

# Hunting on Fort Richardson

Hunting is a popular form of outdoor recreation on Fort Richardson (FRA) and centers mainly around a drawing permit moose hunt, which is the only big game hunt authorized on FRA. Small game and waterfowl are also pursued on post but to a lesser degree.

## **Access:**

Paragraph 2-10 of Army Regulation 200-3, *Natural Resources—Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*, states that access by recreational users, "...will be within manageable quotas, subject to safety, military security, threatened or endangered species restrictions, and the capability of the natural resources to support such use; and at such times as such access can be granted without bona fide impairment of the military mission, as determined by the installation commander."

Current military security conditions preclude access onto the northern part of FRA (North of the Glenn Highway) by civilians lacking military affiliation. Changes to these conditions will be reflected on this web page.

All recreational users of FRA, must sign in to the USARTRAK system (384-3181) before proceeding to their intended hunting area. Failure to properly sign-in could lead to citation. All recreational users, upon leaving FRA or the recreational areas that they signed in to, must also sign out. Failure to sign out could lead to loss of access privileges.

## **Regulations and Requirements:**

It is your responsibility to know and to comply with all rules and regulations, including the current state of Alaska hunting regulations, pertaining to FRA lands <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/geninfo/regs/regshome.htm>. Please note, however, that USARAK has the authority to impose hunting regulations that are more restrictive than those promulgated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

## **I. Compliance Standards**

- A. All personnel, while hunting or fishing on Army lands will comply with applicable provisions of federal and state laws and military regulations and policies regulating the taking of fish and game. All federal and state statutes governing bag limits, methods and means, possession and transportation, permits and licenses and use of game are applicable, except as otherwise noted in this regulation.
- B. Military operations and mission requirements take precedence over all other activities. It may be necessary at times to cancel, postpone, reschedule or otherwise limit hunting, fishing and trapping either totally or in part to accommodate military operations.
- C. Violation of these laws and regulations may result in criminal prosecution under applicable statutory or Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) provisions. Penalties include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions of military and civil authority.
  - 1) Civilians hunting, trapping or fishing on Army lands without permission

of the local commanders are trespassers. Trespassers are cited on Defense Department (DD) Form 1805 (United States District Court Violation Notice) for entering upon military installation for unauthorized purposes (18 USC 1382) and escorted from the installation. Civilians committing infractions other than trespassing, may be turned over to Alaska law enforcement officers or be prosecuted in Magistrate Court as appropriate.

- 2) Military personnel in violation of these laws, regulations and policies are subject to UCMJ provisions and/or applicable state and federal laws.

## **II. License and Permit Requirements**

- A. **State of Alaska Hunting license**-All Alaska residents 16 years or older must possess a valid license to hunt. Alaska residents 15 years of age or younger are not required to possess a license to hunt. Residents 60 or older may apply for a permanent identification card in lieu of a license. All nonresident hunters, regardless of age, must possess a hunting license. For license questions please consult the current Alaska Hunting Regulations or the ADF&G website <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license/>
- B. **Waterfowl Stamps**-All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must have a current federal migratory bird hunting stamp and an Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (unless exempt). State and Federal stamps must be signed in ink and must be carried at all times while hunting waterfowl. Stamps need not be attached to a hunting license. Migratory bird hunters required to enroll in the Harvest Information Program (HIP) must carry proof of enrollment while hunting. Call 1-800-478-7468 for more information.
- C. **Hunter Education**-All hunters or persons carrying a firearm on USARAK land must have successfully completed an NRA or equivalent Hunter Education Certification course from any U.S. state. Archery and muzzleloader hunters on FRA must also have successfully completed a state of Alaska approved Bowhunter Education or Muzzleloader Education course, respectively, before hunting on USARAK land. <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/geninfo/educate/huntered/huntered.htm>
- D. **FRA Hunting Permit (Small game and Waterfowl)**-Individuals, including active duty military personnel, intending to hunt either small game or waterfowl on FRA must first obtain a post hunting permit. The permit costs five dollars (no cost for active duty military personnel) annually and may be obtained from MWR (located in building 794 Davis Highway; phone number 384-1475).
- E. **FRA Hunting Permit (Moose)**-Individuals, including active duty military personnel, intending to hunt moose on FRA must first apply and successfully draw a State of Alaska Moose Hunting permit for Fort Richardson. Permit holders must then attend an orientation briefing given by FRA Environmental Department personnel (successful permittees are notified by letter regarding the orientation times and requirements). During the orientation, pertinent hunt rules and regulations are outlined as well as are access procedures and other practical hunt information. Also at the class the credentials of the hunters are checked and, if in order, the hunter receives two permits: the state of Alaska Moose Hunting drawing permit (the state sends all drawing permits to the Environmental

Department for dissemination) and a Fort Richardson Moose Hunting Permit. Currently there is a \$5 application fee charged by the state to apply for this hunt as well as a \$125 conservation fee charged by the FRA Environmental Department. For this special moose hunt, the above-mentioned FRA Hunting Permit does not apply.

### III. **Hunting is permitted on FRA in the following areas:**

- A. Small Game-training areas designated as small game hunting areas and that are declared open to hunting by Range Control (see Map)
- B. Big Game (Moose)-training areas designated as moose hunting areas (weapon specific) and that are declared open by Range Control (see Map).
- C. Waterfowl-FRA lakes North of the Eagle River (see Map)

### III. **Hunting is prohibited on FRA in the following areas:**

- A. Main cantonment area and surrounding buffer zones.
- B. Within 100 yards of a building, facility, or structure.
- C. Ammunition Storage Points A&B.
- D. Cottonwood Park.
- E. Bryant Army Airfield.
- F. Eagle River Flats Impact Area (including a 300 meter buffer zone).
- G. Forty-Ninety Range and surrounding buffer zones.
- H. Otter Lake Wildlife and Recreation Area.
- I. Muldoon buffer zone between Bulldog Trail and the western FRA boundary.
- J. Moose Run Golf Course.
- K. McVeigh Marsh Waterfowl Sanctuary.
- L. Small arms ranges.
- M. Site Summit and adjacent Infantry Flats.
- N. Arctic Valley Ski Bowl area.

### IV. **Weapons Regulations**

- A. **Weapon registration**-All military personnel are required to register their privately owned weapons per USARAK regulation 190-2. Personnel are not authorized to routinely transport weapons on the installation except for the following reasons: 1) from the place of purchase or sale; 2) to and from authorized ranges; and 3) to and from authorized off post locations.
- B. **Shotguns**- Only 10-Gauge or smaller shotguns are authorized for hunting small game and waterfowl on FRA. Shotgun slugs are not permitted unless authorized by the Commanding General and/or the Garrison Commander in coordination with the Alaska Board of Game and Alaska Department of Fish and Game for special permit moose hunts on FRA.
- C. **Rifles**-The use of privately owned rifles on FRA is limited to off duty firing ranges only. However, black powder muzzleloading weapons are permitted when authorized by the Commanding General and/or Garrison Commander in coordination with the Alaska Board of Game and Alaska Department of Fish and Game for big game during special permit moose hunts on FRA. Please consult the

current Alaska Hunting Regulations for specific muzzleloader requirements and specifications.

- D. **Handguns**-The carrying or transportation of handguns (regardless of the mode) while hunting on FRA is prohibited. This does not apply to law enforcement personnel.
- E. **Transportation of firearms**
- 1) Loaded firearms will not be transported in or on motorized vehicles and watercraft. A firearm is considered loaded if it has rounds located in the chamber, cylinder or a magazine of any type which is an integral part of the firearm. A firearm is also considered loaded if a detachable magazine containing rounds is inserted into the firearm. The above restrictions do not apply to law enforcement or Fish and Wildlife personnel in the performance of their duties
  - 2) Privately owned weapons will not be transported in government vehicles or aircraft. An exception allows Army or cooperating state and federal biologists the use of personal weapons while conducting field work requiring the availability of a firearm.
  - 3) All firearms will be transported in plane sight.
  - 4) The transportation of rifles into Chugach State Park through FRA is authorized only during the legal State of Alaska hunting season.
- F. **Firearms for protection from wildlife**-Personnel may carry privately owned registered shotguns and pistols while hiking, fishing, or while engaging in recreational activities (except hunting) outside the cantonment area of FRA. If carried, these weapons, for safety reasons, will not have a round in the chamber. The discharge of these weapons is not authorized other than for self-protection from wild animals.
- G. **Discharge of firearms**
- 1) The discharge of any weapon mentioned in paragraphs A through D above as well as those weapons mentioned in paragraph I below within the cantonment area is strictly prohibited.
  - 2) Discharge of firearms other than while participating in a legal hunting activity, including target practicing, is prohibited except at off duty ranges officially designated for that purpose.
  - 3) Discharge of a firearm from, on or across any improved road is prohibited.
  - 4) Discharge of a firearm from within a motor vehicle moving or stopped, is prohibited.
- H. **Archery**- Please consult the current Alaska Hunting Regulations for specific archery requirements and specifications.
- 1) Compound, recurve, and long bows are authorized for hunting small game or during special permit moose hunts.
  - 2) Broadhead tipped arrows may not be used or carried except when participating in a special permit moose hunt on FRA.
  - 3) When archery hunting small game on PRA, personnel must have "blunt tip" points with the game stopper washers, bird points or substitutes that are wider than the arrow shaft. Field and target tips are not allowed in the field except when used in conjunction with game stopper washers.

- I. **Miscellaneous weapons**-Under no circumstances will personnel use BB guns, pellet guns, crossbows, darts, dart guns, sling shots, or anything resembling these weapons for hunting purposes on FRA. Personnel under 18 years of age utilizing BB guns or pellet guns for practice or target shooting must be personally supervised by their parents or an adult (18 years or older) with parental consent. The discharge of these weapons in the main cantonment area is prohibited.

**V. Off-Road Recreational Vehicle (ORRV) and Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Use**

- A. ORRV's are not authorized for hunting on FRA.
- B. POV's are permitted only on established and authorized FRA roads and trails.
- C. The rutting of trails and the crossing of wetlands by POV's is not authorized.

**VI. Alcohol and Drugs**- Hunting while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.

**VII. Harassment of Wildlife**- It is unlawful to feed, harass or molest any fish or wildlife, or to allow an unsanitary condition to exist which will attract wild animals.