



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Deer Hunting

## *on the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge*

September 25, 2013

### *Attention Hunters: Update on Opening Process*

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge is in the process of opening to white-tailed deer hunting for the Fall 2013 season, 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 may be found online (link below). The public comment period will close on October 24, 2013, and we anticipate publication of the Final Rule no sooner than mid-November. *Until the Final Rule is issued, the refuge remains closed to hunting.*

We are dedicated to opening the refuge to hunting in 2013 and are working to issue permits at the earliest possible time. All 9 permits are spoken for and a wait list is in place. Interested hunters should contact refuge staff directly at 973-702-7266 x 10. Permits will be mailed as soon as the above-mentioned Final Rule is published. Refuge-specific regulations and maps will accompany the refuge hunting permit.

We are hopeful that hunting at Shawangunk Grasslands NWR will be approved with plenty of time left in the hunting season. However, we have no control over the timing of the rule's publication. Hunters should not expect any guarantees as to the timing in which permits can be issued. We thank you for your understanding and your cooperation in this matter.

To view the **Proposed Rule** issued September 24, 2013, copy and paste this link into your web browser:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/09/24/2013-21804/2013-2014-refuge-specific-hunting-and-sport-fishing-regulations>

To view a **news release** related to the announcement, copy and paste this link into your web browser:

<http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=51340BA9-D259-9083-423C36D667ED8111>

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Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1999, is located in the Hudson Valley of New York. Public hunting is permitted on more than 4,291,000 acres in New York 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.