

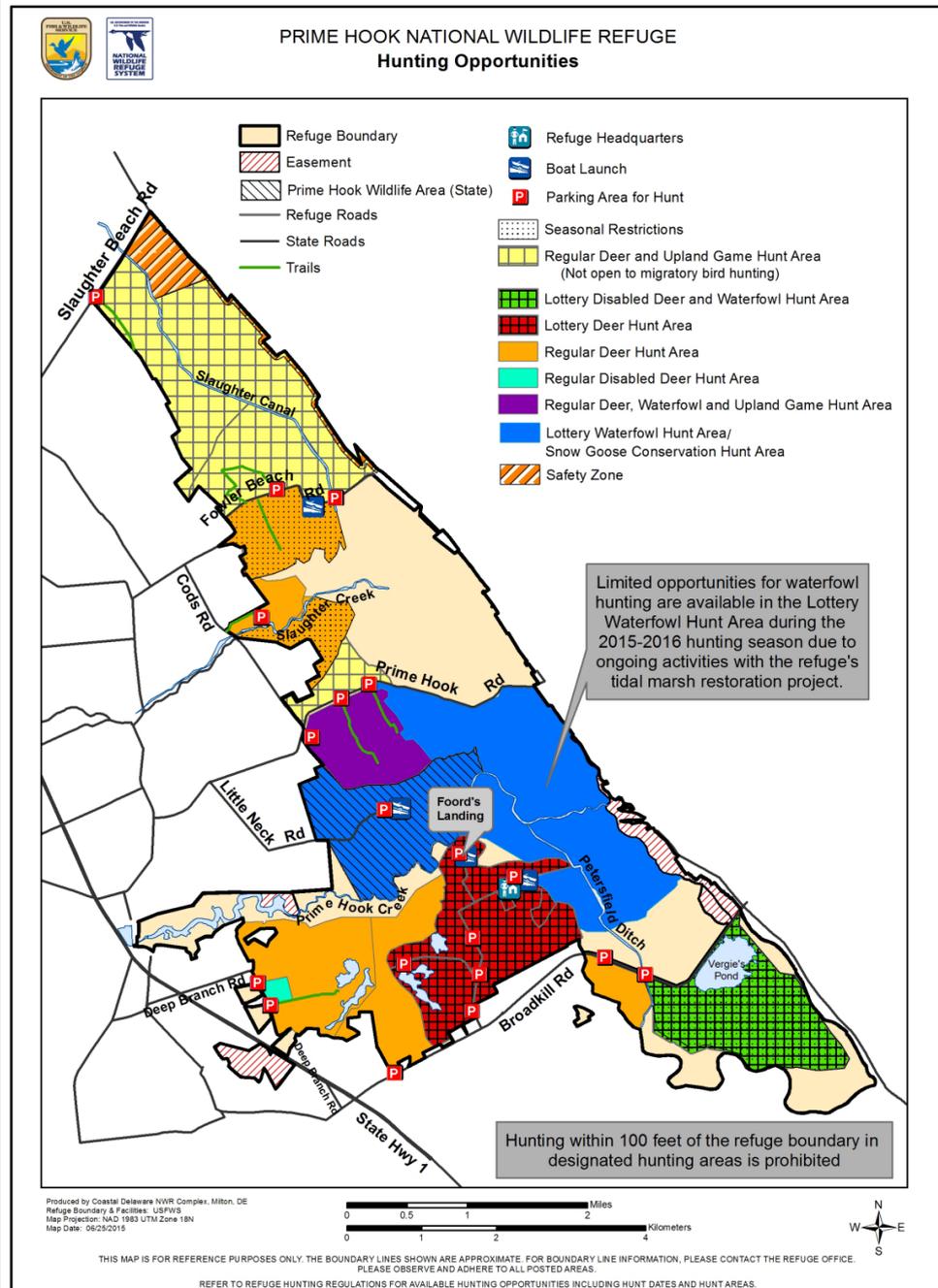
hunter certification card to hunt the disabled hunting area.

We allow up to two individuals assisting a disabled hunter to hunt waterfowl with the disabled hunter. All hunters must hunt from a government administered blind. Only 3 individuals are allowed per blind site.

Snow Goose Conservation Area
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Unless otherwise announced, snow goose hunting in the Snow Goose Conservation Hunt Area will be closed for the 2015-2016 hunting season for the same reasons listed for the Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area. If opened to hunting, the procedures and regulations listed below for the Snow Goose Conservation Hunt Area would then apply.

Unit 3 of the refuge, excluding upland areas, is open to hunting during the snow goose conservation order starting on February 1, 2016, until further notice, within state and federal guidelines.

Hunters must access the Snow Goose Conservation Hunt Area by boat at designated launching sites.



Prime Hook NWR Hunt					
Hunt Area	General Hunting Permit (Free)	Annual Lottery Hunting Permit (\$10 annual)	Daily Lottery Hunting Permit(s) (Free with Purchase of Annual Lottery Hunting Permit)	Hunt Dates	Scout Dates
A processing fee of \$2.50 is charged to obtain the Prime Hook Annual Lottery Hunting Permit and to obtain each Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit.					
Regular Deer Hunt Area	✓			Sept. 1 – Jan. 30; Youth-Nov. 7; Closed for October Antlerless & January Handgun Seasons	Aug. 18 – Jan. 30
Lottery Deer Hunt Area	✓	✓	✓	Nov. 21 & Jan. 16	Nov. 15 & Jan. 10
Lottery Disabled Deer Hunt Area	✓	✓	✓	Oct. 10 Nov. 7 (Non-Amb. Only) Nov. 13, 14, & 21	Oct. 4; Nov. 1; Nov. 8
Regular Disabled Deer Hunt Area	✓			Same as Regular Deer Hunt Area	Same as Regular Deer Hunt Area
Regular Waterfowl Hunt Area	✓			Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. during State Duck Seasons; Youth-Oct.17 & Feb.6; Closed for September Teal & Resident Canada Goose Seasons	Oct. 11; Nov. 8; Dec. 6
Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area (includes state + federal blinds)	✓		✓	Same as Regular Waterfowl Hunt Area; Except Refuge Blinds Sites Closed on 1/16/2016 Due to HQ Deer Hunt	None
Lottery Disabled Waterfowl Hunt Area	✓	✓	✓	Same as Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area	Same as Regular Waterfowl Hunt Area
Upland Game Hunt Area	✓			State Hunting Seasons; Closed for December Antlerless & January Shotgun Deer Seasons	State Hunting Seasons; Closed for December Antlerless & January Shotgun Deer Seasons
Snow Goose Conservation Hunt Area	✓			February 1, 2016 until further notice	None

Note¹: Limited opportunities for waterfowl hunting in the Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area are available during the 2015-2016 hunting season due to anticipated channel dredging operations in this area as part of the refuge's tidal marsh restoration project. Refer to Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area section for more information.

Note²: For the lottery waterfowl hunt area, the Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit fee has been waived for the 2015-2016 hunting season only.

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge
 11978 Turtle Pond Road
 Milton, DE 19968
 302/684 8419
 302/684 8504 FAX
 E-mail: FW5RW_PHNWR@fws.gov
 www.fws.gov/refuge/prime_hook/

Federal Relay Service
 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
 1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 1 800/344 WILD
 http://www.fws.gov

July 2015



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations 2015-2016

2015-2016 General Hunting Permit Prime Hook NWR

Name: _____

The signing of this brochure validates it as your Prime Hook General Hunting Permit and must be in your possession while participating in authorized refuge hunts. Expires June 30, 2016

NOTE: You must obtain, and carry on your person hard, signed copies of this permit and any additional permits for lottery waterfowl and big game hunts.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and agree to abide by the regulations governing the refuge.

Hunter's signature: _____
 (permits are not transferable)

Date signed _____

General Refuge Hunting Regulations

All hunters must have a refuge hunting permit and government-issued picture ID. This brochure serves as the Prime Hook General Hunting Permit when signed and in your possession. Permits are non-transferable. A Prime Hook Annual Lottery Hunting Permit and a Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit are required for all hunters hunting in lottery hunts. These permits can be revoked at any time at the discretion of the refuge manager or their representative.

Hunting in violation of any Delaware State law is a violation of refuge hunting regulations.

Hunters and assistants must display for inspection all permits, game, equipment, weapons, and ammunition, to Federal and State enforcement officers.

All hunting stands, boats, blinds, decoys, personal property and trash must be removed at the end of every day.

Hunters may not be on the refuge earlier than two hours before the legal morning shooting time.

Hunting and scouting are only allowed on designated days as shown in the table in this brochure. You must have a Prime Hook General Hunting Permit on your person to scout.

All boaters are required to operate their craft and possess all safety equipment in accordance with Delaware State and U.S. Coast Guard regulations during refuge hunts. The maximum horsepower allowed for boat motors is 30 HP. The Slaughter Canal and Headquarters' Canal are slow, no wake zones. Designated launching sites must be used to launch boats.

To carry a firearm/bow, all hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed adult hunter (18 years or older) who has the lawful right to hunt. "Accompanied and directly supervised" means the adult is within 5 feet of, maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the youth hunter.

All hunters must submit harvest information to the refuge. Hunters who do not complete their harvest information report in the specified time period will have their hunting privileges revoked, at the refuge manager's discretion.

- All hunters in a lottery hunt area must complete a harvest information report to the refuge through the on-line system operated by the vendor (Kinsail) at www.primehookpermits.com on the day in which the hunt occurred.

- All hunters in a non-lottery hunt area must complete a harvest information report(s) at the end of the hunting season and submit them to the refuge by mail 11978 Turkle

Pond Road, Milton, DE 19968, email fw5rw_phnwr@fws.gov, or fax 302/684 8504. Harvest information reports are available on the refuge's website or at the refuge office.

The following activities are prohibited on the refuge:

- Firearm possession in any federal building

- Practice or target shooting

- Commercial hunting or guiding

- Distribution of bait or hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals and other feed

- Building or maintaining any structure

- The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter

- Camping and fires

- Dog training

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances

- Littering

- All public entry in designated safety zones

- Boat access to Slaughter Creek

- Hunting in designated no hunting zones

- Cutting or damaging vegetation for any purpose

- The use of air-thrust or inboard water-thrust boats on refuge waters

- Motor vehicle use outside of designated routes and parking areas

Upland Game Hunting

Hunting of squirrel is prohibited.

Hunting of fox, rabbit, quail, pheasant, mourning dove, snipe, and woodcock is permitted on designated areas of the refuge within federal and state guidelines subject to the following conditions:

Hunting of upland game is closed during the December Antlerless and January Shotgun deer hunting seasons.

Mourning dove, snipe, and woodcock hunting is prohibited in the upland game area north of Prime Hook Road and in the upland game area between Slaughter Beach Road and Fowler Beach Road.

Hunters must be out of the hunting area one half hour after the legal evening shooting time.

The use of dogs is permitted to locate, point and retrieve while hunting upland game and webless migratory birds.

Red fox hunting is only allowed while concurrently hunting deer in areas and seasons open to deer hunting. Hunting fox by chase is prohibited. Rimfire or centerfire rifles are prohibited.

We prohibit the use or possession of toxic shot for hunting with the following exception: while hunting red fox concurrently with deer we allow the use of ammunition approved for deer hunting in accordance with state and refuge regulations.

Deer Hunting

We allow archery and firearm hunting of white-tailed deer on designated areas of the refuge during all the state's hunting season except the October antlerless and January handgun season, subject to the following conditions:

Existing government administered deer stands are available until deemed unsafe. Two individuals are permitted to be in one government administered deer stand only when accompanying a youth hunter under the age of 16 or accompanying a hunter with a disability.

You must exit the refuge by one and one-half hours after the legal evening shooting time.

The use or possession of buckshot while hunting is prohibited.

Driving or pushing of deer is prohibited.

Hunter orange must be solid colored to satisfy state hunter orange requirements on the refuge.

Sections of the Regular Deer Hunt Area north of Prime Hook Road and south of Fowler Beach Road are closed to all hunting and scouting beginning on the Monday before Thanksgiving.

A youth deer hunt will take place on November 7 on a first-come, first-serve basis in accordance with State of Delaware requirements. Areas open to hunting include the Regular Deer Hunt Area and Regular Disabled Deer Hunt Area. Only a Prime Hook General Hunting Permit is needed for this hunt. Harvest information reports must be submitted to the refuge no later than the end of the hunting season by mail, email, or fax (see General Refuge Hunting Regulations under non-lottery hunt area). Please call the refuge at 302/684 8419 about hunting opportunities for youth, non-ambulatory hunters.

Lottery Deer Hunt Area

You must be at least 16 years old to enter into the preseason lottery drawing and to obtain the Prime Hook Annual Lottery Hunting Permit and the Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit.

Permits will be issued in 4 zones in the Lottery Deer Hunt Area.

Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permits are available through a preseason lottery drawing and/or throughout the season for vacancies via the on-line system operated by the vendor (Kinsail) at www.primehookpermits.com or by telephone at 703/994 4194. Hunters may claim only one Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit per day for any vacancies following the preseason lottery drawing (i.e. only one transaction per day).

All permitted hunters in the Lottery Deer Hunt Area must sign out via the on-line system operated by the vendor (Kinsail) at www.primehookpermits.com immediately following their hunt and complete the harvest information report. Any lottery permitted hunter who is not able to hunt ("no-show") on their permitted date must relinquish their selection by signing out online on or before the hunt day. No refunds. Hunters who have more than (3) no-shows or who do not complete their harvest information report will have their hunting privileges revoked, at the refuge manager's discretion.

The one-time application fee for the preseason lottery drawing is \$5. The one-time Prime Hook Annual Lottery Hunting Permit fee for the lottery deer and waterfowl hunt areas is \$10. A processing fee of \$2.50 is charged to obtain the Prime Hook Annual Lottery Hunting Permit and to obtain each Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit.

Vehicles are only permitted into the hunt area through the entrance gate on Turkle Pond Road 2 hours before the morning legal shooting time and between 2:00-2:30pm. The gate will be manned by a refuge representative.

An adult hunter (18 years or older) who possesses a Prime Hook Daily Lottery Permit for deer may accompany and directly supervise only (1) hunting or non-hunting youth under the age of 16. Both the permit holder and youth hunter may hunt. "Accompanied and directly supervised" means the adult is within 5 feet of, maintains close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the youth hunter.

Tree stands may be pre-installed during the scouting days. All regulations regarding stands and blinds apply. We require

hunters to mark in plain sight any tree stands or blinds left unattended on refuge property with your Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit number, name, and year. The refuge will not be held responsible for damage, theft, or other hunter occupancy. Any property left in the Lottery Deer Hunt Area after the hunt date will be seized and fines issued.

Regular Disabled Deer Hunt Area & Lottery Disabled Deer Hunt Area

Only hunters with disabilities may hunt in the Lottery Disabled Deer Hunt Area and Regular Disabled Deer Hunt Area.

Wheelchair accessible blinds are available in the Lottery Disabled Deer Hunt Area and are issued with the same fees and in the same manner as the Lottery Deer Hunt Area, including regulations about signing-out, completing harvest reports, no-shows, and accompanying youth. Stands located in the Regular Disabled Deer Hunt Area are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Non-ambulatory hunters will be given first priority for blind selection in the Lottery Disabled Deer Hunt Area. All disabled hunters must obtain an Interagency Access Passport and State of Delaware-issued disabled hunter certification card to hunt any disabled hunting area.

Hunters with disabilities are required to have an assistant in all disabled hunting areas, and must hunt from a government administered blind.

Te Lottery Disabled Deer Hunt Area is closed to hunting following the November shotgun season.

Waterfowl Hunting

We allow hunting of waterfowl and coot four days per week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday) on designated areas of the refuge during all of the state's hunting seasons except the resident Canada goose and September teal seasons, subject to the following conditions:

Hunting must stop at 3:00pm in all hunting areas. All hunters and assistants must exit the hunting areas by 4:00pm.

The use of dogs is permitted to locate, point, and retrieve while hunting waterfowl.

The use or possession of toxic shot for migratory bird hunting is prohibited.

A youth duck hunt will take place on October 17 and February 6 in accordance with State of Delaware requirements. Adults may not hunt. The Regular Waterfowl Hunt Area is open to hunting on a first-come, first serve basis and only a Prime Hook General Hunting Permit is

needed. For the youth hunts, the Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area (state blinds & selected federal blinds) and Lottery Disabled Waterfowl Hunt Area are open to hunting and permits are issued through a morning, hunter-facilitated lottery drawing (See Lottery Waterfowl Hunting section for more information). For the Regular Waterfowl Hunt Area, harvest information reports must be submitted to the refuge no later than the end of the hunting season by mail, email, or fax (see General Refuge Hunting Regulations under non-lottery hunt area).

Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area

(includes blinds on the federal refuge and the state-owned Prime Hook Wildlife Area)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: For the Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area, all regulations apply in this brochure with the following exceptions:

Unless otherwise announced, blinds #1-8 on the state-owned Prime Hook Wildlife Area and blinds #12 and #22 on the federal refuge will be open to waterfowl hunting during the 2015-2016 hunting season. The issuance of the Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permits for these blinds will be managed by the federal refuge staff at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge through a daily standby, hunter-facilitated, lottery drawing conducted 2 hours before shooting time at the refuge's check station followed by self-service until 12:00 noon. Hunters must not be on the refuge any earlier than 3 hours before shooting time to begin signing up for the lottery drawing. Access to the hunt area is available via the boat ramp on Little Neck Road in the state area and at Foord's Landing in the refuge's Headquarters Area.

The remaining portion of the Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area will be closed for the 2015-2016 hunting season due to anticipated channel dredging operations in this area as part of the refuge's tidal marsh restoration project. Dredging operations are expected to continue through this winter. This area will be a work zone containing working dredges, boat traffic, dredge pipe, newly created unmarked channels, and other unforeseen obstacles, which prevent us from providing both a safe and quality hunting environment and experience.

You must be at least 16 years old to obtain the Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permit. A Prime Hook Annual Lottery Hunt Permit is not required and the permit fees have been waived for the 2015-2016 hunting season only.

Procedures for Hunter Facilitated Drawing: Each hunting party will completely fill out a waterfowl hunting permit, fold it in half, and place it in the provided bucket. All members of the hunting party must be present at the drawing or at the time of self-service. Hunters may not reserve blinds or

obtain permits for other hunting parties. The names of all occupants of the blind and contact information for one hunter must be written on the permit prior to the morning drawing or before hunting if the permit is claimed by first-come, first-serve procedures after the drawing. The permit must include any youth's name, indicating him/her as "hunting" or "non-hunting". At two hours before shooting time, permits are picked one at a time out of the bucket by a willing hunter from the crowd. Hunters may select blinds from the tag board in the order that the party was selected from the bucket. Hunters must sign out a blind by turning over the appropriate tag from green (available) to red (in use) and write the number on your permit in the "Hunt Location Choices" section. Place white copy of permit in "permit" slot. Keep yellow copy of permit on your person and return the permit to the check station after hunting. Flip your tag back to green when your hunt is over.

Hunters not selected by the morning lottery drawing can obtain permits for vacant blinds on a first-come, self-serve basis until 12:00 noon. Hunters who sign up on the standby list for vacant blinds must remain at the check station until a blind becomes available to remain in good standing. Permits must be turned in at the check station by 4:00 PM. The questionnaire portion on the permit must be filled out after the hunt. The information that you provide from your hunt is essential in evaluating the migratory waterfowl population. When leaving the blind unoccupied for any reason, the permit must be turned in and a new permit must be paid for and completely filled out at the check station before hunting again.

On January 16, 2016, only the state blinds (#1-8) will be open to hunting. Access for duck hunters will be from the boat ramp at the State Area only. Refuge blinds will be closed due to a Headquarters Deer Hunt.

Hunting is permitted only from government blinds.

Only 3 individuals are allowed per blind in the Lottery Waterfowl Hunt Area.

Access to the hunting area is by boat only and hunters must use designated launching sites to launch their boats.

Lottery Disabled Waterfowl Hunt Area

Prime Hook Daily Lottery Hunting Permits will be issued for the wheelchair-accessible blinds per day with the same fees and in the same manner as the Lottery Deer Hunt Area, including regulations about signing-out, completing harvest reports, and no-shows.

Non-ambulatory hunters will be given first priority for selecting blinds during lottery hunts. All disabled hunters must obtain an Interagency Access Passport and State of Delaware-issued disabled