

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission

Proclamation 08-07

Statewide Big Game Hunting Seasons and Bag Limit
(Exclusive of Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges)

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 70-4-107 and 70-5-108, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission hereby proclaims the statewide big game seasons and bag limits, effective August 1, 2008.

Section I. White-tailed Deer

A. White-tailed Deer Hunting Units

For the purpose of these hunting regulations and better wildlife management, the State of Tennessee is hereby divided into three (3) deer units, as follows:

Unit

- A. Benton, Bledsoe, Bradley, Chester, Clay, Crockett, Cumberland, DeKalb, Dyer, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lake, Lauderdale, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Overton, Perry, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Sequatchie, Tipton, Van Buren, Warren, White.
- B. Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Pickett, Polk, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, Washington.
- L. Bedford, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Coffee, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Hardeman, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Moore, Obion, Robertson, Rutherford, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Weakley, Williamson, Wilson.

B. White-tailed Deer Bag Limits and Season Dates

Statewide - Antlered Buck Bag Limit

The statewide bag limit for antlered bucks in Tennessee is three (3), except a hunter may take no more than two (2) antlered bucks from Unit B. No more than 1 antlered deer may be taken per day. The only way the bag limit of three antlered bucks may be exceeded is if bucks are taken on TWRA or NWR managed hunts where the bucks are noted as bonus deer in the section listing WMA regulations. Deer taken on Ft. Campbell are also bonus deer.

Units A and L - Bag Limits:

Season Type	Season Dates	Antlered Bag Limit		Antlerless Bag Limits	
		Unit A	Unit L	Unit A	Unit L
Archery	Sept. 27, 2008 - Oct. 24, 2008 Oct. 27, 2008 - Oct. 31, 2008 Nov. 10, 2008 - Nov. 21, 2008 Dec. 15, 2008 - Dec. 19, 2008	3		4	3/day
Muzzleloader	Nov. 1, 2008 - Nov. 9, 2008 Dec. 8, 2008 - Dec. 14, 2008			4	3/day

Gun	Nov. 22, 2008 - Dec. 7, 2008 Dec. 20, 2008 - Jan. 11, 2009		See Quota Hunt Table – Section C for antlerless hunts	3/day* (Type 94 permit required)
Young Sportsman**	Oct. 25 – Oct. 26, 2008		2	3/day
	Jan. 17 – Jan 18, 2009		2	3/day

Unit B - Bag Limits:

Season Type	Season Dates	Deer Bag Limits (see Note below)	
		Unit B	
Archery	Sept. 27, 2008 - Oct. 24, 2008 Oct. 27, 2008 - Oct. 31, 2008 Nov. 10, 2008 - Nov. 21, 2008	2 deer, either sex	
Muzzleloader	Nov. 1, 2008 - Nov. 9, 2008	1 deer, antlered only (this deer may be either sex Nov. 1-5)	
	Dec. 12, 2008 - Dec. 14, 2008	1 deer, antlered only	
Gun	Nov. 22, 2008 – Nov. 30, 2008 Dec. 20, 2008 - Jan. 7, 2009	2 deer, antlered only See Quota Hunt Table – Section C for antlerless hunts	
Young Sportsman**	Oct. 25 – Oct. 26, 2008	1 deer, either sex	
	Jan. 17 – Jan 18, 2009	1 deer, either sex	

* A Type 94 permit is required to hunt antlerless deer during this season except for landowners hunting under the landowner exemption (as described in T.C.A. 70-2-204), Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters who possess a Type 167 permit.

** Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

Note: The statewide antlered buck limit is three (3), except no more than two (2) antlered bucks may be harvested in Unit B. Antlered deer must have antlers a minimum of three inches (3") in length on buck only or antlered only hunts. Antlerless deer are defined as deer with no antlers or deer with antlers less than three inches (3") in length.

Archery equipment is permitted during the muzzleloader and gun seasons while muzzleloading equipment is permitted during the gun season.

C. Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Hunts

The following counties and portions of counties are open to antlerless deer hunting during the regular gun season as specified.

Quota Hunts -- *Special quota permit required, except for landowners hunting under the landowner exemption (as described in T.C.A. 70-2-204).* Bag-limit one deer per permit except where noted. Note: Blount, Knox, Roane, and Sullivan counties allow a bag limit of 2 deer per permit.

Non-quota Hunts -- *No hunter quota but a Type 94 permit is required except for landowners hunting on their own land, Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters*

who possess a Type 167 permit.

Note: Unit A & B: the bag limit for each county for each non-quota hunt is defined in the Table.
Unit L: a hunter may harvest 3 antlerless deer per day during the regular gun season.

COUNTY	Quota Hunts						Non-Quota Hunts		
	Nov 22- Nov 23	Nov 24- Nov 27	Nov 28- Dec 2	Dec 3- Dec 7	Dec 20- Dec 22	Dec 20- Dec 28	Dec 20 – Dec 28	Dec 29 – Jan 4	Jan 5 – Jan 11
	NUMBER OF PERMITS PER HUNT						NUMBER OF DEER PER HUNT		
Anderson ¹						400			
Benton	200	200	200	200			2	2	2
Blount* ²						200			
Bradley		500	500						
Carter ³						200			
Chester	400	400	400	400			2	2	2
Claiborne						250			
Clay			200				2		
Crockett							2	2	2
DeKalb								2	2
Dyer							2	2	2
Fentress					150				
Grainger						400			
Greene ³						250			
Grundy			300						
Hamblen						100			
Hamilton		500	500		500				
Hancock						400			
Hardin			400	400			2	2	2
Hawkins	200						1		
Haywood	400	400	400	400			2	2	2
Henderson	200	200	200	200			2	2	2
Jefferson						250			
Johnson ³						200			
Knox							2		
Lake									2
Lauderdale							2	2	2
Loudon east of I-75						250			
Loudon west of I-							1		
McMinn		750	750		750				
Marion			400	400					
Meigs		750	750		750				
Overton			200				2		
Perry								2	2

1 Anderson County east of State Highway 330 and east of Briceville Highway only.

2 Blount County West of Highway 411 and east of Highway 129.

3 Excludes Cherokee WMA.

COUNTY	Quota Hunts						Non-Quota Hunts		
	Nov 22- Nov 23	Nov 24- Nov 27	Nov 28- Dec 2	Dec 3- Dec 7	Dec 20- Dec 22	Dec 20- Dec 28	Dec 20 – Dec 28	Dec 29 – Jan 4	Jan 5 – Jan 11
Putnam			200						
Rhea		750	750		750				
Roane*		750	750		750				
Sevier* ⁴						200			
Sullivan* ³						400			
Tipton									2
Van Buren			300						
Warren								2	2
White			250	250					

* - Indicates bag limit of 2 deer per permit for quota hunts.

Section II. Feral Hog Seasons (No hunting with dogs allowed except where indicated.)

Feral hogs are defined as any wild hog found in Tennessee except on Catoosa, South Cherokee, and Foothills WMA's. Feral hogs are considered big game but are not required to be tagged or checked in at big game checking stations.

Private lands (Public Hunting Areas are considered private land)

Year round season, except in holdings on Catoosa WMA and South Cherokee where season is open with statewide deer seasons with dogs prohibited.

No limit -either sex

Publicly owned lands

Open during scheduled white-tailed deer hunts unless otherwise specified.

No limit -either sex

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is also open from Jan. 21-Feb. 28, 2009.

No limit -either sex

In the following counties dogs may be used for feral hog hunting on the dates indicated⁵:

Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64)

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted)

Oct. 6-13, 18-19, 2008
No limit-Either Sex

Blount, Cocke (South of I-40), Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), and Sevier

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted)

Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2008
No limit-Either Sex

Blount, Cocke, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64) and Sevier

³ Excludes Cherokee WMA.

⁴ Sevier County North of Highway 411.

⁵ Dates inclusive.

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted) Nov. 17-20, 2008
No limit-Either Sex

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted) Dec. 4-Dec. 17, 2008
No limit-Either Sex

Section III. Black Bear

A. Black Bear Bag Limits and Season Dates

The Following Counties Are Open For Bear Hunting:

Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Johnson, Monroe, Polk (that portion east of Hwy. 411 and north of Hwy. 64), Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted) Nov. 17-20, 2008
1 per year-Either Sex

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted) Dec. 4-Dec. 17, 2008
1 per year-Either Sex.

Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64)

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted) Oct. 6-7, 18-19, 2008
1 per year-Either Sex.

Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Johnson, Monroe, Polk (that portion east of Hwy. 411 and north of Hwy. 64), Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Archery Only
(No Dogs) Sept. 27– Oct. 24, 2008
1 per year-Either Sex.

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(No Dogs) Nov. 27-Nov. 30, 2008
1 per year-Either Sex

Blount, Cocke (South of I-40), Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), and Sevier

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted) Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2008
1 per year-Either Sex.

The Following Counties Are Open For A Bear Dog Training Season:

Cocke, Greene, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), and Sevier Counties.

Sept. 2-15, 2008. No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed. Daylight hours only.

The Following Counties Are Open For A Bear Dog Training Season (Private lands only):

Blount, Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Sept. 2-15, 2008. No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed. Daylight hours only.

B. Special Bear Hunting Regulations:

1. The limit of bears for any person participating in the statewide or managed hunts or both shall not exceed one (1) bear per calendar year.
2. Cubs or female bears with cubs at side may not be taken at any time. A cub is defined as any bear weighing seventy-five (75) pounds or less.
3. All harvested bears must be checked out at an official checking station. Bears may be whole or field dressed, but must weigh 75 pounds or greater when checked in.
4. The reproductive sex organs shall remain attached to each bear harvested at least until the bear has been officially checked out at an official bear checking station.

Section IV. General Regulations for 2009 Spring Turkey Harvest

A. Prohibited Acts

1. The use of any type of food to feed or attract wild turkeys on WMAs. Shooting or stalking turkeys from a boat in Shelby, Dyer, Tipton, Lauderdale, Haywood or Obion counties prohibited. Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is prohibited from March 1st to the opening day of the spring turkey hunts on all WMAs.
2. A licensed turkey hunter, who has filled his/her bag limit or does not possess a valid permit for a quota hunt, may accompany another turkey hunter (except on WMAs where prohibited) and assist him/her in calling, but may not have a gun or bow in his possession.

B. 2009 Statewide Spring Turkey Season Dates

1. Spring Turkey Season Dates

March 28 through May 10, 2009

2. Statewide Young Sportsmen Hunt (6-16 years of age)

March 21-22, 2009. Youths must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device, who is not required to have a license. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

C. Spring Turkey Bag and Possession Limits

One (1) bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four (4) per season. Turkeys taken on all quota hunts and specially designated WMA's are bonus turkeys.

Young Sportsmen hunt - One (1) bearded turkey. Turkey counts toward statewide bag unless taken on WMA where turkey is listed as bonus bird.

D. Spring Turkey Shooting Hours

Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise to sunset

Section V. 2008 Fall Turkey Hunting (Shotgun/Archery)

The following counties are open for archery only fall turkey hunting during fall archery only deer seasons. Bag limit for this season is one turkey either-sex. These same counties are open for one quota gun fall turkey hunt on Nov 15-21 with a bag limit of one turkey either-sex per permit with the exception that those counties indicated by an asterisk (*) are open Nov. 15-21 and Dec. 15-19 and have a bag limit of three (3) either-sex turkeys per permit.

County	Hunter Quota	County	Hunter Quota
Anderson	50	Knox	50
Bedford*	800	Lawrence*	1000
Benton	200	Lewis*	600
Blount	50	Lincoln*	1200
Cannon*	400	Macon*	1000
Carroll	50	Madison	100
Carter	50	Marion*	300
Cheatham*	1000	Marshall*	1000
Claiborne	100	Maury*	1000
Clay	50	McNairy	50
Cocke	100	Montgomery*	1200
Coffee*	400	Moore*	300
Davidson *	500	Morgan	50
Decatur	50	Overton	50
DeKalb*	500	Perry	50
Dickson*	1500	Pickett	50
Fayette	100	Putnam	50
Fentress	50	Robertson*	800
Franklin*	600	Rutherford*	800
Giles*	1000	Scott	50
Grainger	100	Sevier	100
Greene	150	Smith*	1000
Hamblen	50	Stewart	100
Hancock	100	Sullivan	50
Hardeman	100	Sumner*	600
Hardin	50	Trousdale*	1000
Hawkins	150	Union	50
Henderson	50	Warren	300
Henry	500	Washington	50
Hickman*	1000	Wayne*	750
Houston	100	Weakley	50
Humphreys	100	White	300

Jackson	50	Williamson*	1000
Jefferson	100	Wilson*	1000
Johnson	50		

Section VI. Special Regulations.

1. Big Game Tagging – It is unlawful to move, transport, or field dress any big game animal, except for feral hogs without invalidating and attaching a properly completed temporary kill tag. If additional animals are to be harvested on that calendar day, the hunter is not required to stop hunting and tag the animal until he/she is ready to move, transport, or field dress the animal. All animals harvested must be accompanied by one tagged animal and must be taken together to the nearest big game checking station by the most reasonably direct route within thirty-six (36) hours of first kill where one new temporary kill tag will be issued. Evidence of species and sex must be available for inspection by Wildlife Officer or Agency designated personnel prior to issuance of permanent game tag. The permanent harvest tag is a legal document and must be signed by the hunter. By signing the permanent harvest tag, the hunter is affirming that the information, as it appears on the permanent tag, is correct and valid. The permanent game tag must remain with each carcass until final processing. Persons legally hunting without a license are also required to take any big game animal harvested to a check station. After receiving a temporary harvest tag from checking in their first kill, these persons must comply with all tagging regulations. All big game taken to a taxidermist to be mounted must be accompanied by documentation showing the permanent game tag number, checking station number, and date of kill.
2. For antlered bucks a legal antler point is a projection at least one inch long, measured from the tip of the point to the nearest edge of the beam, following the mid-line of the tine.
3. Deer and turkey defined as “bonus” animals do not count toward statewide, seasonal, or daily bag limits.

Section V. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. 07-07, dated May 24, 2007.

Proclamation No. 08-07 received and recorded this 5th day of June, 2008; to be effective the 1st day of August, 2008.