

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge  
2700 Suwannee Canal Road  
Folkston, GA 31537  
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**

Date: August 10, 2017

Contact: Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366, ex 233  
Supervisory Refuge Ranger

## **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Announces Hunt Dates and Regulations for 2017/2018 Season**

Folkston, GA...Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of many refuges in the United States that offer hunting opportunities to the visiting public. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. Public hunting opportunities are a way to provide recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable resource. Public hunting on the Okefenokee NWR is permitted in three areas: the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, the Pocket, and the Cowhouse Unit during certain seasons each year. All hunters must possess all applicable Georgia hunting licenses in accordance with state regulations. Hunters may view the 2017/2018 hunt brochure (available online at [www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee)) for specific hunt information.

### **Suwannee Canal Recreation Area**

**Deer and Feral Hog Lottery Quota Hunt**, located near Folkston. Dates of this hunt are Friday October 27 and Saturday October 28 (5:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.). A total of 40 permits will be awarded for the hunt, 10 of which will be reserved for **mobility-impaired hunters** (i.e. confined to a wheelchair) and/or **youth hunters** (ages 16 and under). Each mobility-impaired/youth hunter drawn for Chesser Island can have one escort to assist with their hunt. The escorts of these individuals are authorized to hunt under the same permit. Hunters are required to use shotgun with slugs or muzzleloaders only. Deer taken do not count against the state limit and a special refuge tag will be provided upon check-out for each deer taken.

Lottery applications will be accepted from August 15 to September 15. Lottery applications can be found here (<http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-2354.pdf>). Applications should be submitted as follows:

In person: Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center (check refuge website for hours of operation)

Mail: Attn: Okefenokee Hunt Program, 2700 Suwannee Canal Road, Folkston, GA 31537

A drawing will be held for each day of the hunt. If you are interested in hunting on both days, you **MUST** indicate that on your submitted lottery form. Only one lottery form needs to be submitted per person. Each hunter drawn for the lottery hunt must purchase a SCRA hunt permit (\$15) the morning of the hunt.

### **The Pocket Hunt**

**Deer and Feral Hog Archery Only**, located near Fargo. Dates of this hunt are September 9 – October 13, 2017 in accordance with State regulations. All hunters must sign in and out each day of the hunt. All stands must be removed daily. Contact Stephen C. Foster State Park at (912) 637-5274 for early exit to hunt area if you are staying in the park overnight.

### **Cowhouse Unit Hunt**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNA) is managing deer, feral hog, small game, and turkey hunts on Cowhouse Island in conjunction with their Dixon Memorial Wildlife Management Area (WMA) hunts. Hunters on this portion of the refuge are limited to foot and bicycle traffic only. No dogs allowed except for hunting quail. Sign-in and check-in at Dixon Memorial WMA. Regulations and information may be obtained by calling (229) 426-5267 or at <http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com> and <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>. Hunt dates are as follows:

Deer and Feral Hog

**Archery (Either Sex)**

September 9- October 3, October 8-11, October 15-20, Sign-in.

**Primitive Weapons (Either sex)**

October 4- 7, Check-in. October 12-14, Sign-in.

**Firearms (Buck only)**

October 21-22, October 28- 31, Sign-in.

**Firearms (Either Sex)**

November 10-12, Check-in. November 23-27, Sign-in.

Small Game (Quail, Rabbit, & Squirrel Only)**Firearms (See State Regulations)**

August 15- October 3; October 23-27, November 1-8, November 12-17, November 19-21, November 27-December 8, December 10- February 28. Pointing dogs allowed for quail hunting only. No furbearer season. Feral hogs may be taken during small game dates after October 31. Sign-in at Dixon Memorial WMA and at refuge Cowhouse kiosk if on refuge property.

Turkey**Firearms (Shotgun)**

March 24- May 15, 2018

In accordance with Dixon Memorial WMA regulations. Sign-in at Dixon Memorial WMA and at refuge Cowhouse kiosk if on refuge property.

More information is available in the hunt brochure found on the refuge website at [www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee), or at the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center, located off Hwy. 121/23 near Folkston, GA by calling (912) 496-7836 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday or daily after September 1.

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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. Entrance fees are \$5 per vehicle/\$1 per bicycle for a daily pass (good for 7 days). Annual passes are also available. 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge](http://www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge) or [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast)*