

# News Release



Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
73 Weir Hill Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

**UPDATED: 4/19/20**

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### Assabet River, Great Meadows, Oxbow National Wildlife Refuges

#### News Release for Public Review of Hunt Plan

Hunting is a traditional use of the National Wildlife Refuge System. At the Assabet River, Great Meadows, and Oxbow National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), we welcome people of all backgrounds and abilities to participate in recreational hunting.

Assabet River, Great Meadows, and Oxbow NWRs are seeking public review and comment on their proposed hunt expansions. The public is invited to review the draft documents for our proposed hunts, including the Draft Hunting Plan, Compatibility Determination and Environmental Assessment. These documents will be available for a 45-day comment period.

Assabet River NWR is proposing to:

- Expand opportunities for big game, upland game, and migratory bird hunting on refuge lands.
- Provide opportunities for mentored, veteran, and youth specialized hunts.
- Open 123 additional acres to hunting.

Great Meadows NWR is proposing to:

- Expand opportunities for big game, upland game, and migratory bird hunting on refuge lands.
- Open 778 additional acres to hunting

Oxbow NWR is proposing to:

- Expand opportunities for big game, upland game, and migratory bird hunting on refuge lands.
- Open 128 additional acres to hunting.

Draft documents including the Hunt Plan, Compatibility Determinations, Environmental Assessments, Summary Documents, and FAQ documents are available online at the refuges' official websites at:

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/assabet\\_river/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/assabet_river/)

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/great\\_meadows/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/great_meadows/)

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/oxbow/>

You can contact the refuge at 978-443-4661 or at the emails listed above to request more information or if you have any questions.

Due to recent Massachusetts Stay at Home guidance limiting gatherings, there will not be open house meetings. You can submit written comments to the refuge by mail (Attn: Hunt Plan, Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge, 73 Weir Hill Road, Sudbury, MA 01776) or by email at [fw5rw\\_emnwr@fws.gov](mailto:fw5rw_emnwr@fws.gov). **The Deadline has been extended to May 22, 2020, to allow for a 70 day comment period.** All letters must be postmarked by this deadline.

Across the country, National Wildlife Refuges work closely with state agencies, tribes, and private partners to expand recreational hunting access. Hunting provides opportunities for communities, families, and individuals to enjoy the outdoors, support conservation efforts, and participate in a popular American tradition.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.*

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