HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS
Taken From 40 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).

You must 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. If you do not comply with this requirement, we may suspend your future hunting privileges on Moosehorn NWR.

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. Legal hunting hours follow state regulations.

Tree Stands/Blinds
The construction or use of permanent structures is prohibited on refuge lands. Only temporary or portable stands, blinds, or ladders may be used. Any tree stand built over 40 feet above the ground must have a name, address, phone number, and hunting license number of the owner clearly painted on it. Migratory game blind 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 ATV’s are prohibited.

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

Alcohol 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, racoon, or eastern coyote with trailing dogs.

Artificial Light
The use of a 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 Magunawegowk Area, the North Magunawegowk Area, the Southern Gravel Pit, Cobcook Bay State Park, and the posted safety zone around the refuge headquarters. The boundaries 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. Any tree stand built over 40 feet above the ground must have a name, address, phone number, and hunting license number of the owner clearly painted on it. Migratory game blind hunters are required to remove all portable or temporary blinds and decoys from the refuge following each day’s hunt.

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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 you can 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, including night hunting. When night hunting coyotes, a state-issued night hunting permit is required, and hunters must be in possession of an electronic, hand held, or mouth operated calling device.

Upland Game
We allow hunting of ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, red fox, gray and red squirrel, raccoon, skunk, and woodcock in accordance with State regulations and bag limits. You must register with the refuge office prior to hunting ruffed grouse or red 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 season, however, we prohibit hunting upland game on refuge lands from April 1 through September 27.

Where can you hunt?
You may hunt on 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, geese, American woodcock, and Wilson’s snipe in accordance to the State and Federal regulations and bag limits. See also “Non-Toxic Shot” sections.

When can you hunt Migratory Game Birds?
During the state prescribed seasons.

Where 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.

• You may hunt waterfowl (ducks and geese) in that part of the Edmunds Division that lies north of Hobart Stream and west of U.S. Route 1, and in those areas east of U.S. Route 1, and refuge lands that lie south of South Trail, and in that portion 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, including hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, controlled recreation activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs.

This sign delineates 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.

This sign delineates the wilderness boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses in accordance with refuge regulations. This is a sensitive area set aside to protect and preserve its natural conditions and which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the impact of man’s work negligible.