Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 72 – 800 Great Creek Road

Oceanville, NJ 08231

(609) 652-1665

2020 - 2021 Fur Trapping Information

Trapping permittees will be allowed to harvest muskrats, red fox, raccoon, striped skunk, coyote, and opossum on the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge during the 2020 - 2021 trapping season. A total of 14 units are open to trapping.

I. WHO MAY APPLY FOR A TRAPPING PERMIT ?

Any trapper with a current New Jersey trapping license. Applicants under the age of eighteen (18) must have a parent or guardian co-sign the application.

II. WHAT SPECIES MAY BE TRAPPED ?

Muskrat, raccoon, striped skunk, red fox, coyote, and opossum may be trapped. No sets may be made specifically for mink, grey fox, or weasel, however, trappers may retain those caught incidental to other trap sets. Trapping for otter and beaver is not permitted.

III. SEASON DATES

Trapping on the refuge will be within the season dates of the State, except as noted below. All refuge trapping ends on March 15, 2021.

BRIGANTINE DIVISION: Units #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 will be open on November 15, 2020, with muskrat trapping opening on December 1, 2020. Units #5 and #6 will be closed December 14 - 18, 2020 due to the Zone 56 Permit Shotgun deer season. Trapping will be allowed on The Crossdike until the close of the season on March 15, 2021.

BARNEGAT DIVISION: Units #1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be open November 15, 2020, with muskrat trapping opening on December 1, 2020. Unit #3 will be open January 31, 2021.

IV. REFUGE TRAPPING TIPS AND REGULATIONS

1. Trappers are allowed on the refuge from 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset.

2. Active traplines **must** be checked each day. Failure to tend active traplines will result in revocation of your refuge trapping permit, and the issuance of a violation notice.

3. Do not block any refuge roadway or gates with your vehicle. Obey all refuge signs and respect all adjacent private property. Get permission from landowners before you trespass.

4. Trappers trapping during the refuge deer and waterfowl hunting season **must** wear a hunter orange vest when out tending traps. This also includes scouting. This is for your own protection

5. Licensed trappers with a valid rifle permit may carry a .22 caliber rifle, and use short rimfire cartridges to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrats. Firearms may not be loaded with more than three rounds.

6. All permits and licenses for trapping and carrying a rifle **must** be carried by the trapper during all refuge trapping activities.

7. Trapper harvest reports **must** be sent to the E.B. Forsythe NWR Headquarters at least once a month during the season. This report should include the number of species taken and from which unit(s), and the total number of hours spent tending traps. Failure to do so will result in denial of a trapping permit for the 2021 -2022 season.

8. These regulations in addition to all New Jersey State trapping regulations will apply on the refuge and **WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

V. EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Trappers should have all equipment required to provide for their personal safety, meet State requirements, and accomplish a goal in a professional manner.

VI. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are available upon request at the refuge headquarters:

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

PO Box 72, - 800 Great Greek Road

Oceanville, NJ 08231

(609) 652-1665

Office hours are 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Applicants should fill out the application as completely as possible as it will be used in part to determine qualifications.

**ALL BID APPLICANTS MUST LIST THE VEHICLE(S) THEY PLAN ON USING DURING THE SEASON. PLEASE INCLUDE MAKE, MODEL, COLOR AND TAG INFORMATION OF THE VEHICLE(S) ON THE APPLICATION!!**

VII. BID PROCEDURES

Applicants are encouraged to scout units, UPON RECEIPT OF PERMISSION from the Refuge Manager, prior to submitting bids. SCOUTING will be permitted on WEEKDAYS, DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY.

Minimum bids per unit are $10. A DEPOSIT is REQUIRED for each bid. This deposit must accompany the application. Minimum bid per unit is $10. This deposit must be **10% of the total amount of the bids**, or $10, whichever is greater. All deposits and final bid payments must be made by bank money order, cashier's check, or postal money order, payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Deposits will be refunded to unsuccessful or unqualified bidders. Completed applications, with bids and deposit, should be sealed in an envelope, and clearly marked Trapping Bid. The sealed bid can be mailed to the E.B. Forsythe NWR Headquarters address. Because of the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, hand delivery of trapping bids to the refuge headquarters will not be permitted. Mailed in bids postmarked after November 3, 2020 will not be accepted. The refuge is not responsible for trapping bids received after November 6, 2020, so make sure to send in your trapping bids as soon as you can. Mail all bids to the attention of **Vinny Turner**. The opening and awarding of all trapping units will be done on November 6, 2020, at the E.B. Forsythe NWR Visitor Information Center (VIC), across the road from the refuge headquarters, at 2:00 p.m.

Please note that there are units numbered 1-7 at both divisions, so make sure that the units you are bidding on state either the Barnegat or Brigantine Divisions.

VIII. UNIT SELECTION

A public opening will be held at the E.B. Forsythe NWR Visitor Information Center (VIC) at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 6, 2020. At the time of the bid opening, all bids will be posted on a large chart which includes all units. All units which receive only one bid will be immediately awarded to the sole bidder. Next, the highest remaining bid on the chart is selected, and that bidder is awarded that unit. All other bids by that trapper, if any, are then void. Then, the next highest remaining bid is selected, and so on, until all units are awarded. Ties will be broken by a coin toss. **THE BALANCE PAYMENT DUE ON UNITS AWARDED MUST BE PAID WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS.** Failure to pay balance will result in **forfeiture of deposit** and **reassignment of units.**

If a unit is not bid on, it will be offered to the highest overall successful bidder of the units awarded, for the minimum bid price. If the highest bidder refuses the unit, then the next highest bidder will be offered the unit, and so on. If the unit is not awarded, the Refuge Biologist may re-advertise the unit, or award it (no charge) to a qualified youth trapper in accordance with Refuge Manual guidelines. When a unit is re-advertised and no additional bids are received or there are no qualified youth trappers, the unit may be awarded to trappers in adjacent units at no cost.

Non-selected applicants will be notified in writing or by phone call of the reason for their non-selection or permit denial.

TRAPPING PERMITS MUST BE CARRIED WITH YOU DURING ALL TRAPPING ACTIVITIES.

STATE REGULATIONS APPLY AND WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.