

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community
Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

WISCONSIN

Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band

Tribal Night Hunting for Deer in the Wisconsin Ceded Territory

A Step-by-Step Guide for Tribal Hunters

I. MEET THE CONDITIONS FOR GENERAL DEER HUNTING

If you were born after January 1, 1997, you must have completed a hunter education and firearm safety course or be a mentored hunter (see section IV. 15, below). Make sure your certificate of completion has been entered into GLIFWC's NAGFA licensing system, that you have a deer hunting stamp on your license and at least one carcass tag.

II. ATTEND MANDATORY ADVANCED HUNTER EDUCATION AND PASS A MARKSMANSHIP PROFICIENCY TEST

All members that wish to hunt deer at night off the reservation in Wisconsin must attend a twelve hour Advanced Hunter Safety course and pass a marksmanship proficiency test. You will be issued a certificate when you complete the course *and* pass the test.

1. The marksmanship proficiency certification shoot will take place at night.
2. The member must get a minimum score of 80% or better by making at least 8 out of 10 shots within the six and ¼ inch inner circle of an NRA certified target from 100 yards.
3. The member must use the same make, model, and caliber of weapon as the member intends to hunt with, if hunting with a firearm. If hunting with a bow or crossbow, the member must use the same make and model of weapon as the member intends to use with. Members may qualify with more than one weapon.
4. The night hunting permit is only valid for the type of weapon(s) (see 3. above) that was/were used for the marksmanship certification.

III. APPLY FOR A NIGHT DEER HUNTING PERMIT

Step 1: Decide where you want to hunt and prepare your Shooting Plan. Before completing your Shooting Plan, visit your site during daylight hours at least once between the day after Labor Day and the first Monday in January. Fill out a Shooting Plan (blank Shooting Plans are on GLIFWC's website: http://glifwc.org/Regulations/ShootingPlan_v2Nov15.pdf, or may be obtained from a registration station or from a GLIFWC warden). An example Shooting Plan is attached. Complete all of the blanks on the Shooting Plan except those that are grey. They are for administrative use only.

To prepare your Shooting Plan, you should draw a diagram of your site on the Plan (you may also attach other maps or aerial photos if you wish, but please make sure to draw a diagram of the site). On the diagram you must clearly show:

1. The "Safe Zone of Fire" (that is, the area in which you may safely discharge your weapon);

2. The stationary position from which you will hunt;
3. The "Adequate Backstop," which means: earthen terrain that will stop discharged projectiles under hunting circumstances, considering a reasonable margin of error. The maximum distance that an adequate backstop should be from your established stationary position at night is 125 yards;
4. The direction of intended fire;
5. Any of the following that appear within ¼ of a mile:
 - a. The grounds of a school, plus 1,000 feet in all directions;
 - b. School forest, public landfill, or public gravel pits where hunting is prohibited and where notice of the prohibition is clearly posted;
 - c. Road;
 - d. Residence, building or dwelling;
 - e. Designated public campgrounds, public beaches, or public picnic area;
 - f. Lake or waterbody;
 - g. ATV trail, snowmobile trail, or other designated trails (such as hiking, biking, or cross country ski trail);
 - h. Open area;
 - i. Private property;
 - j. All closed portions of state parks as described in the *Tribal State Park Hunting Opportunities in the Wisconsin portion of the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories* document;
 - k. Another tribal shooting plan area;
 - l. Any other area as determined by the tribal conservation department.

Step 2: Take your tribal photo ID, advanced hunter safety/marksmanship certificate and your completed Shooting Plan to your registration station.

1. If you have checked "Elevated Stand (>10 feet) shooting 50-100 yards," or "Stationary Vehicle," or "Ground Stand" on your Shooting Plan, your site needs to be inspected and your Plan approved by a GLIFWC warden or a tribal conservation officer (who will sign in the grey area and record the Shooting Plan Site Number).
 - a. The registration clerk will verify that you have filled out the Shooting Plan form and will contact a warden who will arrange to visit your site. You are not required to accompany the warden, but it may be beneficial, as you will be able to show the warden the exact location from which you plan to hunt. The warden will also provide the plan to the main GLIFWC office, as GLIFWC staff in the main office will see whether the hunter density requirements in the night hunting regulations are met. **It may take several days between the time you bring your plan to the registration station and when a permit can be issued.**
2. If you have checked "Elevated Stand (>10 feet) shooting 50 yards or less" on your Shooting Plan, it does not have to be preapproved by a GLIFWC or tribal warden.
 - a. In this case, the registration clerk will verify that you have filled the Plan out completely and will transmit your Shooting Plan to the main GLIFWC office, as GLIFWC staff in the main office will see whether the hunter density requirements in the night hunting regulations are met. **It will take the main**

office no less than one business day to make the required density determination.

Step 3: Provide a current phone number to the registration station so that you can be contacted with any questions or if there is a problem with your Shooting Plan (e.g. too close to another approved Plan).

After You Apply: After a registration clerk takes your Shooting Plan, please plan to check back over the next several days to see whether a permit can be issued. You may be contacted by either a registration station clerk or by a GLIFWC or tribal warden if there are issues with your Shooting Plan, or to notify you about the status of your permit. As noted above, this process may take several days if preapproval is required. It will take at least one business day even if no preapproval is necessary.

IV. NIGHT HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Dates: November 1 – the first Monday in January, with a closure during the State Nine-Day Gun Season (the closure begins the night before the State season begins, and runs until the night after the day following the end of the State season)
2. Night time hunting hours: one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise
 - a. If a member is occupying a night hunting location outside of nighttime hunting hours, the member may not:
 - i. Possess a loaded firearm
 - ii. Have a bolt in a crossbow
 - iii. Possess a bow with a notched arrow
3. Member must harvest within the “safe zone of fire” designated on the Shooting Plan.
 - a. A member may only dispatch a wounded deer with a firearm when the member and the deer are within the “safe zone of fire,” and the dispatching shot is in the “intended direction of fire” established in the member’s shoot plan.
 - b. If the wounded animal is not within the safe zone of fire or the intended direction of fire, the member may dispatch the wounded animal by other means (such as a knife).
 - c. If the wounded animal is not within the safe zone of fire or the intended direction of fire, and the member has no means other than a firearm with which to dispatch the deer, the member must wait until daytime hunting hours to use the firearm to dispatch the wounded deer.
4. Member must harvest from a stationary position.
5. Maximum Distance to Target.
 - a. Firearms *with* a preapproved Shooting Plan -- 100 Yards.
 - i. For members hunting from a ground position.
 - ii. For members hunting from an elevated position.
 - iii. For members hunting with a valid disabled hunting permit.
 - b. Firearms *without* a preapproved Shooting Plan -- 50 Yards.
 - i. For members hunting from an elevated position.
 - c. Bows and Crossbows -- 30 yards.
 - i. For members hunting with a bow or crossbow whether elevated or not.
 - d. Buckshot – Variable.

- i. For members certified to hunt with buckshot, the maximum distance is the distance at which they qualified during the marksmanship proficiency test. If shooting from more than 50 yards, Shooting Plan inspection and preapproval is required.
- 6. Elevated stands, as indicated on the Shooting Plan, must be at least ten feet off the ground. Stands less than 10 feet off the ground are "ground stands."
- 7. A light is required for night hunting, and should be a white light.
 - a. The light does not need to be hand held, but may be a helmet light or light attached to the firearm.
 - b. Unless the member arrives at the specified location during daylight hours, the member must use a light to illuminate the safe zone of fire and adequate backstop area prior to hunting.
- 8. A member may only use soft point or expanding bullets.
- 9. A member may NOT hunt under the influence of an intoxicant or controlled substance to a degree that the member is incapable of safely using the weapon, or while a member has a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of a person's blood or .08 grams or more of alcohol per 210 liters of a person's breath.
 - a. Absolute sobriety is required for members under the age of 21.
- 10. **Tribal conservation departments may make more restrictive regulations.**
- 11. For a *disabled permit*, only one Shooting Plan will be valid at a time.
- 12. Only one hunter may be listed on a Shooting Plan.
- 13. Age requirements: Hunters must be 16 years or older to submit a night hunting Shooting Plan and receive a night hunting permit. Hunters aged 10-16 years old may participate as mentored hunters only.
 - c. Mentored Hunting: Both the mentor and the mentored hunter must successfully complete the education and certification requirements, and be certified to use the type of weapon they intend to use for the mentored hunt. Only tribal member parents, or a tribal member designated by the parents to serve as a hunting mentor, may mentor night hunting.

V. ALLOWANCES

- 1. A member is allowed to use electronic or other calling techniques.
- 2. A member is allowed to use bait. *See Off Reservation Conservation Codes § 3.21(4).*
- 3. A member is allowed to use infrared, night vision, or thermal imaging equipment for identification purposes.
- 4. A member may use a spotter to shine the light. However, when two members are present, only the member listed on the Shooting Plan may be permitted to possess a firearm and to hunt.

VI. ADDITIONAL NOTES

If false or misleading information is provided on the Shooting Plan, the member can be refused a night hunting license for the duration of the season.

Attachment – Example Shooting Plan