

Turkey Quota Hunt Regulations - 2023

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge



Legal Weapons

Shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns, bows and crossbows.

Youth Turkey Hunt Dates

March 25, 2023

April 29, 2023

Open to all youth age 17 and under. Youth must possess turkey transport tags and a valid state hunting license (age 16 and older) in accordance with state regulations. A quota permit is not required. A turkey killed during the youth hunt counts toward your refuge bag limit.

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.

With the exception of the youth hunts, no person may assist another hunter unless both hunters have quota turkey hunt permits (this includes one hunter calling turkeys for another or video recording).

Each quota permit will specify for which hunt you have been drawn. Quota permits are **not** transferable.

General Turkey Hunt Dates

Hunt 1 – April 6-8, 2023 (Quota)

Hunt 2 – April 13-15, 2023 (Quota)

Refuge Regulations:

In addition to **State regulations for turkey hunting** and the Regulations in the Refuge Hunting Brochure & Permit, **these special regulations** for turkey season apply:

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 your harvest using the SC Game Check reporting application, all harvested turkeys must be tagged and taken to the refuge office for

check-in. No hunter, including youth hunters, may leave the refuge with a turkey without first checking in at the refuge office.

When reporting your turkey using SC Game Check, select public lands and toggle your selection to Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge (not Sand Hills WMA).

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 a 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.

The refuge is not a Wildlife Management Area (WMA); therefore, hunters do not need a WMA permit.

Walk-in areas are designated on the Turkey Hunting map. No motorized vehicles are allowed in walk-in areas. 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 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.

All vehicles must enter only through open refuge gates and travel only on maintained refuge roads. Do not block roads or gates.

The use of ATV's on the refuge is prohibited except for use by specially permitted mobility impaired hunters in designated areas. Contact the refuge office for further details.

The practice of fanning or reaping is prohibited.

The use of electronic calls is prohibited.

Application Process

Applicants must complete Form 3-2439 Turkey Hunt Application for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge and include a \$12.50 per hunter, non-refundable application fee in the form of a certified check, money order, or cashier's check made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; cash and personal checks are not accepted. The application form is available online at the refuge's website or you may contact the refuge office to receive a printed or digital copy of the application.

Up to five hunters may apply as a group on this application form and by submitting one form of payment for the entire hunt party.

Applications must be postmarked or hand delivered to the refuge office no later than **March 1, 2023.**

A random, computerized drawing will distribute hunters between the two hunt periods. Permits will be mailed to successful hunters.

Carolina Sandhills NWR

23734 US Highway 1

McBee, SC 29101

843/335-8350

CarolinaSandhills@fws.gov

<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>

We want to hear from you!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to modernize to an online permit application system with an electronic payment platform. This convenience will cost more (\$15 per hunter fee) and we want to hear from you.

Please send your comments by May 31, 2023 to carolinasandhills@fws.gov with the subject line "Turkey Hunt Application Comments."



Turkey Hunt Map

