

Horicon

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations



Welcome

At approximately 22,000 acres, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge makes up the northern two thirds of the Horicon Marsh and was established for the protection of migratory birds. The refuge also offers many wildlife dependent recreational opportunities for the public including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, bicycling, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

The 33,000 acre Horicon Marsh is divided into the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources). The two areas have different hunting regulations and season dates. You are responsible for knowing the boundaries and abiding by the regulations. Make sure to check zones and acquire the proper tags for the areas you will be hunting. For more information visit Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources hunt page <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/>.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Ammunition

Hunters may use or possess only approved non-toxic shot shells while on the refuge, including shot shells used for hunting wild turkey. Lead bullets and shotgun slugs are permitted for taking big game and small game mammals during open seasons.

Permits

Wisconsin state permits. The refuge is located within both Dodge and Fond du Lac counties.

*Special hunts including deer hunts for hunters with disabilities and a mentored Learn to Hunt Waterfowl Hunt require additional refuge applications and permits.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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 and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Wisconsin regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Access

Access is provided for hunting through developed parking lots. All motorized vehicles are restricted to existing county roads and access roads, such as the eastern half of Main Dike Road (when open to vehicles). Do not block gates or roads. Overnight parking is not permitted on the refuge. Bicycle access is allowed on designated bicycle routes only. Main Dike Road is open year-round for hiking and bicycling. Old Marsh Road and other dikes are closed to bicycle access until December 1.

*Hunters participating in the refuge disabled deer hunts are allowed to drive vehicles on designated mowed paths that lead to hunting blinds. Utility and all-terrain vehicles (UTV/ATVs) are not permitted except by individuals with a disability possessing a permit for these hunts.

Areas closed to all hunting include an area near the intersection of Hwy 49 and Cty Z, the Bud Cook Hiking Area located off Point Rd., and the area around the refuge visitor center.

Restricted hunting areas include the auto tour area located off Hwy 49 (open for Nov. nine-day and Dec. antlerless deer gun seasons only) and the disabled hunt area (refuge permit required).

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Fishing

- Fishing on the refuge is open year-round in accordance with state fishing regulations. For more information on state fishing regulations visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Non-lead tackle is required (weights, sinkers etc.)
- Fishing is limited to designated bank fishing areas (Dec 1 through Mar 15 the entire refuge is open to ice fishing - no motorized vehicles allowed for access.)
- Peachy Rd, Ledge Rd, and Main Dike Rd are designated locations for bank fishing.
- Bow fishing is permitted.
- Prohibited: limb lines, jug lines, trot lines, snares and harvest of minnow, leech, turtle, frog, crawfish and mussel/clam. **NO night fishing.**

Camping

Camping is not permitted on the refuge.

Motorized Vehicles

Use of motorized vehicles, snowmobiles, ATV's, and UTV's are not permitted on the refuge.

W4279 Headquarters Rd
Mayville, WI 53050
920-387-2658, 1-800-947-3529 (V/TTY)

horicon@fws.gov

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

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Activity	Season	Hunting Area	Special Regulations
White-tailed deer Archery, Crossbow, Youth Deer Hunt, Nov Gun(nine-day), Muzzleloader, Dec Antlerless	WI state seasons	General Hunt Area. Auto Tour Area is open for the Nov deer gun and Dec antlerless gun seasons only.	State regulations apply. NO baiting
Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities	WI state seasons	Disabled Hunt Area	By refuge permit only through lottery system
Black bear	WI state seasons	General Hunt Area	State regulations apply. NO baiting, night hunting, artificial lights or hunting with dogs
*Pheasant, Hungarian Partridge, Ruffed grouse, Turkey, Squirrel (gray/fox), Woodcock	WI state seasons	General Hunt Area	State regulations apply. <i>*See non-toxic below</i>
*Cottontail rabbit, Snowshoe hare	WI state cottontail rabbit seasons	General Hunt Area	State regulations apply. <i>*See non-toxic below</i>
*Goose, Duck, Coot, Common moorhen	WI state seasons	Special Hunt Area	By permit only for Learn to Hunt program participants. <i>*See Non Toxic Shot below</i>
*Coyote, Red fox, Gray fox, Bobcat (bobcat season runs concurrent with the remainder of Period 1 and reopens for entirety of Period 2.)	1st day of state Nov nine-day deer gun season and ends on last day of state fox season.	General Hunt Area	State regulations apply. NO baiting, night hunting, artificial lights or hunting with dogs <i>*See non-toxic below</i>
*Raccoon, Opossum and Skunk	WI state raccoon seasons	General Hunt Area	State regulations apply. NO baiting, night hunting, artificial lights or hunting with dogs <i>*See non-toxic below</i>

Wisconsin State daily bag limits apply to all activities listed in this table

***All Sections with an (*) must use or possess only approved non-toxic shot shells while on the refuge.**

Boats

Boats, canoes, kayaks, or other floatable devices are not permitted on the refuge.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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.”

State of Wisconsin hunting regulations, seasons, shooting hours, bag limits, license requirements and conditions in this brochure apply to hunting on the refuge. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge visitor center or from the refuge website.

For more information on state-wide hunting season dates and regulations visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources hunt page <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/> .

Report Hunting Violations at – 1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477)

Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

- All hunting access is restricted to one hour before to one hour after legal hunting hours and hunting is prohibited from ½ hour after legal sunset until ½ hour before legal sunrise the following day.
- Scouting outside state hunting seasons is prohibited. (Includes use of game cameras and clearing shooting lanes.)
- Hunters may use or possess only approved nontoxic shot shells while on the refuge, including shot shells used for hunting wild turkey. Lead bullets and shotgun slugs are permitted for taking big game and small game during open seasons.
- The use of dogs while hunting small game is allowed, provided the dog is under the immediate control of the hunter at all times.
- Hunting with dogs, artificial lights, or night hunting is **NOT permitted on the refuge for the following species:** black bear, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, opossum, bobcat, coyote, and striped skunk.
- The refuge may not be used for dog training.
- Hunters must remove all stands and personal property (including cameras) from the refuge following each days hunt. Hunting from any stand left up overnight is prohibited. Ground blinds used during any gun deer season must display at least 144 square inches of solid blaze orange or fluorescent pink material visible from all directions.
- Screw-in metal steps are NOT authorized.
- Target shooting, light shining, wildlife baiting, open fires, use of horses, use of drones, use of or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or removal of antlers or other artifacts are all prohibited activities.
- Drones (UAVs) taking off, landing and/or flying on or over refuge lands is prohibited.
- Cutting, mowing, sawing, digging, collecting, injuring or removing vegetation is prohibited.



