



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Deer Hunting

on the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge

November 22, 2013

Attention Hunters: Update on Opening Process

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge is in the process of opening to white-tailed deer hunting per New York State Hunting Regulations. The opening of all new nation-wide lands to hunting is collectively announced in a Final Rule, following a 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Rule (50 CFR Part 32, 2013-2014 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations). The Proposed Rule was issued on September 24, 2013 and the public comment period closed on October 24, 2013. The Service received more than 1,400 comments on proposed expansion of fishing and hunting opportunities throughout the Refuge System.

We now anticipate that the Final Rule will be published no sooner than mid-December. Given that archery season ends December 17, it will not be feasible to open the hunt in 2013. The refuge will open to hunting in 2014, and information regarding the sale of permits will be available in July or August. Interested hunters should visit the refuge website, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/shawangunk_grasslands/, or contact refuge staff directly at 973-702-7266 x 10.

We were hopeful that hunting at Shawangunk Grasslands NWR would be approved in time for a 2013 hunting season. We had no control over the timing of the rule's publication, but thank you for your understanding and your cooperation in this matter.

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1999, is located in the Hudson Valley of New York. Public hunting is permitted on 154 acres during specific times of the year. The hunting program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in cooperation with NY's Department of Environmental Conservation.