

Ninigret *National Wildlife Refuge*

Hunting and Fishing Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will expand hunting opportunities at Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) in 2020. Currently there are white-tailed deer hunting opportunities at the Barrier Beach, Lewis Tract, Salt Pond, and Kettle Pond hunt units. The refuge also offers mentored deer hunting opportunities to veterans with disabilities, and youth hunters. Fishing opportunities remain unchanged, anglers may fish from refuge shorelines in accordance with State fishing regulations.

Approximately 883 acres (less safety setbacks) are open to white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox hunting, with some season and weapon restrictions (Figures 1 & 2). State safety regulations apply.



Details of the plan:

- 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.
- Salt Pond Unit is open during most of the State archery deer hunting season (September – 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) will be open in accordance with State regulations.
- No permits are required. Hunters download, sign, and carry a refuge hunting brochure for each season to serve as written permission to access refuge units for hunting.

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, nor from or across a road;
- No hunting within 100 feet of public trail;
- Hunters will be provided maps of safety setbacks and hunt unit boundaries to aid in navigation;
- Refuge visitors recommended to wear blaze orange clothing during hunting season;
- Refuge lands closed to other public uses during youth and veterans 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 and fishing program will be monitored and adjustments made as deemed necessary.

The Rhode Island NWR Complex Hunting and Fishing Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Compatibility Determinations are available for viewing or download at www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/. No changes were made from the draft to final plan.

Figure 1. Hunting Units at Ninigret NWR.

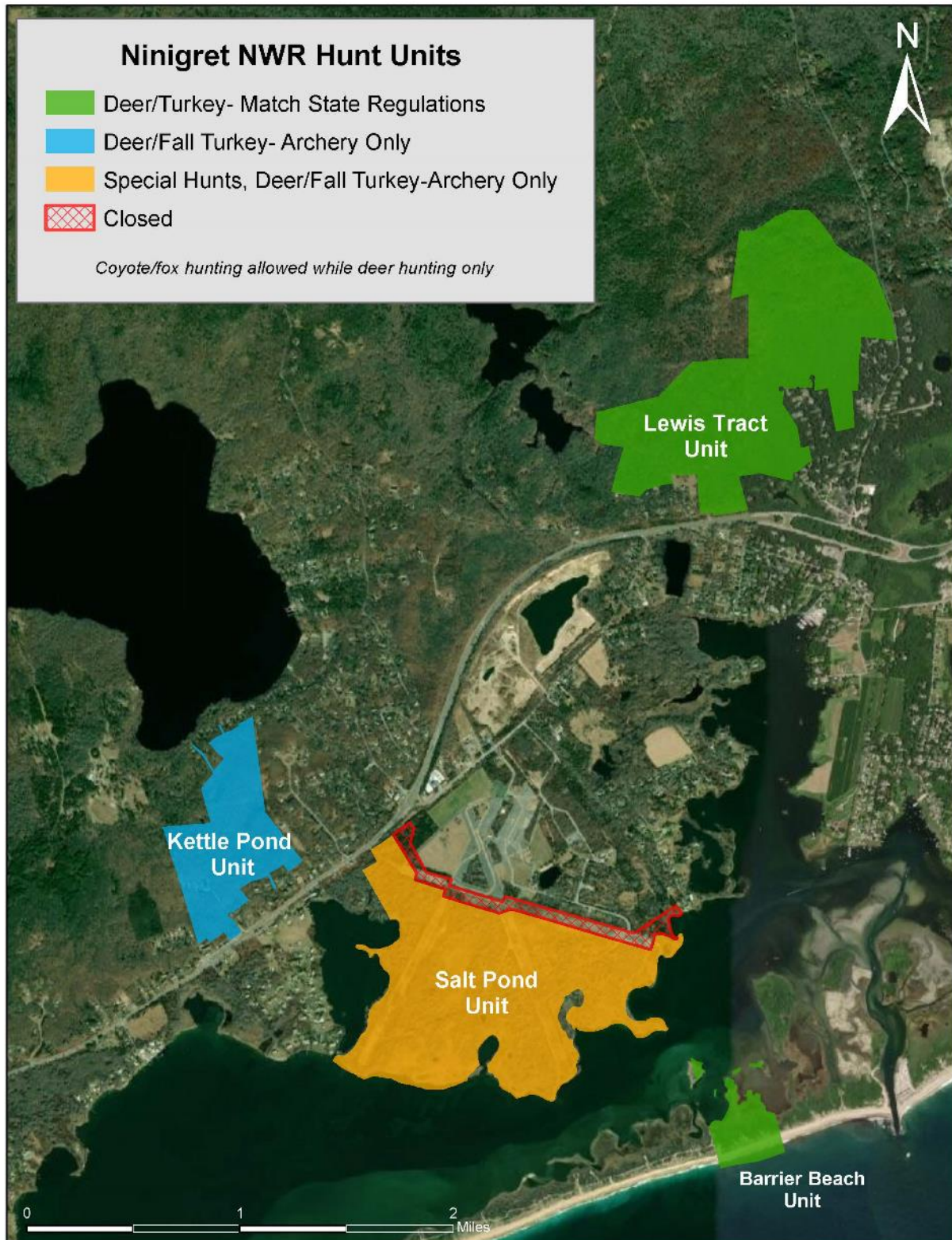
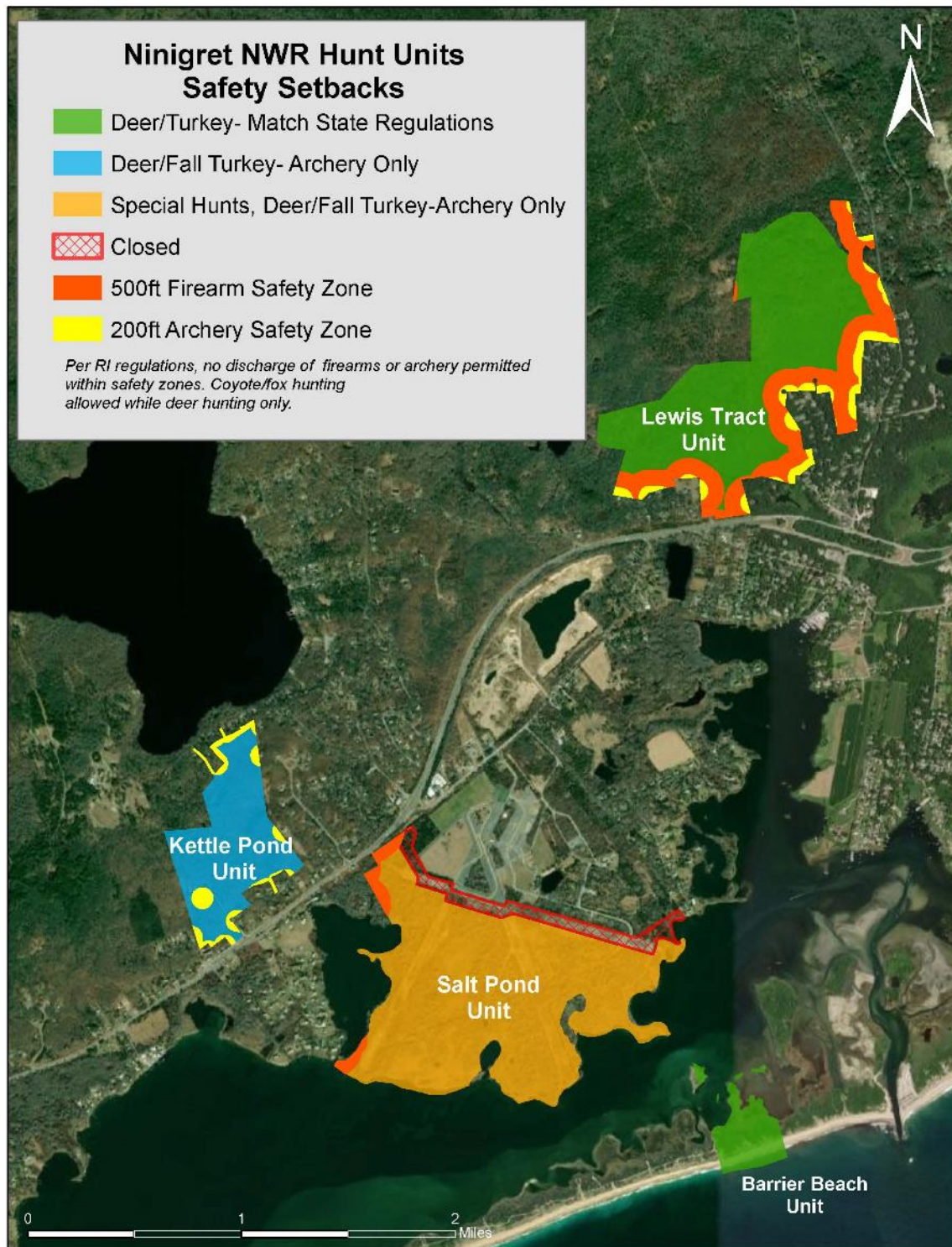


Figure 2. Hunting Units with safety setbacks at Ninigret NWR



The mission of the Refuge System is “to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” (Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997)

