

starting the third Friday in November. A person shall not hunt sandhill cranes within 100 yards of the normal summer pool level of 675 feet, east of the Hwy. 551 Bridge in the following embayments: Green River to the Snake Creek Boat Ramp; and Casey Creek to the Hwy. 76 bridge.

- * **Hidden Valley Training Area:** Area closes periodically for training exercises. Call (606) 878-9595 for more information about training dates.
- * **Robinson Forest WMA:** The main block of this area is closed to all hunting. The remainder of this WMA is open under statewide requirements.
- * **Rockcastle River WMA:** Rabbit, quail and grouse hunters must check in and check out at a self-service kiosk and clearly display a department-

provided vehicle hang-tag in their vehicle. Hang-tags available in advance through the department's website.

- * **Elk Horn Coal Hunting Access Area:** Camping, ATV use, horseback riding, baiting, livestock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes, which may injure trees, are not permitted on the property.
- * **RH Group Hunting Access Area:** Commercial guiding, camping, ATV use, horseback riding, fishing, night hunting, baiting, livestock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes which may injure trees are not permitted on the property. Waiver required to access property. Go online to fw.ky.gov and search under RH

Group for more information.

- * **Pike Elkhorn Hunting Access Area:** Access to the Letcher County property via Wright's Fork Road off US 23 is not permitted.

NOTE: Before trapping on a WMA or Outdoor Recreation Area, a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Public Area Trapping Registration Form must be completed. See page 28 for details.

QUOTA HUNTS

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conducts quota hunts for deer, pheasant and migratory birds (waterfowl and mourning doves). Quota hunts control the number of hunters in an area to provide quality hunting opportunities and regulate harvests at specific areas.

Some hunts are mentored hunts for youth and accompanying adults. Some hunts are open to mobility-impaired hunters only.

Any resident or nonresident may apply for quota hunts. Only the person(s) successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. Substitutions are not allowed.

Applicants drawn for quota hunts must purchase applicable licenses and permits to legally hunt during the quota hunts.

HOW TO APPLY

Quota hunt applications are available online only at fw.ky.gov.

Apply for dove quota hunts Aug. 7-18. Apply for deer, pheasant and waterfowl quota hunts Sept. 1-30. Hunters may apply for multiple quota hunts for

Complete details for all quota hunts are available online. Click the "Hunt" tab on fw.ky.gov, choose "Quota Hunts" from the dropdown menu and scroll to the appropriate hunt.

different species at the same time.

The non-refundable application fee is \$3 per hunter for each hunt.

To see if you were drawn for a hunt, go online to fw.ky.gov and check under the "MyProfile" section. You may also call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) at 1-800-858-1549.

QUOTA DEER HUNTS

Deer quota hunts are held on 16 WMAs, five state parks (Dale Hollow Lake, Greenbo Lake, Green River Lake, Kenlake, Kincaid Lake), and Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area. Additionally there are quota deer hunts for mobility-impaired hunters on Green River Lake WMA, Taylorsville Lake WMA and Zilpo-Twin Knobs Camp-

Follow the rules!

Hunters who do not comply with quota hunt requirements are ineligible to apply for any quota hunt the following year (including deer, pheasant and waterfowl), and will lose any accumulated preference points.

grounds (on Cave Run Lake).

If applying for a deer quota hunt as a group, each applicant's preference points will be used to calculate an average point total for the group. A group with a higher preference point average will be randomly selected before a group with a lower preference point average.

A maximum of 10 percent nonresidents can be drawn in each deer quota hunt pool.

Drawn quota hunters may bring one non-hunting person along on their hunt. The non-hunting person is not required to have applied for the quota hunt but must check in and check out with the drawn quota hunter. Participants must abide by hunter orange requirements.

Ground blinds used during gun quota hunts for deer must have a hat or vest made of solid, unbroken hunter orange material attached to the blind so that it is visible from all sides. Hunter orange clothing requirements still apply for any persons inside the blind.

PHEASANT QUOTA HUNTS

Pheasant quota hunts are held on Yellowbank WMA, Green River Lake WMA and Clay WMA. See the “Public Hunting Areas Quick Reference” charts for dates. All drawn pheasant hunters must buy (regardless of attendance) and carry while hunting a pheasant quota hunt permit, which is \$25 and may be purchased online or

from license vendors anytime before the hunt. Permits are not transferrable.

DOVE QUOTA HUNTS

Youth hunters and an accompanying adult may participate in quota mentored dove hunts on a limited number of public fields. Apply online at fw.ky.gov from Aug. 7-18.

Locations of mentored hunts will be published in the Dove and Early Waterfowl Guide, available at fw.ky.gov in early August. The one-day quota mentored hunts are held in September.

Kentucky will offer quota dove hunts Sept. 1 and Sept. 9 at Big Rivers WMA and Kentucky River WMA. Four hunts total. Any legal hunter

may apply online from Aug. 7-18 at fw.ky.gov.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED QUOTA HUNTS

Persons with severe mobility restrictions may apply for a mobility-impaired quota hunt. At check in, drawn hunters must show a WMA Mobility-Impaired Access Permit, available in advance of the hunt date from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Criteria is available online at fw.ky.gov by searching under the keywords, “mobility access permit,” or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 800-858-1549.

WATERFOWL QUOTA HUNTS

WATERFOWL/MIGRATORY BIRD QUOTA HUNTS

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is migrating much of its waterfowl and migratory bird hunting information to its website. Find information not covered in this printed guide online at fw.ky.gov, including a form downloadable to smartphones. This page covers basic information.

Season-long blind drawings are available at Barkley Lake, Barren River Lake, Doug Travis and Green River Lake. Drawings are typically held from August through October. These are separate from general quota hunt drawings held in September. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife announces dates and locations for these waterfowl blind drawings in August. Check online at fw.ky.gov for more information.

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

Ballard WMA (Ballard County)

Hunters are not required to hunt from blinds maintained by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunters will be drawn for one of 14 hunting units. The party who draws that unit can hunt anywhere within the unit.

- Hunts available through quota draw for individual dates only.

- Apply for quota hunts Sept. 1-30 online at fw.ky.gov.

Sloughs WMA - Sauerheber Unit (Union and Henderson counties)

Successfully drawn hunters will be assigned one of 12 hunting units. The hunter who draws that unit can hunt anywhere within the unit, except in specified units where you must hunt from a blind.

- Hunts available through quota draw for individual dates only.
- Apply for quota hunts Sept. 1-30 online at fw.ky.gov.
- Hunters must check-in the Sunday prior to the hunt.

Sloughs WMA - Jenny Hole Unit (Henderson County)

Unit is a quota hunt-only area.

- Hunting spots (10) assigned by weekly drawings held Monday evenings at Sloughs WMA office. Only one member of a hunting party needs to be present at the drawing. Two spots available through quota draw for individual dates only.
- Apply for quota hunts Sept. 1-30 online at fw.ky.gov.
- Access is limited to drawn hunters only, and only on quota hunt days, with no access after 2 p.m. (local time).

MENTOR/MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HATCHERY HUNTS

Minor Clark and Pfeiffer Fish Hatcheries (Rowan and Franklin counties)

- Open to mobility-impaired hunters with access permit, and youths under the age of 16 accompanied by an adult mentor. A mentor may hunt.
- Hunters must apply online between Nov. 1-15.
- Hunt dates available Jan. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 (2024).
- Mentor/youth hunt groups limited to four hunters, with no more than two hunting adults.

Doug Travis WMA Mobility-impaired Hunt (Carlisle and Hickman counties)

- Two blinds available.
- Applications accepted by mail, Sept. 1-30.

SANDHILL CRANES

- Apply in September at fw.ky.gov for the Sandhill Crane permit drawing.
- Hunters may be drawn for up to three permits a season.
- Portions of Green River Lake and Barren River Lake are refugee areas and closed to crane hunting.
- Hunters must pass a migratory bird identification test before receiving their sandhill crane permit.

2023-24 DEER QUOTA HUNT CHOICES

WMA - Outdoor Recreation Area choices		Dates	# of slots	Min. # pref. pts. of 2022 participants		Hunt Remarks (Quota hunts are for either sex deer unless otherwise noted)
				All	Non Res.	
1	Ballard WMA	Nov. 4-5	150	2.2	4	Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four. Scouting permitted through Oct. 14.
2	Beaver Creek WMA	Nov. 4-5	330	0	0	Antlered deer only.
3	Big Rivers WMA & State Forest #1	Oct. 23-Nov. 30	130	1	4	Archery and crossbow only. Closed during the two-day quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November. Department issued hang tags required. Must telecheck harvested deer.
4	Big Rivers WMA & State Forest #2	Nov. 4-5	100	1	2.6	
5	Clay WMA	Nov. 4-5	225	1	1	Limit four, only one of which may be antlered, during quota hunt. Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four.
6	Dewey Lake WMA	Nov. 4-5	150	0	0	Limit one during quota hunt.
7	Fishtrap Lake WMA	Nov. 18-19	200	0	0	Limit one during quota hunt.
8	Green River Lake & Dennis-Gray WMAs	Nov. 4-5	400	0.2	0.5	
9	Green River Lake & Dennis-Gray WMAs Mobility-Impaired*	Nov. 4-5	15	0	0	Open only to mobility-impaired persons.
10	Higginson - Henry WMA #1	Oct. 23-Nov. 30	60	1	4	Archery and crossbow only. Closed during the two-day quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November. Department issued hang tags required. Must telecheck harvested deer.
11	Higginson - Henry WMA #2	Nov. 4-5	45	1	2	
12	Kentucky River WMA	Nov. 4-5	65	0.5	1	
13	Kleber and Rich WMAs #1	Nov. 4-5	200	0.2	0.25	
14	Kleber and Rich WMAs #2	Dec. 2-3	200	0	0	
15	Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area	Dec. 9-10	30	0	0.7	User permit required.
16	Paintsville Lake WMA	Nov. 4-5	200	0	0	
17	Pennyrile State Forest/Tradewater WMA	Nov. 4-5	300	0	0	
18	Taylorsville Lake WMA #1	Nov. 4-5	268	0.7	0.75	Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four.
19	Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-Impaired* #1	Nov. 4-5	7	0	0	Open only to mobility-impaired persons. Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four.
20	Taylorsville Lake WMA #2	Dec. 2-3	268	0	0	Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four.
21	Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-Impaired* #2	Dec. 2-3	7	0	0	Open only to mobility-impaired persons. Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four.
22	Veterans Memorial WMA #1	Nov. 4-5	50	1	1	
23	Veterans Memorial WMA #2	Dec. 2-3	30	0	0	Antlerless deer only. Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four.
24	West Kentucky WMA	Nov. 18-21	60	0	0	Shotgun and muzzleloader only.

– CHART CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE –

*Only hunters who are mobility-impaired as described on page 29 can apply and be drawn for this hunt.

Antlered deer taken during quota hunts count against the statewide limit of one antlered deer per hunter, per season.

- DEER QUOTA HUNT CHOICES 2023-24, CONTINUED -

WMA - Outdoor Recreation Area choices		Dates	# of slots	Min. # pref. pts. of 2022 participants		Hunt Remarks (Quota hunts are for either sex deer unless otherwise noted)
				All	Non Res.	
25	West Kentucky WMA youth mentor	Nov. 18-21	4	0	0	Shotgun only, youth mentor hunt on "A" tracts. Only youth hunters apply. No more than two youth hunters may accompany an adult mentor. No more than one adult can mentor a youth hunter. An adult mentor may take a deer during the hunt.
26	Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park #1	Nov. 6-10	60	0	0	Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer.
27	Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park #2	Dec. 9-10	40	0	0	Youth only. Must telecheck harvested deer.
28	Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park #3	Jan. 6-7	50	0.2	0.2	Must telecheck harvested deer.
29	Greenbo Lake State Resort Park #1	Nov. 3-5	40	0	0	Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer.
30	Greenbo Lake State Resort Park #2	Nov. 10-12	40	0	0	Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer.
31	Greenbo Lake State Resort Park #3	Jan. 9-10	20	0	0	Must telecheck harvested deer.
32	Green River Lake State Park #1	Dec. 14-17	55	0.8	0.8	Archery and crossbow only. No check in or out. Must telecheck harvested deer.
33	Green River Lake State Park #2	Dec. 21-24	55	0	0	Archery and crossbow only. No check in or out. Must telecheck harvested deer.
34	Kenlake State Resort Park #1	Nov. 9-12	20	1	1	Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer.
35	Kenlake State Resort Park #2	Jan. 6-7	20	0.7	0.7	Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer.
36	Kincaid Lake State Park #1	Dec. 7-10	10	1.6	1.6	Must telecheck harvested deer.
37	Kincaid Lake State Park #2	Dec. 14-17	10	1	1	Must telecheck harvested deer.
38	Twin Knobs Mobility-Impaired*	Dec. 9	12	0	0	Open only to mobility-impaired persons.

HUNTER ASSISTANCE NEEDED



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife collects heads from hunter-harvested deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. CWD has not been detected in Kentucky. However, adequate testing is essential for early detection and limiting the spread of this always fatal disease of deer. Hunters should cut the head of a harvested buck or doe off a couple inches below the base of the skull and freeze.

Submitting deer samples

Kentucky Fish & Wildlife has several voluntary sample collection sites hunters can use to donate deer heads for testing. To find the site nearest you, go online to fw.ky.gov/cwd for maps and collection times. You may also contact a biologist using this online site to arrange a sample submittal.

RABBITS

Report the location of any site with multiple dead rabbits to a local biologist or by calling 1-800-858-1549 or emailing Info.Center@ky.gov. The department is monitoring for Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, which has been found in domestic rabbits in Kentucky and the Southeastern United States, but not in wild rabbits in Kentucky. Humans are not at risk for this disease. However, people should not handle rabbit carcasses which are not hunter-harvested, as other diseases transmissible to humans may be present.



fw.ky.gov

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources collects tissues from affected animals to assist its wildlife disease monitoring program. This allows the department to better manage potential disease outbreaks.

Your assistance could include reporting deceased wild animals or freezing a portion of a carcass until it can be picked up. To find out more or to locate your local biologist, go online to fw.ky.gov/disease or call **1-800-858-1549**

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wear gloves, keep your knife clean and wash your hands when processing wild game. If you harvest an animal and find something abnormal in the body or meat and you have concerns, take pictures and freeze a sample. Then contact a local biologist for guidance. Finally, don't eat an animal that appeared sick before its harvest.