

NATURAL LANDS TRUST REGULATED HUNTING PROGRAM

Rules and Regulations

Natural Lands Trust conducts controlled deer hunts on properties to manage deer populations consistent with the preserve's natural resource management goals. Hunters receiving permits for the deer management program are expected to conduct themselves in a safe, honest, and ethical manner. Any hunter who does not act accordingly will have his or her hunting permit revoked immediately. Listed below are the requirements that must be met to receive a permit, examples of what the Trust considers unacceptable behavior, and the regulations that must be followed while hunting on any Trust preserve.

Permit Requirements

1. All hunters must attend a preseason orientation course to be conducted by the preserve manager.
2. All hunters must present proof that they have completed the Pennsylvania Game Commission hunter-trapper education course. Bowhunters must present proof that they have completed a bowhunter education course.
3. Hunters must have an antlerless deer license for the deer management unit of the preserve.
4. All hunters must pass a proficiency test using the sporting arm they plan to hunt with. For firearms, a hunter must place 4 out of 5 slugs in a 9-inch paper plate at 45 yards. No buckshot allowed. Shooting from a treestand 10 feet above the ground, an archer must place 5 out of 6 arrows in the vitals of a 3-D target. The target will be placed at 5, 10, and 15 yards from the base of the tree.

Unacceptable Behavior (includes, but is not limited to, the following)

1. Shooting in marginal situations such as at running deer, when vital organs are obstructed, and at excessive distances.
2. Disrespect of Trust employees, adjacent landowners, and other preserve users.
3. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or use of controlled substances.
4. Failing to appropriately follow up every shot.
5. Displaying game animals unnecessarily.

Hunting Regulations

1. The Trust will determine the days and hours of hunting permitted at a site.
2. Hunters must comply with all Pennsylvania Game Commission regulations (including returning report cards).
3. Hunters must endeavor to harvest an antlerless deer. Any hunter that does not make a good faith effort to harvest an antlerless deer will have their permit revoked. Archers must take an antlerless deer before being eligible to harvest a buck.

4. Hunters must hunt at least 20 hours.
5. Only two shells can be loaded at any one time (one shell in the chamber, one in the magazine).
6. Only portable tree stands may be used and hunters must wear a safety belt. No screw-in steps are allowed. All tree stands must be removed by January 26th, or they will be forfeited.
7. Crossbows and .410 shotguns are not allowed.
8. Hunters must follow the hunting procedure listed below.

Hunting Procedure

A metal box will be placed in a convenient spot, accessible to all hunters. The box will contain armbands, a map of the preserve, and the hunting log. Prior to each hunting stand the hunter must: (1) remove one of the armbands from the box and put it on the exterior of his or her hunting coat (once the supply of armbands is exhausted, no additional hunters may hunt until a hunter returns from the field and returns an armband to the metal box); (2) mark the map to indicate where they plan to hunt; (3) sign in on the hunting log; and (4) display a parking permit on the dashboard of their vehicle. While hunting, the hunter must: (1) wear the armband; and (2) carry the permit. At the end of each stand, the hunter must: (1) return the armband to the metal box; (2) remove the mark from the map; and (3) fill in the hunting log completely.

Termination Procedure

If the preserve manager witnesses a case of unacceptable behavior or a violation of one of the hunting regulations by a permitted hunter, or is informed of such an incident by a reliable source, he will abide by the following procedure to address each incident:

1. The preserve manager will verbally inform the hunter of the infraction.
2. The hunter will be provided the opportunity to respond to the accusation.
3. If, in the opinion of the preserve manager, the hunter has clearly exhibited an unacceptable behavior or has violated one of the hunting regulations, he will verbally inform the hunter that his hunting permit is revoked immediately.
4. If there are legitimate extenuating circumstances surrounding a violation of hunting regulation 6 or 8, the hunter will be given a warning. A second violation of these regulations will result in immediate loss of hunting privileges. Violations of any other hunting regulation or unacceptable behavior rule will not receive a warning and will result in immediate termination of hunting privileges.
5. The hunter will be notified in writing of a warning or the loss of hunting privileges.