



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge 2019 Wheelchair Hunt

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge's 24th annual deer hunt managed for wheelchair-dependent hunters will be held on November 5 & 6, 2019. Only hunters who are permanently dependent on wheelchairs for mobility are eligible to participate in this hunt. Each hunter must submit a quota deer hunt application (FWS Form 3-2354) and the attached eligibility statement, signed by a physician certifying that the applicant is permanently dependent upon a wheelchair. (This requirement is waived for past hunt participants; their statement is on file.) Applicants must also pay a \$5.00 application fee at the time of submission. The permit application, physician's statement, and \$5.00 application fee must be returned to the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex office by September 15, 2019.

Each selected hunter may bring an attendant (if needed) who can assist the hunter. Attendants will not be permitted to hunt. The attendant may serve as the selected hunter's representative at the mandatory pre-hunt orientation meeting on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

For further information regarding the refuge or hunt management, please contact the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex office at (843) 784-9911.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please carefully read the following before completing the permit application for the Savannah NWR Wheelchair Hunt.

The hunt will be limited to 15 hunters who will be selected by a lottery drawing. All applications (with signed physician's statements and \$5.00 application fee) must be received at the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex office by September 15, 2019. The permit drawing will be held September 20, 2019. Applicants will be notified of the drawing results by mail or email within the following week. Hunters not selected in the initial drawing will be drawn for an alternate list.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants for the wheelchair hunt shall be restricted to persons permanently confined to a wheelchair for mobility. The attached eligibility statement must be signed by a physician and returned with the application (past hunt participants are waived from this requirement; their statements are kept on file.)

Only one application may be submitted per hunter. Applicants who apply for the hunt more than once will be rejected. Only complete and correct applications will be eligible for the drawing.

Hunt permits are non-transferable and are valid only for the individual whose name appears on the permit.

Accepted payment methods for the \$5.00 application fee are credit/debit cards (call 843/784-9911 to pay by phone), check or money order (made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

All hunters, or their designated representatives, must attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at the refuge maintenance center on Monday, November 4, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

Shotguns with slugs, muzzleloaders, and bows are the only weapons permitted.

Hunting will be from designated sites only. Selection of sites will be by drawing and hunters are required to stay at the site they were selected for. All sites will be accessible by ATV or vehicle. Refuge staff, if needed, will assist hunters in getting to designated sites. Portable blinds are also available from the refuge.

Hunters may be accompanied by one able-bodied person who will participate in a non-hunting capacity.

Stand hours will be observed between 1/2 hour before sunrise to 9:00 a.m. and from 2 hours before sunset to 1/2 hour after legal sunset.

Bag limit: 5 deer (no more than two antlered). "Bonus" tags will NOT be issued. All deer taken in South Carolina must be tagged with state deer tags which will be provided by refuge staff.

All hunters and assistants are required to wear at all times an outer garment above the waist which contains a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange material.

The requirement of a South Carolina hunting license will be waived for all hunters participating in the Savannah NWR wheelchair hunt.

DIRECTIONS TO REFUGE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

The Savannah NWR maintenance center is located on S.C. Hwy 170, approximately 7 miles south of Hardeeville, SC, 7 miles north of Savannah, GA, and 2 miles east of Port Wentworth, GA. From I-95, take SC Exit 5 (Hardeeville/Savannah) and go south on U.S. Hwy 17 towards Savannah, GA. Continue for approximately 6 miles to the interchange with S.C. Hwy 170 West and exit to the right, towards the wildlife drive. Once on S.C. Hwy 170, the entrance to the maintenance center is approximately 3 miles down, on the right, directly across from the entrance to the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. This is where hunters or their representatives will need to report each day of the hunt, including the orientation meeting held the evening before the hunt.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Each eligible hunter must submit FWS Form 3-2354; Quota Deer Hunt Application, which was either mailed with this information packet, attached to the email you were sent, or located on the same web page from which this information packet was downloaded. If you received a printed copy of the form, please fill out by hand. If you received the form electronically (via email), you may either print the form and fill it out by hand, or you can fill it in on your computer and then print it out.

Many of the fields on the application are already filled in. If they are, please do not change the information that is already there. The only fields you need to fill in are the following:

2. Date of application: Write or type today's date

3. Contact Information: Write or type your full, legal name, mailing address, a phone number where you can usually be reached during the day, and your email address, if you have one.

8. Acknowledgement and signature: Once you have completed all fields and printed the form, please sign here

All applications (along with the physician's statement and \$5.00 application fee) must be received by September 15, 2019 at the following address:

**Hunt Program
Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex
694 Beech Hill Lane
Hardeeville, South Carolina 29927**

Accepted payment methods for the \$5.00 application fee are credit/debit cards (call 843/784-9911 to pay by phone), check, or money order (made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Additional applications and hunt information may be obtained from the following web address or by calling the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex at (843)784-9911:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah>

****Please see next page for Physicians Statement****



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
694 Beech Hill Lane
Hardeeville, South Carolina 29927**



HUNTING PROGRAM FOR WHEELCHAIR-DEPENDENT HUNTERS

Instruction to the examining physician:

This statement which you are being asked to verify will allow the individual identified to participate in refuge-sponsored hunting programs for those who are dependent on wheelchairs for mobility. The program is designed to accommodate only those individuals who would otherwise not be able to participate in hunting activities on Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. In order to qualify, the individual must be permanently confined to a wheelchair. A wheelchair must be the only form of mobility available for the permit applicant. This form is intended only to establish eligibility for an individual permit applicant to participate in the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge hunting programs for the non-ambulatory (wheelchair-dependent) individual.

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR
NON-AMBULATORY HUNT PRIVILEGES AT
SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

I hereby verify that _____ (Applicant's name) is restricted to the use of a wheelchair for mobility. The applicant is not mobile without the aid of a wheelchair, and would be unable to participate in hunting activities on Savannah National Wildlife Refuge except through those activities and privileges granted to non-ambulatory hunters.

The use of a wheelchair by the applicant is permanent in nature. I understand that this is only a statement of eligibility for the applicant to apply for non-ambulatory hunting privileges at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge.

Signatures

Physician: _____

Applicant: _____

Refuge Officer: _____

Due Date: September 15, 2019