

General Provisions

St. Vincent NWR is one of 573 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with habitat.

The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable state regulations.

Specific Hunting Regulations

Public hunting of white-tailed deer, sambar deer, feral hogs, and raccoons is permitted on 11,400 acres of St. Vincent Island as shown on the map on the reverse side of this brochure.

Access onto St. Vincent Island is restricted to the Indian Pass and West Pass campsites.

Only permitted hunters are allowed on the island during the hunt period.

Hunters may not leave hunt gear, stage equipment, or access the island prior to the check-in time of 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the Wednesday before the hunt begins. This policy is strictly enforced. Hunters arriving after Wednesday must sign in at the check station. If the check station is unstaffed, hunters may proceed to hunt.

Hunters must complete check in later that same day of arrival with staff. The check stations will be staffed beginning at 9 am ET each day of the hunt.

Hunters must check out with Refuge staff before leaving the island. Campers must remove all personal equipment from the island by 11 am ET on Sunday after each hunt.

The successful hunter must check out game at designated check stations. No live game may be checked out.

Hunters must field dress game in the woods prior to collection during game pick up runs. Game pick up will only occur on open roads south of Big Bayou.

No entry allowed in closed areas on the Refuge.

The following may ride during the game pick up runs: successful hunter of game retrieved, if a successful minor (18 years or younger), one adult may accompany. If a successful adult, accompanying minor hunter (18 years or younger) may ride.

Primitive weapons hunts (sambar and white-tailed deer): All hunters, when outside campsite area, must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid, unbroken fluorescent, orange-colored material above the waistline, including while in stand.

Archery hunters are encouraged to wear a fluorescent orange outer garment while hunting on the ground or walking to and from stands.

All hunters, regardless of age must possess a Refuge permit. Youth hunters (younger than 16 years) must be supervised by a permitted adult at least 21 years of age and must remain in sight and normal voice contact of the adult. Each adult may supervise only one youth.

Hunters requiring assistance must obtain a State issued alternative mobility permit (AMP) and contact St. Marks NWR office at 850-925-6121 to request assistance at least two weeks prior to hunt date. <https://myfwc.com/license/accessibility/ada-for-hunters/mobility-impaired-quota/>

Stand hours will be enforced from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 9 am ET for all hunts. Courtesy evening stand hours will be observed from two hours before sunset until sunset.

A hunter safety orientation meeting will be held Wednesday evening before each hunt at 5 pm ET at each check station.

Hunters may set up tree stands and game cameras only after check-in. All stands must be removed from the island at the end of each hunt.

Camping and fires are restricted to the two designated camping areas. Refuge manager may suspend campfires if drought conditions exist. Campsites are unimproved.

Only non-potable water will be available at the campsites.

Hunters must observe quiet time in the campgrounds between 9 pm – 5 am ET. No loud or boisterous activity permitted.

Weapons may be discharged at the designated discharge areas between 5 am to 9 pm ET.

Prohibited Activities

- Domestic animals are not permitted on the Refuge.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the island during refuge hunts is prohibited.
- No motorized equipment, generators, or vehicles are allowed.
- Electric bicycles are permitted.
- Littering and cutting of live or standing dead trees are prohibited. Only dead and downed wood may be cut.
- It is unlawful to insert a nail, spike, or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike, or other metal object has been inserted.
- Only still and stalk hunting permitted. Intentional driving of game animals (game drives) is prohibited.
- No baiting.
- Use of flagging tape and reflective materials prohibited.
- Painting or defacing plants or trees prohibited.
- Target practice is prohibited.
- Discharging of weapons (including cap firing) in campgrounds is prohibited.
- Use of artificial light to locate or take wildlife is prohibited.

Hunt Permits

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be handling all hunt permits for St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge. Applications may be submitted at any license agent, tax collector, or online *beginning 10 am (Eastern Time) May 15 - June 15, 2026, for Sambar Deer Hunt. White-tailed deer permits available from July until sold out.*

<https://myfwc.com/license/limited-entry/>

Quota Hunts

Sambar Deer (Muzzleloader)
200 permits - November 19-November 21, 2026 (Thursday – Saturday) 1/2 hour before sunrise until 3 pm each day.

Species: Sambar deer (either sex), feral hogs, raccoons.
Bag limit: one sambar; unlimited hogs and raccoons.

Weapons: State regulations for muzzleloader.

License: Possess identification, a Florida hunting license, and a valid Refuge hunt permit. No management area stamp, archery stamp, or muzzleloader stamp required.

White-tailed Deer (Archery)
250 Permits Maximum.October 29-October 31, 2026 (Thursday– Saturday) 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

Species: white-tailed deer (buck having antlers with 2 or more points on one side greater than 1 inch in length) or antlerless deer (defined as a doe, or deer with antlers less than 5 inches). Youth 15 or younger can harvest any deer except spotted fawn.

Bag limit: One white-tailed deer (State annual bag limit applies). Unlimited hogs and raccoons.

Weapons: State regulations for archery equipment. Crossbows permitted.

License: Possess identification, a Florida hunting license, State deer permit, Florida archery stamp, and a valid Refuge hunt permit. No management area stamp required.

White-tailed Deer (Muzzleloader)
250 permits Maximum. January 14-January 16, 2027 (Thursday – Saturday) 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

Species: White-tailed deer (buck having antlers with 2 or more points on one side greater than 1 inch in length). A limited number of antlerless permits will be issued onsite. Antlerless deer are defined as a doe, or deer with antlers less than 5 inches. Youth 15 or younger can harvest any deer except spotted fawn.

Bag limit: One white-tailed deer (State annual bag limit applies). Unlimited hogs and raccoons.

Weapons: State regulations for muzzleloaders.

License: Possess identification, a Florida hunting license, deer permit and valid Refuge hunt permit. No State management area stamp, archery stamp, or muzzleloader stamp required.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges every year. In order to both protect wildlands and wildlife and provide visitors with an enjoyable experience on refuges, certain regulations are necessary. Please respect the following signs and help us take care of your refuge.



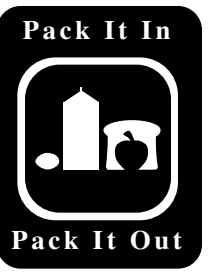
This area closed to all public entry.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary.



This area closed to all public entry.



This sign reminds you to take all your trash back home with you.