



Nebraska National Forest

2016 Rifle Deer Season

Bessey Ranger District (Calamus West)



Where You Can Drive & Park:

Motor vehicle use off designated roads for the purpose of dispersed camping and/or game retrieval is permitted **up to 300 feet from the centerline** of the road using the same vehicles allowed on the road and during the same seasons the road is open.

ATVs and UTVs are allowed only on designated trails, not on any of the main roads or highways. The MVUM dictates what is allowed by road type.

Please do not park in front of gates or block the road leading into them. This severely hinders firefighting and rescue operations.

Game retrieval using a motor vehicle:

When a big game animal has been legally taken, the individual who legally took the animal may drive or be driven to the downed animal as long as it's **within 300 feet from the centerline** of the designated road. Under no circumstances may a second vehicle be used to retrieve the animal. The vehicle driven to the animal should be of sufficient capacity that only one trip is necessary. The number of individuals who participate in the retrieval is limited only by the vehicle's capacity, and the willingness of others to walk to and from the downed animal. If the downed game is further, the vehicle may be driven only the specified distance from the designated route. Motor vehicles may be parked up to 30 feet from the edge of the road surface when it is safe to do so without causing damage to National Forest System resources or facilities, or unless prohibited by state law, a traffic sign, or forest order.

Campfires:



Campfires are allowed at developed and dispersed campsites. Rules to keep in mind - make sure all grass or fuels are kept a distance away, and ensure your fire is completely out (cold) when leaving. You are responsible for your fire, and if it escapes, you may be held criminally and financially liable for suppression costs. Please report any wildfires to 911 immediately.

Maps:

The main office sells detailed, colored forest visitor maps for \$10. Free MVUMs are available at the main office and the kiosk. Both the MVUM and the forest visitor maps are available for smart phones and tablets to track location without cell phone service. Check with our office or staff for more details.

Cattle:

Please be respectful to the cattle on the forest. Close any gates you open, and do not shoot near or harass livestock on the forest. The Bovee (North) and Western (Section 25) Allotments currently have cattle in them through the 2015 rifle deer season.

Hunting rules to remember:

Shooting Hours - It is legal to shoot 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Quartering - The carcass may be separated into loins and quarters with the femur and scapula naturally attached, provided that the head accompanies the carcass to the check station.

Tagging - Immediately after a deer is taken, the hunter must punch holes in the permit, showing species, sex and date of kill. The canceled permit must be kept with the deer at all times.

Permit - A permit must be signed by the permittee. It is unlawful to transfer a permit to another person.

Unlawful Hunting Methods - It is unlawful to:

- chase, run, harass, kill or shoot any deer from a moving motor vehicle or vessel.
- shoot from the right-of-way of a public road.
- use a spotlight or other artificial light from a vehicle or vessel while having in possession or control any firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow.
- use two-way radios, cell phones or any other electronic devices to transmit information about the location of any game animal or game bird to or from a conveyance of any type (vehicles, aircraft, boats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc.).

Permission - Permission is required to hunt on private land. It is unlawful to hunt with a rifle within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose or within 100 yards using other methods. *This includes campgrounds.*

Hunter Orange - Any persons hunting deer under the authority of a firearm permit during an authorized firearm season must display on his or her head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material. Archery deer hunters must do the same while archery hunting during the November firearm deer season and during the Jan. 1 - 15 antlerless deer season.

Hunting of Other Wildlife - During the November firearm deer season, only hunters with a valid unfilled deer permit may hunt wildlife other than deer with centerfire rifles or centerfire handguns, provided they are hunting in the deer management unit for which their deer permit is valid. Fall turkey permit holders – wearing hunter orange required only for hunting during the November firearm deer season – may hunt turkeys, with legal shotguns or archery weapons, during the November firearm deer season.

Public Land Closures –

All federal and state public lands are closed to the use of River Antlerless deer permits.

Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest, McKelvie National Forest, and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge are closed to Antlerless Only (AO) & Season Choice Area (SCA) deer permits and antlerless bonus tags.