

2018 DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Muzzleloader Deer Regulations

2018 Season Dates

October 27 - 28
December 8 - 9

Bag Limit

Two antlerless deer
Two antlerless deer

Legal Weapons

- Muzzleloading rifles .44-caliber or larger
- Muzzleloading muskets .62-caliber or larger that fire a single slug
- Muzzleloading handguns that deliver at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards

Federal Rules and Regulations - Contact Paul Rea, DeSoto NWR, at 712-388-4803 or 712-388-4800.

Habitat Stamp - Residents age 16 and older and all nonresidents must carry proof of a valid Nebraska habitat stamp while hunting big game. Only one habitat stamp is necessary for all hunting in any calendar year. Individuals with valid, fee-exempt permits are not required to purchase a habitat stamp to hunt big game. A 2018 stamp is valid for deer hunting in January 2019.

Unlawful Hunting Methods - It is unlawful to:

- chase, run, or harass any deer with any motor vehicle or to shoot, shoot at, or take any deer from a motor vehicle while the vehicle is underway or moving.
- shoot from the right-of-way of a public road.
- carry a firearm on a snowmobile, except when it is unloaded and in a case.
- hunt from or with a snowmobile.
- use a spotlight or other artificial light from a vehicle or vessel while having in possession or control any firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow.
- use two-way radios or any other electronic devices to transmit information about the location of any game animal or game bird to or from a conveyance of any type (vehicles, aircraft, boats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles).

Minimum Age - The minimum age to hunt deer is 10 years.

Hunter Education - Hunter education is required for hunters ages 12 through 29 hunting deer with a firearm or air gun. Bow hunter education is required for those ages while hunting deer with a bow and arrow or crossbow. These hunters must carry proof of firearm hunter education certification if hunting with a firearm or crossbow or proof of bow hunter education if hunting with bow and arrow.

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate - Persons age 12-29 who have not completed a firearm hunter and/or bow hunter education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from Game and Parks. The certificate may be obtained once in a lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once. The fee is \$5.

Accompaniment - All deer hunters age 10-15 and all hunters using the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older when hunting. The accompanying person, if age 19-29, must be certified in firearm hunter education if hunting with a firearm or crossbow, or bow hunter education if hunting with bow and arrow. He or she must be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the experienced hunter at any time.

Checking - Deer taken during these seasons must be checked via Telecheck within 48 hours of kill and before 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season. To use Telecheck, call the phone number printed on the deer permit or visit OutdoorNebraska.org/deercheck. The carcass may be separated into loins and quarters, provided that the femur and scapula are retained on each quarter. The head must accompany the carcass to the check station. The permit and check station seal number must be retained while transporting deer to a place of permanent storage or processing.

Get Permission - Permission is required to hunt on private land. It is unlawful to hunt with a rifle within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose or within 100 yards using other methods.

Baiting - It is illegal to establish a baited area from 10 days before the opening of any big game or turkey season and throughout those entire seasons for the purposes of taking big game or turkey. An area within 200 yards of bait is considered baited for 10 days following the removal of all bait. The hunter and the animal must be outside a baited area.

Tagging - Immediately after a deer is taken, the hunter must punch or notch his or her permit or bonus tag, showing date taken and sex of the animal. Punching or notching automatically cancels the permit or tag. The permit or tag must be canceled before a deer may be transported or possessed. The canceled permit or tag must be kept with the hunter and/or the deer at all times. When the animal is not with the hunter, the permit or tag must remain with the deer.

Possession - There is no restriction on the length of time game birds or game animals may be possessed. However, it is unlawful to possess more than a possession limit of game birds or game animals.

Hunter Orange - Any persons hunting deer under the authority of a firearm permit during an authorized firearm season must display on his or her head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material.

Sale of Parts - It is lawful to sell the hide, hair, hooves, bones, and antlers of any deer which is taken legally. The sale or purchase of deer meat is unlawful.