

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge Archery Deer Hunting Fact Sheet and Application Instructions

2026 Early Archery Season South Hunting Zone

- **Date:** September 12, 2026 – November 20, 2026
- **Number of Permits:** 20 permits will be awarded by lottery drawing.
- **Deadline to turn in application:** Applications for the refuge early archery season must be received or postmarked by close of business by **August 28, 2026**.
- **Application:** Applications are available online at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau> or at the refuge office. Refuge office hours are **Wednesday-Saturday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm**. Please fill out the application, sign and date it. Applications can be mailed or placed in the brown mail drop box located in the Contact Station/Office parking area. Mailing Address: Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661.
- **How to obtain a permit:** Permits will be awarded by a random drawing on **September 4, 2026**. As in previous years, hunters should send a permit with their application. **This permit is not valid until signed by the refuge manager and sent back to the hunter. Only hunters drawn to hunt will receive their permit back in the mail.**
- **Party members:** If you choose to designate a hunting partner (i.e. hunter or youth hunter) each hunter must submit their own application form. Include your partner's name under party members on the application form. All party members must be listed accordingly in each application. If you require a personal assistant that will not be hunting, that person should be listed as a party member on your application to be included in your SUP. Hunting partners will share one chance to be selected and will be automatically drawn if their partner application is drawn in the lottery process. Each application must be returned with the \$10.00 application fee.
- **Hunter Notification:** **Notification of selection will be made by email at the address provided by the applicant. Please make sure your email address is legible.** If a selected applicant is without an email address, they must contact Dana M. Schelling, 608-539-2311 x2 or dana_schelling@fws.gov, before close of business August 28, 2026, to make alternate plans for notification. Otherwise, notification will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service.
- **Hunters that are not selected will not be notified.**
- **Harvest Limit:** One buck deer per unused Bow Buck Carcass Tag and one antlerless deer per unused Antlerless Deer Tag valid for use in the specified zone, DMU (Deer Management Unit) and land type (public access). Hunters must have appropriate state tags for the deer that they harvest. Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is in the WI DNR Central Farmland Zone 2 and Buffalo and Trempealeau County DMU's. All deer harvested must be registered as per Wisconsin state regulations.
- **Legal Bow:** Defined by restrictions listed in the Wisconsin Hunting Regulations.
- **Closed Areas:**
 - Black Oak Island is closed to hunting.
 - Due to the Waterfowl Hunt for People with Disabilities and the Women's Learn to Hunt the River Bottoms unit is closed to archery hunting from Oct 17- Oct 25.
- **Fee:** There is a \$10.00 application fee due at the time of application. Payment is accepted in the form of cash, personal check, or money orders. Please make checks payable to: ***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

Additional Regulations/Information

- All hunters must possess a valid Wisconsin hunting license and a Refuge Permit to hunt on the Refuge. Wisconsin State hunting regulations will be in effect while hunting on the refuge.
- All hunters must be at least 12 years old and must be accompanied by an adult if under the age of 18.
- Only portable tree stands or blinds may be used and must not be left overnight. The cutting of vegetation for any reason is prohibited.
- The Refuge is open for access to bow hunters from 1 hour before to 1 hour after legal shooting times during the Refuge early archery deer season only. Other times the Refuge is open during daylight hours only.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- The distribution of or hunting over bait is not permitted.
- Non-hunters may be on the Refuge during the hunt.
- A Big Game Harvest Report must be returned for each permit (even if no deer was harvested) or the hunter will not be eligible for a permit the following year. Harvest reports are due no later than **November 27, 2026.**

Please return application to: Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661. For more information, call 608-439-2211 x2, Or email: dana_schelling@fws.gov

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In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501), please note the following;

Applications for our South Hunt Zone will be available online or at the refuge office starting August 1st each year at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau> (follow the link for Permits).