

# White Clay Creek State Park

## 2011-12 Special Hunting Rules

**Only deer may be hunted at the park. No other type of hunting is permitted.**

*Refer to maps for approximate locations of indicated areas.*

In addition to the rules and regulations found in the “Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide: 2011-2012”, specific rules that apply to White Clay Creek State Park are listed below. **Registration of all hunters participating in the Delaware State Park Hunting Program is required. There is an annual \$10 hunting registration fee. This charge is waived for hunters age 65 or over.** You can register at the White Clay Creek State Park Office.

### 1. General Deer Hunting Rules

- a. **Failure to comply with any state laws, rules, regulations, and/or policies may result in arrest and/or suspension of all hunting privileges in Delaware State Parks.**
- b. For safety reasons, only one adult and only one firearm (shotgun/muzzleloader/bow/crossbow) is permitted at each stand/post site. Your firearm may not be in a cocked position unless you are in the stand.
- c. **Note that you must harvest an antlerless deer (female deer are the priority) in White Clay Creek State Park first, before harvesting a buck.** To become ‘Buck Eligible’ you must have your antlerless deer confirmed by contacting a Park Ranger (302)368-6900, 547-8927, 943-0125, 233-8698, or 388-1110). Archery hunters who harvest an antlerless deer during archery season will be qualified to harvest a buck (by bow or gun) during the shotgun seasons.
- d. Driving deer into and/or through hunting areas is prohibited.
- e. The clearing/cutting of vegetation to form shooting lanes or for any other purpose is prohibited.
- f. Juveniles under the age 18 must be accompanied by an adult when applying for an archery/crossbow permit and/or when signing in to hunt during the Shotgun Season’s on-site lottery. A parent or guardian is to be available (by telephone) the entire time the juvenile is hunting. Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times while hunting (only one firearm per stand).
- g. When tracking a wounded deer, hunters must use every physical effort to recover the deer. When tracking a wounded deer, hunters must keep arrows in their quiver or keep shotgun action open and unloaded; muzzleloaders must have percussion cap or primer removed. **DO NOT** shoot at a deer that you, yourself, did not wound. If you observe a wounded deer, contact a Park Ranger.
- h. When field dressing a deer, hunters should be courteous to other hunters and park visitors. The deer should always be dressed well off any trails and out of public view. If you kill a deer: you must first field tag the deer carcass; then field dress the deer; then drag it out – in that order.
- i. Please take your trash, soiled field dressing apparel, shell casings, etc. with you when you are finished hunting that day.
- j. The consumption of alcoholic beverages prior to hunting and the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- k. A “Person Prohibited” in accordance with Delaware criminal code may not hunt with or possess any firearm including; shotgun, muzzleloader, crossbow, compound or recurve bow. If you have question/s, contact a Park Ranger.
- l. There will be no handgun season, or use of handguns, in Delaware State Parks (handguns prohibited).
- m. **Permanently Disabled Hunters are a small but important part of our hunting population. For more information about increased opportunities for permanently disabled hunters in White Clay Creek State Park, all hunters should review the rule supplement at the end of this document.**

## 2. Archery Deer Hunting Season –

*Regular Season:* October 17, 2011 – November 10, 2011

*Locations:* Preserve Section: Stands #1 – 3, #7 – #17, PD18, PD19

Poosum Hill Section: Stands #22 – 25, #28 – 30, Archery Only Pin JPD, (Note Stand #27 is Shotgun Only), Carpenter Section: Stands #5, 34, 35, 37, and Archery Only Pins: A–I and K

Judge Morris Section: Archery Only Pins: L – V

### Judge Morris Estate – Special Archery Season –

**October 17 – November 19; December 15, 16, and 17, 2011**

**January 14, 2012 – January 21, 2012 at Archery Pins (L through V)**

**There will be No Shotgun Hunting at Judge Morris this year.**

### Archery Rules (including Crossbow)

- a. Registration for the White Clay Creek State Park Deer Archery Program is required. Register at the White Clay Creek State Park Office. Call the park office for details, (302) 368-6900. Hunters **must** register for archery hunting at the White Clay Creek State Park Office. After October 16, permits are available Monday thru Friday at the park office during normal business hours.
- b. Archery hunting is permitted only from elevated stands or from a portable non-damaging (without screw pegs) tree stand, or on the ground. Hunting must be within the painted radius around each elevated stand/pin.
- c. A daily on-site lottery for permanent stand and pin assignments will be held at 5 a.m. during the first week of the season. At all other times stands will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis using the self-registration tag board system. The lotteries and self-registration will take place at the Possum Hill parking lot on Smith Mill Road. The self-registration tag board is located in the Possum Hill parking lot. Hunters must sign in and out there, and pick up their stand tag at the bulletin board in the lot. The tag must be placed on the dashboard of the hunter's vehicle and be visible at all times when hunting.
- d. When leaving the area for any reason (e.g. lunch, work, coffee, deer kill, etc.), hunters must sign out and return the tag to the bulletin board.
- e. Hunters that fail to sign out and return the tag to the bulletin board when leaving the area or that have another person sign in and pick up a tag for them will lose their hunting privileges for the rest of the season.
- f. The archery-only stations or 'pins' (Stations A-V) will be open for archery hunting during both the archery season listed above and during legal shotgun seasons, in accordance with all applicable regulations. Each of these stations is indicated by a labeled post. Hunting is permitted from a portable stand within a painted radius around the labeled post.
- g. **During archery season, the pin and stands that are designated for use for Permanently Disabled Hunters will only be available to Permanently Disabled Hunters (pin JPD, stands #18PD & #19PD).**
- h. During shotgun seasons, archery hunters wishing to hunt from the archery-only stations must check in at the shotgun lottery area in the Carpenter Recreation Area parking lot. This can only be done at either the morning or afternoon lottery drawings. **Note: Hunter orange must be worn when dates overlap with any Statewide Gun Seasons, including early October gun seasons!**
- i. Archery/Crossbow hunters must take one antlerless deer from White Clay Creek State Park during the 2011-12 Season before they may take an antlered deer.

### 3. Shotgun Deer Hunting Seasons

- Seasons:* November 11 - November 19, 2011  
**December 15, 16, and 17, 2011 – Special Antlerless Season**  
January 14 - January 21, 2012
- Locations:* Preserve Section: Stands #1 – 3, #7 – #17, PD18 - 19, NAWA  
Possum Hill Section: Stands #22 - 25, 27 – 30  
Carpenter Section: Stands #5, #32 - 40,  
**Judge Morris Section: (Archery Only; Closed to Shotgun Hunting in 2011-12)**

#### Regular Shotgun Season Rules

- a. Stands will be assigned by an on-site shotgun lottery each day of the hunt at the Carpenter Recreation Area two hours prior to legal shooting time on the day of the hunt and again at 12:00 noon on the day of the hunt.
- b. Hunters must take one antlerless deer from White Clay Creek State Park during the 2011-12 Season before they may take an antlered deer.
- c. Hunting at White Clay Creek State Park is for wildlife management. Hunters are encouraged to shoot multiple antlerless deer provided that hunter already has the necessary number of antlerless deer tags in possession. Antlerless tags are available at the park office or at the lottery drawings.
- d. Use of muzzleloaders is permitted during the Shotgun Seasons. There are no Muzzleloader Seasons in White Clay Creek State Park.
- e. Hunters are required to hunt from their assigned elevated deer stand. All hunters picked for a stand in the morning must hunt in the morning and remain in their stand until 9 a.m. Afternoon hunters must be in their assigned stand by 3 p.m.
- f. When shotgun hunters are finished hunting for the day, they must return their daily hunting permit to the permit box in the Carpenter Recreation Area parking lot. Daily permits must be filled out completely before returning them.
- g. During shotgun seasons, archery hunters wishing to hunt from the archery-only stations must check in at the shotgun lottery area in the Carpenter Recreation Area parking lot. This can only be done at either the morning or afternoon lottery drawings. **Note: Hunter orange must be worn when dates overlap with any Statewide Gun Seasons, including early October gun seasons!**
- h. Possession of a loaded firearm, except while lawfully hunting from an assigned deer stand, is prohibited.
- i. **NAWA, please note that this is a Non-ambulatory Hunting Area only during the shotgun seasons**

#### 4. Special Mid-week Managed Hunt (Antlerless Deer Only)

- a. Louviers (Deerfield) Managed Hunt Date; January 4, 2012. This is the only managed hunt date for this year.
- b. This date will be assigned by an on-site lottery the day of the hunt at the Carpenter Recreation Area two hours prior to legal shooting time on the day of the hunt and again at 12:00 noon on the day of the hunt.
- c. Special Hunts are for shotgun only: no muzzleloaders, crossbows or archery equipment allowed.

Dependent upon ongoing construction, weather, or other factors, one or more areas may be closed. Hunters are encouraged to carry a cell phone while they are scouting, hunting, and tracking. For updated or additional information, contact the park office at (302) 368-6900 or visit the Delaware State Parks website at [www.destateparks.com](http://www.destateparks.com). The White Clay Creek State Park office is located at the intersection of Chambers Rock Road and Thompson Station Road. Park office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please immediately report any medical emergencies, hunting accidents, or violations of any hunting laws, rules, or regulations to a Park Ranger, the park office, or by calling the DNREC dispatch center at 302-739-4580 or 1-800-523-3336.

*WCC\_2011-12 September 6, 2011*

## **White Clay Creek Hunting New Opportunities for Permanently Disabled Hunters**

Permanently Disabled Hunters are a small but important segment of our hunting population. Opportunities for this subset of physically-restricted hunters have been limited to one stand in the Carpenter Section of the park for many years. This site no longer serves the hunters for which it was originally intended, or helps the park control deer. As a result, we have been in discussions as to how we could increase the opportunities for Permanently Disabled Hunters, while maintaining the opportunities for able-bodied hunters and maximizing hunter effort for all the stand locations. The rules that follow below are meant to accomplish these goals. These efforts will be evaluated at the end of the 2011-12 seasons as to their overall effectiveness.

Before you consider registration as a Permanently Disabled Hunter, understand that this ***will limit your hunting opportunities within the park to just a few stands or pins***, and you will still have to participate in the daily lottery for these limited opportunities. This is intended for those hunters that are physically unable to access most of the stands in the park because of difficult terrain and long walking distances. This will also provide a new opportunity for wheelchair bound hunters as well. Read the instructions below. **All of the White Clay Creek Hunting Rules in the park will also apply to the Permanently Disabled Hunter as well.**

- 1) **A hunter wishing to participate must first register as a “Permanently Disabled Hunter” at the White Clay Creek Park Office.** To register, the hunter must provide a letter from their doctor identifying the hunter as being permanently disabled. The Federal Permanently Disabled Certification as used at Bombay Hook and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuges will also be accepted. There is a check-off box on the Parks Hunting Registration form this year that will identify you as a Permanently Disabled Hunter. Park Rangers will have a list of all registered Permanently Disabled Hunters.
- 2) **Once registered, Permanently Disabled Hunters will be limited to the following stand/pin locations: Archery Pin JPD, Stands #18PD and #19PD, and the new Non-Ambulatory Wheelchair Accessible site (NAWA). By registering as a Permanently Disabled Hunter you are limiting your hunting to these locations ONLY.**
- 3) The NAWA location is our Wheelchair Accessible site and replaces the old HA location in Carpenter. This location is available only during Shotgun seasons and only for our Permanently Disabled Hunter population whose disabilities confine them to a wheelchair (Category 1). The other three sites are for Permanently Disabled Hunters not confined to a wheelchair (Category 2).
- 4) During the daily shotgun season lottery, if either stand #18PD or #19PD have been not assigned to a Permanently Disabled Hunter, then they will be included in the normal daily lottery drawing.
- 5) Park staff will not be available to help the Permanently Disabled Hunter retrieve game or otherwise provide assistance. **Permanently Disabled Hunters must make arrangements with a friend or family member to help them.**

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