

MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
BALDPATE MOUNTAIN DEER MANAGEMENT RULES & REGULATIONS
2009-2010 PROGRAM

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. 2009-2010 Shotgun Deer Permit or Muzzle Loader 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 one million dollars, naming Mercer County Park Commission and the County of Mercer as secondary insured.

Additional Requirements:

- As a condition of receiving a BMDM Permit, each hunter is obligated to fill an **attendance requirement** which states that each hunter must participate in at least 20% of the BMDM Season.
- Each hunter must complete an annual **Harvest Report** and file it with the BMDM Coordinator. All Harvest Reports must be postmarked or emailed by March 12, 2010.
- Hunters must be at least 18 years old.

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 BMDM Program, Mercer County Wildlife Center, P.O. Box 161, Titusville NJ 08560. A paper (printed) copy of the application can be mailed to individuals upon request. Please email jlear@mercercounty.org or call 609-883-6606x112 to request an application or with any questions.

Applications will be processed on a first – come, first - serve basis beginning on **September 23, 2009**. Any application received prior to this date will not be considered. All applications must be **received prior to October 22, 2009**.

Fees for each individual participating in the 2009-2010 BMDM Program is as follows:

\$ 60.00 - Mercer County Residents

\$ 85.00 - Non-Residents

Please make checks payable to: Mercer County Park Commission

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

- A copy of the applicant's:
 - current valid NJ Hunting License
 - 2009-2010 Shotgun Deer Permit or Muzzle Loader 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 for the appropriate fee.

Each permitted hunter is required to attend one mandatory pre-season meeting. The meeting dates are Monday, October 26th, and Wednesday, November 4th, 2009. Both meetings will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will be hosted at the visitor center at Baldpate Mountain. During the pre-season meeting, the BMDM Coordinator will discuss the 2009 – 2010 BMDM program regulations and revisions. Any hunter questions or concerns will also be answered. Time will be put aside for hunters to organize dates for deer drives.

To be considered for the following year's deer management program, a hunter must fill the attendance requirement and file a Harvest Report with the BMDM coordinator. 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 in order to be eligible for a 2010- 2011 BMDM Permit.

There will be a limit of **65 permits** issued.

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 dates for the 2009 – 2010 season are as follows:
 - Permit Shotgun Season - December 2-4, 7-12, 16-18, 2009**
 - January 2, 4-7, 13-16, 19-21, 27-29, 2010**
 - February 1-6, 2010**

 - Permit Muzzle Loader - December 2-4, 7-12, 19, 21-22, 2009**
 - January 2, 4-7, 13-16, 19-21, 27-29, 2010**
 - February 1-6, 2010**
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 that 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 BMDM coordinator needs to be contacted immediately by cell phone (ranger on duty) or must leave a clearly visible note at their vehicle.
8. Specific dates and bag limits for deer management zone 41 also apply including:
 - Permit Shotgun/ Permit Muzzleloader Season: Season bag limit is unlimited antlerless deer. ONE antlered deer may be harvested if the Antlered Buck Shotgun/Muzzleloader Permit is purchased. However, if the hunter harvests two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season, then the bag limit is unlimited antlerless deer only.
 - Hunters may take two deer at a time.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Harvest Requirements & Reporting

1. At least one antlerless deer MUST be harvested in the Park before a buck is taken.
2. Any individual hunter that harvests more than three (3) antlerless deer will receive fifty percent of their permit fee back. The tag number for each antlerless deer must be provided in order for a hunter to receive their refund.
3. 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 and can be downloaded from the MCPC website. Completed Harvest Reports must be returned, via email or postal mail, to the BMDM coordinator by March 12, 2010.

Hunter Identification

4. All hunters are required to sign in/ out at a predetermined location before hunting at the Park. Sign in/out sheets will be provided to record date, times, and zones where each hunter was active.
5. 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.
6. Hunters must carry the BMDM Permit with them when they are on the property.

Access

7. Reflective tags, clips and twists and colored tape are permitted to mark access routes, but need to be removed after the season.
8. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas (map will be provided).
9. 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).
10. ATV use is not encouraged but is allowed under certain stipulations. A letter of request must be sent to the BMDM coordinator and decisions will be made on a per-request basis. Any evidence found where ATV's were illegally used or taken off the roadways will result in the rescinding of "ATV" privileges for everyone.

Tree Stands

11. 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 tree stands can be set up 15 days prior to the season and must be removed 15 days after the end of the hunting season.
12. Each stand must clearly display the BMDM Permit number and must be clearly visible from the ground. Stands without this information will be removed.
13. Tree stands must be placed at least 50 feet from any trail. Hunters must provide the BMDM coordinator with the location of their stand.
14. Vegetation removal for stand access or improved sight lines must be kept to a minimum.
15. All hunters are strongly urged to wear a TMA certified fall restraint system while in the tree stand.
16. A haul line must be used to raise and lower the firearm.

Fire Arm Safety

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

Hunting Methods

20. Deer drives are permitted, but must be registered with BMDM coordinator. The coordinator will notify other hunters via email several days before the drive. 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.
21. No guests or non-permitted hunters are allowed to accompany a BMDM permitted hunter.
22. 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.
23. Field dressing of deer needs to be done at least 75 feet from any trail or access/ service road.
24. Notify BMDM coordinator of any lost/ injured deer which might later die near trails or on Park property.
25. Natural baits, such as fruits, vegetables and grains are allowed. Use of minerals and manufactured supplements or baits is prohibited.

Hunter Conflicts

26. Immediately report non-permit hunters or other illegal and restricted activities to the BMDM coordinator.

Other Regulations

27. 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.
28. Littering is prohibited. Carry out what you bring in.
29. The Mercer County Park Commission (MCPC) has the rights to adjust hunting areas and boundaries at any time.
30. The MCPC has the right to engage in property care and maintenance that may interfere with hunting.
31. 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 2010-2011 SEASON