

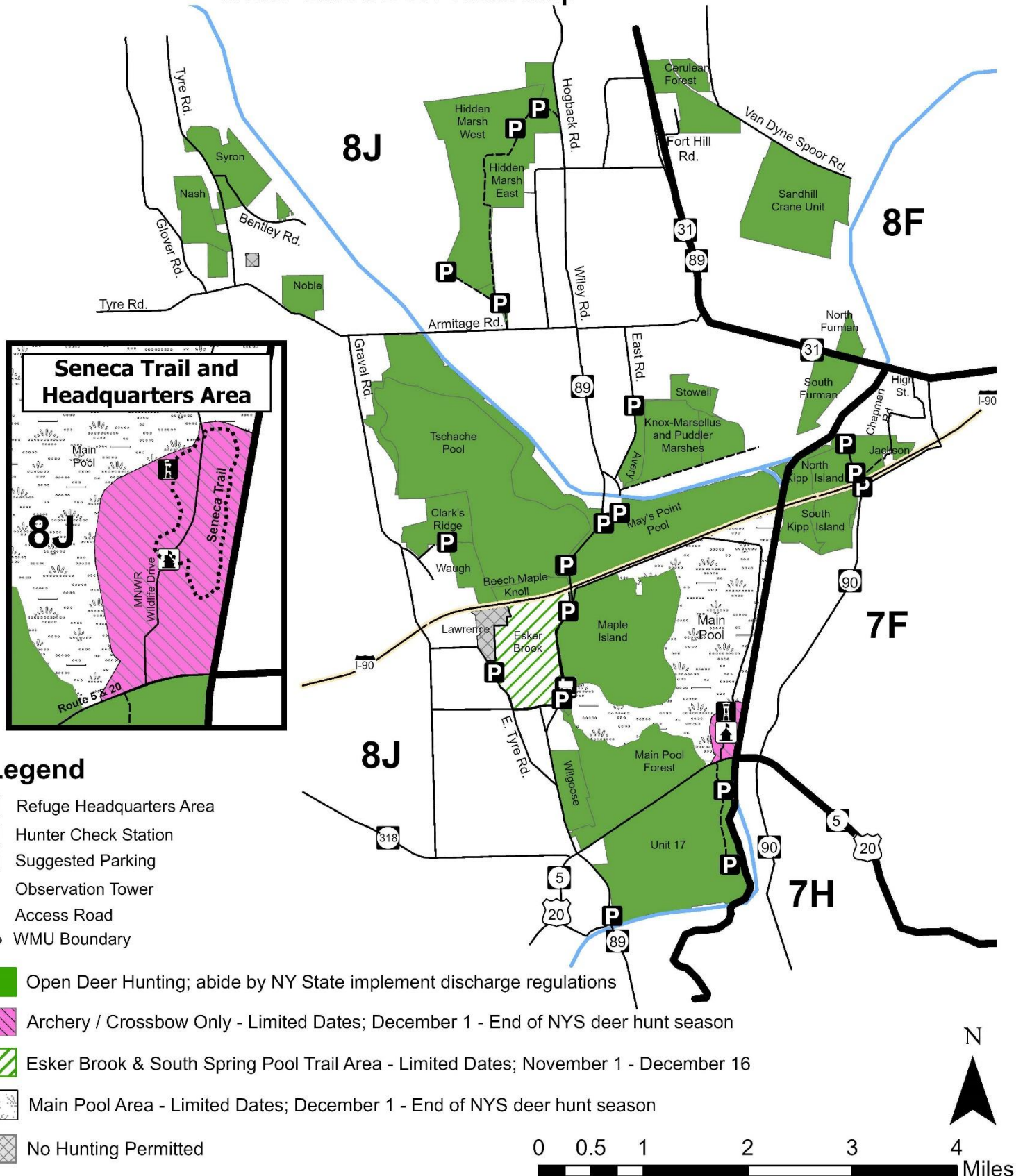


**NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE SYSTEM**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

## White-tailed Deer Hunt Map



- Esker Brook & South Spring Pool trail areas are closed to hunting until November 1 and closed to hunting for the holiday hunt (Dec. 26 - Jan.1)
  - The Main Pool, Seneca Trail, and Headquarters areas are closed to hunting, including parking and walking for hunting purposes, until December 1.
  - The Seneca Trail & Headquarters areas are archery/crossbow only deer hunting. These areas will also be open to other users (birders, hikers, etc).
  - The Wildlife Drive will be open for driving, walking, and parking for hunting purposes only starting December 1.
- Caution: The road will not be plowed/maintained and may be closed to vehicles due to poor conditions; walking in will still be permitted.



# NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Montezuma

## National Wildlife Refuge

## White-tailed Deer Hunting Regulations 2025-2026

### Welcome

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, this 10,000+-acre refuge provides essential habitat for many species of resident and migratory birds. A popular destination for outdoor recreation, Montezuma NWR allows white-tailed deer hunting in accordance with New York State laws and refuge specific regulations.

### Hunt Dates

**Antlerless-only, September Season (8J & 8F Only):** 9/13/25 – 9/21/25

**Youth Hunt:** 10/11/25 – 10/13/25

**Early Bowhunting:** 10/1/25 – 11/14/25

**Crossbow:** 11/1/25 – 11/14/25

**Regular:** 11/15/25 – 12/7/25

**Late Bowhunting & Muzzleloading:**  
12/8/25 – 12/16/25 & 12/26/25 – 1/1/26

### Fill Out Part B of Permit Fully

We are not checking deer this year, so to get the most accurate harvest information, **WE NEED YOU** to fill out Part B of your permit.

### NOTICE

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages and of recreational and illegal substances while hunting is prohibited.
- Vehicles blocking gates or roads will result in a citation, a fine, and possible towing.
- Respect adjacent landowners' property; please do not trespass.

### Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

3395 U.S. Route 20 East

Seneca Falls, NY 13148

315-568-5987

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma>

For State relay service TTY/Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1-800-344-WILD

August 2025

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people



**Hunt & Permit Information:** White-tailed deer hunting is open on the refuge during the New York State White-tailed deer seasons for the Southern Zone. **All hunters must possess a valid daily permit (FWS Form 3-2542 Harvest Report)**, which is available at the Hunter Check Station (1095 State Route 89, Seneca Falls, 13148). Scouting permits will be available at the Hunter Check Station during scouting periods (see Scouting Section below).

**Safety/Wear Orange:** Per New York State regulations, hunters must wear a florescent orange or florescent pink hat or vest when hunting with firearms. We also suggest putting 400 square inches of solid blaze orange on all sides of any ground blind.

**Hunting Regulations:** Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with State of New York regulations.

**Personal Property:** With the exception of tree stands and blinds, hunters are prohibited from leaving any personal property, including trail cameras, in the field. Tree stands and blinds may be left in the field during the hunt day but must be removed at the conclusion of each hunt day. Hunting out of a tree stand that has been left over night is prohibited.

**Access:** *Hunters may access the refuge two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal shooting time, seven days per week.* Deer hunting is permitted in designated areas of the refuge. The Esker Brook and South Spring Pool areas are closed to hunting until November 1; the Wildlife Drive area is closed to hunting, including parking and walking for hunting purposes, until December 1. The headquarters and Seneca Trail areas are open to hunting during the State late bowhunting/muzzleloading seasons only and will also be open to other visitors (birders, hikers, etc). Access for deer hunting is by foot from designated areas.

**Accessibility Information:** Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>.

**An ADA-compliant hunting platform is available to hunters with a disabled hunting license or America the Beautiful Access pass (prior notice is needed; first come, first served; call 315/200-8489 to reserve).**

**Harvest Reporting:** In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting requirements, hunters must complete the Part B/Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2542) and return it to the refuge by the end of the day.

**Scouting:** Scouting is allowed on Saturday, 9/20/25, and during the last week of the Early Bowhunting season, Saturday through Friday (11/8/25 – 11/14/25), 1 hour before legal sunrise to 1 hour after legal sunset.

- You must have a deer hunting license and firearms tag to scout during the last week of the Early Bowhunting Season.
- For each day you scout, you must obtain a scouting permit from the hunter check station prior to your entry into the field and return it to the check station at the end of your scouting day.
- During the listed scouting periods, you may scout all designated deer hunting areas except for the Wildlife Drive.
- If you wish to scout during the white-tailed deer season on days other than the aforementioned scouting periods, you must obtain a daily hunt permit (FWS Form 3-2542 Harvest Report), be properly licensed to hunt, and only enter areas open to hunting at that time.

