



Big Spring Exceptional Warrior Managed Deer Hunt In Partnership with The F.E.W.

**(The Foundation for Exceptional Warriors, Missouri Department of Conservation,
Jolly Cone, Van Buren Quilts of Valor, Outdoorsmen with a Mission, OA Rentals, and Ozark
Riverways Foundation)**



October 21 & 22, 2023

Mandatory Hunt Orientation 5:00 p.m, Friday, October 20st

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ozark National Scenic Riverways
404 Watercress Drive
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, Missouri 63965

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 Big Spring Exceptional Warrior Managed Deer Hunt to be held October 21 and 22. To be eligible for the hunt you must:

1. Be a current or former honorably discharged member of the military;
2. Have a permanent physical condition that impairs your mobility and may require the assistance of a wheelchair, braces, prosthetic, crutches, or similar aids of mobility.

New applicants must provide a qualifying physician's statement verifying your physical condition and mobility impairment with your application.

Enclosed you will find an application to be **fully completed and returned** to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Office **by close of business Monday, July 31, 2023**. Please complete the two-page application in its entirety and keep the remainder of the document for your records. A random drawing will be held to determine successful applicants. Applicants will be notified if they were drawn to participate in the hunt, serve as an alternate in case of cancellation, or if you were unsuccessful.

A mandatory pre-hunt orientation meeting will be held the evening of Friday, October 20, at the Van Buren Community Center in Van Buren, MO. Successful applicants will be required to obtain a valid Managed Deer Hunting Permit through the Missouri Department of Conservation. A resident Managed Deer Hunting Permit costs \$17 and a non-resident permit costs \$265. If you have any questions, please contact Derek Saffle at (573) 323-4929.

Sincerely,
Derek Saffle

Enclosure

OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

Exceptional Warrior Managed Deer Hunt Application

APPLICANT NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE (DAY): _____ (NIGHT): _____

CELL PHONE (DAY): _____ (NIGHT): _____

EMAIL: _____

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE: _____

Please provide your Conservation ID Number below. Your Conservation ID is a 9 (nine) digit number located on the back of your Heritage Card or in the upper left corner of your license/permit. If you do not have a Conservation ID, you may call the Missouri Department of Conservation Headquarters at (573) 751-4115 to have one assigned to you.

CONSERVATION ID #: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

Applicants will be required to provide their own personal assistant. Guides or assistants will NOT be permitted to possess a firearm or other killing device in any aspect of this hunt. *NOTE: If you are unable to provide your own hunt assistant, one can be assigned to you during the hunt.*

My assistant's name is: _____

Assistant's phone number: _____ (cell/home)

Assistant's T-Shirt Size: _____

TYPE OF VEHICLE YOU WILL BE USING DURING HUNT:

MAKE: _____

MODEL: _____

4-WHEEL/ALL-WHELL DRIVE (YES OR NO) _____

In order to meet your needs and to ensure that you have a successful time at this event, we need the following information. Please answer, giving as much detail as possible.

What is your disability (if you have a spinal cord injury please indicate para- or quad- and what level)?

Please check any of the following according to your ability:

| Check (X) | Ability | Check (X) | Ability |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| | Walk at least 40 yards in semi-flat terrain | | Use of right arm only |
| | Walk up and down gently slopes | | Use of left hand only |
| | Difficulty in standing | | Use of right hand only |
| | Use of both arms | | Use of wheelchair or motorized chair |
| | Use of both hands | | Can get in/out of wheelchair |
| | Use of left arm only | | Need assistance in loading/unloading from vehicle |
| | Speech difficulty | | Requests a full- gun rest verses tripod stick |
| | Vision difficulty | | |

PLEASE NOTE: A LEGIBLE DOCTOR’S LETTER MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION TO VERIFY QUALIFICATION AND LEVEL OF DISABILITY.

I agree to comply with all regulations, conditions and disclaimers as set forth in applying for and participating in this special hunt. I also agree to not hold the government or any organization or person affiliated with this hunt liable for any damages or personal injury while participating in any portion of this event.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

**MAIL APPLICATION TO: Ozark National Scenic Riverways
ATTN: Derek Saffle
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965**

* All applicants will be notified by mail if you were drawn to participate in the hunt, to serve as an alternate in the case of cancellation, or if you were unsuccessful.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING THE APPROPRIATE MANAGED DEER HUNTING PERMIT FOR THIS HUNT. SINCE THIS IS A SPECIAL MANAGED DEER HUNT, APPLICANTS MAY BE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ADDITIONAL MANAGED DEER HUNTS. BE ADVISED THAT AN APPLICANT MAY ONLY POSSESS ONE VALID MANAGED DEER HUNTING PERMIT AT A TIME. THEREFORE, IF AN APPLICANT IS SELECTED FOR THIS HUNT AND ALSO HAS ANOTHER MANAGED DEER HUNTING PERMIT, HE/SHE WILL HAVE TO CONTACT THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION HEADQUARTERS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PURCHASE ONE FOR THIS HUNT. ALL APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ALL APPLICABLE HUNTING REGULATIONS.

Purpose

The managed hunt will improve the overall health of the deer herd through quality deer management in the Big Spring area. This recreational opportunity is being extended to a special group of the nation's population with mobility impairments. These individuals are fully capable of properly using a firearm to hunt game, but may have restricted ability to access land for a quality hunting experience. This hunt is an effort to provide proper access, facilities, and other needed resources so these individuals can enjoy a safe and successful recreational experience.

Point of Contact

National Park Service
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965

Derek Saffle, Biological Science Technician, 573-323-4929

Description of Proposed Area:

Located at the end of State Road 103, four miles south of Van Buren, Missouri in Carter County. The Big Spring managed hunt will take place within the boundaries of the 5,500 acre Big Spring unit, which was one of Missouri's first state parks from 1924 until 1969. In 1969 the state of Missouri donated Big Spring State Park to the National Park Service for inclusion into Ozark National Scenic Riverways (OZAR). The area contains various developed areas to include a campground, picnic areas, and trails. The habitat for this area is primarily composed of oak-hickory forest with a few grass field openings. The majority of the area is managed with prescribed fire in order to help benefit fire adapted native species and habitats.

Method

1. Centerfire rifle will be the only device permitted during the hunt. Legal centerfire rifles must be in accordance with Missouri hunting regulations.
2. Hunting dogs or other pets will not be permitted to be used for the hunt, nor will they be allowed in the area during the hunt.

Bag Limit

1. Two deer, **but only 1 antlered** are permitted to be harvested by each hunter. There is no requirement to check in an antlerless deer prior to taking an antlered deer.

Monitoring

1. An on-site check station will be located in Big Spring to provide control and safety during the hunt. Each hunter may be required to check in and out at the check station daily to verify the permit.
2. Hunters will be required to check harvested deer in at the check station in order for staff to gather biological data and to ensure compliance of the regulations of the hunt.
3. All harvested deer must be checked in by telephone or on the Internet according to the Missouri Department of Conservation Tele-check regulations.

Season

1. The 2023 season is a 2-day hunt from Saturday, October 21st through Sunday, October 22nd.

Permits

Criteria for eligibility:

1. Successful applicants must possess a managed deer hunting permit for the State of Missouri. A resident permit is \$17.00 and nonresident is \$265.00.
2. Applicants must also provide a legible letter from a physician to verify the applicant's physical condition. The physician's letter must be on an official letterhead with an original signature.
3. Assistance for personal hygiene needs will not be provided. If help is needed, applicant will be required to provide his or her own personal assistant.

Application Procedure and Permit Notification

1. In order to apply for a permit, the eligible applicant needs to complete the two-page application form within this packet and submit with their physician's verification letter. **Permit applications must be received by close of business Monday, July 31, 2023.**
2. Ten (10) permits will be issued by random drawing for the designated hunt blind locations.
3. Notification of successful applicants will be by email unless applicant specifies otherwise on application. A packet of instructions will be sent to each successful applicant after the drawing.
4. Successful **applicants and their assistants** will be **required to attend** the pre-hunt orientation meeting Friday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Safety

Hunting Areas/ Firearms

1. Hunters in need of assistance will be required to have a personal assistant or guide in the blind during the hunt. The guide will not be permitted to have any weapon in possession during the hunt. Only one firearm per blind will be permitted. Hunting will be restricted to the hunting blinds. Hunters and their assistants will be required to remain in designated blinds during hunting hours. The assistant may leave the blind to retrieve a harvested deer.
2. Hunting from any vehicle is prohibited. All firearms must be cased and unloaded while transported by vehicle.
3. All firearms will be unloaded until the hunter is safely seated inside their blind. Firearms must be unloaded upon departure from the blind.

Hunter Orange

1. All hunters and their assistants are required to wear a cap or hat and also a shirt, vest, or coat of hunter orange so that the color is plainly visible from all sides. Camouflage orange does not satisfy this requirement.

Equipment

During the hunt, participants will be assigned a specific hunt location. A hunt blind, shooting stick and chairs will be provided by Ozark National Scenic Riverways. It is the responsibility of the participant and their assistant to bring additional equipment and gear required to hunt and/or harvest deer.

Safety Briefing and Check-in Procedures

1. **Friday, October 20th** - All permitted hunters and assistants must attend a pre-hunt orientation and safety briefing starting at **5:00 p.m. Location will be at the community center in Van Buren, Missouri.**
2. **Saturday, October 21st and Sunday, October 22nd** – Hunters and assistants may enter the Big Springs unit 1 hour prior to shooting hours. Hunters and assistants are **not** required to check-in at the check station located in Big Spring prior to going to hunt blind. Hunters are required to check-in any deer harvested and to check out of the hunt.
3. All hunters and assistants will be required to check out at the check station by 8:00 p.m. for both days (time may be subject to change).