Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed

Deer Management Program

Byron J. Benton,
Watershed Manager
WSSC
History of the Program

2000 – WSSC had one hunting area in Montgomery County

- Assessed the need for managed hunting
- Contacted Maryland DNR to survey the property and to begin to develop a plan
- Held first managed hunt to control local population of deer
Developed hunter application and guidelines:

- Hunters filled out applications and had to meet hunting requirements
- WSSC provided hunters their assigned dates and hunting areas
- Program grew with second round of managed hunts in the fall at one location at the Triadelphia Recreation Area
Dear Watershed Neighbor____________:

Under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland 10-206, authorized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission is again conducting managed shotgun hunts for deer on portions of our property surrounding Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoirs. For the 2010 – 2011 season we will be conducting 23 hunts, ten at Triadelphia Reservoir and thirteen at Rocky Gorge. Hunts begin on October 11, 2010 and end on January 12, 2011.

The managed hunts have been conducted since the year 2000 in response to the deer damage caused to watershed vegetation, crops, and nearby gardens and landscaping. Our hunt areas have grown from one to eight over the years in response to observations by our environmental science staff and requests from adjacent farmers and homeowners.

All hunters must have completed an accredited hunter safety course, passed a current year shooter qualification, and clear screening by WSSC Security staff. All hunts begin ½ hour before sunrise and end at noon.

The appropriate reservoir will be closed until one p.m. on hunt days for all other uses by the public. Please feel free to call the Brighton Dam office on 301 774-9124 with any questions.

Sincerely,
Byron J. Benton
Watershed Manager
Organization within WSSC

- **Watershed Staff**
  - Applications
  - Registrations
  - Runs the hunts

- **Communication and Community Relations**
  - Graphic Design for Brochure
  - Data Base for addresses
  - Mailing to watershed neighbors

- **Security**
  - Approve the hunt locations
  - Review hunters list
  - Assists with safety issues for the hunt
2003

Created official –

“Deer Management Plan for Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoirs”

- Local farmers requested
- Homeowners Associations
- Environmental damage to WSSC property
Program to date

2005 —
- Created a brochure to provide information on the program

2006 —
- Began Outreach Program to local property owners

2010 —
- Continual increase of hunting areas, number of hunters and number of hunter days
Hunters Application Form

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION
2010 – 2011 DEER HUNT APPLICATION

Last Name: _______________, First Name: _______________, MI: _____, Age: _____
Address: ______________________Telephone: ____________________________
____________________________________ E-mail: ____________________________
Hunting License Number: _____________________________________
Hunter Safety Card Number: _____________________________________
Shooter Proficiency Card Number: _____________________________________
Are there any pertinent considerations that WSSC should be aware of prior to assigning you a hunt location?
____________________________________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________________
Signature of parent if applicant is a minor:
_________________________________________

If applying as a group, check here: _____
Group applications must be submitted together. No additions to the group will be accepted after the original submittal. Group applications are limited to six persons. All persons in the group must apply for the same dates.
- **HUNT DATES:** PLEASE APPLY ONLY FOR THOSE DATES FOR WHICH YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND (check dates for which you are available and leave others blank). You may apply for up to **ELEVEN** dates.

- **SHOTGUN HUNTS ONLY:**

  - **OCTOBER:**  7 _____  **NOVEMBER:**  2 _____  **DECEMBER:**  1 _____
    - 12 _____  4 _____  3 _____
    - 14 _____  8 _____  6 _____
    - 18 _____  10 _____  8 _____
    - 20 _____  14 _____  12 _____
    - 21 _____  16 _____  14 _____
    - 25 _____  21 _____  16 _____
    - 28 _____  22 _____  19 _____
    - 31 _____  29 _____  21 _____
    - 23 _____

- Photocopies of your Hunter Safety Card must be enclosed with your application. Your State Shooter Qualification Card may be submitted up to the date of the first hunt for which you are selected.

- Applications must be in the Watershed Manager’s possession on or before September 21, 2010. Late applications will not be accepted.

- Return applications to: WSSC Managed Hunts, 2 Brighton Dam Road, Brookeville, MD 20833
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You have been selected for the WSSC Managed Deer Hunting Program.
Brochure

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Deer Management Program

Why hunt deer in the middle of suburbia?

Development in the Patuxent has resulted in reduced habitat for Maryland's ever-increasing deer herd. Deer densities over 15 per square mile can start to produce detrimental ecological impacts on the forests. This area has surpassed those limits – some areas of Montgomery and Howard counties have deer density ranges from 175 to a whopping 448 deer in one square mile.

Both Montgomery and Howard counties have deer management programs to reduce the over-abundant herd sizes in rural and suburban areas. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has approved WSSC's Deer Management Plan and supports the program to decrease the swelling deer population.

- According to the Montgomery County Deer Management Task Force, "white tail deer are the biggest threat to agriculture in Montgomery County."
- There are over 2000 deer/automobile collisions per year in Montgomery County, and over 700,000 nationwide.
- Maryland has one of the highest incident rates of Lyme disease in the entire country.
- The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension notes in their publication Branching Out that "regulated hunting is the most effective deer population management tool."

WSSC Managed Deer Hunt

The WSSC Deer Management Program is not designed as a recreational opportunity. It was instituted in 2000 in response to severe deer damage to existing forest resources on the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed property. Since that time, more hunting areas have been added as adjacent property owners and other local government agencies asked for assistance in managing deer herds affecting their areas.

Development surrounding WSSC watershed property continues, resulting in habitat reduction for the deer herd. The program now includes nine hunting areas, with approximately 200 hunters. All qualified applications are considered.

Hunting Requirements for 2010–2011

All hunters must apply to participate in this program and must have the following:
- Valid Maryland hunting license
- WSSC watershed use permit
- Current Maryland or equivalent shooter qualification certificate
- State (Maryland or other) hunter safety certification

All state, local and WSSC regulations apply unless noted otherwise. WSSC has provided public notice of the hunt to adjacent property owners. Notification has been attempted by mail, direct contact, and postings in community areas.

For more information:

Jim Benton, Watershed Manager
301-774-9124
Brighton Dam Visitors Center
301-774-9124
WSSC Office of Communications & Community Relations
301-206-8100
www.wssccwater.com
Brochure

Managed Hunt Schedule

Montgomery County
Triadelphia Reservoir
Montgomery County side of Triadelphia Reservoir
Oct. 14, Nov. 1 & 24, Dec. 15, Jan. 4

Links Area, Rocky Gorge Reservoir
Ednor Rd. to Batson Rd.
Oct. 20, Nov. 8

Dustin Area, Rocky Gorge Reservoir
Adjacent to Dustin Rd.
Oct. 28

Howard County
Pigtail Area, Triadelphia Reservoir
Greenbridge Rd. to Brighton Dam Rd.
Oct. 11, Nov. 19, Dec. 20

Fox Haven, Rocky Gorge Reservoir
Browes Bridge Rd. to Rt. 108
Oct. 26

Beaufort Park, Fulton, Rocky Gorge Reservoir
Browes Bridge Rd. to Rt. 29
Oct. 13, Nov. 6 & 22, Dec. 13, Jan. 6

Reservoir Overlook, Rocky Gorge Reservoir
Duckett Dam to Rt. 29
Oct. 22, Nov. 15

Big Branch Recreational Area
West to Cattail Creek
Oct. 15, Nov. 10

Prince George’s County
Supplee Area, Rocky Gorge Reservoir
Supplee Ln. and Brooklyn Bridge Rd.
Dec. 17, Jan. 12

Affected reservoirs will be closed until 1pm on hunt days

Triadelphia
Oct. 11, 14 & 15, Nov. 1, 10, 19 & 24,
Dec. 15 & 20, Jan. 4

Rocky Gorge
Oct. 13, 20, 22, 26 & 28, Nov. 4, 8, 15 & 22,
Dec. 13 & 17, Jan. 6 & 12

WSSC Deer Hunt Totals 2000–2010

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YR = YEAR
TR = TRIADELPHIA
BUP = BEAUFORT
PGT = PIGTAIL
DUS = DUSIN ROAD
LKK = LINK
RES = RESERVOIR OVERLOOK
FHX = FOX HAVEN
SUP = SUPPLEE LANE
YR = NUMBER PER YEAR
TOT = TOTAL

WSSC
We are entrusted by our community to provide safe and reliable water, life’s most precious resource, and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethically and financially responsible manner.
• Currently 9 areas around the WSSC property.
• Hunters can apply for up to 11 hunts.
• Hunters may apply as a group
• 15 to 40 hunters may be assigned depending on size of the area
• Hunters can expect 3-4 hunts per year.
• Hunters must have either a seasonal or daily WSSC Watershed Use Permit.
Hunt Days

AM Check-In for Assigned Hunting Area:

Support for carcass removal:

PM Check-Out and deer pick up:
HUNT DATA

• Since the inception of the program 2401 deer have been taken.

• 1050 deer taken from Triadelphia in 11 years of the managed hunting program.

• Hunter success rate has been 62% for 2009 and 52% for 2010.