



2017–2018 Hunting Seasons

White-tailed Deer

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

Northeast Zone: Areas east of I-55 and north of U.S. Highway 82.

East Central Zone: Areas east of I-55, east of U.S. Highway 49, south of U.S. Highway 82, and north of U.S. Highway 84.

Southwest Zone: Areas east of U.S. Highway 61, south of I-20, west of U.S. Highway 49, and west of MS Highway 35.

Southeast Zone: Areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.



| LEGAL BUCKS | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----|-----------|
| ZONE | INSIDE SPREAD | OR | MAIN BEAM |
| Delta | 12" | OR | 15" |
| Northeast | 10" | OR | 13" |
| East Central | 10" | OR | 13" |
| Southwest | 10" | OR | 13" |
| Southeast | 10" | OR | 13" |

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 Northeast, Delta, East Central, and Southwest Zones antlerless deer is three (3) per annual season. The bag limit on Southeast Zone antlerless deer is one (1) per day, two (2) 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 except in the Southeast Zone 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 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

Northeast, East Central, Southwest, 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).



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.



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

DELTA, NORTHEAST, EAST CENTRAL, AND SOUTHWEST ZONES

| METHOD | SEASON DATES | LEGAL DEER |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Archery | Sept. 30 - Nov. 17 | Either-Sex on private and open public land. |
| Youth Gun (15 and under) | Nov. 4 - Nov. 17 | Either-Sex on private and authorized state and federal lands. Youth 15 and under. |
| | Nov. 18 - Jan. 31 | Either-Sex on private lands. Legal bucks only on authorized state and federal lands. |
| Early Primitive Weapons | Nov. 6 - 17 | Antlerless Deer Only on private lands. |
| 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 land. Legal Bucks only on 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. |

SOUTHEAST ZONE

| METHOD | SEASON DATES | LEGAL DEER |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Archery | Oct. 14 - Nov. 17 | Either-Sex on private and open public land. |
| Youth Gun (15 and under) | Nov. 4 - Nov. 17 | Either-Sex on private and authorized state and federal lands. Youth 15 and under. |
| | Nov. 18 - Feb. 15 | Either-Sex on private lands. Legal bucks only on authorized state and federal lands. |
| 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 land. Legal Bucks only on 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 (SEE OPEN AREAS) | OCT. 14 - NOV. 15 | TWO (2) TURKEYS, EITHER SEX |
| Open Areas: 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. | | |
| 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 | |

Small Game

| SEASON | 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 |
| SPECIES | SEASON DATES | DAILY BAG LIMIT |
| Rabbit | Oct. 14 - Feb. 28 | 8 |
| Bobwhite Quail | Nov. 23 - Mar. 3 | 8 |
| Frog | Mar. 31 - Sept. 30 | 25/Night |
| Raccoon | July 1 - Sept. 29 | 1 per Party/Night |
| Opossum, Raccoon, and Bobcat | Sept. 30 - Oct. 31 (Food and sport) Nov. 1 - Feb. 28 (Food, sport, and pelt) | 5/Day; 8/Party 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 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Sept. Teal | Sept. 9 - 24 | 6 | 18 |
| Sept. Canada Geese* | Sept. 1 - 30 | 5 | 15 |
| Woodcock | Dec. 18 - Jan. 31 | 3 | 9 |
| Snipe | Nov. 14 - Feb. 28 | 8 | 24 |
| Moorhens and Gallinules | Sept. 2 - Nov. 10 | 15 Singly or in aggregate | 45 Singly or in aggregate |
| Rails: Clapper and King | Sept. 2 - Nov. 10 | 15 Singly or in aggregate | 45 Singly or in aggregate |
| Rails: Sora and Virginia | Sept. 2 - Nov. 10 | 25 Singly or in aggregate | 75 Singly or in aggregate |
| Mourning and White-winged Doves (North Zone)** | Sept. 2 - Oct. 8 Oct. 21 - Nov. 4 Dec. 9 - Jan. 15 | 15 Singly or in aggregate | 45 Singly or in aggregate |
| Mourning and White-winged Doves (South Zone)** | Sept. 2 - 10 Oct. 7 - Nov. 11 Dec. 2 - Jan. 15 | 15 Singly or in aggregate | 45 Singly or in aggregate |
| Crows | Nov. 4 - Feb. 28 | No limit | No limit |
| Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots**** | Nov. 24 - 26 Dec. 1 - 3 Dec. 6 - Jan. 28 | See below**** | See below**** |
| Geese: Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Blue, Ross's, and Brant | Nov. 10 - 26 Dec. 1 - 3 Dec. 6 - Jan. 28 | Canada Goose : 3 Snow, Blue, & Ross': 20 White-fronted: 3 Brant Bag Limit: 1 | Canada Goose : 9 Snow, Blue, & Ross': No limit White-fronted: 9 Brant Bag Limit: 3 |
| Youth Waterfowl | Nov. 18 and Feb. 3 | Same as regular season | Same as regular season |
| Light Goose Conservation Order***** Special Permit Needed | Oct. 1 - Nov. 9 Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 Feb. 4 - 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), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, 2 black ducks, and 1 pintail.

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 the permit number by visiting www.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 Mississippi hunting license and a Mississippi state waterfowl stamp. Hunters do not need a federal waterfowl stamp.