

TYGER RIVER COMPLEX WMA

GAME ZONE 2

Spartanburg / Laurens Counties, SC · State WMA · Multiple Tracts Along Tyger River Drainages

[HERE Spartanburg Field Guide](#)

Mourning Dove

Whitetail Deer

Wild Turkey

Small Game

Multiple Tracts

OVERVIEW

Multiple smaller tracts managed along the Tyger River drainages in Spartanburg and Laurens Counties. SCDNR plants and manages fields specifically for migratory dove hunting, making this complex one of the premier September dove destinations in Upstate South Carolina. Hardwood bottomlands along the river also support quality whitetail deer and spring turkey populations.

Counties	Spartanburg & Laurens	Game Zone	Zone 2
Type	State WMA	Acreage	Multiple tracts (varies)
Distance	In-county / nearby Spartanburg	Agency	SCDNR
SCDNR Phone	(864) 610-7010	Website	dnr.sc.gov/wma

SPECIES & SEASONS — GAME ZONE 2 (2025–2026)

■ Mourning Dove

15 per day / 45 possession

Segment 1	Sept 1 – Oct 4, 2025
Segment 2	Nov 15 – Nov 29, 2025
Segment 3	Dec 22, 2025 – Jan 31, 2026
Hunting Hours	Afternoon only — no entry before noon; no shooting after 6 PM (Segment 1)
Shell Limit	50 shells per hunt on WMA public dove fields
Note	WMA permit + Migratory Bird permit + HIP required. Some fields require pre-season registration.

■ Whitetail Deer		2/day · 5/season
Archery	Sept 15 – Sept 30, 2025	
Primitive Weapons	Oct 1 – Oct 10, 2025	
Still Gun	Oct 11, 2025 – Jan 1, 2026	
Youth Hunt Day	Jan 3, 2026	
Note	No baiting on WMA. All deer reported via SC Game Check by midnight of harvest day.	

■ Wild Turkey		2 gobblers/season
Spring Gobbler (WMA)	Apr 3 – May 2, 2026	
Daily Limit	1 gobbler per day	
Season Limit	2 gobblers; no more than 1 before April 10	
Note	No Jake harvest. Immature males (short beard, uneven tail fan) may not be harvested.	

■ Small Game		Varies by species
Squirrel (WMA)	Oct 1, 2025 – Feb 28, 2026 (guns & dogs) Bag: 10/day	
Rabbit (WMA)	Nov 27, 2025 – Feb 28, 2026 (guns & dogs) Bag: 5/day	
Youth Squirrel Day	Sept 27, 2025	

■ Feral Hog / Coyote		No limit
Feral Hog (WMA)	During any open hunting season	
Coyote	No closed season (WMA — during open seasons)	

ACCESS & DIRECTIONS

Multiple Tracts: The Tyger River Complex consists of several separate tracts along the Tyger River drainages in Spartanburg and Laurens Counties. Access, parking locations, and active field status vary by tract and season. Consult the current SCDNR annual WMA guide or contact SCDNR Upstate Region before your hunt.

- 1 Download the current SCDNR annual WMA guide for active field list, parking locations, and any pre-season registration requirements for Tyger River Complex tracts.
- 2 Contact SCDNR Upstate Region at (864) 610-7010 to confirm which tracts have active dove fields and current parking access before the opener.
- 3 Most tracts are accessed via secondary roads along the Tyger River drainages. Check posted SCDNR signage at road entrances for field-specific directions.

- 4** For the Sept 1 dove opener — arrive by noon. Fields open at noon and fill quickly. Scout parking and entry routes at least one week before season.

Region	Spartanburg / Laurens Counties — Tyger River drainages
Distance	In-county / nearby Spartanburg; tract distances vary
Roads	Paved and unpaved secondary roads; high-clearance recommended for some tracts
Registration	Some fields require pre-season registration — verify with SCDNR before opening day

TERRAIN & HABITAT

Managed Dove Fields: SCDNR annually plants and manages fields with millet, sorghum, and sunflowers to attract migrating mourning doves. These managed fields are the primary draw of the complex and are replanted each year depending on SCDNR program enrollment.

River Bottomlands: Hardwood bottoms along Tyger River drainages feature white oak, water oak, and hickory that produce hard mast through fall. Expect soft, wet ground near creek and river corridors — waterproof boots essential for deer hunting.

Upland Edges: Pine stands and early-successional brush on upland portions provide squirrel habitat and turkey roost trees. Field edges transitioning to woody cover are prime turkey strutting areas in spring.

FIELD TIPS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive early on opener. 	The September 1 dove opener is a community event at Tyger River fields. Fields open at noon. Arrive by 11:30 AM to scout and set up before legal shooting begins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check field status first. 	Active fields rotate year to year based on SCDNR planting decisions. Confirm which tracts have active dove fields in the current annual WMA guide before making the drive.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First two weeks peak. 	Field action peaks during the first two weeks of September when migrating doves are most concentrated. Hunting pressure and bird numbers both drop off after mid-September.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work the edges. 	Doves feed in open fields but stage along edge cover — fence rows, utility lines, tree lines, and brush patches adjacent to managed fields. Set up near these transition zones for better shooting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer: bottomland hardwoods. 	The Tyger River hardwood bottoms hold quality whitetails. Oak flats near river bends concentrate deer during the October acorn drop. Still-hunt techniques work well on flat river bottoms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey: field edges at dawn. 	Gobblers use managed fields as strutting areas early in spring. Roost trees in adjacent timber near field corners are key scouting targets. Work calls from field edges at first light.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know all tract locations. 	With multiple separate tracts, competition at any one field can be high. Know where all active tracts are so you have backup options if your primary field is crowded.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September heat is serious. 	Bring minimum 2 liters of water per hunter, wear moisture-wicking clothing, sunscreen, and a wide-brim hat. A lightweight camp stool helps during mid-afternoon field sits.

REGULATIONS

WMA Permit	Required for all hunting on WMA lands. Available at dnr.sc.gov or at license agents statewide.
Migratory Bird Permit	Required for dove hunting. Federal HIP certification also required.
Dove Field Hours	Afternoon only — no entry before noon; no shooting after 6:00 PM during Segment 1 (Sept 1 – Oct 4).
Shell Limit	50 shells maximum per dove hunt on public WMA fields.
No Baiting	No baiting allowed on any WMA lands. Managed fields are maintained by SCDNR — do not add feed.
SC Game Check	All harvested deer must be reported via SC Game Check by midnight of harvest day.
Fluorescent Orange	550 sq inches required during gun and primitive weapons deer seasons on WMAs.
Pre-Registration	Some fields require pre-season registration — confirm with SCDNR before opening day.
Litter	Remove all litter including spent shell hulls when leaving. Keep fields clean to preserve access.
Full Regulations	Always verify current rules at dnr.sc.gov before hunting. Regulations change annually.

GEAR CHECKLIST

LICENSES & PERMITS

<input type="checkbox"/> SC hunting license
<input type="checkbox"/> WMA permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Migratory Bird permit + HIP certification (dove hunting)
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer tags (if deer hunting)

DOVE HUNTING

<input type="checkbox"/> Shotgun (12 or 20 gauge recommended)
<input type="checkbox"/> Shells — up to 50 max per hunt (No. 7.5 or 8 shot)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dove decoys (optional but effective)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight camp stool or bucket seat
<input type="checkbox"/> Dove bag / game bag

CLOTHING

<input type="checkbox"/> Camouflage or earth-tone clothing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moisture-wicking base layer (September heat)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wide-brim hat or cap + sunscreen
<input type="checkbox"/> Shooting glasses
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing protection
<input type="checkbox"/> Blaze orange vest/hat (required for gun deer season)

- Waterproof boots (wet bottomland terrain for deer)

SAFETY & NAVIGATION

- Water — minimum 2 liters per hunter
- Insect repellent
- First aid kit
- Charged cell phone
- SCDNR WMA guide (printed or downloaded offline)
- Knife / multi-tool
- Cooler with ice for game

EMERGENCY & SAFETY CONTACTS

Emergency	911
SCDNR Law Enforcement (24hr)	1-800-922-5431
SCDNR Upstate Region	(864) 610-7010
Spartanburg County Sheriff	(864) 596-5000
Laurens County Sheriff	(864) 876-6900
Spartanburg Medical Center	(864) 560-7000
Poison Control	1-800-222-1222

Season dates reflect 2025–2026 SCDNR regulations. Always verify current seasons and regulations at dnr.sc.gov before hunting.
Sources: SCDNR WMA (dnr.sc.gov/wma) · eRegulations SC (eregulations.com/southcarolina) · Berkeley Outdoors (berkeleyoutdoors.com)
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