

Legal Bucks

NORTH CENTRAL, SOUTHEAST, AND HILLS UNITS

A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR one main beam at least 13 inches long.

How to estimate a 10 inch inside spread:

Estimating a 10 inch spread is accomplished by observing a buck's ears in the alert position. When in the alert position, the distance from ear-tip to ear-tip measures approximately 14 inches. If the OUTSIDE of each antler beam is 1 inch inside the ear-tip, the inside spread is approximately 10 inches.

10" Inside Spread



How to estimate a 13 inch main beam:

To estimate a 13 inch main beam, the buck's head must be observed from the side. If the tip of the main beam extends to the front of the eye, main beam length is approximately 13 inches.

13" Main Beam



DELTA UNIT

A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 12 inches OR one main beam at least 15 inches long.

How to estimate a 12 inch inside spread:

Estimating a 12 inch spread is accomplished by observing a buck's ears in the alert position. When in the alert position, the distance from ear-tip to ear-tip measures approximately 15 inches. If the OUTSIDE of each antler beam reaches the ear-tip, the inside spread is approximately 12 inches. (Therefore, if the outside of both antler beams reach the ear tips, the buck is legal).

12" Inside Spread



How to estimate a 15 inch main beam:

To estimate a 15 inch main beam, the buck's head must be observed from the side. If the tip of the main beam extends between the front of the eye and the tip of the nose, main beam length is approximately 15 inches.

15" Main Beam



*Due to body size differences in the Delta Unit, ear-tip to ear-tip measurements are slightly larger compared to the other units.

DELTA, NORTH CENTRAL, AND HILLS DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS

METHOD	SEASON DATES	LEGAL DEER
Archery	Sept. 15 - 17	Legal Bucks Only. Special permit, mandatory reporting, and CWD sampling required. Private Land Only.
	Sept. 30 - Nov. 17	Either-Sex on private land, open public land, and Holly Springs NF
Youth Season (15 and under)	Nov. 4 - Nov. 17	Either-Sex on private lands and authorized state and federal lands.
	Nov. 18 - Jan. 31	Either-Sex on private lands. On open public lands, youth must follow below legal deer criteria.
Antlerless Primitive Weapon	Nov. 6 - 17	Antlerless Deer Only on private lands.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 18 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Springs NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private land, open public land, and Holly Springs NF. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Springs NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 17	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Spring NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Archery/Primitive Weapon	Jan. 18 - 31	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Springs NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.

SOUTHEAST UNIT

METHOD	SEASON DATES	LEGAL DEER
Archery	Sept. 15 - 17	Legal Bucks Only. Special permit, mandatory reporting, and CWD sampling required. Private Land Only.
	Oct. 14 - Nov. 17	Either-Sex on private and open public land.
Youth Season (15 and under)	Nov. 4 - Nov. 17	Either-Sex on private lands and authorized state and federal lands.
	Nov. 18 - Feb. 15	Either-Sex on private lands. On open public lands, youth must follow below legal deer criteria.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 18 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private and open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 17	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Archery/Primitive Weapon	Jan. 18 - 31	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.
	Feb. 1 - 15	Legal Bucks only on private and open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.

Fall Turkey

SEASON	DATES	BAG LIMIT
Fall turkey season is open BY PERMIT ONLY from October 15-November 15 on private lands in the following counties or portions of counties where the landowner/leaseholder completes a fall turkey hunting application to the MDWFP Jackson Office and receives tags. The fall season bag limit is two (2) turkeys, which may be of either sex.		
Delta Zone: Bolivar County - west of the main Mississippi River levee and those lands east of the main Mississippi River levee known as 27 Break Hunting Club; Coahoma, Desoto, Issaquena, Tunica, and Washington counties - west of the main Mississippi River levee.		
North Central Zone: Benton, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tippah, and Union counties.		
Southwest Zone: Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Warren, Wilkinson, and Yazoo counties.		

Spring Turkey

SEASON	DATES	BAG LIMIT
Youth (Private and authorized state and federal public lands. Youth 15 and under)	Mar. 8 - 14	One (1) adult gobbler or 1 gobbler with a 6-inch or longer beard per day, 3 per Spring season. Hunters 15 years of age and younger may harvest 1 gobbler of choice (any age) per day, 3 per Spring season.
Spring	Mar. 15 - May 1	
Non- Resident (Public Lands)	Mar. 15 - 31	One (1) adult gobbler or 1 gobbler with a 6-inch or longer beard per day, 3 per Spring season.

* Non-residents Turkey Hunting on Public Lands: Non-residents cannot hunt any public land in Mississippi between March 15-31 unless drawn for either a Non-resident Public Lands Turkey Permit or WMA Draw Hunt.

Small Game

SEASON	DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Youth Squirrel*	Sept. 23 - 30	8
Squirrel - Fall Season	Sept. 30 - Feb. 28	8
Squirrel - Spring Season	May 15 - June 1	4
Rabbit	Oct. 14 - Feb. 28	8
Bobwhite Quail	Nov. 23 - Mar. 2	8
Frog	April 1 - Sept. 30	25/Night
Raccoon	July 1 - Sept. 30	1 per Party/Night
Opossum, Raccoon, and Bobcat	Sept. 30 - Oct. 31 (Food and sport)	5/Day; 8/Party
	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28 (Food, sport, and pelt)	No Limit
Trapping	Nov. 1 - Mar. 15	No Limit

*On private lands and authorized state and federal lands only in those areas open for squirrel hunting.

Migratory Game Birds

SEASON	DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Sept. Teal	Sept. 9 - Sept. 24	6	18
Sept. Canada Geese*	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	5	15
Woodcock	Dec. 18 - Jan. 31	3	9
Snipe	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28	8	24
Gallinules (Common & Purple)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1 Nov. 23 - Dec. 31	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Clapper and King	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1 Nov. 23 - Dec. 31	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Sora and Virginia	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1 Nov. 23 - Dec. 31	25 Singly or in aggregate	75 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (North Zone)**	Sept. 2 - Oct. 15 Oct. 28 - Nov. 16 Dec. 30 - Jan. 14	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (South Zone)***	Sept. 2 - Sept. 24 Oct. 7 - Nov. 5 Dec. 23 - Jan. 28	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Crows	Nov. 4 - Feb. 29	No Limit	No Limit
Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots****	Nov. 24 - Nov. 26 Dec. 1 - Dec. 3 Dec. 9 - Jan. 31	See below****	See below****
Geese: Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Blue, Ross', and Brant	Nov. 10 - Nov. 26 Dec. 1 - Dec. 3 Dec. 9 - Jan. 31	Canada Geese : 5 Snow, Blue, & Ross': 20 White-fronted: 3 Brant: 1	Canada Geese : 15 Snow, Blue, & Ross': No limit White-fronted: 9 Brant: 3
Youth, Veterans, and Active Military Waterfowl Days	Feb. 3 - 4, 2024	Same as regular season	Same as regular season
Light Goose Conservation Order***** (Special Permit Needed)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 9 Nov. 27 - Nov. 30 Dec. 4 - Dec. 8 Feb. 1 - Feb. 2 Feb. 5 - Mar. 31	No Limit*****	No Limit*****

*Sept. Canada Goose season is closed on Roebuck Lake in Leflore county.
 **(Dove North Zone) Areas north of U.S. Hwy. 84 plus areas south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and west of MS Hwy. 35.
 *** (Dove South Zone) Areas south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35.
 ****The duck daily bag limit is a total of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 1 mottled duck, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, and 2 redheads. The daily bag limit for scaup is 1 scaup per day Nov. 24 - 26, Dec. 1 - 3, and Dec. 9 - 17; and is 2 scaup per day Dec. 18 - Jan. 31.
 The merganser daily bag limit is a total of 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.
 The coot daily bag limit is a total of 15 coots.
 The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, and coots.
 Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except for the Light Goose Conservation Order (see below).
 *****The Light Goose Conservation Order is a special opportunity designed to reduce the population of overpopulated snow, blue, and Ross' geese when no other waterfowl seasons are open. This order allows for expanded methods of take that are not allowed during regular waterfowl seasons. To participate in the Light Goose Conservation Order, hunters need a valid Mississippi hunting license, state waterfowl stamp, and a free Light Goose Conservation Order permit number. Hunters can obtain a permit number by visiting mdwfp.com/waterfowl.
 Light Goose Conservation Order Methods: Shooting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Only snow, blue, and Ross' geese are eligible for harvest. The use of electronic calls is allowed. The use of unplugged shotguns is allowed. There is no daily or possession limit for snow, blue, or Ross' geese. Hunters must use non-toxic shot. Hunters must possess a valid Mississippi hunting license and a Mississippi state waterfowl stamp. Light goose conservation order hunters do not need a federal duck stamp.