



cut along dashed line

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge is one of 550 National Wildlife Refuges in the U.S. 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. Concealed weapons are prohibited on the refuge. 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 boat or vehicle is strictly prohibited. All firearms must be unloaded and dismantled (or cased) while being transported in vehicles, including boats. A loaded firearm is defined as having ammunition in the chamber or magazine. Muzzle loaders will be considered unloaded if the percussion cap is not seated in the chamber. 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 with the only exception being slugs. 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 everyday 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.) **Areas on the Refuge that are open to hunting will be closed to the general public during big game (deer, turkey and hog) hunts.**

Alcohol

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

Other regulations

Use of ATVs and airboats to access Refuge lands 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 your possession at all times upon entering Refuge property.

Hunters utilizing 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, fruits, and food stuff.

Dogs

Dogs may be used for duck, snipe, raccoon and squirrel. Dogs must be leashed and under control of the owner when not in pursuit of authorized game animals. All dogs are

required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and phone number. Tracking dogs may not be used during deer and feral hog hunts.

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. On Refuge roads the speed limit is 15 MPH unless otherwise posted. Parking so as to block travel through Refuge access gates or roadways is prohibited. **ATVs 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 of age 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 any Refuge Big Game Youth Hunt (Turkey, Deer, Hog), an adult may only supervise one youth. Unless special regulations allow it, adults are prohibited from possessing or discharging firearms during the youth 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 and the stand must be clearly marked with the hunters full name and phone number. 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 3 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 or cut down or damaged in any manner.** The possession of an ax, saw, machete, or other tools used for cutting vegetation is not permitted on the Refuge while scouting or hunting.

Tree Marking

You may use flagging to mark entry sites from roads, creeks and trails and again at the stand site. You may use clothes pins with reflective tape between these sites to mark the route to the stand. All marking and flagging must be marked with the hunter's full name and must be removed at the end of the hunt. Any flagging or pins found without a name will be removed immediately.

 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 Hunting Permit and Regulations 2009-2010

Man-Driving

Dog drives, man driving, or stalk hunting for deer or feral hogs 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.

Prehunt Scouting

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

Hunter Orange

Hunter's must display at least 500 square inches of solid fluorescent orange visible from 360 degrees at all times during big game hunts (Deer, Hog), except for wild turkey. A hat and vest will meet this requirement.

Prohibited Activities

Hunting from permanent blinds is prohibited. Hunting from permanent deer stands during big game hunts is also prohibited. Portable blinds and decoys must be removed at the end of each day's waterfowl hunt.

Camping, overnight parking, open fires, and littering.

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

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

Hunting on Sunday.

Hunting from within 100 feet of any trail or roadway, whether open or closed to vehicular traffic or from within 300 yards of any residence is prohibited.

A Refuge hunt permit must be signed and in possession during all Refuge hunts.

Refuge Hunting Seasons:

Unit 1 Hunting Sessions:

Deer/Hog

Archery - September 8-19, October 5-10

Archery/Muzzleloader - October 19 - November 7

Modern Weapon Hunt - November 30 - December 12

During modern weapon hunts, muzzleloaders and bows

Squirrel - November 9 - March 1

**** No small game hunting during deer/hog hunts**

Waterfowl

Waterfowl hunting is allowed until 12 pm. (Noon) each Wednesday and 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.

Raccoon

December 14 - February 25 (Wed. and Sat. nights only)

Unit 3 Refuge Sessions:

Deer/Hog

Modern Weapon Hunt - September 28- October 3

November 16-28

Hog Hunt - March 1-31 - ** Buckshot and rimfire firearms prohibited. No limit on hogs.

Snipe

February 1 - Close of Federal Season (Wed. and Sat.). Nontoxic shot required.

Raccoon

February 1- March 1 (Wed. and Sat. only)

Harvest Limits

Deer:

The Refuge limit on deer is one antlered buck for each hunt session. **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 ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. No Sunday hunting. Primitive weapons (archery/muzzleloaders) 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. All feral hogs must be dispatched before removing them from the Refuge. Use of dogs for hog hunting is prohibited.

Squirrel: Gray squirrels only. Fox squirrels are protected. Bag limit is 10 squirrels per hunter per day. One treeing dog allowed per hunter. Hunting from a boat is prohibited. **Non-toxic shot is required for shotguns.**

Migratory Birds: Same as state and federal limits. Nontoxic shot is required when hunting waterfowl and snipe. See above for specific dates/days that the Refuge is open to hunting migratory bird species.

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

<http://southeast.fws.gov>

August 2009



Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Permit

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Signature _____

Date: _____

This entire permit, even downloaded copies, must be carried on your person at all times. Unless you are issued an additional permit for a quote hunt this permit will serve as your refuge hunt permit. This permit is valid for the duration of this year's refuge hunt season.