



2008-2009 Fall Hunts Planned For Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Manager Paul Yakupzack has announced that Mandalay NWR will be offering recreational hunting opportunities for the public this fall and winter. Hunts will include an open archery deer and feral hog season and a lottery waterfowl hunt for adult and youth applicants. These programs have been developed primarily to provide a quality hunting experience for youngsters and adults who may not have the opportunity to hunt elsewhere. The Mandalay NWR is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge managed with combined goals of conserving wildlife habitat and providing opportunities for public land use. It is located 5 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana in the vicinity of Lake Hatch. Access to the refuge is by boat only, as there are no roads on the refuge.

Archery Deer and Feral Hog Hunt

The archery hunt for deer and feral hogs will be held concurrently with the full State of Louisiana Deer season, October 1, 2008 through October 15, 2008 ***(bucks only)** and October 16, 2008 through February 15, 2009. Bowhunting will be according to the regulations of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, except where refuge rules are more specific. The hunt is open to all hunters with proof of completion of the International Bowhunters Education Program. The daily possession limit will be **one Buck only from October 1, 2008 through October 15, 2008 and one either sex deer; from October 16, 2008 through February 15, 2009***, there will be no possession limit on feral hogs. Hunters will be required to check in and out daily at a Refuge Self-clearing Check Station before and after hunting. Firearms are not allowed in boats or on hunters. Only portable stands may be used and must be dismantled or removed from trees after each days use. A stand or blind left on the refuge overnight may be used by any hunter on a first-come, first-served basis. **No baiting is allowed** and hunters may use the Refuge only between 4:00 AM and one hour after sunset daily. Archery hunting will be closed north of the Intracoastal Waterway until noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the 2008-2009 State Waterfowl Season and on November 1st and 2nd, 2008.

***New State Regulations for Area 6**

Lottery Waterfowl Hunt

Hunts will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the Louisiana waterfowl hunting season, as well as the two additional State Youth Waterfowl days (November 1st and 2nd, 2008). Lottery hunts are scheduled to begin on November 8th, 2008 and continue through January 17th, 2009. Five permittees will be chosen for each hunt date by lottery drawing from applications received at the refuge office by close of business on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. Five floating blinds with boat hides have been placed on the refuge for this program. Blinds have a maximum capacity of 3 persons and permittees will need to furnish their own boat, decoys, and necessary equipment. All hunters, regardless of age, must possess a Louisiana Hunter Safety Certification card, certificate of completion of the course, or equivalent from another state to be included in the lottery drawing or participate in the hunt.

Hunters may apply as either a Youth or Adult Group. Youth Group applicants will receive preference in the drawing.

Requirements for Adult Groups are as follows:

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age by the final application date (Oct. 15, 2007).
2. One adult will apply and he/she will be allowed two guests.
3. All guests under 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult supervisor (21 years or older).

Requirements for Youth Groups are as follows:

- One adult supervisor (21 years or older) will apply along with a youth co-applicant. **Only one** adult will supervise the co-applicant youth hunter and up to one additional youth guest (allowed: one adult and one youth or one adult and two youths).
- Youth hunters are limited to youths between the ages of 8 and 17 years at the time of the drawing.
- **Exception:** Only youths between 8 and 15 years old will be accepted for the State Youth Waterfowl Days (November 1st and 2nd, 2008).
- The adult supervisor will be allowed to harvest his or her limit of waterfowl (except on State Youth Waterfowl Days), however **primary emphasis** will be placed on the youth(s) harvesting their limit(s) first.
- **Note:** Youths between 8 and 10 years old must show proof (certificate of completion) that he/she has completed the Hunter's Safety Course.

To apply for a Mandalay NWR Lottery Waterfowl Hunt permit you must submit a completed Mandalay NWR Lottery Hunt Application form and a clear photocopy of the applicants valid hunter education card. The application form is available at the Refuge headquarters and on the Refuge website. An original or copy of the form may be filled out and submitted. Applications must be received at the Mandalay NWR headquarters by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. Applications may be submitted by U.S. Mail, hand delivery, fax, or e-mail.

Applicants drawn will qualify for the first hunt date in which they are drawn and cannot be drawn for another date. In the case that all applicants for a given date have been previously drawn, applicants may be drawn for an additional hunt date. It is the intent of the Fish and Wildlife Service to have as many youth and adults participate in these hunts as possible, with a special emphasis on young hunters. Selected applicants will be notified by mail. A refuge hunt orientation program will be held for applicants selected in the lottery. Permits will be issued at that time.

Hunters interested in either hunt program are encouraged to contact the Mandalay Refuge office by visiting 3599 Bayou Black Drive, Houma, LA 70360, calling (985) 853-1078, or by e-mail at paul_yakupzack@fws.gov or barret_fortier@fws.gov. Refuge information, including maps, regulations, and the lottery application can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/mandalay/>

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