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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Fish and Wildlife

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SEMI-WILD SHOOTING PRESERVE INFORMATION SHEET

AUTHORITY

N.J.S.A. 23:3-29 provides the authority to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to issue a license to operate semi-wild shooting preserves for pheasant, quail and partridge. The applicant must be the owner or bona-fide lessee to the property to be licensed. Only one contiguous tract of land may be covered under one license.

DEFINITION

A semi-wild preserve is defined as an area of land, 50 acres or more, with the boundary clearly defined and posted along all boundary line at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording:

Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve – Licensed under N.J.S.A. 23:3-29

SIGNS MUST DISPLAY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LICENSEE

SEASON AND BAG LIMIT

Under the semi-wild pheasant, quail and partridge shooting preserve license, birds stocked may be taken by shooting only on lands described in the application and license, without regard to sex and daily bag limit, by a properly licensed hunter between the first day of small game season and following March 15, both days inclusive. The Director, with approval of the Council, may extend the quail and chukar partridge season on licensed semi-wild preserves for a period not to exceed 20 days.

Hunting hours are the same as regular small game season: 8:00 a.m. on opening day, otherwise sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Species not covered by the license may be hunted in accordance with current hunting regulations.

FEES

The annual fee for a semi-wild shooting preserve is \$75.00, plus an additional \$2.00 application fee. The cost of tags are \$.15 each.

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING LICENSE

The Division **MAY**, upon payment of fee, issue to the applicant such a license when it appears that:

1. The operation of a shooting preserve shall not conflict with prior reasonable public interest; and
2. The applicant has produced evidence (contact or purchase, etc.) satisfactory to the Division, that he will raise or purchase for liberation on the shooting preserve a total of at least one bird per acre up to 200 acre, pheasant, quail, and partridge or combination thereof, between the first day of small game season of the year of the license and the following March 15.
3. The applicant has produced a Verification of Lease Agreement, signed by both parties and effective through the entire season.
4. To ascertain compliance with the above criteria, applicants are required to submit a completed application, evidence of purchase or raising of birds, and two photocopies (8.5" x 11") of current **tax assessor's maps. Maps must show the block, lot, and acreage. The boundaries of the preserve are to be outline in RED. Maps should indicate all building/dwellings on the property and all building/dwellings on each adjacent property, which might affect the amount of land, hunted because of safety zones. Safety zones should be indicated in RED.** Maps should list the name of club and your previous years permit number. **New** maps must be forwarded **each** year along with renewal application. Prior to issuing a license to first time applicants, a field inspection of the proposed preserve may be conducted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application for Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve received prior to September 15 will be issued by the beginning of the small game season. Applications received after that date are processed on a first come, first serve basis, with no guarantee that they will be issued by the beginning of the season. All applications must be accompanied by the required tax maps, lease agreement verification form (if property is leased) written evidence of birds purchased, and an application to import live game birds (if applicable).

A license will not be issued until the applicant has produced satisfactory evidence that the required number of birds will be purchased for liberation during the forthcoming season.

NOTE: THE PERSON APPLYING FOR THE APPLICATION IS DESIGNATED AS THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE SEM-WILD LICENSED PRESERVE. You are responsible to maintain the necessary records, and to complete the annual report at the end of the permit season.

TAGGING BIRDS

Every harvested game birds covered under the license must be tagged, regardless of sex, including birds from the freezer and/or meat sales being transported or sold. Tags will be issued on annual basis. Tags are numbered and dated; they are for the current season only. Tags are assigned to your preserve and you are responsible for following proper tagging requirements. **Not tagging birds is violation and may result in a fine and loss of your permit.** Sufficient tags should be purchased to cover the anticipated number of birds you expect will be harvest on licensed premises. Tags are \$.15 each and no refunds will be issued for unused tags. More tags may be purchased as necessary. You may not purchase more tags than the number of birds stocked. Tags remaining at the end of the season should be destroyed.

Applicants applying for renewal licenses may forward the application fee and tag order when submitting their application. New applicants needing assistance in evaluating kill ratio for tag purchase may call (609)984-1400.

No pheasant, quail, partridge or their carcasses, shall be taken, possessed or transported unless each bird is tagged. Tags must be available to all members and guests. A constant daily record must be kept of the birds shot and tagged by each hunter. Record should include date, hunter's name, species and the quantity of birds tagged.

In addition, a daily record of birds released must be kept, indicating type and quantity of birds released. Record must be available for inspection up to THREE years after the close of a season.

No pheasant, quail or partridge may be trapped on semi-wild preserve without the written permission of the Division, and no game bird propagated thereon may be sold.

Any organization or person intending to hold birds for periodic release or to raise birds for release on the semi-wild preserve, must also possess a Game Bird Captivity Permit.

IMPORTATION OF BIRDS

All game birds transported or otherwise move into the state shall be accompanied by an official health certificate and importation permit, which must be attached to the waybill or shall be in the possession of the driver of the vehicle or person in charge of the game birds. No game birds may be imported without prior written approval from the Division. Importation applications are available upon request at (609) 984-1400. Allow 20 working days for approval and issuance of an importation permit. There is no fee for this permit.

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report forms will be sent to permit holders at the close of the season. Annual report forms should be completed and submitted to the Division within 30 days of the close of the season. Annual report forms must be filed with a copy of your receipt(s) for the birds stocked. The receipts should indicate the quantity and type of birds stocked; indicating "Paid in full".

If you hold more than one permit, separate paper work must be filed for each individual permit, and filed separately. If you are a Propagation & Sales permit holder, you must account for the birds on your Captive permit annual report form, and show written transfer to your Semi-Wild Preserve permit.

Anyone failing to submit the annual report to required documentation of records may be issued a summons and possible loss of permit.

Hunting in the state of New Jersey is a privilege, not a right, which can be revoked for cause. Any person violating any of the provisions of the state be liable to a penalty of not less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offense.

REFUNDS/TRANSFER

No refunds or transfers of licenses or tags will be issued for loss of acreage resulting from township closures, lease cancellation, etc.

INFORMATION

If you have any question regarding semi-wild preserves, or with completing the application, please call (609) 984-1400. Incomplete applications and reports will be returned for proper information.