

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:  
What chain saws we choose and why



The most important responsibility we have as citizens of this country is to vote.

The criticality of this upcoming election to our republic, I think, is the most important one since our very founding. There are forces trying to change the very fabric of our nation. This requires every person who can, get out and vote. Every sportsman, veteran, or person of any religious denomination who are citizens of this country need to get out and VOTE in November.

We as a nation, cannot sustain the destruction of our ability to own homes, feed our families or enjoy the right.

Talk to your friends, neighbors and community members. Get them out to VOTE!

- Craig Alderman



**By Craig Alderman** — I have been swinging a chain saw since I was 11 or so on the farm. It is a critical tool on any farm or homestead that has trees, cuts firewood or does timber stand improvement. As a certified forester, chain saws are still my most used tool on the QUWF farm and when working with landowners and neighbors.

Many times I get asked, “What is the ‘best chain saw’?” Well, there isn’t just one for me, and here is why. Understand, I cut on average two to three large trees every two weeks — more after storms — and trim or limb countless others on trails and creeks. We walk the walk at QUWF. No one saw is the best for all the uses we need, and I’ll explain that below.

By the way, we get no support from STIHL; all of this is on our own dollar. I have tried many other brands but now, just STIHL.

**NOTE:** All of our saws and small gas engines are run on ethanol-FREE fuel for the mix. Ethanol has a horrible track record on destroying carburetors in very short order. How do we use them?

**Tree felling:** Of course, the bigger saw in my Woodsman’s Box on the tractor is my tree felling and large limb trimming workhorse. For this I use a STIHL 362 with a 25-inch bar. Its medium HP range is great for landowners, farmers and ranchers. As with most STIHL options, this saw is very good on fuel consumption.



Why the 362 — its HP, handling, and dependability are indeed perfect for what I do. Here, a local dealer is my support system and has taken good care of all our saws for nearly 20 years.

**Limbing and small tree felling:** Many times, and I’d say a good majority of the time, a smaller, lighter saw is in my hands. This saw is designed as an arborist tool.



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**Continued from Page 1** — It is, without a doubt, my go-to-saw for the majority of trimming, small tree removal, and trail clearing.

With now over 50 years in the woods, the lighter weight is very much appreciated, and it is a true work horse. The model I recommend is the STIHL 194T with a 14-inch bar.

They are exceptionally easy on fuel consumption, start all the time when maintained right, cut like a champ and did I mention they are a light saw to handle for hours.

**Limb trimming, trail maintenance:** There is no doubt here in Missouri — trees and shrubs grow at a very fast rate and can overgrow on all trails. We trim yearly on rotating sections to keep from getting hit on machinery or actually cause damage to equipment on the trails from protruding limbs and/or storm damage limbs hanging over the trails. Enter the pole saw.

We use and abuse the STIHL HT 101 pole saw. This saw can really build up your biceps as it can reach up 14 feet in addition to your height. If you clear trails for the farm, running your ATV/UTV or side by side, this too is a must have saw. The 12-inch blade is perfect and can handle about any limb task.

As with any pole saw, you are working over your head so be extra careful and keep the saw blade very sharp. A dull blade will stick on a partially cut limb binding the blade. It can be a chore getting the blade out 16 feet above the ground.

One hint here — we use this on cedars to remove the bottom limbs so we can reach the trunk and cut it without getting torn up by the cedar branches. Same with honey locust to avoid the long thorns.

*We carry all three, all the time when working in the woods with the QUWF designed Woodsman's Tractor Box or in the QUWF Wildlife Habitat Trailer. Both plans are FREE on the QUWF website. (see photos at right)*

The box is designed with a removable top shelf, many tool holders, and has brackets for the pole saw to be carried easily through the woods. The box is equipped with wheels on the bottom so it can be easily moved around in the barn for storage. This is a class one 3-point hitch design. It also includes a paper towel dispenser, spray can and tool holder.

*The QUWF Habitat Wagon can carry all the tools, a compressor, and a crew of two more people as it is built on a compact AG wagon chassis with a 2-inch ball hitch, hauling up to 3,000 pounds.*

**What to carry with the various saws:** Safety equipment is a must all the time, but for this section it is backup parts and accessories we carry to keep the job going in the woods. The Woodsman's Box features a clamp on vise to make it much easier for sharpening in the woods.

**With and for each saw we carry:** spare fuel (no ethanol) and chain oil, normally 2.5 gallons of fuel for a day, chain and bar cover for each saw, two spare chains, a spare bar, several of the right size files and flat file for the depth gauges, spare tension/bar nuts for each, STIHL wrenches, and the Carb screwdriver.



**Continued on Page 3**

**Continued from Page 2** — We also have spare caps for the fuel and oil tanks, and yes, we have had to replace them if dropped or broken.

**Other accessories:** Synthetic wedges, wedge hammer, timberjack, full size axe, pry bar, first aid kit with bleeding stop kit, 4-ton come along winch. I carry a standard screw driver and small hammer in case I need to un-pinch the blade slot.

**A highly recommended item for all field or woods work** — a GMRS radio. We have a 50-watt installed in the house and 40-watt in the RTV with handhelds for personal carry. The radios can reach the entire farm and all adjacent farms with a range of 30 miles with ease.

You may make other choices based on your needs and budget. These saws are a long term investment and deserve to be maintained as needed to last for decades, and they will.

*Craig Alderman is the QUWF executive director.*

## Tree stand safety tips for hunters

Tree stands get hunters out of sight and smell of wary deer, but they can also get hunters into trouble. Here are some tips from Vermont Fish and Wildlife to help stay safe and get the most out of your tree stand hunting experience:

- **Choose a live, straight tree**, and avoid ash that may be in decline due to emerald ash borers.
- **Buy smart.** Only use stands certified by the [Treestand Manufacturers Association \(TMA\)](#).
- **Inspect them each time you use them.** Check your treestand for wear and tear each time you go out into the woods.
- **Know the rules. (check your state for any requirements)** On VT state lands, it is illegal to place nails or other hardware into trees or to build permanent structures. On private lands, you must have landowner permission to erect a tree stand, cut or remove trees or other plants, or to cut limbs. All stands, including ground blinds, must be marked with the owner's name and address.
- **Always wear a full-body safety harness, even for climbing.** Most falls occur going up and down the tree and getting in and out of the stand. Make sure your safety harness is in good condition. Especially, check the straps.
- **Don't go too high.** The higher you go, the smaller the vital zone on a deer becomes, while the likelihood of a serious injury increases. Climb within your personal limit.
- **Never carry firearms or bows up and down trees.** Always use a haul line to raise and lower all gear. Make sure your firearm is unloaded.
- **Familiarize yourself with your gear before you go.** The morning of opening day is a poor time to put your safety belt on for the first time.
- **Be careful with long-term placement.** Exposure can damage straps, ropes and attachment cords. Also, the stand's stability can be compromised over time, as the tree grows.



“Hunter education instructors want you to be safe this coming season,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. “Falls from tree stands are a major cause of death and serious injury to hunters, but they are preventable by always wearing a full-body harness and staying connected to the tree.” Learn more about **Tree Stand Safety** here: <https://www.tmastands.com/safety/>

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova [direct](#) 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.

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# Pheasant hunting season in Idaho weeks away

Whether you are a new hunter or a seasoned veteran, pheasant hunting opportunity in 2024 will not disappoint.

Sometimes it can be challenging to introduce the sport of hunting to a youth or adult that has never hunted. Pheasant hunts are the perfect gateway opportunity as they are active, fun and often result in shooting opportunity and success. Get out and give it a try!

Statewide, youth ages 17 years and younger with an [Idaho hunting license](#) can participate in the youth-only pheasant hunt from Oct. 5-11 across the state.

Youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years or older, but they do not need an [Upland Game Bird Permit](#). All hunters must wear [hunter orange](#) above the waist while hunting during pheasant season in areas where birds are stocked.

Young hunters who have never had a hunting license and have not taken hunter education can still participate in the hunt through Idaho's [Hunting Passport Program](#).

## Rules to know about pheasant hunting in the Panhandle Region

There are two rule sets for hunting pheasants. One rule set applies to hunting pheasant outside of stocked areas, and the other rule set applies to hunting areas that are stocked by Fish and Game.

The two rule sets are the same, except for bag limit, shooting hours and permit requirements.

- If hunting in stocked areas, only two cock pheasants can be harvested a day, hunters can shoot from 10 a.m. PST to one-half hour after sunset and they need an Upland Game Bird Permit.
- If hunting outside the boundaries of stocked areas, a total of three cock pheasants can be harvested a day, hunters can shoot one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset and they do not need an Upland Game Bird Permit.

In the Panhandle, resident hunters ages 18 and older can begin hunting pheasant on Oct. 12 and can continue doing so until Dec. 31. Nonresident hunters can begin hunting on Oct. 17.



Continued on Page 6



**Continued from Page 5** — Reminder that there is no season for hen pheasants, and hunters are required to wear hunter orange and possess an Idaho hunting license. Also, a reminder that shooting from or across a roadway is unlawful.

For full rules, take a look at pages 11-12 of the [2024-25 Idaho Upland Game, Turkey and Furbearer rules book](#).

### **When and where pheasant are headed in the Panhandle**

Pheasant will be stocked at two locations in the Panhandle: [Boundary-Smith Creek WMA](#) and the [Lane Marsh parcel](#) on [Coeur d'Alene River WMA](#).

Approximately 50 pheasants will be stocked weekly at each WMA beginning the week of Oct 1 and ending the week of Dec. 17 for a total of 594 pheasants at each WMA for the year.

Please note that at both locations there are small, naturalized pheasant populations. As such, it is possible hunters may encounter hen pheasant, which are illegal to harvest.

### **Boundary-Smith Creek WMA**

Located at the Idaho-British Columbia border, the Boundary-Smith Creek WMA is in the breathtaking Kootenai River Valley. The WMA is characterized by just over 2,000 acres of public land, and it includes both wetland, forested and upland habitat.

Grizzly bears often frequent the WMA, so hunters should be bear aware and carry bear spray.

The entire WMA is open to hunting, but there is no shooting allowed within 100 yards of the WMA headquarters located at the northeastern-most corner of the WMA.

For the youth hunt, pheasants will be released in the field just north of Smith Creek and west of the WMA headquarters; there are parking areas at both locations. Additionally, birds can and do move from the stocked area, so you might find birds throughout the WMA, especially later in the youth hunt. After the youth hunt, all other releases will be scattered throughout the WMA ([see map](#)).

Detailed pheasant stocking plans at the Boundary-Smith Creek WMA can be found on our [Pheasant Stocking Program webpage](#).

### **Coeur d'Alene River WMA**

The CDA River WMA ([see map](#)) is a collection of land parcels along the CDA River from Rose Lake to CDA Lake. The WMA boasts over 8,500 acres of public land containing wetland, lake, upland and forested habitats.

Although the entire WMA is open to hunting, only the [Lane Marsh parcel](#) will be stocked with pheasants. Hunters will need an Upland Game Bird Permit to hunt either Lane or Strobel Marsh parcels, but they can hunt without the permit if outside the Lane or Strobel March parcels ([see map](#)).

Hunters are reminded that private lands are intermingled with CDA River WMA parcels, so know where you are at all times to avoid unintentionally trespassing.



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## Baiting and feeding deer, other game illegal in MT

**HAVRE** – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks game wardens want to remind hunters and homeowners that baiting deer and other game animals for hunting purposes and/or purposely feeding game animals in Montana is illegal.

Many sporting goods stores in Montana offer feed, supplements, and other baiting attractants that are targeted to these various game animals. Although it is legal for vendors to sell these attractants, it is not legal for Montanans to use them for hunting purposes.

### **Below is the official language in the Montana deer, elk, and antelope hunting regulations:**

- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird by the aid of or with the use of any bait, salt lick, trap, snare, or set gun.
- Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of food sources or salt so as to constitute a lure or attraction.
- Artificial scents may be used to attract game animals (except black bears) and game birds.

### **In addition, according to Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 87-6-216, a person may not provide supplemental feed attractants to game animals or wild turkeys by:**

- purposely or knowingly attracting any cloven-hoofed ungulates, bears, mountain lions, or wild turkeys with supplemental feed attractants.
- after having received a previous warning, negligently failing to properly store supplemental feed attractants, and allowing any cloven-hoofed ungulates, bears, mountain lions, or wild turkeys access to the supplemental feed attractants.
- purposely or knowingly providing supplemental feed attractants in a manner that results in an artificial concentration of game animals or wild turkeys that may potentially contribute to the transmission of disease or that constitutes a threat to public safety.

### **Restrictions of feeding and baiting game animals are not intended to prohibit other activities such as:**

- the normal feeding of livestock
- a normal agricultural practice
- cultivation of a lawn or garden
- the commercial processing of garbage
- recreational feeding of birds unless, after having received a previous warning from FWP, the person continues to feed birds in a manner that attracts ungulates, bears, or wild turkeys and that may contribute to the transmission of disease or constitute a threat to public safety.



# NSSF urges all gun owners to register to vote

NSSF®, the Firearm Industry Trade Association, announced it is urging all gun owners, hunters, recreational target shooters and supporters of the Second Amendment to register to vote by visiting [www.GunVote.org](http://www.GunVote.org) and on Election Day, November 5th, to not risk their rights and #GUNVOTE®

With less than 50 days until Election Day, several states are beginning to send out mail ballots and offering advanced in-person voting. NSSF’s #GUNVOTE voter education campaign seeks to ensure all gun owners and hunters are registered to vote and educated about where the candidates stand on the Second Amendment.

“For millions of Americans who cherish their Second Amendment rights, this truly is the most critical election in history. Vice President Kamala Harris has clearly laid out her anti-gun agenda. It is abundantly clear she will continue the Biden-Harris attack on the Second Amendment and will restrict the rights of law-abiding Americans even more than she has over the past three and a half years,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. “In 2020, the presidential election swung in just a few key states by margins of a few thousand votes and hanging chads. Reporting shows there are more than 10 million hunters and Second Amendment supporters who remain unregistered to vote ahead of the 2024 election. Make sure you’re registered. Check that your hunting and range buddies are registered too. Visit [www.GunVote.org](http://www.GunVote.org) for all the information you need to get registered and to find your polling place to make sure you Don’t Risk Your Rights® on November 5th.”



Reports have show millions of Americans who enjoy hunting, the recreational shooting sports and lawfully owning firearms for self-defense still have yet to register to vote. That includes more than 515,277 in Pennsylvania and 370,000 each in Michigan and North Carolina. In addition, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia all have more than half a million hunters and gun owners that remain unregistered and in Arizona – another state that could swing the election – that number totals approximately 133,000.

NSSF’s #GUNVOTE initiative was created to ensure all law-abiding American gun owners are registered to vote, know when and where to cast their ballot and to make their voices heard on Election Day. #GUNVOTE conveniently lists all U.S. states with links to their respective Secretary of State’s websites where more details about registering to vote, early voting protocols and the entire process can be found. For those who wait until election day to cast their ballot, #GUNVOTE will also tell voters of their polling place so that exercising the right to vote is as easy as possible. Don’t Risk Your Rights - #GUNVOTE!

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# PA Board of Game Commissioners highlights

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners met today at the agency’s Harrisburg headquarters, hearing public comment and conducting official business. Highlights from today’s meeting follow.

## MINIMUM AGE FOR FALCONERS DECREASED

Pennsylvania falconers will be able to get their start at a slightly younger age, thanks to a vote by the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners.

*The commissioners voted to decrease the minimum age for a general class falconry permit from 18 years old to 16 years old, which is the minimum age established by federal regulations.* The change will take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, which usually takes six to eight weeks.

This action had been requested by the Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust, and the Game Commission did not identify any biological or safety concerns that would result from lowering the minimum age.

## AMENDMENT CONSIDERS RECENT NAME CHANGE

Formerly considered a single species, goshawks in Europe and North America were split into separate species last year by the American Ornithological Society, due to their differing genetics and behavior.

As a result, European goshawks retained the name Northern Goshawk, while those in North America were renamed American Goshawk.

That change soon will be reflected in state regulations.

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today gave final approval to amending Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Code to incorporate the recent name change.

Adoption of the name change will not affect the protection or management of goshawks within the Commonwealth.

## BOARD BRIEFED ON PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FARMERS

Pennsylvania Game Commission staff today presented the Board of Game Commissioners with an overview of provisions under the law and accompanying programs to assist farmers in addressing deer-damage issues.

After the presentation, Board President Scott Foradora read the following statement.

“This summer, several board members took part in meetings with the agricultural community to hear directly about how wildlife, particularly deer, are affecting their farms. The message was clear: they need help in addressing the damage that deer are causing to their crops and their livelihoods.

“To the members of that community, I want to say – we heard you, and we take your concerns seriously.

“We recognize the critical importance of agriculture in our state, and we have a responsibility to find effective solutions to the challenges they are facing.

“As we prepare for our next meeting, we will be reviewing ways in which the Board can take meaningful steps to help address this issue.

“We request and value your input in this process, as we work to fulfill our mission of managing wildlife on behalf of all Pennsylvanians.”



**Did You Know?** Federal lands comprise about 35% of the southern border. There are 693 miles of communities, unprotected environment and wildfire-prone areas along that border.

# No hunting fatalities reported in Arkansas

**LITTLE ROCK** — Hunters pursuing their passions on private and public land throughout the 2023-24 hunting seasons reported a scant 19 incidents, and, for the first time since 2018, had no fatalities as a result of hunting accidents in the woods and waters of The Natural State.

In addition to the welcome lack of fatalities, the report indicates only two hunting incidents involving a firearm from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

“That is the lowest number of accidents involving firearms I have seen since I’ve been at the AGFC,” Joe Huggins, AGFC Hunter Education Program coordinator, said. “We had one incident involving a crossbow, but really only two were the result of a firearm discharge.”

The record is far from perfect as Arkansas actually saw a small increase in hunting incidents requiring hospitalization from 16 the previous year.

As usual, the number one cause of hunting incidents involving a visit to the hospital was falling from a treestand. Fourteen of the 19 incidents involved falls, and in each of those cases a safety harness was not being used at the time of the fall.

“It’s just like life jackets with boating,” Huggins said. “It’s not going to help you if you’re not wearing it and connecting it to the tree. Take a minute to learn how to put it on before you leave the ground. Even falls from a few feet can cause major damage or death if you land wrong.”

Huggins says the peak time for treestand falls is when hunters are climbing into or exiting the stand, and this is also a time when many are not wearing their harness.

“There are lifeline devices available to attach your harness that will keep you secure during the climb,” Huggins said. “With these devices, there’s really no excuse not to be attached from the time you leave the ground until the time you get back down.”

Last year also marked the first in which hunting incidents were recorded from hunters using hunting tree saddles. Many hunters see hunting saddles as a safer alternative to hang-on stands and climbing stands because the hunter is always tethered to the tree and all slack is taken up, reducing the chance of a sudden drop. The saddle, however, should not be relied upon as a safety harness. Two hunting incidents were recorded last year from hunting saddle users. In both cases, a separate safety harness was not worn.

“The saddle itself didn’t break or fail,” Huggins said. “Both cases appeared to be the result of an improperly tied knot or using the equipment improperly.”

In addition to wearing and using a safety harness, hunters should always check their equipment before and after every use.

“Some people may leave a stand up throughout the year, then go climb in it on opening morning, but you’re asking for trouble,” Huggins said. “The straps holding the stand to the tree can rot or have been chewed on by squirrels and other rodents, causing a catastrophic failure. Even the welds of some treestands may become rusted and weak after sitting in the elements all year. If you left a stand up all year, take it down and thoroughly inspect it. Replace any straps and don’t take any chances with any stand in poor condition. And if you’re walking through the woods and see a stand in an area, don’t climb into it without knowing anything about it. We’ve had people do that and get hurt as well.”

Huggins also points out that the statistics only count the number of reported incidents requiring a hospital visit that took place during the act of hunting. Accidents occurring outside of hunting season that may have been in preparation for the hunt, such as clearing shooting lanes, planting food plots and hanging or taking down stands, are not included.

Still, with only 19 incidents reported throughout the entire state last year, hunting is still one of the safest sports available. With an estimated 320,000 hunters in the woods last year, that equates to an injury rate of 0.006 percent, far below many other outdoor sports such as soccer, swimming and even golf.

# Notes from the Road:

## More and more quail and turkey broods seen this summer



**By Nick Prough** — In last month's column, I wrote about being patient in seeing the results of your habitat management efforts. Well, I thought I would tag onto that column with some more excellent results from numerous landowners that have occurred this month in multiple states where landowners are doing intense habitat management as well as intensive nest predator removal.

I told you last month that we have been seeing some excellent quail broods later this year now that all the weather conditions seemed to be just right for second nesting periods and later nesting this summer. Well, that trend has definitely continued, especially in Missouri and Kansas, as well as some other states seeing similar trends. To say that landowners have been calling with quail brood reports like they haven't in years would be the understatement of the past decade. I continue to get many longtime landowner cooperators calling me day and night saying, "Nick, it's definitely working, we saw even more quail chicks," or "Wow, you won't believe what Dad and I saw on the backside of the 40-acre brood rearing field today."

Two things almost all of these landowners who are calling giving these excellent and very excited brood reports have in common is they have been doing intensive habitat management and brood rearing habitat as an emphasis the past several years, by design. As well, almost all of the recent reports are doing a coordinated intensive nest predator trapping/removal program that we discussed conducting over the past couple years. It has become very clear to many of them as well as to myself that if you have one of those two without the other, you simply aren't maximizing the area of your land for quail and upland wildlife production that you actually could be.

There are skeptics of course (I have chatted with many of them day and night, as well.) on whether you can make enough of a difference on a large enough scale but these landowners and myself are not one of those skeptics. **Simply put:** It's working on numerous projects, on numerous landowners, in numerous counties and states! We have done the hard work, we have done the trapping, and now we are SEEING THE RESULTS! To say it is just a coincidence is simply not looking at the facts. That would be if it happened once or twice in a localized one or two areas, but these are in multiple counties across Missouri and Kansas by multiple landowners that have different sizes of properties and doing different habitat management techniques, but all incorporating nesting cover, brood rearing cover, escape cover (Covey HQ) as well as some level of intense nest predator trapping throughout a large portion of the available trapping and extended nest predator trapping seasons.

Additionally, these brood reports haven't just been for quail, but also for numerous (too many to count the past several weeks) for wild turkey poult reports in and around these same landowners' farms and ranches. I myself just yesterday saw 15-18  $\frac{3}{4}$  grown turkey poults using a brood rearing managed field that was intensively trapped all around that farm, as well as three adjoining neighbors' farms (which can also be very beneficial if you can get that worked out) the past two years as well as many habitat management practices being done in conjunction tying all these efforts together very nicely for ground nesting birds. These same landowners continue to be amazed how all the pieces of the puzzle continue to come together, and they are all very excited to continue the next phases of their management efforts and looking forward to the upcoming fall season.

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, landowners, chapters, and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, nest predator removal, 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 QUWF chief wildlife biologist and wildlife partnership coordinator.*

# Vermont hunters urged to wear orange

**Editor's Note: Blaze orange is the only color not found in nature. Deer cannot see color per say, but movement will be the reason most are busted in the woods. Wear Hunter fluorescent blaze orange if you are going to be in the woods during deer season. It is a good idea anytime you are working In the woods as well.**



“Hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities, thanks to advances in education as well as science,” said Vermont Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. “Our volunteer hunter education instructors stress that wearing orange during hunting season is important, and studies prove that wearing fluorescent hunter orange keeps hunters visible to other people in the woods, but it keeps them relatively invisible to deer.”

“Every year we should strive to be the safest we can be by wearing at least a hunter orange hat and vest,” added Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. “Deer are most active during dawn and dusk hours when visibility is low. You can improve your chances of being seen by other hunters by wearing hunter orange, which can be seen even in low-light situations.”

“While it isn’t recommended to wear orange during waterfowl and turkey seasons, we certainly still recommend hunter orange when you are going to and from your blind, treestand or calling spot,” said Meier.

While some hunters might be concerned that deer are scared by hunter orange, in fact deer have been shown to be unaffected by the color. A deer’s vision is based on movement, patterns and color variations. Unlike humans, deer do not have multiple color receptors in their eyes. They can see color, but their spectrum is limited. This means deer must rely heavily on their ability to detect movement over the ability to interpret color variations and patterns.

Hunting in Vermont continues to be a safe recreational pursuit and hunters can help keep it that way by choosing to wear hunter orange. This video shows how much more visible hunters are when wearing orange: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kjSI79ss9I>

Hunt smart. Hunt safe. Wear orange.



**Efforts to reform the Endangered Species Act:** Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) introduced the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments Act. Pete Stauber (R-MN) thinks it is clear the ESA is broken. Stauber said, "A half- century after being signed into law, very few species listed as threatened or endangered have ever made it of the list. And whether it be the Gray Wolf or the Northern Long-Eared Bat, Minnesotans are facing the consequences of a broken ESA every day."

"Over the last 50 years, the ESA has failed to be a celebration of recovery and instead has been weaponized for political activism," said Congressman Tom Tiffany (R-WI). "The Amendments gives states more management, and help ensure that animals, like the gray wolf, who have met and exceeded their recovery goal are removed from the list of federal endangered species."

# Reports of EHD-affected deer occurring in MI

**Editor's Note: due to the dry conditions in the Midwest, EHD has surfaced in many states. Understand its nature and effects on whitetail.**

*Most recent case of epizootic hemorrhagic disease confirmed in St. Joseph County*

A common viral deer disease has made a return to St. Joseph County after a three-year hiatus, with additional counties likely to follow. Over the past several weeks, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has received reports of over 120 probable cases of epizootic hemorrhagic disease, primarily from counties in the southwestern Lower Peninsula.

The DNR Wildlife Health Section and the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory recently confirmed the EHD virus in a free-ranging white-tailed deer from St. Joseph County. Several other counties are awaiting lab confirmation.

*EHD is a viral, sometimes fatal disease found in wild ruminants such as white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk.*

“Although early reports indicate 2024 could see a significant outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease in pockets of Michigan’s deer population, this isn’t necessarily unusual,” said Chad Stewart, acting supervisor of the DNR Wildlife Division’s Sustainable Populations Section.

Stewart said that EHD-related deer deaths have occurred on and off in Michigan since 2006. During these EHD outbreaks, an estimated 50 to 1,000 deer died in isolated areas. The largest die-off occurred in 2012, with an estimated loss of more than 14,000 deer in more than 30 counties. No cases of EHD were confirmed in 2014 or 2015, and deer mortality has occurred to varying degrees annually since 2015.

There is no known effective treatment for, or control of, EHD in wild populations. The disease has been seen for decades in many areas of the United States.

## **EHD symptoms, pathways**

*EHD is transmitted by a type of biting fly called a midge of the genus *Culicoides*.* Weather conditions in 2024 have made it easier for the virus to spread. Studies in other states have shown that a warm spring followed by a relatively rainy July and hot, dry August seem to be significant factors that make an outbreak more likely. When these conditions are present, muddy areas where this fly lays its eggs and reproduces become more common. Warm temperatures in late summer and early fall also contribute to the virus replicating more rapidly.

*Outbreaks of EHD are characterized in several ways:*

- Sick and dead deer are found in or around bodies of water.
- Illness in deer can come on suddenly and severely but also can linger for weeks or months in a low-grade state.
- In severe forms of the disease, deer lose their appetite and their fear of humans, grow progressively weaker, salivate excessively and finally become unconscious.
- Due to a high fever and dehydration, infected deer often seek water to lower their body temperature and to rehydrate.

Stewart said that while mortality rates can be high in some localized areas, not all deer will contract EHD, and not all deer that get EHD will die from it.

**Continued on Page 14**



**Continued from Page 13** — “Deer that survive epizootic hemorrhagic disease develop immunity to the virus, and outbreaks are rarely seen in the same area in consecutive years,” he said.

### What should the public know?

EHD is not expected to have widespread deer population-level impacts, but it can significantly affect localized areas if mortality is severe. *The onset of a hard frost will kill the “insect vector” – essentially the carrier for disease transmission – stopping movement of the virus.*

In areas with significant mortality, local deer numbers tend to rebound after two to three years.

EHD is not transmitted from deer to deer. **There is no evidence that humans or household pets can contract the EHD virus.**

For hunters who hunt in areas that were affected by EHD, venison is still safe for consumption. While it’s not recommended you consume venison from animals that are visibly sick, if a deer is harvested during the hunting season in an area that had EHD, there is no evidence humans can contract the virus from consuming venison.

Deer carcasses can be disposed of through natural decomposition, which does not spread EHD or contribute to outbreaks.

Property owners are responsible for proper disposal of carcasses if they wish to remove them. Carcasses can be buried at sufficient depth so that no body parts are showing, or they can be disposed of at landfills that accept household solid waste.

### Looking ahead

The DNR expects additional EHD cases in more counties to be confirmed in the coming weeks. Deer must be tested within 24 hours of death for proper diagnostic testing, and the whole carcass is required for testing.

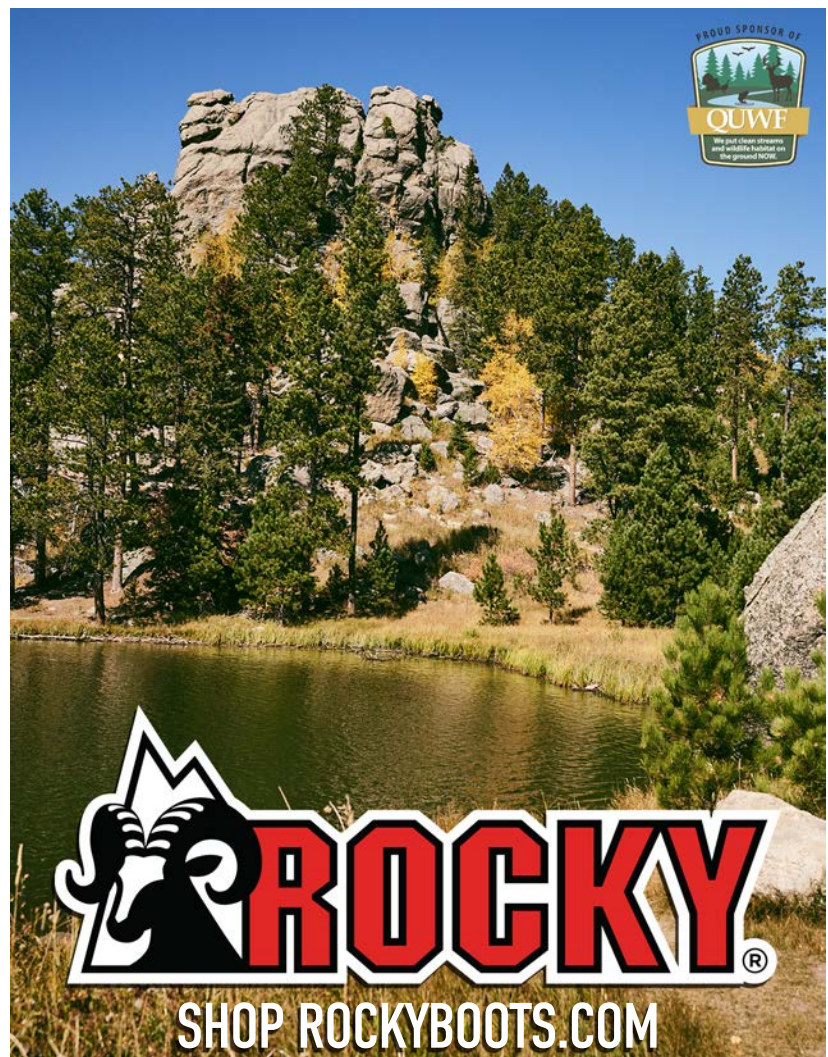
Once EHD has been confirmed in a county, no additional deer from that county need to be tested.

Areas that have been reporting cases since early August will see the most widespread population impacts.

Areas with no reported cases until mid- to late September likely will see less severe effects on local deer numbers.

“If you suspect a deer death is due to epizootic hemorrhagic disease, please report it to the DNR so that we can track cases and better estimate the total number of deer affected in an area,” Stewart said. “Hunters’ observations can be especially helpful as they hit the field and look around this fall.”

Anyone who discovers sick or dead deer near bodies of water is urged to report it using the DNR’s [Eyes in the Field](#) webpage.



## Five OK counties affected by special surveillance

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 [Selected 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. Click below to learn about exceptions.



QUWF has four landowner coops: The Grouse Coop and the Niangua Coop in Missouri, and the Catskill Mountains Wildlife and Oregon Joint Wildlife coops.

Interested in forming a coop?

Email Craig Alderman at [admin@quwf.net](mailto:admin@quwf.net).

## 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.

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## Ruger introduces seventh edition of collector's series

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR) is proud to introduce the Seventh Edition of the Ruger® Collector's Series - the Vote 2024 10/22® Carbine. Accompanied by unique collector's memorabilia, this Seventh Edition of the Collector's Series is a great way to start a 10/22 collection, add to an existing collection, or simply celebrate your right to vote.

This collectible rifle features an exclusive Collector's Series bolt marking and comes packaged with a Ruger Collector's Series commemorative decal in the box. Also included are a Seventh Edition Ruger Collector's Series pin, as well as a "Vote 2024" metal street sign, button, and bumper sticker.

This patriotic rifle features a synthetic Ruger Modular Stock System (with a low comb and standard length of pull) that is hydro-dipped with a full-length American flag and ships with one detachable, 10-round rotary magazine. The rifle also features a fiber optic front sight and adjustable fiber optic rear sight while retaining popular 10/22 features like the push-button, cross-bolt manual safety and cold hammer-forged barrel that is threaded 1/2"-28 to accommodate popular muzzle accessories.

For more information on the Ruger Collector's Series 10/22 or to learn more about the extensive line of award-winning Ruger firearms, visit [Ruger.com](http://Ruger.com), [Facebook.com/Ruger](https://www.facebook.com/Ruger), or [Instagram.com/Rugersofficial](https://www.instagram.com/Rugersofficial). To find accessories for the Ruger Collector's Series 10/22 and other Ruger firearms, visit [ShopRuger.com](http://ShopRuger.com) or your local independent retailer of Ruger firearms.

The acquisition, ownership, possession and use of firearms are heavily regulated. Some models may not be legally available in your state or locale. Whatever your purpose for lawfully acquiring a firearm – know the law, get trained and shoot safely.



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**Forest Service Budget Woes:** The Forest Service faces “enormous” budget challenges that will likely affect how employees go about their daily jobs, agency Chief Randy Moore said.

Federal agencies will likely keep going based on a continuing resolution in Congress, with final budget numbers once again poised to be delayed by months.

“There are no easy answers in a time where we see increased costs throughout the country — among them, housing, groceries and gas — that affect not just individuals but our agency as well,” Moore said. “We must make hard decisions, but we will be guided by our agency core values and share leadership as we navigate this challenge.”

He said the agency would maintain its focus on a 10-year wildfire strategy that includes a more intensive approach to forest thinning, prescribed fire and other measures to cut fire risks.

**In Case You Missed This:** This summer, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service finalized a controversial plan to eradicate up to 400,000 barred owls to help recover threatened spotted owl populations in California, Oregon, and Washington. Known as the "Barred Owl Management Strategy," this plan has faced criticism from some environmentalists and animal rights activists. Some in the forest sector are also skeptical, recalling the blame placed on loggers for the spotted owl's decline decades ago.

**Snowmobiles (all motorized vehicles) Aren't Weapons Act:** Legislation was introduced by South Carolina Congressman Nancy Mace and cosponsored by Matt Gatez from Florida, Democrats Troy Carter from Louisiana and Don Davis from North Carolina joined in the effort.

Although snowmobiles are in the title of the legislation, HR 9568, the text in the bill refers to motorized vehicles. This bill seeks to make it illegal to "intentionally" use a motor vehicle to "run over, strike, or kill a wild animal" on federal lands managed by the Department of Interior (National Park Service, BLM, and US Fish & Wildlife lands) with the exceptions for wildlife management and avoiding injury or property damage. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

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# Mule deer hunters will see regulation changes

The Missouri Breaks region of central Montana is a favorite area for deer hunters, but this year hunters will need to carefully check the regulations, since opportunities to hunt *mule deer have dramatically changed due to low population levels, and mule deer hunting is extremely limited or non-existent over many Missouri Breaks hunting districts.*

After several years of severe droughts, mule deer populations in this area of Montana have suffered steep declines. In response to the low numbers, biologists have significantly changed the hunting regulations, and some hunting districts (HDs) now require a special permit to hunt mule deer for the entire season, while another requires a permit for part of the season.

Specifically, Hunting Districts 410 and 417 are now permit-only to hunt mule deer bucks during the general or archery seasons, while HD 426 requires a permit to hunt mule deer bucks during the last two weeks of the general deer season. The deadline to apply for these permits was April 1, so hunters who did not already draw one of these limited permits cannot hunt mule deer bucks in these districts this year.

Sonja Andersen is the FWP wildlife biologist based in Lewistown for the last 13 years.

"This is not a trophy management effort nor is limiting buck harvest going to bring the deer back totally on its own—we need healthy does producing fawns for that to happen, which is habitat and weather-driven," Andersen said. ***“But our deer numbers are near record lows here and even with very limited doe harvest we aren’t seeing improvement, especially given the 2020, 2021, and 2022 drought years on top of a bad 2022-23 winter.*** Biologists have only so many levers to pull when managing populations, and limiting buck harvest was one of our only remaining options.”

Mule Deer B Licenses to hunt antlerless mule deer are also extremely limited this year and were only available by special draw with a deadline to apply of June 1. In addition, the antlerless B Licenses in HDs 410, 411, 412, 417, 419, and 426 are valid only on private land, as is the case in FWP Regions 6 and 7.

“The Breaks have been getting lots of pressure lately, especially since Covid. There’s a lot of public land, and we’ve liberalized elk harvest, so there are a lot of hunters, and pressure on the deer has grown tremendously,” Andersen said. “These efforts are just as much hunter management as deer management. While we can ease off the hunting pressure, it’s still going to take some years with favorable weather and good precipitation to improve habitat and see a rebound in mule deer populations.”

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# Nebraska vets, military get bonus hunt weekend

Nebraska’s veterans and activity-duty military will have two additional days to hunt waterfowl starting with the 2024-25 hunting season.

The special season is open to qualifying residents and nonresidents and runs in conjunction with the youth waterfowl hunting days. The special season dates:

- **Zone 1:** Oct. 5-6, 2024
- **Zone 2:** Sept. 28-29, 2024
- **Zone 3:** Oct. 19-20, 2024
- **Zone 4:** Oct. 19-20, 2024



Participating hunters must have secured veteran status, reflected in their customer profile within the Nebraska Game and Parks permit system, or have one of the following with them during the hunt:

- a state-issued driver’s license noting veteran status;
- a Department of Defense-issued ID, such as an Active Duty or Retired Active Military identification card;
- other military government-issued ID cards indicating military service, such as a Veterans Affairs ID or Veteran Benefit Card; or
- a copy of DD214 or DD215 discharge paperwork; only honorable discharges qualify.

Those who have secured veteran status within the permit system will see “Approved Veteran Status” on the first line of their printed hunting (small game) permit.

The daily bag and possession limits and the shooting hours are the same as during Nebraska’s regular season for ducks, mergansers, coots and geese. Find details at [OutdoorNebraska.gov/hunt/hunting-seasons](https://OutdoorNebraska.gov/hunt/hunting-seasons).

All participating hunters must possess a Nebraska hunt (small game) permit, a Harvest Information Program number, a Federal Duck Stamp, and Nebraska Waterfowl and Habitat stamps, unless otherwise exempt. Learn more or buy them online at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://OutdoorNebraska.gov).

Veterans or active military will not be required to have a vehicle park entry permit for Nebraska state park properties during this special season.



*Did you know?*

**An acre of corn releases approximately 3000 gallons of water into the air each day! This can lead to higher humidity levels!**

# MDC asks deer hunters to Share the Harvest

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)** encourages deer hunters to share their harvests to help feed hungry Missourians. MDC also reminds deer hunters of mandatory and voluntary chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing opportunities and other CWD regulations.

Missouri's deer season opened with archery hunting on Sept. 15 and runs through the close of archery season on Jan. 15 with firearms portions during this time. Get more information on deer season portions and dates at [mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer](https://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer).

## Share the Harvest

MDC encourages deer hunters to share their harvests by donating surplus venison to the Share the Harvest program to help feed hungry Missourians. The donated deer meat goes to local food banks and food pantries to help feed hungry Missourians all around the state. To get Share the Harvest venison, contact local food banks or food pantries.

Donating is easy. Simply take harvested deer to an approved meat processor and let the processor know how much venison to donate. Meat-processing fees are covered entirely or in part by numerous local sponsors, along with statewide sponsors.

The program is administered by the Conservation Federation of Missouri and MDC and has provided nearly 5 million pounds of lean, healthy venison to help feed hungry Missourians since it was started in 1992.

The National Institutes of Health state that children need protein in their diets for proper growth and development, and adults need it to maintain good health. Yet many Missourians can't afford or can't get to good sources of protein. Through Share the Harvest, Missouri hunters can help provide those in need with high-quality protein in the form of naturally lean, locally harvested deer meat.

Deer harvested from CWD Management Zone counties may only be donated to Share the Harvest if they are tested for CWD. Hunters can take their deer to a processor participating in the Share the Harvest CWD Testing Program or have their deer sampled at another location prior to donation. Deer harvested outside of the CWD Management Zone do not need to be tested for donation to Share the Harvest and may be taken to any Share the Harvest processor.

## Follow CWD Regulations

CWD is a deadly, infectious disease in deer and other members of the deer family (cervids) that threatens Missouri's deer population, hunting culture, and economy. There is no vaccine or cure. CWD has been found in Missouri and MDC continues its efforts to limit the spread of CWD by finding new cases as early as possible and managing the disease to slow its spread to more deer in more areas.

MDC has added the following counties to its CWD Management Zone: Audrain, Boone, Cole, Dent, Douglas, Howard, Lewis, Maries, Monroe, Newton, Osage, Phelps, Randolph, Saline, Scotland, Shannon, Shelby, and Webster. The CWD Management Zone consists of counties where CWD has been found and those within 10 miles of where CWD has been found.

Because these counties are now in the CWD Management Zone, the antler-point restriction (APR) has been removed from Audrain, Boone, Cole, Howard, Lewis, Maries, Monroe, Osage, Phelps, Randolph, Saline, Scotland, and Shelby counties. According to MDC, removing the APR in the CWD Management Zone helps slow the spread of CWD by minimizing the chances of young bucks that have CWD dispersing and introducing the disease to new areas.

As with all counties in the CWD Management Zone, grain, salt products, minerals, and other consumable products used to attract deer are prohibited year-round.

“Deer are social animals, but that doesn't mean we can't slow the spread of CWD by implementing regulations such as the feed and mineral prohibition that prevent the high degree of close contact and accumulation of infectious proteins in the soil at these sites,” said MDC Cervid Program Supervisor Jason Isabelle.

Continued on Page 22

**Continued from Page 21** — Hunters within the CWD Management Zone must also follow carcass transportation regulations and all hunters must follow these regulations when bringing parts of harvested deer and other cervids into Missouri from another state.

“Hunters can help reduce the spread of CWD by following the carcass transportation regulations and properly disposing of deer carcasses,” said Isabelle.

According to MDC the best way for hunters to dispose of deer carcass remains is to place them in trash bags and dispose of them through trash collection or a permitted landfill, bury them at or near where the deer was harvested, or leave them on the property where the deer was harvested.

All counties in the CWD Management Zone are open during the CWD portion of deer season.

During the Firearms November Portion opening weekend, Nov. 16-17, hunters who harvest a deer in designated CWD Management Zone counties must take the deer (or its head) on the day of harvest to a mandatory CWD sampling station.

### **CWD Sampling and Testing All Season**

As part of its efforts to find cases of CWD early and help slow its spread, MDC is again offering free voluntary CWD sampling and testing of harvested deer during the entire deer season at select locations throughout the state, including some MDC offices and participating taxidermists and meat processors.

MDC also offers self-service freezer drop-off locations within the CWD Management Zone for hunters to deposit harvested deer heads to have tested for CWD. Instructions, packing supplies, and information tags are available at the sites. Get more information on voluntary sampling and drop-off locations online at [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](https://mdc.mo.gov/cwd).

Hunters can get their CWD test results for free online at [mdc.mo.gov/cwdResults](https://mdc.mo.gov/cwdResults). Results are usually available within four weeks or less from the time of sampling.

### **Get More Information**

Get more information on deer hunting in Missouri, Share the Harvest, and CWD from MDC’s *2024 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available online and where permits are sold.

Buy Missouri hunting permits from numerous vendors around the state, online at [mdc.mo.gov/permits](https://mdc.mo.gov/permits) or through MDC’s free mobile app, MO Hunting, available for download through Google Play or the App Store.

## **CWD testing in Michigan NW lower, upper peninsula**

This year, chronic wasting disease testing will still be focused in some areas of the northern Lower Peninsula as well as the Upper Peninsula. The counties for CWD testing in 2024 include Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Dickinson, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iosco, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Otsego and Schoolcraft.

In these counties a variety of sites will be popping up with at least one of the following depending on the county: drop boxes, staffed submission sites, and partner processors and taxidermists to assist with collection efforts. To find out about available sites near where you hunt, see the [CWD testing page](#).

Historically, testing has occurred in and around areas where CWD has been detected to date.

Starting in 2021, the DNR began a rotational approach to testing for CWD around the state. With this approach, a group of counties is selected each year, with a desire to eventually test sufficient numbers of deer in every county across the state. This has led to detection of CWD in 13 of Michigan’s 83 counties, with Ogemaw being the latest in the fall of 2023.

The goal of this approach is early disease detection, as management has the potential to be most effective when the disease is caught early. Most of these areas have not had a CWD detection or have not previously been part of intensive testing efforts, so little is known about disease status in these locations. To date, we have collected enough baseline information in 61 of our 83 counties and are conducting surveillance in the remaining 22 counties to meet the baseline information needs in these areas.

## North Dakota conducts upland game brood survey

North Dakota's roadside surveys conducted in late July and August indicate pheasant numbers were up, while gray partridge and sharp-tailed grouse numbers were down.

Game and Fish Department upland game biologist RJ Gross said although the state experienced a mild winter and an optimistic start to the breeding season, the wet, cold June appears to have impacted partridge and sharptails particularly, leading to smaller brood sizes for pheasants.

"Hunters should expect to find similar numbers to last year, with a higher proportion of adult pheasants in the population, smaller partridge coveys and slightly fewer sharptail," Gross said.

Total pheasants observed (94.5 per 100 miles) are up 25% from last year and broods (11.6) per 100 miles are up 33%. The average brood size (5.5) is down 13%. The final summary is based on 274 survey runs made along 100 brood routes across North Dakota.

Observers in the northwest counted 20.8 broods and 164 pheasants per 100 miles, up from 19.1 broods and 159 pheasants in 2023. Average brood size was 5.3 chicks.

Results from the southeast showed 7.9 broods and 57 pheasants per 100 miles, up from 5.9 broods and 53 pheasants in 2023. Average brood size was 4.6 chicks.

Statistics from southwestern North Dakota indicated 13.8 broods and 119 pheasants per 100 miles, up from 9.7 broods and 86.2 pheasants in 2023. Average brood size was six chicks.

The northeast district, generally containing secondary pheasant habitat with lower pheasant numbers compared to the rest of the state, showed 4.3 broods and 37 pheasants per 100 miles, compared to two broods and 19 pheasants last year. Average brood size was 5.5 chicks.

Sharptails were down 20% statewide (23 sharptail per 100 miles), but remain above the 10-year average. Brood survey results showed 2.4 broods per 100 miles and an average brood size of 5.5, which is mediocre for grouse reproduction.

Partridge observed per 100 miles were down 20% from the near all-time high in 2023, and remain at high densities (29 partridge per 100 miles). Observers recorded 2.3 broods per 100 miles (the second highest in 20 years), but only an average of 8.3 chicks per brood (the lowest since 2018).

The grouse and partridge seasons open Sept. 14 and continue through Jan. 5, 2025.

The pheasant season opens Oct. 12 and continues through Jan. 5, 2025. The two-day youth pheasant hunting weekend, when legally licensed residents and nonresidents 15 and younger can hunt statewide, is set for Oct. 5-6.



# 23 years later: Evil seldom declines an invitation

**By Jim Shepherd, The Outdoor Wire** — Since September 11, 2001, we’ve “only” had 546 terrorism attacks on U.S. soil. That’s according to data from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).

The body count -apparently the ultimate determinant of whether an attack was successful or not, has been far less than the 2,908 who died in the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, or a 35-foot deep hole in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Only those in Shanksville had an opportunity to resist -and they took it. Knowing they were not likely to survive, they chose action over inaction. Their actions were diametrically opposed to the policy of dealing with terrorists before that September morning.

Prior to 9/11, hijacking doctrine called for calm, compliance with the hijackers and a willingness for the crew to take them where they wanted to go. It had peacefully resolved dozens of prior incidents.

It seems naive today, but *before* 9/11, hijackers weren’t looking to turn jet aircraft into missiles carrying 20,000 pounds of explosive fuel. Nineteen Al Qaeda terrorists literally turned the world on its head with their suicide tactics.

Their weapons of choice? Small knives and box cutters, smuggled through airport security. It wasn’t the weapons, it was their willingness to use them that mattered.

What have we learned since that fateful morning? Not a lot. As a nation, we appear willfully ignorant about people and groups that mean us harm.

It’s not what we’ve learned that’s most concerning. It’s what we’ve forgotten. *We’ve forgotten that evil is real. That bad people will do bad things, without regard to the consequences.*

Alarmingly, it seems many of us ignore the simple fact that the people who died on 9/11 and the 546 that have died since then, were no different from the rest of us. They had lives, hopes, and aspirations - all cut short by evil. They each left families devastated by actions that are inexplicable to normal people.

*Most alarmingly, we appear to have lost the ability to tell right from wrong.*

There is no “your truth” or “my truth” -there is only truth.

Truth is, excusing evil deeds, whatever the rationale, is inviting evil to teach yet another lesson.

Evil seldom declines that sort of invitation. That’s something we should all remember on this solemn anniversary.

*Reprinted from The Outdoor Wire, Jim Shepherd, Publisher, The Outdoor Wire Digital Network*



## **How Much Electricity Will AI Require?** Don't be in the dark about the true energy cost of AI.

AI is energy-intensive. Big Tech is spending tens of billions on AI accelerators, which has led to a huge increase in power consumption. Over the past few months, multiple forecasts and data points reveal soaring electricity demand.

Estimates of necessary energy do exist, but the organizations best placed to share the numbers — companies like Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI — aren’t sharing the relevant information.

Morgan Stanley is estimating global data center power use will triple this year. Wells Fargo is projecting AI power demand to surge 550% by 2026.

### **What parts of AI are using all that energy?**

A big unknown is where the servers are going to end up. That matters a whole lot, because if they’re at Google, then the additional cooling energy use is going to be somewhere in the range of a 10% increase. But global data centers, on average, will add 50% to the energy cost just to keep the machines cool.

**Continued on Page 33**

# Ruger reintroduces Marlin Trapper Series 1894

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR) is pleased to announce its reintroduction of the Marlin® Trapper Series Model 1894™ chambered in .357 Magnum.

Joining other Ruger-made Trapper Series rifles, the Model 1894 chambered in .357 Magnum is quick-handling, soft shooting, and ideal for small game, plinking and home protection. The rifle features a 16.1", cold hammer-forged barrel with a 1:16" twist. The threaded barrel (1/2"-28), comes with a match-polished thread protector and will accommodate common muzzle devices. In addition to .357 Magnum, the rifle also accepts .38 Special.



The stainless steel receiver, lever, magazine tube and barrel feature an attractive non-glare, matte finish and all of the small parts are nickel-plated. The receiver-mounted Skinner Sight™ system is as accurate and rugged as the rifle itself. Machined from solid stainless steel bar stock, this durable, no snag, fully adjustable sight system provides for rapid target acquisition while enhancing the aesthetics of the rifle.

The black laminate stock and forend feature crisp checkering that deliver an excellent grip in all weather conditions. A generous butt pad absorbs recoil and makes the rifle easy to shoot. The forend has been slimmed down for an attractive look and a comfortable feel. Consumers will notice that the hallmark black and white "bullseye" found in Marlin stocks since 1922 is still there but in red and white.

## EHD detected in deer in several Indiana areas

An early-season outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in deer, which started in the northern region of Indiana this year, has been detected by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Humans are not at risk for contracting EHD.

EHD is a viral disease that commonly affects white-tailed deer and is transmitted by biting midges, aka sand gnats or "no-see-ums." Cases typically occur during late summer and early fall, and there is evidence that outbreaks can be more severe in years in which there is a wet spring followed by a hot, dry fall. EHD is often fatal to deer, but some can recover and develop immunity.

A significant number of suspected EHD cases have been reported in deer in Wabash, Allen, Pike, Warrick, Miami, Huntington, and Porter counties along with additional reports typical for what is reported each year in 22 other counties. As of Aug. 28, DNR has tested deer and confirmed EHD in Wabash, Allen, Huntington, Wells, Porter, and Perry counties.

*Deer infected with EHD may display unusual behaviors such as lethargy, excessive salivation, or disorientation. EHD also causes fever in deer, which can cause them to seek water. As a result, many deer that die from EHD are found in or near open water sources like ponds and rivers.*

Anyone who finds a deer that is showing signs of EHD or finds one dead in water is asked to report it at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).

DNR monitors for EHD annually; however, severe outbreaks don't occur every year. The severity of EHD in a single year depends on a variety of factors including climate, immunity, and other ecological factors. DNR monitors the yearly impact of EHD on the deer population and makes changes to the allowable deer harvest to offset major effects.

Because of the early high level of deer mortality in Wabash County, DNR has started the process of lowering the county bonus antlerless quota for deer hunting in that county from two bonus antlerless deer to one bonus antlerless deer to offset the EHD outbreak. EHD detections can be continually monitored at [on.IN.gov/EHD](https://on.IN.gov/EHD).

Not every deer in an affected area will contract EHD. One sign a deer has recovered from EHD is sloughing or breaking on their hooves.

# Montana FWP urges hunters to test animals

Montana hunters can help prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease in Montana’s herds of elk, deer, and moose by getting your animal tested. By testing your animal for CWD, you are not only protecting our herds, but also the future of our hunting opportunities.

Your test results help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks gather data to evaluate the effectiveness of CWD management. FWP needs samples not only from hunting districts (HDs) where CWD is known to be, but also in HDs where it hasn’t yet been detected. If we don’t know where it is, we can’t stop the spread.

This year, FWP has identified CWD Priority Sampling Areas in southwestern, central, and east-central Montana. These are areas where FWP wants to focus special attention to gather data on the prevalence of the disease.

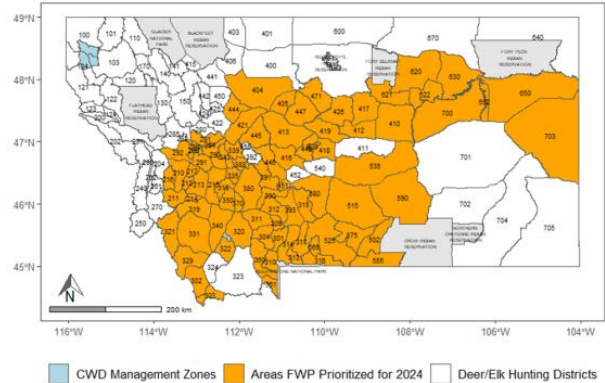
There are new CWD testing requirements for tags associated with CWD management near Libby. If you are harvesting an animal within HDs 100, 103, or 104, please review the [2024 hunting regulations](#) to determine if testing requirements apply.

Aside from previously mentioned, testing is voluntary, and FWP can help hunters get their animals tested.

Hunters can take the samples themselves, fill out the online hunter submission form available on our [website](#), and mail them to our Wildlife Health Lab in Bozeman. Hunters also can bring the animal (or head) to a CWD Sampling Station or to most FWP offices. Not all FWP offices can offer help with sampling, so please call ahead to check on availability and to ensure your visit is timely, quick, and smooth.

If you intend to donate your deer, elk, or moose to a food bank, FWP strongly recommends that it has been tested for CWD and that you have a “Not Detected” lab result in hand upon donation. Properly dispose of any animals that test positive.

For more information, including how to take your own samples, sample collection locations and hours of operation, and maps of our Priority Sampling Areas and Class II landfills, contact your local FWP office or visit [fwp.mt.gov/cwd](http://fwp.mt.gov/cwd), where you can find a wealth of information about CWD.



.....  
**Farm Bill:** *Editor’s Note — The Farm Bill has huge waste in all portions of the bill, checks and balances are nearly extinct. It needs to be separate from the social programs buried in it and stand on its own but politicians are afraid to address the issue of social funding knowing it would be exceptionally hard to pass.*

The current, 5-year Farm Bill was passed in 2018 and given a one-year extension last year. Without further action, it will expire at the end of September.

The Farm Bill was discussed this week by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Chairman of the House Ag Committee, Congressman G.T. Thompson, (R-PA).

"We are going to get this done because you need it," Thompson told the crowd in Pennsylvania regarding his hopes for pushing the Farm Bill through to conclusion yet this Congressional Session. "The bottom line is that we need the Senate to move ahead. They have 90 pages of ideas, some good, some not good," as the legislation is currently before the US Senate for review, discussion and action.

Thompson noted that 80% of the funds in the \$1.5 trillion Farm, Food and National Security Act does not go to farmers at all, but to recipients of the nation’s food programs, such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), which many still refer to simply as “food stamps.”

*Who Benefits from the Farm Bill?* The Farm Bill supports America’s farmers, ranchers and forest stewards through a variety of programs that promote conservation practices, provide loans and grants, facilitate training and education and protect landowners from disasters.

# September is National Tree Stand Safety Month

**Editor’s Note: This is a great reminder for any hunter in any state, be mindful of the dangers with a tree stand and make sure everything is secure before climbing up, including your personal harness system.**

Hunting from an elevated tree stand is a common way to hunt, but there are a few things to keep in mind when it comes to staying safe.

With many hunting seasons in Michigan opening in September – National Tree Stand Safety Awareness Month – it’s the perfect time to brush up on what you need to know about hunting from a tree. A few things to remember:

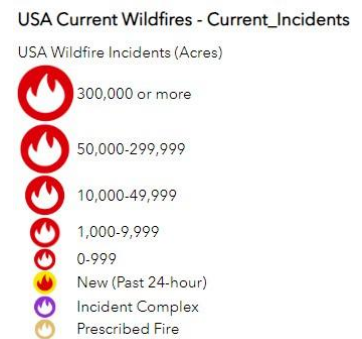
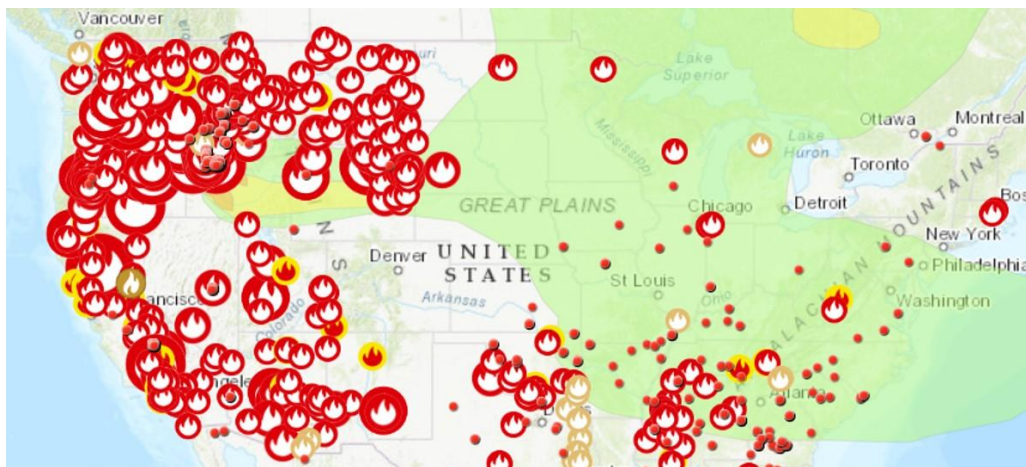
- Always maintain three points of contact (one hand and two feet or two hands and one foot) when climbing up to or down from the stand.
- Wear a full-body harness that is properly attached above your head.
- Ensure your tree stand is securely attached and stable before using it.
- Use a haul line to get your hunting gear to and from the stand.

In Michigan, tree stands placed on public land must be labeled with the hunter’s information in legible English that can be easily read from the ground and include one of the following three options: the hunter’s name and address, their driver’s license number or their DNR Sportcard number.

During every hunt, make safety your top priority. Need a refresher? The DNR’s hunter education program teaches tree stand safety, firearm handling, first aid and other important skills.



**Fires Continue:** Smoke is filling the skies in northern Wyoming and southern Montana as fires consuming upwards of 460,000 acres are burning. Timber is the enemy in forest fires in the areas near Towgotee Pass and the Brooks Lake Lodge.



“We often go in places you can’t take an engine, that’s fairly common,” said Chris Joyner, Northern Rockies Incident Management Team spokesman for the 11,420-acre Fish Creek Fire near the Teton and Fremont County line. “(But) these area areas we can’t put a sawyer in there. These standing dead trees may fall in five minutes or they may fall in five years – they’re extremely dangerous.”

According to Joyner, "the standing trees, dead from beetle kill, pack the forest so thickly in many areas that a man hoping to cut one tree down has no safe escape should several more collapse with it."

## Hunting during warm weather requires extra care

Some early season hunting opportunities have already begun in Idaho, with additional archery seasons and moose hunts starting in September. While early season hunts can provide an excellent opportunity to harvest a big game animal, warm weather brings additional challenges when it comes to properly caring for game meat to prevent it from spoiling, especially when dealing with larger animals like moose and elk.

The key to preserving meat in hot weather is to begin the cooling process as quickly as possible. Meat spoils the quickest around the ball joints in the hip and underneath the front shoulders. Your harvest should be immediately skinned, reduced to quarters, and quickly transported to cold storage. In larger animals it may even be necessary to make some cuts in between muscles to the bone to allow heat to escape. Larger muscle masses take a long time to cool, and meat can spoil in a matter of hours if heat cannot escape.

Failure to cool meat down fast enough may result in what is commonly referred to as bone souring. Bone souring is caused by an explosion of bacteria, typically near the bones, that gives the meat a pungent aroma and foul taste. Once bone souring has occurred, there is no way to salvage or reverse it.

Hunters have a legal and ethical obligation to properly care for game meat they harvest. Allowing game meat to spoil will not only result in lost meat, but the hunter may also be cited for wasting game. Having a plan in place before you harvest in warm weather will help you end up with a freezer full of quality meat, instead of the heartache of spoiled meat.



### Additional tips for meat care include:

**Meat can spoil overnight-** When an animal is harvested in the evening, it still needs to be found, cleaned, and processed as quickly as possible. Keep in mind that the ground is a great insulator. The elevated part of the carcass might cool slightly, but the bottom-side will retain heat and sometimes spoil if left overnight.

**Have ice available-** If you're making a relatively short trip from the field to home or field to camp, fill the body cavity of an unskinned pronghorn or deer with ice bags to help cool it. But beware, body heat can remain in the thickest parts of the animal, such as the hindquarters, and stuffing with ice is only a temporary measure. You should not rely on ice alone in the body cavity of larger animals like elk or moose, which will require skinning and additional cutting to allow heat to escape. For longer trips, blocked ice in a quality cooler will last much longer than cubed ice.

**Don't hang meat if it's too hot-** It is safer to skin, quarter, and put the meat on ice rather than hang it in fluctuating temperatures. A large cooler will hold most or all of a deer that's been quartered, or an elk that has been cut into smaller pieces. Remember to leave evidence of sex and species, as per rules found on page 102 of the [big game rules booklet](#).

**Find a meat processor-** It is becoming more common for hunters to take animals into a processing facility rather than butcher the meat at home. Knowing where the nearest meat processing facilities are located and their hours of operation will make it much easier to get meat taken care of quickly. Some meat processors only accept game animals at certain times of the year and space may be limited, so it never hurts to make a phone call before you go hunting.

Continued on Page 29

**Continued from Page 28 — Protect the meat from insects-** In temperatures below 40 degrees, flies are rarely a problem, but in higher temperatures, flies are your enemy. Game bags are essential to keep meat free of flies and clean as well. In warm weather, always bag skinned meat immediately. It is far easier to keep meat clean than it is to remove fly eggs, hair, dirt, grass, and pine needles later.

**Use water carefully-** There are conflicting views about washing down a big game animal with water after it is skinned. Most professional meat processors agree that using clean, cold water to remove animal hair and dirt is a good practice if the carcass air dries quickly so that the water does not encourage bacterial growth. A cold-water spray can also hasten the cooling process.

## 2024 deer and elk hunting outlook for Idaho

Elk, the stalwarts of the mountains generally speaking, have stayed relatively healthy and stable. Statewide, mule deer numbers also appear to be improving, while eastern Idaho's muleys—after suffering from one of the worst winters on record in 2023—are starting to gradually grow thanks to a much-needed mild winter. While scorching summer temperatures usually present the threat of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in white-tailed deer, so far, there's no sign of any significant outbreaks this year.

If we're going to lead with good news, then we probably ought to start with elk. Overall, the numbers for Idaho elk are once again looking steady and impressive.

Fish and Game's Deer and Elk Coordinator Toby Boudreau believes we will see much of the same, if not better conditions, for elk this fall.

"Overall, elk populations are looking good," Boudreau said. "We saw 87% of collared elk calves and 96% of collared cows make it through the winter, which is a few percentages higher than most years."

Mule deer also appear to be heading in the right direction—including those in eastern Idaho. Winter survival is typically the driving factor for mule deer herds, and the long-term average is about 60% of fawns surviving their first winter, but during hard winters that can be significantly lower.

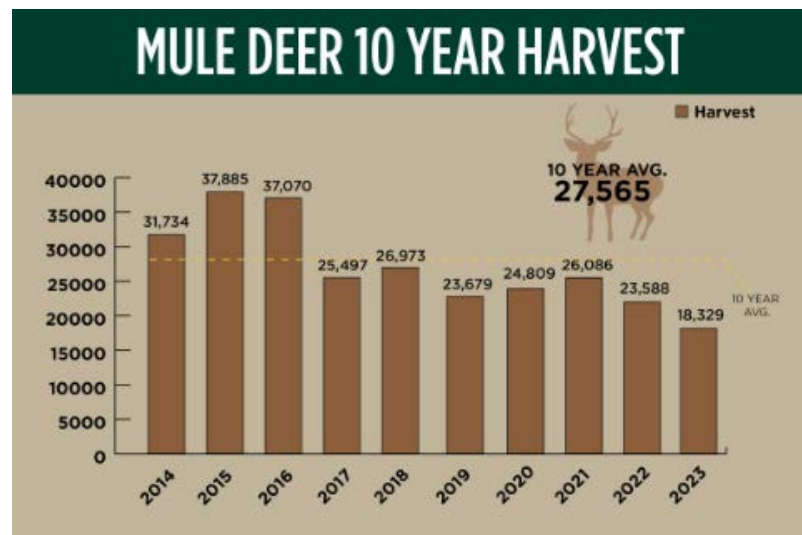
To monitor herds, Fish and Game biologists captured and collared 217 mule deer fawns and 168 does in early winter in various parts of the state to track their winter survival. Of those collared, 77% of fawns and 95% of does made it through to spring.

"It's going to take a few more years for mule deer to rebound in that part of the state, but a few more mild winters and I think fawns in particular will continue to trend in the right direction," Boudreau said.

And as for whitetails, which saw the only hunter harvest *increase* among the three species, the news appears good...at least for now.

Hot summers and white-tailed deer can sometimes turn into a storm cloud of potential EHD outbreaks, seen as recently as 2021. There have been no such reports, but Fish and Game wildlife officials are encouraging folks to keep an eye out for deer showing signs of the disease.

EHD outbreaks usually occur during later summer and before the first frost when hot, dry conditions cause animals to congregate at watering areas where gnats – which carry and transmit the disease – are also likely to be. Assuming we avoid an outbreak, whitetail herds should continue to rebound.



## \$3.6 million in grants available for invasive species projects

Michigan's Invasive Species Grant Program is now accepting proposals for the 2024 funding cycle, with an anticipated \$3.6 million available to applicants.

The program – a joint effort of the Michigan departments of Natural Resources; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Agriculture and Rural Development – is celebrating the 10th year of the statewide initiative launched in 2014 to help prevent, detect and control invasive species in Michigan.

**Invasive species** are those that are not native and whose introduction causes harm to Michigan's economy, environment or human health.

“The challenge of harmful invasive species in Michigan is bigger than any one department in state government,” said EGLE Director Phil Roos. “It takes cooperation, education, and effective tools like the Michigan Invasive Species Grant to counter the threat these invaders pose to our environment, economy, and well-being – on land and in our waters.”

Program handbook, webinar

The [2024 grant program handbook](#) outlines program priorities and application guidelines. Applicants also can take advantage of a [webinar on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 9 a.m.](#) to learn more about general grant information, the application process and 2024 priorities.

Both the handbook and webinar registration information are available at [Michigan.gov/MISGP](https://Michigan.gov/MISGP). A recorded version of the webinar will be available on that webpage after Sept. 10.

### 2024 priorities

This year, the program is seeking proposals for projects to address the following priorities.

- Improving public adoption of decontamination practices like cleaning recreation equipment between uses or purchasing local firewood.
- Detecting and responding to [watch list species](#) in high-risk areas.
- Improving understanding and developing response plans for watch list species or others that may pose future risks to Michigan.
- Implementing and evaluating control projects for high-priority invasive species.
- Finding innovative and efficient control methods.
- Increasing biological and ecological understanding of invasive species to improve detection and control.
- Developing or improving risk assessments, best control practices and other resources to inform management decisions.
- Supporting Michigan's 22 cooperative invasive species management areas, or CISMAs, in implementing strategic plans for outreach, detection and control of regional priority species.

Applicants should review the full list of priorities provided in the MISGP Handbook and communicate with technical contacts if questions arise.

### Program progress

The Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program supports projects throughout the state that prevent, detect, manage and eradicate invasive species on the ground and in the water. Total program funding is set by the Legislature and the governor during the annual budget cycle.

In the last 10 years, the program has awarded over \$36 million to 269 projects, resulting in education, identification and management of invasive species including hemlock woolly adelgid insects, European frog-bit plants and mile-a-minute weed.

Because of this program, more than 664,000 acres of land and water have been surveyed and approximately 53,000 acres have been treated for invasive species.

Highlights of the 2023 invasive species program are available in the [Michigan Invasive Species Program Annual Report](#), which includes program-funded projects.

Continued on Page 31

**Continued from Page 30** — Regional CISMAs operate in all of Michigan’s 83 counties, assisting the public in identifying and managing invasive species. Contact information for individual CISMAs can be found at [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://Michigan.gov/Invasives) in the [Take Action](#) section.

Important program dates and information

Local, state, federal and tribal units of government, **nonprofit organizations** and universities may apply for funding to support invasive species projects in Michigan. Full project proposals are due Nov.1. The award announcement is anticipated in March 2025.

Grant requests for general projects can range from a minimum of \$25,000 to a maximum of \$400,000. CISMAs can request up to \$70,000 for annual implementation of prevention, detection and control activities and up to \$40,000 for specific outreach and/or survey and treatment projects.

There are no match requirements for the program, and match documentation will not be accepted as part of the application.

Competitive applications will outline clear objectives, propose significant ecological benefits, demonstrate diverse collaboration and show strong community support.

All applications must be submitted through the MiGrants online system. Applicants can access the system at [MiGrants.Intelligrants.com](https://MiGrants.Intelligrants.com) or follow the link at [Michigan.gov/MISGP](https://Michigan.gov/MISGP).

## NSSF-adjusted NICS background checks for August 2024

The [August 2024 NSSF-adjusted National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#) figure of 1,210,995 is an increase of 8.3 percent compared to the [August 2023 NSSF-adjusted NICS figure](#) of 1,117,821.

For comparison, the unadjusted August 2024 FBI NICS figure 2,163,540 reflects a 5.7% percent increase from the unadjusted FBI NICS figure of 2,047,512 in August 2023.

August 2024 marks the 61st consecutive month that has exceeded 1 million adjusted background checks in a single month.

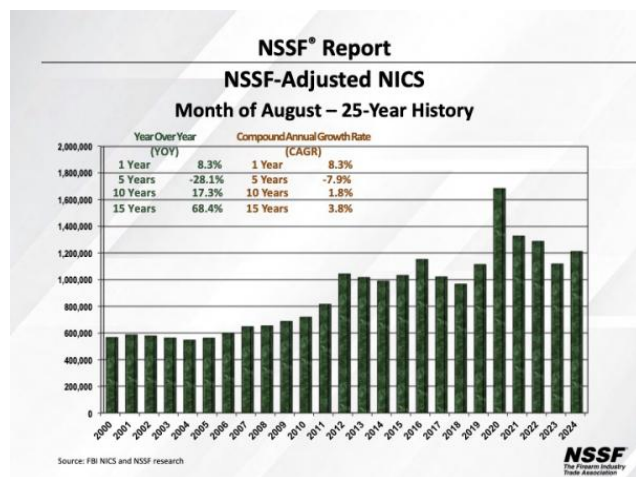
**Please note: Twenty-four states** currently have at least one qualified alternative permit, which under the Brady Act allows the permit-holder, who has undergone a background check to obtain the permit, to purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer without a separate additional background check for that transfer. The number of NICS checks in these states does not include these legal transfers based on qualifying permits and NSSF does not adjust for these transfers.

The adjusted NICS data were derived by subtracting out NICS purpose code permit checks and permit rechecks used by states for CCW permit application checks as well as checks on active CCW permit databases. NSSF started subtracting permit rechecks in February 2016.

Though not a direct correlation to firearms sales, the NSSF-adjusted NICS data provide an additional picture of current market conditions. In addition to other purposes, NICS is used to check transactions for sales or transfers of new or used firearms.

It should be noted that these statistics represent the number of firearm background checks initiated through the NICS. They do not represent the number of firearms sold or sales dollars. Based on varying state laws, local market conditions and purchase scenarios, a one-to-one correlation cannot be made between a firearm background check and a firearm sale.

For additional information on NICS or to view a complete set of the current monthly reports, please visit the [NICS website](#).



## Wildlife news from North Carolina Resources Commission

**Sandbag Island Is Back!** We found out about the Army Corps. of Engineers' plans to dredge near Harkers Island. We asked if we could take the dredged materials to bring back Sandbag Island in hopes of making it a nesting habitat for waterbirds. They said yes, and we are on our way to a success story! [Read more](#)

**Turtle Hatchling Season:** September is the peak time for sea turtle hatchlings to emerge from nests and scramble to the ocean along our coastal beaches here in North Carolina. Nearly half of the 1,358 sea turtle nests laid in summer 2024 have produced hatchlings, with more emerging from remaining nests through October and into November.

Most sea turtle hatchlings emerge from their nests at night and use visual cues to traverse the beach and reach the water.

Please remember when visiting the coast to keep the beach as dark as possible, to allow the turtles to easily find their way to the water, by turning off outdoor lights visible on the beach, and drawing curtains to block indoors lights.

**Watch your Step!** Did you know that late August through September is baby copperhead season in North Carolina? Young copperheads look exactly like adults, except they have a yellow-tipped tail which they will wiggle to lure prey within striking distance. Copperheads are the only venomous snake that can be found in all 100 counties.

### Upcoming Hunting Season Dates

**Bear:** Oct. 12 – Jan. 1, 2025 See Regulations Digest, page 60

**Deer:** Archery, Blackpowder, Gun See Regulations Digest page 62

**Youth Deer Hunting:** Statewide Sept. 28, Western region Nov 28-29

**Antlerless:** See Regulations Digest, page 88

**Raccoon and Opossum:** Oct. 14-Feb. 28

**Squirrel, Gray and Red:** Oct. 14 – Feb. 28

**Squirrel, Fox:** Oct. 14 – Jan. 31

**Rabbit, Grouse, Bobcat:** Oct. 14 – Feb. 28

**Quail:** Nov. 23-Feb. 28

**Pheasant:** Sept. 2-Feb. 28 (For Barrier Islands exclusions, see Regulations Digest, page 69)

**Migratory Game Birds:** See Regulations Digest, pages 72 and 73

**Visit [Fishing, Hunting & Trapping Regulations](#)** for additional dates and regulation details. Major regulations changes content appear RED in digest.



# GUN STORAGE CHECK WEEK

SEPT 1-7

MAKE SURE IT'S SECURE

GunStorageCheck.org

Brought to You by the Firearm Industry

Win a gun safe!

SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE

A PROGRAM OF **NSSF**  
The Firearm Industry Trade Association

*Editor's Note: A simple rule, if your firearm is not on your hip or in your hand, it needs to be locked up. Be safe all the time.*

Continued from Page 24 — AI power demand is forecast to rise at a rapid rate is showing no signs of slowing as Big Tech continues to spend billions on AI infrastructure.

Where will the energy come from? Is the grid ready?

The one thing we know and understand is supply and demand. And we understand the costs that are associated with that theory, get passed along to all of us. Which leaves with less for the fun things we enjoy in life!



**The most important responsibility we have as citizens of this country is to vote.**

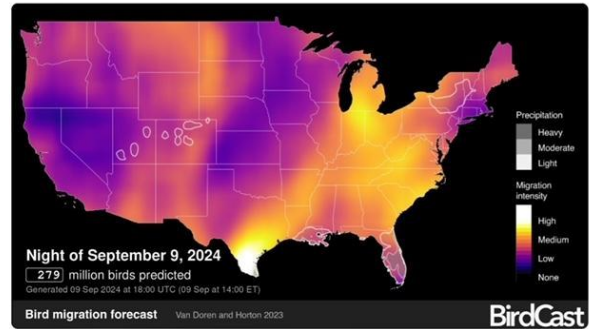
The criticality of this upcoming election to our republic, I think, is the most important one since our very founding. There are forces trying to change the very fabric of our nation. This requires every person who can, get out and vote.

Every sportsman, veteran, or person of any religious denomination who are citizens of this country need to get out and **VOTE** in November.

We as a nation, cannot sustain the destruction of our ability to own homes, feed our families or enjoy the right.

Talk to your friends, neighbors and community members. Get them out to **VOTE**!

- Craig Alderman



### 2024 Bird Migration Prediction

**Did you know? From BBB.org —** If you see a heartbreaking post about a lost pet, a senior in need or a missing child on your Facebook feed, think twice before you share. It could be the setup for a bait-and-switch scam. The story in the post is made up, and after you share it, the scammer edits the post to be about whatever scheme they're trying to carry out.

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“It’s all about Wildlife”  
National Staff

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