



Frequently Asked Questions About Hunting on Kestrel Lands

What should I do if I plan to hike during hunting season?

Hunters typically are responsible people who will do everything possible to maintain the highest level of safety in the woods. If you are concerned, you may wish to seek out a recreational area that does not allow hunting, or one that allows hunting only during restricted seasons.

MassWildlife advises these precautions during hunting seasons:

- Know when and where hunting is allowed.
- Be safe, be seen. A brightly colored orange vest or hat will help you stay visible.
- Keep pets leashed and visible. Brightly colored orange recommended for pets as well.
- Stay on marked trails.
- Make your presence known. Talk or whistle to identify yourself as a person.
- Be respectful and courteous—hunter harassment is unlawful.

What properties are open to hunting?

See Hunting Rules and Information PDF. Contact Kestrel for details.

What do I need to do to hunt on Kestrel lands?

Review our rules and contact Kestrel for permission at stu@kestreltrust.org. Hunters may access Kestrel lands for hunting during state mandated hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise and end ½ hour after sunset.

Do I need to notify you before I hunt?

Yes. Contact Kestrel at stu@kestreltrust.org

Do I need to be a member to hunt on Kestrel lands?

No. We do not require that hunters become members of our organization to hunt in our lands. However, your support is always appreciated, as every dollar we receive helps us protect additional wildlife habitat and manage and maintain these lands for future generations.

Are tree stands permitted?

- State regulations require: Persons must have written permission of the landowner (on either public or private lands) to construct or use any tree stand which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire, or other fasteners that intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree, or that is fastened or erected in any manner and is emplaced for a period exceeding 30 days. This includes hang-on tree stands.
- Hunter may use only temporary tree stands that do not require the use of nails, screws, or screw-in steps.
- Stand location must be approved by Kestrel prior to installation.

- Stands must be labeled with the hunter's name and contact information.
- Any stands on Kestrel property for longer than 30 days may be removed by Kestrel staff.

Which species can I hunt? Are there any restrictions?

- Kestrel allows hunting only of these species: deer, upland game birds (wild turkey, ruffed grouse, quail, pheasant, crow), rabbit, hare, squirrel
- Kestrel does not allow hunting of bear or furbearers (bobcat, coyote, red or gray fox, opossum, raccoon).

Can I be of any help maintaining or monitoring the forest I hunt?

Absolutely! You are welcome to visit our **Volunteer** page and fill out the **Volunteer Form** if you are interested in helping us monitor a particular property throughout the year. There are a number of opportunities from which to choose, depending upon your skills and interests.