



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Currituck

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2026-2027

Welcome

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge is located in the northern region of North Carolina's Outer Banks. The 3,745-acre refuge is managed by the staff of Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The refuge office is located one mile from the VA/NC state-line off NC Highway 615 near Knotts Island, North Carolina.

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 39
316 Marsh Causeway
Knotts Island, NC 27950
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/currituck>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
July 2026

For more information,
call the Refuge Office at 252/429 3100 and leave a
message.



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

General Information

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge is open to waterfowl and big game hunting by permit only. Waterfowl hunting is only at designated blinds by permits issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC). Lottery applications go on sale July 1 with the first application deadline Sept. 1. Information can be found on NCWRC's website under "Permit Hunting Opportunities".

Big Game Hunting Information can be found in this brochure or by contacting the refuge office at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

General Regulations

All general refuge regulations apply, unless specifically addressed in this brochure. Restrictions and designations on the map in this brochure also apply. Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all state laws, county codes, Title 50 - Code of Federal Regulations, and the following refuge regulations:

- Permits are required for all hunting.
- All hunters are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, bag limits, hunting equipment, boats, vehicles, and their contents during compliance checks. Violation of any Refuge regulation may result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and prosecution in Federal court.
- It is your responsibility to be familiar with all applicable refuge, State and Federal hunting regulations before hunting on the Refuge. If you have a question concerning any refuge regulation, please call the Refuge Office.
- Hunter access is allowed from one hour before until one hour after legal shooting hours. Waterfowl hunters must be off the refuge by 5:20 pm.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Taking or collecting any plant or animal (including reptiles and amphibians)

is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

- The use of artificial lights (including car headlights) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited.
- The use of electronic calls to attract wildlife is prohibited.
- Baiting or feeding wildlife and hunting with the aid of bait are prohibited.
- Camping, fires, littering, and target practice are prohibited.
- Disturbing, molesting or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

Use of Dogs

It is prohibited to use dogs to pursue, track or retrieve deer and feral pigs.

Youth

Each youth hunter, age 15 and younger, must remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult age 21 or older. An adult may directly supervise up to two youth hunters, who must have successfully completed a State-approved hunter safety course and possess and carry proof of certification.

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunting opportunities are available for disabled hunters. Please call the Refuge Office for information and to make advanced arrangements.

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

Access

Access is by boat only. A shallow draft boat is highly recommended. Water depths change with the wind tides. Some areas may be only inches deep at low wind tide. Be prepared to pole into some areas. Some blinds may be inaccessible due to low water.

Hunting Dates

Hunting will be allowed on Fridays and Saturdays only during the November – February state waterfowl seasons.

*North Carolina Wildlife Resource
Commission Application and Draw*

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge Deer and Feral Pig Hunting Permit 2026-2027

I certify that I have read and understand
the refuge hunting regulations in this
permit.

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

(Cut out and carry with license)



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NCWRC's hunt applications can be found at gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com. Select the link for desired Late Season Waterfowl Hunts and choose National Wildlife Refuge as the Region.

Check-in and Standby Draw

All hunters holding a NCWRC Waterfowl Hunt Permit for Currituck NWR must check-in at the Knotts Island Market no later than 5:15 am the morning of the hunt. Failure to check-in will result in the assigned blind being assigned to another hunter. A standby drawing will be held at 5:15 am at the Knotts Island Market. Standby applications must be completed before the drawing begins.

There will be no hunter check-in/standby draws for Youth Hunt Saturdays or hunts occurring on Christmas Day.

Waterfowl Regulations and Enforcement

No more than three hunters per blind.

Valid hunt permit issued by NCWRC or Currituck NWR is required.

Hunt from assigned blind locations only. Handicapped hunters may hunt from their boat at the blind site.

Hunting is permitted from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 4:20 pm.

Use of guides is allowed on the Refuge. Guides must have a Special Use Permit issued by the refuge. Guides are only allowed to hunt or carry a gun if they are one of the three permitted hunters. Contact the Mackay Island NWR office for more information.

Big Game Hunting Regulations

Deer and feral pig hunting by shotgun, muzzleloading rifle/shotgun, and bow and arrow (crossbows are prohibited) is permitted on the Refuge on hunting dates listed below and on hunting areas shown on the map. A valid North Carolina hunting license and Refuge hunting permit shall be carried while hunting. No reservations are required and hunters may select sites and hunt anywhere within the designated hunting areas.

Permit

The cutout portion on this form, once signed, is your permit.

Access

Hunting areas may be accessed by foot, boat, and vehicle only. Vehicles are restricted to county roads and Refuge designated access routes. Parking is permitted in designated Refuge parking areas.

Hunting Dates

Seven days per week. North Carolina special Sunday hunting regulations apply.

Deer and Feral Pig: October 1 - 31, 2026

Feral Pig Only: March 1 - 31, 2027

All state regulations for big game hunting shall apply. Only portable deer stands are permitted.

All deer taken must be checked-in according to North Carolina State Hunting Regulations.

Horses

Feral horses are present in the area. These horses are short in stature and may resemble deer and pigs in both color and size. Take special care in identifying your target. It is against county ordinance to harass horses or approach them within 50 feet.

Big Game Regulations and Enforcement

The following are prohibited:

- Use of ATV/UTVs and any other unlicensed and unregistered vehicles.
- No dumping of animal parts within 100 feet of roads, wetlands and waterways.
- Hunters are responsible for the proper disposal of all animal parts.
- Driving vehicles off of county roads and hunter access routes.
- Shooting from a vehicle or shooting on or across roads or roadways.
- Hunting outside of designated areas shown on the map.
- Use of nails, bolts, or screws to attach portable stands to trees. Use of nail-, bolt-, or screw-type steps.
- Marking trees or vegetation with blazes, flagging, or other marking devices.
- Leaving a portable stand overnight.

All deer and feral pigs must be killed before removing them from the Refuge.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public (see map).



This area is closed to all hunting (see map)



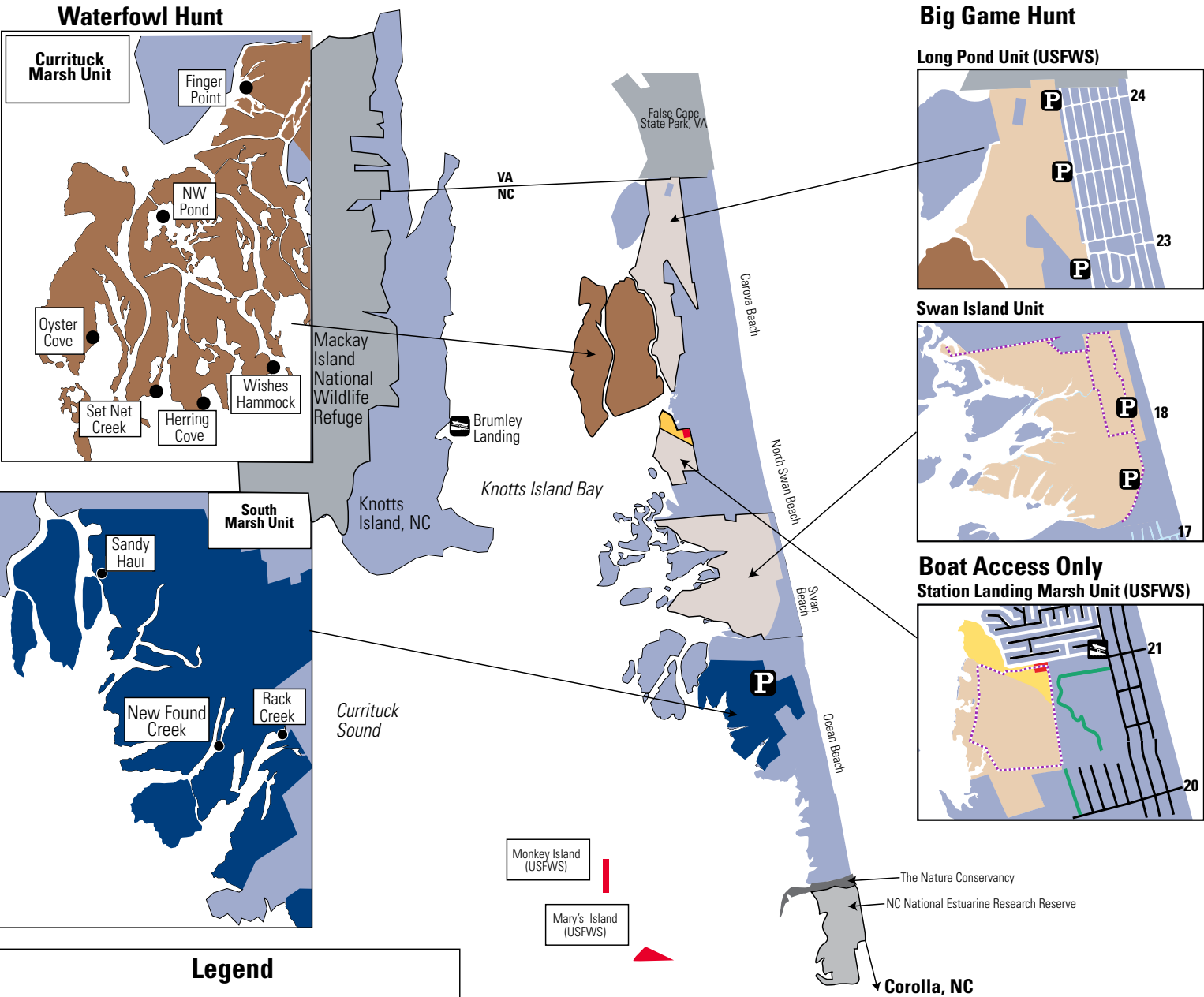
This sign means that you can only hunt with bow and arrow in the marked areas.



This sign designates specific routes to get to hunter parking areas.

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Maps 2026-2027



Legend

- No Hunting Area
- Big Game Hunting Only (All Authorized Weapons Allowed)
- Big Game Hunting Only (Archery only)
- Waterfowl Hunting Only
- Waterfowl and Big Game Hunting (Archery Only for Big Game)
- Private Property
- Roads
- Private Roads
- Fence
- Hunter Parking Area
- Mile Marker

Waterfowl Blinds - GPS Coordinates NAD 83				
Northwest Pond	Set Net Creek	Wishes Hammock	Rack Creek	Finger Point
N 36° 31' 52.9"	N 36° 31' 04.3"	N 36° 31' 11.3"	N 36° 26' 07.7"	N 36° 32' 28.4"
W 75° 53' 34.0"	W 75° 53' 35.6"	W 75° 52' 55.6"	W 75° 51' 04.1"	W 75° 53' 04.9"
Oyster Cove	Herring Cove	Sandy Haul	New Found Creek	
N 36° 31' 18.8"	N 36° 31' 02.5"	N 36° 26' 43.3"	N 36° 26' 04.0"	
W 75° 53' 57.2"	W 75° 53' 20.8"	W 75° 51' 55.0"	W 75° 51' 21.2"	