the state, east of Interstate 35, with Osage County being the state's perennial leader. Southeast Oklahoma, meanwhile, is no slouch, with Pittsburg County being the frontrunner. Central and northwest regions are growing, with the latter being a good trophy-producer.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 2011.

Limit: Varies by season and zone. Check regulations.

Fees: Res. Hunting \$25, plus \$20 per deer permit. Non-res. Hunting \$142, Deer Archery \$206 (either-sex). Also available non-res. Combined Archery \$256 (one antlered and one antlerless), additional Combined Deer Archery (one antlerless, valid on DMAP lands only) \$51, expires close of season.

BEAR

Season: Archery Oct. 1-22 in Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties.

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$25 Hunting plus res. \$101 Bear. Non-res. \$506 Bear.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Sept. 13-26.

Limit: 2 antelope combined, including no more than one 1 buck.

Fees: Res. \$25 Hunting plus res. \$51 Antelope. Non-res. \$306 Antelope.

TURKEY

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 2011. Spring April 6- May 6, 2010.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 3 toms (some counties only allow 1 or 2), 1 per day.

Fees: Res. \$25 Hunting plus \$10 Turkey tag. Non-res. \$142 Hunting plus \$10 Turkey tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Equipment restrictions: Thermal tracking devices are illegal; telemetric tracking devices are permitted.

Broadheads: Must have cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch and be not less than 1 1/2 inches long. Mechanicals are legal to use in Oklahoma as long as they are at least 7/8 inches wide when they open on impact. Laser sights and electronic tracking devices are illegal.

Crossbows: The use of crossbows and conventional longbows with a device that permits the bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are legal hunting methods during any open season when conventional longbows (archery equipment) are a legal means of take.

Baiting: Legal for deer, illegal for turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special permits: Controlled hunts are available through public drawing. A listing of hunts and instructions are available. Call (405) 521-2739 or visit www.wildlifedepartment.com.

Archery deer tags sold in '09: 24,073 (18,701 res. archery deer, 740 non-res archery deer, 3,645 res. deer youth, 989 non-res archery combo).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunting Council of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 178, Mustang, OK 73064; www.bowhuntingcouncilok.com.

Information/licenses: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Game Division, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73105; (405) 521-3851; www.wildlifedepartment.com.

Oregon

Oregon hunters have the unique opportunity to hunt for several different subspecies of deer and elk. Mule deer are typically found east of the Cascade Mountain Range. The estimated population is 216,000 and continues to remain below established management objectives; conservative limits and seasons remain over most areas. Columbia black-tailed deer occur primarily west of the Cascade Range, and both the larger bucks and highest deer populations are found in burned and logged areas where food supplies are abundant. In 2009, 33,941 archers took 4,459 deer.

Oregon consistently ranks among the top three Western states for elk numbers, hunter numbers, and elk harvest. Hunter success for bull and antlerless hunts combined remains fairly stable annually. The wetter climate in western Oregon creates brushy, heavily timbered habitat broken only by clearcuts, while eastern Oregon has much more open country with less underbrush, and more snow to help in tracking elk. Rocky Mountain elk are found east of the Cascades, while Roosevelt elk are distributed throughout the Coast and Cascade Ranges of western Oregon. Elk occur throughout the state, but are most abundant in the Blue and Wallowa Mountains and in the northern Coast Range, and least abundant in the southeastern high-desert region. In 2009, 32,411 archers took 3,312 elk.

Controlled hunts allow the taking of Columbian white-tailed deer in the Roseburg area. Hunters are reminded that bows are legal for deer only during general or controlled bow deer seasons, antlerless deer seasons (600 series), and are legal for elk only in general or controlled bow elk seasons.

The ODFW reminds hunters that anyone who purchases a big game or turkey tag must report the results of their hunt (online or by phone) even if they did not fill their tag or go hunting. ODFW's online Oregon Hunting Access Map (Google Map) makes it easy to find hunting locations and even scout from home. The ODFW website also has many useful harvest

reports that can aid in choosing your best prospects. Click on “Hunting Resources” in the left navigation bar for the list.

BLACKTAILED/MULE DEER

Season: Archery Aug. 28-Sept. 26 (plus some controlled hunts with different season dates and some late season dates).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, deer tag \$19.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, deer tag \$375.50.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Aug. 1-Nov. 30 (east); Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (west).

Limit: 1 in fall general season and 1 in spring controlled season. An additional general season tag may be purchased in some areas. No sows with cubs or cubs under 1 year old.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, bear tag \$14.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, bear tag \$182.50.

ROOSEVELT/ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

Season: Archery Aug. 28-Sept. 26 (plus some controlled hunts with different season dates) and second period Nov. 27-Dec. 12 in some areas of western Oregon.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, elk tag \$42.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, elk tag \$361.50.

PRONGHORN

Seasons: Archery Aug. 1-Sept. 27 (controlled hunts only; earliest opening and latest closing date; seasons vary by unit or hunt area).

Limit: 1 (either-sex except buck only at Hart Mtn.).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, pronghorn tag \$44.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, pronghorn tag \$333.50.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Jan. 1-May 31 and Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (some high-density areas have year-round season until quota is reached).

Limit: 1 per tag; additional tag may be purchased for some areas.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, cougar tag \$14.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, cougar tag \$14.50.

CALIFORNIA/ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 15-Nov 22 (controlled hunts only, earliest opening and latest closing date; seasons vary by hunt name).

Limit: 1 ram (lifetime).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, sheep tag \$122.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, sheep tag \$1,083.50.

Application deadline: May 15.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT (res. only)

Season: Sept. 12-Oct. 25 (controlled hunts only, earliest opening and latest closing date; seasons vary by hunt name).

Limit: 1 lifetime.

Fees: Hunting license \$29.50, goat tag \$122.50.

Application deadline: May 15

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 15-Dec. 31 Spring Apr. 15-May 31 plus some controlled seasons.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 2 bearded birds, with a third bonus tag available in some areas.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, turkey tag \$22.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, turkey tag \$77.50.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds for deer, pronghorn, bear, cougar; 50 pounds for elk, goat and sheep. No maximum letoff.

Broadheads: Must be fixed (no mechanicals), unbarbed and at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal to bait except bear, upland birds, and waterfowl.

Treestands/Blinds: No ODFW regulations, but check with land managers. Most limit the number of days treestands and other personal property can be left.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for upland game birds and waterfowl. Decoys with moving parts prohibited, i.e., decoys with parts that are powered by a motor, battery, human action or the wind. Flexible or adjustable parts that permit placement or adjustment of a decoy but do not otherwise move do not constitute "moving parts."

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. Hunter education required for anyone 17 and under.

Special hunts: Archery-only hunts available for various animals; call (503) 947-6301 for more information.

Application deadline for controlled hunts and raffle tickets: May 15 for controlled hunts; raffle ticket deadline usually late April/early May. Licenses, applications, tags and raffle tickets available online.

Deer and Elk Archery tags sold in '09: 66,352.

Bowhunting organization(s): Oregon Bow Hunters, Inc., 61535 S. Hwy. 97, Ste. 9-307, Bend, OR 97702; www.oregonbowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem OR 97303-4924; www.dfw.state.or.us.

Pennsylvania

"Prospects for bowhunting look good for the 2010 season," says Bret Wallingford, deer biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Deer and Elk Management Section. "Populations in most management units should be similar to previous years, with some units showing increasing population trends." For best-quality deer, he recommends WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2D, 5B, 5C, and 5D; for quantity of deer, go to WMUs 5C, 2A, 2D, and 1A. Bowhunters should note some extended antlerless deer seasons. The statewide season is open for either-sex hunting, with proper permits.

Other things to note: Crossbows are now legal statewide for archery deer season. Several WMUs have significantly lower antlerless allocations, and deer management assistance program (DMAP) permits for antlerless deer cannot exceed the number issued in each WMU during the 2009-2010 season. License costs remain the same as in recent years.

Bears are expanding throughout the state. According to Wildlife Biologist Mark Ternent, during the 2009, hunters harvested a total of 3,512 bears, which included 116 during the archery bear season; 3,052 during the statewide 3-day season; and 344 during the extended season in

select areas of the state. This harvest ranked second among Pennsylvania's annual bear harvests. Harvest during the statewide season has increased steadily since 1986, when the season was expanded from two days to three. Although all counties in the bear range have higher harvests than they did 20 years ago, the change has been most noticeable in the northwest, southwest and northeast regions, where populations have expanded into new areas. Southern counties are your best bets for bears exceeding 500 pounds. The largest bear taken in 2009 was a 668-pound male in Dauphin County. Statewide, Pennsylvania's bear population remains at a stable 15,000.

Bowhunters must wear the required amount of hunter orange during the overlap of fall turkey seasons and statewide flintlock antlerless deer season in October as well as during the archery bear season in WMUs 2D, 2G, 3A, and 4D.

DEER

Season: Statewide Archery Oct. 2-Nov. 13, Dec. 27-Jan. 15, 2011. Archery WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D Oct. 2-Nov. 13, Dec. 27-Jan. 29, 2011. Archery Antlerless WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D Sept. 18-Oct. 1, Nov. 15-27. Bowhunting is also legal during all firearms seasons—see guide for dates and WMUs.

Limit: 1 antlered deer per hunting license year. 1 antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or Deer Management Assistance Program antlerless deer permit. (For more information on DMAP, go to www.pgc.state.pa.us and click on the "DMAP" icon.)

Fees: Res. \$20.70 adult general hunting, plus \$16.70 archery tag. Non-res. \$101.70 adult general hunting, plus \$26.70 archery tag. Antlerless deer licenses allocated by Wildlife Management Unit are \$6 res., \$26 non-res. (DMAP fees are \$10 res., \$35 non-res.)

ELK

Season: Nov. 1-6.

Limit: 1 (antlered or antlerless, varies).

Fees: \$10.70 non-refundable application fee for entry into the drawing on Sept. 20. There will be 45 elk licenses (17 antlered and 28 antlerless) for several elk management zones. In addition to general hunting license (\$20.70 res., \$101.70 non-res.), res. elk license is \$25; non-res. elk license is \$250. Purchase of general hunting licenses is not required to enter drawing.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Bow & Arrow Nov. 15-19. General Nov. 20, Nov. 22-23.

Limit: 1 per license year.

Fees: In addition to general hunting license, res. bear license is \$16.70; non-res. \$26.70. Bear licenses must be purchased before Nov. 30, 2009.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Shotgun and Bow & Arrow Only WMUs 1A, 1B and 2A Nov. 13-19 and Nov. 25-27; WMU 2B Nov. 6-19 and Nov. 25-27. General WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D Nov. 13-19 and Nov. 25-27; WMUs 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C and 4E Nov. 6-19 and Nov. 25-27; WMU 5A Nov. 16-18. Spring Statewide Apr. 30-May 31, 2011.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 1 bearded-only; however, a second spring gobbler may be taken by persons who possess a valid special wild turkey license.

Fees: Res. \$20.70. Non-res. \$101.70. Second spring gobbler license res. \$21.70, non-res. \$41.70.

Minimum draw weight: 35 pounds, 45 pounds for elk.

Broadheads: Outside diameter of at least 7/8 inch with no fewer than two cutting edges.

Broadheads may not exceed 3 inches in length.

Crossbows: Draw weight minimum 125 pounds.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal. Baiting for deer is no longer permitted on private lands in the southeast special regulations areas.

Treestands/Blinds: Treestands are permitted on public lands, provided they do not damage a tree's cambium layer. Treestands on private land—landowner permission required. For turkey hunting, a blind must be "Any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer located outside of the blind." A minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band will suffice) must be displayed within 15 feet of the blind and visible in a 360-degree arc during the firearms deer and bear seasons.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls and decoys illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, although a hunter-trapper education course is required of all first-time hunters.

Special regulations: During any overlap with fall turkey seasons, archery deer hunters must wear a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange material. The orange must be visible 360 degrees, and it may be removed when the hunter is stationary or on stand. Archery deer hunters also are required to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, back and chest combined when archery deer season runs concurrently with the October muzzleloader and special firearms antlerless deer seasons.

The following devices may be used: Lighted pins on bow sights and scopes with lighted reticles may be used as long as they don't cast a beam. Any device used as a sight or scope on any firearm, bow, or crossbow that projects a light beam of any kind onto the target is unlawful. Electronic illuminating devices that are affixed at the aft end of a bolt or arrow and used solely for the purpose of locating or tracking bolt or arrow flight after being launched from a crossbow or bow are allowed.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 286,397 (274,583 res., 11,814 non-res).

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania, 581 Madison Shop Rd., Rimersburg, PA 16248-2631; (814) 473-6341; www.ubofpa.org.

Information/licenses: Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797; (717) 787-4250; www.dcnr.state.pa.us/hunting; www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Rhode Island

"Bowhunting is a popular activity and an effective management tool for the harvest of the primary big game species in our state, whitetail deer," says Principal Wildlife Biologist Brian Tefft. "Bowhunters enjoy a long season (four months) and liberal bag limits in multiple hunting zones where multiple deer can be harvested." Rhode Island allows Sunday hunting and thousands of acres of public lands to hunt on, 47,000 acres on 28 wildlife management areas. "We also offer hunting on Block Island (high deer density) and Prudence-Patience Islands (bow only)."

During the 2009-2010 deer hunting season by all methods, Rhode Island hunters harvested 2,422 deer, compared to 2,945 in the 2008-2009 season (an 18 percent decline). Archers harvested 581 deer statewide and enjoyed a 13 percent success rate. Deer harvest percentages were 88 from the mainland, 7 percent from Block Island, 3 percent from Jamestown/Aquidneck Islands, and 2 percent from Prudence-Patience Islands.

Recommendations for visiting bowhunters are Arcadia WMA, Big River WMA, George Washington MA, Buck Hill WMA and Great Swamp WMA. Private land access in Rhode Island is by written permission only; however, most landowners do allow hunting access.

Tefft notes that the number of archery permits issued peaked at 5,365 in 2005 and has declined to 4,480 permits in 2009. In response, the state's management strategy has changed to target incentives (earlier opening dates, free replacement tags) and focus harvest by creating zones in urban areas to try to reduce herd density in these areas along with auto strikes and disease occurrence.

Rhode Island has annually monitored its deer herd for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) since 2002 testing 1,313 deer samples in eight years, collected from hunter harvest and road kills. No positive samples have ever been identified and Rhode Island is considered a disease-free state.

DEER (proposed)

Season: Mainland Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2011; Jr. Archery Sept. 11-12. Prudence Oct. 23-Jan. 31, 2011; Jr. Archery Oct. 16-17.

Limit: Vary by zone: State lands (2), private lands zone 1 (3) with earn a buck; zone 2 (3); Prudence Island (2), Jamestown/Aquidneck (3) with earn-a-buck; Block Island (5+) (selected dates between October and February).

Fees: Res. \$18 hunting license plus \$12.50 deer permit. Non-res. \$45 hunting plus \$25.50 deer permit.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 1-28. Spring Apr. 28-May 24.

Limit: 1 either sex. Spring 1 bearded.

Fees: Res. \$18 hunting plus \$7.50 turkey permit. Non-res. \$45 hunting plus \$20 turkey permit.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges measuring 7/8 inch or greater at the widest point. Expandables are illegal.

Crossbows: Legal for physically handicapped.

Releases: Mechanical releases are illegal.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: The construction/use of permanent tree stands on state land or private property without permission is prohibited. The use of nails, bolts, spikes, or otherwise damaging climbing devices on trees is prohibited. Stands on state land must be removed by the end of deer season.

Calls/Decoys: Deer calls and decoys prohibited. Turkey calls and decoys permitted. Electronic turkey calls prohibited.

Bowhunter education permit: Mandatory. Some hunts require proficiency testing.

Special permits: Management Area land on Prudence Island and Francis Carter Preserve are by lottery and permit. Beavertail Park requires permit and reservations. Northwest Coop, Grills, North Camp require a permit.

Archery permits sold in '09: 4,480 (3,939 res., 541 non-res.)

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of Rhode Island, Box 9669, Warwick, RI 02889; (401) 884-4577; www.ubri1.com.

Information/licenses: Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892; License Div. (401) 222-3576; www.dem.ri.gov.

South Carolina

Unlike most states, South Carolina has limited archery-only opportunities, and there are large portions of the state that have no archery only season at all. “However, the state offers extremely long seasons and liberal bag limits during which archery can be used along with other weapons,” says Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor Charles Ruth. Firearms and bowhunters combined to take an estimated 231,703 deer in 2009. This represents about a 7 percent decrease from the harvest of 248,778 deer taken in 2008. An estimated 36,833 bowhunters took about 15,756 deer in 2009. The number of bowhunters remained unchanged compared to 2008, and there have been no changes that affect bowhunters, said Ruth.

The statewide deer herd—estimated at 750,000—is healthy as ever, Ruth reports. Counties with highest densities include Anderson, Union, Abbeville, and Spartanburg, in the Piedmont region and Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg in the coastal plain. The outlook for 2010 is excellent.

The South Carolina black bear population is expanding at about 1,500 animals. The only huntable population is limited to the northwest corner of the state. Last year hunters took 97 bears, which is an all-time record and about double the number taken in 2008. The bear harvest in 2010 is expected to be slightly lower following the record 2009 harvest

Although harvest results for spring 2010 are pending, approximately 45,000 hunters harvested an estimated 16,234 gobblers during the spring 2009 season. Turkey population estimates are around 90,000 birds which is lower than desired due to several years of poor reproduction in turkeys.

DEER

Season: Archery hunting is allowed during all opened deer seasons. In Zones 1 and 2 archers may harvest either sex during any opened season for deer, starting Sept. 15. Either-sex days are scheduled for all Zones and hunters may receive antlerless deer tags for additional either-sex hunting. Zone 1 (Mountains) Primitive Weapons (archery and muzzleloaders) Oct. 1-10; Firearms Oct. 11-16, Oct. 31-Jan.1. Zone 2 (Piedmont) Archery Only Sept. 15-30, Primitive Weapons Oct. 1-10, Firearms Oct. 11-Jan. 1. Zone 3 and 6 (Coastal Plain) Firearms Aug. 15-Jan. 1. Zones 4 and 5 (Coastal Plain) Archery Only Sept. 1-14, Firearms Sept. 15-Jan. 1

Limit: Varies by region. Check regulations.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$12 plus \$6 big-game permit, combination hunting and fishing license (includes big game permit) \$25. Non-res. annual hunting license \$125, 3-day \$40, 10-day \$75 and must have \$100 non-res. big game permit for deer, turkey, or bear.

TURKEY

Season: Mar. 15-May 1 (Zone 6). Apr. 1-May 1 (all other zones).

Limit: 5 gobblers per season. All hunters must possess and use turkey tags available at no cost in February over the Internet at www.dnr.sc.gov/ or from local Big Game Check Stations.

Fees: Same as deer, although hunters must possess and use turkey tags.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Zone 1 only, Oct. 18-23 still-hunting, Oct. 25-30 party dog hunts. (Party dog hunts must register at Clemson DNR office.)

Limit: 1 (must be over 100 pounds, no sows with cubs).

Fees: Same as deer. All harvested bears must be reported to Clemson DNR office.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No restrictions.

Crossbows: Legal during archery-only and firearms seasons.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal for bear and turkey statewide. For deer, legal in 28 coastal counties (Zones 3-6); illegal in 18 Piedmont counties (Zones 1 and 2). Salt or minerals are not considered bait for deer.

Treestands/Blinds: Construction or use of treestands is prohibited on WMAs if the treestand is constructed by driving nails or other devices into trees, or if wire is wrapped around trees. Other treestands and temporary screw-in-type climbing devices permitted provided they are not permanently affixed or embedded in the tree. No restrictions on private land.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls and live decoys are illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required; persons born after June 30, 1979, must complete hunter education course.

Special permits: Two optional antlerless deer tag programs; call (803) 734-3886 for information.

Est. bowhunters in '09: Estimated 36,833 bowhunters (hunter surveys; no special bow license required).

Bowhunting organization(s): South Carolina Bowhunters Association, contact Dewey Jones, 9114 Salamander Rd., North Charleston, SC 29406.

Information/licenses: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Licensing, Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202; (803) 734-3838; www.dnr.sc.gov

South Dakota

“We are looking at another good year. Deer population has declined due to management objectives of reducing an overpopulation of deer, but still some very good numbers,” says Chuck Schlueter, Game, Fish & Parks communications program manager. “The eastern part of our state has a strong white-tailed deer population. Mule deer hunting in the western part of the state will be fair to good....We have a good deer population and a great deal of public hunting land to choose from.”

The projected deer harvest for the 2009 archery season was 8,939 deer (4,228 whitetail bucks, 3,960 whitetail does, 488 mule deer bucks, and 266 mule deer does). The success rate for the season was 31 percent. The five counties with the highest reported harvest were Brown, Minnehaha, Pennington, Yankton, and Lawrence.

Archery deer hunters may purchase one single-tag antlerless license that is good for the entire state. Archery hunters may also purchase “any antlerless deer” licenses that are valid for anywhere archery hunting is open, excluding the Black Hills Fire Protection District and the counties of Roberts, Grant, Codington, Lake, Moody, Minnehaha, Turner and Lincoln Counties.

The Archery Antelope season will run from Aug. 21 through Oct. 31, but note that it is closed during the firearms antelope season (Oct. 2-17). In 2009, 2,399 bowhunters with 4,317 tags had an overall success rate was 16 percent, with 500 bucks, 163 does, 16 buck-kids, and 26 doe-kids harvested. Of the 20 counties where antelope were reported harvested, Harding and Butte Counties accounted for over 57 percent of all harvest.

Elk are found in the Black Hills and on the prairie in Butte, Bennett and Gregory counties. South Dakota's present-day elk herd consists of about 2,000 Rocky Mountain elk. Currently only South Dakota residents are eligible to apply for and receive an elk, bighorn sheep, or mountain goat license in South Dakota. Visit www.gfp.ds.gov for details.

DEER

Season: Regular Archery Sept. 25-Jan. 31. (All "Any Deer" tags convert to antlerless tags on Jan. 1.). Sand Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge (Brown County) Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Lacreek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (Bennett County) Sept. 25-Dec. 31.

Limit: Up to 5 licenses (some restrictions apply).

Fees: Res. Deer 1-tag \$35, 2-tag \$45; Special Buck \$155; Youth Deer \$5; Resident Landowner Deer On Own Land (Landowner applic.) \$20 or \$25; Antlerless Deer 1-tag \$15, 2-tag (some units) \$25. Non-res. Buck-Only or Any-Deer 1-tag (archery or firearms) \$195; Buck-Only or Any-Deer 2-tag (only in some firearms units, see application) \$245; Antlerless Deer 1-tag \$55, 2-tag \$80.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 21-Oct. 31 except when and where a state firearm season is open (Oct. 2-17).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$35 antelope license. Non-res. \$195 antelope license.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Broadheads: Must be 7/8 inch wide with total cutting edge greater than or equal to 3 inches. Blunt points for turkeys must have minimum 7/16 inch width. Arrow shafts must be at least 26 inches.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Permanent treestands and climbing devices are prohibited on lands owned, leased or controlled by GFP, as well as the Fort Meade Recreation Area. Portable treestands and climbing devices that do not use nails, wire or bolts for attachment are allowed from Aug. 25-Feb. 15. One screw-in "T" may be used to stabilize the stand. Removable screw-in steps may be used to access the stand. The name and address or the year and current big game tag number of the owner or user must be on the stand and legible from the ground.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls are illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Required of all first-time bowhunters, and of those under age 16.

Special permits: Deer hunters can purchase separate licenses to hunt either east or west of Missouri River; doe permits are available on unit-by-unit basis.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 26,566 (23,495 res., 3,071 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc., 908 Mulberry, Yankton, SD 57078.

Information/licenses: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 20641 SD Hwy 1806, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532; (605) 223-7660; www.gfp.sd.gov.

Tennessee

In 2009, Tennessee reported a harvest of 162,202 deer. This is the sixth highest harvest total in recent times yet well below the all-time record of 182,093 recorded in 2006. It is believed Tennessee is still recovering from the 2007 epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) outbreak although many biologists are quite pleased with the thinning of the herd in the higher deer density areas. "We are seeing some incredible deer coming out of the state these days," says Daryl Ratajczak, big game coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. "The lower populations, coupled with trigger-finger restraint, have allowed the Tennessee deer herd to peak in certain health parameters. This past year, 62 percent of all the bucks harvested in Tennessee were at least 2 1/2 years of age or older. Another interesting fact is that the yearling buck harvest total has reached its lowest point in over two decades. Since Tennessee has maintained a three-buck statewide limit, all of this is accomplished through voluntary restraint. It goes to show that education is a far better management tool than restrictions."

The forecast for the upcoming year looks promising yet again. It is predicted that harvest totals will increase slightly as some counties continue to recover from EHD. Biologists also predict the yearling buck harvest totals to remain at or below 60 percent of the total harvest. Overall, it should be a great year to be deer hunting in Tennessee.

Bear hunters set a new all-time record harvesting 571 bears in 2009. It is estimated the bear population is at its highest mark ever; therefore, another strong season is expected.

DEER

Archery Season: Sept. 29-Oct. 29, Nov. 1-5, Dec. 6-17.

Limit: Three bucks statewide. Antlerless: Unit A 4 antlerless deer, Unit B 2 antlerless deer, and Unit L 3 antlerless deer per day.

Fees: Res.\$28 general license and \$28 archery license. Non-res. 7-day license \$175.50, annual license \$251.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Dec. 6-17 (select counties only, gun hunting by permit drawing). Spring Apr. 3-May 16, 2010.

Limit: Fall unlimited either-sex (county bag limits apply). Spring 4 gobblers.

Fees: Same as deer.

BEAR

Season: Not open in all counties. Various in counties; see Tennessee regulation book.

Limit: 1 per year.

Fees: Same as deer.

FERAL HOGS (without dogs)

Season: Private lands open year round. Public land except Catoosa, South Cherokee, and Foothills WMAs open during statewide deer season. Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area open Jan. 19-Feb. 28, 2011.

Limit: No limit, either-sex.

Fees: Same as deer.

WILD BOAR (with dogs)

Season: Not open in all counties.

Limit: Varies; see Tennessee regulation book.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Cannot be barbed and must have sharpened blades.

Crossbows: Legal during all seasons.

Bait/Mineral Use: Bait must be removed 10 days prior to hunting.

Treestands/Blinds: The use of wire, nails or other metal material is prohibited in the building or attaching of climbing devices or hunting stands. Portable devices or stands that do not injure trees can be used. Hunting from permanent, attached stands is prohibited. Leaving any personal property, including treestands, unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited without prior approval of the area manager.

Call/Decoys: Electronic calls illegal for turkey. Live decoys illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. Archers born after Jan. 1, 1969, must pass a hunter safety course.

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of Tennessee, Attn: Jeff Crutcher, 117 Hillwood Dr., Hendersonville, TN 37075; (615) 822-5064.

Estimated number of bowhunters in '09: 90,000.

Information/licenses: Information & Education Division, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204; (615) 781-6500; www.state.tn.us/twra.

Texas

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission have expanded mule deer hunting opportunities for 2010, adding an open general season in Dawson and Wheeler counties, added a day to the season across the Trans Pecos region, and—best news of all—a 35-day archery-only season.

For quality whitetails, look to any property in the state that is operating under a sound Wildlife Management Plan, particularly a ranch with an outstanding habitat management program that also practices selective harvest. For quantity, look to the Edwards Plateau, the eastern Rolling Plains, and portions of the Cross Timbers & Prairies.

In 2009, the Texas legislature passed a bill allowing for the use of crossbows by anyone during the archery season (except in Grayson County). The Texas Outdoor Annual, a complete digest of all Texas hunting and fishing regulations, will be available Aug. 15, 2010. Visit the TPWD website for the latest: www.tpwd.state.tx.us

WHITETAILED

Season: Archery Oct. 2-Nov. 5

Limit: Varies from 3, no more than 1 buck and 2 antlerless to 5, no more than 3 bucks (varies by Resource Management Unit (RMU)).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$25, archery permit \$7. Non-res. hunting license \$315, archery permit \$7.

MULE DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 2-Nov. 5

Limit: Varies by county.

Fees: Same as whitetails.

RIO GRANDE TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 2-Nov. 5. Fall General North—Nov. 6-Jan. 2, 2011; South Nov. 6-Jan. 16, 2011. Spring—North Apr. 3-May 16; South Mar. 20-May 2. Spring 1-turkey counties (8 counties) Apr. 1-30.

Limit: Varies by county.

Fees: Same as whitetails plus upland game bird stamp \$7.

EASTERN TURKEY

Season: General Spring Season Apr. 1-30.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as Rio Grande turkey.

JAVELINA

Season: Oct. 1-Feb. 27 (Northern—43 counties), Year-round (Southern—50 counties).

Limit: 2 (varies by county).

Fees: Same as whitetails.

PRONGHORN

Season: Oct. 2-10

Limit: 1 (by permit only).

Fees: Same as whitetails.

FERAL HOGS

Season: All year.

Limit: None.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. may purchase Special Hunting License if they pursue hogs only. Cost is \$48 for five days or \$132 for year.

EXOTICS

Season: No closed season on private land.

Limit: No limit on private land.

Fees: Same as feral hogs.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Blades must be at least 7/8 inch wide and have two or more cutting edges.

Crossbows: Permitted during archery and general firearms season with minimum draw weight of 125 pounds, mechanical safety and stock that is 25 inches or longer. Crossbows not allowed in Grayson County except during general seasons or by disabled permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal. Baiting for game animals, nongame animals, and game birds is lawful on private property, except for turkey in certain East Texas counties and migratory game birds statewide.

Treestands/Blinds: No regulations.

Calls/Decoys: Electrically amplified calls may be used to hunt game animals and game birds, except electronic calls may not be used to hunt migratory game birds, unless allowed by special regulation.

Bowhunter education permit: Required for persons born on or after Sept. 2, 1971.

Special permits: Public drawings for bowhunts on state-managed lands are offered for whitetails. Applications are available at TPW offices and on the Web.

Est. bowhunters in '08: 55,128 (Big Game Harvest Survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Lone Star Bowhunters, 20005 Broadway, Beaumont, TX 77701.

Information/licenses: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744; (512) 389-4505; www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Utah

A long season and plenty of permits await archery hunters who come to Utah to pursue bull elk during the state's general archery season. Buck mule deer also provide general season archery hunters with lots of opportunity. In 2009, a total of 11,624 hunters participated in Utah's general archery elk hunt.

Utah is known across the country as *the* place to go if you want to take a monster bull elk. However, if you want to hunt these bulls on limited-entry units, it can be tough to draw a permit. But if you're an archer and want to pursue a big bull on a general season any-bull unit—or a smaller bull on a spike-only unit—you'll have no problem getting a permit. The reason? Utah doesn't limit the number of general season archery bull elk tags the state sells, so an unlimited number of archery permits are available.

Utah also provides a long bull elk archery season—almost one solid month. For example, the 2010 spike bull elk archery hunt runs from Aug. 21 to Sept. 10. The season to take a mature bull elk with a bow runs from Aug. 21 to Sept. 17.

Anis Aoude, big game coordinator for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, says general bull elk hunting happens on two types of units in Utah: spike-only units and any-bull units. On spike-only units, you may take only a spike bull or a cow elk. The bull-to-cow ratio on spike-only units ranges from 30 to 50 bulls per 100 cows. The bull-to-cow ratio on any-bull elk units is lower (usually 15 bulls per 100 cows), but you can take a bull of any size on an any-bull elk unit. Cow elk also may be taken on any-bull elk units.

“Any-bull elk units can be tough units to hunt,” Aoude says. “They usually consist of private property or public land that has a lot of rugged terrain.”

However, if you can get permission to hunt on the private land, or if you have access to a horse that can get you into the rugged terrain on public land, you could be in for a good hunt. “These any-bull units give hunters a decent chance to take a big bull,” Aoude says.

More information about archery elk hunting in Utah is available in the *2010 Utah Big Game Guidebook*. The free guidebook is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

As turkeys have prospered in Utah, with a population of more than 18,000 birds, hunting opportunities have increased. In addition to limited-entry hunts, Utah held its first general statewide turkey hunt in 2010. There was no limit on the number of hunters who could participate, and hunters could hunt across the state. Utah plans on holding the same type of turkey hunts in spring 2011.

Note: Your first chance to obtain a 2011 general archery buck deer permit is in Utah's annual big game draw. Later this fall, the Utah Wildlife Board will set the timeframe during which applications for the 2011 big game hunts will be accepted—probably March 2011. Visit www.wildlife.utah.gov to stay updated, and/or subscribe to the free weekly newsletter *Utah Wildlife News* e-newsletter at www.wildlife.utah.gov/e-lists/subscribe.php.

MULE DEER

Season: Archery Aug. 21-Sept. 17.

Limit: 1 buck.

Fees: Res. \$35. Non-res. \$263.

ELK

Season: Archery on spike-only units Aug. 21-Sept. 10. Archery on any-bull elk units Aug. 21-Sept. 17.

Limit: 1 mature bull, spike bull or cow in “any-bull elk” unit; 1 spike bull or cow in “spike-only” unit; a few other exceptions; see 2010 Big Game Guidebook.

Fees: Res. \$45. Non-res. \$388.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 21-Sept. 17.

Limit: 1 buck (available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$50. Non-res. \$288.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 18-26, Oct. 9-21.

Limit: 1 bull per lifetime (available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$408. Non-res. \$1,513.

BISON

Season: Antelope Island Dec. 6-8. Henry Mountains Hunter’s Choice Nov. 6-18, Nov. 20-Dec. 2. Henry Mountains Cow Only Dec. 4-19.

Limit: 1 per lifetime (available by draw only).

Fees: Res. Antelope Island \$1,105, Henry Mountains \$408. Non-res. Antelope Island \$2,610, Henry Mountains \$1,513. *

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall hunt Aug. 28-Sept. 30, Nov. 1-21. Dates for the 2011 hunts available at www.wildlife.utah.gov by January 2011.

Limit: 1 (no sows with cubs, available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 license plus \$83 permit. Non-res. \$65 license plus \$308 permit. Pursuit tag \$30.

COUGAR

Season: Varies by area and type of permit; some units are open nearly year-round. Season dates for 2010-2011 seasons available at www.wildlife.utah.gov by September 2010.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. Limited Entry \$58, Harvest Objective \$58, Pursuit \$30, Damage \$30. Non-res.

Limited Entry \$258, Harvest Objective \$258, Pursuit \$30, Damage \$30.

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sept. 18-Nov. 7 on most units.

Limit: 1 per lifetime (available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$508. Non-res. \$1,513.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Oct. 30-Nov. 30 on most units.

Limit: 1 per lifetime (available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$508. Non-res. \$1,513.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Sept. 11-Oct. 17 on most units.

Limit: 1 per lifetime (available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$408. Non-res. \$1,513.

TURKEY

Season: Spring hunt only typically held in April and May. Season dates for 2011 hunts available at www.wildlife.utah.gov by November 2010.

Limit: 1 bearded turkey.

Fees: Res. \$45. Non-res. \$110.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges and must not be able to pass through 7/8-inch ring. Arrows must be at least 20 inches long and weigh a minimum of 300 grains.

Crossbows: Legal only for physically challenged hunters by permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal for turkey., except for bear by permit only.

Treestands/Blinds: If you plan to construct a blind, contact the public agency that manages the land for regulations information.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls or decoys illegal for turkey.

Hunter education requirement: Completion of a hunter education course approved by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is required if you were born after Dec. 31, 1965. Before hunting on any of Utah's extended archery areas, you must complete the Division's Archery Ethics Course. You must complete the course each year before hunting on the extended archery areas. The course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov. It takes about 30 minutes to complete. After completing the course, you must carry your Archery Ethics Course certificate of completion with you while you're hunting.

Archery tags sold in '08: 32,895

Special hunts: Once-in-a-lifetime hunts for moose, bison, sheep and goat. Limited entry and premium limited entry areas for mule deer, elk and pronghorn. Also Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permits, landowner permits, conservation permits and sportsman's permits (sportsman's permits are available only to Utah residents).

Bowhunting organization(s): Utah Bowmen's Association, 164 East 700 South, Springville, UT 84663; (801) 969-8923.

Information/licenses: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, P.O. Box 146301, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301; (801) 538-4700; www.wildlife.utah.gov.

Vermont

Vermont continues to provide excellent bow hunting opportunities, and hunters take many deer during archery season, about 20 percent of the state's annual total. Gaining access to lands for hunting is relatively easy. Hunting is allowed on Sundays. Two deer can be taken during archery season, and everywhere except Wildlife Management Unit E in the northeastern corner of the state is open to archery antlerless deer hunting.

State Wildlife Biologist Shawn Haskell reports that Vermont's 2009 deer hunting seasons were successful with 15,237 deer taken in the archery, youth, rifle and muzzleloader seasons. Archers took 3,032 deer during the 32-day split season. The archery harvest had 23 percent antlered bucks, 66 percent adult does, and 11 percent fawns. The prevalence of does in the archery harvest demonstrates that bowhunting plays an important role in Vermont's deer population management. Archers took 153 deer in the December portion of the split archery season.

After five years, the regulation requiring that a legal buck must have at least one antler with two or more points one inch or longer seems to be paying off, as evidenced by an increased average age and weights of bucks. Deer weights have increased compared to the mid-late 1990s, including harvested fawns weighing about five pounds heavier, indicating a healthier deer herd more capable of surviving winter than in past years. Highest concentrations of deer are found in the east-central region and western Vermont (west of the Green Mountain Range).

Principal areas of harvest for black bear are the Northeast Kingdom and the Green Mountain National Forest. The bear population is estimated at 4,600 to 5,700 bears. A bear tag is included on the standard hunting license.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 2-24, Dec. 4-12.

Limit: Up to 2 deer may be taken in archery season with two archery licenses. One legal buck with at least one antler having two or more points 1 inch or longer. Archers may take an antlerless deer during the archery season in WMUs (23 out of 24) open for antlerless harvest. Two antlerless deer are allowed in WMUs open to antlerless hunting during archery season.

Fees: Res. \$20 plus \$17 archery license. Non-res. \$90 plus \$25 archery license or \$60 archery-only license.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 1-Nov. 17.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$90.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 2-22 (archery only in WMUs F1, F2, G, H1, H2, I, J1, J2, K1, K2, L, M1, M2, N, O1, O2, P, Q); Oct. 23-29 (unit H1). Spring May 1-31.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall 1 bird either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$20 license plus \$17 turkey license. Non-res. \$90 license plus \$25 turkey license.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges and a minimum diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal only for handicapped hunters by permit.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Treestands and ground blind construction or use requires landowner permission. This includes portable as well as permanent stands and blinds. A hunter must permanently mark his or her name and address on it. (Landowners hunting own land are exempt.) On WMAs, no nails, bolts or screws, including screw-in climbing steps, or wire, chain or other material that penetrates through the bark may be used.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls and live decoys illegal for turkey.

Bowhunter education, previous archery license, or affidavit: Required.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 22,214 (res. 20,171, non-res. 2,043).

Bowhunting organization(s): Green Mountain Archery Association, Route 1, Box 1680, Plainfield, VT 05667.

Information/licenses: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0501; (802) 241-3700; www.VTfishandwildlife.com.

Virginia

Bowhunters take to Virginia's woods from the first Saturday in October through the first Saturday in January. The first segment of this long deer season, approximately six weeks, is either-sex in almost all areas. East of the Blue Ridge Mountains (except on National Forest Lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson Counties) archers may kill two deer per day, six per season, three of which must be antlerless. West of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on National Forest

Lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson Counties archers may kill one deer per day, five per season, three of which must be antlerless. Unlimited antlerless only bonus deer permits are available for private lands. Deer Project Coordinator W. Matt Knox reports that archery deer hunters in Virginia have averaged a 30 percent success rate over the past decade.

During the past deer season 256,512 deer were reported killed by hunters in Virginia. This total included 108,443 antlered bucks, 23,592 button bucks, and 124,477 does (48.5 percent). The fall 2009 deer kill total is nearly identical to the 256,382 deer reported killed last year. It is 14 percent higher than the last 10 year average of 225,550.

Deer kill levels were up across southern Virginia, increasing 7 percent in the Southern Piedmont and 2 percent in the Southern Mountains. Deer kill levels were down across northern Virginia, decreasing 7 percent in the Northern Mountains and 3 percent in the Northern Piedmont. The deer kill in Tidewater was stable. The top five deer archery counties from 2009 were Bedford (1,266), Loudoun (1,262), Fairfax (1,149), Rockingham (852), and Augusta (712).

Archers, not including crossbow hunters, killed 16,947 deer. The bow kill comprised 7 percent of the total deer kill. The 2009 archery deer kill was down 6 percent from 2008.

Crossbows resulted in a deer kill of 9,456 deer or 4 percent of the total deer kill. The 2009 crossbow deer kill was down 2 percent from 2008.

Bowhunters accounted for 1,017 bears during 2009 and 44 percent of the total harvest. With two extra weeks of statewide opportunity for bowhunters, an increase in the 2009 archery harvest was expected compared to 2008 when bowhunters took 517 bears. Poor mast conditions last fall also contributed to success in 2009. The top five bear archery counties from 2009 were Rockingham (70), Page (70), Augusta (49), Shenandoah (44), and Bath (39).

The state's public and private land hunting opportunities can be searched using the interactive "Find Game" Web-based map viewer on the Department's website. Hunters can find current information about hunting quality, land location, and access including details on 125 publicly accessible properties, covering nearly 3.5 million acres.

Hunters are reminded that all licenses sold by VDGIF are valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License (Big Game License) and the National Forest Permit.

Please note that there will be several significant changes to deer seasons, carcass transportation regulations, deer feeding restrictions, etc. in Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah and Warren counties and in the City of Winchester as a result of Virginia finding CWD in a Frederick County deer. Please visit www.HuntFishVa.com/wildlife/diseases/cwd/ as well as review the annual hunting digest for more CWD-related information.

DEER

Season: Early Archery Oct. 2-Nov. 12 statewide. Late Archery Nov. 29-Jan. 1 in all areas west of the Blue Ridge (except Clarke and Floyd Counties and on private lands in Frederick County); in the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and Nelson (west of Rt. 151); on the Chester F. Phelps WMA and on National Forest lands in Frederick County; Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach; Dec. 13-Jan. 1 in the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, and Patrick. Special Urban Archery Season Sept. 4-Oct. 1, and Jan. 3-Mar. 26, 2011. Antlerless only in Special Urban season. Early Antlerless-only Archery Season Sept. 4-Oct. 1 in Loudoun and Prince William counties (except on Department-owned lands).

Limit: East—2 per day and 6 per license year, no more than 3 may be antlered (bonus antlerless permits are unlimited and valid on private property). West—1 per day and 5 per license year, no more than 2 may be antlered (bonus antlerless permits are unlimited and valid on private property).

Fees: Res. \$18 hunting license plus \$18 special archery license and \$18 big game license. Non-res. \$86 hunting license, \$66 big game license, and \$31 archery tag.

BEAR

Season: Archery Oct. 2-Nov. 12 (statewide).

Limit: 1 at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight.

Fees: Same as deer.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 2 -Nov. 6 (except in counties where there is a closed firearm season on turkeys). Spring Apr. 9-May 14.

Limit: 3 per year; no more than 2 in fall. Spring hunters may take 1, 2 or 3 turkeys depending on how many turkeys were taken in the preceding fall season. Spring—bearded turkeys only. Fall—1 per day, either-sex.

Fees: Same as deer.

BOBCAT

Season: Archery Oct. 2-30.

Limit: 2 per day, 12 per season.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: Bow must be capable of casting an arrow a minimum of 125 yards.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Crossbows legal to use by any hunter. Crossbow license (res. \$18, non-res. \$31) required during any archery season (including the urban archery season). Disabled hunters unable to use conventional archery equipment will no longer need a doctor's certification to use a crossbow.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal. In addition, placing or distributing food, salt, or minerals to feed or attract deer from Sept. 1 through the first Saturday in January statewide is illegal.

Treestands/Blinds: Building or occupying a permanent treestand on Department-owned, National Forest or Department of Conservation and Recreation-owned or controlled lands is prohibited. Portable treestands not permanently affixed may be used.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic deer calls are illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. However, first-time hunters and youths ages 12-15 must complete a certified hunter's education course.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '09: Res. archery 45,930, crossbow 25,040. Non-res. archery 2,537, crossbow 965.

Special hunts: Available to youths and disabled hunters. Call (804) 367-1000 or see the Department website for details.

Special licenses: Lifetime hunting licenses available for \$255 for res. age 12 and older and for \$15 for res. age 65 and older. \$505 for non-res.

Bowhunting organization(s): Virginia Bowhunters Association, <http://www.vbarchers.com/> . Traditional Bowhunters of Virginia, search web for contact. Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia, www.swmnv.com.

Information/licenses: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 W. Broad St., Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104; (804) 367-1000; License hotline (866) 721-6911; www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Washington

After a mild winter, hunting prospects generally appear favorable for the fall season, say Washington officials. Hunters gearing up for the 2010 season can also look forward to several new hunting opportunities, ranging from peak-season quality hunts for bulls and bucks to an expanded fall turkey hunt.

Washington offers three species of deer: blacktail, mule, and whitetail. Archers typically account for about 10 percent of the overall harvest. In 2009, 20,991 bowhunters took 4,705 of the 30,943 (down from 2008's 35,048) deer harvested with all weapons.

Total elk harvests run between 7,500 and 8,500, but it was low in 2009 with an all-weapons take of just 5,918 animals. However, bowhunters took 1,696 of those animals. Elk in Washington remain under intensive hunting pressure. Washington is the smallest of the 11 Western states and has the highest number of hunters per elk. It also has the highest human population density of all the "elk states."

In 2010, hunters were able to apply for a greater variety of hunting permits, with separate application pools for antlerless permits as well as a separate application pool for second deer permits and for buck permits. Under the new model, hunters can purchase an application and apply for all three types of hunts—or any others for which they might be eligible. The bag limit will continue to be one deer or elk per year (unless the hunter draws a second deer or elk permit).

Washington State has an abundant and healthy black bear population. Rough population estimates based on population reconstruction and computer modeling suggest the statewide black bear population is around 25,000 to 30,000 animals.

Washington's turkey population is growing, with the largest population increases in northeast Washington units where general seasons have been extended. Permit levels will also be increased in several other areas of the state. For example, based on harvest and population trends, the Blue Mountain foothills seem to provide excellent habitat conditions for Rio Grande turkeys as does the northern half of Lincoln County.

Washington offers many special hunts in addition to the more general seasons listed below. Go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/hunter/hunter.htm> for more information. As seasons near, be sure to check <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/prospects/index.html> for the latest hunting forecasts throughout the state.

DEER

Season: Early Archery Sept. 1-24 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU). Late Archery Nov. 10-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU).

Limit: 1 (antler restrictions in some GMUs).

Fees: Res. 45.20. Non-res. \$434.

ELK

Season: Early Archery Sept. 7-19. Late Archery Aug. 1-Jan. 20 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU).

Limit: 1 (point restrictions in some GMUs). You must choose either an eastern or western Washington archery elk tag. One elk per hunter during the hunting season, except for 2nd elk tag special permittees. No more than 2 elk may be harvested per license year.

Fees: Same as deer.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Aug. 1-Nov. 15 (varies by GMU). Spring Apr. 15-May 31.

Limit: 2 (only 1 of which may be taken in eastern Washington).

Fees: Res. \$26 bear/cougar. Non-res. \$242 bear/cougar. Included with some big license combo options.

COUGAR

Season: Archery General Sept. 1-24. Check regs for dates, open units, and additional hunting opportunities.

Limit: 1 cougar per license year.

Fees: See bear. Included with some big license combo options.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Special Permit Hunt only Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (Sept. 1-14 archery only); limited to select GMUs.

Limit: 1 for anyone who has not harvested a goat in Washington in 1999 or later.

Fees: Res. \$122. Non-res. \$1,202.

MOOSE

Season: Special Permit Hunt only Oct. 1-Nov. 30; limited to select GMUs.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$122. Non-res. \$1,202.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Special Permit Hunt only Sept. 15-Nov. 30 (earliest and latest dates); limited to select GMUs.

Limit: 1 bighorn ram EXCEPT Vulcan Mountain C, Selah Butte B, and Mt. Hull B is one adult ewe.

Fees: Res. \$122. Non-res. \$1,202.

TURKEY

Season: Early Fall General Sept. 25-Oct. 8. Late Fall General Nov. 20-Dec. 15.

Limit: Varies, check regs.

Fees: Small Game license res. \$38, non-res. \$182. Turkey tag res. \$17.30, non-res. \$48.50.

Additional turkey tags res. \$17.30 res. and non-res.

Minimum draw weight: 40 pounds.

Arrows: Broadhead-arrow combinations must be 20 inches in length or more, weigh at least 6 grains per pound of draw weight with minimum a minimum arrow weight of 300 grains.

Broadhead must be less than 7/8 inches wide. Must be unbarbed. Expandables are illegal.

Crossbows: It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with a crossbow, except in firearm restriction areas. Permit available to disabled hunters for use during archery seasons. Draw weight must be at least 125 pounds, limb width at least 24 inches, draw length at least 14 inches. Working trigger safety required. Bolts must be at least 16 inches long and weigh less than 350 grains. Crossbow must weigh less than 15 pounds.

Bait/Mineral Use: Illegal for bear, turkey, and cougar.

Treestands/Blinds: Only treestands that cause no permanent tree damage may be used on state lands.

Calls/Decoys: Electronic calls and decoys illegal for turkey and deer.

Bowhunter education permit: Standard hunter education course is required for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1972.

Archery deer and elk permits in '09: 38,583.

Bowhunting organization(s): Washington State Bowhunters; www.wabowhunters.org.
Traditional Bowhunters of Washington; <http://www.tbwonline.org>.

Information/licenses: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091; Licensing (360) 902-2464; Wildlife Program (360) 902-2515; <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

West Virginia

West Virginia hunters harvested 155,214 whitetails during the 2009 seasons, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jeziro. This total harvest was 5 percent decrease from 2008 deer harvest but 1.9 percent more than the previous five-year total harvest average of 152,318. The 2009 harvest ranks as the 16th highest total on record. Hunters killed 62,986 bucks, 54,514 antlerless season deer, 28,482 archery season deer, and 9,232 muzzleloader season deer.

The 2009 bowhunter harvest of 28,482 includes 1,017 deer harvested during the early special antlerless archery season held for the first time Sept. 14-19, 2009. The 2009 archery harvest was a decrease of 9.3 percent from the 2008 archery season but was 11th highest on record and 7.6 percent above the five-year average of 26,465. The top ten counties are: Preston (1,213), Randolph (1,048), Kanawha (939), Nicholas (842), Greenbrier (832), Jackson (795), Mason (778), Wood (758), Fayette (752), and Logan (729)

An early special antlerless deer archery season (Sept. 13-18) will allow for the taking of one additional deer that must be checked on a Class RB or Class RRB Stamp (consult 2010 regulations for listing of open counties). This early special antlerless archery seasons was open in September 2009 for the first time. In addition, a special archery deer hunting season is available between Oct. 2-Dec. 31 to incorporated cities, towns, villages, and incorporated homeowner associations. Consult regulations for details.

Hunters harvested 1,843 black bears during the combined 2009 archery and firearms seasons. The harvest data for the combined seasons in 2009 is second only to the previous record of 2,069 established in 2008. Archers took 992 of those bears. The top five counties were Randolph (119), Webster (92), Nicholas (77), Greenbrier (77), and Preston (73).

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 13-18. (Consult 2010 regulations for listing of open counties.) Statewide Oct. 16-Dec. 31.

Limit: 3 (varies by county) 1 per day.

Fees: Res.: Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19, Big game stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (Class CS) \$5; or Resident Sportsmen's license (Class X \$35); additional deer stamp (Class RB) \$21. Non-res.: statewide hunting (Class E) \$119, Archery deer stamp (Class UU) \$32, Conservation stamp (Class CS/LE) \$13; additional deer stamp (Class RRB) \$37; National Forest Stamp (Class I) \$2.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Oct. 16-Nov. 20. See 2010 regulations for special seasons.

Limit: 1. See 2010 regulations for special bag limits.

Fees: Res.: Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19, bear stamp (Class DS) \$10, Big game stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (Class CS) \$5; or Sportsmen's License (Class X) \$35, bear stamp (Class DS) \$10. Non-res.: Bear Hunting (Class EE) \$162, Conservation stamp (Class CS/LE) \$13; bear stamp (Class DS) \$10, National Forest (Class I) \$2.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 23-Nov. 20; Selected Counties Oct. 23-30; Preston County Oct. 23-Nov. 6. Spring Apr. 25-May 21, 2011. Youth turkey hunt Apr. 23.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 2, 1 per day, bearded birds only.

Fees: Res.: Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19, Big Game hunting stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (CS) \$5; or Sportsmen's License (X) \$35. Non-res.: statewide hunting (Class E) \$119, Turkey hunting stamp (Class WW) \$32; Conservation stamp (Class CS/LE) \$13; National Forest (Class I) \$2.

WILD BOAR (res. only)

Season: Archery Oct. 16-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19; Big Game hunting stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (CS) \$5; or Sportsmen's License (X) \$35.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must have at least two sharp cutting edges of more than 3/4 inch wide.

Crossbows: Illegal except by Physically Challenged Class Y or YY permits. Must have draw weight of at least 125 pounds, a working safety, bolts at least 18 inches long.

Bait/Mineral Use: Legal for deer only, but discouraged. Baiting deer is illegal in chronic wasting disease confinement area. Baiting of black bears, boar, and turkey illegal.

Tree stands/Blinds: No permanent treestands are allowed on public lands.

Calls/Decoys: No electric calls for deer, bear, boar, or turkey.

Bowhunter education permit: Standard hunter education is required.

Special permits: Non-res. National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class I) \$2 required on National Forests. Lifetime hunting licenses are available to residents for \$782. Additional deer hunting stamp Class RB and RG \$21 res. Class RM \$16. Non-res Class RRB \$37 and RRG \$43, Class RRM \$37.

Bowhunters in '09: 81,000 (73,800 res. 7,200 non-res.).

State bowhunting organization: West Virginia Bowhunters Association;
<http://westvirginiabowhunters.org/site/>.

For more information or to buy licenses, contact: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, 324 Fourth Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303; (304) 558-2771; www.wvdnr.gov.

Wisconsin

If you are tired of applications and preference systems, then Wisconsin is where you may want to hunt for your next deer, say Big Game Specialists Jason Fleener and Linda Olver. Anyone may purchase an archery deer hunting license in Wisconsin. The state's long archery season begins in mid September and ends in early January (January 31 in metro units). Adequate archery deer hunting opportunities exist throughout all counties in the state. Much of Wisconsin's landscape

contains a mix of agricultural land with hardwood forest, making it ideal bowhunting habitat. Wisconsin remains number one in the record books with combined Pope & Young and Boone & Crockett entries.

Overall, herd reduction efforts throughout parts of the state have proven to be effective in recent years. Hunters in most areas throughout the state can expect to see fewer deer than they had three to 10 years ago. As deer densities near management goals, designated season structures and quotas will target a more conservative approach toward antlerless harvest, which contributes to a lower statewide harvest, as seen in 2009. Recent winter severity values from 2009-2010 appear to be more mild than the previous two winters, which may promote increased higher fawn recruitment for 2010.

Bowhunters will likely find the greatest deer hunting success in the farmland areas of the state. Buffalo County has traditionally been the hotspot destination for record book whitetails. However, several record-class bucks are also taken in the east-central part of the state, including the state's non-typical archery harvest record set in 2009 from Fond Du Lac County. Bowhunters will also likely find the greatest deer densities in these areas as well. Deer densities vary significantly across the state on large and small scales. Bowhunter success often depends on access to areas with good deer abundance, hunting and land management practices, and patterning seasonal deer movement trends.

Wisconsin's bear population is thriving, and bear hunting quotas and permits have increased again in 2010. The primary range is in the northern third of the state, but bears are being sighted more frequently in the central and southern counties as they expand their range. In 2009, Wisconsin hunters harvested 4,009 bears. Highest harvest (1,541) came from Zone A in north-central Wisconsin. Highest hunter success rate came from Zone D (72 percent) in northwest Wisconsin. There are 8,910 harvest permits allotted for the 2010 bear season, an increase of 22 percent from 2009. Bear hunters recorded a 55 percent success rate during the 2009 bear season. Out of the record breaking 4,009 bear registered in 2009, 675 hunters indicated archery as the method of harvest.

Among the changes for 2010-2011 is the repeal of a law that required bowhunters to wait at least three days to hunt after purchase of an archery deer license bought during the bowhunting season. This means any resident or non-resident bowhunter may hunt immediately after purchasing his or her archery hunting license on or after September 18, 2010, during legal hunting hours during the archery season.

Licensed archery hunters may be limited to antlered buck harvest only within 18 deer management units established in northern Wisconsin. Official approval will be sought by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and State legislature. Interested hunters should keep an eye out for the 2010 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations and DNR news this summer for updates.

Non-resident archery hunters who are at least 65 years of age may now use legal crossbows for deer hunting during established archery seasons. (This rule was passed in 2009 after hunting regulations were published.)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is interested in what Wisconsin deer hunters see in the field. A new online reporting form enables deer hunters to report what species they are seeing and how many. Data submitted will be compiled over several years and will contain valuable information for wildlife management programs. The online reporting form will be available throughout archery and gun deer seasons:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/harvest/survey.htm>.

DEER

Season: Non-metro Units Sept. 18-Nov. 18, Nov. 29-Jan. 9, 2011 (antlerless only Oct. 14-17 and Dec. 9-12). Metro Units Sept. 18-Nov. 18, Nov. 20-Jan. 31, 2011 (antlerless only Oct. 14-17 and Dec. 9-12). In CWD Units Sept. 18-Jan. 9, 2011 (antlerless only Oct. 14-17 and Dec. 9-12).

Limit: **Herd Control Units** 1 buck per archery deer carcass tag, plus additional antlerless deer per Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag. **Regular Units** 1 buck per Archery Deer Carcass Tag, and 1 antlerless deer per Archery Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag (antlerless harvest may be prohibited in zero quota units – check *2010 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations* for details). **CWD units** unlimited earn-a-buck. A buck authorization must be affixed to any valid deer carcass tag for every buck harvested, or an antlerless deer tagged by the same hunter accompanies a buck until both are registered. Plus, additional antlerless deer per valid deer carcass tag.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$160, 10-11 year old mentored hunter \$7.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 8-Oct. 12 in Zone C where hunting with dogs is not allowed. Zone A, Zone B, and Zone D—Sept. 8-14 (with aid of bait or other methods not utilizing dogs); Sept. 15-Oct. 5 (with aid of dogs, with aid of bait, or with other methods); Oct. 6-13 (with aid of dogs only).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$49 + \$3 application fee. Non-res. \$251 + \$3 application fee. 10-11 year old mentored hunter \$7 + \$3 application fee.

Application deadline for 2011: Dec. 10.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 18-Nov. 18. Spring Apr. 14-May 23, 2011. (Six 5-day seasons throughout)

Limit: 1 per permit.

Fees: Res. \$30.25 (permit, license and stamp) + \$3 application fee. Non-res. \$80.25 (permit, license and stamp) + \$3 application fee. 10-11 year old mentored hunter \$11.50 (license and stamp) + \$3 application fee.

Application deadline for 2011 spring turkey: Dec. 10.

Minimum draw weight: 30 pounds.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Crossbows legal for hunters 65 years of age or older and any disabled hunters with a Class A, B, C, or crossbow permit. Must have minimum draw of 100 pounds, a working safety, and use at least 14-inch-long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads (requires an Archery License if hunting for deer). Compound bows equipped with a draw-lock type mechanism/device that is capable of holding the bow at full draw are considered crossbows. Compound bows equipped with a draw-lock type mechanism that holds the bow at full draw are exempt from the 100-pound draw requirement (30-pound minimum still applies). Hunters may not possess, while hunting, any crossbow (except as authorized above) or poison, drug, or explosive-tipped arrows.

Bait/Mineral Use: Deer baiting is prohibited in 28 counties in Wisconsin. In remaining counties there is a 2-gallon limit as well as restrictions on placement of bait. Deer baiting regulations can be found on the DNR website: www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/bait.htm. Bear baiting allowed statewide for bear dog training or bear hunting beginning April 15 through the last day of the bear season. Ten-gallon limit at any baiting site. Bait must be totally enclosed to prevent deer from accessing the material. Bear baiting regulations available on the DNR website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/bear/BearBaitRegs.pdf>. Use of bait is not legal for all other species.

Treestands/Blinds: Treestands and ground blinds on lands owned or managed by the DNR must be portable and must be removed from the property at the end of hunting hours each day. Such stands may not damage trees and cutting of shooting lanes on these state lands is not legal.

Portable stands and ground blinds on these state lands must be clearly labeled with the owner's name and address or customer identification number if it is left unoccupied during the day.

Calls/Decoys: Live and electronic decoys are illegal for turkey. Electronic calls are legal for deer and fur-bearing animals, such as coyotes, fox and raccoons.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. However, a hunter education permit is required for those born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, except for those participating under the new hunter mentorship program.

Special hunt: Turkey and deer hunts for disabled hunters available. Designated youth hunt weekends for deer and turkey for youths 10-15 years of age. Special learn-to-hunt events for deer, bear and turkey (first-time hunters). Contact DNR for details.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 257,900 licenses sold that included archery deer hunting privileges (246,932 res., 9,829 non-res., 1,139 mentored hunter). Bowhunting is allowed through a normal hunting license for other species such as bear and turkey.

State bowhunting organization: Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 240, Clintonville, WI 54929; (715) 823-4670; Office@WisconsinBowhunters.org; www.wisconsinbowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Customer Services and Licensing, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707; (608) 266-2621, (888) 936-7463; www.dnr.wi.gov.

Wyoming

How is the hunting looking for Wyoming in 2010? "I'd have to say that at this time (mid-June) it looks pretty darn good," says Information Officer Jeff Obrecht. "We had a wet spring last year, and we've had a doubly wet spring this year. So forage should be abundant and high-quality, and antler and horn growth should be significant as well as fat reserves."

Wyoming only has slightly more than 500,000 residents spread over nearly 100,000 square miles. "So, we don't have many people to get in the way of the view," Obrecht says. "A little over half of the state is public land—but the demand is greater for those big game licenses. Our very reasonably priced doe/fawn deer and pronghorn licenses can help moderate the sting of high hunting trip overhead."

When it comes to best hunting prospects, Obrecht points to pronghorn because of license availability and the ability to ambush them at waterholes using a blind. Wyoming hosts more pronghorn than the rest of the continent combined.

"There will be more pronghorn than Wyoming residents going into hunting season," he adds. "Almost all public land licenses will be allocated in the 2010 drawing held in late June, but licenses in many private land hunt areas will be available after the drawing. It is generally easier for an archer to get private land access because there is less demand to hunt in the archery early season than the rifle season. Wyoming has many very good outfitters, too."

Hunters who would like to know the success rate in a hunt area before applying for elk, deer and antelope, can check the Game and Fish website or call (307) 777-4600.

In 2009 18,819 hunters bought Wyoming archery licenses. "Note, that's an increase of 4,316 from 2005," Obrecht points out. "Archery hunting gets more popular every year."

DEER

Season: Sept. 1-30 (most areas).

Limit: 3 (only 1 buck).

Fees: Res. \$38 plus \$16 archery permit. Non-res. \$312 plus \$30 archery permit. One archery permit covers all big game and black bear hunting. (All hunters must have \$12.50 annual conservation stamp or a \$180.50 lifetime conservation stamp before going afield. One stamp covers all hunting fishing licenses for the year.).

Application period: May 1-31 res., Jan. 1-Mar. 15 non-res.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Spring Archery Apr. 15-June 15. Fall Archery Aug. 1-Sept. 30 (seasons vary by unit).

Limit: 1 (no cubs or females with cubs).

Fees: Res. \$45. Non-res. \$362.

ELK

Season: Sept. 1-30 (dates vary by area).

Limit: 2 (only 1 bull).

Fees: Res. \$52. Non-res. \$577.

Application period: May 1-31 res., Jan. 1-31 non-res.

MOOSE

Season: September periods depending on area.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$117. Non-res. \$1,416.

Application period: Jan. 1-Feb. 28.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery—all but six units open Aug. 15 and close when gun seasons start.

Limit: 1 or 2 bucks depending on area, 2-4 doe/fawn licenses depending on area.

Fees: Res. \$37, doe/fawn \$22. Non-res. \$284, d/f \$48

Application period: Jan. 1-Mar. 15.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Archery Aug. 1-31 (dates vary with area).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$122, Non-res. \$2,266

Application period: Jan. 1-Feb. 28.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Aug. 15-31.

Limit: 1 for lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$127. Non-res. \$1,813.

Application period: Jan. 1-Feb. 28.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Most seasons Sept. 1-Mar. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$30. Non-res. \$362.

TURKEY

Season: Dates vary with hunt area. No early archery season.

Limit: 1 for both fall and spring.

Fees: Res. \$16. Non-res. \$72.

Application period: Jan. 1-31 spring, July 1-Aug. 15 fall.

Minimum draw weight: 50 pounds or possessing the ability to cast an arrow of 500 grains at least 160 yards for elk and moose; 40 pounds or possessing the ability to cast a hunting arrow of 400 grains at least 160 yards. for other big game.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting width of 1 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during archery seasons. Must have 90-pound minimum draw weight and shoot a 16-inch bolt.

Bowhunter education: Not required but encouraged.

Bait/Mineral Use: Only for black bear. Hunting over bait/salt/mineral illegal except for hunters classified as legally blind or confined to a wheelchair.

Treestands/Blinds: Permanent treestands not permitted on public lands. Portable stands should be removed by hunter when done hunting; officials suggest that your contact info be on the stand. Check ahead for specific national forest policies.

Calls/Decoys: No regulations.

Special regulations: All non-res. licenses are issued via drawing except cougar and black bear. Non-res. application periods are Jan. 1-31 for elk, Jan. 1-Feb. 28 for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, and Jan. 1-Mar. 15 for deer and pronghorn antelope.

Archery licenses sold in '09: 18,819 (14,173 res., 4,646 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters of Wyoming, P.O. Box 126, Dayton, WY 82836. (BOW actively raises money for Wyoming's hunter access program.)

Information/licenses: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006; (307) 777-4600; <http://.gf.state.wy.us>.