Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Plan

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open limited hunting opportunities at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) beginning in 2022 or 2023. Currently there are no hunting opportunities available. Current fishing opportunities remain available. Anglers may saltwater fish from designated refuge shorelines in accordance with State fishing regulations, with the exception of Sachuest Beach which is closed between April 1 and September 15 to protect nesting shorebirds. Night-time fishing at the refuge is allowed by refuge permit. No fishing is allowed in the Maidford salt marsh.

Approximately 150 acres of refuge land is open to supervised, limited white-tailed deer, coyote and fox hunting (see Figure 1). The refuge is not open to hunting by the general public. Mentored hunting opportunities are available to groups who might otherwise not have an opportunity to gain this experience, such as youth, veterans, hunters with disabilities, and similar groups. All State safety regulations apply.

Details of the plan:
- Mentored hunting opportunities (only) targeting interested users who may not otherwise have the opportunity experience this recreational pursuit.
- Hunts are conducted on a limited basis, in coordination with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), and other partners.
- Deer hunters allowed to take coyote and fox during the deer hunts.
- The method of take is limited to archery only.
- The hunt occurs over a short time frame (3 to 5 days) in any given year, with up to eight hunters.
- The hunt is not offered every year.
- The refuge is closed to all other activities during the mentored hunting opportunity.

Changes from the Draft Plan:
- Hunt Unit acreage reduced to exclude areas near beaches and the salt marsh (from 227 ac. to 150 ac.)
- The method of take changed from firearms to archery only.

Safety measures employed:
- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a hunter education course;
- All hunters will be supervised by licensed and experienced hunters;
- The number of hunters and number of hunting days is limited;
- No hunting allowed near town beaches, on the landfill cap, or in the salt marsh;
- The method of take is limited to archery only;
- Refuge is closed to all other uses during the hunting period;
- Public will be notified via news releases, website/Facebook postings, signage, postings on trailhead notice boards, and information in the visitor center when hunting will occur and when the refuge will be temporarily closed;
- The hunting program will be monitored and adjustments made as deemed necessary.
The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is “to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” (Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997).