

State-Owned and Managed Lands

This section refers to rules for all lands and property owned or under control by the department; which includes lands under easement to or lease by the state of Wisconsin. State-owned lands **do not** include lands enrolled in Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. See section on page 39 for rules regarding these properties.

It is illegal to:

- hike or snowshoe on designated cross-country ski trails when the trails are snow covered.
- hunt or possess a firearm or bow in a wildlife refuge or possess a firearm, air gun, slingshot or bow in a state park, state fish hatchery, or within 100 yards of a state campground, picnic area or within the exterior boundaries of a state recreational trail (except as posted open to hunting) unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case. A bow/ crossbow may be unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.
- pursue, drive or chase animals on lands that are closed to hunting.
- It is illegal to use a ground blind during any open season or special hunt for hunting deer with firearms unless a **minimum of 144 square inches** of solid blaze orange, or florescent blaze orange, material is **visible from all directions** (see page 21).
Note: Blinds used for waterfowl hunting are exempt from this rule.
- build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree, and it is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours. **Except:** Ground blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property do not need to be removed at the end of each day; and blinds used for waterfowl hunting are also exempt from daily removal requirements.
- leave a tree stand or ground blind unoccupied during legal hunting hours unless the owner's customer ID number or name and address have been attached in a manner that is visible and legible to a person on the ground or near entrance of ground blind.
- damage trees. Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal.
- possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun while within the exterior boundary of state-owned lands posted with department signs in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties or on state forest lands in the Kettle Moraine or Point Beach state forests, or state recreation areas, except as follows:
 1. while engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons listed on pages 5–8.
 2. while shooting at an established target range (this is the only target shooting permitted on these state lands).
 3. while training or trialing dogs under department license within designated areas.
- camp on any state lands except in designated campgrounds unless a special camp registration permit is obtained from the DNR prior to setting up camp.
- allow dogs to run on DNR lands from April 15 through July 31 unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet. This rule does not apply to class 1 field trial grounds, DNR lands open to dog training or to train dogs to track bear after June 30. Also, there are exceptions for the training and trialing of dogs on raccoon and rabbits with a training license. See the *Wisconsin Dog Training and Trialing Regulations* (PUB-WM-444) for more information, license requirements and restrictions.
- operate any vehicle, including, but not limited to, snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by posted notice

or permit. This prohibition does not apply to public roadways and trails held open to the public for the type of vehicle being operated. *Bicycles are permitted in all areas of the northern state forests, the Turtle-Flambeau and the Willow Flowage scenic water areas, except where posted against such use.*

- operate motor vehicles, including ATVs and snowmobiles, except for areas posted open to such use.

Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed maps showing public lands in your area. Go to dnr.wi.gov and click on the Hunting link. On the left side of the screen under "Hunting Opportunities" click on "Wildlife Recreation Lands" to find a State Wildlife Area near you that is open to hunting.

Federal Lands

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest information:

Headquarters Offices—Park Falls: 715-762-2461, TTY 715-762-5701 and Rhinelander: 715-362-1300, TTY 715-362-1383.

Additional information and regulations may be found on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/.

Note: Motorized access to these forest lands have changed. Contact above for details.

National Wildlife Refuge and Waterfowl Production Area Regulations

Portions of National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) are open to hunting and trapping in accordance with state and federal regulations. Federal regulations will vary. **In order to avoid violating federal regulations contact the office of the NWR or WPA you will be hunting to get regulations specific to that property. Additional information can be found at: midwest.fws.gov.**

New in 2009, Whittlesey Creek NWR will be open for archery hunting. For more information on rules and season dates, please contact Whittlesey Creek at 715-685-2680 or emailing: whittleseycreek@fws.gov.

The following is a *partial* list of general NWR and WPA regulations.

It is illegal to:

- Possess any firearm, bow, or other weapons unless engaged in legal hunting.
Note: Concealed weapons, including those approved by permit, are illegal anytime.
- Possess lead shot. **Note:** Only non-toxic shot may be possessed for hunting game birds and animals on WPAs, Horicon NWR, Necedah NWR, and Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges (UMRNWFR). This rule does not apply to hunting Small Game Mammals or deer with rifles and shotguns with a single projectile (slugs). **Non-toxic shot is also required for hunting turkey on the UMRNWFR and the Necedah NWR.**
- Leave spent shells on the ground. Spent shells are considered litter and must be removed. Federal citation for littering is \$125.00
- Build or use a ground blind or any elevated device, unless it does not damage the tree (i.e. no use of screws, nails, etc.) **and** it is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.
- Construct permanent blinds out of man-made materials. **Note:** Portable blinds constructed of man-made materials are allowed, but must be removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.

Federal Lands *continued...*

It is illegal to:

- Possess alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Camp, horseback ride, have overnight use or campfires on WPAs.
- Shine wild animals at any time.
- Blaze orange on ground blinds is currently not required, but it is recommended on these lands during gun deer seasons.

Horicon NWR—Mayville, WI 920-387-2658

Fox River NWR—(Marquette County) contact the Horicon office 920-387-2658

Necedah NWR—Necedah, WI 608-565-2551

Trempealeau NWR—Trempealeau, WI 608-539-2311

Whittlesey Creek NWR—Ashland, WI 715-685-2680

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (UMRNWFR)—Winona, MN 507-452-4232

Leopold Wetland Management District (WMD)—Portage, WI 608-742-7100
Contact this office for information regarding WPAs in the southeast.

St. Croix WMD—New Richmond, WI 715-246-7784

Contact this office for information regarding WPAs in the northwest.

Tribal Lands

Special rules apply on tribal lands in portions or all of Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Sawyer, and Vilas counties. For more information, contact the tribal chairpersons.

Private Lands and Landowner Information

License Requirements: A landowner is required to have a license to hunt deer.

Liability: Under sec. 895.52 of the Wisconsin Statutes, landowners are generally immune from liability for injuries received by individuals recreating on their lands. This law provides liability protection for landowners from injury or death of individuals occurring when participating in outdoor recreation activities on their land such as fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, camping, boating and berry picking. This immunity does not apply when the landowner receives more than \$2,000 a year income from the recreation activity or when the landowner acted maliciously with an intent to harm the recreator. There also is an exception for social guests invited specifically for an occasion on residential or platted property or property within 300 feet of a commercial building or structure. Courts have consistently interpreted this statute to protect landowners in furtherance of its purpose, to encourage landowners to allow others to recreate on their lands.

Trespassing: Landowners suspecting that individuals are trespassing on their property should **contact their local Sheriff's Department or other local law enforcement agency**. Conservation Wardens do not have the authority to investigate trespassing complaints. Any person convicted of trespassing is subject to a penalty of up to \$1,383. According to s. 943.13, of the Wisconsin Statutes, it is illegal to:

- enter land of another without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant of the land, or

- enter or remain on land after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain. A person has received notice from the owner or occupant if he or she has been notified personally, either orally or in writing, or if the land is posted.

Remember: Although hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve game they have killed or injured, hunters may not trespass to retrieve such game, even if the game was shot from outside the posted area. **Ask first for permission.**

Farmer Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags: Eligible resident farm owners can receive one free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag for each Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag they purchase in units that have carcass tags available beginning at noon on August 22. To qualify, a majority of the land on the farm must be used on a commercial basis and for an agricultural purpose to provide income during the year that the permit is valid. In addition, the farm must be located in whole or partially in the DMU for which the landowner is requesting the free tag. If there are joint owners or vendee names under a land contract, only one of the owners is eligible for the free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag.

CWD unit landowner permits: The Natural Resources Board will be deciding whether or not to issue CWD landowner permits at their December 9th meeting. These permits would allow landowners within the CWD management zone to harvest deer on their property from January 4th to March 31st. Additional details are not yet available. Please contact the DNR (1-888-936-7463 or at dnr.wi.gov) for the most up to date information.

Managed Forest Law and Forest Crops Law

This section refers to rules on private forest lands enrolled in either the Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. **It is illegal to:**

- build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree, and it is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.*
 - damage trees. **Note:** Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal.*
 - operate any vehicle, including, but not limited to, snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit.*
- * This does not apply to owners of land enrolled in program or those who have the landowner's authorization. Doing so without authorization would be considered a trespassing violation.

Ask First and Say Thanks!

Wisconsin landowners appreciate those people who ask permission to hunt and say thanks afterward. This builds important landowner-hunter trust. Remember, entering private lands without permission is illegal and creates a negative image for all hunters.

Special Hunts

Many of the deadlines for special hunts occur prior to the publication of this pamphlet. If you are interested in these hunts, note the deadlines for 2010.

Two-day Youth Gun Deer Hunt—October 10 and 11

- Open to persons 12–15 years of age (resident or non-resident) who possess a Wisconsin Hunter Education certificate of accomplishment (or similar certificate recognized by the Department from another state, province or country) and a Gun Deer License.
- Earn-A-Buck restrictions do not apply statewide during the October 10 and 11 Youth Gun Deer hunt, but youths may earn an EAB sticker for shooting an antlerless deer during the two-day youth gun deer hunt in CWD EAB units.
- The bag limit is **one** buck with a *Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag* plus additional antlerless deer per *Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag* valid for the Deer Management Unit youth is hunting (**this one buck restriction also applies to CWD units**).
- May harvest a deer in any DMU statewide (including those portions west of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad that are not posted closed to hunting) except state park and non-quota units.
- Allowable types of firearms are those authorized for the November gun deer season.
- Adults may not gun deer hunt during the two-day Youth Gun Deer Hunt.
- Youth hunters must be accompanied* by a parent or guardian (at least 18 years of age) even if the youth is 14 or 15 and holds a Hunter Education Certificate.
* Accompanied means within visual **and** voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device.
- One adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters and all other hunting regulations apply, **including blaze orange clothing requirements for all hunters, except waterfowl hunters.**

Educational Hunts:

- **Buckhorn State Park and Wildlife Area:** Deer hunting is offered to youth 12–17 years old who complete a “Learn to Hunt Workshop.” For applications and information regarding dates and fees, write or call Buckhorn State Park at W8450 Buckhorn Park Avenue, Necedah, WI 54646-7338; Phone 608-565-2789. *Applications for 2010 are due July 15, 2010.*
- **Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center:** Deer hunting is offered to youth and beginner adults who complete a “Learn to Deer Hunt Workshop.” For dates and fees, write or call the Center at Box 156, Babcock, WI 54413; 715-884-2437. *Applications for 2010 are due May 31, 2010.*

Disabled Deer Hunts: Oct. 3–Oct. 11, 2009. Interested disabled hunters who wish to participate in 2009, should contact the nearest DNR office that offers counter service or disabled deer hunt sponsor before *September 1st*. The disabled deer hunt is available to disabled hunters who hold a Class A or C disabled permit; or a Class B permit issued for longer than one year and authorizes hunting or shooting from a stationary vehicle. People who wish to sponsor a deer hunt *in 2010* must submit an application to their local wildlife manager by *June 1, 2010*. A list of sponsors can be found at dnr.wi.gov.

Badger Army Ammunition Plant: For hunting information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Hunting Program, Badger Army Ammunition Plant, 2 Badger Road, Baraboo, WI 53910-5000.

Volk Field Military Facility/Deer Hunting: For hunting information send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope (8 3/4" x 3 3/4") to: Attn: Natural Resources Management, Volk Field ANGB, 100 Independence Dr., Camp Douglas, WI 54618-5001.

Fort McCoy Military Reservation: Hunting information can be found under Recreation Opportunities at www.mccoymilitary.com or by calling the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.

Apostle Islands (Deer Management Unit 79): Permits are required to participate in the Oct. 1–31 muzzleloader season and the archery season on Sept. 12–30 and Nov. 1–Jan. 3. Sand and York Islands may be closed in 2009. Madeline and Long Islands are open to regular statewide seasons. Contact the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore for island accessibility and information on required permits and tagging options.

Contact information:

Email: APIS_resource_issues@nps.gov

Mail: Superintendent, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore,
415 Washington Avenue Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone: 715-779-3397

Hunting on School Forest Land: A school board may decide to allow hunting for game in its school forest consistent with the open and closed season for game on adjacent land.

Wisconsin Deer Donation 2009

In 2008, hunters donated 6,267 deer to food pantries, which provided 340,000 pounds of ground venison to needy families across the state. Hunters, you can once again help feed needy people throughout Wisconsin this fall by taking four simple steps:

1. Field dress the deer and register it at a Wisconsin DNR registration station prior to donating the deer.
2. Call first! Contact one of the participating processors before dropping the deer off to verify the processor has space to accept your deer.
3. Drop deer off at a participating processor by January 5, 2010. Donate the entire deer to receive the processing for free (head and or/antlers may be removed for mounting).
4. When dropping your deer off at a processor, please sign the simple log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer.

The 2009 deer donation program will begin accepting deer after August 1. **Hunters may make voluntary donations to help pay for the costs of deer processing when they buy their hunting license.**

Please check our website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage/donation/mainindex.htm for updates on participating processors.

Thank you for your interest and good luck hunting!