

# St. Catherine Creek

## National Wildlife Refuge Regulations 2004-2005



To:

St. Catherine Creek  
National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 117  
Sibley, Mississippi 39165  
601/442 6696  
<http://saintcatherinecreek.fws.gov>

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

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### The Refuge

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in January 1990 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl. The refuge is located in southwest Mississippi. The habitat consists of bottom land and upland hardwoods, cleared land, cypress swamps, accreted land, and fallow fields. Due to the refuge's diversity of lands, it has long been noted for large populations of wildlife, including small game and deer. Public hunting and fishing is permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

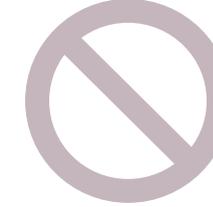
### General Regulations

A \$12.50 Annual Public Use Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen. Permits, required state licenses, and a picture ID must be possessed at all times while on refuge property. Permits are available at refuge headquarters Monday thru Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm, or by mail, payable with cash or money order only.

All persons must obtain and complete a Daily Visitor Use Reporting card upon entering the refuge and display it on the dash so that name and address are visible from the outside. Before leaving the refuge, users must complete the reverse side of the card and deposit it in a drop box at one of the visitor stations.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by refuge officers.

### Prohibited Activities



Possession of firearms, except when participating in scheduled hunts

Littering

Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs

Entering refuge from private property.

Hunters entering refuge from public waterways.

Camping

Overnight parking

Unconfined pets

Open fires

Unauthorized taking of wildlife or plants

Target practice

Baiting or hunting over bait

Man drives

Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road or ATV trail

Marking trails with tape, paper, or paint, etc.

Trapping

Riding horses or mules

Crawfishing or frogging

Spotlighting

Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any active oil well site, production facility or equipment or tampering with any petroleum facility or equipment

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

The possession of slugs and buckshot, or rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is prohibited.

Possession of .22 magnums or pistols.

Use or possession of any drug, or device for employing such drug for hunting.

Possession of commercial fishing or trot line equipment, including limb lines and yo-yos.

*Vehicles*

Jug fishing.  
All motor vehicles are restricted to roads designated on the map. Refuge roads and trails may be closed at times due to flooding or adverse weather conditions. All travel on refuge roads is at your own risk. Parking is restricted to parking areas and immediately adjacent to roadways designated on the map. Do not block any roads, gates or road entrances.

*Boats*

Hunters may not enter the refuge from public waterways. Deer and Small Game hunters may **not** use motorized boats after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 30 feet or greater. **U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD's must be worn by all persons in all boats while underway.**

Boats must be hand launched except at designated boat ramps.

*Hunter Access*

**Hunting Regulations**  
Hunters may enter the refuge 2 hours before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.

**Users may not enter the refuge from private property.**

*ATV's*

ATV's (maximum tire pressure: 5 PSI) are restricted to designated ATV trails as shown on map. ATV trails are only open during scheduled hunts and scouting periods. Hunters must be 16 years of age or older to operate an ATV on the refuge.

ATV's are not permitted off designated trails for game retrieval.

*Incidental Species*

Beaver, nutria, raccoons, bobcats and coyote may be taken during any scheduled refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.

**Hogs may only be taken with bow & arrow and muzzleloaders during designated archery and primitive weapon deer seasons.**

*Blinds / Stands*

Inserting metal objects into trees or hunting from trees into which metal objects have been inserted is prohibited. Climbing spurs are prohibited. Only portable stands or blinds may be used. Blinds and tripods must be dismantled and stands must be removed from the tree after each day's hunt.

*Hunter Orange*

During primitive weapon season, and while hunting small game in open fields or reforestation areas all persons must wear **Hunter Orange Hat and Upper Garment** in plain view at all times. Exception: waterfowl hunter are **not** required to wear hunter orange.

*Bag Limits*

State season bag limits apply unless otherwise stated. Only one deer per day may be harvested.

*Game Check In*

All deer harvested on the refuge must be checked at the nearest mandatory deer check station (see map). Check stations are self clearing. All deer must be immediately field dressed upon harvest.

*Waterfowl*

Waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake, Salt Lake and Gilliard Lake only. In the Butler Lake Unit, waterfowl hunting will be closed after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 30 feet or greater. Waterfowl hunting in Gilliard Lake will be closed when the Natchez River Gauge reaches 34 feet or greater. Access to Butler Lake waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake Road only.

*Youth Hunters*

Youth hunters (ages 10-15) must have passed a State-approved hunter education course and possess proof of such.

Youth hunters must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. For big game hunts, each adult may only supervise one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

*Firearms*

**Firearms, including muzzle loaders, transported on roads, ATV trails, or waterways within the refuge boundary must be unloaded and cased.**

Primitive weapons are those defined by state law.

Only non toxic shotshells may be possessed during waterfowl hunts. Only non toxic shotshells and .22 rimfire rifles (no .22 magnums), and muzzleloading rifles under 38 caliber shooting patched round balls only, may be possessed during small game hunts.

**Fishing Regulations**

**The refuge is open for daylight use only.** Refuge Annual Public Use Permits are required.

State fishing laws apply. State bag limits apply.

Sport fishing only.

ATV's are not allowed.

All prohibited activities apply.

On the Sibley Unit, boats are not allowed north of the Ring Levee (see map). Exception: Boats may be hand launched in the Swamp Lake during low water conditions.

**NOTE: The Blue Hole is closed to ALL PUBLIC ENTRY.**

*Youth Fishermen*

There is a youth fishing area located on the Sibley Unit. This area is identified on the map and by signs. Youth ages 15 and under only may fish and must be supervised by an adult 21 years or older.

*Bow Fishing*

Bow fishing is allowed. Daylight use only. Bow fishermen must abide by Mississippi State law.

Night time bow fishing on the refuge will be allowed only through a Special Use permit issued by the Refuge Manager.

NOTE: There is an active Bald Eagle nest in the Gilliard Lake area. All precautions must be taken **NOT** to disturb the Eagle nest.

The Refuge Manager reserves the right to close seasons and/or portions of the refuge due to inclement weather, road conditions and/or river levels or any other appropriate reason.

**The Refuge Manager may revoke any Annual Public Use Permit for refuge violations.**

**Signs Protect Visitors and Resources.**



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing, or sight-seeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public. (See map.)



This area is closed to **all** hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited. (See map.)



Road only for use by refuge employees.