

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobility Impaired Hunters and Wounded Warriors Aim for Success during Annual Deer Hunt at SRS

SRNS managed hunt provides an opportunity of a lifetime for physically impaired sportsmen

AIKEN, S.C., Oct. 19, 2015 – Twenty-nine physically disabled hunters recently participated during the 15th annual deer hunt for the mobility impaired and sixth annual Wounded Warriors deer hunt held at the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS).

Mobility impaired hunters and wounded veterans met recently to pursue the opportunity of a lifetime, at no charge, during the multi-hunt event.

Nearly all of the hunters participating in this annual hunt continue to live with a serious physical impairment. “There’s no doubt that this is the highlight of our entire hunting season at SRS,” said Joe Solesby, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employee and program manager for the site’s deer hunts. “A lot of these guys were very active before they were injured and had a passion for the outdoors and this sport. We’re glad to be able to offer this service to them all within a safe, highly controlled environment containing a large deer population.”



SRS employee and guide Dale Cullom (right) describes the deer stand hunt location to U.S. Army veteran Charles West (center) during last year’s SRS Mobility Impaired and Wounded Warrior Deer Hunt as his son, Mark West, looks on.

This year saw an increase with the harvest of 13 deer and two hogs. The deer and hogs are prepared for the hunters to take home or deliver to the charitable organization of their choice. “Everyone had a great time,” said Solesby. “And, as usual, our escorts and other volunteers went above and beyond in their effort to make this a very special and memorable event for the hunters.”

Hunt participants at SRS are escorted by a volunteer who ensures their safety and provides assistance as needed. “Many of our volunteers return year after year,” said Solesby. “We greatly appreciate the time and effort donated by each volunteer. The many ways they show their desire to help these wounded warriors and physically impaired hunters is to be admired. We can’t thank them enough.”

SRS offers over 150,000 acres of pristine, government-owned forest to be hunted each year, benefiting not only the hunter, but drivers travelling the roadways at the DOE site as well. The hunt helps control the site’s deer and hog population in an effort to reduce the potential for animal/vehicle collisions.

SRNS manages the hunt and provides sponsorship in conjunction with DOE, the USDA Forest Service Savannah River and the Wheelin’ Sportsman National Wild Turkey Federation.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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