



U. S. Department of the Interior FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
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Cape May National Wildlife Refuge 2021/2022 Hunting Regulations

Cape May NWR is open for deer hunting, migratory game bird, turkey, rabbit and squirrel hunting only. Trapping is NOT permitted. Hunting is prohibited on the Two Mile Beach Unit (former Coast Guard Electronic Engineering Center). **See the Delaware Bay Division Hunting Map and the Great Cedar Swamp Division Hunting Map for the areas legally open for hunting.**

For additional information contact the Refuge.

- Hunters are permitted to hunt on refuge land from **One Hour before Sunrise to One Hour after Sunset.**
- The distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Motorized and non-motorized vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands. This includes but is not limited to vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, motorcycles, and bicycles.
- **Sunday** hunting is prohibited.
- All public entry is prohibited in areas designated with "Area Closed" signs and also on Refuge roadways posted with "Inholders Only" signs.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- The use of spotlights, automotive headlights, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal is prohibited. This regulation applies even if no weapons are in the vehicle.
- The use of wire, nails, 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. Screw-in tree steps are also prohibited.
- Permanent stands, blinds, or pit blinds are prohibited. The Service takes no responsibility in the loss or theft of stands/blinds left in the field.
- Marking (this includes but is not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation is prohibited.
- The use or possession of any drug on any bow hunting arrow is prohibited. Archers may not have arrows employing such drugs in their possession on any national wildlife refuge.
- Access for hunting and fishing is provided from 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset. In the draft documents, we erred in posting various times, ranging as low as 30 minutes
- The hunting of small game: coyote, fox, groundhog, ruffed grouse, pheasant, squirrel, rabbit, and turkey is now allowed on refuge lands
- Falconry is prohibited.
- The use of drones is prohibited.
- **Non-toxic shot** must be used to hunt upland game

Deer hunting:

The Refuge is open for all six State Deer Management Zone 34 seasons: fall bow, permit bow, winter bow, six-day firearm, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader, as well as youth deer hunt days.

- You must remove all deer hunting stands, blinds and hunting materials at the end of the Zone 34 State deer hunting season. Tree stands should be marked with owner information (name, address, phone number).

Migratory game bird, rabbit and squirrel hunting:

- We allow hunting of waterfowl, coot, moorhen, ducks, scaup, brant, Canada goose, light goose, woodcock, rails and gallinule, snipe, and crow.
- Migratory game bird, rabbit and squirrel hunting is permitted only on those Refuge lands west of Highway 47 in Middle Township and north of Highway 550 through the Great Cedar Swamp Division in Upper and Dennis Townships.
- The common snipe season on the refuge begins with the start of the State early woodcock south zone season and continues through the end of the State common snipe season.
- Rabbit and squirrel hunting begins after the end of the state Six Day Firearm Season and will end at the end of the regular rabbit and squirrel season.
- All waterfowl hunting blind materials, boats, and decoys must be removed from the Refuge at the end of each hunting day.
- Only Federally approved, non-toxic shot is permitted for migratory bird hunting.
- We allow the use of retrieving and/or pointing dogs for migratory game birds; however, the dogs must be under the hunter's control at all times, and groups of three or more dogs per hunter are prohibited.
- Hunters must remove all hunting stands, blinds, hunting materials, and decoys at the end of each hunting day.
- Groundhog hunting will close at the end of the State groundhog Bow or Shotgun season (February 15)

Turkey hunting:

- Turkey hunting is only permitted on refuge tracts within the Great Cedar Swamp Division north of County Route 550.
- The use of dogs for turkey hunting is prohibited.
- Hunters must remove all hunting stands, blinds, hunting materials, and decoys at the end of each hunting day.



Refuge Boundary Sign, entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Closed Area Sign, all entry prohibited.