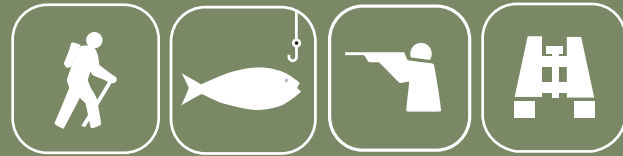


# St. Catherine Creek

## National Wildlife Refuge Regulations

### 2009-2010



To:



St. Catherine Creek  
National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 217  
Sibley, Mississippi 39165  
601/442 6696  
<http://www.fws.gov/saintcatherinecreek>

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

June 2009

#### 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 bottomland and upland hardwoods, cypress swamps, and shallow-water impoundments, cleared land, fallow fields and accreted land. Flooding from the Mississippi River is an annual event that frequently extends from winter well into summer and can occur any month of the year. Due to the refuge's diversity of lands, it has long been noted for large populations of wildlife, including small game, deer and migratory birds.

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 \$15.00 Annual Public Use Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen. Permits, required State licenses (including primitive weapons license when deer hunting), and a picture ID must be possessed at all times while on refuge property. Permits are available at refuge headquarters Monday-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. All game (including hogs) and fish taken must be reported on the Daily Visitor Use Card.

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
- Operating a vehicle on a flooded road
- Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs

- Entering refuge from private property
- Hunters entering from public waterways
- Camping or overnight parking
- Unconfined pets
- Open fires
- Unauthorized taking of wildlife or plants
- Target practice
- Baiting, possession of bait, or hunting over bait
- Man drives
- Hunting within 100 yards of any refuge building
- Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road or ATV trail
- Marking trails with tape, paper, paint, etc.
- Field dressing game or hogs within 150 feet of any road, ATV trail, or parking lot
- 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
- Possession of slugs, buckshot, or rifle ammunition larger than .22 rimfire
- Possession of handguns
- 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

- Jug fishing

- Geocaching

- Taking of alligator gar

#### Vehicles

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. No parking is allowed in the refuge headquarters parking lot, shop area parking lot, or between” No Parking” signs adjacent to refuge houses while hunting.

#### Boats

Hunters may not enter the refuge from public waterways. Deer and small game hunters may **not** use **ANY** boats after the Natchez River Stage reaches 30 feet or greater. U. S. Coast Guard regulations apply.

Boats must be hand launched except at designated boat ramps.

On the Sibley Unit, motorized boats are only allowed in Gilliard Lake, south of the Ring Levee (see map). Non-motorized boats are allowed north of the Ring Levee on the Sibley Unit (see map).

#### Hunting Regulations

##### Hunter Access

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4:00 am and must exit the refuge no later than 2 hours after legal 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, **feral hogs**, nutria, raccoons and coyote may be taken during any scheduled refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.

#### 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. **Stands must have owner’s name, address, permit # and phone # clearly printed (or attached) on the stand.** Blinds and tripods must be dismantled and stands must be removed from the tree after each day’s hunt. Stands may be placed on the refuge one week prior to opening day of archery season. All stands must be removed from the refuge prior to any flood event or by February 5. NO EXCEPTIONS. All stands left after February 5 will be confiscated and disposed of.

#### Hunter Orange

During primitive weapon season, the State Youth Gun Hunt and while hunting small game in open fields or reforestation areas all persons, including those hunters in blinds, must wear Hunter Orange **HAT and UPPER GARMENT** in plain view at all times. EXCEPTION: Waterfowl hunters are not required to wear hunter orange.

Ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides.

#### Bag Limits

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

#### Game Check In

All deer must be checked at the nearest refuge deer check station (see map). NO EXCEPTIONS. Check stations are self-clearing. **In addition to checking deer at the nearest self-clearing check station, all game, including small game, predators, and hogs must be reported on the daily use reporting card.**

#### 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 Mississippi River Stage reaches 30 feet or greater at the Natchez station. Waterfowl hunting in Gilliard Lake will be closed when the Mississippi River Stage reaches 37 feet or greater at the Natchez station. Gilliard Lake Road is closed when the Mississippi River Stage reaches 34 feet or greater at the Natchez station. Access to Butler Lake waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake Road and Lakeview Drive **only.** For Mississippi River stages go to [www.mvk.usace.army.mil/riverstage/bullet.txt](http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/riverstage/bullet.txt)

#### Youth Hunters

Youth hunters (ages 10-15) must possess proof of passing a State-approved hunter education course while hunting.

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

#### Firearms

Only muzzleloading rifles and compound, recurve or longbows may be used during refuge primitive weapon seasons. Single shot, breech loading, cartridge rifles (such as .45-70’s) of a kind and type manufactured in the United States prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of those type rifles are not allowed during refuge primitive weapon seasons.

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

Only non-toxic shotshells may be possessed during waterfowl hunts. Only shotguns using non-toxic shotshells, .17, .22 magnum and .22 rimfire rifles, and muzzleloading rifles 38 caliber and under shooting patched round balls only, may be possessed during small game hunts.

#### Fishing Regulations

**Fishermen may enter the refuge ½ hour before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than ½ hour after sunset.** 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.

The taking of alligator gar is prohibited due to ongoing research projects.

NOTE: The Blue Hole (on the Cloverdale Unit) is closed to ALL PUBLIC ENTRY.

#### 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 and in the Cottonmouth Unit. All precautions must be taken **NOT** to disturb nesting eagles or their 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.**

**For information on Mississippi River stages go to:**

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/riverstage/bullet.txt>

**For more information, write or call:**

St. Catherine Creek NWR  
P O Box 217, Sibley MS 39165  
(601) 442-6696.

<http://www.fws.gov/saintcatherinecreek>

#### 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.