



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of Nov. 10, 2008**

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# Fall Hunting

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JEFFERSON CITY – I hope everyone had a safe and successful deer hunt on the first weekend of firearms deer season. Last year, Missouri hunters took 258,976 deer, and state conservation officials say this year's harvest should be just as good. The firearms season runs through November 25.

Hunters in the 18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District will have another chance to bag a deer during the antlerless deer-hunting season from December 13-21. Any hunter with a firearms deer hunting permit of any type may take antlerless deer in the counties that are open during this portion of the season. Landowner Any-Deer and Antlerless Deer Permits are valid only on the property for which they are issued.

Of course, if you are fortunate enough to bag a buck but the family just won't eat venison no matter how you prepare it, the Share the Harvest program provides a way for hunters to donate much needed meat protein to needy Missourians. The program is administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation in conjunction with the Conservation Federation of Missouri. For a list of local processors who participate in the Share the Harvest program, visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/cgi-bin/share/harvest.cgi>.

Last week I mentioned Missourians have until December 16 to comment on hunting and fishing permit changes recently approved by the Conservation Commission. At the Commission's September 26 meeting, the members approved the following changes:

- Established a 50-percent discounted price for resident and nonresident youth on deer, turkey and trout permits
- Eliminated the youth deer and turkey hunting permit and the youth antlerless permit

- Approved allowing resident youth under the age of 16 to trap without a permit
- Set a minimum age of 6 for obtaining deer and turkey permits
- Approved allowing nonresident youth to hunt during the 2-day youth spring turkey season beginning in 2010
- Established a light goose conservation order permit
- Modified most sport permit prices
- Approved allowing nonresident college and technical school students to purchase resident permits
- Made the hunter-education and age requirements for mentors consistent
- Created cost-savings “Forever” permits for seniors who hunt small game and fish each year
- Created a landowner registry for those who qualify for no-cost deer and turkey permits
- No longer allow lessees, who live on the property, to qualify for landowner privileges
- Changed the landowner acreage requirement for no-cost deer and turkey permit privileges to 80 or more contiguous acres

These proposed changes will become effective July 1, 2009, so it’s important to make your voice heard if you have concerns about these changes. My office has been receiving a lot of calls from folks who are concerned about how these changes will affect them, so I urge you to submit your comments by visiting this website:

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regs/permitcomment.htm>. This website also has a list of 30 questions that may answer some of your questions about these proposed changes.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.