

ANNUAL BIG GAME HUNTING PROGRAM

PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CY 1990

A. BIOLOGICAL SOUNDNESS

The refuge white-tailed deer population continues to exceed historical levels. Estimated suitable habitat is approximately 400 acres. At 1 deer/20 acres, the carrying capacity of deer on the refuge is approximately 15-25 deer.

Twenty-seven deer were observed during the January 1990 aerial census. From that census, it is estimated 27-35 deer comprised the winter deer population. Considering the reproductive potential of breeding age females, the fall population in 1990 is estimated to increase from the winter population of 27-35 deer to 45-50 deer. A successful organized hunt could reduce the herd to the carrying capacity of 15-25 animals.

Habitat conditions are improving as a result of the deer population reduction.

B. ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY

The annual cost of this hunting program will be similar to 1989, totaling no more than \$7,000 for a three-day hunt. Within the annual refuge budget of approximately \$454,000, the necessary funds are available for the administration of the hunting program.

In accordance with Region 5 Guidance on Refuge Hunt Fees, a non-refundable fee of \$20 will be charged to each successful applicant.

C. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PROGRAMS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The refuge will be closed for a period of six days in order to carry out the controlled deer hunt. The general public will be excluded during this time. The exclusion will involve 1 weekend day (Saturday). The refuge receives only minimal public use during this time because of the marginal weather.

The 1990 hunt program will afford the sporting public an opportunity to engage in 1,080 activity hours of hunting.

The 1990 deer hunt program will not impact endangered species, as the hunt is conducted when endangered species are not present on the refuge.

The refuge deer hunt does not take place in close proximity to designated refuge waterfowl hunting areas; therefore, impacts will be minimal, if any. Access to waterfowl hunting areas will not be affected by the refuge closure.

D. REFUGE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

1. Season: The refuge hunt will consist of three days within the limits of State deer (shotgun) season. The State season starts the first Monday after Thanksgiving, extending through the end of the following ten days (excluding Sunday). The refuge hunt will be held on the first Monday, Wednesday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26, 28, and December 1 respectively.

Hunting Hours: One half hour before sunrise until sunset each refuge hunt day.

3. Bag Limit: First deer harvested must be antlerless. Those hunters that have taken an antlerless deer may be added to the list of standby hunters for hunting on the next hunt day. The second deer taken may be an antlered deer.
4. Hunting Equipment: shotguns - .20 gauge or larger loaded with slugs only. (Same as past years.)
5. Portable, non-damaging tree stands are permitted. (Same as past years.)
6. Refuge permit is required. (Same as past years.)
7. A hunter orientation/safety session will be conducted with attendance mandatory. (Same as past years.)

E. COMPATIBILITY

The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge was established by the Migratory Bird Commission for the conservation of migratory waterfowl. Big game hunting will be allowed on about 1,400 acres of the 4,662-acre refuge. Big game hunting will be used to manage the refuge deer population and will occur at times and places that will not impact habitat and cause only temporary minimal disturbance to other refuge wildlife. Big game hunting will be managed as an integral part of a comprehensive refuge wildlife management program.

Submitted by: John D. Tillier
Refuge Manager

Date: Aug. 9, 1990

Reviewed by: Gerry Atwell
Division Biologist

Date: Aug. 20, 1990

Approved by: Donald N. Zwick
Associate Manager

Date: Sept. 6, 1990

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR HUNTER SELECTION

1. Hunter information packets will be available during the first full week of September 1990.
2. All applications must be postmarked by October 1.
3. Only applicants possessing a valid Massachusetts antlerless deer permit for Zone 10 will be eligible for the refuge hunt.
4. A total of 135 hunters and 20 standbys will be selected by a random computer or hand-drawn lottery.
5. A maximum of 45 hunters per day will be accommodated.
6. There will be a total of 3 hunt days.
7. A total of 20 standbys will be selected to fill any spaces available if any permit holder does not attend mandatory orientation, or if a selected hunter is not able to participate in the refuge hunt.
8. A lottery, open to the public, will be held at the Refuge Headquarters on October 17, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. Only successful applicants will be notified by mail.
9. A hunter permit fee of \$20.00 will be charged to successful applicants. The fee will be collected at the Hunter Orientation session. The fee from stand-by hunters will be collected on the day of the hunt.
10. Hunter safety and orientation will be conducted on Saturday, October 27 and Tuesday October 30. Attendance is mandatory.
11. Hunter assignments will be selected as they are drawn from the lottery, assigning each hunter his/her hunt day(s), hunting zones, and parking lots.

Hunting Zone/Lot Assignments:

Hunting zones will remain the same as in 1989. The number of hunters per zone are as follows:

- * Zone #1 - 11 Hunters (290 acres)
 - Parking Lot #2 - 3 hunters
 - Parking Lot #3 - 3 hunters
 - Subheadquarters - 5 hunters
- * Zone #2 - 12 Hunters (487 acres)
 - Subheadquarters - 4 hunters
 - Parking Lot #4 - 4 hunters
 - Camp Sea Haven - 4 hunters
- * Zone #3 - 11 Hunters (277 acres)
 - Camp Sea Haven - 3 hunters
 - Parking Lot #5 - 4 hunters
 - Clam Lot - 4 hunters
- * Zone #4 - 11 Hunters (303 acres)
 - Cross Farm Hill - 3 hunters
 - Parking Lot #6 - 4 hunters
 - Parking Lot #7 - 4 hunters

