

For Immediate Release:
August 7, 2007

FOR INFORMATION:
Thomas Roster
Refuge Manager

IROQUOIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ACCEPTING RESERVED HUNT CARDS FOR 2007 WATERFOWL SEASON

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is now accepting cards for the Refuge's reserved waterfowl hunt days. Reservations are required for opening day, Tuesday, (October 23), and the first two Saturdays, (October 27 and November 3) of the New York State regular waterfowl season: these dates are tentative pending approval of the recommended waterfowl hunting season.

Interested hunters must include on a postcard or 3X5 card: their name, address, telephone number, and Waterfowl Identification Certificate number. Also list the three reserved days, in order of preference and then mail or hand carry it to: Iroquois NWR, 1101 Casey Road, Basom, New York 14013. Only one card will be accepted per hunter. More than one entry will result in removal from the drawing. No faxes, phone applications or e-mails will be accepted. Cards must be received by close of business Monday, September 24, 2007. Those selected will be notified by mail. The number of permits issued will be dependant on water levels in the hunt area. Reservations are non-transferable.

Those selected must be at the Waterfowl Check Station, located on Route 77, before 5:00 a.m. on their appointed day to select their hunt stand and obtain their permit.

For the remainder of the refuge season, hunting will be permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only. A permit is required each day. To get a permit, hunters must be at the Waterfowl Check Station, located on Route 77, by 5:00 a.m. to participate in a daily drawing. Permit fees are \$10 on Saturdays and \$5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Up to three hunters may share a permit and hunt stand. Waterfowl hunting on Iroquois NWR is from legal start time until 12:00 noon. All hunters must turn in their completed harvest report and present any harvested birds at the check station no later than 1:00 p.m.

All hunters must have a valid New York State hunting license, valid Duck Stamp, Waterfowl Identification Certification card and Harvest Information Program (HIP) number.

Hunters are limited to no more than 20 shells per day, steel or approved non-toxic shot. Hunters must provide and use a minimum of six waterfowl decoys.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For further information contact: Iroquois NWR, 1101 Casey Road, Basom, NY 14013 or call (585) 948-5445. Individuals with disabilities and any other person who may need special assistance to participate in this program should contact Thomas Roster, Refuge Manager at 585/948-5445 Extension 202 or at the Federal Relay No. 1-800-877-8339.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.