

# RULES & REGULATIONS



# QUOTA HUNTS

## Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Bear Hunt (#501)

2013 - 2014 SEASON

Public bear hunting by shotgun is permitted on the Refuge on hunting dates listed below and on hunting areas shown on the map. A signed Refuge Bear Hunt permit, compass and a valid State hunting license shall be carried when hunting on the Refuge. Signing the permit means you agree to abide by all terms and conditions of that permit including all federal and state applicable laws, rules, regulations, maps, and signs. Violations of regulations will result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and may lead to prosecution in Federal Court

Hunters utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents during compliance checks by Refuge Officers, State Wildlife Officers, and other state/local law enforcement officers. Inspections are to ensure compliance of refuge regulations and the safety of hunters, staff, and wildlife.

### SEASON AND BAG LIMITS

November 15, 16, 21, 22 and 13, 2013

Rain dates: None.

**Bag Limit:** One bear per hunter per season statewide; must be greater than 100 lbs. No sows with cubs.

### SCOUTING

A scouting day will be held on November 14, 2013, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Only hunters with signed permits and a compass will be allowed access into the refuge hunting areas on the scouting day. The refuge office will be open from 8:00am-4:00pm with staff available to answer your questions on scouting day.

### HUNTING HOURS

Hunters will be admitted into the refuge approximately one hour before legal hunting hours. Hunters should not arrive at the entrance gates before 5:00 am. Hunters must leave the refuge and sign out no later than one hour after legal hunting hours, unless the hunter is in the process of dragging bear.

### DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

Hunts may be cancelled due to high fire danger or when severe weather is predicted or has occurred. If a cancellation is necessary, every effort will be made to make that decision by noon of the day before the scheduled hunt.

Please call (757) 986-3705 if the status of any scheduled hunt date is questionable. Special updates will also be posted at [www.facebook.com/greatdismalswamp](http://www.facebook.com/greatdismalswamp).

### REFUGE CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT

Access to the bear hunt areas will be provided only through the two designated entrances: Railroad Ditch Road and Jericho Lane. All hunters must sign in and sign out at one of the two designated entrance points each time they enter and leave the refuge. When an entrance reaches capacity, that area is closed to all other hunters for the day, even if a hunter checks out. Failure to sign in and/or out results in unnecessary search and rescue proceedings.

**SPECIAL NOTICE: BEAR HUNT DAYS COINCIDE WITH REFUGE DEER HUNT DAYS. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO LEGAL HUNT ZONES FOR THE BEAR HUNT.**

### HARVEST LIMIT

The refuge harvest limit will be a maximum of 20 bears. The take will be monitored and if more than 10 bears are harvested on the first day, various parameters will be evaluated and the second hunt day may be cancelled. Please note that in the event that the harvest may be higher than desired on the first day, three siren blasts will be sounded along access roads to alert hunters and all hunters must leave the hunt area immediately. (If you hear a single long blast on the siren or a vehicle horn this is to help locate a lost hunter and only the lost hunter will be leaving the hunt area.)

### HARVEST CHECKS

All successful hunters must have their bear checked by the refuge biologist. Contact the refuge office or a field officer for assistance.

### FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

- Only 20 gauge shotgun or larger.
- Hunters may only use and have in their possession slugs; buckshot is prohibited.

### HUNTER ORANGE

All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-colored blaze orange on their chest, shoulders, back, and head during the hunt. Camouflage hunter orange does not meet this requirement. A hat alone does not meet this requirement - a vest or other upper body garment is recommended to meet the requirement.

### TREE STANDS

Tree stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each hunt day. Hunters will not be permitted to return for any part of their stand. The use of nails, screws, or any other material that damage trees are not allowed.

### CAR TOP BOATS

Car top boats may be used to cross the ditches within the hunt areas only.

### ALSO PROHIBITED

- Access to refuge at any location other than through designated entrances to hunt areas at Jericho Lane, and Railroad Ditch Roads.
- Hunting in the Disabled Hunting area without an additional refuge Disabled Hunters permit. Contact refuge office to obtain special permit.
- The use of boats on Lake Drummond, the Feeder Ditch, or the Dismal Swamp Canal for any reason while in the refuge on your hunt permit.
- Hunting on any area that is not designated as part of the refuge hunt area by signs or current hunt map. Area Closed signs mean area closed to all access, even to hunting.
- Discharging a firearm from a vehicle.
- Discharging a firearm from, across, or within 50 feet of a refuge road including roads closed to vehicles.
- Hunting, pursuing, capturing, chasing, stalking, injuring, destroying, or attempting to do the same for bear on or within 50 feet of a refuge road, including roads closed to vehicles.
- Driving motorized vehicles off the roads and/or on roads closed to vehicles.
- Parking vehicles in any manner which blocks roads (including roads closed to vehicles).
- The use of permanent markers, such as paint, to locate stands or trails.
- Baiting or hunting over bait.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping and all overnight use.
- Possession of dogs on the refuge during any designated hunt date without a valid dog retrieval permit.
- Discharging or hunting with a rifle, handgun or pistol.
- Handling, harassing or collecting anything whatsoever, littering, fires and the use of boat trailers.

### SAFETY AND OTHER REGULATIONS

1. In case of an emergency call 911.
2. As a requirement of your permit, you must carry a compass in your possession at all times. Know how to use it!
3. Refuge wide speed limit is 25 mph on all refuge roads. Radar and other speed measuring devices are used to enforce speed limits.

Great Dismal Swamp NWR

3100 Desert Road Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Phone: (757) 986-3705 Fax: (757) 986-2353

[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)