



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Fall Tradition

JEFFERSON CITY – As the days become cooler and shorter, and autumn colors paint the landscape, many of us look forward to donning hunter orange and heading out to our favorite hunting spot to bag a turkey or a deer.

Hunting is big business in Missouri. Between 1980 and 2003, sales of non-resident spring turkey hunting permits grew by 500 percent. Sales of deer hunting permits increased 300 percent. Non-resident permits bring in more than \$8 million per year for state revenue, not including the overall impact on our economy.

Overall, conservation recreation – hunting, fishing and trapping – contributes \$3.4 billion to the state economy, supports nearly 30,000 jobs and generates almost \$79 million of state sales taxes. Thirty-six percent of Missourians say they fish, and 27 percent say they hunt.

Deer hunting begins with the archery season in the early fall and extends into January. The firearms deer season is divided into five portions and begins in October. In addition to the main November segment, there are portions designated for urban counties, youth hunters, muzzleloaders, and antlerless deer.

The fall archery turkey season coincides with the archery deer season, and there is also a fall firearms turkey season in October. Missouri's spring turkey season usually occurs in April, and you can draw to enter managed spring turkey hunts in selected areas.

From state conservation areas to national forests, Missouri is blessed with public lands, and most of them allow hunting. However, 93 percent of Missouri's lands are privately held by

individuals, businesses and municipalities. Hunters should be respectful of property owners' rights and should not hunt on private lands without permission from the landowner.

For more information on hunting seasons, new regulations, and a list of public places where hunting is allowed, visit the Missouri Department of Conservation website at <http://mdc.mo.gov/hunt/>.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.