

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge 2016 Refuge-Specific Hunting Permit Conditions

In addition to current Code of Virginia Big Game Hunting Regulations and Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, hunting of white-tailed deer in designated areas of the Refuge is subject to the following permit conditions.

1. We require big game hunters to obtain a permit through a lottery administered by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. We require a fee to obtain a refuge hunting permit (signed and dated sheet). We notify successful applicants by mail or e-mail, and if we receive the hunting fee by the date identified in the mailing, we mail refuge hunting permits to successful applicants. We offer walk-in registration to fill hunting slots not filled during the lottery process.
2. We require hunters to possess a refuge hunting permit (contains date selected to hunt and permit number), along with their State hunting license, while on refuge property. We require hunters to display a vehicle permit (contains date selected to hunt and permit number) provided by the refuge on the dashboard of their vehicle while on the refuge so that the permit is visible through the windshield.
3. We require stand hunting only. Stand hunting means the use of portable hunting blinds, portable tree stands or stationary ground hunting. We prohibit use of nails, screws, bolts or screw-in steps. We prohibit damage to trees (see §32.2(i)). Hunters must remove stands and blinds daily (see §27.93 of this chapter). We prohibit deer drives, still hunting, or roaming.
4. We allow archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun hunting on designated refuge tracts and days.
5. We permit the take of two deer of either sex per day.
6. We prohibit dogs.
7. We require hunters during archery-only season to wear in a conspicuous manner a minimum of 100 square inches (650 cm²) of solid-colored, hunter-orange material or clothing while moving to and from their stand or hunting location.
8. We require hunters during muzzleloader and firearms seasons to wear in a conspicuous manner on head, chest, and back a minimum of 400 square inches (2,600 cm²) of solid-colored, hunter-orange material or clothing.
9. We prohibit the use of flagging to mark trails or for any other purpose (see §27.93 of this chapter).
10. We prohibit the use of vehicles except on designated refuge roads.
11. Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on the refuge must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (see §27.42 of this chapter).
12. An adult age 21 or older, possessing and carrying a valid hunting license and refuge hunting permit, must accompany and directly control youth hunters ages 12 to 17. We prohibit persons younger than age 12 to hunt on the refuge.
13. We require hunters to report accidents or injuries to the refuge office or sheriff's office within 24 hours after the incident. Hunters must report accidents resulting in serious injury to the sheriff's office immediately.
14. We prohibit the use or possession of alcohol while hunting on the refuge (see §32.2(j)).
15. We prohibit the discharge of hunting firearms or archery equipment within 300 feet (90 m) of any building. We prohibit the discharge of hunting firearms or archery equipment in or across a refuge road as marked on the refuge hunt maps.
16. We require hunters to unload hunting bows, crossbows, muzzleloaders and shotguns while in or around vehicles or on refuge roads. A loaded crossbow is defined as a crossbow that is cocked and one that has either a bolt or arrow engaged or partially engaged on the shooting rail or track of the crossbow. With a "trackless crossbow" it is considered loaded when the crossbow is cocked and a bolt or arrow is nocked. A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when the muzzleloader is capped, or has a charged pan, or has a primer or battery installed in the firearm. A shotgun is considered loaded if there are shells in either the tube or chamber, or both.