

ASK PERMISSION BEFORE ENTERING PRIVATE PROPERTY!



Dear Landowner: Thank you for allowing me on your property. Because of your generosity, I've been able to enjoy Pennsylvania's rich hunting and trapping heritage.

PERMISSION TO HUNT AND/OR TRAP

I hereby grant permission to the person named below to hunt and/or trap on my property located at: _____
_____ on the following dates: _____

Signed: _____

In return for the privilege of hunting/trapping on this property, I agree to obey the laws, to observe all safety precautions, and to assume all responsibility and liability for my person and my property while on the landowner's property.

Signed: _____

Address: _____

License CID # _____ Date: _____

The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act provides liability protection to landowners who allow recreational use (hunting, fishing, swimming and hiking) on their unimproved property to the public without a fee.

Updates:

There are exciting changes that will increase hunting and trapping opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen heading afield during the 2013-14 license year. As always, be sure to thoroughly read this entire Digest before venturing forth on your adventures in Penn's Woods. Just some of the highlights include: changes to fall turkey seasons in several Wildlife Management Units; increased pheasant hunting opportunities; changes to extended bear hunting opportunities; increased daily and season bag limits for beavers in certain WMUs; the addition of WMUs 3A, 3D and 4E to the list of WMUs open for fisher trapping; a return of the statewide snowshoe hare hunting season with a shortened season in WMUs 3B, 3C and 3D; and the creation of a new WMU named 2H split from WMU 2G.

To make the agency's license sales system more customer friendly, the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System (PALS) was put into effect four years ago. The new licenses are printed on sturdy, weather-resistant yellow material. The harvest tags have perforated holes in them to make it easy to attach the tag to the animal. Additionally, all personal information will be printed on the tags, so all a hunter will need to do is enter the time, date and place of harvest. Like last year, deer and turkey harvest report cards are in this Digest, and they will not be distributed with the license. Hunters and furtakers can also report online at www.pgc.state.pa.us for deer, turkey, bobcat and fisher harvests, or over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681).

By state law, antlerless deer licenses will continue to be sold only by county treasurers, but under PALS hunters will be able to submit an application to any county treasurer, and the application will list the hunters' first three choices, in order of preference, for specific WMU antlerless deer licenses. If an applicant's first choice of WMU has sold out, the county treasurer will move to the second preference—and third, if necessary (see details in the deer section elsewhere in this Digest).

Other benefits from PALS include: Application for the elk license drawing can be made when licenses are purchased; hunters can process DMAP antlerless deer coupons for permits rather than having to wait for permits to be mailed; a second spring gobbler license, and bobcat and fisher permits can be purchased (see specific sections for purchasing second gobbler license, bear license, and bobcat and fisher permits, as purchase cut off dates apply). For more information on PALS, see the license section in the back of this Digest.

Wildlife Classifications: All wildlife in Pennsylvania is protected by the Game and Wildlife Code and is classified as follows:

Game Animals: Black bear, cottontail rabbit, elk, squirrels (red, gray, black and fox), snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and woodchuck (groundhog).

Game Birds: Brant, bobwhite quail, coot, gallinule, geese, grouse, Hungarian partridge, merganser, mourning dove, pheasant, rail, snipe, swan, wild ducks, wild turkey and woodcock.

Big Game: Bear, elk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

Small Game: Game birds and game animals not classified as big game.

Furbearers: Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pine martin, raccoon, red and gray fox, skunk and weasel.

Protected Mammals: Wild mammals not classified furbearers or game animals (For example, chipmunks are protected).

Protected Birds: Wild birds not classified game birds.

Protection is removed from wildlife, except migratory birds, big game and threatened or endangered species, when personal property, other than an agricultural crop, is being destroyed or damaged. Wildlife may only be taken by the owner or person in charge of the personal property affected. Wildlife taken to protect personal property must be surrendered to a Game Commission representative.

Mission Statement: Imagine the wonder in your child or grandchild's eyes as he or she experiences a ring-necked pheasant flushed from underfoot, with its cackling and flurry of wingbeats, and vibrant colors silhouetted against an azure sky, or a tom turkey in the spring, so close its gobbling reverberates throughout the woodlot and seemingly shakes the ground you're sitting on. Providing these types of outdoor experiences is an important component of why the Game Commission manages wild birds and mammals, and their habitats, for current and future generations.