



2018 Deer Hunt Rules and Regulations

Public deer hunting by shotgun and bow is permitted on the Refuge on hunting dates listed below and in hunting areas shown on the map. A print-out of your Refuge Deer Hunt permit, a compass, and a valid Virginia or North Carolina hunting license and tags shall be carried when hunting on the Refuge. Purchasing of 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.

SEASON AND BAG LIMITS

Dates: October 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, and November 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 2018
Permittee hunts maximum 12 days.

Either sex deer may be taken all season; other state and federal regulations apply.

SCOUTING

A scouting day will be held on September 29, 2018, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Only hunters with signed permits and a compass will be allowed into hunting areas on the scouting day. Guests will not be allowed to enter with permit holders.

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 no later than one hour after legal hunting hours, unless the hunter is in the process of dragging deer.

REFUGE CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT

Access to the deer hunt areas will be provided only through the three designated entrances: Railroad Ditch Road and Jericho Lane in VA, and Corapeake Ditch in NC. All hunters must sign in and sign out at the designated entrance points each time they enter and leave the refuge. Failure to sign in and out results in unnecessary search and rescue proceedings.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

- Only 20 gauge shotgun or larger, and/or bow and arrow or crossbows in accordance with state and federal regulations is permitted.
- Hunters may use buckshot and/or rifled slugs.

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 may damage trees are not allowed.

CAR TOP BOATS

Car top boats may be used only to cross ditches, and only within the hunt zones.

CANCELLATIONS AND CLOSURES

Unless there is unprecedented high fire danger or extreme weather conditions warranting cancellations, hunts will be open. Specific hunt areas may be closed due to management activities, emergencies, or inclement weather that renders refuge roads unsafe to travel. Some roads may be closed to vehicles, but open to foot traffic. If any hunt dates are cancelled or areas are closed, no other rain "make-up" dates will be provided.

Critical updates may come by text or email from Virginia Department of Game, or can be seen on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/greatdismalswamp.

PROHIBITED

- Refuge access at any location other than through designated entrances at Jericho Lane, Railroad, and Corapeake 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.
- Discharging a firearm from a vehicle.
- Discharging a firearm 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 white-tailed deer 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 block 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 while in the refuge on a hunt permit.
- Discharging or hunting with a rifle, handgun or pistol.
- Handling, harassing or collecting anything, 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 unless otherwise posted. Radar and other speed measuring devices are used to enforce speed limits.

Great Dismal Swamp NWR

Office: 3100 Desert Rd
Suffolk, VA 23434
757-986-3705

www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp
Facebook @ GreatDismalSwamp