

Julia Butler Hansen

Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer Hunting Regulations 2022–2023



Welcome

The Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer (Refuge) contains over 6,000 acres of pastures, forested tidal swamps, brushy woodlots, marshes and sloughs along the Columbia River in both Washington and Oregon State. It was established in 1971 to protect and manage Columbian white-tailed deer. The hunting of geese, ducks, coots, and snipe is permitted in specific units of the Refuge in accordance with federal and state hunting regulations.

Safety - Tides

Hunters are cautioned to pay attention to tidal fluctuations when hunting tidal areas.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Foot Traffic Only

All island units of the Refuge are open to foot traffic only unless otherwise specified.

Boats

The islands of Lewis and Clark Refuge are accessible only by boat. Tidal flows and fluctuations, strong wakes from ships, and strong winds can make boating difficult and sometimes dangerous. Deep channels separate most islands at high tide, but tide tables and navigation charts should be consulted to avoid grounding on sandbars. If your boat becomes stuck in the mud, wait for the next high tide to float it free. In Oregon, boat launch sites are located at Aldrich Point near the Brownsmead area and at the John Day boat ramp east of Astoria. In Washington, launch ramps are located at the Cathlamet Marina, at mile marker 30 off of State Highway 4, adjacent to Skamokawa Vista Park and at Willow Grove west of Longview. In Washington, launch ramps are located at the Elochoman Slough Marina (in Cathlamet), at mile marker 30 of State Highway 4 (adjacent to Skamokawa Vista Park), and at Willow Grove Park (west of Longview).

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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>.

Blinds

Temporary blinds may be constructed. We prohibit permanent blinds. You must remove all personal property, including decoys and boats by 1 1/2 hours after legal sunset.

Dogs

Dogs are prohibited on all Refuge units except certified assistance animals and dogs used for hunting waterfowl. Dogs must always remain in the control of their handlers.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations."

Waterfowl hunting will be in accordance with applicable Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Wildlife or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

The Refuge is open daily from dawn to dusk. Hunting access is from 1 1/2 hours before legal sunrise until 1 1/2 hours after legal sunset.

Julia Butler Hansen
Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer
46 Steamboat Slough Road
Cathlamet, WA 9861

(360) 795-3915
willapa@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/julia-butler-hansen-columbian-white-tailed-deer

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

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Signs and Boundaries

Safety Zones: You may not shoot or discharge any hunting firearm from, across, or along a public highway, designated route of travel, road, road shoulder, road embankment, or designated parking area.

Please respect the following signs:

- No vehicles: All Traffic prohibited
- Parking area: Designated areas to park while hunting

Applies to the area located behind the sign

- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited

Areas open to waterfowl hunting include portions of the shorelines, tidelands and sloughs of Price and Hunting Islands in Washington and Wallace and Crims Islands in Oregon. All other Refuge units including the Mainland and Tenasillahe Island Units are closed to waterfowl hunting.

Hunting and Price Islands

The Refuge-owned shorelines, tidelands and interior sloughs of Hunting and Price Islands are open to waterfowl hunting, except where it parallels Steamboat Slough (see map), in accordance with Federal and Washington State Regulations. The eastern tip of Hunting Island (approx. 150 acres) is privately owned and the southern half of Price Island (approx. 160 acres) is owned by Wahkiakum County. Check refuge map for approximate boundaries. Access to islands is by boat only.

Westport, Wallace, and Crims Islands

The Refuge-owned shorelines, tidelands and interior sloughs of Wallace and Crims Islands are open to waterfowl hunting, in accordance with Federal and Oregon State Regulations. Only the Refuge-owned shorelines are opened at the Westport Unit. Please note that several parts of Crims Island are privately owned, including the western tip of the island (approx. 90 acres) and a 40-acre section of the north part of the island. See the Refuge map for approximate boundaries. Access is by boat only.

Prohibited Activities

- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Camping and fires
- Motorized equipment: All-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, and chain saws. Motorized boats are allowed.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological features
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices
- Takeoff and Landing of Unmanned Aircraft Systems/Drones
- Distribution of bait and hunting over bait
- Ammunition that may not be legally used for taking waterfowl, only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed

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



Activity	Season Dates: WASHINGTON	Season Dates: OREGON
	Hunting and Price Islands	Westport, Wallace, and Crims Islands
Youth Hunt	Sept. 24 & Feb. 4	Sept. 24 – 25
Veterans and Active Military	Feb. 4	Feb. 4
Duck Season (Including Coots)	Oct. 15 – 23 & Oct. 26 – Jan. 29, scaup opens Nov. 5	Oct. 15 – Oct. 30 & Nov. 3 – Jan. 29, scaup opens Nov. 5
Scaup	Nov. 5 – Jan. 29	Nov. 5 – Jan. 29
Canada Goose (September)	Sept. 3 – 11	Sept. 10 – 18
Goose	Oct. 15 – 30 Daily Nov. 23 – Jan. 15 & Feb. 11 – March 8 Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only	Oct. 22 – 30 & Nov. 19 – Jan. 9 & Feb. 4 – Mar. 10
Dusky Canada Goose	CLOSED	CLOSED
Snipe	Oct. 15 – 23 & Oct. 26 – Jan. 29	Nov. 5 – Feb. 19

