

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

C. F. PHELPS WMA / HOGUE TRACT

Disabled Hunter Access Program — Frequently Asked Questions

2026–2027 Season

GENERAL ACCESS

Q: Who may access the Hogue Tract during the restricted access period?

A: Only registered disabled hunters and their companions. The tract is closed to all other public access from October 3, 2026 through May 15, 2027. "Disabled" means mobility impaired due to a permanent physical condition.

Q: What species and seasons are affected by the access restriction?

A: All of them. Any hunting or access to the Hogue Tract between October 3, 2026 and May 15, 2027 — deer, turkey, small game, or any other species — requires prior registration. This replaces the previous arrangement where the late deer season and other species seasons were open to all disabled hunters without registration.

Q: Do I need to register even if I'm not interested in the deer lottery?

A: Yes. Any disabled hunter who wants to use the Hogue Tract at any point during the restricted access period must submit a registration application, regardless of target species or season.

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: Applications must be received by close of business on September 12, 2026.

Q: Can I bring a companion?

A: Yes. Each registered hunter may bring one companion. The companion may hunt if properly licensed. A person assisting a hunter who holds a valid Virginia Resident Disabled Lifetime or Disabled Veteran Lifetime hunting license is not required to have a hunting license. Retrieval and field dressing of harvested game must be completed by the hunter and/or companion.

Q: What are the hunting hours?

A: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. No check-in or check-out is required.

DEER LOTTERY PROGRAM

Q: How does the deer lottery work?

A: Two disabled hunters are selected by random drawing for each designated hunt day during the archery, muzzleloader, and firearms lottery period. The lottery period runs from October 3, 2026 through exactly 14 days after the firearms season opener, closing on November 28, 2026. Applicants may indicate date and stand preferences; preferences are considered in the draw but specific dates are not guaranteed.

Q: How will I know if I was selected?

A: Successful lottery applicants will be notified by mail and/or email and will receive Hunting and Parking Permits for their assigned day(s).

Q: When does the lottery period end?

A: The lottery period ends on November 28, 2026 — exactly 14 days after the firearms season opener (November 14, 2026).

Q: What are the deer bag limits?

A: Either-sex deer may only be taken on designated Either-Sex days for C.F. Phelps WMA. The daily bag limit is one deer per hunter; the season bag limit is three deer per hunter. Bonus Deer Permits are not valid on the Hogue Tract.

Q: What weapons are legal?

A: Archery tackle during archery season; muzzleloaders during muzzleloader season; archery tackle, muzzleloader, rifle, pistol, or shotgun during the general firearms season.

OPEN ACCESS PROGRAM

Q: What is the Open Access program?

A: Registered disabled hunters who select Open Access receive a gate code that allows them to enter the Hogue Tract during the open access periods without a separate permit or parking pass.

Q: When are the open access periods?

A: There are two open access periods: (1) the remainder of deer season after the lottery period closes — November 29, 2026 through January 2, 2027 — and (2) spring gobbler season, April 10, 2027 through May 15, 2027.

Q: Can I select both the Lottery and Open Access options?

A: Yes. Selecting both means you will be entered in the lottery drawing for assigned deer hunt dates AND receive a gate code for open access periods.

Q: How will I receive my gate code?

A: Gate codes will be issued to approved Open Access applicants following the close of the application period.

SPRING GOBBLER SEASON

Q: Can I hunt turkey on the Hogue Tract?

A: Yes. Registered disabled hunters with the Open Access option may hunt spring gobbler on the Hogue Tract during the open turkey season (April 10, 2027 – May 15, 2027). Your gate code provides access; no additional permit is required.

Q: Do I need to apply separately for turkey access?

A: No. Selecting the Open Access option on the registration application covers all open access periods, including spring gobbler season. You must still hold all required hunting licenses and turkey tags per state regulations.

RECREATORS AND NON-HUNTERS

Q: Can I hike, birdwatch, or otherwise access the Hogue Tract during the restricted period?

A: No. The Hogue Tract is closed to all public access — hunting and non-hunting alike — from October 3, 2026 through May 15, 2027. Access during this period is restricted to registered disabled hunters and their companions only.

Q: When is the Hogue Tract open to the general public?

A: The Hogue Tract reopens to unrestricted public access after May 15, 2027. Outside the restricted access window, normal C.F. Phelps WMA access rules apply.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Q: How do I apply?

A: Complete the application and submit it by September 12, 2026. Mail to:

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
ATTN: Hogue Tract Hunt
5669 Sumerduck Road
Reminton, VA 22734

Or email to: j.petri@dwr.virginia.gov.

Q: Where do I get the application?

A: The application is available on the C.F. Phelps WMA page at dwr.virginia.gov/wma/cf-phelps/.

Q: Who do I contact with questions?

A: Contact the DWR Fredericksburg office or email j.petri@dwr.virginia.gov.

For full program rules, see the Hogue Tract application and the C.F. Phelps WMA hunting information at dwr.virginia.gov/wma/cf-phelps/. Regulations are subject to change; always consult current DWR hunting and trapping regulations.