



PICKEREL CREEK CONTROLLED DEER HUNT



Congratulations for being selected to participate in the Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area Youth Muzzleloader Deer Hunt. This letter provides you with some background information on the wildlife area and some tips on helping you be successful on your hunt. Purchased in 1987 by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Pickerel Creek is one of the few remaining wetland complexes on the Sandusky Bay shoreline. This 3,200 acre wetland complex is a part of what was once called the Great Black Swamp, an area from Cleveland to Detroit, which totaled over 300,000 acres. During the early 1900's, the entire region was drained for agricultural purposes. Much of Pickerel Creek was once farmland at one time. Shortly after the acquisition, the Division of Wildlife began restoring the wetlands on the property that once existed hundreds of years ago. Today it has a variety of upland and wetland wildlife for sportsmen and women to enjoy.

The area you will be hunting is the 230 acre state refuge portion on Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area. Access to the state refuge is by permit only. Permits are granted to waterfowl hunters and trappers in the fall / winter. The only deer hunting permitted in the refuge is the youth muzzleloader hunt, which you have been successfully drawn. Much deer hunting occurs around the refuge. Therefore, deer tend to congregate in the refuge in very high numbers. The area you will be hunting is very diverse. Overall, the western side of the refuge is very thick with vegetation. Deer tend to bed down in this area. The eastern side is more open with mature forest. After the first day, deer tend to stay towards the thicker areas. A dike down the center of the refuge is a popular area for hunters to intercept deer from the two habitat types. Use extreme caution hunting this area, as other hunters maybe traveling this dike as well from the opposite direction. Hunters may hunt anywhere in the refuge, however, they must park in their assigned parking lot. Some areas can be wet depending on rainfall. Waterproof knee boots are highly suggested. A pair of waders (hip or chest) may be necessary to access some of the areas as well. Dress appropriately for cold weather. The area can be very cold especially if Sandusky Bay is frozen. Use extreme caution on the western side of the refuge in a high wind situation. Many trees have died (emerald ash borer damage) and may fall unexpectedly. Enjoy your hunt and be safe!



PICKEREL CREEK CONTROLLED DEER HUNT RULES AND CONDITIONS



1. Each hunter must be appropriately licensed and accompanied by a non-hunting adult.
2. There will be no check-in or check out. Youth hunters with issued permits may hunt from ½ hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
3. Only deer are legal during this hunt.
4. Each hunter will receive a harvest card and a map of the controlled hunting area along with the location of an assigned parking area at a later date.
5. Hunters must park in their assigned parking areas, and must also access the area from their parking location.
6. Hunters must hunt within the designated area specified on the map. **No one is permitted to hunt outside of designated area on the map.**
7. **Access into the controlled hunt area is only permitted on the assigned hunt day designated on the permit. The area may not be accessed prior to the hunt day for scouting purposes.**
8. Harvest cards must be completed and placed in the permit box located at the Pickerel Creek check station at the end of the hunt.
9. Hunters should be aware that controlled trapping is taking place in the area.
10. All State of Ohio deer hunting laws apply unless otherwise stated.
11. Bag limit is one deer per hunter.
12. **This is a Division of Wildlife Controlled Deer Hunt. Both either sex and antlerless permits may be utilized and will not count towards the county bag limit. Be sure to use an either sex permit if harvesting an antlered deer.**
13. Remember that only 1 buck can be harvested in the state each year regardless of location.
14. **All deer are required to be checked via the automated game check and permanent tagging process.**
15. A hunter aware of any wildlife violation or hunt problem shall immediately contact the Sandusky County Wildlife Officer at 419.429.8393 or the TIP Program Hotline at 1-800-POACHER. All medical emergencies should be referred to the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department (Call 911). **Please remember that the actions you take affect the continuation of this youth hunting opportunity.**
16. Permits are transferable. To transfer, please follow instructions on the permit. NOTE: It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, trade or barter any Division of Wildlife issued controlled hunting, fishing or trapping permit.
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).

If you have any general questions about your permit, you can call the District Two Office at 419.424.5000 or the Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area at 419.547.6007.

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