

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUNTERS IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN –

The Humbug Marsh Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) has its fair share of white-tailed deer. Today's herd is so large that deer grazing is reducing the quality of this natural area as conservation land. Increasing deer will raise the risk of deer-vehicle collisions along West Jefferson Avenue. The beauty and mystique of white-tailed deer – of which a sighting is a valuable part of a visitor's experience – is lost as some have become accustomed to human interactions and are tame. Aerial winter surveys show the population on Grosse Ile and Humbug Marsh is grossly above the limits required to maintain healthy natural areas.

The Refuge is providing the public a fair and equitable structure to annually harvest the maximum number of deer within established quotas, while ensuring a quality and safely conducted hunt. The program is using a transparent, science-based approach to deer management which includes annual surveys. The Refuge is conducting the hunt and deer monitoring in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

A limited number of archery-only hunting permits are available for ten antlerless deer hunts within the Humbug Marsh Unit of the Refuge. Harvest is limited to antlerless deer only. Selected applicants will be assigned a refuge installed ground-hunting blind. Hunters may apply for one deer reserved hunting permit from July 15 – August 15 at any license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at www.mdnr-elastic.com. It costs \$5 to apply. Hunt applicants will be selected by random drawing by the MDNR. After the drawing, any leftover hunting permits will be issued to hunters on a first-come, first-served basis until quotas are met.

Youth aged 10-16 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. Youth less than 10 that are hunting under the Mentored Youth Hunting License must be accompanied by an adult that is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience and possesses a valid Michigan hunting license. A non-hunting adult accompanying a youth between the ages of 10 and 16 cannot possess or carry a bow and does not need a deer hunting license. Adults do not need to fill out an application for the youth hunt, unless the adult and youth are applying as partners.

Hunters may apply in a partnership with one other person. The first applicant of each partnership chooses a hunt date and receives a "party ID" number, which is printed on his or her receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. The other person in the party will need this party ID when applying to complete the partnership. Applicants must make sure that the party ID numbers are identical. Applicants who apply with more than one partner will be ineligible for the drawing.

Steps to Apply:

1. You may apply for one deer reserved hunting permit from July 15 – August 15 at any license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at www.mdnr-elastic.com. It costs \$5 to apply.
2. Drawing results will be posted at www.mi.gov/huntdrawings on September 1, 2016.

3. Any hunter, regardless if they were successfully chosen through the lottery, is eligible for one leftover DRIWR permit for the 2016 deer season. Leftover DRIWR deer reserved hunting permits, if available, may be obtained on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Sept. 8 at 10 a.m. ET through Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. ET. They are available at any license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at www.mdnr-elicence.com There is no fee for the permit.
4. Refuge-specific hunt information will be provided by Detroit River IWR to selected applicants through U.S. Mail.
5. Hunters who possess a DRIWR reserved hunting permit (either through the lottery or as a leftover permit) many use their archery kill tag or combo license kill tags AND are also eligible to purchase two special antlerless-only DRIWR Managed Deer Hunt permits (kill tags) for \$20 each, valid only for this lottery hunt. Note: a Managed Deer Hunt permit is only valid when used by a licensed deer hunter and is optional to participate in the antlerless-only hunts on DRIWR.

Specific two day hunt dates range between October 1 and December 15.

Sunday, Oct. 2 – Monday, Oct. 3

Sunday, Oct. 9 – Monday, Oct. 10

Sunday, Oct. 16 – Monday, Oct. 17

Sunday, Oct. 23 – Monday, Oct. 24

Sunday, Oct. 30 – Monday, Oct. 31

Sunday, Nov. 6 – Monday, Nov. 7

Sunday, Nov.20 – Monday, Nov. 21

Sunday, Nov.27 – Monday, Nov. 28

Sunday, Dec. 4 – Monday, Dec. 5

Sunday, Dec. 11 – Monday, Dec. 12

For more refuge specific information regarding the hunt program at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, please visit the refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River/visit/permits.html.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge includes more than 6,100 acres along 48 miles of the lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, over 100 species of fish, and over 300 species of birds. It is the first international refuge in North America and one of a few urban refuges in the nation. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and waterfront lands.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service is both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation. Visit www.fws.gov to learn more.

For additional information, contact Deputy Refuge Manager Steve Dushane at 734-692-7604 or Visitor Services Manager Jody DeMeyere at 734-692-7649.

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