

# Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge

## Hunting Regulations

### Welcome

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this 4,053-acre refuge includes Pinckney Island, Corn Island, Big and Little Harry Islands, Buzzard Island, and numerous small hammocks. Pinckney is the largest of the islands and the only one open to public use. These lands were donated to the federal government in 1975 by private landowners for the sole purpose of preserving their wildlife resources. Nearly 67% of the refuge consists of salt marsh and tidal creeks. However, a wide variety of land types, including forests, grasslands, and freshwater ponds, is found on Pinckney Island. In combination, these habitats support a diversity of wildlife species.

Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge  
c/o Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex  
694 Beech Hill Lane, Hardeeville, SC 29927  
843-784-9911, ext. 111 (Office)  
843-226-5738 (Mobile)  
Email: [savannahcoastal@fws.gov](mailto:savannahcoastal@fws.gov)  
Website: [www.fws.gov/refuge/pinckney-island](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/pinckney-island)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/savannahcoastalrefugescomplex](https://www.facebook.com/savannahcoastalrefugescomplex)

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

<http://www.fws.gov>  
1-800-344-WILD

### Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, [www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights](http://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights).

## General Information

### Permit Procedures

All hunters, 16 years of age or older, are required to purchase, and carry while hunting, the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit. This permit will allow hunters access to all “non-quota” hunts on any of the following National Wildlife Refuges: Blackbeard Island, Harris Neck, Pinckney Island, Savannah, and Wassaw NWRs. Annual Hunt Permits are \$25, non-transferable, and valid for the current hunt season only (August 2022 – May 2023). To purchase a permit, please visit [savannahcoastal.recaccess.com](http://savannahcoastal.recaccess.com). If it is your first time purchasing a permit through RecAccess, you will need to complete the one-time registration process. Once your account is set-up, you can purchase the permit. Please retain your user ID and password for RecAccess for future permit purchases. If you are unable to access the internet, please call the refuge hunt coordinator at (843) 226-5738.

### State Licenses

Hunters are responsible for obtaining the required state license(s) and tags. A state WMA permit is not required to hunt the refuge.

### Access

Hunters access the refuge by vehicle through the main entrance gate during designated timeframes (see General Hunting Regulations below). Boat access is prohibited during hunts.

The refuge is closed to the general public on all hunt days.

### Tree Stands

Hunters may place one stand on the refuge during the week preceding the hunt. Hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. Stands must be removed at the end of each hunt.

### Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands 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 refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

## General Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting 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. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable state of South Carolina regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Public hunting on Pinckney Island NWR is permitted on approximately 1,050 acres. Certain areas are closed to hunting (see refuge hunt map below). One, 1-day gun hunt for deer is held annually (see table below for date).

Hunters must be checked in by refuge personnel at the main refuge entrance **between 5:30 and 6:30 am** the morning of the hunt. Entry by boat is prohibited. All hunters must be checked-out and off the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.

Deer harvested during the hunt must be checked by refuge personnel before leaving the refuge. All deer must be tagged with state deer tags. State deer tags will be issued (free) at the deer check station on a first-come, first-served basis.

Youth hunters (age 15 and under) must be supervised by a licensed adult and must remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth hunter.

All hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of solid, unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline.

Hunters must be on their stands from one-half hour before legal sunrise until 9 am and from two hours before sunset until one-half hour after legal sunset.

Vehicles will be permitted only on the gravel road from the refuge entrance to Clubhouse Pond. Movement within all other areas of the refuge must be by foot or bicycle.

For additional regulations, see "Prohibited Activities" section.

**State hunting regulations, seasons, methods of take, bag limits, and license/tag requirements apply to all hunting on the refuge, unless stated otherwise in the table below:**

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Method of Take	Bag Limit	Hunt Unit	Other Regulations
Deer	November 4, 2022	State authorized shotgun (buckshot prohibited), muzzleloader, bow	5 deer (no more than 2 antlered)	See hunt map	Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older.  State regulations apply.

## **Prohibited Activities**

- Hunting closer than 100 yards of U.S. Highway 278 or the check station area, nor closer than 200 yards of the residence area.
- Camping and fires
- Possession or use of poison or poison pods
- Distribution of bait, and hunting over bait
- Participating in “man drives” for deer
- Trapping
- Harming, harassing, or killing any other wildlife than game species being hunted
- Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been screwed or driven to support a hunter
- Pruning/limbing of live trees
- Use of trail or game cameras
- Use of flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices for locating stands or for any other purpose
- Use of dogs for hunting
- Target practice
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting

**FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL HUNT COORDINATOR AMY OCHOA AT 843-226-5738.**

*Revised July 2022*

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