United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education, and Economics

ARS □ CSREES □ ERS □ NASS

Policies and Procedures

Title: Hunting on ARS Controlled Land

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Distribution: ARS Headquarters, Areas,
and Locations

> This issuance provides policy and guidance; delegates authority and identifies responsibilities for hunting on land under the custody and control of ARS.

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1. Policy

It is the policy of ARS not to allow hunting on lands under the custody and control of ARS except at ARS Locations with (1) a need for animal damage control (ADC) or (2) an established tradition of allowing hunting and a strong local demand for access to ARS controlled land during hunting season. ARS reserves sole right to make this determination.

2. References

a. 18 U.S.C. 930, "Possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities."
b. P&P 240.3, "Physical Protection, Security, and Conduct while on REE Facilities"
c. Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 1986, Public Law 99-190
d. USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) Directive 1.210, September 19, 2003
e. USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) Directive 2.615, April 7, 2006

3. Possession of Firearms on Federal Real Property

Reference (a) authorizes the possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities under the following conditions:

a. The lawful performance of official duties by an officer, agent, or employee of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision thereof, who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of law;

b. A Federal official or a member of the Armed Forces if such possession is authorized by law; or

c. The lawful carrying of firearms or other dangerous weapons in a Federal facility incident to hunting or other lawful purposes.

d. Possession of a State or local conceal/carry license does not give the bearer authorization to carry a firearm on ARS property unless the bearer also meets the criteria of bullets a, b or c above.

Reference (b) prohibits the possession and use of firearms on ARS controlled property except in the performance of official duties or as outlined in herein.

4. Animal Damage Control

References (c) and (d) authorize the ADC Program within USDA to control deer populations or other pests. The ADC Program within USDA is managed by APHIS. Policy and procedures for possessing firearms for ADC have been established by APHIS within Reference (e). Should an Area or Location require ADC services, it is recommended that APHIS WS be contacted.

5. Delegation of Authority

Area Directors are delegated authority to approve hunting at Locations within their Area in accordance with this issuance.

6. Summary of Responsibilities

Area Directors

- Establish and approve hunting programs for Locations within their assigned Area.
- Delegate associated responsibilities of Center Directors/Location Leaders.
- Ensure employees who manage and/or participate in an ARS-established hunting program have appropriate wording added to their Position Description.

Center Directors/Location Leaders

- Coordinate with Federal, State and Local regulatory agencies.
- Establish written rules for implementing and executing ADC and Controlled Hunting Program(s) at the Center/Location, providing copies to the Area Director's Office.
- Require employees who have been authorized to carry firearms on Federal property to provide proof of fire arm registration and State licensing where required by law.
- Maintain related records: copies of fire arm and/or archery registrations, copies of State licenses, harvest logs, dates of events, etc.
- Review damaged crop reports to identify and delineate areas for ADC and/or Controlled Hunting events.
- Apply for exemptions from State tag limitations, if desired.
- Assign parking permits.
- Monitor ADC and controlled hunting programs.
- Coordinate with on-site security a minimum of 48 hours prior to hunts.

Authorized Employees, Participant and Permittees

- Complete and sign a participant agreement.
- Provide proof of registration for all firearms transported onto the Center/Location.
- Obtain and maintain State fire arm and archery qualifications.
- Obtain a valid State hunting permit and carry a hunter safety card.
- Register to participate in ADC and/or Controlled Hunting Program.
- Register for ADC and/or Controlled Hunting events.
- Check in prior to events to obtain a parking permit; which must be displayed on vehicle dashboard during controlled hunts.
- Check harvested carcasses with local regulatory agencies (i.e., Department of Natural Resources).

7. Exhibit

- Sample Participant Agreement

James H. Bradley
Deputy Administrator
Administrative and Financial Management

Sample Participant Agreement

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**Animal Damage Control and Controlled Hunting Program
Participant Agreement**

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I, ____(Participant's Name)____, have read and understand the rules and regulations for the Animal Damage Control Program for the (Installation Name) , (Area). I agree to abide by these rules and regulations, including all applicable State and Local game laws.

I understand that a willful violations of Federal, Agency, Department, State or Local laws, regulations or ordinances will result in the suspension of my hunting privileges at (Installation Name) and firearms, archery equipment and kill in my possession, or under my control, may be confiscated and may result in prosecution.

By signing this agreement, I agree to the above.

_____
Printed Name

_____
Signature

_____
Date

This agreement must be returned to: (Insert coordinator's name and address.)

Exhibit 1

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