

2016– 2017 Deer Hunting

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge



New for the 2016-2017 Hunt Season

(see Orientation Information for details)

- * Unsold Permits Available for Sale Post Lottery
- * Expanded Standby Program

Application Instructions

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

- Fill out name, address, phone number and email information neatly and completely. If you are selected to hunt on the refuge, the contact information on your application will be used to notify you, so please print legibly.
- Complete Hunter Orientation Exam Answer Sheet ONLY and attach it to your hunt application.**
- If you would like to apply as a pair, please write in “Paired with” followed by your hunting partner’s name in the top margin of your application. **BOTH** applicants in the pair must fill out all application materials individually (including the Application Exam and payment). **Paired applications must be submitted in the same envelope.** Applications received separately will not be paired.
- 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 that 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. The dates are as follows: Archery 1; October 14th-15th 2016, Archery 2; November 4th-5th, 2016, Archery 3; December 2nd-3rd, 2016, and Archery 4; December 17th 2016. **Please note that the hunt on December 17th is a 1-day hunt session.** During the lottery, you will be assigned to your preferred period if slots are available. Upon successful completion of your orientation exam, you will be eligible to participate in any archery session as a standby hunter.
- Please rank the hunt units in order of preference. During the lottery, you will be assigned to your preferred hunt unit if slots are available.
- Please rank the shotgun hunt periods in order of preference (1 - 2). The dates are as follows: Shotgun 1; January 12th-13th, 2017; and Shotgun 2; January 19th-20th, 2017. During the lottery, you will be assigned to your preferred period if slots are available. Upon successful

completion of your orientation exam, you will be eligible to participate in any shotgun session as a standby hunter.

- Please rank the hunt units in order of preference. During the lottery, you will be assigned to your preferred hunt unit if slots are available.
- The application fee is \$15.00 per application. This is an administrative fee that is non-refundable, even if you are not selected to hunt. Please include a check or money order payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with your application package.
- Applications must be postmarked or returned to the refuge by August 15, 2016. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Results of the drawing for hunt permits will be available on September 14, 2016.
- All applicants will be notified by mail 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.
- From August 30th through October 15th, hunters who did not apply during the summer application period may purchase hunting permits that were not filled during the lottery. These permits will be sold for \$20 on a first come, first serve basis and will be limited to one permit per hunter. Applicants must successfully pass the hunter orientation exam to be eligible for a permit. Applicants who failed the exam during the summer application period, will not be allowed to retake the test.

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

340 Smith Road (631) 286-0485
Shirley, NY 11967



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 2016-2017 HUNT SEASON

- * Unsold Permits Available for Sale, Post Lottery
- * Expanded Standby Program

Unsold Permits Available for Sale, Post Lottery

If you did not turn in your application package before August 15th, 2016, you may still be able to hunt. If the refuge is not able to fill all permits during the lottery, unsold permits will be made available for \$20 on a first come first serve basis. Applicants must fill out a hunt application and pass the written orientation exam to be eligible. Only one permit will be issued per person. If you already received a permit during the lottery, you may not purchase an additional permit. If you failed your orientation exam during the regular application period, you will not be allowed to retake the exam. Unsold permits will be made available from August 30th through October 15th. Please contact the refuge at the number listed below for questions about permit availability.

Expanded Standby Program

During the 2016-2017 hunting season, we will be expanding the pool of potential standby hunters. Hunters who submit their complete hunt application prior to August 15th, 2016, AND successfully pass the written orientation exam (90%), will be eligible to participate as a standby hunter for the hunt type(s) they have applied for (i.e. archery applicants may only hunt standby during archery sessions; shotgun applicants may only hunt standby during shotgun sessions). To avoid parking lot congestion during scouting days, only hunters selected for a hunt session will be allowed to scout.

Application Information

All hunters are required to complete the enclosed written orientation examination answer sheet and return it along with your hunt application to the refuge postmarked by **August 15, 2016**. The orientation exam can be taken only one time each year. 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 that answer at least 90% of the orientation exam questions correctly (50 out of 55) and are selected during the hunt lottery. **If you fail to score at least 90% on the written exam, or if you do not return your hunt orientation exam answer sheet, along with your hunt application,**

postmarked by August 15, 2016, your name will not be entered into the lottery to hunt on the refuge during the 2016 - 2017 deer season.

If you did not return your complete application package by August 15, 2016, you may still purchase a permit if there any unfilled permits following the lottery drawing. Permits will be available from August 30th through October 15th for a cost of \$20 on a first come, first serve basis (only one permit per applicant). If you failed your orientation exam during the regular application period, you will not be permitted to retake it.

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. Hunters who do not give proper notice will not be eligibility 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 approximately 2,550 acres along the Carmans River. Approximately 1,600 acres of the refuge provide habitat for white-tailed deer (the remainder is primarily open water, salt marsh, and buildings/roads). Currently the refuge 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 at 3:1.

The refuge seeks to offer a high quality hunting experience. Hunter numbers in the various units are low compared to many places on Long Island. For example, the refuge expects to have approximately one archer for every 40 acres.

General Information for 2016–2017 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, applicable phone numbers (Check Station: 631-316-3265; Refuge Law Enforcement; 631-365-4518) are 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 one 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 September 24th, October 29th, November 12th, and January 7th (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 on the vehicle dashboard). Hunters must hold a refuge hunting permit in order to scout. 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 harvested 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 foster opposition to deer hunting in the surrounding communities. The refuge encourages hunters to be respectful of the non-hunting public and be good ambassadors of their sport.

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 who applied for an archery permit and successfully passed the orientation exam (90%) will be eligible to participate as standby hunters during any of the archery sessions. All hunters who applied for a shotgun permit and successfully passed their orientation exam (90%) will be eligible to participate as standby hunters during any shotgun session. 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.

Regulations for 2016 – 2017 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 are not able to get it out of the woods before sunset, you must call the Refuge Check Station.
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 antlered deer tag.
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. Muzzle loaders are not permitted on the refuge.
 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

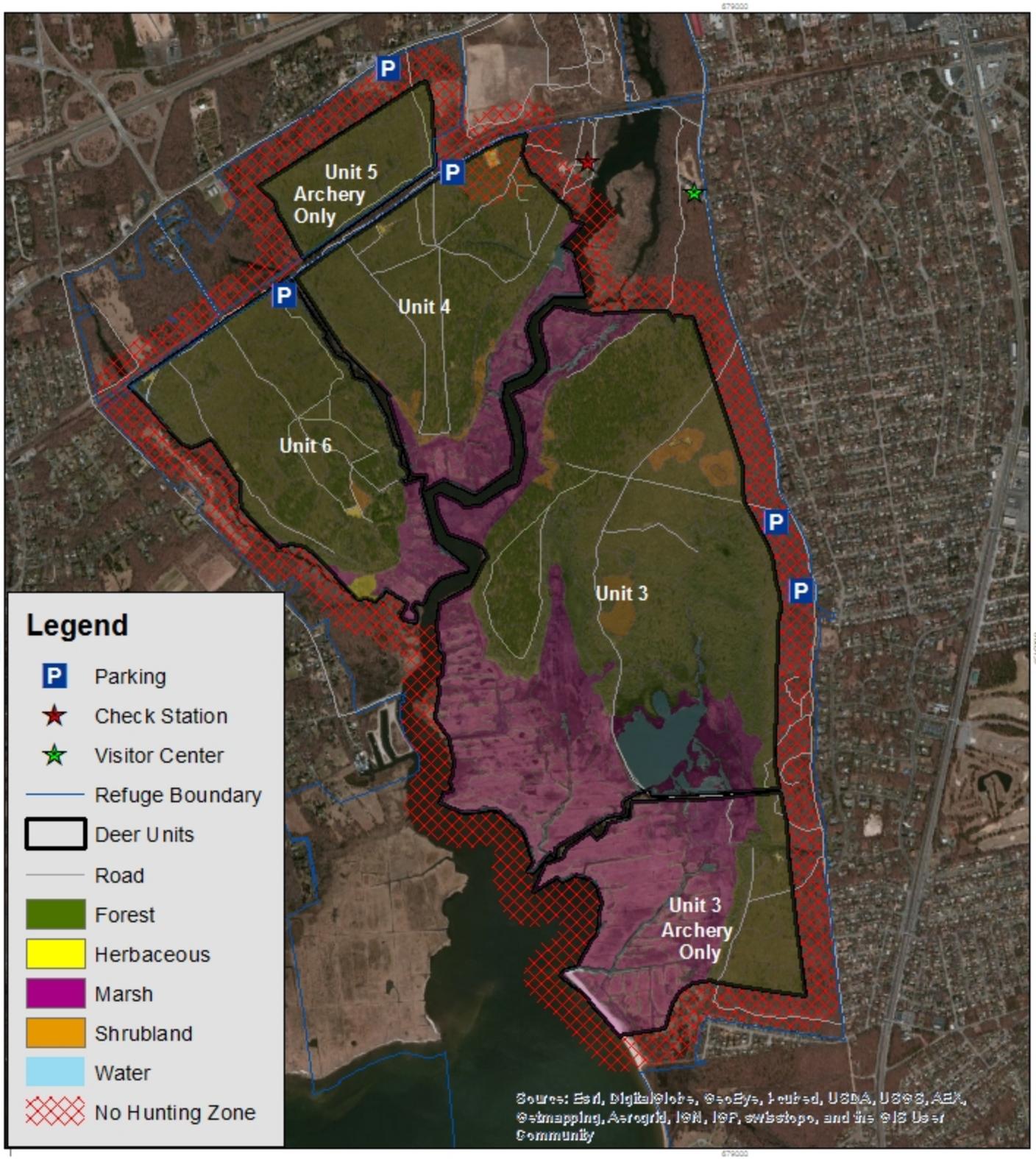
Remember, while hunting on the refuge, you are responsible for knowing and abiding by all State, Federal, and Refuge regulations. Know where you are at all times and respect private property. Violators may lose all future privileges to hunt on federal property throughout the United States.

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 NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2016.



Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- P Parking
- ★ Check Station
- ★ Visitor Center
- Refuge Boundary
- ▭ Deer Units
- Road
- Forest
- Herbaceous
- Marsh
- Shrubland
- Water
- ▨ No Hunting Zone

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, IGN, AerGRID, USDA, USGS, Aero, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



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