

## Guidelines for use of the University of Vermont Research forests for hunting

(updated 9/15/2022)

The University of Vermont (UVM) owns four parcels of land managed for forest ecosystem education, research, and conservation by the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (RSENR). The RSENR supports compatible public and community access on these school forests for dispersed and low-impact uses including wildlife viewing, walking, skiing, biking on existing trails, and hunting.

We ask that those interested in hunting request permission through the forest manager in advance of each season. Please provide the following information: town of residence, phone number, email address, vehicle color/make/plate no. The seasons and dates they're planning to hunt. This information supports a line of communication that allows the forest manager to contact hunters if needed, avoid potential conflicts, and helps keep hunting a compatible and viable management tool within the school forests.

Hunters choosing to hunt on a research forest must:

- **Yield to and respect educational and research activities on the forest.** UVM groups, classes, or individuals may be actively using the forest during hunting hours. Educational use is the priority in the school forest so hunters need to recognize that they may have to adapt their hunting styles and preferences to accommodate this use. Planned activities may be found on the school forest calendar: <http://go.uvm.edu/forestcal>
- **Not alter vegetation:** This includes pruning of trees, cutting vegetation for shooting lanes, using screw-in tree stand accessories (including but not limited to steps, stands, hooks). Areas within each forest are used for long term research that monitors vegetation growth and species composition. Altering this vegetation creates long term impact on high-value research data.
- **Not leave debris** in the forest including flagging and markers.
- **Know your location** in proximity to adjacent parcel boundaries, residences, and nearby roads and trails. Safety and respect of neighboring landowners is critical.
  - Google maps shows your location, research forest parcel boundaries, and town roads. To find locations of nearby houses use, select the aerial imagery view.
  - The UVM school forests webpage shows digital maps with parcel boundaries: <https://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/uvm-forests>

Tree stands or blinds may be used under the following conditions:

- They are temporary, portable, and do not alter vegetation. Components must not penetrate the inner bark.
- They are marked with hunters' names and addresses as per Vermont regulations
- May be set up no earlier than six weeks prior to the season in which they will be used and must be removed no later than one week after the season ends. Contact the forest manager if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent this.

- It is understood that UVM is not responsible for lost or stolen stands, blinds, or other hunting accessories.

Access:

- Motorized access for recreational use, including hunting, is not permitted within the forests. Hunters need to be prepared to move themselves, their equipment, and their quarry through the woods under human power.
- Parking along Tarbox Road and adjacent to the main entrance gate is permissible as far as town ordinances and road conditions allow. Check with the Jericho town office or road commissioner if you are unfamiliar with seasonal requirements. Ensure that no driveways are blocked.
- Note that Vermont Area Snow Travelers (VAST) has been permitted to use two trails through the property through an annual lease agreement. Registered VAST members may use these trails per VAST guidelines.
- Please help take care of the forest and report concerns or misuse of the forest to the forest manager.
  - Wildlife, ATV trespass, Illegal hunting, and other violations or concerns should be directly reported as follows:
    - **Operation Game Thief** if a violation is in progress or time sensitive: 1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-5378).
    - **VTF&W State Police** Dispatch Number: (802) 878-7111
    - **Game Warden:** Jeremy Schmit: Home Office Phone: (802) 288-7222.

Other questions? Please contact the school's forest manager, Jess Wikle: [jwikle@uvm.edu](mailto:jwikle@uvm.edu), or 413-329-3234 (cell).