



OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT



Congratulations for being selected to participate in the **Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR) Controlled waterfowl 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 recreational 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.

The first managed waterfowl hunting program on Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge was held in 1976 for Canada geese. The hunt was to provide a high quality, aesthetic hunting experience for the average hunter. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the ODNR, Division of Wildlife cooperatively opened the hunt to include both ducks and geese in the 1985 waterfowl season.

Refuge-specific regulations are: 1) Permits are required; 2) Hunting hours are legal shooting time until 12 noon; 3) Hunters must return their completed daily harvest card to check station; 4) No more than two hunters per blind and shooting must take place in blind /stake and/or within 75 yards of blind/stake; and 5) Each hunter may not possess more than 25 shells of nontoxic shot.



Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



OTTAWA CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT RULES AND CONDITIONS

The enclosed special hunting permit is required to hunt on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

REGULATIONS FOR CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNTS

The migratory waterfowl hunting laws are in effect with the following additional restrictions:

1. Hunters must be checked in not later than **5:30 a.m.** to the check station located at **13229 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449**, where blinds or stakes will be assigned. (The check station will be open at 5:00 a.m.). Click [here](#) for directions.
2. Your special hunting permit must be presented at the check station along with your hunting license containing your Customer ID number, HIP number, federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp, and Ohio wetlands habitat stamp. Note: youth hunters under 18 do not need the Ohio wetlands habitat stamp and youth hunters under 16 do not need either stamp.
3. Hunting hours – Legal shooting time until NOON. **By state law, all hunters are required to return their daily harvest card to the check station within 2 hours after the end of the day's hunt.**
4. Hunters may take all legal waterfowl in accordance with bag limits set for the waterfowl hunting season as stated in the Ohio Hunting & Trapping Regulations. Refer to the Ohio Hunting & Trapping Regulations for more details.
5. All shooting must take place at the assigned blind or stake, or within 75 yards of the assigned blind or stake. **Not all hunt locations have blinds provided, so come prepared to hunt in a coastal marsh.**
6. Two hunters allowed per blind.
7. Each hunter may possess not more than 25 non-toxic shot shells.
8. No person shall participate in this controlled hunt on this area more than once during the open season.
9. A mobility impaired accessible blind is available. Please contact Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge at (419) 898-0014, Ext. 31 one week prior to scheduled hunt.
10. Don't forget you need all of the following:
 - a. Your hunting license
 - b. Customer ID number
 - c. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp
 - d. State Wetlands Habitat Stamp endorsement
 - e. HIP Registration endorsement
 - f. Special Area Hunting Permit
11. If unable to attend the hunt on your assigned day, please attempt to transfer your permit or call Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (419/898-0014, Ext. 31) in advance so it may be reassigned. **NOTE: It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, trade, or barter any Division of Wildlife issued controlled hunting, fishing or trapping permit.**

12. Hunting locations are located in marsh areas with uneven bottoms. Chest waders are required to retrieve birds (retrievers are recommended). Come prepared to hunt in these conditions.
13. Hunters will be directed to designated parking areas. Hunters do not need to bring a boat. Do not leave your assigned hunt area until your party is ready to check out.
14. For updated information on hunting conditions, please check the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/>
15. 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).

(R7/16)