WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN’S CAUCUS

West Virginia became the 45th state to form a state legislative sportsmen’s caucus under the National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucus (NASC) umbrella in 2015, and since its inception, the West Virginia Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus has been the leading voice for sportsmen and women in the West Virginia Legislature. The bicameral and bipartisan Caucus has more than 30 members hailing from all corners of the Mountain State. The Caucus has hosted events, including policy breakfast meetings and a pig roast, that helped educate Caucus members about important sportsmen’s issues and facilitated interaction with the West Virginia sportsmen’s community. Significant policy accomplishments include legalizing Sunday hunting statewide on private lands, legalizing Sunday hunting on public lands, authorizing the use of leashed dogs to track mortally wounded deer and bear, expanding the hunting and trapping apprentice license program, and increasing the penalties for game and fish taken illegally.

Policy Highlights

- The Caucus was instrumental in the passage of legislation (HB 4514) in 2020 that removed the limitation on the number of hunting and trapping apprentice licenses that a person may purchase to support hunter recruitment efforts.
- Caucus-leadership sponsored legislation (SB 451) was signed into law in 2018 removing the prohibition against Sunday hunting on public lands which opened up 16 million acres of public to seven-day hunting.
- Caucus-leadership sponsored legislation (SB 345) was signed into law in 2017 legalizing Sunday hunting statewide on private lands with the written permission of the landowner.

Economic Impact and Conservation Funding

- In 2019, $60.75 million generated for conservation funding through the American System of Conservation Funding.
- WV’s sportsmen and women support more than 12,585 jobs and contribute $1.2 billion to the state’s economy.