

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge Gun Deer Hunting

Fact Sheet and Application Instructions

2026 Gun Deer Season South Hunting Zone

- **Date:** November 21–November 29, 2026
- **Number of Permits:** Up to 45 permits will be awarded by drawing.
- **Deadline to turn in application:** Applications for the refuge Gun Deer Season must be received or postmarked by close of business day **on September 11, 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 held on **September 18, 2026.** As in previous years, hunters should sign and 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.**
- **Hunting Partners:** 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. You may only apply ONE TIME. Multiple applications with duplicate names will be discarded.
- **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 September 12, 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 Gun 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. 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.
- **Closed Areas:** Black Oak Island is closed to hunting.
- **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.

- The Refuge will not be participating in the Hunting Mentorship Program. 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 from 1 hour before until 1 hour after legal shooting times during the deer season only. Other times the refuge is open during daylight hours only.
- Rifles are prohibited.
- Hunting is prohibited within 50 feet of the center of any refuge road open to public vehicles. Discharging a firearm is prohibited from or across any refuge road open to public vehicles, or within 50 feet of a road's center. These prohibitions do not apply to refuge roads closed to public vehicles, including roads located behind locked gates and/ or signs stating "Authorized Vehicles Only." Shooting a firearm is prohibited within 100 yards of any refuge building.
- 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 were harvested) or the hunter will not be eligible for a permit the next year. Harvest reports are due no later than **December 11, 2026.**

Please return application to: Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661. For more information, call 608-539-2311 x2, Or email: dana_schelling@fws.gov

~~~~~

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 1<sup>st</sup> at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau> (follow the link for Permits).