



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Ninigret

#### National Wildlife Refuge

#### Big and Upland Game Hunting Regulations 2026–2027

#### Welcome

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1970 in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, this 858-acre refuge was established for the protection and management of migratory birds. A popular destination for many forms of wildlife-dependent recreation, Ninigret is open to hunting at designated areas in alignment with State and refuge regulations.

RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
c/o Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge  
50 Bend Road  
Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: 401-364-9124  
Email: [rhodeislandcomplex@fws.gov](mailto:rhodeislandcomplex@fws.gov)  
Website: [www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret)

For State Relay Service:  
TDD/800-735-2258 (Voice)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1-800-344-WILD  
August 2026

### Hunt Brochure Big Game Hunting 2026-2027

I have read and agree to comply with the refuge rules and regulations described in this hunt brochure. Valid for the current season only.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_\_

You must carry this signed and dated refuge hunt brochure with you at all times while hunting on the refuge.

**Valid Hunting Dates:**  
09/15/2026 – 01/31/2027

#### We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code to take our brief hunter survey:



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



Hunters are required to possess a valid Rhode Island hunting license, all required stamps, an original valid government-issued photo identification (no copies or photos), and a signed hunt brochure on their person at all times during refuge hunting days. Archery and firearms hunting for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox is allowed in designated locations (see map). Permitted hunters may take coyote and fox during the deer hunting season only. Salt Pond Unit is closed to all users during the Veteran Deer Hunt (November 14-15, 2026). On-going remedial site investigation activities at the Salt Pond Unit may impact hunt quality this year. Keep out of closed areas

#### Weapons

Firearms hunting is not allowed on Kettle Pond and Salt Pond Units. Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR 32.58).

#### Vehicles

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs), dirt bikes, and other non-licensed vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands.

#### 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 applicable Rhode Island regulations subject to the conditions stated below. To report hunting violations, call 1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477).

#### Access

White-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox hunting dates and times are posted in the Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Regulation Guide. Hunting is permitted in designated areas as depicted on the hunting map. Hunting is not allowed within safety zones, and no weapon discharge into, from, or within safety zones. Hunters may pass through a safety zone with unloaded weapons. Only participants who possess a valid, signed hunt brochure will be allowed to enter the hunt areas. Hunters may scout the hunt units two weeks prior to the season with a valid, signed hunt brochure. No access permitted to Salt Pond Unit during Special Hunts. IMPORTANT: Public use trails are open to hikers at Kettle Pond and Salt Pond Units during the archery deer and archery turkey seasons. No hunting allowed within 100 feet of a public trail. Night hunting is prohibited.

#### Tree Stands and Hunting Blinds

We only allow portable tree stands and blinds. You must clearly label any tree stand or blind left on the refuge overnight with your Rhode Island hunting license number. Stands and blinds may be placed beginning **September 1, 2026**, and must be removed by **February 15, 2027**. The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited on refuge lands (50 CFR 32.2(i)).

#### Game/Trail Cameras

All game/trail cameras must be clearly labeled on the exterior of the housing with the hunter's State hunting license number. When deploying cameras, mounting hardware must not cause damage to vegetation. Cameras may be placed beginning **September 1, 2026** and must be removed by **February 15, 2027**.

#### Harvest Reporting

Hunters must follow State harvest reporting requirements.

This map illustrates the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in the Fort Ninigret area. It features several units: the Lewis Tract Unit (top center), Kettle Pond Unit (bottom left), Salt Pond Unit (bottom center), and Barrier Beach Unit (bottom right). The map also shows various geographical features like School House Pond, Deep Pond, Mill Pond, Perry Pond, and Foster Cove. Key roads include Kings Factory Rd, Wings Factory Rd, Old Post Rd, and Cedar Rd. A legend in the top right corner defines symbols for Refuge Boundaries, Closed to Hunting, Deer/Fall Turkey- Archery Only, Deer/Turkey- Match State Regulations, Hand Launch/Small Boat Launch, Information, and Restroom. A scale bar at the top left indicates distances in miles and kilometers. The map is sourced from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

- Detailed maps, closures, or updates will be posted at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/)
- We prohibit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- We prohibit camping and fires.
- No taking wildlife other than deer, turkey, coyote, and fox during appropriate season (50 CFR 7.51).
- We prohibit marking (including, but not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation (50 CFR 27.61).
- The placement of or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Guiding, outfitting, advertising, and/or audio or visual productions for commercial purposes are prohibited.
- Firearm discharge within 500 feet of any dwelling is prohibited, and no discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling.
- Shooting from, across, or down any public road is prohibited.
- We prohibit hunting within 100 feet of a refuge trail.
- No field dressing animals in parking areas.

- **No Vehicles:** all traffic prohibited
- **Refuge Boundary:** entry to area is permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- **Hunt Safety Zone:** no discharge of weapons into, from, or within zone
- **Closed Area:** All entry is prohibited
- **No Hunting Zone:** Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited

To report wildlife crimes, call 1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477)