

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Big Game Hunting Program for 2026 - 2027

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide big game hunting opportunities at Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) during the 2026-27 refuge hunting season. Hunting opportunities include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox hunting, with some season and weapon restrictions (Figure 1). State safety regulations apply. Hunting is not allowed in safety zones. Hunters may pass through safety zones, but weapons must be unloaded in the safety zones. Some, but not all, safety zones are marked in the field. It is the hunter's responsibility to know where safety zones are located.



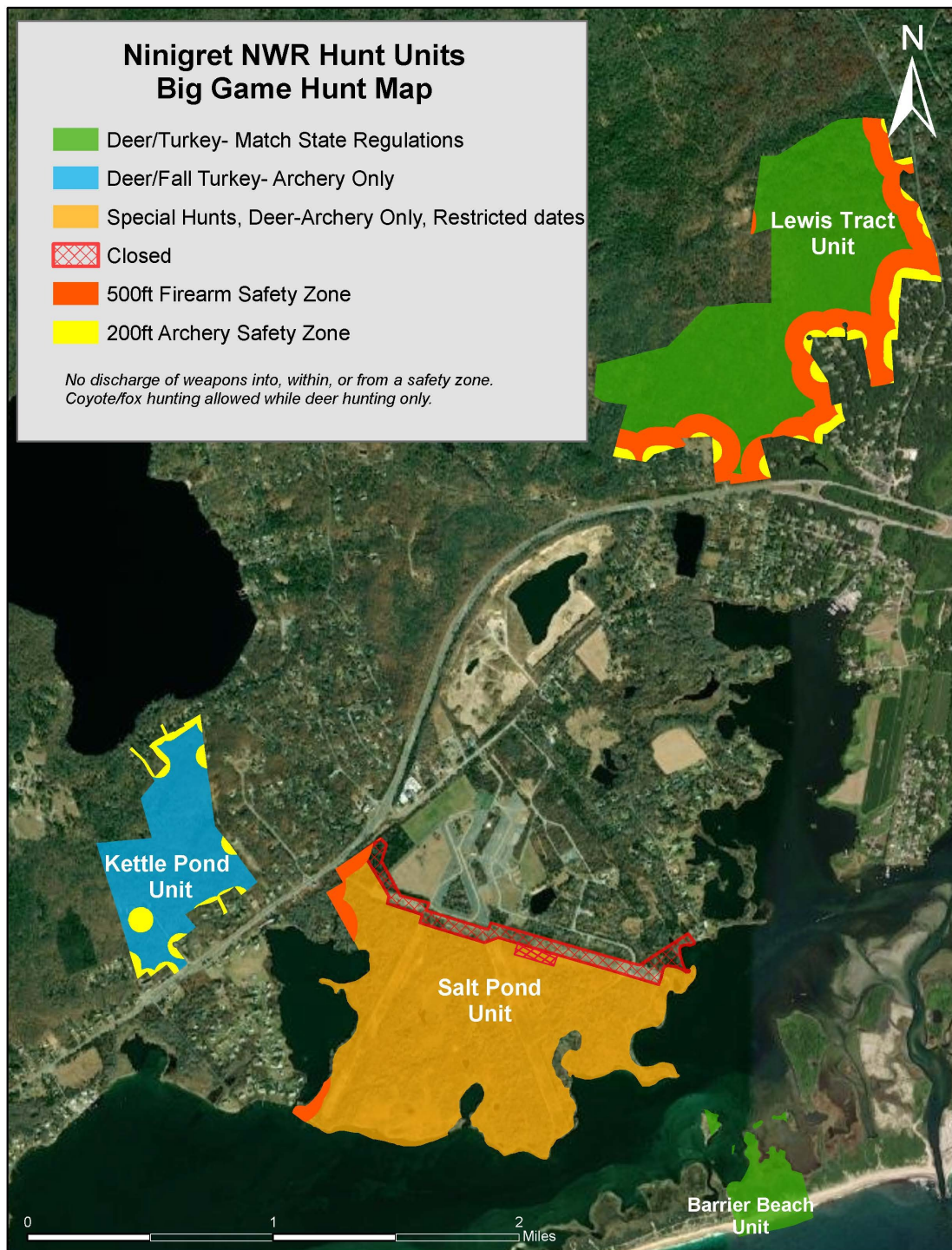
2026 – 2027 Program Details:

- Barrier Beach and Lewis Tract Units match State regulations for deer (September – January) and wild turkey (April – May and October) hunting. Deer hunters are allowed to take fox and coyote during the deer season.
- Kettle Pond Unit is archery hunting only. The deer (September – January) and fall wild turkey (October) hunting seasons match the State seasons. Deer hunters will be allowed to take fox and coyote during the deer season. **Spring wild turkey season is closed.**
- Salt Pond Unit is open for archery deer hunting beginning September 15 through January; however, the refuge closes to the public during the Veteran deer hunt (November), and the Youth deer hunt (December). Fall wild turkey season (October) matches State season. **Spring wild turkey season is closed.**
- Hunters must obtain, sign, and carry a valid Refuge Big Game Hunting Brochure for each season to serve as written permission to access refuge units for hunting.
- **On-going remedial site investigation activities at the Salt Pond Unit may impact hunt quality this year. Some areas will be closed. For your safety, do not enter closed areas.**

Safety measures employed:

- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a [hunter education course](#);
- No discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling;
- No discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling;
- No hunting within 100 feet of public trail;
- No hunting in safety zones and no discharge of a weapon from or across a road;
- Refuge visitors are recommended to wear blaze orange clothing during hunting season;
- Refuge lands closed to other public uses during special hunts (veteran and youth deer hunts).
- Public alerted to hunting seasons through news releases, website and Facebook postings, signs on trailhead notice boards, and information available at the visitor center;
- The hunting program will be monitored and have adjustments made as deemed necessary.

Figure 1. 2026-2027 Big Game Hunt Map, Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Units. Hunt map was created using GIS mapping for informational use, not for legal purposes.



Please call the refuge at 401-364-9124 if you have any question.

