

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.



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

Sincerely,

Paul R. Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section

Ed McMinn, President
West Virginia Bowhunters Association

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

2025 WEST VIRGINIA BOWHUNTER SURVEY DAILY RECORD																																									
OTHER WILDLIFE			DEER			PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES																																			
LAND		LAND		LAND		FIELD (F), WOODS (W), EDGE (E), OR URBAN (U)		ANTLERED BUCKS SEEN		ADULT DOES SEEN		FAUNTS SEEN		DEER KILLED		NEW SCRAPES SEEN		BUCKS CHASING DOES		BEARS SEEN		SQUIRRELS SEEN		GROUSE SEEN		RACCOONS SEEN		BOBCATS SEEN		GRAY FOX SEEN		RED FOX SEEN		COYOTES SEEN		RABBITS SEEN		ELK SEEN		WEAPON TYPE	
LAND POSTED		LAND OWNERSHIP		POSTED YES/NO		Spike		Forked		M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F	
PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES												PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES												PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES																	
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		L. Long Bow		C. Compound		R. Recurve		X. Crossbow		Enter appropriate letter for weapon type		Weapon Type		Weapon Type		Weapon Type		Weapon Type		Weapon Type		Weapon Type		Weapon Type							
EXAMPLE		AM 5 Randolph		PM N		F		0 1		5		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0		0 0					
Saturday September 27		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Sunday September 28		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Monday September 29		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Tuesday September 30		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Wednesday October 01		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Thursday October 02		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Friday October 03		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Saturday October 04		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Sunday October 05		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Monday October 06		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Tuesday October 07		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Wednesday October 08		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Thursday October 09		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					
Friday October 10		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM		AM		PM					

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

PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN

PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN

PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN

Enter appropriate letter for weapon type

L. Long Bow

C. Compound

R. Recurve

X. Crossbow

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 31

DEER																		
PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES																		
Date / Time	Hours Hunted	County	Land Ownership	Land Posted	Land Type	PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES												
						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	Rabbits Seen	Coyotes Seen
Saturday October 11	AM																	
	PM																	
Sunday October 12	AM																	
	PM																	
Monday October 13	AM																	
	PM																	
Tuesday October 14	AM																	
	PM																	
Wednesday October 15	AM																	
	PM																	
Thursday October 16	AM																	
	PM																	
Friday October 17	AM																	
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Sunday October 19	AM																	
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Monday October 20	AM																	
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Tuesday October 21	AM																	
	PM																	
Wednesday October 22	AM																	
	PM																	
Thursday October 23	AM																	
	PM																	
Friday October 24	AM																	
	PM																	
Saturday October 25	AM																	
	PM																	

2025 WEST VIRGINIA BOWHUNTER SURVEY DAILY RECORD

Please enter appropriate letter for land ownership:
 U. Personal property (you own the land)
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 S. State owned land
 N. National forest land

Enter appropriate letter for weapon type:
 L. Long Bow
 C. Compound
 R. Recurve
 X. Crossbow

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 31

DEER										OTHER WILDLIFE																																																																									
PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES										PLEASE RECORD NUMBER SEEN, KILLED, NEW SCRAPES SEEN, AND BUCKS CHASING DOES																																																																									
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 M F		Bucks Chasing Does		Bears Seen		New Scraps Seen		Squirrels Seen		Turkeys Seen		Bobcats Seen		Gray Fox Seen		Red Fox Seen		Coyotes Seen		Rabbits Seen		Elk Seen		Weapon Type																																							
																																														Monday November 10		AM		PM		Monday November 11		AM		PM		Tuesday November 12		AM		PM		Wednesday November 13		AM		PM		Thursday November 14		AM		PM		Friday November 15		AM		PM		Saturday November 16	
Please enter appropriate letter for land ownership:										Enter appropriate letter for weapon type																																																																									
U. Personal property (you own the land)										L. Long Bow																																																																									
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