



DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2022-2023

The signing of this permit validates it as your general refuge hunting permit and must be in your possession while participating in authorizing refuge hunting activities. Expiration Date: January 10th, 2023.

I have read and understand these regulations.

Hunters Signature

Date

For more information:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
1434 316th Lane, Missouri Valley IA, 51555
712-388-4803 or 402-679-9020 (Refuge Law Enforcement)

REFUGE HUNTING PERMIT:

All hunters must possess a refuge hunting permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all refuge lands.

ENTRANCE FEE PERMIT:

Hunters may only enter the refuge if they also have a valid entrance fee permit (one per vehicle). Valid permits are DeSoto Annual Pass (\$15.00), Federal Duck Stamp (\$25.00), and Daily Permit (\$3.00). Other passes are available at the Visitor Center for seniors, active military, and the permanently disabled. Contact DeSoto NWR for more details.

STATE REGULATIONS:

All state regulations apply including hunting methods, license, tagging, and reporting requirements. Additional Refuge-Specific regulations are outlined in this brochure and in Title 50 CFR. All commercial activities, including guided hunts, are prohibited.

REFUGE HOURS:

Two hours before sunrise and two hours after sunset. Contact refuge law enforcement to remain after closing hours to retrieve or track wounded game.

RECIPTOCITY:

All areas are open to hunting, as outlined in the map of this brochure, may be accessed by hunters a resident Iowa or resident Nebraska license. Hunters holding non-resident Iowa or Nebraska licenses may only hunt land within the state of the non-resident license is issued.

MUZZLELOADER PERMITS:

For muzzleloader deer hunts, Nebraska hunters need either a statewide muzzleloader (December Hunt), or Wahoo AOSC permit (December or January Hunts). Nebraska hunters can contact Peter Rea for more information on the muzzleloader hunts (peter_rea@fws.gov). Iowa hunters must apply for hunt through the refuge. Iowa Hunters can mail in or drop off a letter with their name, address, and the hunt dates they want to participate in. Mail to 1434 316th Lane, Missouri Valley, IA 51555.

MUZZLELOADER HUNT SCOUT DAY:

The scout day for both DeSoto Muzzleloader hunts is the weekend before the hunt weekend (Dec. 10-11th 2022 and Dec 31st 2022-Jan 1st, 2023). On these dates stands can be placed for the respective hunt weekend.



STANDS, BLINDS, & OTHER PROPERTIES:

Only portable stands and blinds may be placed on the refuge during applicable hunting season. Trail cameras are not allowed.

- We allow two portable tree stands/blinds per hunter within the Archery hunt area. Of those, only one stand/blind can be left on refuge from one week prior to the start of the designated hunt season to one week after the end of the designated hunt season.
- Unattended stands and blinds must be plainly labeled with full name and/or hunting license number of the owner. Labels must be visible from the ground.
- Spikes, nails, screw-in bow holders, and any items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree are prohibited.
- Cutting or altering of tree branches or any vegetation is prohibited.
- During any deer firearm season, ground blinds must display a 12 inch by 12 inch patch of solid blaze orange material visible in all directions.
- Stands and blinds not in full compliance with these regulations are subject to removal.

FIRE ARMS:

All firearms must be 1) unloaded and 2) entirely cased or broken down while in vehicles on refuge roads during refuge firearm hunts. A muzzleloader must be cased and is considered unloaded if the cap or priming charge is removed from the firearm.

CROSSBOWS:

Crossbows are prohibited as archery equipment unless needed because of a physical disability. Contact DeSoto NWR for additional information.

RADIOS:

The use of two-way mobile radio transmitters to communicate location of game or coordinates movement of hunters is prohibited.

ALCOHOL:

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

COMPANIONS:

Only legal hunters holding the proper state hunting license may enter and hunt the refuge hunting areas. Unlicensed companions are not permitted in the hunting area when not open to the general public.

DEER DRIVES:

Participation in organized deer drives is prohibited.

LITEERING:

You may not field dress any game within 100 feet of the centerline of any refuge road or parking lot. You may not dispose of animal carcasses on refuge property. All ribbon & flagging must be removed by the end of the hunt season.

ARCHERY DURING GUN SEASONS:

Hunting areas will remain open to archery deer hunting during the respective states firearms deer season.

BLAZE ORANGE:

All hunters (including archery) must display blaze orange that meets their respective states firearms season requirements during any DEER season in which firearms are allowed on the refuge (Dec. 17-18th 2022 and Jan 7-8th 2023).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



How to Obtain a Permit

Nebraska –

- For all seasons: purchase state permits from - www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

Iowa –

- Spring and Fall Turkey: Purchase state permit from Iowa DNR license vendor.
- Deer Archery Either Sex: Purchase state permit from Iowa DNR license vendor.
- Deer Archery Antlerless Only: Harrison or Pottawattamie County Antlerless Archery tags valid in DeSoto Archery Area. Purchase from Iowa DNR license vendor.
- Deer Muzzleloader Antlerless Only: Special Permit, Apply at DeSoto NWR by 9/15/2022.

Seasons, Weapons, Hunt Dates, and Quotas

Spring Turkey –

- Legal Weapon: Archery
- Hunt Dates: 4/11/2022 – 5/15/2022
- Hunter Quota: Unlimited

Fall Turkey –

- Legal Weapon: Archery
- Hunt Dates: 10/1/2022 – 1/10/2023
- Hunter Quotas: Unlimited

Deer Either Sex –

- Legal Weapon: Archery
- Hunt Dates: 10/1/2022 – 1/10/2023
- Hunter Quota: Unlimited

Deer Antlerless Only (Hunt 1) –

- Legal Weapon: Muzzleloader
- Hunt Dates: 12/17/2022 – 12/18/2022
- Iowa Permit Quota: 50
- Nebraska Permit Quota: Until Sold Out, Statewide Muzzleloader Permit, or Seasons Choice Wahoo Unit Permit Valid

Deer Antlerless Only (Hunt 2) –

- Legal Weapon: Muzzleloader
- Hunt Dates: 1/7/2023 – 1/8/2023
- Iowa Permit Quota: 50
- Nebraska Permit Quota: Until Sold Out, Statewide Muzzleloader Permit, or Seasons Choice Wahoo Unit Permit Valid

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Map

