

Supplemental Information to Refuge Hunting Regulations and Permit Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge 2023-2024 Hunt Seasons

(Valid September, 2023 – April, 2024)

Changes for 2023-24 are in RED text.

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 (Class 1 electric bicycles) are permitted.

Mourning Dove

Dove hunting will be allowed from noon until 6 pm on selected fields according to the following schedule:

- September 7 – Field A
- September 14 – Field B
- September 21 – Fields A & B
- September 28 – Fields A & B

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 24, 2023 - Quail only

Friday, December 8, 2023 - Quail only

Friday, December 22, 2023

Friday, January 5, 2024

Friday, January 19, 2024

Friday, February 2, 2024 - Quail only

Friday, February 16, 2024 - Quail only

The daily bag limit is two quail.

Rabbit

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from December 5, 2023 to January 30, 2024

Raccoon/Opossum

December 4, 2023 (sunset) until 4 am
December 9, 2023

January 1, 2024 (sunset) until 4 am
January 6, 2024

February 5, 2024 (sunset) until 4 am
February 10, 2024

Coyote/Feral Hog

Unlimited hogs and coyote may be harvested while deer hunting.

Deer

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 14, 2023

November 11, 2023



Archery

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

October 16-21, 2023

December 1-30, 2023 (excluding Sundays)

Primitive Weapons

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

October 23-28, 2023

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 2-4, 2023

November 16-18, 2023

Turkey

State regulations for turkey hunting apply along with these special regulations:

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.

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.

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 30, 2024

April 27, 2024

General Turkey Quota Hunts

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

All hunters (including youth) must have a quota permit to participate in these hunts.

Each quota permit will specify for which hunt you have been drawn.

Quota permits are not transferable.

All hunters age 16 and older participating in the hunt must have their quota turkey hunt permit, a valid state hunting license, turkey transport tags, and government-issued picture identification (such as a driver's license) in their possession.

All hunters age 15 and under must have their quota turkey hunt permit and turkey transport tags.

During Quota Hunts, no person may assist another hunter unless both hunters have quota permits (this includes one hunter calling for another or video recording).

General Turkey Quota Hunt Dates

Hunt 1 – April 4-6, 2024 (Quota)

Hunt 2 – April 11-13, 2024 (Quota)

Application Process

The application process for the 2024 Turkey Quota Hunts will be **electronic** and the URL for the application web site will be announced in January, 2024.

The application process will be **open** from **February 1, 2024 through March 1, 2024**.

Hunters may apply in groups of **up to three hunters per group** for **one application fee**.

Drawn hunters may claim their permit by paying an individual hunt permit fee.

Hunters may only apply as part of one group. Duplicate applications will be disqualified and hunters will not be able to claim a permit.

The Quota Turkey Hunt Supplemental information and instructions will be available in January, 2024.

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>