



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ninigret

National Wildlife Refuge

Big and Upland Game Hunting Regulations 2023–2024

Welcome

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1970 in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, this 858-acre refuge was established for the protection and management of migratory birds. A popular destination for many forms of wildlife-dependent recreation, Ninigret is open to hunting at designated areas in alignment with State and refuge regulations.

RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex
c/o Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: 401-364-9124
Email: rhodeislandcomplex@fws.gov
Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret

For State Relay Service:
TDD/800-735-2258 (Voice)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD
August 2023

Hunt Brochure

Big Game Hunting 2023-2024

I have read and agree to comply with the refuge rules and regulations described in this hunt brochure. Valid for the current season only.

Signature _____

Date (M/D/Y) _____

You must carry this signed and dated refuge hunt brochure with you at all times while hunting on the refuge.

Valid Hunting Dates:

09/15/2023 – 01/31/2024



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Hunters are required to possess a valid Rhode Island hunting license, all required stamps, an original valid government-issued photo identification (no copies or photos), and a signed hunt brochure on their person at all times during refuge hunting days. Archery and firearms hunting for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox is allowed in designated locations (see map). Permitted hunters may take coyote and fox during the deer hunting season only. Salt Pond Unit is closed to all users during the Special Veteran Deer Hunt in November (date pending), and during the Youth Deer Hunt December 2 – 17, 2023.

Weapons

Firearms hunting is not allowed on Kettle Pond and Salt Pond Units. Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR 32.58).

Vehicles

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs), dirt bikes, and other non-licensed vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable Rhode Island regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

White-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox hunting dates and times are posted in the Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Abstract. Hunting is permitted in designated areas as depicted on the hunting map. Hunting is not allowed within safety zones, and no weapon discharge into, from, or within safety zones. Hunters may pass through a safety zone with unloaded weapons. Only participants who possess a valid, signed hunt brochure will be allowed to enter the hunt areas. Hunters may scout the hunt units one week prior to the season with a valid, signed hunt brochure. No access permitted to Salt Pond Unit during Special Hunts list in first paragraph. **IMPORTANT:** Public use trails are open to hikers at Kettle Pond and Salt Pond Units during the archery deer and archery turkey seasons. No hunting allowed within 100 feet of a public trail. Night hunting is prohibited.

Tree Stands and Hunting Blinds

We only allow portable tree stands and blinds. You must clearly label any tree stand or blind left on the refuge overnight with your Rhode Island hunting license number. Stands and blinds may be placed beginning September 8, 2023, and must be removed by February 15, 2024. The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited on refuge lands (50 CFR 32.2(i)).

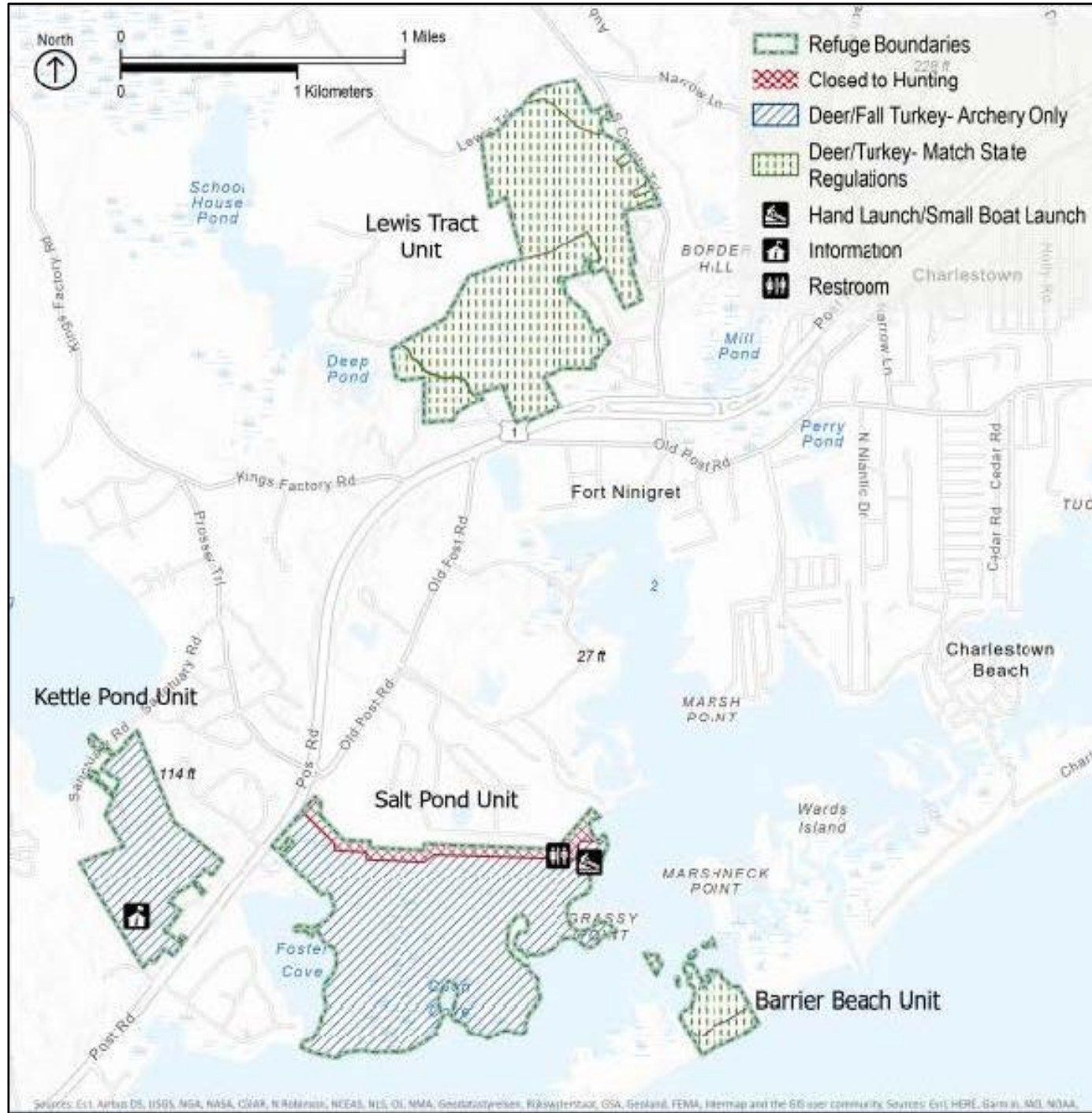
Game/Trail Cameras

All game/trail cameras must be clearly labeled on the exterior of the housing with the hunter's State hunting license number. When deploying cameras, mounting hardware must not cause damage to vegetation. Cameras may be placed beginning September 8, 2023 and must be removed by February 15, 2024.

Harvest Reporting

In addition to following State harvest reporting requirements, hunters must complete a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2359) and return it to the refuge by March 15, 2024.

NINIGRET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNT MAP



Reminders and Prohibited Activities

- Detailed maps, closures, or updates will be posted at: www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/
- We prohibit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- We prohibit camping and fires.
- No taking wildlife other than deer, turkey, coyote, and fox during appropriate season (50 CFR 7.51).
- We prohibit marking (including, but not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation (50 CFR 27.61).
- The placement of or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Guiding, outfitting, advertising, and/or audio or visual productions for commercial purposes are prohibited.
- Firearm discharge within 500 feet of any dwelling is prohibited, and no discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling.
- Shooting from, across, or down any public road is prohibited.
- We prohibit hunting within 100 feet of a refuge trail.
- No field dressing animals in parking areas.

Signs and Boundaries Definitions

- **No Vehicles:** all traffic prohibited
- **Refuge Boundary:** entry to area is permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- **Hunt Safety Zone:** no discharge of weapons into, from, or within zone
- **Closed Area:** All entry is prohibited
- **No Hunting Zone:** Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited