



Know Before You Go

Preparing to Visit a National Forest

Hunting

National forests are a refuge for wild animals of all kinds, which makes recreational activities like hunting and wildlife viewing possible.

Hunting is a seasonal activity. State regulations for seasons, dates and licensing apply on national forest land. Hunters can pick up U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps at Forest Service offices to see national forest boundaries and avoid venturing onto privately owned land.



Safety Checklist

- Check weather reports before visiting the forest.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.
- Be familiar with the area you want to hunt.
- Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- During certain seasons, hunters must wear hunter orange viewable from all directions.
- If accompanied by a dog, the dog should also wear hunter orange or a very visible color on a vest, leash, coat or bandana.
- Check hunting equipment before and after each outing, and maintain it properly. Familiarize yourself with its operation before using it in the field.
- Carry a spare set of dry clothing. Utilize layering techniques to wick away moisture while retaining body warmth. Always bring rain gear.
- Clearly identify your target before shooting. Prevent unfortunate accidents or fatalities.
- Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails. Other recreationists are in the forest as well.
- Avoid wearing white or tan during deer season. Wear hunter orange or another highly visible color.

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