

Welcome to Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 540 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States and its territories. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the U.S. for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Hunting is one of the many necessary tools used to responsibly manage wildlife populations. Maintaining a balanced population by removing surplus animals ensures the overall health and viability of all wildlife populations that depend on the managed habitats that this Refuge provides.

General Provisions and Access

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern the legal use of NWRs and their hunting programs as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. When permitted, hunting, fishing, and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable state laws unless otherwise listed. Only the hunts listed within this brochure are allowed on the Refuge.

By law, National Wildlife Refuges are closed to all recreational activities unless expressly permitted. Newly acquired Refuge tracts may not be opened to public use until proper legal steps are taken to permit their opening. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities prior to visiting the Refuge. The following regulations apply to all types of hunting on the refuge.

Check In

No check-in is required.

Weapons

Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms on a National Wildlife Refuge is prohibited unless specifically authorized. Discharging a weapon for a purpose other than to take legal game animals during established Refuge hunting seasons is prohibited. Discharging any firearm from a moving boat or vehicle is strictly prohibited. All firearms must be unloaded and dismantled (or cased) while being transported in a vehicle. Crossbows, blow guns, and poison tipped arrows are prohibited. Only muzzle loading rifles using a single projectile are permitted on the muzzle loader hunts.

Ammunition

Non-toxic shot is required when hunting with shotguns. **Buckshot is prohibited on all Refuge hunts and may not be in possession at any time while on the Refuge.** Use of full metal jacketed bullets or 22 caliber rimfire

ammunition during big game hunts is prohibited.

Refuge/Cultural and Historic Resources

All federally owned property including natural, historic, and archeological features are protected by Federal Law. Searching for or the removal of objects of antiquity or other historic value is strictly prohibited.

Closed Areas and Times

Designated areas will be closed seasonally to hunting, fishing, and all other public access to provide resource protection and reduce migratory bird disturbance. Other areas may be closed for special management and safety reasons. **The Refuge is closed every day from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise except when allowances are made for specific Refuge hunts.** Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 5:00 am on hunt days and must leave the Refuge no later than 1 hour after legal sunset except during the State waterfowl season where waterfowl hunting is allowed on the Refuge (see waterfowl regulations). **During the time a Refuge Unit is open to big game (deer, turkey and hog) hunts, the Unit will be closed to the general public.**

Alcohol

Alcohol is prohibited during Refuge hunts. Possession of an open container of alcohol while hunting on the Refuge is prohibited.

Special Hunting Regulations

Permits

A Waccamaw NWR Refuge Hunt Permit, signed and dated by the hunter, along with proper State hunting license and photo identification (such as a state driver's license) are required for all hunts. All permits and licenses must be in hunters' possession at all times upon entering Refuge property.

Hunters using the Refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by USFWS or SCDNR Officers.

Baiting

Baiting and /or hunting in the vicinity of bait is prohibited. Baiting includes, but is not limited to, the distribution of grains, feeds, salts, mineral blocks, meats, and fruits.

Dogs

Dogs may be used for duck, snipe, raccoon, squirrel, and during special hog hunts. Dogs must be leashed and under control of the owner when not in pursuit of authorized game animals. All non- retrieving hunting dogs (i.e. raccoon, squirrel and hog) are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and phone number.

Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the Refuge.

Vehicles are allowed only on established roads marked open. All other roads may be traveled on foot or by bicycle. The speed limit on all Refuge roads is 15 MPH unless otherwise posted. Vehicles may not block access gates and must be parked off of the road. **ATVs and airboats are prohibited.**

Hunter Education

Refuge hunters under the age of 16 must show proof of successfully completing a State approved hunter education program. Hunters under 16 years old must be directly supervised (within sight and normal voice range) by a properly licensed adult of at least 21 years of age.

Youth Hunts

During the Youth Turkey Hunt or Big Game Hunt, an adult may only supervise one youth. Adults are prohibited from possessing or discharging firearms during the Youth Turkey Hunt. During small game hunts, each adult may supervise a maximum of two youths. A youth hunter is defined as a hunter under the age of 16. All youth hunters must be at least 8 years old to qualify for a youth hunt slot.

Tree Stands

Deer and feral hogs must be hunted from an elevated deer stand. **Shooting a hog from a boat is prohibited.** Only one portable stand per hunter is permitted. Placing deer stands on the Refuge more than three days prior to the opening day of a specific hunt is prohibited. All deer stands must be removed from the Refuge no later than three days after each Refuge big game hunt. The use of nails, screws, or bolts to attach a tree stand to a tree or hunting from a tree where a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. **Living trees or plants may not be trimmed, cut down or damaged in any manner.**

Tree Marking

Hunters may use flagging to mark entry sites from roads or trails and again at the stand site. Clothes pins with reflective tape may be used between these sites to mark the route to the stand. Hunters must label all such markers with their full name and remove them at the end of the hunt.

Man-Driving

Deer and hog hunting by "man driving" is prohibited. A man drive is defined as an organized hunting technique including two or more hunters where an attempt is made to drive game animals from cover to shoot, kill, or move animals towards other hunters.

Pre Hunt Scouting

Scouting allowed all year during daylight hours except during the State waterfowl season. During the waterfowl season, scouting allowed Monday through Friday only and all persons must be off the Refuge by 2:00 pm. Persons scouting may not have a firearm in possession.

Hunter Orange

Hunters must wear either a hat, coat or vest of solid visible fluorescent orange during all big game hunts (deer, hog) except for wild turkey.

Prohibited Activities

Permanent blinds are prohibited. Hunters must remove portable blinds and decoys at the end of each day's hunt.

Camping, overnight parking, open fires, and littering.

Hunting on any unit for wildlife other than which is officially opened and posted.

Entering any areas posted as "Closed" or "No Hunting Zones."

Hunting on Sunday. Hunting 100 feet from any roadway or trail marked on hunting brochure map.

Refuge Hunting Seasons

Unit 1 :

Deer / Hog

Archery September 13 - 25

Archery / Muzzleloader October 18 - November 6

Modern Weapon Hunt November 29 - December 11

During modern weapon hunts, muzzleloaders are permitted.

Squirrel November 8 - March 1

No small game hunting during deer/hog hunts.

Waterfowl

Waterfowl hunting is allowed until 12 noon each Saturday during the State waterfowl season only on Refuge tracts in Unit 1 that are **along the Great Pee Dee River.** Tracts in Unit 1 that are along the Waccamaw River are closed to waterfowl hunting. Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 5:00 am on hunt days and must be off of the Refuge by 2:00 pm. If a scheduled Refuge deer hunt falls within the State waterfowl season, waterfowl hunting is not permitted until after the deer hunt concludes.

Raccoon December 11 - February 25
(Wednesday nights only)

Turkey (Youth Only) April 8-9

Applications for drawing for the Youth Turkey Hunt may be obtained by contacting the Refuge office. Nontoxic shot required.

Unit 3:

Deer / Hog

Modern Weapon Hunt October 4-16

November 22-27

Hog Hunt March 1-31

Buckshot and rimfire firearms prohibited. No limit on hogs.

Waccamaw

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Permit and
Regulations 2004-2005

Special Hog Hunts

Determined as needed after annual hog hunt.

Snipe..... February 1 - close of Federal Season

Raccoon..... February 1- March 1 (Wednesday nights only)

Harvest Limits

Deer

The Refuge limit on deer is one antlered buck **per** Refuge hunt. **An additional two antlerless deer per season may be harvested only during coinciding SCDNR Game Zone 7 & 9 antlerless deer days.** Other wildlife may **not** be molested in any manner.

Legal hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. No Sunday hunting.

Primitive weapons (archery/muzzle loaders) may be used during the modern weapon hunt. If a scheduled Refuge deer hunt falls within the state waterfowl season, waterfowl hunting is not permitted until after the deer hunt concludes.

Hogs

No limits. You may take feral hogs during all Refuge deer hunts. There is no size or bag limit on hogs. Special hog hunts may be offered during and after deer season to further control this invasive species. No live feral hogs may be removed from the Refuge.

Use of dogs for hog hunting is prohibited except during special hunts when a maximum of four bay dogs will be allowed per hunting party. Catch dogs are prohibited.

Youth Turkey Hunt

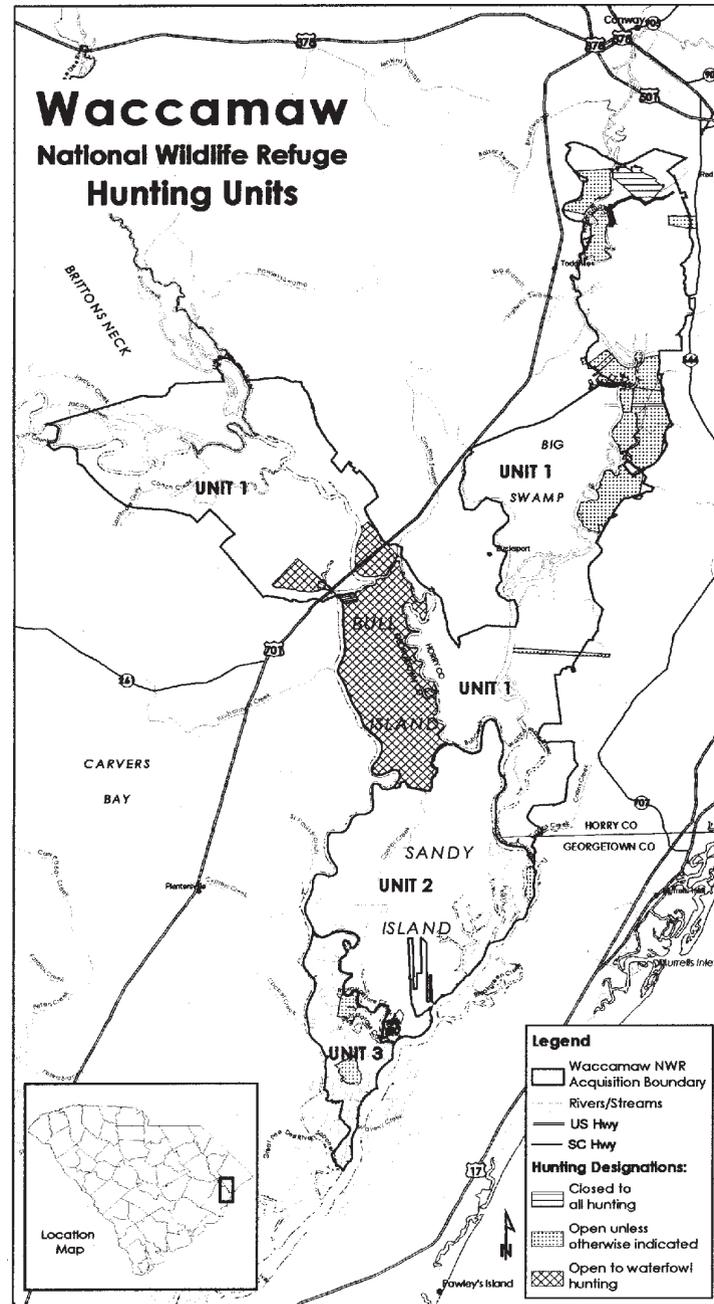
The bag limit for the entire hunt is one bearded turkey. Turkey hunting in Refuge Unit 3 is prohibited. Only one weapon per youth is permitted during turkey hunts. Turkey hunts end each day at 1:00 pm, and all weapons must be unloaded and encased or dismantled after 1:00 pm. Contact the Refuge Headquarters for Youth Turkey Hunt applications. Deadline for applications is March 1. (See information under Special Hunt Regulations regarding *Youth Hunts*.)

Squirrel

Gray squirrel only. Fox squirrels are protected. Bag limit is 10 squirrels per hunter per day. One treeing dog allowed per hunter. **Non-toxic shot is required for shotguns.**

Migratory Birds

Same as State and federal limits. Non-toxic shot is required when hunting waterfowl and snipe. See above for specific dates/days that the Refuge is open to hunting migratory bird species.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for

authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting,

fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public.



This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms

and archery equipment are strictly prohibited (see map).

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge

PO Box 1439

1601 N. Fraser Street

Georgetown, SC 29440

843.527 8069

<http://southeast.fws.gov/waccamaw>

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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<http://southeast.fws.gov>

June 2004



Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Permit

Name: _____

Address: _____

I have read and understand the regulations governing hunting on Waccamaw NWR.

Signature _____

Date: _____

This permit is valid only when signed by the hunter listed above. This permit is valid for the duration of the Refuge hunt season.