

BUCK FEVER

Volume 1, Issue 1

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WELCOME HUNTERS

Deer hunting in the Upper Peninsula is part of our heritage and tradition. We welcome your visit to the Ottawa National Forest to enjoy that tradition and heritage. In order to protect the natural appearance of the forest and provide hunting opportunities for all, we ask that you observe the acceptable practices noted in this brochure and be aware of the unacceptable practices as well.



Buck

The purpose of this brochures is to provide you with information that will help you to enjoy your visit to the Ottawa and make sure you are aware of the rules and regulations and to experience a safe and successful hunting season.

Please remember to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics and pack out what you pack in.

SAFE HUNTING

Ottawa National Forest

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SAFETY

All hunters should know the location of their hunting partners at all times. As stated by Beattie (1984) "One important factor stands out when analyzing deer hunting accidents: three out of every four accidents involve members of the same hunting party." Deer hunters should have a plan for hunting that is understood and adhered to by all individuals in the

party.

Rifle deer hunters may need to be especially cautious when loading and unloading firearms. A wise procedure is for the hunters to move 10-15 feet away from the vehicle, point the muzzle away, and load on different sides of the vehicle. The same procedure

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IT'S UP TO YOU..... 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety

The hunting season is upon us. Have fun – get a full bag – and above all, observe the 10 commandments of firearms safety!

1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded firearm. This is the primary rule of gun safety.
2. Guns carried into a camp or home or when otherwise not in use, must always be unloaded and taken down or have chambers open; guns should always be carried to the shooting area in cases.
3. Always be sure the barrel and chamber are clear of obstructions and that you only have the ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying. Remove oil and grease from the chamber before firing.
4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you should stumble.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger; know the identifying features of the game you intend to hunt.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot; avoid all horseplay while handling a gun.
7. Unattended guns should be unloaded; guns and ammunition should be stored separately beyond the reach of children or careless individuals.
8. Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun; never pull a gun towards you by the muzzle.
9. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water. When target practicing, be sure your backstop is adequate.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting or carrying a firearm.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....

Are there special game laws that apply on Federal land? The state has full authority to enforce game laws on the National Forest. See your copy of the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

There are also Federal laws and regulations established for safety, and the protection of National Forest resources and U.S. Government property.

Are there any Forest campgrounds open during hunting season? Most camp-

grounds are open during the hunting season, although roads may not be plowed and water not available. Within these campgrounds, campers and tents may be placed only on the campsites provided. There is a limit of 8 people per campsite, and a maximum stay limit of 14 days in developed campgrounds.



May I camp anywhere on National Forest Land? Generally, the National Forest is open anywhere to camping except for admin-

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Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

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istrative sites such as offices, warehouses, and specifically posted day use recreation areas. In Sylvania Wilderness, camping is only permitted at designated campsites. Other than that, the Forest is open to camping. Sylvania, McCormick, and Sturgeon River Gorge Wildernesses are open to non-mechanized travel only. Other special regulations may apply in these Wildernesses. Check with your local Forest Service office if in doubt.

If you prefer to camp out in the woods, here are a few things to remember:

- * Make sure you are on National Forest System land. Private land is mixed in with federal land on the Forest. Maps showing National Forest ownership are available at U.S. Forest Service offices.
- * In order to keep public land available to everyone, you may camp outside of developed campgrounds for a period not longer than 16 days. You may camp on the Forest longer than 16 days if you move at least one mile to another campsite.
- * Set up your camp in such a way that you do not block an open road or gate.
- * Use equipment that does not require cutting any live trees, or nailing into trees.
- * Please dispose of human waste by burying in the soil at a depth of 6 to 12 inches, and at least 100 feet from lakes or streams. If you use a portable chemical toilet, or have an RV with holding tanks, please empty them at an approved dump station.
- * Practice "Leave No Trace" camping - leave your campsite looking like no one used it. Temporary structures built during your stay, such as game-hanging poles, must be disassembled and removed along with your trash when you leave.

People keep moving in on our favorite hunting area and camp spot. Can we reserve our area? National Forest System land is available on a first

come - first served basis. It is important to remember this is public land and is open to everyone. However, respecting others is an important hunting ethic. Common sense, courtesy, and respect would cause most people to not camp or hunt where others are obviously camped or are hunting.

May I hunt from a tree stand or raised platform? Hunting from a tree stand or raised platform with a firearm is legal. In Michigan, hunters may use temporary tree stands or raised platforms. The hunter's name and address must be prominently displayed on the structure and easily read from the ground. Tree stands must be portable and not attached to any tree by nails, screws, or bolts. It is illegal to use any item that penetrates the cambium of a tree. Screw-in steps are illegal on public lands. Tree stands, platforms, ladders, steps, and any other device to assist in climbing a tree cannot be placed on public lands any earlier than September 1 and must be removed by the day following the close of the last deer season in the area.

May I use a blind? You may use a blind while hunting on National Forest System land consistent with the State of Michigan Hunting Regulations. Only the following types of ground blinds are legal on National Forest System Lands.
Portable Ground Blind: Blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day. Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor blind, cannot penetrate the bark of a tree and must be removed daily with the blind. No identification is required on these blinds. These blinds may be used on public lands at any time for legal hunting.
Temporary blinds made of natural materials (down logs, windfalls) are preferred and should be broken down to a natural appearing condition at the end of the season. Blinds must not be attached to trees by nails, wire, screws, or bolts.

Temporary blinds may also be small portable structures that you carry in to your hunting area. Temporary blinds made of manufactured materials can-

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Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

not be set up earlier than 7 days before the beginning of the hunting season for which you are licensed, and must be posted with the name and address of the person placing the blind unless the blind is removed daily. All temporary blinds must be removed at the end of your hunting season.

Leaving blinds on National Forest System land after hunting season is a violation. Citations require payment of a fine and violators may be billed for the government's cost to remove them.

What about the person I find sitting in my blind or hunting over my bait pile? Michigan has an "Occupancy Provision" for public land that says "a person's name and address in no way conveys exclusive hunting rights to a blind or surrounding area."

Are campfires permitted? Yes - however in Sylvania Wilderness and in developed campgrounds, fires must be kept in the fire ring provided. Be aware of local fire conditions and call ahead if unsure.

In the woods, if there is no snow cover, be sure to clear a safe spot down to the mineral soil so your fire doesn't creep out into the woods. You may collect and use dead and down wood. To remove firewood from the National Forest, you will need a permit, which is available free at District Ranger offices in Iron River, Kenton, Ontonagon, Watersmeet, or the Forest Supervisor's Office.

Is there a place where I can dispose of my trash? Local landfills have been closed. If at all possible, pack out your trash and dispose of through your home garbage service or check in with the appropriate District Ranger offices to learn where you can dispose of your trash. Please practice "Leave No Trace" camping.

May I take a Christmas tree home? Yes, but before you cut the tree, you must purchase a Christmas tree permit for \$5.00 at any District Ranger

Office, or the Forest Supervisor's Office.

I've seen hunters target shooting at the edge of a campground. Isn't that a violation of safety zones? Yes! You may not "discharge a firearm, or any other implement capable of causing injury, or damaging property; 1. in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area, or 2, across or on a Forest Development road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

Is baiting permitted on National Forest System land? The State of Michigan allows baiting in the taking of deer and bear. See your Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for restrictions. Plastic bags, sacks, bait boxes, etc. are considered litter.

Is it okay to clear a shooting lane? We recognize the importance of a clear shot, and while some limited brushing may be necessary, cutting live vegetation is discouraged, and cutting trees, greater than sapling size, (five inches or larger) is prohibited. Special considerations apply in Wildernesses, where the cutting of live vegetation is prohibited.

May I use an ORV, ATV or snowmobile to get to my hunting area, or to get a deer out of the woods? Michigan state law prohibits hunting or pursuing wild animals or birds from any motorized vehicle. Use of ORV's, ATV's and snowmobiles in the Upper Peninsula, during hunting season, is allowed with special restrictions. Please check your Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for hunting season ORV, ATV and snowmobile restrictions.

Snowmobiles are not permitted on plowed Forest Service roadways or between the ditches of plowed Forest Service roads. They are allowed to travel on unplowed FS roads only when the snow depth makes the road impassable to highway vehicles.

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Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

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Motorized vehicles are not permitted anywhere in designated Wilderness and are restricted from some other areas on the Ottawa National Forest. You may not use a motorized vehicle to retrieve an animal in a Wilderness or other area closed to motorized use. Check with the nearest Ranger District office for maps of these locations.

Existing County ATV Ordinances do not pertain to FS Roads. Damaging roads and causing resource damage on NF lands is prohibited (rutting from ATVs and trucks).

Why are some roads closed? Roads are closed for a variety of reasons, including protecting threatened or endangered species, minimize damage to roads that cross wet soils, to protect our investment in the road, and to provide for non-motorized recreation opportunities.

I've seen some open roads getting torn up by traffic during hunting season. Why don't you gravel them so they can be used without hunters getting stuck or tearing up their vehicle? Graveling roads is expensive. Money is only invested in roads when necessary to meet the anticipated use of the road.

We endorse a Tread Lightly ethic - take care not to damage roads or natural resources. Please remember that causing resource damage to any forest road (rutting) and leaving it in a damaged condition is a violation of federal regulation.

Building or maintaining roads and trails without a permit on NF lands is also prohibited.

If I see a wolf, should I report it to anyone? Report wolf sightings to any USDA Forest Service or Michigan DNR office. This information will help us understand the location and movement of wolves as they continue their comeback here in Michigan.

Is Hunter Orange Clothing Required? You may not hunt with any device, or trap with a firearm, on any lands during daylight hunting hours from August 15-April 30 unless you wear a hat, cap, vest, jacket or rain gear of highly visible color, commonly referred to as "Hunter Orange." During the November firearm deer season, this law applies to all deer hunters, including those hunting with a bow and arrow. The garment, featuring Hunter Orange, must be the outermost garment and must be visible from all sides. Camouflage orange garments, with 50 percent or more of the surface in Hunter Orange, are legal.



DON'T LET THE WEATHER STOP YOU!!!

Your 3-day deer hunting weekend is almost over with nothing to show for it. Sunday dawns with a steady rain that has indications of being an all day affair. In this situation, many hunters will vacate the woods, opting for personal comfort instead of hunting. The deer, however, will usually come out of hiding and head for the feeding grounds. They often move into the open, out along the fringe areas of the forest.

If you are an ardent still hunter who had the foresight to bring along proper rain gear, the rain can make your day. You'll have more deer to share with less people.

The heavy, still air will deaden, to a degree, the white-

tail's most protective senses. The deer's sense of sight, sound and smell will not be as sharp. Your sight will also be impaired, but you will also create much less sound and emit much less odor in rainy weather.

Beating dense, wet brush may be a little too much for you. Instead try the back roads, logging trails or the edges of open spaces. If the rain is a downpour accompanied by strong winds, the deer will seek shelter. Look for them under hemlock and cedar on river bottoms where they are protected from both wind and rain.

HUNTING BLINDS ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICES

Acceptable Practices

- ◆ Blinds are to be constructed of down and dead natural materials (brush, branches, etc.) gathered from the immediate area where you are hunting
- ◆ At the end of the season, scatter all natural blind material and remove manufactured materials, leaving the area appearing natural.
- ◆ Portable ground blinds and portable tree stands can be used and must be removed at the end of the hunting season. Blinds and stands made of manufactured materials must be clearly marked with the name and address of the owner. Blinds may be placed up to 7 days prior to the opening of the season for which you have a license.
- ◆ Clean up bait sites periodically and at the end of the hunting season. Remove all man-made materials.

Unacceptable Practices

- ◆ Constructing blinds out of lumber, etc. These become garbage after you abandon them and the Forest Service does not want to pick up after you.
- ◆ Failure to remove blinds and tree stands situated on National Forest land after hunting sea-

son. 36 CFR 2161.10(a).

- ◆ Excessive cutting of live vegetation and cutting of any live trees that are five inches in diameter or larger is prohibited.
- ◆ Use of nails, wire, screws or other metal objects to fasten blinds or stands to trees or any use of these items that will damage vegetation in any way.
- ◆ Creating ATV trails to access blinds, bait piles, or any other area.

Your cooperation will help keep the Ottawa National Forest visually pleasing and available for all National Forest visitors to use.

PLEASE

PRACTICE "LEAVE NO TRACE"

ETHICS AND PACK

OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.

SAFE HUNTING!

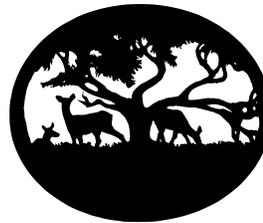
Safety

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should be used when unloading and placing the firearm in a case. Rifle deer hunters should also be careful of their emotions. “Early blur” (where stumps and people look like deer), “buck fever” and peer pressure to “get a deer” often create a state of mind, or attitude that is conducive to accidents. Deer hunters should check and double-check the target and background when seeing a deer, even though the excitement may be unbearable. Hunters should be extra-cautious when taking a second or third shot at a running deer that they have already hit. These shots are often emotional releasers and can be extremely dangerous, if often unnecessary.

Hunting deer with shotguns is just as hazardous as rifle hunting, and perhaps even more so if buckshot is used instead of rifle slugs. Shotgun hunters often drive deer to “standers” or jump-

shoot deer out of swales. Hunters in this situation need to be careful to avoid hitting an out-of-sight victim or mistaking hunters for game. These hunters should never shoot at sound or movement, even if they have prearranged the position of party members during the drives. Also, having an antlerless permit does not give hunters the right to “shoot hair” – the brown or white movement may not be a deer. Deer hunters who use shotguns also have a tendency to stumble and fall while hunting in dense cover, or while exercising for long periods of time.



Keep Your Head and Hands Warm

Keeping your hands warm in a blind isn't exactly easy. Thick, insulated gloves can be comfortably warm, but when it comes time to shoot, they are usually a disadvantage.

As an alternative, try wearing a pair of close fitting, ordinary cotton jersey gloves inside a pair of loose fitting, roomy, insulated gloves. When it comes time to shoot, just stick your gun hand in your armpit and quickly slide off the bulky glove. The cotton jersey glove will retain sufficient warmth while shooting, but will still allow you to feel the trigger for smooth squeezing.

The battle of keeping your body warm is won by keeping your head warm. Get yourself a good cap made of well-insulated material and lined with flannel. Select one with a drop-down neck and earflaps that tie under the chin. If you wear glasses, try to find one with a bill that will help prevent the sun from reflecting off your lenses.

Stay Still on Deer Stands

Duck hunters can fidget and move around until they see birds in the air. It's not quite the same with a deer hunter sitting on a stand. The deer in all probability will detect any movement before the hunter sees the deer.

Unless your stand is on the edge of an opening in the forest, there is

bound to be considerable brush and growth between you and the deer.

Standing up, sitting down or just scratching your ear when you cannot see or hear a deer, doesn't mean that there isn't a big buck coming through the woods and watching you.

If the deer is downwind from you,

any movement coupled with a good whiff of you, will “spook” the deer and it will be long gone.



LEAVE “NO TRACE” LAND ETHICS

PRACTICING A NO-TRACE ETHIC IS VERY SIMPLE IF YOU REMEMBER TWO THINGS:

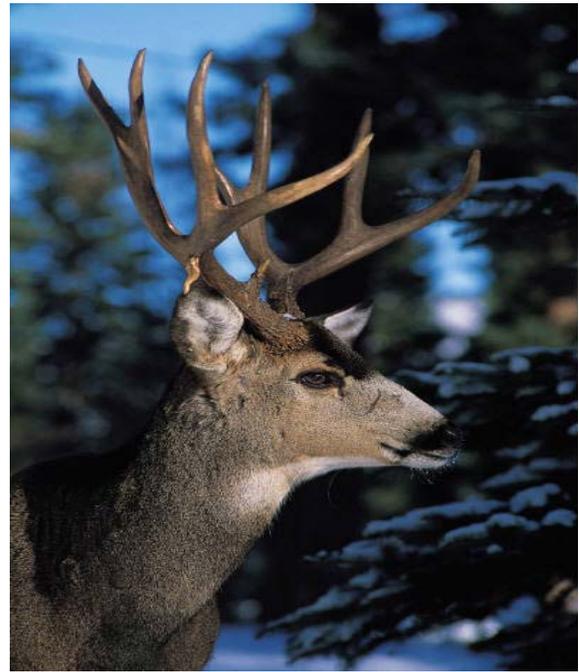
- 1) MAKE IT HARD FOR OTHERS TO SEE YOU AND
- 2) LEAVE NO TRACE OF YOUR VISIT TO THE OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST.

TIPS FOR NO-TRACE “BACKCOUNTRY” CAMPING

- ◆ Plan for small groups
- ◆ Obtain information about the trip ahead of time
- ◆ Visit a less popular area
- ◆ Plan a fall, spring, or mid-week trip if you wish to avoid crowds
- ◆ Select earth-tone colors to blend with the environment
- ◆ Repackage food
- ◆ Stay on designated trails
- ◆ Don't cut switchbacks
- ◆ Select rocky or forested areas when traveling cross-country
- ◆ Plan your route so everyone knows
- ◆ Select a campsite 200 feet or more from trails, lakes, streams and meadows
- ◆ Hide your campsite from view
- ◆ Avoid ditching around tents
- ◆ Stay as few nights as possible in one place
- ◆ Use a lightweight stove rather than building a fire
- ◆ Check nearby Ranger Stations for fire regulations and fire danger
- ◆ Use existing fire circles in heavily used areas
- ◆ Save sod for naturalizing in remote areas
- ◆ Build fires away from trees, shrubs and meadows
- ◆ Burn only small sticks
- ◆ Make sure the fire is dead out when leaving the site
- ◆ Scatter the ashes
- ◆ Naturalize the area
- ◆ Do all washing away from camp and water sources
- ◆ Dig latrines 200 feet or more from camp, trails and streams
- ◆ Bury latrine, burn toilet paper (when fire conditions permit) and naturalize area
- ◆ Pack it in. Pack it out!

Leave No Trace website: www.Int.org/teachingLNT/LNTEnglish.php

DON'T PASS THE BUCK



REPORT ALL POACHING (RAP)

PHONE 1-800-292-7800

It's All About Skill, Isn't it?

Knowing how to find your prey is just one of the skills you need for a successful hunt. Another knows how to Leave No Trace of camping activities. Don't pass the buck. The responsibility of caring for America's wild lands falls upon every individual. Show your true skill as a hunter and a camper this season. Please, Leave No Trace.



Leave No Trace

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

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O·T·T·A·W·A
NATIONAL FOREST

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To File a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

DNR PHONE NUMBERS

Baraga
906-353-6651

Marquette
906-228-6561

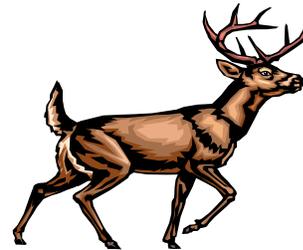
Lansing
517-373-1204

STATE POLICE

906-224-9691

Sheriff's Departments

Gogebic County- (906) 932-667-0203
Iron County - (906) 875-6669
Ontonagon County - (906) 884-4901



REPORT ALL POACHING (RAP)

PHONE 1-800-292-7800

For More Information:

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