Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission
Proclamation ~~15-03~~ 16-XX
Statewide Big Game Hunting Seasons and Bag Limit
(Exclusive of Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges)

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 70-4-107 and 70-5-108, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby proclaims the statewide big game seasons and bag limits, effective August 1, ~~2015~~ 2016.

Section I. White-tailed Deer

A. White-tailed Deer Hunting Units

For the purpose of these hunting regulations and better wildlife management, the State of Tennessee is hereby divided into three (5~~3~~) deer units, as follows:

Unit

A. Bradley, Carter, Hamilton, Hawkins, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Roane, Sullivan

B. Anderson, Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Grundy, Hancock, Jackson, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Scott, Sequatchie, VanBuren, Warren, White

C. Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, Unicoi, Union, Washington

D. Blount, Monroe, Polk, Sevier

L. Bedford, Benton, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Coffee, Crockett, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Moore, Obion, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Wayne, Weakley, Williamson, Wilson.

B. White-tailed Deer Bag Limits and Season Dates

1. Statewide - Antlered Buck Bag Limit

The statewide bag limit for antlered bucks in Tennessee is two (2). No more than one (1) antlered deer may be taken per day. The only way the bag limit of two antlered bucks may be exceeded is if bucks are taken on TWRA or NWR managed hunts where the bucks are noted as bonus deer in the section listing WMA regulations. Deer taken on Ft. Campbell are also bonus deer.

2. Statewide – Deer Seasons and Bag Limits:

~~Season Type~~	~~Season Dates~~	~~Antlered Bag Limit~~	~~Antlerless Bag Limits~~		
		~~Statewide~~	~~Unit L~~	~~Unit A~~	~~Unit B~~
~~Archery*~~	~~4th Saturday in September to the day before the opening day of Muzzleloader~~	~~2~~	~~3/day~~	~~4~~	~~4~~
~~Muzzleloader~~	~~3rd Saturday before Thanksgiving to the day before the opening day of Gun~~		~~3/day~~	~~4~~	~~1~~

~~Gun~~	~~1st Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first full weekend in January~~		~~3/day**~~	~~See Section D~~	~~See Section D~~
~~Young Sportsman***~~	~~Last weekend in October~~		~~3/day~~	~~2~~	~~1~~
	~~First weekend after the close of Gun season~~		~~3/day~~	~~2~~	~~1~~

Season Type	Season Dates	Antlered Bag Limit	Antlerless Bag Limits				
		Statewide	Unit L	Unit A	Unit B	Unit C	Unit D
Young Sportsman*	Last Saturday in October and the following day First weekend after the close of Gun season	2	3/day (No Season Limit)	2	2	2	2
Archery**	4th Saturday in September to the day before the opening day of Muzzleloader Season			4	4	4	4
Muzzleloader	3rd Saturday before Thanksgiving to the day before the opening day of Gun Season			2	2	1	1
Gun***	1st Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first full weekend in January			2	1	1 (First 16 Days Only)	1 (First 7 Days Only)

* Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

** Archery season is closed during the October Young Sportsman hunt.

*** A Type 94 permit is required to hunt antlerless deer during this season except for landowners hunting under the landowner exemption (as described in T.C.A. 70-2-204), Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters who possess a Type 167 permit.

Note: The statewide antlered buck limit is two (2). Antlered deer must have antlers a minimum of three inches (3") in length on buck only or antlered only hunts. Antlerless deer are defined as deer with no antlers or deer with antlers less than three inches (3") in length.

Archery equipment is legal during muzzleloader and gun seasons, muzzleloading equipment is legal during gun season.

3. Unit L, Private Land, Antlerless, White-tailed Deer Hunt

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery	Monday following the first full weekend in January through the following Friday. 3 per day

~~C. Non-Quota Antlerless White-tailed Deer Hunts~~

~~The following counties and portions of counties are open to antlerless deer hunting during the regular gun season as specified.~~

~~Non-quota Hunts -- *No hunter quota but a Type 94 permit is required except for landowners hunting on their own land, Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters who possess a Type 167 permit.*~~

~~Note: Unit A & B: the bag limit for each county for each non-quota hunt is defined in the Table. Unit L: a hunter may harvest 3 antlerless deer per day during the regular gun season.~~

~~1 Blount County West of Highway 411 and east of Highway 129~~

~~D. Claiborne County Special Red Deer Hunt~~

~~Allow taking of Red Deer in that portion of Claiborne County south of the Powell River. All harvested Red Deer must be checked out at designated TWRA check stations.~~

~~Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery Concurrent with statewide deer season~~
~~No limit-Either Sex~~

~~Outside of deer season, Red Deer may be taken after requesting a free permit from the TWRA Region 4 Office.~~

~~No limit-Either Sex~~

Section II. Black Bear

A. Black Bear Bag Limits and Season Dates

Five (5) Bear hunt zones (BHZ) are hereby designated as follows:
~~For the purpose of these hunting regulations and better wildlife management, the State of Tennessee is hereby divided into five (5) bear hunt zones (BHZ's), as follows:~~

BHZ1: Carter, Cocke (North of I-40), Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and~~&~~ Washington Counties.~~.~~

BHZ2: Blount, Cocke (South of I-40), Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Sevier Counties.

BHZ3: McMinn (East of Hwy 411), Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy 411 and~~&~~ North of Hwy 64) Counties.

BHZ4: Cumberland (North of I-40), Fentress, Morgan, Pickett (East of Hwy 111), and ~~&~~ Scott (West of Hwy 27) Counties.

Transitional: Bradley, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Grainger, Jefferson (west of Hwy 411), Knox, Loudon, McMinn (West of Hwy 411), and ~~&~~ Polk (West of Hwy 411) Counties

Bear Hunt Zone (BHZ)					
	BHZ 1	BHZ 2	BHZ 3	BHZ 4**	Transitional
Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery (Dogs Allowed)	Oct. 3-7 Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 Nov. 28 -Dec.17 ~~Oct. 5-9~~ ~~Nov. 2-6~~ ~~Nov. 30 -Dec.19~~	Sep.26-Oct.2 ~~Sep.28-Oct.4~~ Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 ~~Nov. 2-6~~ Nov. 28 - Dec. 22 ~~Nov. 30 - Dec. 24~~	Oct. 1-9 ~~Oct. 3-11~~ Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 ~~Nov. 2-6~~ Nov.28.-Dec.11 ~~Nov.30.-Dec.13~~ Dec.29-Jan. 1 ~~Dec.30-Jan.2~~	Closed	Closed
Archery Only (No Dogs)	Sep.24-Oct.21 ~~Sep.26-Oct.23~~	Sep.24-Oct.21 ~~Sep.26-Oct.23~~	Sep.24-Oct.21 ~~Sep.26-Oct.23~~	Sep.24-Oct.21 ~~Sep.26-Oct.23~~	Sep.24-Oct.21 ~~Sep.26-Oct.23~~
Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery (No Dogs)	Nov. 19-22 ~~Nov. 21-24~~	Nov. 19-22 ~~Nov. 21-24~~	Nov. 19-22 ~~Nov. 21-24~~	Closed	Closed
Young Sportsman* G/M/A (No Dogs)	Oct. 29-30 ~~Oct. 24-25~~	Oct. 29-30 ~~Oct. 24-25~~	Oct. 29-30 ~~Oct. 24-25~~	Closed	Closed

* Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

** The following areas within BHZ4 are closed to bear hunting: Big South Fork River and Recreation Area, Scott State Forest, and Obed National Scenic River Corridor.

The following zones are open for a bear dog training season during daylight hours only:

BHZ 1 and BHZ 2

Aug. ~~22~~20-Sep. ~~27~~25, ~~2015~~2016
No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed.

BHZ 3

Sep. ~~9-18~~7-16, ~~2015~~2016
No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed.

B. Special Bear Hunting Regulations:

1. The limit of bears for any person participating in the statewide or managed hunts or both shall not exceed one (1) bear per calendar year.

2. Cubs or female bears with cubs at side may not be taken at any time. A cub is defined as

any bear weighing seventy-five (75) pounds or less.

Section III. Elk Bag Limits and Season Dates

A. Private Lands Elk Hunts

1. Private Lands Elk Hunting Zones (PLZ)

Three (3) Private Lands Elk Hunting Zones are designated as follows:

PLZ 1: Campbell and Claiborne Counties

PLZ 2: Scott County

PLZ 3: Anderson and Morgan Counties

2. Private Lands Elk Bag Limit, Season Dates, and Quotas

a) Elk harvest is regulated by a quota permit system. (Landowners are **not** exempt. Landowners must be drawn for a permit to participate)

b) The bag limits, dates, and quotas are as follows:

Quota Hunt Season ~~Dates~~ (October 17 thru 21)				
Private Lands Elk Hunt Zone	**Season Type**	**Season Dates**	**Permits**	**Bag Limit**
1	Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery	3rd Monday of October thru following Friday	3 (one per zone)	1 antlered elk per permit
2				
3				

Youth Quota Hunt Season (October 22-23)				
All of the Private Elk Hunt Zones as listed open in Section III. A.	Youth Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery	First Saturday and Sunday following 3rd Monday of October	1*	1 antlered elk

* Special Youth Elk Permit – issued to a resident hunter between the ages of 13-16 on the first day of the hunt.

~~1.~~3. Private Lands Special Regulations

a) All harvested elk must be checked ~~out~~ at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Office.

b) The harvest location must be adequately marked so that TWRA employees can identify the harvest site. This must be accomplished by doing one of the following: 1) Providing GPS coordinates or 2) Accompanying a TWRA employee to the harvest site.

c) Use or possession of electronic tracking equipment is prohibited.

d) It is the responsibility of Private Lands Elk Permit holders ~~successful private land quota~~

~~hunt applicants~~ to obtain~~attain a~~ verbal or written permission to hunt. TWRA does not guarantee hunter access on private lands.

e) ~~Elk~~ Private Lands Elk Permits are valid on ~~Quota permit is for~~ private lands only. ~~Hunting on public lands is prohibited.~~

B. Wildlife Management Area~~s~~ Elk Hunts (WMA) (North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area)

1. WMA Elk Hunting Zones (EHZ)

Seven (7) elk hunting zones are~~have been~~ designated on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (WMA), as follows:

EHZ 1: Chestnut Ridge and Fork Mountain

That portion of the North Cumberland WMA west of I-75 and east of the Southern railroad tracks. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

EHZ 2: Adkins and Turley Mountain

That portion west of the Southern Railroad tracks, east of Red Ash Rd. to Wheeler Gap, northeast of Adkins Mountain Road to Jenny Gap, east of Straight Fork Rd. to State Highway 63, east of Hwy 63 to the Southern Railroad tracks. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

EHZ 3: Horse Gap and Wolf Ridge

That portion of North Cumberland WMA south of Adkins Mountain Rd. to Huckaby Knob, west of the trail on Brushy Mountain Ridge to Montgomery Fork Creek, north of Montgomery Fork Creek (downstream) to the North Cumberland WMA boundary line and east of the North Cumberland WMA boundary line to Jenny Gap. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

EHZ 4: Anderson and Massengale Mountain

That portion on the North Cumberland WMA south of Montgomery Fork Creek to Little Bruce Ridge, west of Little Bruce Ridge to Short Haul Rd. to Grave Gap, north of Massengale Mountain road to Poor Mountain Road, north of Poor Mountain Rd. to Norma Rd., east of Norma Rd. to Montgomery Fork Creek. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

EHZ 5: Cross Mountain and Red Ash

That portion on the North Cumberland WMA South of Red Ash Rd. to Wheeler Gap, west of Adkins Mountain Rd. to Huckaby Knob, east of the trail on the Brushy Mountain Ridge to Montgomery Fork Creek, east of Little Bruce Ridge to Short Haul Rd., east of Massengale Rd. to Ash Log Gap, north of boundary back to Southern Railroad, west of Southern Railroad to Red Ash Church. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

EHZ 6: Braden Mountain

That portion of the North Cumberland WMA, north of State Hwy 63, west of State Hwy 297, and east of the Rock House community. EHZ 6 also includes the Mon Petit / Atlas Petroleum property which joins the North Cumberland Boundary on the north. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

EHZ 7: Tackett Creek

That portion of the North Cumberland WMA, Tackett Creek Unit, south of Tennessee and Kentucky State Line, north of the Cumberland Trail State Park and east of US Hwy 25W. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

2. WMA Elk Bag Limits, Season Dates, and Quotas

a) Elk harvest ~~will be~~ is regulated by a quota permit system. The five (5) EHZ's open for the 2016 elk season are EHZ 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. The bag limits, dates, and quotas are as follows:

	Elk Hunting Zone (EHZ)	Season Type	Season Dates	Permits	Bag Limit
1	Chestnut Ridge & Fork Mountain	Gun/ Muzzleloader/ Archery	3rd Monday of October through the following Friday	5	1 antlered elk per permit
2	Adkins & Turley Mountain				
3	Horse Gap & Wolf Ridge				
4	Anderson & Massengale Mountain				
5	Cross Mountain & Red Ash				
6	Braden Mountain				
7	Tackett Creek				
	Hunting Area - all five EHZs listed as open in Section III. B. 2.a ~~1~~.	Youth Gun/ Muzzleloader/ Archery	First Saturday and Sunday following 3rd Monday of Oct.	1*	1 antlered elk per permit

* Special Youth Elk Permit ~~-~~ issued ~~allocated~~ to a resident hunter between the ages of 13-16 on the first day of the hunt.

~~a)~~b) Annual permit allocation hunt will be as follows:
The Executive Director is authorized to issue one permit to a qualifying non-profit wildlife conservation organization, in accordance with Rule 1660-1-25.
The remaining permits will be allocated by a drawing conducted by TWRA. Drawing procedures will be posted by TWRA during application period.

3. WMA Special Regulations

a. Hunters will be assigned an EHZ as designated by TWRA. However, if during the course of the hunt, one hunter remains with an unfilled tag, that hunter may be re-assigned an open EHZ according to TWRA specifications.

b. All harvested elk must be checked ~~out~~ at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Office before leaving the Wildlife Management Area.

c. The harvest location must be clearly marked with flagging tape. Additionally, the location must be adequately marked so that TWRA employees can identify the harvest site. This must be accomplished by doing one of the following: 1) Providing GPS coordinates, 2) Accompanying a TWRA employee to the harvest site, or 3) Flagging a trail that can be easily followed from the harvest site to a road.

d. Use or possession of electronic tracking equipment is prohibited.

e. Bugling or calling of elk is prohibited within the EHZs during all elk hunts except by permitted hunters and their assistants.

Section IV. General Regulations for Spring and Fall Turkey Harvest

A. Miscellaneous

1. The use of any type of food to feed or attract wild turkeys on WMAs is prohibited. Shooting or stalking turkeys from a boat in Shelby, Dyer, Tipton, Lauderdale, Haywood or Obion counties prohibited. Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is prohibited from March 1st to the opening day of the spring turkey hunts on all WMAs.

2. A licensed turkey hunter, who has filled his/her bag limit or does not possess a valid permit for a quota hunt, may accompany another turkey hunter (except on Oak Ridge WMA) and assist him/her in calling, but may not have a gun or bow in his possession.

3. Legal shooting hours for turkey - Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise to sunset

B. Statewide Spring Turkey Season Dates

1. Spring Turkey Season Dates

Saturday closest to April 1st and progressing for the next 44 days.

2. Statewide Young Sportsmen Hunt (6-16 years of age)

The Saturday and Sunday before opening day of Spring Turkey Season. Youths must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device, who is not required to have a license. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

C. Spring Turkey Bag and Possession Limits

One (1) bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four (4) per season.
Young Sportsmen hunt - One (1) bearded turkey. Turkey counts toward statewide bag unless taken on WMA where turkey is listed as bonus bird.

D. Fall Turkey Hunting (Shotgun/Archery)

The following counties are open for fall turkey hunting. Bag limits for this season are defined by the following table. The bag limits listed in the table are for turkeys, either sex. If a county is listed in the table, turkey may be harvested with archery equipment during the deer/archery only season. Turkeys harvested during the deer/archery only season count toward the county bag limit.

COUNTY	Dates: 14 days preceding 1st Young Sportsman Deer Hunt		COUNTY	Dates: 14 days preceding 1st Young Sportsman Deer Hunt
Anderson	2		Jackson	1
Bedford	~~6~~3		Jefferson	2
Benton	1		Johnson	2
Blount	2		Knox	2

COUNTY	Dates: 14 days preceding 1st Young Sportsman Deer Hunt		COUNTY	Dates: 14 days preceding 1st Young Sportsman Deer Hunt
Campbell	2		Madison	1
Cannon	3		Marion	2
Carroll	3		Marshall	~~6~~3
Carter	2		Maury	~~6~~3
Cheatham	~~6~~3		McNairy	1
Chester	1		Meigs	1
Claiborne	2		Montgomery	~~6~~3
Clay	1		Moore	3
Cocke	3		Morgan	1
Coffee	3		Obion	1
Cumberland	1		Overton	1
Davidson	~~6~~3		Perry	1
Decatur	1		Pickett	1
DeKalb	2		Putnam	1
Dickson	3		Rhea	1
Fayette	1		Roane	1
Franklin	~~6~~3		Robertson	~~6~~3
Fentress	1		Rutherford	~~6~~3
Gibson	1		Scott	2
Grainger	2		Sequatchie	1
Greene	3		Sevier	2
Grundy	1		Smith	~~6~~3
Hamblen	2		Stewart	1
Hamilton	1		Sullivan	3
Hancock	2		Sumner	~~6~~3
Hardeman	1		Trousdale	~~6~~3
Hardin	1		Union	2
Hawkins	3		Van Buren	1
Henderson	1		Warren	3
Henry	3		Washington	2
Hickman	~~6~~3		Weakley	3
Houston	1		White	2
Humphreys	1		Williamson	~~6~~3
Lewis	~~3~~1		Wilson	~~6~~3
Lincoln	~~3~~1			
Macon	~~6~~3			

Section V. Special Regulations.

1. For antlered bucks a legal antler point is a projection at least one inch long, measured from the tip of the point to the nearest edge of the beam, following the mid-line of the tine.

2. Deer and turkey defined as “bonus” animals do not count toward statewide, seasonal, or daily bag limits.

Section VI. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. ~~14-03.~~15-03

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

_____
Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the ____th day of May, ~~2015.~~2016

_____
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the_____ day of _____, ~~2015.~~ 2016

_____
Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

Proclamation No. ~~15-03~~16-xx received and recorded this _____ day of _____, ~~2015~~2016; to be effective the _____ day of _____, 20____.

_____
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State