

Special Regulations Areas

SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS INCLUDE:

- In **western Pennsylvania**, all of Allegheny County.
- In **southeastern Pennsylvania**, all of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, and also during special controlled hunts at Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks.

Deer

All Special Regulations Area counties are now contained within the Wildlife Management Unit system. Seasons and antler restriction requirements are based mostly on these units and general deer seasons. However, certain laws and regulations in regards to arms and ammunition still apply to specific counties in Special Regulations Areas.

Deer & Bear Season, Arms & Ammunition

- Philadelphia County – Only bows and arrows, including crossbows.
- Remaining Counties – Manually operated rifles chambered for straight-walled centerfire cartridges, except at Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks; muzzleloading long guns, 44-caliber or larger; manual or semiautomatic shotguns, .410 or larger, using slugs; bows and crossbows. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds. Buckshot no longer can be used, except during certain controlled hunts (Ridley Creek and Tyler state parks) where the Game Commission issues a special permit. During the controlled hunts manual or semiautomatic shotguns 20-gauge or larger using buckshot, bows and arrows and crossbows can be used.

Small Game, Furbearers & Crows, Arms & Ammunition

Manually operated or semiautomatic shotguns plugged to a 3-shell capacity; manually operated or semiautomatic 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire handguns; and bows and crossbows. Buckshot is not permitted. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun that propels a single-projectile pellet or bullet for small game in calibers from .177 to .22. For woodchucks and furbearers, air guns must be 22-caliber. BB ammunition cannot be used.

PRIVATE PROPERTY DEER BAITING

A baiting permit no longer is needed when using bait to hunt deer on private property in the Southeast Special Regulations Area. However, other requirements remain. Bait used within the Southeast Special Regulations Area must be shelled corn or protein-pellet supplements; bait accumulation must not exceed 5 gallons at any time; bait only can be used from two weeks before the opening of the first deer season to the close of the last deer season; automatic mechanical feeders must be used; and feeders must distribute bait during hunting hours, no more than three times a day. Landowners and hunters need to ensure bait sites comply with regulations. While the use of bait while hunting is prohibited broadly in Pennsylvania, it is allowed conditionally on private property within the Southeast Special Regulations Area, where traditional hunting and deer-control methods have proven ineffective.

Lawful While Trapping

Manually operated or semiautomatic 22-caliber or less rimfire rifles and manually operated 22-caliber or less rimfire handguns. A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun in calibers from .177 to .22 that propel a single-projectile pellet or bullet. BB ammunition cannot be used.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

OCTOBER MUZZLELOADER ANTLERLESS SEASON

Oct. 15-22

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

SPECIAL FIREARMS ANTLERLESS SEASON (STATEWIDE)

Oct. 20-22

Junior, senior license holders, disabled person permit holders and PA residents serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

DEER FIREARMS SEASON (ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS, STATEWIDE)

Nov. 26-Dec. 10

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times.

FLINTLOCK SEASON (ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS)

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Dec. 26-Jan. 28; Other WMUs Dec. 26-Jan. 16

- Fluorescent orange is not required, but keep in mind a firearms deer season is open and it is suggested that orange be worn.

EXTENDED ANTLERLESS FIREARMS SEASON

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Dec. 26-Jan. 28

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, and visible from 360 degrees, is required at all times. Archery hunters must wear fluorescent orange in these WMUs during this season.

SMALL GAME

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D

- 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back at all times is required. Furbearer and crow hunters do not need to wear fluorescent orange. Woodchuck hunters must wear a solid fluorescent cap visible 360 degrees.