



# Hunter Protocol 2022

## Conway Robinson State Forest

### Hunting Dates and Lottery

- ◆ Hunting will take place on one day only:
  - Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, **CONWAY ROBINSON STATE FOREST ONLY**
- ◆ Hunters will be selected using a lottery system (application deadline is 11:59 p.m., Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>).
- ◆ 13 hunters will be selected to hunt the Conway. 10 Alternates will be selected for the hunt as spots become available.
- ◆ Selected hunters will be notified by email on or before Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Participant Requirements

All hunters selected by the lottery must fulfill the following requirements to participate:

- ◆ Hunters must be 18 years old on the hunt days to participate.
- ◆ All participants must possess all valid licenses and permits as regulated by Virginia State Law, including a valid State Forest Use Permit.
- ◆ Qualification cards from other area hunts with identical or stricter standards are accepted. Qualification cards from 2020 or 2021 remain valid this year.
- ◆ All hunters must qualify their guns and certify themselves by **Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**. **All participants must qualify to hunt.**
- ◆ Qualify on an approved range and limit gun use to **slug ammo** of 20, 16, or 12 gauge. Range master must sign card.
  - **This year, we are allowing only lead-free slugs.**
  - Certification consists of firing from an off-hand position, three (3) shots at a 12 in. diameter circle target at 50 yards, with a passing score of at least two (2) striking within the circle. Each hunter will be allowed two (2) attempts per weapon.
  - Weapons and ammo may be added to the certification card any time before Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Only weapons and ammunition qualified with and listed on the certification card may be used or possessed during the hunt.

- Hunters who fail to certify on an approved range will be disqualified from participating.
  - ◆ Participants are **required** to attend a pre-hunt orientation and safety meeting. The meeting is tentatively schedule for:
    - Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Prince William County Fire Station 15, 3510 James Madison Highway, Haymarket, VA 20169.
- Meeting arrangements may be altered due to COVID restrictions at the time. Failure to attend forfeits eligibility to hunt. Bring photo ID, qualification card, hunting license, and state forest use permit to the meeting.**

## Prior to Hunt

- ◆ No dogs permitted.
- ◆ All hunting must be conducted using a portable tree stand provided by the hunter.
  - Stands must be self-climbing, or free-standing ladder type. Tree stands must be a minimum of 10 feet high in trees. No intrusions are to be made into selected climbing trees (e.g., no screw-in tree steps or permanent stands are to be constructed).
  - Stands are to be removed at the end of the day.
  - Safety harness must be used at all times.
  - Firearms must be unloaded while entering, exiting or climbing a stand.
  - Stands must be located within 50 yards of stake (see map).
  - Cutting or removal of vegetation in the state forest is prohibited.
- ◆ Scouting of the area is allowed during normal operating hours. No weapons are to be carried during scouting.
- ◆ Firearms are only permitted on the forest on the designated days of the hunt.

## Day of the Hunt

- ◆ Participants are **required** to wear blaze orange or blaze pink on the day of the hunt as required in State Law.
- ◆ Participants are **required** to possess all required licenses and permits on their person when they arrive at check-in.
- ◆ The use of deer urine-based attractants is now prohibited by State Law.
- ◆ All participants are **required** to check in and out at the designated area on the day of the hunt. Selected hunters that are not present by 15 minutes after check-in time will be considered as an “alternate” and will be allowed entrance as space becomes available.
  - November 21<sup>st</sup> – Check-in time: 5:00 a.m. – Check-out time: 5:00 p.m.

## Legal Species

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- ◆ White-tailed deer is the only legal species to be hunted. The hunt is enrolled in the DMAP program, so tags will be provided for all antlerless deer harvested.
- ◆ **If a hunter needs to track a wounded deer, the hunter must contact the hunt manager for permission and be accompanied by a VDOF staff member.**
- ◆ As long as hunters are within the Earn-A-Buck regulations for Prince William County, any deer may be harvested on November 21<sup>st</sup>, but hunters must use their own tags for antlered deer. DMAP tags will be provided for antlerless deer.

## Field Dressing

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- ◆ Deer are to be field dressed by the hunter prior to being taken to the check station.
- ◆ Further processing is not permitted before delivering the deer to the check station.
- ◆ Entrails are to be buried or covered by forest litter.
- ◆ Field dressing is not permitted within 35 yards of any trail or road.

## Restricted Areas

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- ◆ Hunting is not permitted within 100 yards of any property boundary.
- ◆ Discharge of weapons is not permitted along roads, gas line right-of-way, across roads or gas line right-of-way, or within 100 yards of parking area and pavilion.
- ◆ Weapons must be unloaded and cased or broken down except when in designated hunting area.

## Timeline

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October 2	Sunday – Lottery application deadline
October 8	Thursday – Notification of selected hunters and alternates
October 31	Monday – Range qualification deadline
November 9	Wednesday – <b>Pre-hunt Orientation and Safety meeting (Required)</b> <b>Prince William County, Fire Station 15, 3510 James Madison Hwy, Haymarket, VA 20169, 7:00 p.m.</b>
November 21	Monday – Hunt day at Conway Robinson State Forest

**\*Note: Virginia Department of Forestry reserves the right to dismiss any hunter for actions that may be deemed unsafe by VDOF staff pursuant to § 10.1-1101 of the Code of Virginia.**