



P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

**YOUR STATE
WILDLIFE AGENCY**

Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.

HUNT ELK IN PENNSYLVANIA

APPLY FROM

FEB. 1

TO

**JULY 14,
2024**



APPLY NOW FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S 2024-25 ELK HUNTING SEASONS

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners preliminarily approved three elk hunting seasons (archery, general, and late) for 2024-25.

Apply for just \$11.97 per season or \$35.91 for all three at huntfish.pa.gov or at any license issuing agent. View hunt zone descriptions at pgc.pa.gov.

Final seasons and bag limits will be approved at the April board meeting. Changes can be made to application preferences (hunt zones and sex) until the application period closes on Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Drawings for all three seasons will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at the Keystone Elk Country Alliance's Elk Expo, in Benezette, PA.

GOOD LUCK. Thank you for being a Pennsylvania hunter and supporting wildlife conservation in the Keystone State.



LET WILD BE WILD

Springtime means wildlife like rabbit kits, nestling songbirds, and deer fawns are being born. If you spot newborn or young wildlife, please do not disturb them. While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, many wildlife parents will leave their young alone and hidden to avoid attracting predators, only coming back to nurse them a few times a day. Although humans have the best intentions, intervening can do more harm than good.

White-tailed fawns, for example, have white spots mimicking the sun hitting the ground through trees to help them stay hidden as they bed down for the first several weeks of life. They're born scent-free, so mothers stay away to prevent spreading their scent and drawing in predators. They only interact with their fawns two or three times a day to nurse. This is their best defense strategy throughout a fawn's first few weeks! Generally, a healthy fawn that hasn't been abandoned will have its ears up, and its backend will be clean.

Follow these tips to help wildlife stay wild this spring:

- **Don't touch or cover young wildlife.**
- **Don't feed or water these animals.**
- **Keep your pets away from them.**
- **Never take young wildlife home or inside your house.**

If you still believe wildlife has been abandoned or injured, keep your distance and contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-WILD.

For more details on ways you can help wildlife, visit pgc.pa.gov.



CALLING ALL TURKEY HUNTERS

Pennsylvania is home to the most passionate turkey hunters in the nation — more than 170,000 hit the woods each spring!

Spring gobbler season runs statewide from May 4-31, 2024. A special season for eligible junior hunters, with required license, as well as mentored hunters 16 and under is on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Only birds with visible beards are legal to harvest during the spring season, and hunting is permitted by calling only. Hunters are not required to wear fluorescent orange during the spring turkey season, but it is recommended while moving.

Visit pgc.pa.gov or reference the 2023-24 Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest for turkey hunting rules and regulations. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.

STAY SAFE IN THE TURKEY WOODS

Keep these important tips in mind to stay safe while hunting:

- Positively ID your target. Be sure the turkey and its beard are plainly visible before pulling the trigger.
- Never stalk a turkey. Any movement or sounds you think are a turkey could be another hunter.
- Protect your back. Select a large tree, rock, or other natural barrier to place at your back while calling.
- Shout “STOP” to alert approaching hunters. Never move, wave, or make turkey sounds to alert others of your position.
- Be seen. Wear or display fluorescent orange, especially when moving.



REPORT YOUR SPRING HARVEST

Make your harvest count! Successful turkey hunters must immediately tag the bird before moving it from the harvest site and are required by law to report it to the Game Commission.

Hunters have the option to report three ways: online at pgc.pa.gov, by calling 1-800-838-4431, or by mailing in a harvest card.

The data collected is critical to wildlife management decision-making processes for years to come.

BOBWHITE QUAIL ARE BACK

After years of intensive habitat work, the Pennsylvania Game Commission released 76 bobwhite quail on the grounds of Letterkenny Army Depot in Frankling County in March, with one more released planned.

The birds — which should increase in number exponentially over the course of the spring breeding season — are the final brick in a foundation the Game Commission began laying more than a decade ago.

Bobwhite quail are native to the Keystone State, and all 67 counties held populations during the mid-1800s. After 25 years of extirpation due to habitat loss and other factors, the iconic birds are back. Visit pgc.pa.gov to learn more about bobwhite quail and this historical reintroduction.



PRELIMINARY 2024-25 HUNTING & TRAPPING SEASONS APPROVED

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners met Saturday, Jan. 27, at the agency’s headquarters in Harrisburg. The board gave preliminary approval to the 2024-25 hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits.

The public may offer comments on all proposed 2024-25 seasons and bag limits, as well as other board actions, between now and the board’s meeting on April 12-13, when 2024-25 seasons and bag limits will be finalized and antlerless deer license allocations will be determined.

Visit pgc.pa.gov to review the preliminary seasons and share your comments with the board.

PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Pennsylvania Game Commission uses prescribed fire at the right place, at the right time, and at the right intensity to strategically improve the resilience of forests, grasslands, and shrublands. This ultimately benefits wildlife through the long-term health of their habitats.

Most prescribed burns take place under ideal springtime conditions, and contrary to common misconception, this has very little negative impact to wildlife in the short-term.

Tune in to episode 40 of the Call of the Outdoors podcast to hear Chief Land Manager Dr. Scott Bearer and Land Management Supervisor Steve Ferreri explain the value of this management tool to wildlife and their habitats throughout Pennsylvania. Learn how prescribed fire is fundamentally different from wildfire, ultimately benefits wild turkey nesting, creates woody browse for healthy deer populations, and uses drone technology to efficiently target pockets of land. Listen on calloftheoutdoors.com, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, iHeart, Spotify, or YouTube.

Visit pgc.pa.gov to learn more about prescribed fire, check out our interactive map of upcoming prescribed fires, and sign up for prescribed fire notifications in your county.



NEW GAME WARDENS JOIN THE RANKS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission proudly welcomed 12 new state game wardens to its force on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024.

After 44 weeks of rigorous training, these wardens are now fully equipped to protect and serve here in Penn's Woods. During their training, they gained valuable skills, including game law enforcement principles and methods, public relations, wildlife forensics, conducting wildlife surveys, hunter education instruction, and more.

These officers are ready to put their knowledge to use and make a difference in their communities. With the addition of these new wardens, the PGC is even better equipped to fulfill its mission of managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for both current and future generations.

NEARLY 1,000 STUDENTS COMPETE IN NASP TOURNAMENTS



Roughly 100,000 arrows flew downrange at Spooky Nook Sports in Lancaster County as nearly 1,000 students representing more than 50 school districts across the Keystone State competed in the 2024 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Pennsylvania State Bullseye and IBO 3D tournaments on March 22.

Upper Dauphin Area High School was named Bullseye state champion for the third consecutive year. Montrose Area High School claimed the top spot in IBO 3D, with Montrose's Madilynn Rhinevault finishing first for high school girls in both Bullseye and IBO 3D. Casey Keiter of Line Mountain won both state championships for high school boys.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, in collaboration with NASP, brings archery curriculum to more than 100,000 students in 315 schools throughout the Keystone State. Visit pgc.pa.gov to learn more about NASP and how to get your school involved.

HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife crimes affect everyone. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Operation Game Thief program serves to protect wild birds and wild mammals and encourages those who have information related to wildlife crimes to report details as soon as possible.

Report information to the Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form at bit.ly/PGCCOGT. Callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program online at bit.ly/PGCCOGT.



FOLLOW THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION



ARE WE CONNECTED?

Follow the Pennsylvania Game Commission on social media to stay up to date on all things related to wildlife, hunting, trapping, and more!

In addition to the Game Commission's official page, each of our six regions: Northwest, Southwest, Northcentral, Southcentral, Northeast, Southeast, and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area now have a dedicated Facebook page where you can get the latest news, stories and information at a local level (like prescribed burns, road and range closures, local habitat improvement projects and more)!

For more details on all the ways you can connect with the Game Commission, visit pgc.pa.gov.



CONNECT WITH PA WILD WOMEN

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Education and Outreach Division recently launched its latest R3 initiative: PA Wild Women.

This is a Facebook Group designed to connect women to the outdoors and is open to everyone, from experienced outdoorswomen to those who are just getting started in any outdoor recreation activity.

Through this group, women will be able to learn from, grow with, and encourage each other to participate in hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, kayaking and much more.

Members of the PA Wild Women Facebook Group will also receive access to online workshops, weekly tips and tactics and notifications of in-person events.

While anyone can join the PA Wild Women Facebook Group, all content is created by women for women. To join PA Wild Women, visit facebook.com/groups/pawildwomen.



REPORT YOUR HARVEST

Hunters: Do your part and report your harvest! Report online at huntfish.pa.gov; by calling 1-800-838-4431; or by mail (Attn: Harvest Reports, PA Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9851).

FOLLOW US ONLINE



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Phone: 717-787-4250

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION - 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties

SOUTHWEST REGION - 4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties

NORTHCENTRAL REGION - 1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post

Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION - 8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652

Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties

NORTHEAST REGION - 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties

SOUTHEAST REGION - 253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605

Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties

VISIT US ONLINE AT PGC.PA.GOV

CALL US AT 1-833-PGC-HUNT OR 1-833-PGC-WILD.