Errol NH & Great North Woods Hunting Guide

A practical planning guide for hunting from Errol, New Hampshire

Deer • Moose • Bear • Grouse & Woodcock • Turkey • Waterfowl • Snowshoe Hare

KNOW YOUR WMU	CHECK EACH SEASON	RESPECT ACCESS
Errol sits where several New Hampshire Wildlife Management Units meet.	Dates, bag limits, methods, and permits can change from year to year.	Public, refuge, timber-company, and private lands can have different rules.

Presented by Errol Motel

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Hunt the North Country. Come back to Errol.

Why Errol Works as a Hunting Home Base

Errol sits in New Hampshire's Great North Woods, surrounded by forest, wetlands, working timberland and the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. Hunters can base in town and reach different parts of the region without changing lodging each night.

The main concentration of hunting activity is from September through November, but opportunities extend beyond Fall. Spring turkey is generally a May hunt, while snowshoe hare and some other small-game seasons continue through Winter. Exact dates vary by species, Wildlife Management Unit, and year.

THIS GUIDE IS FOR PLANNING — NOT FOR SETTING SEASON DATES

Use the month ranges in this guide to decide when a trip may make sense. Before hunting, verify the current season dates, bag limits, legal methods, licensing requirements, and WMU rules with New Hampshire Fish and Game. If hunting in Maine or on Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, check those current regulations too.

About This Guide

This visitor guide combines Errol Motel's local knowledge with current information from New Hampshire Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. It is intended as a practical starting point for planning a hunting stay in Errol, not as a substitute for current hunting regulations, official maps, posted signs, or landowner permission.

The guide intentionally avoids locking most information to a particular year. Hunting regulations and access can change, so current agency information always takes precedence.

The Hunting Year at a Glance

TIME OF YEAR	TYPICAL OPPORTUNITIES	PLANNING NOTE
May	Spring wild turkey	Verify current youth and regular-season dates and WMU rules.
September	Bear, deer archery, some Fall turkey, and small game	Beginning of the main Fall hunting period; species and methods vary.
October	Moose permit hunt, grouse, woodcock, deer archery, bear, turkey, waterfowl, small game	One of the broadest months for hunting opportunities.
November	Deer muzzleloader/firearms, bear in some units, waterfowl, small game	Major deer-hunting month; Northern WMU dates can differ.
December	Some deer archery, grouse, waterfowl, small game	Check closing dates carefully.
Winter into March	Snowshoe hare and selected small game	Road access and Winter conditions become part of trip planning.

These ranges are intentionally general. They are a trip-planning overview, not legal season dates.

Know Your Wildlife Management Unit

This is especially important around Errol. New Hampshire hunting regulations are organized in part by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), and Errol lies where several Northern units meet. Routes 16 and 26 form portions of WMU boundaries in the area, including WMUs A, B and C2.

Two places that both seem to be “near Errol” can therefore fall under different rules. Do not choose a WMU simply by using Errol as the nearest town. Use the current New Hampshire Fish and Game WMU map and determine the unit for the exact area you plan to hunt.

WHY THE WMU MATTERS
Season length, either-sex opportunities, bag limits, and other rules can differ by WMU. This is particularly important for deer and other species with unit-specific regulations.

White-Tailed Deer

New Hampshire offers archery, muzzleloader, and firearms opportunities for white-tailed deer. For trip planning, think of deer season as stretching from early Fall into early Winter, with the primary firearms season in November.

- Archery generally begins in September and can extend into December.
- Muzzleloader is generally a late-October/November opportunity.
- Firearms season is primarily in November and may extend into early December in some parts of the state.
- Youth opportunities occur separately; check the current regulations for dates and eligibility.

Northern units can have different closing dates and either-sex rules than other parts of New Hampshire. Hunters based in Errol should check the exact WMU before relying on a statewide summary.

Moose

New Hampshire moose hunting is by permit only. Permits are awarded through the state moose lottery and are issued for specific Wildlife Management Units.

The hunt is generally held during a short period in October. Because the permit is WMU-specific, successful hunters should build their trip around the unit printed on the permit rather than around a general destination.

Moose hunting is allowed on Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge subject to state and refuge rules. The refuge may authorize limited ATV/UTV use by special-use permit for retrieval of a harvested moose. General recreational ATV/UTV use on refuge roads is not allowed. Contact the refuge for current retrieval procedures before assuming a vehicle may be used.

Black Bear

Black bear is one of the earlier major Fall hunting opportunities in Northern New Hampshire. The general season begins in September, while closing dates and legal methods vary by Wildlife Management Unit and method.

If you plan to hunt bear, check the current regulations for the exact WMU and method you intend to use. Rules for baiting and hunting with dogs are especially important to verify.

UMBAGOG REFUGE RULE
Hunting over bait is prohibited on Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. Dogs may be used to assist in legal hunting and retrieval, but dog training is prohibited on the refuge.

Ruffed Grouse & American Woodcock

Ruffed grouse is a classic Fall hunting opportunity in Northern New Hampshire. The season generally runs from October through December. American woodcock is a migratory game bird with a shorter federally regulated Fall season.

The region's mix of forest, regenerating timberland, alder and wet areas provides the kinds of habitats associated with both species, but this guide intentionally does not direct hunters to specific coverts.

NON-TOXIC SHOT ON THE REFUGE
Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge requires hunters pursuing migratory game birds or upland game to possess only non-toxic shot. If you plan to hunt both refuge and non-refuge lands, know exactly where you are and carry ammunition that complies with the rules for that property.

Wild Turkey

Spring

New Hampshire's regular Spring turkey season is generally in May, with a youth opportunity immediately beforehand. Spring hunting hours, legal methods and bag limits are set by current state regulations.

Fall

Fall turkey opportunities begin in September and can extend into the Fall, but the legal methods and open areas are not identical everywhere. Fall archery opportunity is broader than Fall shotgun opportunity in parts of New Hampshire, making the current WMU regulations particularly important.

Turkey hunting is allowed on Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge subject to state and refuge regulations.

Waterfowl

Lake Umbagog, the Magalloway River, Androscoggin River and the region's wetlands make waterfowl part of the Fall hunting picture around Errol.

Waterfowl seasons are governed by migratory-bird regulations and zones. The Errol/Umbagog area falls within New Hampshire's Northern Zone, so use the current Northern Zone dates rather than assuming one statewide season.

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge allows waterfowl hunting in both New Hampshire and Maine and maintains permanent waterfowl hunting blinds on the New Hampshire side. Reservations generally open in August for weekly periods during the hunting season. Check directly with the refuge for current blind locations, availability, and procedures.

- Verify the current state migratory-waterfowl license requirements.
- Complete HIP registration when required.
- Carry the required Federal Duck Stamp when applicable.
- Use approved non-toxic shot.
- Follow refuge-specific rules when hunting refuge waters or lands.

Snowshoe Hare & Other Small Game

Hunting around Errol does not end with the main Fall seasons. Snowshoe hare is one of the region's principal Winter opportunities and generally runs from October through March in New Hampshire. Daily limits can vary by WMU.

Gray squirrel and other small-game seasons add additional opportunities during portions of Fall and Winter. Always check the current species-specific regulations before hunting.

Late-season hunters should also plan for changing access. A road that is easily driven in October may be snow-covered, unplowed, gated, or inaccessible later in Winter.

Hunting on Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge covers more than 37,000 acres in New Hampshire and Maine and is an important part of the landscape surrounding Errol. Hunting is a permitted public use for a broad range of game species, but refuge-specific rules apply in addition to state regulations.

Species Allowed

The refuge currently allows hunting for white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, waterfowl, snowshoe hare, and several other game species, subject to applicable seasons and regulations.

Important Refuge Rules

- Follow the hunting regulations of the state in which you are standing as well as refuge-specific regulations. When rules differ, the more restrictive rule applies.
- Hunting over bait is prohibited.
- ATVs and UTVs are prohibited except when specifically authorized, such as a special-use permit for certain moose-retrieval situations.
- Cars and trucks may use logging roads open to vehicles, but driving on skid roads or skidder trails is prohibited.
- Only non-toxic shot may be possessed when hunting migratory game birds or upland game on the refuge.
- Dogs may assist with legal hunting and retrieval; dog training is prohibited.
- All harvested game must be retrieved.
- Temporary stands and blinds are subject to refuge placement, marking, and removal rules. Check current requirements before using one.

THE STATE LINE MATTERS
Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge extends into both New Hampshire and Maine. A refuge boundary does not erase the state line. Know which state you are hunting in and carry the licenses and permits required there.

Hunting in Nearby Western Maine

Errol's location close to Maine makes Western Maine another possibility for hunters staying in town. Crossing the state line, however, means entering a separate licensing and regulatory system.

Maine has its own Wildlife Management Districts, seasons, permits, tagging and registration rules. Major opportunities include deer, moose, bear, turkey, grouse, and other small game. The primary Fall period also centers heavily on September through November, while Spring turkey and Winter small-game opportunities extend the calendar.

Moose hunting in Maine is by permit. Bear regulations include method-specific rules and dates. Deer seasons vary by method and permits. Check Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife information for the current year before planning around any of these hunts.

Private Land in Maine

Much of Maine's forestland is privately owned. Maine has a strong tradition of landowners allowing public recreation on private property, but the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife emphasizes that this access is a privilege and strongly encourages users to ask permission even where unposted-land law may otherwise allow access.

- Ask permission and check in again each year.
- Follow landowner instructions about parking, driving, stands, cameras and allowed activities.
- Respect gates and active forestry operations.
- Do not assume a road shown on a map is public or open to vehicles.
- Leave the property as you found it—or better.

Public Land, Private Land & Working Forests

Northern New Hampshire can look like one enormous forest on a map, but ownership and access are more complicated. The landscape includes federal refuge property, state lands, conservation lands, timber-company land, and other private property.

Do not assume that forestland is public simply because it is undeveloped or because a road appears on a GPS or mapping app.

- Identify the property before entering.
- Determine whether hunting is permitted and whether permission is required.
- Check current posted signs and gate status.
- Never block a gate or working road.
- Give logging trucks and forestry equipment plenty of room.
- Do not assume side roads or skid trails are open to public vehicles.
- Treat a mapping app as a planning tool—not as permission to enter land.

WORKING FOREST MEANS WORKING FOREST
Logging operations can change access quickly. A road or area used on a previous trip may be active, gated or restricted on the next one. Current signs and landowner instructions take precedence over an old map or GPS track.

Licenses, Permits & Hunter Education

A basic New Hampshire hunting license does not necessarily authorize every hunting activity. Depending on species and method, hunters may need additional licenses, permits, stamps or registrations.

- Check requirements for archery, muzzleloader, turkey, bear, moose, and migratory birds as applicable.
- Nonresident hunters should verify current hunter-education or previous-license requirements before traveling.
- If hunting in Maine, obtain the appropriate Maine license and permits separately.
- Carry required licenses and permits in the form currently accepted by the state.

Tagging, Registration & Transporting Game

Hunters are responsible for current tagging, registration, and transportation rules for the species they harvest. Requirements differ by species and can change. Registration may be online or in person depending on the season and current requirements.

L.L. Cote in Errol is a convenient local resource and is currently listed as a deer, turkey, and bear registration station with scales. Always verify the current state registration-station list before relying on any location.

There are currently three moose registration stations in New Hampshire. Opening dates and hours vary by location. Check New Hampshire Fish and Game for information.

Pay particular attention before moving harvested game across a state line. New Hampshire restricts the importation of hunter-killed deer-family carcasses from jurisdictions where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected. The list of affected jurisdictions changes as the disease is detected in new areas.

CHECK CWD RULES BEFORE AN OUT-OF-STATE HUNT
If you will bring deer, moose, elk or another cervid into New Hampshire from another state or Canadian province, check New Hampshire's current CWD import rules before the trip. Do not rely on an old list of CWD-positive jurisdictions.

Sharing the North Country Woods

Fall is a busy time in the Great North Woods. Hunters may share the woods with hikers, birders, anglers, ATV riders, photographers, forestry crews, and other hunters.

Wear fluorescent/blaze orange as required and consider it even when it is not mandatory for your activity. Always identify your target and know what lies beyond it. Be especially cautious around roads, buildings, recreation trails, and other places where people may be present.

Preparing for a North Country Hunt

Conditions can change quickly in Northern New Hampshire, particularly later in Fall. A warm afternoon can follow a frosty morning, and rain can turn to snow as the season progresses.

What to Have With You

- Warm layers and waterproof outerwear.
- Appropriate blaze orange.
- Waterproof boots and spare dry clothing.
- Headlamp and spare batteries.
- Paper map and compass in addition to GPS or phone navigation.
- Offline maps; cell service can be limited or unavailable.
- First-aid supplies, water, and food.

- Vehicle recovery and emergency equipment appropriate for the season.
- A hunt plan shared with someone who knows where you are going and when you expect to return.

Staying at Errol Motel During Hunting Season

Errol Motel is located at the junction of New Hampshire Routes 16 and 26, making it a convenient home base for hunters exploring different parts of the Errol area and Great North Woods.

Stay in one place, head in a different direction as your hunt requires, and return to the motel each evening. Errol also provides convenient access to fuel, food, and outdoor supplies, with L.L. Cote nearby for hunting gear and other needs.

Because Errol Motel is a small property, popular Fall dates, especially October and November weekends, can fill quickly. Call or email the motel directly when your hunting plans are firm.

ERROL MOTEL	RESERVATIONS
132 Main Street Errol, New Hampshire 03579	603-482-3256 errolmotel@gmail.com errol-motel.com

Reservations are made directly by phone or email.

Hunt in a different direction. Come back to Errol.

LOCAL REGISTRATION RESOURCE
L.L. Cote in Errol is currently listed by New Hampshire Fish and Game as a deer, turkey, and bear registration station with scales. Registration requirements and station participation can change, so confirm the current list before your hunt.

Before You Leave Home

Regulations change. Access changes. Gates close. Weather changes. A few minutes spent checking current information before leaving home can prevent a much bigger problem in the woods.

New Hampshire Fish and Game

- Current Hunting & Trapping Digest
- Wildlife Management Unit map
- Current season dates and bag limits
- License and permit requirements
- Tagging and registration requirements
- CWD and game-transport rules

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

- Current refuge hunting regulations
- Refuge map and access information
- Waterfowl blind reservations
- Vehicle, stand, and blind restrictions

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

- Current hunting laws and season dates
- Wildlife Management District map

- Licenses, permits, tagging, and registration
- Private-land access guidance

Resources

Use these official resources to verify the rules that apply to your trip. These links are intentionally more important than any date printed in this guide.

New Hampshire Fish and Game — Hunting

New Hampshire Hunting Regulations / eRegulations

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge — Hunting

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife — Hunting

Maine Hunting Laws & Rules

A Final Note

This guide is intended to help you plan a hunting trip to the Errol area, not tell you where to find game.

Finding the right habitat, scouting responsibly, and choosing where to hunt are part of the experience. Know the land you are entering, know the Wildlife Management Unit you are in, respect landowners and other people using the woods, and verify the current regulations before every hunt.

Then enjoy some time in one of New Hampshire's most remote corners.

Sources & Verification

Core regulatory and access information in this guide was checked against New Hampshire Fish and Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and New Hampshire administrative rules concerning Chronic Wasting Disease. Exact season dates are intentionally omitted in favor of general month ranges, so the guide remains useful from year to year.