

Santee

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations and Permit 2025-2026



Santee National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2025-2026

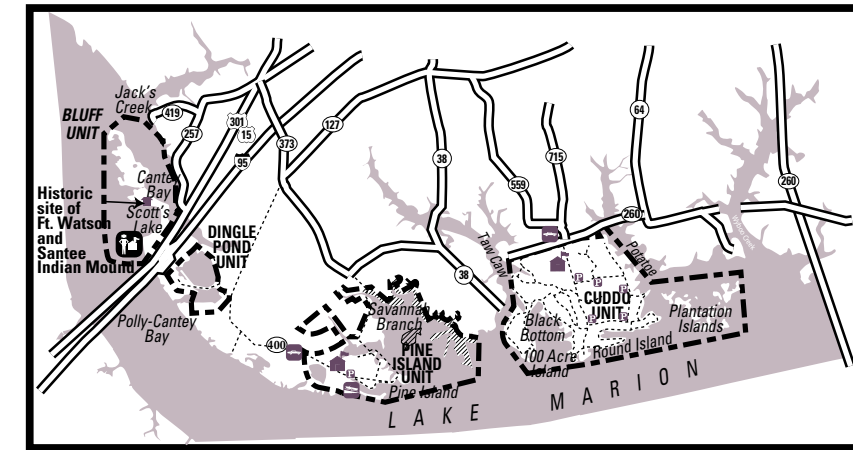
I have read and understand the refuge regulations.

This permit and attached regulations must be carried and in your possession at all times and is valid only when signed.

Name: _____

Date signed: _____

Hunter's signature: _____



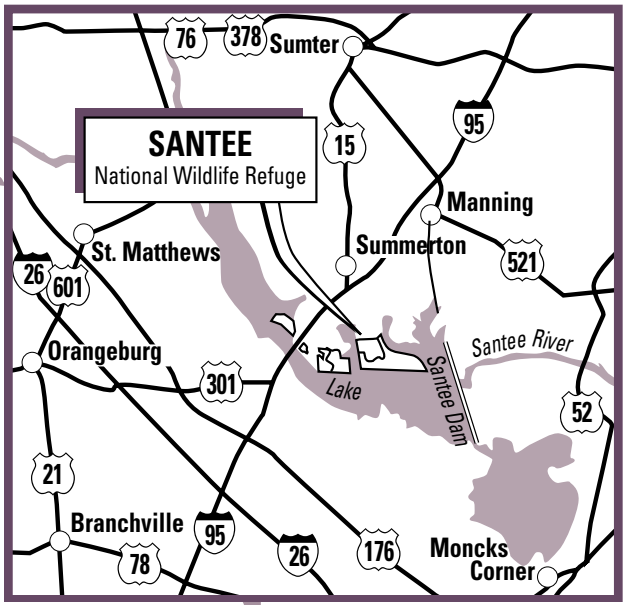
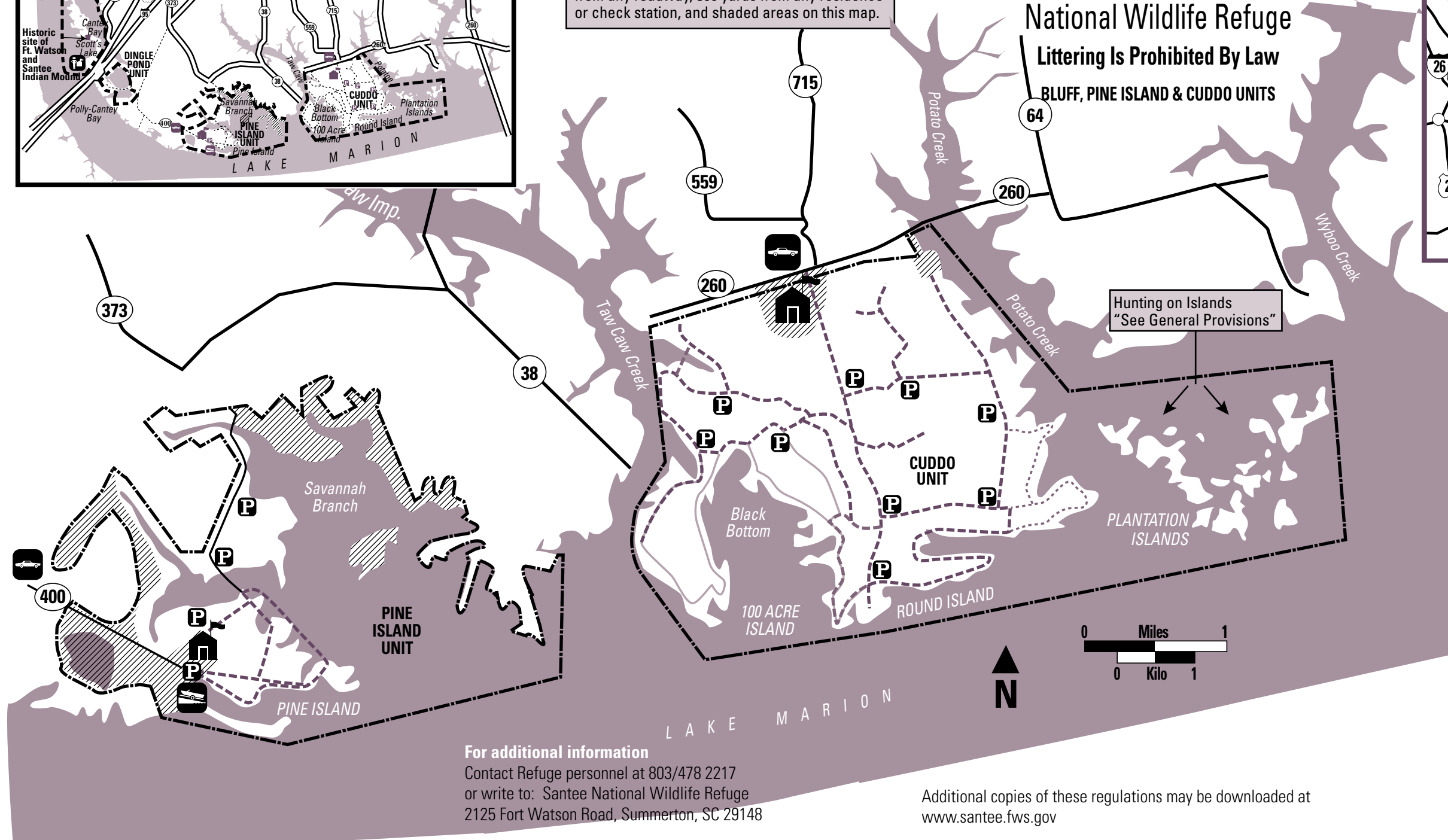
No Hunting Zones include areas 100 feet from any roadway, 300 yards from any residence or check station, and shaded areas on this map.

Santee

National Wildlife Refuge

Littering Is Prohibited By Law

BLUFF, PINE ISLAND & CUDDO UNITS



Legend

Refuge Boundary

Paved Roads

Unpaved Roads

Vehicular access permitted

Roads accessible only by foot or bicycle

Designated Refuge Foot Trail

Vehicle Entry Point

Vehicle Parking Area

Check Station

Boat Ramp

Visitor Center

Area Closed to Hunting

For additional information
Contact Refuge personnel at 803/478 2217
or write to: Santee National Wildlife Refuge
2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148

Additional copies of these regulations may be downloaded at
www.santee.fws.gov



Santee National Wildlife Refuge is one of 571 National Wildlife Refuges in the U.S. and its territories. The mission of this 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 tool used to manage wildlife populations and it is a primary form of wildlife-dependent recreation.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting, fishing and public use on wildlife Refuge areas 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 hunting seasons designated in this brochure are permitted on Santee National Wildlife Refuge.

General Provisions

By law, recreational activities on National Wildlife Refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. Hunting, fishing, and certain other recreational uses are permitted on designated areas of Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities.

- Hunters must personally sign-in and sign-out daily on the clipboards in the designated mailboxes when entering and exiting any portion of the Refuge.
- All animals harvested on the Refuge must be reported on the harvest form provided near the deer hangs before removing the animal from the Refuge.
- Hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve wounded game. Permission must be obtained from Refuge personnel to enter a “No Hunting Zone” or “Closed Area” for any purpose.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Fires, camping, and littering are prohibited.
- Vehicles may park along roads in a manner that will not block gates, fire lanes or interfere with the normal flow of traffic.
- Roads marked as closed may only be traveled on foot or bicycle.
- The speed limit on all Refuge roads is 15 mph unless posted otherwise.

- ATVs, UTVs, or other off-road vehicles are prohibited.
- Bicycles and E-bikes with an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1h.p.) with fully operational pedals and an operating speed of less than 20mph (Class 1 electric bicycles) are permitted on refuge roads and in walk-in areas.
- The use of non-motorized boats is permitted for access via interior canals or island areas open to hunting.
- Access roads closed to the general public for driving will be open only during deer hunts and on the day preceding each hunt period for stand placement. Scouting without weapons may occur anytime when the Refuge is open to public access prior to the hunts.

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following special Refuge regulations.

- All deer harvested on the Refuge must be tagged with SCDNR personally issued tags at the point of kill.
- **This permit must be signed and carried at all times by the hunter**, along with a state hunting license, big game permit, SCDNR personally issued tag, and government-issued photo identification.
- The only weapons allowed for hunting are those which have been specified for each hunt. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific Refuge regulations (50 CFR 32).
- Firearms being transported in vehicles and boats during Refuge hunts must be unloaded and cased or locked in a secure compartment (e.g. toolbox or trunk). A loaded firearm is defined as having ammunition in the chamber or magazine. Muzzleloaders will be considered unloaded if the percussion cap is not seated in the chamber.
- Poison arrow tips (pods), exploding arrows, center fire rifles, and handguns are prohibited.
- Hunting areas will be open from 5:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. during designated deer hunt periods. All hunters are required to sign-out and vacate the Refuge by 8:30 p.m
- The Plantation Islands at Cuddo are open to hunting 5:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m. For safety, hunters using Refuge islands must indicate this on the sign-in sheet. Hunters must sign

in daily and have the appropriate deer tags prior to hunting. All harvested deer must be tagged in accordance to state requirements, and must be reported at the Refuge check station.

- **Hunters are required to wear at all times a minimum of 500 square inches of solid fluorescent orange material above the waist while hunting.**
- Baiting or hunting in the vicinity of bait is prohibited. Baiting means placing, depositing, exposing, distributing, or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked, unshucked), wheat, other grains, other foods, or any other consumable attractant, including salt and mineral blocks, to constitute an attraction, lure or enticement to, on or over any area.
- Using illuminating devices for the purpose of spotlighting wildlife is prohibited.
- Possession of remote photography, videography, or any other remote device and trail monitoring/counting devices is prohibited.
- Entry beyond “Closed Area” or “No Hunting Zone” signs is prohibited. Weapons may not be discharged within, into, or across a “No Hunting Zone” or “Closed Area.”
- Discharging a firearm from, on or across any Refuge road or designated Refuge foot trail is prohibited.
- Hunting from within 100 feet of any roadway, whether open or closed to vehicular traffic or from within 300 yards of any residence or designated hunter check station is prohibited.
- Driving nails, screws, spikes or other metal objects into a tree or to hunt from a tree into which such objects has been driven is prohibited.
- Destroying or cutting vegetation is prohibited. The possession of axes, saws, machetes, or other tools used for cutting vegetation are not permitted on the Refuge while scouting or hunting.
- **Flagging is prohibited.** Clothes pins with reflective tape/tack, commercially made reflective orange glow or trail clips may be used to mark the path to the tree. All clothes pins must be marked with the hunter’s full name and must be removed at the end of the hunt period. Any markers found without a name will be removed immediately.

- All hunters under the age of 16 must:
 - Have successfully completing a state approved hunter education course.
 - Be directly supervised (within sight and normal voice contact) by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age. An adult may supervise only one youth.

Specific Hunt Regulations

Deer and Feral Hog Hunting

- Archery season: only bows and crossbows, in accordance with state regulations, are authorized.
- Primitive weapons season: only bows, crossbows or muzzleloaders (black powder) in accordance with state regulations are authorized.
- Man drives and stalk hunting for deer and hogs is prohibited.
- The use of dogs during deer hunts is prohibited.

Bag Limit

- Bag limit: Two deer total (antlerless, antlered, or a combination of the two)
- **Feral hogs may be harvested as an incidental take while hunting for deer only.** No bag limit.

Deer Tagging Requirements

- All deer must be checked in and reported at Refuge check station.

Shooting Hours

- Shooting hours are from half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset.

Scouting

- Scouting at the Pine Island and Cuddo Units is allowed without weapons, anytime when the Refuge is open to public access. Scouting is NOT allowed when the Refuge is open to hunting.
- Weapons and dogs are prohibited during scouting activities.

Hunting Stands

- Refuge gates and access roads will be opened on the day preceding each hunt for stand placement. Placing a stand and marking an area does not mean that others cannot hunt in that area.

- Any stands found within designated hunt areas outside of allowed periods will be confiscated by law enforcement. All stands must be removed by 8:30 pm on the final day of the respective open hunt period.
- Deer and feral hog hunting must occur from portable elevated hunting stands. Ground blinds are prohibited.
- **Only one stand per hunter is permitted and must be clearly marked with the hunter's full name, date and phone number.**
- A safety belt or harness must be utilized while using a hunting stand.

Youth Hunt – Lottery Deer Hunt

- A Quota Deer Hunt Application must be submitted to participate. Call the Refuge 803-478-2217 or email Daniel_asyn@fws.gov for an application. Applications will be accepted August 1 – September 2.
- Only youth between 10 and 17 years of age that have a valid hunter education certification will be authorized to discharge a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old and possesses a valid hunting license. Youth ages 16 and 17 must be properly licensed.
- Hunters may use muzzleloaders (black powder) or shotguns with slugs only.
- Both the youth and the accompanying adult will hunt from the same refuge provided fixed two-person ladder stand.

Raccoon and Opossum

- **An application and special use permit is required to participate in this hunt; call the Refuge at 803-478-2217 or email Daniel_asyn@fws.gov. Applications will be accepted January 12 – February 6, 2026.**
- Hunting hours are 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., Monday – Friday only.
- State bag limits apply, and special state regulations on night hunting apply.
- Raccoon/opossum Hunting Weapons and Ammunition: Shotgun with non-toxic shot size no larger than # 4’s .22 caliber rimfire rifle. Possession of buckshot or slugs is prohibited.

- Dogs may be used raccoon hunting and must wear collar with owner’s name, address and phone number.

2025 - 2026 Hunt Season Dates

White-tailed Deer and Feral Hogs

Cuddo and Pine Island Units

Archery only: September 20 - October 4, 2025

Primitive weapons only: October 17 - 19, 2025 and October 31 - November 2, 2025

Youth Hunt – Adult/Child Lottery Hunt

Bluff Unit

October 25 and 26, 2025 (morning & evening both days)

Raccoon and Opossum

Cuddo Unit

February 23 - February 27 and March 2 - 6, 2026

South Carolina Hunter Education Course

Visit the SCDNR website at <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted.html>