



# 2016-2017 HUNTING SEASONS

## WHITE-TAILED DEER



### Hill Zone

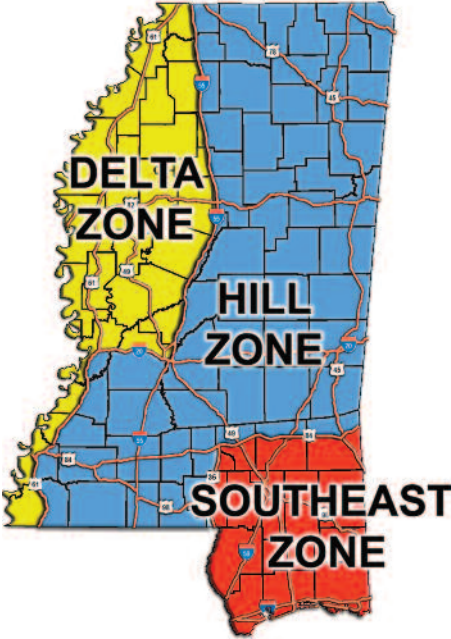
Private and open public lands east of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and east of U.S. Highway 61, excluding areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.

### Southeast Zone

Private and open public lands south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.

### Delta Zone

Private and open public lands west of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Highway 61.



LEGAL BUCKS			
Zone	Inside Spread	OR	Main Beam
Hill	10"	OR	13"
Southeast	10"	OR	13"
Delta	12"	OR	15"

### Bag Limits

**Antlered Buck Deer:** The bag limit on antlered buck deer is one (1) buck per day, not to exceed three (3) per annual season.

Legal bucks must meet the antler criteria within the appropriate deer management zone. 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.

#### Antlerless Deer:

**Private lands:** The bag limit on Delta and Hill Zone antlerless deer is five (5) per annual season.

The bag limit on Southeast Zone antlerless deer is one (1) per day, three (3) per annual season.

**U.S. Forest Service National Forests:** The bag limit is one (1) per day, not to exceed three (3) 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 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

#### Hill and Southeast Zones

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.

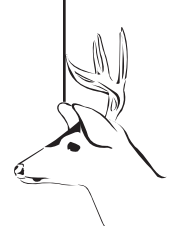
10" Inside Spread



#### 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 Zone

**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).

\*Due to body size differences in the Delta Zone, ear-tip to ear-tip measurements are slightly larger compared to the Hill and Southeast Zones.

### 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.

12" Inside Spread



15" Main Beam



## HILL ZONE

Private and open public lands east of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and east of U.S. Hwy. 61, excluding areas south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35. **A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches.**

Method	Season Dates	Legal Deer
Archery	Oct. 1 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private land and open public land.
Youth Gun	Nov. 5 - Jan. 31	Either -Sex on private land and authorized state and federal lands. Youth 15 and under.
Early Primitive Weapons	Nov. 7 - 18	<b>Antlerless Deer Only</b> on private land and open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 19 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land; Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private land and open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Either-Sex on private land and open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 18	Either-Sex on private land; Legal bucks only on open public land.
Archery/Primitive Weapon	Jan. 19 - 31	Either-Sex on private land and open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>

## SOUTHEAST ZONE

Private and open public lands south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35. **A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches.**

Method	Season Dates	Legal Deer
Archery	Oct. 15 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private land and open public land.
Youth Gun	Nov. 5 - Feb. 15	Either-Sex on private land and authorized state and federal lands. Youth 15 and under.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 19 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land; Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private land and open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Either-Sex on private land and open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 18	Either-Sex on private land; Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Archery/Primitive Weapon	Jan. 19 - 31	Either-Sex on private land; Legal Bucks only on open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>
	Feb. 1 - 15	Legal Bucks only on private land and open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>

## DELTA ZONE

Private and open public lands west of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Hwy. 61. **A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 12 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 15 inches.**

Method	Season Dates	Legal Deer
Archery	Oct. 1 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private land and open public land.
Youth Gun	Nov. 5 - Jan. 31	Either-Sex on private land and authorized state and federal lands. Youth 15 and under.
Early Primitive Weapons	Nov. 7 - 18	<b>Antlerless Deer Only</b> on private land and open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 19 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land; Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private land and open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Antlerless Deer & Legal Bucks on private land and open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 18	Either-Sex on private land; Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Jan. 19 - 31	Either-Sex on private land and open public land. <i>Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.</i>

Open Public Lands include U.S. National Forests, Corps of Engineers lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are not considered Open Public Land. For seasons and bag limits on MDWFP Wildlife Management Areas visit [www.mdwfp.com/wma](http://www.mdwfp.com/wma)

## FALL TURKEY

Season	Dates	Bag Limit
Fall (see open areas)	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	Two (2) turkeys, which may be either sex.
<b>Open Areas:</b> In the following counties or portion of counties, on private lands where the landowner/lease holder completes a fall turkey hunting application and provides a copy of the property deed or lease agreement at a MDWFP Regional Office or the Jackson Office.		
<b>Delta Zone:</b> 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.		
<b>North-Central Zone:</b> Benton, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tippah, and Union counties.		
<b>Southwestern Zone:</b> Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Warren, Wilkinson, and Yazoo counties.		

## SPRING TURKEY

Season	Dates	Bag Limit
<b>Youth</b> (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.
<b>Spring</b>	Mar. 15 - May 1	

## SMALL GAME

Season	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Youth Squirrel*	Sept. 24 - 30	8
Squirrel - Fall Season	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	8
Squirrel - Spring Season	May 15 - June 1	4
SPECIES	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Rabbit	Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	8
Bobwhite Quail	Nov. 24 - Mar. 4	8
Frog	Apr. 1 - Sept. 30	25/Night
Raccoon	July 1 - Sept. 30	1 per Party/Night
Opossum, Raccoon, and Bobcat	Oct. 1 - 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 BIRD SEASONS

Season	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Canada Geese*	Sept. 1 - 30	5	15
White-winged and Mourning Doves (North Zone)**	Sept. 3 - Oct. 9 Oct. 22 - Nov. 6 Dec. 10 - Jan. 15	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
White-winged and Mourning Doves (South Zone)***	Sept. 3 - 11 Oct. 8 - Nov. 13 Dec. 3 - Jan. 15	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Teal	Sept. 10 - 25	6	18
Rails (Sora & Virginia)	Sept. 3 - Nov. 11	25 Singly or in aggregate	75 Singly or in aggregate
Rails (Clapper & King)	Sept. 3 - Nov. 11	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Gallinules (Common & Purple)	Sept. 3 - Nov. 11	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Crow	Nov. 5 - Feb. 28	no limit	no limit
Snipe	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28	8	24
Geese: Canada, Snow, Blue, & Ross' Geese, White-fronted, and Brant	Nov. 12 - 27 Dec. 15 - Jan. 29 Feb. 4 - 15	Canada Goose Bag Limit: 3 Snow, Blue, & Ross' Bag Limit: 20 White-fronted Bag Limit: 3 Brant Bag Limit: 1	Possession: 9 No Possession Limit Possession: 9 Possession: 3
Ducks, Mergansers, & Coots	Nov. 25 - 27 Dec. 2 - 4 Dec. 7 - Jan. 29	See below for Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots bag limits.	
Woodcock	Dec. 18 - Jan. 31	3	9
Youth Waterfowl Days	Nov. 19 and Feb. 4	Bag limits & shooting hours are the same as the regular season.	
Light Goose Conservation Order**** (Special Permit Needed)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 11 Feb. 16 - Mar. 31	No limit****	No limit****

\*September 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 Light Goose Conservation Order is a special opportunity designed to reduce the populations of snow, blue, and Ross' geese when no other waterfowl seasons are open. This allows for expanded methods of take which 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 the permit number online at

<http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl>.

Light Goose Conservation Order Methods: Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Only snow, blue, and Ross' geese are eligible for harvest. 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.

## DAILY BAG LIMITS / POSSESSION LIMITS:

Possession Limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow, blue, and Ross' geese.

Ducks - A total of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, and 2 pintails.

Mergansers - A total of 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

Coots - Daily Bag Limit is 15.