



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.

SEPTEMBER 2021

**DIGITAL HUNTING
LICENSES NOW
AVAILABLE**



Pennsylvania hunters may now carry digital versions of their licenses, in place of paper licenses. Pennsylvania's new hunting and furtaker licensing system, HuntFishPA, is equipped to issue digital licenses. The Pennsylvania Game Commission earlier this year authorized hunters and trappers to carry digital licenses and permits, though paper harvest tags still must be carried and used in any season where harvests must be tagged.

Those who buy licenses now and in the future will be emailed a PDF version of their licenses, so long as they provide an email address in their profile. This applies whether they buy licenses online or at an issuing agent. All documents will be emailed, except for harvest tags.

Deer, bear and turkey hunters, and those hunting or trapping in any other season where harvests must be tagged, must continue to carry paper harvest tags afield. No electronic harvest tags are being issued or authorized for use. And all paper licenses and permits that are carried afield must be signed.

Those who plan on hunting big game or bobcats or trapping fishers or otters must plan ahead of time to be sure that they are in possession of their harvest tags prior to hunting or trapping those species. All harvest tags will be mailed to those who purchase their licenses online. But for many hunting and trapping opportunities, a digital license is all that's required.



STATE GAME LANDS 93 REDEDICATED IN HONOR OF HEROIC PASSENGERS AND CREW MEMBERS OF UNITED FLIGHT 93

Forty American flags stood tall and the sound of bagpipes rang out on State Game Lands 93 in Somerset County as the Pennsylvania Game Commission rededicated a memorial to honor the 40 heroic passengers and crew members of United Airlines Flight 93. The ceremony was held on the morning of Friday, Sept. 10, in advance of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission protects and maintains State Game Lands 93 to ensure all who visit remember the 40 brave men and women whose actions saved an untold number of lives 20 years ago. State Game Lands 93 spans more than 700 acres and preserves the sacred land surrounding the Flight 93 National Memorial while providing quality wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities.

The agency dedicated a new wooden game lands sign; two stone, engraved benches, one honoring all 40 men and women on board and one honoring U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist and Law Enforcement Officer Richard J. Guadagno; and two informational kiosks with the 40 names, the Flight 93 story, the history of the game lands and more in the memorial area of the game lands. A keystone was also cut into the landscape on the grassy hillside overlooking the memorial with the number 93 painted in the middle.

Due to Flight 93 passenger Richard Guadagno's lifelong passion and commitment to nature, wildlife and conservation, the agency constructed a special memorial for him including the "Guadagno Trail" and a wetlands habitat. In 2001, he was serving as a Project Manager at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Northern California. On Sept. 11, he was flying back to California after spending the weekend in New Jersey with his family to celebrate his grandmother's 100th birthday.

Guadagno's father, Jerry, his sister, Lori, as well as several of his close family and loved ones attended Friday's ceremony. Jerry and Lori assisted with the release of a rehabilitated juvenile bald eagle on the game lands at the end of the ceremony. The ceremony can be viewed in its entirety on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's [YouTube](#) page.

TIRED OF THE PINK ENVELOPES?

Attn: Pennsylvania deer hunters who applied for antlerless licenses in advance of the 2021-22 hunting license seasons. In an effort to simplify and modernize how hunters apply for their antlerless deer licenses, the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee passed Senate Bill 431, which would allow for the sale of the licenses at any issuing agent in the state, as well as online.

This bill would eliminate the current process, which includes mailing a pink antlerless deer application envelope to a county treasurer. The Pennsylvania Game Commission updated the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System in early 2021 which provides hunters with more convenient and efficient ways to apply for and receive hunting licenses.

Hunters who support modernizing the antlerless deer license application process in Pennsylvania should contact their state Senator and/or state Representative and ask them to support Senate Bill 431. Visit www.legis.state.pa.us for contact and bill information.

HUNTERS: CONTACT YOU STATE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE TO ELIMINATE THE PINK ENVELOPES

REPORT BANDED BIRDS

Attention: Waterfowl hunters. This is a friendly reminder to report banded harvested birds online at www.reportband.gov or by phone at 1-800-327-BAND. Each year tens of thousands of waterfowl are marked each year with leg bands to help estimate survival probability, populations and more.

To report a harvested bird, you will need the band number as well as where, when and how you recovered the bird. Thanks in advance for your help and for reporting bands! Good luck. Have fun. Hunt Safely. Photo by Jacob Dingel.



2021-22 CWD HUNTING REMINDERS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission recently expanded regulations prohibiting the movement of high-risk carcass parts from deer, elk and other cervids to control the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

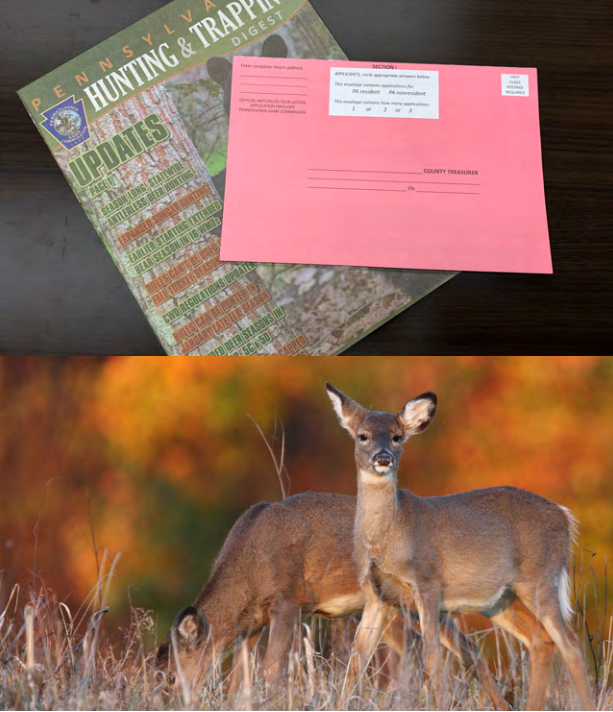
First: Hunters are prohibited from importing high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed in any state or country outside Pennsylvania. In previous years, this only applied to those parts taken in states and provinces know to have CWD.

Second: Hunters are prohibited from moving high-risk parts outside of the newly created Established Area (EA), which covers parts of Bedford, Blair, Franklin, Fulton and Huntingdon counties.

Both changes will impact hunters going out of state this fall or hunting within Disease Management Area (DMA) 2. These changes also apply to deer killed in vehicle collisions that are picked up for consumption.

Expanding the regulation banning the importation of high-risk parts into Pennsylvania from any state or province-regardless of whether CWD is known to exist there – serves several purposes. Not all states monitor the disease in the same way – and this change simplifies things for hunters, who no longer have to remember different rules for different areas.

Another update to hunters, following the end of the 2020-21 hunting season, a new DMA 5 has been created which covers a small portion of Warren County. Click here or visit www.pgc.pa.gov for the most up-to-date CWD information. Contact the CWD Hotline by calling 1-833-INFOCWD or emailing infocwd@pa.gov. Photo by Jacob Dingel.



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

Visiting Pennsylvania's Elk Country has become an annual tradition and regular trip for thousands of people from near and far. Pennsylvania's elk herd is located in the state's northcentral region. As many as 1,400 elk freely roam across 3,000 square miles, mostly within Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Clearfield and Centre counties.

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.** Keep a distance – of at least 100 yards – between you and the elk. Never approach them. Elk are wild animals that are unpredictable and sometimes aggressive, especially during the fall breeding season. Cows are also known to defend their young when they feel threatened.
2. **NEVER FEED ELK.** Not only is it illegal to feed elk in Pennsylvania, but it teaches them to associate people, cars and/or homes with food. This could cause them to approach people looking for more. Feeding also promotes the spread of infectious diseases by having them unnaturally congregate into small areas.
3. **DON'T NAME ELK.** Characterizing elk, or any wildlife, by naming them degrades their wild essence. The very reason people are drawn to the elk is their unaltered independence from humans. Personifying elk as humans takes away from their truly wild nature.
4. **DO YOUR PART.** The welfare of the elk herd is a shared responsibility. 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 Northcentral Region by calling 570-398-4744. We all have a duty to ensure the safety of people and the long-term welfare of the elk.

The elk mating season, known as "the rut," is underway now through the end of October. This is the time of year that most people visit Benezette to try to catch a glimpse of Pennsylvania's wild elk herd. As the days shorten, rut is triggered and the testosterone in a bull's blood stream will increase up to 100 times normal levels! The testosterone spike triggers bugling behavior, which is thought to serve two primary purposes- to call in cows and to warn other bulls of their territory.

During the rut, bulls focus almost exclusively on fighting, mating and defending harams. As a result, a bull can lose up to 30 percent of his body weight! Bulls aren't the only ones going through behavioral changes this time of year. Cows also experience physiological changes during the rut with estrus levels controlling when they are receptive to breeding.

The first estrus cycle typically occurs around the third week in September, and if unbred, cows will recycle approximately 21 days later. Due to all the changes that the elk are going through during rut, they can also be more aggressive, so please be **ELK SMART!**

Check out Wildlife on Wifi's new **Elk SMART** activity on "safe viewing distance" online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT | OUR NATURE. OUR NATION. OUR FUTURE



The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners adopted a resolution at its meeting in July in support of adopting the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which would allocate \$1.3 billion annually for wildlife conservation across the nation. The Game Commission does not receive revenue from the Pennsylvania General Fund and there is a recognized need to expand dedicated and sustainable funding for wildlife conservation in our state, as well as the rest of the nation.

Here in Pennsylvania, we have 664 species of greatest conservation need, which includes both game and non-game species? The species, and work currently being done to help them, are included in the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan available at www.pgc.pa.gov.

If you are interested in supporting endangered and threatened species here at home and across the U.S., contact your U.S. Congressional Representative and ask them to support Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), H.R. 2773, one of the most meaningful initiatives for fish and wildlife of all time. Click here to find your representative or visit www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative.

RAWA is bipartisan legislation that would increase state wildlife agency's dedicated funding to address growing declines of fish, wildlife and their natural habitats. The bill would fund the implementation of congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans. [Click here](#) or visit www.pgc.pa.gov for more information about the bill.

RECREATE SAFELY THIS FALL. WEAR ORANGE.

Don't make a mistake while hunting that could cost you your life. Be safe, wear orange. Part of being a responsible hunter is following safe hunting practices, one of which is wearing fluorescent orange while hunting. Each season has specific requirements regarding the number of square inches of fluorescent orange that must be worn. We want every hunter to come home safely after a day outdoors, do your part and know the regulations. Fluorescent orange requirements can be found in the [2021-22 Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest](#).

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.

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>.

Calls to the Operation Game Thief hotline are always answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide contact information in case game wardens have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program here: <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.



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.

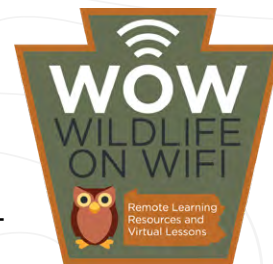
The episodes feature unique and relevant issues, explaining Pennsylvania hunting and wildlife-related subjects and provides listeners with better ways to explore, promote and understand our natural resources. Call of the Outdoors episodes are available on www.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com, Apple Podcasts,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

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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

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