Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Lake Lowell Unit - Deer Hunt Permit & Regulations

Deer hunting is permitted at the Lake Lowell Unit (Unit) of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Hunters must comply with all applicable State Regulations, Refuge Regulations, and the following Special Conditions.

Permit - Hunters must sign and carry this permit.

Weapons, shot, and shells - Hunters are allowed to use only short-range weapons. These weapons currently include muzzleloaders, archery equipment, crossbow, shotgun using slugs or shot of size #00 buck or larger, or a handgun using straight-walled cartridge not originally developed for rifles.

Access - The deer hunt area is defined on the north by the southern shoreline of Lake Lowell, on the east by the New York Canal, on the south by the southern boundary of the Refuge, and on the west by Riverside Road.

Hunters may access the hunting area only from designated parking areas (Parking Areas 1-8).

Access to the Unit deer hunting area is walk-in only. Boat access is prohibited.

Only hunters carrying a valid Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) deer tag and this Lake Lowell Unit permit are allowed in the area between Parking Area 1 and the New York Canal and only during the period listed on their IDFG tag. Hunters retrieving downed deer from this area may be assisted by up to 2 people.

Tree Stand/Platform - Hunters may only shoot while hunting from an elevated tree stand/platform. Ground stalking and still hunting from the ground are prohibited. Shooting a firearm or bow while on the ground is prohibited except to kill a downed deer.

A hunter may place stands/platforms on the refuge no earlier than the beginning date of the assigned hunt tag and must remove stands/platforms no later than the tag end date. Each stand/platform must bear the hunter's name, address, and telephone number so that it is legible from the ground. Hunters may not use unattended stands without the permission of the owner.

A hunter may place up to two portable deer stands (including elevated platforms).

Using nails, wires, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter (e.g. screw-in steps), is prohibited.

A hunter must place stands/platforms by hand, without the use of a motor vehicle. Hunters may use a wheeled hand cart.

While hunting from a tree stand, hunters must use a Fall-Arrest System (FAS)/Full Body Harness meeting Treestand Manufacturer's Association (TMA) Standards.

Deer Drives - Deer drives are prohibited.

Deer Hunting Hours - Hunters may enter no earlier than two hours before official hunting hours (1/2 hour before legal sunrise) and must leave the area within 2 hours after official hunting hours (1/2 hour after legal sunset). Successful hunters may extend their departure up to 5 hours past official hunting hours to retrieve dead deer.

Hunting Aids - Distribution of any feed, salt, or other mineral, or using electronic devices, including game cameras, is prohibited.

Guiding - No person will provide assistance, services, or equipment on the Refuge to another person for compensation unless such guide, guide service, outfitter, club, or organization has obtained a Refuge Special Use Permit.

Trail Markers - Using flagging tape or other trail marking devices is prohibited, with the exception of small reflective markers (tacks, ties, etc.) to help hunters locate their stands/platforms in the dark. Hunters must remove all markers by the end date of their IDFG tag.

For more information, contact:

Deer Flat NWR
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686
(208) 467-9278

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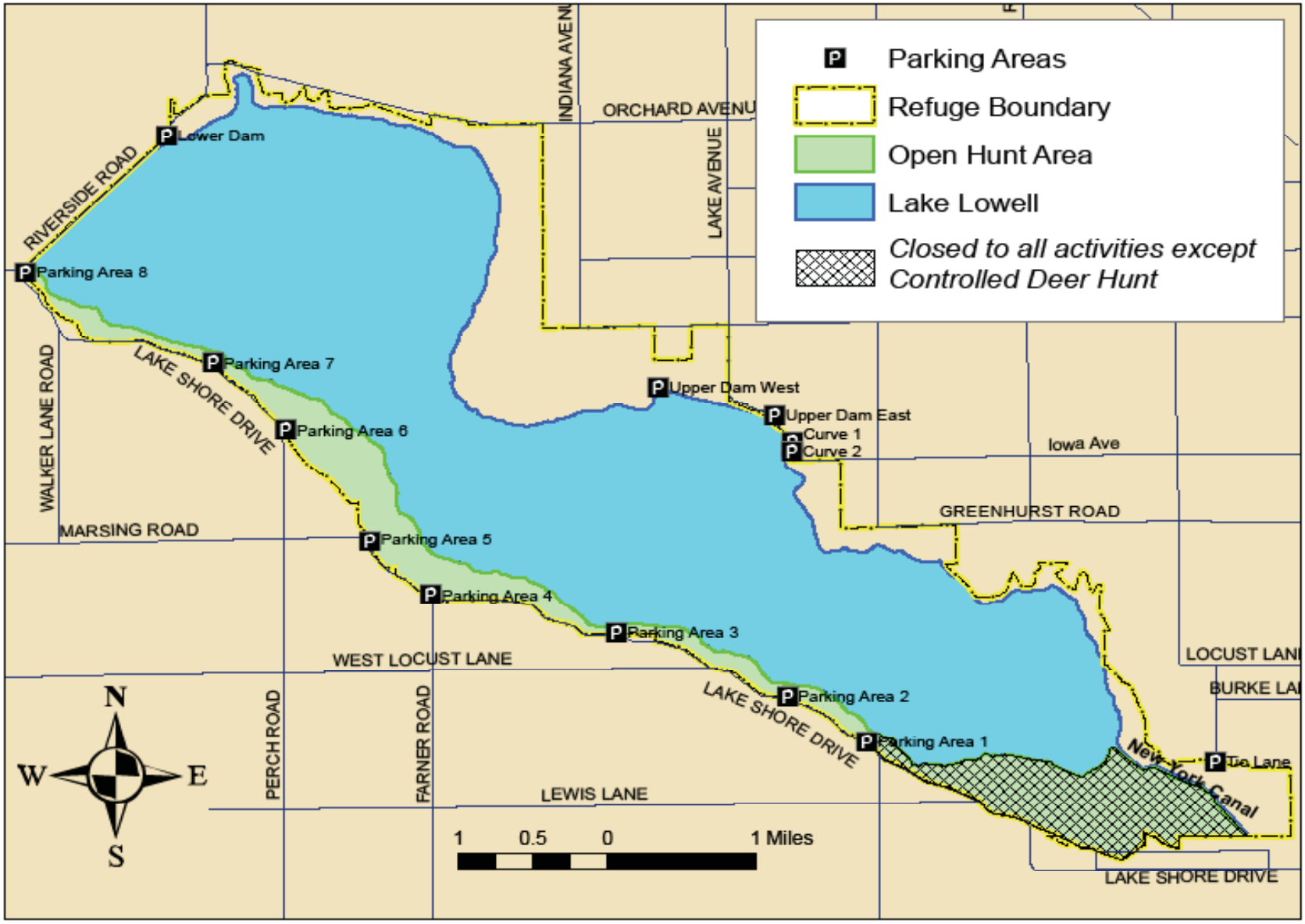

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