

News Release

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Block Island NWR □ John H. Chafee NWR at Pettaquamscutt Cove □ Ninigret NWR □ Sachuest Point NWR □ Truston Pond NWR



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RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX DEER HUNTING UPDATE FOR FALL AND WINTER 2013-14

The Ninigret Pond Unit of the Ninigret NWR will be open for a special youth only hunt December 7-22, 2013 as well as an Archery Season December 28, 2013 – January 31, 2014. All youth hunters (12-17 yrs old) selected are required to attend a hunt orientation prior to participating in the refuge hunt. The Ninigret NWR Youth Deer Hunt is a mentorship event, utilizing the experiences of adults to assist and introduce youth to the outdoors and the use of hunting as a big game management tool. The adult mentor will accompany all youth hunters during the hunt and at the hunt orientation.

During the hunting season, the Ninigret Pond Unit of Ninigret NWR (see Figure 1 map) will be closed to non-hunters during the youth hunt, *December 7-22, 2013*. All of Ninigret NWR is open during the archery hunt, *December 28, 2013 – January 31, 2014*, and the public is strongly encouraged to wear Blaze orange clothing. This is typical of other hunting areas throughout the state, and all bowhunters are required to hunt at least 100 feet from any trail.

Block Island NWR units will open for shotgun, archery and muzzleloader hunting in January and February, excluding weekends. There will also be a unit accessible for people with disabilities. **The units of the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge will be closed during the refuge hunting season.**

The refuge's hunting program is part of the Complex's approved deer management plan. Refuge-specific hunting regulations will be implemented to facilitate a safe and quality hunt that incorporates the safety and concerns of the general public as well as refuge neighbors. *For information on special permit availability, look on-line at <http://www.rhodeislandpermits.com>.*

National Wildlife Refuge lands have been established not only to preserve wild places, but also to promote wildlife-dependent recreation when compatible with the purposes for which the refuges were established. As one of the oldest, most traditional recreational uses of renewable natural resources, hunting has been a popular activity within the National Wildlife Refuge System since its creation over a century ago. Refuges often depend on hunting as a beneficial

tool to assist in the management of wildlife populations on our public lands. Today, more than 300 of our nation's refuges provide hunting opportunities to their visitors. All national wildlife refuges in the State are open to fishing, and goose and dove hunting is also allowed on a portion of the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge in South Kingstown. For further information and questions, please contact the refuge headquarters at 401-364-9124 or visit the website at <http://www.fws.gov/ninigret/complex>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service is both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation. Visit www.fws.gov to learn more.

For additional information, contact Deputy Refuge Manager Juancarlos Giese at 401-364-9124, extension 18.

Figure 1- Map showing Ninigret Pond Unit of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.



Map prepared by:
Rhode Island NWR Complex
50 Bend Road
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Landlines approximate

