

Supplemental Information to Refuge Hunting Regulations and Permit Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge 2026-2027 Hunt Seasons

(Valid September, 2026 – April, 2027)

Changes appear in red.

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 Oxpen, 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 **Dove Field A** according to the following schedule:

September 10, 17 and 24, 2026

Dove Field B is open during all dove seasons, but is not planted this year.

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. You will need the band number(s), and where, when, and how you recovered the bird.

Woodcock & Quail

Friday, November 27, 2026 - Quail only

Friday, December 11, 2026 - Quail only

Friday, December 25, 2026

Friday, January 8, 2027

Friday, January 22, 2027

Friday, February 5, 2027 - Quail only

Friday, February 19, 2027 - Quail only

The daily bag limit is two quail.

Rabbit

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from December 1, 2026 to January 30, 2027

Raccoon/Opossum

December 7, 2026 (sunset) until 4 am
December 12, 2026

January 4, 2027 (sunset) until 4 am
January 9, 2027

February 1, 2027 (sunset) until 4 am
February 6, 2027

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 17, 2026

November 14, 2026



Archery

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

October 19 - 24, 2026

December 1 - 31, 2026 (excluding Sundays)

Primitive Weapons

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

October 26 - 31, 2026

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.

November 5 - 7, 2026

November 19 - 21, 2026

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 27, 2027

April 24, 2027

General Turkey Quota Hunts

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

All hunters (including youth) and participants, including callers and observers, must have a quota permit to participate in the quota hunts.

Each quota permit will specify for which hunt you have been drawn. You may only participate in one hunt period.

Quota permits are not transferable.

All hunters must have their quota turkey hunt permit, turkey transport tags in their possession, and state hunting license (if required) in accordance with state regulations.

General Turkey Quota Hunt Dates

Hunt 1 – April 8 - 10, 2027 (Quota)

Hunt 2 – April 15 - 17, 2027 (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 January 4, 2027 and February 15, 2027.

Hunters may apply either individually or as part of a group of up to three people, using a single application and one application fee.

Each hunter may participate in only one application - either as a primary applicant or as a group member. You may not apply as a primary applicant and also appear on another person's application.

If selected in the lottery, drawn hunters may claim their permit by paying the required hunt permit fee.

Any duplicate applications or instances where a hunter appears in more than one group will result in disqualification of all parties.

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

For general information

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<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>