

**WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE SPECIAL DEER HUNT
REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION
2002**

Congratulations!!

Your name is 1 of 110 which was drawn for the 2002 Special Deer Hunt on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The hunt is a cooperative effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Refuge) and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC).

Only those persons whose names were drawn for the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Special Deer Hunt permits are eligible to hunt. The permits are not transferrable to another. Other requirements are that:

1. You hold a valid Oklahoma hunting or combination license (or proof of exemption).
2. You are at least 18 years of age by the date of your hunt.
3. You must attend a hunter safety training and briefing session on Tuesday before the hunt.

PURPOSE OF THE HUNT:

The special deer hunt at the Refuge is used as a management tool to maintain the deer population at a level compatible with good habitat conditions.

A minimum objective level of 450 deer has been set based on the amount of annual forage production available for all grazing and browsing animals including elk, white-tailed deer, Texas longhorn cattle and American bison. Total population numbers are determined according to drought year habitat conditions.

Another Refuge management objective is to maintain the elk, deer and bison populations as they would occur under totally natural conditions. This means the sex ratio of bucks to does is maintained at close to a one-to-one ratio rather than maximizing doe numbers to increase production.

The number of permits issued annually for bucks and does varies depending upon animal productions, herd sex ratio and the success of previous hunts in removing excess animals.

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE HUNT:

Group Leaders

Hunters will be divided into groups and assigned to a hunting areas by refuge staff prior to registration. Each group will be assigned to a group leader who is a refuge or ODWC employee. The group leader will provide transportation to and from the field, determine drop and pickup points and times in cooperation with hunters, and make on the ground decisions required for the safety of hunters, other visitors and government property.

Group Leaders will not assist in the actual location or harvest of deer or with field dressing or packing of carcasses to a road. Tips and gifts from hunters cannot be accepted by group leaders.

Hunt Schedule

The hunt is held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Hunters are required to attend a mandatory orientation and hunter safety briefing on Tuesday preceding the hunt at the Wichita Mountains Visitor Center. Failure to attend the briefing will result in loss of hunting privileges. Hunt dates are those specified on your Notice of Selection. Times for the Orientation and hunt is as follows:

Tuesday, November 12 ALL ACTIVITIES FOR TODAY AT WICHITA MOUNTAINS VISITOR CENTER

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | - Hunter Registration |
| 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | - Hunter Orientation |
| | - Hunter Safety |
| 12:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | - Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m. | - Tour of Hunt Area |

Wednesday, November 13

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 5:30 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. | - Meet at check station |
| Daylight to Dark | - Hunt |

Thursday, November 14

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 5:30 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. | - Meet at check station |
| Daylight to Dark | - Hunt |

Friday, November 15

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5:30 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. | - Meet at check station |
| Daylight until 12:00 noon | - Hunt |

Registration and hunter orientation are held at the Quanah Parker Visitor Center located 6 miles north of Cache, OK at the intersections of Hwy 115 and Hwy 49. Directions to the Visitor Center can be found in the enclosed Refuge leaflet. A valid Oklahoma hunting license or combination license (or proof of exemption) and the hunt notification will be required for registration. Hunters should bring a lunch to the briefing as well as warm clothing and raingear for the tour of the hunt areas following the briefing.

Hunting

Hunters are allowed and strongly advised to bring at least one non-hunting companion to help pack out deer taken. Packing is quite difficult due to the rough terrain encountered on the Refuge. Non-hunting companions may not accompany the hunter into the field or assist in any way until a deer has been taken and reported to the hunters group leader. Once notified, the group leader will transport the helpers to the hunter to assist with packing out the deer.

Hunters may work together in their area to increase their chance of taking an animal; however, each hunter is required to shoot their own animal. If hunters would like a topographical map prior to the hunt, one may be purchased at the Visitor Center for the sum of \$3.50. This will not substitute for the mandatory hunt map included in the recreation fee and any map purchased prior to the hunt will not have hunt areas delineated.

Legal Firearms and Ammunition:

Centerfire rifles (.224 caliber and larger) only and firing ammunition with a soft-nosed bullet are legal if firing at least a 55 grain bullet. Hollow point bullets are legal. Clips or magazines of all .22 caliber centerfire firearms may not be capable of holding more than seven (7) rounds of ammunition. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

Muzzleloading firearms forty caliber or larger, fired by flintlock or percussion cap with single slug or ball are legal. Metallic sights only. Black powder or equivalent only. Smoothbore muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge or larger firing a single projectile are legal. Black powder firearms loaded from the breech are illegal. Twenty gauge shotguns or larger, firing a single rifled slug are legal.

Firearms should be sighted in before your arrival at the Wichita Refuge. No firearms except those described herein are permitted on the Refuge for the deer hunt.

Cartridge Limit

Each hunter will be limited to five (5) cartridges or projectiles per day. This limit is imposed on the hunter to curtail crippling loss and, through marksmanship, to add quality to the hunt.

Legal Game and Bag Limit

One (1) deer, antlered (buck) or antlerless (doe or fawn), as specified on your permit. A legal antlered deer is an deer with at least three (3) inch antler length above the natural hairline, on either side. Thus, a spike buck with at least one antler 3 inches in length will be legal on a buck permit, but will be illegal on the antlerless permit. No animal other than an deer as specified on your permit may be taken.

Tagging and Checking

All State tagging requirements must be met. All deer must be checked through the Refuge check station and a metal transportation seal attached to legalize carcass removal from the Refuge. The collection of biological data, if requested by the Refuge, is mandatory and a condition of the hunt. Lower jaws may be examined and possibly removed at the check station to permit ageing. The suitability of trophy heads for mounting will not be affected by this procedure.

Transportation

Transportation will be provided to and from the field in the back of government pick-up trucks. Under these conditions, early morning weather can be bitterly cold. Warm clothing is a must. Personal vehicles will not be used in the hunt or retrieval operation. Government vehicles will be confined to established roads and group leaders will not drive "cross country" except in emergencies. Horses or ATV's are not permitted for hunting or packing.

Alcohol Regulations

The possession of and/or use of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited within the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Group leaders are required to deny entry into the hunt area to persons using or possessing alcoholic beverages.

Physical Condition

FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY, HUNTERS SHOULD BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION TO PARTICIPATED IN THIS HUNT. The mountainous terrain of the refuge is boulder-strewn with rock outcroppings and can be difficult to hunt.

Lost Hunter

The rugged terrain of the Wichitas may cause sportsmen to lose their sense of direction, especially after dark or on overcast days. If a hunter fails to come in by nightfall, the roads will be patrolled throughout the night. A full search will begin at the first light of day. All hunters must be prepared to spend the night as well as the day in open

country.

Safety equipment, including matches and a police whistle, are required. Warming fires may be lit only by hunters who become lost at night or when disabled by injury.

Wildfire

Should the Refuge experience a wildfire during the hunt, all hunting will cease. Hunters are asked to use caution when smoking. Smoking may be prohibited by the Refuge if high fire danger conditions exist.

Safety

Hunters are required to wear a fluorescent orange vest and hat, with a total of 500 square inches of color, as required by State law for hunting big game with firearms. Persons assisting the hunter in retrieving or packing out their deer must also wear this type of vest.

For the safety of all involved, the Refuge requires the action of all firearms to be kept open and the magazine unloaded at all times except when in the field hunting. Violation of this special refuge regulation may result in a citation, a loss of hunting privileges, or both (CFR 26,34). Other firearms of any type, including those carried by off-duty police officers are strictly prohibited.

The following safety equipment is required for each hunter:

- Compass
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Pocket first-aid kit
- Rain gear and warm clothing
- Matches (fires restricted to lost at night or disabled by injury)
- Police whistle

Field Dressing Equipment

The following are recommended as having application in most situations to aid in removal of game:

- Sturdy packboard
- small hatchet or saw
- material for wrapping meat
- cord or rope
- sharp knife and whetstone

Camping

Hunters may camp on the Refuge during the period of their hunt at Camp Doris. Camping fees are \$ 6.00 per night for sites without electricity and \$ 10.00 for sites with electricity.

Showers may not be available at the campground this time of year. All regulations applicable to the users of the Refuge will apply when camping except that unloaded firearms used in the hunt may be retained in camp with all ammunition locked in a separate compartment. Firearms must remain unloaded at all times when in camp. Dogs must be on a leash at all times within the refuge any may not be taken on the hunt.

Motels and Restaurants

Numerous motels are available in Lawton which is about 25 miles from the Refuge headquarters and check station. Restaurants are available in Cache, Medicine Park, and Meers which are 10 to 15 miles.