

Narrow River Land Trust White-tailed Deer Hunting Policy

Effective date: August 19, 2016

The Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT) recognizes that hunting is a valuable wildlife management tool. White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is a naturally occurring species in Rhode Island. However, because of their high reproductive rates and the lack of sufficient predator control, high numbers of White-tailed deer cause damage to native vegetation and thereby negatively impact the conservation values of protected properties.

Hunting may be allowed on selected NRLT-owned properties according to the guidelines below. Permission to hunt shall be given only for a specific NRLT-owned property. The NRLT reserves the right to close any previously approved property to hunting at any time.

Permission to hunt shall be given only to individuals who fulfill the requirements of the NRLT outlined below. The NRLT reserves the right to limit the number of individuals it permits to hunt and to withdraw permission to hunt from any individual at any time.

The NRLT's hunting policy is based on current RI State wildlife management practices and current RI State hunting laws and regulations as found in the RIDEM Hunting and Trapping Abstract. <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/huntabs.pdf> All deer hunters on NRLT-owned property must comply with all applicable RI State, U.S. Federal and local town laws and regulations.

NRLT Selection of Properties for deer hunting:

1. Properties must be owned by the Narrow River Land Trust, and the deed to each property may not prohibit deer hunting.
2. Properties must be of a size, configuration, and location to allow for the 200 ft. setback from any occupied dwelling for archery hunting and the 500 ft. setback from any occupied dwelling for the discharge of a firearm.

NRLT Hunting Guidelines:

1. Deer hunting on NRLT owned properties will conform to the existing hunting laws and regulations of the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife as referenced in RI State Law (RIGL 20 -13 and 20-15).

2. Applicants must demonstrate possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting license as referenced in RIGL 20-13-1 and obtain the necessary deer hunting tags as referenced in RIGL 20-15-2.
3. Approval to hunt on NRLT lands will be granted on an annual basis after completion of the Application to Hunt. Hunters must provide the NRLT with copies of their 1) current, valid RI State Hunting License, 2) Driver's license or other photo identification, and 3) the hunter's vehicle registration number.
4. Deer hunting by archery, muzzleloader and shotgun will be permitted and only during each respective portion of the deer season.
5. No hunting of any other species of wildlife is permitted.
6. It is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of property lines and stay within the designated area.
7. No archery will be done within two hundred feet (200') of any building or dwelling as referenced in RIGL 20-15-1.
8. No muzzleloader or shotgun deer hunting will be done within five hundred feet (500') of any building or dwelling as referenced in RIGL 20-15-1.
9. The construction or use of permanent tree stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing and ladder tree stands are permitted and shall be attached to the tree by use of a cable, chain or strap to minimize injury to the tree.
10. Tree stands may be placed on NRLT property no more than two weeks before the opening of hunting season and must be removed no more than two weeks after the close of hunting season. Abandoned tree stands present outside the above-described time period will be removed.
11. No vehicles of any kind are allowed on NRLT property. Please park in designated areas near trailheads and make an effort to minimize environmental impacts.
12. Hunters are required to record their visits to NRLT property including a record of the number, location, relative age and sex (doe or buck) of deer taken and of deer seen on NRLT property. Hunters who do not return reports to the

- NRLT by the end of the season will not be eligible to hunt the following season.
13. No gutting of deer or leaving deer remains within 100 feet of a trail or parking area.
 14. Hunters are requested to report any unsafe or unauthorized activities to the NRLT.
 15. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in termination of hunting privileges on NRLT property
 16. The NRLT assumes no responsibilities for any injury to person or property while the hunter listed is using this land to hunt. Please note RI State Law (RIGL 32-6-3) as it applies to these privileges.
 17. Hunters must possess a copy of a signed NRLT Permission to Hunt form while hunting on NRLT land.

**Application to Hunt White-tailed Deer on Narrow River Land Trust property
And
Waiver of Liability and Agreement to Indemnify**

Application procedure: Please read the following two paragraphs and, if the terms are acceptable to you, complete the application and return it to P.O. Box 65, Saunderstown, RI 02874 or email to Office@NarrowRiverLandTrust.org. Include a legible photocopy of the applicant's RI State Hunting License and driver's license or other photo identification. After review, the NRLT will mail or e-mail the applicant a Permission to Hunt Form.

I have reviewed and understand the Narrow River Land Trust Deer Hunting Policy and agree to abide by its guidelines and all applicable RI State, Federal and local hunting regulations.

In consideration for Narrow River Land Trust allowing me to hunt its property, I agree to waive any and all claims and causes of action that I may have, and to indemnify and hold harmless the Narrow River Land Trust for claims and causes of action of others, for any reason whatsoever, in any way related to my use of Narrow River Land Trust property.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____

Phone: (C) _____

Email: _____

Rhode Island State Hunting License Number: _____

Hunter's Vehicle License Number: _____

Preferred Hunting Method(s): _____

Please sign and return the Application to Office@NarrowRiverLandTrust.org or to Narrow River Land Trust, P.O. Box 65, Saunderstown, RI 02874

Include copy of RI State Hunting License, driver's license or other photo identification.