

Wallops Island

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



Welcome

Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1975 as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. The 373-acre refuge vision is “Chincoteague and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuges encompass extraordinary and ever-changing lands at the edge of the sea, a place where unique habitats and wildlife flourish. In partnership with others, the refuges are a vital part of a larger system of protected lands and waters on the Delmarva Peninsula, critical to migratory birds. People from around the world can visit the refuges to learn, recreate, refresh themselves, be inspired by wildlife and wild lands, and renew their connection with nature”.

Safety

Areas of the refuge may be closed for management purposes, or other hazardous conditions that pose a threat to human health and safety. Such closures will be posted at the Hunt Information Kiosk.

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).

Dogs

We allow the use of dogs for migratory game bird hunting, but we prohibit the use of dogs for upland and big game hunting.

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/eo/public-civil-rights>.

For additional information please contact 757-336-6122 ext. 2.

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 Virginia regulations subject to the conditions stated herein. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters (Chincoteague NWR), or from the refuge website.

All members of a hunt party must possess a refuge hunt permit and be actively engaged in hunting. We allow an exception or those persons aiding a disabled person who possesses a valid State-issued Commonwealth of Virginia Disabled Resident Lifetime License or Commonwealth of Virginia Resident Disabled Veteran’s Lifetime License.

Access

Hunters may access the refuge two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal sunset.

Parking is allowed only in designated areas as shown on the attached map.

Tree Stands, Blinds and Decoys

We allow the use of portable tree stands, portable blinds and decoys, but you must remove them at the end of each day’s hunt.

Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuges Hunting Permit 2025—2026

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Expires March 14, 2026

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Activity	Season Dates	Hunting Areas	Other Regulations
White-tailed Deer	Hunting is allowed <u>during the State season dates</u> that fall between September 16 and March 14	Refuge wide	Refuge-issued permit is required in addition to the proper State permit The refuge encourages all hunters to use non-toxic ammunition for all game species* The refuge prohibits organized deer drives
Turkey	Closed season		
Rabbit, Squirrel, Fox, Coyote, Raccoon, Opossum	Hunting is allowed <u>during the State season dates</u> that fall between September 16 and March 14	Refuge wide	Refuge-issued permit is required in addition to the proper State permit The refuge encourages all hunters to use non-toxic ammunition for all game species*
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, brant, swan, mergansers), Rail, Snipe, Gallinule/ Moorhen, Coot, Dove, Woodcock, Crow	Hunting is allowed <u>during the State season dates</u> that fall between September 16 and March 14	Refuge wide	Refuge-issued permit is required in addition to the proper State permit In addition to the federal non-toxic ammunition law requirements, the refuge encourages all hunters to use non-toxic ammunition for all game species*
Harvest: State regulations apply for bag limits.			

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
8231 Beach Road
Chincoteague, VA 23336

Phone - 757-336-6122 ext. 2.
Email - fw5rw_cnwr@fws.gov
Website - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wallops-island>

Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339 TDD/ 1 800/828 1140 voice

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

July 2025



***Nontoxic ammunition will be required to hunt all species on the refuge starting September 2026.**

Prohibited Activities

- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted
- Possession of alcoholic beverages
- Camping and fires
- 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
- Marking or flagging any tree or other refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree
- Night hunting
- Hunting within 100 feet (30.5 m) of any building, road or trail, whether improved or unimproved
- Deer Drives: we define a “deer drive” as an organized or planned effort to pursue, drive, chase, or otherwise frighten or cause deer to move in the direction of any person(s) who is part of the organized or planned hunt and known to be waiting for the deer
- Turkey hunting
- ATVs/UTVs, bicycles, e-bikes and saddled animals



