



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Eufaula

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing and Hunting Regulations 2023-2024

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge

367 Highway 165
Eufaula, AL 36027

334-687-4065
eufaula@fws.gov

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/eufaula/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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August 2023

Welcome

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), established in 1964 through community support and in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The refuge's 11,000-acre mixture of wetlands, croplands, forests, grasslands, and open water creates a mosaic of wildlife-rich habitats. The primary objective for Eufaula NWR is to provide wetlands, fire-driven habitats, and wildlands for waterfowl and other migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and other wildlife of special concern.

Eufaula NWR is a unit of National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS): a national network of lands and waters administered for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

The following regulations supplement the regulations governing public use of national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR).

Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>.

General Information

Safety

Dangerous wildlife and conditions are present throughout Eufaula NWR. Wildlife should not be approached, disturbed, or fed.

Hours

Eufaula NWR is open during daylight hours: one and one-half hours before sunrise to one and one-half hours after sunset.

Closed areas

Designated areas of the refuge are closed, sometimes only seasonally, to all entry. Closed areas are indicated on the attached map and/or marked with signs.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on NWRS lands must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use firearms in accordance with refuge regulations as provided in 50 CFR.

Vehicles

All vehicles and drivers must be licensed, registered, and insured for highway use. ATVs, UTVs, and OHVs are prohibited. Vehicles (including bicycles) are restricted to gravel/dirt roads maintained for public vehicle traffic. Roads closed to vehicles and/or bicycles are marked with signs. Physically challenged visitors needing assistance are encouraged to contact the refuge office.

Boats

On all refuge waters, including those waters that are part of Lake Eufaula: Air thrust boats (including airboats, aircraft, hovercraft, and watercraft with supplemental fans) are prohibited. Personal watercraft (PWCs, Sea Doos, Jet Skis, WaveRunners, etc.) and air-



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

2023-2024 Hunt Permit

Signing this brochure validates it as your general hunting permit. You must sign and carry it while participating in authorized refuge hunts. By signing this brochure, you acknowledge your understanding of all federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to hunting on the refuge. This permit is required for all hunters.

I have read and understand all refuge hunting regulations.

Hunter's Signature



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cooled propulsion engines (mud boats, surface drives, Mud Buddys, Go-Devils, etc.) are permitted only within marked navigation channels. Recreational towing (waterskiing, tubing, etc.) is prohibited.

Dogs

Dogs must be under control at all times. Dogs more than 10 feet from owner or in water will not be considered under control. Using recognized retrieving breeds is encouraged while hunting dove or waterfowl. Use of other dogs while hunting is prohibited.

Fishing and Hunting Regulations

Public use, including fishing and hunting, is permitted under carefully controlled conditions. When managed wisely, recreational use of renewable natural resources can occur while allowing the refuge to fulfill its establishing purposes and the NWRS mission. Fishing and hunting are permitted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, except as noted within this brochure and/or by signs posted on the refuge.

General Fishing

Except where noted, state regulations (including seasons, and creel and size limits) apply. Lake Eufaula size and creel limits apply to all refuge waters. Fishing in Lake Eufaula is legal with either an Alabama or Georgia fishing license; fishing in refuge-impounded waters requires a license from the state in which you are fishing. Commercial fishing is not permitted in refuge-impounded waters. Harvesting frogs and turtles is prohibited on all refuge waters, including from those waters that are part of Lake Eufaula.

General Hunting

Only those species listed in this brochure may be hunted on Eufaula NWR. A refuge permit is required for all hunting. Permits are non-transferrable, must be signed by the hunter, and must be carried along with appropriate state hunting licenses and hunter safety cards while hunting on the refuge. The front of this brochure serves as your permit for all hunting except waterfowl and youth gun hunts. Waterfowl and youth

gun hunters must possess an additional quota hunting permit. Brochures may be obtained at the refuge headquarters or from the refuge website.

Only still or stand hunting is permitted; drives are prohibited. Archery deer and youth firearm hunters may take feral hogs during those seasons with equipment/weapons legal for that hunt. There are no daily or season bag limits for feral hogs. Youth hunters must remain within sight and normal voice contact of a properly hunting-licensed adult age 21 or older (see special regulations for Alabama youth dove and waterfowl hunts). Youth hunters must carry verification of passing a state-approved hunter education course. We define youth as those individuals at least 10, but less than 16 years old. During quota waterfowl hunts, only permitted waterfowl hunters may enter the Bradley or Kennedy units.

Alabama hunters (except migratory bird hunters) must wear a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or full-sized hunter orange hat, except when hunting from an elevated tree stand 12 feet or more from the ground or an enclosed blind. Georgia youth gun deer hunters, and anyone accompanying the hunters, must wear as an outer garment at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange above the waist.

Quota Hunts

Permittees for special quota hunts (Youth Gun Deer, General Waterfowl, Youth/Adult Waterfowl, and Youth Waterfowl) will be selected by random drawing. Individuals wishing to hunt during quota hunts must submit an application between August 1 and September 15. Applications, available online (see below), will be accepted by mail (postmarked by September 15) or in-person (by 4:30 p.m., September 15) at Eufaula NWR, 367 Highway 165, Eufaula, AL 36027.

Hunters may apply one time per season per hunt type. Individuals applying for more than one hunt type must submit a separate application for each hunt. Incomplete or duplicate applications will not be accepted.

Please do not send any payment with your application.

Successful applicants will be notified of their hunt date and time, how they can pay their user fee to confirm their hunt, and of other important information. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified. Due to the large volume of applications submitted, we cannot confirm receipt of applications.

Big Game Regulations

Archery deer

Archery deer hunting is allowed during state seasons, subject to the following. One deer may be taken each day.

Alabama

The refuge participates in the quality deer management program. All bucks taken in Barbour County must have a minimum of three points on at least one antler.

Georgia

The refuge lands between Bustahatchee and Rood creeks are not open for archery hunting until November 1.

Youth Gun Deer

Application form: FWS Form 3-2354 (<https://www.fws.gov/media/3-2354-enwrpdf-1>), complete blocks 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 (write *Youth deer*), 7A, and 8.

Eligible hunters: Youth ages 10-15

Hunt dates: October 7 and October 21

Fee: After selection, \$20.00 to confirm/reserve hunt

Special regulations: Permit holders must abide by regulations regarding adult supervision and hunter education requirements found in this brochure. One adult may supervise no more than one youth hunter. Adults may not hunt. Hunters are required to check in and out at the Bradley Unit check station the morning of their hunt. Selectees will be notified of a special pre-hunt scouting day during which they may set up, and leave overnight, a portable stand. Each youth may take one deer per day.



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Migratory Bird Regulations

Dove

Dove hunting is allowed on Wednesdays and Saturdays during state seasons in September and October on designated Alabama portions of the refuge, subject to the following.

Hunt hours will be in accordance with state regulations. The first Saturday hunt is a youth/adult hunt. Each youth (ages 10-15) must hunt. One adult supervisor can supervise up to two youth. Only one adult supervisor per youth may hunt. Non-toxic shot is required. Use/possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Waterfowl

Waterfowl hunting is prohibited refuge-wide, except in and during designated locations and times (see below). All waterfowl hunt opportunities are spaced-blind and assigned by lottery. Unconfirmed and unclaimed blinds may be filled by random draw the morning of each hunt. Hunting is permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to noon local time, except the last hunt of the season when hunting is permitted until sunset. Hunters are limited to 25 shells each.

Wheelchair accessible hunting blinds (one each in the Bradley and Kennedy units) are available for quota hunters who have permanent physical challenges and who are not able to hunt from other blinds. Persons seeking use of accessible blinds should indicate their request in block 7 on the application form.

General Waterfowl

Alabama (Kennedy Unit) and Georgia (Bradley Unit)

Application form: FWS Form 3-2355 (<https://www.fws.gov/media/3-2355-enwrpdf-1>), complete blocks 1, 2, 3, 6 (write *Alabama* or *Georgia*), 7 (if seeking use of accessible blind), and 8.

Eligible hunters: All

Hunt dates: Alabama - designated Saturdays during the state waterfowl season, Georgia - designated Wednesdays during the state waterfowl season.

Fee: After selection, \$60.00 to confirm/reserve hunt

Special regulations: Hunters must apply for the Georgia or the Alabama hunt, not both. Permit holders may bring up to two additional individuals (hunting or nonhunting). No more than three persons are allowed per blind.

Youth/Adult Waterfowl

Alabama (Kennedy Unit) and Georgia (Bradley Unit)

Application form: FWS Form 3-2355 (<https://www.fws.gov/media/3-2355-enwrpdf-1>), complete blocks 1, 2, 3 (name of youth), 6 (write *Alabama* or *Georgia*), 7 (write *Youth/Adult* and, if applicable, indicate if requesting use of accessible blind), 7A, and 8.

Eligible hunters: Youth ages 10-15

Hunt dates: Alabama - designated day during the state waterfowl season, Georgia - designated day during the state waterfowl season.

Fees: After selection, \$60.00 to confirm/reserve hunt

Special regulations: Hunters must apply for the Georgia or the Alabama hunt, not both. Permit holders must abide by regulations regarding adult supervision and hunter education requirements found in this brochure. Permit holders may bring up to one additional individual (hunting youth, nonhunting youth, or nonhunting adult). One youth must hunt. No more than three persons are allowed per blind. One adult supervisor can supervise up to two youth. Only one adult may hunt.

Youth Waterfowl

Alabama (Kennedy Unit) and Georgia (Bradley Unit)

Application form: FWS Form 3-2355 (<https://www.fws.gov/media/3-2355-enwrpdf-1>), complete blocks 1, 2, 3 (name of youth), 6 (write *Alabama* or *Georgia*), 7 (write *Youth* and, if applicable, indicate if requesting use of accessible blind), 7A, and 8.

Eligible hunters: youth ages 10-15

Hunt dates: Alabama - designated Saturday during the state waterfowl season, Georgia

- designated Saturday during the state waterfowl season.

Fees: After selection, \$40.00 to confirm/reserve hunt

Special regulations: Hunters must apply for the Georgia or the Alabama hunt, not both. Permit holders must abide by regulations regarding adult supervision and hunter education requirements found in this brochure. Permit holders may bring up to one additional individual (hunting youth, nonhunting youth, or nonhunting adult). No more than three persons are allowed per blind. One adult supervisor can supervise up to two youth. Supervising adults may not hunt.

Small Game Regulations

Rabbit and Squirrel

Rabbit and squirrel, except fox squirrel, hunting is allowed during the state season in February on designated Alabama portions of the refuge. Dogs are not permitted. Shotguns using non-toxic shot are required. Use/possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Prohibited Activities

- Harvesting frogs and turtles on all refuge waters, including from those waters that are part of Lake Eufaula.
- Littering, including spent shotgun shells.
- Parking vehicles in a way that blocks roads, gates, or field access.
- Camping or overnight parking or mooring.
- Building fires.
- Use/possession of lead shot. Non-toxic shot must be used for all hunts except the youth deer hunt.
- Leaving personal property (including stands, blinds, and boats) on the refuge overnight.
- Use/possession of glass bottles or containers.
- Use/possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Driving or screwing a nail, screw, or other object into a tree or hunting/observing from a tree in which a nail, screw, or other object has been driven or screwed.



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- Use of wheeled devices (game carts, kayak carts, wheeled tree stands, bicycles, etc.), except on designated roads and trails.
- Hunting/observing from an elevated stand without use of a full body harness.
- Constructing or occupying a permanent blind.

Prohibited Activities - continued

- Cutting, removing, or defacing any vegetation (including fruits, nuts, and berries).
- Searching for, or removing, any object of antiquity (such as arrowheads or pottery) or any natural item (such as antlers, skulls, or plants or their parts).
- Use/possession of flagging or other markers.
- Trapping.
- Target practice (including archery).
- Use/possession of, placing, or hunting over bait: any substance that constitutes an attractant to wildlife (corn, wheat, salt, etc.).
- Use/possession of game cameras.

Reporting violations/crimes or emergencies

Emergencies: 911

Wildlife Violations

National TIP line: 844/678 8477

Alabama Game Watch: 800/272 4263

Georgia Poacher Hotline: 800/241 4113

General Crime

Alabama & Georgia, Eufaula NWR:
334/687 4065

Alabama, Eufaula, Police Department:
334/687 1200

Alabama, Barbour County, Sheriff's Office:
334/775 3434

Alabama, Russell County, Sheriff's Office:
334/298 6535

Georgia, Quitman County, Sheriff's Office:
229/334 3726

Georgia, Stewart County, Sheriff's Office:
229/838 4393

Please respect the following signs:



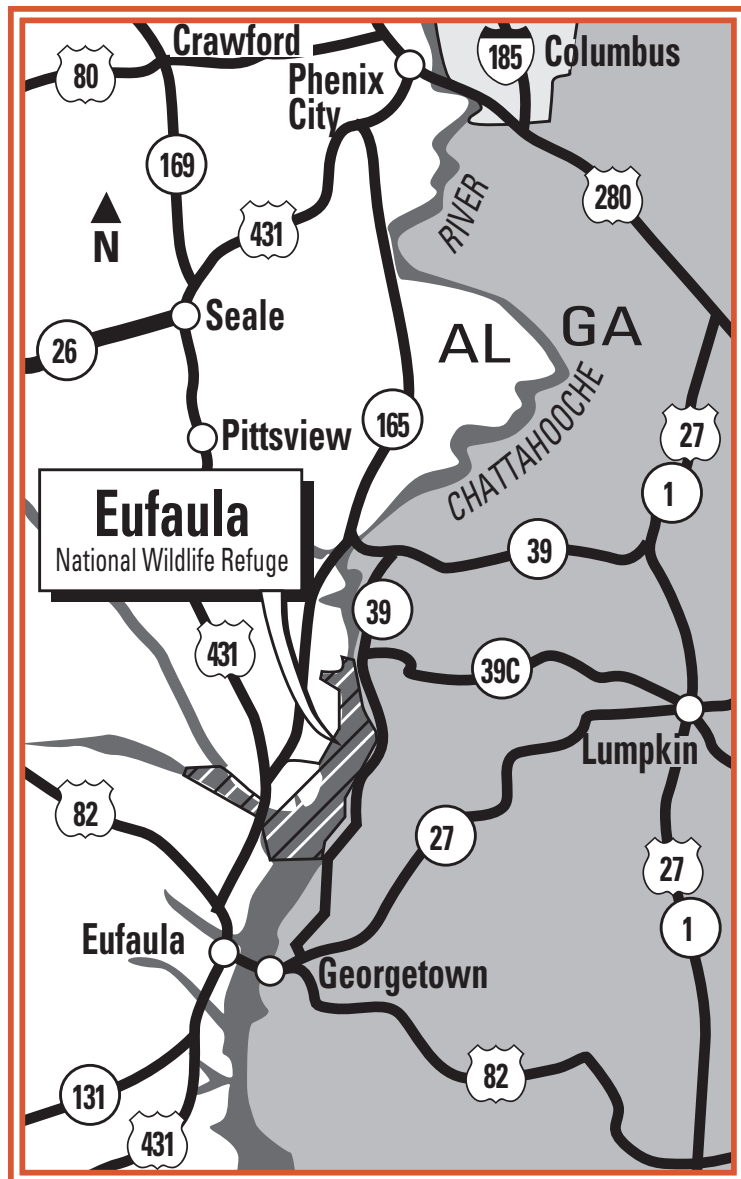
Boundary of the refuge. The refuge boundary also is marked with red paint.



Area closed and area seasonally closed signs. These signs mean the area behind the sign is closed to all entry either year-round or seasonally. Do not enter the area behind this sign for any reason.



No hunting zone sign. This sign marks areas closed to hunting. Entry for other authorized activities generally is permitted.





Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

- Archery Hunt Opens Nov. 1
- Closed to All Entry
- No Hunt Zone
- Seasonally Closed Nov. 15-March 1
- Seasonally Closed Feb. 1-Sep. 1
Archery hunt opens Nov. 1
- Refuge Headquarters
- Boat Ramp
- Waterfowl Check Station
- Self Check Station
- Refuge Boundary
- Hard Surface Roads
- Road Closed or Seasonally Closed to Motorized Traffic
- Improved Light Duty Road

