



2023–2024 Hunting Seasons

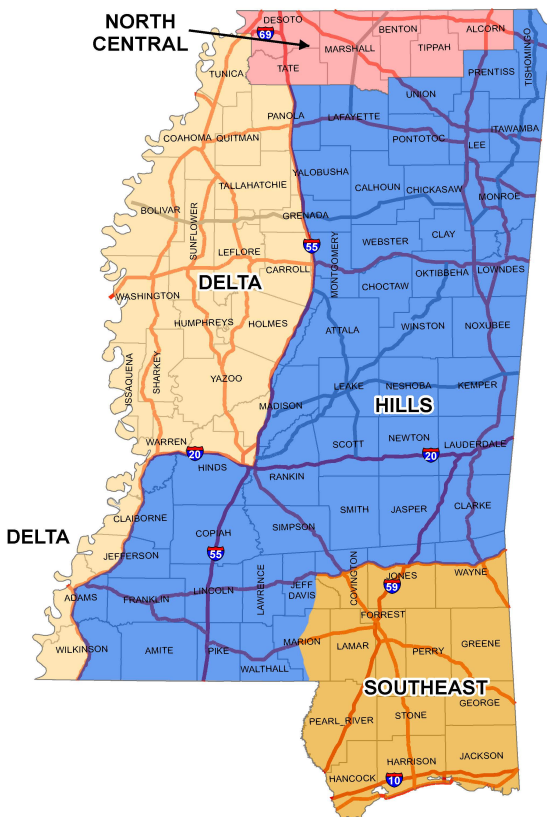
White-tailed Deer

Delta Unit: Areas west of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Hwy 61.

North Central Unit: All private and open public lands in Alcorn, Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate, and Tippah counties.

Southeast Unit: Areas south of U.S. Hwy 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35.

Hills Unit: All areas except the Delta, North Central, and Southeast Deer Management Units.



LEGAL BUCKS			
UNIT	INSIDE SPREAD	OR	MAIN BEAM
Delta	12"	OR	15"
Hills	10"	OR	13"
Southeast	10"	OR	13"
North Central	Any hardened antler		

Bag Limits

Antlered Buck Deer: The statewide bag limit on antlered buck deer is one (1) buck per day and three (3) per annual season. One (1) of these three (3) may have hardened antlers that do not meet the unit legal antler requirements on private land and Holly Springs National Forest. For youth hunters fifteen (15) years of age and younger, hunting on private land and authorized state and federal lands, all three (3) of the three (3) buck bag limit may be any antlered deer. Antlered buck bag limit in the North Central Deer Management Unit (DMU) is one (1) buck per day and four (4) per annual season. No antler restrictions apply to this DMU. All four bucks may have any sized hardened antlers.

Antlerless Deer:

Private lands: The statewide annual bag limit on antlerless deer is five (5). The antlerless bag limit for private lands in the North Central DMU is ten (10) antlerless deer per season. Antlerless deer are male or female deer which do not have hardened antler above the natural hairline. Only two (2) antlerless deer may be harvested from the Southeast Unit. There is no daily bag limit on antlerless deer in the North Central, Hills, and Delta units. Only one (1) antlerless deer per day may be harvested in the Southeast DMU.

U.S. Forest Service National Forests: The bag limit is one (1) per day, not to exceed five (5) per annual season except in the Southeast Unit, which is two (2) per annual season.

Legal Weapons

Youth Gun: Youth may carry and use any firearm with which they can safely hunt, and in compliance with other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Archery: Longbows, recurves, compound bows, and crossbows. There is no minimum or maximum draw weight. There is no minimum arrow length. Fixed or mechanical broadheads may be used.

Primitive Weapons: Weapons legal for use during the Primitive Weapons season are all archery equipment and primitive firearms. "Primitive firearms," for the purpose of hunting deer, are defined as single or double-barreled muzzleloading rifles of at least .38 caliber; OR single shot, breech loading, metallic cartridge rifles (.35 caliber or larger) and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of those type rifles with an exposed hammer; OR single or double-barreled muzzleloading shotguns, with single ball or slug. All muzzleloading primitive firearms must use black powder or a black powder substitute with percussion caps, #209 shotgun primers, or flintlock ignition. "Blackpowder substitute" is defined as a substance designed, manufactured, and specifically intended to be used as a propellant in muzzleloading or other black powder firearms, excluding modern smokeless powder. Metallic cartridges may be loaded with either black powder or modern smokeless powder (cartridges purchased at sporting goods stores). Telescopic sights are allowed while hunting with any primitive firearm during the primitive weapon seasons. A telescopic sight is defined as an optical sighting device with any magnification. During any open season on deer with primitive weapons after November 30, a person may use any legal weapon of choice, including pre-charged pneumatic weapons (air guns or bows), on private lands only, if the person is the title owner of the land, the lessee of the hunting rights on the land, a member of a hunting club leasing the hunting rights on the land, or a guest of a person specified above. If the person is required to have a hunting license, the person must have a primitive weapon license, Sportsman's License, or a Lifetime Sportsman's License.

Gun: There are no caliber or magazine capacity restrictions on firearms. Primitive weapons (as defined above) and archery equipment may be used during gun seasons.

Legal Bucks

SOUTHEAST AND HILLS DEER MANAGEMENT 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 DEER MANAGEMENT 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 Buck 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 Buck 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.

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. 26 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's, and Brant	Nov. 10 - Nov. 26 Dec. 1 - Dec. 3 Dec. 9 - Jan. 31	Canada Geese : 5 Snow, Blue, & Ross's: 20 White-fronted: 3 Brant: 1	Canada Geese : 15 Snow, Blue, & Ross's: 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's 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's 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's 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.