

The Refuge

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2000 primarily to conserve, restore, and manage native forested wetland habitats for migratory birds, aquatic resources, and endangered and threatened plants and animals. The 11,300 acre refuge is located along the Mississippi River about 30 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The habitat consists of bottomland hardwood forests and cypress/tupelo swamps, which are inundated by the Mississippi River each year. The refuge is known for its numerous old growth cypress trees, many of which are over 1,000 years old.

Access to the refuge may be limited during late winter/spring due to flooding by the Mississippi River. To assist visitors, the refuge boundary is marked with white refuge boundary signs and yellow boundary paint. Markings are located at both eye level and up to 15 feet high. It is the responsibility of the visitor to recognize these markings and to avoid trespassing onto private property adjacent to the refuge.

General Regulations

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Cat Island, please take the time to become familiar with the refuge regulations.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing 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 regulations.

The refuge is open to public access during daylight hours only except during hunting season, when you may enter at 4:00 am and must leave by 2 hours after sunset.

Weapons and Ammunition

All weapons, including archery tackle, are prohibited unless specifically permitted during refuge hunts.

When traversing the Refuge by boat or land conveyance (vehicles), including ATVs, all firearms (including primitive firearms) and archery equipment must be unloaded and cased. An unloaded firearm is defined as having no ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder, or clip when attached to the firearm. An unloaded primitive firearm is defined as having the percussion cap completely removed. Unloaded archery equipment is defined as having the arrow removed from the string. Crossbows must also be un-cocked.

Only .22 caliber or less (including .17 and .22 magnum) rimfire rifles and shotguns are permitted except during the primitive firearm and gun deer hunts. Handguns are not permitted.

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Only non-toxic shot is permitted. Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited on the refuge.

Exceptions

During quota gun and primitive firearm deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used.

Permits

An Annual Public Use Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen 17-years of age and older. Permits are available for purchase everyday between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the West Feliciana Historical Society Museum and Tourist Information Center, located at 11757 Ferdinand Street, St. Francisville, LA. Permits may also be ordered by mail at the following address. St. Catherine Creek NWR, PO Box 217, Sibley MS 39165, Attn: Cat Island Annual Public Use Permit.

Request for permits by mail must include name, address, and telephone number and \$15.00 (money order or cashier’s check made payable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service only: NO cash or personal checks accepted). Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing, except for quota muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting or fishing, and acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations. Successful lottery hunt applicants will need a refuge permit and notification of being drawn to participate in the hunt. Call 601/442-6696 for more information.

To Apply for Quota Hunt Permits

Print or type your name, address and phone number on a 3x5 index card or standard postcard. A non-refundable \$5.00 application fee per person must be submitted with each entry (certified checks or money orders made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service only). For example, if four people are in a group the fee is \$20.00.

On the 3x5 card, indicate the hunt (primitive firearm or gun) for which you are applying. A separate card must be filled out for each hunt. Only one entry per person or group. To apply as a group (maximum of five hunters per group), list required information for all applicants on the same card. You may apply for both hunts. Include your permit number on the application if you have already purchased one.

Mail completed cards to the St. Catherine Creek NWR, PO Box 217, Sibley MS 39165, Attn: Cat Island Quota Hunts. Applications must be received by close of business on August 31, 2009 for both primitive weapon and gun deer hunts. Duplicate, unclear or incomplete cards will not be considered. No faxed entries will be accepted.

Applicants will be selected by random drawing and will be notified by mail by September 15, 2009 for both deer quota hunts. Confirmation will be mailed to successful applicants. Refuge permits can be purchased as described above.

Permits are non-transferrable and must be in the hunter’s possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt. Only hunters chosen for the quota hunt are allowed on the refuge during quota hunts. All hunters must possess a picture I.D. at all times.

Motorized Vehicles

All licensed vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Parking is only allowed in designated parking areas (See map).

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV’s) is restricted to designated trails. ATVs are allowed only for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife related activities. ATVs will not exceed 25 mph when driven on the Refuge. ATVs used on Refuges will not exceed the following: weight-750 lbs., length-85”, and width-48”. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 X 12 with a maximum 1” lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7psi as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer.

ATV trails are open from September 07, 2009 through the last day of rabbit season (February 28, 2010). Exception: Portions of Wood Duck ATV Trail are open throughout the year for wildlife-dependent activities as indicated on refuge map.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are those listed in this brochure.

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 the nearest visitor station prior to leaving the refuge. All game (including hogs) and fish must be reported on the Daily Visitor Use Card.

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown in brochure. Possession of firearms or archery tackle is prohibited in areas posted as “No Hunting Zones.”

Longbow, compound bow, and crossbow or any bow drawn, held, or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take during the deer archery season.

Legal primitive firearms for primitive firearms season include: 1) Rifles, .44 caliber minimum, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, use of black powder or approved substitute only, take ball or bullet projectile only, including saboted bullets, including muzzleloaders known as “in line” muzzleloaders. 2) Single shot, breech loading rifles, .38 caliber or larger of a kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of that type of rifle having an exposed hammer that use metallic cartridges loaded with black powder or modern smokeless powder. All of the above may be fitted with magnified scopes.

Hunters under 17 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 years old or older. Each adult must have a refuge permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts. No one under the age of 10 may hunt.

Harvest records are vital to the management of refuge wildlife resources. You must report your game harvest on the Daily Use Reporting Card.

All deer taken during quota hunts must be checked at the refuge check station on same day killed. Hunters must leave the hunt area once they have killed a deer.

Fishing, waterfowl hunting, small game and archery deer hunting are prohibited during refuge quota primitive weapon and gun deer hunts.

Hunters must wear and display 400 square inches of “hunters orange” and a “hunters orange” cap during refuge quota deer hunts.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be erected one day before the deer archery season and must be removed from the Refuge within one day after this season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on a Refuge. Deer stands must have owners name, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when not in use. Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of “hunters orange” above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

Only temporary waterfowl hunting blinds are allowed. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily.

Beaver, nutria, raccoon, coyote, and feral hogs may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. Hunting is permitted during daylight hours only. Hunting any wildlife other than migratory birds, squirrel and rabbit with dogs is prohibited.

Dogs are only allowed to locate, point, and retrieve when hunting for migratory game birds.

Hunting with dogs for migratory birds is permitted during migratory bird seasons. Hunting with dogs for rabbit and squirrel is permitted during rabbit and squirrel seasons beginning January 16, 2010.

Up to two dogs per hunting party are permitted for squirrel hunting. All dogs must be collared with owner’s name and phone number. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer is prohibited.

Commercial Activities

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity (fishing, hunting, etc.) to first obtain a refuge special use permit. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lakes, bayous or waters are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted on the refuge throughout the year from legal sunrise to legal sunset only, except that fishing is closed during lottery muzzleloader and rifle deer hunts.

Anglers may harvest any fish species on the refuge that is permitted by State regulations. State fish bag and size limits apply.

Appropriate State licenses and State recreational gear licenses are required.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch bait fish is prohibited.

Recreational crawfishing is permitted on the refuge with either traps or nets from March 15 - July 31, 2010. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per permit per day. All traps and nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight. Parking is only permitted in designated parking areas. No parking is permitted along the refuge road.

The minimum mesh size for crawfish traps must be a hexagon of three-quarters by eleven-sixteenths of one inch (measured from wire to wire, not including coating). A State recreational gear license is required in addition to other State licensing requirements to harvest crawfish with traps on the refuge. Traps (including all traps in possession of the angler) must be marked with a waterproof tag with the name and State recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag. Only 20 traps per angler are permitted on the refuge at the same time.

Crawfish nets are permitted on the refuge and require no additional licenses other than a basic State fishing license.

No slat traps, hoop nets, trotlines or yo-yos are permitted on the refuge.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

No harvest of frogs or turtles is permitted on the refuge.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge:

- Taking wildlife or plants or parts thereof (including cutting trees or brush)
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Littering
- Use of trail cameras
- Use of deer decoys
- Camping /overnight parking
- Discharge of a firearm, except when hunting

- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the Refuge.

- Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road, ATV or hiking trail, or designated public facility, such as kiosks

- The use of dogs to trail wounded deer or hogs

- Use of possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes or reflective tape.

- Trapping

- Horses or mules

- Possession of saws, saw blades, hatchets, and/or machetes

- Fires

- Spot-lighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife

- Man-drives for deer or feral hogs

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

- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATVs

- Inserting a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree, or hunting from any tree in which such an object has been placed

- Possession of any type shotshell other than approved non-toxic shot

- Use or possession of climbing spurs or spikes

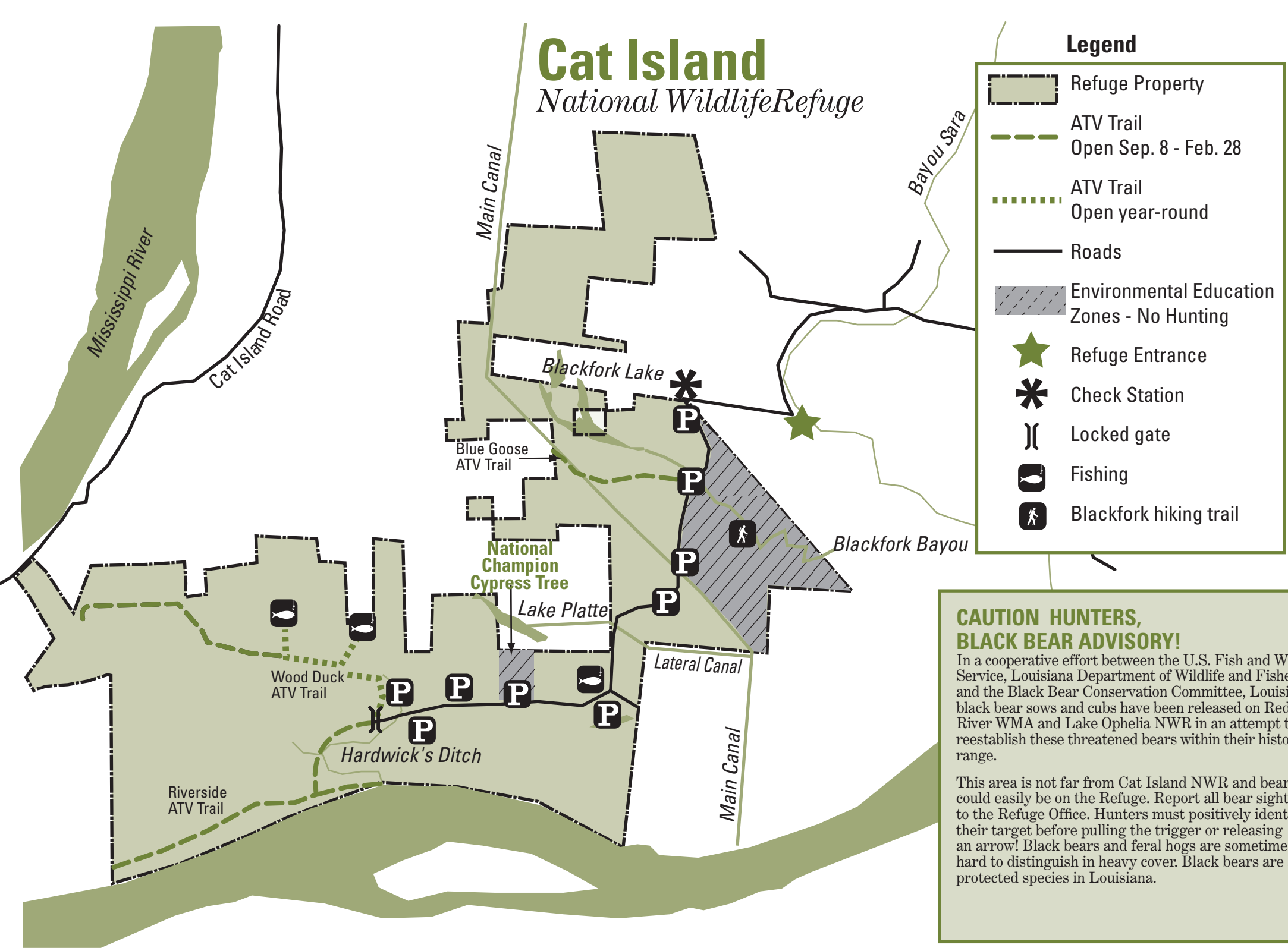
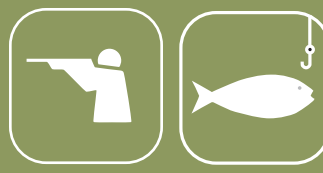
- Parking along roads or in areas that are not designated as parking areas

- Accessing the refuge by boat from the Mississippi River

- Unconfined Pets

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2009-2010



CAUTION HUNTERS, BLACK BEAR ADVISORY!
 In a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Black Bear Conservation Committee, Louisiana black bear sows and cubs have been released on Red River WMA and Lake Ophelia NWR in an attempt to reestablish these threatened bears within their historical range.

This area is not far from Cat Island NWR and bears could easily be on the Refuge. Report all bear sightings to the Refuge Office. Hunters must positively identify their target before pulling the trigger or releasing an arrow! Black bears and feral hogs are sometimes hard to distinguish in heavy cover. Black bears are a protected species in Louisiana.

2009-2010 Hunting Seasons Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Squirrel	State Season No Spring Season	Closed during primitive weapon and gun deer hunts. Dogs permitted January 16, 2010 to end of State squirrel season. 22 caliber or less nontoxic shot only.
Rabbit	State Season	Closed during primitive weapon and gun deer hunts. Dogs permitted January 16, 2010 to end of State rabbit season. 22 caliber or less nontoxic shot only.
Deer-Archery	State Season	One, either-sex deer per day. Closed during primitive weapon and gun deer quota hunts. State season bag limit applies. All deer taken must be checked at the deer check station.
Deer-Muzzleloader	November 7-8, 2009	Special Quota Permit Required One, either-sex deer per hunt, hunter orange hat and vest required.
Deer-Gun	December 12-13, 2009	Special Quota Permit Required One, either-sex deer per hunt, hunter orange hat and vest required.
Waterfowl	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday until noon during State waterfowl season	Closed during primitive weapon and gun deer quota hunts. Boats, blinds, and decoys must be removed by 1 pm daily. Non-toxic shot only. Possession of lead shot prohibited.
Woodcock	State Season	Closed during primitive weapon and gun deer quota hunts. Non-toxic shot required.

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge
 P.O. Box 217
 Sibley, MS 39165
 601/442 6696

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 1 800/344 WILD
<http://southeast.fws.gov>
<http://www.fws.gov/catisland>

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