

Hunting Regulations

The following species may be hunted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations.

- Migratory Birds: ducks, geese, tundra swans, mourning doves, woodcock, rails, and snipe

- Upland Game: quail, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, fox, beaver, and nutria

- Big Game: deer, wild turkey and boar

Permits

You must have a valid Refuge General Hunting Permit to hunt on the refuge. Simply sign the front of this leaflet and keep it with you while hunting. Additional permits are required to hunt deer with firearms on the Pungo Unit, to hunt wild turkey, and to hunt raccoon and opossum at night. Applications and fees are required for Pungo Deer Gun Hunt and Refuge Turkey Hunting permits. See ***Special Hunts*** below for more information.

Area Restrictions (see map)

No hunting is allowed

- around the Headquarters/Visitor Center/Scuppernong River Boardwalk;

- within the Pungo Shop complex;

- on the refuge portion of New Lake;

- on refuge lands between Shore Drive and Lake Phelps;

- on that portion of the Pinner Tract east of SR 1105;

- between Shore Drive and the Allen Road gate, including the area 100 yards on each side of this section of Allen Road;

- on Western Road from Seagoing Road south to the gate;

- on the road forming the southern boundary of the tract west of the Cypress Point Access Area.

The following areas are closed to all public entry during November, December, January and February:

- Pungo Lake and New Lake

- Duck Pen Road and the Pungo Lake Banding Site

- The Riders Creek and Dunbar Road Banding Sites

The Pungo Unit is also closed to all public access, except for hunters with valid permits, during the special two-day Pungo Deer Gun Hunts in late September and October.

Wounded or dead game may be retrieved from closed areas with consent from a refuge employee, but no weapons may be taken into the closed areas.

Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting west of Evans road, except that slugs, buckshot, and muzzleloader ammunition containing lead may be used in this area for deer and boar hunting.

The Pungo Unit is closed to all hunting except for limited deer hunting opportunities. Deer may be hunted with bow and arrow on the Pungo Unit during all State season dates prior to December 1, except during the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts. See **Special Hunts** below for dates and other information on these special hunts.

Season Restrictions

Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

Beaver and nutria may be taken only with firearms and only in areas open to hunting other game animals with firearms.

Hours

The refuge is open during daylight hours only, except that

- hunters may be in hunting areas up to 1 1/2 hours before legal shooting time and 1 1/2 hours after legal shooting time except on the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts;

- on the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts, hunters are allowed in the hunting area one hour before and one hour after legal shooting time; and

- raccoon and opossum hunters may hunt on the refuge at night with a special permit which can be obtained from Refuge Headquarters.

Weapons

Firearms are prohibited on the refuge except for authorized hunting activities.

All weapons must be unloaded and encased or dismantled while being transported by a motorized vehicle (including boats and ATVs) under power.

Where allowed, deer and boar may be hunted with shotguns, muzzleloaders, and bow and arrow only unless further restricted in a particular area. While turkey

hunting west of Evans Road and on the Pungo Unit, only non-toxic shot may be in your possession. Upland game may be hunted with shotguns (only non-toxic shot may be possessed west of Evans Road) and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles only. Disabled hunters possessing the appropriate State permit may also use a crossbow.

Hunting Dogs

Running deer, bear, wild turkey, and other wildlife with dogs is prohibited. However dogs can be used to point and retrieve migratory game birds and upland game and to chase rabbits. The dogs must be under your control at all times and you cannot possess buckshot or slugs while hunting with dogs.

Pocosin Lakes NWR is an important area for the reintroduction and recovery of the endangered red wolf. Several wolf packs roam the refuge and we have an active management program that often includes trapping wolves. The traps used are rubber jawed to minimize the chance of injury to target and non-target animals. If you or your dog encounters one of these traps, please report it to Refuge Headquarters.

Vehicles

All off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.

All weapons must be unloaded and encased or dismantled while being transported by a motorized vehicle (including boats and ATVs) under power.

Blocking gates, roads, trails, or other travel ways is prohibited.

ATVs may be operated on designated ATV trails only to transport hunters and their equipment to scout and hunt. ATVs can be operated on these trails only when the ATV trail and surrounding area is open to hunting, one week prior to the area opening for hunting, and on Sundays during the hunting season. Operating ATVs off designated ATV trails is prohibited.

Many roads on the refuge are unimproved and become impassable during wet periods. Vehicles, including 4x4s, often get stuck. Towing services are extremely limited. You should not attempt to travel through standing water or muddy sinkholes along refuge roads.

Miscellaneous

Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of any type of bait (food, salt, other mineral, or other substance that lures or attracts animals) is prohibited.

You must wear 500 square inches (3250 cm²) of fluorescent orange material above the waist, which is visible from all sides, while hunting upland game and while hunting deer in areas open to hunting with firearms.

Youth hunters (under age 16) must be under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter over the age of 21. A licensed hunter over the age of 21 may supervise one big game youth hunter, or up to two migratory bird or upland game youth hunters at a time.

Only biodegradable flagging tape may be used on the refuge to mark trails, stand locations, etc. Plastic flagging tape, paint, reflectors, dots, glow tacks, and other materials are prohibited.

Only portable tree stands are allowed on the refuge and they must be removed at the end of each day's hunt (except for the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts; see **Special Hunts**). Using nails, wire, screws, and bolts to attach a tree stand, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter (including lag screw type steps) is prohibited.

Only portable blinds and temporary blinds constructed of natural materials can be used for migratory bird hunting. However, cutting live vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. You must remove portable blinds at the end of each day's hunt.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Camping, open fires, and littering are prohibited.

Commercial guiding on the refuge requires a Special Use Permit.

All hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents during compliance checks by refuge and state officers.

Special Hunts

1. Pungo Deer Gun Hunts

The special, two-day Pungo Deer Gun Hunts for this year are September 24-25, October 1-2, 7-8, 15-16, 22-23. A Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit is required to participate in these special hunts. Permits are limited to one per person and only two hundred permits will be issued per hunt.

To apply for a permit, contact the refuge during July for an application form and instructions.

All refuge hunting regulations apply to the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts with the following exceptions. Permitted hunters may enter the Pungo Unit up to one hour prior to legal shooting time and must be out of the area by one hour after legal shooting time. Hunters with a valid Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit may install a portable tree stand the day before the start of their hunt and leave it until the end of the second day of their two-day hunt. Stands left overnight must be tagged with the hunter's name, address, and telephone number. Any deer harvested under a Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit must be taken to the deer check station located at the Pungo Shop for harvest reporting and data collection.

2. *Turkey Hunting*

A limited number of Refuge Turkey Hunting permits will be issued for the spring season. These permits will be valid only for the areas and dates indicated on the permit and are not transferable. All state regulations apply to turkey hunting on the refuge.

To apply for a permit, contact the refuge during February for an application form and instructions.

3. *Nighttime Raccoon and Opossum Hunting*

To hunt raccoon and opossum at night, request a special Raccoon and Opossum Nighttime Hunting Permit at Refuge Headquarters in Columbia, NC. There is no fee for this permit. Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

Fishing Regulations

Fish may be taken on the refuge in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following. Reptiles and amphibians cannot be taken on the refuge.

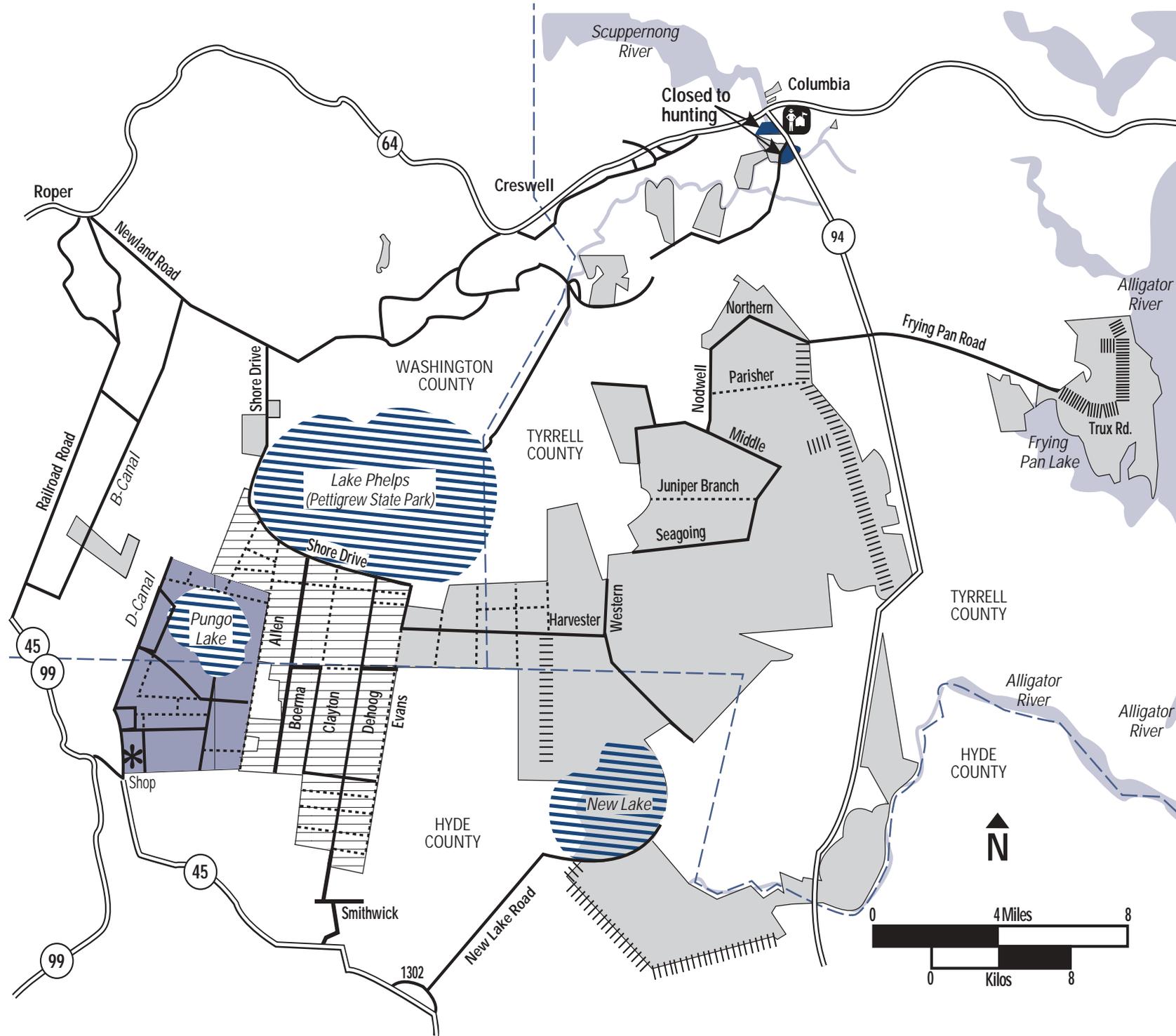
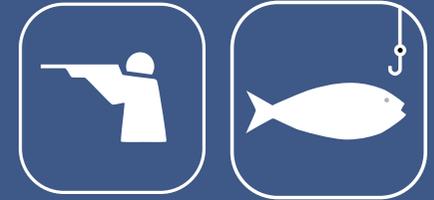
Fishing is allowed on Pungo and New Lakes from March 1 through October 31. These areas are closed to all public entry during November, December, January and February. The Pungo Unit is also closed to fishing during the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts in late September and October (see **Special Hunts**).

Only bank fishing is allowed in the Pungo Unit, boats are not allowed.

Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset only.

Pocosin Lakes

*National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing
Regulations 2004-2005*



Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

- Refuge office
- Hunting allowed
- State seasons and bag limits
- Pungo Unit
- Hunting allowed. State seasons and bag limits, Non-toxic shot Zone-Migratory Game Birds and Upland Game
- Area closed to all hunting
- Roads open to licensed vehicles
- Roads closed to vehicles, except 3-4 wheeled all-terrain cycles, license not required
- County lines
- Roads closed to all vehicles
- Pungo Check Station

Pocosin Lakes
National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 329
205 South Ludington Drive
Columbia, NC 27925
252/796 3004
<http://Pocosinlakes.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

April 2004



General Hunting Permit
The signing of this leaflet validates it as your general refuge hunting permit and it must be in your possession while participating in all authorized hunts.
I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

Hunter's Signature