

Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is a favorite destination for archery deer hunting. Approximately 5,200 acres of the refuge are open to big game hunting. This year, Kirwin NWR will hold a lottery-style draw for 30 archery deer hunting permits. See below for application instructions and the application form.

Kirwin NWR Archery Deer Hunt:

- The application window for the limited-draw archery deer hunt at Kirwin NWR closes on Friday, August 14, 2026.
- The names of the selected applicants will be posted to the Refuge website shortly following the close of the hunt application period.
- Successful applicants for the 2026 archery deer hunt will receive a “hunt package” via email, containing additional information and requirements.
- **All hunters must possess a valid Kansas hunting license** and all the necessary stamps and/or permits as required by Federal and State laws.
- Hunters who possess a Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer may purchase as many as five (5) Antlerless White-tailed Deer permits, as per State regulations.
- **Archery deer hunters are required to display a Refuge Access Permit on their vehicle dashboard.** Selected archers will receive the Refuge Access Permit as part of the hunt package.
- Not all hunting areas are open for all species. Refer to the current Kirwin NWR Hunting and Fishing brochure for more information. Areas open for hunting are outlined in the brochure, which is available on the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/kirwin/library. If you are unsure, contact Refuge staff for assistance at (785) 543-6673; extension 11 for Federal Wildlife Officer, Jeff Dunlap, or extension 14 for Station Manager, Jillian Boyd.
- Hunting regulations generally follow statewide regulations, including seasons and bag limits established by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Regulations Specific to the Refuge:

- **No more than two blinds or tree stands per hunter are allowed.** No cutting vegetation to aid in installation of tree stands (e.g., removing tree limbs). Tree stands may not be placed until 7 days prior to the season opening and must be removed within 14 days of the close of season. Portable blinds must be removed at the end of each day's hunt. Tree stands must be labeled with the user's Department-issued KDWP number.
- Natural vegetation may be used to construct a temporary blind.
- Baiting and trail cameras are prohibited.
- Retrieving game from a NO HUNTING ZONE or from an area that is not open to the hunting of that species is prohibited. Regulate your hunting to ensure that game does not fall into an area where it cannot be retrieved.

Instructions for Special Hunts:

- The application includes options for three special hunts: Youth, Disability, and Buddy Hunters.
 - **Special Youth and Disability Archery Deer Hunt:** The Refuge will be open to archery deer hunting by youth and persons with disabilities during the Youth and Disability deer season running from Saturday, September 5 through Sunday, September 13. There will be an unlimited number of Special Youth and Disability Permits offered for this season.
 - **Youth Hunting Requirement:** Youth hunters who are at least 16 years of age and have completed Hunter Education may hunt alone. All other youth hunters, whether they participate in the special youth archery deer hunt or the regular Kirwin NWR archery deer hunt, must be accompanied by an adult who is 18 years of age or older. The accompanying adult may assist with scouting, stalking, and game retrieval but may not participate in the actual harvest. The accompanying adult is responsible for the safety and compliance of the youth hunter. It is prohibited for an adult to permit a youth hunter to violate State or Federal laws or regulations while hunting at Kirwin NWR.

- **Special Buddy Hunt:** The application includes an option for a special “buddy hunter” permit for the 2026 archery deer hunt. A party of no more than two (2) hunters is allowed under this permit.
- Adults may assist other adults only with the removal of a harvested deer, unless the archer has special physical needs and prior permission is given.
- **Continued Eligibility:** Hunters participating in the limited-draw archery deer hunt at Kirwin NWR are required to send a photo of all deer harvested and complete a hunter survey card. All those persons selected in the drawing are required to fulfill these criteria or be removed from any future drawings.

For additional information, please email [**kirwin@fws.gov**](mailto:kirwin@fws.gov) or mail to Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge at 702 E Xavier Rd, Kirwin, KS 67644.

