

General Provisions

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. State bag limits, arms and ammunition and other applicable State regulations apply.

General Hunt Regulations

Public hunting on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on approximately 18,000 acres.

Squirrel, raccoon, opossum, quail and rabbit hunting is prohibited west of Flint Creek (see map).

No hunting or discharge of firearms is allowed in the Triana Recreation Area or within 50 yards of any walking trail or boardwalk. Hunting from any roadway is prohibited.

No overnight camping is allowed.

Mules and horses are prohibited on all refuge hunts.

Hunting is allowed Monday-Saturday. **No Sunday hunting.**

Dogs may be used to hunt rabbit, raccoon, quail, squirrel and opossum and must be controlled by the owner/handler at all times.

Hunters may not hunt from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted which is used to support a hunter. Tree stands, blinds, or other personal property must be removed after each day’s hunt.

Hunters must use a body safety harness at all times while hunting from a tree.

Overnight mooring of boats is prohibited.

Marking of trees, cutting vegetation, the use of flagging tape, and reflective tacks are prohibited.

An area around the Visitor Center is closed to all public entry. This area is posted with “Area Closed” signs (see map).

Hunters under age 16 must be supervised by a properly licensed and permitted adult 21 years of age or older. On

small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths, and on big game hunts no more than one youth.

Some refuge gates will be closed. **Do not block gates. Your vehicle will be towed.**

Archery and flintlock deer hunters must wear a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange as defined by the State when the State gun deer season is open in Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties.

Hunting by aid of or distributing any feed, salt or other minerals is prohibited.

Only licensed vehicles and bicycles permitted. Operation of motorized vehicles beyond locked gates is prohibited.

In addition to the State’s “Game Check” requirement, all deer and feral hogs killed must be reported to Wheeler Refuge within 48 hours.

Visitor Center - Daily, 9 am to 5 pm - 256/350 6639
Headquarters - Monday - Friday 7 am to 4:30 pm
256/353 7243, Ext. 0

In accepting this brochure, hunter concedes right of inspection of game bag, hunting coat, etc., as provided for by State law, to Federal Wildlife Officers and State Conservation Officers.

The following hunting methods and equipment apply:

Deer and feral hog: Hunters may only hunt with archery equipment that complies with state regulations and flintlocks .40 caliber or larger.

Small game: Hunters may use arms and ammunition that comply with current Alabama state hunting regulations pertaining to small game, except that when using shotguns hunters must use only non-toxic shot.

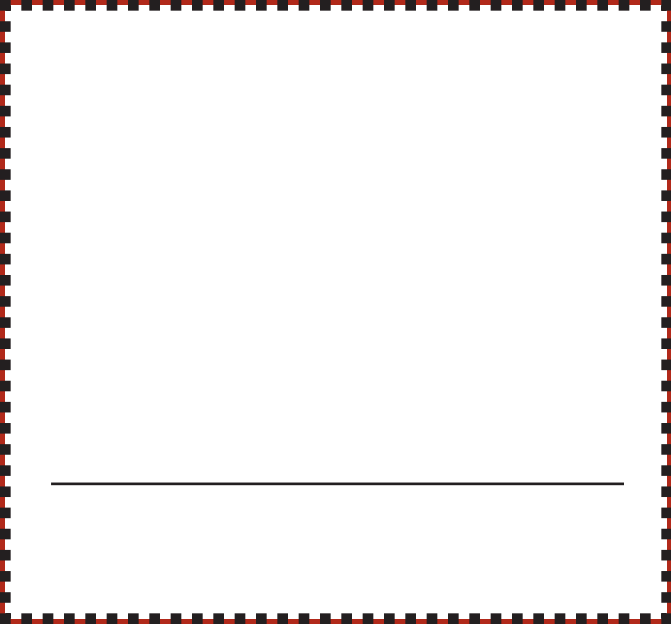
Possession of lead shotgun shells for hunting is prohibited.

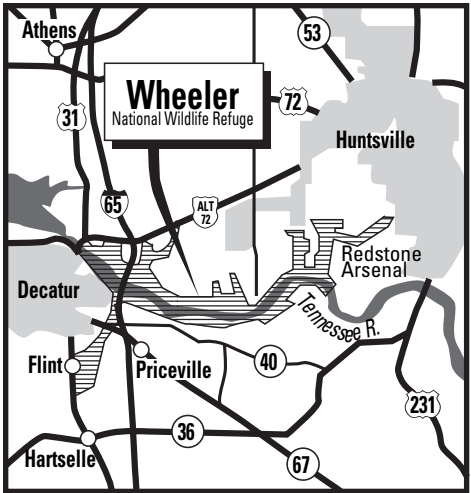
Participating in man drives for deer and feral hogs is prohibited.

Hunters must unload hunting firearms before placing them in a vehicle or a boat.

Caution: other members of the public may be in the area and without hunter orange.

Those requiring special assistance to participate in refuge hunts are encouraged to contact the Visitor Center at 256/350 6639 for information.





CAUTION:
Flint Creek island area is used heavily by migrating cranes, including the endangered whooping crane. Avoid approaching cranes on foot within 600 feet. Avoid flushing or causing birds to alter their normal behavior. Whooping cranes are protected under the Federal Endangered Species and Migratory Bird Treaty Acts.

NOTE:
Crabtree Slough, White Springs and Dinsmore Slough are closed to boats, canoes, and all other watercraft November 15 - February 28 (reopens March 1)

Specific Hunt Seasons

Squirrel
Season: September 16 – October 13
February 12 – March 3

Raccoon and Opossum
Season: September 16 – October 14
February 12 – March 3

Rabbit
Season: September 16 – October 14
February 12 – March 3

Quail
Season: February 12 – 28

Deer and Feral Hog
Archery: either sex, October 14 – February 10
Flintlock: antlered bucks only
January 6 – January 20

