

Hunter Information Fact Sheet - 2015

Attention Hunters

- Follow Michigan State Regulations and the more restrictive Refuge-specific regulations. **There is a new Hunt Brochure for 2015. Please check the back lower left corner of your brochure to be sure it is the September 2015 edition – discard all previous editions.**

Major Changes Include:

- A new hunting area – Area C: this was previously part of Area's A and B and part of a closed area. In this area, the hunting of white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock, snipe, and snowshoe hare are allowed during state seasons. Portions of Conlon Farm and Sub-headquarters Field are now open to hunting. Bear hunting is not allowed in Area C.
- Watch for "Closed Area" signs as many of these areas boundaries have changed especially around the Northern Hardwoods Trails and River Road living quarters.
- Early archery deer hunting is allowed in Area A (not only late state season).
- Area A is open for the entire snowshoe hare season (not only from December 1 to March 31).

Reminders:

- No types of bait or artificial lures are allowed (i.e. salt).
- **Possession of bait on the Refuge is prohibited, this includes in your vehicle.**
- No ATV's, snowmobiles, etc. **No canoes/boats/tubes/flotation devices on Refuge impoundments.**
- Report all injuries or accidents occurring on the Refuge immediately to the Refuge Headquarters. **Please report any illegal issues you see. After hours emergency contact number (906) 293-3887.**

Camping

- Camping is not allowed during the muzzleloader season for White-tailed Deer.
- Camping is allowed west of the Driggs River in designated areas along roadsides within 10 yards of the road. (Backpack camping is no longer allowed west of the Driggs River).
- Camping is not allowed in the Wilderness Area or any Research or Public Use Natural Areas.
- Only downed branches and trees can be used for fires; snags (dead, standing trees) are to be left in place and not cut.

Tracking animals into closed areas

- If you shoot an animal and it goes into a closed area:
 - Call the office – Greg McClellan (906) 586-9851 x13 or Sara Siekierski at x11 other staff will also be able to find you assistance. **After hours emergency contact number (906) 293-3887.**
 - If no one answers, leave a message with information on how to reach you.
 - If you cannot reach anyone at the office you may track the deer without your gun. You cannot take your gun into the closed area without permission.
 - A list of signs and their meanings can be found in the hunting brochure **or at hunt information kiosks.**
- See the hunting brochure (September 2015 edition) for all other Refuge-specific regulations.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do you manage the refuge to increase white-tailed deer populations?

Per our 2009 Comprehensive Conservation Plan, the stated goals of the management at the Refuge are three-fold: 1) In the management of wildlife, the goal is to preserve, conserve, and restore the diversity of wildlife native to the eastern U.P. 2) For habitat management, the goal is to conserve the range of habitat conditions now found within the Refuge and restore pre-European conditions when and where possible. 3) For public use, the goal at Seney is to provide visitors and the surrounding community with opportunities to experience quality wildlife-dependent activities and to understand the rich mosaic of wildlife and habitats found within the eastern U.P.

The management of white-tailed deer is, of course, part of the above stated goals. However, management for white-tailed deer specifically (or by themselves) is not done at Seney NWR. Rather, this species is managed within the context of maintaining the native diversity of the Refuge. Over browsing by white-tailed deer can impact this diversity (especially when it comes to forest ecosystems and the flora and fauna found within).

Recent logging operations.

Areas along the Riverside Dike, Manistique River Road, Pine Creek and Chicago Farm Roads have been logged within the past three years to remove unnatural plantations, reduce forest fuels and encourage the restoration of historical forest land cover. In the vein of the 2009 *Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan* the goal is to promote natural patterns, afforestation in old fields and promote the Refuge fire management program. Conifer plantations that were established on soils that formerly grew deciduous forests were removed to promote natural, secondary succession. Along Pine Creek Rd. and Chicago Farm Rd. coniferous trees were removed and chipped to enhance use of roads for fire breaks. Fire is a critical ecological process in coniferous forests of Seney NWR.

Recent Prescribed Burns

Prescribed burns were conducted along the first two miles south of M-28 on the east and west sides of the Driggs River Road and the first 1.5 miles west of Driggs River Road between the Diversion Ditch and the state boundary in 2014 and 2015.

Safety

For safety purposes we suggest taking your fully charged cell phone along on your hunt. You may put it on silent or vibrate. If your phone has a GPS option, turn it on. That way if you get lost in the woods it will be easier for rescuers to locate you.