

What You Should Know About *Permits for People with Disabilities*

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. The following information is important if you have a permanent or temporary physical disability, or if you are legally blind. Different permits may allow you to:

- 🦌 **Hunt from a stationary vehicle**
- 🦌 **Hunt with a crossbow**
- 🦌 **Participate in Gun Deer and Spring Turkey Hunts for people with disabilities**
- 🐟 **Receive a discount on your annual fishing license** (Wisconsin residents only)
- 🐟 **Fish or troll with an electric motor**



Photo by Tom Wilson

Jeff Pagels with one of the two deer he harvested during the 2007 season. Jeff, a wheelchair user since 1984 uses a crossbow for the archery season and a rifle or muzzleloader during the traditional Wisconsin gun season.

Jeff is on the Board of Directors for Challenge the Outdoors, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the recreational needs and desires of the physically challenged sportsman. Their focus is on recreational activities for the disabled in Northeast Wisconsin, but encourages disabled people everywhere to play outside for the social, mental and physical benefits. For more information visit www.ctoforme.org.

In addition to hunting, Jeff's other outdoor pursuits include: fishing, kayaking, camping, Nordic skiing, swimming, sled hockey and even mountaineering all over the world, being the first wheelchair-using paraplegic to reach the summit of the highest mountain in the lower 48 states, Mt. Whitney in California. To read more about his adventures visit www.rainbowexpedition.com.



The Class A Permit: For hunters with certain permanent physical disabilities.

The Class A permit is designed to provide hunting opportunities for people who need physical or mechanical assistance for mobility or suffer from a cardiovascular or lung disease. The initial permit is valid for a period of five years and is issued, at no charge, by the Department of Natural Resources. Upon renewal, the permit is valid for the 10 year period specified on the permit.

Class A permit holders may:

- ❖ Hunt with a crossbow or compound bow with a full draw lock.
- ❖ Hunt with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow from a vehicle parked within 50 feet from the center line of roadways if the roadway is part of a county highway, a town highway or any other highway that is not part of a street or of a state or federal highway. The vehicle must be parked off the traveled portion of the roadway and not in violation of any prohibition or restriction that applies to parking, stopping or standing of the vehicle. If otherwise legally parked, a permittee may hunt from a vehicle parked on the left side of the roadway. The car must have disabled license plates or an 11" x 11" sign that says "Disabled Hunter" clearly displayed in the window. All shots must be directed away from the roadway, and permission must be secured from owner or lessee of any private property to be hunted. Persons hunting from stationary vehicles parked along a roadway may not hunt game to fill tags for others.
- ❖ Take one deer, of either sex, with a regular **gun deer license buck carcass tag** during any one of the firearm deer seasons. Earn-a-Buck requirements do not apply.
- ❖ Use a handgun chambered for and with shotshells .410 or larger for hunting pheasant, grouse, partridge, quail, crow and unprotected species. See hunting regulations for more information.
- ❖ Fish or troll on state waters using an electric motor.

Note: Hunters and anglers must possess a valid hunting or fishing license. Check with local law

enforcement agencies for any restrictions on discharging firearms or bows from highways within their jurisdiction.

To qualify for a Class A permit, you must complete application form #9400-543 (Class A Disability Permit) with Section II filled out by a licensed physician or chiropractor, and submit to a DNR Service Center. The physician or chiropractor must verify that you have a permanent physical disability, which either:

- ❖ prevents mobility and requires the aid of a wheelchair, walker, single leg brace or prosthesis above the knee, two leg braces or prosthesis below the knees, two crutches, or two canes, or;
- ❖ reflects a lung disease that prevents you from exhaling at least one liter of air per second, or displacing at least 60 millimeters of mercury in a lung capacity test, or;
- ❖ reflects a cardiovascular disorder with a severity rating of 3 or 4 by the standards of the American Heart Association. This is generally defined as a condition in which ordinary physical activity causes you to experience discomfort, fatigue, palpitation, dyspnea or anginal pain.



The Class B Permit: For hunters with temporary or other permanent physical disabilities.

The Class B permit is designed for persons with temporary or other disabilities that precludes them from qualifying for a Class A or Crossbow permit, but complies with the intent of the permit.

Class B permits may be issued to persons with certain upper or lower extremity disabilities or with other valid medical reasons that restrict mobility or ambulation. Class B permits are generally issued for time periods recommended by the physician or chiropractor to cover the period of the disability, up to five years.

Class B Permits may be issued for:

- ❖ Hunting or shooting from a stationary vehicle under the same restrictions as a Class A permit holder, **and/or**
- ❖ Hunting with a crossbow or compound bow with a full draw lock, **and/or**
- ❖ Fishing or trolling on state waters using an electric motor.

Class B permit holders **do not** have the privilege of shooting a deer of either sex and must abide by the standard deer tagging options.

Class B permit holders who are issued a shoot from the vehicle permit for longer than one year may receive permission to participate in the special disabled gun deer hunt and may also apply for special permission to use a motorized vehicle on state lands. This must be approved by the property manager.

To qualify for a Class B permit, you must complete application form #9400-544 (Class B Disability Permit) with Section II filled out by a licensed physician or chiropractor, indicating your mobility has been restricted as the result of an injury or surgery involving your upper or lower extremities, or that a medical condition exists that inhibits your ability to hunt or fish. Submit application to a DNR Service Center.

The Class C Permit: For legally blind hunters.

The Class C permit allows persons who are legally blind an opportunity to hunt when assisted by another person. Applicants must complete application form #9400-415 (Class C Visually Impaired Permit) with Section II filled out by a licensed physician or optometrist and submit to a DNR Service Center. The initial Class C permit is valid for a period of five years, and issued by the department at no cost. Upon renewal the permit is valid for the ten year period specified on the permit.

Class C permit holders may:

- ❖ Hunt with a crossbow or compound bow with a full draw lock.
- ❖ Take one deer, of either sex, with a regular **gun deer license buck carcass tag** during any one of the firearm deer seasons. Earn-a-Buck requirements do not apply.

- ❖ Use a laser sighting device while hunting with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow.

Assistants

A holder of a **Class C** permit **must** be accompanied by a person who is not eligible for a disabled hunting or trolling permit. The assistant may not hunt or carry a firearm, bow or crossbow unless the person has been issued the appropriate approval. The help rendered by this person may include sighting the firearm, bow or crossbow; identifying game; field dressing; tagging; and retrieving game for the permit holder.

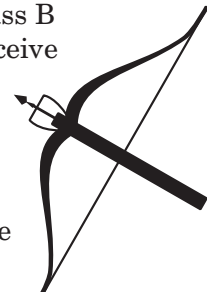
A holder of a **Class A** or **Class B** permit may be accompanied by a person who is **not** eligible for a Class A or Class B permit. The assistant may not hunt or carry a firearm, bow or crossbow unless that person has been issued the appropriate approval. The help rendered by this person is limited to field dressing, tagging and retrieving game for the permit holder.

Permit to Hunt with a Crossbow

Class A, Class C and certain Class B permit holders automatically receive authorization to hunt with a crossbow.

The Department of Natural Resources may issue crossbow permits to others who are unable to use a bow and arrow due to a permanent disability. To qualify for a crossbow permit you must complete and submit application form #2300-107 (Hunt with a Crossbow Permit) with Section II completed by a licensed physician, indicating you have either:

- ❖ an amputation or other loss of one or both arms above the wrist, or;
- ❖ an amputation or other loss of the index or middle finger on the draw and release hand, or;
- ❖ permanent, substantial loss of function in one or both hands, or one or both arms (requires testing administered by or under the direction of a licensed physician), or;
- ❖ permanent, substantial loss of function in one or both shoulders (as determined by standard shoulder strength tests administered by or under the direction of a licensed physician).



Permit to Use a Motorized Vehicle on State Lands

The DNR may authorize persons with physical disabilities to use a motorized vehicle on DNR owned or operated lands as a mode of personal conveyance for hunting. Permits must be approved by the property manager or designee. To apply for a permit, you must complete form #2500-79 and provide proof of disability.

Note: Electric wheelchairs used by the physically disabled are not considered motorized vehicles.

Permit to Fish or Troll with an Electric Motor

Class A and certain Class B permit holders automatically receive authorization to fish or troll with an electric motor.

The Department of Natural Resources may issue permits to others who may qualify. To qualify you must complete and submit to a DNR Service Center application form #3600-162 (Permit to Fish or Troll with an Electric Motor) with Section II completed by a licensed physician or chiropractor, indicating you have either:

- ❖ an amputation or other loss of one or both arms above the wrist, or;
- ❖ a permanent, substantial loss of function in one or both hands, or one or both arms (requires testing administered by or under the direction of a licensed physician).

Note: Permit holders must also possess a valid fishing license to make use of this permit and any boat equipped with an electric motor must be registered. Persons in the boat who do not possess trolling permits are subject to normal trolling restrictions.

If Your Permit Application is Rejected:

A common reason for denied permit applications is because applicants fail to include the required test results. **Please make sure you and your physician, chiropractor or optometrist have thoroughly reviewed and completed the application before it is submitted.**

Discounted Annual Fishing License

Wisconsin residents with disabilities or impaired vision may be eligible for a reduced rate fishing license. The fishing license must be purchased annually, and does not exempt the holder from the need to purchase required fishing stamps.

Note: Under state law, all “permanent” fishing licenses issued previously to residents with disabilities, and residents who are legally blind, expired effective March 31, 1996.

Applicants applying as a disabled resident will need to produce evidence of currently receiving benefits due to a disability.

Acceptable evidence includes:

- a Social Security Disability Award notice that is dated within the past 365 days.
- a letter from Social Security Administration that is dated within the past 365 days advising that the applicant is receiving disability benefits.
- a letter or notice of Railroad Disability Retirement.
- a letter from the Veteran’s Administration which indicates you receive disability benefits or a reduction in earning capacity that is rated greater than 70%.



Applicants applying as a resident with impaired vision must complete application form #9400-527 (Reduced Rate Fishing License Application for Disabled Residents and Residents with Impaired Vision) with Section II completed by a licensed physician or optometrist. Submit application to a DNR Service Center.

The DNR also offers the following opportunities:

- Waiver of fishing license requirement for groups of disabled persons
- Free fishing authorization for certain patients and institutionalized persons
- One-day group fishing license for developmentally disabled persons

Contact nearest DNR Service Center for more information.



Special Gun Deer Hunts for Persons with Disabilities

The DNR provides special deer gun hunting opportunities based exclusively on the sponsorship of individuals and organizations willing to conduct special deer hunts on privately owned property. These hunts are for Class A; Class C; and Class B permits issued for longer than one year and authorize hunting or shooting from a stationary vehicle. These hunts shall be conducted during the 9 consecutive day period that begins on the first Saturday of October. This allows hunters with disabilities to have a chance to enjoy deer hunting during a time of year in which temperatures are generally milder and mobility in the woods is easier.

Individuals and organizations interested in sponsoring a hunt must complete application form #2300-211 (Application and Authorization to Conduct a Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities) and submit the completed form to the Wildlife Biologist who is responsible for the county in which the hunt is to be conducted by **June 1**. See addresses on the back of this publication. A list of participating hunters (form #2300-211A) will also need to be submitted by **September 1**. Applications may be downloaded at the DNR website *dnr.wi.gov* or obtained at any DNR Service Center or by calling (608) 266-2621 or our toll free number 1-800-282-0367.

Disabled hunters are required to possess a gun deer license, back tag and valid carcass tag.

Spring Wild Turkey Hunts for Persons with Disabilities

The Department of Natural Resources also provides special wild turkey hunting opportunities based exclusively on the sponsorship of individuals and organizations that are willing to conduct special wild turkey hunts on privately owned property. These hunts for Class A and Class C permit holders may be held during any one of the 5-day time periods during the regular spring wild turkey hunting season.

Those who would like to sponsor a hunt must complete application form #2300-271 (Authorization to Conduct a Wild Turkey Hunt for People with Disabilities) and form #2300-271A (List of Participating Hunters). These forms must be returned between **September 10 and December 10** to the Wildlife Biologist who is responsible for the county in which the hunt is to be conducted. See addresses on the back of this publication. Applications may be downloaded at the DNR website *dnr.wi.gov* or obtained at any DNR Service Center or by calling (608) 266-2621 or our toll free number 1-800-282-0367.

Disabled hunters are required to possess a valid spring wild turkey license and stamp. All participating hunters who are on a successfully completed application will receive authorization to purchase a turkey license, stamp and tag. Persons applying for this permit may not participate in the disabled spring turkey hunt on state owned lands or the regular spring turkey drawing.

The DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management produces a statewide list of authorized hunts in July. To download a copy of this list visit *dnr.wi.gov*, contact the local Wildlife Biologist or write to: **DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921**

Spring Turkey Hunting on State Properties

The Department of Natural Resources allows hunters with Class A and Class C permits to hunt turkeys on the following state properties during one of the first three 5-day periods of the spring turkey hunting season (except for the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest where all 6 periods can be hunted):

Natural Bridge State Park

Nelson Dewey State Park

Belmont Mound State Park

New Glarus Woods State Park

Rocky Arbor State Park

Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest

Disabled hunters can apply for these disabled hunting zones by using the regular spring turkey hunting approval application form (#2300-118) or by applying online. Applications are due **December 10th** for the spring season. Permits are limited in each state park zone and if the number of applicants exceeds the number of permits, a random drawing will be conducted to determine successful applicants. All successful applicants are allowed assistants to aid in their pursuit but the applicants must provide the park supervisor or property manager with the name and address of their designated assistant at least 1 week prior to hunting. The designated assistant may use a firearm only while retrieving a turkey shot by the participant.

DNR Service Centers

Antigo

DNR Service Center
223 E Steinfest Rd
Antigo, WI 54409
715-627-4317

Ashland

DNR Service Center
2501 Golf Course Rd
Ashland, WI 54806
715-685-2900

Baldwin

DNR Service Center
890 Spruce St
Baldwin, WI 54002
715-684-2914

Black River Falls

DNR Service Center
910 Hwy 54 E
Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-284-1400

Cumberland

DNR Service Center
1341 2nd Ave Box 397
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-3590

Dodgeville

DNR Service Center
1500 N Johns St
Dodgeville, WI 53533-2116
608-935-3368

Eau Claire

DNR West Central Region
Hdqs
1300 W Clairemont
PO Box 4001
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001
715-839-3700

Fitchburg

DNR South Central Region
Hdqs
3911 Fish Hatchery Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53711
608-275-3266

Green Bay

Northeast Region Hdqs
2984 Shawano Ave
PO Box 10448
Green bay, WI 54307-0448
920-662-5100 phone

Hayward

DNR Service Center
10220 St Hwy 27
Hayward, WI 54843
715-634-2688

Horicon

DNR Service Center
N7725 Hwy 28
Horicon, WI 53032-1060
920-387-7860

Janesville

DNR Service Center
2514 Morse St
Janesville, WI 53545
608-743-4800

La Crosse

DNR Service Center
3550 Mormon Coulee Rd
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-785-9000

Ladysmith

DNR Service Center
N4103 Hwy 27
Ladysmith, WI 54848
715-532-3911

Madison

DNR Central Office
DNR Information Center
101 S Webster St
Madison, WI 53703
608-266-2621

Milwaukee

DNR Southeast Region
Hdqs
2300 N Dr Martin Luther
King Jr Dr
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-263-8500

Oshkosh

DNR Service Center
625 E County Rd Y Ste 700
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2565
920-424-3050

Park Falls

DNR Service Center
875 S 4th Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552
715-762-3204

Peshtigo

DNR Service Center
101 N Ogden Rd
PO Box 208
Peshtigo, WI 54157
715-582-5000

Plymouth

DNR Service Center
1155 Pilgrim Rd
Plymouth, WI 53073
920-892-8756

Poynette

DNR Service Center
W7303 Co Hwy CS
Poynette, WI 53955
608-635-8110

Rhineland

DNR Northern Region Hdqs
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-365-8900

Spooner

DNR Northern Region Hdqs
810 W Maple St
Spooner, WI 54801
715-635-2101

Sturgeon Bay

DNR Service Center
110 S Neenah Ave
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-
2718
920-746-2860

Sturtevant

DNR Service Center
9531 Rayne Rd Ste 4
Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-884-2300

Superior

DNR Service Center
1401 Tower Ave
Superior 54880
715-392-7988

Waukesha

DNR Service Center
141 NW Barstow Room 180
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-574-2100

Wausau

DNR Service Center
5301 Rib Mt Dr
Wausau, WI 54401
715-359-4522

Wautoma

DNR Service Center
427 E Tower Dr Suite 100
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-4686

Wisconsin Rapids

DNR Service Center
473 Griffith Ave
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
54494
715-421-7800

Woodruff

DNR Service Center
8770 Hwy J
Woodruff, WI 54568
715-356-5211

Questions? Call the DNR Call Center toll-free at 1-888-WDNR INFO (1-888-936-7463) • Local 608-266-2621. Staff are available 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Hmong and Spanish are spoken.



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call (608) 266-8204 for more information.

