



Ware Creek

Wildlife Management Area

2025-2026 Hunting Seasons

BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS

Bear	Archery: October 4 – November 14 Muzzleloader: November 8 – November 14 Chase: Closed	Youth/Apprentice: October 11 – October 12 Firearms: December 1 – January 3
Deer	Early Archery: October 4 – November 14 Early Muzzleloader: November 1 – November 14 Firearms: November 15 – January 3	Youth/Apprentice: September 27 – 28; blaze orange required for all hunters on youth/apprentice deer hunting days.
Turkey	Fall: Archery: October 4 – November 14 Youth/Apprentice: October 11 – 12 Firearms: October 18 – October 31, November 26 – November 27, December 1 – December 13	Spring: Bearded turkeys only By quota draw only: April 4 – 5, April 11 – 31; ½ hour before sunrise til noon Quota restrictions not in effect: May 1 – 16; ½ hr before sunrise til sunset

SMALL GAME HUNTING SEASONS

Crow	September 1 – March 9: on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays ONLY	
Groundhog	September 1 – March 10, during spring turkey season, during spring squirrel season	
Quail	November 8 – January 31	
Rabbit	November 1 – February 28	
Squirrel	Fall: September 6 – February 28	Spring: June 6 – June 20
Grouse	Closed	

WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD HUNTING SEASONS

Dove	Refer to the “WMA Dove Season” sign.	
Woodcock	November 11 – November 30 December 26 – January 19	
Snipe	September 29 – November 30 December 19 – January 31	
Rail/Gallinule/Moorhen	September 6 – October 25 November 11 – November 30	

WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS *All hunters must additionally review Ware Creek WMA Waterfowl Hunting sign*

September Goose and Teal	Goose: September 1 – 25 Teal: September 20 – 28	
Duck/Mergansers/Coots	October 10 – October 31 (Black duck closed) November 19 – November 30 December 19 – January 31	Youth and Veteran Waterfowl Hunt Days: October 25 February 7
Goose	December 24 – December 31 January 10 – January 31	
Light Goose	Regular Season: October 18 – January 31	Conservation Order Season: February 1 – April 5
Tundra Swan	November 15 – January 31 by quota permit only	

FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS

Bobcat	Archery: October 4 – October 31	Firearm: November 1 – February 28
Coyote/Striped skunk	September 1 – March 10, during spring turkey season, during spring squirrel season	
Opossum	October 15 – March 10	
Fox	Red Fox: November 1 – February 28 Gray Fox: January 1 – February 28 Chase: Continuous open season (No foxes may be taken except during the firearms season)	
Raccoon	Firearms: October 15 – March 10 Chase: Continuous open season (No raccoon may be taken except during firearms season)	

TRAPPING SEASONS *Ware Creek WMA is generally open to trapping except that no trapping is allowed in the Terrapin Point marsh or on DWR-owned property within the marshes of Ware Creek and Philbates Creek during the general waterfowl season*

Beaver/Mink/Muskrat/Otter/Weasel	December 1 – February 28
Bobcat/Fox/Opossum/Racoon	November 15 – February 28
Coyote/Nutria/Striped skunk	Continuous open season
Rabbit	October 15 – January 31 (Box traps only)

If you have any questions, please contact the Wildlife Area Manager, Ashlei Selden, via phone at (804) 398-9710 or email at ashlei.selden@dwr.virginia.gov



2025-2026 WMA Dove Hunting



Dove Seasons

First Segment	September 1 – October 19 Hours: September 1 (Labor Day): 12:00 noon until sunset September 2 – October 20: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset on Wednesdays, Saturdays
Second Segment	November 22 – November 30 Hours: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily
Third Segment	December 19 – January 19 Hours: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily

Bag Limit: 15 per day, 45 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.



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WATERFOWL HUNTING



Waterfowl hunting on and within 500 yards of the WMA is permitted (except portions of Philbates Creek — see below) as per 4VAC15-260-75 and will be allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Hunters may not occupy their hunting location until 5 AM and hunting must end by 1 PM.

Waterfowl hunting is allowed on the marshes, shorelines and creeks, except on Philbates Creek. On Philbates Creek, no hunting is allowed in the waters or marshes along the main stem of the Creek. Hunting is allowed on the southeastern tributary of Philbates creek that runs into the interior of the WMA. The area open to hunting will be posted along the mouth of this tributary. No waterfowl or coot hunting is allowed on the agricultural fields at Ware Creek as these fields are manipulated.