Dept. of Natural Resources: Application period now open for special antlerless-only deer hunt at Sandhill Wildlife Area

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BABCOCK – A one-day antlerless deer hunt will be offered Saturday, Nov.10 at Sandhill Wildlife Area, a 9,150-acre experimental hunting area in central Wisconsin.

This unique hunt is being conducted by the Department of Natural Resources to reduce the deer herd within the wildlife area.

“Following three consecutive mild winters, this special hunt opportunity is necessary to adjust population levels and sex ratios to achieve the deer management goals desired on Sandhill,” said Darren Ladwig, DNR wildlife biologist.

Participation will be limited to the first 100 completed applications received. Applications must be mailed or delivered in person, and must be received by Sunday, Sept. 9. No telephone, fax, or email registrations will be accepted.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis at Sandhill Wildlife Area, located at 1715 County HWY X, Babcock. The Sandhill office is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. All applicants must possess a valid Wisconsin deer hunting license.

Hunters must possess a valid Sandhill Wildlife Area hunting permit to enter the grounds for the Nov. 10 hunt. Each successful applicant will receive one bonus antlerless permit, valid only within Sandhill for the weekend indicated on the permit.

To enroll in the hunt, successful applicants must complete a 2018 Sandhill Antlerless Deer Permit Application, currently available at all Department of Natural Resources Service Centers, Sandhill Wildlife Area, and on the department's website.

All selected participants will be required to attend a one-hour clinic Sept. 29 at the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, located within Sandhill Wildlife Area, and will receive a confirmation letter or email along with clinic information and payment instructions – payment is due Sept. 21. Once clinics times are assigned, no further changes will be made.

Clinic fees are $20 for adults and $15 for youth hunters ages 15 and under. As a reminder, do not send fee payment with the initial application. Participants will be issued bonus permits following completion of the clinic. Please read the application for complete rules and restrictions.