Great Dismal Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge
3100 Desert Rd
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

757-986-3705

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/
great_dismal_swamp/
facebook @ greatdismalswamp

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
7:30 am- 4:00 pm
Office closed on Federal holidays

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2016 Refuge Hunt Program Information

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Hunt Program Information for 2016

Deer Hunt

Public deer hunting by shotgun and bow, in designated areas for the dates listed below. Either sex deer may be taken all season, per State and Federal regulations. Hunting conditions could be considered "rigorous." First time hunters are encouraged to visit the Refuge and attend scouting day to familiarize themselves with hunting conditions. During the hunt, some areas may close early or be closed completely due to weather, road conditions, emergency operations or state regulations. There is a refuge fee of $15.00.

Scouting Day: September 24, 2016
Hunt dates: October 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, and November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 2016
Application due: There is no application cut-off date. Registration is on-line and immediate, but know that applications made after opening day will miss some of the available hunt dates. Application details in last column.

Bear Hunt

Shotgun hunting (slugs only) for black bears, in designated areas of the Virginia portion of the refuge for the dates listed below. ***NEW THIS YEAR:*** The first 100 paid applications will receive a Bear Hunt permit. You ***can not*** bring a guest. A maximum harvest limit of 20 bears is imposed on this hunt, and therefore the number of hunt days could be reduced as this quota is approached. Hunting conditions could be considered "rigorous." First time hunters are encouraged to visit the Refuge and attend scouting day to familiarize themselves with hunting conditions.During the hunt, some areas may close early or be closed completely due to weather, road conditions, emergency operations or state regulations. There is a refuge fee of $25.00.

Scouting date: November 10, 2016
Hunt dates: November 11, 12, 18, 19 (permittees hunt four days)
Application due: There is no application cut-off date. Registration is on-line and immediate, but know that applications made after opening day will miss some of the available hunt dates. Application details in last column.

Note: Bear hunters may wish to purchase a deer hunt permit for additional access to bear hunt areas prior to the bear hunt scouting day and for hunting both species on November 11, 12, 18, 19, 2016.

Handicap Hunt Permits

Hunters that have a state issued handicap hunters license may request a refuge Handicap Hunt permit. The hunter must also have a refuge hunt permit. There is no additional fee for the Handicap Hunt permit.

The permit will allow the handicap hunter to reserve an area to hunt in the designated handicap hunt zone in the Jericho Ditch entrance.

Contact the refuge headquarters during business hours for more information or to request the Handicap Hunt Permit.

Applications accepted beginning: September 6, 2016 at the refuge office.

Hunt-dog Retrieval Permit

Qualified persons may purchase a Hunt-dog Retrieval Permit which allows access to retrieval radio-collard hunt dogs that have roamed onto refuge property. The permit fee is $25.00. Contact the refuge headquarters during business hours for more information or a permit application.

Applications accepted beginning: September 6, 2016 at the refuge office.

Note: Hunting with dogs is not allowed on refuge property.

General Information and Application Instructions for Hunt Permits

To participate in the refuge Deer or Bear Hunt, in addition to the refuge permit fees, hunters must apply and submit a non-refundable application fee. Your application fee will not be returned. When applying for the refuge Deer Hunt, all paid applicants receive a permit. When applying for the refuge Bear Hunt, the first 100 paid applicants will receive a permit. Registration for the Bear hunt will then close.

Application fees are $7.50 for each hunt.

Hunters MUST Apply ONLINE at the Virginia Game Department's web site:**www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com**

After registering, selecting your hunts, and paying, you will be able to download your permit, hunt regulations, and hunt map. You must have a paper copy of your permit , your appropriate state hunting licences, and a photo identification with you when on the refuge.

Electronic copies (copies on your cell phone) are not acceptable.

NEW FOR 2016

1. ONLY Online registration.
2. First 100 paid Bear Hunt applications will receive the Bear Hunt permit.
3. No guest with permittees.
4. Best information source on trail closings is at facebook.com/GreatDismalSwamp