

# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mandalay/Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuges

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## NEWS RELEASE

### 2013-2014 Fall Hunts Planned

#### For Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Manager Paul Yakupzack has announced that Mandalay NWR will be offering recreational hunting opportunities for the public this fall and winter. Hunts will include an open archery deer and feral hog season and a lottery waterfowl hunt for adult and youth applicants. These programs have been developed primarily to provide a quality hunting experience for youngsters and adults who may not have the opportunity to hunt elsewhere. The Mandalay NWR is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge managed with combined goals of conserving wildlife habitat and providing opportunities for public land use. It is located 5 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana in the vicinity of Lake Hatch. Access to the refuge is by boat only, as there are no roads on the refuge.

### **Archery Deer and Feral Hog Hunt**

The archery only hunt for deer and feral hogs will be held concurrently with the full State of Louisiana Deer season, October 1, 2013 through October 15, 2013\* (bucks only) and October 16, 2013 through February 15, 2014. Bowhunting will be according to the regulations of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, except where refuge rules are more specific. The daily possession limit will be **one** Buck only from October 1, 2013 through October 15, 2013 and one either sex deer; from October 16, 2013 through February 15, 2014\*, there will be no possession limit on feral hogs. Hunters will be required to obtain a **Self-Clearing Check-in Permit** daily at a Refuge Self-clearing Check Station before hunting. Deposit the completed Self Clearing Check-out permit at one of the check stations when hunting is completed. No baiting is allowed. Hunters may use the Refuge only between 4:00 AM and one hour after sunset daily. Archery hunting will be closed north of the Intracoastal Waterway until noon on Lottery Waterfowl Hunt days during the 2013-2014 State Waterfowl Season and on November 2<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>th</sup> 2013 (State Waterfowl Youth Days).

**\*State Regulations for Area 9**

## Lottery Waterfowl Hunt

Hunts will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the Louisiana waterfowl hunting season except during Thanksgiving week and Christmas Week when hunts are on Tuesday and Thursday, as well as the two additional State Youth Waterfowl days (November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013). Lottery hunts are scheduled to begin on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and continue through January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Five people will be chosen for each hunt date by lottery drawing from applications received at the refuge office by close of business on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Five floating blinds with boat hides have been placed on the refuge for this program. Blinds have a maximum capacity of 3 persons. Hunters will need to furnish their own boat, decoys, and necessary equipment. Hunters may apply as either a Youth or Adult Group. **Youth Group applicants will receive preference in the drawing.**

**Requirements for Adult Groups** are as follows:

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age by the final application date (Oct. 15, 2013).
2. One adult will apply and he/she will be allowed two guests.
3. All guests under 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult supervisor (21 years or older).

**Requirements for Youth Groups** are as follows:

- One adult supervisor (21 years or older) will apply along with a youth co-applicant. **Only one** adult will supervise the co-applicant youth hunter and up to one additional youth guest (allowed: one adult and one youth or one adult and two youths).
- Youth hunters are limited to youths between the ages of 8 and 17 years at the time of the drawing.
- **Exception:** Only youths between 8 and 15 years old will be accepted for the State Youth Waterfowl Days (November 2<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>th</sup>, 2013).
- The adult supervisor will be allowed to harvest his or her limit of waterfowl (except on State Youth Waterfowl Days), however **primary emphasis** will be placed on the youth(s) harvesting their limit(s) first.

**To apply** for a Mandalay NWR Lottery Waterfowl Hunt permit you must submit a completed Mandalay NWR Lottery Hunt Application form. The application form is available at the Refuge headquarters and on the Refuge website. **Please see “Mandalay NWR Waterfowl Lottery Hunt Application Process” link on our website, as the form has changed.** An original or copy of the form may be filled out and submitted. Applications must be received at the Mandalay NWR headquarters by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Applications may be submitted by U.S. Mail, hand delivery, fax(985-853-1079), or e-mailed to [paul\\_yakupzack@fws.gov](mailto:paul_yakupzack@fws.gov). There is an underscore between the first and last name in this email address.

For more information contact: Paul Yakupzack Refuge Manager at 985-853-1078