

September 1, 2025

Dear West Virginia Bowhunter:

We are asking you to participate in the annual Bowhunter Survey. This survey has been conducted since 1995 and provides valuable data to help manage the white-tailed deer and other wildlife resources in our state. Bowhunters are keen observers, and we want to take advantage of that trait. The survey is also a forum for bowhunters to express their opinions and thoughts to the DNR. We hope that you will participate. The survey period will run from **September 27 – November 23, 2025**.

The daily log tracks your bowhunting activities, harvests, and observations. It is very important that you record the number of **hours hunted** and the **county hunted** each day. Whether you hunt every day or just once, your survey is very important to us. Please complete the survey whether you harvested a deer or not. Remember, the observations of wildlife that you provide are used to measure year-to-year changes in the populations of many species. Please read the instructions carefully, and make sure that your count is as accurate as possible. There is a short questionnaire and comment section on the back of the daily log. If you do not go hunting this season, you are still welcome to fill and return this questionnaire. The survey is designed so that you will not have to reveal your favorite hunting area. No individual hunter's name will be used in the results. Each cooperator should fill out their own form. If you need additional forms, please contact Game Management Services at (304) 637-0245.

At the close of the survey period, tape or staple the forms closed with the return address on the outside, place a stamp where indicated, and mail it back to the DNR. All cooperators returning a survey form will receive a copy of the results. Be sure you record your name and address on the outside of the survey form in the space provided. We can't mail you a report without your address!

We are continuing the very popular option of submitting the Bowhunter Survey on your smartphone or computer using the Survey123 App. To access this survey, please download the Survey123 App from the Apple App Store (iPhone), Google Play Store (Android), or Microsoft Store (Windows). **Information on accessing the survey via Survey123 can be found by scanning the QR Code or visiting the link below.** The survey does not need to be completed in one sitting. You can click the 'X' in the top left of the survey and save your draft at any time. The responses you have entered will be there when you come back! Please note, you may only submit one survey per person. Be sure to complete your daily record and questionnaire before submitting. If you have any further questions about using Survey123 for the Bowhunter Survey, please contact the WVDNR GIS team via email DNRGIS@wv.gov.

Thank you for your effort and cooperation. The information you provide is valuable data to biologists. Working together, we can do a better job of managing West Virginia's wildlife. Please don't forget to return your completed survey by **December 31, 2025**. For those who participated in last year's survey, a copy of the report is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section



Ed McMinn, President
West Virginia Bowhunters Association

<https://arcg.is/0yO8KK0>

NOTICE



You must purchase your RB stamps BEFORE hunting season begins on September 27, 2025.

Hunting Regulations:

A bag limit of two deer may be taken per day during any deer season, but only one antlered buck may be taken in a day. You may check your harvested deer online (wvhunt.com), by phone (844-WVcheck), or by visiting a licensing agent. Please refer to the 2025-2026 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for additional details on bag limits and regulations in your county.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!

Place
Stamp
Here

BOWHUNTER SURVEY
WV-DNR
PO BOX 67
ELKINS, WV 26241

INSTRUCTIONS

2025 BOWHUNTER SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to record and send your observations to us! We appreciate all of our cooperators, and we hope you have a great and memorable season.

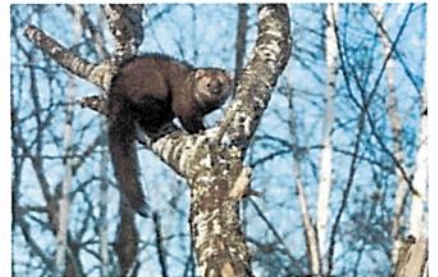
1. Post your survey form in a convenient spot where you will see it when you return from hunting such as your refrigerator door, mud room, garage entrance, etc.
2. For the appropriate date, enter the **number of hours hunted** in the morning (**AM**), afternoon (**PM**), or both if you hunted both morning and afternoon (see example).
3. List the **county** where you hunted. If you hunted in a different location in the morning and afternoon, record the county you hunted each half of the day (see example).
4. Record the **ownership of the land** where you hunted and whether the land was **posted** or not. Reference the key in the upper left corner of the daily log for categorizing land ownership. If you hunted in different locations in the morning and afternoon, record the land ownership and posted status for each half of the day (see example).
5. Enter the dominant **land type** where you hunted: “W” for woods, “F” for field, “E” for field/clearing/opening edge, or “U” for urban.
6. For deer observations, please record the number seen for each category: **spike bucks, forked bucks, adult does, fawns, and unknown. A forked antlered deer will have at least two points on one antler.** If you are not completely sure of a deer’s sex, record it as an unknown. Record the number of deer killed by sex (if applicable). Record the number of new scrapes seen and the number of bucks chasing does observed.
7. We also ask that cooperators record the number of other wildlife species observed including bears, squirrels, turkeys, grouse, raccoons, bobcats, gray fox, red fox, coyotes, rabbits, and elk. If you see the same individual animal more than once **on the same hunt**, record this as only one observation. If you see the same individual animal **on different hunts**, record it for each hunt. If you observed no other listed wildlife species while hunting, you can leave the spaces blank or enter 0.
8. Enter the type of weapon used while hunting as seen in the key in the upper right corner of the daily log: “L” for long bow, “C” for compound bow, “R” for a recurve, and “X” for crossbow.
9. Lastly, don’t forget to fill out the attached questionnaire. We look forward to hearing your opinions, feedback, and stories from the field.
10. Please return your survey when you stop hunting or before buck firearms season, whichever comes first. Tape the folded forms close and attach a stamp where indicated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

2025 WEST VIRGINIA BOWHUNTER SURVEY

1. Please enter your DNR ID number: _____
2. How many years have you hunted deer with a bow? _____ years
3. Is the deer population in the area you hunt most: (select) ☐ Increasing ☐ Decreasing ☐ Constant
List the county _____
4. Compared to last year, deer racks this year were: (select) ☐ Smaller ☐ Larger ☐ About the same
List the county _____
5. Is the oak mast (acorns) this year in the area you hunt: (select) ☐ Abundant ☐ Common ☐ Scarce
List the county _____
6. What other West Virginia deer hunting seasons did you participate in during fall 2025? Select all that apply.
☐ Antlerless gun ☐ Buck gun ☐ Muzzleloader ☐ Heritage ☐ Urban
☐ Special/State Park ☐ Youth/Class Q/Class XS
7. Did you pass up legal opportunities to harvest an antlered buck in the 2025 West Virginia archery/crossbow season?
☐ Yes. Why did you pass up the opportunity? Select all that apply.
☐ Antlers not big enough ☐ Deer not old enough ☐ Wanted to save buck tags ☐ Other: _____
☐ No
8. Did the reduction in the annual antlered bag limit impact your purchase of extra RB, RG or RM stamps?
☐ Yes. Which ones? Select all that apply.
☐ RB/RRB ☐ RG/RRG ☐ RM/RRM
☐ No
9. Do you plant food plots specifically for deer? ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. Do you use any scents while hunting?
☐ Yes. Which ones? Select all that apply.
☐ Natural doe urine ☐ Synthetic doe urine ☐ Cover scent (e.g., fox, raccoon, etc.)
☐ Food scent (e.g., apple, corn, etc.) ☐ Other, please specify: _____
☐ No
11. Once you have killed a deer, how do you prepare it for your table?
☐ Personally process the deer
☐ Take the deer to a processor. What was the cost per deer for processing (excluding the making of specialty meats like summer sausage, jerky, etc.)? _____
12. Are you aware of the WVDNR Deer Research Project?
☐ Yes. How did you learn about the project? Select all that apply.
☐ A publication by the WVDNR (e.g., survey report, hunting and trapping regulations, *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine, etc.)
☐ A publication outside of the WVDNR (e.g., WV MetroNews article, etc.)
☐ Social media post
☐ I saw a deer with a GPS collar
☐ Other, please list: _____
☐ No
13. Did you see a fisher while bowhunting? See the picture of a fisher to the right for reference.
☐ Yes. Please list the county: _____
☐ No
14. Excluding the most recent season, have you been fall wild turkey hunting in West Virginia in the last 5 years (2020-2024)?
☐ Yes. Which years? Select all that apply.
☐ 2020 ☐ 2021 ☐ 2022 ☐ 2023 ☐ 2024
In the last 5 years (2020-2024), how many wild turkeys have you harvested in West Virginia during the **fall** season? _____
Out of your **fall** turkey harvests in the last 5 years (2020-2024), how many wild turkeys have you harvested passively **with a gun** (wild turkey was not your trip target species; e.g., while deer hunting, you were able to harvest a turkey)? _____
Out of your **fall** turkey harvests in the last 5 years (2020-2024), how many wild turkeys have you harvested passively **with a bow or crossbow** (wild turkey was not your trip target species; e.g., while deer hunting, you were able to harvest a turkey)? _____
☐ No
15. Remarks or observations (please include unusual experiences, your opinion on hunting season regulations, weather, etc.):

16. Please list the name and address of a friend or relative who might want to participate in this survey next year:



PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 31

Please enter appropriate letter for land ownership: U. Personal property (you own the land) P. Privately owned by someone other than you H. Hunt club/hunting lease C. Company land (timber coal, power, etc.) S. State owned land N. National forest land					Land Posted	Land Type	DEER PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES										OTHER WILDLIFE PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN										Enter appropriate letter for Weapon Type L. Long Bow C. Compound R. Recurve X. Crossbow
Date / Time		Hours Hunted	County	Land Ownership	Posted Yes/No	Field (F), Woods (W), Edge (E), or Urban(U)	Antlered Bucks Seen		Adult Does Seen	Fawns Seen	Unknown Deer Seen	Deer Killed		New Scrapes Seen	Bucks Chasing Does	Bears Seen	Squirrels Seen	Turkeys Seen	Grouse Seen	Raccoons Seen	Bobcats Seen	Gray Fox Seen	Red Fox Seen	Coyotes Seen	Rabbits Seen	Elk Seen	Weapon Type
EXAMPLE		AM	5	Randolph	P	N	F	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	L
Saturday September 27		PM <td>3<th>Randolph</th><th>U</th><th>N</th><th>W</th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>1</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>3</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>1</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>1</th><th>X</th></td>	3 <th>Randolph</th> <th>U</th> <th>N</th> <th>W</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>1</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>3</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>1</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>1</th> <th>X</th>	Randolph	U	N	W	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	X
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Friday October 10		AM																									
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Saturday October 11	AM												M	F																
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Sunday October 26		AM PM										M F															
Monday October 27		AM PM																									
Tuesday October 28		AM PM																									
Wednesday October 29		AM PM																									
Thursday October 30		AM PM																									
Friday October 31		AM PM																									
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Sunday November 02		AM PM																									
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