Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Plan

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide additional hunting opportunities at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) beginning in 2021. Currently there are goose and dove hunting opportunities at Field 1 in coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) as part of the South Shore Management Area (Figure 1). Saltwater fishing opportunities are available in designated areas from September 16 through March 31. The Trustom Pond water body is closed to fishing.

Approximately 358 acres (less safety setbacks) of refuge land are open to white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote and fox hunting. Hunting is by refuge permit only, with season and weapon restrictions. Field 1 hunting opportunities now include the harvest of ducks, mergansers, and coot. No hunting on the Trustom Pond water body is allowed. State safety regulations apply, including safety setbacks (Figure 2).

Details of the plan:

- Trustom Pond and Cards Pond hunting units are open to archery only white-tailed deer and fall wild turkey hunting. Seasons will generally match the State archery seasons for deer (September – January) and wild turkey (October).
- Hunters are allowed to take fox and coyote during the deer and fall turkey seasons.
- Refuge permits are available on-line, cost no more than $20 for each species (deer and turkey), and are limited. Up to 35 deer permits and 35 turkey permits may be issued annually.
- Field 1 is open to goose, duck, coot, merganser, and mourning dove hunting (September – January).
- No hunting or fishing allowed on the Trustom Pond water body.
- Refuge trails remain open to wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation during the hunting season. Wearing blaze orange clothing during the hunting season recommended.

Safety measures employed:
- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a hunter education course;
- All hunters for deer, turkey, coyote and fox must have an archery proficiency certification;
- The number of hunters is limited by a permit system;
- No discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling or within 100 feet of a public trail;
- Hunters will be provided maps of safety setbacks and hunt unit boundaries to aid in navigation;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons through news releases, website and Facebook postings, signage on refuge trailhead notice boards, and information available at the Contact Station;
- Refuge visitors recommended to wear blaze orange clothing during hunting season;
- The hunting and fishing program will be monitored and adjustments made as deemed necessary.
The Rhode Island NWR Complex Hunting and Fishing Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Compatibility Determinations are available for download at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Trustom_Pond/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Trustom_Pond/). No changes were made from the draft to the final plan.

Figure 1. Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Units.
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).