



Meadowood Deer Hunting Season September 12, 2020-February 20, 2021

Secretarial Order
3356: Hunting, Fishing,
Recreation Shooting, and
Wildlife Conservation
Opportunities and
Coordination with States,
Tribes, and Territories
(September 15, 2017)

Expand opportunities for big-game hunting by improving priority habitats to assist in State efforts to increase and maintain sustainable big game populations across the Western States. Increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish. Build upon Secretarial Order 3347.

Secretarial Order 3347:
Conservation Stewardship
and Outdoor Recreation
(March 27, 2017)

Did you know that hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed \$156 billion in economic activity across the United States according to the FWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. More than 101 million Americans, or 40 percent of the United States' population 16 and older, pursue wildlife-related recreation, which supports 480,000 American jobs.

The Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), located at Lower Potomac Field Station, 10406 Gunston Road, Lorton, Virginia 22079, is near the Mason Neck State Park and the Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge. A system of trails on Meadowood SRMA navigate the terrain for a variety of recreational uses on over 800 acres of public lands.

The 2020/2021 hunting season runs from September 12, 2020 - February 20, 2021. Hunting activities may occur Monday - Saturday 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunting is being managed in order to control deer overpopulation in northern Virginia. The sportsmen may hunt white-tailed deer with bows only and must use tree stands in order to participate in this activity. For more information about the Meadowood SRMA, visit <https://www.blm.gov/visit/meadowood-special-recreation-management-area>.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Background

- Deer hunting is considered a cultural practice in Virginia
- Various governmental and nongovernmental organizations advocated for years in support of deer hunting
- Importance was recognized in the 2004 Meadowood Management Plan as Standard Management Practice 15
- Without human intervention, deer populations within Virginia consistently grow beyond sustainable carrying capacity, leading to an assortment of issues, including:
 - Environmental damage
 - Increased in potential disease vectors

Signage





Archery Hunting Plan

- The 2020/2021 season runs from Sept. 12, 2020, through Feb. 20, 2021
 - Hunting activities may occur Monday through Saturday
 - 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset
- All hunting activities occurring at Meadowood must adhere to the Individual Archer Standards of Fairfax County
 - Only individuals who meet these standards can participate
 - 23 Laurel Hill Group members have registered tree stands for Meadowood
 - There are 41 tree stands approved for Meadowood, or 1.5 stands for the approved hunters
 - Tree stands are commercial-type stands
 - Anchored to chosen trees via straps
- Information on which hunters are active at Meadowood on a given day is provided to the LPFS from the Laurel Hill leader and Fairfax County upon request

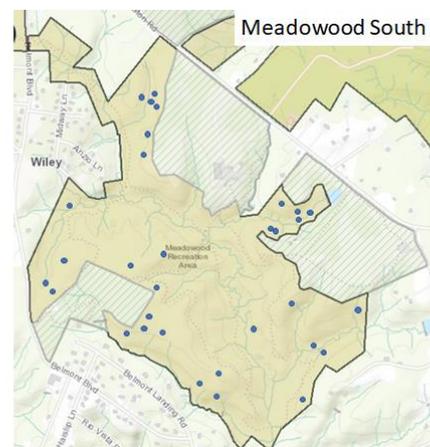
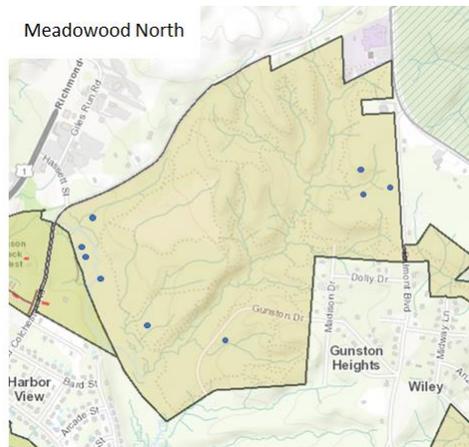
Archery Hunting Plan (con't)

- Hunters must:
 - Keep low profile and unobtrusive to recreationists
 - Yield to all other recreationists
 - Not interact with recreationalists unless recreationists make first contact
- No shots are to be taken while there are non-hunters present
 - Includes: trail users, BLM staff, fishing individuals, recreationalist who are off trail.
 - Shots at an appropriate deer may only be taken from a tree stand
 - Following Virginia protocol, harvested deer are to be dressed in the field with gut piles covered out of the view of the public
 - Dressed deer are to be covered when they are removed from the site



Hunting Area Maps

- The Fairfax County Deer Management Program separates the Meadowood SRMA into two sections
 - Meadowood North
 - Meadowood South
- Maps on next two slides
 - The hatched areas = areas closed to hunting due to the requirements of the hunting plan
 - The blue dots = approved tree stands

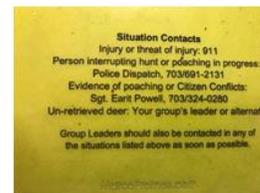


Consequences for Violation

- Per the Fairfax County Individual Archer Standards, any archer who violates either the standards or hunting plan face a variety of consequences, including:
 - Temporary suspension
 - Expulsion from the hunting group
 - Loss of hunting privileges
- Fairfax County and/or Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources may seek further consequences for violations
- All decisions for consequences are final and unappealable
- Local BLM Law Enforcement are aware of the managed hunt plan, and are ready to support the activity as needed

Emergency Response Plan

- Per the Individual Archery Standards, all hunters are required to contact
 - 911 in the event of an emergency
 - Fairfax County in the event of poaching or negative citizen contact
 - Their group leader for all other needs



- Per the approved Meadowood SOP, the Meadowood point of contact for the LHG is to be informed of any incidents that occur during the 2020/2021 season