

2020 Waubay National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Regulations

Refuge Unit	Dates
Archery (Units ARD-ST1 and ARD-ER1):	September 01 to November 13
Muzzleloader 1 (Unit RFD-WA1 or RFD-WA101):	November 14 to November 22
Archery (same archery units as above):	November 23 to November 27
Muzzleloader 3 (Unit RFD-WA3 or RFD-WA301):	November 28 to December 06
Late season archery (same archery units as above):	December 07 to January 1, 2021

*Note: the middle firearm season (#2) is not available in 2020.

East River tags are **NOT** allowed on the Refuge.
General Muzzleloader tags are **NOT** allowed on the Refuge.
Special Buck tags are **NOT** allowed on the Refuge.
Statewide Youth Rifle tags are **NOT** allowed on the Refuge.
The **ONLY** firearm tags/seasons allowed are the two listed above.

General Regulations

No parking in front of access gates.

Deer is the only game species with established Refuge hunting seasons.

No camping or campfires.

Shooting at, from, or across public roads and right-of-ways is illegal.

Refuge Deer Hunting Regulations (all seasons)

Closed Areas: The entire Headquarters Island is the only portion of the Refuge closed to all deer hunting (see map). The rest of the Refuge is open by permit/license per season.

Scouting: Pre-season scouting on the Refuge is not permitted, except for viewing from public roads.

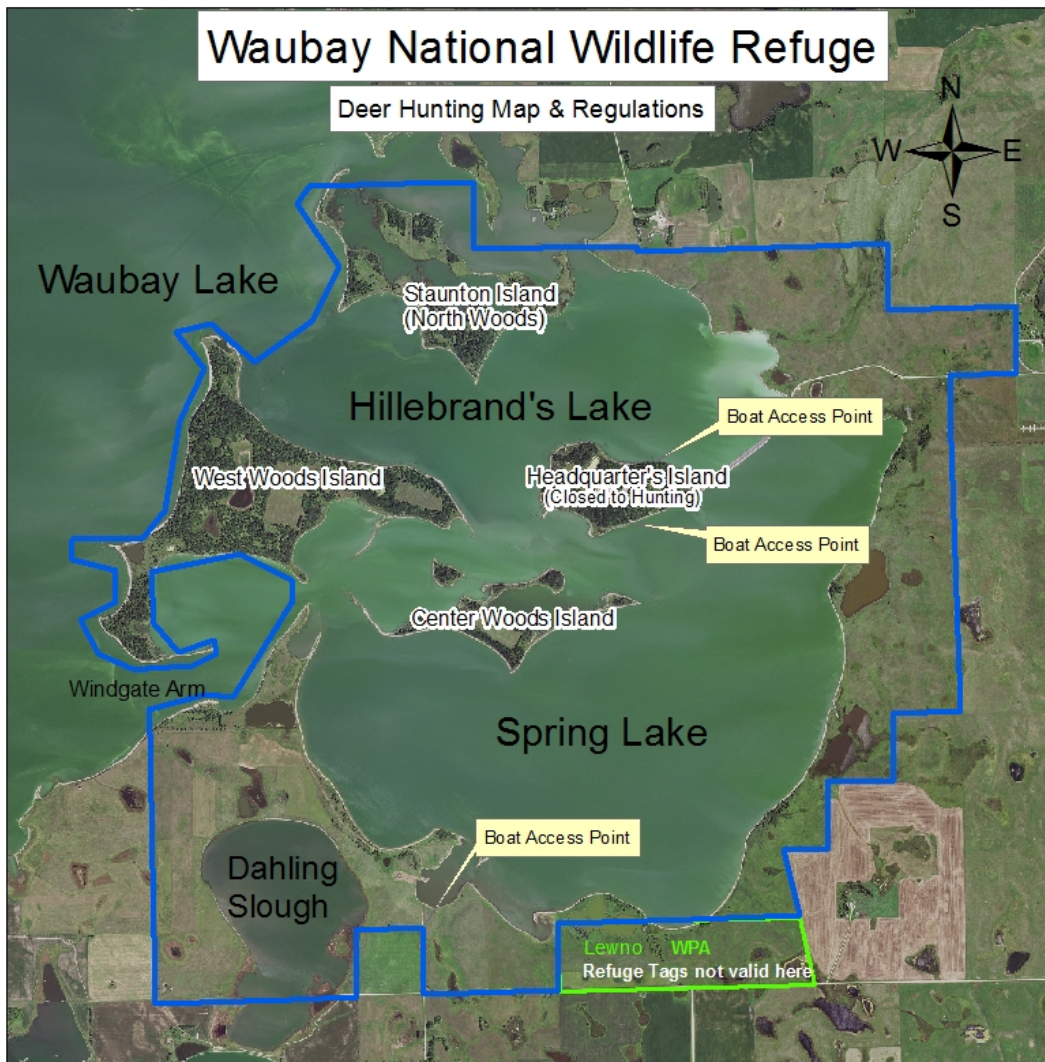
Hunting: Only hunters with a valid AND unfilled tag for the appropriate season may enter the Refuge. Hunters may not enter the Refuge before or after the specific hunting season dates printed on their tag. Once your tag is filled, your hunt and access is over. Example: if you filled your East River archery tag, but you have an upcoming Refuge firearm season tag...your access is terminated until the start of your firearm season. The idea is to let other hunters with unfilled tags have an enjoyable, safe, and disturbance-free chance at filling their tags. *Contact us if there are special circumstances (youth, disability, etc...) where you wish a non-licensed person to accompany you on your hunt.*

Boating: Non-motorized boats (canoes or rowboats) can be launched only from boat access points (see map). No other Refuge sites can be used to launch boats. Motorboats cannot be used to access Refuge islands from Waubay Lake, or any other part of the Refuge.

Tree Stands: Temporary or portable tree stands are permitted, but the hunter's name and address or license number must be on the stand and legible from the ground. Nails, wires, and/or bolts damage trees, and are not permitted. Tree stands and accessories cannot be placed prior to hunt start dates and must be removed by the last date of your hunt or when your tag is filled.

Field Dressing Deer: After field dressing a deer, leave only the contents of the body cavity (gut pile). Hides, bones, etc. are considered litter, and must be packed out.

Safety: Let someone know when and where you are hunting and when you plan to return. Please be careful when boating; check the forecast. The wind may change directions or increase between the start and end of your hunt. Please be careful when crossing ice. Early season ice is unsafe and can change from 3 inches thick to open water in a matter of hours.



The use of nails, wires, screws, bolts or **screw-in type steps** is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs-green signs), both managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Waubay NWR Archery Deer Season Regulations:

Archery equipment regulations are the same as SD GFP (state) laws except screw-in steps are not allowed.

Archery seasons are closed during firearm seasons.

Driving or chasing deer to other hunters is not permitted during archery seasons.

State Deer Tags: Youth deer tags, state muzzleloader tags, Special Buck, and East River deer tags may NOT be used to hunt on the Refuge.

Muzzleloader Rifles: Optics that do not employ magnification are allowed.

Hunter Orange: All Refuge muzzleloader and rifle deer hunters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid florescent orange material on the head, chest, and back, and must be worn and visible at all times. Camouflage orange material is not legal.

ALL OTHER STATE REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO REFUGE HUNTS.