U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Deer Hunting

on the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

General Information

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1990, is located along the Wallkill River in Sussex County, New Jersey and Orange County, New York. Public hunting is permitted on approximately 5,000 acres in New Jersey during specific times of the year. The hunting program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in cooperation with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Wallkill River, please take time to become familiar with the following regulations.

Hunting Regulations

The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting is permitted in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations and is subject to special regulations. Hunters should consult the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest.
The refuge deer seasons are **concurrent with the seasons administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife** (Regulation Set #5). **THE REFUGE IS NOT OPEN FOR SUNDAY HUNTING AND NOT OPEN FOR THE BEAR HUNT.**

Fall Bow	Six-day Firearm
Permit Shotgun (Zone #2)	Permit Bow (Zone #2)
Youth Day	Winter Bow
Permit Muzzleloader (Zone #2)	

Permits — While **hunting or scouting**, permittees **MUST** carry a valid NJ Hunting License, a valid NJ Deer Management **Zone 2** Permit (during permit seasons), a valid rifle permit (during muzzleloader season), and a valid Wallkill River NWR Deer Hunting Permit. Permits are not transferable. The Refuge Hunt Permit must be carried on the hunter's person and is not valid until signed.

Scouting — **Scouting is permitted August 31, 2013 - January 31, 2014**. Permittees scouting during the Permit Muzzleloader, Permit Shotgun, and Six-day Firearm seasons must wear 400 square inches of SOLID FLOURESCENT ORANGE on their head, chest and back.

Archery Only Area — **The refuge has added an archery only hunt area located on the refuge properties adjacent to Rt. 565 in Frankford Township. Please refer to the hunt map provided with the refuge hunt permit.**

Hunter Orange — Firearm hunters (shotgun and muzzleloader) 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. Requirements to hunt on a national wildlife refuge are double the amount required by New Jersey regulations.

Deer Drives — **All deer drives are prohibited.**

Bow Hunters — Bow hunters must wear a minimum of **400 square inches of SOLID FLOURESCENT ORANGE** clothing on their head, chest and back when Permit Muzzleloader, Permit Shotgun, and Six-day Firearm are concurrent with Permit Bow and Winter Bow seasons.

Tree stands — Only portable tree stands may be used.

Trail markers	All marking tape, reflective pins, or other materials used to mark trails must be removed at the end of the hunt day. The use of paint is prohibited.
Hours	Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than two hours before shooting time and leave no later than two hours after shooting hours. See the NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest for legal hunting hours.
Parking	**Hunters must park in designated refuge hunt parking areas only. Blocking gates, roads and buildings will result in a fine!**
Closed Areas	A No Hunting Area is located in the northern hunting zone including the Liberty Loop Trail. Hunting in this area is prohibited. See refuge hunt map for detailed location.
Nature Trails	Other outdoor enthusiasts may be using the Wood Duck Nature Trail and the Dagmar Dale Nature Trail and Timber Doodle Trail and Liberty Loop Trail during the hunting season. Extreme caution should be taken when hunting near the trails.
Report Your Harvest	Harvested deer must be reported to the State of NJ via phone or internet. Consult your state hunting license for details. Please remember to indicate you are hunting on **FEDERAL** land.
Disabled Hunters	A Special Hunting Restrictions Area ("Access for Disabled Hunters Only") exists at 119 Owens Station Road. 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.
Law enforcement	Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge or state law enforcement officers.

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Refuge hunting areas may change each year. Hunters are encouraged to read the hunt maps provided. Please respect adjacent landowners, **DO NOT TRESPASS!**

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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.
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven.
- Trimming or cutting vegetation.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Use of ATVs and/or dirt bikes.
- Target practice
- Camping and campfires
- Overnight parking
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Pets are not permitted at anytime.
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An Important Message

Our wildlife is a valuable resource. Laws and regulations are intended to protect them, while allowing for some consumptive use. Hunters are encouraged to report any violations they may encounter to a State or Federal employee. The future of hunting on the refuge requires responsible hunter behavior and compliance with regulations.

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Please visit our web site for more information: http://wallkillriver.fws.gov