

# Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

## *Big Game Hunting Map and Regulations*

### **General Information**

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1943, is located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain near the Canadian border in Franklin County, Vermont. Hunting and fishing is permitted on portions of the refuge, in accordance with State and Federal seasons and regulations. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with disabilities by contacting the Refuge Manager.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Missisquoi, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

Individuals utilizing the refuge for hunting are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, game, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal or state officers.

### **Hunting Regulations**

The regulations below are contained in the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

Note: The hunting of moose, bear, and turkey are not allowed on the refuge, please see Vermont regulations for other areas open to these species.

### *Permits*

All persons hunting upland or big game on Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge must hold a valid state hunting license in order to obtain a permit at refuge headquarters prior to hunting. The permit is issued on a calendar year basis, January 1 through December 31, for a \$10 annual fee.

During the Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, youth hunters (17 years and younger) may hunt at no charge, but must obtain a big game permit prior to hunting and must return completed harvest information to refuge headquarters by December 31.

### *Reporting*

All hunters are required to submit an annual report of the results of their hunt by December 31 by completing the report portion of their permit. Failure to do so will result in denial of a permit for the following year.

### *Scouting*

Unarmed hunters may scout areas that will be open to hunting before a particular season opens September 1. A hunting permit is not required for scouting.

### *Ammunition*

To protect waterfowl and other migratory birds from potential lead poisoning, nontoxic shot will be required for the shotgun hunting of all species except deer.

### *Dogs/Other Pets*

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory game birds, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and ruffed grouse during designated seasons only. Other dogs and pets must be confined or on a leash.

### *Guiding/Other Commercial Activities*

No person, including but not limited to a guide, guide service, outfitter, club, or other organization shall provide assistance, services, or equipment to any other person for compensation on National Wildlife Refuge lands unless they have obtained a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Likewise, it is the responsibility of the individual utilizing the services of a guide, guide service, etc. to verify that they have obtained the required permit. Failure to comply with this provision subjects each hunter in the party to a fine if convicted of this violation.

### **Upland Game**

**Only ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare and gray squirrels may be hunted.**

Hunters may not enter closed areas of the refuge for any reason, except for the

recovery of legally harvested animals, and in that case may not carry a weapon.

Only shotguns, muzzleloaders, or archery equipment may be used on open areas east of the Missisquoi River and on Shad Island.

Hunting is not permitted from the end of snowshoe hare and rabbit season through September 1.

Open season will run concurrent with VT Fish and Wildlife seasons as provided in the VT Fish and Wildlife Regulations Guide.

### **Big Game**

**Only deer may be hunted.**

Hunters may not enter closed areas of the refuge for any reason, except for the recovery of legally harvested animals with the consent of a refuge employee, and in that case may not carry a weapon.

Only shotguns, muzzleloaders, or archery equipment may be used on open areas north of Vermont Route 78. Rifles may not be used in these areas at any time. The west delta is muzzleloader only (see map).

During the State-designated muzzleloader season and Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, hunters may hunt the Long Marsh and Metcalfe Island areas, in addition to other open areas.

The Refuge strongly recommends wearing hunter orange, at a minimum wear a hat and vest while hunting deer.

Permanent tree stands and ground blinds are prohibited. You may use portable tree stands in accordance with state regulations guiding their use on State Wildlife Management Areas with the following exception: We allow only one tree stand or ground blind for each big/upland game permit issued. This does not grant exclusive use of an area or site. **Stands/blinds may only be erected after September 1st and must be removed by the third Saturday in December.**

Open season will run concurrent with VT Fish and Wildlife seasons as provided in the VT Fish and Wildlife Regulations Guide..

**Prohibited Activities**

Littering

Spotlighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.

Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any attractant.

Target practice

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than as specified in this brochure.

Driving or screwing a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven.

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

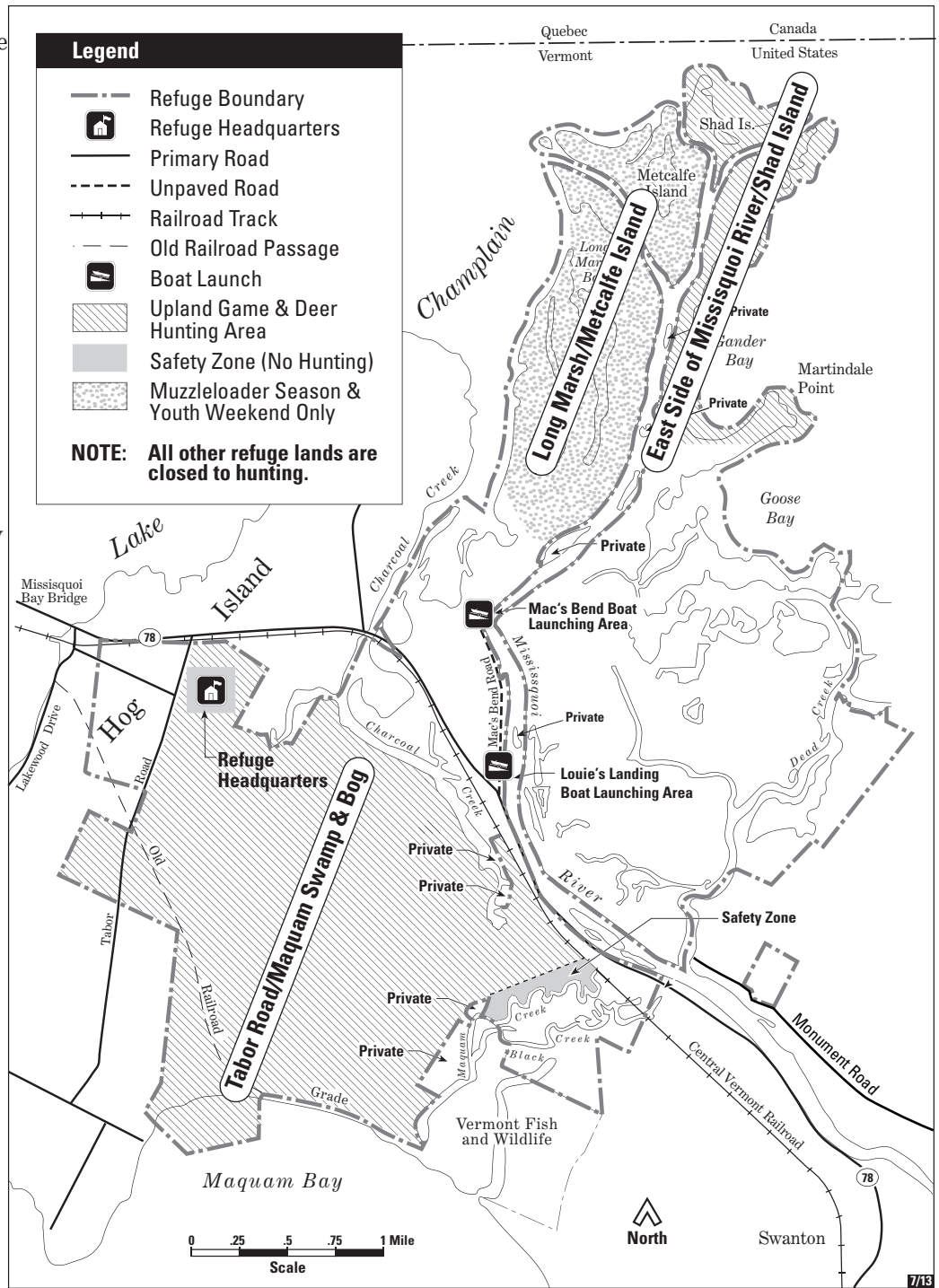
Use of motorized vehicles is prohibited in hunting areas.

The use of drones.

**Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge**  
 29 Tabor Road  
 Swanton, VT 05488-8159  
 802/868 4781  
<http://missisquoi.fws.gov>

**Federal Relay Service**  
 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing  
 1 800/877 8339

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
 1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>



**Guidance for Completing Harvest Reports**

Hunt Area Choices:

- East Side of Missisquoi River/Shad Island*
- Tabor Road/Maquam Swamp and Bog*
- Long Marsh/Metcalf Island*

Date of Hunt: *Include all dates hunted*

Total Hours Hunted: *Include total combined hours*

**SPECIES NOT ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED ON MISSISQUOI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

- |                |                                      |         |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Feral Hog      | Gambel's, California or Scaled Quail | Raccoon |
| Turkey         | Chukar Partridge                     | Opossum |
| Pheasant       | Jackrabbit                           | Coyote  |
| Bobwhite Quail | Woodchuck                            | Fox     |
| Moose          | Black Bear                           |         |



Robert Savannah