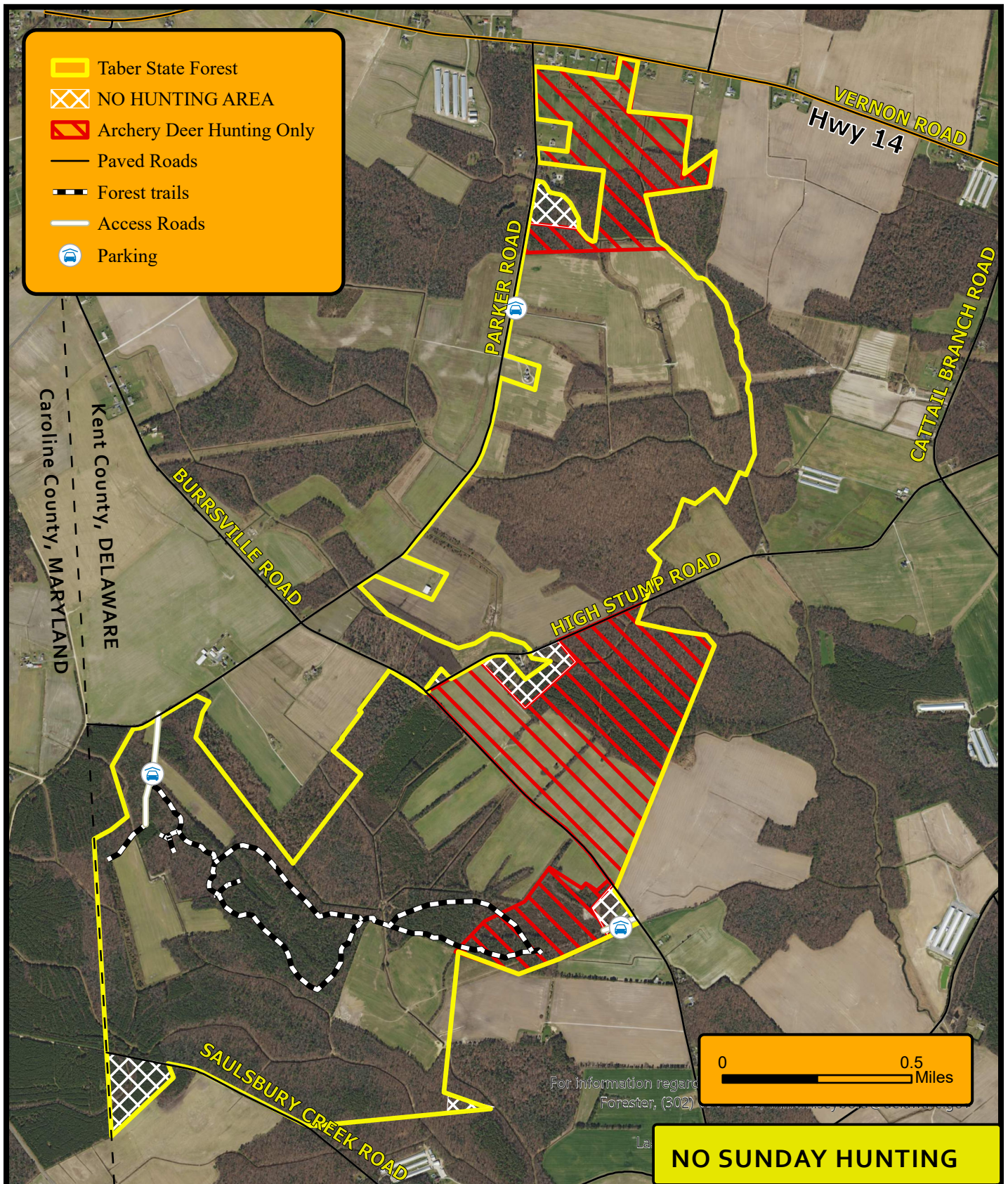


Taber State Forest (1,340 Acres)



08/12/25



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DELAWARE FOREST SERVICE
Statutory Authority: 3 Delaware Code
Section 1008 & 1011 (3 *Del. C.* § 1008, 1011)

8.0 HUNTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 8.1** State Forests are year-round multiple use areas. Hunters share the use of State Forest lands with other public users such as hikers, campers, horseback riders, firewood cutters, and loggers.
- 8.2** No special permits are required to hunt on State Forest lands, **except as specified in the DNREC, Division of Fish and Wildlife Hunting and Trapping Guide** or if the hunting tract is designated for a lottery permit only. Properly licensed hunters may hunt during any open season except on areas otherwise designated, such as those marked with Wildlife Sanctuary, NO HUNTING, or Safety Zone signs or areas that are outlined within the Hunting and Trapping Guide that state the area will be closed.
- 8.3** No permanent deer stands, platforms, ladders, or blinds may be constructed. No screw-in tree steps, spikes, screws, or nails are allowed. All parts of temporary (portable) deer stands must be removed on the final day of the January muzzleloader season; any stands remaining after this date will be removed and become property of the Delaware Forest Service. Stands may be placed after August 1 prior to the start of the new year's hunting season. Owners of deer stands left on State Forest property during the designated time period are required to tag/clearly identify their stand with the owner's name and phone number. Failure to do so will result in removal of the stand by Delaware Forest Service officials.
- 8.4** Deer drives by any person or persons are **not** permitted on any State Forest land at any time.
- 8.5** Small game hunting is closed on State Forest lands during firearm deer seasons.
- 8.6** The DFS reserves the right to close specific State Forest tracts to hunting during specific hunting seasons. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt on lands administered by the DFS, except as permitted by the Forestry Administrator in writing and specified on current State Forest area maps distributed by the DFS.
- 8.7** Trapping rights may be leased and/or awarded for State Forest lands. No other trapping is permitted on State Forest lands.
- 8.8** Target shooting is prohibited. Firearms are allowed for legal hunting and are otherwise prohibited within designated safe areas on State Forest lands, except as set forth below.
 - 8.8.1** Designated areas shall include State Forest Offices, education centers, and shall be identified by appropriate signage.
 - 8.8.2** Active duty and qualified retired law enforcement officers may possess firearms within areas administered by the Department, including designated areas.
 - 8.8.3** Delaware residents holding an active current permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon may carry a firearm within areas administered by the Department, including designated areas.
 - 8.8.4** Firearms may be carried within areas administered by the Department, outside of designated areas, by any person not prohibited by 11 *Del. C.* § 1448.
 - 8.8.5** Law enforcement officers may limit the discharge of firearms and the use of other weapons within areas administered by the Department, in order to protect public safety and preserve the peace.
- 8.9** Waterfowl hunting is permitted within designated areas only on State Forest land and/or waters. DFS reserves the right to open and close specific State Forest tracts for waterfowl hunting. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt on lands administered by the DFS, except as permitted by the Forestry Administrator in writing and specified on current State Forest area waterfowl maps distributed annually by the DFS.
- 8.10** Squirrel hunting is not allowed with a rifle or muzzleloading rifle. Squirrel hunting with a shotgun is permitted.
- 8.11** The following hunting restrictions apply to those tracts of State Forest lands **as specified in the DNREC, Division of Fish and Wildlife Hunting and Trapping Guide**.

Maps delineating these areas are available at State Forest offices.

Taber State Forest*: **Red hatched areas on the Taber State Forest map are archery only** for deer hunting. Archery is the only type of hunting allowed for deer within these areas. Small game hunting with a legal firearm (see 8.10) is allowed within the red hatched areas except during deer firearm seasons.

* For deer hunting, only the entrails (internal organs known as viscera) may be left behind on State property; all other deer parts must be removed from State property.