

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 a Saturday in late March. 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 work “[turkey hunting](#).”

2018 Season Dates:

Spring Turkey Youth Hunt – April 14 - 15

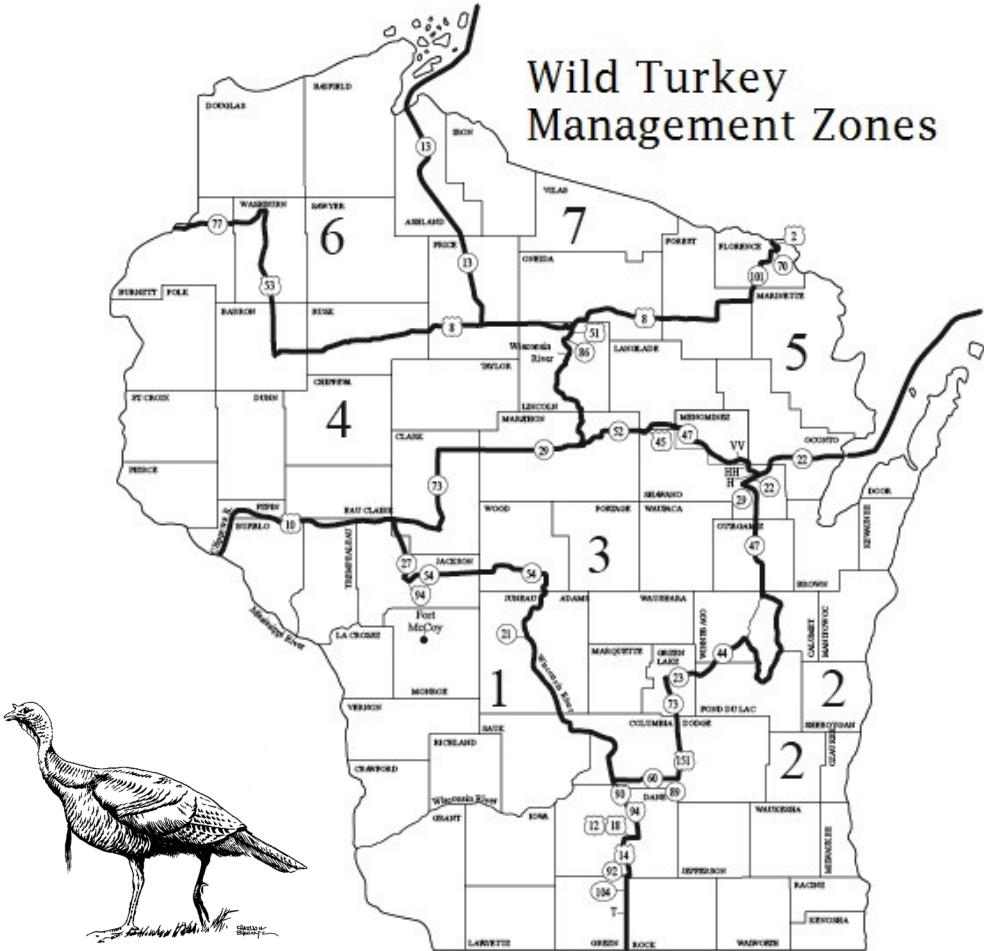
Time periods:

- 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)



101 S Webster St.
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921



	2017 Spring Turkey Permits (now known as harvest authorizations)						2018 Harvest Authorizations
Zone	Amount Available	Issued in Drawing	Sold Over-the-Counter	Total Issued ¹	Birds Harvested ¹	Hunter Success ²	Amount Available ³
1	74,646	35,177	26,600	61,777	12,564	20.30%	74,646
2	48,036	35,110	12,949	48,059	10,664	22.20%	51,036
3	63,018	28,744	21,128	49,872	9,919	19.90%	63,018
4	34,968	19,939	12,328	32,267	6,774	21.00%	34,968
5	12,000	8,469	3,542	12,011	1,966	16.40%	12,000
6	4,500	4,500	0	4,500	817	18.20%	4,950
7	3,600	3,391	211	3,602	514	14.30%	3,600
Ft. McCoy	385	368	0	368	87	23.60%	
Total	241,153	135,698	76,758	212,456	43,305	20.40%	244,218

¹ Permit levels and harvest numbers include turkeys harvested during the two-day Youth Hunt.

² Hunter success rates are not corrected for non-participation.

³ Harvest authorization levels are preliminary at this time

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 15 years old and younger 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, permit, 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 permit 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.

