

# Supplemental Information to Refuge Hunting Regulations and Permit Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge 2025-2026 Hunt Seasons

(Valid September, 2025 – April, 2026)

## Permits

Hunters must possess all applicable licenses, permits and government issued picture ID while in the field. The refuge is not a Wildlife Management Area (WMA); therefore, hunters do not need a WMA permit.

## Small Game Reporting

Hunters are asked to voluntarily complete the Upland/Small Game/Furbearer Report (FWS Form 3-2362) when hunting quail, dove, woodcock, rabbits, raccoons, and opossum. The forms and drop boxes are located at RT9/RT9A, the Oopen, the Refuge HQ, and the Deer Check Station.

## E-bikes

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 are permitted.

## Mourning Dove

Dove hunting will be allowed from noon until 6 pm on selected fields according to the following schedule:

September 4 – Field A

September 11– Field B

September 18 – Fields A & B

September 25 – Fields A & B

Fridays during the second and third state seasons

All state and federal regulations apply.

The daily bag limit is 15 mourning doves.

All trash, including shotgun shell hulls, must be removed from the field.

The possession or use of more than 50 shotgun shells is prohibited.

During the September dove hunts:

- Hunters must sign in/out of fields and complete harvest report. Sign in begins at 12 noon.
- Hunters must remain in the cultivated fields at all times; wooded areas are closed to dove hunting.

Report any banded doves to [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov). You will need the band number(s), and where, when, and how you recovered the bird.

## Woodcock & Quail

Friday, November 28, 2025 - Quail only

Friday, December 12, 2025 - Quail only

Friday, December 26, 2025

Friday, January 9, 2026

Friday, January 23, 2026

Friday, February 6, 2026 - Quail only

Friday, February 20, 2026 - Quail only

The daily bag limit is two quail.

## Rabbit

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from December 2, 2025 to January 31, 2026

## Raccoon/Opossum

December 1, 2025 (sunset) until 4 am  
December 6, 2025

January 5, 2026 (sunset) until 4 am  
January 10, 2026

February 2, 2026 (sunset) until 4 am  
February 7, 2026

## Coyote/Feral Hog

Unlimited hogs and coyote may be harvested while deer hunting.

## Deer

In addition to reporting deer in the SC Game Check application, all harvested deer and hogs must be checked-in at the check station on the date of the harvest prior to removing the animal from the refuge. All coyotes harvested must be reported at the check station on the date of the harvest.

The daily bag limit is two deer (only one can be antlerless) and season limit (total for all hunts) is five deer, at least two of which must be antlerless.

An antlerless deer is defined as a deer with no antlers or an antlered deer with less than two inches of antler visible above the hairline.

## Youth Deer

Open to all youth age 17 and under.

October 11, 2025

November 8, 2025



## Archery

Bow and arrow, long bow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow.

October 13-18, 2025

December 1-31, 2025 (excluding Sundays)

## Primitive Weapons

Archery equipment, muzzleloading shotguns 20 gauge or larger, and muzzleloading rifles .36 caliber or larger.

October 20-25, 2025

## Modern Gun

Shotguns, centerfire rifles, and all primitive and archery equipment. Handguns .357 caliber or larger and a barrel of no less than six inches. No military or hard jacketed ammunition.

October 30 - November 1, 2025

November 13-15, 2025

## Turkey

The refuge bag limit is one (1) bearded gobbler for the entire season (Youth and General Turkey hunts). A turkey killed on the refuge counts toward your state bag limit.

In addition to reporting in the SC Game Check application, all harvested turkeys must be tagged and taken to the refuge office for check-in. No hunter may leave the refuge with a turkey without first checking in at the refuge office.

## Legal Weapons

Shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns, bows and crossbows.

## Youth Turkey

Open to all youth age 17 and under. Youth must possess turkey transport tags and state hunting license (if required) in accordance with state regulations. A Quota Permit is not required. A turkey killed during the youth hunt counts toward your refuge bag limit.

March 28, 2026

April 25, 2026

## General Turkey Quota Hunts

The general turkey hunt is a quota hunt of no more than 125 hunters per hunt.

All hunters (including youth) must have a quota permit to participate in the quota hunts.

Each quota permit will specify for which hunt you have been drawn.

Quota permits are not transferable.

All hunters age 16 and older participating in the hunt must have their quota turkey hunt permit, a valid state hunting license, turkey transport tags, and government-issued picture identification (such as a driver's license) in their possession.

All hunters age 15 and under must have their quota turkey hunt permit and turkey transport tags.

During Quota Hunts, no person may assist another hunter unless both hunters have quota permits (this includes one hunter calling for another or video recording).

## General Turkey Quota Hunt Dates

Hunt 1 – April 9-11, 2026 (Quota)

Hunt 2 – April 16-18, 2026 (Quota)

## Application Process

The application process for the Turkey Quota Hunts is online and can be found at:

<https://www.recreation.gov>

Search for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Hunt Lottery in the Search Box.

Applications will be accepted on Recreation.gov between February 1, 2026 and March 1, 2026.

Hunters may apply in groups of up to three hunters per group for one application fee.

Drawn hunters may claim their permit by paying an individual hunt permit fee.

Hunters may **only** apply as part of **one** group. Duplicate applications will be disqualified and hunters will not be able to claim a permit.

## Refuge Turkey Regulations

In addition to State regulations for turkey hunting and the regulations in the Refuge Hunting Brochure and Permit, these special regulations for turkey season apply:

- The practice of fanning or reaping is prohibited.
- The use of electronic calls is prohibited.
- The harvest of jakes is prohibited.
- Walk-in areas are designated on the Turkey Hunting map. No motorized vehicles are allowed in walk-in areas. E-bikes are permitted in walk-in areas.
- Areas closed to turkey hunting are easily identified by roads, refuge boundary, and on the turkey map. Therefore, no closed area signs are posted.

## We want to hear from you!

We welcome your questions, concerns, or comments at [carolinasandhills@fws.gov](mailto:carolinasandhills@fws.gov)

## For general information

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[CarolinaSandhills@fws.gov](mailto:CarolinaSandhills@fws.gov)

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/carolina-sandhills/visit-us/activities>

A Georeferenced PDF Refuge General Hunt Map is available to download at <https://www.fws.gov/media/carolina-sandhills-national-wildlife-refuge-map>