

General Information

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge contains approximately 53,000 acres along the Suwannee River in Dixie and Levy Counties. More than 100 miles of roads provide either vehicle or foot/bicycle access to many habitat types open to hunting.

The Refuge provides general hunts, youth and family hunts.

All general Refuge regulations apply unless specifically addressed in this leaflet. Restrictions and designations on the map in this leaflet also apply. Please note that forest management activities including prescribed burns and logging operations may occur at any time during the year. Annual plans will be posted at Refuge check stations. The Refuge is not responsible for damage to tree stands.

An annual Hunter Working Group meeting will be held following the Spring Turkey Season. Please contact the refuge if you are interested in attending. Tentative date for Hunter Working Group meeting is May 4, 2013.

Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all State laws, county codes, Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations and the following Refuge regulations:

Permit Requirements

All hunters must possess a refuge hunting permit and a State of Florida hunting license. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as the permit for all 2012-2013 hunts **except** the Limited Youth Hunts. State Management Area stamps *are not* required. Archery, muzzleloader, and turkey stamps *are required* for appropriate hunts. State and Federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt waterfowl.

Successful hunters are required to report their bag by completing a Bag Report Form provided at each check stand, or by calling the Refuge at 352/493 0238. These reports allow us to better determine population health, numbers, and stability.

Limited Hunt Application Procedures

A three (3) day Youth Modern Gun Hunt for deer of either sex and spring gobbler are also available for youths age 15 and under. Permits are free. For a Youth Permit, call the Refuge at 352/493 0238, ext. 223

The following regulations supplement Florida State hunting regulations and the general regulations governing hunting on Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

General Hunting Regulations

All motorized land vehicles are restricted to designated roads shown on the map. Vehicles must be parked in a manner which does not block roads or gates. The use of all terrain vehicles (three-wheeler, four-wheeler, etc.) is prohibited.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while hunting.

A photo ID must be in possession at all times while on Refuge property.

Camping, fires, littering, and horses are prohibited.

Taking of frogs and turtles is prohibited.

Cutting trees, removing wood or other plant matter from the Refuge is prohibited.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges 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).

Hunting from or within 150 feet of Refuge roads open to public vehicle travel is prohibited.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted is prohibited.

Field dressing or discarding an animal carcass or parts thereof within 1000 feet of any developed public recreation area, game check station or gate, or within a 100 feet of a road or trail open to the public is prohibited. Dumping of game carcasses is prohibited.

Construction of permanent blinds or stands is prohibited.

The placing of or hunting with the aid of bait, salt, oil or ingestible attractant is prohibited.

All hunters (including all persons accompanying hunters) must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange visible above the waistline while hunting during all Refuge deer gun hunts and the limited hunt.

In addition to State hunter education requirements, hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 year of age or older. Parents or adult guardians over the age of 21 are responsible for supervising hunters under the age of 16 and must remain within sight and normal voice contact of the juvenile hunter. For small game and waterfowl hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

Dogs may only be used as an aid to taking raccoon during the raccoon night hunting season and for waterfowl season. Except as otherwise specified, dogs must be kept on a leash and under the control of the owner at all times.

All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a guided hunt are prohibited.

Target practice is prohibited.

The use of organized drives for taking or attempting to take game is prohibited.

Hunters using the Refuge are subject to inspection of licenses, permits, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents, during compliance checks by Refuge or State officers.

Temporary tree stands may be left on the Refuge starting on the last weekend of August and must be removed by the last day of the General gun hunting season. Tree stands are also allowed during the Quota Hog Hunt and the Small Game Season. Stands can be put-up on or after the Saturday prior to the hunts and must be removed by the last day of the hunts.

Marking any tree, or other Refuge feature with carving, flagging, litter, paint or blaze is prohibited.

Reflective markers are permitted, but the markers must be removed at the end of the Refuge deer hunting season.

Hunters must be out of the woods by one hour after legal shooting time.

Specific Hunt Regulations

State bag limits and firearms regulations apply unless otherwise listed. In designated Archery Only Areas (see map), only bows are allowed. Crossbows are prohibited except with a State issued Disabled Persons Crossbow Permit. Coyote and beaver may be taken during archery, muzzleloader, general gun and small game seasons. New Family Hunts allow the mentor to hunt along with the youth.

Waterfowl

State waterfowl season; ducks and coots only. Decoys and boats must be removed daily. Hunters must use and be in possession of shells containing non-toxic shot only.

Archery

State season, September 15 – October 7, 2012; legal to take any deer (except spotted fawns), feral hogs (no size or bag limit), gray squirrel, rabbit, armadillo, opossum, raccoon.

Limited Youth Gun Deer Hunt (100 permits available; 100 free doe tags will be available at Refuge headquarters from October 1–11; call or come by).

The 3-day Limited Youth Gun Deer Hunt dates have been changed in accordance with Florida State Law to be 11/30/2012 - 12/2/2012. All applicable State and general Refuge regulations apply. In addition:

- Each adult can supervise only one youth and the adult may not hunt. Only youth age 15 and under can hunt and must carry the firearm.

- Hunting will be permitted in Dixie County and Levy County portion of the Refuge.

- Hogs may be taken by any legal method (no size or bag limit).

Muzzleloader

State season, October 20 – 28, 2012; muzzleloader firearms only; legal to take deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline and feral hogs (no bag or size limit).

General Gun

November 3-18, 2012; legal to take deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline and feral hogs (no size or bag limit).

Family Hunt

December 7-9, 2012; legal deer, and hog (no bag or size limit)

December 21-23, 2012; legal deer, and hog (no size or bag limit)

All applicable State and general Refuge regulations apply. In addition:

- Each adult hunter can supervise up to two youths 15 years old or less.

- Hunting will be permitted in Dixie County and Levy County portion of the Refuge.

- Hogs may be taken by any legal method (no size or bag limit)

Small Game

January 28 - February 28, 2013; legal to take hog (no bag or size limit), gray squirrel, armadillo, opossum, rabbit and raccoon. Only .17, .22, and .22 magnum caliber rimfire firearms or smaller; bows or shotguns with shot no larger than #4 birdshot may be possessed.

Raccoon/Opossum

February 6 - 28, 2013. Night hunting on Wednesday through Saturday nights from legal sunset until legal sunrise during the month of February. State regulations, weapons, and ammunition requirements apply. Limit 2 raccoons per night.

Youth Spring Gobbler Hunt

March 9-10, 2013. Shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1 pm. Bearded turkeys only. Shotguns with shot no larger than size 2 common shot, and bow only. All applicable State and general Refuge regulations apply. In addition:

- Each adult can supervise only one youth and the adult may not hunt. Only youth age 15 and under can hunt and must carry the firearm.

- Hunting will be permitted in Dixie and Levy County portion of the Refuge.

Turkey (Spring Season)

State season, shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1 pm, March 16 – April 14, 2013. Bearded turkeys only. Shotguns with shot no larger than size 2 common shot and bow only.

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations 2012-2013



Please report your game by completing and returning a harvest report card or by calling the Refuge Headquarters at 352/493 0238.

Permit

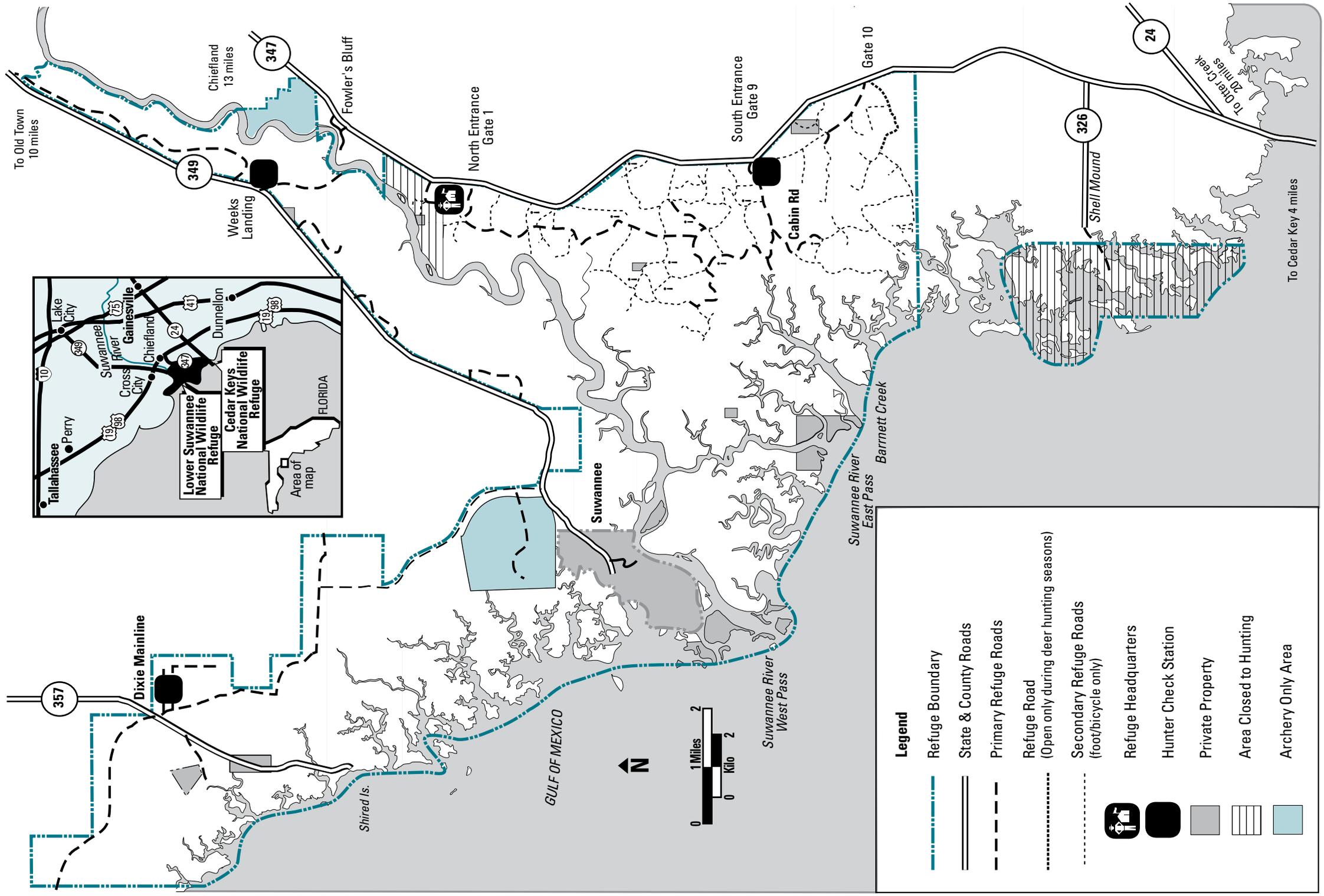
Name (please print) _____

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

Signature (Permits are not transferable) _____

This permit must be completed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts.

It is **NOT VALID** for the Limited Deer or hog quota hunts (see enclosed explanation)



Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge
 16450 NW 31 Place
 Chiefland, FL 32626
 352/493 0238
<http://www.fws.gov/lowersuwannee/>

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

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