

# Hunting and Trapping Requirements

## A. Introduction

The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) is intended to protect and restore high quality aquatic resources. Hunting and/or trapping on WRRSP properties will only be allowed for ecological or water quality management purposes. Hunting and/or trapping exclusively for recreational or economic purposes is forbidden.

## B. Hunting/Trapping Plan Requirements

Implementers shall submit all proposed hunting and/or trapping activity to Ohio EPA - DEFA for review and prior approval. Hunting and/or trapping on properties protected by a WRRSP covenant shall be conducted in accordance with approved restrictions to prevent any harm or impairment to the aquatic resources within the boundaries of the WRRSP covenant area. Requests shall include:

- a) documentation of the problem (e.g., deer browse/loss of vegetation) and its ecological impact;
- b) identification of which species will be permitted to be hunted on the property;
- c) a discussion of feasible alternatives, if any, to hunting and/or trapping to control nuisance populations,
- c) the identification of ecologically sensitive areas, including wetlands, streams, and any flora and fauna that should be avoided, within the covenant area and the ways in which impacts will be avoided while hunting and/or trapping occurs, and
- d) the date(s) on which the proposed hunting and/or trapping will occur.

Once approved, this information shall be considered part of the Management Plan for the property.

## C. Hunter/Trapper Notification Requirements

- a) The Implementer shall ensure that only hunters/trappers with explicit authorization utilize the property;
- b) The Implementer shall limit the number of hunter/trappers to only those necessary to control the populations of nuisance species;
- c) The Implementer shall provide hunters/trappers a map of the property that identifies designated access roads and parking areas, allowable hunting areas, and marks environmentally-sensitive areas as "Off Limits" to hunting activities other than recovery of downed game. Off limit areas should include:
  - i. Wetlands;
  - ii. In-stream areas;
  - iii. Riparian zones within 20 feet of stream banks;
  - iv. Other identified sensitive areas or stands of sensitive flora on the property;
- d) The Implementer shall provide hunters/trappers a list of rules to follow while on the property, including:
  - i. Adherence to all applicable ODNR hunting regulations;

- ii. Only portable climbing tree stands, and portable/temporary ground blinds are permitted;
- iii. No clearing or trimming of trees or vegetation;
- iv. No alterations to the landscape;
- v. No motor vehicle access (including ATVs);
- vi. No distribution, placement, or scattering of bait (i.e., salt, grain, other feed, etc.);
- vii. Use only nontoxic shot.

#### **D. Reporting Requirements**

- a) The Implementer shall compile the following information to Ohio EPA-DEFA:
  - i) Harvest data;
  - ii) Signs of improper/illegal human activity on the property;
  - iii) Unpermitted hunters or other people using the property;
  - iv) Any sign of motor vehicle usage (direct observation of vehicles or tire tracks) on the property outside of designated roads and parking areas, and how it was addressed;
  - v) Any activity/situation that they believe could be impairing the water resources that the property is intended to protect.
- b) Hunting activity and hunter reporting data must be submitted to Ohio EPA - DEFA as part of the annual report requirements.