

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: October 14, 2015

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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to Host Quota Deer Hunt October 23 & 24

Folkston, GA..... Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge will be conducting a quota deer hunt on October 23 and 24 at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, located 11 miles southwest of Folkston. From 5:30 a.m. until noon, the Swamp Island Drive, Canal Diggers trail, Upland Discovery trail and the Chesser Island Homestead will be closed to general public visitation for this hunt to ensure the safety of non-hunting visitors and will re-open at noon both days.

A total of 40 permits will be awarded for this hunt, 10 of which are reserved for mobility-impaired hunters in wheelchairs and/or youth hunters. Youth hunters are those 15 and under and must be supervised by an adult 21 or older. A hunter education certificate is required for youth hunters. The hunt includes deer (either sex, limit 2 per day) and feral hogs (either sex, no limit). Hunters are required to use shotgun slugs or muzzleloaders only, buckshot is prohibited. A special refuge tag will be provided for harvested deer upon check-out and will not count against the state limit. All hunters must possess all applicable Georgia hunting licenses.

Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis, and are \$15 per hunter (checks or cash only). Check-in at the Okefenokee Shop Area begins at 5:00 a.m. each day. Follow signs from the intersection of Suwannee Canal Road and Hwy 121/23 to sign-in area. Hunters may line up for check-in no earlier than 4:00 a.m. and vehicles may not be left unattended. Stand-by hunters may be selected on the second day if hunters do not return and/or check-in by 5:30 a.m.

There are many things for non-hunters to see and do while the hunt is in progress. Visitors may view exhibits and an award-winning movie at the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center, take a guided boat tour or rent canoes and kayaks from Okefenokee Adventures, walk the Cane Pole trail, Phernetton trail, and Longleaf Pine trail, and fish in the Okefenokee Swamp. For more information on the hunt or other activities, contact the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at (912) 496-7836, or visit the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee.

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The Suwannee Canal Recreation Area (East Entrance) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is the primary entrance managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. The refuge is open daily and offers a variety of opportunities for the visiting public. Call 912-496-7836 or visit the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee for hours of operation, upcoming events, and entrance fee information.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to our events for all participants. Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in our events should contact Susan Heisey at (912) 496-7366 ext. 233 or Susan_Heisey@fws.gov. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please contact us for assistance at least five business days before the event.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.