2013 Big Spring Wounded Warriors Mobility Impaired Managed Deer Hunt

October 19 – 20, 2013

United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L34

July 22, 2013

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the 2013 Big Spring Mobility Impaired Managed Deer Hunt to be held October 19 and 20. 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 severely impairs your mobility, such as paralysis or amputation of lower extremities requiring assistance of a wheelchair, braces, crutches, or similar aids of mobility.

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 August 30, 2013. Please complete the two-page application in its entirety and keep the remainder of the document for your records. A drawing will be conducted on September 3, 2013, to determine successful applicants. You will be notified by mail if you were drawn to participate in the hunt, to serve as an alternate in case of cancellation, or if you were unsuccessful.

Successful applicants will receive further instruction regarding the mandatory pre-hunt orientation as soon as details are finalized. Successful applicants will be required to obtain a valid Managed Deer Hunting Permit through the Missouri Department of Conservation. The cost of the permit is the responsibility of the applicant. A resident Managed Deer Hunting Permit costs $17 and a non-resident permit costs $225. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Houf at (573) 323-4941.

Sincerely,

William N. Black
Superintendent

OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

Big Spring Mobility Impaired Wounded Warrior

Managed Deer Hunt Application

Office Use Only
Application No.
_____

APPLICANT NAME:_____

STREET ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____STATE:_____ZIP CODE:_____

TELEPHONE (DAY):_____(NIGHT):_____

EMAIL:_____

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER:_____

Please provide your Conservation ID Number below. Your Conservation ID is a 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:_____

If help is needed during the hunt, applicant 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.

My assistant's name is: _____ Assistant's phone number:

_____

If you do not have someone to assist you on this hunt, do you need assistance or would you like to be provided assistance? _____ YES _____ 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)?

_____

_____

_____

Do you have your own firearm to use during the hunt? _____ (a hunt blind, shooting stick and chair will be provided)

Please check the following according to your ability:

_____Difficulty in standing _____Use of both arms _____Use of both hands

Use of one arm - ____ L or ____ R Use of one hand - ___ L or ___ R

_____Do you use a wheelchair? _____ Can you get in/out of your chair?

_____Do you have speech difficulty? _____ Can you transfer to another vehicle?

_____Do you have vision difficulty? _____ Do you need assistance in loading and unloading from the vehicle?

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: Kim Houf
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.

Big Spring Wounded Warrior Managed Deer Hunt

A Recreational Opportunity for Veterans with Service Related Injuries

Purpose

The Big Spring Wounded Warrior Managed Deer 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 service related injuries. 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

Kim Houf, Terrestrial Ecologist, 573-323-4236 ext. 4941

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 Springs 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, a dining lodge, trails and rental cabins. 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 prescription fire in order to help benefit fire adapted fire benefits 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. No hunting dogs or other pets will be permitted to be used for the hunt, nor will they be allowed in the area during the hunt.

Bag Limit

1. Two deer, **antlerless only** are permitted to be harvested by each hunter.

Monitoring

1. An on-site entrance and exit check station will be located at the entrance of the Big Spring dining lodge parking lot to provide control and safety during the hunt. Each hunter will 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 station in order for staff to gather biological data and to insure 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 Telecheck regulations.

Season

1. The 2013 season is a 2-day hunt from Saturday, October 19th through Sunday, October 20th.

Permits

Criteria for eligibility:

1. Successful applicants must posses a managed deer hunting permit for the State of Missouri. A resident permit is $17.00 and nonresident is $225.00.

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 Friday, August 30, 2013. Applications can be found at: www.nps.gov/ozar**

2. Eight (8) permits will be issued by random drawing for the designated hunt blind locations.

3. Notification of successful applicants will be by mail. A packet of instructions will be mailed to each successful applicant after the drawing.

4. Successful applicants and their assistants will be required to attend an orientation meeting.

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. Park approved exceptions of specially designed ATVs parked inside of hunt blind may be granted. Helmets must be worn when operating any ATV. 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 18th** - All permitted hunters and assistants must attend a safety briefing starting at **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18th**. Further information on location will accompany follow-up correspondence.

2. **Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20th** – Hunters and assistants may enter the Big Springs unit at 5:45 a.m. All hunters and assistants will be required to check-in at the check station located in the Big Spring dining lodge parking lot prior to going to hunt blind.

3. All hunters and assistants will be required to check out at the check station by 7:45 p.m. for both days.