

News Release

Missisquoi

National Wildlife Refuge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Waterfowl Hunt Applications Available for Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

Applications are available for controlled waterfowl hunting permits to be used at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge this fall. Interested hunters must apply by September 14.

Hunting of geese, ducks, brant, mergansers, and coots is allowed on the refuge in accordance with State and Federal regulations and the following special conditions:

For the hunting of geese, brant, ducks, mergansers and coots, the refuge is divided into six discrete waterfowl hunting units:

Public Hunting Areas include: the Delta Lakeshore Area, the Maquam Swamp Area, and the Maquam Shore Area.

Controlled Hunting Areas include: the Saxes Pothole/Creek and Shad Island Area, the Junior Waterfowl Hunting Area (including Long Marsh Bay, Patrick Marsh, and Charcoal Creek), and the Long Marsh Channel and Metcalfe Island Area.

Applications for permits for Controlled Hunting Areas are available from the refuge headquarters office in Swanton. Stop by or call the office at 802-868-4781 to request applications. All applicants will be provided with a refuge Migratory Game Bird Hunting Map and Regulations brochure along with their applications. A detailed description of the areas listed above, along with a complete list of regulations is included in the brochure.

Completed applications for controlled hunting areas must be received at the headquarters office no later than 4:30pm on September 14. A public drawing to award the permits will be held at 10:00am on September 17 at refuge headquarters in West Swanton. Attendance is not required.

Following the drawing, winners will be notified of their successful draw by mail and must then remit the \$10 fee for the blind site by October 5 or the site will be made available to unsuccessful applicants. Hunters must only pay for blind sites and dates for which there is a pre-season lottery. Otherwise sites are free and require only a self-service permit. There are no fees or permits required to hunt in the Public Hunting Areas.

Hunters must possess a valid Vermont Hunting license, a Federal duck stamp, and a State duck stamp to hunt any migratory waterfowl, on or off the refuge. Hunters must abide by all applicable State and Federal hunting regulations. Federal duck stamps are available for purchase at refuge headquarters.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American

people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.