

**Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians**  
**Abbreviated Tribal Hunting Regulations for the 1836 Ceded Territory**  
2023-2024

The Following are the abbreviated version for reference meant to highlight the General Rules for 2023 and 2024 Hunting, Trapping, and Migratory Bird Hunting. For full regulations please visit GTB NRD website at [www.gtbindians.org/naturalresources.asp](http://www.gtbindians.org/naturalresources.asp)

### Hunting Safety Rules

1. Be sure of your intended target.
2. Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset except when hunting raccoon, coyote, bobcat, or fox at night.
3. Hunting deer with dogs is prohibited except when blood tracking wounded animals.
4. Hunting with full-automatic firearm(s) is prohibited.
5. No discharge of firearms within 450 feet of occupied building without occupant consent.
6. Hunter Orange Required when using firearm for hunting Elk, Deer, Bear, and General Small game.
7. It is unlawful to harass another hunter.
8. Landowner Permission is required to access Private Property.
9. Hunter Safety Course or previous issued hunting license required.

Law Enforcement Officers specifically delegated with enforcement of Tribal hunting regulations are defined by the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council as the Grand Traverse Band Conservation Department, Special Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the definitions of their federal authority, and officers authorized by Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians authorizes the biologists and technicians of the Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department to inspect and verify harvest in the field for obtaining information relevant to harvest, species harvested, and other information deemed appropriate for the management of the Tribal wildlife resources.

**White-Tail Deer:** (5 Deer Annual Limit) Not to Exceed Two Antlered Bucks with only one Buck to be harvested before November 15 by any method.

Bow/ Crossbow/ Edge-bladed Spear (Private, Public, Tribal Lands)  
Day after Labor Day through Sunday of the First full Weekend of January

Firearm/Muzzleloader/Air Gun (Public, Tribal, and Tribal Owners/Lessee Land)  
Day after Labor Day through October 31. November 15 through the  
Sunday of the first full Weekend in January

Firearm Closed: November 1 through November 14 (per 2007 CD.)  
Exception: The Counties of Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau will be open to GTB Tribal Citizens with any legal weapon including modern firearms for deer hunting on private lands (other than CFA) **with owner consent** from October 1 through November 10.

**Public Lands will not be open to firearm, muzzleloader, or pellet guns to harvest deer from November 1 through November 14**

Firearm/Muzzleloader/Air Gun/Suppressed Firearm (Non-Tribal Private Land with Owner Consent)

- Any firearm season open to state licensed hunters is open to GTB Tribal Citizens.
- November 15 through Sunday of the First Full Weekend in January.
- The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians may authorize up to five deer per eligible licensed Tribal member. This may be enacted after agreement with the state.

\* **Tribal elders and persons with physical disabilities, which may limit the ability to walk unaided by cane, crutch, or portable walker; may hunt from a non-moving vehicle. The vehicle engine may be running for purposes for personal comfort, however, the vehicle must remain stationary without the running lights in operation.**

\* Hunting blinds of man-made materials on state land are required to legibly display, in letters at least 2" high, the name and an indication of Tribal membership of the owner. Non-portable ground deer blinds utilizing man-made materials are not permitted to be placed on State lands before August 15. Deer blinds must be removed from State land within 10 days of the end of the last open day for Tribal firearm deer hunting.

## **Wild Turkey**

Bow/Crossbow/ Centerfire Firearm/Muzzleloader/Air Gun/Suppressed Firearm

Season One: September 15 through November 15.  
Harvest: 5 birds (either sex).

Season Two: April 15 through June 30  
Harvest: Three Turkeys with visible beard.

## **Black Bear**

Bow/Crossbow/Centerfire Firearm/Suppressed Firearm/Muzzleloader/Air Gun/Edged Spear

Season: The first day of the first Michigan DNR Bear season through October 26

All harvested bears must be registered at a Tribal or State of Michigan Check Station

\*Tags are available on a first come first serve basis.

## **Elk**

Bow/Crossbow/Centerfire Firearm/Suppressed Firearm/Muzzleloader

The Elk Season and Allocation will be determined during the June Tribal Council meeting. Limited Harvest Drawing conducted during the July Tribal Council meeting; Contact GTB-NRD at 231-534-7500.

\*Firearm for Deer, Elk, or Black Bear is a center fire rifle, shotgun, or pistol with enough energy to humanely kill the target animal. Air guns may be used for deer hunting if they have sufficient energy to kill humanely.

\*Application for Bear and Elk will run from March 1 through May 31.

## **Furbearers**

Hunting

Method: Bow, Crossbow, Rim-fire and Centerfire Firearm, Suppressed Firearm, Muzzleloader, Air Gun

Species: Bobcat, Red/Gray Fox, Raccoon

October 15 through March 31

Bobcat Annual Bag Limit: 2

Coyote, Red/Gray Fox, Raccoon: No Limit

\*Coyote, Fox, and Raccoon may be hunted 24 Hours/Day

After sunset; methods restricted to rim fire rifle, Air Gun, handgun and/or shotgun with # 3 buckshot and/or smaller; bow and crossbow.

\*Coyote open all year for hunting.

## Trapping

Season: October 25 through March 1  
Pine Marten, Bobcat, Badger, Otter, \*Fisher, \*American Marten  
Season Limit: 2 per Species  
\*Fisher and Marten open in UP only.

Season: October 25 through March 1  
Coyote, Red/Gray Fox, Raccoon, Mink  
No Limit

Season: October 25 through April 15  
Muskrat, Beaver  
No Limit

## Trapping Methods and Gear

Water Trapping for Beaver, Otter, Mink, Muskrat methods include:  
Conibear, Snares, Foot/leg hold, and Colony traps for Muskrat.  
Land Trapping: Leg-Hold (foot-hold), Snares, Conibears.

Conibear traps may be used on land when set in a "box set" not to exceed 6" diameter, placed in a tree set or limb set or platform four feet above the surface of ground or snow.

\* This regulation is to avoid a hazard to hunting dogs and non target animals as conibears are designed to be lethal.

## Small Game

Method: Bow/Crossbow/Firearm/Suppressed Firearm/Muzzleloader, Air gun.  
Season: August 1 through March 31

Cotton-tail Rabbit, Snow-shoe Hare, Gray/Black/Fox Squirrel, Ruffed Grouse,  
Ring-neck Pheasant, Woodcock\*: No Bag Limit

Sharp-tail Grouse: Limit 3 per day

Porcupine, Woodchuck, Red Squirrel, Opossum, Feral Swine ("Wild Hogs"):  
Open all Year / No Bag Limit.

\*Woodcock are listed as both in small game and migratory bird regulations sections

## **Migratory Birds**

### **Ducks**

The general duck season would run from September 1, 2023 through January 20, 2024. The daily bag limit of 35 ducks would include no more than (8) pintails, (4) canvasbacks, (5) hooded merganser, (8) black ducks, (10) wood ducks, (8) redheads, and (20) mallards of which no more than 10 would be hens.

### **Geese**

The Canada goose and snow goose season would run from September 1, 2023 through February 15, 2024. For white-fronted geese, and brant; GTB proposes a September 20 through December 30, 2023 season. The daily bag limit for Canada and snow geese would be 15 (15) and the daily bag for white-fronted geese and brant would be five (5).

### **Sand-hill Crane**

Sand-hill cranes season shall open from September 1 through November 14, 2023 by Special Use-Ceremonial Permit only.

### **Snipe and Rails**

For snipe and rails (includes sora and Virginia rails) GTB proposes a September 1 to November 14, 2023 season. The daily bag limit shall not exceed (10) birds per species.

### **Mourning Doves**

The mourning dove season would run from September 1 to November 14, 2023 with a daily bag of (25).

### **Woodcock**

Woodcock season shall run from September 1 to November 14, 2023 with a daily bag of (5) birds. Woodcock are listed as both small game and migratory bird regulations sections

Shooting Hours for Migratory birds are ½ Hour before sunrise to ½ Hour after sunset. All other regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20 including shooting hours and the required use of non-toxic shot indicated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service including steel, tungsten-iron, bismuth, heavy shot would apply. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians will closely monitor harvest through game bag checks, patrols, and mail surveys.