

Pocosin Lakes

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2016-2017

Hunting Regulations

Refuge Game Animals

The following species may be hunted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations:

- Migratory Birds: ducks, geese, swans, mourning doves, woodcock, rails, and snipe
- Upland Game: quail, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, fox, beaver, and nutria
- Big Game: white-tailed deer
- Feral Hogs

The taking or possession of any wildlife, including reptiles and/or amphibians, or any part thereof, except when permitted during a Refuge hunt or transporting same along a State Road, is prohibited.

Hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by Refuge and state law enforcement officers.

Permits

You must have a valid Refuge General Hunting Permit to hunt and a Refuge Fishing Permit to fish on Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The permit forms are on the front of this brochure. In addition, to hunt you must also have a Refuge Recreational Activity Permit for hunting for the current year.

To validate your Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permits, simply sign the front of this brochure per the instructions.

To obtain a Refuge Recreational Activity Permit for hunting you must pay the \$15.00 annual Refuge General Hunting Fee. You may pay the fee by either:

1. sending the hunter's name, address, and phone number; a check or money order for \$15.00 made out to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 329, Columbia, NC 27925 (the Refuge Recreational Activity Permit for hunting will be sent back to you in the envelope you provide) or
2. purchasing the Refuge Recreational Activity Permit for hunting at Refuge Headquarters located at 205 South Ludington Drive, Columbia, NC during our core business hours (9 am to 3 pm, Monday - Friday, except Federal holidays).

Note: due to limited staff availability, it's always a good idea to call first before making the trip to our Headquarters (252/796 3004).

You are required to carry your valid Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit (signed brochure) and your current Refuge Recreational Activity Permit at all times when hunting on the Refuge.

You are required to carry only the signed brochure when fishing on the Refuge. You must present these documents to any authorized Refuge official upon request when hunting or fishing on the refuge.

Because the refuge is open only daylight hours, an additional permit is required to hunt raccoon and opossum at night; the permit is available at the Refuge Headquarters.

Area Restrictions

Hunting is not allowed

- around the Headquarters/Visitor Center/Scuppernong River Boardwalk;
- within the Pungo Shop complex;
- on the Pungo Unit except as described under "Big Game and Feral Hogs";
- on Pungo Lake and the refuge portion of New Lake;
- on the refuge lands between Shore Drive and Lake Phelps;
- on that portion of the Pinner Tract east of SR 1105;
- on Western Road from Seagoing Road south to the gate;
- on the road forming the southern boundary of the refuge tract west of Pettigrew State Park's Cypress Point Access Area.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 329
205 South Ludington Drive
Columbia, NC 27925
252/796 3004
<http://Pocosinlakes.fws.gov>

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

August 2016



Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit 2016-2017

To validate this permit, you must agree to the statement and sign below.

I have read and understand these Refuge regulations.

Signature

Note: to hunt on Pocosin Lakes NWR, you must also purchase a Refuge Recreational Activity Permit (see inside for details).

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The following areas are closed to all public entry during November, December, January, and February:

- Pungo and New Lake
- Duck Pen Road (except that portion which forms the Duck Pen Wildlife Trail) and the Pungo Lake Banding Site.
- the Smartweed moist soil unit and its dikes, including that section of Molt Road forming the southern boundary of the Smartweed moist soil unit
- the Jones Pond moist soil unit, including its dikes
- all farm fields on the Pungo Unit.

You must get consent from a refuge employee to retrieve legally taken game animals from closed areas including “No Hunting Zones.” Hunting firearms are not allowed in closed areas.

Hunters should be aware that some private land exists between Allen and Boerma Roads (in the A7, A8, A9, and A 11 blocks) that is completely surrounded by refuge lands. Trespassing on private land is illegal.

General

The refuge is open during daylight hours (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset) only, except that:

- hunters may enter hunting areas up to 90 minutes before official shooting time and remain on the refuge up to 90 minutes after legal shooting time. During these non-daylight hours, hunters must be traveling to a hunt area or actively engaged in a hunting-related activity such as setting up a stand, hunting, or tracking/retrieving game. Hunters must exit the refuge as quickly as possible after daylight hours have ended, but no later than 90 minutes afterwards.
- raccoon and opossum hunters may hunt on the refuge at night with a special permit.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

The discharge of firearms and use of all weapons are prohibited except for hunting in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Hunting, taking, and attempting to take any wildlife from a vehicle while the passenger area is occupied or the engine is running is prohibited. This does not preclude hunting from an ATV/electric vehicle (where authorized) as long as the vehicle is stationary and the engine is not running, nor does it preclude hunting from a boat (where authorized) when the motor is off and all forward momentum from a motor has ceased.

You must wear 500 square inches (3250 cm²) of fluorescent orange material above the waist, which is visible from all sides, while hunting upland game and while hunting deer or feral hogs in areas open to hunting with firearms. A vest and a hat normally meet this requirement; a hat alone does not.

Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of any type of bait (food, salt, other mineral or other substance that lures or attracts animals) is prohibited on the refuge.

Only biodegradable flagging tape may be used on the refuge (to mark trails, stand locations, etc.). Plastic flagging tape, reflectors, dots, glow tacks, and other materials are prohibited.

Big Game and Feral Hogs

Big game may be taken with those weapons authorized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission except that rifles and pistols are not authorized. Feral hogs may be taken in any area open to deer hunting, using the same weapons authorized for taking deer. In addition, feral hogs may be taken in the Frying Pan Unit anytime the area is open to hunting with firearms, including small game hunting, using shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment.

The Pungo Unit is closed to all hunting except for the limited deer and feral hog hunting opportunities described here. Deer and feral hogs may be hunted on the Pungo Unit with those weapons authorized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, except that rifles and pistols are not authorized, from the start of the hunting season through the end of October.

Deer and feral hogs may be taken on the Pungo Unit with archery equipment during November and all hunting is prohibited on the Pungo Unit after November. Hunting is not allowed within the Pungo Shop fenced area, anywhere within Pungo Lake, within 100 yards of the Duck Pen Wildlife Trail, and within 100 yards of the Pungo Lake Observation Platform on the south side of the lake.

Only portable tree stands are allowed on the refuge and they must be removed at the end of each day. Using nails, wire, screws, and bolts to attach a tree stand, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter (including lag screw type steps) is prohibited.

Upland Game

Upland game may not be taken/hunted on the Pungo Unit. Upland game may be taken with those weapons authorized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission except that rifles (other than .22 caliber rim-fire rifles) and pistols are not authorized. Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting in the non-toxic shot zone on and west of Evans Road.

To hunt raccoon and opossum at night, request a special Raccoon and Opossum Nighttime Hunting Permit at Refuge Headquarters in Columbia, NC. There is no fee for this permit. Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

Beaver and nutria may be taken only with firearms and only in areas open to hunting other game animals with firearms.

Migratory Birds

Migratory birds may not be taken/hunted on the Pungo Unit. The migratory birds listed under “Refuge Game Animals” may be hunted in all other areas where hunting is allowed. Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting migratory birds.

Only portable blinds made of man-made materials and temporary blinds constructed of natural materials can be used for migratory bird hunting. However, cutting any live vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. You must remove portable blinds at the end of each day.

Youth Hunters

Youth hunters (under age 16) must be under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter over the age of 21. A licensed hunter over the age of 21 may supervise one big game youth hunter, or up to two migratory bird or upland game youth hunters at a time. Youth hunters must meet state hunter education requirements.

Hunters with Disabilities

A universally-accessible blind is available on the refuge just west of Dehoog Road and about a mile south of County Line Road. Disabled hunters (documented by a NCWRC Disabled Access Permit or other acceptable means) may apply for a Refuge Special Use Permit to use this blind on a first-come/first-served basis. All other hunting - within 300 yards of this blind - is prohibited. Contact the Refuge Office for more information.

Hunting Dogs

Chasing, tracking, or otherwise using dogs to hunt or pursue deer, bear, turkey, or other wildlife on the refuge is prohibited except that rabbit hunters can use chase dogs and migratory bird and upland game hunters can use dogs to point and retrieve. All hunting dogs must be under your control at all times and you cannot possess buckshot or slugs while hunting with dogs.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is an important area for the reintroduction and recovery of the endangered red wolf. Several wolf packs roam the refuge and we have an active management program that often includes trapping wolves. The traps used are rubber jawed to minimize the chance of injury to target and non-target animals. If you or your dog encounters one of these traps, please report it to the Refuge Headquarters.

Vehicles

All off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.

Blocking gates, roads, trails, or other travel ways is prohibited. Many of the dirt roads on the refuge become impassable during wet periods. Vehicles, including 4x4s, often get stuck. Towing services are extremely limited. Visitors should not attempt to travel through standing water or muddy sinkholes along refuge roads.

ATV/UTVs may be operated on designated ATV/UTV routes only. They may only be used to transport hunters and their equipment to scout and hunt. ATV/UTVs may be operated on these ATV/UTV routes only when the ATV/UTV route and surrounding area are open to hunting, one week prior to the area opening for hunting, and on Sundays during the hunting season. Hunting from an ATV/UTV under power and operating ATV/UTVs off of designated ATV/UTV routes are prohibited.

Fishing Regulations

Fish may be taken on the Refuge in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following.

Fishing is allowed on Pungo (bank fishing only) and New Lakes from March 1 through October 31 only.

Boats are not allowed on Pungo Lake.

Boats are not allowed on the Refuge portion of New Lake from November through February. Boats may not be left anywhere on the Refuge overnight.

Fishing is allowed from 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset only.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

-  Refuge office
-  Hunting allowed
-  State seasons and bag limits
-  Pungo Unit
-  Hunting allowed, State seasons and bag limits, Non-toxic shot Zone-Migratory Game Birds and Upland Game
-  Area closed to all hunting
-  Roads open to licensed vehicles
-  Roads closed to vehicles, except 3-4 wheeled all-terrain cycles, license not required
-  County lines
-  Roads open seasonally to licensed vehicles
-  Roads closed to all vehicles
-  Pungo Shop

Note: some roads may be closed seasonally to protect wildlife from excessive disturbance and for other management purposes.

