



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Montezuma

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2020–2021

Welcome

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, this 10,000+-acre refuge provides essential habitat for many species of resident and migratory birds. A popular destination for outdoor recreation, Montezuma NWR allows wild turkey hunting in accordance with State laws and refuge specific regulations.

Important Dates

Reservations:

8:30-9:30 AM

Opening Day: 10/08/20

Youth Hunt: 09/24/20

Veterans & Active Military: 11/07/20

Hunt Dates:

Youth Hunt Day: 10/03/20

1st Split: 10/17/20 - 11/07/20

2nd Split: 11/28/20 - 01/02/20

Veterans & Active Military: 11/14/20

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

3395 U.S. Route 20 East, Seneca Falls, NY, 13148

315-568-5987

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma/>

For State relay service TTY/ Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1-800-344-WILD

September 2020

Hunt Information

The refuge is open to the regular waterfowl season on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Daily refuge permits (Migratory Bird Hunt Report, FWS Form 3-2361) and reservations are required for waterfowl hunting. We require proof of successful completion of the New York State waterfowl identification course, the Montezuma nonresident waterfowl identification course, or a suitable nonresident State waterfowl identification course. We encourage hunters to limit their shell possession within the hunting areas to 25 shells.

Firearms

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

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/eoo/public-civil-rights>. An ADA-compliant hunting platform is available to hunters with a disabled hunting license or America the Beautiful Access pass (prior notice is needed; first come, first served; call (315) 568-5987).

Hunting Regulations

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

Access

Hunting occurs on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays during the State's western zone season, New York State's youth waterfowl hunt, and on the Saturday of the State's Veterans and Active Military Days. Check-in opens 1 and one half hours before sunrise. You are permitted on the refuge for check-in no earlier than 2 hours before sunrise. All hunters and companions with reservations must check in at the Hunter Check Station area at least 1 hour before legal shooting time or forfeit their reservation. Forfeited reservations become available on a first-come, first-served basis to standby hunters at the Route 89 Hunter Check Station. During the self-serve portion of the second split, permits must be obtained at least 1 hour before legal shooting time. Waterfowl hunting access is by boat or foot from designated areas. Hunters must obtain their permit from the Hunter Check Station (1095 State Route 89, Seneca Falls, NY 13148).

Harvest Reporting

In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting, permitted hunters must complete a Migratory Bird Hunt Report (FWS Form 3-2361) and return it to the refuge by the end of the hunt day.

Reservations

Reservations for hunting spots are required for Youth, the entire first split, veterans and active military days, and part of the second split. For the remainder of the season, permits will be available on a self-serve, first come/first served basis at the Route 89 Hunter Check Station. We limit each reservation/permit/hunting spot to parties of 2. Changes to the permit procedure may be made at the refuge manager's discretion. The reservation telephone number is (315) 568-4136. Telephone reservations are taken from 8:30 am to 9:00 am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for the next hunt day. Reservations for opening day will be taken on the second Thursday of October, 8:30 – 9:00 am. Reservations for the youth hunt will be taken on the last Thursday of September, 8:30 -9:00 am.

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



