



OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CONTROLLED DEER HUNTING INFORMATION



Congratulations for being selected to participate in the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR) Controlled Deer Hunt! This letter provides you with background information on the facility and the controlled hunt.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1961 under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act "... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." 16 U.S.C. 715d. The Refuge was also established to preserve a portion of the remaining Lake Erie marshes. Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1964 under this same authority and purpose. Today the Refuge Complex consists of three separate refuges (Ottawa, Cedar Point and West Sister Island) that total approximately 9,000 acres. The focus of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex is to protect, enhance, and restore habitat for threatened and endangered species; provide suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds; provide spring and fall migrational habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds; provide habitat for native resident flora and fauna; and provide the public with wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities.

Managing the marshes for wildlife is essentially based on controlling plant succession to meet season needs. Intensive management is best achieved by controlling water levels, since fluctuating water levels has a marked influence on aquatic plant succession. Current marsh management practices for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife include the use of pumps and/or dikes to provide a variety of wetland types in marsh units throughout the year. These generally include combinations of moist soil units and hemi-marshes.

Even though wetland habitats make up the majority of ONWR, the white-tailed deer population flourishes in the refuge environment. The first public controlled deer hunt was held in 1996 for muzzleloader's only. Today, opportunities for harvest of deer by archery and by shotgun are additionally provided. The public deer hunt is used primarily as a management tool for balancing the white-tailed deer population objectives with other wildlife objectives of the refuge.



OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND MAGEE MARSH CONTROLLED DEER HUNT RULES AND CONDITIONS



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the ODNR Division of Wildlife have cooperated in the establishment of a controlled white-tailed deer hunt. Hunters will also be contacted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and be given more specific information regarding these hunts.

1. For gun hunts, on the day of your hunt you must check in by 5:30 a.m. at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, or contact them by 5:30 a.m. at 419-898-0014. For archery hunts, you must check in between 7:00 a.m. and Noon on the Monday of your hunt week.
2. Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ after sunset. Only deer are legal during this hunt. A valid Ohio Special Deer Permit must be in your possession.
3. Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits may be used to harvest antlerless deer. However, they will not be available to purchase at the refuge headquarters.
4. All State of Ohio deer hunting regulations apply unless otherwise stated. Hunters must wear a hunter orange hat **in addition to** state regulations during gun season.
5. Archery deer hunters may harvest 2 deer during the archery hunts; one either-sex, and one antlerless only. Only one deer is permitted to be taken during the gun hunts; permittee may take a deer of either sex, partners may take an antlerless only deer. Hunters in Ohio may only take one antlered deer per year.
6. All hunters, successful or not, must check out by 6:00 pm. The submission of your Hunter Harvest Card in the harvest card drop box satisfies the check-out requirement. Harvest cards can also be submitted at the refuge visitor center during normal business hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm). **Once you turn in your harvest card, your hunt is complete.**
7. If you wound a deer and feel sure it is in an adjacent sector, come back to the check station for assistance. On private land, permission from the landowner is required before you can retrieve your deer.
8. Hunters should be aware that waterfowl hunting and controlled trapping are taking place in the area.
9. Permits are transferable; follow instructions given. NOTE: It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, trade, or barter any Division of Wildlife issued controlled hunting, fishing or trapping permit.
10. No person may participate in the controlled hunt more than once during the current deer season.
11. Mobility impaired permit holders will receive an either-sex permit and youth hunters will receive an either-sex permit. ATV's will be permitted to transport disabled hunters to and from blinds.
12. Portable blinds or tree stands may be used.
13. Each hunter is responsible for their own transportation to and from the designated hunting zone.
14. Gun hunters may use any legal hunting weapon to take deer that is legal to use during the statewide deer gun season.
15. A pair of hip boots or waders is highly recommended for retrieving or tracking deer.
16. Partners: The permit holder may bring a hunting partner(s) as specified below:
 - Ottawa Youth Deer Hunt: 2 youth partners and at a minimum 2 non-hunting adults. We strongly recommend 1 non-hunting adult accompanies each youth hunter.
 - Magee Youth Deer Hunt: 1 youth partner and non-hunting adult
 - Ottawa/Magee Adult Deer Archery: 2 partners
 - Magee Adult deer Gun: 1 partner

Ottawa Adult Deer Gun: 2 partners
Ottawa Mobility Impaired Deer: 2 partners and 1 non-hunting assistant

17. Failure to follow these controlled hunt rules and conditions could result from dismissal from the hunt, in addition to criminal charges pursuant OAC 1501:31-9-01(u).

CHECK STATION ADDRESS

For information go to <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Ottawa/>
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio,
phone: (419) 898-0014

CHECK STATION LOCATION

From Toledo, take State Route 2 east 15 miles to the refuge entrance signs.
From Port Clinton, take State Route 2 west approximately 18 miles to the refuge entrance signs.

Check in will take place at the Ottawa NWR Visitor Center.

(R7/16)