



Dear Landowner: Thank you for allowing me on your property. Because of your generosity, I've been able to enjoy Pennsylvania's rich hunting and trapping heritage.

PERMISSION TO HUNT AND/OR TRAP

I hereby grant permission to the person named below to hunt and/or trap on my property located at:

_____ on the following dates: _____

Signed: _____

In return for the privilege of hunting/trapping on this property, I agree to obey the laws, to observe all safety precautions, and to assume all responsibility and liability for my person and my property while on the landowner's property.

Signed: _____

Address: _____

License CID # _____ Date: _____

Updates:

Split antlered/antlerless deer seasons in three more units; antler restriction modification in 4-point WMUs; concurrent deer/bear seasons back; and range permits required for nonhunters/trappers to use PGC ranges are just some of the highlights for hunters and furtakers this year. As always, be sure to thoroughly read this entire Digest before venturing forth on your adventures in Penn's Woods.

Before getting into what's new this year, those who didn't purchase a hunting or furtaker license for the last two years will notice the new way hunting and furtaker licenses are sold. To make the agency's license sales system more customer friendly, the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System (PALS) was put into effect two years ago. The new licenses are printed on sturdy, weather-resistant yellow material. The harvest tags have perforated holes in them to make it easy to attach the tag to the animal. Additionally, all personal information will be printed on the tags, so all a hunter will need to do is enter the time, date and place of harvest. Like last year, deer and turkey harvest report cards are in this Digest, and they will not be distributed with the license. Hunters can also report online at www.pgc.state.pa.us or for deer, turkey, bobcat and fisher harvests, hunters and furtakers can report over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681).

By state law, antlerless deer licenses will continue to be sold only by county treasurers, but under PALS, the system has been modified. Hunters will be able to submit an application to any county treasurer, and the application will list the hunters' first three choices, in order of preference, for specific WMU antlerless deer licenses. If an applicant's first choice of WMU has sold out, the county treasurer will move to the second preference — and third, if necessary (see details in the deer section elsewhere in this Digest).

Other benefits from PALS include: Application for the elk license drawing can be made when licenses are purchased; hunters can process DMAP antlerless deer coupons for permits rather than having to wait for permits to be mailed; a second spring gobbler license and bobcat and fisher permits can be purchased. For more information on PALS, see the license section in the back of this Digest.

For deer, WMUs 2A, 2F & 3B have been added to those WMUs that have a split 5-day antlered and 7-day concurrent antlered and antlerless season. In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 2D (formerly 4-to-one-side antler restriction WMUs), hunters can abide by a "three-up," which means at least one of the buck's antlers must have three points, one inch or longer, excluding the brow tine. For this purpose, a brow tine is defined as the first point on the main beam immediately above the antler burr or base.

The traditional bear season has been lengthened to four days, and concurrent bear/deer seasons in parts of the state have been brought back. See the bear section for details.

Other things new this year include: time limitations for portable treestand use on State Game Lands, new body-gripping restrictions for trappers and State Game Lands shooting range permits. For porcupines, there is now a statewide season September 1- March 31, 2012, except during the regular firearms deer seasons, with a daily limit of 6 and field possession limit of 12.

Wildlife Classifications: All wildlife in Pennsylvania is protected by the Game and Wildlife Code and is classified as follows:

Game Animals: Black bear, cottontail rabbit, elk, squirrels (red, gray, black and fox), snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and woodchuck (groundhog).

Game Birds: Brant, bobwhite quail, coot, gallinule, geese, grouse, Hungarian partridge, merganser, mourning dove, pheasant, rail, snipe, swan, wild ducks, wild turkey and woodcock.

Big Game: Bear, elk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

Small Game: Game birds and game animals not classified as big game.

Furbearers: Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pine martin, raccoon, red and gray fox, skunk and weasel.

Protected Mammals: Wild mammals not classified furbearers or game animals (For example, chipmunks are protected).

Protected Birds: Wild birds not classified game birds.

Protection is removed from wildlife, except migratory birds, big game and threatened or endangered species, when personal property, other than an agricultural crop, is being destroyed or damaged. Wildlife may only be taken by the owner or person in charge of the personal property affected. Wildlife taken to protect personal property must be surrendered to a Game Commission representative.