



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SPECIFIC REGULATIONS PUBLISHED FOR HUNTS ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a final rule outlining regulations governing hunting on national wildlife refuges. The rule describes for each refuge the specific regulations governing hunting programs for migratory game birds, upland game, and big game.

The rule, published in the September 19, 1984, Federal Register, does not add any new refuges to the list of those open to hunting. Instead, it codifies all existing refuge hunting regulations as part of the Code of Federal Regulations. These regulations will remain in place unless amended by subsequent regulations published in the Federal Register.

The Service is taking this action to improve administration of the hunt programs by eliminating the need to publish each refuge's hunting regulations in the Federal Register each year. Annual publication is costly and in the past has delayed timely issuance of the regulations.

The ruling also includes two new general provisions applying to all refuges with hunt programs. The first prohibits the unauthorized distribution of bait and hunting over bait. The second prohibits the use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach hunting stands to trees or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven in order to support a hunter.

A supplemental proposed rule correcting several errors and oversights in the original proposal was published in the September 10, 1984, Federal Register. Persons with questions concerning hunting regulations on specific refuges should contact the refuge headquarters for additional information.