

2014– 2015 Deer Hunting

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge



New for the 2014-2015 Hunt Season

(see **Orientation Information** for details)

- * Online Application System
- * Changes to Scouting

Application Instructions

To ensure your application is fully completed and submitted properly, please review the following instructions:

- Go to www.wertheimpermits.com to fill out your application. If you are selected to hunt on the refuge, the contact information on your application will be used to notify you, so please ensure accuracy.
- The refuge offers a hunt unit that meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements. Circle Box # 7 on the hunt application form if you possess a state-issued "Permit for Hunter with Disability" and you are interested in being assigned to this unit if selected.
- Archery hunters are required to use portable tree stands in one of the hunt zones. If you are unwilling or unable to hunt from a tree stand, please contact us at the number listed below.
- Please rank the archery hunt periods in order of preference (1 - 4). The dates are as follows: Archery 1; October 10th-11th 2014, Archery 2; November 7th-8th 2014, Archery 3; December 5th -6th 2014, and Archery 4; December 13th 2014. **Please note that the hunt on December 14th is a 1-day hunt session.** During the lottery, you will be assigned to your preferred period if slots are available. If selected, you will be eligible to participate in the remaining archery sessions as a standby hunter.
- Please rank the shotgun hunt periods in order of preference (1 - 2). The dates are as follows: Shotgun 1; January 8th-9th 2015 and Shotgun 2; January 22nd-23rd 2015. During the lottery, you will be assigned to your preferred period if slots are available. If selected, you will be eligible to participate in the remaining shotgun sessions as a standby hunter.
- The application fee is \$12.50 per application. This is an administrative fee that is non-refundable, even if you are not selected to hunt. Payments can be made through the on-line application system.
- Applications must be submitted through the on-line system by August 15th 2014. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Results of the drawing for hunt permits will be available on September 5th, 2014.
- All applicants will be notified by email with the lottery drawing results.

- Hunters age 16 or 17 may be accompanied by a licensed non-hunting adult if desired.
- Hunters under age 16 must be accompanied by a licensed non-hunting adult.

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

340 Smith Road (631) 286-0485

Shirley, NY 11967 (631) 286-4003 fax

Please visit our web site for more information: www.fws.gov/refuge/wertheim/



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
340 Smith Road,
Shirley, New York 11967



Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge Hunter Orientation Information

NEW FOR 2014-2015 HUNT SEASON

- * Online Application System
- * Updated Scouting Rules

Online Application System

We have switched to an internet based application and will be phasing out the paper applications. This system will help to streamline the application process and will allow us to award preference points for subsequent seasons to hunters not drawn in the lottery during the current season. Go to www.wertheimpermits.com to apply. See the Application Instructions for further information.

Updated Scouting Rules

Hunters will now be allowed to scout any unit during the designated scouting days. This change has been implemented to help standby hunters be able to hunt successfully in multiple units. When scouting, do not double park, and only park in designated parking areas. **Vehicles parked illegally WILL be ticketed.**

Application Information

All hunters are required to complete a 10-question multiple choice orientation examination as part of the on-line application process. All answers can be found in the material contained in this orientation packet.

In addition to the New York State Hunting license, all participating hunters must obtain a refuge permit. Refuge permits will be issued to those hunters selected during the hunt lottery. **All applications must be submitted via the online application system by August 15, 2014.**

Refuge permits are not transferable. **Selected hunters who will not be attending their assigned hunt session must notify the refuge no less than one business day prior to the hunt session. Failure to do so will result in that hunter's ineligibility to participate in the deer hunt the following year.** Additionally, permitted hunters are not allowed to bring friends or relatives with them during scouting or hunting days. However, youth hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult who has a valid New York State hunting license during scouting and hunting.

Background Information

The Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge covers about 2,550 acres along the Carmans River. Approximately 1,600 acres of the refuge provide habitat for white-tailed deer (the rest is primarily open water, salt marsh, and buildings/roads). Currently our deer population ranges from 50 to 60 deer per square mile depending on the time of year and deer movement on and off the refuge. At higher densities, deer can over browse the available vegetation and, therefore, degrade habitat for other species. Deer-car collisions and deer browsing ornamental plantings in the adjacent residential areas become more serious problems at high deer densities. Our goal is to maintain the deer population at 20 to 30 deer per square mile and the ratio of antlerless to antlered deer, 3:1.

We try to offer a high quality hunting experience. Hunter numbers in the various units are low compared to many places on Long Island. For example, we plan to have approximately 1 archer for every 40 acres.

General Information for 2014–2015 Deer Hunting:

The refuge is entirely within Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven. Please keep in mind that other members of the public may be using the Carmans River during the hunting season. Extreme caution should be taken when hunting near the river. Refuge nature trails will be closed to non-hunters during the hunting periods. If you need to contact our office in case of an emergency, or to report a hunting violation, the phone number (Check Station: 631-316-3265; Refuge Law Enforcement; 631-365-4518) is on your refuge permit and contact card.

Parking lots are assigned and refuge parking permits must be displayed face up on the dashboard of your vehicle. Hunters may not block access roads. Hunters are required to check in upon first entering the area each day and must check out before leaving at the end of each day. The refuge entrance gate and parking lots do not open until 1 hour before sunrise. Please do not block the refuge entrance gate or Smith Road.

All hunting units on the refuge will be open for scouting between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on October 4th, November 1st, November 22nd, and January 3rd (for selected shotgun hunters only). Please obey the posted speed limits on the roads. During scouting, hunters must park in designated parking areas (with their refuge parking permit displayed face up in the vehicle dashboard). Any vehicles parked illegally, will be ticketed and towed if necessary. While you may scout any unit, we encourage you to first scout the unit you are assigned to. Hunters must carry their New York State hunting license and refuge hunting permit with them during scouting days.

As a reminder for hunters in tree stands, the first thing you should do upon entering a portable tree stand is to fasten your safety harness. The refuge encourages hunting from tree stands because it provides a safer shooting angle and better visibility. Hunters must remove their tree stand at the end of the hunt session. The refuge also asks that hunters demonstrate courtesy by not setting up close to another hunter, and not dressing harvested deer in refuge parking lots or along refuge trails. Additionally, transporting dead deer uncovered and in plain view of the public (such as on the hood of your car or uncovered

on a trailer hitch cargo rack) does not promote ethical hunting and may cause opposition to deer hunting in the surrounding communities.

During the refuge shotgun sessions, the southern portion of unit 3 and all of unit 5 will be closed to hunting. These areas are located on the enclosed hunt map. The southern portion of Unit 3 will be marked using red and white striped flagging. Property located south of the red and white flagging is not open to shotgun hunting.

Hunters are responsible for identifying their target before they shoot. It is recommended that hunters do not try to shoot a deer on the run to prevent inflicting a non-fatal wound. If you shoot a deer, you must make every effort to locate it and reduce it to possession.

Standby Hunting

All hunters selected to hunt during the archery season, will be eligible to participate as standby hunters during all other archery sessions. All hunters selected to hunt during the shotgun season will be eligible to participate as standby hunters during all other shotgun sessions. Standby hunters may arrive at the Wertheim hunter check station one hour before sunrise. Standby hunters present at the check station will be randomly selected to fill any known openings at this time. One hour after sunrise, standby hunters present at the check station will be randomly selected to fill any remaining empty slots. Standby hunters not selected at the sunrise drawing, may continue to wait in the check station parking area. As hunters leave for the day, their slots will be randomly filled from the standby hunters present. A standby hunter, who is granted permission to hunt on the first day of the hunt session, will still be a standby hunter on the second day and must wait to be selected before hunting. The exception to this will be for standby hunters filling a canceled hunter's slot.

Regulations for 2014 – 2015 Deer Hunting:

1. Hunters must check in at the refuge check station at the beginning of each hunt day and check out at the end of each hunt day, even if no deer were harvested. Hunters who have not checked in by one hour after sunrise risk losing their spot and may be ineligible to hunt during the following season.
2. Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than one hour before the beginning of legal shooting hours and must exit the refuge no later than one hour after the end of legal shooting hours. If you have a deer down and can't get it out of the woods before sunset, you must call the Refuge Office.
3. The bag limit for both the archery and shotgun sessions is three deer per hunter. Hunters may take either **one or two** antlerless deer before taking an antlered deer. Hunters who take one antlerless deer then one antlered deer may take another antlerless deer if time permits. Hunters may choose to take three antlerless deer and forfeit their opportunity to take an antlered deer. Antlerless deer must be checked in at the refuge check station prior to shooting an antlered deer. The

Refuge does not provide New York State carcass tags. Be sure to supply your own NYS tags for the deer you harvest.

4. Hunters can take two antlerless deer before checking them in at the refuge deer check station (An antlerless deer is defined as any deer with no antlers or both antlers less than three inches in length).
5. All deer harvested on the refuge must be checked in at the official refuge deer check station. Hunters are also responsible for following New York State hunting regulations for checking in deer with the State.
6. Upon kill, hunters must complete a New York State carcass tag for each deer. Tags must be attached to deer after hunters reach their vehicle. If you fail to follow these procedures, you will be in violation of both Federal and State hunting laws.
7. Hunters must tag all deer with New York State issued hunting tags.
8. Upon checking in at least one antlerless deer at the refuge check station, you will be issued a refuge buck slip. This buck slip allows you to harvest one antlered deer on Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge **during the current session only**. If the antlerless deer is a **female aged 1.5 years or older**, you will be issued a season buck slip valid for the remainder of the season. Please note that season buck slips issued during the archery season will not be valid during the shotgun season. To be eligible to shoot a buck on refuge property you must also possess a New York State issued buck permit.
9. A hunter without a refuge buck slip cannot shoot a buck and use someone else's buck slip and permit to tag it.
10. The refuge does not permit the marking of any tree, trail, or other refuge feature with flagging, paint, reflective material, or any other substance.
11. Hunters may trim branches up to a diameter the size of a quarter to place tree stands.
12. Distribution of bait and the hunting over bait is prohibited on the refuge.
13. Hunters may NOT push or drive deer.
14. Only barbless broadheads are permitted during the archery season. Please refer to the current New York State Hunting and Trapping Regulations handbook for more details.
15. Only shotguns firing a single projectile (slugs only, no buckshot) are permitted during firearm season. Hunters selected for a refuge shotgun session are required

to complete the landowner endorsement form (forthcoming if you were selected to hunt during this season) with the Town of Brookhaven before you can discharge a firearm on refuge property.

16. Hunters must have only shotgun shells loaded with slugs during the firearms season.
17. Shotgun hunters must wear in a conspicuous manner on HEAD, CHEST, and BACK a minimum of 400 square inches of SOLID FLOURESCENT ORANGE clothing. Camouflage Orange alone is NOT permitted.
18. Each hunter may only use one portable deer tree stand and it may be left on the refuge during your designated hunt period at your own risk. Hunters must attach clearly legible identification on their stands with their name, address, and phone number. The refuge will not be responsible for any stolen property. Tree stands must be removed from the hunt unit at the end of the hunt session.
19. Hunters selected to hunt in unit 5 MUST hunt from a portable tree stand.
20. You must use a safety harness and belt while hunting from a tree stand.
21. A Special Hunting Restrictions Area (“Access for Disabled Hunters Only”) exists at the White Oak Nature Trail. Hunters must carry a special refuge access permit before entering this property. Only hunters possessing a state-issued “Permit for Physically Challenged Hunters” are eligible to receive a special refuge access permit. Contact the refuge office for details.
22. Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal or state law enforcement officers.
23. Hunters may not have loaded weapons (including nocked arrows) in the 500-foot no hunt buffer zone (shaded in red on the Refuge hunting map).
24. The sign below marks off the no hunting buffer (safety zone) on the refuge. Along with the signs, there is **purple blazing** on trees placed between the signs to help mark the safety zone boundary. Hunters are responsible for knowing where they are at all times in relation to hunting zones and refuge boundaries.



25. Below on the left is a sign with the National Wildlife Refuge System's blue goose symbol. That sign is used to mark the refuge's boundary. On the right, the "Area Beyond This Sign Closed," sign is a refuge sign that can only be ignored during the designated scouting days and hunting sessions.



REFUGE BOUNDARY SIGN



AREA CLOSED SIGN

Additional Prohibited Activities

- Littering
- Use of a spotlight or other artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant
- Driving or screwing a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or hunting from any tree in which such an object has been driven
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Use of ATVs and/or dirt bikes, or other non licensed vehicles
- Target practice
- Camping and campfires
- Overnight parking
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts
- Searching for or removing plants or animals other than deer from the refuge
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Pets are not permitted at anytime

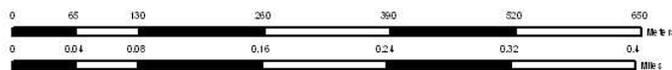
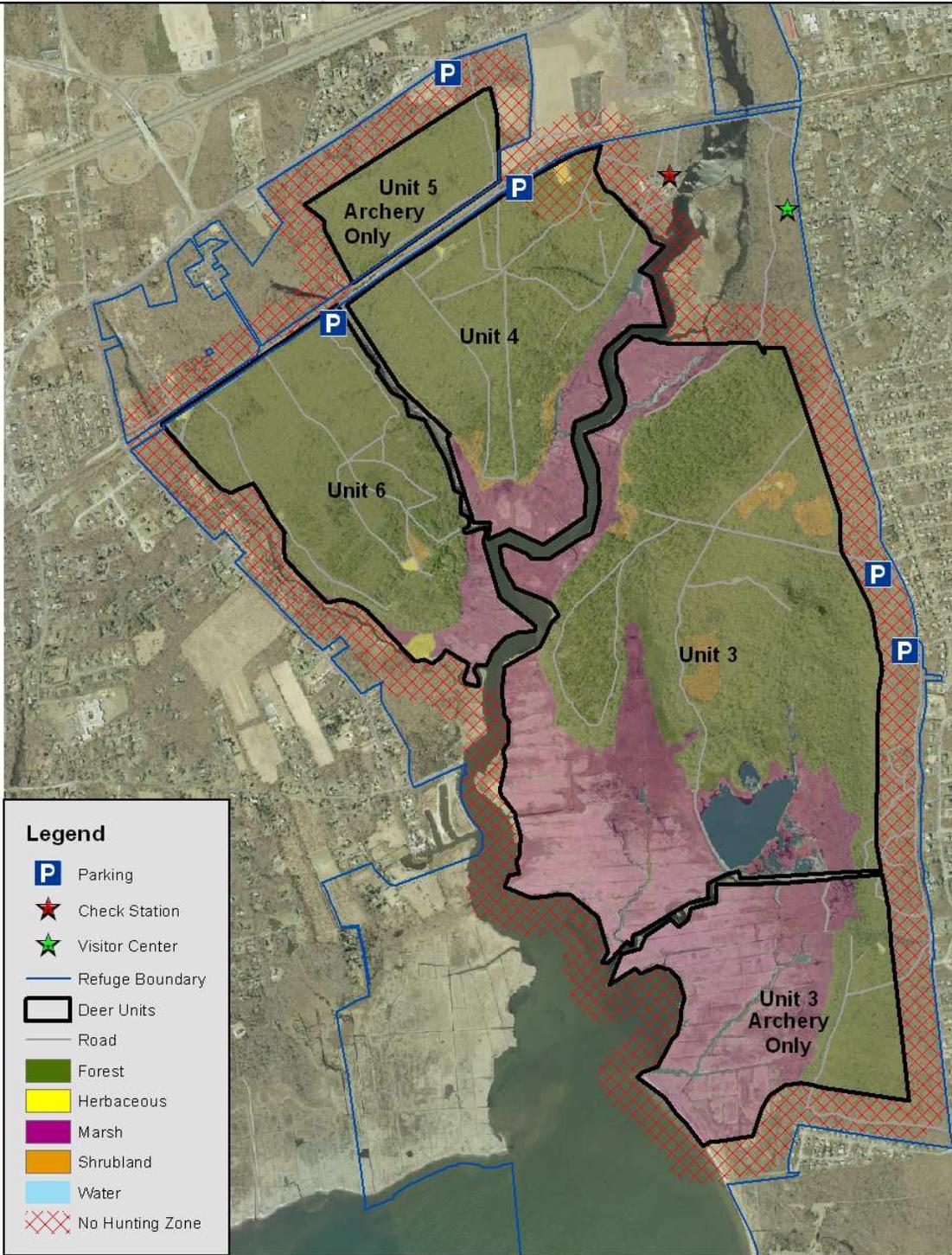
Remember, while hunting on the refuge, you are responsible for knowing and abiding by all State, Federal, and Refuge regulations. Know where you are at all times and respect private property. Violators may lose all future privileges to hunt on federal property throughout the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact the refuge office at 631-286-0485, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SUBMIT YOUR HUNT APPLICATION TO OUR ONLINE SYSTEM NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2014.



Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge



1 = 7,304

