We follow state requirements regarding hunter or blaze orange.

We prohibit:
• the use and possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting,
• distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of, any type of baits (fish, salt, other mineral or other substance that lures or attracts animals),
• the use of trail cameras and drones,
• taking plants,
• all other activities not specifically authorized.

Fishing
We allow fishing in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations in the following areas:
• All refuge canals except canals on the Pungo Unit during September, October, November, December, January, and February.
• In the refuge portion of New Lake except during November, December, January, and February.
• In Pungo Lake, from the edge/bank, except during November, December, January, and February.

You must carry a current, signed Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit when fishing on the refuge. The permit is on the front cover of this brochure – Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations. You must present this signed document to any authorized refuge official upon request when fishing on the refuge.

We allow fishing from 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset.
We prohibit the taking or possession of any other wildlife, or limit hybridization with red wolves. Canids seen with black collars (e.g., red wolves, coyotes, and foxes) is strictly prohibited on all national wildlife refuges. Coyotes cannot be hunted on or off refuges. Canids seen with black collars must be reported to the Celo Creek Canid Response Unit. While some of the regulations apply generally to all national wildlife refuges, this information is specific to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Regulated species, or seasons, change from year to year as we attempt to control coyote numbers and facilitate the recovery of black bears. Coyotes, red wolves, and black bears are also protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Hunting Permits
We authorize access to the Refuge for hunting within the season(s) and wildlife refuge unit(s) authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (except Federal holidays). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will issue this permit online only (see below). This permit will allow you to hunt the principal species of wildlife listed below. You may possess only approved nontoxic shot while hunting to prevent waterfowl from disturbance.

To receive a permit, you must be age 16 or older, pay a $15 special recreation permit fee to obtain a special recreational permit to hunt on the Refuge. We do not issue or allow the take of deer and feral hogs on designated areas of the Pungo Unit.

We allow you access to the area until the hunting season on the Refuge ends or you leave the Refuge. We prohibit hunting on the Refuge during the Refuge closed areas. During the Refuge closed areas, we prohibit hunting on the Refuge.

Access
We allow you to travel on designated refuge roads (see map). We prohibit the use of dogs to pursue, chase, track, or otherwise aid in taking wildlife on the Refuge. We prohibit deer hunting using the same weapons we allow for taking deer. We prohibit using dogs to retrieve deer hunting. We prohibit deer hunting using the same weapons we allow for taking deer. We prohibit leaving stands on the Refuge overnight. We do not authorize hunting on designated areas of the Pungo Unit.

We allow the use of archery equipment, black powder firearms, and other weapons and methods authorized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) or other approved out-of-state wildlife agencies. We prohibit the use of dogs to point and retrieve migratory game birds but you must maintain control of your dog(s) at all times.

We prohibit the use of firearms using the same weapons we allow for taking deer. We prohibit using dogs to point and retrieve migratory game birds but you must maintain control of your dog(s) at all times.

We prohibit any possession of ammunition or deer hunting.

We allow the use of archery equipment, black powder firearms, and other weapons and methods authorized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) or other approved out-of-state wildlife agencies. We prohibit the use of dogs to point and retrieve migratory game birds but you must maintain control of your dog(s) at all times.