**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge**

**Hunting Regulations 2016-2017**

**General Provisions**
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with habitat.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable state regulations.

**Prohibited Activities**
- Target practice is prohibited.
- Wood gathering, camping, littering, and fires are prohibited.
- Leashed dogs may be used for trailing injured game. Other use of dogs prohibited except for Piney Island Waterfowl hunt.
- Unleashed dogs prohibited.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages in refuge hunting areas is prohibited.
- The placing of or hunting over bait is prohibited.

It is unlawful to insert a nail, spike or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike or other metal object has been inserted.

Hunting from any paved or unpaved refuge road is prohibited.

Use of flagging tape and reflective tacks prohibited. Painting or defacing plants or trees prohibited.

ATV’s are prohibited on refuge hunts.

Hunting or cleaning of game within 1000 feet of any residence or developed public recreation area is prohibited.

The refuge is open to daylight use only.

**St. Marks Hunt Area**
This hunt area is east of the St. Marks River (see map). Access is limited to the power line grade east of CR 59 (Lighthouse Road) and Grade 6 east of CR 59 (Lighthouse Road)

**Archery Season:**
- September 17 - October 16, 2016
- State legal archery equipment only

**Muzzleloading Gun Season:**
- October 22 - November 4, 2016
- State legal primitive weapon equipment only

**General Gun Season:**
- November 5, 2016 - January 22, 2017
- State rules regarding weapons and ammunition apply

Legal to hunt: Antlered deer must have at least three points, one inch or greater in length on one antler to be harvested. Archery hunters may also take antlerless deer (which includes does, and bucks with antlers less than five inches in length, but not spotted fawn), and turkey of either sex. State harvest limits apply. Wild hogs unlimited.

**Spring Turkey Season:**
- Youth Turkey, March 11 - 12, 2017.
- Spring Turkey, March 18 - April 23, 2017.

Weapons: Firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger the #2 is prohibited - bearded turkeys only, no hunting after 1 pm, state harvest limits apply.

**Small Game Season:**
- January 23 - March 5, 2017. (Same regulations for species and weapons listed under the Small Game and Hogs.)

License requirements – Signed refuge hunting brochure, Florida hunting license, appropriate state stamp for weapon being used (and game being hunted).

**Quota Hunts Permits**
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be handling all hunt permits for St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Applications may be submitted at any

This leaflet must be signed to be valid for the December 26, 2016 - January 8, 2017 small game and St. Marks Unit hunts. It must be carried by the hunter while hunting. Companions must also have this permit while in hunt area. Gates not open for pre-hunt scouting by vehicles.

**Name (Please print)**
I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

**Signature (Permits are not transferable)**
license agent or tax collector or on-line
at http://myfwc.com/license/limited-
entry-hunts/ beginning at 10 am (Eastern
Spring Turkey application period will
begin November 1, 2016.

Panacea Unit Fall Archery
200 permits - November 1-5, 2016
Tuesday - Saturday. See bag limits below.
Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits
below); hogs-either sex. All game must be
checked out at Otter Lake Check Station.
Weapons: state regulations for archery
equipment. Crossbows are not permitted
without state disabled crossbow permit.
Area: Panacea Unit only.

Wakulla Unit Fall Archery
200 permits - November 8-12, 2016
Tuesday - Saturday
Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits
below); hogs-either sex. All game must be
checked out at the Wakulla Beach Check
Station.
Weapons: state regulations for archery
equipment. Crossbows are not permitted
without state disabled crossbow permit.
Area: Wakulla Unit only. Daily check-in/
check-out required at the Wakulla Beach
check station.

Wakulla Unit General Gun Hunt
150 permits - December 10-12, 2016
Saturday - Monday
Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits
below); hogs - either sex.
Area: Wakulla Unit only. Daily check-in/
check-out required at the Wakulla Beach
check station.
Weapons: state regulations for taking
deer.

Panacea Unit General Gun Hunt
80 permits - December 16-18, 2016,
Friday - Sunday
Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits
below); hogs - either sex.
Area: Panacea Unit only. Daily check-in/
check-out required at the Otter Lake
check station.
Weapons: state regulations for taking
deer.

Mobility-impaired Person Gun Hunt
15 permits - December 10-12, 2016
Saturday - Monday
Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits
below); hogs, either sex.

Area: section of Panacea Unit west of
Highway 372 (Buckhorn Creek area).
All Quota Hunts Bag Limit: Two deer per
hunt, either two antlerless deer or one
antlerless deer and one antlered deer.
Antlerless deer are defined per state
regulations as deer with no antler or
antlers less than 5”. Antlered deer must
have at least 3 points, 1 inch or greater
in length on one antler to be harvested.
Unlimited hogs. Youth hunters 15 years
and younger may harvest any deer except
spotted fawn during archery season,
bag limits apply. One bearded turkey
per hunter may be taken during archery
quota.

Spring Gobbler
100 permits - April 11-15, 2017, Tuesday
- Saturday, hunting hours are 1/2 hour
before sunrise until 1 pm ET.
Species: bearded turkeys only. Bag limit:
one turkey per hunt.
Area: Panacea and Wakulla Units only. All
game must be checked out at designated
check stations.
Weapons: firearms other than shotguns
or using a shot size larger than #2 is
prohibited.

Non-quota Hunt Permits
Small Game and Hogs
December 26, 2016 - January 8, 2017
Species: gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons,
and hogs.
Area: both Panacea and Wakulla Units
and Aucilla River Area.
Weapons: restricted to .22 calibre rimfire
firearms or smaller, shotguns with
non-toxic shot, #4 bird shot or smaller,
or muzzleloaders. Hunters may also
use shotgun slugs, buckshot, archery
equipment or pistols to take feral hogs.
The use of other weapons is prohibited.
(Permits: available on website and refuge
office)

Piney Island Waterfowl Hunt / State
Season
Species: ducks and coots.
Area: Piney Island only.
Weapons: non-toxic shot only. Hunting
from blinds left in area for more than one
day prohibited. Remove blinds daily. Use
of island plants for blinds prohibited.
Permits: No specific refuge permit
required.

Port Leon Youth Hunting Area
Youth Deer Hunt - December 2-4, 2016.
Youth Spring Gobbler Hunt - April 7 - 9,
2017
Applications available online in the Youth
Opportunities Section: http://www.myfwc.
com/hunting/

All Prohibited Activities listed previously
in this brochure apply. Hunters (except
turkey hunters) using firearms must
wear a minimum of 500 square inches
of fluorescent orange-colored material
above the waistline. Archery hunters
are encouraged to wear orange colored
material.