

News Release

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prime Hook NWR Announces Changes to Hunting Fees

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will implement a new hunt fee schedule beginning with the 2015-2016 hunting season. The purpose is to improve the administrative efficiency of the hunting program, to better align the refuge's policies governing the administration of nearby state-owned wildlife areas, and to provide a reduced cost to the hunter.

Most permit fees will be eliminated, with the exception of lottery deer and waterfowl hunts. All hunters will be required to possess a free seasonal hunting permit with accompanying refuge-specific regulations. Lottery hunt permits have been decreased from a daily fee to a one-time annual fee of \$10, which provides access to both deer and waterfowl lottery specific hunt areas. Lottery permits will be available via an on-line system operated by a vendor (Kinsail) or by telephone.

These hunt fees are reduced from those approved in the refuge's step-down hunting management plan, Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Other agencies, conservation organizations, local landowners, and stakeholders provided considerable input into the plans' development. The Final CCP/EIS, Record of Decision (ROD), and hunting management plan for Prime Hook NWR, along with a summary of all substantive comments received and their responses, is available for review on the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/prime_hook/ or at the refuge office at 11978 Turtle Pond Road, Milton, Delaware.

Hunt application fees collected by the refuge are sent to the Department of Interior's central accounting office. Prime Hook NWR will receive approximately 80% of funds for use in the refuge hunting program. Fees are typically spent on improvement of refuge infrastructure such as access roads, signs, parking areas, and printed material for the hunt program.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding these changes in Prime Hook NWR's hunting program, please contact Refuge Manager Arthur Coppola at 302-684-8419.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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