

Spring 2017 Turkey Hunting Information

The application deadline for the spring 2017 wild turkey hunting season permit drawing is **December 10th, 2016**. Applications cost \$3 and are available online at gowild.wi.gov or in person at any [DNR Service Center](#) or [license vendor](#).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read and follow all instructions shown on the spring turkey permit application. Applicants can select up to two zone and time period combinations as well as one zone for which they would accept any permit in the event that both their first and second choices are unavailable. A permit can only be issued if that time period and/or zone is listed on the application. For the greatest chance of receiving a permit through the preference drawing, applicants should diversify their options by listing all time periods and zones they would be willing to accept. Under no circumstances can permits be exchanged for different time periods or zones once issued.

NOTE: starting with the 2017 spring turkey season, opening day will take place on the third Wednesday in April (previously, the spring season opened on the Wednesday nearest April 13th). Please verify season dates before submitting your application and planning your hunt.

Please refer to the 2017 Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations, included in the [2016 Small Game Hunting Regulations pamphlet](#), to learn more about the turkey permit drawing and preference point system. These regulations are available in print or on the website at dnr.wi.gov (search for "hunting regulations"). If permits remain after the preference drawing is complete, they will be available for purchase over-the-counter in late March. These permits will be issued with a one-per-day limit until the permits are sold out or the season is over.

Wisconsin's [Spring Turkey Youth Hunt](#) for 2017 is set to take place on April 14th & 15th. The Youth Hunt is open to persons 10-15 years of age (residents and non-residents) who possess a current valid spring turkey license, stamp, and permit/carcass tag for the spring 2017 season. All 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](#). Under this program, youth hunters ages 10 & 11 and youth who have not completed Hunter Education may hunt provided they remain within arm's reach of a mentor at all times. The permit/carcass tag can be for any time period of the spring 2017 season, but youth hunters are limited to the turkey management zone for which their permit was issued. All other spring turkey hunting regulations apply. For more information, see the back of this sheet.

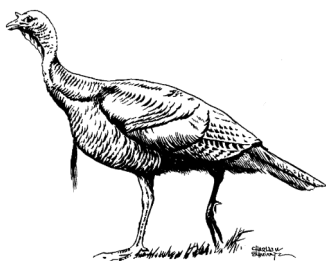
Persons holding a Class A or C permit who are interested in participating in a disabled hunt on private land can fill out a special application ([Form 2300-271](#)). Application forms **must be fully completed and submitted by December 10th**. **NOTE:** Persons on the list of participating hunters for a disabled hunt on private land may not apply for a permit through the regular spring turkey drawing. For more information visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[turkey disabled hunt](#)".

SEASON DATES:

Spring Turkey Youth Hunt – April 14 & 15

Time periods:

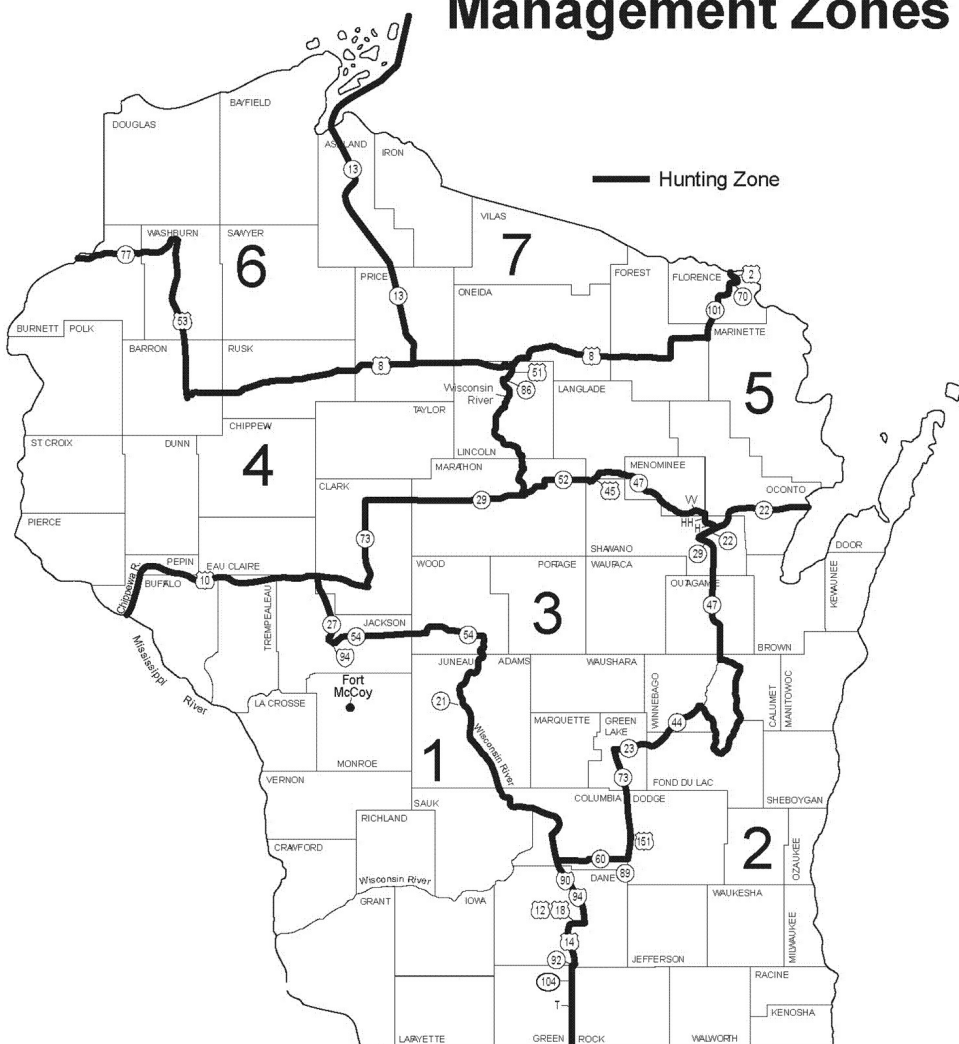
- A – April 19-25
- B – April 26 - May 2
- C – May 3-9
- D – May 10-16
- E – May 17-23
- F – May 24-30



**Remember, the
spring season
opens on the 3rd
Wednesday in
April!**

Fort McCoy conducts its own spring turkey hunt, independent of the state season. In order to hunt at Ft. McCoy, you must call Ft. McCoy for an application at 608-388-3337.

Wild Turkey Management Zones



2017 - PRELIMINARY Spring Turkey Harvest and Permit Information - 2017

Zone	2016 Spring Permits Available	2016 Permits Issued through the Preference Drawing†	2016 Permits Issued Over-the-Counter‡	2016 Total Permits Issued	2016 Spring Harvest	2016 Spring Hunter Success	2017 Spring Permits Available (PRELIMINARY)
1	74,646	34,727	27,233	61,960	13,862	22.4%	74,646
2	48,036	33,980	13,962	47,942	11,087	23.1%	48,036
3	63,018	28,366	22,204	50,570	10,349	20.5%	63,018
4	34,968	18,988	12,872	31,860	6,698	21.0%	34,968
5	12,000	8,036	3,980	12,016	2,071	17.2%	12,000
6	4,500	4,258	244	4,502	813	18.1%	4,500
7	3,600	3,057	545	3,602	510	14.2%	3,600
Ft. McCoy	460	320	N/A	320	111	34.7%	N/A
Total	241,228	131,732	81,040	212,772	45,501	21.4%	240,768

- * Applicants can choose 2 time period and zone combinations, along with one zone in which they'll accept a permit for any time period if the first two choices are unavailable. "First choice spring applicants" represents only the first choice selection of each applicant; this number does not represent every option of all applicants.
- † A permit is issued through the preference drawing by evaluating every combination of zones and time periods the applicant would accept in the order in which they made their selections. A maximum of one permit can be awarded through the preference drawing.
- ‡ All options of all applicants are evaluated to issue one permit to as many applicants as possible before leftover permits are made available. Permits remaining after the preference drawing will go on sale on a date and time to be determined later, usually late March.
- The above permit levels are **PRELIMINARY**.
- NOTE: State park zones ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE as of the 2015 spring season.
- Permit levels are set to allow maximum recreational opportunities without impacting the turkey population, while minimizing hunter interference. Permit levels reflect the amount of turkey habitat and turkey population densities and distribution in each zone. The number of permits available for the fall hunting season will be lower than the number for the spring season.
- Harvest numbers include turkeys harvested during the two-day Youth Hunt. Turkeys harvested during the Youth Hunt do not represent additional permits, but rather, permits awarded to youth that were used during the Youth Hunt weekend rather than during the regular season.



Spring Turkey Hunting Opportunities

Youth Hunt & Learn to Hunt

The 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 2017 Spring Turkey Youth Hunt will take place on April 14 & 15, and is open to persons 10-15 years of age (both residents & non-residents) who possess a valid spring turkey license, stamp, and permit/carcass tag for the spring 2017 turkey season and 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 Hunting Mentorship Program. Under this program, youth hunters ages 10 & 11 and youth who have not completed Hunter Education must hunt within arm's reach of a mentor. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[spring turkey youth hunt](#)" or call the DNR Call Center.

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 an actual hunt. All participants will be paired up one-on-one with a qualified mentor to provide the highest level of instruction and safety. Many of these 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 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. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[spring turkey disabled hunt](#)" or call the DNR Call Center.

Mentored Hunting Program

The **Mentored Hunting Program** allows hunters age 10 and older, born on or after January 1, 1973, to obtain a hunting license and/or permit without first completing Hunter Education, provided they hunt with a mentor and comply with all of the requirements under the Mentored Hunting Program. For additional information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[mentored hunting](#)" or call the DNR Call Center.

**DNR Call Center:
1-888-WDNRINfo
(1-888-936-7463)**

