



# Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ottawa/>

## Controlled Hunt Frequently Asked Questions

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Division of Wildlife have partnered in the establishment of controlled hunts. Controlled hunting will be allowed on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in designated areas **by permit only**.

Questions not listed may also be answered by reading the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the current year.

Any questions not found on this list can be directed toward the staff of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge by contacting us at 419-343-6793 or by email at [ottawa@fws.gov](mailto:ottawa@fws.gov).

- **What happens if I know I cannot make this controlled hunt?**
  - Permits can be transferred if the original permit holder cannot attend the hunt indicated on the permit. The transferee must have the permit signed by the original permit holder with them at check-in on the morning of the hunt. If the permit cannot be transferred please mail the permit back to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge prior to the hunt so we can find someone to use it.
- **Can I shoot coyotes or any other animal while hunting?**
  - No other animals may be shot or harvested other than what is on your permit.
- **What licenses and tags do I need in order to hunt on the Ottawa NWR?**
  - In order to hunt on the refuge you will need your controlled hunt permit stating that you have been awarded an area and opportunity to hunt the refuge. Along with your permit, you will also need an Ohio annual hunting license and any other stamp or permit required to harvest the target. All State regulations apply on a controlled hunt on the refuge. For more information about licenses and tags please see the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the current year.

## Deer Hunt Information

**This information includes the Mobility-Impaired Hunters controlled white-tailed deer gun hunt details.**

The Refuge is open to white-tailed deer hunting only. No other species of wildlife may be harvested during this hunt.

- **Where do I go to check-in/check-out the day of my hunt?**
  - There will be no in person check-in or check-out, you can arrive at the refuge 2 hours before sunrise. You must fill out a registration card and deposit it in the drop box at the Ottawa NWR main entrance prior to your hunt.
  - You must place your permit on the dashboard of your vehicle.
  - In order to successfully check-out hunters can drop off their harvest card in the designated box at the Ottawa NWR main entrance.
- **Where can I hunt on the refuge?**
  - There are 7 potential units (9 units for youth hunts) that are used during the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex/ Magee Marsh Wildlife Area controlled deer hunts. The permit you receive will display the area that you have been assigned to hunt. Maps for these areas along with directions on access will be provided on the first morning of the hunt at check-in. Hunters may also find their maps by going to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ottawa/>.
- **Am I allowed to bring a partner on the day of my hunt?**
  - Gun and archery hunter permittees are allowed to bring up to **two additional hunting partners**. Mobility-impaired hunters can bring **two additional hunting partners** along with an additional non-hunting helper to assist in the field.
  - A youth hunter permittee is allowed to bring **one additional hunting youth partner**. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult at all times. Accompany means to go along with another person while staying within a distance from the person that enables uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communications.

- **Will I be able to scout my area before the day of my hunt?**
  - All hunters that received a permit for a controlled hunt will be able to preview the refuge from 9 am – 4 pm on September 13, 2020. All permittees will be contacted by the refuge hunt coordinator. If you are not contacted, particularly if you received a transferred permit you may contact the refuge office at 419-343-6793
  - Gun hunters will also be able to scout their unit on November 8, 2020. Emails will be sent to the hunters containing details about the preview day.
  - Archery hunters do not have an additional preview day as they have five days to hunt their unit during this controlled hunt.
- **Am I allowed to have a tree stand and/or blind on the refuge?**
  - Yes. Tree stands are allowed as long as they do not have any fasteners that can break through the bark of the tree. Climbing stands and ladder stands are the best stands to use when hunting on the refuge. Hunters are also welcome to use blinds. Hunters must remember that stands and blinds can only be set up the day of the hunt and must be taken down at the end of the day.
- **Do I need to wear blaze orange if I am hunting on the refuge?**
  - All state regulations apply even on controlled hunts on the refuge. Each gun hunter must wear a blaze orange jacket/vest while hunting on the refuge. Helpers who are accompanying a mobility-impaired hunter must wear a blaze orange jacket/vest as well.
  - Archery hunters are not required to wear blaze orange.
- **What do I do if I see another hunter inside my unit?**
  - Other than the possibility of refuge staff, there should not be other people in the hunt unit other than the hunting group on the day of the hunt. If another person is spotted within a hunting unit who is not supposed to be in the area, hunters should call the federal wildlife officers at the refuge immediately.
- **If I shoot a deer that runs into a different unit am I still able to retrieve it?**
  - Hunters may track wounded deer out of their assigned unit **with prior approval** from Refuge officials. Refuge officials need to let other hunters know if a hunter from a different unit is tracking a deer in their area. Refuge officials can also gain permission from adjacent landowners if a wounded deer leaves the refuge property. If you wound a deer and need to track it after shooting hours please contact one of the federal officers at the refuge.
- **Does this controlled hunt count toward my harvest limits?**
  - A hunter may kill no more than one antlered deer during the season regardless of where or how it is taken. If a hunter has taken an antlered deer within the State they are not allowed to harvest another antlered deer on the refuge. Antlerless deer harvested during the Ottawa controlled hunt do not count towards county or state deer bag limits. Hunters who harvest a deer on the refuge must tag the animal. Hunters are allowed to harvest does and button-bucks with an either-sex deer permit. Antlerless deer permits are valid for all controlled deer hunts.
- **Is the tagging process different on a controlled hunt?**
  - No. If a deer is harvested it must be tagged immediately and called in or registered per State regulations.
- **How many deer am I allowed to harvest and what sex can they be?**
  - Gun hunters are allowed to harvest **one** deer while gun hunting on the refuge. Only the permit holder is allowed to harvest an antlered deer; partners can harvest antlerless deer only. If the permit holder has already harvested an antlered deer, they can transfer their permit to a partner **before the hunt**.
  - Archery hunters are allowed to take **one** either-sex deer while archery hunting on the refuge. Any of the hunters within a group are allowed to harvest an antlered deer if they have not already harvested an antlered deer this deer season in the State. Hunters are allowed one antlered deer per year. Hunters may also harvest does and button-bucks with an either-sex deer permit or an antlerless deer permit.
- **What licenses and tags do I need in order to hunt on the Ottawa NWR?**
  - In order to hunt on the refuge you will need your controlled hunt permit stating that you have been awarded an area and opportunity to hunt the refuge. Along with your permit, you will also need an Ohio annual hunting license and an either-sex deer permit or an antlerless deer permit. All State regulations apply on a controlled hunt on the refuge. For more information about licenses and tags please see the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the current year.
- **Can I shoot coyotes or any other animal while deer hunting?**
  - No other animals may be shot or harvested while deer hunting. Deer are the only animal that can be harvested on this hunt.

## Waterfowl Hunt Information

- **Can I preview my unit?**
  - The Ottawa NWR will allow all permittees to preview their hunt unit on September 13 from 9 am – 4 pm.
- **Where do I check-in on the morning of the hunt?**
  - There will be no in person check-in or check-out. Hunters may arrive 2 hours before sunrise and must fill out a registration card and deposit it in the drop box located at the Magee Check Station prior to your hunt.
- **What are the hunt hours?**
  - Waterfowl hunting hours are from legal shooting light until 12:00 noon. This is a half day hunt. No more shots should be fired after noon. Hunters are expected to be checked out at the check station by 1:30 PM. Hunters are required to turn in their permit at the end of the day in the drop box at the Magee Check Station.
- **Am I allowed to bring a dog?**
  - Yes. Hunters are allowed to bring trained dogs to help retrieve downed birds. These dogs must be kept on a leash when around/in the check station.
- **When it comes to licenses what do I need?**
  - All questions about licensing can be answered by referring to the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the current year. In order to hunt waterfowl in the state of Ohio, a person 18 years old or older will need:
    - Resident Hunting License, nonresident hunting license, three-day nonresident tourist hunting license, apprentice license, or a senior license
    - Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification
    - Printed Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp
    - Signed Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp)
  - Youth hunters will need their license (youth hunting license) along with a HIP certification. A Federal Duck Stamp is not needed until the hunter is 16 years old. Hunters younger than 18 do not need an Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp.
- **Am I allowed to bring a partner?**
  - Yes. The permit holder is allowed to bring one partner. Only two hunters are allowed in each unit during the hunt. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a nonhunting adult, with no more than two youths per adult. Accompany means to go along with another person while staying within a distance from the person that enables uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communications.
- **If I draw a spot with a blind am I limited to hunting in the blind only?**
  - Hunters are welcome to hunt anywhere within their designated unit as long as they do not leave their unit and enter another hunter's unit. The person working the check station will have maps available that morning outlining each unit and will give hunters directions on how to access their blind. An overview map of the refuge and all of the hunting areas can be found on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ottawa/>.
- **How many shots/shells am I allowed to have?**
  - Each hunter is allowed 25 approved non-toxic shot shells.
- **Will I need to bring a boat?**
  - No. Hunters do not need to bring their own boat when hunting on the Ottawa refuge. Boats can be found at certain blinds. Units that have boats placed at them are determined by distance to the blind and water depth around the blind. At some blinds the hunter will need to use the boat to get to the blind due to the depth of the water near the dikes.
- **Are bag limits on controlled hunts different than bag limits set by the state?**
  - No. All state regulations apply even on controlled hunts on the refuge. State regulations can be found in the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the current year which is available at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/huntingandtrappingregulations>.
- **Will I be able to scout my area before the day of my hunt?**
  - All hunters that received a permit for a controlled hunt will be able to preview the refuge on September 13, 2020. All permittees will be contacted by the refuge hunt coordinator. If you are not contacted, particularly if you received a transferred permit you may contact the refuge office at 419-898-0014 and leave a message in the general mailbox.

**All injuries or accidents occurring on the refuge must be reported immediately to the Refuge Headquarters, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449. Phone 419-343-6793.**