

Regulations in red are new this year.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED: alcoholic beverages, camping, geocaching, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, dumping, fires, metal detecting, swimming, picnicking and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles known as drones.

Wildlife management area (WMA) regulations are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

Information on WMA regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit (or other authorization) for violation or due cause.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy. The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site. For more information see: NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Persons 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Round Valley Angler Access | 5. Mad Horse Creek |
| 2. Assunpink | 6. Union Lake |
| 3. Dennis Creek | 7. Menantico Ponds |
| 4. Tuckahoe | 8. Prospertown Lake |

Dog Training, Exercising and Hunting

A person may exercise or train dogs only in designated dog training areas from May 1 to Aug. 31, inclusive and only on the following select WMAs:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Assunpink | 8. Millville |
| 2. Black River | 9. Pequest |
| 3. Clinton | 10. Salem River |
| 4. Colliers Mills | 11. Stafford Forge |
| 5. Glassboro | 12. Tuckahoe |
| 6. Hainesville | 13. Whittingham |
| 7. Manasquan | 14. Winslow |

All dogs must be properly licensed. Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30.

Additional regulations involve the release of game birds for training, the use of pigeons, the use of firearms, frozen game birds, the use of call back pens and the release of fox, raccoon, rabbit and hare. For more information call (609) 984-0547.

Field Trials

A permit to conduct a field trial on a wildlife management area may be obtained by contacting Fish and Wildlife at (609) 259-2132.

Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach WMA is closed to hunting from Sept. 1 until 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 14, 2016.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Hunting Regulations

The restriction prohibiting firearm hunting on wildlife management areas on the day prior to the opening of the regular small game season for pheasants and quail is rescinded. Pheasants are stocked after dark, precluding interaction between Fish and Wildlife personnel and hunters or the chance of prematurely harvesting a pheasant before the season opens.

The quail season is closed statewide with the exception of the Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs. See *Pheasants*, page 55.

It is legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber rimfire short cartridges for hunting raccoon and opossum and for dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat on WMAs.

For coyote and fox hunting: the use of .177 and .22 caliber rimfire or .177 through .25 caliber centerfire rifle ammo is allowed on WMAs. See *Coyote/Fox* ammo chart on page 54 for additional restrictions.

The use of air guns to hunt rabbit and squirrel is allowed on WMAs. See *Air Guns* page 25, and *Squirrel, Regular Season* on page 56.

Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, may not be used to hunt woodchucks on WMAs.

Motor Vehicles and Other Forms of Conveyance

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on any state WMA. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

All motor boats must be properly registered and have all the required safety equipment. (See *Outboard Motors*, below.)

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off road vehicles, ATVs, trail bikes, or snowmobiles is prohibited on all WMAs unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife areas with the exception of Union Lake where an outboard motor, not exceeding 9.9 hp, may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

All titled boats must also be registered. Any boat mechanically propelled, regardless of length, must be registered. All boats greater than 12 feet, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered. A boat license and New Jersey boat safety certificate are required to operate a power vessel on non-tidal waters of New Jersey. A boat license is not required for non-powered vessels.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife management areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities. Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife-approved activities.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, .177 and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to regulations posted at the training area.

The following types of ranges are available on designated WMAs statewide:

- ♦ **Shotgun Range:** for use with clay birds and the patterning of fine shot;
- ♦ **Archery Range:** approved backstops at select ranges, no broadheads allowed;
- ♦ **Muzzleloading Rifle and Shotgun Slug Range:** for sighting in with shotgun slugs or buckshot, .177 or .22 caliber rimfire rifles and muzzleloaders; no other firearms allowed. See page 71 for a list of ranges and requirements.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or Drones

The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone is prohibited on WMAs. A UAV is computer-controlled for nearly their entire flight either autonomously or by remote control of a pilot and has the capacity for autonomous flight and navigation.

Waterfowl Blinds

No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on any of the following WMAs:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Assunpink | 8. Whittingham |
| 2. Black River | 9. Beaver Swamp |
| 3. Colliers Mills | 10. Sedge Island |
| 4. Hainesville | 11. Salem River |
| 5. Tuckahoe | 12. Prospertown |
| 6. Manahawkin | 13. Paulinskill |
| 7. Stafford Forge | |

Any blind used in these designated areas must be portable and shall be completely removed at the end of the day. Blinds remaining in WMAs will be subject to confiscation and properly disposed of by Fish and Wildlife.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Ranges

The following information pertains to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife facilities. Information on privately operated facilities is available at "Where To Shoot," a site maintained by the National Shooting Sports Foundation at www.wheretoshoot.org

- ♦ All WMA regulations apply.
- ♦ Ranges are open 8 a.m. to sunset.
- ♦ At least one member of the shooting party must have a current, valid New Jersey hunting license in possession.
- ♦ **Shotgun range:** fine shot only. No buckshot or rifled slugs.
- ♦ **Archery range:** target or practice tips only. NO broadheads are allowed on any WMA range, whether practicing at the provided backstop or shooting into your own target brought to the range.
- ♦ **Muzzleloading rifle range:** muzzleloading firearms, shotguns with rifled slugs or buckshot and modern rimfire (both .177 and .22 caliber) rifles and air guns in calibers legal for hunting.
- ♦ No handguns or centerfire rifles permitted.

Northern Region

Hunterdon County

Clinton WMA

Route 173W, Clinton

- ♦ Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- ♦ All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from base to bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25, 50 and 100 yard lines. This minimum target height requirement eliminates the risk of ricochet to ensure all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100 yard target.
- ♦ Spinner type targets for .177 and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm to direct all bullets into the berm. These targets are not to be used at other yardage or target mound placements.

Morris County

Black River WMA

Route 513 (Dover-Chester Rd.), Chester

- ♦ Archery, open year-round.
- ♦ Shotgun: Closed weekends from the third Saturday in May through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, as well as on Christmas and Easter. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during this summer period, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the rest of the year. Hunter education classes will continue at the range and are not affected by these new hours.

Sussex County

Flatbrook WMA

Route 615, Layton

- ♦ Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (75 yards)

Warren County

Pequest WMA

Pequest Rd., Oxford

- ♦ Archery

Central Region

Monmouth County

Assunpink WMA

Imlaystown-Hightstown Rd., Upper Freehold Twp.

- ♦ Archery
- ♦ **Shotgun range is restricted to the use of non-toxic shot; no lead shot is allowed.**

Turkey Swamp Park

Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.

- ♦ Archery (Special regulations apply; call 732-842-4000.)

Ocean County

Colliers Mills WMA

Off Colliers Mills and Hawkins Rds., Jackson Twp.

- ♦ Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- ♦ Shotgun range is closed.

Stafford Forge WMA

Off Route 539, south of Warren Grove, Little Egg Harbor Twp.

- ♦ Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

Southern Region

Atlantic County

Makepeace Lake WMA

Elmwood-Weymouth Rd., Weymouth

- ♦ Shotgun, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- ♦ All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from base to bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25, 50 and 100 yard lines. This minimum target height requirement eliminates the risk of ricochet to ensure all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100 yard target.
- ♦ Spinner type targets for .177 and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm to direct all bullets into the berm. These targets are not to be used at other yardage or target mound placements.

Gloucester County

Winslow WMA

Piney Hollow Rd., Monroe Twp.

- ♦ Archery
- ♦ Shotgun and muzzleloader ranges are closed.

Cape May County

Tuckahoe WMA

Off Tuckahoe Rd. (Rt. 631), Tuckahoe

- ♦ Archery
- ♦ Shotgun range is closed.

Cumberland County

Millville WMA

Ackley Rd. (Rt. 718), Millville

- ♦ Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

Visitor's Copy — Not Transferable

I request permission to enter your property for the following purpose: _____

Dates from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Limitations _____

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow) of buildings: Yes No

Landowner's Name _____

Address _____

Landowner Copy

Permission given to _____

Address _____

Vehicle Make _____ Yr. _____ Color _____

Vehicle Lic. No. _____ No. in Party _____

Dates from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Limitations _____

Other licenses, tag no. _____

Permission dates from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Limitations _____

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow) of buildings: Yes No

Garden State Deer Classic

January 12–15, 2017

At the Garden State
Outdoor Sportsmen's Show

Raritan Center
Edison, New Jersey

**New Youth
Division!**
See page 73.



See New Jersey's most outstanding white-tailed deer for 2015–16

Awards ceremony on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Applications must be received by Nov. 1, 2016 to enter a deer harvested during last year's 2015–16 hunting seasons. No exceptions!

To arrange for an official measurer to score your New Jersey white-tail, contact Cindy Kuenstner at (609) 633-7598.

Deer will not be measured at the Deer Classic.

See entry details on page 73.

Brought to you by:

- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
- NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- United Bowhunters of New Jersey
- New Jersey Outdoor Alliance
- Conservation Foundation
- Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show

Visit gsoss.com

Promises
to be the
show of
the year!

Landowner–Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

I agree to conduct myself safely, responsibly and lawfully, respecting the landowner, property, and others using it. I accept the responsibilities which are part of the activities which I pursue. I agree to comply with the instructions of the landowner while on this property.

I understand that the laws of New Jersey absolve the landowner from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, and certain other activities, except in the case of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of hazards.

Signed (visitor) _____

Date ____/____/____



This card provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife



HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

I hereby give permission to: (visitor's name) _____

to enter my property for the purpose listed on the reverse side of this card. He/she has agreed to act safely, responsibly, and lawfully and to accept responsibility for his/her actions.

Signed (landowner, lessee, or operator) _____

Date ____/____/____



Outdoor Recreation on Private Property is a Privilege — NOT A RIGHT



Youth Division

New Jersey's Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program has a **Youth Division!**

The Outstanding Deer Program is designed to showcase the fine quality deer produced in the Garden State and recognize the hunters who harvested them with a bow, crossbow, shotgun or muzzleloading rifle.

Joining the program's regular Open Division is a **Youth Division** for hunters ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories and a reduction in the Weight categories by 10 or 20 pounds for doe and buck, respectively. (See table below for minimum entry requirements.)

For the Antler Category, Youth Division deer may be unofficially scored by our trained volunteers who need not be an official measurer. All Open Division deer *must* be scored by an official measurer. Visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm for the **list of official measurers** (see page bottom for *Entering the Outstanding Deer Program*; then bottom of next page), program background, rules, score/entry forms and more.

Youth Division hunters must be prepared to submit a digital, high resolution, respectful photo of hunter and deer *after* their entry has been confirmed. (Day of harvest field photos must be Photoshopped or cropped to conceal any blood or the body cavity.) A family photo is encouraged! **Only Youth Division** hunters (*not* Open Division hunters who may email or call Cindy, below) may arrange for a measuring appointment by calling John Messeroll of the State Federation of Sportsmen's Club at (732) 735-1672. Don't wait for the deadline to approach before having your deer scored.

Applications are due Nov. 1 — NO EXCEPTIONS.

First place **Youth Division** hunters in each category may display a mounted deer at the Garden State Deer Classic (see page 72), whether as a European skull mount or a taxidermy mount. **All other** Youth Division entrants' photos will be *digitally displayed* at the event.

Open Division

Open Division hunters will be invited to display their deer mount, as always, at the Deer Classic.

The Outstanding Deer Program follows the measuring standards developed by the Boone and Crockett Club. This scoring system gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points, mass and symmetry. Legally harvested deer must have been taken under the Boone and Crockett-defined rules of fair chase. Deer taken from enclosed hunting lands are not eligible.

Note: It is best to have the rack measured before it is mounted. Don't wait!

In the Weight categories, the program recognizes exceptional body size as determined by the field-dressed weight, all vitals removed. Minimum eligible weights are listed in the chart. Bucks must be weighed on a certified scale* (no truck scales**) with the weighmaster's signature on a letterhead receipt or on the entry form, available on our website; does must be weighed either on a Fish and Wildlife regional office scale or on a certified scale with proof as above.

Any properly licensed hunter, regardless of residency, is eligible to enter the Outstanding Deer Program with their deer from the previous year's hunting seasons. Deer must be taken in accordance with New Jersey wildlife laws and regulations. Official entry form consists of the original score sheet, hunter information form plus a clear photo of the hunter *with* their deer. These forms with instructions are available on Fish and Wildlife's website NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm. There is no entry fee.

Applications are due Nov. 1 — NO EXCEPTIONS.

For questions about the **Open Division**, email Cindy Kuenstner at Cindy.Kuenstner@dep.nj.gov or call (609) 633-7598.

Qualifying entries for deer harvested during the 2014–15 hunting seasons are recognized at the 2016 Garden State Deer Classic. Join Fish and Wildlife in celebrating New Jersey's outstanding white-tailed deer where this event takes place in January at the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show, Edison. See the ad on page 72 for more information.

The table at right lists the top-scoring deer and the hunters who participated in the 2016 Garden State Deer Classic which **showcased outstanding deer taken during the 2014–15 deer hunting seasons, not the most recent 2015–16 hunting seasons.** These deer will be honored at the January 2017 Deer Classic and printed in next year's *Digest*. 🍷

2016 Garden State Deer Classic Winners*

Rank	Name	Score / Weight	County Harvested	DM Zone
200 Pound Buck — Archery				
1st	Frank Loew	230	Cumberland	28
2nd	Brian Cramer	209	Sussex	5
3rd	Joseph Nee	207	Morris	13
200 Pound Buck — Crossbow				
1st	Dominick Sarinelli	210.25	Sussex	6
2nd	Keith Malespina	210	Mercer	14
3rd	Clifford Bitecola	206	Warren	7
Non-typical Archery				
1st	Scott Stevens	172 1/8	Somerset	8
2nd	Zachary Crane	154 5/8	Burlington	19
3rd	Nick Marchisello	150 6/8	Gloucester	25
Non-typical Crossbow				
1st	Jim Bills	202 1/8	Monmouth	50
2nd	Kim Plummer Sr	165 3/8	Cumberland	31
3rd	Mike Prus	157 0/8	Gloucester	25
Non-typical Shotgun				
1st	John Vomero	162 4/8	Middlesex	50
2nd	Cris McIlvaine	154 3/8	Gloucester	25
3rd	John Pickell	145 6/8	Warren	10
Typical Archery				
1st	Ken Stieh	166 0/8	Warren	5
2nd	Steve Ogilvie	150 6/8	Morris	36
3rd	Peter Paradise	145 4/8	Morris	9
Typical Crossbow				
1st	Bradley Staudt	143 4/8	Somerset	12
2nd	Melissa Gaman	139 7/8	Hunterdon	10
3rd	Carmen Severino	134 7/8	Mercer	12
Typical Muzzleloader				
1st	Matthew Leone	158 5/8	Gloucester	35
2nd	Ronald Moore Sr.	153 5/8	Cumberland	28
3rd	Peter Westra	133 0/8	Sussex	1
Typical Shotgun				
1st	Matthew Wozniak	153 3/8	Warren	5
2nd	Andrew Burnham	143 4/8	Cumberland	29
3rd	Zachary S. Hitchner	139 6/8	Salem	28
Velvet -Typical Archery				
1st	David Williams	129 3/8	Ocean	16
Youth Typical Muzzleloader				
1st	Joshua Loew	139 5/8	Cumberland	30
2nd	Joseph DiGiovanni	127 4/8	Somerset	14

* For deer harvested during the 2014–15 hunting seasons.

Outstanding Deer Program Minimum Requirements

Antler Category	Open Division Minimum	Youth Division Minimum
Typical Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet	125	115
Non-typical Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet	135	125
Weight Category		
Buck: Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader	200 lbs.	180 lbs.
Doe: Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader	135 lbs.	125 lbs.

* See entry form. A certified scale might be available at the following businesses:

- » Warehouse with shipping department
- » Concrete, sand and gravel company
- » Junk yard or scrap metal recycler
- » Marina with party and charter boat fishing

Visit our website for a partial list of certified scales or contact your county weights and measures office. Be sure to locate a scale *before* the hunting season begins!

** A truck scale is not acceptable as the increments are too large.

CWD

Chronic Wasting Disease



What Is CWD?

- ♦ Belongs to a family of neurological diseases called *transmissible spongiform encephalopathies* which include scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans. *There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans;* however the CDC advises against consuming any animal that appears ill.
- ♦ All members of the *Cervid* family (white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, reindeer) are known to be susceptible.
- ♦ Caused by a misfolded protein called a prion which could be found in all deer bodily fluids.
- ♦ There is no cure. CWD is always fatal and there is no live test for deer.

Where Is CWD Found?

- ♦ First discovered in captive mule deer in Colorado, in 1967.
- ♦ Now in captive or wild deer in 26 states and Canadian provinces.
- ♦ Detected in wild deer in: New York State and West Virginia (2005), Virginia (2010), Maryland (2011), Michigan (2015), in Pennsylvania both in captive deer (2012) and in wild deer (2013) plus in captive deer in Texas (2015), and free-ranging deer and elk in Arkansas (2015) and in free-ranging reindeer in Norway (2016).

How New Jersey Is Responding

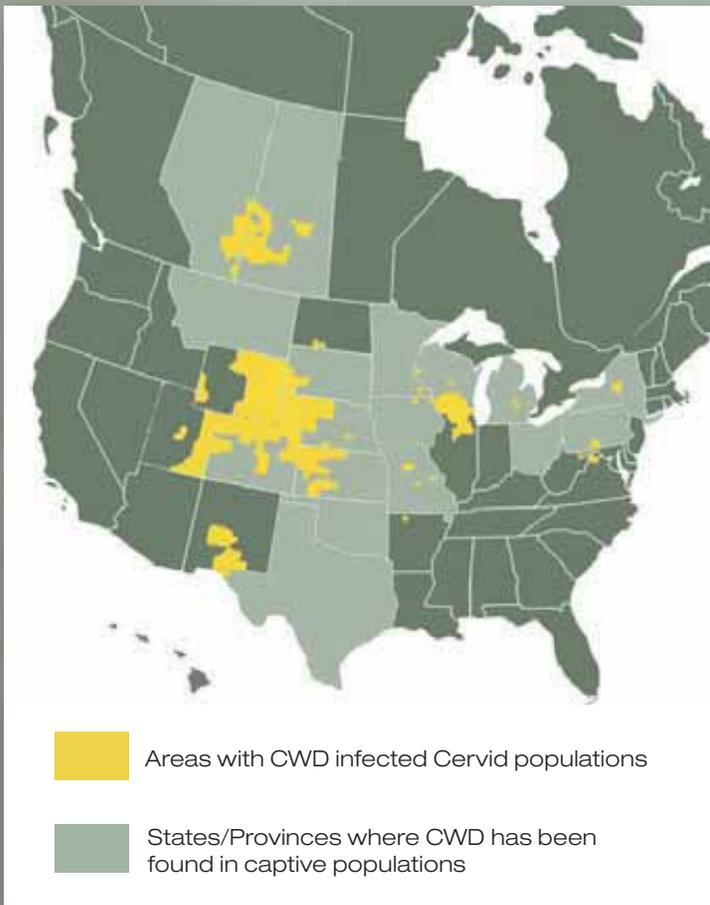
- ♦ Tested for CWD in symptomatic captive cervids and wild deer, and hunter-harvested wild deer since 1997. To date over 6,200 wild deer have been tested with no CWD-positive results.
- ♦ Banned the importation of cervids, recently expanded to include reindeer.
- ♦ Issued an advisory for New Jersey hunters bringing home venison from CWD-endemic states making it illegal to import into New Jersey a harvested deer carcass or deer parts from any state with CWD in wild deer unless strictly following that state's CWD protocol.
- ♦ Improved captive cervid regulations, including a proposed Herd Certification Program.
- ♦ Created the CWD Response Plan with protocols for detection of CWD to be activated when CWD is within 20 miles of the New Jersey border and within the state wild deer and captive cervids.

Attention!

Urine-Based Deer Lures Advisory

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends the use of synthetic, non-urine-based scents or lures for deer hunting. The infectious prions which cause Chronic Wasting Disease can be spread through urine-based lures. Studies have shown the prions can survive for years in contaminated soils and the environment. Urine-based scents and lures are not treated to kill the prions as heat or chemical treatments would also reduce the desired scent characteristics. Hunters using urine-based scents should place them in areas out of contact with deer, the ground or vegetation.

Chronic Wasting Disease in North America



See NJFishandWildlife.com/cwdinfo.htm for more information on CWD in New Jersey and the New Jersey CWD Response Plan.

Visit cwd-info.org for more comprehensive CWD information.



Working to protect the environment through renewable and natural resource conservation.

Contact John Erndl, President
(732) 616-5137 or
email: john.erndl@ubnj.org
Visit our website: www.ubnj.org

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ Date: _____

_____ Individual Membership: * \$25/yr. Includes membership card, four issues of *Tracks & Trails*, decal and eligibility for contests, trophies and prizes.

*Required for UBNJ special hunts

_____ Family Membership: \$40/yr. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership for the member, spouse and each child under the age of 16.

List names of family members: _____

_____ Junior Membership: \$15/yr. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership for youth up to age 16.

For clubs and organizations, contact UBNJ for details.

_____ Life Membership: \$400 single payment. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership.

Check One:
New Member: _____
Renewal: _____

_____ Sponsoring Membership: \$100/yr.

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____ to the UBNJ Protect our Rights Fund.

Signature: _____

Mail to: UBNJ Membership, P.O. Box 11, Ringwood, NJ 07456-0011.
Please allow 6 – 8 weeks to receive membership ID.



If you care about:

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

Then get involved!

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

Membership:

- _____ \$40 Includes monthly newspaper and \$1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- _____ \$25 Monthly newspaper only

Name _____

County _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

GO GREEN! Check here if you prefer to receive an e-mail-only newsletter.

Send with your check or money order to:
NJSFSC • PO Box: 10173 • Trenton, NJ 08650
Join online at

www.njsfsc.org

Prescribed Burning as a Management Tool

By Jimmy Sloan, Assistant Wildlife Biologist

Forest Fire!

Normally, one's first reaction is to call emergency responders to quench the flames—and this is the correct thing to do in cases of wild fire, but not every forest fire is *wild*, i.e., the result of lightning strikes, a careless cigarette thrown out the window, or worse—intentional arson. Sometimes fire is applied intentionally under specific conditions by highly qualified personnel to accomplish planned habitat management objectives. In such cases, fire is more correctly known as *prescribed burning*.

Prescribed burning is an economical habitat management tool used to dispose of logging debris, prepare sites for seeding or planting, manage competing vegetation, return nutrients to soils and reduce hazardous forest fuel loads such as leaves, needles and coarse woody debris. Reducing fuel loads in New Jersey usually occurs in late winter to early spring, dampening the intensity of summer wildfires and thereby providing a foundation for safe, more effective fire suppression. With over 1,500 wildfires annually in New Jersey, forest fuel reduction is an important public safety responsibility. NJDEP's Division of Parks and Forestry—along with the Division of Fish and Wildlife—conduct prescribed burning on 10–20,000 acres annually throughout the state.

Improved wildlife habitat results from prescribed burning, which can set back plant succession, stimulate new growth that is young, tender and palatable, increase biodiversity where burned and unburned areas intersect and increase

the amount of sunlight reaching the ground. This allows new growth from grass, tree and wildflower seeds that have lain dormant for many years. Trees such as shortleaf pine and pitch pine are uniquely adapted to thrive in fire-dependent ecosystems and will release their seeds only after a fire event that produces bare ground and adequate sunlight penetration. Quail research pioneer Herbert Stoddard nicknamed the northern bobwhite the “fire bird” because of its dependence on fire to maintain the early successional habitat they require. Over 40 New Jersey endangered and threatened species are considered fire-dependent.

The New Jersey State Forest Service is the only entity that can apply prescribed burning on public lands. Private landowners desiring to use this economical management tool to improve wildlife habitat may do so after submitting a prescribed burn application available from the New Jersey State Forest Fire Service website at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/fire/index.html>.

Did you know?

The New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve is second only to California's chaparral region in the number of wild fires annually.

Left: Prescribed burn conducted at Penn State Forest in April 2016 to reduce hazardous fuel loads created by leaves, conifer needles and coarse, woody forest debris.

Below left: Prescribed burn performed by NJ State Forest Fire Service and Division of Fish and Wildlife employees at Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in February 2016 to remove unwanted thatch and allow new growth.



Below right: Author Jimmy Sloan “back fires” an area during the Woodmansie fire in September 2015 on Greenwood Wildlife Management Area by creating a limiting line of fire designed to reduce or consume natural woodland debris use as fuel ahead of the larger fire.



A Recommendation of the **Blue Ribbon Panel** on **Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources**



Northern Harrier,
a Species
of Special
Concern in
New Jersey.

JeffCrawn.com

Our nation is facing a conservation crisis. Despite successes like the recovery of bald eagles and arctic graylings, thousands of species of birds, mammals, fish, frogs, turtles and insects have been slipping through the cracks for decades. Unless we start investing in proactive conservation measures, our nation's rich natural heritage and vital natural resource-based economy will face an uncertain future. New dedicated funding is needed now to ensure the long-term health of all fish and wildlife.

In 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act that established a conservation fund financed by hunters and recreational shooters to conserve game species. This funding model was later expanded to include sport fish with passage of the Dingell-Johnson Act. These two Acts enabled states to make long-term investments in science-based management, resulting in the restoration of once depleted white-tailed deer, elk, wood ducks, striped bass and many other game species. This remarkably successful funding mechanism can be replicated to address the urgent conservation needs of all fish and wildlife and expand the number of citizens who invest in nature.

This conservation crisis also extends to people. More Americans than ever before are becoming disconnected from nature and the outdoors. This change is having profound implications on our citizens' health and well-being and the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation. **To safeguard the future of our country's fish and wildlife, we must expand access and opportunities to bring the benefits of nature to all Americans.**

What is at Stake?

Our system of fish and wildlife funding is incomplete. State fish and wildlife agencies have identified thousands of species that are in immediate need of conservation, but only a small fraction are being addressed because of limited financial resources. As species decline and habitats deteriorate, benefits provided by nature such as water purification, pollination, recreation and food and fiber production that are essential to human health and economic prosperity are being compromised.

Without a change in the way we finance fish and wildlife conservation, we can expect the list

of federally threatened and endangered species to grow from nearly 1,600 species today to perhaps thousands more in the future. In addition to the tragedy of placing our country's natural heritage at risk, such increases will impact business by raising costs for regulatory compliance, delaying deployment of capital and creating less regulatory certainty.

At the same time as people have become more urban, plugged-in, and over-scheduled, time spent in nature and the outdoors has significantly declined. Today, children spend over 50 hours a week using electronic media, leaving little time to participate in nature-based activities. This lost connection to nature denies significant physical and mental benefits to many Americans and threatens the relevance of state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Benefits to People and Society

Increased investment in fish and wildlife conservation is vital to sustaining our natural infrastructure. Nature provides a host of indispensable benefits such as pollination, water purification, erosion control, flood control, recreation, food production and cultural amenities. Globally, these ecosystem services are minimally valued at \$18 trillion dollars per year.

Increased investment in fish and wildlife conservation makes fiscal sense. Proactive conservation saves tax payer dollars by addressing species' needs early so that costly "emergency room" interventions are avoided. Preventing threatened and endangered species listings helps business by averting project delays and losses from forfeited opportunities due to land use regulations.

Increased investment in fish and wildlife conservation is important to the nation's economy. Healthy fish and wildlife populations are critical to supporting the \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy and its 6.1 million jobs. The 90 million people who participate in wildlife-related recreation alone spend \$145 billion per year.

Increased investment in fish and wildlife conservation is needed to keep people of all ages and walks of life connected with nature. A growing body of evidence demonstrates that regular contact with nature adds quality to our lives and improves our physical and emotional health. State fish and wildlife agencies are well positioned to be leaders in delivering services that provide quality experiences in nature to people in both rural and urban environments

When I started my career in early 1980, New Jersey had one nesting pair of bald eagles. We cobbled together the resources, the staff and the volunteers and our NGO [non-governmental organization] partnerships to work hard on bald eagles. And I can tell you that we have 190 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the State of New Jersey today. What an incredible success story that shows what you can do when you commit resources to something. And that's what this Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources is going to be all about and the exciting opportunities that are going to be in front of us as wildlife professionals to continue that kind of important work.

— **Dave Chanda, Director, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife;
President, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**

The Solution

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, comprised of national business and conservation leaders, was convened to evaluate and recommend a more sustainable funding approach to avert a fish and wildlife conservation crisis. The Panel completed its work in December 2015 and recommends:

Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).

This funding would provide the states, territories and the District of Columbia with new critically needed financial resources to effectively implement State Wildlife Action Plans to conserve 12,000 species in greatest need of conservation. Additionally, this funding would allow states to provide the public with more access to open spaces; giving people more opportunities to have meaningful contact with nature.

Historically, when fish and wildlife have faced a crisis, the nation has responded. We can create a more optimistic future for our nation's rich natural heritage through dedicated and sustained investment. State fish and wildlife agencies have a proven track record of success when given adequate financial resources. We need to act now to build a safety net for all fish and wildlife, create regulatory certainty for business and address the growing disconnect between people and nature. Failure to do so will mean that our generation will leave the nation's rich natural assets impaired, rather than increased in worth.

The Blue Ribbon Panel On Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources

The Blue Ribbon Panel includes 26 business and conservation leaders and two ex officio members. The Panel was charged with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations.

For more information about the Blue Ribbon Commission on Sustaining America's Diverse Wildlife Resources, contact Ron Regan, Executive Director for the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, at rregan@fishwildlife.org or call 202/838-3474.

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies – the organization that represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies—promotes sound resource management and conservation, and has been speaking on important fish and wildlife issues since 1902. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 1100 First Street, NE, Suite 825 Washington, DC 20002 202/838-3474 — www.FishWildlife.org

Excerpted with permission from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' short report: Sustaining and Connecting People to Fish and Wildlife – a Looming Crisis Can be Avoided.

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"Game Creek - A Place to Leave Your Footprints"

Our extensive acreage is divided into a number of individual farms managed exclusively for wildlife and for hunting. The farms are all within a 3 mile radius of the clubhouse on the home farm. Our hunters enjoy this setting because it lends itself to privacy and seclusion. Feed and cover plots of corn, sorghum, sudangrass, etc. are seeded each spring in addition to the perennial grasses and plants to provide optimum feed and holding cover for released birds and native game.

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856-769-0035
www.gamecreek.com

Join us for the 25th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 21, 2017
Island Beach State Park

NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with our co-sponsors: New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 24th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2016:

- Bass Pro Shops
- Costa Del Mar, Inc.
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- NJ Fish and Wildlife's Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs
- Jenkinson's Aquarium
- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- Silver Horde
- Stanley Jigs, Inc.



Matt Hencheck

Continue the Tradition

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

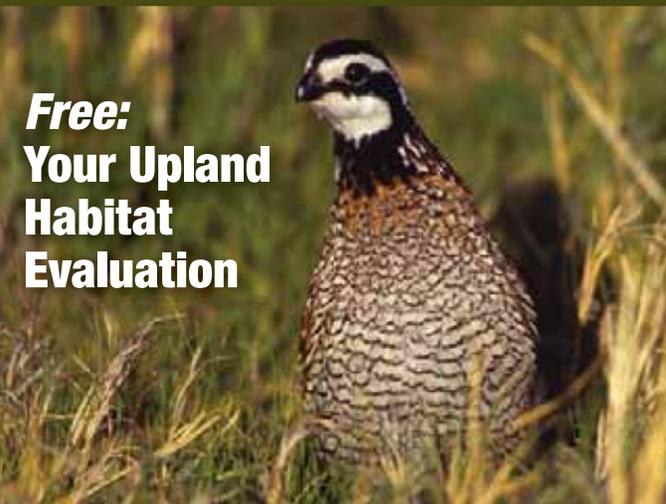
Or complete the application form at:

www.NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/hunted/hntedinstr.pd.



Attention Private Landowners

Free: **Your Upland Habitat Evaluation**



Do you want your land to attract a greater diversity of wildlife species?

Are you interested in wildlife stewardship?

You can make a difference!

In an effort to restore critical early successional habitats for quail and other species, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife staff is available to provide

habitat recommendations for private landowners throughout southwestern New Jersey. This service is free and involves no contracts.

Contact us for more information:

Jimmy Sloan
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Nacote Creek Research Station
PO Box 418
Port Republic NJ 08241-0418
(609) 748-2058

Perpetual Sunrise & Sunset

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Day	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.																						
01	7:22	4:43	7:09	5:17	6:32	5:51	5:42	6:24	4:58	6:55	4:31	7:23	4:33	7:32	4:57	7:13	5:27	6:30	5:56	5:41	6:29	4:56	7:03	4:34
02	7:22	4:44	7:08	5:18	6:31	5:52	5:41	6:25	4:57	6:56	4:31	7:23	4:34	7:32	4:58	7:12	5:28	6:29	5:57	5:39	6:30	4:55	7:04	4:33
03	7:22	4:45	7:07	5:19	6:29	5:53	5:39	6:26	4:56	6:57	4:31	7:24	4:34	7:32	4:59	7:11	5:29	6:27	5:58	5:37	6:31	4:54	7:05	4:33
04	7:22	4:46	7:06	5:21	6:27	5:54	5:38	6:27	4:55	6:58	4:30	7:25	4:35	7:32	5:00	7:09	5:30	6:25	5:59	5:36	6:32	4:52	7:06	4:33
05	7:22	4:47	7:05	5:22	6:26	5:56	5:36	6:28	4:53	6:59	4:30	7:25	4:36	7:32	5:01	7:08	5:31	6:24	6:00	5:34	6:34	4:51	7:07	4:33
06	7:22	4:48	7:04	5:23	6:24	5:57	5:34	6:29	4:52	7:00	4:30	7:26	4:36	7:31	5:02	7:07	5:32	6:22	6:01	5:33	6:35	4:50	7:07	4:33
07	7:22	4:49	7:02	5:24	6:23	5:58	5:33	6:30	4:51	7:01	4:30	7:27	4:37	7:31	5:03	7:06	5:33	6:20	6:02	5:31	6:36	4:49	7:08	4:33
08	7:22	4:50	7:01	5:26	6:21	5:59	5:31	6:31	4:50	7:02	4:29	7:27	4:37	7:31	5:04	7:05	5:34	6:19	6:03	5:29	6:37	4:48	7:09	4:33
09	7:21	4:51	7:00	5:27	6:20	6:00	5:30	6:32	4:49	7:03	4:29	7:28	4:38	7:30	5:05	7:03	5:35	6:17	6:04	5:28	6:38	4:47	7:10	4:33
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29	7:11	5:13	6:34	5:50	5:47	6:21	5:01	6:53	4:33	7:21	4:32	7:33	4:54	7:16	5:24	6:35	5:54	5:44	6:26	4:59	7:01	4:34	7:21	4:42
30	7:10	5:15			5:46	6:22	4:59	6:54	4:32	7:21	4:33	7:32	4:55	7:15	5:25	6:33	5:55	5:42	6:27	4:58	7:02	4:34	7:21	4:42
31	7:09	5:16			5:44	6:23			4:32	7:22			4:56	7:14	5:26	6:32			6:28	4:57			7:22	4:43

Eastern Standard Time • U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC 20392-5420

Add one hour for daylight savings time when in effect (second Sunday in March and reverts back the first Sunday in November).

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NEW JERSEY HAS more than 750,000 acres of public land available to the deer hunter. This list is arranged by deer management zone for public land open to deer hunting. Generally, only areas with 100 acres or more of upland habitat are listed. State parks and forests that allow hunting may have some sections which are closed to hunting. Some areas allow deer hunting only during certain seasons, require an access fee or have other special regulations. Refer to the *Digest* section *Special Areas Hunting Season Information* page 42 or contact the appropriate authority for details. See page 83 for hunting opportunities on national wildlife refuges in New Jersey.

Remember: Hunters must have permission to hunt agricultural land even if the land is not posted. Hunters should obtain permission before hunting any private property. Hunters are advised not to purchase a deer permit for a zone in which they have no place to hunt.

Updates since last year are noted below in **red**.

Zone Public Land Open to Deer Hunting

- 1 • Bear Swamp WMA
• Flatbrook—Roy WMA
• Hainesville WMA
• Stokes State Forest
- 2 • Kittatinny Valley State Park
• Paulinskill WMA
• Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
• Wawayanda State Park
- 3 • Abram Hewitt State Forest
• Hamburg Mountain WMA
• Long Pond Ironworks State Park
• Newark Watershed (see *Special Areas*)
• Norvin Green State Forest
• Ramapo Mountain State Forest
• Ringwood State Park
• Wawayanda State Park
- 4 • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
• Flatbrook—Roy WMA
• Stokes State Forest
• Walpack WMA
• Worthington State Forest
- 5 • Beaver Brook WMA
• Columbia WMA
• Honey Run WMA
• Jenny Jump State Forest
• Paulinskill WMA
• Swartswood State Park
• Trout Brook WMA
• White Lake WMA
• Whittingham WMA
- 6 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
• Berkshire Valley WMA
• Fanny State Park
• Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
• Newark Watershed (see *Special Areas*)
• Rockaway River WMA
• Sparta Mountain WMA
• Weldon Brook WMA
• Wildcat Ridge WMA
- 7 • Buckhorn Creek WMA
• Clinton WMA
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Union Forge Preserve, Tower Hill Reserve (see *Special Areas*)
• Musconetcong River WMA
• Spruce Run Recreation Area
- 8 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
• Black River WMA
• Hacklebarney State Park
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Cold Brook Preserve, Teetertown Ravine Nature Preserve, Point Mountain Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
• Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA
• Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
• Musconetcong River WMA
• Pequest WMA
• Rockport WMA
• South Branch WMA
• Voorhees State Park
- 9 • Black River WMA
• Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 10 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Musconetcong Gorge, the Drag Strip Property, Hoffman Park, Schick Reserve, South Branch Reservation, Uplands Reserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 11 • Musconetcong River WMA
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Lockatong Nature Preserve, the Case Farm, Wescott Nature Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
• Lockatong WMA
- 12 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Cushtunk Mountain Park, Sourland Mountain Nature Preserve, Deer Path Park, South Branch Reservation (see *Special Areas*)
• Mercer County Parks—Pole Farm Section
• Round Valley Recreation Area
• South Branch WMA
- 13 • Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 14 • Assunpink WMA (Robbinsville Twp section only)
• Pigeon Swamp State Park
• Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 15 • Assunpink WMA
• Monmouth County Park System—Charleston Springs Golf Course, Perrineville Lake Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 16 • Turkey Swamp WMA
• Monmouth County Park System—Bear Swamp Tract of Manasquan Reservoir, Howell Park Golf Course, Turkey Swamp Park, Yellowbrook Tract of Manasquan River Linear Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 17 • Colliers Mills WMA
• Monmouth County Park System—Clayton Park, Crosswicks Creek Park (see *Special Areas*)
• Pleasant Run WMA
• Prospertown Lake WMA
- 18 • Colliers Mills WMA
• Manchester WMA
• Whiting WMA
- 19 • Medford WMA
• Wharton State Forest
- 21 • Double Trouble State Park
• Forked River Mountain WMA
• Greenwood Forest WMA
• Lebanon State Forest
- 22 • Bass River State Forest
- 23 • Wharton State Forest
- 24 • Bass River State Forest
• Penn State Forest
• Stafford Forge WMA
• Swan Bay WMA
• Warren Grove Recreation Area
• Wharton State Forest
- 25 • Cedar Lake WMA
• Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Penbryn Pond WMA
• Wharton State Forest
• White Oak Branch WMA
- 26 • Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Hamonton Creek WMA
• Makepeace Lake WMA
• Port Republic WMA
- 27 • Salem River WMA
• Thundersgut Pond WMA
- 28 • Buckshutem WMA
• Elmer Lake WMA
• Parvin State Park
• Union Lake WMA
- 29 • Bayside PSE&G Tract (see *Special Areas*)
• Cohansey WMA
• Gum Tree Corner WMA
• Mad Horse Creek WMA
• Maskells Mill Pond WMA
• Stowe Creek State Park
- 30 • Bear Swamp Natural Area (closed Jan. 15–Aug. 1)
• Dix WMA
• Egg Island WMA
• Fortescue WMA
• Nantuxent WMA
• New Sweden WMA
- 31 • Millville WMA
• Buckshutem WMA
- 34 • Beaver Swamp WMA
• Belleplaine State Forest
• Cape May Wetlands WMA
• Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
• Dennis Creek WMA
• Heislerville WMA
• Higbee Beach WMA
• Tuckahoe WMA
• Lizard Tail Swamp Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 35 • D.O.D. Ponds
• Harrisonville Lake WMA
- 36 • Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 37 • Fort Dix Military Reservation (see *Special Areas*)
- 38 • Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 39 • No public deer hunting land
- 41 • Alexauken Creek WMA
• Mercer County Parks—Baldpate (Kuser) Mountain
• Mercer County Parks—Howell Living History Farm
- 42 • Port Republic WMA
• Tuckahoe WMA
- 43 • Millville (Bevan) WMA
- 45 • Menantico Ponds WMA
• Peaslee WMA
- 46 • Gibson Creek WMA
• Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Tuckahoe WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
• Maple Lake WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
• Peaslee WMA
- 47 • Peaslee WMA
- 48 • Rancocas State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 49 • No public deer hunting land
- 50 • Cheesapeake State Park
• Monmouth County Park System—Hartshorne Woods Park, Tatum Park, Thompson Park, Big Brook Park, Huber Woods, the Ramanessin Section of Holmdel Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 51 • Allaire State Park
• Manasquan River WMA
• Manahawkin WMA
• Monmouth County Park System—Shark River Park, Rt. 33 Tract and Shark River Park—East of Remsen Mill Rd. (see *Special Areas*)
- 53 • Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station (see *Special Areas*)
- 54 • No public deer hunting land
- 55 • Glassboro WMA
- 56 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 57 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 58 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge—north of Rt. 72 (see *Special Areas*)
- 61 • Atlantic County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 63 • Abbotts Meadow WMA
• Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 64 • Monmouth Battlefield State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 65 • Winslow WMA
• White Oak Branch WMA
- 66 • Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (see *Special Areas*)
- 67 • High Point State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 68 • Franklin Parker Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 70 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, north of the Mullica River and south of Rt. 72 (see *Special Areas*)

Maps Available

Maps and information on hunting land is also available from the following sources:

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Free download. Maps and information on lands administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Both topographic and road maps available. www.njfishandwildlife.com/wmland.htm Photocopies also available of individual WMA maps on USGS base. Free. Specify which WMA. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, WMA Map Request MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (609) 984-0547.

USGS Topographic Maps

Free download. Topo quads available. www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs/pricelst/usgsbase.htm Or write, below, stating exact location including county, township and road. Printed topo quads—\$10 ea. NJ DEP Division of Water Supply and Geoscience Maps and Publications MC 29-01, P. O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402 (609) 292-1185

State Parks and Forests Maps

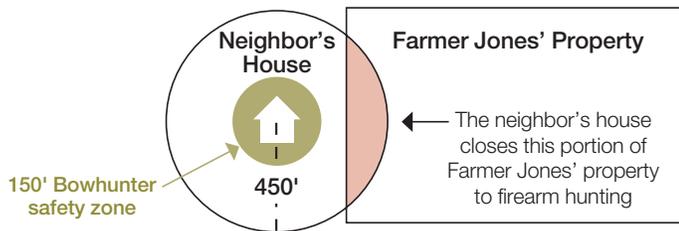
Free download. Find a state park, forest, recreation area or marina by location. www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/parkindex.html. Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Specify which park or forest. Free. NJ DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry MC 501-04, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (800) 843-6420

SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

NEW JERSEY HUNTERS enjoy many types of hunting, numerous days afield and generous bag limits. But development and other human encroachment on the forests and fields of the Garden State has changed both wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for hunters.

What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- ♦ The firearm SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied. For bowhunters, the SAFETY ZONE around buildings is 150 feet **but remains 450 feet from a school playground.** See *Safety Zone*, page 27.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE is the place where you, the hunter, cannot carry a loaded firearm or nocked arrow unless you have written permission in hand.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE was established by legislation in 1946 as an area to place some physical distance, a buffer, between hunters and homeowners.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE could be land where there is suitable wildlife habitat for adaptable species, like the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and Canada goose.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE is not a magic shield and cannot stop a misdirected projectile from entering the area around a home.



What can you do to heighten your SAFETY ZONE awareness?

1. Post SAFETY ZONE signs.
2. Talk with landowners.
3. Scout hunting property annually to be aware of new construction or other changes.
4. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
5. Know the law. Know the land.



Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. Always be a responsible hunter. Always be aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of good conduct learned at your hunter education course are called into practice every time you hunt.

Take special care hunting on "high visibility" property, habitat where our adaptable wildlife species—especially white-tailed deer—are flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. Hunting these *Special Areas* carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions. ♫

Hunting Opportunities on New Jersey's National Wildlife Refuges: 2016–17 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below. *No Sunday hunting on national wildlife refuges.*

Cape May NWR

24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 463-0994; fws.gov/northeast/capemay

- ♦ Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 42.
- ♦ Migratory game birds except crow—on refuge lands north of Rt. 550 or west of Rt. 47
- ♦ Turkey, rabbit and squirrel hunting in select areas only.
No refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Great Swamp NWR

241 Pleasant Plains Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-9615
(973) 425-1222 ext. 155; www.fws.gov/refuge/great_swamp/

- ♦ Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 42.
In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit for \$26 (\$13 for holders of a Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass and youths with a valid New Jersey youth hunting license).

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

800 Great Creek Rd., Oceanville, NJ 08231-0072;
(609) 652-1665; www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/

- ♦ Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 42.
- ♦ Waterfowl
Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge website, or through the mail.

Supawna Meadows NWR

c/o Cape May NWR, 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210, (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/supawnameadows/

- ♦ Deer—Bowhunting only. Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 42.
- ♦ Waterfowl
Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Walkkill River NWR

1547 County Rt. 565, Sussex, NJ 07461-4013; (973) 702-7266;
www.fws.gov/refuge/Walkkill_River/visit/hunting.html

- ♦ Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 42.
- ♦ Migratory Birds except crow
- ♦ Spring and Fall Turkey (Zone 5)
- ♦ Black bear – during Six-Day Firearm Season only (Segment B)
- ♦ Small game – squirrel and rabbit only
Note: the refuge is closed to Sunday hunting.
Hunters must obtain a refuge hunting permit in addition to state licenses. There is a \$30 fee for a single game permit or \$100 for a combination, all game permit. Bear permits are \$5 and are not included in the combination permit. Discounts are available for Senior and Access pass holders. Youths remain free. Details on obtaining refuge hunt permits are available at the link above.
- ♦ Additional hunting opportunities
 - » Hunters with Disabling Conditions: Special Hunting Permits are available for eligible mobility-impaired persons during refuge hunting seasons. For more information and eligibility requirements visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/Walkkill_River/visit/disabledhunt.html or call the refuge office at the number above.
 - » Mentored Hunts: The refuge partners with the National Wild Turkey Federation to offer mentored hunts for youth and disabled hunters. Registration is required and space is limited. Contact the refuge for dates and details. ♫