



Mutton Hunk Fen Natural Area Preserve Managed Deer Hunt Rules and Regulations – 2023

The following information, rules, and regulations apply to the managed deer hunt at Mutton Hunk Fen Natural Area Preserve, Parksley, Virginia. Any violation will result in the revocation of your permit and the elimination of your participation in any hunting programs sponsored by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage and possible criminal charges.

1. This managed deer hunt will be on December 4-5, 7-8, 11-12, & 14-15, 2023. Mandatory orientation will occur at the preserve trailhead parking area on the first morning of each hunt at 5:00 a.m.
2. Check-in is between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. at the Mutton Hunk Fen Natural Area Preserve trailhead parking lot. All hunters that have been selected and have yet to check in by 5:00 a.m. on the first day of hunting on their selected date will lose their selected status.
3. Hunter check-out time will be given to each group of hunters on the first day of each hunting session. Hunters **MUST** check in with the Law Enforcement officer working the hunt on the first day of the hunt check in on the second day may be done via txt message. The parking lot will serve as the check station for the hunt session. Check out is mandatory on each day of the hunt. The address is 28583 Baker Rd, Parksley, VA 23421. Hunters are asked to please pack out all their trash.
4. Hunting is only permitted on DCR-owned property. If a deer goes on to private property or is suspected of going to private property, the hunter must call the on-duty Law Enforcement officer at 757-536-5218.
5. If a hunter wishes to track or search for a wounded deer on adjacent property, the on-duty Law Enforcement officer **MUST** be called and accompany the hunter. Under no circumstances should hunters' trespass or carry firearms onto lands bordering the preserve without first contacting the on-duty Law Enforcement officer. All Equipment, including the weapon system, will be required to be grounded. The Law Enforcement officer will take any shots on private property if needed.
6. Hunter vehicles must be parked at the preserve parking area. No motorized vehicles are permitted past the Preserve entrance gate or on any interior Preserve access trails. Parking along the roadside is strictly prohibited.
7. All hunters in the party must possess a valid DCR hunting permit and a valid DWR hunting license. Each permit will bear the name of the Chief-of-Party, who will be responsible for writing each party member's name and DWR hunting license number on their hunting permit. At most, five individual hunting permits will be issued for the two-day hunt. This permit will be collected at the end of each party's two days of hunting. If the party decides they do not want to continue the secondary of their hunt, they will surrender their permit at the check-out time given to them on the first day.
8. Hunters must have all necessary state and federal licenses and abide by all state, federal, and DCR regulations. Each hunter must have on his or her person proof of successfully completing a Hunter Education Course (certificate or copy of certification). This will be presented to the Law Enforcement officer at check-in on the first day of each hunting period.

9. Hunters hunting alone must be 16 years of age by the hunt date. An adult **MUST** always accompany youth hunters aged 12-15.
10. The youth and the adult must possess a DCR hunting permit and proof of completing a Hunter Education Course.
11. Allowable weapons are muzzleloader rifles and shotguns with rifled slugs. Acceptable ammunition type is Lead-free only. This means that it cannot contain Lead at any level.
12. All deer targeted must be within the Natural Area Preserve boundaries, marked by conspicuous white signs and yellow boundary paint.
13. Hunters must record sex, weight (dressed), number of points (bucks), spread at the widest point, and general health data for harvested deer. The Law Enforcement officer will record this information on duty.
14. Every hunter and guest shall wear at least 500 square inches of solid blaze color in the form of a blaze orange or pink hat and blaze orange or pink upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees.
15. Only deer may be killed per the Code of Virginia. No other wildlife species may be taken during this hunt.
16. Deer may be field-dressed no closer than 200 feet from hiking trails, structures, or roads. All field-dressed deer must be checked in by DCR staff at the check station (trailhead parking lot). Information will be collected on each deer. All deer killed by/before 1 p.m. must be checked in by 2 p.m.
17. There will be no shooting from the road, across roads, or water.
18. In accordance with state hunting laws, hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
19. Use of bait is prohibited. Artificial deer scent is permissible. Dogs are prohibited. No drugs or alcoholic beverages. Only one weapon is allowed per adult hunter.
20. The Division of Natural Heritage reserves the right to close the managed hunt or any zone if the number of deer taken exceeds that needed for herd management purposes or any other reason.
21. All Virginia Hunting Laws and Regulations are applicable during this managed hunt. Hunters who violate regulations will be subject to removal from the preserve. If the hunter violates the Code of Virginia, the hunter may be subject to a Virginia Uniform Summons.

"I understand the above rules and regulations for participating in this controlled deer hunt. I understand that a violation of any of these rules and regulations is a violation of Virginia Administrative Code 4VAC5-30-40 and may result in the revocation of my hunting permit for this hunt and the elimination of my participation in any hunting program sponsored by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for the remainder of this season and subsequent years. Any fees paid to date for such programs will be forfeited."

Hunters Signature	Printed Name	Date
Parent's Signature (if under 18)	Printed Name	Date
Direct any questions concerning the hunt to:		
Officer Bryan Ehrenfried, Coastal Region Operations Steward: 757-536-5218	Shannon Alexander Coastal Region Steward: 757-710-3428	