HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS

From 90 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations)

Hunting Permit

Only persons possessing and carrying a current signed, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Hunting permit and the appropriate State hunting license(s) are authorized to hunt on the refuge. Permits and regulations are available from the refuge office during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday, closed on Holidays) or by mail (Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, 103 Headquarters Road, Baring, ME 04694).

To help maintain quality of hunts in the future, we ask that you annually complete a Harvest Report for each group of species hunted, and submit it by mail or in person at the refuge headquarters no later than 2 weeks after the close of the hunting season in March.

License Requirements

All hunters on Moosehorn NWR must follow the licensing guidelines set by the state of Maine. Hunters must be in possession of their refuge hunting permit and state hunting license at all times while hunting on the refuge.

Hours

We allow hunters to enter the refuge 2 hours before legal shooting hours, and they must exit the refuge by 1 hour past legal shooting hours, except for hunters pursuing raccoons and coyotes at night.

Tree Stands/Blinds

The construction and use of permanent structures is prohibited on refuge lands. Only temporary or portable stands, blinds or ladders may be used. Any tree stand left overnight must have the name, address, phone number, and hunting license number of the owner clearly printed on it. Migratory game bird hunters are required to remove all portable or temporary blinds and decoys from the refuge following each day’s hunt.

You must remove all tree stands, blinds, and ladders from the refuge on the last day of the muzzleloader deer season.

Trimming or cutting branches is prohibited. It is unlawful to drive a nail, spike, climbing screw, or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike, climbing screw, or other metal object has been driven.

Non toxic Shot

Hunters must use and possess only non-toxic shot while hunting migratory game birds and upland game.

Youth Hunting Days

We allow youth hunting during the state prescribed youth hunting days in accordance with state regulations and bag limits.

Baiting

Baiting or hunting over bait is prohibited on the refuge for all species, including coyotes and bears.

Blaze Orange Requirements

Hunters must follow the state hunter orange clothing requirements.

Camping and fires

Camping and overnight parking are prohibited. Fires are prohibited. Please remove litter from the refuge.

Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on refuge roads. Vehicles are permitted only on public roads and refuge access roads. Off road vehicles including ATVs are prohibited.

Wilderness Area

We prohibit motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment in designated Wilderness Areas. This includes all vehicles and items such as winches, pullers, and wheeled game carriages. Animals harvested within the Wilderness Areas MUST be removed by hand without the aid of mechanical equipment of any type.

Alcoholic Beverages

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Dogs

You must register with the refuge office prior to hunting black bear, bobcat, raccoon, or eastern coyote with trailing dogs.

Artificial Light

The use of spotlight or any other artificial light, including automotive headlights for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal is prohibited all year. *Except during night coyote hunting season with proper equipment and permits.

Closed Areas to ALL Hunting

HUNTING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: The South Magawaconnack Area, the North Magawaconnack Area, the Southern Gravel Pit, Cobcook Bay State Park, and the posted safety zone around the refuge headquarters. The boundary of this area starts where the Snowmobile trail intersects with the Charlotte Road. The boundary follows the southern edge of the field, across the abandoned Maine Central Railroad grade; it follows the snowmobile trail in a northerly direction to the Bain Meadow Road. It proceeds across Bain Meadow Road to the South Fire line, where it follows the South Fire line to the Headquarters Road. It follows the Headquarters Road in a southerly direction to the Two Mile Meadow Road. It follows the westerly side of the Two Mile Meadow Road to the intersection with the Mile Bridge Road. It then follows Mile Bridge Road to the intersection with the Hanson Pit Road, then along the Hanson Pit Road leaving the area in an easterly direction at the site of the old crossing, across the abandoned Maine Central Railroad grade to the Charlotte Road (directly across from the Moosehorn Ridge Road gate). The line follows the Charlotte Road in a northerly direction to the point of origin. The other No-Hunt Zones are designated on the Hunt Map.

WHERE, WHEN AND WHAT CAN YOU HUNT?

Black Bear, Bobcat, and Eastern Coyote

We allow hunting of black bear, bobcat, and Eastern coyote in accordance with State regulations and bag limits with the exception that all species, including coyotes, harvested on the Refuge, must be retrieved by the hunter. You must register with the refuge office prior to hunting black bear, bobcat, or coyote with trailing dogs. If you harvest a bear, bobcat, or coyote on the refuge you must notify the refuge office in person or by phone within 24 hours and make the animal available for inspection by refuge personnel.

When can you hunt black bear, bobcat, and coyote?

We allow bear hunting during the State Prescribed Season.

We allow bobcat hunting during the State Prescribed season.

We allow coyote hunting from Oct. 1 to March 31. We allow night hunting for coyotes during that part of the State season that falls between October 1 and March 31. A coyote night hunting permit is required, and hunters must be in possession of an electronic, handheld, or mouth operated calling device.

Where can you hunt black bear, bobcat, and coyote?

You may hunt bear west of Route 191 on the Baring Division during the deer firearms season.

You may hunt bear east of Route 191 on the Baring Division with a firearm during deer firearms season.

You may hunt bear east of Route 191 on the Baring Division with a firearm during deer archery season.

You may hunt coyote east of Route 191 on the Baring Division during the deer muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader only.

You may hunt bobcat and coyote on the Edmunds Division.

You may hunt coyote east of Route 191 on the Baring Division during the deer muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader only.

You may hunt bobcat and coyote on that part of the Baring Division that lies west of State Route 191.

See “Closed Areas” section areas that are closed to hunting.

White-Tailed Deer

We allow hunting white-tailed deer in accordance with State regulations, seasons, and bag limits. If you harvest a deer on the refuge you must notify the refuge office in person or by phone within 24 hours and make the animal available for inspection by refuge personnel.

When can you hunt Deer?

You may hunt both the Baring and Edmunds Divisions in accordance to the State prescribed Deer season.

You may hunt Deer west of Route 191 on the Baring and Edmunds Divisions of Moosehorn NWR in accordance to the State prescribed season. See “Closed Areas” section for areas that are closed to hunting.

Moose

You must have a valid moose permit for the appropriate Wildlife Management District to hunt moose. If you harvest a moose on the refuge, you must notify the refuge office in person or by phone within 24 hours and make the animal available for inspection by refuge personnel.

When can you hunt moose?

You may hunt moose in the Baring and Edmunds Divisions in accordance with the State prescribed moose season.

Where can you hunt moose?

You can hunt moose on the Edmunds Division and the part of the Baring Division that lies west of State Route 191. See “Closed Areas” section for closed hunting areas.

Snowmobiles

We allow hunting of ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, red fox, gray and red squirrel, raccoon, skunk, and woodchuck in accordance with State regulations and bag limits. You must register with the refuge office prior to hunting ruffed grouse or raccoon or fox with trailing dogs. Hunters must use and possess only non-toxic shot while hunting upland game.

When can you hunt Upland Game?

We allow hunting of above mentioned upland game during the State Prescribed seasons; however, we prohibit hunting on refuge lands from April 1 through September 20.

Where can you hunt?

You may hunt on designated areas of the Edmunds Division and that part of the Baring Division that lies west of State Route 191. See “Closed Areas” section for closed hunting areas.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting

We allow hunting of ducks, goose, American woodcock, and Wilson’s snipe in accordance to the State and Federal regulations and bag limits. See also – “Non-Toxic Shot” section.

When can you hunt Migratory Game Birds?

During the state prescribed seasons.

When can you hunt Migratory Game Birds?

You may hunt American woodcock and Wilson’s snipe on the Edmunds Division and that part of the Baring Division that lies west of State Route 191.

We prohibit waterfowl hunting in the Nat Smith Field and Marsh and Bill’s Hill Field and Ponds on the Edmunds Division.

See “Closed Areas” section for closed hunting areas.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Sign control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs.

This sign designates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.

This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public.