



News Release

Department of Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mandalay/Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuges
1725 Willow St. Franklin, LA 70538

For Immediate Release:
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Franklin, LA -

2016-2017 Fall hunts planned for Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

This fall and winter, Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) will be offering the public recreational hunting opportunities. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge strives to provide quality hunting experiences for youth and adults who may not have the opportunity to hunt elsewhere. Hunts will include an open archery deer season and a lottery waterfowl hunt for adult and youth applicants. Details regarding the hunts are outlined below.

Archery Deer Hunt

The archery deer hunt will be held concurrently with the Louisiana deer season, October 1, 2016 through October 15, 2016* (**bucks only**), and October 16, 2016 through February 15, 2017 (**either sex**). Bow hunting will be according to the regulations of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, except where Refuge rules are more specific. Before hunting, hunters are required to obtain a daily **Self-Clearing Check-in Permit** at a Refuge Self-clearing Check Station, see map for locations. **After each hunt, self-clearing Check-out Permits must be deposited at one of the check stations.** Hunters may use the Refuge between 4:00 AM and one hour after sunset. Archery hunting will be closed north of the Intracoastal Waterway until noon on Lottery Waterfowl Hunt days during the 2016-2017 State Waterfowl Season and on November 5th and 6th, 2016 (State Waterfowl Youth Days). Incidental take of feral hogs is permitted.

***State Regulations for Area 9 apply**

Lottery Waterfowl Hunt

Hunts will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. State youth waterfowl hunt days are on November 5th and 6th, 2016. Lottery hunts are scheduled to begin on November 12, 2016, and continue through January 21, 2017. By way of lottery, five permittees will be chosen for each hunt date. Hunters will be drawn from applications received at the Refuge office by close of business on Friday, October 14, 2016. Five floating blinds with boat hides have been placed on the Refuge for this program. Blinds have a maximum capacity of three (30 persons and permittees 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.**

To apply for a Refuge Lottery Waterfowl Hunt permit you must submit a completed Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge Lottery Hunt Application form by 4:30 PM on Friday, October 14, 2016. The application form is available at the Refuge headquarters and on the Refuge website (www.fws.gov/mandalay/). **Please see “Mandalay Waterfowl Lottery Hunt Application Process” link on our website, as the form has changed.** Applications may be submitted by U.S. Mail or hand delivered to 1725 Willow Street, Franklin, LA, 70538; faxed to 337-828-0061; or e-mailed to brian_pember@fws.gov. (There is an underscore between the first and last name in this email address.)

For more information contact Brian Pember, Assistant Refuge Manager, at 985-860-6681.