

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Title 58—RECREATION

### GAME COMMISSION

[ 58 PA. CODE CH. 139 ]

#### Seasons and Bag Limits

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) at its April 13, 2024, meeting amends § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year.

This final-form rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

The authority for this final-form rulemaking is 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) (code).

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 54 Pa.B. 1321 (March 16, 2024) and 54 Pa.B. 1668 (March 30, 2024).

#### 1. Purpose and Authority

To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission amends § 139.4 to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year. The 2024-2025 seasons and bag limits are amended to reflect current available scientific data, population and harvest records, field surveys and professional staff observations, as well as recommendations received from staff, organized sporting groups, members of the agricultural community and others interested in the management of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

For small game, eligibility to participate in the early October pheasant season segment is expanded to include mentored hunters of all ages, and the Executive Director would be provided with increased flexibility to authorize pheasant hunting within Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas.

For wild turkey, fall season length changes are made for numerous Wildlife Management Units (WMU) based on analysis of long-term turkey population trends and results of turkey hunter surveys. Season length are increased in 11 WMUs and WMU 5A (previously closed to fall hunting) are opened for a 3-day season. Season length would be reduced in 2 WMUs (3D and 4C).

For black bear, the October muzzleloader season is shortened to 3 days to reduce harvest rates on female bears and thereby promote stabilization of the bear population.

For furbearers, WMU 2D is opened to bobcat hunting and trapping because habitat and population data indicate that this unit can support sustainable bobcat harvest. Also, the fisher trapping season is adopted to be increased by 1 week in all WMUs open to fisher harvest to provide additional opportunity and to make fisher and bobcat trapping seasons concurrent.

No changes are adopted for elk seasons. However, the Commission makes one change for deer seasons by creating new extended regular firearms deer season in WMUs 4A, 4D and 5A to increase deer harvest in the core of Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area 2 where

antlerless license allocations did not sell out or antlerless harvest goals were not met, or both, during the 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

Section 322(c)(1) of the code (relating to powers and duties of commission) specifically empowers the Commission to “fix seasons, daily shooting or taking hours, and any modification thereof, and daily, season and possession limits for any species of game or wildlife.” Section 2102(b)(1) of the code (relating to regulations) authorizes the Commission to “promulgate regulations relating to seasons and bag limits for hunting or furtaking . . .” The amendments to § 139.4 are adopted under this authority.

#### 2. Regulatory Requirements

This final-form rulemaking amends § 139.4 to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 hunting/furtaking license year.

#### 3. Persons Affected

Persons wishing to hunt or trap game or wildlife within this Commonwealth during the 2024-2025 hunting/furtaking license year will be affected by this final-form rulemaking.

#### 4. Comment and Response Summary

The Commission received a total of 87 official comments concerning this final-form rulemaking. The comments received concerned the following subtopics:

*Deer seasons:* Out of a total of 52 comments received concerning this subtopic, 7 supported and 21 opposed a Saturday opener for regular firearms deer season, 1 opposed opening any big game seasons the week prior to the regular firearms deer season, 1 supported and 3 opposed concurrent antlered/antlerless firearms deer season, 1 supported opening regular firearms deer season on the first Saturday in December, 5 supported a 3-day archery deer season in August, 1 supported adding extended antlerless deer seasons after the regular firearms deer season, 2 opposed the extended antlerless deer seasons, 1 opposed the length of antlerless deer seasons, 3 opposed the length of archery deer season, 1 supported starting archery deer season later in October, 1 supported muzzleloader deer season occurring after Christmas, 1 supported flintlock muzzleloader deer season occurring in October, 1 supported flintlock muzzleloader deer season extending through mid-February, 1 supported opening special firearms deer season to all hunters and 1 supported moving the special firearm deer season to weekdays between the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

*Turkey seasons:* Out of a total of five comments received concerning this subtopic, one opposed allowing hens to be harvested during the fall turkey season, two opposed the length of the fall turkey season, one supported spring turkey season including five Saturdays and one supported a one-bird season limit for turkey.

*Bear seasons:* Out of a total of four comments received concerning this subtopic, one supported opening muzzleloader bear season on the first Saturday, one opposed early muzzleloader bear season and two opposed the length of archery bear season.

*Elk seasons:* One comment was received concerning this subtopic, in support of moving the start of the conservation elk season to after Labor Day.

*Small game seasons:* Out of a total of two comments received concerning this subtopic, one supported opening

pheasant season on the last Saturday of the junior pheasant season and one opposed allowing mentored youth to participate in the junior pheasant season.

*Migratory bird seasons:* One comment was received concerning this subtopic in support of a December through February tundra swan season.

*Furbearer seasons:* Out of a total of 22 comments received concerning this subtopic, 1 supported moving bobcat hunting season to December, 1 supported a longer bobcat hunting season, 1 supported running bobcat hunting season concurrent with bobcat trapping season, 1 supported bobcat trapping on Sundays, 3 supported opening bobcat trapping season in WMU 4D, 2 supported opening bobcat hunting and trapping seasons in WMU 2D, 1 supported an increase in the bobcat season limit, 1 supported opening fisher and bobcat trapping seasons in WMU 1A, 1 supported a fisher hunting season, 1 supported increasing fisher trapping seasons in WMU 1A, 1 supported extending mink trapping season until the end of February, 2 supported otter season in WMU 4D, 1 supported otter season in WMUs 4A, 4B and 4D, 1 supported otter season in WMU 2D, 3 supported increased raccoon trapping seasons and 1 opposed the length of furbearer seasons.

5. *Cost and Paperwork Requirements*

This final-form rulemaking should not result in any additional cost or paperwork.

6. *Effective Date*

The effective dates of this final-form rulemaking are July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

7. *Contact Person*

For further information about this final-form rulemaking, contact Jason L. DeCoskey, Director, Bureau of

Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526.

*Findings*

The Commission finds that:

(1) Public notice of intention to adopt the administrative amendments adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law, and the regulations thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).

(2) The adoption of the amendments of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for the administration and enforcement of the authorizing statute.

*Order*

The Commission, acting under authorizing statute, orders that:

(a) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapter 139, are amended by amending § 139.4 to read as set forth in Annex A.

(b) The Executive Director of the Commission shall certify this order and Annex A and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.

(c) This order is effective July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

STEPHEN SMITH,  
*Executive Director*

**Fiscal Note:** Fiscal Note 48-506 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulation.

**Annex A**

**TITLE 58. RECREATION**

**PART III. GAME COMMISSION**

**CHAPTER 139. SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS**

**§ 139.4. Seasons and bag limits for the license year.**

**2024-2025 OPEN HUNTING AND FUR TAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT, FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED**

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
<i>Squirrel</i> —(Combined species) <sup>1</sup> Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Sept. 14		Sept. 28	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> —(Combined species) <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 14		Nov. 16	6	18
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 29		
	Dec. 16	and	Dec. 24		
	Dec. 26	and	Feb. 28, 2025		

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<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 19 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16	and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> <sup>1</sup> Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Oct. 5		Oct. 19	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 19 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	4	12
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> Central Susquehanna and Franklin County Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas <i>Male only</i> <sup>1</sup>	As authorized by the Executive Order				
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant—Male or Female</i> <sup>1</sup> Junior License Holders and Mentored Permit Holders <sup>9</sup>	Oct. 12		Oct. 19	2	6
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant—Male or Female</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 26 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	2	6
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> —There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the area surrounding the Letterkenny Bobwhite Quail Focus Area, as designated in § 141.30 (relating to bobwhite quail recovery area).					
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 2 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	Unlimited	

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
	Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and	Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> <sup>1</sup>	Dec. 26		Jan. 1, 2025	1	3
<i>Woodchuck (Groundhog)</i> <sup>2</sup>	July 1 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16	and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 June 30, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Crow</i> <sup>3</sup> (Hunting permitted on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	Aug. 22		Mar. 23, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i> <sup>3</sup>	No closed season, except season closed during the regular firearms deer seasons.			Unlimited	

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**

Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703—712) as published in the *Federal Register* on or about February 28 of each year.

Exceptions:

- (a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).
- (b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use Statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.
- (c) Hunting on Sunday not authorized.<sup>1</sup>

**WILD TURKEY**

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Turkey, Fall—Male or Female</i> <sup>1</sup> WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C  WMUs 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E  WMUs 5A and 5B WMUs 5C and 5D	Nov. 2 Nov. 2 Nov. 2  Nov. 27 Nov. 2  Nov. 27 Nov. 2	and  and	Nov. 16 Nov. 9 Nov. 16  Nov. 29 Nov. 22  Nov. 29 Nov. 5	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> <sup>1</sup> Bearded Bird only, Eligible Junior Hunters only, with the required junior license	Apr. 26, 2025		Apr. 26, 2025	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> <sup>1,4</sup> Bearded Bird only				1	2

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
	May 3, 2025		May 17, 2025	May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
	May 19, 2025	and	May 31, 2025	May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	

**FALCONRY**

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
<i>Squirrel—(Combined species)<sup>2</sup></i>	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	6	18
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 30		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1		
	Dec. 2	and	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Quail<sup>2</sup></i>	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 30		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1		
	Dec. 2	and	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Ruffed Grouse<sup>2</sup></i>	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	2	6
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 30		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1		
	Dec. 2	and	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Cottontail Rabbits<sup>2</sup></i>	Sept. 2		Nov. 16	4	12
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17		
	Nov. 18	and	Nov. 23		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24		
	Nov. 25	and	Nov. 30		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1		
	Dec. 2	and	Mar. 31, 2025		

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<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Field Possession Limit After Second day</i>
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 2 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	1	3
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant—Male<sup>2</sup> and Female (Combined)</i>	Sept. 2 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	2	6
<i>Mink, Muskrat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 2 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Mar. 31, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Migratory Game Bird</i> <sup>1</sup> —Seasons and bag limits shall be in accordance with Federal regulations.					

WHITE-TAILED DEER

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless)</i> <sup>2,5</sup> With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 26	and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless)</i> <sup>2,5</sup> With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Oct. 5  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17  Nov. 18  Dec. 26	and  and  and	Nov. 16  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17  Nov. 22  Jan. 20, 2025	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only)</i> <sup>1</sup> With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 19		Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only)</i> Only Junior and Senior License Holders <sup>6</sup> Mentored Permit Holders <sup>9</sup> , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard	Oct. 24		Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered and Antlerless)</i> <sup>2,5</sup> Statewide	Nov. 30  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1  Dec. 2	and  and	Nov. 30  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1  Dec. 14	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</i> <sup>1,5</sup> With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26		Jan. 20, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</i> <sup>1,5</sup> With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26		Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> <sup>1</sup> WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26		Jan. 25, 2025	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> <sup>1</sup> WMUs 4A, 4D and 5A	Jan. 2, 2025		Jan. 20, 2025	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Antlerless</i> <sup>1</sup> (Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County and New Cumberland Army Depot, York County and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County)	Hunting is permitted on days established by the United States Department of the Army.			An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**BLACK BEAR**

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Bear, Archery</i> <sup>2,7</sup> WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17  Nov. 18  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	and  and  and  and	Nov. 16  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17  Nov. 23  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24	1

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
	Nov. 25		Nov. 29	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> <sup>2,7</sup> WMU 5B	Oct. 5  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17  Nov. 18	and  and	Nov. 16  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17  Nov. 22	1
<i>Bear, Archery</i> <sup>1,7</sup> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 19		Nov. 9	1
<i>Bear, Muzzleloader</i> <sup>1,7</sup> (Statewide)	Oct. 24		Oct. 26	1
<i>Bear, Special firearms</i> <sup>7</sup> Only Junior and Senior License Holders <sup>6</sup> , Mentored Permit Holders <sup>9</sup> , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or in the United States Coast Guard (Statewide)	Oct. 24		Oct. 26	1
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> <sup>2,7</sup> (Statewide)	Nov. 23  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24  Nov. 25	and  and	Nov. 23  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24  Nov. 26	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> <sup>2,7</sup> WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 30  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1  Dec. 2	and  and	Nov. 30  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1  Dec. 14	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> <sup>2,7</sup> WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E and 5A	Nov. 30  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1  Dec. 2	and  and	Nov. 30  Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1  Dec. 7	1

**ELK**

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag</i> <sup>1,8</sup> and <i>Special-License Tag</i> <sup>1,8</sup> (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 2		Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Archery</i> <sup>1,8</sup> (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 14		Sept. 28	1
<i>Elk, Regular</i> <sup>1,8</sup> (Antlered and Antlerless)	Nov. 4		Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Late</i> <sup>1,8</sup> (Antlered and Antlerless)	Dec. 28		Jan. 4, 2025	1



FURTAKING—TRAPPING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 23		Jan. 12, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 21		Mar. 31, 2025		
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)				20	60
WMUs 2A, 2B and 3C (Combined)				20	40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C and 5D (Combined)				20	20
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Combined)				5	5

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 26		Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26		Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21		Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>Fisher, with required fisher permit</i> WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21		Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>River Otter, with required otter permit</i> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	Feb. 15, 2025		Feb. 22, 2025	1

FURTAKING—HUNTING

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Coyote—(Outside of any big game season)<sup>3</sup></i>	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker's license.			Unlimited	
<i>Coyote—(During any big game season)</i>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.			Unlimited	
<i>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel<sup>2</sup></i>	July 1 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 June 30, 2025	Unlimited May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from July 1—Nov. 29 and Dec. 15—June 30, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30—Dec. 14.	
<i>Fox<sup>3</sup></i>	Oct. 26		Feb. 22, 2025	Unlimited May be hunted any hour, day or night, from Oct. 26—Nov. 29 and Dec. 15—Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30—Dec. 14.	

<i>Species</i>	<i>First Day</i>		<i>Last Day</i>	<i>Daily Limit</i>	<i>Season Limit</i>
<i>Raccoon</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 26 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Dec. 2	and and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Dec. 1 Feb. 22, 2025	Unlimited May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from Oct. 26—Nov. 29 and Dec. 15—Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30—Dec. 14.	
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> <sup>1</sup> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 11, 2025		Feb. 5, 2025	1	1
<i>Porcupine</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 12 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 18 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 25 Dec. 16 Dec. 26	and and and and and and and	Nov. 16 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 1, 2025	3	10

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

<sup>1</sup> No hunting on Sunday authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303 (relating to hunting on Sunday prohibited).

<sup>2</sup> Hunting on Sunday authorized on separately delineated Sunday dates only. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

<sup>3</sup> Hunting on Sunday is authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

<sup>4</sup> Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in 34 Pa.C.S. § 2709 (relating to license costs and fees) may take a second spring gobbler during the hunting license year; all other persons, including mentored youth hunters, may take only one spring gobbler. A maximum of two spring gobblers per license year may be taken by any combination of licenses or exceptions for mentored youth.

<sup>5</sup> Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.

<sup>6</sup> Includes resident and nonresident license holders who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for the license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under 34 Pa.C.S. § 2706 (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

<sup>7</sup> Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

<sup>8</sup> Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

<sup>9</sup> Includes mentored youth and mentored adults with a valid mentored hunter permit issued under Chapter 147, Subchapter X (relating to Mentored Hunting Program permit).

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 24-757. Filed for public inspection May 31, 2024, 9:00 a.m.]

**Title 58—RECREATION**

**GAME COMMISSION**

**[ 58 PA. CODE CH. 141 ]**

**Hunting and Trapping; General**

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) at its April 13, 2024, meeting amends § 141.4, Appendix G (relating to hunting hours) to replace the current hunting

hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

This final-form rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

The authority for this final-form rulemaking is 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) (code).

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 54 Pa.B. 1330 (March 16, 2024).

1. *Purpose and Authority*

The Commission amends § 141.4, Appendix G, to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

Section 2102(a) of the code (relating to regulations) provides that “[t]he commission shall promulgate such regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate concerning game or wildlife and hunting or furtaking in this Commonwealth, including regulations relating to the protection, preservation and management of game or wildlife and game or wildlife habitat, permitting or prohibiting hunting or furtaking, the ways, manner, methods and means of hunting or furtaking, and the health and safety of persons who hunt or take wildlife or may be in the vicinity of persons who hunt or take game or wildlife in this Commonwealth.” The amendments to § 141.4, Appendix G are adopted under this authority.

2. *Regulatory Requirements*

This final-form rulemaking amends § 141.4, Appendix G to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

3. *Persons Affected*

Persons wishing to hunt or trap game or wildlife within this Commonwealth during the 2024-2025 hunting/furtaking license year will be affected by this final-form rulemaking.

4. *Comment and Response Summary*

There were no official comments received on this final-form rulemaking.

5. *Cost and Paperwork Requirements*

This final-form rulemaking should not result in any additional cost or paperwork.

6. *Effective Date*

The effective dates of this final-form rulemaking are July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

7. *Contact Person*

For further information about this final-form rulemaking, contact Jason L. DeCoskey, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526.

*Findings*

The Commission finds that:

(1) Public notice of intention to adopt the administrative amendments adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law, and the regulations thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).

(2) The adoption of the amendments of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for the administration and enforcement of the authorizing statute.

*Order*

The Commission, acting under authorizing statute, orders that:

(a) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapter 141, are amended by amending § 141.4, Appendix G to read as set forth in Annex A, with ellipses referring to the existing text of the regulations.

(b) The Executive Director of the Commission shall certify this order and Annex A and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.

(c) This order is effective July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

STEPHEN SMITH,  
*Executive Director*

**Fiscal Note:** Fiscal Note 48-507 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulation.

**Annex A**

**TITLE 58. RECREATION**

**PART III. GAME COMMISSION**

**CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING**

**Subchapter A. GENERAL**

**§ 141.4. Hunting hours.**

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and mammals may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Appendix G. HUNTING HOURS**

**HUNTING HOURS TABLE  
FOR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
July 1—6	5:06	9:02
July 7—13	5:13	8:59
July 14—20	5:19	8:54
July 21—27	5:25	8:48
July 28—Aug. 3	5:31	8:41
Aug. 4—10	5:38	8:33
Aug. 11—17	5:44	8:23
Aug. 18—24	5:51	8:13
Aug. 25—31	5:58	8:02
Sept. 1—7	6:04	7:51
Sept. 8—14	6:11	7:40
Sept. 15—21	6:17	7:28
Sept. 22—28	6:24	7:16
Sept. 29—Oct. 5	6:31	7:05
Oct. 6—12	6:38	6:54
Oct. 13—19	6:45	6:44
Oct. 20—26	6:53	6:34
Oct. 27—Nov. 2	7:01	6:26
Nov. 3—9 **Ends	6:09	5:19
Nov. 10—16	6:17	5:13
Nov. 17—23	6:25	5:08
Nov. 24—30	6:32	5:06
Dec. 1—7	6:39	5:05
Dec. 8—14	6:44	5:06
Dec. 15—21	6:49	5:09

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
Dec. 22—28	6:51	5:13
Dec. 29—Jan. 4	6:52	5:19
Jan. 5—11	6:52	5:20
Jan. 12—18	6:51	5:27
Jan. 19—25	6:48	5:34
Jan. 26—Feb. 1	6:43	5:43
Feb. 2—8	6:37	5:51
Feb. 9—15	6:30	5:59
Feb. 16—22	6:21	6:08
Feb. 23—Mar. 1	6:12	6:16
Mar. 2—8	6:01	6:23
Mar. 9—15 *Begins	6:51	7:31
Mar. 16—22	6:40	7:38
Mar. 23—29	6:28	7:46
Mar. 30—Apr. 5	6:17	7:53
Apr. 6—12	6:06	8:00
Apr. 13—19	5:55	8:07
Apr. 20—26	5:45	8:14
Apr. 27—May 3	5:35	8:21
May 4—10	5:26	8:28
May 11—17	5:19	8:35
May 18—24	5:12	8:42
May 25—31	5:07	8:48
June 1—7	5:03	8:53
June 8—14	5:01	8:57
June 15—21	5:01	9:01
June 22—28	5:02	9:03
June 29—30	5:04	9:03

Daylight Saving Time:

Begins\*

Ends\*\*

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS  
TABLE FOR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH  
JUNE 30, 2025**

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
July 1—6	5:06	8:32
July 7—13	5:13	8:29
July 14—20	5:19	8:24
July 21—27	5:25	8:18
July 28—Aug. 3	5:31	8:11
Aug. 4—10	5:38	8:03
Aug. 11—17	5:44	7:53
Aug. 18—24	5:51	7:43
Aug. 25—31	5:58	7:32
Sept. 1—7	6:04	7:21
Sept. 8—14	6:11	7:10
Sept. 15—21	6:17	6:58

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Begin A.M.</i>	<i>End P.M.</i>
Sept. 22—28	6:24	6:46
Sept. 29—Oct. 5	6:31	6:35
Oct. 6—12	6:38	6:24
Oct. 13—19	6:45	6:14
Oct. 20—26	6:53	6:04
Oct. 27—Nov. 2	7:01	5:56
Nov. 3—9 **Ends	6:09	4:49
Nov. 10—16	6:17	4:43
Nov. 17—23	6:25	4:38
Nov. 24—30	6:32	4:36
Dec. 1—7	6:39	4:35
Dec. 8—14	6:44	4:36
Dec. 15—21	6:49	4:39
Dec. 22—28	6:51	4:43
Dec. 29—Jan. 4	6:52	4:49
Jan. 5—11	6:52	4:50
Jan. 12—18	6:51	4:47
Jan. 19—25	6:48	5:04
Jan. 26—Feb. 1	6:43	5:13
Feb. 2—8	6:37	5:21
Feb. 9—15	6:30	5:29
Feb. 16—22	6:21	5:38
Feb. 23—Mar. 1	6:12	5:46
Mar. 2—8	6:01	5:53
Mar. 9—15 *Begins	6:51	7:01
Mar. 16—22	6:40	7:08
Mar. 23—29	6:28	7:16
Mar. 30—Apr. 5	6:17	7:37
Apr. 6—12	6:06	7:30
Apr. 13—19	5:55	7:37
Apr. 20—26	5:45	7:44
Apr. 27—May 3	5:35	7:51
May 4—10	5:26	7:58
May 11—17	5:19	8:05
May 18—24	5:12	8:12
May 25—31	5:07	8:18
June 1—7	5:03	8:23
June 8—14	5:01	8:27
June 15—21	5:01	8:37
June 22—28	5:02	8:33
June 29—30	5:04	8:33

Daylight Saving Time:

Begins\*

Ends\*\*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 24-758. Filed for public inspection May 31, 2024, 9:00 a.m.]

**Title 58—RECREATION**

**GAME COMMISSION**

**[ 58 PA. CODE CH. 141 ]**

**Hunting and Trapping; Small Game**

To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission (Commission) at its April 13, 2024, meeting amends § 141.28 (relating to wild pheasant recovery areas) to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate wild pheasant recovery areas (WPRAs) to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits.

This final-form rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

The authority for this final-form rulemaking is 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) (code).

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 54 Pa.B. 1332 (March 16, 2024).

*1. Purpose and Authority*

Pheasant hunting within a WPRAs has historically been limited to youth participants who are authorized by permit to hunt in designated pheasant hunt zones within the Central Susquehanna WPRAs only. Youth participants are selected for WPRAs hunting access permits through a raffle conducted by the Commission. The Commission has determined that these restrictions are no longer necessary because the biological impacts of hunting on wild pheasant populations can be adequately controlled by limiting harvest to male pheasants and by following an annual executive order process specifying whether a season is to be opened and (if opened) the season length and bag limit that will apply. Therefore, the Commission amends § 141.28 to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate WPRAs to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits. As a result of this regulatory change, all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants Statewide will also be allowed to participate in pheasant hunting within WPRAs, subject to landowner permission.

Section 322(c)(4) of the code (relating to powers and duties of commission) specifically authorizes the Commission to “[d]efine geographic limitations or restrictions.” Section 2102(c) of the code (relating to regulations) directs that “[t]he commission shall promulgate regulations concerning the transportation, introduction into the wild, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale or purchase of game or wildlife or the disturbing of game or wildlife in their natural habitat.” Section 2102(a) of the code provides that “[t]he commission shall promulgate such regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate concerning game or wildlife and hunting or furtaking in this Commonwealth, including regulations relating to the protection, preservation and management of game or wildlife and game or wildlife habitat, permitting or prohibiting hunting or furtaking, the ways, manner, methods and means of hunting or furtaking, and the health and safety of persons who hunt or take wildlife or may be in the vicinity of persons who hunt or take game or wildlife in this Commonwealth.” The amendments to § 141.28 are adopted under this authority.

*2. Regulatory Requirements*

This final-form rulemaking amends § 141.28 to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide

the Director the authority to annually designate WPRAs to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits. As a result of this regulatory change, all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants Statewide will also be allowed to participate in pheasant hunting within WPRAs, subject to landowner permission.

*3. Persons Affected*

Persons concerned with hunting pheasants in any area designated as a WPRAs within this Commonwealth will be affected by this final-form rulemaking.

*4. Comment and Response Summary*

There were no official comments received on this final-form rulemaking.

*5. Cost and Paperwork Requirements*

This final-form rulemaking should not result in any additional cost or paperwork.

*6. Effective Date*

This final-form rulemaking will be effective upon final-form publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and will remain in effect until changed by the Commission.

*7. Contact Person*

For further information about this final-form rulemaking, contact Jason L. DeCoskey, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526.

*Findings*

The Commission finds that:

(1) Public notice of intention to adopt the administrative amendments adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law, and the regulations thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).

(2) The adoption of the amendments of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for the administration and enforcement of the authorizing statute.

*Order*

The Commission, acting under authorizing statute, orders that:

(a) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapter 141, are amended by amending § 141.28 to read as set forth in Annex A, with ellipses referring to the existing text of the regulations.

(b) The Executive Director of the Commission shall certify this order and Annex A and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.

(c) This order shall become effective upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

STEPHEN SMITH,  
*Executive Director*

**Fiscal Note:** Fiscal Note 48-505 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulation.

**Annex A**

**TITLE 58. RECREATION**

**PART III. GAME COMMISSION**

**CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING**

**Subchapter B. SMALL GAME**

**§ 141.28. Wild pheasant recovery areas.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Prohibitions.* It is unlawful to:

(1) Release artificially propagated pheasants any time within any area designated as a WPRAs.

(2) Hunt pheasants within any area designated as a WPRAs, except the Director may authorize limited pheasant hunting opportunities in one or more WPRAs. During any year pheasant hunting opportunities are authorized in one or more WPRAs, the Director will designate the WPRAs where the season will be established, the dates of the season, and the daily bag limit.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 24-759. Filed for public inspection May 31, 2024, 9:00 a.m.]

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