

Welcome to Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 national wildlife refuges in the country. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the refuge and is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation’s fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the public.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations that govern public use on national wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. When permitted, hunting, fishing and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable state laws unless otherwise listed. Only the hunting seasons designated in this brochure are permitted on Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge publishes an annual supplemental information sheet that includes specific species, dates, and limits.

General Provisions and Access

By law, national wildlife refuges are closed to all public use activities unless permitted. Hunting, fishing and other public use activities are permitted on most areas of the refuge. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities when visiting the refuge.

Public Entry

The refuge is closed every day from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise.

Entry onto Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge constitutes consent to an inspection of persons and their licenses, permits, vehicles, game bags, creels and all hunting and/or fishing equipment.

Pets

Pets must be under the control of the owner at all times.

Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are prohibited.

Alcoholic Beverages

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are permitted on the refuge.

ATVs/UTVs are prohibited except for use by disabled persons possessing a refuge special use permit for their use in the designated mobility impaired hunt area.

Roads

Vehicles must remain on established roads unless the road is posted as being closed.

Vehicles may be parked alongside roads in a manner that will not block gates or fire lanes or interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

The speed limit on all refuge roads is 15 MPH, unless posted otherwise.

Disabled Access

People with disabilities who have special access needs should contact the Refuge Manager to request special use access.

Hunters wishing to use an ATV/UTV to hunt big game (deer and turkey) must provide a copy of their State disabled hunting license.

Hunters that receive a permit to use an ATV/UTV may only use the ATV/UTV in the designated mobility impaired hunt area (see map on reverse side of this brochure).

All rules and regulations pertaining to the use of standard vehicles will be in effect for the use of ATVs/UTVs.

Weapons

Firearms being transported in vehicles during refuge hunts must be unloaded and cased or locked in a secure compartment.

Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, air guns, bows and arrows, cross bows, fireworks or explosives is prohibited unless authorized.

Discharging a firearm for a purpose other than to take legal game animals during established hunting seasons is prohibited.

A loaded firearm is defined as ammunition in the chamber or magazine, or percussion caps on muzzleloaders.

Loaded firearms are prohibited within 100 feet of maintained roads or within 500 feet of the paved roads within the refuge.

Discharging a firearm from, on or across any refuge road is prohibited.

Closed Areas

It is unlawful to hunt deer with a firearm within 300 yards of a residence when less than 10 feet above the ground without permission of the owner and occupant.

Designated areas will be closed seasonally to hunting, fishing and all other public access.

Other areas may be closed for special management and safety reasons.

No Hunting Zone

Entering or crossing a “No Hunting Zone” or “Closed Area” to access areas open to hunting is prohibited.

Discharging a firearm within, into or across a “No Hunting Zone” or “Closed Area” is prohibited.

Refuge/Cultural Resources

The removal of any natural, historic or archaeological feature is prohibited.

Cameras

The use of trail or game cameras is prohibited.

Special Hunting Regulations

Permits

Hunters must possess a valid refuge General Hunting Permit for all hunts. A valid permit is signed and dated in the current hunt year (September through the following April is a hunt year).

Permits are non-transferable.

Hunters must possess all applicable licenses, permits and government issued picture ID while in the field. The refuge is not a state Wildlife Management Area (WMA); therefore a WMA permit is not required.

A drawn hunting permit is required for the general turkey hunts. Application procedures are published in the Annual Supplemental Information sheet.

Harvest Tags

All deer and turkey harvested must be tagged at point of harvest in accordance with state law.

Check Stations/Check Sheets

All deer and hogs harvested during modern gun hunts must be checked by refuge staff at the check station on the date of the harvest prior to removing the animal from the refuge.

All deer and hogs harvested during the youth, archery, and primitive weapons seasons must be self-checked at the check station on the date of the harvest prior to removing the animal from the refuge.

All turkeys killed on the refuge must be tagged and checked in at the refuge headquarters on the date of kill prior to removing the animal from the refuge.

Baiting

Baiting and/or hunting in the vicinity of bait is prohibited.

Baiting means the placing, depositing, exposing, distributing, or scattering of shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grain, or other food stuffs, including salt and mineral blocks, to constitute an attraction, lure, or enticement to, on, or over any area.

Hunter Orange

All persons participating in refuge firearms hunts are required to wear an outer garment above the waist which contains a minimum of 500 square inches of unbroken fluorescent orange material that is visible from all sides while hunting and while enroute to and from hunting areas. This does not apply to dove, turkey and raccoon hunters.

Hunter Education

All refuge hunters under the age of 16 must show proof of successfully completing a hunter education/safety course.

Hunters under the age of 16 must be directly supervised (within sight and normal voice contact) by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age.

Youth Hunts

A youth hunter is defined as a hunter under the age of 16.

During youth deer and turkey hunts, an adult may supervise only one youth.

During small game hunts, an adult may supervise a maximum of two youths.

All youth hunters must possess deer and / or turkey tags in accordance with state law.

Tree Stands

Only portable stands are permitted.

Placing stands on the refuge more than three days prior to the opening day of each hunt period is prohibited.

All stands must be removed at the end of each hunt period.

Inserting or driving a nail, screw, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from a tree into which a metal object has been inserted or driven is prohibited.

A safety belt or harness must be utilized while using a tree stand or climbing equipment.

Hunting Dogs

Deer hunting with dogs is prohibited.

Dogs are required for the raccoon/opossum hunts.

Dogs are permitted for small game and dove hunting.

All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owner’s name, address and phone number.

Man-Driving

Deer hunting by man-driving is prohibited.

A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique including two or more hunters where an attempt is made to drive game animals from cover to shoot, kill, or move animals towards other hunters.

Tree Marking

Marking any tree or other refuge feature with plastic flagging or paint is prohibited.

Painted clothespins or clothespins with reflective tacks attached may be used to mark trails but must be removed at the end of each hunt period.

Deer and Turkey Hunt Hours of Access

Deer and turkey hunters are prohibited from entering the refuge prior to 4 am on scheduled hunt days. They must leave the refuge no later than two hours after legal sunset.

Prehunt Scouting

The refuge is open (except designated closed areas) for prehunt scouting from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

Hunting Seasons

The following species have designated hunting seasons on the refuge.

- Mourning Dove
- Woodcock/Quail
- Deer
- Raccoon/Opossum
- Rabbit
- Turkey (Quota)

See annual supplemental information sheet for specific seasons, limits, and application procedures for the turkey quota hunt.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wild places. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources and visitor safety on the refuge. Please respect the following signs.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



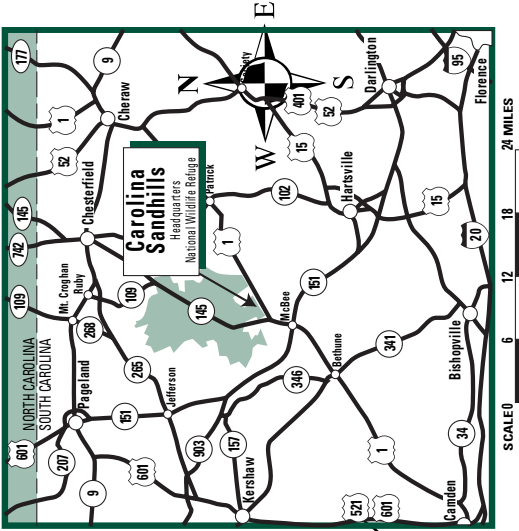
This area is closed to all public entry. No hunting, fishing, or sightseeing is permitted.



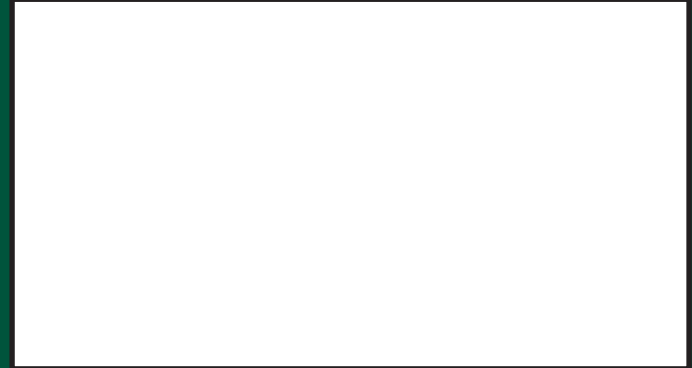
No roads, trails, or habitat are open for the purpose of hunting.

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A detailed map of the Carolina Sandhills Headquarters area. The map shows a network of roads connecting various towns including Cheraw, Pageland, Mt. Cogban, Bishopville, Camden, Hartsville, Darlington, Florence, and York. A central green-shaded area represents the National Wildlife Refuge. A compass rose indicates North, South, East, and West. A scale bar at the bottom right shows distances from 0 to 24 miles. A callout box points to the headquarters location near the intersection of US-1 and SC-145.



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



Carolina Sandhills

*National Wildlife
Refuge Hunting
Regulations and Permit*