

Instructions for Completing Application

1. Print all information clearly. We will not be responsible for applications we cannot read.
2. Do not skip anything. If you do not include everything we ask for, you may be disqualified.
3. You must possess a valid 2015 Massachusetts Hunting or Sporting License **BEFORE** you apply. Use your MassWildlife Customer ID # on the application.
4. Rank your hunt area preferences 1 through 4; 1=highest preference; 4=lowest preference for all segments you want to hunt. Leave blank segments you do not want to hunt.
5. There must be at least **TWO** hunters on each application. Everyone's Customer ID # is eligible for the drawing.
6. No name can appear on more than one application. Duplicate applicants will be eliminated from the drawing.
7. Double check the **ENTIRE** application form before you send it in. Make sure that your check or money order is payable to: "Commonwealth of Massachusetts."
8. \$5.00 must be sent for each person on the application. If there are six people on one form, the application fee is \$30.00.

Schedule

July 1	Application forms available.
Aug. 15	Deadline for application submission - hand deliver by 4:00 PM or August 15th postmark from U.S. Postal Service.
Sept. 9	Permit Drawing. Only winners will be notified by mail. Winning numbers will be posted on the DCR website: www.mass.gov/dcr/deerhunt
Oct. 15	Online orientation available
Nov. 4 - 21	Orientations
Nov. 21	Deadline for returning hunters, last orientation
Nov. 21&22	Vehicle access for Scouting

Hunt Dates: **Petersham and Hardwick Dec. 3 & 4**
New Salem and Prescott Dec. 10 & 11

QUABBIN RESERVOIR

Department of Conservation and Recreation

485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007 (413) 323-7221

www.mass.gov/dcr/watershed

Quabbin Reservation Deer Hunt 2015

Application and Information

Items of Note

- Hunters may apply in groups of up to six on one application. There **MUST** be at least two hunters on each application.
- Each hunter **MUST** pay a \$5.00 non-refundable fee payable by check or money order to: "Commonwealth of Massachusetts."
- No person's name can appear on more than one form. Duplicate applicants will be eliminated from the lottery.
- Application deadline is August 15, 2015 - either hand-delivered by 4:00 PM to the Visitor Center or postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by that date.
- Do not staple or tape check to application.



BACKGROUND

Since its creation in the 1930s, hunting had not been permitted on the Quabbin Reservation. Consequently, densities of several wildlife species exceeded those found in other parts of the state where hunting has historically been allowed. In particular, deer densities in some areas of the reservation were three to five times the statewide average.

In June of 1989 the former Division of Watershed Management of the Metropolitan District Commission, now the Office of Watershed Management of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, determined that the deer herd was negatively impacting its mandate to protect the natural resources and water of Quabbin. At that time it was also determined that the most workable and achievable solution to this situation was to reduce deer populations using a series of controlled public hunts.

Controlled hunts began in 1991 in the Pelham area and expanded to the four other management blocks (Prescott, New Salem, Hardwick and Petersham) during the next three years. As deer population densities have been lowered, yearly hunting effort has also been reduced so that by 1996 only one hunting segment was used in each hunt area. This is in keeping with DCR's intent to scale back hunting effort as the program moves from the initial reduction phase to a population maintenance phase. The goal of this latter phase is to maintain deer densities at levels that allow for the continued establishment and development of forest regeneration. While hunter success has been lower during this phase than in earlier years, the exceptional scenery and habitat of Quabbin Reservation still makes for a quality hunting experience.

ORGANIZATION OF HUNT

During 2015, hunting will occur in the following areas: Prescott between Gates 17 and 21; New Salem between Gates 22 and 37; Petersham between Gates 37 and 40 and Hardwick between Gates 41 and 50. Each of the four areas will have one, two-day segment as follows: Petersham and Hardwick on Dec. 3 & 4, New Salem and Prescott on Dec. 10 & 11. Access will be restricted to designated gates. Hunters must check in and out by posted times on each day they hunt and obey all regulations and directions of DCR and law enforcement personnel.

APPLICATION PROCESS

There is a \$5 per hunter **NON-REFUNDABLE** application fee. To minimize vehicular traffic and increase efficiency, hunters may apply in groups of up to six with a **MINIMUM** of two. Hunters will be assigned to a specific access zone where they must check in and out each day.

Hunters are no longer required to purchase a Quabbin specific antlerless permit. In 2015 hunters interested in purchasing an antlerless permit will have the opportunity to do so prior to the hunt.

Since 2007, hunters have been able to use muzzleloaders for the Quabbin Deer Hunt. However, all hunters must possess a valid FID Card in order to participate in the hunt.

The hunt may be cancelled due to severe weather conditions or security situations.

HUNTER SELECTION PROCESS

Approximately 1,200 hunters will be randomly selected from applications submitted with the required fee. **TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING SELECTED, CHECK AS MANY SEGMENTS AS POSSIBLE FOR WHICH EVERYONE WILL BE AVAILABLE.** The DCR will be able to place hunters in segments according to their preferences. Rank the segments from 1 (highest) through 4 (lowest) for all segments you want to hunt. Leave blank any segments you do not want to hunt.

The drawing to select hunters will be based on the last digits of your MassWildlife Customer ID Number. All eligible Customer ID numbers listed on the application will be included in the lottery.

Selected hunters will be required to attend an orientation session prior to the 2015 Quabbin deer hunt except for those who attended an orientation between 2012 and 2014. For 2015, the DCR is developing an online orientation session option for returning hunters. New Quabbin hunters will still be required to attend an in-person orientation session.

Hunters required to attend an orientation meeting or complete the online orientation session will not be eligible for the hunt if they do not fulfill this requirement.