



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.

OCTOBER 2021

OGT Works!

During fiscal year 2019-20, 1,617 calls were received, an increase of 8% over the previous year. The hotline continues to resonate well with the public and averages a less than 20-minute turnaround from when a tip comes in until an officer is dispatched to the incident.



Charges were filed in November 2020 on an individual in Erie County accused of hunting through the use of a motor vehicle, alighting from a vehicle and shooting at game or wildlife, and the unlawful taking of game or wildlife. State Game Warden Hueser (left) and State Game Warden Murray (right) received an anonymous tip via the Operation Game Thief Hotline regarding a 16-point buck that was shot from the road in Greenfield Township. The tip ultimately led to the investigation of the suspect. The antlers of the deer were seized as evidence and the meat was donated to a local family in need. Thank you to the individual who reported this illegal activity.



OPERATION GAME THIEF

**WILDLIFE CRIMES
AFFECT EVERYONE.
POACHERS ARE
THIEVES, HELP US
CATCH THEM.**

Whether you're a hunter, trapper, bird watcher or someone who enjoys walking in the woods – wildlife crimes affect us all. 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.

To report information, call 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 <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>. "Like" the "[Operation Game Thief, Pennsylvania Game Commission](#)" Facebook page for current cases.

Calls to the Operation Game Thief telephone number are always answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide your contact information in case wardens have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential, however, those who wish to claim any monetary reward, must provide contact information.

WHAT CRIMES SHOULD I REPORT?

The illegal shooting or taking of big game or protected, endangered or threatened species, or any crime against those species should be reported through Operation Game Thief. Other violations should be reported to the [region office](#) serving the county in which the violation is taking place as quickly as possible.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I PROVIDE?

As many details as possible:

- Description of WHAT YOU SAW and the SPECIES involved.
- DATE and TIME of occurrence.
- COUNTY, TOWNSHIP, ADDRESS of where the event occurred.
- Description of PERSON(S): Height, weight, hair color, eye color, approximate age, tattoo or other distinguishing feature, clothing, sporting arm, etc.
- Description of VEHICLE(S): Color, make, model, dents, decals, bumper stickers, license plate number and state, road/route, direction of travel.

MONETARY REWARD

If the suspected violation involves the killing of big game animals, or threatened or endangered species, an additional \$500 penalty may be added to fines levied upon those found guilty of Game and Wildlife Code violations. The \$500 enhanced penalty goes into a special fund from which half the amount (\$250) may be paid to the individual who provided the information that led to the conviction. The remainder will be used to offset the costs of Operation Game Thief.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR
YOUR HELP IN PROTECTING
PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE.**



LIKE THE "OPERATION GAME THIEF, PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION" FACEBOOK PAGE FOR CURRENT CASES.

STATEWIDE ARCHERY DEER SEASON BEGINS OCT. 2



Pennsylvania's 2021 statewide archery season runs from Oct. 2 to Nov. 13, continues on Sunday, Nov. 14, then goes Nov. 15 to 19. Archery hunters may use long, recurve or compound bows. Bows must have a draw weight of at least 35 pounds; crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds.

Archers are encouraged to practice with their equipment before the season starts, from the ground and/or an elevated stand, and take only responsible shots at deer to ensure a quick, clean kill. Hunters may use illuminated nocks for arrows and bolts, as they aid in tracking or locating.

Pennsylvania's first statewide archery season was held in 1951. This is the 71st season and it stretches across seven weeks, includes a Sunday and gives hunters the chance to be afield during the peak of the whitetail rut. The state's first archery season drew a little more than 5,500 participants. In 2020, by comparison, the Game Commission sold a record 373,700 archery licenses, counting those sold to Pennsylvania residents as well as hunters from other states. Good luck, have fun, hunt safely!

SUNDAY HUNTING, 2021 SEASON DETAILS

In Pennsylvania, Sunday hunting has been permitted for a long time for foxes, coyotes and crows during open seasons. In an effort to expand hunting opportunities, in 2021, **Sunday hunting is only open on the following dates for the following species:**

- 1. SUNDAY, NOV. 14** – Deer (archery), Bear (archery in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D only), Squirrel, Pheasant, Rabbit, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck, Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel and Porcupine.
- 2. SUNDAY, NOV. 21** – Bear, Deer (archery in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D only), Squirrel, Pheasant, Rabbit, Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck, Crow, Raccoon, Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel and Porcupine. Coyote hunters, during any big-game season, must follow big-game orange requirements.
- 3. SUNDAY, NOV. 28** – Deer, Bear, Raccoon, Fox and Coyote. Raccoons and foxes may be hunted only after legal hunting hours for deer. Coyote hunters, during any big-game season, must follow big-game orange requirements. Crows may not be hunted during the Regular Deer Firearms season.

**Turkeys and migratory game birds may not be hunted on any of these three Sundays. Other game that's in season may be hunted on these three Sundays.*

On these three Sundays, hunters on private land are required to carry written permission from the landowner. The permission slip should be signed by the landowner, and should include the hunter's name, address and CID license number, and the landowner's name, address and phone number. Providing contact information for the landowner is the quickest and easiest way for a game warden to verify a landowner has granted permission to a hunter. A sample permission slip is available on [page 5 of the Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest](#).

SUNDAY HUNTING LANDOWNER PERMISSION SLIP					
<small>Hunters needing Sunday hunting permission can clip this slip, complete it alongside the landowner and carry it afield.</small>					
_____ Hunter Name			_____ Landowner Name		
_____ Street Address			_____ Street Address		
_____ City	_____ State	_____ ZIP code	_____ City	_____ State	_____ ZIP code
_____ CID number	2021-22		_____ Landowner phone number	_____ Signature	



NOTCH YOUR HUNTING LICENSE FOR BIG GAME HARVESTS

Heads up hunters! The bright green color isn't the only new thing about Pennsylvania's harvest tags. As always, hunters who successfully harvest a deer, bear, elk, or turkey must properly fill out and tag their harvest before the carcass is moved. This year, however, hunters will not be writing the harvest date on their tag but notching it.

The new green harvest tags have boxes denoting the month and day on the back of the tag and hunters are asked to cut out or notch out the correct date. More information on how to properly tag big game can be found on page 22 of your 2021-22 Hunting and Trapping Digest: <https://bit.ly/2WZOdJm>.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

The Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission joined with other fish and wildlife conservation agencies across the country to recognize Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 as National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Launched in 1971 by Congress, the day recognizes hunters and anglers for their leadership in wildlife and conservation. It is annually recognized on the fourth Saturday in September.

Gov. Tom Wolf recognized the day by signing a proclamation stating, "Hunting and angling offer participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits."

Wolf credited the state's hunters, trappers and anglers as being among the first in the nation to support the establishment of fish and wildlife conservation agencies and pioneering a self-imposed federal excise tax on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds. The proclamation recognized that more than 1.4 million Pennsylvania hunters and anglers contribute to the state's economy through more than \$1.5 billion in annual spending, and support more than 24,000 jobs, creating \$181 million in state and local taxes.

Purchase your Pennsylvania hunting license online at www.huntfishpa.gov or visit an retail license issuing agent. Thank you for being a Pennsylvania hunter, conservationist and voice for the future of hunting.



VISITING ELK COUNTRY THIS FALL? REMEMBER TO BE ELK SMART!

ELK SMART provides four simple and effective ways that all elk viewers can ensure the wild essence of the herd remains for generations to come. While visiting, do your part to preserve the WILD nature of the elk herd by being **ELK SMART**.

1. **GIVE ELK SPACE.** AT LEAST 100 YARDS.
2. **NEVER FEED ELK.** IT'S DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL.
3. **DON'T NAME ELK.** LET WILD BE WILD.
4. **DO YOUR PART.** IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

We all have a duty to ensure the safety of people and the long-term welfare of the elk. If you see someone being disruptive or careless, whether intentional or not, kindly ask them to stop or report it to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's North-central Region by calling 570-398-4744.

Learn more about Pennsylvania's elk herd and how to be ELK SMART at www.pgc.pa.gov.

GIVE ELK SPACE

AT LEAST 100 YARDS.

1. **GIVE ELK SPACE.**
2. **NEVER FEED ELK.**
3. **DON'T NAME ELK.**
4. **DO YOUR PART.**

STATE GAME LANDS TOURS

Pennsylvania's state game lands are something to behold. Want to see for yourself? Take one of the tours through game lands the Pennsylvania Game Commission is holding on certain Sundays in October.

The tours provide a good example of the opportunities available on game lands statewide, while showcasing how habitat work taking place on these tracts benefit wildlife. All tours are free, held rain or shine and open only to vehicles licenses for travel on public roads.

The schedule is below. More information, including directions, is available at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Sunday, Oct. 3:

State Game Lands 290, Perry County, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
State Game Lands 57, Luzerne and Wyoming counties, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 10:

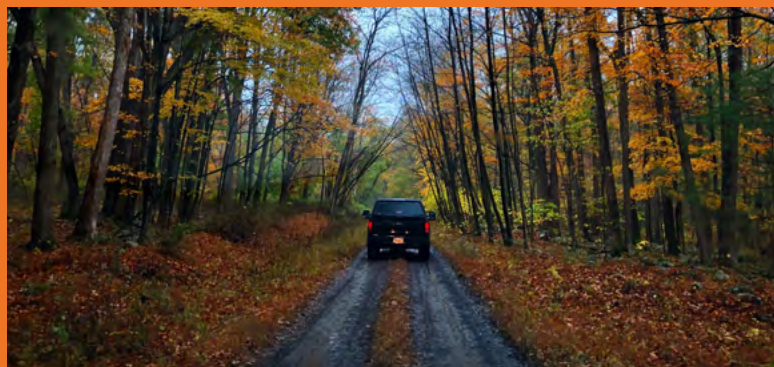
State Game Lands 26, Bedford County, noon to 3 p.m.
State Game Lands 12, Bradford County, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 17:

State Game Lands 108, Cambria County, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
State Game Lands 252, Lycoming and Union counties, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
State Game Lands 110, Berks County, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
State Game Lands 211, Dauphin County, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 24:

State Game Lands 169, Cumberland County, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

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TUNE IN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS

Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, hosted by Marketing Bureau Director Matt Morrett. New episodes featuring guests from within the agency, as well as hunters, public figures and more, are published each month.

The episodes feature unique and relevant issues, explaining Pennsylvania hunting and wildlife-related subjects and provides listeners with better ways to explore, promote and understand our natural resources. Call of the Outdoors episodes are available on www.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.



REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES AVAILABLE: WILDLIFE ON WIFI

Wildlife on WiFi (WoW) is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's award-winning virtual wildlife education program and is available [by clicking here](#) or visiting www.pgc.pa.gov. The program's vision is to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state's wildlife agency from anywhere.

WoW provides wildlife enthusiasts – especially educators, students, parents and high-risk health communities – with home-based conservation and wildlife science education activities and lessons, virtual field trips and events, and social media games.



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Pennsylvania Game Commission

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

HEADQUARTERS

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

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties
1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323
Phone: 814-432-3187

SOUTHWEST REGION: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties
4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923 | Phone: 724-238-9523

NORTHCENTRAL REGION: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties
1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038 | Phone: 570-398-4744

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties
8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652
Phone: 814-643-1831

NORTHEAST REGION: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties
3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220
Phone: 570-675-1143

SOUTHEAST REGION: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties
253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605 | Phone: 610-926-3136

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PGC.PA.GOV