



Hunter Protocol for Lottery Hunts 2023

Conway Robinson State Forest & Whitney State Forest

Hunting Dates and Lottery

- ◆ Hunting will take place on two days only:
 - Monday, November 20, 2023, **CONWAY ROBINSON STATE FOREST ONLY**
 - Monday, November 27, 2023, **WHITNEY STATE FOREST ONLY**
- ◆ Hunters will be selected using a lottery system (application deadline is 11:59 p.m., Sunday, October 1, 2023).
 - A current State Forest Use Permit must be submitted to jack.kauffman@dof.virginia.gov to enter the lottery.
- ◆ 7 hunters will be selected to hunt both the Whitney and Conway Robinson state forests, and an additional 13 to hunt only at the Conway Robinson State Forest (for a total of 20 hunters.) Ten (10) alternates will be selected to hunt both days as spots become available.
- ◆ Selected hunters will be notified by email on or before Thursday, October 5, 2023.

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 2021 or 2022 remain valid this year.
- ◆ All hunters must qualify their guns and certify themselves by **Tuesday, October 31, 2023. 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 Tuesday, October 31, 2023.
 - 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 scheduled for:
 - Monday, November 6, 2023, 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.
- ◆ Target shooting is prohibited on state forests.
- ◆ Firearms are 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 20, 2023 – Check-in time: 5:00 a.m. – Check-out time: 5:00 p.m.
 - November 27, 2023 – Check-in time: 5:00 a.m. – Check-out time: 5:00 p.m.

Restricted Areas

- ◆ 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.

Legal Species

- ◆ 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 DOF staff member.**
- ◆ Only antlerless deer may be harvested on November 27, 2023, at the Whitney State Forest and hunters are subject to penalties if not followed.
- ◆ If hunters are within the Earn-A-Buck regulations for Prince William County, any deer may be harvested on November 20, 2023, but hunters must use their own tags for antlered deer. DMAP tags will be provided for antlerless deer.

Field Dressing

- ◆ 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.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management

- ◆ The Conway Robinson State Forest and the Whitney State Forest are located within the Department of Wildlife Resources Disease Management Area 2 (DMA2). Whole deer carcasses and carcass parts containing brain and spinal cord tissue from deer harvested in DMA2 (Loudoun, Rappahannock, Page, Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, and Orange counties) may be transported anywhere within DMA1 (Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, and Fredrick counties) and DMA2. Be prepared to process your deer if you live outside of the DMA zones. For more information visit the DWR website (<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/what-you-need-to-know-about-hunting-in-culpeper-and-nearby-counties/>)

Timeline

- October 1 Sunday – Lottery application deadline and submit proof of State Forest Use Permit to jack.kauffman@dof.virginia.gov.
- October 5 Thursday – Notification of selected hunters and alternates
- October 31 Tuesday – Range qualification deadline
- November 6 Monday – **Pre-hunt Orientation and Safety meeting (Required)**
Prince William County, Fire Station 15, 3510 James Madison Hwy, Haymarket, VA 20169, 7:00 p.m.
- November 20 Monday – Hunt day at Conway Robinson State Forest
- November 27 Monday – Hunt day at Whitney State Forest

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