Another Successful Year at the Quabbin Hunt

David Gregoire’s first deer, Pelham

Rene Boudreau’s first Quabbin deer

Connor Maloney with his Hardwick deer

Kimberly Genereux and her 8pt. Petersham buck

Adam Cooley with his 9 pt. Petersham buck

Quabbin: By the Numbers (1991-2009)

Number Hunters Applying: 56,614
Number Hunters Accepted: 27,740
Number Hunters Participating: 21,490
Number of deer killed: 4,881
Average Hunter Success Rate: 23%
Highest 1-Day Harvest: Prescott, Nov. 2, 1992 - 216 deer
The 2009 Hunt

The 2009 deer hunt was the fifth and final year of a 5-year hunting program that rotates through the 5 hunting blocks. Approximately 1780 people applied for the 2009 hunt, and 1425 (80%) were selected. Around 1225 hunters attended the hunt, and 200 deer were killed. Overall hunter success was about 16% in the four days of hunting.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Yrling</th>
<th>Fawn</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>19.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>51</td>
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PETERSHAM

After only a 1 day hunt in 2008 and a rest year in 2007, the agency and hunters were hoping for a good harvest in Petersham in 2009. Hunters were treated to ideal conditions with snow on the ground, and the harvest was way up from previous years. Hunter attendance for the hunt was good. Approximately 329 hunters attended the 2-day hunt. This is about 86% of the hunters eligible to hunt. Petersham hunters killed 85 deer. This works out to about 6 deer killed/mi². Hunter success was very good. Approximately 26% of the hunters in Petersham killed a deer.

Quick Facts

Biggest Buck:
- 195 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Richard Cooley Jr.

Biggest Doe:
- 144 pounds
- 2.5 & 3.5 years old
- Jamison Bolduc
- David James

Brian Kubaska with his 8 pt. Hardwick buck

Quick Facts

Biggest Buck:
- 178 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Raymond Mainville

Biggest Doe:
- 147 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Robert Howell

K.M. Mackenzie

department of Conservation and Recreation
PRESCOTT

**Quick Facts**

**Biggest Buck:**
- 176 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Jacob Poirier

**Biggest Doe:**
- 142 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- James Kusnierz

Prescott hunters experienced a pretty good year, coming in after the area was rested in 2008. Attendance was fantastic. Around 388 hunters, or roughly 90% of those eligible, attended the hunt. These hunters bagged 46 deer. This is about 2 deer killed/mi². Approximately 12% of Prescott hunters killed a deer.

Hunter success was good. Prescott hunters killed a deer.

PELHAM

**Quick Facts**

**Biggest Buck:**
- 181.5 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Carl Lehberger

**Biggest Doe:**
- 130 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Peter Szczepanek

Pelham hunters experienced a hunting season very similar to recent hunts. Attendance was pretty good (approximately 80%), and the 324 hunters attending the hunt bagged 18 deer. This equals about 1.2 deer killed/mi². Around 6% of the hunters at Pelham killed a deer.
As mentioned earlier, the DCR began a second 5-year hunting plan in 2005. This second rotation was completed during last year’s hunt. Given the success of the rotation schedule, DCR has decided to continue with this plan and begin a third 5-year rotation. Following a similar rotation to the original 5-year plan, the Pelham block will be removed from hunting during the 2010 season. Therefore, hunting in 2010 will take place in the New Salem, Hardwick, Petersham and Prescott blocks. Each block will be hunted for one 2-day segment.

Most of the details related to the Quabbin hunt will remain the same. Up to 6 hunters may apply on each application, and selection will be through a random drawing. I encourage hunters to prioritize all the hunting blocks. This will help them during the selection process.

**APPLICATION FEES**: Fees will remain at $10/hunter during the 2010 hunt. Please keep in mind that the fee increase in 2006 was the first increase since the hunts began in 1991. The increased revenue will allow the DCR to defray some of the associated costs of the hunt. Please keep in mind that application fees are non-refundable.

**SCOUTING**: Two days of car scouting for each hunting block will be allowed again in 2010. Scouting will take place during Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 27-28, 2010) as it has in the past. This year, the hours will be remain shortened, and scouting will be allowed from 8:00-1:00. Hunters are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to explore and familiarize themselves with the various hunting areas. Please remember that scouting is reserved for Quabbin hunters only, and no firearms are allowed while scouting.

**MUZZLELOADERS ALLOWED**: During the 2007-2009 hunt, hunters were allowed the option of using either a muzzleloader or a shotgun. After internal discussion, the DCR agreed to continue to allow hunters the option of using shotguns with slugs or muzzleloaders while hunting at Quabbin. For security reasons, please keep in mind that a FID card is still required to hunt at Quabbin.

Like in previous years, the 2010 Quabbin deer hunt application will be available online at the DCR website.

The address is:
www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/hunt.htm

As in previous years, antlerless deer killed during the Quabbin hunt will be considered “bonus” and will not count towards a hunter’s bag limit. During orientation sessions last fall, we allowed hunters to purchase an extra antlerless permit, in addition to the one that is required. We will again offer hunters the opportunity to purchase an extra antlerless permit during orientations. In addition, we will offer this opportunity to hunters exempt from orientations. Keep an eye out for details on how to go about purchasing extra permits if you’re drawn for the hunt.

For your convenience, we have included a 2010 Quabbin deer hunt application. Hunters are encouraged to apply for this year’s hunt.

The Quabbin hunt is scheduled for the following days:

Prescott/New Salem: December 2-3, 2010
Petersham/Hardwick: December 9-10, 2010

Any questions? Call: Kiana Koenen, Wildlife Biologist at (413) 323-6921 ext. 163 or e-mail her at kiana.koenen@state.ma.us OR contact Bill Pula, Regional Director at (413) 784-1249 ext. 101.