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This pamphlet is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing hunting and trapping in West Virginia. The West Virginia Code and the West Virginia Code of Rules contain the details of these laws and regulations. Both publications are available for review in the Director's Office and Division of Natural Resources District Offices. Copies of the official regulations may be obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State.



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Summary of Changes 2021-2022

1. Season dates and open counties for antlerless deer, fall wild turkey, and black bear hunting seasons have changed. See appropriate sections for details.
2. One either sex turkey can be taken during the Mountaineer Heritage Season. Side-lock and flintlock muzzleloading shotguns are legal weapons for turkeys, in addition to side-lock and flintlock muzzleloader rifles and pistols, and long and recurve bows. See page 34.
3. Coyote hunting at night with artificial lights is legal on private property from September 1 through December 31, 2021, with the condition that the hunter must notify the local Natural Resources Police Officer or District Office, and provide hunter's name, landowner's name, and hunting location during working hours for approval. See page 8.
4. The resident lifetime hunting, fishing and trapping licenses' fee schedule has been changed for those who have not reached their 15th birthday. See page 46.
5. A three-year Sportsman License and a Sportsman License with trout stamp are available this year. See page 45.
6. Wildlife Management Areas on the National Forests are managed at the county level for the antlerless deer season. See pages 18-19.
7. The definition of bait now includes any non-edible facsimile of an edible enticement. See page 10.



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Sportsmen Relations

West Virginia hunters and trappers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, hunting and trapping would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon sportsmen's and women's attitudes and conduct.

Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, 324 Fourth Avenue, Room 341, South Charleston, WV 25303, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.