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This Is Not the Full Law

THIS IS NOT THE FULL LAW. The information in this Digest is based on N.J.S.A. Title 23, Title 13:1B-34 and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5. The amended regulations are known as the Game Code and implement the statute laws. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Law Enforcement for further details. See Law Enforcement Conservation Police Contacts, page 18 for regional Law Enforcement offices. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal documents.
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Cover photo: Eastern wild turkey gobbler in full strut.

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Where to Write Us
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife
MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • NJFishandWildlife.com

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Our Mission
To protect and manage the state’s fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

Our Goals
• To maintain New Jersey’s rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
• To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
• To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey’s fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.
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As the seasons change, our excitement grows for another great year of hunting and trapping in New Jersey. Getting outdoors this year is particularly exciting after the challenges we faced during 2020 and early 2021. I know I’m ready to get into the woods and I hope you are, too.

As always, the staff of the Division of Fish and Wildlife have been working hard to ensure wildlife management areas (WMA) across the state are in prime condition for the season. With over 358,000 acres on 122 WMAs, opportunities abound for those looking to hunt public lands. The diverse habitats among our WMAs range from fields to forests to coastal wetlands, so no matter the season, there’s a remarkable variety to explore. Remember always to practice good outdoor ethics and hunting etiquette when on these open spaces. They are owned by the public and we all share the responsibility of keeping them clean. Follow the regulations and keep everyone safe.

Speaking of regulations, a revision to our Game Code has resulted in several new regulations. These new regulations appear in red text throughout this edition of the New Jersey Hunting & Trapping Digest. Deer hunters should pay special attention to these changes, which include stricter regulations on transporting deer parts plus a ban on natural, urine-based lures to reduce the possibility of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) entering New Jersey. This disease has devastated deer herds in other states. Everyone must do their part to help prevent its spread into New Jersey. More details on CWD and the new regulations are found on page 46.

As you read through this edition of the Digest, you’ll notice significant changes for how regulations are presented, part of our ongoing effort to make regulation information more accessible and understandable. Regulation summary tables, like the sporting arms and ammo table for deer hunting on page 30 and our new What Do I Need tables (example, page 28), make it easier to know before you go.

Remember that all hunting zone information is now online and interactive as part of our Hunting & Trapping Explorer. (See callouts on pages 22 and 45 or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt.) Use this app to explore new hunting and trapping locations and get regulation information from your computer or mobile device.

This season we are pleased to have six new conservation police officers (CPOs) working in the field. These recruits advanced through their multi-year training and are now full CPOs working as team members in their regions. Adding to our already excellent Bureau of Law Enforcement, these new officers will increase our ability to enforce fish and wildlife regulations and keep the public safe. You can assist in this effort by reporting violations you see in the field. Call our NJDEP hotline at 1-877-WARNDEP 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report illegal activity. For more information on hunting-related law enforcement in New Jersey, be sure to see pages 18 and 19.

As you get ready to head into the field this year, take time to sight in your firearm or bow. Our renovated, WMA public shooting ranges have never been better. New covered shooting stations are installed at the Millville, Colliers Mills, Stafford Forge, Clinton and Flatbrook ranges. These range improvements were made possible with funding from your hunting license purchases in combination with federal funding from the Wildlife Restoration Program. In addition to comfortable shooting benches, the range renovations increase safety by designing concrete baffles to decrease visible ‘blue sky’ downrange, reducing the possibility for a projectile to travel over the backstop area. More information about our outdoor shooting ranges is found on page 23.

This year, consider sharing your hunting experience with someone who has not yet been hunting. Our New Jersey Apprentice Hunting License (see page 13) makes it easy to bring first-time hunters into the field. Can you remember your first hunting experience? You can be the hunter who helps to create those wonderful memories for another. Your next New Jersey hunting adventure awaits. Get outside and bring a friend!

Dave Golden is the Director of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.
Hunters and target shooters purchase firearms and ammunition. Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition. Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies. State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects. Better hunting and associated recreation increase the public’s understanding of wildlife conservation.

Your Dollars Make a Difference!

When you purchase hunting and shooting equipment in New Jersey, excise tax dollars — paid by manufacturers of ammunition, firearms, and archery equipment — come back to New Jersey to support wildlife conservation! This is the federal Wildlife Restoration Program.

Your license fees and federal Wildlife Restoration dollars produce the following benefits:

- Management and restoration of wildlife species throughout the state
- Acquisition of suitable wildlife habitat and/or public access for hunting or other wildlife-oriented recreation.
- Development, maintenance and restoration of Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state for the benefit of the public
- NJ’s pheasant hunting program
- Creation of hunter education and R3 programs
Become an R3 Mentor!

R3 stands for Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation.

This nationwide initiative is generating new participation in hunting and the shooting sports, welcoming new and former hunters and shooters while addressing the declining numbers as many older participants leave these activities. The R3 effort will help create the next generation of conservationists while stabilizing critical wildlife conservation funding.

Will you be part of the solution?

R3 Mentor Program

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s R3 Program is actively seeking volunteer hunting and target shooting mentors. Mentors must show safe, ethical and responsible use of archery and firearm equipment in the pursuit of game species and/or recreational shooting programs.

Mentor roles include:

• Assisting one-on-one with prospective novice hunters and target shooters.
• Sharing knowledge and experience at skill-based clinics, seminars, and workshops.
• Participating at field-to-fork style programming.

Questions about the R3 Mentor Program and application requests can be directed to r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov or (856) 629-1014.

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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Graphic Design:
Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski

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