2018 Spring Turkey Hunting Guide

See the 2017 Small Game Hunting Regulations. Regulations are available in print or at dnr.wi.gov, search “hunting regulations.”

Spring Turkey Drawing

Spring turkey harvest authorizations (formerly known as a carcass tag/permit) are issued through a preference-based drawing system. The application deadline for the spring drawing is December 10th. Applications are $3 and available at gowild.wi.gov, a DNR Service Center, or from a license vendor. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read and follow all instructions for the spring turkey application. Harvest authorizations are issued through the drawing by evaluating every combination of zones and time periods the applicant would accept in the order in which they made their selections. Applicants can choose 2 time period and zone combinations, along with one zone in which they will accept any time period if the first two choices are unavailable. A harvest authorization can only be issued if that time period and zone is listed on the application. For the greatest chance of receiving a harvest authorization through the preference drawing, applicants should diversify their options by listing all time periods and zones they would be willing to accept.

All options of all applicants are evaluated to issue one harvest authorization to as many applicants as possible. A maximum of one turkey harvest authorization per applicant can be awarded. Remaining harvest authorizations will be sold over-the-counter after the drawing is complete. Under no circumstances can a harvest authorization be exchanged for a different time period or zone. Please refer to the Turkey Hunting Frequently Asked Questions to learn more about the turkey drawing and preference point systems.

Leftover Harvest Authorizations

After the preference drawing is complete, all leftover turkey harvest authorizations will be sold over-the-counter. Leftover harvest authorizations will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Each zone will have a designated sales date. The first zone will go on sale on March 19, 2018. Hunters may buy leftover harvest authorizations on a one-per-day basis until they are sold out, or the season is over. For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov, search key word “turkey hunting.”

2018 Season Dates:

Spring Turkey Youth Hunt – April 14 - 15

Time periods:

A — April 18 - 24
B — April 25 - May 1
C — May 2 - 8
D — May 9 - 15
E — May 16 - 22
F — May 23 - 29

Spring turkey hunting in state parks is allowed during the 2-day Youth Turkey Hunt and the first two time periods of the regular season.

Fort McCoy conducts its own spring turkey hunt, independent of the state season. Call Ft. McCoy at 608-388-3337 for a hunting application.

DNR Call Center:
1-888-WDNRINFo
(1-888-936-7463)
The number of available harvest authorizations is set to allow maximum recreational opportunities while limiting the impact on the turkey population and minimizing hunter interference. Harvest authorizations levels reflect the amount of turkey habitat, turkey population densities and distribution in each zone. The number of authorizations available for the spring hunting season will be higher than the fall season.

### Spring Turkey Hunting Opportunities

#### Youth Hunt

Wisconsin’s annual Spring Turkey Youth Hunt is designed to give young hunters the opportunity to hunt wild turkey and gain valuable experience at a time when other hunters are not authorized to hunt. The 2018 Spring Turkey Youth Hunt will take place April 14-15. The youth hunt is open to resident and non-resident hunters under age 16 who possess a valid spring turkey license, stamp, and harvest authorization. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older. All youth hunters must have successfully completed Hunter Education unless they are participating under the Mentored Hunting Program. Youth hunters can use a harvest authorization for any time period, but they are limited to the turkey management zone for which their authorization was issued. All other spring turkey hunting regulations apply. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for “spring turkey youth hunt” or call the DNR Call Center at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463).

#### Mentored Hunting Program

The Mentored Hunting Program allows hunters, born on or after January 1, 1973, to obtain a hunting license and harvest authorization without first completing Hunter Education. The hunter must be accompanied by a licensed hunter, hunt within arm’s reach of their mentor and comply with all of the requirements under the Mentored Hunting Program. This one-on-one mentoring opportunity gives first-time hunters a chance to try hunting and enables veteran hunters to pass on their passion for the outdoors and help keep Wisconsin’s hunting heritage strong. For additional information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for “mentored hunting,” or call the DNR Call Center.

#### Learn to Hunt

The Learn to Hunt Program, offered outside of the regular spring turkey season, is an educational opportunity designed to help inexperienced hunters, both youth and adults, have a high-quality, safe, and rewarding first-time hunting experience under the guidance of qualified Hunter Education instructors and hunting mentors. Participants will receive both classroom and field instruction prior to the hunt. All participants will be paired with a qualified mentor to provide the highest level of instruction and safety. Many Learn to Hunt events are sponsored by local conservation clubs and organizations under the supervision of the DNR. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for “learn to hunt,” or call the DNR Call Center.

#### Disabled Hunting Opportunities

Wisconsin law provides for a variety of hunting, fishing, and recreational use permits designed to help people with disabilities enjoy the state’s natural resources. For disabled hunters with a Class A, B, or C permit wishing to participate in the spring turkey hunting season on private lands, one option is to apply for a Wild Turkey Hunt for People with Disabilities using Forms 2300-271 and 2300-271A. Application forms must be fully completed and submitted by December 10th. Any hunter that applies for a disabled hunt on private land may not apply for a harvest authorization through the regular spring turkey drawing. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for “spring turkey disabled hunt,” or call the DNR Call Center.