

Julia Butler Hansen

Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



Welcome

The Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer (Refuge) contains over 6,000 acres of pastures, forested tidal swamps, brushy woodlots, marshes and sloughs along the Columbia River in both Washington and Oregon. It was established in 1971 to protect and manage Columbian white-tailed deer. The hunting of geese, ducks, coots, and snipe is permitted in specific units of the Refuge in accordance with federal and state hunting regulations.

Safety - Tides

Hunters are cautioned to pay attention to tidal fluctuations when hunting tidal areas.

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).

Nontoxic Shot Required

All hunters are required to use only federally approved nontoxic shot while waterfowl hunting. Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited while hunting waterfowl.

Foot Traffic Only

All island units of the Refuge are open to foot traffic only unless otherwise specified.

Boats

The islands of Julia Butler Hansen Refuge are accessible only by boat. Tidal flows and fluctuations, strong wakes from ships, and strong winds can make boating difficult and sometimes dangerous. Deep channels separate most islands at high tide, but tide tables and navigation charts should be consulted to avoid grounding on sandbars. In Oregon, boat launch sites are located at Aldrich Point near the Brownsmead area and at the John Day boat ramp east of Astoria. In Washington, boat launch sites are located at Skamokawa Vista Park and Elochman Slough Marina.

Accessibility Information

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, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Dogs

Dogs are prohibited on the Refuge, except service dogs and dogs used for waterfowl hunting.

Blinds

Temporary blinds may be constructed, however permanent blinds are prohibited. All personal property, including decoys and boats, must be removed by 1 1/2 hours after legal sunset.

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."

Waterfowl hunting will be in accordance with applicable Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

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46 Whitetail Road
Cathlamet, WA 9861

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willapa@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/julia-butler-hansen-columbian-white-tailed-deer

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

August 2025



Signs and Boundaries

Safety Zones: You may not shoot or discharge any hunting firearm from, across, or along a public highway, designated route of travel, road, road shoulder, road embankment, or designated parking area.

Please respect the following signs:

- No vehicles: All Traffic prohibited
- Parking area: Designated areas to park while hunting

Applies to the area located behind the sign

- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Access

The Refuge is open daily from dawn to dusk. Hunting access is from 1 1/2 hours before legal sunrise until 1 1/2 hours after legal sunset.

Areas open to waterfowl hunting include portions of the shorelines, tidelands and sloughs of Price and Hunting Islands in Washington and Wallace and Crims Islands as well as designated shorelines of the Westport Unit in Oregon. All other Refuge units including the Mainland and Tenasillahe Island Units are closed to waterfowl hunting.

WASHINGTON: Hunting and Price Islands

The Refuge-owned shorelines, tidelands and interior sloughs of Hunting and Price Islands are open to waterfowl hunting, except where it parallels Steamboat Slough (see map), in accordance with Federal and Washington State Regulations. The eastern tip of Hunting Island (approx. 150 acres) is privately owned and the southern half of Price Island (approx. 160 acres) is owned by Wahkiakum County. Check Refuge map for approximate boundaries. Access to islands is by boat only.

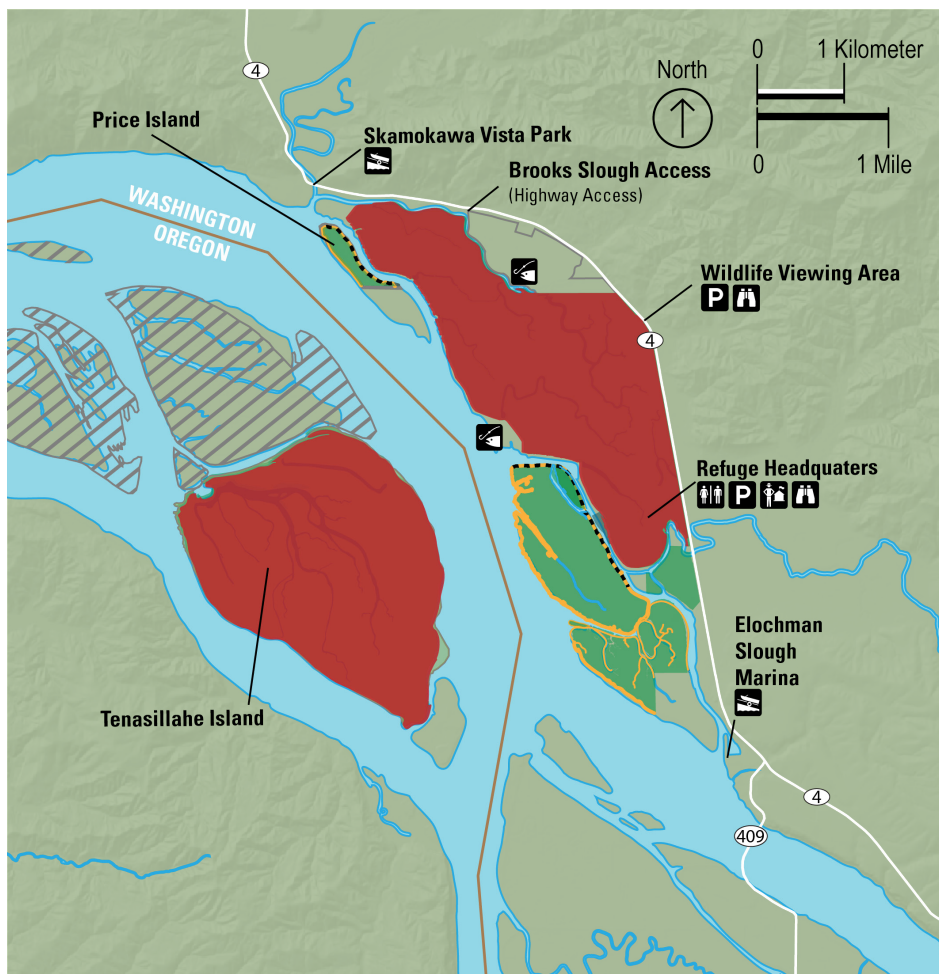
OREGON: Westport, Wallace, and Crims Islands

The Refuge-owned shorelines, tidelands and interior sloughs of Wallace and Crims Islands are open to waterfowl hunting, in accordance with Federal and Oregon State Regulations. Only the Refuge-owned shorelines are opened at the Westport Unit. Please note that several parts of Crims Island are privately owned, including the western tip of the island (approx. 90 acres) and a 40-acre section of the north part of the island. See the Refuge map for approximate boundaries. Access is by boat only.

Prohibited Activities

- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Camping and fires
- Use of motorized equipment: All-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, ebikes, and chainsaws. Motorized boats are allowed.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological features
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices
- Takeoff and landing of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems/Drones
- Distribution of bait and hunting over bait
- Ammunition that may not be legally used for taking waterfowl, only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed

Activity	Season Dates: WASHINGTON Hunting and Price Islands	Season Dates: OREGON Westport, Wallace, and Crims Islands
Youth Hunt	Sept. 20 & Jan 31	Sept. 27 - 28
Veterans and Active Military	Jan. 31	Jan. 31
Duck Season (Including Coots)	Oct. 11 - 19 & Oct. 22 - Jan. 25	Oct. 11-26 & Oct. 30- Jan. 25
Scaup	Nov. 1 - Jan. 25	Nov. 1 - Jan. 25
Canada Goose (September)	Sept. 6 - 14	Sept. 6 - 20
Canada Goose (Regular)	Oct. 11 - 26, Nov. 26 - Jan. 11, Saturdays, Sundays, & Wednesdays only	Oct. 18 - 26, Nov. 22 - Jan. 9, & Jan. 31 - Feb. 15
White-fronted and White Goose (Regular)	Oct. 11 - 26, Nov. 26 - Jan. 11, Saturdays, Sundays, & Wednesdays only	Oct. 18 - Oct. 26 & Nov. 8 - Jan. 25, & Jan. 31 - Feb. 15
Dusky Canada Goose	CLOSED	CLOSED
Snipe	Oct. 11-19 & Oct. 22 - Jan. 25	Nov. 1 - Feb. 15



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Public Use

- Waterfowl Hunting Along Shoreline and/or Interior Sloughs
- Shoreline Hunting Closure
- Walking Trail (Seasonally Closed)
- Refuge Headquarters
- Wildlife Viewing Area
- Restroom
- Parking
- Fishing Access
- Boat Launch

Refuge Land Status

- Refuge Managed Lands
- Refuge Lands Closed to Hunting
- Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge

