

Bowhunting North America 2013-2014

Our annual overview of bowhunting forecasts, season dates, and regs across the continent.

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Welcome to our annual overview of seasons (archery and others with high bowhunter participation), basic bow and projectile regulations, and information about the most popular or unique bowhunting species for each state, province, or territory. Where wildlife officials have forecasts available, we also provide a look at expected bowhunting conditions for 2013 and beyond. This is a great first step for assessing the many enticing possibilities, then narrowing down the opportunities that meet your goals.

All dates given are 2013 unless otherwise noted. Some seasons and applications dates were not set by press time, so we include 2012-2013 information for reference of typical timeframes to help you plan for next year.

Be aware that many management areas and other sectors have area-specific regulations that differ from general regulations. And, remember that laws, fees, and seasons can change at any time.

As we caution every year, be sure to consult state/provincial/territorial websites and land managers for the latest information. Know before you go.

USA 2013-2014

Alabama

A long season, abundant deer populations throughout the state, a generous bag limit, plenty of public land, and reasonable license fees make Alabama an excellent bowhunting destination, especially for out-of-staters, as non-resident hunters can bowhunt over 755,000 acres of public WMAs simply by purchasing a state all-game hunting license and a \$16.70 WMA license. An additional 420,000 acres of USFS land is open for bowhunting and only requires the purchase of a state hunting license.

Alabama's bow season runs from mid October through the end of January for the majority of the state and late October through early February for a portion of southeastern Alabama. Hunters are allowed two antlered bucks of choice and one antlered buck with four or more antler points on at least one main beam, for a total of three antlered bucks for the year. Plus significant either-sex opportunities are offered throughout the Bow and Arrow season (i.e., two-deer-a-day bag), making it one of the country's most liberal deer seasons.

Alabama's northeast, northwest, west central, and east central regions remain the premier trophy-producing areas, though good quality deer can be found statewide, says Deer Studies Project Leader Chris Cook. In most years, the southern half of the state produces the highest deer harvests, and the central and northwestern parts of the state produce better quality deer, he says.

Interest in Quality Deer Management remains at an all-time high, and private or leased properties managed for quality bucks are among the best places to hunt. In general, public hunting lands in Alabama are underutilized by bowhunters. Hunting pressure is low and opportunities are ample in most areas. Some of the public areas with low bowhunting pressure include: Black Warrior, Choccolocco, Coosa, Freedom Hills, James D. Martin-Skyline, Lauderdale, Mulberry Fork, Oakmulgee, and Scotch WMAs. Areas that offer a shot at a better-quality buck include: Barbour, Black Warrior, Coosa, Freedom Hills, Geneva State Forest, James D. Martin-Skyline, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Sam R. Murphy, William R. Ireland, Sr.-Cahaba River, and Wolf Creek WMAs. Both crossbows and spears are permitted during the Bow and Arrow season.

The outlook for the 2013-2014 season is good, says Cook. “The 2012-13 hunting season was considered average based on the number of deer harvested. Through June, most of the state has had very good growing conditions for browse—ample rainfall, mild temperatures—which should translate to healthy, well-conditioned deer entering the 2013-14 hunting season.”

Please note that a few counties in southwest Alabama will shift 10 days from the front end of the traditional archery deer season dates to the first few days of February. Instead of the traditional Oct. 15-Jan. 31, this area’s season will run Oct. 25-Feb. 10.

There will be special archery-only deer hunts at Oak Mountain State Park near Birmingham again this year. For more details on this and other hunts, contact Bowhunters of Alabama (BHA) Urban Deer Control Program (UDCP) Director Mike McAlpine (205-296-3775; alpinelec@bellsouth.net), or visit BHA’s website (bowhuntersofalabama.org) for more information.

Wild turkey populations are good throughout the state. Most of the state offers a spring season only, but a few counties have a fall season as well. The fall turkey season in Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega counties has been shortened and split to run Nov. 23-30 and Dec. 21-Jan. 1.

Effective for 2013-2014 hunting season, all deer (antlered and unantlered) and turkey hunters are required by regulation to report their harvests. The new Game Check system is in addition to the deer and turkey harvest record in place since 2007. Hunters must enter their harvests into the DCNR harvest database within 24 hours. The simplest route is with the free smart phone apps available at outdooralabama.com. Harvests also can be entered at the ADCNR website, outdooralabama.com, or by phone at 1-800-888-7690. Upon completion, hunters will receive a confirmation code that must be entered in the corresponding blank on their harvest record. The new Game Check system promises to provide critical information that will help manage deer and turkey resources for future generations.

Alabama State law prohibits hunters from hunting in an area where bait is present or be aided by the influence of the bait. Because it is difficult to delineate where a person may hunt in relation to supplemental feed, a new regulation was put in place beginning with the 2013-2014 hunting season to address this issue. Consult the regs for more details.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 15-Jan. 31 for the majority of state; Oct. 25-Feb. 10 for Baldwin, Escambia, Mobile, and Washington Counties, as well as portions of Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Covington, Monroe, and Wilcox Counties.

Limit: Majority of the state—2 deer per day, only 1 may be an antlered buck; 2 antlered bucks of choice and 1 antlered buck with 4+ points on at least one main beam, for a total of 3 antlered

bucks for the year. Portion of northern Alabama—2 deer per day, one antlered and one antlerless; 2 antlered bucks of choice and 1 antlered buck with 4+ points on at least one main beam, for a total of 3 antlered bucks for the year.

Fees: Res. \$25.05. Non-res. \$287.45 (annual), \$125.40 (3-day), \$177.65 (10-day). No license required for res. 65+ and children under age 16.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Nov. 23-30 and Dec. 21-Jan. 1, Clarke, Clay, Covington, Monroe, Randolph, and Talladega counties. Spring Mar. 15-Apr. 30 (varies by county).

Limit: 1 per day, 5 total for fall and spring seasons combined, gobblers only.

Fees: Same as deer.

WILD HOGS

Season: No closed season during daylight hours.

Limit: No bag limit.

Fees: Same as deer.

ALLIGATOR (Res. only)

Season: Mobile Delta (nighttime only), Sunset Aug. 15-Sunrise Aug. 18; Sunset Aug. 22-Sunrise Aug. 25. Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, & Russell counties (nighttime only) Sunset Aug. 9-Sunrise Aug. 25. Dallas and Wilcox counties, and Monroe County north of Hwy. 84 (nighttime only), Sunset Aug. 15-Sunrise Aug. 18; Sunset Aug. 22-Sunrise Aug. 25.

Applications: Must register on-line at www.outdooralabama.com between 8 a.m. on June 4 and 8 a.m. on July 12, 2013.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs. within user's normal draw length for compound bows, recurves, and longbows; 90 percent maximum letoff at full draw. Bow draw locks illegal.

Arrows: Minimum length 20 inches from nock end to end of shaft. Crossbow bolts or arrows must be at least 14 inches in length from nock slot to end of shaft.

Broadheads: 100-grain minimum weight, 7/8-inch minimum cutting diameter (all broadheads), .015-inch minimum blade thickness on fixed-blade broadheads, and .025-inch minimum blade thickness on expandable broadheads.

Crossbows: Legal for all hunters with open season dates Oct. 15-Jan. 31. Minimum peak tension of 100 lbs. at normal draw length. Must be equipped with a working safety.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, but all hunters born after 9/1/77 must complete a state-certified hunter education course before buying a license.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 60,400 (2011-2012 hunter mail survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters of Alabama; bowhuntersofalabama.org.

Info/licenses: Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, 64 N. Union St., Ste. 567, Montgomery, AL 36730; (800) 848-6887; www.outdooralabama.com. Licenses are sold at 950 locations, including all county Probate Officer/License Commissioner offices, marinas, sporting goods retailers, by phone at (888) 848-6887, and at www.outdooralabama.com/licenses.

Alaska

Alaska has 12 species of big game animals spread across 365,000,000 acres, an area one-fifth the size of the entire United States. Big game densities are generally much lower than in the Lower 48. Many big game species in Alaska make long movements between seasonal ranges. The key

to successful big game hunting in Alaska is in doing your homework to determine both the best areas and times to hunt the species you are seeking.

Because Alaska is such a big state, the best advice to bowhunters is to visit the state's website (www.adfg.alaska.gov), select a GMU to hunt, and then contact the local biologist and state trooper in those areas. Hunting opportunities can vary depending on residency, so confirm your status before choosing units or setting dates. Several management areas and GMUs offer archery-only hunts.

Moose are the most sought-after big game animal in Alaska. Hunters typically harvest 7,000 of Alaska's estimated 175,000 moose each year. Moose are distributed throughout the state except on the Aleutian Islands. South-central Alaska has the greatest densities, but good populations are found in the interior, western, and Arctic Alaska as well. The southeastern part has limited moose hunting opportunities. The Anchorage/Fairbanks areas generally are best Sept. 1-20. Fly-in hunts to more remote areas of the Alaska Peninsula provide some of the best trophy opportunities.

Caribou in Alaska are distributed in 32 herds totaling approximately 950,000 animals, with about 22,000 harvested each year. Caribou hunters traditionally experience feast or famine depending upon whether they are hunting where caribou are moving through, or in an area away from the herd's location. Again, doing your homework with local area biologists and air taxi operators can make the difference between success and failure. The largest herds are the Western Arctic (northwest Alaska), Porcupine (northeast Alaska), and Mulchatna herds (southwest Alaska).

Black-tailed deer are a largely underutilized resource. Bag limits are often liberal, including up to five antlered deer in some areas, with an average 12,330 harvested annually. Same-day-airborne hunting of deer is allowed. Best bets lie in near Yakutat, in Prince William Sound, and Kodiak and Afognak Islands.

An estimated 100,000 black bears inhabit Alaska. Black bear hunting over bait is becoming more popular with bowhunters, with big bruins taken on Prince of Wales and the Quin Island areas in the southeast. The best times are normally the first two weeks in May. An IBEP Card is required, and a department-approved bear baiting course is required for certain areas of the state.

Hunters who plan to bait for black bears in some units must provide a global positioning system (GPS) format of latitude and longitude for each baiting station on a form provided by the Department of Fish and Game before a baiting permit will be issued. Brown/grizzly bears may not be hunted over bait or scent lures at any time.

Brown bear (grizzly) populations are holding stable at about 30,000. Although distributed statewide, highest densities are on Kodiak Island, Admiralty Island, and the Alaska Peninsula.

Muskox range over wind-swept western and arctic coasts of Alaska from Nunivak Island to the Canadian border.

Alaska doesn't lend itself well to day hunts or short weekend hunts for most big game species. Many hunters find it best to plan and save up money and vacation time for one or two good 5-day or week long hunts a year. Given the uncertainty of weather and animal movement patterns, any additional days you are able to spend in a particular hunting area can really increase your odds of success. To help you plan your hunt, the ADF&G offers a "Plan Your Hunt" workbook on its site under the "Hunt Planning" item on the left navigation bar.

Be aware that in addition to a hunting license, nonresident hunters (and residents for some species) must buy appropriate locking tags to hunt big game in Alaska—this tag is locked

on the animal immediately after the kill and must remain there until the animal is processed or exported. See regs for more information.

Since January 1, 2013, foot gear with felt soles or other absorbent fibrous material are no longer be allowed for hunting.

ADF&G began notifying hunters who applied for big game drawing hunts, Tier I and Tier II hunts by e-mail for the first time this year in mid-February. Links to the results were also posted on the ADF&G website at hunt.alaska.gov and in the highlights section on the department's home page (adfg.alaska.gov).

Season dates listed below are for general seasons. Additional opportunities on other species may be available. Visit www.adfg.alaska.gov for more information.

DEER

Season: Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1-5 (varies by unit).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$150 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$200 tag.

BROWN BEAR

Season: Dates vary by unit (year-round in some areas).

Limit: 1 every 1 to 4 years (some areas 1 or 2 every year).

Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$25 tag. Non-res. \$85 plus \$500 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$650 tag.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Dates vary by unit (year-round in some areas).

Limit: 1-3 (varies by unit).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$225 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$300 tag. (Some tags free to residents in registration permit hunts.)

BISON

Season: Generally Sept. 1-Mar. 31 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU; other times by special authorization).

Limit: 1 every 10 years.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$450 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$650 tag.

CARIBOU

Season: Dates vary by unit (year-round in some areas).

Limit: 1-no limit (varies by unit).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$325 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$425 tag.

ELK

Season: Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 (either sex).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$300 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$400 tag.

MOOSE

Season: July 1-Apr. 15 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$400 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$500 tag.

MUSKOX (res. only)

Season: Aug. 1-Mar. 15

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$500 bull tag or \$25 cow tag. Non-res. \$85 plus \$1,100 bull tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$1,500 bull tag.

DALL SHEEP

Season: Aug. 1-Apr. 30 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 full-curl ram (more in some res.-only areas).

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$425 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$550 tag.

GOAT

Season: Aug. 1-Mar. 20 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1-2.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$85 plus \$300 tag. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$400 tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. peak draw for black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep and caribou; 50 lbs. for mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox, and bison.

Broadheads: The arrow tipped with a broadhead must be at least 20 inches in overall length and at least 300 grains in total weight—no barbed broadheads. The broadhead will be a fixed, replaceable or mechanical/retractable blade type when taking black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep, and caribou; a fixed or replaceable blade type broadhead for taking mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox, and bison.

Crossbows: Crossbows are illegal in “archery-only” hunts and areas, but can be used where guns and bows are legal weapons as in any “open season” hunts. Must have 100-pound or greater peak draw weight with at least a 14-inch draw length. Bolts must be at least 16 inches long, tipped with a broadhead, and at least 300 grains in weight. Electronic devices illegal except scopes or electronic sights that do not project light externally.

Bowhunter education permit: IBEP or equivalent certification is required to hunt big game, hunt in weapons-restricted hunts, apply for archery draw permits, or hunt black bears over bait in some units.

Special regulations: Non-residents must hire a registered guide to hunt sheep, goats and brown bear. Some non-residents with relatives in Alaska may be exempt from some guide requirements. Non-res. foreigners must have a guide for all big game. Big game taken by hunters under age 10 are counted against the bag limit of the adult supervising the hunt.

Bowhunting organization(s): Alaskan Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 220047, Anchorage, AK 99522-0047; (907) 929-3600; Fax (907) 334-9691; www.akbowhunters.com.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 7,000 out of 18,585 all weapons big game tags sold (5,202 res., 13,383 non-res.); no separate license for bowhunting.

Info/licenses, contact: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, P.O. Box 115526, 1255 W. 8th St., Juneau, AK 99811-5526; (907) 465-4190; www.adfg.alaska.gov.

For information on where you can hunt, contact: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, (907) 271-5960; U.S. Forest Service, (907) 586-8806; National Wildlife Refuges, (800) 478-1456; DNR Public Information Center/Alaska State Parks (Anchorage), (907) 269-8400. Military and Regional Native Corps land also is available for hunting.

Arizona

There are no significant changes to archery hunting or archery seasons in Arizona for 2013-2014. Arizona's minimum draw weight for buffalo is 40 lbs.

For deer, Arizona continues to offer most of its archery deer seasons as over-the-counter; however, permit-tags for a few units (3A/3C, 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B) are issued through the Big Game Draw (deadline was June 11, 2013).

Hunters are advised that some season structures (dates) may have changed, which includes the lengthening of seasons in some units. All harvest data and population survey data can be found on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's website in the *Hunt Arizona-2012 Edition* document (The *Hunt Arizona-2013 Edition* is not available yet), www.azgfd.gov/h_f/Hunt_Arizona.shtml.

Mule deer, the state's most abundant big-game animal and found throughout the state, has an estimated population of 90,000-100,000. Rocky Mountain mule deer occur primarily in northern Arizona above the Mogollon Rim in GMUs 1 through 13, while desert mule deer are found in all of the more southern units (15 through 46). All hunters took 7,026 muleys in 2011 with 790 of these taken by archers (2012 data unavailable at press time). In recent years, bowhunters have been most successful in units 12A, 13A, 27, 29, 30A, 30B, 35A, and 45.

The statewide population of pronghorn is estimated at 10,000 to 12,000 post-hunt adults. In 2011, hunters took 488 bucks; 101 of these were taken by archers (2012 data unavailable at press time). Arizona does not offer doe hunts.

Arizona's elk population is approximately 30,000 to 35,000 post-hunt adults. In 2012, archers took 1,512 bull elk and 292 cow elk.

Detailed hunting information written by Arizona's wildlife managers, covering hunt forecasts, areas to hunt, access information, and tips to improve hunt success for 80 game management units statewide, is available at www.azgfd.gov. Click on the "Hunting & Fishing" link, then follow the hunting options. The latest *Hunt Arizona* document as well as draw and bonus points information can also be found on the website.

Most National Forests in Arizona have developed new travel management plans; be sure to consult the local Forests for the latest updates.

This year's application deadlines were June 11 for deer, fall javelin, bighorn sheep, and fall bison; Feb. 12 for pronghorn and elk; and Oct. 8 for spring turkey, spring javelina, spring bison, and spring bear. Expect similar timeframes for 2014.

DEER

Season: Archery (units vary, check regs) Aug. 23-Sept. 12; Dec. 13, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014 (inclusive); Aug. 23, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014 (Fort Huachuca). Archers are no longer required to phone in archery deer harvests; returning the hunter questionnaire is encouraged.

Limit: 1 per calendar year (by either archery or firearm).

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$34.75 archery deer non-permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$225.25 archery deer non-permit-tag. Unit 12A requires a Unit 12A (Kaibab North) Habitat Management Stamp (\$15).

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 23-Sept. 5 (most units).

Limit: 1 buck per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$85 pronghorn hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$485 pronghorn hunt permit-tag.

ELK

Season: Archery Sept. 13-26 and Nov. 15-28 (earliest and latest dates). Over-the-counter opportunities are also available in specific areas Jan. 1-Mar. 31 and Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (inclusive).

Limit: 1 per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$121.50 elk hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$595 elk hunt permit-tag.

TURKEY

Season: Archery Aug. 23-Sept. 12, Aug. 30-Sept. 12 Camp Navajo; Spring Apr. 24-May 22, 2014 (proposed; inclusive); Archery Spring May 9-22, 2014 (proposed dates).

Limit: 1 per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$18 turkey non-permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$70.25 turkey non-permit-tag.

JAVELINA

Season: Archery Jan. 1-23, 2014 (proposed). Fall is juniors only, Oct. 4-17 or Nov. 22-28 (inclusive) depending on unit.

Limit: 1 per calendar year (whether during spring or fall).

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$28.75 javelina hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$105 javelina hunt permit-tag.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Most seasons run Dec. 1-31 desert; a few units open in October or November, or are only a 2-week season.

Limit: 1 desert per lifetime; 1 Rocky Mountain per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$272.50 bighorn hunt permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$1,407.50 bighorn hunt permit-tag.

BISON

Season: Fall Sept. 6-Dec. 8 (inclusive). Spring Jan. 1-June 13 (inclusive, earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus buffalo hunt permit-tag—\$1,095 bull, \$659.50 cow or cow/yearling, \$362.75 yearling. Non-res. \$151.25 plus buffalo hunt permit-tag—\$5,452.25 bull, \$3,262.75 cow or cow/yearling, \$1,754.75 yearling.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Archery Aug. 23-Oct. 3 (inclusive, varies by unit). Fall General Aug. 9-Dec. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing). Spring Archery Mar. 21-July 31 (proposed, inclusive).

Hunters must call (800) 970-BEAR before hunting to determine if desired hunt is still open and to report bear harvests. All hunters must present their bear to the AZGFD for physical inspection.

Limit: 1 per calendar year.

Fees: Res. \$32.25 plus \$22.25 bear non-permit-tag or \$29.75 for a spring permit-tag. Non-res. \$151.25 plus \$237.50 bear non-permit-tag or \$245 for a spring permit-tag.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014, statewide; dates vary in some units. Units 11M, 25M, 26M, 38M, and 47M archery-only. Hunters must call (877) 438-0447 before hunting to determine if desired hunt is still open and to report mountain lion harvests. All hunters must present their lion to the AZGFD for physical inspection.

Limit: 1. Some units have multiple-lion harvest objectives.

Fees: Res \$32.25 plus \$14.50 lion non-permit-tag. Non-res \$151.25 plus \$225 lion non-permit-tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. for buffalo.

Broadheads: Minimum cutting diameter 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges.

Crossbows: Allowed during some general firearms seasons, during H.A.M. (Handgun, Archery, Muzzleloader), and during archery-only seasons with special disability crossbow permit. Minimum draw weight 125 lbs., bolts minimum length 16 inches.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in '12: About 30,000 (est. 2,000 non-res., based on archery deer tag sales and hunters who chose archery as their first hunt choice for elk).

Bowhunting organization(s): Arizona Bowhunters Association; www.arizonabowhunters.org.

Info/licenses: Arizona Game and Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Hwy., Phoenix, AZ 85086; (602) 942-3000; www.azgfd.gov.

Arkansas

A five-month-plus season, liberal bag limits, and a deer population estimated at 1 million animals make Arkansas an attractive deer hunting destination. Over 280,000 acres of state-owned Natural Areas and Wildlife Management Areas, 350,000 acres within the National Wildlife Refuges and two National Forests are available for public hunting. Maps of these areas as well as Arkansas Game and Fish Commission lakes and U.S. Corps of Engineers lakes are available online.

Archery season will begin September 28, 2013 and will end February 28, 2014. The 2012 archery season ended with a total of 28,922 deer harvested statewide with archery tackle.

A total of 213,230 deer were harvest in 2012-2013, well over the 192,746 deer harvested during the 2011-2012 season. This beats 1999, the old record deer harvest, of 195,000 deer checked in, the most in a single year since the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission began keeping records in 1938. Archers take roughly 12 percent (9 percent vertical bows, 3 percent crossbows) of the total deer harvest each year.

Why the big jump in deer taken by hunters? Three basic reasons, according to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. One is deer are plentiful in the state, even over-abundant in places. Another reason is weather was favorable for deer hunting with few rainy days until the Christmas evening snowstorm hit. And limits and seasons are more liberal than in past years. There was a six-deer season limit this year although most deer zones have lower limits. Hunters can go to multiple zones to reach that limit of six, but AGFC staff members believe a comparatively small number of outdoors people reach that limit of six.

The deer checked for the season showed Union County again the No. 1 deer locale. Surprisingly in second place was Washington County in northwest Arkansas. The other top eight counties for 2012-2013 were all in south Arkansas, all in or partly in Deer Zone 12: Drew, Bradley, Cleveland, Dallas, Grant, Clark, Calhoun and Ouachita.

Bowhunters may harvest deer according to archery limits during open firearms seasons, but must wear hunter orange.

South Arkansas holds the highest deer density, but hunters will find best-quality bucks in the Delta Region because of that area's rich soils and high-quality food sources.

Because Arkansas' robust deer populations also extend into urban areas, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission coordinates with local towns and the Arkansas Bowhunters Association to put on highly regulated archery hunts in urban areas to reduce nuisance deer and allow hunters an added opportunity. (Applications are typically due in early June.) Hunts are scheduled for Sept. 7, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014 in Bull Shoals, Cherokee Village, Fairfield Bay, Fort

Smith/Barling, Horseshoe Bend, Lakeview, and Russellville. Only longbows, recurve bows and compound bows with at least a 40-pound pull are allowed for the hunt, and hunters must pass a shooting proficiency test with their bow at the orientation.

Some WMAs host youth-only deer seasons. Call (501) 223-6300 for more information.

Though whitetails are the most prominent game animal in the state, many bowhunters go for feral hogs. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission highly promotes the harvest of feral hogs because they destroy habitat and compete with native wildlife. Feral hogs have no bag limits and can be harvested on private property throughout the year.

For the latest bow seasons and regulations information, please visit www.agfc.com.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 28-Feb. 28, 2014.

Limit: 6 (specific doe and buck limits/mixes vary depending on zones and WMAs).

Fees: Res. Sportsman's License \$25. Non-res. annual all-game hunting license \$300, 5-day all-game \$150, 3-day all-game \$100, 1-day all-game \$50.

BEAR

Season: Archery/Crossbow Oct. 1-Nov. 30 Bear Zones 1 and 2. Closed in Bear Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6, and 7.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as deer.

TURKEY

Season: Spring 2014 Apr. 19-27, Apr. 19-May 4 depending on zone. Zone 1A closed.

Limit: Statewide limit 2 gobblers or bearded hens, no jakes. Specific limits by zone, check regs.

Fees: Same as deer.

ELK (Public land—res. only. Non-res. private land with landowner permission.)

Season: Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Oct. 7-11, Oct. 28-Nov. 1 depending on zone.

Limit: 1

Fees: Same as deer.

Application deadline: End of May.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during archery seasons, except for elk. Must have minimum draw weight of 125 lbs. and mechanical safety.

Bowhunter education permit: If born after 1968, you must carry proof of hunter education training. Hunters under 16 do not need to have a card if they are under the direct supervision of a holder of a valid hunting license at least 21 years of age.

Licenses sold in '12: No specific bowhunting licenses. Generally 300,000 hunting licenses annually.

Bowhunting organization(s): Arkansas Bowhunters Association;
www.arkansasbowhunters.org.

Info/licenses: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205; (501) 223-6300; www.agfc.com.

California

With numerous archery-only tags throughout California, bowhunters have many choices of excellent hunting opportunities. California is the only state in which hunters can harvest a tule elk, making it a highly sought after elk hunters destination. Some of the most sought-after are the archery-only tule elk tags in the Owens Valley.

In 2012, hunters took an estimated 32,954 deer (535 does, 32,419 bucks), an increase over 2011's 28,927 deer (490 does and 28,437 bucks). The overall statewide hunter success was estimated to be 18.9 percent (PLMs excluded). The estimated archery kill was 1,014 deer (PLMs excluded). The north and north central regions saw the greatest harvests.

In 1984, the statewide bear population was estimated to be less than 10,000. The current estimate is between 25,000 and 35,000. Black bears are being observed in areas where they were not seen 50 years ago along the Central Coast and Transverse mountain ranges of Southern California. Between 25,000 and 30,000 black bears are now estimated to occupy 52,000 square miles in California, 26,390 of them in bear hunting zones. In 2011 1,745 bears were taken, about 7 percent of them by archers. Siskiyou, Shasta, and Trinity counties accounted for 14%, 12% and 9% of the total bear harvest, respectively. These northern counties provide some of the better bear habitat in the state—areas of mixed aged conifers interspersed with open meadows and mixed hardwood forests that provide ample amounts of calorie-dense berries and nuts.

With no bag limits, wild pigs offer year-round opportunities. Hunters can find them in 56 of the state's 58 counties in a variety of habitats. Although inhabiting mainly private lands, many public areas (Tehama, Cow Mountain, and Laguna Mountain) offer a fairly high pig tag return rate. The military bases (Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts) are responsible for 35 percent of the public land take.

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has been renamed to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Game wardens will now be called wildlife officers. Please note the change of address and website information.

DEER

Season: Archery Area-Specific Aug. 17-Dec. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing date; varies by zone or hunt).

Limit: 2.

Fees: Res. Hunting \$45.93, First Deer Tag Application \$30.50, Second Deer Tag Application \$37.80. Non-res. Hunting \$159.58, First or Second Deer Tag Application \$269.74.

BEAR

Season: Archery Aug. 17-Sept. 8.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. Hunting \$45.93 + \$44.54 bear tag. Non res. Hunting \$159.58 + \$ 283.90 bear tag.

ELK

Season: Archery July 31-Oct. 9 (earliest opening and latest closing date; varies by region and sub species); Muzzleloader/Archery Oct. 26-Nov. 3.

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$414.25. Non-res. \$1,265.50 (only 1 non-res. tag awarded annually).

Application deadline: June 2

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug.10-18.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$139.31. Non-res. \$426.75.

Application deadline: June 2

TURKEY [2012 dates]

Season: Fall Nov. 10-25, 2012; Spring Mar. 30-May 5, 2013; Archery-only Mar. 30-May 19, 2013.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 1 bearded bird per day, 3 per season.

Fees: Upland Game Bird Stamp \$9.21.

WILD PIG

Season: Open all year.

Limit: No daily bag or possession limit.

Fees: Res. single tag \$21.86. Non-res. single tag \$73.44.

NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 17-Sept. 29; Dec. 7-Feb. 16, 2014 (earliest opening and latest closing date; varies by zone or hunt).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$391. Non-res. \$507.50 (up to 1 non-res. tag awarded annually).

Application deadline: June 2

Minimum draw weight: Bows must be able to cast an arrow a minimum of 130 yards.

Broadheads: Fixed-blade and mechanical broadheads that “when open will not pass through a hole 7/8 of an inch in diameter.”

Crossbows: Legal only during general firearms seasons. Valid for archery use by disabled hunters with Department-issued “Disabled Archer” permit.

Bowhunter education permit: Licenses shall be issued to hunters only upon presentation of one of the following: An annual California hunting license from a prior year or evidence of having held such a license; a two-day California nonresident hunting license issued after the 1999/2000 license year; a California hunter education completion or equivalency certificate; a certificate of competence or completion of a California approved hunter education training course from any state or province; or a current year hunting license from any state or province.

Big game application deadline: June 2, 2013 (antelope, deer, elk and sheep tags).

Est. bowhunters in '12: 12,000 (based on 2011 tag application sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): California Bowmen Hunters; www.cbhsaa.net.

Info/licenses: General Information: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-8911. Licenses: 1740 North Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834, (916) 928-5805. www.wildlife.ca.gov.

Colorado

Colorado has more than 23 million acres of public access hunting land, providing bowhunters an extensive opportunity to find a quiet place to draw in deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, or bear. The state has an estimated 266,300 elk, 408,010 mule deer, and 66,480 pronghorn. Bowhunting licenses are readily available and many seasons offer over-the-counter opportunities, allowing hunters to come to Colorado at the last minute.

Bowhunting opportunities in Colorado are holding steady in Colorado, though some pronghorn license numbers have been reduced to respond to drought impacts to herds in the southeastern part of the state. Last year in 2012, Colorado saw limited moisture after the month of April. While reservoir storage remains low around much of the state and drought is an

ongoing concern, the winter of 2012-2013 saw a little more moisture than the previous year. While it is difficult to predict the weather for the fall seasons at this time, hunters should expect that early archery seasons will see continued warm and dry conditions. That means hunters will be able to set up on limited water and wait for animals versus having to move through dark timber or across wide areas in search of game. Like last year, if dry conditions persist, hunters could see fire bans in place this fall, so be sure and check with the appropriate land management agency before the hunt.

Mule deer licenses are distributed through a limited draw process, and few leftover licenses last long when they go on sale in mid-August.

The statewide elk population is around 300,000 animals by the time the season rolls around, and archery bull and cow licenses are available over-the-counter to residents and non-residents throughout much of the state. Elk hunting options in western and central Colorado's mountains are the state's big opportunity. Limited draw areas also typically have leftover archery licenses available, and hunters should check those when the leftover list comes out in late July. Leftover Big Game Draw licenses are on sale Aug. 13 at statewide license agents and CPW offices. Over-the-Counter licenses are on sale July 9 at statewide CPW offices and license agents.

DEER

Season: Aug. 31-Sept. 29 (west of I-25 and unit 140).

Limit: 1-2, depending on license type.

Fees: Res. \$31, non-res. \$351.

PLAINS DEER

Season: East of I-25 except unit 140. There will be two or three splits within the season (three in units with both regular & late plains rifle deer seasons) to avoid archery/rifle season overlap.

Oct. 1-25, Nov. 6-30, Dec. 15-31.

Limit: 1-2, depending on license type.

Fees: Res. \$31, non-res. \$351.

ELK:

Season: Aug. 31-Sept. 29.

Limit: Varies, depending on license types.

Fees: Res. \$46; non-res. bull \$586, cow \$351.

PRONGHORN

Season: Aug. 15-31 bucks. Sept. 1-20 either-sex.

Limit: Varies, depending on license types.

Fees: Res. \$31, non-res. \$351.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 7-29.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$251, non-res. \$1,951.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN

Season: Varies by unit.

Limit: 1 every 5 years.

Fees: Res. \$251, non-res. \$1,951.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Sept. 2-23.

Limit: 1 over-the-counter; additional licenses may be available.
Fees: Res. \$41, non-res. \$351.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs. with a maximum of 80 percent letoff.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and minimum 2 steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in same plane for the entire length of cutting surface.

Crossbows: Legal only during general firearms seasons. Draw weight minimum 125 lbs., draw length minimum 14 inches from front of bow to nocking point of drawstring. Bolt minimum 16 inches long.

Hunter education permit: Required for anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1949.

Archery licenses in '12: 52,698.

Bowhunting organization(s): Colorado Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 1289, Conifer, CO 80433; (303) 697-9660; www.coloradobowhunting.org.

Info/licenses: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216; (303) 297-1192; www.wildlife.state.co.us/.

Connecticut

Despite its size, the Nutmeg State is consistently among the top states in the region in terms of overall archery kill. Deer densities are at or near problem levels in many parts of the state. Bowhunting remains an important management tool, especially in the more developed parts of the state where firearms hunting is more limited due to the density of houses. Though the land ownership pattern of mostly small, privately owned parcels also makes access sometimes problematic, it does provide sanctuaries for mature bucks like the state record-breaker buck taken in fall 2011 near East Haddam. This non-typical monster green-scored at 226 7/8, net scored at 217 3/8.

Connecticut has one of the longest bow seasons in the six-state region (Sept. 15-Jan. 31), one that includes liberal bag limits (4 deer statewide, unlimited deer in 2 of 12 deer management zones). About 1 in 3 deer taken in Connecticut in 2011 was harvested by a bowhunter. In fact, excluding landowner seasons, about half of Connecticut's deer harvest is bow-killed. In 2011, bowhunters harvested 5,103 deer. Approximately 35 percent of all bowhunters harvested two or more deer during archery seasons. Hunters overall took almost 13,000 deer statewide, the 4th-highest harvest ever.

Bowhunter success rates were highest in Zones 4B, 7, 11, and 12. Firearms seasons are more limited in Zones 11 and 12, and bowhunting seasons are longer. The archery deer harvest in Zone 11 was at least three times higher than all other zones.

Although big, quality bucks can be found anywhere, the farmland in the northwestern and northeastern regions have the highest-quality deer habitat. For higher deer densities and older deer, look to the southwest.

The statewide turkey population is estimated at approximately 35,000 birds. Harvest and brood survey information during the past several years have indicated that annual productivity was good in 2010, indicating relatively high recruitment of young birds into the 2011 spring population. Connecticut has opened more opportunities by lengthening the spring season by one week and starting it one week earlier. In 2011, 6,001 spring hunters harvested 1,424 bearded

turkeys, a 14 percent increase from 2010. The towns of Woodstock, Lebanon, Pomfret, Cornwall, and Redding reported the highest harvests.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 16-Nov. 19 and Dec. 25-31 (state lands); Sept. 16-Dec. 31 (state land bowhunting-only areas); Sept. 16-Dec. 31 (private lands); Jan. 1-31 (private lands Zones 11-12).
Limit: 4, 2 either sex and 2 antlerless. An additional one either-sex and one antlerless deer may be taken on private land in Zones 11 and 12 during January.

Fees: Res. \$41. Non-res. \$135. Junior (12-15) \$19.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Sep. 15-Nov. 19 and Dec. 25-Dec. 31 (state land); Sept. 16-Dec. 31 (state land bowhunting areas); Sept. 16-Dec. 31 (private lands); Jan. 1-Jan. 31 (private lands Zones 11-12). Spring Apr. 24-May 25, 2013.

Limit: Fall 2 either-sex. Spring 2 bearded birds on state land permits, 3 bearded birds for private land permits.

Fees: Res. \$41 plus \$19 turkey tag. Non-res. \$135 plus \$19 turkey tag. Junior (12-15) \$19 plus \$19 turkey tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have at least two blades with minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal for physically challenged hunters by permit, or for deer and turkey hunting on private land in Zones 11 and 12 during the January archery season. Crossbows must have a draw weight between 125 and 220 lbs. and permanent fixed rifle-type stock with a functional mechanical safety device. The bolt length must be at least 18 inches, excluding the broadhead, and the bolt weight must be at least 450 grains, including the broadhead. The broadhead must have at least two blades and must be at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point. Crossbows are considered loaded when fully drawn, whether or not a bolt is in place.

Bowhunter education permit: Required.

Archery deer permits in '12: 14,341.

Bowhunting organization: Connecticut Archery Association; <http://caa-archery.org/>.

Info/licenses: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106; (860) 424-3000; www.dep.state.ct.us.

Delaware

Delaware may be whitetail hunter's heaven, offering a long season (5 months), liberal bag limits, and an early enough opener that hunters have the chance to harvest a buck still in velvet. Hunters may use a crossbow throughout the five-month archery season, and the distance required to legally hunt from a house (safety zone) is 50 yards for hunters using archery equipment.

Delaware's relatively high deer densities mean the odds of filling a tag are very good. Excellent food availability (corn and soybeans), mild winters, and good habitat increase the chances of harvesting a mature buck as well. The harvest of B&C- and P&Y-caliber deer on a per-square-mile-of-area basis is comparable to that of many Midwestern states that are more commonly known for large deer. Hunters who cannot wait for their own states' deer seasons to start can take advantage of Delaware's Sept. 2 opener.

The coastal areas are still good whitetailing spots, along with Deer Management Zone 1A in northern Delaware due to accessibility difficulties to this highly urbanized region. However, if a hunter is able to find a place to hunt in this area, he or she has the opportunity to harvest older-aged bucks due to limited harvest pressure.

More good places to hunt include the early successional pine stands in Sussex County. Areas that were timbered several years ago have begun to regenerate and are now nearly inaccessible to most hunters who are unwilling/unable to work at getting into them. Those who persevere can find some good, virtually unharvested areas. However, the deer population in some areas of Sussex County, particularly WMZs 12 and 15, were impacted by Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease last year, so hunters should expect to encounter fewer deer in these areas the next few years until the population recovers.

Game Mammal Biologist Joe Rogerson says that WMZs 1A and 7 had the highest harvest density (deer harvest/square mile of deer habitat) in 2012. Both had total harvests (bucks and does) that exceeded 30 deer/square mile of deer habitat. Wildlife Management Zone 16 was the top-producing zone for older bucks. "All 18 of Delaware's Deer Management Zones offer public hunting opportunities, so folks have the opportunity to hunt virtually any region of the state," he adds.

Delaware offers plenty of economical options. Resident and non-resident licenses include two antlerless tags and two doe tags. Residents may purchase a Hunter's Choice tag, which can be used on an antlerless or antlered deer (any size) for \$10. This tag also comes with a Quality Buck tag (free) that can only be used on an antlered deer with a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. Antlered Deer tags and Quality Buck tags are \$25 each for non-residents, and hunters may purchase one of each. Both resident and non-resident hunters may purchase additional antlerless tags (unlimited) for \$10 each. This tagging structure was implemented to encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer and promote quality deer management.

Hunters who are exempt from purchasing a hunting license must obtain a free License Exempt Hunter ID Number so that wildlife officials can track their efforts.

Rogerson reports that the Division has improved its automated Hunter and Trapper registration system in which sportsman can register harvested deer, obtain a License Exempt Number, and various other things. "The website for this system has been greatly improved, and we switched from a phone system in which sportsmen had to listen to prerecorded prompts and select options by pressing keys on the phone, to a live operator based system in which people can talk to a person." <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/delhunt>

DEER

Season: Sept. 2-Jan. 31, 2014.

Limit: 4 except by using Delaware Antlerless tags, Hunter's Choice tag, Quality Buck tag, Deer Damage tags or non-res. Antlered deer tags.

Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$10 Quality Buck/Hunter's Choice tag combination. Non-res. Minimum \$130 plus \$25 Quality Buck Tag and/or \$25 antlered buck tag.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 12-May 10, 2014; Youth Day Apr. 5.

Limit: 1 bearded bird.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. License fees are reciprocal; whatever your state of residence charges nonresidents for a license is what you will pay for a non-res. Delaware license (minimum of \$130).

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs.

Broadheads: Must be at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: A crossbow may be used from Sept. 2, 2013, through Jan. 31, 2014. Crossbows must have a minimum pull weight of 125 lbs., be manufactured after 1980, and have a mechanical safety. Scopes are allowed. Transporting a crossbow on or within any vehicle while the crossbow is in the cocked position is prohibited.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 6,760 (annual hunter mail survey).

Special permits: For \$10 hunters can buy a Hunter's Choice/Quality Buck tag. Deer must have an outside spread of 15 inches or more for a Quality tag. Hunters must purchase a \$20 annual permit to hunt out of deer stands during one of the state-run shotgun deer seasons on a Wildlife Area. Hunters interested in hunting turkeys must successfully complete a Delaware approved turkey hunting education course before heading afield and a permit is required to hunt on public lands for turkeys. Permits are awarded through a preseason lottery and hunters need to submit an application by January 10, 2014.

Information/licenses: Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, 89 Kings Hwy., Dover, DE 19901; (302) 739-9912; <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/>.

Florida

Bowhunting continues to be popular in the Sunshine State, accounting for more than 10 percent of the overall deer harvested, 15 percent of the harvested does, and 25 percent of the deer taken on WMAs. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages hunting on more than 160 WMAs throughout the state, many of which offer "bow-only" hunts with several including regulations that take into account quality deer management practices. WMAs in the southern part of the state offer hunters an unusual challenge because of their open-marsh landscape. Hunting these areas requires special vehicles, and the FWC has established quotas on the number of vehicles allowed. Permits to operate track vehicles on the Rotenberger, Everglades, Francis S. Taylor and Holey Land WMAs and permits to operate airboats on the Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMAs are issued in two random drawings.

Peak rut dates vary widely in Florida, and the FWC provides a map to help hunters find that peak in their region. Go to MyFWC.com/Deer.

The Florida Buck Registry, established in 1982, provides an opportunity for hunters to register antler scores and other information about whitetails taken in Florida. To be listed in the registry, a minimum net Boone and Crockett score of 100 is needed for typical deer. Nontypical deer must score 125. According to the registry, the northwest and north central regions of the state have accounted for more than 60 percent of all records.

After whitetails, wild pigs are the second-most popular game animal hunted in Florida. On private property with landowner permission, wild pigs may be trapped and hunted year round. There is no size or bag limit, and you may harvest either sex. Also, no hunting license is required. A gun and light at night permit is not required to take wild hogs with a gun and light on private lands with landowner permission. On WMAs hogs may be taken during most hunting seasons, except spring turkey. There are also bow-only seasons, and a management area permit is required, so consult the regs for details on license requirements plus daily bag limits and minimum size limits for some WMAs.

Florida offers a unique challenge with alligator season that runs Aug. 15-Nov. 1. In 2013, FWC is offering more than 5,000 permits for the 11-week season. (They were sold out at press time.) Anyone who doesn't want to hunt but would like to assist a friend can also pay \$52 for an alligator trapping agent license. In 2012, hunters took 6,612 gators with an average length of 8 feet, 3.5 inches.

ALLIGATOR

Season: Special draw hunt, Aug. 15-Nov. 1.

Limit: 2 gators per permit, limit 1 permit in application phases I and II. Additional permits allowed in Phase III. See MyFWC.com/Alligator for more information.

Fees: Res. \$271.50. Non-res. \$1,021.50. Additional permits \$61.50 res. and non-res.

DEER

Season: Archery & Crossbow Aug. 3 – Sept. 6 in Zone A, Oct. 19-Nov. 22 in Zone B, Sept. 14-Oct. 18 in Zone C, Oct. 26-Nov. 27 and Dec. 2-6 in Zone D. Bows and crossbows may also be used during muzzleloading and general gun seasons.

Limit: 2 per day; during antlerless deer season, only 1 may be a doe; during archery and first phase of crossbow season 2 may be does. No more than 2 per day, regardless of season or permit.

Fees: Res. annual hunting license \$17 plus \$5 deer permit. Non-res. 10-day \$46.50, annual \$151.50 plus \$5 deer permit. Archery permit \$5 (not required for bows during general gun season). Crossbow permit \$5 during crossbow season. Muzzleloading permit \$5 during muzzleloading gun season. Management area permit \$26.50 required to hunt on WMAs.

TURKEY

Season: Archery & Crossbow—same as deer. Bows and crossbows may also be used to take turkeys during muzzleloading and fall turkey seasons. Spring 2014—Feb. 22-23 (youth only), Mar. 1-Apr. 6 in Zone A; Mar. 8-9 (youth only), Mar. 15-Apr. 20 in zones B, C, D (except Holmes County); Mar. 9-10 (youth only), Mar. 15-30 in Holmes County.

Limit: 1 gobbler or bearded turkey per day; 2 per combined archery, crossbow, muzzleloading gun and fall turkey seasons, and 2 during spring turkey season, except in Holmes County where there is no fall season and spring season limit is 1.

Fees: Same as for deer except for \$10 res./\$125 non-res. turkey permit in place of deer permit.

WILD HOG

Seasons: Either sex can be taken year-round (day or night) on private lands with landowner permission. Regulations and seasons vary on WMAs.

Limit: None on private lands. Size and bag limits may apply on WMAs. No season limits on private or public lands.

Fees: No res./non-res. license or permits required on private lands. On WMAs, same fees as deer except for deer permit and hunting license.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have two sharpened edges with minimum width of 7/8 inch for deer, wild hogs and turkeys.

Crossbows: May be used for deer and turkey during crossbow, muzzleloading gun, fall turkey, general gun and spring turkey seasons on private lands. On WMAs, crossbows can only be used during general gun, small game, and spring turkey seasons. Crossbows are only allowed during

archery season with a Disabled Crossbow Permit on WMAs. Legal for wild hogs on private property year-round.

Bowhunter education permit: Hunter Safety Course required for persons born on or after June 1, 1975.

Special-opportunity hunts: Available for deer, spring turkey, wild hog, dove and released quail on a few WMAs; visit MyFWC.com/Hunting or call (850) 488-8573 for more information.

Archery permits in '12: 73,642

Bowhunting organization(s): Florida Bowhunters Council; www.floridabowhunters.net. Traditional Bowhunters of Florida; www.tbof.org.

Information/licenses: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Hunting and Game Management, 2574 Seagate Dr., Ste. 101, Tallahassee, FL 32301; (850) 488-4676; MyFWC.com/Hunting.

Georgia

Georgia provides great opportunities for bowhunters, and many take up the state's invitation. The best prospects with archery equipment are whitetails and feral hogs, but archers are also harvesting turkeys, bears, small game, and alligators (quota only).

"Everything is pretty much the same in Georgia," reports Senior Wildlife Biologist Don McGowan. "Our bowhunting deer hunting participation continues to climb slowly as it seems to be catching on in popularity, and the archery deer harvest is up slightly from the previous year. We do continue to have an alligator hunting season, and it's very popular with bowhunters. Hunters have to apply on-line for a permit (www.gohuntgeorgia.com). Bowhunting for other game species is less popular in Georgia, but there are few hard-core enthusiasts for all species."

About one out of every three deer hunters uses a bow at least once during hunting season. More than 90 Wildlife Management Areas (one within an hour's drive of every Georgian) and their nearly one million acres of hunting land dot the state. Archery season opens before other seasons, and archery equipment—compounds, longbows, recurves, and crossbows—may be used during all other seasons. Plus Metro-Atlanta counties offer extended archery seasons on private lands produce some of the largest bucks in the state, and, with few exceptions, are archery-only throughout the deer season. In 2012-2013, 113,566 bowhunters took 60,190 deer.

Increased doe bag limits and either-sex days, voluntary restraint in the harvest of young bucks, and mandatory antler restrictions in some areas continue to improve Georgia's deer herd quality. Best bets occur in Hancock, Harris, Meriwether, Montgomery, Randolph, Talbot, and Troup counties, where only antlered bucks with at least four points on either side are legal; or Dooly and Macon counties, where only antlered bucks with a minimum 15-inch outside spread are legal. Statewide, one buck of the two-buck season limit must have at least four points on one side.

Georgia's estimated turkey population stands at 335,000 birds, and turkey hunters in this state are privileged with one of the longest turkey seasons nationwide. According to a post-season telephone survey, Georgia's estimated 56,736 resident turkey hunters (all weapons) had another good spring season in 2012, harvesting about 33,049 gobblers statewide. (Data for 2013 were unavailable, but early harvest rate reports were good.)

The alligator population remains at an estimated 200,000. In 2012, 850 hunters (all weapons) harvested 247 alligators for a 29 percent success rate, up from 2011's 219 gators. Of

the 247 harvested gators, 96 were taken using crossbows, traditional bows, and compound bows. The average length was 99 inches, the longest 161 inches.

Georgia's 2012-2013 hunting regulations were not available at press time. Listed below are fees and regulations for 2011-2012. Seasons and limits, however, are updated for 2012-2013.

DEER

Season: Archery Either-Sex Statewide Sept. 14-Oct. 11, Primitive Weapons Either Sex Statewide Oct. 12-18 (consult blaze orange regs). Extended Archery Season Jan. 2-31 in Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale counties.

Limit: 12 (no more than 2 antlered bucks, 1 buck must have 4 points 1 inch or longer on one side; no more than 10 antlerless)

Fees: Hunting license res. \$10, non-res. \$100 (\$20 3-day). Big Game license res. \$9, non-res. \$195. WMA License res. \$19, non-res. \$73. Deer Harvest Record (free).

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 14-Oct. 11, Primitive Weapons Oct. 12-18, Firearms Oct. 19-Dec. 1 (northern zone). Firearms Sept. 26-28, Oct. 3-5, Oct 10-12 (southern zone).

Limit: 2 per season statewide provided no more than 1 taken from Southern and Central zones.

Fees: Same as deer.

FERAL HOG

Season: Private Land—no closed season. State WMAs—Feral hogs may be harvested during any open season only with legal weapons for that season unless otherwise specified.

Limit: None.

Fees: Hunting license res. \$10, non-res. \$100 (\$20 3-day). WMA license res. \$19, non-res. \$73.

TURKEY

Season: Mar. 22-May 15, 2013

Limit: 3 gobblers.

Fees: Same as deer.

ALLIGATOR

Season: Sept. 7-Oct. 6

Limit: 1, Zone and Quota Limited

Fees: Res. hunting license \$10. Non-res. \$100 (\$20 3-day). Res. Alligator hunting license \$50. Non-res \$200. Plus WMA license if on WMA.

Permit application deadline: July 31

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No specific requirements. Arrows for hunting deer, bear, or feral hog must be broadhead type.

Crossbows: Legal, all seasons.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required; persons born after Jan. 1, 1961, must complete hunter education course.

Special permits: Many major metro areas have special archery hunts. Call (770) 918-6416 for information.

Bowhunters in '12: 83,464 (res. hunter survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Georgia Bowhunters and Archery Association; www.gbaa-archery.com.

Info/licenses: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division/Game Management, 2070 Hwy. 278 S.E., Social Circle, GA 30025; (770) 918-6416; www.georgiawildlife.com.

Hawaii

Hawaii's hunting opportunities are fittingly diverse and casual. However, with this diversity, unit-specific research is essential. Open seasons, fees, and weapons on game mammals hunted on private land is at the discretion of the landowner. Public land bowhunting seasons, however, vary considerably by island and unit. Each of the state's six major islands has one or more state-designated public hunting areas and one or more of the six different introduced big game species, which include: black-tailed and Axis deer, Mouflon sheep, feral sheep, feral goats, and feral pigs.

In the interest of animal control to protect Hawaii's delicate ecosystem, the Department of Land and Natural Resources occasionally announces archery-only hunts, so island hunters should monitor the Department's website for these opportunities.

A solid blaze-orange (commercially produced material only) shirt, vest, coat, or jacket must be worn except in archery-only areas. Use of camouflage orange is prohibited.

Visiting hunters are advised to study the regulations in detail before planning a trip. Also, all hunters must possess either a Hawaii Hunter Education Wallet Card or a Letter of Exemption. There is no charge for the latter, but you must apply before arrival on the islands and include proof you have taken an approved hunter safety course. (A bowhunter safety course only will not meet conditions, as the State of Hawaii issues only general hunting licenses.) The application form is available online. Complete and send in the application at least two months before arrival on the islands. (Processing time is about a month.) Unfortunately, many hunters don't plan or research their hunting trips before traveling to Hawaii and are turned away at the license agent's counter because they were unaware of this license requirement.

AXIS DEER

Season: Lanai—Archery season is eight consecutive days between and including the last two Saturdays in February. Maui and Molokai—No season; any axis deer encountered while hunting on a public hunting area may be taken regardless of sex.

Limit: Lanai—1 deer per season.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$95. +\$5 Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

BLACKTAIL DEER

Season: Kauai—Generally six consecutive weekends, including and preceding the last full weekend in October, but varies by unit.

Limit: 1 buck in some units, 1 deer of either sex in others.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$95. +\$5 Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

MOUFLON SHEEP

Season: Lanai—Archery is eight consecutive days, the last Saturday in July through the first Saturday in August; all weapons nine consecutive Saturdays, commencing the Saturday after the last Saturday of muzzleloader hunting. Variable on the Big Island.

Limit: 2 sheep per season on Lanai. Varies by area and season on the Big Island.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$95. +\$5 Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

FERAL SHEEP

Season: Big Island only, varies by hunting unit.

Limit: Varies by area and season.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$95. +\$5 Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

PIG & WILD GOAT

Season: Varies by island and unit. Some units year-round.

Limit: Varies; generally 1 pig per day, 1 goat per tag issued.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$95. +\$5 Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

TURKEY

Season: Molokai, Maui, Lanai, Big Island—First Saturday in November through Martin Luther King Day or the third Sunday in January, whichever occurs later; Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays. Spring turkey hunt on the Big Island—Mar. 1-31 (can vary).

Limit: 2 birds per day for fall-winter season, 2 birds per day for spring season; 3 birds season limit.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$95. +\$5 Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. @28 inches for longbows, 35 lbs. for recurve bows, 30 lbs. for compound bows.

Broadheads: Minimum 3/4-inch cutting diameter.

Crossbows: Permitted on private lands, or by special disabled permit.

Bowhunter education permit: Proof of Hawaii or other state general hunter education course required for license purchase. Non-residents must apply for a Letter of Exemption before arrival on islands.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 400.

Bowhunting organization(s): Bushwackers Archery Club (O'ahu), www.bushwackersarcheryclub.org. Hawaii Island Archery Club (Big Island), www.facebook.com/hawaiiislandarcheryclub.

Info/licenses: Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813; (808) 587-0166; www.dofaw.net.

Idaho

Idaho offers a wide variety of some of the best big game hunting in the West. Deer are found throughout Idaho. The more abundant mule deer (estimated at 300,000) occur mostly in the southern two-thirds of the state, with whitetails (200,000) found primarily north of the Salmon River. Pronghorn (15,000) predominate in southern Idaho, black bears (25,000) favor forested areas, mountain lions occur statewide, and wolves occur throughout most of Idaho north of the Snake River Plains.

With more than 100,000 elk, Idaho continues to provide a variety of desirable elk hunting opportunities. Elk herds meet or exceed management objectives in 20 of 29 bull elk management zones and provide hunting opportunities ranging from trophy bulls to extra cow hunting opportunities. Higher numbers of elk have historically occurred in the back country of Idaho. Over the last 20 years some of the population densities have shifted with fewer elk in the backcountry management zones, but increasing elk population in the state's southern, eastern and western edges. Although there are fewer elk in the backcountry zones, some bowhunters still report good backcountry hunting experiences.

Black bear harvest data show the Panhandle, Clearwater, and Southwest regions to be the most productive, with about equal percentages between spring and fall. Of particular note for bowhunters, bait and spot & stalk methods produce the highest number of kills.

Mountain lions may be pursued or hunted with hounds. Populations are maintained with strict control over the taking of female cats. Like bears, they are found in most of Idaho wherever development is not too intense. Also, like bears, their numbers are stable.

All successful hunters are required to report by Internet or phone within 10 days of harvest. Hunters who do not harvest, or did not hunt on their tag, are required to report within 10 days of the close of the hunting season.

Nonresident elk or nonresident deer tags, excluding nonresident junior elk or deer tags, are valid to take a black bear, mountain lion, or wolf if the season is open for that species when and where the nonresident elk or deer tag is valid.

The application period for moose, goat, and sheep is Apr. 1-30. For turkey it is Feb. 1-Mar. 1 for spring, May 1-June 5 for fall. The big game controlled hunt application period is May 1-June 5, Aug. 5-15 (2nd controlled hunt period). Most archery hunts are general season only and the tag can be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis.

For archery-only hunts, you must have an archery permit (res. \$18.25, non-res. \$20) in addition to other required licenses and permits. Additional control hunt opportunities may be available. Visit www.fishandgame.idaho.gov for details.

DEER

Season: Archery-only Aug. 30-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates, vary by unit).

Limit: 1, but additional controlled hunt opportunities may be available.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 license plus \$19.75 deer tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$301.75 deer tag.

ELK

Season: Archery-only Aug. 30-Sept. 30, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, and Dec.1-31 (earliest and latest dates, vary by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$30.75 elk tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$416.75 elk tag.

PRONGHORN

Season: Aug. 15-Sept. 24 (varies by unit). All archery pronghorn are controlled hunts.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$31.25 antelope tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$311.75 antelope tag.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Aug. 30-Oct. 31. Spring Apr. 15-July 31 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by unit and whether dogs and/or bait are used).

Limit: 1. Second tags may be used in selected units. No female black bear accompanied by young may be taken.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$11.50 bear tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$186 bear tag. Non-res. reduced and second bear tags \$31.75.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Earliest opening and latest closing dates Aug. 30-June 30, 2014 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1. (Some areas in north-central Idaho have a 2-lion limit.)

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$11.50 lion tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$186 lion tag. Some areas in north central Idaho have non-res. reduced or second lion tags for \$31.75.

GRAY WOLF

Season: Earliest opening and latest closing dates Aug. 30-June 30 (varies by unit).

Limit: 2+ (varies by unit; some units have a harvest limit—check regs).

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$11.50 wolf tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$31.75 wolf tag.

TURKEY

Seasons: Fall Sept. 15-Dec. 31 (earliest opening closing, varies by unit). Spring Apr. 8-May 25.

Limit: 1 bearded per day in spring, 1 either-sex per day in the fall, except in Units 1, 2, 3 and 5 where 5 turkeys (either-sex) may be taken in a day during fall seasons. No more than 2 bearded turkeys per spring.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$19.75 general turkey tag, \$12.25 extra turkey tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$80 ea. turkey tag and extra turkey tag.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 30-Oct. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing dates), varies by unit. Available by controlled hunt (drawing) process only.

Limit: 1 ram per lifetime (both California and Rocky Mountain sub-species).

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$166.75 tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$2,101.75 tag.

MOOSE

Season: Aug. 30-Dec. 1 (varies by unit). Available by controlled hunt (drawing) process only.

Limit: 1 per lifetime; either-sex in some units/seasons.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$166.75 tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$2,101.75 tag.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Aug. 30-Nov. 12 (varies by unit). Available by controlled hunt (drawing) process only.

Limit: 1 per lifetime, either sex except nannies accompanied by kids.

Fees: Res. \$12.75 plus \$166.75 tag. Non-res. \$154.75 plus \$2,101.75 tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. up to or at 28 inches with maximum letoff of 85 percent.

Broadheads: Must measure more than 7/8 inch in width with a primary cutting edge 0.015 inch thick or greater. Barbed broadheads and expandables illegal. Arrow/broadhead combination must weigh at least 300 grains. Arrows must be greater than 24 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

Crossbows: Permitted during general firearms season for big game or by permit for physically disabled persons. Bolts must be greater than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

Archery validation: Bowhunter education required of any archer who has not previously held a valid archery permit in Idaho or another state. The archery validation is only required in archery-only seasons.

Archery licenses in '12: 32,002 (deer, elk, pronghorn archery permits sold).

Bowhunting organization(s): Treasure Valley Bowhunters; www.idahoarchery.com/tvb/.

Information/licenses: Idaho Department of Fish & Game, 600 S. Walnut, Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; (208) 334-3700; (800) 554-8685 (purchase licenses); www.fishandgame.idaho.gov.

Illinois

Illinois is hard to beat when it comes to deer. For one, there is no limit to the number of whitetails a hunter may take; there's just a two-antlered-animal limit. For another, resident archers have unlimited over-the-counter (OTC) access to archery deer permits. Non-resident archers have a 25,000 quota on combination (1 either-sex; 1 antlerless only) permits, but demand has been less than that for several years. All archers have unlimited OTC access to "antlerless

only” deer permits. On top of all that, quality deer—trophy animals—may be taken anywhere in the state. West-central and some southeastern Illinois deer hunters will find abundant whitetail populations.

Although populations are stable to slightly declining, prospects are still good, according to Deer Project Manager Tom Micetich. Bowhunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 59,805 deer during the 2012-2013 archery deer season, which was down 3.5 percent from the 61,974 deer during the 2011-2012. The record archery deer harvest was 66,094 in 2005.

This past year’s Special CWD Deer Season was expanded to the 11 open firearm counties with at least one CWD-positive animal: Boone, DeKalb, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kendall, LaSalle, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties and Kane County west of Ill. Rt. 47, while 55 additional counties were open for the Late-Winter Antlerless-only Deer season. The Special CWD season assists in controlling the spread of CWD in the Illinois deer herd, while the Late-Winter Season provides additional “antlerless only” harvest opportunities as a population management tool. Both seasons were seven-days, split, with the first four-day segment (Thursday-Sunday) following Christmas and the final three days (Friday-Sunday) in the traditional mid-January period. Archery season ran through the end of the late-winter deer season.

For all seasons combined, the preliminary 2012-2013 harvest totaled 180,811 and was down slightly (0.4 percent) from the 181,451 deer taken in 2011-2012. Illinois’ record deer harvest occurred in 2005-2006, when 201,209 deer were taken. Illinois’ overall sex ratio of harvest has been very close to 50:50, and the percentage of yearlings in the antlered harvest has been around 40 percent for the past several years.

A recent change makes it illegal for a non-resident archer to purchase a “combo” permit OTC *after* the purchase of an OTC antlerless-only permit *once the season is under way*. So, it is recommended that non-resident archers planning to hunt an antlered animal purchase their combination deer license containing an “either-sex” permit prior to obtaining a single “antlerless only” permit.

Last year’s change allows crossbow use, without regard to age or disability, beginning the Monday following the second firearm deer season through the end of archery deer season for all species legal to take by bow and arrow.

Youth hunters (resident & non-resident) will enjoy an additional hunting day -- Columbus Day holiday (Monday) – making this a 3-day season beginning in 2013. Season open in all counties open to firearm deer season. Either-sex permits available OTC, limit 1 per hunter.

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 14,133 wild turkeys during the 2013 Spring Turkey season, including the youth seasons. The 2013 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 15,941 in 2012. Hunters took a state-record 16,605 turkeys during the spring season in 2006. Youth hunters took a second-highest season preliminary total of 923 birds, down from the 2012 record of 1,300 turkeys harvested.

Four new counties were opened for spring turkey hunting in Illinois for 2013: Ford, Douglas, Kane, and Lake. Spring turkey hunting is now open in 100 of Illinois’ 102 counties.

Spring 2013 turkey hunters took a preliminary total of 6,494 wild turkeys during all seasons in the South Zone, a decrease from the harvest of 7,006 last year. The North Zone total of 7,639 wild turkeys compares with last year’s total of 8,935. During the 2006 record year, harvests were 6,530 in the south and 10,075 in the north.

“Many hunters commented on the cold and wet weather making hunting very difficult,” said Wild Turkey Project Manager Paul Brewer. “Breeding activity was delayed, and gobblers were not very responsive for much of the season.”

For example, in Jo Daviess County, a typical spring turkey leader, there was some rain or snow every day of the first five-day season segment. For all five seasons combined (32 days), 20 days of the season has rain or snowfall, while wind gusts exceeded 20 mph on 21 days, as well. Statewide, April 2013 was the fourth-wettest on record.

“Cold and wet springs are typically not good for turkey production, and we have experienced those conditions for six of the last seven years,” Brewer added. “The long term key in improving wild turkey populations continues to be habitat management, particularly restoration of open oak woodlands for nesting and brood rearing.”

For spring wild turkey harvest, top 2013 counties in the South Zone were Jefferson (411), Pope (360), Marion (344), and a tie for fifth with Randolph and Wayne (333). In the North Zone were Jo Daviess (552), Pike (396), Fulton (328), Macoupin (293), and Adams (290).

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 19 in Cook, DuPage, Lake and portions of Kane County east of State Rt. 47; Oct. 1-Jan. 19 in all other counties with archery hunting; *closed* Nov. 22-24 and Dec. 5-8 for firearms deer. Hunters must wear blaze orange during Oct. 12-14 Youth, Dec. 13-15 Muzzleloader, and the Late-winter and CWD Seasons on Dec. 26-29, 2013, and Jan. 17-19, 2014.

Limit: One deer per permit; only 2 may be antlered; no limit on antlerless animals.

Application deadlines: Vary, see regs.

Fees: Res. archery combination permits \$26; archery single antlerless-only permit \$15.50 (OTC); or single res. archery either-sex permit (\$15); application period in August. Non-res. archery deer combination \$411 either-sex and antlerless-only (non-res. hunters must reserve via telephone or Internet for a random lottery drawing in June) or single antlerless-only archery deer permit (OTC) \$25.50, non-res. Hunting License \$35.75 (5-day) or \$57.75 (regular), and \$5.50 State Habitat Stamp.

TURKEY

Season: Youth Seasons—South Zone March 29-30, 2014; North Zone: Apr. 5-6, 2014. Spring South Zone Apr. 7-11, Apr. 12-17, Apr. 18-23, Apr. 24-30, May 1-8. Spring North Zone Apr. 14-18, Apr. 19-24, Apr. 25-30, May 1-7, May 8-15. Fall archery Oct. 1, 2013-Jan. 19, 2014 (closed for firearm deer seasons; open for all other seasons). All counties are open except Cook, Douglas, DuPage, Ford, Kane and Lake. *NOTE: Additional counties may open pending Administrative Rule changes.*

Limit: Fall 1 per permit, 2-permit maximum. Spring 1 gobbler or bearded hen per permit, 3-permit maximum.

Fees: Res. Fall Archery \$5.50; Spring and Fall Firearm \$15. Non-res. Fall Archery \$75.50 (also need hunting license and habitat stamp); Spring and Fall Firearm \$125 (also need hunting license and habitat stamp).

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. within a 28-inch draw; minimum arrow length without broadhead is 20 inches.

Broadheads: Fixed-blade broadheads must be metal or flint-, chert-, or obsidian-knapped, and have minimum 7/8-inch diameter when fully opened. Broadheads with expandable blades must be metal.

Crossbows: Hunters age 62+ years may hunt using a crossbow without a special permit. For those under 62, crossbows are legal only for physically challenged hunters by permit, *except* for that portion of the archery deer season beginning the Monday following the second firearm season, anybody regardless of age or disability may use a crossbow for hunting any species for which a bow & arrow are legal, through the end of the statewide archery deer season. Minimum peak draw weight of 125 lbs., maximum peak draw weight of 200 lbs., minimum overall length (from butt of stock to front of limb) of 24 inches. Bolts must be 14 inches or greater in length (not including required broadhead).

Bowhunter education: Not required, but persons born after January 1980 must complete hunter education course.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 160,122 (based on 2011 permit sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Illinois Bowhunters Society; www.illinoisbowhunters.org. United Bowhunters of Illinois, 1806 E. 1850th St., Coatsburg, IL 62325; www.unitedbowhuntersofillinois.org. Illinois Archery Association, Judy McCutcheon, 23358 Virden Rd., Virden, IL. 62690; (217) 652-5836; www.il-archery.com. Southern Illinois Traditional Bowhunters, Bob Clark, 502 W. St. Louis St., Pinckneyville, IL 62274.

Information/licenses: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 782-7305; www.dnr.illinois.gov.

Indiana

Indiana hunters, aided by an extended season and changes in equipment rules, killed a record number of deer last year, the state DNR reported. Hunters harvested 136,248 deer in 2012, breaking the record of 134,004 set in 2010. Switzerland County had the highest harvest, at 3,506 deer. Steuben County, which had led the state for seven years, fell to fifth-highest, with 3,076 deer killed.

The archery season harvest (including Urban Deer Zones) of 36,033 deer comprised 26 percent of the total harvest and was 38 percent more than the 26,021 harvested in 2011.

Antlerless deer comprised 66 percent of the total archery harvest, down 2 percent from 2011. Bucks made up 34 percent of the total harvest in archery season.

DNR Fish & Wildlife Spokesman Mitch Marcus said Indiana made changes in 2012 to make it easier to kill antlerless deer. Those included making crossbows legal for all licensed hunters during archery season, adding more hunting dates in some areas, and a later firearms season start date. The changes were designed to reduce the deer population to “balance the ecological, recreational, and economic needs” of Indiana residents.

Despite the record harvest, Marcus said deer numbers are down across the state. He said the number of antlered deer in the harvest was the lowest since 2000.

Chad Stewart, a deer management biologist for the DNR, said that indicates a smaller herd. “Year-to-year hunter efforts don’t change much, so people aren’t all of a sudden taking three bucks or eight bucks; they’re locked into one buck,” he said, noting that Indiana limits hunters to one buck. “If there are fewer bucks to kill with the same amount of hunter effort, not as many bucks get killed, which tells us the overall population is down.”

The DNR said the deer population also may have been affected by an outbreak of a disease transmitted by flies that is often fatal to deer.

The best places for quantity of deer are generally the northeastern and southeastern parts of the state.

For bowhunters who want to extend their opportunities in urban areas, archery season is extended in urban deer zones that run Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2014. Urban archers need a separate urban deer license and must honor an earn-a-buck privilege throughout the season, but harvested deer in designated urban zones do not count towards any other statewide bag limit.

As part of its deer management program, the DNR offers bonus antlerless deer bag limits on a county-by-county basis, based on many different factors including crop depredation problems, previous years' deer harvests and input from Hoosiers interested in deer management. For questions about the bonus antlerless deer program, contact the Deer Hotline at (812) 334-3795.

Approximately 56,144 turkey hunters harvested 12,655 birds in 89 of Indiana's 92 counties. More than 26 counties reported a harvest in 2012 of 200-plus birds. Eighteen counties reported a harvest decline, while 67 counties showed a harvest increase. A few counties reported significant increases over 2011, such as Clay, Elkhart, and Fountain. Many counties in northern and north-central Indiana have shown increased harvests in recent years. Northern state hunters should consider Pigeon River FWA, Willow Slough FWA, and Winamac FWA. In the southern half of Indiana, Hoosier National Forest and several of the state forests continue to attract turkey hunters.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 5, 2014.

Limit: 2 antlerless OR 1 antlered and 1 antlerless. Additional antlered and antlerless deer are allowed in selected Urban, Bonus, Military/Refuge and State Park/Nature Preserve areas.

Fees: Res. \$24 deer. Non-res. \$150 deer.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 24-May 12, 2013; Apr. 20-21-youth season. Fall Archery Oct. 1-27 and Dec. 7-Jan. 5, 2014.

Limit: 1 per season.

Fees: Res. \$25 turkey plus \$6.75 Game Bird stamp. Non-res. \$120 turkey plus \$6.75 Game Bird stamp.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs.

Broadheads: Must be metal-edged or knapped flint, chert or obsidian.

Crossbows: Legal in all archery seasons. Crossbow license required.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required for general season; may be required for special hunts in urban zones and/or state parks.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 94,000 (hunter survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Indiana Traditional Bowhunters Association, www.itba.org. Indiana Bowhunter Association; www.indianabowhunterassociation.com.

Info/licenses: Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-4080; www.in.gov/dnr.

Iowa

Iowa's reported archery harvest in 2012-2013 was unchanged from the 2011 season with bowhunters reporting about 23,500 deer; 46 percent of the harvest were antlerless deer, 39 percent of all deer killed were does. Fifty-nine percent of the total harvest was made up of antlerless deer, and these animals have made up the majority of the harvest for the past 10 seasons.

County-specific antlerless quotas have worked well with over 80 percent of Iowa's counties either at or slightly below population goals, which represent a deer herd that approximates numbers that existed in the mid-to-late 1990s. The statewide population trend has been a declining one since 2006.

For 2013 seasons there have been no changes to the season structure. Reductions in county antlerless quotas in southwestern Iowa were approved as Iowa works to shift from herd reduction management strategies to those that will stabilize populations. Iowa continues to use bowhunters to help control whitetail populations in and around urban areas such as Des Moines, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, and Coralville.

Bowhunters should enjoy a good season this fall, says Deer Biologist Tom Litchfield. However, due to declining deer numbers, hunters can expect to see fewer deer in many areas, and the archery harvest may decline somewhat. Also, the epizootic hemorrhagic disease outbreak Iowa experienced in 2012 caused significant mortality in localized areas. The deer herd is in very good health overall, has well-balanced sex ratios throughout the majority of the state, and herd quality remains high in general.

According to Iowa Big Game Records, since 1953, the top trophy-producer is Allamakee County, in northeast Iowa. Next best is Clayton County, just to the south, followed by a handful of counties in south-central and southeast Iowa.

Iowa's turkey population experienced good recruitment in 2012 with a 24 percent increase in the recruitment over 2011. The cool, wet spring of 2013 may cause a decline in recruitment this year. While good turkey populations occur throughout the state, turkey numbers are the strongest in the northeastern regions.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Dec. 6, Dec. 23-Jan. 10, 2014.

Limit: 1 deer per license. Res. 1 either-sex and unlimited antlerless as long as the quota is not filled. Non-res. 1 either-sex and 1 antlerless.

Fees: Res. hunting \$19, habitat fee \$13, any-deer license \$28.50, antlerless-only deer license: first license \$28.50; second and subsequent licenses \$13.50. Non-res. hunting license \$112, habitat fee \$13, any-deer license and antlerless license combo \$426.

TURKEY

Season: Fall (res. only) Oct. 14-Dec 6. Fall Bow-Only (res. only) Oct. 1-Dec. 6, Dec. 23-Jan. 10, 2014. Spring 2014 Youth (res. only) Apr. 5-13. Spring 2013 general seasons Apr. 14-17, Apr. 18-22, Apr. 23-29, Apr. 30-May 17.

Limit: 1 per license.

Fees: Res. hunting \$19, habitat fee \$13, turkey license \$24.50. Non-res. hunting \$112, habitat fee \$13, turkey license \$102.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must be at least 1 inch in diameter.

Crossbows: Permitted for use by the physically challenged during archery season.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required for general hunts, required for urban bowhunts. Hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972, require proof of hunter education course to apply for or obtain a deer hunting license.

Special hunts: Numerous urban hunts for deer population control. Check current regulations under “Deer Population Management Hunts” or with local townships or city departments for more info.

Bowhunters in '12: Res. 58,515, non-res. 2,142 (license sales).

Special regulations: All non-res. archery licenses are by drawing; application period was May 4-June 2, 2013. The reapplication period is July 27 through the last day of the archery season. During that time, licenses will be sold first-come, first-served until quota is filled. For deer licenses, call (800) 367-1188 or apply online.

Bowhunting organization(s): Iowa Bowhunters Assoc., Box 16, Derby, IA 50068; www.iowabowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, License Bureau, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 52309; (515) 281-5918; www.iowadnr.gov.

Kansas

Kansas is one of the continent's top destinations for whitetail hunters. Whitetails are found statewide wherever suitable habitat exists, though the highest densities are in the eastern third of the state. Whitetails have adapted well to Kansas' modern landscape, finding cover in natural woodlands, shelterbelts, old homesteads and grasslands, and abundant food in cropfields.

“Kansas has habitats dominated by linear travel corridors along shelterbelts and streams. Those habitat features provide bowhunters with outstanding opportunities to encounter deer within short distances,” says Big Game Coordinator Lloyd Fox. “The deer herd also has adequate numbers of mature bucks to provide many hunters with opportunities to pursue a memorable class of deer.”

Kansas wildlife officials estimate that approximately 24,000 of the 98,000 deer killed by deer hunters in Kansas during the 2011-2012 seasons were taken with archery equipment.

Whitetails are a Kansas bowhunter's best prospects, but localized mule deer opportunities occur in the western third of the state. Look for mule deer primarily on the High Plains, Smoky Hills, and Red Hills regions.

There are about 2,000 pronghorn in the westernmost two to three tiers of counties. Firearm and muzzleloader antelope hunting is restricted to residents only; nonresidents are eligible for archery permits. Antelope hunting is limited to three management units that include parts or all of 25 western counties. Elk hunting is restricted to residents only by permit.

Wild turkey restoration has resulted in huntable populations in nearly every county. The Rio Grande subspecies dominates the western two-thirds of the state. The eastern subspecies is common in the eastern regions. Hybrid Rio Grande/eastern birds are found where the two ranges converge. With a long season and birds abundant in most of the state, there is ample opportunity to bag an eastern, Rio Grande, or hybrid tom. Good numbers of turkeys can be found in the northwest, north-central, northeast, central, and south-central portions of Kansas

Total turkey harvest during the spring 2011 season was 32,298 turkeys of which 10.6 percent was taken with archery equipment. The overall success rate has been over 60 percent for nine of the last 10 spring turkey seasons. During the fall 2011-2012 season an estimated 3,677

turkeys (925 archery) were harvested, down from the previous year. Some of that decline was likely due to depressed populations because of poor production for several consecutive summers in the eastern third of the state. However, those populations have recovered somewhat over the past couple years.

A hunting license (\$20.50 residents, \$72.50 nonresidents) is required in addition to deer, elk, antelope, or turkey permits.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 16-Dec. 31. Extended archery (urban units only) Jan. 20-31, 2014.

Limit: 1 deer per permit with up to 7 permits available in some units. Hunters limited to 1 antlered deer.

Fees: Res. antlered deer permit \$32.50 (\$17.50 for 15 and younger). Non-res. antlered deer permit \$322.50. Res. antlerless-only deer permit \$17.50 (\$10 for 15 and younger). Non-res antlerless-only deer permit \$52.50. Non-res. mule deer stamp \$102.50.

ELK (Res. only)

Season: Archery Sept. 16-Dec. 31. Fort Riley Muzzleloader and Archery Sept. 1-30.

Limit: 1

Fees: General Resident Any Elk permit \$252.50. General Resident Antlerless-Only Elk permit \$102.50. Landowner/Tenant Any Elk permit \$127.50. Landowner/Tenant Antlerless Only Elk permit \$52.50; Hunt-Own-Land Antlerless Only \$52.50.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Sept. 21-29, Oct. 12-31.

Limit: One either sex.

Fees: Res. pronghorn permit \$42.50; res. landowner/tenant pronghorn permit \$22.50; non-res. archery pronghorn permit \$202.50.

TURKEY

Season: Spring 2013 Archery Apr. 1-9. Fall 2012 Shotgun/Archery Oct. 1-Dec. 3, Dec. 16- Jan. 31, 2014.

Limit: Fall—1 per permit, up to 3 game tags available, either-sex. Spring—hunters who have purchased a spring turkey permit are eligible for 1 second turkey game tag.

Fees: Res. \$22.50, non-res. \$32.50. Non-res. turkey game tag \$22.50. Second turkey game tags res. \$12.50, non-res. \$22.50.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Arrows used for hunting big game and turkeys must be equipped with broadhead points that cannot pass through a ring 3/4 inch in diameter when fully expanded.

Crossbows and draw locks: Legal during archery season for permanently disabled hunters by permit, or for any person under 16 years old or more than 54 years old. Crossbows are legal during a firearms deer season.

Bowhunter education: Bowhunter education is not required. Hunter education is not required for hunting one's own land. Otherwise, anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must have hunter education. Anyone under 27 years old must carry a Kansas- or other state-approved hunter education card while hunting.

Est. Bowhunters in '12: 45,637 (based on 6,970 res., 11,729 non-res. archery permit sales, plus permits that include archery).

Bowhunting organization: Kansas Bowhunter Association; www.thekbasite.com.

Information/licenses: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS 67124; (620) 672-5911; www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Kentucky

Wildlife Biologist David Yancy says that bowhunting in Kentucky remains excellent. And why not? Its long deer season that opens in early September offering the opportunity to hunt velvet-antlered bucks that are still in their summer activity pattern. Bag limits on antlerless deer are liberal, plus “over-the-counter” permit availability and excellent trophy buck potential make the Bluegrass State an ideal bowhunting destination. Even better, during the 21st Century Kentucky has consistently placed among the top five trophy producing states in America. “...[In] the 2011-2012 season we even surpassed Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa in the number of trophy whitetails entered into the Boone & Crockett Club’s Big Game Records Program,” Yancy reports.

“White-tailed deer and wild turkeys are widespread, numerous, and their populations are stable, while the elk herd in our 16-county Southeastern Kentucky Elk Zone continues to stand at around 10,000 animals,” he continues. “Our archery deer kill has increased each of the last five seasons from 14,049 taken in 2008 to 18,711 deer bagged in 2012.”

With the continuation of normal autumn temperatures and rainfall (and only a few scattered reports of epizootic hemorrhagic disease from around Kentucky), deer hunting success increased substantially for the 2012 deer seasons. Last year’s overall deer kill of 131,395 was 11,732 animals (nearly 10 percent) greater than in 2011, and was the highest total recorded since modern deer hunting resumed in 1956. Yancy and his colleagues believe that the observed increase mostly resulted because the weather was exceptionally good (no rainouts over the three weekends of the Modern Firearm Season in November). Also, acorn production in 2012 was average to below average (unlike the bumper crop in fall of 2010). “Our total deer take nearly always goes down in years of mast abundance, likely because vulnerability to harvest is reduced. That is, when food is readily available, deer don’t have to travel as far—or come out in the open to food plots, farm fields, or bait sites as often—or spend as much time during legal shooting hours looking for a meal. In poorer mast years, however, the opposite is true and deer harvests tend to increase,” he says.

Additionally, while the number of deer taken in January 2013 (2,127), when only archery hunting is allowed, was 501 animals less than the January 2012 total, the number of deer killed with a bow during the entire season (18,711, an increase of 541 over 2011) was, for the fourth season in a row, the highest ever posted in Kentucky. A longer than usual season probably helped contribute to this year’s record archery harvest. Kentucky’s bow season opens on the first Saturday in September, but because in 2012 that was also September 1, this segment was several days longer than normal. In addition to this, the September (when only archery hunting is allowed) deer harvest set a record (5,577, an increase of 632 animals over 2011) for the third year in a row; reflecting growing interest in that portion of Kentucky’s Deer Season structure. Detailed harvest results may be studied at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ website: www.fw.ky.gov.

In terms of big bucks, Kentucky remains probably the best-kept secret east of the Mississippi River. During 2000-2009, Kentucky ranked fourth (behind Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa) in the number of trophy deer entered into the Boone & Crockett Club’s Records Program. In each of the last six seasons, it has produced at least 20 deer that qualify for B&C record books (and has annually averaged 46 eligible entries), to say nothing of the number of P&Y qualifiers.

During the 2012 season, however, at least 45 B&C bucks were recorded; 7 were harvested with archery equipment and one was killed with a crossbow. Aaron Cochran took a 180 5/8-inch typical bow-killed buck from Robertson County, while Robert T. Strong bagged a 203 1/8-inch non-typical in Jefferson County with his bow.

Better still, trophy buck production continues to become more evenly distributed across the state as the 45 trophies taken in the 2012 season came from 35 of Kentucky's 120 counties, and all geographic regions were represented. Garrard County in central Kentucky took first place with three trophy entries, while eight counties (Boone, Carroll, Grayson, Henderson, Henry, Leslie, Powell, and Trigg) tied for second place with two entries apiece. Kentucky's Appalachian region delivered yet again with Boone and Crockett qualifiers being taken in Elliott, Pike, Powell, and (the previously mentioned) Leslie counties.

At 10,000 animals, Kentucky has the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi River. The number of 2013-14 elk permits was increased from 900 to 1,000, returning to 2009 levels. The 16-county Elk Zone has been divided into the North At-Large, South At-Large, and three Limited Entry Areas (Caney LEA, Hazard LEA, and Straight Creek LEA), so drawn hunters now have five areas to choose from. Two wildlife management areas (Fishtrap Lake WMA in the North At-Large Area, and the southern part of Corrigan WMA in the South At-Large Area) have been designated as Active Restoration Areas and thus are closed to elk hunting. The odds for success, if you draw, should be about as good as last year when 534 out of 849 participating elk hunters (900 were drawn) filled their tags. Hunters who harvest an elk either inside or outside the 16-county restoration zone must call (800) 245-4263 to report the kill.

Hunters can apply for up to two of four tag types (bull firearms, bull archery or crossbow, cow firearms, and cow archery or crossbow), but may not apply twice for one tag type. There will be a two-week, archery-only (no crossbows) *antlered bull only* season Sept. 21-Oct. 4. An archery or crossbow hunter may not hunt during the four weeks of firearm elk hunts. Youths under 16 years of age, seniors 65 years of age and older, and persons with a hunting method exemption may hunt with a crossbow during the entire elk archery season. Lastly, hunters with bull permits may take any elk with visible antlers during the firearms and archery/crossbow bull elk hunts.

In addition to the seasons listed below, there are archery/crossbow-only quota deer hunts, plus hunts reserved just for disabled hunters. Call (877) 598-2401 or see www.fw.ky.gov to apply for quota deer hunts on state-managed lands. Additional opportunities exist on some federally owned/managed properties.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 7-Jan. 20, 2014. Crossbow Oct. 1-20 and Nov. 9-Dec. 31.

Limit: 4, 1 antlered and 3 antlerless deer, or all 4 antlerless deer. Unlimited antlerless deer can be taken in the 36 "Zone 1" counties.

Fees: Res. Hunting \$20, deer permit \$30, additional deer permit \$15. Non-res. Annual Hunting license \$130 plus \$60 non-res. deer permit; additional deer permit same as res.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Youth Only Apr. 6-7, 2013. Spring Apr. 13-May 5, 2013. Fall Archery Sept. 7-Jan. 20, 2014. Fall Crossbow Oct. 1-20 and Nov. 9-Dec. 31. Fall shotgun Oct. 26-Nov. 1 and Dec. 7-13.

Limit: 4 either-sex (fall), but only 2 in Archery/Crossbow seasons and 2 in Shotgun seasons, and no more than one with a >3-inch beard; 2 bearded-only (spring). In both fall and spring seasons, no more than 1 bird per day.

Fees: Res. Hunting license \$20, non-res. \$130. Spring turkey permit \$30, non-res. \$60. Fall turkey permit \$30, non-res. \$60.

ELK

Season: Antlered Quota Hunts—Archery Sept. 21-Oct. 4, Oct. 19-Dec. 13, and Dec. 28-Jan. 20, 2014; Crossbow Oct. 19-20, Nov. 9-Dec. 13, and Dec.28-31; Firearms Oct. 5-11 and Oct. 12-18. Antlerless Quota Hunts—Archery Oct. 19-Dec. 13 and Dec.28-Jan. 20, 2014; Crossbow Oct. 19-20, Nov. 9-Dec. 13, and Dec.28-31; Firearms Dec. 14-20 and Dec. 21-27.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$20, elk lottery application \$10, elk tag \$30 (if drawn). Non-res. hunting license \$130, elk lottery application \$10, elk tag \$365 (if drawn).

Application period: Dec. 1-Apr. 30, over the Internet only at www.fw.ky.gov.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must be barbless design with points at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: Permitted for small and big game during crossbow season, by permit for the physically disabled during archery season, and by anyone during firearms seasons.

Bowhunter education permit: All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, must complete a valid hunter education course and carry proof of graduation while hunting. A bowhunter not in possession of a firearm while hunting may carry a valid National Bowhunter Education Program course completion card instead of the hunter education card.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 110,400 (102,200 res., 8,200 non-res.; based on combination of license sales, deer and turkey hunter survey, and crossbow season expansion study).

Bowhunting organizations: United Bowhunters of Kentucky; www.unitedbowhuntersofkentucky.com. Kentucky Bowhunters' Association, P.O. Box 991037, Louisville, KY 40269-1037; <http://mykba.org/>.

Information/licenses: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Ln., Frankfort, KY 40601; licenses by phone (877) 598-2401 or online at www.fw.ky.gov.

Louisiana

Long seasons and liberal limits complemented by milder winters than more northern states make Louisiana an enticing bowhunting destination. "Summers can be hot, but that's when one can turn to the cooler nighttime sport of bowfishing, where the action remains *hot!* Louisiana may be the only state where it is legal to take 'redfish' (red drum) with bowfishing equipment," says DMAP Coordinator Emile P. LeBlanc.

"White-tailed deer and feral hogs are our top big game. Deer numbers are consistently highest in the northwest mixed pine/hardwoods due mainly to the fact that these parishes are mostly rural. Higher-quality deer can be found along our more fertile riverine systems (Red River, Mississippi River) where agriculture also competes for land use. Hog populations continue to expand across the state where year-round opportunities exist," he says.

During the 2011-2012 season, hunter surveys indicate a harvest of 133,000 deer (all weapons) of which 14,000 (11 percent) were killed with archery equipment and 1,800 (1 percent) with crossbows. A 4 percent increase in bowhunters has resulted in a bow harvest higher than the

primitive firearms harvest of 12,000 (9 percent). “Early indications reveal that our overall kill is down by 13 percent from last year.

Past coastal flood events have prompted the division of the coastal zones into separate deer management areas to better manage flood event closures.

Louisiana’s generous archery season runs Sept. 15-Feb. 15, depending on the area. Generous bag limits (3 antlered, 3 antlerless) for deer and no limit on hogs mean plenty of opportunities to fill the freezer. You can follow the rut from October to January: Areas 3, 7, and 8 display rut activity is Oct. 17-Nov. 1. Area 2 has a peak Nov. 17-30. Areas 1 (early), 4, and 5’s ruts peak Dec. 16-30. Areas 1 (late) and 6 peak Jan. 14-28. Success rates for crossbows are still similar to conventional archery equipment.

LeBlanc also says that with the exponential increase in the hog populations around the state has spurred legislative action to help control the population encroachment upon native wildlife. Off-season nighttime hunting opportunities are offered on private lands where artificial lights, infrared or laser sighting devices and night vision equipment are legal to use. (Refer to “Nighttime Take of Nuisance and Outlaw Quadruped” regulations.) Survey estimates hog hunters killed 98,200 hogs in the 2011-2012 season. Late Hog seasons (Feb. 16-Mar. 31) have been established on selected WMAs (see WMA schedules).

“A non-resident 1-day turkey permit, all-inclusive for \$36 (no turkey stamp required) is available for as many days as you want during the season—in case you find yourself here during turkey season with only one day to hunt,” LeBlanc notes. Hunters should keep a close eye for updates on a turkey season proposal to restructure areas and dates.

Bows can be used to kill alligators in Louisiana, but only on private lands. Arrowheads must be barbed and must be attached to a 300-pound test line, with the line’s other end attached to something that will keep the line above water when an arrow is attached. Residents not possessing or having permission to harvest alligators on private lands or public lands/lakes can harvest alligators as an alligator sport hunter while accompanied by a guide. Non-residents can only harvest alligators as an alligator sport hunter while accompanied by a guide. Officials expect a harvest of around 34,000 gators (all weapons) in 2013.

DEER

Season: Archery—Either-Sex Oct. 1-Jan. 31 (Areas 1, 2, 4, 5, 7), Sept. 17-Jan. 15 (Areas 3, 8). Bucks Only Oct. 1-15 (Area 6). Either-Sex Oct. 16-Feb. 15 (Area 6).

Limit: 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per day except during bucks-only gun season. A season limit of 3 antlered and 3 antlerless (button bucks included) will be in place again this year. All deer must be validated by either toll-free telephone number, website validation service, or Department-managed hunt check stations during WMA-managed hunts.

Fees: Res. Basic Hunting \$15, Big Game \$14, Bow \$10.50. Non-res. Basic Hunting (season) \$150, Big Game (season) \$150, Bow \$26. One-day non-res. deer hunting license available for \$36/day. A 1-day \$29 non-res small game/ migratory bird license is required for hunting small game, migratory birds (Federal Duck stamp not included) and hogs.

TURKEY

Season: Statewide (proposed for 2013) All Areas March 23rd openers with variable closing (latest dates, varies by area). 2014 dates will reflect calendar adjustments. All else remains the same.

Limit: 2.

Fees: Res. Basic Hunting \$15, Big Game \$14, Bow \$10.50, \$5.50 Turkey Stamp. Non-res. Basic Hunting (season) \$150, Big Game (season) \$150, Bow \$26, Turkey Stamp \$20.50. One-day all-inclusive (no turkey stamp required) non-res. turkey permit is available for \$36/day.

ALLIGATOR

Season: East Zone Aug. 28-Sept. 27. West Zone Sept. 4-Oct. 4.

Limit: Equal to number of alligator tags possessed.

Fees: Res. Alligator license \$25, alligator tags free. Sport Hunter license—res. \$25, non-res. \$150.

Minimum draw weight: 30 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have a minimum cutting width of 7/8 inch. Stone points and other knapped materials may be used.

Crossbows: Legal during the open archery and turkey seasons.

Bowhunter education: Not required but highly recommended.

Special permits: Daily Self-Clearing permits to hunt state WMAs and Season permits required to hunt federal lands.

Special permits: Daily Self-Clearing permits to hunt State WMAs and Season permits required to hunt federal lands.

Bowhunters in 2011-2012: 33,937 (33,027 res., 910 non-res.; based on surveys, last data available).

Bowhunting Organizations: Louisiana Traditional Bowmen; www.traditionalbowmen.org. Amite River Traditional Archery Club; www.artactradbow.org.

Information/licenses: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000; Public Information (225)765-2925; www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

Maine

“Bowhunting has become a critical part of Maine’s deer management program,” says Wildlife Biologist Lee Kantar. “In urban-suburban areas where there are firearm restriction ordinances, Maine offers an expanded archery season with a 1 buck and limitless antlerless deer opportunity. Bowhunters in these areas have been instrumental in helping maintain deer densities within district management objectives. As a management tool we expect the Expanded Archery season to continue to serve our needs for years to come.”

Archers will find the highest densities of deer in south-central and coastal areas of Maine and if you are looking for the big woods experience the western mountains and northern Maine offer the most unique opportunity in the northeast to experience solitude and adventure.

Overall 21,365 deer were registered during 2012. During the expanded and special archery seasons 1,928 were taken. This is just a 1 percent decrease from 2011. The top five buck-producing WMDs per square mile (all weapons) were districts 29, 24, 21, 20 and 22, all in southern Maine. Among the 15,271 antlered bucks taken, roughly 7,788 (51 percent) were 1.5-year-olds (yearlings), while more than 3,512 (23 percent) were mature bucks (3.5 to 15.5 years old).

Besides deer, Maine offers opportunities for bear, moose (more than any other state in the Lower 48), and turkey. In fact, there are more bears in Maine than in any other Eastern state. Archers seeking bear will find tremendous opportunity in the western mountains, northern Maine, the Moosehead area, and downeast Maine. Bear hunters can hunt over bait, allowing

hunters a good look at bears and a clean shooting alley. Please visit www.maine.gov/ifw/index.shtml for more information.

According to state wildlife biologists, Maine's moose population is estimated at 76,000. For the 2012 season, the overall success rate for all moose seasons was 79 percent. However, southern Maine moose hunting had a much lower success rate (as expected) at 18.5 percent. "Traditional" moose WMDs further to the north had an overall success rate of 82 percent. Hunters killed 2,937 moose out of a possible 3,725 permits issued.

Because wild turkey populations and distribution in Maine are increasing, spring/fall Wild Turkey permits are now available over-the-counter rather than through an application/lottery process. Hunters may now purchase a spring/fall Wild Turkey permit wherever hunting licenses are sold. Southern and central Maine provide the best opportunities. Hunters took 958 turkeys in 2012 with bows and shotguns.

Although Maine is mostly private land, access continues to be available throughout the state (ask permission first), and all of this against a diverse and dramatic landscape ranging from the bold coastline to rugged mountains.

DEER

Season: Regular Archery Oct. 3-Nov. 1. Expanded Archery (limited area) Sept. 7- Dec. 14.
Limit: Regular Archery 1 (bucks only statewide except either-sex in WMDs that have any-deer permits). Expanded Archery 1 antlered, unlimited antlerless with special permit. See regs for additional conditions.

Fees: Archery license res. \$25, non-res. \$74. Expanded archery permit antlered \$32, antlerless \$12.

BEAR

Season: General Aug. 26-Nov. 30. With dogs Sept. 9-Nov. 1. With bait Aug. 26-Sept. 21.
Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$25 plus \$27 bear permit. Non-res. \$74 plus \$74 bear permit. Late season bear permit \$40 required for non-res. during November firearms deer season.

MOOSE (Permit Only)

Season: Sept. 23-28 in WMDs 1-6, 11, 19; Oct. 14-19 in WMDs 1-14, 17-19, 27, and 28; Nov. 2-30 in WMDs 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, and 26. Nov. 4-9 WMDs 1-8 and 11. Nov. 2 Maine residents only WMDs 15,16, 22, 23, 25, and 26.

Limit: 1 (sex varies with permit).

Fees: Res. Hunting license \$25 plus \$52 permit. Non-res. \$74 plus \$585 permit.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 12-26 Zone 1 (bow), Oct. 3-Nov. 1 Zone 2 (bow), Oct. 19-25 Zone 3 (bow and shotgun). Spring (2013) Apr. 29-June 1; Youth Spring Turkey Day Apr. 27.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. Spring/fall combo permit \$20, 2nd Spring Turkey \$20. Non-res. Spring/fall combo permit \$54, 2nd Spring Turkey \$20.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during firearms deer season and open bear seasons with special crossbow certification (\$25 res., \$55 non-res.). A resident or nonresident 10 years of age or older and under

16 years of age may hunt with a crossbow if that person holds a valid junior hunting license (no crossbow license required). Illegal during archery deer season except by disabled permit.

Bowhunter education permit: Required.

Bowhunting licenses in '12: 12,093 (11,267 res., 826 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization: Maine Bowhunters Association; www.mainebowhunters.org.

Info/licenses: Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife, 284 State St., Station 41, Augusta, ME 04333; (207) 287-8000; www.maine.gov/ifw/.

Maryland

Maryland hosts around 223,000 whitetails, according to DNR Deer Project Leader Brian Eyer. The highest densities are in the urban/suburban counties toward the center of the state where development has created good deer habitat, but hunter access is limited. The counties that border both sides of the Chesapeake Bay have optimum soils, good food resources, and mild winters. As a result, some of the state's best trophies are found in this region. Some counties on the Eastern Shore offer the unique opportunity to hunt free-ranging sika deer.

Legislation passed during the 2013 Session of the General Assembly added additional Sunday hunting opportunities for deer on private land in Carroll and Queen Anne's counties. While the new Sundays aren't specifically during the archery season, hunters can substitute archery equipment during any muzzleloader or firearm season. The General Assembly also added Sunday hunting for turkeys on public land in Dorchester County. A law was passed during this Session that reduced the safety zone between hunter and occupied dwelling from 150 yards to 100 yards for bowhunters in Harford County. The safety zone is mandatory unless the hunter has advanced permission.

Maryland DNR addresses the season and bag limit regulations for resident game species every two years. The bowhunting changes from the most recent review (2012) will remain in place for the 2013-14 season. One is the bow season for white-tailed and sika deer will open on the Friday after Labor Day, making the opener September 6 in 2013. The antlered deer (buck) bag limit was reduced from nine per year after extensive public input. The buck bag limit is now set on a statewide basis, without separate limits for the Deer Management Regions. It remains at one per weapon season (bow, muzzleloader and firearm) for a total of three per person, except hunters may take one bonus buck per year in Deer Management Region B after harvesting two antlerless deer from that region with any weapon. The Region B antlerless deer bag limit is unlimited for archery season. See the *2013-14 Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland* for details.

All hunters may use crossbows for all game that can be hunted with a vertical bow except waterfowl. Crossbows are legal during the entire archery deer season (Sept. 6-Jan. 31) in all counties.

Bob Long, the DNR's Upland Game Bird biologist, notes that spring turkey hunters reported a record harvest in 2013 and that hunters continue to do well in southern Maryland and on the upper Eastern Shore. However, large harvest increases in Harford, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Frederick counties helped make 2013 a record year. Despite improving turkey populations elsewhere in the state, the traditional turkey habitats in the western counties still harbor the most birds with Garrett and Washington counties topping the list of the five best producers for the 2013 spring season. Charles, Allegany, and Dorchester counties were also on the top five list. The five-week-long spring season offers extensive opportunities for bowhunting

bearded birds throughout the state. Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties host a one-week fall season (Oct. 26-Nov. 2) with a bag limit of one either-sex turkey.

Garrett and Allegany counties are home to a very healthy black bear population. Bear hunters may use archery tackle (traditional, compound, or crossbows) during the bear hunting season.

WHITETAILED

Season: Sept. 6, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014.

Antlered Limit: Statewide: 1 antlered deer (buck) per weapon season (bow, muzzleloader, firearm) with 1 bonus buck (weapon season is hunter's choice) per year in Region B only.

Antlerless Limit: Region A (Garrett, Allegany, western Washington County) 1 antlerless deer. Region B (all remaining counties and eastern Washington County) unlimited antlerless deer in bow season.

Fees: Res. \$24.50, res. junior \$10.50; plus \$6 archery stamp. Non-res. \$130, non-res. junior \$65; plus \$25 archery stamp.

SIKA DEER

Season: Sept. 6-Jan. 31, 2014, in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties only.

Limit: 2, no more than 1 antlered.

Fees: Same as whitetails.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 18-May 23 (Youth Hunt Apr. 12-13, 2014, with Sunday hunting in selected counties). Fall Oct. 26-Nov. 2 (Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties only).

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$24.50, res. junior \$10.50. Non-res. \$130, non-res. junior: \$65.

BEAR

Season: Oct. 21-26 (Garrett and Allegany counties). Bear hunting permit required. Permits awarded via a random drawing.

Limit: 1 bear per permit.

Fees: Res. \$24.50, res. junior \$10.50. Non-res. \$130, non-res. junior \$65. Permit lottery application \$15. Permit is free.

Application period: July 1-Aug 31. Up to 3 hunters per permit.

Minimum draw weight: 30 pounds (vertical bows).

Crossbows: Minimum 75-pound draw. Telescopic sights permitted. Deer hunting allowed for all legal crossbow hunters for the entire deer season.

Broadheads: Sharpened broadhead, minimum 7/8-inch width.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '12: 53,904 resident, 7,923 non-resident (based on archery stamp sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Maryland Bowhunters Society, marylandbowhunterssociety.org.

License info: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, 1804 West St., Ste. 300, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-260-3220; Southern Region, (410) 535-3382; Western, (301) 777-2134; Central, (410) 836-4550; Eastern, (410) 713-3840.

Other deer info: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, 14038 Blairs Valley Rd., Clear Spring, MD 21722, (301) 842-0332; www.dnr.maryland.gov.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts has a robust and physically healthy white-tailed deer population. Biologists estimate there are about 85,000 to 95,000 deer statewide. Densities range from about 10 deer per square mile in western Massachusetts to over 50 per square mile on Nantucket Island. Quality white-tailed deer can be found statewide, but the higher density areas in the eastern parts of the state offer hunters a better chance of putting meat in the freezer.

Deer Project Leader David Stainbrook reported a 2012 total harvest of 11,022 white-tailed deer (all seasons), with 3,903 taken during the archery season, which was the highest archery season harvest on record. "Archery is a vital management tool particularly in suburban areas where deer densities are higher due to limited hunting access, and residents may not feel comfortable with firearms hunting," he says. Archery continues to be a popular and effective means of deer hunting in Massachusetts, and the exclusive archery season overlaps the peak of the rut in Massachusetts.

Archers may hunt with a bow and arrow during the shotgun and muzzleloader seasons but must comply with the shotgun or muzzleloader season regulations.

The state's 3,000-strong black bear population is healthy and growing. Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties in northwestern Massachusetts have the highest densities. Hunting over bait is illegal, but farmers might welcome hunters willing to wait on a crop-raiding bear.

Turkey restoration and management programs continue to build huntable turkey populations. In fact, the statewide fall turkey season has been expanded from one week to two. Worcester, Berkshire, Franklin, and Plymouth counties are the state's wild turkey hotspots.

Since 2012, all licenses and permits are computer-generated by either a home computer, participating license vendor, or from a DFW office. This means the elimination of handwritten licenses.

For the first time, hunters may now check their harvest online—for deer, online checking is available during the archery and primitive seasons only. During the two-week shotgun season, all deer must be checked in at a physical check station so that biological data can be collected.

For 2013, a new 2-step process is in place for antlerless deer permits (applications were due July 16). The DFW no longer mails notification and/or remittance postcards to license buyers. It is up to the buyer to apply for the permit(s), determine if he or she has drawn a permit, and pay for and print the permit.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 21-Nov. 30.

Limit: 2 antlered statewide. Antlerless bag determined by permit and zone.

Fees: Res. \$27.50 plus \$5.10 archery stamp. Non-res. \$99.50 plus \$5.10 archery stamp.

Unlimited antlerless permits \$5 each until allocation is sold.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 3-21, Nov. 4-23. Zone 1-9 only.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$27.50 plus \$5 bear permit. Non-res. \$99.50 plus \$5 bear permit. Must apply for bear permit before season opens.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 29-May 25 (Zones 1-13). Youth Apr. 27 (Zones 1-13). Fall Oct. 21-Nov. 2 (Zones 1-13).

Limit: 2. Either 2 bearded birds in spring, or 1 bearded bird in spring and one either-sex in fall. No hunter may take 2 birds in the fall season.

Fees: Res. \$27.50 plus \$5 turkey permit. Non-res. \$99.50 plus \$5 turkey permit.

Minimum draw weight: at least 40 lbs. @28 inches draw.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Illegal, except for permanently handicapped persons who obtain permit.

Bowhunter education permit: First-time hunting or sporting license (combination hunting and fishing) buyers must produce a certificate showing they have passed a basic hunter education course or show a hunting or sporting license from any previous year and/or any state or province.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 35,000-38,000 (based on survey).

State bowhunting organization: Massachusetts Bowhunters Association, 1-800-BOWHUNT; www.massbowhunters.com.

Info/licenses: Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, 100 Hartwell St., Ste. 230, West Boylston, MA 01583 (temporary address until September 2013); (508) 389-6300; www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/.

Michigan

Bowhunting is big in Michigan. In 2012, an estimated 654,100 hunters harvested about 418,000 deer, nearly unchanged from the number taken in 2011. Statewide, 46 percent of hunters harvested a deer in 2012. Archers took 31 percent of all the deer harvested. About 142,500 hunters used a crossbow, harvesting about 59,800 deer. The number of archers using a crossbow increased 20 percent from 2011 (118,573), harvesting 9 percent more deer than they did in 2011.

For 2013, because of epizootic hemorrhagic disease, deer hunters across much of the southern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula won't be allowed to kill as many does as usual this fall because of the disease has wiped out thousands of the animals. The DNR has collected reports indicating at least 13,200 deer have died from the disease this year, and the actual number of deaths is likely far higher because many aren't reported.

The DNR originally did not plan to change any hunting limits for this season. But wildlife officials decided that stricter limits on antlerless deer licenses would help populations bounce back faster in areas hard hit by the disease.

The change will affect much of the southern half of the Lower Peninsula in DMU 486. The DNR will limit each hunter to five antlerless deer hunting licenses for private land, roughly half the usual limit. The public antlerless license purchase limit per hunter is now two for each of the following DMUs: 012 (Branch), 034 (Ionia), 039 (Kalamazoo), 041 (Kent), 044 (Lapeer), 076 (Sanilac), 078 (Shiawassee), 079 (Tuscola) and 080 (Van Buren).

Approximately 15,000-19,000 black bears (including cubs) roam the hardwood and conifer forests of northern Michigan. About 90 percent of the bear live in the Upper Peninsula, while the remaining ten percent are mainly found in the northern Lower Peninsula. However, it is becoming increasingly common to see bear in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. There were 7,906 bear licenses available for all hunt periods in 2013.

Hunting for Michigan elk is becoming increasingly challenging as the animals become more wary. However, populations are up. The most recent elk survey estimated 1,042 animals, higher than expected and above management goals of 800 to 900 animals. There are 200 elk licenses available in 2013. Successful elk hunt applicants must attend a half-day training session near the elk hunt area on the day before their scheduled hunt.

Michigan's estimated turkey population is at over 200,000 birds. Michigan ranks sixth in the nation for turkey harvest and offers one of the country's longest turkey seasons. A total of 51,850 licenses are available for 2013's fall hunt; 5,150 general licenses that may be used on public or private land and 46,700 licenses for private land only. Eleven wild turkey management units, totaling 44,943 square miles, are open, including most of the southern Lower Peninsula, Beaver Island, five counties in the northern Lower Peninsula, and the entire Upper Peninsula. The only change from 2012's hunt is the re-opening of turkey management units J, T and WA.

Michigan offers many online resources. Maps and computer-based tools for narrowing in on the best locations to focus scouting include the Mi-HUNT application available at www.michigan.gov/mihunt. The deer website of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a new collaborative website with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University provide highlights of regulations changes, information about deer management, and links to additional resources, such as a list of deer check stations. Go to www.michigan.gov/deer and deer.fw.msu.edu.

Bear, turkey, and elk season dates for 2013-2014 are below; confirmed 2013 dates for deer were not available at press time, but expect similar timelines. Check with the *2013 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest*, available in early August, or the DNR website (www.michigan.gov/dnr) for complete information about deer hunting seasons and regulations in Michigan.

DEER

Archery season: [2012 dates] Archery Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 1, 2013 (Archery equipment allowed during the Youth Antlerless season Sept. 22-23 and Firearm season Nov. 15-30, however firearm regulations apply.)

Limit: 1 either-sex (2 either-sex with combination license; if both are bucks one must have four or more points on one side).

Fees: Archery license res. \$15, junior archery \$7.50, non-res. \$138; Combination licenses res. \$30, junior \$15, senior \$12, non-res. \$276; Antlerless deer licenses res. \$15, non-res. \$100 (where available, provide additional opportunities). Application required for public land antlerless license and private land antlerless licenses in Zones 1 (UP) and 2 (Northern LP). Antlerless licenses left over following the drawing will be sold over the counter. See DNR website for availability updates.

BEAR

Season: Regular Season Sept. 10-Oct. 26 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by unit). Red Oak Archery-Only (no crossbows) Oct. 4-10.

Limit: 1 (cubs and female bears accompanied by cubs are illegal).

Fees: Res. \$15 plus \$4 application fee; senior \$6 plus \$4 application fee. Non-res. \$150 plus \$4 application fee.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Period 1 Aug. 27-30, Sept. 13-16, Sept. 27-30 in Unit L. Period 2 Dec. 7-15 in Units F, G, X. Period 3 Jan. 15-19, 2014, if additional harvest is needed to achieve population management goals after hunt Periods 1-2.

Limit: 1.

Fees: \$100 license if drawn plus \$4 application fee.

TURKEY

Season: Sept. 15-Nov. 14

Limit: 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$15 turkey license, non-res. \$69, plus \$4 application.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No restrictions.

Crossbows: Bolts must be a minimum of 14 inches in length with a broadhead no less than 7/8 inch wide. Anyone who is 10 years old or older may use a crossbow throughout the archery deer season in the Lower Peninsula and during the early archery deer season in the Upper Peninsula. Crossbow use is not allowed in the Red Oak Unit during the archery-only bear season. A free crossbow stamp is required in addition to regular license for hunting.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, but must complete hunter safety course or have previously purchased a hunting license in order to buy a hunting license.

Bowhunters in '12: 325,424 (142,500 crossbow).

Bowhunting organizations: Michigan Bowhunters Association; www.michiganbowhunters.com. Michigan Traditional Bowhunters; www.michigantraditionalbow.com.

Info/licenses: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944; (517) 373-1263; www.michigan.gov/hunting.

Minnesota

Many factors make Minnesota bowhunter-friendly: inexpensive deer licenses (res \$30; non-res \$165), long season (100+ days), license is valid statewide (no zones), over 1.4 million acres of state wildlife management areas, a generous amount of public land in the form of state and national forest and county lands. And it has the only wilderness area in the Midwest.

Minnesota bowhunters generally can take an either-sex deer without applying for a permit. In approximately one quarter of the state, they can take more than one deer. Over the past 10 years, bowhunters have taken more than 20,000 deer annually. The state's deer herd remains at approximately 900,000 animals.

In 2012, 108,349 archers took 21,605 deer for a 19 percent success rate, slightly up from 2011's 102,276 archers who took 20,444 deer. Look to central and southeast Minnesota for the highest deer densities. Many public lands in northern Minnesota also hold decent deer densities. Be aware that Minnesota instituted an antler point restriction in southeast Minnesota in 2010. A buck must have at least one 4-point antler in order to be legal. Youth hunters (10-17) are exempt from the regulation.

There are roughly 20,000 black bears in Minnesota. Minnesota hunters harvest an average of about 3,000 animals annually. Northern and north-central Minnesota are traditional bear habitat; however, bears can also be found in northwestern Minnesota, where the DNR sells licenses over-the-

counter. In 2012, an estimated 8,500 hunters took 2,604 bruins for a 30 percent success rate, up from 2011's success rate of 23 percent (9,100 hunters/2,131 bears). Please note that bear bait stations must now be identified with a sign that contains the licensee's name and address or their driver's license number or DNR number. No more than three bait stations may be placed at one time for each licensed hunter.

Wild turkey numbers now exceed 30,000. The 2013 spring turkey harvest of 10,381 was the fifth-highest ever. A cold, long-lasting spring is believed to have contributed to the reduced harvest. In 2012's spring season, hunters harvested 11,324 turkeys.

Elk licenses will be available in Kittson County, which offers its traditional central zone and a new zone, established in 2011, in the northeast. Elk licenses will not be available in the traditional Grygla area in 2013. All successful applicants are required to attend an orientation session prior to the hunt.

Minnesota's moose population is declining. As a result, the moose season in Minnesota will not open in 2013. The northeast moose population estimate has declined from a high of 8,840 as recently as 2006 to an estimated 2,760 animals in 2013. A large, multi-agency study is ongoing to better understand the causes of adult and calf mortality. Scientists suspect a combination of higher summertime temperatures; parasites such as brain worms and ticks; increased numbers of deer, which carry brain worms; diseases; aging forests that contain less food for moose; and possibly more wolves in the moose range. More information is available on the Minnesota DNR website (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/index.html>).

Minnesota has a wolf season. For more information about the season (TBD) and requirements, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/wolf/index.html.

Please note that Minnesota license fees increased on March 1, 2013, to maintain DNR programs, the first rate increase in 12 years.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 14-Dec. 31. Camp Ripley Archery Hunts Oct. 20-21, Oct. 29-30.

Limit: 1 (additional tags for up to 5 deer available in some areas).

Fees: Res. \$30. Non-res. \$165.

Deadlines: Camp Ripley applications due Aug. 16.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 1-Oct. 13

Limit: 1 adult bear per licensed hunter in Quota Areas. 2 adult bears per licensed hunter in No Quota areas.

Fees: Res. \$44. Non-res. \$230.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Sept. 14-22. Kittson County Central Elk Zone only Sept. 28-Oct. 6, Dec. 7-15, and Jan. 11-19, 2014. Apply alone or in parties of 2.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fee: \$287 per party, \$4 application fee.

Application deadline: June 14

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 28-Oct. 27. Spring Apr. 18-May 22 (earliest date).

Limit: 1 either-sex in fall. 1 bearded bird in spring.

Fees: Res. \$26. Non-res. \$96. \$4 application.

Application deadlines: Fall turkey licenses no longer distributed by lottery; they may be purchased online, by telephone, and wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Spring—Jan. 10, 2014.

Minimum draw weight: 30 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have at least two metal edges of barbless design and a cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: A licensed hunter may use a crossbow as a choice of arms for bear, deer with a regular firearms license, turkey with a firearms license, or a crossbow disability permit and an archery license. Crossbow hunters may not party hunt with firearms or archery hunters.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Special hunts: Camp Ripley Bow Hunt, 2,500 permits issued for two Saturday-Sunday hunts. Apply through DNR computerized Electronic License System (ELS) at one of the 1,800 statewide Point-of-Sale agents, at the DNR's St. Paul License Center, or by the Department's ELS telephone system.

Archery licenses in '12: 108,349 (deer archery licenses).

Bowhunting organization(s): Minnesota Bowhunters Inc., (763) 213-6811; www.mnbowhunters.org. Minnesota State Archery Association, (320) 398-8747; president.msaa@mnarchery.org; www.mnarchery.org.

Info/licenses: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4001; (888)-MINNDNR; www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Mississippi

Mississippi offers much to the deer enthusiast. A long hunting season (Oct. 1-Jan. 31), a high deer population, and a very good age structure—the average age of bucks harvested on DMAP properties is over 3 years old—make it a top-notch destination. In addition, many, if not most, private lands in Mississippi implement antler criteria above the state minimum, as do many public lands. The result is a high percentage of high-quality mature bucks.

Harvest data for 2012 and forecasts for 2013 were unavailable at press time. However, in general, Mississippi's Delta region traditionally produces more high quality bucks than other regions. Deer populations vary across the state, but all regions have moderate to very high deer populations. Please consult the MDWFP website for updates: www.mdwfp.com.

Near-perfect conditions in 2012 produced the best Mississippi turkey hatch in 10 years. Observations indicate that “in 2014, we ought to have a tremendous season,” particularly in southwest Mississippi, said Wild Turkey Program Coordinator Dave Godwin. The last solid overall statewide hatch was about in 2002, Godwin said. For 2013, hunters should expect to encounter fewer 2-year-old gobblers as compared to 2012. However, there will still be plenty of birds, say officials. Carryover from the very good 2010 hatch should result in more 3-year-olds.

In 2012, more than 4,100 Mississippi residents submitted applications for 810 available permits, and 513 alligators were killed. MDWFP confirmed the new record for heaviest alligator, harvested on Sept. 22. by the hunting party of Tom Grant of Boyle, MS, on a private hunting club near Fidler in Issaquena County. The new weight record of 697.5 pounds exceeds the previous record of 690.5 pounds, taken on private lands in Issaquena County in 2011.

DEER

Season: Archery Hill Zone Oct. 1-Nov. 22 (either-sex), Southeast Zone Oct. 15-Nov. 22 (either-sex), Delta Zone Oct. 1-Nov. 22 (either-sex). Primitive Weapon Hill Zone Nov. 11-22 (antlerless only), Dec. 2-15 (either-sex), Jan. 23-31 (either-sex); Southeast Zone Dec. 2-15 (either-sex), Jan. 22-31 (either-sex), Feb. 1-15 (legal bucks); Delta Zone Nov. 11-22 (antlerless), Dec. 2-15 (either-sex), Jan. 23-31 (either-sex). Youth Season Nov. 9-Jan. 31 or Nov. 9-Feb. 15 (either-sex) depending on zone.

Limit: Antlered buck deer 1 per day, 3 per license year. Legal bucks must meet the antler criteria within the appropriate deer management zone (special conditions for youth under 15; see regs). Antlerless 1 per day, 5 per license year.

Fees: Res. \$17 plus \$14 primitive weapon permit; may buy \$32 Sportsman's license that covers archery. Non-res. \$300 plus \$5 non-res. deer permit plus \$75 primitive weapon permit, or 7-day non-res. all-game license \$125.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Mar. 15-May 1. Fall Oct. 15-Nov. 15 (see www.mdwfp.com for open counties).

Limit: Spring 3 adult gobblers per season, but only 1 per day. Fall 2 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$17 plus \$14 primitive weapon permit; residents may buy \$32 Sportsman's license that covers archery. Non-res. \$300 plus \$75 primitive weapon permit, or 7-day non-res. all-game license \$125.

ALLIGATOR

Season: Public Waters Aug. 30-Sept. 9. Private Lands Aug. 30-Sept. 23.

Limit: 2 alligators 4 feet in length or longer, only 1 may exceed 7 feet in length.

Fees: Res. \$17 plus \$25 alligator hunting license and \$100 Alligator Possession Tag (\$200 for non-res. on private lands). Non-residents in reciprocal agreement locations must purchase their Alligator Hunting License in the Jackson Office.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Unspecified.

Crossbows: Permitted during primitive weapon and firearms season, and for use by the physically challenged and those age 65+ during archery season. Additional crossbow license required for some seasons.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in 2011-2012: 55,339 (45,674 res., 9,665 non-res., based on Responsive Management phone survey).

Bowhunting organization(s): Mississippi Bowhunters Association; www.mississippibowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, 1505 Eastover Dr., Jackson, MS 39211; (601) 432-2400; www.mdwfp.com.

Missouri

“The 2013 archery deer season should be good with solid deer numbers throughout most of the state,” says Resource Scientist Jason Sumners. “Generally, higher densities and larger deer are found north of the Missouri River, but good deer hunting can be found anywhere in the state.” Liberal harvests, good deer populations, and a pretty good buck age structure, especially in counties with an antler restriction, help make Missouri a bowhunting hotspot.

Missouri's 2012 deer harvest was 309,929, an increase of 7 percent from 2011. Archers killed a 51,008 deer last year, a 3 percent decrease from 2011. Howell County led the overall (archery and firearms) deer kill with 5,572. Franklin County was second with 5,561, and Benton County came in third with 5,516. Other top-10 counties were: Camden, 5,380; Callaway, 5,354; Texas, 5,214; Morgan, 4,942; Macon, 4,883; Osage, 4,820, and Wayne, 4,774. Bowhunting can be good statewide, but deer densities tend to be highest and the habitat most conducive to bowhunting in agricultural areas north of the Missouri River.

The 2012 deer harvest was 52 percent male deer. The statewide increase in harvest was the result of poor acorn production in the Ozarks, inducing deer to seek out food sources in more open habitats, thus making them more vulnerable to harvest. Additionally, deer populations across the southern third of Missouri are slowly increasing. Deer numbers in parts of central and northern Missouri have stabilized or decreased over the last several years. The 4-point restriction, which requires that a deer have at least 4 points on one side to be legal during the archery or firearms seasons, continues to produce more bucks in older age classes. Counties included in the restriction are in northern, central, and west-central Missouri.

Non-resident archery permit fees are \$225. There are no changes in resident permit prices. Resident and nonresident hunters can buy their permit over-the-counter; no quota.

Special permits for "above & beyond" archery-only managed deer hunting opportunities are available from Missouri Permit Vendors or the Wildlife Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation—res. \$17, non-res. \$225. Lifetime hunting licenses are available to residents for \$400, but do not include deer.

Managed deer hunts occur on numerous public lands throughout the state. Dates and bag limits vary by area, but deer taken on managed hunts do not count toward regular season limits. Application period July 1-Aug. 15. Consult the *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting* booklet for details.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 15-Nov. 15. Nov. 27-Jan. 15, 2014 (closed during firearms season, orange required in areas open to youth and antlerless portions of the firearms season).

Limit: 2. Only 1 antlered before firearms season; 4 points per side restriction in all of 58 counties and parts of 4 additional counties. Additional antlerless deer available on archery antlerless permits in 104 counties.

Fees: Res. \$19. Non-res. \$225.

TURKEY

Season: Same as deer.

Limit: 2.

Fees: Same as deer.

FERAL HOGS

Season: Feral hogs may be taken in any number throughout the year. During most of the year, no permit is required and any method, including baiting and the use of dogs, is allowed. Special restrictions apply during the fall firearms deer and turkey hunting seasons.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: All legal broadheads permitted.

Crossbows: Permitted during firearms season and small game seasons, and for use by the physically challenged in archery season.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Bowhunters in '12: 191,753 (183,341 res., 8,412 non-res.); actual number is probably closer to 165,000 (license sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Missouri Bow Hunters Assn.; www.mobowhunters.org. United Bowhunters of Missouri; www.unitedbowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Missouri Department of Conservation, Wildlife Division, Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; (573) 751-4115; www.mdc.mo.gov.

Montana

Montana bowhunting is noted for its long seasons and diversity of species. Bowhunters will find good opportunities for elk in most areas there is a season. The same goes for deer—both species. The exception is eastern Montana where antelope and deer are still recovering from a tough winter in 2011 and a whitetail EHD outbreak. Bear numbers are healthy.

Looking at the 2013 season, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Ron Aasheim says, "It should be a good year although in some areas there have been impacts associated with predators to elk: north of Yellowstone National Park, the upper Gallatin in particular and Bitterroot."

Wolves, because they eat deer, elk, and other big game, have been the focus of hunter concern. Yet in most areas elk numbers are stable or increasing. Populations are at or above objective in over 85 percent of the state. FWP is increasing its monitoring and research to study the effects of wolf-big game interactions and what that means for hunters. For the latest, go to <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/harvestReports.html>.

Deep snows and a severe winter in northeastern Montana prompted significant reductions in the number of licenses issued for pronghorn and whitetail deer there.

Overall, Aasheim says, hunters will reap the benefits of this year's spring rains, and the country is in good shape.

For only the third time in recent history, Montana still has nonresident big game licenses available. Those are available on line at fwp.mt.gov.

All license purchases require prerequisite Conservation license (res. \$8, non-res. \$10) and Bow and Arrow license (\$10).

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 7-Oct. 20. Backcountry (districts 150,151, 280, 316) Sept.15-Dec 1.

General Season Oct. 26-Dec 1.

Limit: 1 (sex, species, and limit vary by hunting district).

Fees: Res. Deer A \$16, Deer B \$15, Deer B Antlerless \$10. Non-res. Big Game Elk/Deer Combination (General) \$959; Bow and Arrow \$10; Deer B \$80 (available by permit), Deer B Antlerless \$75; Deer Combination General and Landowner Sponsored \$570.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 7-14. Fall Sept. 15-Dec 1. Spring Apr. 15-May 31 or June 15 depending on the area.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$19. Non-res. \$350.

ELK

Season: Same as deer.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. Big Game Elk/Deer Combination (General) \$959, Elk Combination General \$809.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 15-Dec 1 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; other dates in some districts).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$130. Non-res. \$755.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Sept. 7-Oct. 11. General Oct.12-Nov. 10.

Limit: 1 either-sex and 2 doe/fawn (Antelope B) (available by permit).

Fees: Res. \$19. Non-res. \$205.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Archery Sept. 5-14. General Sept. 15-Dec. 1 (earlier opening in some districts).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$130. Non-res. \$755.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Sept. 15- Dec. 1 (earlier opening in some districts).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$130. Non-res. \$755.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Archery Sept 7-Oct 20. Fall Oct. 26-Dec. 1. Winter Dec. 1-Apr. 14, 2013 (hounds permitted winter season only).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$19, plus \$50 trophy fee after kill. Non-res. \$320, plus \$50 trophy fee after kill.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 1-Jan. 1. Spring Apr. 13-May 19.

Limit: 1 per season.

Fees: Res. \$6.50, plus \$7.50 upland bird permit, plus \$5 spring or fall permit. Non-res. \$115 plus optional (depending on area) \$5 spring or fall permit.

Minimum draw weight: Maximum letoff cannot exceed 80 percent. Bows cannot be shorter than 28 inches. A bowsight or arrow that uses artificial light, luminous chemicals (such as tritium), or electronics are illegal during Archery-Only seasons or districts.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges and be at 7/8 inches at widest point and weigh at least 70 grains. Arrow must be at least 20 inches long (broadhead tip to nock) and weigh no less than 300 grains with broadhead attached.

Crossbows: Permitted for regular firearms season; prohibited during archery season.

Bowhunter education certificate: Hunter safety and education course required if born after January 1, 1985. NBEF-approved bowhunting education or any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province.

Archery licenses in '12: 41,766.

Bowhunting organization(s): Montana Bowhunters Association; www.mtba.org. Traditional Bowhunters of Montana; www.tradbowmt.org.

Information/licenses: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 200701, 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620; Info (406) 444-2535; Licensing (406) 444-2950; <http://fwp.mt.gov>; fwpgen@mt.gov.

Nebraska

Nebraska offers low hunter density, long seasons, easy archery permit access in all areas, and quality animals. Age of bucks remains high with 34 percent of harvested whitetail bucks and 42 percent of harvested mule deer bucks age 3 or older. Whitetails occur statewide with the highest populations occurring along riparian (wooded) corridors. In 2012 all hunters harvested 7,300 mule deer bucks and 26,000 whitetail bucks. Archery buck kill was 2,300 whitetail bucks and 250 mule deer bucks.

The record drought and EHD event of 2012 affected all areas of the state except the Southwest unit. "We likely lost more than a third of the whitetail herd due the EHD losses," says Big Game Program Manager Kit Hams. Mule deer occur in the western half of the state and have declined in the northern deer units. Private land provides the best opportunities for success.

The next three years will be rebuilding years with reduced number of antlerless tags in most units. Bonus antlerless whitetail tags have been eliminated from all statewide permits, including archery.

Pronghorn populations remain relatively high (12,000) and increasing numbers of archers pursue them. Last year 1,100 archers harvested 230 bucks. Most of Nebraska's pronghorn reside in the northern and southern panhandle. Public lands like the 100,000-acre Oglala National Grassland provide good hunting opportunity. Access to private land is usually very good if you can find the owner. The overall number of Archery permits is unlimited, although hunters can only purchase one.

Turkeys remain very abundant throughout much of the state where there are trees and long archery seasons provide lot of opportunity.

In addition to the fees below, all hunters are required to have a \$20 habitat stamp. Special \$5 Youth (Apprentice) permits are available for resident and non-resident youth for deer and turkey.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 15-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$30. Non-res. \$209. Res. or non-res. youth \$5.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Bulls Sept. 29-Oct. 28. Cows Sept 29-Oct 28 and Dec. 1-31.

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$159 (\$39.40 Landowners).

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug 20-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 either-sex

Fees: Res. \$35. Non-res. \$159.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Archery Mar. 25-May 31. Fall Archery Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2014.

Limit: Fall 2. Spring 1 male or female bearded.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$90. Res. or non-res. youth \$5.

Minimum draw weight: No minimum for deer, pronghorn, elk, or turkey. See regs for other species.

Broadheads: Minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and cutting edge of at least 3 inches. Turkeys may be hunted with blunt bludgeon with diameter of at least 9/16 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during deer and pronghorn archery and firearm season. Minimum draw weight is 125 lbs.

Bowhunter education permit: Required for hunters ages 12-29. Hunters with either a firearm or crossbow must have on their person proof of successful completion of Firearm Hunter Education.

Archery licenses in '12: 15,868 (res. 13,074, non-res. 2,794, based on permit sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Nebraska Bowhunters Association;
www.nebraskabowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503; (402) 471-0641; www.ngpc.state.ne.us/wildlife/.

Nevada

“Hunters will have a challenging time matching the quality of hunting experience that can be found in Nevada, not only in terms of the quality of animals they will see while hunting, but in the quality of the hunting experience that is available to anyone,” says NDOW’s Doug Nielsen. He’s right. Nevada offers a wide diversity of hunting opportunities and environments, whether wilderness hunts by foot or by horse, or hunts that allow vehicular access. One can literally spend a week in Nevada’s wild lands and never see another human being. The challenge for archers is getting close enough for a shot in Nevada’s typically wide open terrain.

Since 87 percent of Nevada is publicly owned land, access is rarely an issue. And due to Nevada’s conservative approach to big game tag allocation, those who were lucky enough to find a tag in their mailbox stand a good chance of having at least the opportunity of harvesting a trophy-class animal. While some areas receive more media coverage or more campfire talk than others, virtually every unit has the capability of producing a very nice animal for dedicated hunters.

Though drought conditions continue to plague the Silver State, Nielsen says that hunters can expect hunting conditions similar to those during the 2012-2013 season, including relatively high male-to-female ratios, so hunters will have the opportunity to see some quality animals. Perhaps the two most popular species among bowhunters are mule deer and elk.

For the second straight year, the post-season mule deer buck ratio—32 bucks per 100 does—was the highest in Nevada’s history. Overall mule deer populations declined 3 percent, but maintain the 10-year average of about 109,000 animals. Statewide, hunter success for mule deer bucks was 42 percent in 2012, up from 39 percent the two years prior. Resident archers had an 18 percent success rate, nonresidents 22 percent. Four-point-or-larger bucks accounted for 35 percent and 49 percent of resident and nonresident harvests, respectively.

Nevada’s elk population continues to grow, and so does hunter opportunity for both bulls and cows. “[Elk] fever is definitely on the rise in Nevada,” Nielsen says. “These elusive animals are extending their range across the state....” Estimates place the state’s elk population at approximately 16,600 adults. In 2012, 71 percent of all harvested bulls were 6-point-or-better bulls, just a single percentage point below the 2011 mark of 72 percent. For archers, on the other hand, that number hit 93 percent for residents, 86 percent for nonresidents.

Pronghorn hunters should find excellent hunting opportunity. Though surveys found one of the lowest buck-to-doe ratios in the past decade at 36 bucks per 100 does, the statewide

population is pushing 29,000 animals. Just 10 years ago that number was just 18,000 animals. Archers in 2012 experienced a 25 percent success rate.

A key to success? Focus on water, the lifeblood of the desert. “We remain in an extended drought so water is the key, especially in the southern units, as archery seasons get underway,” Nielsen says. Note that could all change with a couple of good thunderstorms and the water they leave scattered throughout natural and manmade water tanks. That means hunters need to be flexible in their approach.

In other NDOW news, the agency has recommended the establishment of several split-seasons in order to create more hunting opportunity and to reach harvest objectives.

For the first time nonresidents will have the opportunity to hunt antlerless elk during an any legal weapon season in 11 areas.

Minor changes have been made to several units, so double-check unit boundaries prior to going afield in the fall, especially if the areas you have hunted in the past tend to be on the edge of a unit.

The NDOW website address is the same (www.ndow.org), but the site itself is “sporting a new coat of paint.” Nielsen suggests spending time perusing the site to become familiar with its resources for finding data to plan a hunt or tag application choices for the draw. A valuable document, under Education/Publications, is the annual Big Game Status Report containing the latest information about big game animals by unit.

Nevada inaugurated its Dream Tag program in 2012, giving residents and non-residents a chance at hunts of a lifetime. Proceeds support habitat restoration. After the purchase of a \$10 Resource Enhancement Stamp, you can purchase an unlimited number of \$5 raffle tickets for each species. For more information, visit www.NVDreamTag.org.

Nevada offers a special youth archery hunt. Approx 3,600 tags are available to resident youths 12-17 years of age to hunt during the archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapons seasons in units in which their tag is valid and until the tag is filled.

The big game application period is mid-March through mid-April. Check regs for exact deadlines.

MULE DEER

Season: Aug.10-Jan. 1 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Archery Aug. 10-Sept. 9 in most units.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$30 deer tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$240 deer tag.

ELK (antlered)

Season: Aug. 25-Dec. 4 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Archery Aug. 25-Sept. 16.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 elk tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 elk tag.

ELK (antlerless)

Season: Aug. 1-Jan. 10 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Archery Aug. 1-24 in most units.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 elk tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$500 elk tag when available.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 1-Aug. 20. Any Weapon Aug. 22-Oct. 30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$60 antelope tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$300 antelope tag.

NELSON'S (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Res. Oct. 1-Jan. 1 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Non-res. Oct. 15-Dec. 20 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 sheep tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 sheep tag.

CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sept. 1-Oct. 30.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 sheep tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 sheep tag.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sept. 1-Feb. 20 in most units. Dec. 20-Feb. 20 in unit 115.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 sheep tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 sheep tag.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Sept. 1-Oct. 30.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$120 goat tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$1,200 goat tag.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Sept. 15-Dec. 31

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$100 bear tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$300 bear tag.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Mar. 1, 2013-Feb. 28, 2014, or earlier if harvest objective is met (by unit group).

Limit: 1 animal per tag, 2 tags per person.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$33 plus \$29 lion tag. Non-res. hunting license \$142 plus \$104 lion tag.

Minimum draw weight: Longbows must be capable of casting a 400-grain arrow 150 yards over level terrain.

Broadheads: Hunting arrows must have tips at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: Permitted for use by any hunter only during Any Legal Weapon season.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, but offered by NDOW as a customer service.

Bowhunting tags in '12: 7,789 (3,986 res., 559 non-res., 3,228 junior mule deer, elk and antelope tags).

Bowhunting organization(s): Nevada Bowhunters Association; www.nevadabowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; (775) 688-1500; www.ndow.org.

New Hampshire

Although small in area, New Hampshire offers more than 200,000 acres of state land and 750,000 acres of White Mountain National Forest open to hunters. Unlike several surrounding states, it also offers Sunday hunting.

“We have long archery season,” says Hunting Education Coordinator Josh Mackay. “Bear season opens on Sept. 1. Archery deer seasons runs from Sept. 15-Dec. 15. We are lucky in New Hampshire in that if the land isn’t posted against hunting or trespassing, then you can hunt there, provided you follow all other laws. This makes access much easier than many other states where you need permission and many times have to pay a lease. Basically we have easy access, great opportunity with long seasons, and ample game, and our licenses are relatively inexpensive.”

For 2012, bowhunters can find good opportunities for whitetail, black bear and turkey. Coyote season is open year-round, so archers can take advantage of that season as well.

New Hampshire has an estimated population of about 85,000 deer. The overall picture is very promising, Mackay says. “We had another mild winter here in New Hampshire with a general lack of snowfall until the end of the season. The herd should be in great shape.” In 2012, hunters took 11,612 deer (3,151 by bowhunters) statewide, up 5 percent from 2011.

New Hampshire boasts a strong and stable black bear population, estimated at about 4,800 animals. Bear success rates are consistent with other Northeastern states, averaging 5 percent. During an average fall, 10,500 hunters will take 500 bears. In 2012, they took a record 808.

For gobbler-gettin’, the state is a great destination. New Hampshire offers a three-month-long autumn archery season starting Sept. 15, and its turkey license covers both spring and fall seasons. The state turkey population stands at 40,000 birds. During the 2012 spring hunt alone, hunters harvested 3,876 turkeys. Fall turkey hunters took 1,056 birds, 350 by archery.

For more detailed harvest information visit http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Hunting/harvest_summary/index.html.

New Hampshire has a new apprentice hunting license. Look for details in the annual laws digest.

An archery license (res. \$22/non-res. \$73), which covers one deer tag, and a \$2.50 Wildlife Habitat fee are required in addition to the fees listed below.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 15-Dec.15.

Limit: 2 (if using second archery tag).

Fees: First tag included in archery license. (Res. \$22. Non-res. \$73.) Res. \$16 special tag. Non-res. \$16 second tag.

BEAR

Season: General Sept. 1-Late November (closing dates vary by unit and method).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$16. Non-res. \$48.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 15-Dec. 15 (archery only). Spring May 3-31, 2013.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 1 bearded bird.

Fees: Res. \$16. Non-res. \$31. Price includes both spring and fall tags.

COYOTE

Season: Year-round

Limit: No limit.

Fees: Non-res. Small Game Hunting \$53.

Minimum draw weight: 30 lbs. at 28 inches draw for turkey, 40 lbs. for deer. Archers must have their name and address on arrows.

Broadheads: Fixed-blade broadheads can measure no less than 7/8 inch, no greater than 1.5 inches. Retractable-blade broadheads may be less than 7/8 inches wide in flight but must be at least 7/8 inches wide when open.

Crossbows: Legal for physically challenged hunters by permit, or with regular hunting license and crossbow permit during regular firearm deer season.

Bowhunter education permit: Required (or must have previous archery license).

Est. bowhunters in '12: 18,000-19,000 (est. 16,000 res., 2,000 non-res., based on license sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters Wildlife Management Association of New Hampshire; www.bwmanh.org. Granite state Bowhunters; www.granitestatebowhunters.com. White Mountain Traditional Bowhunters; www.whitemountaintraditionalbowhunters.com.

Information/licenses: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH 03301; (603) 271-3422; www.wildlife.state.nh.us.

New Jersey

New Jersey offers more than 750,000 acres of public land (state, federal, county and municipal) that provides diverse habitats from hardwood ridges and rolling hills to pine forests and salt marsh. This total includes more than 330,000 acres in the state's WMAs as well as acreage in 27 state parks and forests.

In 2012, New Jersey bowhunters took 25,886 deer, up from 2011's 24,993 deer.

Approximately, 64,000 deer (all weapons) are harvested annually. However, 2012's deer harvest came in just under 50,000.

Each square mile yields an average of 4 antlered bucks and 8 antlerless deer. Deer quality continues to improve, say state officials. The fact that five of the eight all-time category leader deer harvested in New Jersey have been taken within the last seven years attests to improving quality.

Above-standard deer can be found in Zones 2, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29, 35, 49, 50, 54, 59, 60 and 63. In general, deer from the fertile agricultural regions are at the top of the condition scale, whereas deer from zones located in the outer coastal plain (the Pinelands) are generally in poorer condition. Outer coastal plain zones are characterized by sandy, acidic soils that support vegetation of low nutritional value.

The statewide wild turkey population is currently estimated at 23,000 birds, with 3,000 taken (all weapons) annually. In 2012 hunters took 2,954 spring birds, down from 2011's 3,442. Poultry production in 2011 was fair throughout New Jersey after a summer of heavy rains, but better in 2012. If New Jersey experiences a year or two of weather conditions conducive to good summer productivity turkey population should continue to rise.

Wild turkeys are found throughout the state wherever there is suitable habitat. Best turkey spots in the north are the Hamburg Mountain, Wanaque, Walpack and Sparta Mountain WMAs. In the central region, the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area offers good hunting opportunities. In South Jersey abundant public land and a low density of hunters makes for great turkey hunting. The nearly 50,000 combined acres of the Peaslee and Millville (Bevans) Wildlife Management Areas make good choices in this part of the Garden State. Other good turkey hunting areas include the Newark Watershed properties, Stokes State Forest and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. There were 5,170 spring permits, and there will be 3,375 permits issued for fall.

Bear numbers continue to increase and the population is expanding. Unfortunately it is not legal to take bear with a bow or crossbow at this time.

Crossbows are permitted for the taking of migratory birds (see regs). Arrows with edged heads are prohibited for the taking of game birds in flight; flu-flu arrows now required instead.

Monitor the Division's website at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ for further updates.

DEER

Season: Regular Fall Bow Sept. 14-Oct. 25 (earliest and latest dates). Youth Sept. 22. Permit Bow Oct. 26-Dec. 31, except Dec. 25 (earliest and latest dates). Winter Bow Jan. 1-Feb. 15, 2014 (earliest and latest dates). Dates vary by zone.

Limits: Varies by season and zone. Certain zones are antler point restricted to minimum of 3 points on at least one side.

Fees: Res. Bow and Arrow Hunting \$31.50, Senior (65 years and older) \$16.50, or All-Around Sportsmen \$72.25 (includes firearms, archery, and fishing). Non-res. Bow and Arrow Hunting \$135.50. Permit Bow season permit (adult) \$28, (youth) \$12. Plus bow permit for the deer management zone being hunted is required for permit bow season.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 22-May 26, 2013 (earliest and latest dates), divided into five segments. Fall Oct. 26-Nov. 2, permits are hunting area-specific.

Limits: Fall 1 either-sex per day. Spring 1 tom per day.

Fees: Res. \$31.25, Senior (65 years and older) \$16.50, or All-Around Sportsmen \$72.25 (includes firearms, archery, and fishing). Non-res. \$135.50. Special Season Turkey permit (adult) \$21, (youth) \$12.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs. at archer's draw length.

Broadheads: Must be fitted with an edged head with metal cutting edges and a minimum width of 3/4 inch.

Crossbows: Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 75 lbs. and a minimum stock length of 25 inches. (Note that that crossbows are *not* legal for bowfishing at this time; bowfishing is covered by the Freshwater Fish Code.)

Bowhunter education permit: A previous resident bow license from New Jersey or any state, or a bowhunter safety course card indicating completion of course.

Bowhunting licenses sold in '12: 40,872 (res. and non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of New Jersey, P.O. Box 11, Ringwood, NJ 07456; (989) 555-5551; info@ubnj.org; www.ubnj.org.

Info/licenses: New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402; (609) 292-2965; www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/.

New Mexico

New Mexico offers large amounts of public land, a variety of species, and the opportunity to draw a permit year after year without having to collect preference points. Plus a choice of a wide variety of habitat types ranging from desert sands to tall timbered mountains make this state a bowhunter's paradise. Bowhunting seasons run as early as August for pronghorn and September for deer and elk. If bowhunters prefer cooler weather, they can apply for some of the state's January bowhunts. New Mexico is well known for trophy-quality elk, mule deer, pronghorn, ibex, and oryx.

The prevailing factor for 2013 hunting conditions is the state's ongoing drought, which means wildlife recruitment rates, which then translates to fewer available numbers of harvestable animals in the future. For hunters and wildlife, it's all about gathering where there is water.

New Mexico state climatologist David DuBois, quoted in media outlets, says that the trees, plants, and wildlife in more than 93 percent of the state are struggling to survive in extreme or exceptional drought conditions. A report by CLIMAS (Climate Assessment for the Southwest), University of Arizona, dated June 26, states, "Record-setting drought in New Mexico in the last 12 months is contributing to intensifying and widespread drought conditions in the state. New Mexico is now the epicenter for drought in the U.S., with extreme or exceptional drought covering about 90 percent of the state. According to some indicators, the last two years in New Mexico have been the most arid during the protracted dry period that began around 2000...."

Wildlife officials also report increase deer- and bear-car collisions as the animals come out of the mountains searching for water.

Due to high fire danger across the state at press time, New Mexico has implemented strict fire restrictions throughout the state. This includes the prohibition of campfires as well as smoking, except in enclosed buildings, within vehicles equipped with ashtrays, and on paved or surfaced roads, developed recreation sites, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

As a result, hunters will have to closely monitor access to public lands, which may be closed if fires flare up.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) maintains two years' worth of elk and deer harvest data on the NMDGF website. Reviewing the data for success rates in specific units of interest is recommended.

Crossbow use is legal during "Any Legal Sporting Arm" hunts and "Muzzleloader" hunts.

Important changes for 2013: For the 2013-14 license year, mandatory harvest reporting becomes effective for all deer, elk pronghorn antelope, javalina, Barbary sheep, oryx, ibex, turkey and furbearer licenses holders who want to remain eligible the following year for draw hunts, population management hunts, private-land authorizations or trapper licenses. Harvest report deadlines are Feb. 15, 2014, for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and turkey, and Apr. 7, 2014, for javalina, Barbary sheep, oryx, and ibex.

The state's new Mentored-Youth Hunter Program offers first-time hunters under 18 years of age the opportunity to apply for and purchase a hunting license. After completion of a simplified online training course, youth may obtain a temporary registration number to hunt under the supervision of an adult mentor. At the end of the second license year, each Mentored-

Youth Hunter under age 18 years is required to complete the full Hunter Education Course in order to purchase a Game-hunting License or Game-hunting & Fishing License and apply for draw hunts.

Application deadlines for many big-game species are in early February, others in March. New Mexico offer many special hunts and opportunities for archers during general seasons. Because of their complexity, they are not listed here. Prices below are for over-the-counter unless a species is draw-only. Please note that the Department has gone paperless for all draw applications, and full fees are required up front. All hunters must purchase a Game-hunting license (\$15 res., \$65 non-res.) before applying for any big game draw license or before purchasing any OTC big game or turkey license.

Drawings available for youths 17 and younger and mobility-impaired hunters (must be certified as such by physician). Resident disabled veterans are eligible for free small game, fishing and deer licenses. Call (800) 862-9310 for details.

Feral hogs damage habitat, contaminate water supplies and compete with native wildlife. Due to the growing impact of feral hogs throughout the state of New Mexico, NMDGF encourages eradication of this nongame intruder. New Mexico residents and nonresidents may legally kill feral hogs year-round without a license. (Get landowner permission on private lands.) Some hunting regs still apply; be sure to review them.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 1-22 (Sept. 1-24 in some units), Jan. 1-15, 2014 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1 deer with at least two points on one side.

Fees: Res. \$42 (private land \$34). Non-res. \$290 (private land \$270 standard, \$355 quality).

Non-res. quality or high demand \$375.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 1-22 (Sept. 1-24 in some units). Any Legal Weapon Aug. 16-Nov. 30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1 bear (no cub or sow with cub).

Fees: Res. \$47. Non-res. \$260. Application fees res. \$8, non-res. \$20.

COUGAR

Season: Year-round.

Limit: 2. No kittens or females with kittens.

Fees: Res. \$43. Non-res. \$290.

ELK

Seasons: Bow Only Sept. 1-24 and Late Season Archery Nov. 16-Dec. 18 (earliest and latest dates; varies by unit).

Limit: 1 either-sex (during bow-only season).

Fees: Res. antlerless \$61, mature bull or either-sex \$91, quality antlerless \$61, quality mature bull or either-sex \$91. Non-res. mature bull or either-sex \$555, quality antlerless \$780, quality mature bull or either-sex \$780.

PRONGHORN

Season: Bows Only Aug. 3-Sept. 1 (earliest and latest dates; varies by unit).

Limit: 1 mature buck.

Fees: Res. \$61. Non-res. \$290.

JAVELINA

Season: Bow-Only Jan. 1-31, 2014 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$66. Non-res. \$185.

BARBARY SHEEP

Season: Feb. 1-28, 2014, Units 29-32, 34, 36, 37. April 1-Mar. 31, 2014, Units 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 25, 33, 38-59.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$111. Non-res. \$380.

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Oct. 1-Jan. 1, 2014 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1 ram.

Fees: Res. \$161 ram, \$86 ewe. Non-res. \$3,180 ram or ewe.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 17-Sept. 13 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit).

Limit: 1 ram (1 ewe Aug. 31-Sept. 6 Latir Mountains unit).

Fees: Res. \$161 ram, \$86 ewe. Non-res. \$3,180 ram or ewe.

IBEX

Season: Bow Only Oct. 1-14, Jan. 17-30, 2014, Florida Mountains in Unit 25.

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$111. Non-res. \$1,630.

ORYX

Season: Specific unit hunts scheduled year-round. See hunting guide for details.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$161. Non-res. \$1,630.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 15-May 10. Fall Bow-Only Sept. 1-30. Additional draw hunts available.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded. Fall 1 either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. \$100. Application fees res. \$8, non-res. \$20.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: All legal broadheads (must have steel cutting edges) permitted. No drugs or explosives allows on arrows.

Crossbows: Crossbows allowed in "Any Legal Sporting Arm" or "Muzzleloader" hunts unless otherwise restricted. Allowed by certified Mobility Impaired Hunters during all hunts. Sights on crossbows may not magnify targets or project light. Bolts must have broadheads with steel cutting edges. No drugs may be used on bolts. Bolts cannot be driven by explosives.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Licenses with archery sold in '12: 17,597.

Bowhunting organizations: United Bowhunters of New Mexico, www.unitedbowhuntersofnewmexico.com. Sandia Crest Bowhunters Association; www.scbaarchery.org.

Info/licenses: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504; (505) 476-8000; www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

New York

New York has bowhunting opportunities that begin in late September in the Northern Zone and continue through late December in the Southern Zone. Bowhunters also play a critical role in deer management on Long Island and in the bowhunting-only areas near the cities of Albany and Rochester and in Westchester County. Deer can be found throughout the state, though bowhunters will be most successful in the mixed agriculture/forest areas of the Southern Zone.

New York officials say hunters killed about 243,000 deer during the 2012-2013 hunting seasons, roughly 6 percent more than a year earlier. The breakdown of the past season's take was 124,000 adult females and fawns and 119,000 adult bucks. In the Northern Zone, an estimated 19,400 bucks and 11,400 antlerless deer were taken, compared to 15,900 and 10,900 respectively a year earlier. There were 98,570 bucks and 110,900 antlerless deer taken in the Southern Zone, excluding Long Island. Bowhunters took 36,208 of the statewide total.

Western New York and the Finger Lakes Region perennially lead the state in total deer-harvest densities, and deer take in 2012 remained true to form. The top five counties for 2012 were Yates (16.0 total deer taken per square mile), Wyoming (14.6), Genesee (11.9), Cayuga (11.3), and Ontario County (11.2). Importantly, total harvest is strongly impacted by the number of Deer Management Permits (DMPs) available in an area, which affects the harvest of antlerless deer. A more accurate picture of relative deer population densities is revealed by the density of buck harvest. By this figure, the top counties for buck harvest density are: Yates (5.9 bucks taken per square mile), Wyoming (5.8), Cayuga (4.6), Livingston (4.5), and Genesee County (4.4). Deer populations are above objective in all of these areas, and hunters are encouraged to take more antlerless deer to reduce deer populations toward desired levels.

New York bear hunters took 1,337 black bears during the 2012 hunting seasons, making last year the third highest bear harvest on record. Only the 2003 harvest (1,864) and 2009 harvest (1,487) surpassed last year's take.

Regionally, bear harvest increased in the Adirondacks but decreased in the Southeastern and Central-Western bear hunting areas. Though overall population size plays a large role in harvest totals, annual variations in take are also strongly influenced by environmental factors such as natural food availability and snowfall.

In the Adirondacks, hunters took 606 bears in 2012, returning to a more normal harvest level after an exceptionally low harvest in 2011. Hunters found greatest success during the early season (386 bears; mid-September until mid-October) compared to the regular season (132 bears; late October to early December). This pattern was expected after a summer of low natural food availability. The early season harvest is always high in such years because bears are moving more in search of food and many are closer to human food sources, which makes them more vulnerable to harvest. Towns along the western and southern fringe of the Adirondacks saw some of the highest harvests as bears were found feeding in cornfields during the early season. Bears also tend to den early when natural foods are scarce, so fewer bears were available to hunters during the regular season.

In the Southeastern bear hunting area, bear take dropped from the record 630 taken in 2011 to 442 taken in 2012. Similarly, take in the Central-Western bear hunting area dropped from the record 353 in 2011 to 289 in 2012. In both areas, take during bow season contributed substantially to the overall take (51 percent Southeastern, 37 percent Central-Western) and increased from 2011, reflecting the longer bow season initiated in 2012 and greater availability of bears during this period. Notably, take during the regular season dropped in both areas. The drop was most pronounced in Southeastern New York where biologists anticipated a potential

reduced harvest due to early denning behavior associated with the general lack of soft and hard mast (apples, acorns and beechnuts).

Estimated wild turkey harvest during spring 2012 was about 19,000 birds, well below the five-year and 10-year averages (about 29,500 and 30,300 birds, respectively). This is an increase of about 2 percent from spring 2011. The below-average harvest the last two spring seasons is likely due to poor production four of the past six years, and severe winter conditions in 2011-2012. Improved (but still below average) production in 2010 and a mild winter in 2011-2012 likely contributed to the slight increase in harvest from last year. This is also reflected in the age ratio of the harvest. About 72 percent of the birds harvested in 2012 were adult males or “toms,” compared to 67 Percent in 2011 (indicating improved production from 2009 to 2010). The top five counties for estimated harvest were Chautauqua, Steuben, Otsego, Delaware, and Erie (see the table below for the full list). Officials observed an increase in harvest in just over 40 percent of the counties open to spring hunting, a decrease in almost a third of the counties, and about a fourth remained unchanged from 2011 to 2012.

DEER

Season: Northern Zone—Early Bowhunting Sept. 27-Oct. 25, Late Bowhunting Dec. 9-15.

Southern Zone—Early Bowhunting Oct. 1-Nov. 15, Late Bowhunting Dec. 9-17. Westchester and Suffolk Counties Bowhunting Only Oct. 1-Dec. 31.

Limit: Depends on license.

Fees: Res. Small Game/Big Game \$29, Bowhunting Privilege \$21, Jr. Bowhunting \$9. Non res. Bowhunting \$140, Non-res. Jr. Bowhunting \$9.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 27-Oct. 15 (Adirondack bear area), Oct. 1-Nov. 15 and Dec. 9-17 (Central-Western and Southeastern bear area), Oct. 13-Dec. 31 (Westchester County).

Limit: 1 per license year.

Fees: Same as deer. Non-res. must have Bear Tag \$50.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 1-Nov. 20 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit). Spring May 1-31, 2014.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall either-sex (1 or 2 bird bag limit varies by unit).

Fees: Same as deer plus turkey permit: Res. \$10. Non-res. \$50.

Minimum draw weight: Greater than 35 lbs.

Broadheads: Broadheads with less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than two cutting edges are illegal. Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. Broadheads with retractable blades are legal.

Crossbows: The law allowing crossbow use in New York expired on Dec. 31, 2012. Crossbows may no longer be used for hunting in New York.

Bowhunter education and hunter education: Required.

Bowhunting licenses in '12: 194,663.

Bowhunting organization(s): New York Bowhunters, Inc. www.newyorkbowhunters.com. New York Crossbow Coalition; www.nycrossbowcoalition.com.

Information/licenses: New York State DEC license sales office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790; www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/hunting.html.

North Carolina

North Carolina offers bowhunters liberal deer seasons and bag limits. Although archery season may be relatively short compared to other states, archery equipment can also be used during the muzzleloader and firearm seasons. Bowhunters have an advantage, being able to hunt on Sundays on private lands. Firearm hunting is still unlawful on Sundays, so archery (except for migratory gamebird species) remains the “only game in town” on those days.

High deer densities can be found throughout much of the state, particularly the Piedmont and upper coastal plain. The state is also a popular destination for bear hunters because of two distinct bear populations (mountains and coastal plain), the diverse habitats in which bears can be hunted, the ability to take advantage of multiple seasons across the state, and the fact that some of the biggest black bears on the continent are taken on the coastal plain. Turkey hunters, too, will find a large number of opportunities on over 2 million acres of public hunting land and the diversity of habitats, from mountains/mountain valleys, to rolling foothills, to hardwood forests in the Piedmont, to pine or mixed stands in agricultural areas on the coastal plain.

“Archery hunters should expect the 2013-2014 season to be comparable to the previous two deer seasons. Archery harvests have been relatively stable over the past five years or so,” says Deer Biologist Evin Stanford.

The number of quality deer harvested in North Carolina seems to be increasing every year. Bowhunters with the desire to maximize their potential to harvest a “trophy” deer should focus hunting efforts in the northern Piedmont, foothills, northwestern corner of the state, and special urban/suburban hunts. (See regulations digest at www.ncwildlife.org for more info.) In 2012-2013 bowhunters took 11,542 (down from 2011’s 11,971), crossbow hunters took 4,542 (up from 2011’s 3,885). The total harvest (all weapons) was 167,249, down slightly from 2011’s 173,553. With the 2010 deer season, crossbows became lawful weapons anytime bows and arrows can be used.

The 2013 spring turkey harvest set another record: 18,409, up from 2012’s record 15,451, which was up from 2011’s record 14,476, so chances for bowhunters are better than ever for many areas of the state. Bowhunters took 338 of the total, crossbow hunters took 90. Bowhunters will likely encounter higher turkey densities in rural Piedmont areas and the foothills. However, hunters should not discount major river drainages along the coastal plain as turkey populations are rapidly expanding in range and increasing in density in many areas within this region.

Another reason to consider North Carolina is that some of the biggest black bears on the continent are taken there. Bear populations continue to do well in both the mountains and on the coastal plain, providing bowhunters with a unique hunting opportunity. The 2012 bear harvest was 2,827 animals, with 78 taken by bow, 23 by crossbow. Bowhunters are most productive in the central and northern coastal plain where bears come to agricultural fields.

Archery hunters hunting during the muzzleloader and modern firearm season must wear hunter orange.

Please note that final season dates and bag limits will be available after August 1 at www.ncwildlife.org and in the 2013-2014 Regulations Digest. The information below is preliminary.

DEER

Season: *Eastern* Archery Sept. 7-27, Muzzleloader Sept. 28-Oct. 11, Gun Oct. 12-Jan. 1. *Central* Archery Sept. 7-Nov. 1, Muzzleloader Nov. 2-15, Gun Nov. 16-Jan. 1. *Northwestern* Archery Sept. 7-Nov. 8, Muzzleloader Nov. 9-22, Gun Nov. 23-Jan. 1. *Western* Archery Sept. 9-28 and

Oct. 14-Nov. 23, Muzzleloader Sept. 30-Oct. 12, Gun Nov. 25-Dec. 14. Urban Archery Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 2014 (see regulation digest for participating municipalities).

Limit: No daily bag limit, 6 per season. All 6 can be antlerless for all areas of the state. 4 antlered per season in Eastern. 2 antlered per season Central, Northwestern, and Western. Bonus antlerless tags can be purchased for \$10 that allow the harvesting of two additional antlerless deer. The number of bonus tags available to each hunter is unlimited. The tags are only valid in areas with a maximum either sex season and areas in the urban archery season. Bonus tags are not valid for use on game lands.

Fees: Res. basic hunting license \$15 plus \$10 for big game privilege (\$25 total) or Sportsman's \$40 (includes fishing and big game). Non-res. \$60 for basic hunting license plus another \$60 for big game privilege (\$120 total), or \$40 for 6-day basic license plus another \$40 for 6-day big game privilege (\$80 total). Basic hunting license fees higher for South Carolina and Virginia residents. Big Game Hunting privilege fees for Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina residents are higher. Refer to the regulations digest for specific information on licensing options and seasons.

BEAR

Season: Oct. 14, 2012 - Jan. 1, 2014 (earliest and latest dates; individual seasons include a segment of these dates and vary by county; no archery-only season).

Limit: 1

Fees: Same as for deer, but nonresidents also have to purchase the \$125 Bear hunting privilege. Big Game Hunting fees for Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina residents are higher. Refer to the *North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Regulations Digest* for specific information on licensing options and seasons.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Youth Week Apr. 5-11, 2014. Statewide Apr. 12-May 10, 2014.

Limit: 1 per day, 2 per year, male turkeys or bearded turkeys only.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: Longbow and recurves, 40 lbs.; compounds, 35 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch; expandable designs are legal.

Crossbows: Crossbows are legal hunting weapons for licensed hunters anytime bow and arrow hunting is allowed. Bolt heads must have a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch; expandable designs are legal. Crossbows used under this permit must have a minimum draw weight of 150 lbs.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 104,500. (Based on 2006 mail survey. Bowhunter data not tracked.)

Special hunts: Several permit hunts are available. Go to www.ncwildlife.org for latest information.

Bowhunting organization(s): North Carolina Bowhunters Association, 7796 NC Hwy. 68 N., Stokesdale, NC 27357; www.ncbowhunter.com.

Information/licenses: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Wildlife Mgt. Mailing Address—1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1722; Location—1751 Varsity Dr., NCSU Centennial Campus, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 707-0050; www.ncwildlife.org.

North Dakota

In 2013 North Dakota's is offering 59,500 deer licenses, 5,800 fewer than last year and the lowest since 1983.

Randy Kreil, wildlife chief for the State Game and Fish Department, said after a significant reduction in gun licenses in 2012, harvest and survey data revealed deer populations are still below management objectives in most units.

"The statewide hunter success rate in 2012 was 63 percent, which is higher than in 2011 (52 percent), but is still lower than our goal of 70 percent," Kreil said. "The decrease of licenses in 2013 is necessary to allow deer populations to increase toward management goals."

Winter aerial surveys showed deer numbers were down from 2011 levels in the northern and eastern portions of the state, specifically units 1, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2K1, 2K2, and 3A1. Kreil said although deer are still below management objectives in 2A, 2F1 and 2F2, aerial surveys showed numbers were slightly above levels recorded in 2011 or 2012.

"The winter of 2012-13 was severe in the northern and eastern portions of the state, which will impede population recovery in those areas," Kreil said. "Furthermore, high quality deer habitat continues to be lost statewide and will limit the potential for population recovery."

Currently, all hunting units in the state are below management objectives except in 3E2, 3F1, 3F2 and 4F.

Out west, mule deer licenses in the badlands will decrease slightly this year. As was the case last year, no antlerless mule deer licenses are available in units 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F. This restriction applies to regular gun, resident and nonresident any-deer bow, gratis and youth licenses.

According to Kreil, the spring mule deer survey did show positive trends, with numbers up 15 percent over last year. "This modest increase indicates the mild winter of 2011 and no doe harvest in 2012 might be having a positive effect on the mule deer herd," he added. "With the no-doe-harvest regulation remaining in place for 2013, there may be some reason for optimism concerning mule deer."

Hunters are able to draw one license for the deer gun season and one for the muzzleloader season, and purchase an archery license. Like last year, there is no concurrent season and a hunter cannot receive more than one license for the deer gun season.

The number of licenses available for 2013 is 1,150 antlered mule deer, a decrease of 50 mule deer licenses from last year; 1,166 for muzzleloader, down 116 from last year; and 115 restricted youth antlered mule deer, a decrease of five from last year.

Bowhunters should note that both resident and nonresident archery licenses this year are available only through the department's Bismarck office or website, or by calling (800) 406-6409. Archery tags will not be sold over the counter at license vendor locations in 2013.

Pronghorn populations remain down, so, as in 2012, there are no pronghorn seasons in 2013.

The state Game and Fish Department offered 5,930 wild turkey licenses for the spring hunting season, an increase of 135 over 2012. The increase is a result of better production and chick recruitment. Seven of the 22 hunting units had more spring licenses than in 2012, while 12 remained the same. Unit 21 (most of Hettinger and Adams counties) was again closed in 2013. The state is holding off in determining fall turkey licenses until August when it has better data.

A total of 111 moose licenses are available in 2013, 32 fewer than last year. A downward population trend in the northeastern portion of the state is of great concern. "Unit M1C will

remain closed,” Kreil said, “and in addition, unit M4, which encompasses the Turtle Mountains, is also closed this year.”

Game and Fish is also making a couple of other changes designed to bolster the moose population. All licenses this year are for “any moose,” while in previous years some were specific to antlerless moose. “We think that the ‘any’ tags will protect the cow segment of the population,” Kreil said, “as records indicate most hunters choose to fill their ‘any’ tags with a bull rather than a cow.”

The moose season in units M8, M9 and M10 will open a week later than in previous years to avoid the peak of the rut. Data collected over the last year indicates a number of unbred cows were documented in those units, Kreil said, and opening the season a week later in October may improve breeding success by reducing disturbance during the peak of the mating season. A total of 261 elk licenses are available to hunters this fall, 40 fewer than last year.

The number of elk licenses in units E3 and E4 is reduced by 40 due to the successful population reduction effort by the National Park Service in Theodore Roosevelt National Park’s south unit. A total of 937 elk (701 adult cows) were taken out of the park by the reduction effort, and an additional 363 elk were taken by licensed hunters in E3 and E4 during the last three hunting seasons. Based on a recent elk survey, the estimated number of elk in the park is below 200, Kreil said.

On the positive side, elk unit E1 has been expanded to include parts of the Turtle Mountains, due to a growing elk population largely attributed to animals migrating in from Canada.

Nonresidents may not hunt on lands owned or leased by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, including State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Private Lands Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS), for the first week of pheasant season (October 12-18). This restriction does not apply to lands owned or managed by other state agencies or federal lands that may be open to hunting, such as US Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), or to private lands not enrolled in the G&F PLOTS program.

As a result of recent legislation, North Dakota hunters and anglers will see the license fee increases in April 2014, the first increases in many years. Consult the website for updates.

DEER

Season: Bow Aug 30- Jan 5, 2014.

Limit: 1. Antlerless mule deer are excluded from any deer archery licenses in units 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F in 2013.

Fees: Res. Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer certificate \$1; General Game and Habitat license \$13 or a Sportsmen’s license \$32 (includes Small Game, General Game and Habitat, Furbearer, and Fishing licenses), Deer Bow license \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16. Non-res. Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer certificate \$2, General Game and Habitat license \$13, Deer Bow license \$200 (two types available).

ELK (res. only)

Season: Bow E1 and E2 Sept. 6-29.

Limit: 1 per lifetime (sex varies by unit).

Fees: Res. FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen’s license \$32; Elk Bow license \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16. Non-res. FHF certificate \$2, GGH license \$13; plus drawing fees for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation drawing.

BIGHORN SHEEP (res. only)

Season: Oct 18- Nov 7.

Limit: 1 license per lifetime.

Fees: FHF certificate \$1, G

GH license \$13, or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Bighorn Sheep license, \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16.

MOOSE (res. only)

Season: Sept. 6-29.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13, or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Moose license, \$20, \$10 for youth under age 16.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 13-May 19, 2013; Fall (Tentative) Oct. 12-TBD (res. only first lottery).

Limit: 1 (bearded in spring; either-sex fall).

Fees: Res. FHF certificate \$1, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Turkey license, \$8. Non-res. FHF certificate \$2, GGH license \$13 or a Sportsmen's license \$32; Turkey license, \$80.

Minimum draw weight: A compound bow for deer must have at least 35 lbs. of draw or pull at 28 inches or less draw length. Recurve and longbows used for hunting deer must have at least 35 lbs. of draw or pull at 28 inches.

Arrows: Must be at least 24 inches long.

Broadheads: Must be barbless and metal with at least two cutting edges of at least 3/4 inch wide.

Crossbows: Legal for handicapped archery hunters by permit. crossbows must: a) have a peak draw weight of at least 75 lbs. and not more than 200 lbs., b) be equipped with a working safety to prevent accidental firing, c) have a stock at least 14 inches long, d) use arrows or bolts at least 14 inches in length, e) Battery-powered and electronic-lighted sight pins and telescopic sights not exceeding a maximum power of four by thirty-two millimeters may be attached to crossbows used for hunting,

Bowhunter education permit: Bowhunter-specific not required; general hunter ed required.

Bowhunting licenses in '12: 22,276 (19,940 res., 2,336 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): North Dakota Bowhunters Association; www.ndbowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: North Dakota Game & Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; (701) 328-6300; www.gf.nd.gov

Ohio

One advantage of Ohio bowhunting, says Dr. Michael Tonkovich, Ohio deer project leader, is the state's "World-class hunting opportunities at working-class prices!" In bowhunter-friendly Ohio, archers may hunt with either vertical or horizontal bows. In fact, nearly 40 percent of all deer harvested in Ohio are taken with a bow. Moreover, if you don't like to plan, no worries. Because all licenses are sold over-the-counter, you don't need to plan a hunt three months out.

What is the state of Ohio deer hunting? "Ohio's 2012-2013 statewide harvest was off by less than 1,000 deer from the previous season. I would expect this year's harvest to be very similar to last year, likely somewhere between 215,000 and 220,000 deer," Tonkovich says. He

suggests focusing on east-central and southeast Ohio for the most abundant public land opportunities and deer

What's new? Several Ohio deer regulations have changed significantly this year. Archer or gun hunter, Tonkovich urges all to spend time reviewing the hunting digest this year. The change that will likely affect most hunters is the extension of legal shooting hours during firearms seasons. Firearm hunters will have until a half-hour after sunset to legally hunt deer. (Previously, only archers had that opportunity.) This should provide more than one million hours of additional outstanding opportunities for Ohio's nearly 400,000 deer hunters.

Ohio has added a statewide *antlerless-only* muzzleloader season Oct. 12-13. Archers will also be *limited to antlerless deer* that weekend and should plan accordingly. Bag limits will be lower in 52 of Ohio's 88 counties this year. All 38 6-deer counties will see either a 3- (11) or 4-deer (27) limit. Reductions aside, 80 of Ohio's 88 counties still offer archers at least a 3-deer limit!

An estimated 70,000 hunters participated in the four-week 2013 spring turkey season. Before the season, state wildlife biologists estimated the wild turkey population to be more than 180,000 birds. Hunters (all weapons) checked 18,391 birds. The preliminary total represents a 4 percent increase over 2012's harvest number of 17,757. Ashtabula County again led the state with 766 birds. Counties with high harvest numbers were: Guernsey 541, Coshocton 530, Muskingum 530, Tuscarawas 527, Monroe 486, Harrison 479, Trumbull 478, Belmont 471, and Knox 469.

DEER

Season: Sept. 28, 2013-Feb. 2, 2014.

Limit: 1-3, varies by county. One additional antlerless permit per county available. Antlerless permits valid *only* from season opener through Sunday preceding statewide firearms season opener (Dec. 2, 2013).

Fees: Res. \$19 license plus \$24 deer permit. Non-res. \$125 license plus \$24 deer permit. Youth res. and non-res. \$10 license plus \$12 deer permit.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 14-Dec 1. Spring Apr. 21-May 18, 2014.

Limit: 1 either-sex (fall), 2 bearded birds (spring). One turkey per day.

Fees: Res. \$19 license plus \$24 turkey permit. Non-res. \$125 license plus \$24 turkey permit.

Youth res. and non-res. \$10 license plus \$12 turkey permit.

Hunting hours: Half-hour before sunrise to noon Apr. 21-May 4, 2014. Half-hour before sunrise to sunset from May 5-18, 2014.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Arrows for longbow and crossbow must be tipped with a broadhead not less than 3/4 inch wide while hunting deer or turkey. The arrow tip must have a minimum of two cutting edges which may be exposed or unexposed. Poisoned or explosive arrows are unlawful.

Crossbows: Legal during archery season; draw weight must not be less than 75 lbs. (or greater than 200 lbs. for deer and turkey). Must have a working safety and a stock longer than 25 inches.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 225,000 (based on paid licenses).

State bowhunting organization: Ohio Bowhunters Association, 4478 Parkwick Dr., Columbus, OH 43228; www.ohiobowhunters.net.

Information/licenses: Ohio Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Rd., Building G, Columbus, OH 43229; (614) 265-6300; www.wildohio.com.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) manages over 1.6 million acres of Wildlife Management Areas statewide. Included in these areas are the lands covered by cooperative agreements. With more than 12 different ecoregions across the state, Oklahoma offers one of the most diverse collections of wildlife species in the nation.

Oklahoma's archery deer harvests have been trending upward for several years. In 2011 (last data available), archers took 12,773 bucks and 12,135 does, up from 2010's 10,302 bucks and 9,390 does. In 2011, thank to quality deer management practices, the state was in the top five states with the highest harvest of 3.5-year-old and older bucks.

Look for state-record typical bucks in Bryan, Jackson, Oklahoma, and Atoka counties. State-record non-typical bucks have come from Tillman, Hughes, Wagoner and Alfalfa. If you are trying to fill your freezer with meat, then Woods, Woodward and Beaver counties are great spots to bag a heavy whitetail because of their fertile agricultural fields.

The highest densities occur in the eastern portion of the state, east of Interstate 35, with Osage County being the state's perennial leader. Southeast Oklahoma, meanwhile, is no slouch, with Pittsburg County being the frontrunner. Central and northwest regions are growing, with the latter being a good trophy-producer.

Biologists are reporting fluctuating western Oklahoma turkey numbers. Many hunters have observed fewer Rio Grande birds than in previous years.

"Part of what makes this a tough year for many western Oklahoma turkey hunters is the lower number of adult toms in the population. Two-year-old birds normally make up the largest portion of adult toms that hunters so much enjoy pursuing," said Rod Smith, ODWC southwest region supervisor.

Additionally, overall turkey population numbers are reduced from what many have experienced in the past few years. Western Oklahoma turkey populations were at an all-time high five years ago.

"In 2008 there were numerous reports from landowners that there were too many turkeys on their properties. Several years of abnormally good turkey reproduction led to those record numbers of turkeys. Following 2008, we experienced a couple of years of below normal reproduction, and in 2011 reproduction was characterized as dismal," Smith said.

The redistribution of some flocks is also contributing to the change in turkey numbers observed in some areas. Roost sites in parts of southwest Oklahoma were damaged by the severe ice storm from two years ago and drought.

"Large cottonwoods are the primary roosting trees in much of the west, and many were either highly damaged or died from these natural but abnormal weather events," Smith said. "This change in roosting habitat resulted in both a dispersal of winter flocks and in some cases a shift in spring turkey flock distribution...."

"Although poor reproduction caused by extreme drought and heat in 2011 resulted in fewer than normal 2-year-old birds this spring, many hunters are reporting good numbers of jakes, but a general reduction in the number of adult birds," Smith said. "With improved

reproduction last year and the potential for a fair to good hatch this year, we may be well on the way back to the high numbers all turkey hunters' desire.”

Please note: All deer and turkey checking requirements in 2013 must be fulfilled online, excluding certain wildlife management areas and controlled hunt locations.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 2014.

Limit: Varies by season and zone. Check regulations.

Fees: Res. Hunting \$25, plus \$20 per deer permit. Non-res. Hunting \$142, Deer Archery \$280 (either-sex).

BEAR

Season: Archery Oct. 1-20 in open bear counties.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$25 Hunting plus res. \$101 Bear. Non-res. \$506 Bear.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Oct. 1-14 in open antelope counties.

Limit: 2 antelope combined, including no more than one 1 buck.

Fees: Res. \$25 Hunting plus res. \$51 Antelope. Non-res. \$306 Antelope.

TURKEY

Season: Archery Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 2014 (varies by county). Spring statewide Apr. 6- May 6, 2014; South East region Apr. 21-May 6, 2014.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 3 toms (some counties only allow 1 or 2), 1 per day.

Fees: Res. \$25 Hunting plus \$10 Turkey tag. Non-res. \$142 Hunting plus \$10 Turkey tag.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch and be not less than 1 1/2 inches long. Mechanicals are legal to use in Oklahoma as long as they are at least 7/8 inches wide when they open on impact. Laser sights and electronic tracking devices are illegal.

Crossbows: The use of crossbows and conventional longbows with a device that permits the bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are legal hunting methods during any open season when conventional longbows (archery equipment) are a legal means of take. Minimum of 100 lbs. draw weight and equipped with safety devices. Bolts must be a minimum of 14 inches in length. Leverage gaining devices are legal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Archery licenses in '12: 32,672 (24,131 res. archery deer, 2,378 non-res archery deer, 5,904 res. deer youth, 259 other).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunting Council of Oklahoma;
www.bowhuntingcouncilok.com.

Info/licenses Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Game Division, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73105; (405) 521-3851; www.wildlifedepartment.com.

Oregon

Oregon hunters have the unique opportunity to hunt for several different subspecies of deer and elk. Mule deer are typically found east of the Cascade Mountain Range. The population continues to remain below established management objectives; conservative limits and seasons

remain over most areas. Columbia black-tailed deer occur primarily west of the Cascade Range, and both the larger bucks and highest deer populations are found in burned and logged areas where food supplies are abundant. In 2011 (last data available), 34,014 archery hunters took 5,076 deer.

Oregon consistently ranks among the top three Western states for elk numbers, hunter numbers, and elk harvest. Hunter success for bull and antlerless hunts combined remains fairly stable annually. The wetter climate in western Oregon creates brushy, heavily timbered habitat broken only by clearcuts, while eastern Oregon has much more open country with less underbrush, and more snow to help in tracking elk. Rocky Mountain elk are found east of the Cascades, while Roosevelt elk are distributed throughout the Coast and Cascade Ranges of western Oregon. Elk occur throughout the state, but are most abundant in the Blue and Willowa Mountains and in the northern Coast Range, and least abundant in the southeastern high-desert region. In 2011, 28,119 archery elk hunters took 3,948 elk.

Oregon wildlife officials have offered fall hunting forecasts in years past. Go to www.dfw.state.or.us/RR/hunting_forecast/fall_forecast.asp late in the summer for 2013's prospects.

The ODFW reminds hunters that anyone who purchases a big game or turkey tag must report the results of their hunt (online or by phone) even if they did not fill their tag or go hunting. Reporting deadlines are: Jan. 31, 2014, for hunts ending between Apr. 1 and Dec. 31; and Apr. 15, 2015, for hunts ending between Jan. 1 and Mar. 31, 2014.

ODFW's online Oregon Hunting Access Map (Google Map) makes it easy to find hunting locations and even scout from home. The ODFW website also has many useful harvest reports that can aid in choosing your best prospects. Click on "Hunting Resources" under the "Hunting" menu for the list.

Application deadlines vary greatly between hunt types and areas. For many controlled hunts, it is May 15. General hunts have deadlines ranging from August to October. Check regs for more details.

Archery-only hunts available for various animals; call (503) 947-6301 for more information or see annual regulations.

DEER

Season: Archery Western and Eastern Deer Aug. 24-Sept. 22, Saddle Mt. Late Nov. 23-Dec. 8, NW Deer Late Nov. 16-Dec. 8, SW Deer Late Nov. 9-Dec. 1 (plus some controlled hunts with different season dates).

Limit: 1 (sex/antler size requirements vary by hunt).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, deer tag \$24.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, deer tag \$375.50.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Aug. 1-Nov. 30 (east); Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (west and SW Units 20-30 additional bear). Spring Controlled Apr. 1-May 31.

Limit: 1 in fall general season and 1 in spring controlled season. Additional general season tags available in some areas. No sows with cubs or cubs under 1 year old.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, bear tag \$14.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, bear tag \$182.50.

ROOSEVELT/ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

Season: Archery Aug. 24-Sept. 22. (plus some controlled hunts up to Mar. 31, 2014).

Limit: 1 (sex/antler size requirements vary by hunt).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, elk tag \$42.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, elk tag \$500.50.

PRONGHORN

Seasons: Bowhunts Aug. 1-Sept. 22 (earliest opening and latest closing controlled season dates).

Limit: 1 either-sex; buck only at Hart Mtn., Paulina, N Wagontire.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, pronghorn tag \$44.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, pronghorn tag \$333.50.

COUGAR

Season: Jan. 1-Dec. 31 (or until zone mortality quotas met).

Limit: 1 per tag; additional tags may be available.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, cougar tag \$14.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, cougar tag \$14.50.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 10-Nov 17 (earliest opening and latest closing controlled season dates).

Limit: 1 ram (lifetime).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, sheep tag \$122.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, sheep tag \$1,300.50.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT (res. only)

Season: Sept. 3-Nov. 5 (earliest opening and latest closing controlled season dates).

Limit: 1 lifetime.

Fees: Hunting license \$29.50, goat tag \$122.50.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 15-May 31. Fall Oct. 15-Dec. 31 plus some controlled seasons.

Limit: Fall 2 either-sex. Spring 2 bearded birds, with a third bonus tag available in some areas.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$29.50, turkey tag \$22.50. Non-res. hunting license \$140.50, turkey tag \$77.50.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. for deer, pronghorn, bear, cougar; 50 lbs. for elk, goat and sheep. No maximum letoff.

Broadheads: Must be fixed (no mechanicals), unbarbed and at least 7/8 inch wide.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. Hunter education required for anyone 17 and under.

Deer and Elk Archery Tags in '11: .78,794 (last data available).

Bowhunting organization(s): Oregon Bow Hunters, Inc.; www.oregonbowhunters.com.

Info/licenses: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem OR 97303-4924; (503) 947-6000; www.dfw.state.or.us.

Pennsylvania

Whether it's a chance to call in a strutting gobbler, meet up with a black bear, or catch a rutting buck off-guard, Pennsylvania provides bowhunters plenty of reasons to take to the field.

Hunting opportunities can be found across the state—from urban areas, to farmland woodlots, to the mountainous deep forests in Pennsylvania's north-central region.

With large tracts of state forest and more than 1.4 million acres of state game lands, Pennsylvania also affords hunters a great deal of public-access property. But at the same time, those taking to public grounds often can find isolated areas to stage successful hunts.

Pennsylvania offers bowhunting seasons for deer and bear, and hunting with bow or crossbow is legal during all firearms seasons.

In recent years, a growing number of bowhunters is springing up statewide. In 2012-2013, more than 309,000 archery licenses were purchased, the highest number in well more than a decade.

Deer are the primary quarry for most hunters. Populations are stable or increasing in most parts of the state. Antler point restrictions allow about 70 percent of yearling bucks to survive their first hunting season with antlers. About half of the bucks harvested in Pennsylvania are at least 2.5 years old.

If you're looking for bucks, antler growth is best in WMUs that require at least three points above the brow tine: WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 2D. However, WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D in southeastern Pennsylvania also have good soils and, hence, good antler growth. If you are looking for the greatest quantity of deer, WMUs 5C, 2D and 1A are good choices.

Localized deer abundance varies from year to year, and production of mast also changes. Anyone willing to seek out landowner permission early, spend time scouting the land to determine deer patterns, as well as spending time hunting has a good chance for success that could include encounters with some nice bucks.

Pennsylvania has very specific requirements for wearing fluorescent orange under certain conditions and during certain seasons. Please consult regs for details.

DEER

Season: Statewide Archery (antlered and antlerless) Oct. 5-Nov. 16, and Dec. 26-Jan. 11, 2014. In WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D, additional antlerless seasons open Sept. 21-Oct. 4, Nov. 18-30, and Jan. 13-25, 2014.

Limit: 1 antlered per hunting license year. 1 antlerless with each required antlerless license or Deer Management Assistance Program antlerless permit. (Go to www.pgc.state.pa.us, click on "DMAP" for info.)

Fees: Res. \$20.70 Adult General Hunting, plus \$16.70 Archery tag. Non-res. \$101.70 Adult General Hunting, plus \$26.70 Archery tag. Antlerless deer licenses allocated by WMU are \$6.70 res., \$26.70 non-res. (DMAP fees are \$10.70 res., \$35.70 non-res.)

ELK

Season: Nov. 4-9.

Limit: 1 (antlered or antlerless, varies).

Fees: \$10.70 non-refundable application fee, with licenses awarded by public drawing in September. There will be 86 elk licenses (26 antlered, 60 antlerless) across several elk-hunt zones. Hunters who are drawn need a General Hunting license (\$20.70 res., \$101.70 non-res.) and Elk license (res. \$25; non-res. \$250). Bowhunters also need an archery license (res. \$16.70; non-res. \$26.70). General Hunting license purchase not required to enter drawing.

BEAR

Season: Bow & Arrow Nov. 18-22 statewide; Sept. 21-Nov. 16 in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D; and Oct. 5-Nov. 16 in WMU 5B. Muzzleloader Oct. 19-26 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D. Early Firearms Oct. 24-26 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D for Junior and Senior license holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) holders, and Pennsylvania residents serving on active

duty in U.S. Armed Services or in the U.S. Coast Guard. General season Nov. 23 and Nov. 25-27 statewide. Extended season Dec. 2-14 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D; Dec.2-7 in WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D; and Dec.4-7 in WMUs 4C, 4D and 4E.

Limit: 1 per license year.

Fees: General Hunting license plus res. Bear license \$16.70; non-res. Bear \$26.70. Bowhunters also need an archery license (res. \$16.70; non-res. \$26.70). Bear licenses must be purchased by Nov. 22, 2013, to hunt in the general season. Licenses are again available for purchase Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2013.

TURKEY

Season: Fall—Nov. 2-22 and Nov. 28-30 in WMU 2B (shotgun and bow/crossbow only); Nov. 2-16 and Nov. 28-30 in WMUs 1A, 2A, 2D, 2F, 2G and 2H; Nov. 2-22 and Nov. 28-30 in WMUs 2C, 2E, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E. Nov. 2-9 and Nov. 28-30 in WMU 1B; Nov. 5-7 in WMU 5A; WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D closed to fall turkey hunting. Spring 2014— Junior Apr. 26 statewide; Statewide Spring Gobbler May3-31. Hunting hours close at noon May 3-17. Hunting hours close one-half hour after sunset May 19-31.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 1 bearded-only; however, a second spring gobbler may be taken with a special wild turkey license.

Fees: General hunting license res. \$20.70, non-res. \$101.70. Second spring gobbler license res. \$21.70, non-res. \$41.70.

Minimum draw weight: 35 lbs., 45 lbs. for elk.

Broadheads: Outside diameter of at least 7/8 inch with no fewer than two cutting edges. Broadheads may not exceed 3 inches in length.

Crossbows: Draw weight minimum 125 lbs.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required, although a hunter-trapper education course is required of all first-time hunters.

Archery licenses in '12: 309,314 (297,031 res., 12,283 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania, 581 Madison Shop Rd., Rimersburg, PA 16248-2631; (814) 473-6341; www.ubofpa.org.

Info/licenses: Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797; (717) 787-4250; www.dcnr.state.pa.us/hunting; www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Rhode Island

“Bowhunting is a popular activity and an effective management tool for the harvest of the primary big game species in our state, whitetail deer,” says Principal Wildlife Biologist Brian Tefft. “Bowhunters enjoy a long season (four months) and liberal bag limits in four hunting zones where multiple deer can be harvested.” Rhode Island allows Sunday hunting and thousands of acres of public lands to hunt on (47,000 acres on 28 WMAs). “We also offer hunting on Block Island (high deer density) and Prudence-Patience Islands (bow only).” Crossbows are also allowed during the entire archery season for all hunters as a result of new legislation passed in the 2012 hunting season.

Tefft says that in 2010-2011, deer hunting in Rhode Island underwent several changes designed to improve deer population management, including maintenance of ecologically sound deer populations, quality hunting programs, and recognition of the important role that hunters play. Officials provided additional incentives to take deer with an earlier archery opening date,

free replacement permits for hunters harvesting two antlerless deer in Zone 1, more Zone 1 hunting days, a liberal Zone 1 bag limit, and a Zone 1 archery earn-a-buck program.

Rhode Island continues to promote new deer hunting opportunities in 2013 as several new cooperative hunting areas will be opened on private lands where management issues, including concerns for rare plants, forest regeneration, and ecological damage, have surfaced. These include the Providence Water Supply Cooperative and several new properties opened in The Nature Conservancy Cooperative. These new properties add nearly 10,000 new hunting acres open to the Rhode Island hunter.

During the 2012-2013 deer hunting season (all methods), Rhode Island hunters harvested 2,221 deer, compared to 2,360 in the 2011-2012 season. Archers harvested 690 deer statewide and enjoyed a 26 percent success rate, while gun hunters harvested 1,531 deer and enjoyed a 25 percent success rate. Hunters harvested 561 deer in management Zone 1 (1.3 bucks per doe) and 1,421 deer in management Zone 2 (1.4 bucks per doe). The effective impact of the early gun season and the emergence of crossbow as an effective tool for managing deer in suburban areas is emphasized. Harvest by location was: 87 percent mainland, 9 percent Block Island, 2 percent Jamestown/Aquidneck Islands, and 2 percent Prudence-Patience Islands. The estimated deer population in Rhode Island is approximately 15,000.

Recommendations for visiting bowhunters are Arcadia WMA, Big River WMA, George Washington MA, Buck Hill WMA, and Great Swamp WMA. Private land access in Rhode Island is by written permission only; however, most landowners do allow hunting access.

Rhode Island has annually monitored its deer herd for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) since 2002 by collecting and testing 2,020 deer samples from hunters' harvest and road kills. No positive samples have ever been recorded, and Rhode Island is considered a CWD-free state. All samples collected during the 2012-2013 season tested negative for any signs of the disease.

DEER

Season: Mainland Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 2014; Jr. Archery Sept. 7-8. Prudence Oct. 19-Jan. 31, 2014; Prudence Jr. Archery Oct. 12-13.

Limit: Antlerless Deer Vary by zone: Zone 1 (4); Zone 2 (3); Zone 3 Prudence Island (2); Zone 4 Block Island (5+) (selected dates between October and February). Antlered deer limit is 3 bucks per season except Zone 3 where the limit is 1 buck.

Fees: Res. \$18 hunting license plus \$12.50 deer permit. Non-res. \$45 hunting license plus \$25.50 deer permit.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 1-Nov. 28. Spring Apr. 30-May 25.

Limit: Fall 1 either sex. Spring 1 bearded turkey.

Fees: Res. \$18 hunting plus \$7.50 turkey permit. Non-res. \$45 hunting plus \$20 turkey permit.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges measuring 7/8 inch or greater at the widest point. Mechanical broadheads are legal.

Crossbows: Legal for all hunters during regular Archery season. Minimum draw weight 125 lbs.

Releases: Hand-held and -operated bow releases are legal in RI

Bowhunter education permit: Mandatory. Some hunts require proficiency testing.

Special permits: Management Area land on Prudence Island and Francis Carter Preserve is by lottery and permit. Beavertail Park requires permit and reservations. Northwest Coop, Grills, North Camp require a permit.

Archery permits in '12: 5,341 (estimated 2,670 bowhunters).

Bowhunting organization(s): United Bowhunters of Rhode Island, (401) 884-4577; www.ubri1.com.

Information/licenses: Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892; License Div. (401) 222-3576; www.dem.ri.gov.

South Carolina

Unlike most states, South Carolina has limited archery-only opportunities, and there are large portions of the state that have no archery-only season at all. “However, the state offers extremely long seasons and liberal bag limits during which archery can be used along with other weapons,” says Deer/Wild Turkey Program Coordinator Charles Ruth. Firearms and bowhunters combined to take an estimated 217,854 deer in 2012. This represents about a 4 percent decrease from the harvest of 226,458 deer taken in 2011. An estimated 34,146 bowhunters took about 14,814 deer in 2012. The only significant regulation change that could affect bowhunters is that the prohibition on baiting in the 18 piedmont and mountain counties was removed by the legislature. Baiting is no longer prohibited anywhere in the state.

The statewide deer herd—estimated at 750,000—is as healthy as ever, Ruth reports. Counties with highest densities include Union, Anderson, Laurens and Abbeville in the Piedmont region and Bamberg, Calhoun, Hampton, and Orangeburg in the coastal plain. The outlook for 2013 is excellent.

The South Carolina black bear population continues to expand with about 1,500 animals. Game Zone 1, which occupies the mountainous northwest corner of the state, is the only area with a general bear season. Last year hunters took 83 bears, up slightly from 80 taken in 2011. The bear harvest in 2013 is expected to be about the same. There is now a limited draw hunt available in three coastal counties. For information on the coastal bear hunt, go to <http://dnr.sc.gov/bearhunting/index.html>.

Although harvest results for spring 2013 are pending, approximately 41,420 hunters harvested an estimated 21,552 gobblers during the spring 2012 season. This was up substantially from 2011 and represents the most significant annual increase since 2005. Turkey population estimates are around 100,000 birds. Although reproduction in turkeys has been better the last few years, the population remains lower than desired due to poor reproduction prior to 2010.

DEER

Season: Archery hunting is allowed during all open deer seasons. Either-sex allowed during any open deer season starting Oct. 1 in Zone 1 and Sept. 15 in Zone 2. Either-sex days are scheduled for all Zones, and hunters may receive antlerless deer tags for additional either-sex hunting. Zone 1 (Mountains)—Primitive Weapons (archery, muzzleloaders) Oct. 1-10, Firearms Oct. 11-Jan. 1. Zone 2 (Piedmont)—Archery-Only Sept. 15-30, Primitive Weapons Oct. 1-10, Firearms Oct. 11-Jan. 1. Zone 3 and 6 (Coastal Plain) Firearms Aug. 15-Jan. 1. Zone 4 (Coastal Plain)—Archery-Only Sept. 1-14, Firearms Sept. 15-Jan. 1. Zone 5 (Coastal Plain)—Archery-Only Aug. 15-30, Firearms Sept. 1-Jan. 1.

Limit: Varies by region. Check regs.

Fees: Res. hunting license \$12 plus \$6 Big-Game permit, combination hunting/fishing license (includes big game permit) \$25. Non-res. annual hunting license \$125 (3-day \$40, 10-day \$75) plus \$100 non-res. Big Game permit for deer, turkey, or bear.

TURKEY

Season: Mar. 15-May 1 (Zone 6). Apr. 1-May 1 (all other zones and all WMAs open to hunting; check WMA-specific regs).

Limit: 5 gobblers per season.

Fees: Same as deer. Hunters must possess and use turkey tags (free) available in February over the Internet (www.dnr.sc.gov/) or from local Big Game Check Stations..

BLACK BEAR

Season: Mountains, Zone 1 only, Oct. 17-23 still-hunting, Oct. 24-30 party dog hunts. (Party dog hunts must register at Clemson DNR office.) Coastal, hunting by drawing only (see <http://dnr.sc.gov/bearhunting/index.html>).

Limit: 1 (must be over 100 lbs., no sows with cubs).

Fees: Same as deer. Must have bear tag (\$25 res., \$100 non-res.). All harvested bears must be reported to Clemson DNR office.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No restrictions.

Crossbows: Legal during all seasons.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required; persons born after June 30, 1979, must complete hunter education course.

Special permits: Two optional antlerless deer tag programs; call (803) 734-3886 for information.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 34,146 (hunter surveys; no special bow license required).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters of South Carolina; www.scbowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Licensing, Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202; (803) 734-3838; www.dnr.sc.gov

South Dakota

“Combined with the public hunting opportunity we have, South Dakota also hosts a wide variety of terrain and habitat for hunters to challenge themselves,” says Chuck Schlueter, Game, Fish & Parks communications program manager. “In eastern South Dakota we have agriculture and wooded lands; the Missouri River runs through the center of the state; rolling breaks and short grass prairie in most of western South Dakota; and the mountainous Black Hills in the far western part of the state.”

The projected statewide deer harvest for 2012 was 69,351, a 19 percent decrease from 2011. This included 29,286 whitetail bucks, 31,782 whitetail does, 4,677 mule bucks and 3,604 mule does. Statewide harvest success was similar to 2011 at 43 percent.

Deer hunters can purchase separate licenses to hunt either east or west of Missouri River; doe permits are available on unit-by-unit basis.

The Archery Antelope season will run from Aug. 17 through Oct. 31, but note that it is closed during the firearms antelope season (Sept. 28-Oct. 13). There were 1,467 archery antelope licenses issued in 2012. The overall success rate was 22 percent, with 293 bucks, 22 does and 4

buck kids harvested. Of the 20 counties where antelope were harvested, Butte and Harding counties accounted for over 54 percent of all harvest.

For more details and application information, visit www.gfp.sd.gov for details.

DEER

Season: Regular Archery Sept. 28-Jan. 15. (Only *antlerless* tags are valid Jan. 1-15). See application for season date exceptions.

Limit: Up to 5 licenses (some restrictions apply).

Fees: Res. Deer 1-tag \$36; Antlerless Deer 1-tag \$16. Non-res. Buck-Only or Any-Deer 1-tag (archery or firearms) \$286; antlerless Deer 1-tag \$56.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery Aug. 17-Oct. 31 except when and where a state firearm season is open (Sept. 28-Oct 13).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$36 antelope license. Non-res. \$286 antelope license.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Must be 7/8 inch wide with total cutting edge greater than or equal to 3 inches. Blunt points for turkeys must have minimum 7/16 inch width. Arrow shafts must be at least 26 inches.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Required of all first-time bowhunters (those who have previously bowhunted in their own or any state are exempt), and of those under age 16.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 20,000 (17,000 res., 3,000 non-res., bowhunter survey). Over 28,000 archery tags sold.

Bowhunting organization(s): South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.; www.sdbi.net.

Information/licenses: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 20641 SD Hwy. 1806, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532; (605) 223-7660; e-mail to wildinfo@state.sd.us; website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Tennessee

Tennessee's deer hunting has a great deal to offer with improved harvests and a 3-buck limit. In 2012, hunters harvested 176,637 deer, up from 2011's 172,842 deer. Even better, deer quality is up. In 2011, archers took 182 4/8 and 181 4/8 nontypicals in Montgomery and Cheatham counties, respectively. Tennessee hunters are reaping the rewards of trigger-finger restraint on younger bucks, letting the herd age. In recent years, 60 percent of all buck harvested are 2.5 years old or older. Look for best trophy buck opportunities in Tennessee's Central Basin.

Bear hunters took 400 bruins in 2012, down from 2011's record 581 bruins. But this is significantly over 2010's take of 301 bears. Hunters have harvested at least 300 bears in the state for the past eight years

Tennessee has approximately 340,000 turkeys. Turkey hunters took 2,427 turkey in fall 2012 and 32,897 birds in spring 2013. Tennessee's Central Basin offers the highest turkey densities. Turkeys can be harvested during deer archery season in counties that have fall turkey seasons.

DEER

Archery Season: 4th Saturday in Sept.-Jan. 5 (closed last weekend in Oct. for Young Sportsman's hunt).

Limit: Three bucks statewide, no more than 1 per day. Antlerless: Unit A 4 antlerless deer, Unit B 4 antlerless deer, and Unit L 3 antlerless deer per day.

Fees: Res.\$28 general license and \$28 archery license. Non-res. 7-day license \$175.50, annual license \$251.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 12-25 (select counties only, no quota). Spring Mar. 29-May 11, 2014.

Limit: Fall either-sex (limits vary by county). Spring 4 gobblers.

Fees: Same as deer.

BEAR

Season: Dates vary by county. Not open in all counties. Consult regs.

Limit: 1 per year.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No specific requirements.

Crossbows: Legal during all seasons.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. Archers born after Jan. 1, 1969, must pass a hunter safety course.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 90,000.

Information/licenses: Information & Education Division, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204; (615) 781-6500; www.state.tn.us/twra.

Texas

Although most land in Texas is privately owned and you need to lease hunting privileges, there are also a good share of bowhunting opportunities on public land. Most prominent of these are on lands that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) manages. Opportunities come in the form of special drawing, regular permits, and an annual public hunting permit. For more information, go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/public/>

TPWD's Hunt Texas Online Connection offers a free service providing information on hunting opportunities available for lease on private lands. This makes it easier for landowners to manage wildlife populations and to provide information to hunters about opportunities on private lands. For more information, go to https://www2.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/planning/hunt_lease/.

Texas offers a large, stable population—3.6 million, the nation's largest—of good quality whitetails. To find them, look to any property in the state that is operating under a sound Wildlife Management Plan, particularly a ranch with an outstanding habitat management program that also practices selective harvest.

Statewide estimated hunter numbers (all weapons) in 2012 were 636,325, with approximately 92,000 hunters in the Pineywoods, 177,000 in the Edward Plateau, 102,000 in South Texas, 75,000 in the Cross Timbers, and 97,000 in the Post Oak Savannah region. Together they harvested 546,360 whitetails, down slightly from 2011's total of 574,808. As the

2012 season harvest was down because of heavy acorn and mast crops in several regions, there is a good carryover of deer into 2013. For hunters this translates into a target-rich environment in 2013.

“Deer season is expected to be good this year,” says White-tailed Deer Program Leader Alan Cain. “Recent rains have improved native forages and nutritional resources to support good antler production this year.” Texas Hill Country west of San Antonio and Austin Supports high deer densities along with the western portion of the Trans Pecos and the Cross Timber region in North Central Texas. For quality bucks, Cain points to South Texas. “But areas in the Oak Prairie East of Austin toward Houston and back South towards Victoria have been under antler restrictions for 8 years or so and have seen a great improvement in older age class bucks,” he says. Hunters can expect to see a good number of 1.5-year-old bucks as a result of above-average fawn crops in 2012, plus good numbers of 3.5-, 6.5-, and 8.5-year-olds resulting from good fawn production in 2005, 2007, and 2010. Information on rut activity for various regions can be found at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/planning/rut_whitetailed_deer/.

In 2012, two archery hunters connected on a couple of large non-typical bucks scoring about 250 Boone and Crockett. Both bucks were wild, free-ranging deer taken on low-fenced properties, one in North Texas and the other in Southeast Texas.

“Feral hogs and javelina are also a good bonus for bowhunters,” Cain adds. “South Texas supports a good javelina population...a great game species to pursue if the deer are slow at your hunting location.”

The 2013-2014 Texas Outdoor Annual with the latest hunting information was not available at press time. Visit the TPWD website for the latest: www.tpwd.state.tx.us

WHITETAILED

Season: Archery Sept. 28-Nov. 1.

Limit: Varies by county from 3 (no more than 1 buck, 2 antlerless) to 5 (no more than 3 bucks).

Fees: Res. hunting license \$25, archery stamp \$7. Non-res. hunting license \$315, archery stamp \$7.

MULE DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 28-Nov. 1.

Limit: Varies by county.

Fees: Same as whitetails.

RIO GRANDE TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Sept. 28-Nov. 1. Fall General—North Nov. 2-Jan. 5, 2014; South Nov. 2-Jan. 19, 2014. Spring—North Mar. 29-May 11; South Mar. 15-Apr. 27. Spring 1-turkey counties (8 counties) Apr. 1-30, 2014.

Limit: Varies by county.

Fees: Same as whitetails plus upland game bird stamp \$7.

EASTERN TURKEY

Season: General Spring Season Apr. 15-May 14, 2014.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as Rio Grande turkey.

JAVELINA

Season: Oct. 1-Feb. 23 (Northern—43 counties), Year-round (Southern—50 counties).

Limit: 2 (varies by county).

Fees: Same as whitetails.

PRONGHORN

Season: Sept. 28-Oct. 6

Limit: 1 (by permit only).

Fees: Same as whitetails.

FERAL HOGS

Season: All year.

Limit: None.

Fees: Res. \$25. Non-res. may purchase Special Hunting License if they pursue hogs only. Cost is \$48 for five days or \$132 for year.

EXOTICS

Season: No closed season on private land.

Limit: No limit on private land.

Fees: Same as feral hogs.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Blades must be at least 7/8 inch wide and have two or more cutting edges.

Crossbows: Permitted during archery and general firearms season with minimum draw weight of 125 lbs., mechanical safety and stock that is 25 inches or longer. Crossbows not allowed in Grayson County except during general seasons or by disabled permit.

Bowhunter education permit: Required for persons born on or after Sept. 2, 1971.

Special permits: Public drawings for bowhunts on state-managed lands are offered for whitetails. Applications are available at TPW offices and on the Web.

Est. bowhunters in '11: 40,555 (based on Big Game Harvest Survey, hunters reporting hunting with archery only, last data available).

Bowhunting organization(s): Lone Star Bowhunters Association;
www.lonestarbowhunter.com.

Information/licenses: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744; (800) 792-1112; www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Utah

A long season and plenty of permits await archery hunters who come to Utah to pursue bull elk during the state's general archery season.

Utah is known across the country as THE place to go if you want to take a monster bull elk. If you want to hunt these bulls on limited-entry units, it can be tough to draw a permit. But if you're an archer and want to pursue a big bull on a general season any-bull unit—or a smaller bull on a spike-only unit—you'll have no problem getting a permit because Utah general archery elk permits are not limited in number.

General bull elk hunting happens on two types of units in Utah: spike-only units and any-bull units. On spike-only units, you may take only a spike bull or a cow elk. The bull-to-cow ratio on spike-only units ranges from 30 to 50 bulls per 100 cows. The bull-to-cow ratio on any-bull elk units is lower (usually 15 bulls per 100 cows), but you can take a bull of any size on an any-bull elk unit. Cow elk also may be taken on any-bull elk units.

Utah's elk populations are doing so well that more cow elk permits are needed to try to bring the total number of elk back to management objectives (70,965 animals). So the number of cow elk permits increased from 14,763 in 2012 to 17,817 for this fall's hunts.

Buck mule deer also provide lots of opportunity for general season archery hunters. Your first chance to obtain a general archery buck deer permit is in Utah's annual big game draw. Applications for the annual draw are usually accepted in February. Permits not taken in the draw are usually available on a first-come, first-served basis, starting in mid-July.

A total of 84,600 general deer permits will be available for 2013. In 2012, a total of 86,500 permits were offered. Big Game Coordinator Anis Aoude says even though the total number of deer in Utah is going up, the number of bucks per 100 does is still below the management objective on some of the state's hunting units.

Biologists found a little of everything on Utah's 30 general-season units after last fall's hunts. On some units, the number of bucks per 100 does was above objective and was rising. Other units were stable. And, on some units, the number of bucks per 100 does was declining. Aoude says the number of bucks taken last fall was up about 34 percent from 2011. And the total number of deer in Utah, after the hunts were over, was up too.

"Two years ago, after the hunts in 2011," he says, "Utah had about 286,000 deer. Despite hunters taking more bucks in 2012, about 318,000 deer were in the state after the hunts were over last fall. That's encouraging. It shows the overall deer population is growing."

Buck pronghorn permits increased from 664 in 2012 to 853 for this fall's hunts. Doe pronghorn permits increased from 537 in 2012 to 962 for this fall. The productive pronghorn herd on the Parker Mountains in south-central Utah is the major reason for the increase. A tough winter hit the unit two years ago. Snow and cold killed many pronghorns and dropped the herd below its management objective. But the animals have already bounced back.

As turkeys have prospered in Utah, with a population numbering about 20,000 birds, hunting opportunities have increased. In addition, there are now three spring seasons. You must have a valid Utah hunting license or combination license before you can apply for or obtain a turkey permit. Jason Robinson, upland game coordinator, says turkeys are doing well, especially in southwestern and south-central Utah. "Southern Utah has a lot of turkey habitat, including lots of oak brush," he says. "Turkeys do really well in that type of habitat."

Robinson says the number of turkeys across Utah should be similar to—or a little higher—than it was in 2012. He credits the optimistic outlook to a warm, wet spring in 2012 and the ability turkeys have to escape inversions.

"Wet, warm weather in the spring gives hens more nesting cover," he says. "It also provides more forbs and insects for newly hatched poults to eat. Plenty of poults that were born last spring made it to winter."

Snowfall in higher elevations was lighter than normal this past winter. When inversions set in along the Wasatch Front, many turkey poults and their parents escaped the snow and cold by moving to open, south-facing slopes at higher elevations.

Robinson says biologists also moved turkeys from areas in Utah where the turkeys were overabundant to areas that have good habitat for the birds. That's increased the number of turkeys in those areas. "We also brought turkeys in from South Dakota and released them in eastern Utah this past winter," he says.

Utah offers once-in-a-lifetime hunts for moose, bison, sheep and goat, plus limited entry and premium limited entry areas for mule deer, elk and pronghorn. There are also an array of Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permits, landowner permits, conservation permits and sportsman's permits (sportsman's permits are available only to Utah residents).

For more information about hunting in Utah, consult the *2013 Utah Big Game Field Regulations Guidebook*. The free guidebook is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

You can learn when applications will be accepted for 2014 by subscribing to the free *Utah Wildlife News* e-newsletter. Subscribe to the weekly newsletter, and the DWR's weekly fishing reports, at <http://go.usa.gov/BRz>.

MULE DEER

Season: Archery Aug. 17-Sept. 13. Extended Archery Sept. 14-Nov. 30.

Limit: 1 buck.

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$40 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$268 permit.

ELK

Season: Archery on spike-only units Aug. 17-Sept. 6. Archery on any-bull elk units Aug. 17-Sept. 13. Extended Archery—Wasatch Front, Uintah Basin Sept. 14–Dec. 15, Sanpete Valley Nov. 9–Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 mature bull, spike bull or cow in “any-bull elk” unit; 1 spike bull or cow in “spike-only” unit; a few other exceptions, see 2013 Utah Big Game Field Regulations Guidebook for details.

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$50 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$393 permit.

PRONGHORN

Season: Sept. 2-Nov. 15.

Limit: 1 buck (draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$55 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$293 permit.

MOOSE

Season: Aug. 31-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1 bull license per lifetime (draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$413 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$1,518 permit.

BISON

Season: Sept. 2-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 license per lifetime (draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus Antelope Island \$1,110, Book Cliffs or Henry Mountains \$413 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus Antelope Island \$2,615, Book Cliffs or Henry Mountains \$1,518 permit.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Spring Apr. 6-June 2, 2013, on most units. Fall Aug. 19-Sept. 29 and Nov. 1-20 on most units. La Sal and San Juan Oct. 7-28. See the 2013 Utah Black Bear Guidebook for details.

Limit: 1 (no sows with cubs, available by draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$83 permit and \$30 Pursuit tag. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$308 permit and \$135 Pursuit tag.

COUGAR

Season: Nov. 14, 2012-May 30, 2013 (varies by area and type of permit; some units open nearly year-round). See the latest Utah Cougar Guidebook for details.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus Limited Entry \$58, Pursuit \$30, Damage \$30. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus Limited Entry \$258, Pursuit \$135, Damage \$30.

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sept. 2-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 license per lifetime (draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$513 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$1,518 permit.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Sept. 2-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 license per lifetime (draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$513 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$1,518 permit.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Sept. 2-Dec. 31.

Limit: 1 license per lifetime (draw only).

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$413 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$1,518 permit.

TURKEY

Season: Apr. 1-May 31, 2013 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1 bearded turkey.

Fees: Res. \$26 Hunting plus \$35 permit. Non-res. \$65 Hunting plus \$100 permit.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges and must not be able to pass through 7/8-inch ring. Arrows must be at least 20 inches long and weigh a minimum of 300 grains.

Crossbows: Legal only for physically challenged hunters by permit.

Hunter education requirement: Completion of a hunter education course approved by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is required if you were born after Dec. 31, 1965. Before hunting on any of Utah's extended archery areas, each year you must complete the agency's Extended Archery Ethics Course. The course is available online at http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation/extended_archery.

Archery tags in '12: 34,405.

Bowhunting organization: Utah Bowmen's Association; www.utahbowmen.org.

Information/licenses: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Box 146301, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114-6301; (801) 538-4700; www.wildlife.utah.gov.

Vermont

Vermont provides excellent bowhunting opportunities throughout the state. Each year the archery harvest comprises approximately 20 percent of the state's total annual deer harvest. Moreover, archery continues to increase in its popularity and contribution to harvest management goals. Vermont's strong tradition of hunter-landowner access programs makes finding bowhunting opportunities relatively easy. Three deer may be taken during the split archery season, but only one may be a legal buck. Antlerless deer may be taken during the archery season in 23 of the state's 24 WMUs.

Following 2012's mild winter and a conservative antlerless harvest in 2011, a bigger harvest was anticipated in 2012. Hunters were still very successful with 13,757 deer taken in the archery, youth, rifle, and muzzleloader seasons. During the 32-day split season, archers harvested 3,219 deer. Antlerless deer comprised 80 percent of the archery harvest, making bowhunting an important tool in Vermont's deer management program.

Since 2005 Vermont has experimented with Antler Point Restrictions (APR) as a way to increase older-ages classes in the deer herd. The APR requires a legal buck to have a least one antler with two or more points one inch or longer. Since APR implementation, buck weights continue to increase, and the number of 2.5-year-old bucks in the population and harvest has increased. Furthermore, due to bowhunters' willingness to harvest antlerless deer and promote deer herd health, other biological indices such as antler beam diameters and fawn body weights have continued to increase over the same period. Vermont hunters are seeing a healthier deer

herd more capable of surviving winter than in past years. Look for highest deer concentrations in the east-central region and western Vermont (west of the Green Mountain Range).

Best black bear areas are the Northeast Kingdom and the Green Mountain National Forest. Vermont currently has a very healthy and robust black bear population estimated at approximately 6,000 animals. A bear tag is included on the standard hunting license. With long-term established population objectives in mind, 2013's fall bear hunting opportunity has been increased by four days.

In addition, 2013 will mark the third year of Vermont's Moose Archery Season. Fifty permits will again be issued in 2013. Hunter success during the archery season in 2012 was 34 percent, with archers harvesting 17 moose (14 bulls, 3 cows). The highest concentrations of moose can be found in the North East Kingdom.

DEER

Season: Archery Oct. 5-27, Dec. 7-15.

Limit: Up to 3 deer in archery season with three archery licenses. One legal buck with at least one antler having 2 or more points 1 inch or longer. Archers may take an antlerless deer during the archery season statewide. Three antlerless deer can be harvested in WMUs open to antlerless hunting during archery season.

Fees: Res. \$22 plus \$20 archery license. Non-res. \$100 plus \$35 archery license or \$75 archery-only license.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 1-Nov. 16.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$22. Non-res. \$100.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 1-21 (archery only in all WMUs statewide.; Oct. 22-30 in WMUs B, D1, D2, G, H1, H2, I, J1, J2, L, M1, M2, O1, O2, P, and Q. Oct. 22-Nov. 6 in WMUs F1, F2, K1, K2, and N. Spring May 1-31.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds. Fall 1 bird either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$22 license plus \$20 turkey license. Non-res. \$100 license plus \$35 turkey license.

MOOSE

Season: Oct 1-7.

Limit: 1 by special Permit (applications were due July 5, 2013).

Total Permits: 405 (355 Regular Season, 50 Archery-specific).

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must have at least two cutting edges and a minimum diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal only for handicapped hunters by permit.

Bowhunter education, previous archery license, or affidavit: Required.

Archery licenses in '12: 21,608 (19,615 res., 1,993 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): Green Mountain Archery Association, Route 1, Box 1680, Plainfield, VT 05667. Vermont Bowhunters Association, Roy Kilburn, 54 Birchwood Dr., Berlin, VT 05602; (802) 223-3273; roykilburn@gmail.com; www.vermontbowhuntersassociation.org.

Information/licenses: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0501; (802) 241-3700; www.VTfishandwildlife.com.

Virginia

Bowhunters can take to Virginia's deer woods from the first Saturday in October through the first Saturday in January over most of the Commonwealth (for specific archery season dates and areas see below). The early and late archery deer seasons are full season either-sex (except on PALS lands in Dickenson County).

East of the Blue Ridge Mountains (except on National Forest Lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties) archers may kill two deer per day, six per season, three of which must be antlerless. The daily bag limit for deer is unlimited in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Unlimited antlerless-only bonus deer permits are available for private lands.

West of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on National Forest Lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties archers may kill one deer per day, five per season, three of which must be antlerless. Unlimited antlerless-only bonus deer permits are available for private lands.

Deer Project Coordinator Matt Knox reports that archery deer hunters in Virginia have averaged about a 30 percent success rate over the past decade. During the past deer season hunters reported taking 215,241 deer. This total included 96,853 antlered bucks, 18,314 button bucks, 100,031 does (46.5%), and 43 deer whose sex and age was unknown. The 2012 deer kill total was 8 percent lower than the 233,104 deer reported killed in fall 2011.

Deer kill levels were down over most of the state including Tidewater (down 15%), Southern Piedmont (down 8%), Northern Piedmont (down 6%), Southern Mountains (down 3%) and Northern Mountains (stable).

Archers, not including crossbow hunters, killed 16,005 deer. The bow kill comprised 7 percent of the total deer kill. Crossbows resulted in a deer kill of 10,749 deer or 5 percent of the total deer kill. For current and historical deer kill data by specific county or region, go to www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/va_game_wildlife/deer_harvest.asp.

Archers are allowed to hunt during the firearms deer season(s) but must comply with the either-sex deer hunting days for the firearms deer season and must wear blaze orange during the except when hunting in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited.

Archery hunters accounted for 513 bears during 2012, representing 24 percent of the total harvest. Archery success typically increases during poor mast years and decreases when acorns are abundant. As expected, with a better mast crop in the fall of 2012 than 2011, archery success decreased and was lower than the previous 3-year average of 33 percent of the total harvest. (The 2011 archery harvest resulted in a kill of 693 bears, 35 percent of the total harvest). The top three archery counties were Augusta (32), Rockingham (30) and Page (24). Crossbow hunters accounted for 44 percent of 2012's total archery kill. The archery season harvest was 32 percent female, down from the previous 3-year average female harvest of 42 percent.

Public and private land hunting opportunities can be searched using the interactive "Find Game" Web-based map viewer on the Department's website (www.HuntFishVA.com). Information includes hunting quality, land location, and access, plus details on 125 publicly accessible properties, covering nearly 3.5 million acres. Special hunts are available to youths and disabled hunters. See the Department website for details.

Hunters are reminded that all licenses sold by VDGIF are valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the bear, deer, turkey license (the big game license with the deer tags on it, which is good from July 1 through June 30 of the following year) and the

National Forest Permit. Lifetime hunting licenses are available for \$255 for residents age 12 and older, \$15 for residents age 65 and older, and \$505 for nonresidents.

The Department changes deer regulations every other year and just did so effective this fall. There were however no major statewide archery changes. A couple of new areas have been added to the urban archery season(s) and an antlerless-only April archery deer season was created in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. See the new hunting digest for details.

DEER

Seasons: Early Archery Oct. 5-Nov. 15 (statewide). Late archery Dec. 2-Jan. 4, 2014, in all areas west of the Blue Ridge (except Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick County) and in the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Rt. 151); on the Chester F. Phelps WMA and on National Forest lands in Frederick County; Dec. 2-Jan. 4 in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach; Dec. 16-Jan. 4, 2014, in the counties of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, and Patrick. Urban Archery (antlerless only) Sept. 7-Oct. 4 and Jan. 6-March 29, 2014 (in designated areas). Late Archery Antlerless-Only March 31-Apr. 26, 2014, in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Limit: East—2 per day and 6 per license year, no more 3 antlered (bonus antlerless permits are unlimited and valid on private property). West—1 per day and 5 per license year, no more than 2 antlered (bonus antlerless permits are unlimited and valid on private property).

Fees: Res. \$23 hunting license, \$23 big game license, plus \$18 archery license and/or \$18 crossbow license. Non-res. \$111 hunting license, \$86 big game license, and \$31 archery license and/or \$31 crossbow license.

BEAR

Season: Archery Oct. 5-Nov. 15 (statewide).

Limit: 1 at least 100 lbs. live weight or 75 lbs. dressed weight.

Fees: Same as deer.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Archery Oct. 5-Nov. 9 (except in counties where there is a closed firearm season on turkeys). Spring Apr. 12-May 17.

Limit: One per day, three per license year, no more than two of which may be taken in the fall. Spring—bearded turkeys only and fall—either-sex.

Fees: Same as deer.

BOBCAT

Season: Archery Oct. 5-31.

Limit: 2 per day, 12 per season.

Fees: Same as deer.

Minimum draw weight: Bow must be capable of casting an arrow a minimum of 125 yards.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Crossbows legal to use by any hunter. Crossbow license (resident \$18, nonresident \$31) required during any archery season (including the urban archery season).

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. Certified hunter's education course required for first-time hunters and youths ages 12 to 15.

Bowhunting licenses in '12: 71, 041 (40,645 res. archery, 27,390 crossbow; 1,916 non-res. archery, 1,090 crossbow; preliminary data, based on license sales).

Bowhunting organization(s): Virginia Bowhunters Association; www.wbarchers.com. <http://www.vbarchers.com/> . Traditional Bowhunters of Virginia, contact Wayne Hill, 5629 Pickwick Rd., Centerville, VA 20120. Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia; www.swmnv.com.

Information/licenses: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 W. Broad St., Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104; (804) 367-1000; License hotline (866) 721-6911; www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Washington

Washington continues to increase hunting opportunities and create hunter-friendly resources. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife owns or manages nearly a million acres of land divided into 32 designated Wildlife Areas across the state. Though about 50 percent of Washington is in private ownership, WDFW has succeeded in opening up tens of thousands of acres of private farmland and timberland through negotiations with landowners throughout the state, resulting in programs such as “Feel Free to Hunt” and “Register to Hunt.” The latest program, “Hunt By Reservation,” allows hunters to get hunting information for specific properties and reserve a parking spot or hunting blind for quality hunts using a new online reservation system at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/private_lands/.

Very helpful is the agency’s GoHunt application, available on the website, that lets hunters create custom hunting maps. Information includes multi-layered maps displaying game management unit (GMU) boundaries, deer and elk management areas, and Private Lands Hunting Opportunities, as well as roads, topographical features and county lines. In addition, harvest statistics and hunting regulations are available by specific locale and species.

The state offers a “Master Hunters” program where participants are eligible for special management hunts. Opportunities vary from year to year, and may include elk, deer, bear, turkey and goose hunts in designated areas throughout Washington. Among the requirements are complete an independent training course, demonstration of proficiency with bow or crossbow, volunteer service, crime observation and reporting training, and a background check,

Washington offers three species of deer: blacktail, mule, and whitetail. In 2012, 19,752 archers took 5,153 out of the 31,144 deer harvest (all weapons), a significant increase over 2011 when 19,416 bowhunters took 4,317 out of 29,154 animals.

Total all-weapons elk harvests typically run between 7,500 and 8,500. But 2012 total was just 5,956 with 15,963 participating archers taking 1,850 of that number for a 12.8 percent success rate. This was down from 2011’s 7,236, but closer to 2010’s all-weapons take of just 5,242 animals. Elk in Washington remain under intensive hunting pressure. Washington is the smallest of the 11 Western states and has the highest number of hunters per elk. It also has the highest human population density of all the “elk states.”

Washington State has an abundant and healthy black bear population. Rough population estimates suggest the statewide black bear population is around 25,000 to 30,000 animals. In 2012, 21,656 hunters (all weapons) killed 1,558 during the general season, which was close to 2011 totals.

The state’s turkey population is growing, with the largest population increases in northeast Washington units. Permit levels have trended upward in several other areas of the state. For example, based on harvest and population trends, the Blue Mountain foothills seem to

provide excellent habitat conditions for Rio Grande turkeys as does the northern half of Lincoln County

Use of scopes during modern firearms seasons is now allowed on crossbows for those who qualify for crossbow use. Lighted nocks are allowed; other electronic devices attached to a bow are illegal.

Washington offers many special hunts. Go to the website for more information. As seasons near, be sure to check <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/prospects/index.html> for the latest hunting forecasts throughout the state. Current fees can be found online at wdfw.wa.gov/licensing. License years run Apr. 1-Mar. 31.

DEER

Season: Early Archery Sept. 1-27 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU). Late Archery Nov. 21-Dec. 31 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU).

Limit: 1 (antler restrictions in some GMUs). Some second deer special permits available.

Fees: Res. \$44.90. Non-res. \$434.30.

ELK

Season: Early Archery Aug. 1-Jan. 20 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU). Late Archery Oct. 27-Jan. 30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GMU).

Limit: 1 (point restrictions in some GMUs). Some second elk special permits available.

Fees: Res. \$50.40. Non-res. \$497. Included with some big license combo options.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall General Aug. 1-Nov. 15 (varies by GMU). Spring Permit Apr. 1-June 15 (earliest and latest dates).

Limit: 2 (only 1 of which may be taken in eastern Washington).

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$222. Same for 2nd Black Bear license. Included with some big license combo options.

COUGAR

Season: General Sept. 1-Mar. 31 (earliest and latest dates). Late seasons may be cut if early season harvest meet or exceed guidelines. Call (866) 364-4868 to confirm open cougar hunt areas.

Limit: 1 cougar per license year.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$222. Included with some big license combo options.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Special Permit Hunt only Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (Sept. 1-14 archery only); limited to select GMUs.

Limit: 1 for anyone who has not harvested a goat in Washington in 1999 or later.

Fees: Res. \$332. Non-res. \$1,652.

MOOSE

Season: Special Permit Hunt only Oct. 1-Nov. 30, Dec. 1-Mar. 31; limited to select GMUs.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$332. Non-res. \$1,652.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Special Permit Hunt only Sept. 15-Nov. 30 (earliest and latest dates); limited to select GMUs.

Limit: 1 ram EXCEPT Mt. Hull B and C are 1 adult ewe.

Fees: Res. \$332. Non-res. \$1,652.

TURKEY

Season: Early Fall General Sept. 21-Oct. 11. Fall Northeast Beardless Sept. 21-Oct. 11. Late Fall General Nov. 20-Dec. 15. Spring Apr. 15-May 31. Youth Only Apr. 6-7.

Limit: Varies, check regs.

Fees: Small Game license res. \$40.50, non-res. \$183.50. Turkey tag res. \$15.90, non-res. \$44.50. Additional turkey tags res. \$15.90 res., \$66.50 non-res.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. @ 28 inches or less.

Arrows: Broadhead-arrow combinations must be 20 inches in length or more, weigh at least 6 grains per pound of draw weight with minimum a minimum arrow weight of 300 grains.

Broadhead must be greater than 7/8 inches wide. Must be unbarbed. Expandables are illegal.

Crossbows: Not allowed, except in firearm restriction areas. Permit available to disabled hunters for use during archery seasons. Draw weight must be at least 125 lbs. Bolts must weigh at least 350 grains. Working trigger safety required. Use of scopes during modern firearms seasons is allowed.

Bowhunter education permit: Standard hunter education course required for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1972.

Archery Deer and Elk Permits in '12: 45,611.

Bowhunting organization(s): Washington State Bowhunters; www.wabowhunters.com.

Traditional Bowhunters of Washington; www.tbwonline.org. Washington State Archery Association; www.washingtonarchery.org.

Info/licenses: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091; Licensing (360) 902-2464; Wildlife Program (360) 902-2515; <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.

West Virginia

Bowhunter-friendly West-Virginia is home to four archery-only counties that, because of no gun hunting, offer a larger percentage of older age-class deer and some tremendous trophies, says Research Supervisor Chris Ryan. "There is also ample public land in those counties. There is over a million acres of public land, and bow season comes in well before gun seasons. We have a tremendous bear population, and the season is in all 55 counties and lasts for nearly three months."

As if that were not good enough, here's more: "The daily bag limit has increased for the 2013 deer hunting seasons," Ryan says. In 2012 an earlier opening date was approved for both deer and bear bow season, so "bounteous opportunities abound" for archers.

West Virginia hunters harvested a total of 132,261 deer in 2012, nearly identical to the 2011 harvest. Archers took 25,714 of that total, which is also very close to their average. Bowhunters also took 931 deer in the special urban deer season as bag limits and opportunities were liberalized.

"Bowhunting should be very good in West Virginia in 2013," he continues. "Harvests have remained stable, and many units are closer to their management objective, which means larger, healthier animals. Biological data collected at our check stations reveals that many hunters are harvesting older-aged deer."

West Virginia hunters harvested a record 2,691 black bears, 747 by archers, during the combined 2012 archery and firearms seasons. This is the fourth time the kill has topped 2,000 in the past five years.

The 2013 spring gobbler harvest (all weapons) was 11,035, 33 percent higher than the kill in 2012 (8,303). The 2013 harvest was higher in all districts and 52 counties over 2012. While the harvest in District 2 virtually equaled the five-year average, the other districts saw significant increases above that average. Harvest in District 3 increased almost 21 percent over its five-year average, and both Districts 1 and 4 saw increases of 15 percent as well.

The 2012 fall season kill of 1,272 turkeys was up 4 percent from the 1,186 birds taken during the 2011 fall season. The above-average but scattered acorn crop of 2012 concentrated birds in areas of abundant mast, making those birds somewhat more susceptible to harvest, especially in West Virginia's non-traditional, fall hunting counties.

New in 2013: The daily deer bag limit has changed to two, provided that only one antlered deer may be taken in a day. There are new apprentice licenses available for individuals that have never had a base license. There are numerous new counties open to black bear firearms season concurrently with the buck gun season. Hunters should consult the 2013-2014 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for more information.

Please note that special permits may be required in some circumstances. Non-res. National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class I) \$2 is required on National Forests. Additional deer hunting stamp Class RB and RG \$21 res. Class RM \$16. Non-res Class RRB \$37 and RRG \$43, Class RRM \$37.

People who turn 65 on or after January 1, 2012, must purchase a Senior Lifetime License for \$25 unless exempt or have a lifetime license already. Lifetime hunting licenses are available to residents for \$782.

DEER

Season: Statewide Sept. 28-Dec. 31.

Limit: 3 (varies by county), 1 per day.

Fees: Res.—Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19, Big game stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (Class CS) \$5; or Resident Sportsmen's license (Class X \$35); additional deer stamp (Class RB) \$21. Non-res.—Statewide Hunting (Class E) \$119, Archery deer stamp (Class UU) \$32, Conservation stamp (Class CS/LE) \$13; additional deer stamp (Class RRB) \$37; National Forest Stamp (Class I) \$2.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Archery Sept. 28-Nov. 23 and Dec. 9-31. See regs for special seasons.

Limit: 2. See regs for special bag limits.

Fees: Res.—Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19, bear stamp (Class DS) \$10, Big game stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (Class CS) \$5; or Sportsmen's License (Class X) \$35, bear stamp (Class DS) \$10. Non-res.—Bear Hunting (Class EE) \$162, Conservation stamp (Class CS/LE) \$13; bear stamp (Class DS) \$10, National Forest (Class I) \$2.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Selected Counties for 1-, 2-, or 4-week seasons Oct. 12-19; Oct. 28-Nov. 2; Oct. 28-Nov. 16. Check regs for specific counties. Spring 2014 Apr. 28-May 24. Youth Apr. 26, 2014.

Limit: Fall 1 either-sex. Spring 2, 1 per day, bearded birds only.

Fees: Res.—Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19, Big Game hunting stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (CS) \$5; or Sportsmen's License (X) \$35. Non-res.—Statewide Hunting (Class E) \$119, Turkey hunting stamp (Class WW) \$32; Conservation stamp (Class CS/LE) \$13; National Forest (Class I) \$2.

WILD BOAR (res. only)

Season: Archery Oct. 12–Dec. 31. Gun Oct. 26–Nov. 2.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. Hunting and Trapping (Class A) \$19; Big Game hunting stamp (Class BG) \$10, Conservation stamp (CS) \$5; or Sportsmen's License (X) \$35.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: Must have at least two sharp cutting edges of more than 3/4 inch wide.

Crossbows: Illegal except by Physically Challenged Class Y or YY permits. Must have draw weight of at least 125 lbs., a working safety, bolts at least 18 inches long.

Bowhunter education permit: Standard hunter education required.

Bowhunters in '12: 90,000 (80,000 res., 10,000 non-res.).

State bowhunting organization: West Virginia Bowhunters Association;
www.westvirginiabowhunters.org.

For more information or to buy licenses, contact: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, 324 Fourth Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303; (304) 558-2771; www.wvdnr.gov.

Wisconsin

With millions of acres available for public hunting, a nearly four-month-long season, and all counties represented in the whitetail record books, Wisconsin is where you want to hunt for deer next year, say Assistant Big Game Specialist Sam Jonas and Assistant Big Game Ecologist Scott Roepke.

Overall, the herd is in good shape, and great bowhunting opportunities exist throughout the state. In fact, bowhunters in Wisconsin harvested a record number of archery bucks in 2012. Much of Wisconsin's landscape contains a perfect mix of agricultural land with hardwood and pine forests, making it ideal habitat for deer and deer hunting.

Bowhunters will likely find greatest success in farmland areas. Buffalo County has traditionally been the hotspot for recordbook whitetails. However, record-class bucks are taken throughout Wisconsin, including the 2011 harvest of a 15-point typical with a 22 3/8 spread, two inches larger than the 2009 record, both from Fond du Lac County. The greatest densities and largest bucks are in the southern two-thirds of the state, although deer densities can vary significantly across the landscape. Success often depends on access to areas with good deer abundance, pre-season scouting to pattern seasonal deer movements, and time in the field during the season.

The state's 113-day archery season begins in Sept. 14 and ends Jan. 5 (Jan. 31 in metro units). In 2013, 50 deer management units (DMUs) will have a regular deer season framework (down from 56 in 2012). The regular season structure allows for one buck per archery license and a limited number of antlerless tags to be sold. Antlerless tags are sold online or over the counter starting at 10 a.m., Aug. 17. In addition to the one free antlerless tag bowhunters receive with their archery license, hunters may purchase one antlerless tag (\$12 res./\$20 non-res.) per day until the unit is sold out.

The majority of the DMUs in the state are in a herd control season framework. In herd control units, each archery license includes a buck tag and two free antlerless tags. These units will have antlerless harvest permits available at \$2/permit and are not limited in number. The number of herd control units has increased from 44 in 2012 to 50 in 2013.

The season structure in the CWD management zone (22 DMUs) is similar to herd control units, except that hunters may harvest additional bucks beyond their one buck carcass tag by first harvesting an antlerless deer under the bonus buck regulations.

Although the state's deer population is strong, bowhunters will be limited to harvesting only bucks in four northern Wisconsin DMUs. These units have been under goal for several years, and this antlerless harvest restriction was established to help grow the herd.

Again in 2013, all youth ages 10 to 17 will be automatically issued a free antlerless deer tag when they purchase a gun deer license. This tag is valid statewide for one antlerless deer in any DMU during any open deer season with the appropriate license and corresponding weapon, including regular (buck-only) units that have no antlerless quota. This tag may be filled during the archery season with legal archery gear if the person also holds a valid archery license.

Please note that there was a crossbow bill in legislation at press time that may create a crossbow season concurrent with the archery season. If passed, all hunters would be allowed to hunt with a crossbow. Monitor the DNR website or call 608-266-2194 for the latest crossbow regulations.

The DNR wants to know what Wisconsin deer hunters see afield and is asking for input via an online reporting form throughout archery and gun deer seasons. Go to www.dnr.wi.gov, keyword "deer hunter wildlife." Data will be compiled over several years to provide valuable information for wildlife management programs.

The 2013 Wisconsin bear season promises excellent opportunities. Annually, Wisconsin ranks among the leaders in bear harvest in terms of both numbers and recordbook entries. A bear study finishing in 2011 estimated Wisconsin's bear population at approximately 18,500. This is down from a 2008 estimate after four years of record harvest that was intended to reduce the population. Increased permit levels were successful in much of the north, but populations remain high in others.

Wisconsin bear hunters killed 4,646 black bears, 770 by archers, during the 2012 season. This was 9 percent higher than 2011's harvest of 4,257 bears. This was the second highest recorded harvest in Wisconsin and right at the harvest goal of 4,600 bears. The three leading counties were Price, Sawyer, and Rusk.

Interest in bear hunting continues to grow with over 106,000 applications received this year. The harvest goal for 2013 is 4,000 bears with 8,560 permits issued. Applicants currently need to have collected between three and nine preference points in order to successfully draw a bear harvest permit, the exact number depending on their chosen bear management zone and the number of applicants in that zone. The 2013 permit breakdown by zone: Zone A—2,130 permits; Zone B—690 permits; Zone C—4,110 permits; and Zone D—1,630 permits.

Hunters killed 7,054 turkeys in the 2012 fall season, up 28 percent from the 5,523 they registered during the 2011 season. The agency sold 54,500 permits for the season, including 37,721 via a drawing and another 16,779 over-the-counter. The DNR says hunter success rates also improved, from 10 percent in 2011 to nearly 13 percent in 2012. The cold and snowy spring 2013 turkey season resulted in a preliminary total of 37,804 turkeys, an 11 percent decrease from spring 2012. Zone 1 led with the highest overall turkey harvest at 11,054 birds, followed by Zones 3 and 2 with 9,468 and 8,955 birds, respectively.

Contact the DNR for details on turkey and deer hunts for disabled hunters, youth hunt weekends for deer and turkey for youths age 10-15, and learn-to-hunt events for deer, bear, and turkey.

DEER

Season: Bow Sept. 14-Nov. 21 & Nov. 23-Jan. 5, 2014 (antlerless only Dec. 12-15). Youth Deer Hunt Oct. 5-6 (blaze orange required). Gun Nov. 23-Dec. 1 (archery equipment allowed). Statewide Antlerless Hunt Dec. 12-15. CWD Holiday Hunt Dec. 24-Jan. 5, 2014. Metro Units Sept. 14-Nov. 21, Nov. 23-Jan. 31, 2014 (antlerless only Dec. 12-15). See regs for dates and unit designations.

Limit: Herd Control Units 1 buck per archery tag, plus additional antlerless per antlerless tag. Regular Units 1 buck per archery tag and 1 antlerless per archery antlerless tag (antlerless harvest prohibited in 4 units). CWD Units 1 buck deer per unused archery buck deer tag. Also, 1 buck per unused antlerless or CWD deer carcass tag provided a valid Buck Authorization Sticker is affixed to the back OR an unregistered antlerless deer tagged by the same hunter accompanies the buck deer until both are registered.

Fees: Res. \$24. Non-res. \$160. Res. Jr. (age 12-17) \$20. Res & Non-res. mentored hunter (age 10-11) \$7. Res. new buyer \$5. Non-res new buyer \$79.75.

BEAR

Season: Zone C (where hunting with dogs is not permitted)—Sept. 4-Oct. 8 (with aid of bait and other non-canine methods). All other zones that permit dogs—Sept. 4-10 (with aid of dogs only), Sept. 11-Oct. 1 (with aid of dogs, aid of bait, and with all other legal methods), Oct. 2-8 (with aid of bait and with all other legal non-canine methods).

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$49 + \$3 application fee. Non-res. \$251 + \$3 application fee. 10-11 year old mentored hunter \$7 + \$3 application fee.

Application deadline: December 10.

TURKEY

Season: Fall Sept. 14-Nov. 21. Spring Apr. 10-May 21, 2014. (Six 7-day seasons throughout these dates.)

Limit: 1 per permit.

Fees: Res. \$30.25 (permit, license and stamp) + \$3 application fee. Non-res. \$80.25 (permit, license and stamp) + \$3 application fee. 10-11 year old mentored hunter \$11.50 (license and stamp) + \$3 application fee.

Application deadline: Mid December for spring turkey.

Minimum draw weight: 30 lbs.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch. Poison-, drug-, or explosive-tipped arrows prohibited.

Crossbows: Crossbows legal for hunters age 65+ and disabled hunters with a Class A, B, C, or crossbow permit. Must have minimum draw of 100 lbs., a working safety, and use at least 14-inch-long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads. (Archery License required for deer.) Compound bows equipped with a draw-lock type mechanism/devices capable of holding the bow at full draw are considered crossbows; they are exempt from the 100-pound draw requirement (30-pound minimum still applies). Note: Wisconsin's crossbow rules and regulations are in flux, and additional opportunities may be opening. Call 608-266-2194 for the current crossbow regulations.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. However, a hunter education permit is required for those born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, except for those participating under the new hunter mentorship program.

Archery licenses in '12: 264,281 (res. 253,837, non-res. 10,444; licenses that included archery deer). Bowhunting is allowed through licenses for other species such as bear and turkey.

State bowhunting organization: Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, P.O. Box 240, Clintonville, WI 54929; (715) 823-4670; Office@WisconsinBowhunters.org; www.wisconsinbowhunters.org.

Information/licenses: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Customer Services and Licensing, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707; (608) 266-2621, (888) 936-7463; www.dnr.wi.gov.

Wyoming

“Well, Wyoming continues to feature a very significant hunting attribute: only about 525,000 residents on about 97,000 square miles. That’s the lowest human population of any state,” says Wyoming Information Officer Jeff Obrecht. “That’s a major reason we also have the largest population of pronghorn of any state—actually more pronghorn than the rest of the continent combined. So even with below-average fawn recruitment resulting from 2011 snow and 2012 drought, Wyoming is still the go-to state for pronghorn. Access to private land is often easier for archery pronghorn hunters because there’s more demand for access during the rifle season.”

Even with Wyoming’s low human population, compared to past eras, these are overall challenging times for deer, particularly muleys. “Wyoming’s mule deer hunting still ranks well in the West,” Obrecht states. “We wish we could offer what we had in the ’70s.”

It is a good era for elk overall statewide, however, with many hunt areas around Yellowstone National Park being the exception. The reduced price cow/calf license is a good bargain.

Obrecht reminds *Bowhunting World* readers that archers can hunt during the rifle season in Wyoming. If so, archers must wear some hunter orange, but do not need the archery permit. He also notes that bowfishing for carp is becoming more popular; there is no open archery season on game fish in Wyoming.

In addition to the fees below, all hunters must have \$12.50 annual conservation stamp or a \$180.50 lifetime conservation stamp before going afield. One stamp covers all hunting-fishing licenses for the year.

DEER

Season: Sept. 1-30 (most areas).

Limit: 3 (only 1 buck). A few areas in the Sheridan/Buffalo offer unlimited whitetail doe/fawn licenses.

Fees: Res. \$38, doe/fawn \$23, \$16 archery permit. Non-res. \$312, d/f \$34, \$30 archery permit. Non-res. youth \$110, d/f \$19, \$30 archery permit. One archery permit covers all big game and black bear hunting.

Application period: May 1-31 res., Jan. 1-Mar. 15 non-res.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Spring Archery Apr. 15-June 15. Fall Archery Aug. 1-Sept. 30 (seasons vary by unit).

Limit: 1 (no cubs or females with cubs).

Fees: Res. \$45. Non-res. \$362.

ELK

Season: Sept. 1-30 (dates vary by area).

Limit: 2 in most areas; 3 in a few select areas (only 1 bull in all areas).

Fees: Res. \$52. Non-res. \$577. Non-res youth \$275. Reduced-price cow/calf license: res. \$43, non-res. \$288, non-res youth \$100.

Application period: May 1-31 res., Jan. 1-31 non-res.

MOOSE

Season: September dates, vary by area.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$117. Non-res. \$1,416.

Application period: Jan. 1-Feb. 28.

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery—all but six units open Aug. 15 and close when gun seasons start.

Limit: 1 or 2 bucks depending on area, 2-4 doe/fawn licenses depending on area.

Fees: Res. \$37, doe/fawn \$22. Non-res. \$284, d/f \$48. Non-res. youth \$110, d/f \$19.

Application period: Jan. 1-Mar. 15.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Archery Aug. 1-31 (dates vary with area).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$122. Non-res. \$2,266.

Application period: Jan. 1-Feb. 28.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Aug. 15-31.

Limit: 1 per lifetime.

Fees: Res. \$127. Non-res. \$1,813.

Application period: Jan. 1-Feb. 28.

MOUNTAIN LION

Season: Most seasons Sept. 1-Mar. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$30. Non-res. \$362.

TURKEY

Season: Dates vary with hunt area. No early archery season.

Limit: 1 for both fall and spring.

Fees: Res. \$16. Non-res. \$72.

Application period/limited quota licenses: Jan. 1-31 spring, July 1-July 31 fall. Most hunt areas are general license with licenses available over-the-counter.

Minimum draw weight: 50 lbs. or possessing the ability to cast an arrow of 500 grains at least 160 yards for elk and moose; 40 lbs. or possessing the ability to cast a hunting arrow of 400 grains at least 160 yards for other big game.

Broadheads: Minimum 1-inch cutting width required.

Crossbows: Legal during archery seasons. Must have 90-pound minimum draw weight and shoot a 16-inch bolt.

Bowhunter education: Not required but encouraged.

Special regulations: All non-res. licenses are issued via drawing except cougar and black bear. Non-res. application periods are Jan. 1-31 for elk, Jan. 1-Feb. 28 for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, and Jan. 1-Mar. 15 for deer and pronghorn.

Archery permits in '12: 20, 308 (15,203 res. [1,162 youth], 5,105 non-res. [120 youth]).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunters of Wyoming; www.bowhuntersofwyoming.wy.gov.

Info/licenses: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006; (307) 777-4600; wgfd.wyo.gov.

CANADA 2012-2013

Please Note: A U.S. Customs Declaration Form is required for all game entering the United States. U.S. hunters should obtain these at U.S. Customs and complete them in the presence of a customs official upon re-entry to the United States. For information on possible restrictions on the importation of hunter-harvested big game, please review the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service guidelines at www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/index.shtml.

In addition to any other permit, federal CITES permits may be required to export out of Canada or import into Canada certain trophies, hides, or specimens. For information regarding CITES permits, call (800) 668-6767 or visit www.cites.ec.gc.ca.

Alberta

The Fish and Wildlife Division estimates the provincial whitetail population at about 232,000 (38,829 harvested in 2011), with highest densities found primarily in the wooded river flats and coulees of the prairie, or in aspen groves in the parkland and southern boreal zones. Although the province does not boast the densest populations, the animals' body size make up for it. Archery-only zones and early archery seasons give bowhunters an advantage.

The provincial mule deer population is estimated at about 138,000 animals (11,675 harvested in 2012). They are found throughout the province, but are most plentiful in southern and western Alberta. Ongoing CWD monitoring requires hunters to submit heads from harvested deer in certain units. Thirty-four new cases of CWD were identified in wild deer in Alberta's 2012 fall surveillance program.

As a result of significant winter mortality in 2010-2011, licenses were reduced for mule deer for the 2012 hunting season. Populations are recovering and license numbers are increasing, however they are still below the levels prior to the winter die-off.

The hunting of antlered mule deer in many WMUs during the archery-only season will now require a "Special Licence" obtained through the draw process. This change was due to a high proportion of harvest occurring during the general archery season, which resulted in fewer Special Licence permits being issued.

Black bears are common in open forests throughout the mixed-wood, foothill, and montane life zones. They occur in about 74 percent of the province, primarily along the western edge, with highest densities in the Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, and Sheep River areas. Partial clearing of forests for roads, trails, and other developments has improved bear habitat and

consequently their numbers have increased in recent years. The current population is estimated to be about 36,000 animals, 1,995 of which were harvested in 2012.

Moose (9,000 harvested in 2012) are common throughout most eco-regions, and are increasing in the prairie and central parkland eco-regions. In recent years, their numbers have been increasing in the parkland. The Fish and Wildlife Division estimates that the province holds about 122,000 moose.

Pronghorn are at the northern extreme of their range in Alberta, and populations have always fluctuated widely between 6,000 and 32,000 over the last 30 years. In response, the Fish and Wildlife Division has kept the number of licenses for adult does low and limited trophy antelope and antelope archery seasons to trophy animals only. In 2012 resident hunters harvested an estimated 165 pronghorn.

Alberta's estimated elk population stands at 37,000 animals (8,000 harvested in 2012). Elk populations and distribution are increasing in the central parkland area of Alberta. In response to increasing elk numbers there, many new hunting seasons are being initiated in 2013. Elk populations are decreasing in the west central Alberta, so hunting licenses have been reduced in some areas.

Alberta's provincial mammal, the bighorn sheep, has a population of approximately 6,000 animals and last year had a trophy ram harvest of 145 animals.

Non-resident Canadian and foreign hunters must be accompanied by a licensed guide or hunter host. All game requires provincial export permit (\$20) under certain conditions. Be sure to check regulations for further details.

WHITETAIL

Season: Archery late August-late November (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by region).

Limit: 8 (with multiple tags).

Fees: Res. \$28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$36.95 whitetail license plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit. Canadian non-res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate, \$16.45 bowhunting permit plus \$122.33 whitetail license. Non-res. foreign \$ 68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$188.57 antlered whitetail license.

MULE DEER

Season: Late August-late November.

Limit: 8 (with multiple tags).

Fees: Same as whitetails.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall archery late August-late November. Spring archery Apr. 1-May 31 (varies by region).

Limit: 1-2 (varies by region).

Fees: Res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$15.65 bear license. Non-res. Canadian \$28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$16.45 bowhunting permit plus \$63.61 bear license. Non-res. foreign \$68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$79.62 black bear license.

Note: Spring black bear licenses can be used for the following fall of the same calendar year.

ELK

Season: Archery late August-late November (dates vary by region—closed on Prairie).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$34.95 elk license. Canadian non-res. \$28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$16.45 bowhunting permit plus \$135.31 elk tag. Non-res. foreign \$68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$254.97 elk tag.

MOOSE

Season: Archery late August-late October (dates vary by region).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$36.95 moose license. Canadian non-res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$16.45 bowhunting permit plus \$135.31 moose tag. Non-res. foreign \$68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$254.97 moose tag.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Season: Archery early September-late November.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$27.40 non-trophy or \$51.31 trophy sheep permit (full curl depending on region). Canadian non-res. \$28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$16.45 bowhunting permit plus \$317.82 sheep permit (trophy only). Non-res. foreign \$68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$317.82 sheep permit (trophy only).

PRONGHORN

Season: Archery early September-late September.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$51.31 pronghorn permit. Canadian non-res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$182.45 pronghorn permit (trophy only). Non-res. foreign (cannot hunt during archery-only season) \$68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$229.47 pronghorn permit (trophy only).

COUGAR

Season: Nov. 1-Feb. 28. (Some archery-only WMUs available.)

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$9.20 bowhunting permit plus \$20.31 lion permit. Non-res. Canadian \$ 28.22 wildlife certificate plus \$16.45 bowhunting permit plus \$135.31 lion permit. Non-res. foreign \$68.22 wildlife certificate plus \$23.20 bowhunting permit plus \$254.97 lion permit.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. at 28 inches draw.

Broadheads: Must have cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch; arrows must be at least 24 inches.

Crossbows: Legal for all seasons except archery-only or by those who have a handicapped permit. Crossbows must have 100 lbs. or more of draw. Bolts must be tipped with broadhead as described above. Bowhunting permits are not required for crossbows.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Bowhunting licenses in '12: 18,590(16,716 res., 1,268 non-res.).

Bowhunting organization(s): Alberta Bowhunters Association, www.bowhunters.ca/.

For information/licenses: Alberta Sustainable Resource Dev., 9915 108 St., Edmonton, AB T5K 2G6; (780) 944-0313; www.esrd.alberta.ca.

British Columbia

With its wide array of climates and species, no one will be bored in British Columbia. If you want cervids they've got moose, elk, caribou, and two species of deer. You will find 70 percent of the province's 140,000 to 235,000 moose in the northern half, most abundant in the central and sub-boreal interior and the boreal plains of northeastern BC. About 38,000 to 71,000 Rocky Mountain elk range the province's interior.

Whitetails are currently expanding their range in British Columbia and are becoming increasingly abundant, particularly in the southern interior and the northeastern portion of the province. Game officials estimate the population at about 100,000, which fluctuates depending on the severity of winters. Muleys abound in the province's interior, with about 115,000 to 205,000 animals.

There are few better locations for black bear, estimated at 120,000-160,000 animals. You will find them in wetter climates, where preferred food sources grow, or along the coast, where there is a ready supply of salmon. Spring and fall bear seasons offer some exciting spot & stalk action for trophy-class bruins. Black bears are not always black, and this variation is most apparent in British Columbia where other color phases occur, including cinnamon, brown, and blonde. A white-colored morph, called Kermode or Spirit Bear, is reported most frequently on the north-central coast. The blue phase, or "glacier" bear, is sometimes seen in the extreme northwest corner of the province. There are no open seasons on Kermode or Glacier bears.

Grizzlies range over four-fifths of the land area of the province across northern British Columbia, southward in the Coast Mountains to about Jervis Inlet and down through the Rocky, Purcell, and Selkirk mountains to the U.S. border. The current population estimate (updated in 2012) is approximately 15,000 animals.

Avid big game hunters will also find bighorn and thinhorn sheep and mountain goats. You can hunt cougar, wolf, and even turkeys, and there are special bow seasons for small game in some units.

Non-residents of British Columbia hunting big game must be accompanied by either a licensed BC guide or a resident who holds a Permit to Accompany.

New for 2013, approved amendments to the Wildlife Act have expanded the age range for a youth hunting licenses to 10 to 17 years from their previous 10 to 13 years. The province recognizes that hunting is popular and wanted to ensure that hunting remains affordable for youth and their families.

The season dates below are a sampling, focusing on archery season dates because the climates, season dates, limits, requirements, and species vary greatly between regions. See the 2012-2014 Hunting & Trapping Synopsis for a complete summary of opportunities.

WHITETAIL

Season: Archery Sept. 1-Dec. 20 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 1-3 (point restrictions and limit vary by management unit,).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$15 deer tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$125 deer tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$125 deer tag.

MULE DEER/BLACK-TAILED DEER

Season: Archery Aug. 1-Jan. 15 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 1-3 generally (point restrictions and limits vary by management unit); limit higher in some units.

Fees: Same as whitetail.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Fall Archery Aug. 25-Sept. 9 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit). Spring General Apr. 1-June 30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 2 (1 in some regions).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$20 bear tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$180 bear tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$180 bear tag.

ELK

Season: Archery Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 1 (point restrictions vary by unit).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$25 elk tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$250 elk tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$250 elk tag.

MOOSE

Season: Archery Sept. 1-Nov. 20 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit 1 (point and sex restrictions apply in various units).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$25 moose tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$250 moose tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$250 moose tag.

MOUNTAIN SHEEP

Season: Bighorn Aug. 15-Oct. 25, Thinhorn Aug. 1-Oct. 15 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit 1 (generally full curl).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$60 sheep tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$620 sheep tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$620 sheep tag.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Aug. 1-Feb. 28 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 1 (male).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$40 goat tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$350 goat tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$350 goat tag.

COUGAR

Season: Sept. 1-June 15 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 1, 2.

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$30 cougar tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$230 cougar tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$230 cougar tag.

CARIBOU

Season: Archery Sept. 1-30 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 1 (point restrictions apply in most units).

Fees: Res. \$32 plus \$20 caribou tag. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$230 caribou tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$230 caribou tag.

WOLF

Season: Aug. 1-June 15 (earliest and latest dates, varies by region and unit).

Limit: 2, 3. No bag limits in some units.

Fees: Res. \$32. Non-res. Canadian \$75 plus \$50 wolf tag. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$50 wolf tag.

TURKEY

Season: Spring Apr. 15-May 15, 2012. Fall Archery Sept. 1-Oct. 15.

Limit: 1 (generally a bearded bird).

Fees: Res. \$32. Non-res. \$75 plus \$50 small game license. Non-res. foreign \$180 plus \$50 small game license.

Minimum draw weight: Crossbow (does not include compound crossbow) Bow A—Must have a pull of no less than 68 kg (150 lbs.) or a bolt (quarrel) weighing no less than 16.2 g (250 grains). For big game, the bolt (quarrel) must have a broadhead of at least 2.2 cm (7/8 inch) at the widest point. Bow B—no less than 55 kg (120 lbs.) or a bolt (quarrel) weighing no less than 16.2 g (250 grains). For big game, the bolt (quarrel) must have a broadhead of at least 2.2 cm (7/8 inch) at the widest point. **Compound Crossbow**—Bow C—Must have pull of no less than 45 kg (100 lbs.) at a peak weight or bolt weighing no less than 16.2 g (250 grains). For big game, must have an arrow with a broadhead at least 2.2 cm (7/8 inch) at the widest point. **Longbow, Recurve, Compound**—Bow D—Must have pull of no less than 18 kg (40 lbs.) within the archer's draw length. For big game, must have an arrow with a broadhead at least 2.2 cm (7/8 inch) at the widest point. **Bow E**—(Bison only, does not include compound crossbow) must have a pull no less than 22.6 kg (50 lbs.) within the archer's draw length, an arrow greater than 26 g (400 grains) in weight, and a broadhead greater than 8.1 g in weight and 2.2 cm (7/8 inch) at its widest point. For black bear, caribou, cougar, elk, grizzly, moose, mountain goat, mountain sheep, wolf—must use Bow A, C or D. For bobcat, deer, lynx, wolverine and unland game birds—must use Bow B, C, or D. Migratory birds must use Bow D. Bison must use Bow E **Broadheads:** Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal.

Bowhunter education permit: Recommended, but not required.

License Year: Apr. 1-Mar. 31.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 10,500.

Bowhunting organization(s): British Columbia Archery Association;
www.archeryassociation.bc.ca.

For information/licenses: Fish and Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, P.O. Box 9374
Stn Prov Govt., Victoria, BC V8W 9M4; (800) 663-7867 or local (250) 387-9771;
www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/index.html.

Manitoba

Manitoba hunters are fortunate to have hunting opportunities available on millions of hectares of wildlife management areas (WMAs), provincial forests, some provincial parks, and other undesignated Crown lands.

Manitoba is on the northern limit of the whitetail range; their body and antler size tend to be larger than those of their counterparts to the south. Over the years large-antlered animals have been taken throughout the province under many conditions, not confined to any single area.

The 2012/2013 winter has had a significant negative effect on whitetails with the early onset of winter, above-average snowfall, and below-normal temperatures within the whitetail deer range. In addition, the impact of inclement spring weather is of concern. Prolonged below-normal temperatures in March and April along with significant snowfall remaining on the ground due to a slow melt has resulted in a significant loss of deer throughout the whitetail range. For 2013, the expectation for hunter success rates may be below normal.

All resident and non-resident deer hunters will only be allowed to purchase one general deer license (one-deer limit) that is valid in all appropriate deer seasons. Resident deer hunters can also purchase a second deer license and a third deer license. The second deer license will only be available in GHAs 17A, portion of 25B (the Near Urban Wildlife Zone), 26, 34A, 36, portion of 38 (RM of MacDonald). The third deer license will only be available in GHAs 26, 34A, portion of 38 (RM of MacDonald). Foreign resident deer hunters will only be able to harvest one deer, but will have to purchase the appropriate license for the season they intend to hunt. If they are not successful then they must turn in the unused license and tag and purchase the appropriate license if they wish to continue to hunt during another season.

The bovine TB surveillance program in elk and deer will continue in 2013. In the Riding Mountain area GHAs 23, 23A, hunters are required to submit the complete head, upper neck, lungs and trachea of elk and deer within 48 hours of harvesting an animal to the nearest Manitoba Conservation office or a biological depot. All hunters who harvest deer or elk in GHAs 5, 6, 6A, 11, 12, 13 13A, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, part 22 (west of PTH 83) must submit the head and upper neck for chronic wasting disease testing.

Moose hunters purchasing a Conservation Moose Licence will be allowed to party hunt with other moose hunters who purchased a Conservation Moose Licence up to a maximum party of four hunters. In GHA 12, all Draw Moose Seasons have been cancelled. In GHA 10, the General Moose Season has been changed to a Conservation Moose Licence Season. In GHA 8, the number of licenses/tags has been reduced from 30/15 to 20/10.

All licensed moose hunting seasons continue to be suspended in GHAs 13, 13A, 14, 14A, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 26 because of declining moose populations.

Manitoba has both spring and fall black bear seasons, and all such hunting is done over baits from either blinds or treestands. The province has a stable population 30,000+ bears. The foreign-resident hunters three-year average success rate is 70 percent, and the resident hunters three-year average success rate is 40 percent, with most bears being taken in the spring. Forested areas throughout the province offer excellent bear hunting opportunity with about 50 percent of the animals on the western side of the province being color phases other than black.

The Big Game Draw application deadline was the first Thursday in May. In 2013, Manitoba residents may hold only one of the following licenses: Draw Moose, Draw Moose Archery, Draw Elk, Draw Elk Archery, or Draw Elk Landowner. Draw Moose and Draw Moose Archery license holders are not eligible to purchase a non-draw (General) Moose license, a non-draw (General) Conservation Moose license or a non-draw Archery Moose license. A GHA 23 or 23A Draw Elk or Landowner Elk license with a 1-elk or -moose bag limit is not considered a moose license. All hunters applying for the big game draw must now include payment for licence fees and the non-refundable application fee. Unsuccessful applicants will be refunded for the licence fee. There are no refunds for application fees.

Wild boar is not considered a big game animal. Manitoba has been declared a wild boar control area, which means that a resident may take wild boar any time of the year. A hunting license is not required to hunt wild boar, but the hunter must comply with other general hunting regulations, including the use of hunter orange during a big game season where normally required. If hunting on private land, land owner permission is required. There is no bag limit, possession limit, or tagging requirements for wild boar.

To be eligible for a Manitoba hunting licence you must be 12 years of age or older, and possess a valid Hunter Education Certificate or equivalent from another jurisdiction or a card issue under subsection 4(4) of the Hunter Education Regulation MR 128/2007.

Bows are allowed during big game rifle and archery seasons. Bows may not be used under authority of a muzzleloader license. While hunting big game during an archery-only season, a hunter may not possess any other device that may be used to kill big game.

Foreign resident (non-Canadian) big game hunters must book their hunt through a registered lodge or outfitter who is authorized to outfit non-resident hunters, and they must be accompanied by a licensed Manitoba guide. No more than three hunters may use the services of a guide at the same time.

Maps, including land ownership maps, are available that provide valuable information to hunters. For more information or to purchase maps, please contact CanadaMapSales toll-free at (877) 627-7226, or visit their website at www.canadamapsales.com.

DEER

Season: Archery Aug. 26-Dec. 1 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GHA).

Limit: 1 deer. Residents have opportunities for a second and third deer license in certain GHAs under certain conditions with a limit of 1 antlerless deer.

Fees: Res. \$36, second and third deer \$21. Non-res. Canadian \$155. Non-res. foreign \$217.

BEAR

Season: Fall Aug.25-Oct. 6. Spring Apr. 23, 2014. (earliest and latest dates, varies by residency and GHA).

Limit: 1 adult (sows with cubs are protected).

Fees: Res. \$31. Non-res. Canadian \$103. Non-res. foreign \$217.

CARIBOU

Season: Aug. 26-Feb. 28, 2014 (earliest and latest dates, varies by residency and GHA).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$47, second caribou \$103. Non-res. Canadian and foreign \$360, second caribou \$360.

ELK (res. only)

Season: Archery Aug. 26-Nov. 10 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GHA).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$52 + \$7 application fee.

MOOSE

Season: Archery Draw (res.-only selected GHAs) Aug. 26-Oct. 13 (earliest and latest dates, varies by GHA).

Limit: 1 moose

Fees: Res archery/rifle \$52, Conservation Moose Licence Package \$83. Non-res. Canadian \$299.

Non-res. foreign \$360.

TURKEY (res. only)

Season: Fall Oct. 5-20. GHAs 22, 27-35A Spring Apr. 19, 2014.

Limit: 1 (bearded only in spring).

Fees: Res. \$23. Youth res. \$5.

GRAY WOLF

Season: Aug. 26-Mar. 31 (earliest and latest dates, varies by Wolf Hunting Zone).

Limit: 1.

Fees: NA. Hunters must possess either a used or unused big game license depending on residency.

Minimum draw weight: 18.1 kg (40 lbs.) all bows; measured at 71 cm (28 inches) draw for longbows or recurves.

Broadheads: Minimum cutting diameter of 2.2 cm (7/8 inch).

Crossbows: Legal during rifle and muzzleloader deer seasons, or during archery seasons by those with disabled permit. Minimum draw weight 150 lbs.

Hunter education: Any person born on or after January 1, 1951, and any first-time hunter wanting to purchase a hunting license, must be a graduate of the Manitoba Hunter Education course or a similar hunter education course from another jurisdiction. Bowhunter safety training courses are recommended, but not mandatory.

Est. archery licenses in '12: 4,547 (res.). Res. Archery Deer 3,629 (2011 figure), Res. Draw Archery Elk 832, Res. Draw Archery Moose 76, and Archery Moose 10. Bowhunters are not listed separately for many species, so actual numbers are greater.

Bowhunting organization(s): Archers and Bowhunters Association of Manitoba, 145 Pacific Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2Z6, (204) 925-5697; www.abam.ca.

For information/licenses: Manitoba Conservation, Wildlife Branch, Box 42, 200 Saulteaux Cres., Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3; (204) 945-6784; www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/.

New Brunswick

Bowhunters in New Brunswick will find their best prospects with whitetails, bears, and moose. Large deer and one of the lowest hunter densities in the northeast make New Brunswick a great bowhunting destination. The province boasts the highest percentage of mature bucks over 200 pounds of every destination in the Northeast. Racks are heavy, and routinely non-typical with split brow tines and other anomalies make New Brunswick racks almost as impressive as its buck weights. Look for the best concentrations of deer in the southern half of the province.

New Brunswick officials expected that the 2012 deer harvest would be up significantly from 2011, and it was. New Brunswick hunters killed 5,803 deer in 2012 (206 with a bow and 27 with a crossbow), significantly over the 4,782 deer taken in 2011. “The deer harvest this year was up throughout the province, indicating the deer population has improved across New Brunswick,” said Natural Resources Minister Bruce Northup at the close of the season. One factor responsible for the increase was the allocation of 550 additional antlerless deer permits.

Bear populations continue to increase across the province. New Brunswick’s black bear population is currently estimated at more than 16,000 animals. Hunters killed 1,871 bears in 2012, an increase over the 1,735 black bears in 2011’s spring, fall gun, and fall bow-only seasons. Most of the bears taken during the 11-week spring season are killed during the last week of May through the first week of June.

New Brunswick’s moose population appears to be growing or stable in most areas of the province, with the northwestern part of the province showing the strongest growth. In fact, the number of resident licenses available for New Brunswick moose hunters has increased by more than 1,000 since 2010. The harvest for the 2012 three-day either-sex moose hunt was 3,547 animals, 2,571 of them bulls. In 2011, the three-day, either-sex moose hunt take was 2,478 animals. Non-resident moose hunters must hunt with a licensed guide.

Since April 2, 2013, most provincial fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses are no longer available at the Department of Natural Resources. They are now available at all 39 Service New Brunswick centers. More than 200 private sector vendors now see the most common resident fishing and hunting licenses as well.

All fees listed below include conservation fees and applicable taxes.

BEAR

Season: Fall Bow Sept. 9-21. Fall Oct. 1-Nov. 2. Spring Apr. 21-June 28, 2013

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$47.46. Res. 65+ \$25.99. Non-res. Bear Draw Application Fee \$28.25. Non-res. license \$184.19.

Application Deadline: Non-res. Feb. 28.

MOOSE

Season: Sept. 26-28.

Limit: 1

Fees: Res. \$81.36. Res. 65+ \$41.81. Res. Moose Draw \$13.56. Res. Moose Draw (Telephone/Internet Application) \$9.04. Non-res. \$619.24. Non-res. Moose Draw \$39.55.

Application Deadline: Res. June 14; non-res. Apr. 30.

DEER

Season: Bow Zones 1&2 Oct. 7-Nov. 10; Zones 6-8, 10-27 Oct. 7-Nov. 23.

Limit: 1 (non-res. bucks only)

Fees: Res. deer \$38.42. Res. 65+ \$21.47. Non-res. deer \$206.79.

Application deadline: Res. antlerless July 19.

Minimum Draw Weight: 20 kg (45 lbs.).

Broadheads: Must be no less than 20 mm wide and cannot be barbed, coated with poison, equipped with rippers, or designed to explode.

Crossbows: Legal for all seasons and species except for migratory birds and for deer during the “bow only” season for deer. Crossbows used to hunt deer, moose and bear must have a minimum draw weight of 68 kg (150 lbs.), and be fitted with broadheads no less than 20 mm (7/8 in) in width, and have a working safety.

Bowhunter education permit: All bowhunters must complete a recognized Bow Hunter Education course. Bow Hunter Education certificates from other provinces, territories and the United States are valid in New Brunswick.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 2,320 (based on 2011 hunter's survey).

Bowhunting organization: Archery New Brunswick, <http://archerynb.ca>.

For information/licenses: New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1; (506) 453-2440; www.gov.nb.ca/naturalresources.

Newfoundland And Labrador

Bowhunting season for Newfoundland and Labrador's world-class big game line-up begins two weeks prior to the opening of the rifle season—early to mid September—and non-residents have the opportunity to do single or multi-species hunts.

Newfoundland is the only place that allows non-residents to hunt woodland caribou. However, Newfoundland herds continue to show that mortality rates are exceeding the recruitment required to maintain stable populations. Since reaching a peak of approximately 96,000 animals in the mid-1990s, the Island woodland caribou population has declined to approximately 36,000 animals today. Although the underlying cause of this decline remains unknown, research shows that high predation rates on calves, resulting in poor calf survival and low recruitment of young animals into the herds, is limiting population growth.

Since its peak of 96,000 animals in the mid-1990s, the Island woodland caribou population has declined to about 33,000 today. Though some subpopulations continue to decline, the rate of decline appears to be less than it was a decade ago, and some populations have stabilized or have shown increased recruitment. Although the underlying cause of this decline remains unknown, research shows that high predation rates on calves, resulting in poor calf survival and low recruitment of young animals into the herds, is limiting growth of the population.

According to the latest hunting & trapping guide, recent surveys confirm that the number of George River caribou continues to decline. A photo census completed in July 2012 estimated the herd at 24,300 animals, with projections for late fall 2012 around 22,000 animals. The drop from nearly 800,000 in the late 1980s is troubling. The potential for the combined effects of hunting, disease, predation, range condition, human activities, and climate change add complexity to the situation.

In response, the provincial government has initiated a five-year caribou hunting ban in Labrador to protect the herd's viability and allow it to recover. The remaining population will be monitored and an initial review of results conducted after two years.

The moose population, the highest density found in North America, is estimated at 120,000, and success rates are very, very high, with a legitimate chance at specimens in the 50-inch-plus category. Every member of a hunting party may purchase a license and take a moose.

For the 2013-14 season, 31,305 licenses are available for Newfoundland, an overall decrease of (1,505 fewer than the 2012-2013 season). In Labrador, there are 60 licenses more this year than last. Due to increasing moose populations in these regions and requests from local residents and interest groups, two new MMAs (Straits and Atikonak) have been added. Moose Management Areas (MMAs) have also been established in a couple national parks. Sixty licenses will be available in Terra Nova National Park and 1,000 in Gros Morne National Park. Licenses for both will be issued through the provincial draw system.

Black bears of Newfoundland and Labrador have a genetic predisposition toward a larger size. Bears in the 300- to 400-pound-plus range are common. Only one license is required by hunters on the Island of Newfoundland to hunt black bear in both the spring and fall seasons. Bear Management Area (BMA) 38 will open for the 2013 hunting season. This opening is based on requests from the local hunting community and an increase in the number of problem bear reports.

Non-residents must hunt with a registered outfitter, and non-resident big game licenses for bear, moose, and caribou are available only through outfitters. Your outfitter will be the primary contact and source of license and information. For anyone pressed on time, this is an advantage because you won't have wait on a big game license draw or lottery—licenses are included in your outfitter package. For a list of outfitters and information on non-resident hunting, contact the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (contact information below), or by visiting www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/thingstodo/hunting.

Sunday hunting is permitted beginning October 6, 2013, and ending April 30, 2014, provided that the season for the game being hunted is open and you possess a valid hunting license and Outdoor Identification Card.

CARIBOU (Newfoundland)

Season: General Sept. 14-Dec. 8 (earliest and latest dates); bowhunting begins Aug. 31 except in caribou management areas 70-72.

Limit: 2 per license, either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$40 + HST. Non-res. \$450 +HST.

MOOSE

Season: Island—Sept. 14-Jan. 26, 2014, bowhunting for areas opening on Sept. 14 begins Aug. 31; for areas opening on Sept. 21, bowhunting begins Oct. 5. Labrador—Sept. 14-Mar. 9, 2014. Earliest and latest dates, vary by unit.

Limit: 1 per license, most male only, some either-sex.

Fees: Res. \$40 + HST. Non-res. \$335 +HST.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Island—Fall Sept. 14-Nov. 3 (bowhunting begins Aug. 31); Spring May 3-July 5, 2014. Labrador—Fall Aug. 10-Nov. 30 George River, Sept. 1-Nov. 30 Labrador South Zone; Spring Apr. 1-July 13, 2014.

Limit: 2 either-sex, no females with cubs.

Fees: Res. (Labrador) \$27 + HST plus \$30 + HST application. Non-res. \$100 +HST.

Minimum draw weight: 20 kg (45 lbs.).

Broadheads: Must be metal and have two or more sharpened cutting edges.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: All hunters must provide equivalent proof or verification of meeting his/her jurisdictional hunting requirement.

Bowhunters in '12: N/A, not tracked.

For information/licenses: Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association (NLOA) at (866) 470-6562; www.nloa.ca. Or contact the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6; (800) 563-6353; (709) 729-2830 (outside North America); www.newfoundlandandlabrador.com. For regulations info, go to www.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife.

Northwest Territories

The Northwest Territories remain a big game hunter's paradise, with seven species of large ungulates, including bison, two types of caribou and muskox, and three species of bear: black, grizzly, and polar. Dall sheep are also very popular.

Most hunters visiting the Arctic have their sights set on polar bears and muskoxen. The Western Arctic coast and islands of the Northwest Territories are home to approximately 3,000 polar bears. Two sub-populations are stable, and the third appears to be growing. Muskoxen populations number in the thousands. You can also hunt wolves and grizzlies in the Western Arctic.

In the Mackenzie Mountains, bowhunters can set their eyes on Dall's sheep and mountain goats. The challenge is staying out of their keen sight. Alpine hunting begins in late summer or early autumn, with a bush plane or helicopter flight from Norman Wells or Fort Simpson, then up to sheep country on foot or horseback.

For wolf, black bear, or caribou, typical focus is on the wide-open Barrenlands. However, because barren ground caribou herds in the Northwest Territories have been declining and are at low numbers, there are currently no outfitted hunts for barren ground caribou. However, there has been no change to resident and non-resident hunting of the boreal caribou in the Mackenzie Mountains. (Contact the local ENR office for the latest caribou regulations before you go.)

“Easiest to take with a bow are mountain caribou and moose,” says Sunny Petersen of South Nahanni Outfitters. “All us outfitters generally regard Dall sheep hunting with the bow as the greatest challenge when comparing the game we mainly offer—Dalls, caribou, moose.

“Bowhunting for moose in our area, especially the beginning of October at the end of the rut, offers very good chances at moose with the biggest problem being the underbrush, which can be very thick in old burnt over, very good moose habitat areas,” Petersen continues. “The beginning of October moose are easier to call again (after the main rut) and can be coaxed out into the open as they are less likely to stand together with a cow.

Tavis Molnar from Arctic Red River Outfitters echoes Petersen’s thoughts on mountain caribou. “In our opinion, mountain caribou provide an unparalleled opportunity for adventurous bowhunters looking to travel to the mountains of the Northwest Territories,” he says. “Caribou hunting opportunities in many regions across the north have been in decline due to herd size fluctuations and government regulation, however the opposite is true for mountain caribou in the Northwest Territories. Generally, mountain caribou numbers are as good or quite likely better than they have been in recent history, and many hunters are realizing what a unique species this is to hunt. ... These are physical mountain hunts, but for a bowhunter who is willing to put in the effort, and comes prepared, the rewards of hunting world-class bulls in spectacular mountain habitat are well worth it.”

Bowhunting is subject to the same regulations as firearms hunting. Hunting seasons vary by area, and all non-resident and non-resident foreign hunters must enlist the services of an outfitter to hunt big game species. The NWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources website has a detailed guide to their hunting regulations, including maps of the hunting areas: www.enr.gov.nt.ca/. A list of registered NWT outfitters is available through www.spectacularnwt.com.

Anyone who hunts the NWT is advised to be in good shape; it will make the hunting trip much more enjoyable.

“A mountain hunt is a physical affair, and the better condition you are in, the more fun you'll have, and that usually translates into success,” Molnar says. “Your outfitter will give you plenty of advice about how to prepare for your hunt, and it’s often a good idea to call a few people who have hunted there before to get their perspective on the hunt.”

Petersen also stresses physical conditioning and having informed expectations. “Hunting Dalls with the bow is a very challenging hunt and success is far from being guaranteed. It is best to come with that mindset. Your preparations will make a difference, as does choosing the right hunting location. On the upside, the Dalls in the Mackenzies are not really habituated to hunters and hunting. They might not necessarily take offense to your presence at 15 yards, even though this is truest for younger rams.”

Petersen and Molnar say that longer-distance shots are common. Accurate shooting skills, at least up to 40 yards, are essential to success. “Bowhunters should be aware that many/most outfitters have a wounded game policy—that is, if you wound an animal, that is your animal and you must continue to hunt for it, or some similar policy,” says Molnar. “It’s therefore very important to be ‘tuned-up’ with your bow, and to wait for the right shot when you’re out there hunting. It’s not worth risking a wounded animal.

“Bowhunters on Dall’s sheep should know that the Mackenzie Mountains tend to be open country,” Petersen notes. “An outfitter has to take extra care when choosing the right hunting location for a bowhunter, for example, hillier terrain with the possibility to conceal oneself. Practice longer-range shots. Be the best shot ever....”

For anyone heading out on an NWT hunt in 2013, please note that the fire danger is extreme in the Deh Cho, North Slave and South Regions. Please avoid open fires, and if you must use one for food or warmth, ensure that it is completely out before you leave it.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Aug. 15-Oct. 31, or Aug. 15-June 30 (varies by area and residential status).

Limit: 1 adult bear not accompanied by a cub.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 plus \$200 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 plus \$200 trophy fee.

POLAR BEAR

Season: Oct. 1-May 31; or Jan. 1-May 31; or Dec. 1-May 31 (varies by area and residential status).

Limit: Any number of adult bears not accompanied by a cub or in or constructing a den, in accordance with the number of tags held.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 plus \$1,500 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 plus \$1,500 trophy fee.

GRIZZLY BEAR

Season: Aug. 31-Oct. 31 or Apr. 15-May 31, or Sept. 1- May 31 (varies by area and residential status).

Limit: Res. 1 adult bear not accompanied by a cub or in a den. Only one per lifetime of hunter (hunting areas D/OT/01-02, G/OT/01, S/OT/01-05 res. only). All hunters—any number of adult bears not accompanied by a cub or in a den in accordance with the number of tags held (all other open areas).

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 plus \$2,000 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 plus \$2,000 trophy fee.

WOOD BISON

Season: Sept. 1-Mar. 15. (Year-round in D/WB/05 res. only.)

Limit: Res. 1 male on a draw system. (Regs vary for res.)

Fees: Res. \$100 each tag. Non-res. \$200 plus \$600 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$300 plus \$600 trophy fee.

BARREN GROUND CARIBOU

Season: Aug. 15-Apr. 30, Aug. 15-Nov. 15, Aug. 15-Oct. 31 (varies by units and residential status).

Limit: Res. 2 (males only). Non-res. in accordance with number of tags held.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 first tag/\$80 second plus \$300 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 first tag/\$200 second plus \$300 trophy fee.

WOODLAND CARIBOU

Season: Res. July 15-Jan. 31. Non-res. July 25-Oct. 31 (varies by unit).

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 plus \$400 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 plus \$400 trophy fee.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: July 15-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as woodland caribou.

MOOSE

Season: Res. Sept. 1-Jan. 31. Non-res. Sept. 1-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as woodland caribou.

MUSKOX

Season: June 15-Apr. 30 (earliest and latest dates; varies by hunt area and residential status).

Limit: 1 or more, in accordance with number of tags held.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 plus \$300 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 plus \$300 trophy fee.

DALL SHEEP

Season: July 15-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1 male with minimum 3/4 curl.

Fees: Same as woodland caribou.

WOLF

Season: July 25-May 31 (earliest and latest dates, varies by unit and residential status).

Limit: 1 or more, in accordance with number of tags held.

Fees: Res. \$20. Non-res. \$40 plus \$200 trophy fee. Non-res. foreign \$100 plus \$200 trophy fee.

WOLVERINE

Season: Year-round (shorter seasons in most units).

Limit: 1 or more, in accordance with number of tags held.

Fees: Same as wolf.

Minimum draw weight: At least 20 kg (45 lbs.) at 700 mm draw.

Broadheads: Width of at least 25 mm at the widest point or a barbless 3-bladed bodkin head and must not contain any explosive

Crossbows: Legal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

For information/licenses: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9; (867) 873-7184; www.enr.gov.nt.ca. For additional info or licensed outfitter lists: NWT Arctic Tourism, Box 610, Yellowknife, NT, Canada X1A 2N5; (800) 661-0788, Outside North America (867) 873-7200; www.spectacularnwt.com. E-mail: info@spectacularnwt.com.

Nova Scotia

A good abundance of deer, bear and upland game birds plus a separate five-week bowhunting season for deer (“Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer”) means there is plenty of room for resident and visiting hunters. Non-residents require a guide to hunt big game in Nova Scotia.

Crossbows are permitted for hunting all big game, small and upland game species in Nova Scotia. However, they are not permitted to be used during the Special Open Season for Bowhunting. However, in 2013, bows and crossbows can now be used during the special 6 day October hunts in the Liscomb Game Sanctuary and Tobetic Wildlife Management Area in addition to muzzleloaders.

There are now two separate deer hunting stamps: (1) the general deer hunting stamp, under which all weapons approved for big game hunting may be used; and (2) the archery and muzzleloader deer hunting stamp, under which only bows, crossbows, and muzzleloaders may be used. Each licence has a specific season during which it is valid, and a specific bag limit of 1 antlered deer (however, sex is subject to the specific regulations for the zone in which you are hunting).

The period for hunting deer under a General stamp is from the last Friday in October until the first Saturday in December (approximately 6 weeks; previously the general open season for hunting deer), excluding Sundays. The period for hunting deer under an Archery and Muzzleloader stamp is from the second Monday in September to the second Saturday in December, excluding Sundays; however, only bowhunting is permitted during the first two weeks, after which crossbows and muzzleloaders may also be used.

In 2011, the total registered deer harvest in Nova Scotia was 9,071 (346 by bow), down from 2010's 10,280 (last figures available). Of this total, 5,485 bucks and 3,575 antlerless deer were registered. Lunenburg and Colchester counties, respectively, continue to boast the highest number of harvested deer in the province. Harvest statistics and success rates are available online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/large-mammals/>.

In 2011, 6,123 resident and 113 non-resident bear hunters experienced a 17.4 percent overall success rate, an increase from the 2010 season. Bear hunters do not require a special bow stamp to harvest bear.

Moose hunting is only available to Nova Scotia residents and is only permitted in Inverness and Victoria counties of Cape Breton Island. The Cape Breton moose population is managed through a zone-based strategy, and hunting licenses are distributed through a lottery-based system. Moose hunters in Nova Scotia will have additional choices for 2013 hunting times in the non-motorized moose hunt in the Polletts Cove-Aspy Fault Wilderness area of Cape Breton, with the addition of two new one-week seasons in late October and early November. In 2011, 345 permits were issued. Hunters harvest a total of 249 moose.

The dates and fees below are for 2012, as 2013 dates were not available at press time. Expect similar timeframes. Consult updated regs for new fee structures.

[2012 Dates & Fees]

DEER

Season: Special Open Season for Bowhunting Sept. 29-Oct. 25, Dec. 3-8 (excludes Sundays). Special Youth Hunt (ages 16-17) Oct. 12-20 (excludes Sundays). General Open Season Oct. 26-Dec. 1 (bowhunting and crossbow hunting permitted).

Limit: 1 deer per calendar year. Deer hunting is limited to antlered deer except for hunters having a valid antlerless deer hunting stamp (by draw; NS residents only).

Fees (provincial tax included): Res. Wildlife Habitat stamp \$5, Deer Hunting Stamp (antlered) \$29.40 (seniors free), \$6.57 bow stamp (seniors free). Antlerless (res. only) additional \$8.51 application fee. Non-res. Wildlife Habitat stamp \$5, Deer Hunting Stamp \$144.65, bow stamp \$13.14.

MOOSE (res. only)

Season: Season 1 Sept. 24-Oct. 20. Season 2 Dec. 11-13 (restricted to Zone 1). Consult regs for specific seasons for each zone.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Wildlife Habitat Stamp \$5, Special Draw Application Fee \$8.51, Res. Moose Hunting License \$70, Companion Moose Hunting Stamp \$26.30.

BEAR

Season: Sept. 10-Dec. 1(excludes Sundays).

Limit: 1.

Fees (provincial tax included): Res. Bear Hunting \$28 (seniors free). Non-res. Bear Hunting \$131.44.

Minimum draw weight: Moose—50 lbs. or greater within the draw length of the archer. Bear and Deer—40 lbs. or greater within the draw length of the archer.

Broadheads: Must consist of at least two sharpened edges, the trailing edge of which shall approach the shaft of the arrow at an angle of no less than 90 degrees towards the nock end of the arrow. Crossbow bolts heads must measure more than 2.2 cm.

Crossbows: Permitted, except during the Special Open Season for Bowhunting. Must be certified; see hunting regs for more info. Crossbow must have 68 kg (150-pound) or greater draw weight and bolts with heads measuring more than 2.2 cm in diameter. Crossbow hunters must wear hunter orange or camouflage orange.

Bowhunter education permit: Certification required.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 3,052 (3,031 res., 21 non-res. Bowhunting licenses in 2010, last data available).

Bowhunting organization(s): Bowhunter Association of Nova Scotia (BANS), www.bans.ca. For information/licenses: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, 136 Exhibition St., Kentville, NS B4N 4E5; (902) 679-6091; c.

Nunavut

Nunavut offers a variety of hunting opportunities for the truly adventurous. In addition to caribou and wolves, it is one of the few places in North America you can hunt for muskoxen and polar bears.

Muskox hunts are usually conducted in March and April, when snow conditions and long days allow for easy travel. Approximately 60,000 muskoxen, usually living in herds of 10 to 20 animals, thrive in Nunavut. Muskox hunting trips take place near the communities of Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Kugluktuk, and Resolute.

Nunavut claims at least 50 percent of the world's polar bear population, and by international agreement, hunts must be conducted by traditional methods using dog teams and camping out on the ice. A successful polar bear hunter must turn in the lower jaw, or undamaged canine post-tooth, any lip tattoos and ear tags present as well as provide evidence of sex (baculum/penis bone). Non-residents and foreigners require a licensed outfitter and must be accompanied by a licensed guide to hunt big game. Polar bear hunting takes place from the communities of Arctic Bay, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Resolute, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove.

Several caribou herds, totaling more than 750,000 animals, range across all three regions of Nunavut. The barren-ground caribou is the most popular land animal, and the migration patterns of these herds are well known to local Inuit hunters and guides. Nunavut communities such as Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Resolute and Whale Cove are your best bets for reliable caribou hunting excursions.

Bowhunting is subject to the same regulations as hunting with a firearm. You must obtain a Wildlife Export Permit if you wish to export legally harvested game, a gift of meat from a hunter, legally purchased meat, suntanned fur and raw hides, ducks or geese, antlers, skulls, teeth, bones or any other parts of wildlife. Certification is required before exporting some species, including any parts of the animal (grizzly bear, polar bear, and muskoxen). Any required

trophy fees must be paid by all non-resident hunters before a harvested animal or any part thereof is exported. Wildlife Export permits are available at the Department of Environment offices in most communities. There is no fee for a Wildlife Export Permit.

The 2012-2013 Summary of Hunting Regulations was not available at press time. The fees and dates below are from 2012-2013. Expect similar timeframes.

[2012 Dates]

BLACK BEAR

Season: Aug. 15-June 30, Hunting Area N3.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Res. \$10. Non-res. tag \$20, trophy fee \$100. Non-res. foreigner tag \$50, trophy fee \$100.

Limit: All hunters 1 adult bear not accompanied by a cub. A black bear cub has a hide measuring less than 1.2m from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail when fresh, and less than 1.6 m when stretched and dried.

POLAR BEAR

Season: Hunting Areas N/PB/02-03, N/PB/05, N/PB/07, N/PB/12-13 Oct 1-May 31. Hunting Areas N/PB/06, N/PB/08-11 Aug. 1-May 31. Hunting Area N/PB/04 Jan. 1-May 31.

Limit: Any number of adult bears not accompanied by a cub in accordance with the number of tags held. A cub is a bear less than one year old as determined by the number of growth rings in the post-canine tooth. Unused tags must be returned to a Conservation Officer immediately after the hunt.

Fees: Res. tag \$10. Non-res. tag \$20, trophy fee \$750. Non-res. foreigner tag \$50, trophy fee \$750.

GRIZZLY BEAR

Season: Hunting Areas N/GB/01-02 Aug. 31-Oct. 31 and Apr. 15-May 31.

Limit: Any number of adult bears not accompanied by a cub in accordance with the number of tags held.

Fees: Res. tag \$10. Non-res. tag \$20, trophy fee \$1,000. Non-res. Foreigner tag \$50, trophy fee \$1,000. Unsuccessful hunters must return unused tags immediately after the hunt.

BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU

Season: Res. Aug. 15-Apr. 30, Areas N/BC/03-12. Non-res. Aug. 15-Oct. 31, Areas N/BC/06, N/BC/08-09. Non-res. foreigner Aug. 15-Nov. 30, Areas N/BC/03-05, N/BC/07, N/BC/10-12.

Limit: Res. 5. Non-res. any number of males in accordance with the number of tags held.

Fees: Res. tag \$10. Non-res. first tag \$20, additional tags \$40 ea., trophy fee \$150. Non-res. foreign first tag \$50, additional tags \$100 ea., trophy fee \$150.

MOOSE (res. only)

Season: Sept. 1-Jan. 31, Hunting Area N3.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Tag \$10.

MUSKOX

Season: Aug. 15-Apr. 15 (earliest and latest dates, varies by hunt area).

Limit: 1 or more, in accordance with number of tags held.

Fees: Res. tag \$10. Non-res. \$20, trophy fee \$150. Non-res. foreigner tag \$50, trophy fee \$150. Hunters must not knowingly approach on a vehicle (including a snowmobile or ATV) no closer than 1.5 km of the muskoxen.

WOLF

Season: Res. Aug. 15-May 31 and Sept. 1-May 15 (varies by unit). Non-res. Aug. 15-May 31.
Limit: Res. 1 or more, in accordance with number of tags held. Non-res. 1.
Fees: Res. tag \$10. Non-res. tag \$20, trophy fee \$100. Non-res. foreigner tag \$50, trophy fee \$100.

Minimum draw weight: 20 kg at 700 mm draw.

Broadheads: Width of at least 25 mm at the widest point or a barbless three-bladed bodkin head and must not contain any explosive.

Crossbows: Unspecified.

Baiting: Unspecified.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Bowhunters in '12: N/A, not tracked.

For information/licenses: Nunavut Tourism, Box 1450, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0; (866) 686-2888; Outside North America (800) 491-7910; info@nunavuttourism.com; www.nunavuttourism.com.
Regs info <http://env.gov.nu.ca/>.

Ontario

Ontario offers very good opportunities for bowhunters with lengthy seasons and healthy wildlife populations in many areas. The highest whitetail deer numbers are observed in WMUs that include core deer range within each of the three wildlife management regions across the province: Southern, Northeast, and Northwest Regions. (Detailed information for each region is broken out later in this entry.)

In general, due to well-managed recreational harvest rates during the past few years and favorable winter conditions, the number of antlerless deer tag validation tags available provincially has increased in 2013 with 95,860 antlerless deer tags versus the 94,335 tags allocated in 2012. Antlerless validation tag quotas decreased in Northwest Region (-125), remained the same in Northeast Region, and increased in Southern Region (1,650). Overall, tag quotas have increased every year from 2010 to 2013.

The number of additional deer seals being offered provincially decreased by 660 in 2013 from the previous year. In 2013, there are 26,215 additional deer seals available compared to 26,875 in 2012. Additional deer seals increased in Northwest Region (450) while decreases occurred both in Northeast Region (-25) and Southern Region (-925). Changes in additional deer seal quotas are based on management objectives (i.e. decrease, stabilize, or increase populations) and demand by hunters in certain WMUs.

Ontario's black bear population is estimated to be near 100,000 animals and one of the largest in North America. Black bears are distributed widely across northern and central Ontario, with a range that extends into southern Ontario. Much of Ontario offers plentiful fall black bear hunting opportunities with bears being most abundant in the lush Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest region. Black bear hunting over bait and with a bow are permitted in all WMUs that have an open black bear hunting season. Most non-residents are required to use an operator or outfitter licensed to provide services to non-residents. Resident black bear hunters are required to complete a questionnaire on their hunting activity and harvest (or lack thereof), and submit it to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) by Dec. 15 of the year of the hunt; non-resident hunters must report to their outfitter by Nov. 30. Completed questionnaires can either be completed by mail or online at Ontario.ca/huntersurvey.

Ontario's MNR is asking for your help, strongly encouraging successful bear hunters to submit pre-molar teeth for age determination in exchange for a Bear Hunter Crest (see page 76 of 2013 Hunting Regulations Summary). This helps MNR biologists to monitor the age distribution of bears in the harvest, and it allows for calculating the percentage of females and adult females relative to all bears harvested. In addition to the crest, information about the age of your bear will be mailed to your home address, usually within six months.

Bowhunting opportunities for moose are found in all three regions of the province Ontario offers special archery-only seasons for moose that generally start in the third week of September. These early archery season opportunities occur in both northeastern and northwestern Ontario. Non-residents are required to use an outfitter. Please refer to the 2013 Hunting Regulations Summary at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca> for details on WMU moose tag quotas, guaranteed group sizes, and guide requirements.

For further information on WMU moose population and harvest trends, please visit <http://ontario.ca/moose> and click on "Moose Resource Reports", where you may download individual WMU reports. For further information on moose biology, moose management and resident moose harvest estimates by WMU, please visit <http://ontario.ca/moose> and follow the links.

Wild turkeys were re-introduced in 1984 and now number roughly 70,000 birds. The wild turkey range extends across southern Ontario and continues to expand northward. Turkey hunters are encouraged to review open seasons and regulations in the Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary. Those who have never hunted wild turkeys in Ontario must attend a half-day seminar and pass a test, or purchase a home-study DVD and pass a test, before purchasing a wild turkey license. Southern and central Ontario wild turkey hunting in the spring permits two birds to be taken (two licenses required), and one bird of either-sex can be taken in fall (under a specific fall turkey license).

All people wishing to hunt or fish in Ontario must have an Outdoors Card. The Outdoors Card is required to purchase Ontario hunting or fishing licenses (with the exception of a one-day fishing license). The current cost of an Outdoors Card (valid for three years) is \$9.68. Hunting license information is available at <http://ontario.ca/hunting>. If you have a question about the Outdoors Card, call (800) 387-7011 from anywhere in North America.

Bows may be used during regular firearm seasons, but hunter orange must be worn by all persons hunting during the open gun seasons for deer and moose. In most areas, non-resident deer hunters are not required to use an outfitter or guide, with the exception of the Territorial District of Rainy River; see the Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary.

An Export Permit is required to export from Ontario any part of a harvested deer, moose, or black bear including carcass, hide, or antlers. In some instances, a Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) export permit is also required when exporting a black bear or its parts from Canada. Refer to the Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary for further information.

Because Ontario's regions are distinct, we have broken out deer, bear, and moose reports and forecasts by its three management regions.

Southern Region (SR): *SR Deer*—There are ample hunting opportunities for bowhunting whitetails in SR with the season extending from October to December. Southern agricultural areas provide the best hunting results in terms of seeing numbers of deer and for harvesting large deer.

In SR, populations are generally stable or slightly increasing in many areas. The total projected harvest (gun, archery, muzzleloader) in 2012 was 52,632 deer. Of this harvest, 35,307 deer were harvested in regular deer hunts, 13,581 deer from controlled hunts in areas of southwestern Ontario, and 3,744 deer by hunters with Additional Deer seals.

For 2013, officials anticipate that SR deer will be in excellent condition. “Snow conditions didn’t result in a severe winter, and generally deer remained mobile and widely distributed this past winter,” says Southern Regional Wildlife Biologist Michael Gatt. “We expect there was low direct adult mortality due to winter severity by end of April. I expect high survivorship of fawns at birth and good to excellent fawn recruitment. Deer hunters can expect to see good numbers of fawns this fall during the hunting season.”

Deer numbers are currently at or above appropriate levels relative to deer population management objectives in most SR. Ministry biologists have developed the 2013 antlerless deer validation tag, controlled deer hunting validation tags and additional seal quotas using information about recent harvest trends, habitat quality, and winter severity. Overall, this year’s deer quotas will be similar to those of last year.

In 2013, 41,220 controlled deer hunt validation tags will be issued (only offered in SR), an increase of 525 over 2012. The number of controlled deer hunt validation tags has remained relatively constant from 2009 to 2013 and in the range of 40,390 to 41,220 validation tags.

SR Black Bear—In 2012, there were an estimated 8,583 SR bear hunters (8,104 resident hunters and 479 non-resident hunters) who harvested an estimated 1,098 bears (932 by residents, 166 by non-residents). The total harvest declined by about 500 bears from 2011. Success rates declined as well from about 20 percent in 2011 to approximately 13 percent in 2012.

This year’s hunt should be similar to last year’s, however, given there was a significant decline in harvest in 2012, Ontario will continue to monitor harvest results over the next couple of years.

Maintaining the harvest of adult female black bears to less than 20 percent of the total harvest is one of MNR management goals in order to manage bear populations sustainably. There were about 34 percent females and 12 percent adult females in the harvest, which is below the thresholds that are indicative of excessive harvest.

However, resident hunters submit teeth only at a rate of about 10 percent of all bears harvested. Resident hunters account for approximately 85 to 90 percent of the black bears harvested in SR. Hunters in SR should be more diligent to submit a tooth from their harvested black bear to enable better estimates of percentage of females and percentage of adult females in the harvest. A lack of critical harvest information in some WMUs limits MNRs ability to enhance management strategies and maximize hunting opportunities.

Condition of bears is associated with food availability during spring, summer and autumn. The relatively cool and wet spring across much of SR will likely favor soft mast production (blueberry, strawberry, blackberry, cherry, etc.). “I anticipate acorn production may be low in 2013, given that in 2012 acorns were abundant,” Gatt says. “Red oak tends to produce bumper crops at 4-year intervals.”

Most of the northern portion of SR is excellent bear habitat (Great Lakes St. Lawrence forest). The highest estimated densities of bears exist in areas north of Parry Sound.

SR Moose—There are limited bowhunting opportunities to hunt for moose in SR relative to the rest of the province. In 2013, there is a one-week bow-only moose season Oct. 7-12 in WMUs 48, 55A, 55B, and 57. Archery tags are only allocated for adults and calves during the archery only-season in WMUs 48, 55A, 55B, 57, and 65. Hunters must apply to a draw for calf,

cow or bull validation tags. There is also hunter registration and mandatory hunter reporting to help manage moose populations in these units. There are a total of 35 Bull, 45 Cow, and 120 calf tags being offered in 2013. Generally, bow hunters have been enjoying the increased opportunities to hunt moose in these units. Numbers of moose have increased since 2004, when the ministry established a calf validation tag requirement for hunting calf moose in these units.

There is also a bow-only season from Oct. 8-14 in WMU 65. All hunters must obtain a WMU 65 validation tag, or be a partner of a hunter who has obtained a WMU 65 validation tag, before they can hunt any moose (adult or calf) in WMU 65. Contact Kemptville MNR District office at (613) 258-8204 for details. Written permission from landowners is required.

Northeast Region (NER): *NER Deer*—In 2012, an estimated resident 5,889 deer bowhunters hunted for deer in NER WMUs. Bowhunters made up about 20 percent of all resident NER deer hunters.

For 2013, compared to 2012, NER deer populations are forecasted to be stable within the core deer range, and lower further north as the past winter conditions were more severe and green-up this spring was late. Deer densities are highest within the Loring area (WMU 47), along the Northshore (WMUs 36, 37 and 42) and Lake Huron Islands (WMUs 43A, 43B, 44 and 45), reports Northeast Regional Wildlife Biologist Peter Davis.

The overall 2013 antlerless deer tag quotas are the same as in 2012 at 13,630 tags. Tag quotas in WMU 42 increased by 50 to 550 tags; WMU 44 decreased by 25 to 100 tags. Although tag quotas decreased by 25 to 6,000 tags for WMU 47 (Loring area), this unit provides the highest NER antlerless tag quotas.

Compared to 2012, the deer population on Manitoulin Island overall is forecasted to be stable in 2013 with tags remaining the same.

Antlerless tag quotas remain the same for WMUs 21B, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43A, 43B and 45.

In NER, resident and non-resident bowhunters focus on WMUs 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43A, 43B, 45 and 47.

In 2013, Davis reports that Ontario is offering in WMU 47 750 archery-only additional deer seals to harvest antlerless deer, and in WMU 42 50 archery-only additional seals to harvest antlered deer.

Additional deer seals are also provided to residents on a first-come, first-served basis in WMUs 21B, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 41 and 42 for any open deer seasons—please note that type of deer varies by WMU.

NER Black Bear—In 2012, an estimated 1,183 bow bear hunters (18 percent of total bear hunters) hunted NER WMUs. The most popular NER bear units bowhunted are WMUs 28, 29, 41 and 42. Of 22 WMUs surveyed in NER there are 10 WMUs where the bear density is lower than the regional average, 6 WMUs where the density is similar to the average, and 6 WMUs where density is higher than the regional average. Trends in natural food availability and harvest assessment suggest populations are decreasing in several areas.

Overall harvests and hunter success rates were higher in 2012 reflecting the failures in natural food availability for bears in Boreal East and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest. The 2012 bear harvest by residents was well above the past 10-year average.

MNR has documented that adult female black bears are vulnerable to over-harvest especially in years of natural food failures. In 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012 the proportion of adult females harvested across Northeast Region exceeded the threshold of 20 percent with regional averages ranging from 20.5 to 26.2 percent.

In 2012, twelve WMUs had harvests ranging from 22 to 46 percent adult females. In 2012, the proportion of adult females in the overall regional harvest was high at 23 percent, reflecting the poor natural food availability especially in Boreal East last year where it was the worst year for soft mast (berries) since 2007 with very poor blueberry production and scarce hazelnuts. Davis says officials expect that relatively few black bear cubs were born in the Boreal East in 2013. The same goes for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest with very poor blueberry, beechnut, and hazelnut production. Red oak (acorns) did provide a bumper crop in late summer and autumn, which may have resulted in lower hunter success with less response to bait in some areas.

The 2013 spring green up was about 6 to 8 weeks later than in 2012, with high amounts of precipitation to date and later flowering of soft mast species (e.g., cherries, mountain ash, blueberries, and service berries). The prediction at press time is that 2013 summer natural food availability for bears will be better compared to 2012. Within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest, red oak acorn production in late summer and autumn 2013 is expected to be lower since 2012 was a peak year for this food type.

The numbers of resident second seals available in Northeast Region have been decreasing with 206 available in 2012, compared to 210 in 2011, 362 in 2010, and 478 in 2009.

Resident second seal quotas for 2013 are being determined but are not yet available. Check the MNR website in July.

NER Moose—The overall average demand vs. supply for gun tags in 2012 was about 15 applicants per tag (with a WMU range of less than 1 to 60), yet for archery tags it was about 2 applicants per tag.

WMUs 29, 32, 36, 37 and 40 saw a decrease in available tags. Increased tags are available in WMUs 01D, 21B, 27, 28, and 31. Same quotas as in 2012 are found in WMUs 01A, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, and 47. WMUs 31, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 40 have moose densities that are near or below desired ecological minimums of 20 moose per 100 km².

Moose with substantial hair loss caused by high winter tick infestation have been observed in spring 2012 and 2013 with several documented tick related mortalities. Snow depths had disappeared by mid-March 2012 across most of NER, which would have favored higher winter tick abundance. “Areas where moose tick infestations were high in 2013 (Chapleau, Timmins, North Bay and Sudbury Districts) may have reduced moose populations and lower calf production with potentially lower hunting success rates this autumn,” Davis says. “Although specific weather conditions at the time of the hunt can have very strong influences on moose movement and hunting success, the outlook for moose hunting in other areas in NER may be similar to those experienced in 2012.”

Deeper snow extending well into April 2013 may have resulted in higher mortality of engorged female winter ticks, and there might be fewer ticks on moose next winter compared to this past winter.

Based on tag fill rates and numbers of resident and non-resident bow moose hunters, the most popular NER units are WMUs 21B (Manitouwadge), 22 (Hornepayne), 23 (Hearst), 24 (Kapusking), and 29 (Gogama-Timmins).

Northwest Region (NWR): *NWR Deer*—In 2012, an estimated 1,905 resident bowhunters hunted for deer in NWR Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). They made up 11 percent of all the hunters in the region.

Licensed deer hunts occur in 28 NWR WMUs: 1C, 2-11B inclusive, 12A-19 inclusive, and 21A.

“Across NWR, deer populations increased from levels observed in the mid to late 1990’s and generally peaked between 2003 and 2007,” says Northwest Regional Wildlife Biologist Brad Allison. NWR deer population abundance has fluctuated since that time, and deer numbers in most management units are estimated to be below peak levels observed in the mid-2000s. For fall 2013, deer populations are generally described as being low in more northerly WMUs, fair to good in more typical deer range, and excellent in the Fort Frances and Thunder Bay areas, Allison reports.

The winter of 2012-2013 was classed as moderate/severe in the extreme southwestern portion of NWR, and severe elsewhere in the region. It is expected that recruitment across most of the deer range in northwestern Ontario will be impacted.

Non-resident interest in NWR Ontario deer hunting opportunities remains high. An estimated 78 percent of Ontario’s non-resident deer hunting activity occurred in northwestern Ontario WMUs: 6, 7A, 7B, 8, 9A, 9B, 10, 11A, 12A and 12B. Deer continue to be most abundant in WMUs located in the NWR’s southwestern portion where winter conditions are generally more favorable for deer. This geography is considered core deer range in northwestern Ontario.

NWR WMUs 1C, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 8, 9A, 9B, 10, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B, 13, 14, 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17, 18A, 18B, 19 and 21A are offering a limited number of additional deer seals to resident hunters for fall 2013. Check the MNR website for more information.

NWR Black Bear—In 2012, an estimated 413 resident bowhunters hunted for black bear in NWR WMUs. In fall 2012, the ratio of resident to non-resident black bear hunters across NWR (bow and gun hunters combined) was approximately 1:1 with 2,125 residents and 2,218 non-residents.

Collectively, NWR black bear hunters harvested an estimated 1,670 bears, 265 residents, 1,405 non-residents, up 5 and 2 percent from 2011, respectively, in 2012. Licenced black bear hunts occur in 28 NWR WMUs; those being 1C, 2 through 11B inclusive, 12A through 19 inclusive, and 21A.

The outlook for the fall 2013 hunt is projected as generally good across most NWR WMUs. Of the 22 NWR WMUs surveyed, there are 9 WMUs where the bear density is lower than the regional average, 8 WMUs where the density is similar to the average and 5 WMUs where density is higher than the regional average.

In fall 2012, the harvest of adult female black bears exceeded the 20 percent of total harvest threshold in 16 WMUs located in the central and western portions of NWR. Hunters are encouraged to minimize harvest pressure upon female black bears.

Of the 28 NWR WMUs that offer black bear hunting opportunities, 6 WMUs (21A, 15B, 13, 5, 19, and 15A) collectively attracted over 50 percent of all 2012 NWR black bear hunters.

Second game seals for black bears will be offered to resident hunters in some NWR WMUs for fall 2013. This information will be posted on the MNR website in July.

NWR Moose—Licensed NWR moose hunts occur in 27 WMUs: 1C, 2-9B, 11A-11B, 12A-19 inclusive, and 21A. There are an estimated 46,000 NWR moose estimated in huntable areas. WMU-specific moose populations that are currently below the desired ecological density occur in the southwestern portion of the region in WMUs 6, 7A, and 7B. Early archery-only seasons for moose occur in NWR. Such seasons generally start in the third week of September and last for three weeks. Non-residents are generally required to use an outfitter.

Adult validation tags are set on an annual basis and modifications in tag numbers reflect changes in WMU-specific moose population abundance and demographics (as observed in

moose aerial inventory surveys) and also changes in tag fill rates. For fall 2013, bowhunting adult moose validation tag quotas increased in WMUs 3, 12B and 15B, decreased in WMUs 11A, 18B and 19, and remain unchanged in WMUs 2, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 8, 9A, 9B, 11B, 12A, 13, 14, 15A, 18A and 21A.

WMUs 21A, 15B, and 13 have the highest tag quotas (in part due to their size) within the southern portion of NWR and are the most popular units. Of the more northerly units in NWR, WMUs 1C, 16C, and 17 have higher numbers of validation tags, but access is more limited than units to the south.

DEER

Season: Archery Sept. 1-Dec. 31 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by WMU).

Limit: 1 antlered deer per hunter (antlerless tags available to Ontario residents by draw). Selected WMUs will also offer additional game seals for the harvest of deer. Most additional game seals for deer are available to bowhunters.

Fees: Res. deer license \$46.17; additional game seal \$46.17 ea. (selected WMUs only). Non-res. deer license \$230.31; additional game seal \$230.31 (selected WMUs only).

BLACK BEAR

Season: Aug. 15-Nov. 30 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by WMU).

Limit: 1. Second res. game seals available in some WMUs.

Fees: Res. \$46.17. Non-res. black bear license \$230.31 (with a few exceptions, non-res. must use services of a bear operator). Non-res. Export Permit \$35.

MOOSE

Season: General resident seasons Sept. 14-Dec. 15 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by WMU). Non-resident seasons generally start two days later and some run shorter. Non-resident seasons Sept. 14-Nov. 15 (earliest opening and latest closing dates; varies by WMU).

Limit: 1 moose (validation tag required by a res. for adult moose as well as calf moose in selected WMUs; validation tag required by non-res. hunters hunting moose). NOTE: No hunting of predominantly white-colored moose is permitted in WMUs 30 and 31.

Fees: Res. \$53.44. Non-res. \$460.88 (outfitter required).

ELK

A two-week elk hunt for Ontario residents only will be held Sept. 16-29 in the Bancroft area (parts of WMUs 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63A). Resident applications for the draw were due June 10; application fee \$16.95. Successful draw applicants are eligible to purchase an elk license (\$51.13). Restrictions that apply for moose hunting also apply to elk hunting (e.g., minimum draw weights, broadheads only). For more information: <http://ontario.ca/elk>.

WILD TURKEY

Season: Fall Oct. 15-27. Spring Apr. 25-May 31, 2014.

Limit: Spring 2 bearded birds (1 bird per license, birds must be taken on different days). Fall 1 bird (either-sex).

Fees: Res. small game \$24.02. Non-res. small game \$115.28. Turkey license \$28.06.

Minimum draw weight: Longbows and compounds 18 kg (39.7 lbs.) for deer and turkey; 22 kg (48.5 lbs.) for bear, elk, and moose. Both measurements are at a draw length of 700 mm (27.6 inches) or less.

Arrow: Length must be at least 600 mm (23.6 inches).

Broadheads: Head at least 22 mm (0.87 inch) at widest point; must be at least two sharp cutting edges.

Crossbows: Draw length at least 300 mm (11.8 inches); draw weight at least 45 kg (99.2 lbs.) for deer and turkey; 54 kg (119 lbs.) for bear, elk and moose. Bolt head must meet broadhead standards above.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 47,776 res. deer, 3,234 res. bear (based on 2012 hunting survey and mandatory bear reporting).

Bowhunting organization(s): Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Box 2800, Peterborough, ON K9J 8L5; (705) 748-6324; www.ofah.org. Quality Deer Management Association, Ontario Chapters; www.qdma.com/directory/Ontario.

For information/licenses: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 300 Water St., Box 7000, Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5; (800) 667-1940; mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca or visit <http://ontario.ca/hunting>.

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island is the only province in Canada that does not have a Big Game license. That's because their largest game animal is the eastern coyote. Still, they do allow bowhunting for small game, in accordance with the regular seasons, regulations and bag limits set for firearms hunters. Geese, of which there are thousands, are probably your best bowhunting bet.

Most of PEI is privately owned. For locations of public lands, go to www.gov.pe.ca/gis.

Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by either a licensed resident hunter or a registered hunting guide while hunting in PEI. Non-resident license holders are advised that their valid non-resident hunting license, attached to the game being exported, is a shipping coupon authorizing them to export game without a shipping permit.

The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division offers online purchasing of hunting licenses (www.gov.pe.ca/enveng/) and online hunter education (www.huntercourse.com). The department also issues the PEI Wildlife Card. This card is for people trained in hunter safety, bowhunter safety, fur harvesting, and guiding, and is a prerequisite to purchasing a hunting license. For non-residents, certifications issued by the province, state, or country where they live are accepted in PEI.

Resident Game Hunting licenses are free to those under age 18 or over 60. The Wildlife Conservation Fund fee is \$20 for those ages 16-64 and \$13 to those age 65 and older.

Season dates below are from 2012, as the 2013-2014 dates have not been set, but expect similar timeframes.

RUFFED GROUSE

Season: Sept. 24-Dec. 31.

Limit: 3 per day/6 possession.

Fees: Res. Game Hunting \$10. Non-res. \$75. Wildlife Conservation Fund \$20.

SNOWSHOE HARE

Season: Oct. 1-Feb. 28.

Limit: 5 per day.

Fees: Same as grouse.

RED FOX

Season: Nov. 1-Jan. 31.

Limit: None.

Fees: Same as grouse.

COYOTE

Season: Oct. 1-Mar. 31.

Limit: None.

Fees: Same as grouse.

RACCOON

Season: Oct. 1-Feb. 28.

Limit: None.

Fees: Same as grouse, +\$7 permit to hunt raccoon at night.

GEESE

Season: Oct. 1 to Dec. 8.

Limit: 5 daily bag/10 possession.

Fees: Same as grouse + \$17 migratory bird fee.

Minimum draw weight: None.

Broadheads: No restrictions listed.

Crossbows: Legal for all seasons except waterfowl.

Bowhunter education permit: Required. A regular Firearm Safety Certificate is valid.

Bowhunters in '12: N/A, not tracked.

For information/licenses: Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, 183 Upton Rd., P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8; (902) 368-4683, (866) 368-4683; www.gov.pe.ca.

Quebec

Quebec offers bowhunters a broad spectrum of outstanding opportunities and generous harvests. Since the province changed many “bow” seasons to “bow and crossbow” seasons in 2010, crossbow hunters have taken advantage of expanded opportunities and often outnumber those who hunt with a vertical bow.

At the mouth of the St. Lawrence River lies Anticosti Island, and on it one of the densest whitetail populations in North America. Several of the island’s large sectors may be devoted exclusively to bowhunting after making arrangements with the outfitter. The southern part of the province and Anticosti Island are the best for archery whitetails. Hunters throughout the province harvested 58,543 deer in 2012, well over the 49,271 animals in 2011. Crossbow hunters took 10,304 while bowhunters took 1,298.

Quebec hosts an estimated 60,000 black bears with the best hunting occurring in central areas around the upper St. Maurice region. Quality and quantity rival anywhere in North America, and an outfitter black bear hunt (required for non-residents) is one of your best bets.

Hunting caribou can sometimes be boom and bust, but when the animals are in, you may see thousands in a single day. During the 2012-2013 season, hunters took 1,596 animals, most from Zone 23 west in fall. In the 2011-2012 season, hunters took 4,802 animals (most from Zone 22 in the winter season), down significantly from the 12,402 animals during the 2010-2011 season. As in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec’s caribou populations have dropped.

Quebec’s Rivière aux Feuilles herd is, like the George River herd [also occupying Labrador], decreasing, leading the province to introduce stricter hunting rules to preserve this

popular species for hunters. In some zones there have been changes to seasons, the number of available outfitter licenses, and antler restrictions. For the George River herd, sports hunting will be closed in zones 23 East, 23 South, and 24. Sports hunting will remain closed as long as biological data do not indicate the herd is recovering. The governments of Quebec and of Newfoundland and Labrador continue to cooperate in management plans for migratory caribou, especially coordination and more complementary actions with regard to the George River herd. Non-residents require an outfitter for caribou hunts. All zones will maintain the 2-caribou bag limit. Hunters may not hunt in more than one zone.

There are over 115,000 moose in Quebec, and non-resident licenses are available over the counter. Bowhunters will find best prospects in the southern half of the province. Province-wide, bowhunters took 552 moose in 2012, down from the 727 moose in 2011. Crossbow hunters took 2,634, down from the previous year's 2,869.

Crossbow hunters, please note that in order to hunt with a crossbow, a resident must be the holder of a hunter's certificate bearing Code A or B. Despite the information appearing on the back of the hunter's certificate, since 2007 Code F no longer allows the holder to hunt with a crossbow. Except in Zones 17, 22, 23 and 24, hunting with a crossbow is permitted during a firearm, a shotgun, or a muzzle-loading firearm hunting period.

WHITETAIL

Season: Aug. 1-Dec.24, (earliest and latest dates, varies by zone).

Limit: 1 for all zones, except Zone 20 (Anticosti Island) 4 per outing, maximum 2 antlered bucks.

Fees: Mainland res. \$53.01, non-res. \$284.22. Anticosti Island res. \$67.27, non-res. \$363.90. Anticosti Antlerless res. \$35.25, non-res. \$188.40.

BEAR

Season: Fall Aug. 25-Nov. 18 (earliest and latest dates, varies by zone). Spring May 15-June 30 (except in part of Zone 10, it ends June 10).

Limit: 1 per year, except in Zone 10 where a second can be harvest in fall season.

Fees: Res. \$51.39. Non-res. \$158.80.

MOOSE

Season: Aug. 25-Oct. 28 (earliest and latest dates, varies by zone).

Limit: 1 per 2 hunters.

Fees: Res. \$59.21. Non-res. \$369.28.

CARIBOU

Season: Aug. 25-Apr. 15 (earliest and latest dates, varies by zone).

Limit: 2 per hunter/zone/season (8 max./year res. and 6 max/year non-res.)

Fees: Res. \$65.66. Non-res. Canadian \$146.42. Non-res. foreign \$359.57.

Minimum draw weight: 40 lbs. with draw of 28 inches.

Broadheads: Must have minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Legal during all regular firearms and muzzleloader seasons. See regulations for terms and conditions.

Bowhunter education permit: Required for residents.

Special licenses: Special licenses are available for residents only.

Bowhunters in '12: N/A, not tracked.

Note: In wildlife sanctuaries and certain outfitting establishments with exclusive rights and in certain ZECs, some deer, bear and moose regulations differ from those of the zones in which these sanctuaries, establishments or ZECs occur, often providing additional hunting opportunities.

Bowhunting organization(s): Federation quebecoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs, 162, rue du Brome, Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, QC G3A 2P5; (418) 878-8901; www.fedecp.qc.ca.

For information/licenses: Développement durable, Environnement, Faune et Parcs, Édifice Marie-Guyart, 29th Floor, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7 (418) 521-3830; www.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca.

Saskatchewan

Archery opportunities in Saskatchewan are many and varied. Resident archers have access to specific seasons for whitetail and mule deer as well as moose and elk. In many cases the season structure offers excellent calling opportunities as the hunts take place during the rut.

Canadian resident archers are able to access most zones in the central portion of the province for whitetails and bears. Whitetail hunters must select one wildlife management zone and limit their hunting activities to that zone.

Non-Canadians also have excellent archery opportunities primarily in the forest portion of the province. They can choose bear, moose, or whitetail hunts, which do require the use of a licensed outfitter.

The hunting outlook is good, however some species in affected areas are recovering from a significant mortality during the winter of 2010-2011. Conservation measures are in place in several wildlife management zones to support population recovery.

Whitetail populations are reduced across much of farmland Saskatchewan; however there are some areas with higher densities. Forest deer numbers are just beginning to recover after significant winter mortality in recent years. Either-sex whitetail opportunities will be available across the province, however antlerless season will only be offered in select zones.

Mule deer numbers in some core areas are below longterm averages. This affects the regular archery-only mule deer seasons that are only offered in wildlife management zones with strong populations. The most affected areas were in southern Saskatchewan, while the northwest portion of the province fared relatively well and appears stable. Declines in WMZ 10 and 29 were noted in the late-2000's, as these regions were subject to targeted population decreases as a result of CWD-affected animals being found in those regions. Mule deer hunting licenses are allocated through the Saskatchewan big game draw on a zone-specific basis. The popular mule deer areas include much of southwest Saskatchewan, but pockets of mule deer exist throughout the province.

Moose hunting opportunities in farmland Saskatchewan continue to increase. New quotas will be offered in a few southern WMZs, including 17, 28, 32, 36, 38, 41 and 42. Also in many areas there will be both either-sex and antlerless seasons. Moose numbers in the traditional forest zones are also healthy. Overall hunters can expect good to excellent opportunities in both the regular and draw seasons.

In 2011, the province estimated its winter moose population at 57,000 moose. Although the overall moose population in the province was growing, much of this growth was in agricultural regions. Results of a 2011 hunter harvest survey indicated that farmland zones

continued to have high harvest success rates, with 85 percent of hunters being successful, while forest zones have an average harvest success rate of 41 percent.

Elk populations are also growing across farmland Saskatchewan. These increasing populations are providing increased opportunities for resident hunters. Moose Mountain Provincial Park (WMZ 33) is often a top choice in the big game draw for elk hunters, especially for those interested in a non-trophy animal. Mild winters in 2008 and 2009 allowed elk numbers to grow and new populations began emerging in the south, providing new hunting opportunities. The severe winter of 2010/2011 hit elk hard and a large number of depredation issues were reported by landowners. The 2011 hunter survey indicated that eastern zones continue to have high harvest success rates.

Pronghorn have experienced significant mortality (70 percent) across much of their winter range. Another severe winter in 2010-2011 caused significant winter mortality across all ecoregions and extended to Alberta and Montana populations. Therefore, as a conservation measure, the Ministry closed the season for 2012. Consult the department website for updates on 2013.

Bear populations appear to be stable, and hunting pressure on this species is light. Expect a quality hunting experience for bears across the southern edge of the Provincial forest.

Archery equipment can be used in any season, however there are specific archery seasons for some species/zone combinations. The Saskatchewan 2013 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide, which lists all the season dates, is available online at <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/> in late July.

Please note a Wildlife Habitat Certificate (\$10.79) must be purchased to validate any game bird, big game, or fur license.

Saskatchewan now sells licenses 24 hours a day through its online Hunting, Trapping and Angling Licence (HAL) System. Once you are registered, based on your residency, you will be offered the available licences for which you are eligible. You select the licences you want to buy and pay for them. You will need access to a printer to print your licences on 8.5x11-inch plain paper. All points of sale (POS) are connected to a single data base providing historical licence information for every hunter, trapper and angler. This "real time" collection of license information will improve compliance monitoring and enforcement activity, and it will provide a more current understanding of hunter/angler activity and demographics.

WHITETAIL

Season: Regular Archery and Antlerless Archery Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (most WMZs; Provincial Parks delayed to Sept. 10).

Zones: All zones for SK resident hunters (some zones closed to antlerless). All zones for Canadian residents, but must choose a single zone. Non-Canadians limited to select zone; must use licensed outfitter.

Limit: 1 either-sex animal. 1 antlerless (res. only).

Fees: Res. either-sex \$32.38; res. antlerless \$19.62. Canadian res. \$137.38. Non-Canadians \$274.76.

BEAR

Season: Combined seasons Apr. 15-June 30 and Aug. 25-Oct. 14 (dates vary by WMZ—see Guide).

Limit: 1 either-sex bear.

Fees: SK res. \$16.68, Canadian res. \$53.97. Non-Canadian \$161.92.

ELK (SK res. only)

Season: Archery-only Aug. 20-Sept. 4 and Oct. 1-4 (select WMZs; dates vary; see Guide).

Limit: 1 (bulls-only or either-sex, varies by WMZ). Big Game Draw dates (all weapons) vary.

Fees: Res. \$32.38 or Big Game Draw \$53.97.

MOOSE (SK res. only)

Season: Archery-only Sept. 15-30.

Zones: Mst Forest zones.

Limit: 1 bull.

Fees: Res. \$32.38.

MOOSE (SK res. only)

Season: Big Game Draw (all weapons) Oct. 1-14 and Nov. 1-14 (forest) and Oct. 15-Nov. 14 (farmland).

Limit: 1 either-sex or antlerless animal depending on zone.

Fees: \$53.97

MOOSE (non-res. guided)

Season: Archery-only Sept. 15-30 (see Guide for details).

Limit: 1 bull.

Fees: Canadian res. \$161.92. Non-Canadian \$323.83. Licenses available through outfitters only.

MULE DEER (SK res. only)

Season: Archery-only Sept. 1-Oct. 31 or Dec. 7 (varies by zone; Parks delayed to Sept. 10). Big Game Draw Archery-only Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (Parks delayed to Sept. 10).

Limit: Archery-only 1 either-sex animal. Big Game Draw Archery-only 1 either-sex or 2 antlerless.

Fees: \$37.29 either-sex; \$19.62 antlerless.

Minimum Draw Weight: Compound and recurve minimum 40 lbs.

Broadheads: Cutting diameter at least 7/8 inch.

Crossbows: Allowed in select WMZs during the regular archery season. However in most of the province they are lawful weapon during the muzzleloader and rifle seasons only.

Treestands/Blinds: Must be marked with name and address and date that stand or blind was erected. All treestands must be removed from public lands by July 7 after spring bear season, and by Dec. 31 after fall hunting season.

Baiting: Legal, but containers/sites must be marked with name and address as above.

Authorization required on private land.

Calls/Decoys: No restrictions for big game animals.

Bowhunter education: All hunters born after January 1, 1971, require a Firearm Safety/Hunter Education course to purchase a hunting license in Saskatchewan.

Special licenses: Saskatchewan Resident Youth license package (12-18 years) contains white-tailed deer license, game bird license, and habitat certificate for \$19.62.

Est. bowhunters in '12: 3,275, (2,875 res. archery mule deer licences, 500 est. non-res.).

Bowhunting organization: Saskatchewan Bowhunters Association; www.saskbowhunters.ca.

Information/licenses: Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch, 3211 Albert St., Regina, SK; (306) 787-3214; www.environment.gov.sk.ca/.

Yukon

If underutilized resources and a vast, remote wilderness experience are what you seek, the Yukon is for you. This is truly a big game hunter's paradise with dense, largely underhunted populations of many of North America's premier species, like grizzly bear, black bear, moose, caribou, and Dall and Stone sheep. It is one of the few jurisdictions that can offer a mixed bag hunt. In addition license fees are extremely reasonable. Finally seasons generally run from August 1 through to October 31 providing hunters with a large window of time in which to choose a specific hunt.

There are about 70,000-75,000 moose in the Yukon, 618 (411 res., 207 non-res.) taken by hunters in 2012. Overall numbers are thought to be stable. Hunters are encouraged to avoid hunting near communities and to try to get into the more remote backcountry. This will generally increase their chances of success, the quality of their hunt, and reduce hunting pressures elsewhere.

Black bears are distributed from the British Columbia-Yukon border to the northern tree line. They are most numerous in the southern and central parts of the territory, confined to the river valleys and their finger-like strips of forested habitat. A rough estimate puts the Yukon black bear population at about 10,000 animals. The 2012 harvest was 112.

Grizzly bears inhabit the entire Yukon from the British Columbia border to Herschel Island off the Arctic coast. The territorial population is estimated at 6,000 to 7,000 animals. Hunters took 67 animals in 2012.

Woodland caribou are scattered across the Yukon in 23 separate herds. The total Yukon population is estimated at roughly 30,000 animals. Hunters took 228 in 2012. Four woodland caribou herds are currently not open to licensed hunting due to declining populations.

Regulations have been passed to bring woodland caribou hunting in all of Zone 2 in line with other zones. As a result, the bag limit is now one woodland caribou, no cow caribou can be harvested by licensed hunters, and the extended hunt dates have been removed. The season closing date for woodland caribou hunting in GMS 10-01 has been extended from October 10 to October 31 to bring it in line with other subzones.

To ensure sustainable harvest of mountain sheep in GMS 7-14 and 7-16, hunting is now by permit only. GMS 7-19 has been closed to hunting.

All non-resident foreign hunters must employ the services of a registered Yukon outfitter. Non-resident Canadians must be guided by a registered Yukon outfitter OR guided by a Yukon resident holding a Special Guide license. Seasons, bag limits and others regulations apply equally to firearm hunters and bowhunters in the Yukon except that bowhunters are not allowed to take bison. A Wildlife Export Permit is required for removing or shipping wildlife parts from the Yukon.

Go to www.env.gov.yk.ca for updates.

MOOSE

Season: Aug.1-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1 male.

Fees: Big game license res. \$10, non-res. \$75, non-res foreign \$150. Moose seal \$5; trophy fee if successful \$150 (non-res.). GST extra.

CARIBOU

Season: Aug. 1-Jan. 31.

Limit: 2 bulls. Area limits may vary.

Fees: Same as moose. Caribou seal \$5. Non-res. trophy fee \$150 + GST.

BLACK BEAR

Season: Spring Apr.15-June 21. Fall Aug. 1-Nov. 15.

Limit: 2 per year. Sows with cubs are protected.

Fees: Same as moose, plus black bear seal \$5. Non-res. trophy fee \$75 + GST.

GRIZZLY BEAR

Season: Spring Apr. 15-June 21. Fall Aug. 1-Nov.15.

Limit: 1 every three license years. Additional with special permit. Females with cubs are protected.

Fees: Same as moose, plus grizzly bear seal \$25. Non-res. trophy fee \$500 (males)/\$750 (females) + GST.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Season: Aug. 1-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1.

Fees: Same as moose, plus goat seal \$10. Non-res. trophy fee \$200 + GST.

MOUNTAIN SHEEP

Season: Aug. 1-Oct. 31.

Limit: 1 full-curl ram.

Fees: Same as moose, plus sheep seal \$10. Non-res. trophy fee \$250 + GST.

Bow minimum draw weight: 45 lbs. Bison hunters may not hunt with a bow.

Broadheads: Required for hunting; arrows must be at least 28 inches long.

Crossbows: Illegal.

Bowhunter education permit: Not required. All resident hunters born after April 1, 1987 are required to have successfully completed a recognized hunter education program before they become eligible for a big game or small game hunting license

Est. bowhunters in '12: 30 (probable numbers with outfitters).

For information/licenses: Yukon Government, Department of Environment, Conservation Officer Services Branch, Box 2703 (V-3A), Whitehorse, YK Y1A 2C6; (867) 667-5221; www.env.gov.yk.ca.