

General Provisions

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with habitat.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable state regulations. For all hunts except small game, weapon restrictions are in accordance with State regulations.

Specific Hunting Regulations

All game must be checked out at designated check stations.

Public hunting is permitted on approximately 32,000 acres as shown on this map.

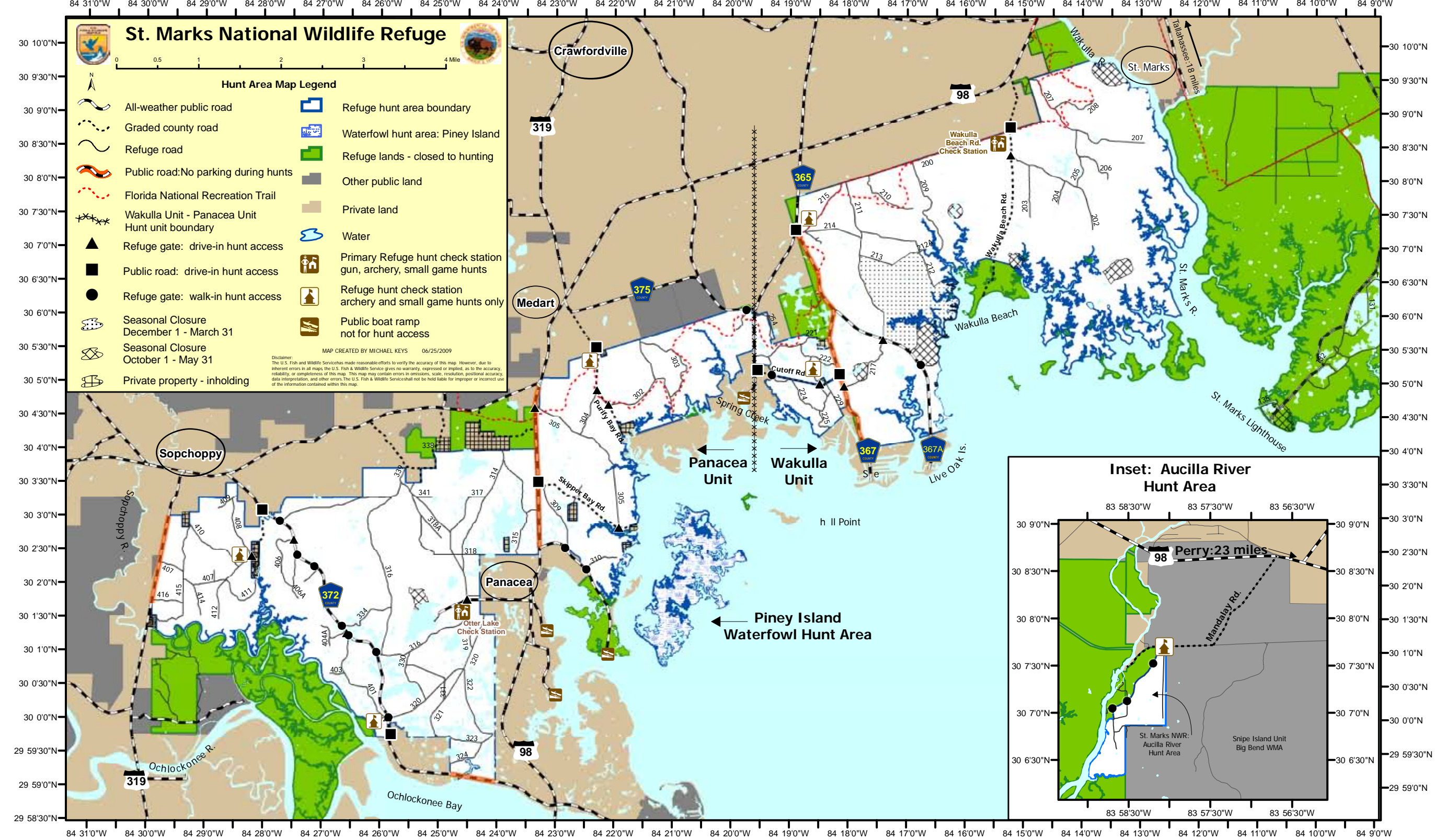
All hunters must possess identification, a Florida hunting license, and a valid refuge hunt permit for the hunt in which they are participating. State Management Area stamps are not required. A state archery stamp will be required for all archery hunts. A turkey stamp is required to hunt turkey. State and Federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt waterfowl.

Foot/vehicle access into the refuge hunt area will be through designated access points (see map). No parking along portions of public roads (see map). Vehicular access shown on map may vary according to weather and ground conditions. Vehicles are restricted to established roads. Boat access not permitted except to Piney Island for waterfowl hunting.

Pre-hunt scouting (with permit) on foot is allowed anytime during daylight hours. The hunt area will be open to vehicles, weather permitting, two days before each quota hunt. During pre-hunt scouting, weapons are not permitted on your person or in your vehicle.

Portions of the hunt area may be temporarily closed due to wildlife management practices such as prescribed burns.

All hunters participating in the small game/hog hunt and December quota gun hunts must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline. All other hunters are encouraged to wear orange for their safety.



St. Marks

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2009-2010

Stand hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 1/2 hours after sunrise are observed during big game hunts as a hunter courtesy.

During all hunts for hogs, there are no restrictions on the size or number taken.

Youth hunters (younger than 16 years) must possess a valid refuge permit and be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older and must remain within sight and normal voice contact of the adult. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

A non-hunting adult over 21 years of age may accompany a permitted youth hunter in a non-hunting capacity. Permitted adult hunters may have an unpermitted youth hunter (younger than 16) accompany them, but the bag limit must be shared.

All firearms must be unloaded and muzzleloaders uncapped during vehicular transport.

Prohibited Activities

Target practice is prohibited.

Woodgathering, camping, littering, and fires are prohibited. Dogs are prohibited except for Piney Island waterfowl hunt. The refuge is open to daylight use only.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages in refuge hunting areas is prohibited.

The placing of or hunting over bait is prohibited.

No guns permitted on refuge during the archery hunt.

It is unlawful to insert a nail, spike or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike or other metal object has been inserted.

Hunting from any paved or unpaved refuge road is prohibited.

Use of flagging tape and reflective tacks prohibited. Painting or defacing plants or trees prohibited.

ATV's are prohibited on refuge hunts.

Hunting within 1000 feet of any residence or public area prohibited.

Cleaning of game within 1000 feet of any developed public recreation area is prohibited.

Quota Hunts Permits

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be handling all quota hunt permits for St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge this year.

Applications may be submitted at any license agent or tax collector or on-line at www.wildlifelicense.com/fl beginning 10 am Eastern Time on June 15, 2009 - 11:50 pm Eastern Time on July 30, 2009.

Panacea Fall Archery - 200 permits / October 27-31, 2009 Tuesday - Saturday

Species: deer and hogs, either sex. Area: Panacea Unit only.

Wakulla Fall Archery - 200 permits

November 3-7, 2009, Tuesday - Saturday

Species: deer and hogs, either sex. Area: Wakulla Unit only.

Archery Bag Limit: 2 deer per hunt; unlimited hogs.

Wakulla Unit General Gun Hunt - 175 permits

December 12-14, 2009, Saturday - Monday

Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits below); hogs - either sex.

Area: Wakulla Unit only. Check-in/check-out required at the Wakulla Beach check station.

Panacea Unit General Gun Hunt - 80 permits

December 18 - 20, 2009, Friday - Sunday

Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits below); hogs - either sex. Area: Panacea Unit only. Check-in/check-out required at the Otter Lake check station.

Mobility-impaired Person Gun Hunt - 15 permits

December 12-14, 2009, Saturday - Monday

Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits below); hogs, either sex.

Area: section of Panacea Unit west of Hwy. 372 (Buckhorn Creek area).

General Gun Bag Limit: Two deer per hunt, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered deer must have one or more antler with at least three points one inch or greater in length. Antlerless deer are defined as no visible antler above the hairline. No more than one antlerless deer may be taken per day. Unlimited hogs.

Spring Gobbler - 100 permits

April 13-17, 2010, Tuesday - Saturday

Species: bearded turkeys only. Area: Panacea and Wakulla Units only. Weapons must be unloaded and dismantled or encased after 1 pm while in refuge hunt area.

Non-quota Hunt Permits

Small Game and Hogs

December 26, 2009 - January 3, 2010

Species: gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and hogs.

Area: both Panacea and Wakulla Units and new Aucilla River Area.

Weapons: restricted to .22 calibre rimfire firearms or smaller; shotguns with non-toxic shot, #4 bird shot or smaller; or muzzleloaders. Hunters may **also** use shotgun slugs, buckshot or archery equipment to take feral hogs. The use or possession of other weapons is prohibited.

Permits: available from the refuge office after September 1, 2009.

Piney Island Waterfowl Hunt / State Season

Species: ducks and coots. Area: Piney Island only.

Weapons: non-toxic shot only. Hunting from blinds left in area for more than one day prohibited. Remove blinds daily. Use of island plants for blinds prohibited.

Permits: No specific refuge permit required.

St. Marks
National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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