

## The Refuge

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) 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 10,473 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 flooded 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 NWR, please take the time to become familiar with the refuge regulations.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. State rules regulating hunting and fishing will be applicable to all game species on the refuge unless otherwise listed in this brochure.

## Permits

A \$15.00 Annual Public Use Permit is required for all hunters and fisherman. Permits must be signed and in your possession while hunting or fishing, and this acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations. In addition to your refuge permit, you must carry all applicable state licenses (including primitive weapons license when deer hunting) and a picture ID at all times while on refuge property. Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing, except for quota muzzleloader and gun deer hunts when an additional lottery notification is required. Call 601/442 6696 for more information.

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. If you are requesting a permit by mail, send a \$15.00 money order payable to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with your full name, address, and telephone number to St. Catherine Creek NWR, Attn: Cat Island Annual Public Use Permit, PO Box 217, Sibley MS 39165. Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. **The Refuge Manager may revoke any Annual Public Use Permit for refuge violations.**

Permits are free and required for adults age 65 and older and children ages 10-16 that are hunting with an adult. Children age 15 and younger that are fishing do not need a permit to fish on the refuge.

## General Access

All visitors 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 kiosk stations. All game (including feral hogs) and fish taken must be reported on the Daily Visitor Use Reporting Card.

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. Fishermen may enter the refuge ½ hour before sunrise and must exit no later than ½ hour after sunset. The Refuge Manager may close the refuge at their discretion due to inclement weather, road conditions, or excessive flooding.

Access to private property through the refuge is only permitted through a Special Use Permit (SUP). Special Use Permits are issued only from the refuge headquarters. Allow 30 days to process and return SUPs. SUP application and instructions are also available at: [www.fws.gov/catisland](http://www.fws.gov/catisland).

## 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. Driving on flooded roads is prohibited. 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. Bicycles are allowed year round. Horses and mules are not allowed.

## All Terrain Vehicles

The use of all terrain vehicles (ATV or UTV) are only allowed for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife related activities on designated ATV trails from September 17 through February 28, except that portions of Wood Duck Trail are open throughout the year as indicated on the refuge map. Visitors must be 16 years of age or older to operate an ATV/UTV on the refuge. ATV's and UTV's must not exceed 25 mph when driven on the refuge. All ATV's and UTV's used on the refuge must meet state requirements for use on state wildlife management areas. **Use of an ATV to travel off a designated trail is strictly prohibited.**

## Boats

Hunters may not enter the refuge from public waterways. Motorized boats are allowed on the refuge when the refuge is not closed due to flooding. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight. All U.S. Coast Guard and state boating regulations apply including, but not limited to, running lights, registration, and personal floatation devices.

All boats must be hand launched on the refuge. Boat launching by trailer from all refuge roads and parking lots is prohibited.

Fishing, as well as waterfowl, archery, and small game hunting are closed during the refuge quota deer hunts.

## Prohibited Activities

- Commercial fishing and crawfishing
- Littering
- Operating a vehicle or ATV/UTV on a flooded road or trail
- Operating an ATV/UTV off of a designated trail
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
- Entering refuge from private property
- Boat launching by trailer from all refuge roads and parking lots
- Use of trail cameras
- Use of deer decoys
- Unconfined pets
- Camping /overnight parking
- Campfires
- Taking wildlife or plants or parts thereof (including cutting trees or brush)
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts

- Target practice
- 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.
- Man-drives for game, including feral hogs
- Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road, ATV or hiking trail, or designated public facility, such as kiosks
- Use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes or reflective tape.
- Field dressing game or hogs within 150 feet of any road, ATV trail, or parking lot
- Possession of saws, saw blades, hatchets, and/or machetes
- Trapping
- Riding horses or mules
- Spotlighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife
- Possession of any type of shot other than approved non-toxic shot
- Use or possession of any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting
- Geocaching
- The use of dogs to trail wounded deer or hogs
- Inserting a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree, or hunting from any tree in which such an object has been placed
- Use or possession of climbing spurs or spikes
- Blocking roads, gates or trails with vehicles or ATVs/UTVs

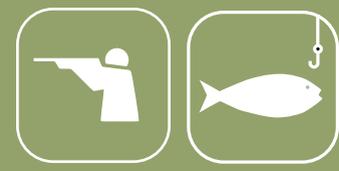
## Hunting Regulations

### *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. Hunting is only allowed in designated areas during dates listed on this brochure. Fishing and waterfowl, archery, and small game hunting are closed during the refuge quota deer hunts.

# Cat Island

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2011-2012



### Bag limits

The refuge observes state harvest regulations unless otherwise specified in the season restrictions portion of this brochure. State tagging applies to game harvested on the refuge. Please thoroughly read this brochure to determine appropriate refuge hunting season dates and allowable refuge harvest bag regulations.

### Shooting Hours

Shooting hours during all hunting seasons are one-half hour before legal sunrise to one-half hour after legal sunset (excluding waterfowl hunting when hunting must cease at noon).

### Check Stations

All deer harvested on the refuge must be checked daily at the deer check station identified on the map of this brochure and harvest information must be recorded on daily use reporting cards and deposited in the drop box at the visitor kiosk station. All deer harvest information must also be recorded on jawbone tags located at the check stations, attached to the jawbone and placed in the designated basket. Hunters must leave the hunt area once they have killed a deer. Harvest information gathered at these stations is critical for management of wildlife resources on the refuge.

### Hunter Orange Requirements

All hunters are required to wear a hunters orange cap and 400 square inches of hunter orange garments during the deer quota hunts. Hunter orange garments must be unbroken and worn on the outermost layer of clothing at all times while hunting on the refuge.

Hunters who use backpacks or carry deer stands on their backs should display additional hunter orange over their equipment for personal safety. Hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange above or around their blind that is visible from all sides and wear hunters orange while in the blind.

### Hunters Safety Certification Requirements

Hunters under 17 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunters Safety Course to hunt on the refuge. An adult 21 years of age or older must accompany all hunters under 17 years of age. Adults must remain within plain sight or normal voice contact distance when accompanying youth during hunts. Adults must have a refuge permit to supervise youth that are hunting. Only one youth may be supervised by one adult during deer hunts. Two youths may be supervised by one adult during small game hunts and migratory bird hunts.

### Hunting Blinds or Stands

Only portable deer stands may be used on the refuge. Inserting metal objects into trees or hunting from trees

into which metal objects have been inserted is prohibited. Climbing spurs are prohibited. Blinds and tripods must be dismantled and stands must be removed from the tree after each day's hunt. Deer stands (including tripods) may be placed in a non-hunting position one week prior to the opening of archery season. All stands must be removed from the refuge prior to any flood event or by February 5, NO EXCEPTIONS. Deer stands must have each hunter's full name, permit number, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Any stand left on the refuge past February 5 will be confiscated and disposed of.

Hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds (excluding waterfowl hunters) must meet refuge hunter orange requirements (listed above). Only temporary blinds are allowed for waterfowl hunting. Blinds and decoys used for waterfowl hunting must be removed daily by 1:00 pm. The use of old structures/camps for hunting is prohibited.

### Hunting with Dogs

Hunting with dogs for migratory birds is permitted during migratory bird seasons. Dogs are only allowed to locate, point, flush, and retrieve migratory game birds. Hunting with dogs is permitted during specific dates during the rabbit and squirrel season listed in this brochure. Up to 2 dogs per hunting party are permitted for small game hunting. All dogs must be collared and labeled with owner's name and phone number. Hunting any wildlife other than migratory birds, squirrel, and rabbit with dogs is prohibited. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer is not allowed.

### Weapons and Ammunition

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

### Archery

Longbow, compound bow, and crossbow or any bow drawn, held, or released by mechanical means are considered legal for hunting on the refuge. Archery equipment is only allowed on the refuge during the refuge deer hunting season. All state laws regulating archery equipment requirements apply to the refuge.

### Rifles

Center-fire rifles are allowed during the quota gun deer hunt. State restrictions apply to all center-fire rifle equipment. Rifles .22 caliber or smaller (includes .17, .22 long rifle and .22 magnum) may be used during small game hunts.

Cat Island  
National Wildlife Refuge  
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Sibley, MS 39165  
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://southeast.fws.gov>  
<http://www.fws.gov/catisland>

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