

John H. Chafee *National Wildlife Refuge*

Hunting Safety Setbacks for 2020 - 2021

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opened hunting opportunities at John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) beginning in September 2020.

Approximately 547 acres (less safety setbacks) are open to hunting of migratory birds (geese, ducks, coot, and mergansers), white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox, with some season and weapon restrictions. State safety regulations apply. Refuge safety setbacks for each hunt unit are shown in Figures 1a - 1d. On National Wildlife Refuge lands, no hunting is allowed within hunt safety zones. **Hunters may not discharge weapons into, from, or within a hunt safety zone.** Safety zones for archery hunting include areas within 200 feet of a dwelling. For firearms, all areas within 500 feet of a dwelling. Hunters may pass through safety zones on their way to hunt unit, but must not have arrows knocked or firearms loaded within safety zones. Some, but not all safety zones are marked in the field. It is the hunter's responsibility to know where safety zones are located.



Details of the 2020 – 2021 Hunting Season:

- Migratory bird hunting rules match State regulations on the following hunting units: Foddering Farms, Middlebridge, Sedge Island, Starr Drive, and Stedman (September – January).
- ARCHERY only hunting for white-tailed deer match State regulations on all hunt units. Deer hunters may take fox and coyote during the deer season (September – January).
- Fall archery hunting for wild turkey match State regulations in all hunt units (October). As a permit, hunters must download, sign, and carry a refuge hunting brochure for each season to serve as written permission to access refuge units for hunting.

Safety measures employed:

- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a hunter education course;
- All archery hunters for deer, turkey, coyote, and fox must have a State archery proficiency certification;
- No discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling, and no discharge from or across a road;
- No discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling;
- Aerial maps of hunt unit boundaries and safety setbacks are provided below to hunters to aid in navigation, no hunting in safety zones;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons with news releases, and website/Facebook postings;
- The hunting and fishing program will be monitored and adjustments made as deemed necessary.

Figure 1a. Middlebridge Unit Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge

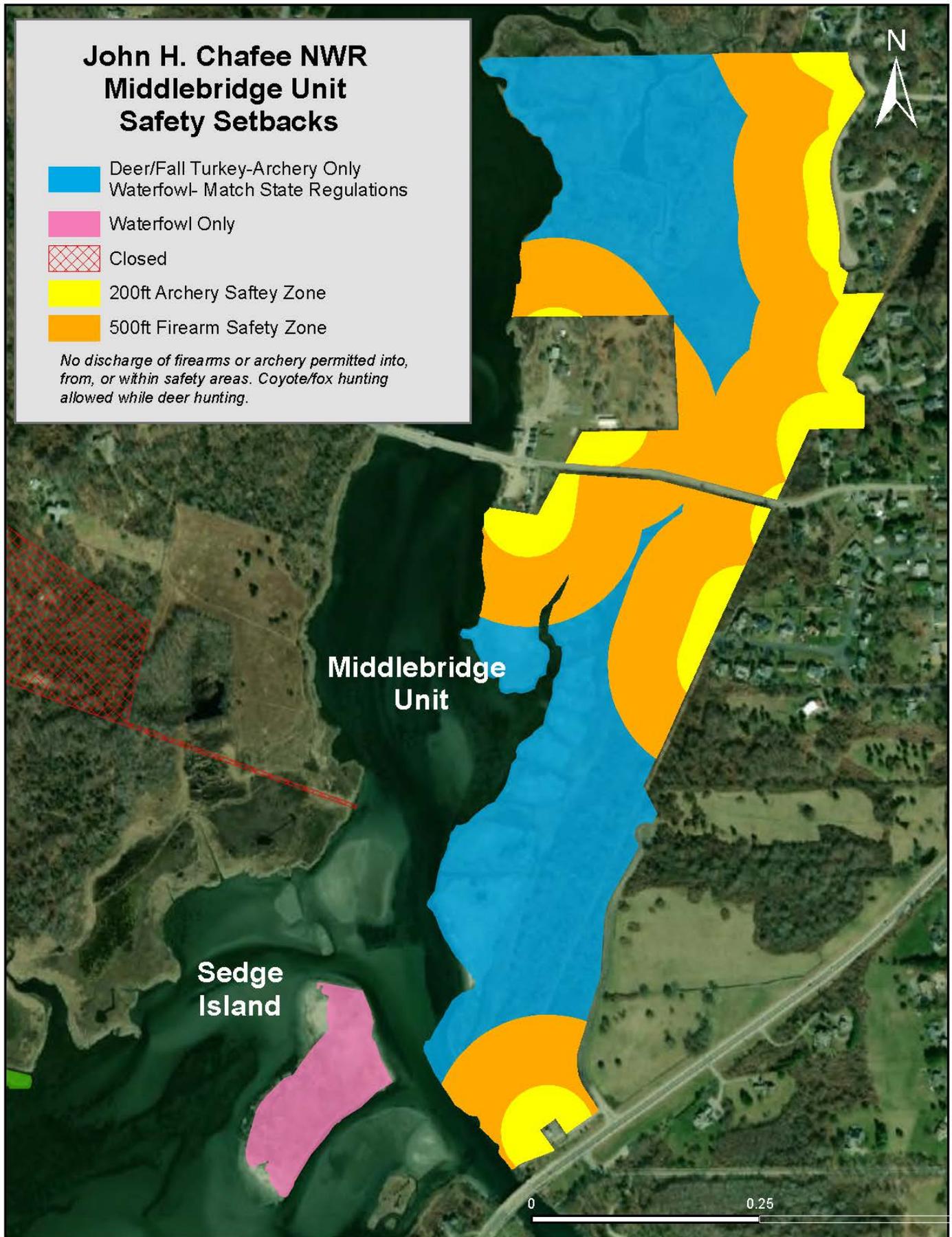
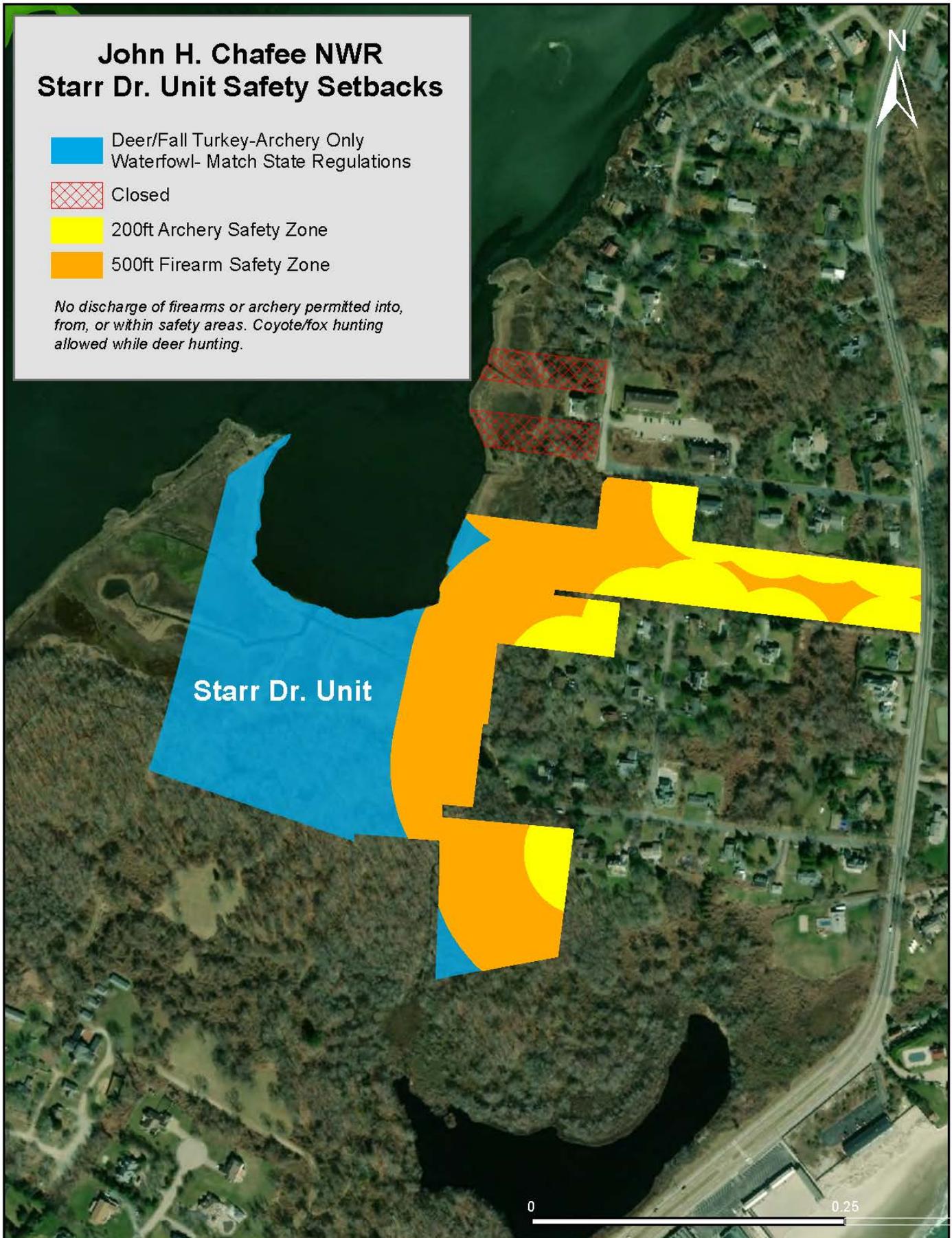
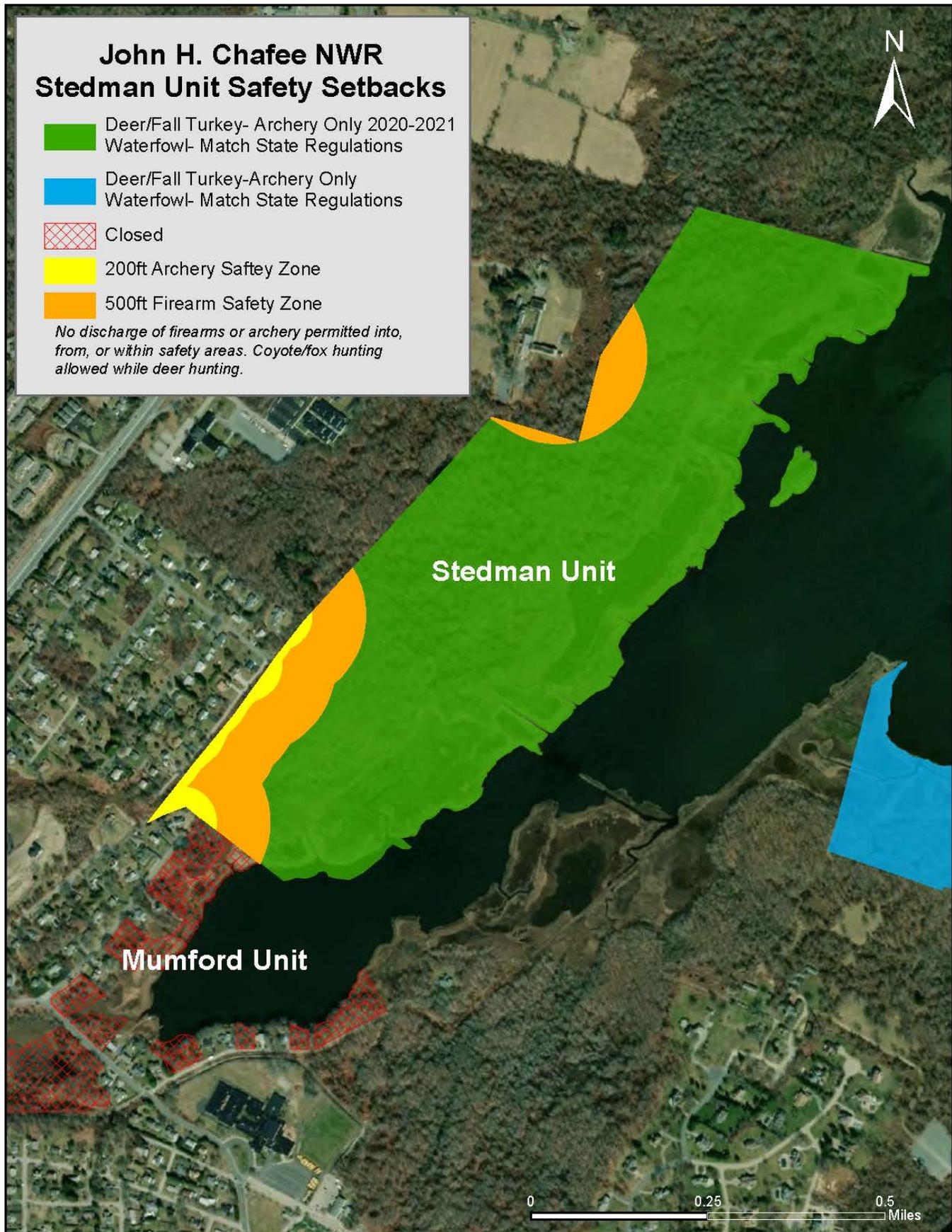


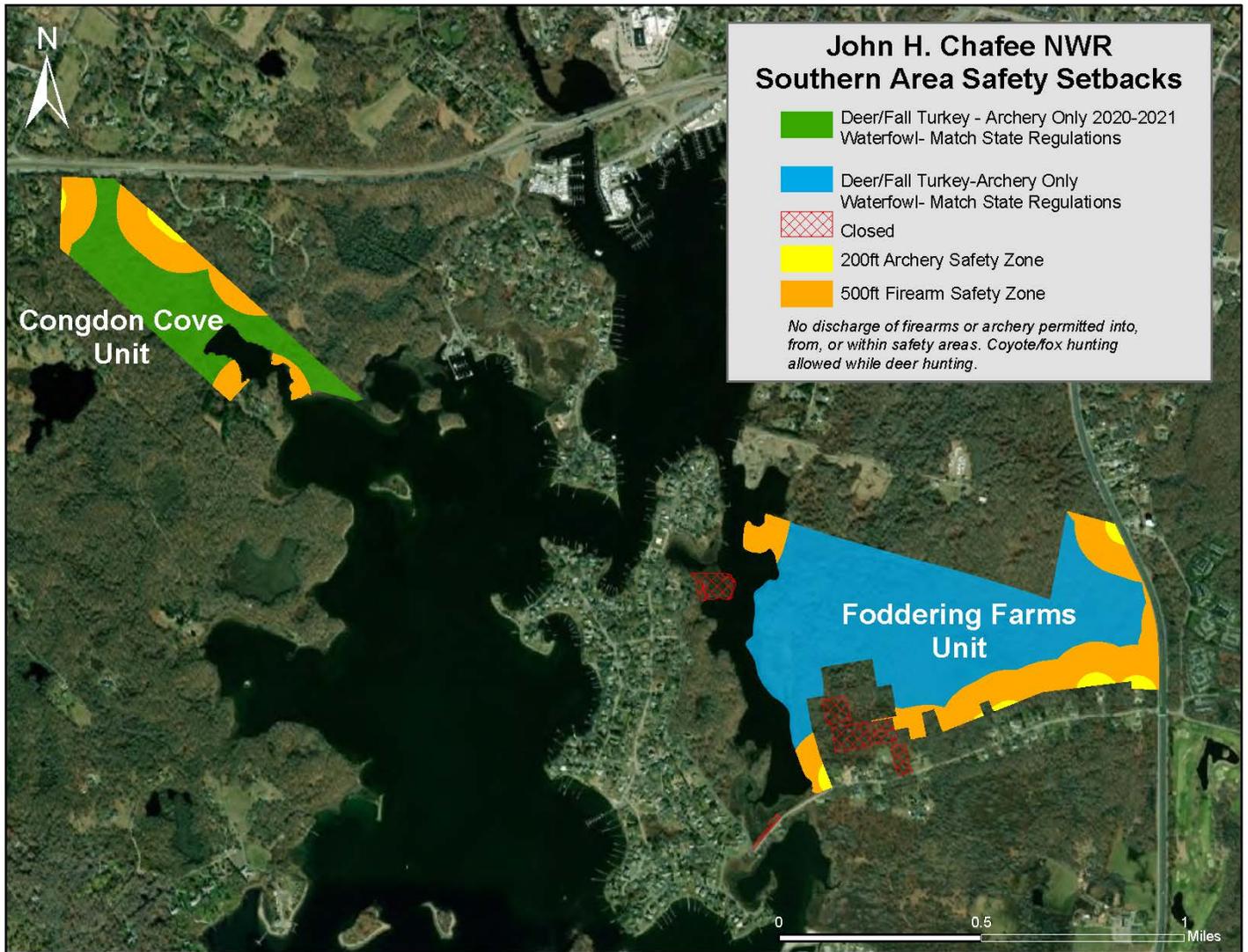
Figure 1b. Starr Drive Unit Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge



Figures 1c. Stedman Unit Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge. Archery only hunting in 2020-2021, except waterfowl hunting.



Figures 1d. Congdon Cove and Foddering Farms Units Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge. Archery only hunting in 2020-2021, except waterfowl hunting.



Please call the refuge if you have any questions 401-364-9124.

