



2015 Deer Hunting Regulations

Deer (Firearm): Only hunters with a Sand Lake NWR permit (available through SD GFP) may hunt. Hunters are allowed on the refuge only during days covered by their deer license. Season dates: **SL1- Muzzleloader only (Nov 14-18); SL2 (Nov 19-23); SL3 (Nov 24-29); SL4 (Nov 30-Dec 6); SL5 (Dec 7-13); Unused antlerless tags Dec 26-Jan 3, 2015**

Deer (Archery): The refuge archery season is open **Oct 17-Nov 13 & Dec 14-Dec 25, 2015**. A special permit from the refuge is not needed. Hunters with a valid statewide or East River Any Deer state archery license (available through SD GFP) may hunt in the refuge with the exception of an Antlerless Archery tag. **Antlerless Only Archery tags are not valid on Sand Lake NWR.**

Hunter Accompaniment: *New in 2015* One unlicensed person is now allowed to accompany a licensed deer hunter, but the unlicensed person must be within an arm's reach of licensed hunter at all times, abide by hunter orange requirements, and be unarmed. The unarmed restriction does not apply to any person who is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit.

Hunting Hours: Deer hunters may enter the refuge one (1) hour before shooting time. No hunter may remain in the refuge later than one (1) hour after shooting time ends. For special situations, contact refuge personnel.

Parking: Archery hunters hunting in the headquarters area may not park in the headquarters parking lot or driveway, and must use other parking lots designated for hunters.

Closed Areas: See map on reverse for locations of closed areas. **Please note additional *new* closed area as of 2012.**

Deer Retrieval: Vehicles are allowed in the refuge **only** for retrieving harvested deer and **only** during the following times: **9:30-10:00 AM; 1:30-2:00 PM; and from the end of shooting time to one (1) hour after the end of shooting time.** Vehicles are allowed only on established roads & trails (**snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are not permitted**).

Dates to Place Deer Stands: *New Regulation as of 2012* Hunters may place their deer stands or blinds during their designated licensed season only. Tree stands and blinds can only be placed on the refuge during your license period and must be removed when your licensed season has ended. **Early tree stand placement is not allowed.** Archery hunters cannot leave stands anywhere on the refuge during the deer firearms season.

Tree Stand/Portable Blind Requirements: The use of nails, screws, bolts, or screw-in type steps is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges. The name and address or the year and current deer tag number of the owner or user must be on the stand and must be legible from the ground. Other elevated platform devices (not attached to a tree) and all portable blinds must conform with the date and labeling requirements. The construction or use of permanent tree stands is prohibited.

The placement of portable blinds and stands in unharvested row crops is not allowed until November 1. Please be aware that the refuge has an annual fall prescribed burning program October 16-31. Adjust your hunt/position accordingly. Boundaries of the proposed burn sites will be posted/marked. If unsure, check with the refuge headquarters personnel for exact locations.

Hunter Orange: All refuge firearm deer hunters and unlicensed observers must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of **solid** hunter orange material on the head, chest, **and** back which must be visible at all times. A vest and hat meets this requirement. **Camouflage orange material is not legal.**

Party Hunting: Party hunting is illegal. Each hunter may take only his/her permitted number of deer. After filling their tag(s), hunters may accompany members of their party in the field, but must be unarmed or may carry a pistol if they have a valid concealed pistol permit.

Bicycles & Boats: Bicycles are not allowed. Motorized and non-motorized boating is not allowed. Access is by walk-in only.

Trail Monitor Cameras: Are not allowed on the refuge.

Camping: Camping is not allowed on the refuge or surrounding SD GFP lands.

Ice Conditions: Ice conditions on the James River can be extremely unstable and weak. Use Extreme Caution!



Deer Hunting Map

