

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
BALDPATE MOUNTAIN DEER MANAGEMENT RULES & REGULATIONS
2011 - 2012 PROGRAM**

Rules and regulations in red are new this year.

County Naturalist New Contact Information:

In June of this year, the Park Commission moved from its original office on South Broad Street in Trenton to the Historic Hunt House. My office is at this new location; below is my updated contact information.

Jenn Rogers, County Naturalist
Historic Hunt House
197 Blackwell Road
Pennington, NJ 08534
Phone 609-303-0706
Fax 609-303-0447

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

To apply for a Baldpate Mountain Deer Management (BMDM) Permit, hunters must have the following and include a copy of each with their application:

1. Current valid New Jersey Hunting License (must be a firearm license)
2. 2011 - 2012 Shotgun Deer Permit or Muzzleloader Permit for Zone 41 (permits are available from the State)
3. A valid driver's license or government issued Non-Driver ID Card
4. A certificate of Liability Insurance for at least \$1 million dollars, naming Mercer County Park Commission and the County of Mercer as additional insured.

Additional Requirements:

- As a condition of receiving a BMDM Permit, each hunter is obligated to fulfill an **attendance requirement** that states that each hunter must participate in at least 30% of the BMDM Season.
- Each hunter must complete an annual **Harvest Report** and file it with the County Naturalist. All Harvest Reports must be **postmarked or emailed by March 10, 2012**.
- Hunters must be at least 18 years old. Youth hunters are permitted when accompanied by an adult who is in possession of a current BMDM Permit. Youth hunter regulations do apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Baldpate Mountain Deer Management Permit applications can be downloaded from the Park Commission website <http://nj.gov/counties/mercercounty/commissions/park/> and mailed to Jenn Rogers, County Naturalist, Historic Hunt House, 197 Blackwell Rd, Pennington, NJ 08534. **Applications can be hand delivered to the County Naturalist at the Historic Hunt House. If you choose to drop off an application, it must include copies of the specified paperwork. Copies of licenses and certificates will not be made at the Hunt House.** A paper (printed) copy of the application can be mailed to individuals upon request. Please email jrogers@mercercounty.org or call 609-303-0706 to request an application or with any questions.

Applications will be accepted and processed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on **Tuesday, October 11, 2011**. Any application received prior to this date will not be considered. All applications must be **received prior to Tuesday, October 25, 2011**. There will be a limit of **65 permits** issued; this number does not include youth permits.

Fees for each individual participating in the BMDM Program are listed below. **For the 2011 – 2012 Season, hunters may choose to pay the full fee or pay a partial fee and donate volunteer service hours.** All volunteer hours must be arranged with or by the County Naturalist and performed on County property. Volunteer work will/ can include invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, and habitat improvement. The majority of the volunteer work will be organized at Baldpate Mountain and the Pole Farm section of Mercer Meadows (in Lawrenceville and Hopewell). The County

Naturalist will schedule volunteer hours with hunters throughout the year. Select volunteer days may also be open to the public. If you do not have the time to volunteer, do not opt for the Partial Fee with Volunteer Hours option. Any hunter that does not complete his/her volunteer hours prior to the next year's hunting season will be ineligible for a BMDM permit that year.

2011 – 2012 Baldpate Mountain Deer Management Program Fee Schedule			
Resident Type	Full Fee	Partial Fee plus Volunteer Hours	Youth Permit
Mercer County Resident	\$60.00	\$40.00 plus 15 hours volunteer	\$25.00
Non-Resident	\$85.00	\$65.00 plus 15 hours volunteer	\$25.00

The complete application package will include the following. A BMDM Permit will only be issued to a hunter when all of the following documents have been received.

- A copy of the applicant's:
 - current valid NJ Hunting License
 - 2011 - 2012 Shotgun Permit or Muzzleloader Permit for Zone 41
 - Driver's license or Non-Driver ID Card
 - Liability Insurance certificate
- A completed and signed Baldpate Mountain Deer Management Permit application
- A check made out to the Mercer County Park Commission or a credit card payment for the appropriate fee.

Each permitted hunter is required to attend one mandatory pre-season meeting. **The meeting dates are Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 6 at 4:00 p.m.** The meetings will be hosted at the visitor center at Baldpate Mountain. During the pre-season meeting, the County Naturalist will discuss the current BMDM program regulations and revisions. BMDM Permits will be issued at the conclusion of the pre-season meeting. No permits will be mailed. Any hunter questions or concerns will also be answered.

To be considered for the following year's deer management program, a hunter must fill the attendance requirement, file a Harvest Report and, if a hunter harvested an antlered deer in the park, he/she must harvest at least ONE doe by the end of the BMDM season. We require that each hunter complete and file a Harvest Report to assist us in assessing the effectiveness of our deer management program. Hunters must file Harvest Reports on time to be eligible to participate in the BMDM program next season.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

1. All New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife license and permit requirements and regulations must be followed. Hunters are expected to obtain and know the state regulations for shotgun and muzzleloader season. Please refer to the current Hunting Issue of the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest. State hunting regulations can be downloaded at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/hunting.htm>.
2. Hunters are also responsible for knowing safety zones, Park boundaries and restricted areas.
3. Participants are required to display a valid NJ Hunting License on outer clothing at all times.
4. Baldpate Mountain is open for six-day firearm, permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader hunting only.
5. Hunting is only authorized on Baldpate Mountain during the days specified by the Mercer County Park Commission. **The season has been arranged to follow a Wednesday through Saturday schedule, as it corresponds with the dates designated by the state.** The dates for this season are as follows:

Six Day Firearm: December 7 – 10, 2011

**Permit Shotgun: November 30, 2011
December 1, 2, 7 – 10, 14 – 16, 2011
January 7, 11 – 14, 18 – 21, 25 – 28, 2012
February 1 – 4, 8 - 11, 2012**

**Permit Muzzleloader: November 30, 2011
December 1, 2, 7 – 10, 17, 21 – 24, 28 – 31, 2011
January 4 – 7, 11 – 14, 18 – 21, 25 – 28, 2012
February 1 – 4, 8 – 11, 2012**

6. Legal hunting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.
7. **A hunter shall not be in the preserve more than 60 minutes prior to legal hunting hours and more than 60 minutes after legal hunting hours.** If a hunter must remain in the preserve beyond this time to track wounded deer or find a missing hunter, the County Naturalist (Jenn Rogers) or Deputy Director of Park Rangers (Dave Buxton) needs to be contacted immediately by cell phone.
8. Specific dates and bag limits for deer management zone 41 also apply. Please consult the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for this season's regulations.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Harvest Requirements & Reporting

1. At least one female deer (not button buck or shed antler) MUST be harvested in the Park if an antlered deer is taken. Hunters are highly encouraged to harvest a doe prior to harvesting an antlered deer. If a hunter harvests an antlered deer without harvesting a doe during the BMDM season, they will not be eligible for a BMDM permit the next season.
2. Any antlered deer taken during the BMDM season must have a least three (3) antler points on one side of the rack.
3. Any individual hunter that harvests more than three (3) doe will receive 50 percent off of their permit fee for the following year. The tag number and harvest date for each antlerless deer must be included in the Harvest Report in order for a hunter to receive their refund.
4. A Harvest Report must be filed at the end of the BMDM season. Blank Harvest Reports will be available to hunters at the pre-season meeting or can be downloaded from the MCPC website. **Completed Harvest Reports must be returned, via email or postal mail, to the County Naturalist by March 10, 2012.** Harvest Reports must include the dates and tag numbers of ALL harvested deer in order to be considered complete.

Hunter Identification

5. All hunters are required to record their attendance throughout the hunting season. Attendance logs will be distributed at the preseason meetings. Logs will be used to record date, times, and zones where each hunter was active.
6. The BMDM Parking Permit must be clearly displayed on the dashboard or easily visible in their vehicle. If three participants travel to an access point in one vehicle, there needs to be three permits (one for each hunter) displayed.
7. Hunters must carry the BMDM Permit with them when they are on the property.

Access

8. Reflective tags, clips and twists and colored tape are permitted to mark access routes, but need to be removed after the season.
9. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas (map will be provided).
10. Hunters are only authorized to be on the County-managed section of Baldpate Mountain and are responsible for knowing where they are at all times (an up to date map with these boundaries will be provided to each hunter).
11. ATV use is not encouraged but is allowed with certain stipulations. A letter of request must be sent to the County Naturalist, and decisions will be made on a per-request basis. Any evidence that ATVs were illegally used or taken off the roadways will result in loss of ATV privileges for everyone.
12. No hunter, under any circumstance, is allowed to create or maintain trails to their treestand or anywhere in the park. Any hunter found violating this regulation will immediately have their BMDM Permit revoked.

Treestands

13. All shooting must be done from an elevated tree stand. Only commercially manufactured temporary tree stands are permitted in the park. Hunters are allowed only one stand. **Temporary treestands can be set up beginning November 5, 2011 (if you have already attended the Pre-season meeting) and must be removed by March 10, 2012. Treestands cannot be installed on Saturday November 19th, due to the Youth Hunt.**

14. Each stand must clearly display the BMDM Permit number and must be clearly visible from the ground. Stands without this information will be removed.
15. Tree stands must be placed at least 75 feet from any trail.
16. Vegetation removal for stand access or improved sight lines is not permitted.
17. All hunters are strongly urged to wear a TMA certified fall restraint system while in the tree stand.
18. A haul line must be used to raise and lower the firearm.

Fire Arm Safety

19. All firearms must be unloaded while a hunter is traveling to or from their tree stand.
20. Target practice and unnecessary discharge of firearms is prohibited.
21. Hunters are not permitted to hunt or have a loaded firearm within 600 feet of any building.

Hunting Methods

22. **Deer drives are allowed but not encouraged.** Individuals assisting with the deer drive must be experienced and have means of communication with the hunter. Hunters with guns must be stationary during drives in stands. **NO** drivers may carry guns. Drivers must wear at least 200 square inches of blaze orange.
23. No guests or non-permitted hunters are allowed to accompany a BMDM permitted hunter.
24. No shooting may take place across Mercer County recognized trails, access/ service roads or public roads. Hunters are to assume that hikers will be on the trails, regardless of the posting.
25. Field dressing of deer needs to be done at least 75 feet from any trail or access/ service road.
26. Notify County Naturalist (Jenn Rogers) or Deputy Director of Park Rangers (Dave Buxton) of any lost/ injured deer which might later die near trails or on Park property.
27. Natural baits, such as fruits, vegetables and grains are allowed. Use of minerals and manufactured supplements or baits is prohibited.

Hunter Conflicts

28. Immediately report non-permit hunters or other illegal and restricted activities to the County Naturalist (Jenn Rogers) or Deputy Director of Park Rangers (Dave Buxton).

Other Regulations

29. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs while on the property is prohibited. Any hunter found violating this regulation will immediately have their BMDM Permit revoked and will be permanently banned from hunting on Mercer County Park property.
30. Littering is prohibited. Carry out what you bring in.
31. The Mercer County Park Commission (MCPC) has the rights to adjust hunting areas and boundaries at any time.
32. The MCPC has the right to engage in property care and maintenance that may interfere with hunting.
33. The MCPC has the right to adjust any rules and regulations during the season.
34. Any hunter who is found guilty of any violation while hunting on Baldpate Mountain will be permanently banned from the Baldpate Mountain Deer Management Project. If that hunter is a member of a hunting group, that group may lose BMDM hunting privileges.

RULES MAY CHANGE FOR 2012 - 2013 SEASON

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
BALDPATE MOUNTAIN DEER MANAGEMENT**

**YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM RULES & REGULATIONS
2011 - 2012 PROGRAM**

Youth hunters must abide by the same Permit Requirements, Application Process, Hunting Regulations and Special Regulations of the BMDM Program, unless specifically noted. In addition to BMDM Rules and Regulations, youth hunters must always be accompanied by an adult that is in possession of a current BMDM Permit.

Youth Hunting Program Rules

1. The adult or parent chaperoning a youth hunter must not have a firearm in his/her possession.
2. Adult & youth pairs must either use a double tree stand or put two single tree stands in neighboring trees.
3. The fee for a youth permit is \$25.00. There is no separate fee if you wish to participate in the Youth Firearm Hunt.
4. Youth hunters must also fill out a harvest report. However, they are not subject to the attendance requirement.
5. Adult chaperones are responsible for the safety and well being of their youth hunter.

TAKE A KID HUNTING – YOUTH FIREARM HUNT

This year, Baldpate Mountain will be open for the Youth Firearm Hunt on **Saturday, November 19, 2011**. This day is part of the Youth Hunting Program at Baldpate. All state regulations apply; see the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for current regulations.

The public will be restricted from the park the day of the Youth Firearm Hunt.

Youth Firearm Hunt Rules

1. Any antlered deer taken during the Youth Firearm Hunt must have a least three (3) antler points on one side of the rack.
2. Adult and youth hunters can access the park 90 minutes prior to sunrise and but must exit the park 90 minutes after sunset.

