350 CMR 8.02: Deer Management Program in the Quabbin Reservoir Area

1) Hunting of white-tailed deer shall be allowed in specified sections of the Quabbin Reservoir Area by those persons holding a use permit issued by the Department of Conservation and Recreation or its designee for a controlled deer hunt conducted in conjunction with the Department's Deer Management Program. All persons to whom such a permit has been issued are also required to have a valid Massachusetts hunting license issued by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

2) The use permit will specify the hunting season, the time of day, and the designated location for hunting. Certain sensitive areas shall be designated off limits to permittees. Access to the hunting area shall be by use permit only and shall be for the season, time and designated location only.

3) No hunting is allowed within direct view of the Quabbin Reservoir shoreline, or within 500 feet of any building, or in other areas posted as no hunt zones. Shooting or injury of any bird or animal species other than white-tailed deer is strictly prohibited.

4) Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Rules and Regulations relating to hunting shall apply to Department of Conservation and Recreation’s controlled hunt programs. The use of buckshot is prohibited and firearms shall be limited to shotguns or muzzleloaders only. No cutting of branches, trees or shrubs, or nailing of trees is allowed. All deer carcasses shall be brought to a check station, tagged, and concealed from view before being transported outside of Commission property. In the event of a conflict, these rules and regulations take precedence over the rules and regulations of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

5) No litter or refuses of any sort may be thrown or left in or on any land or water within the Quabbin Reservoir Area. Sanitary facilities provided for public use shall be the only locations used for such purposes. No deer parts shall be disposed of within 100 feet of any brook, stream, wetland or other water body. All acts which may pollute the water supply are strictly prohibited. Permittees must obey all other promulgated Rules and Regulations of the Department while on Department of Conservation and Recreation lands.

6) All public access, whether pedestrian or by motor vehicle is restricted to paths and roads specifically designated for use during the hunting season. All vehicles parking must be in designated areas only.

7) All persons within the Quabbin Reservoir Area shall obey the directions of regulatory signs, instructions contained on the use permit, and directions of police officers, Water Supply Division employees, environmental police officers, rangers and enforcement officers.

8) The selection of participants in the program shall be randomly accomplished. Once selected, applicants must attend a training session, certify that they have not violated Massachusetts Fisheries and Game laws (M.G.L. Chapter 131) or Department of Conservation and Recreation rules and regulations (Chapter 92) within the past five years, and pay all requisite fees, including a non-refundable application fee, to participate in the hunting program. Use permits are valid only for the person named in the permit and for the period specified.

9) Antlerless deer harvested during the Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt are considered “Bonus Deer” and do not count towards State bag limits. Therefore Antlerless Deer Permits for other zones are still valid and may be filled.

10) Any person who violates or refuses to comply with any of these rules and regulations may be subject to immediate revocation of the permit, a criminal fine or imprisonment.

11) These rules and regulations are severable, and if any of them are held to be invalid for any reason or under any circumstance, such holding shall not affect any other rule or regulation.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: 350 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. C. 92A 1/2; St. 1972, c. 737; St. 1990, c.436.
1. Entrance on and exit from land of the Watershed System shall be made through gates or other designated areas.

2. No Person is allowed within any land of the Watershed System, except from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, unless authorized by a written permit from the Commission or its designee.

3. Powered boats are prohibited within the Waters of the Watershed System except in areas designated by the Commission or its designee.

4. All acts which pollute or may pollute the water supply are prohibited. No litter or refuse of any sort may be thrown or left in or on any land or water within any Watershed System. All Persons within said System shall use the sanitary facilities provided for public use.

5. All acts which injure the property of the Commonwealth are prohibited. No Person shall injure, deface, destroy, remove or carry off any property, real or personal, under the care and control of the Commission, including but not limited to, all historic artifacts and natural materials. The removal of gravel, topsoil, stones, boulders, or other earthen material is prohibited from the Watershed System except for removal for official use for land management purposes by Commission staff. No Person shall build or construct any object or structure of the property of the Commonwealth except with the written permission of the Commission or its designee.

6. Cooking and all fires are prohibited within the Watershed System.

7. No Person shall wade or swim in any reservoir except wading while using boots for the purpose of launching boats at designated boat launch areas.

8. No Person shall wade or swim in any Tributary or Surface Waters on or within the property of the Commonwealth except at areas designated by the Commission or its designee.

9. Organized sports activities, including but not limited to orienteering and baseball, are prohibited in the Watershed System except by written permit from the Commission or its designee.

10. Any violation of 350 CMR 11.09 will be deemed sufficient cause for revocation of fishing privileges for a period of time not less than one year from the time of violation. The Commission and its employees are not responsible for any damage to or loss of property sustained by fishermen, or for any injury or loss of life which may be incurred in connection with public use of the reservoirs and Watershed System.

11. Breach of peace, profanity or other disorderly conduct offensive to the general public is strictly prohibited within the Watershed system. Possession of and drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited within said System.

12. No Person shall drive a motorized vehicle within the Watershed System except upon roads authorized for such use by the Commission or its designee. Recreational vehicles are prohibited on all Watershed System property except the use of snowmobiles in areas designated by the Commission or its designee. Motor vehicles shall be parked only in areas designated by the Commission or its designee. Operators of motor vehicles shall obey all regulatory signs unless otherwise directed by a police officer or person in charge. No Person shall willfully obstruct the free passage of vehicles or Persons within the Watershed System. Vehicle access for official use may be granted by the Commission or its designee.

13. No Person shall bring any animal within any Watershed System property except for horses and dogs at the Ware River Watershed at areas designated by the Commission or its designee.

14. The use of bicycles, skis and other means of non-motorized transportation within the Watershed system shall be permitted only in areas designated by the Commission or its designee.

15. No Person, except in an emergency, shall bring, land or cause to descend within any Watershed System property any aircraft except with a written permit from the Commission or its designee.

16. Parades, games, fairs, carnivals, fishing derbies, bazaars, gifts or solicitations for raising or collecting funds shall not be permitted within the Watershed System without written approval of the Commission or its designee.

17. Lotteries, raffles, gambling and games of chance are prohibited; and no Person shall have possession of machinery, instruments or equipment of any kind for use of same in the Watershed System.

18. Public assemblies of more than 25 persons shall not be allowed within the Watershed System without a written permit from the Commission or its designee.

19. No Person shall engage in any business, sale or display of goods or wares within the Watershed System without a written permit from the Commission or its designee.

20. Commercial signs and advertising are prohibited in the Watershed System.

21. No Person shall have possession of or discharge any weapon, firearm, fireworks, or other explosive on or within the Watershed System except at times and areas designated by the Commission or its designee. All forms of target shooting are prohibited on or within the Watershed System.

22. No Person may hunt, shoot or trap animals on or within any Watershed System property except at times and in areas designated by the Commission or its designee.

23. All Persons within the Watershed System shall obey the lawful directions of regulatory signs, police officers or persons in charge, or of Federal or Commonwealth wardens or enforcement officers.

24. The Watershed System or parts thereof may be closed for public access at the discretion of the Commission or its designee when necessary to protect the lands and waters under the care and control of the Commission.

25. The possession of all types of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited on all of the Watershed System property.

(Promulgated Under General Laws, Chapter 92, Section 10-19)