

QUWF



Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

Making a Difference for Wildlife and Clean Streams, One Acre, One Stream, at a Time

THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Notes from the Dashboard: Staying connected on the farm, ranch

U.S. Forest Service facts

- According to the U.S. Forest Service, since 2000:
- Wildfires have eliminated 2.6 million acres of mature forest and 689,000 acres of old growth on lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.
- Old growth is defined as areas that haven't been logged, for instance, and mature forest as areas that may have been logged in the past and have grown back substantially on the way to becoming old growth again.
- 1.9 million acres of mature forest was lost to insects and disease, while 134,000 acres of old growth suffered that fate.
- 214,000 acres of mature forest and 10,000 acres of old growth on Forest Service and BLM lands had "tree cutting," which includes logging but might include other actions.

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova [direct](mailto:direct@quwf.org) at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767.

In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!

Also, any questions concerning banquets and/or vendor programs, please call the QUWF National Office at (417) 345-5960.



By Craig Alderman — *The pure peace of mind and safety factor of knowing you can call or talk to someone at anytime in the woods, fields and backcountry is well worth you reading this article.*

Cell phone coverage may not be and in fact, is not the best option for many areas of the country where cell towers are few and far between like our farm.

Most of us older gents and ladies are familiar with the Citizens Band Radio (CB) craze of the late '60s

and '70s. However, the very low power restrictions, 3 to 4 watts, prevented it from being a mainstay in backcountry use.

Ham radios are at the other end of the spectrum, powerful but take quite a while to master, and the technical side is immense for the casual user to get a license and the equipment is rather expensive. Handhelds are very expensive.

Enter the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios. These radios now offer up to 50 watts of power, are very affordable and have various models (power levels) to fit the needs of any farm or ranch operation. They offer handhelds with 6 watts of transmit power on the GMRS channels, but the real power comes in the MicroMobile models that can be put in ATVs, UTVs, RTVs, cars, trucks, tractors and side by sides. They can crank out up to 50 watts of power enabling much greater distances up to 45 to 50 miles (LOS), all limited by line of site and obstructions like mountains but still they can punch through for many miles even in those conditions. Most all have a scan feature allowing you to scan all GMRS and FRS channels for anyone close by.

An important point to remember and comply with: The GMRS radios do require you get an FCC license to operate. It is not expensive at \$35.00 for 10 years and can be obtained online through the FCC web site, which is not the easiest to navigate. Each radio operator's manual gives you the web site address www.fcc.gov, and it is form #605. First you have to establish an account with the FCC, then apply, then go back to your account to pay the fee. Typical site designed by people with too many degrees.

The license assigns you a call sign you must use at least once in your conversations or at the end. *Do it!* Further, it covers you and all members of your family for any GMRS radio used.

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Continued from Page 1 — Only an individual can get a GMRS license, no organizations or groups. That to me is not an issue, if you are on a farm or hunt, several can get GMRS licenses with all using the same channel.

POWER is key: Though you receive a 15, 40 or 50 watt radio, some channels are locked at lower power as they are meant for the casual public FRS use. Channels 1 through 14 are restricted to low power and even though you have power settings on the radio, it will not change these to a higher power. Get on channel 15 to 22 and you can use full power. This applies to handhelds as well.

Choose a good antenna: Many versions are available for GMRS radios. Look at the DB gain, the amount of reach power the antenna creates. The better ones are 6.5 gain and not that expensive, enabling full use of the power. However, if you are using them on an ATV, UTV, RTV, tractor or side by side, most are magnetic mounts. Though the magnet is very strong, they can be knocked off by low hanging branches and brush.

Midland has just come out with a new line of off-road BULL antennas, with large springs and very much increased in strength. They are, however, quite a bit more expensive.

Using A MicroMobile GMRS Unit as a base radio: Here on the farm, we installed a 40-watt radio in the house to monitor all habitat and farm work throughout the farm and our adjacent neighbors who also have GMRS radios. For the first time, we are easily able to communicate with all sections of the farm whether in the ravines, down by the river or not. Distance from the base can be as much as 2 to 3 miles.

We added a Midland 20-watt passive external speaker for clarity. I'm normally the one out working with others and I have had incidents where the cell phones did not work and we needed help. Thankfully, these were not medical in nature but it pointed out the extreme need of better coverage. We now have it using handhelds in the fields and woods. Again, ensuring the channel used is one that allows the High-power settings, coverage is now not an issue.

The 40-watt base we have does not have an AC power adapter so we use a AC/DC converter left over from the CB days to connect the power and ground leads. The converter plugs into the wall. We use a simple magnetic antenna on the gutter guards of the house and run the cable through the top of a window. With a little foam strip, it is airtight to the house itself, no drafts.

Handhelds: The versatility of having handheld GMRS radios vastly expands your mobile ability on the farm or on the trails. Again, remember if you purchase just the handhelds you still need an FCC license. I carry one on the dozer, tractor or while out working period. The radios come with an earpiece adapter so even when I'm operating equipment or the chain saw with ear protection on, I can hear and use the radio just fine.

A word from experience — if you use standard lithium batteries, after a few days it will drain the batteries to a lower level and the radio automatically reverts to low power to conserve its battery making it relatively ineffective unless you are close. Best to keep the rechargeable packs and charge them (they stay in the radio, simply put the radio in the station charger) after a full days use for at least 12 hours. New battery packs and or new radios should be charged 24 hours before use, regardless of the battery level display when you turn on the radio.



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Continued from Page 2 — Portable field command posts: We installed another 40-watt GMRS radio in our Kubota RTV side by side to be used as the coordination center in the field with a large project going using multiple handhelds on from timber harvest to controlled burns or investigating trespass which happens more than we like. I do not like drilling holes so as you see in the photo, I use Nilite safety cage adapters to mount to and they work slick.

Riding your UTV, RTV or side by side in off-road parks: Many people now take their ATVs and side-by-sides in all versions, on trail rides in Off Road Vehicle Parks, or state and federal lands on designated trails. Nearly all of these parks and the vehicles using them are equipped with 15-Watt GMRS radios made for this use. Make sure you know the channel used when you arrive or the channel to be used by your group to stay in touch.

We will offer more information and articles on these radios and the vehicles they can be put in. BTW, we bought the Midland radios, and speaker. We do highly recommend the brand for use on the farm, ranch or doing wildlife habitat work. Midland is great to work with when we did have questions and recommended how to install and what to use. Catch You Across the Creek.

Craig Alderman is the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation executive director.



Nonresident college students can purchase Ohio resident hunting, fishing licenses

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Nonresident students who do not reside in Ohio but are actively enrolled in an Ohio college or university can now purchase Ohio resident hunting and fishing licenses, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. The opportunity came after Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly approved the change in July. Providing nonresident students the option to purchase the much lower cost licenses and permits will make it easier and more affordable for these college students to participate in hunting and fishing.

Nonresident students who are actively enrolled in an Ohio college or university can now purchase Ohio resident hunting and fishing licenses.

Nonresident students must be actively enrolled full-time at an accredited Ohio college or university and reside in Ohio to qualify for residency. If students meet those requirements, they may purchase resident hunting licenses, fishing licenses, and permits, including apprentice licenses for those who are new to the activity.

Ohio's resident fishing license is \$25 and is valid for one year from the date of purchase. A fishing license is required to fish in Ohio public waters for anyone 16 and older. Ohio's annual resident hunting license for the 2023-24 season is \$19 for adults. A hunting license is valid immediately after purchase through Feb. 29, 2024. All hunters, regardless of age, are required to carry a valid hunting license to hunt or trap in Ohio.

Licenses can be purchased with ease at wildohio.gov, on the [HuntFish OH](#) mobile app, or at participating agents statewide. A hunting or fishing license opens the door to boundless hunting and fishing in Ohio and contributes financially to wildlife conservation.

License sales fund the Division of Wildlife's projects and programs that benefit wildlife and people. The Division of Wildlife manages or cooperatively manages more than 2 million acres of water and 750,000 acres of diverse wildlife areas. These habitats support popular game species such as deer, turkey, and walleye as well as key species such as bald eagles and monarch butterflies.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit wildohio.gov to find out more.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

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Transport rules apply for CWD affected OK counties

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease that affects the brains of deer, elk, moose, and other members of the deer family, creating holes that resemble those in sponges. It is always fatal to the animal, and no treatment or vaccine against CWD exists at this time. CWD has been confirmed in wild deer in Oklahoma and wild deer and/or elk in surrounding states including [Texas](#), [New Mexico](#), [Colorado](#), [Kansas](#), [Missouri](#), and [Arkansas](#).

When a wild deer or elk tests positive for CWD, ODWC activates its CWD Response Strategy. This includes designation of [Selective Surveillance Areas \(SSA\)](#) in Cimarron, Texas, and Woodward counties, and parts of Major and Woods counties.

Hunters who harvest deer or elk within the boundaries of an SSA must process those animals before leaving the SSA.



MI DNR reports CWD-positive deer in Ogemaw Co.

A 4-year-old doe that was reported to be in poor condition – skinny, drooling and showing no fear of people – in Klacking Township, Ogemaw County, recently tested positive for chronic wasting disease. It is the first CWD-positive wild deer from that county, a finding confirmed by the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison, which works with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to identify CWD in Michigan’s wild herd.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, elk and moose. To date, the disease also has been detected in the following Michigan counties: Clinton, Dickinson, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Midland and Montcalm.

“When we find chronic wasting disease in a brand-new location, where previous intensive surveillance has not yet been done, it becomes extremely important for wildlife disease managers to understand where additional cases might be within that county,” said DNR deer and elk specialist Chad Stewart. “In light of this new detection, we are offering additional opportunities for those interested in getting their deer tested for CWD in Ogemaw County.”

A drop box for CWD testing will be available at the Rifle River Recreation Area headquarters, located at 2550 Rose City Road in Lupton, starting Friday, Nov. 3. The check station typically operated at the DNR field office located at 410 Fairview Road in West Branch will be open Nov. 15-30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The field office will be closed Nov. 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Self-service test kits, typically available in other locations where CWD has been identified, will not be available in Ogemaw County due to concerns of bovine tuberculosis disease transmission in the county.

Stewart said that CWD is not common among deer in Michigan, and the hunting community can continue to play a key role in assisting the department in disease-testing efforts.

“The DNR sets surveillance goals – basically, a number of deer tested in a particular area – to understand the scale of infection in the local deer herd,” he said. “The closer we come to meeting these goals, the more data we have to identify where and to what extent chronic wasting disease exists in Michigan. Strong hunter participation in testing is critical to that learning, especially in areas where we haven’t yet met surveillance goals.”

Testing background, strategy

In addition to testing around areas of known CWD positives, the DNR in 2021 began a rotational approach to testing around the state. A group of counties is selected each year, with the eventual aim of testing enough deer in every Michigan county.



Visit the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation online! Scan the QR code.

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Collaborative effort results in guidance for solar projects

Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) is part of a collaborative effort to make large-scale solar utility projects in Georgia more wildlife-friendly.

When it comes to solar energy, emphasis is often placed on its benefit as a renewable energy solution and strategy to reduce climate change. Those determining where to locate large-scale projects generally only consider technology, infrastructure, and narrowly defined economic factors. The result is thousands of acres of forests and fields essentially paved over with little to no evaluation of the impact these installations have on our wildlife and natural resources. This has the conservation community very concerned.

According to the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Georgia is ranked 7th in the nation for total installed solar capacity. Georgia Power reports that approximately 45,000 acres of utility-scale solar construction is already planned and approved for the next 7-8 years. Knowing this, Georgia Wildlife Federation is organizing a working group to proactively address potential harms to Georgia's wildlife and habitats before development gets out of hand. Key players include the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources & Environmental Protection Divisions, The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Power Company, Green Power EMC, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Orianne Society, Quail Forever, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, and The Turner Foundation.

As a result of the group's efforts, "Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia" is now available to advise present and potential independent power producers seeking to implement large-scale solar projects in the state. The group hopes that the set of voluntary recommendations will enable Georgia to reap the benefits of solar energy with minimal impacts on our state's wildlife and habitats.

"All of the folks that participated in this working group are pro-solar," says Mike Worley, President and CEO of GWF. "We all recognize that solar is one potential solution to some of the climate challenges we are facing. However, there are very concerning conflicts with wildlife like the gopher tortoise and indigo snake, and real issues to address with soil erosion and sedimentation. We're hoping the recommendations will encourage developers to address potential conflicts before they become a problem."

Ongoing feedback from all stakeholders and partners is welcomed and encouraged as the document is intended to be reviewed and updated every six months. Access to the recommendations and other resources, as well as a training webinar and presentation, are available at <https://georgiawildlife.com/environmental-review#solar>.



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Alabama hunters make it two in a row with no fatalities

Alabama hunters deserve a roaring round of applause for their safety awareness. Not only did hunters complete the 2021-2022 hunting seasons without any hunting-related fatalities, a first for Alabama since accidents started being recorded in 1974, they also repeated the phenomenal achievement with no hunting-related fatalities for the 2022-2023 seasons.

“Two years in a row, is that not great news?” said Captain Marisa Futral of the Law Enforcement Section for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division. Futral also serves as the WFF Hunter Education Coordinator. “I hope we were able to accomplish that because people are paying more attention to treestand safety, making sure their children are taking hunter education classes, making sure all the equipment is working properly and everything is in good working condition before they climb.”

Chuck Sykes, WFF Director, applauded all those involved in promoting hunter education and safe hunting across Alabama.

“It hasn’t been too long ago that it seemed impossible to have a season without a hunting fatality,” Sykes said. “So two in a row is incredible. The WFF Hunter Education, marketing and R3 (Recruit, Retain, Reactivate) staffs have worked hard to remind the hunting public about hunting and firearms safety. Apparently, it’s working. Let’s shoot for three.”

Futral said she hopes the younger generation will become enthralled with all that the outdoors has to offer, including hunting. She has seen some indications that could be happening.

“We’re seeing children taking the hunter ed course whose parents haven’t taken a hunter ed course,” she said. “I think the children are coming around and telling their parents what they need to do to be safe. You know, a lot of people in Alabama are grandfathered in. That could be part of it. We’ve also seen a lot of kids coming to hunter ed and dragging their parents who have never hunted with them. That’s interesting.”

Woman dies from injuries sustained in elk attack

Editor’s Note: As more people move to the country, they must understand the wildlife and the risks associated with literally invading their living grounds. Larger or smaller wild animals are not pets and bring larger predators to your door as well.

A woman has died eight days after being hospitalized as the result of an apparent elk attack on her property in the Pine Lake community in the Hualapai Mountains, about 15 miles southeast of Kingman.

The attack occurred on the afternoon of Oct. 26 while the woman’s husband was in Kingman. According to the husband, when he returned around 6 p.m., he found his wife on the ground in the backyard with injuries consistent with being trampled by an elk. He also observed a bucket of spilled corn nearby. There were no witnesses to the event.

The husband called 911, and his wife was transported first to the Kingman Regional Medical Center and then to Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas. According to the husband, she was put into a medically induced coma due to the extent of her injuries.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) did not learn about the attack until the next day, Oct. 27, when a local resident informed a department officer. On Oct. 28, another AZGFD officer visited the community, put door hanger warning signs on residences along the road advising people not to approach or feed elk, and spoke with the victim’s husband and other residents. While at the victim’s residence, the officer observed multiple elk tracks in the yard.

On Nov. 3, AZGFD was contacted by the Kingman Police Department advising that the Clark County (Las Vegas) Coroner’s Office notified them the victim had passed away. AZGFD officers went door to door in the Pine Lake community that evening, putting out more door hanger warning signs and two roadside warning signs advising people not to approach or feed elk.

This is believed to be the first fatal elk attack in Arizona. There have been five reported elk attacks in the state during the past five years. Feeding is one of the main sources of conflict between humans and wildlife. Fed wildlife becomes habituated to humans. For example, in 2015, two children suffered minor injuries after a food-seeking elk circled a picnic table from which their family was eating in the Hualapai Mountains. In 2021, an adult female received serious head injuries from an elk that was habituated to humans in Pine.

Application cycles open for outdoor rec grants

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is accepting applications for more than \$500,000 in recreation grants. Applications will be accepted for the Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program and the Summer Motorized Trail Pass Grant Program. Applications can be submitted through the online system at funding.mt.gov. Application deadline is Feb.1, 2024.

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program: This is a state-funded grant program. This program provides project funding with the goal of enhancing and maintaining OHV recreational opportunities for the benefit of OHV enthusiasts in Montana.

- Applications accepted: Nov. 15 – Feb. 1, 2024
- Awards announced: May
- Contracts issued and projects begin: July
- Anticipated funding available for awards: \$200,000
- More information: fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/grant-programs/off-highway-vehicle

Summer Motorized Trail Pass Grant Program: A grant program funded through the creation of the OHV Trail Pass. This is the program's third grant cycle. The program will award funds to non-federal entities for the maintenance of OHV trails on public lands.

- Applications accepted: Nov. 15 – Feb. 1, 2024
- Awards announced: May
- Contracts issued and projects begin: July
- Anticipated funding available for awards: \$300,000
- More information: fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/grant-programs/summer-motorized-trail-pass

Training sessions will be offered as needed for prospective applicants of the Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program and Summer Motorized Trail Pass Grant Programs.

For more information on attending a grant application training session or applying to one of these opportunities, visit: fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/grant-programs.

For questions about the Summer Motorized Trail Pass Grant Program and the Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program, contact Seth McArthur at SMcArthur@mt.gov.

Green dream failing? *Wind Farms:* Energy giants [BP](#) and [Equinor](#) have booked hundreds of millions of dollars worth of impairments on their US offshore wind power portfolios in recent days, the latest examples of a renewable energy industry in turmoil.

They are among several energy firms trying to build new offshore wind farms, but feeling pain, raising questions about the projects that President Biden hopes can help fight climate change.

Biden's administration wants the US to deploy 30,000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind by 2030 from only 41 MW now, a key part of his plan to decarbonize the power sector and revitalize domestic manufacturing, and has passed lucrative subsidies aimed at helping companies do that.

Obstacles include:

Inflation: Supply issues and increased costs for equipment and labor.

Interest Rates: Some contracts have no mechanism to adjust for higher interest rates or costs. Some developers have paid to get out of their contracts rather than build them and face years of losses or low returns.

Insufficient Subsidies: Bonus incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), for using domestic materials and for siting projects in disadvantaged communities are too hard to secure, and are crucial to making projects work in a high-cost environment.

EVs: Honda and General Motors (GM) are scrapping a plan to jointly develop affordable electric vehicles, the companies just announced, a year after they agreed to work together in a \$5 billion effort to try to beat Tesla in sales.

The decision underscores GM's strategic shift to slow the launch of several EV models to focus on profitability, as it grapples with the rising cost of United Auto Workers strikes, which surged to \$200 million a week this month.

Over 148,000 acres restored in Utah watershed

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative works to improve and restore high-priority watersheds and habitats throughout the state. During this past fiscal year — between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 — a whopping total of 148,883 acres were improved across Utah through this unique and innovative program.

Created in 2006, this Utah Department of Natural Resources [partnership-based program](#), focuses on improving watershed health and biological diversity, increasing water quality and yield, and improving opportunities for sustainable uses of natural resources, including restoring fish and wildlife habitats. As one of the initiative's founding partners, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources plays a key role in planning, overseeing and completing regional restoration projects.

[Between 2022-23, Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative completed](#) a lot of habitat restoration work, including:

- Restoring 148,883 acres across Utah, including 31,518 acres burned by wildfires.
- Mixing and spreading 523,120 pounds of seed on various landscapes (including those burned by fires) across Utah.
- Completing a total of 101 habitat restoration projects.
- Improving 262 miles of streams.
- Creating an estimated 644 jobs in the state.

Over \$37 million of total funding was invested by more than 86 partners to pay for the different restoration projects. Part of the funding for these projects comes from the [DWR Habitat Council](#), which is funded by a portion of revenue from the fees customers pay for licenses, permits, stamps and certificates of registration. Other funding partners include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, conservation groups and many other non-government organizations.

Habitat work through Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative includes:

- Aerial seeding after a wildfire.
- Removing encroaching trees for sagebrush preservation and rangeland fire management.
- Prescribed fires to reduce fire fuels in an area (which reduces the risk of a catastrophic wildfire) and to enhance the aspen habitat utilized by many wildlife species.
- Stream restoration through various techniques, including an innovative method of building artificial beaver dams. This unique dam-mimicking technique was conceptualized in Utah and decreases erosion, raises river levels and even improves water quality.
- Planting shrubs and sagebrush to provide feed and shelter for mule deer, sage-grouse and other wildlife species.

“These proactive projects to improve wildlife habitat and watershed health throughout the state are crucial, not only for our fish and wildlife species, but also for the residents of Utah,” Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative Program Director Tyler Thompson said. “It takes a great deal of coordination and funding to make these projects possible, and we are very grateful to our many partners and their continued support of wildlife conservation and improving water quality.”

Since 2006, this program has improved over 2.5 million acres of Utah's landscapes through a total of 2,700 restoration projects and has created an estimated 6,560 jobs. [Visit the WRI website](#) to see where these projects have taken place across the state.

In case you missed this ...

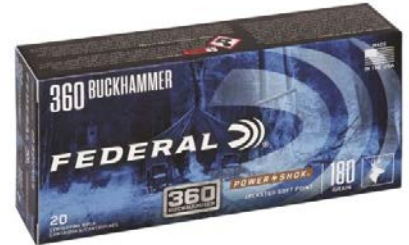
Temperatures have been climbing across the US, especially [in the winter months](#), with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data showing that average daily temperatures from December through February have been 34.5 degrees Fahrenheit over the past decade, two degrees warmer than the average in the last half of the 1900s.

Federal Ammunition launches new Power-Shok

ANOKA, Minnesota — Federal Ammunition adds the new 360 Buckhammer cartridge to its Power-Shok product line. 360 Buckhammer is a brand new straight-wall cartridge recently launched by Remington Ammunition. It is specifically designed for lever-actions and is deadly-accurate past 200 yards. This new product is shipping to dealers and is available.

[Power-Shok Rifle 360 Buckhammer | Federal Ammunition](#)

“The tag-filling efficiency of Federal Power-Shok has made it a legend in hunting camps ranging from the Northwoods to the mountains and everywhere in between,” said Federal’s Centerfire Ammunition Product Line Manager Eric Miller. “Our traditional lead-core hunting bullets offer accurate performance at an affordable price. It is a great combination for this new cartridge. We certainly are excited to offer it in 360 Buckhammer.”



The two Power-Shok offerings in the all-new 360 Buckhammer cartridge are 180- and 200-grain jacketed soft-point bullets. The 180-grain option is currently available, and the 200-grain option is coming soon. The .358 diameter bullet delivers energy and trajectory like 30-30 Win., with softer recoil for better accuracy in the field.

Summary of features include: New 360 Buckhammer cartridge specially designed for lever-action rifles; .358 diameter bullet provides ballistics and power like 30-30 Win., with softer recoil; Straight-wall cartridge legal in more previously slug-only areas; Jacketed soft-point bullet; 20-round boxes; MSRP: \$36.99.

OK Senate panel, wildlife commission hear turkey study update

Editor’s Note: We at QUWF have raised the predator effect on ground nesting birds for years. It always was rejected saying it was a natural control. Science proves otherwise as we understand the ever-increasing populations of local predators and the devastating affect they can have. Many biologists still reject any consideration of predators and so do some state agencies and larger Conservation Grant Funding sources rejected nesting box research on wild turkey. It may not be the golden bullet in all areas, but it may be in some for quail and turkey alike.

Provided by the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Oklahoma State University

Wild turkey genetics, nesting success, and brood survival are among the research topics in a 4.5-year, \$2 million study launched in 2022 by the [Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation](#), the [Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit](#), and partnering with National Wild Turkey Federation, Turkeys For Tomorrow, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation, and private landowners to address wild turkey population dynamics. Following is a summary of recent study activities.

Project principal investigator Colter Chitwood presented updates to the [Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) and to the Tourism and Wildlife Committee of the Oklahoma Senate in October.

In his presentation to the Commission, Chitwood, an assistant professor in the Oklahoma State University Department of Natural Resources Ecology and Management, shared some of the data collected after research over two nesting seasons in southeastern Oklahoma and over one nesting season in southwestern Oklahoma.

Preliminary data (from southwest/southeast study areas) at nest sites studied suggest hen mortality due to predators was 60/80 percent; nest success was 9/22 percent; predator-related nest loss was 13/77 percent; and poult survival was 14/0 percent.

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Notes from the Road:

The wall of worry even exists in wildlife management



By Nick Prough — If I added up all the different “obstacles” and things that landowners continuously worry about week after week and year after year when they are trying to improve their wildlife habitat or trying to increase their wildlife population trends on their lands, then I would often need a whole lot more than two hands to count them on, in fact in most years I would probably need a calculator.

Wildlife management is not different from many other aspects of tasks we try to manage in our lives, our finances, our jobs, our educations, our kids, our relationships, our home/auto repairs, our retirements, our health, our insurance, and so on and so on. There are many things that arise each and every year that can become a direct or indirect obstacle to

achieving our goals we have set for the property we own or are managing.

In financial management, they often talk about the “Wall of Worry” and how there are so many items on the wall during certain years that the wall becomes beyond overwhelming to even begin to tackle and no matter what comes off the wall two more things generally replace it. Well, in wildlife management in some years or sets of a couple years as it often occurs that same wall of worry can become ominous itself.

I heard a few years ago on the news a news anchor say, “How can we have a 100-year flood three years in a row?” That can be hard to comprehend for many reasons to many of us, and although science can explain it in detail (not enough space in this column), it is rather hard to often try to overcome major weather extremes that occur back-to-back or other major factors beyond your control when you are trying to work on long term farm management or habitat management on a specific tract of ground. Especially when several of those factors occur simultaneously or in concurrent years.

The “Wall of Worry” can exist and even grow over a couple years with even exact opposite things to worry about occurring during that short amount of time, and this has definitely been seen before and will be again; for example, going from extreme drought to intense flooding all in the matter of one to two years time period.

Here are just a few off the top of my head the many wall of worry candidates that landowners have called me about the past few year: extreme drought, extreme floods, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), tick-borne illnesses, invasive species, more invasive species, overharvest, underharvest, overgrazing, under grazing, nest predators, nesting issues, adjoining property management, erosion, tree diseases, timber stolen, right of way issues, log jams, too many of a species, to few of a species — the list as you can see goes on and on and that is by no means a complete list just a three-minute brainstorm of just a few of the calls on the ever growing wildlife management wall of worry.

All of these concerns have a place on specific landowner’s wall of worries I am certain in their minds and although all of them probably won’t occur on any one tract at the same years time period if even a few of those occur every few years it can feel to a landowner and land manager that they are in the process of taking two steps forward and two steps back or walking in circles for many years without much true measurable gain in your long-term goals. As a biologist and land manager myself for now well over 3 decades I can fully understand the wall of worry and yes honestly, I have my own wall of worry as well for many different landowners and habitat projects ongoing each and every year. However, I have learned over many years of doing this that just as in life we can only control the things we can control, the rest is truly out of our hands and yes out of our control, so to worry about those is just a futile process that gets us nowhere.

To quote a patient of a doctor landowner I know his patient once said to him, “I even worry about worrying these days.” So, as we begin to start to look towards yet another brand-new year and yet another item or two, we think has been added to our wall of worry keep this one point in mind. One of the biggest truly justified worries I have for landowners and land managers these days is that they worry so much about the obstacles to doing some habitat work that they do nothing at all instead. I see this on so many tracts of land over the years where almost nothing has been done for 10-20 years and the results then usually are something that someone will definitely have to worry about for many years to come. hat I truly believe is the biggest worry we have in wild management to overcome in the next decade.

Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 10 — The genetics part of the research has collected about 300 tissue samples from 62 of Oklahoma’s 77 counties, along with several provided from Texas and New Mexico to serve as reference samples.

At the project’s outset, researchers said leading hypotheses to explain wild turkey declines were predation, weather, land use changes, and loss of genetic diversity.

The project’s objectives are:

- To provide ODWC with data to better manage wild turkey populations.
- To provide recommendations to private landowners, land managers, and hunters regarding wild turkey management.
- To aid in understanding regional declines in wild turkey populations.

GENETICS STUDY: Researchers continue to analyze genetics data.

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA POPULATION STUDY AREA: Southwestern team lead Cody Griffin presented information about the study at the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Annual Cooperators Meeting.

SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA POPULATION STUDY AREA: Southeastern team lead Cyrena Bedoian secured the required zoosanitary form to ship swabs collected at mortality sites to Wildlife Genetics International (WGI) in Canada. The swabs will hopefully provide additional data on the species of predators at hen and nest mortality events. She continued to refine objectives and the camera deployment plan for the upcoming field season.

Team members made a site visit to check on radio-tagged hens and download data, and they relocated four of the birds that were missing during the previous visit.

Project teams in both areas continued preparations for winter captures. Technician candidates were interviewed, and one was hired. Interviews and hiring continued into November. Team members in both areas continued field visits to try to relocate radio-tagged birds from the previous capture season.

Continued from Page 11 — If we tackle the things we can work on and keep on keeping on with our wildlife habitat management plan we have for our long- term goals on the landscape then the remaining things on our current wall of worry with eventually cancel one another out and leave us with some great looking habitat we have helped create in the process.

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are definitely ... “Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time!”

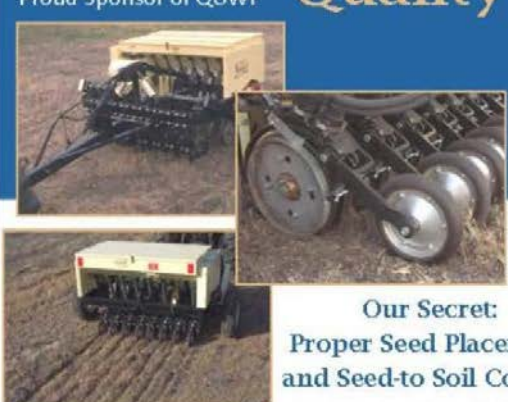
Nick Prough is the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation chief biologist and landowner liaison.

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Maryland DNR announces bird stamp winner

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) is pleased to announce that Jim Taylor of Towson won the 50th Annual Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest. Taylor is now one of two six-time winners.

“Congratulations to Mr. Taylor and all participants who took part in this years contest,” [Wildlife and Heritage Service](#) Director Karina Stonesifer said. “Artists from all over the country entered our final contest and we want to express our great appreciation and gratitude to all of the artists through the 50 years of this contest for their participation and support.”

Taylor won the 2024-2025 contest with his beautiful rendition of a pair of American black ducks flying over the marsh, titled “[May They Always Fly.](#)”

This contest was the final Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design contest, as the physical stamp is no longer required or produced. The Department of Natural Resources will produce a limited run of 50th Anniversary commemorative decals in 2024 depicting this artwork.

“I am so proud to have my acrylic painting of black ducks judged as the winner for the 50th Anniversary and the last Maryland waterfowl stamp competition,” Taylor said. “My first Maryland duck stamp painting entry was in 1982 and I have been fortunate since then to be a six-time Maryland duck stamp winning artist joining the late David Turnbaugh as the only other six-time Maryland winner.”

Taylor is a Maryland native from Kent County, where he first developed his love for painting waterfowl and other wildlife. He is a graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art. Reporters interested in speaking with Taylor can reach him at jimtaylorart@comcast.net.

Going forward, in place of an attached physical stamp, anyone [hunting migratory game birds](#) must possess a printed receipt showing proof of purchase of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp.



We can be thankful for Vermont’s wild turkeys

Editor’s Note: We at QUWF and in the outdoor industry are very thankful for the natural harvests of wild game with the natural protein and quality of that table fare. An added historical benefit is the absolute, exceptional experience of being outdoors, seeing nature in the real sense and for 1% of the outdoorsman, actually working on the wildlife habitat that is so critical for all of this to continue.

One of our native wildlife species historically played an important role on Thanksgiving Day. North America’s native wild turkeys were the ancestors of the Thanksgiving turkey on our dinner table.

Originally found only in the wild, turkeys now exist as meat-producing domesticated derivatives -- the broad breasted white, broad breasted bronze, white Holland, bourbon red, and a host of other breeds – all of them descended from our native wild turkey.

More than 140,000 servings of Vermont wild turkeys are harvested each year – that’s 140,000 servings of free-ranging, wild and sustainably harvested protein.

Wild turkeys exist throughout Vermont today, but that was not always the case. Wild turkeys disappeared from Vermont in the mid-to-late 1800s due to habitat destruction when land was cleared for farming and only 25 percent of the state was covered by forest.

The wild turkeys we see in Vermont today originated from just 31 wild turkeys stocked in Southwestern Vermont by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department in 1969 and 1970. Vermont’s forest habitat was once again capable of supporting turkeys. State wildlife biologists moved groups of these birds northward, and today Vermont’s population of turkeys is estimated at close to 50,000.

This is just one of many wildlife restoration success stories we can be thankful for in 2023. Funding for Vermont’s wild turkey restoration was derived from the sale of hunting licenses and a federal tax on hunting equipment.

FWP recruiting applicants for AmeriCorps program

After Hunter Sickerson graduated from MSU-Billings with honors, he knew he wasn't ready to settle down in a typical 8-to-5 job. He worked in the field of archeology, conducting surveys on archeological sites for a private firm until he heard about an opportunity for national service through Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks AmeriCorps.

“AmeriCorps is a unique opportunity that can open a person's view of the world in a new way,” Sickerson said.

As a heritage program specialist, Sickerson rerouted trails on Wildhorse Island at Flathead Lake State Park, renovated a native plant garden at Travelers' Rest State Park, accompanied a paleontology dig at Makoshika State Park and served meals to the community of Pryor at Chief Plenty Coups State Park.

“My favorite part of my service this past year was the friendships that grew out of a group of seeming strangers at first.” Sickerson said. “By the end, it felt like a small family.”

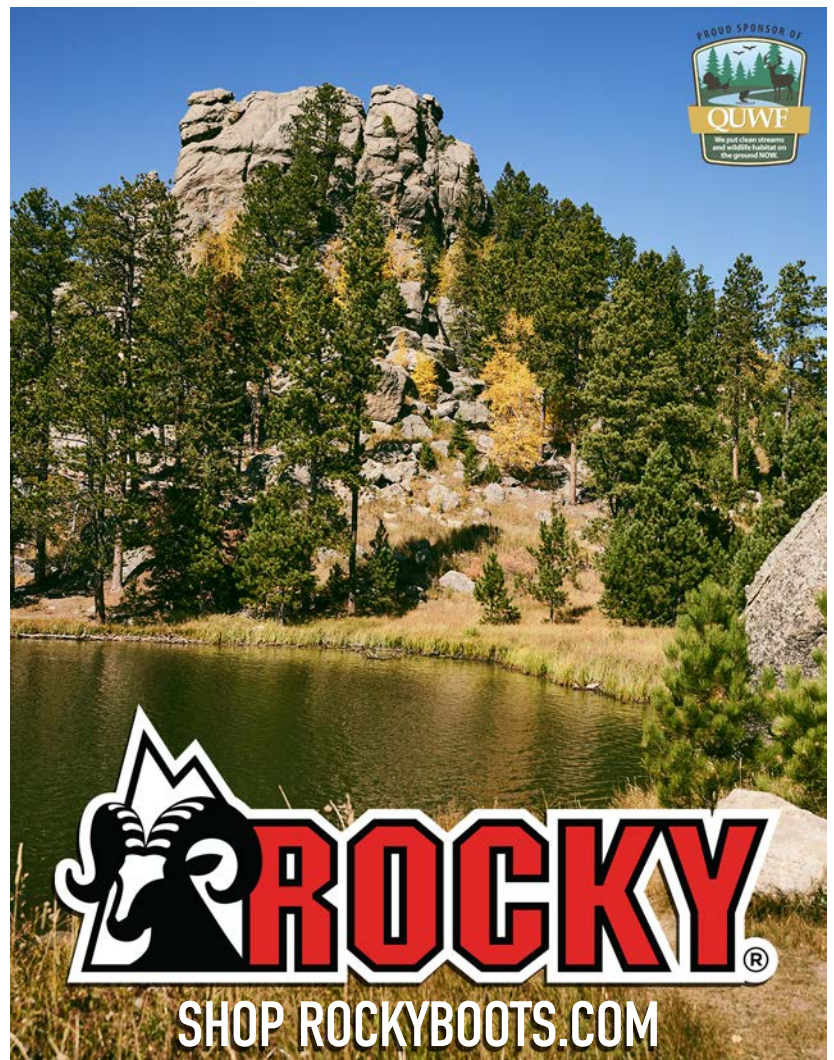
FWP is currently recruiting individuals to serve in 10-month AmeriCorps positions beginning in January. Applicants range in age from 18 to 80 and will serve and connect with the public at state parks, FWP regional offices and outdoor recreation sites across Montana.

Since the program's inception in 2012, FWP's AmeriCorps members have taught thousands of school children in outdoor classrooms, developed interpretive trail guides and signs and presented programs to diverse audiences from around the world.

FWP AmeriCorps members:

- Receive a living allowance of \$19,538 over 44-week term of service and a \$300 housing stipend per month.
- Receive an AmeriCorps education award of \$7,395 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Are eligible for deferment on qualified student loans.
- Receive guaranteed health benefits and childcare assistance if qualified.
- Gain experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, park management, interpretive services, education, community outreach and volunteer management.

“The payoff of the AmeriCorps program is only as good as the effort and dedication you put forth,” Sickerson said. “I'm happy I took the risk and the opportunity to join the FWP AmeriCorps program.”



Fish, wildlife recreation contributes to Ohio economy

A recently released report from the Wildlife Management Institute, Responsive Management, and Southwick Associates showed that wildlife-based recreation contributed nearly \$12.5 billion to Ohio’s economy in 2022, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

“Ohio has rolling hills for hunting, vast waterways for fishing, and thriving habitats for birding,” Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said. “The diverse natural wonders of Ohio prove once again the state really is ‘The Heart of it All.’”

The study was conducted for the Division of Wildlife and surveyed Ohio residents to gauge their participation in outdoor recreation and the economic impact of those activities. The survey primarily focused on Ohioans’ involvement in hunting, fishing, target shooting, and wildlife viewing. Ohio residents ages 18 and older, including licensed hunters and anglers, completed telephone and email surveys.



Collectively, the four study activities provided nearly 80,000 jobs in Ohio and \$4 billion in income, plus \$1.1 billion in local and state taxes, as well as more than \$600 million in federal taxes. The activities contributed a total of \$6.7 billion to Ohio’s GDP in 2022. Of the \$12.5 billion of economic activity created through these activities, residents contributed \$12 billion.

“We’ve always appreciated the great outdoors of Ohio and the natural spaces it has to offer,” Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said. “Beyond the environmental benefits, this report shows the economic value of Ohio’s topography and wildlife.”

Continued on Page 15

QUWF welcomes All veterans. All the time.

The Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation was formed to focus on and help veteran landowners, veteran sportsmen, and all veterans who are interested in the great outdoors.

QUWF staff will help all veterans find and get benefit assistance through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or other resources.

You are NOT alone.

Veterans who served our country honorably deserve and have earned the right now to enjoy its freedoms and receive the support and benefits they deserve.

We are the ONLY VETERAN FORMED and managed national wildlife and conservation organization in the U.S. QUWF and our chapters support veteran businesses as well. Let us know.



Continued from Page 15 — Fishing

According to the survey, about 18% of Ohio's adults fished in 2022, a legion of 1.7 million anglers. Ohio's anglers combined to spend \$5.5 billion last year and supported more than 34,000 jobs. Not surprisingly, the most popular counties for anglers were those along Lake Erie and the Ohio River, and 37% of anglers took at least one trip to Lake Erie to fish.

Hunting

Hunters generated \$1.9 billion in spending last year and supported 12,000 jobs. Each of the state's 500,000 hunters spent an average of \$3,500. Approximately 5% of Ohioans older than 18 hunt. White-tailed deer were the most popular game species, with 91% of hunters taking part. Firearms were used by 83% of hunters, a bow by 72%, and many used both.

Target shooting

Meanwhile, 1.1 million target shooters spent \$2.6 billion in 2022, supporting more than 22,000 jobs. Around 20% of Ohioans participate in target shooting each year. Outdoor shooting ranges were used by 71% of target shooters, and indoor ranges by 46%. Interestingly, 40% of target shooters visited the range for reasons other than preparing to hunt. Hamilton, Franklin, and Cuyahoga counties – Ohio's most populous counties – were among the most popular for target shooters, as were Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

Wildlife viewing

Wildlife viewers poured \$1.6 billion into Ohio's economy last year and supported 11,500 jobs. Most (91%) of the 4.1 million viewers looked for birds. Mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians were also sought out. Wildlife viewers, a group that included photographers, were likely to stay near home, with a third of participants traveling fewer than 10 miles to enjoy their hobby. A third of wildlife viewers also relied exclusively on public land, emphasizing the importance of making these recreation areas accessible.

View the complete outdoor recreation participation and economic impact study at wildohio.gov.

“Ohio's fish and wildlife resources are a tremendous asset to Ohio's economy,” Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker said. “We have always appreciated the significant financial contributions of Ohio's anglers, hunters, target shooters, and birders. It is reassuring to see these benefits confirmed through the recent survey.”

Those looking to get involved in hunting, fishing, target shooting, or wildlife viewing can visit wildohio.gov for a variety of resources. The [Wild Ohio Harvest Community](#) offers classes, online learning modules, and more to help Ohioans get outside.

Hunters, anglers, and shooters support wildlife conservation with their purchases of licenses and permits, and wildlife viewers can purchase the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp to help declining species. License, permit, and stamp sales fund the Division of Wildlife's projects and programs that benefit wildlife and people. The Division of Wildlife manages or cooperatively manages more than 2 million acres of water and 750,000 acres of diverse wildlife areas. These habitats support popular game species such as deer, turkey, and walleye as well as key species such as bald eagles and monarch butterflies.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit wildohio.gov to find out more.



First of Iowa’s gun deer hunting seasons begins Dec. 2

Editor’s Note: Review the paragraph on the use of cell phones or radios during the hunt. It basically comes down to safety only.

Iowa’s most popular hunting seasons are less than two weeks away when more than 100,000 blaze orange clad hunters will be walking, posting, sitting and standing in Iowa’s timber and field edges hoping to tag an Iowa deer. The first deer gun season is Dec. 2-6; the second deer gun season is Dec. 9-17.

The good news is, that Iowa’s deer population is stable to slightly increasing across much of the state, with the exception of certain parts of northwest, west central and southwest Iowa.

“The gun seasons are the most popular of all of our hunting seasons, a lot of great tradition and memories are made during this time,” said Jace Elliott, state deer biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “These two seasons also play an important role for our deer herd management with more than 50 percent of the total harvest typically occurring during these 14 days in December.”

In 2022, hunters reported harvesting 109,600 deer and Elliott is predicting a similar harvest this year. So far in 2023, more than 25,000 deer have been harvested, which is slightly higher than each of the last two years’ harvest up to this point.

“Based on the reported harvest from our earlier seasons, we are expecting a similar harvest total again this year,” he said. “Data from our population surveys suggest there should be just as much, if not more, opportunity to harvest deer as past years in most regions of Iowa.”

While hunter success in earlier seasons has been good, Mother Nature can play a role when hunting opportunities are much shorter. Cool weather with snowfall on opening day leads to higher harvest; warm weather with rain leads to lower harvest. The way too early forecast calls for above normal temperatures.

Continued on Page 19

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Review all products online at www.alpsbrands.com

Continued from Page 17 — Method of take for the gun seasons

Over time, the type of firearm allowed in the gun season has expanded from the original shotgun-only, to include muzzleloaders, handguns and, most recently, rifles.

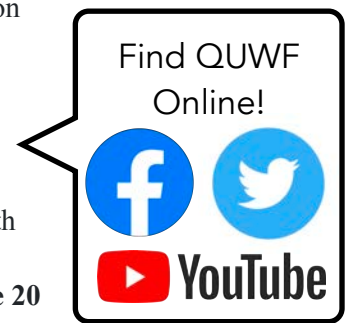
Rifles shooting expanding type bullet with a maximum diameter of no less than .350 of an inch and no larger than .500 of an inch with a published or calculated muzzle energy of 500 foot pounds or higher are allowed as a method of take in the gun season. The hunting regulations has a list of allowable cartridges that has generated the most questions.

Based on the recent deer hunter survey, the method of hunting during the gun season is split nearly 50-50 between hunters who prefer drive hunting (pushing deer towards hunters on post) and those who prefer stationary hunting (sitting in a tree stand, ground blind, etc.).

Changes to deer seasons

- The antlerless deer quota has been adjusted in 24 counties.
- The Population Management January antlerless-only season will be offered in Allamakee, Winneshiek, Decatur, Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas and Wayne counties if the number of unsold antlerless licenses on the third Monday in December exceeds 100 tags. This season allows the use of any legal method of take, including shotguns, handguns, muzzleloaders, bows, crossbows, and center-fire rifles .223 and larger.
- The Excess Tag January antlerless-only season will be held in any county that still has unsold county antlerless tags by January 10. Only centerfire rifles .223 caliber and above are allowed during this season.
- A new requirement for hunters who harvest an antlered deer is reporting the length of the main beam of each antler.

Continued on Page 20



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Continued from Page 19 — Phone use while hunting

Reminder to hunters that the use of cellphones, one or two-way radios to communicate the location or direction of game or furbearing animals or to coordinate the movement of other hunters is prohibited.

Outside of very few and specific exceptions, modern technology, including social media and instant messaging apps, is not allowed to assist with the hunt. Hunters are encouraged to keep their phone on their person and not in a backpack for safety reasons.

Be sure to report your harvest

Hunters who harvest a deer are required to report their harvest by midnight on the day after it is tagged or before taking it to a locker or taxidermist. The hunter whose name is on the transportation tag is responsible for making the report. If no deer is harvested, no report is necessary.

Successful hunters have the option to report the harvest by texting the registration number to 1-800-771-4692 and follow the prompts, through the Go Outdoors Iowa app, online at www.iowadnr.gov, by phone at the number listed on the tag, or through a license vendor during their regular business hours.

Main beam antler length added to harvest reporting requirement

Beginning this year, Iowa deer hunters who harvest a buck will have a quick, additional piece of information to report as part of the harvest reporting requirement – the length of the main antler beam. Specifically, hunters will be asked if the main beam length is below or above 14 inches, but will not be required to provide the exact length.

This information will provide buck age structure to the DNR’s harvest data, producing a better overall picture of Iowa’s deer herd from year to year.

Online hunting atlas

Hunters have an online tool that may improve their in-field experience, even before opening day.

The Iowa hunting atlas is an interactive map that shows all available public hunting land that is managed by the state, county or federal governments. The atlas is online at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting.

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Electric vehicles: New York is staying with traditional diesel-powered snow plows after rejecting electric vehicles proposed as a replacement.

Just over 3 years ago the New York Department of Sanitation bought several Mack electric trucks to be set up for double duty as part of a goal to become CO2-neutral. New York differs from many cities in that its garbage trucks double as snow removal vehicles when and if required.

The New York Sun flagged the failure just over 12 months ago when it first reported, “New York City officials say the electric garbage trucks it has purchased in the name of combatting climate change cannot do double duty as snowplows — ‘they basically conked out after four hours.’”

The outlet concluded, “the future of snow removal is probably diesel.”

* * * *

New Metals: The venture capital arms of General Motors and Stellantis are among investors sinking \$33 million into a Minnesota company with technology to make magnets for electric vehicle motors without using expensive rare-earth metals.

Niron Magnetics of Minneapolis says it can build permanent magnets by using iron nitride, which is abundant and inexpensive compared with rare-earth minerals.

The investment announced Wednesday comes as electric vehicle sales growth is starting to slow and GM and Ford have started to pull back on their spending. But Kai Daniels, supervising principal of GM Ventures, said the company is proceeding with its EV plans.

* * * *

Rivian: The CEO and lobbyists of Rivian, an electric vehicle manufacturer, held a quiet meeting at the White House with Biden’s Climate Czar, John Podesta.

John Podesta previously served as chairman of Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign, then oversaw the distribution of \$369 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

According to media reports, Rivian is deep in the red. Last year, they lost \$6.8 billion. In 2021, it was \$4.7 billion, which is in addition to the \$1 billion lost in 2020. These massive losses happened as EV manufacturers enjoyed large subsidies both to build and sell their vehicles.

One little known aspect of the IRA are so-called “green banks.” Unlike regular banks, these green banks do not need to make a profit to stay afloat because the government is their funder.





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