

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Santee

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Regulations and
Permit 2020-2021



Santee National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2020-2021

Name: _____
fuge _____

I have read and understand the refuge regulations.
This permit and attached regulations must be carried
and in your possession at all times and is valid only
when signed.

Date signed: _____

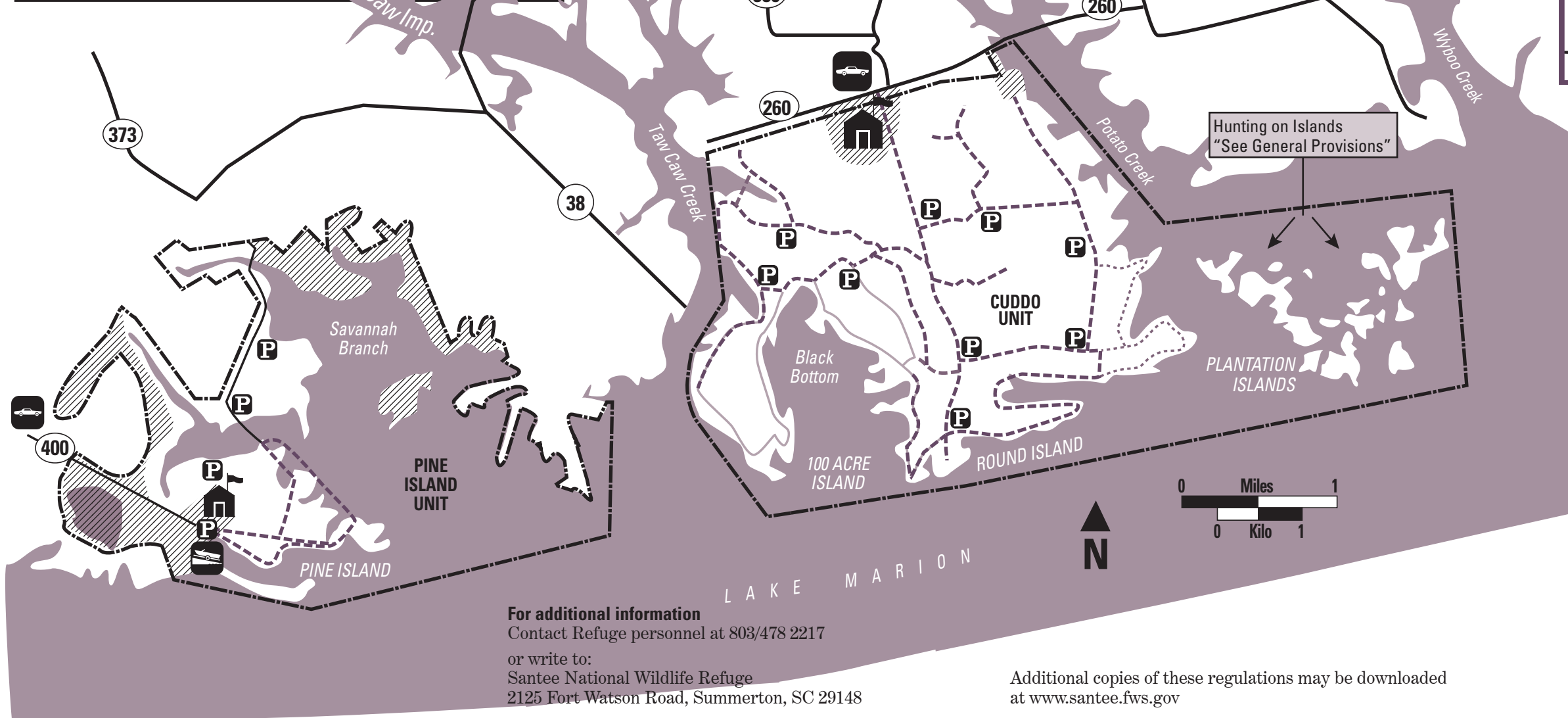
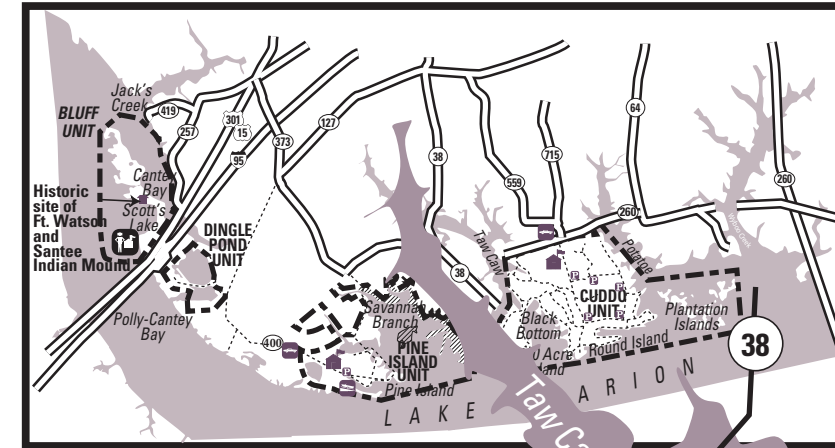
Hunter's signature: _____

Take pride in your refuge. Do not litter!

Santee National Wildlife Refuge
2125 Fort Watson Road
Summerton, SC 29148
803/478 2217
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/santee/>

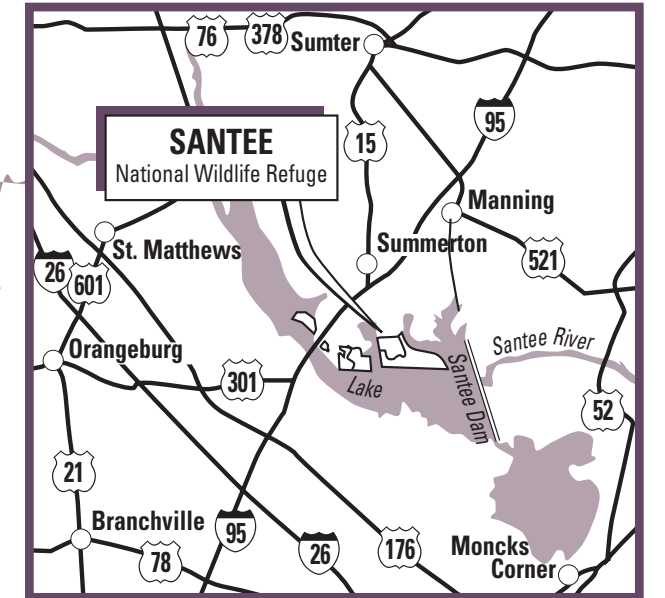
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

July 2020



For additional information
Contact Refuge personnel at 803/478 2217
or write to:
Santee National Wildlife Refuge
2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148

Additional copies of these regulations may be downloaded
at www.santee.fws.gov



Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Vehicular access permitted
- Roads accessible only by foot or bicycle
- Designated Refuge Foot Trail
- Vehicle Entry Point
- Vehicle Parking Area
- Check Station
- Boat Ramp
- Visitor Center
- Area Closed to Hunting

Significant regulation changes appear in RED.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge is one of 568 National Wildlife Refuges in the U.S. and its territories. The mission of this system is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the U. S. for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Hunting is one of many necessary tools used to responsibly balance wild animal populations by removing surplus animals and ensure the overall health of all wildlife.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting, fishing and public use on wildlife Refuge areas 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 Santee National Wildlife Refuge.

General Provisions

By law, recreational activities on National Wildlife Refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. Hunting, fishing, and certain other recreational uses are permitted on designated areas of Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities.

- Hunters must personally check in and out daily at designated hunter check stations when entering and exiting any portion of the Refuge.
- All animals harvested on the Refuge must be checked at the check station prior to removing the animal from the Refuge.
- Hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve wounded game. Permission must be obtained from Refuge personnel to enter a “No Hunting Zone” or “Closed Area” for any purpose.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Fires, camping, and littering are prohibited.
- 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.
- Roads marked as closed may only be traveled on foot or bicycle.
- The speed limit on all Refuge roads is 15 mph unless posted otherwise.
- ATVs, UTVs, or other off-road vehicles are prohibited.
- The use of non-motorized boats is permitted for access via interior canals or inland areas open to hunting.

- Access roads closed to the general public for driving will be open only during each deer hunt and on the preceding day before each hunt opens for stand placement. Scouting without weapons may occur at any time during normal open hours prior to the hunts.
- The Plantation Islands (Cuddo Unit) areas are open to hunting from 5:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. However, all harvested deer and unused antlerless deer tags must be checked in at the check station by 8:30 p.m. the day of harvest/tag checkout. For safety considerations, hunters utilizing Refuge islands must indicate on check-in sheets at the Cuddo Unit that they are hunting on an island.

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following special Refuge regulations.

This permit must be signed and carried at all times by the hunter along with a state hunting license and government issued picture identification.

The only weapons allowed for hunting are those which have been specified for each hunt. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific Refuge regulations (50 CFR 32).

Firearms being transported in vehicles and boats during Refuge hunts must be unloaded and cased or locked in a secure compartment (e.g. toolbox or trunk). A loaded firearm is defined as having ammunition in the chamber or magazine. Muzzleloaders will be considered unloaded if the percussion cap is not seated in the chamber.

Poison arrow tips (pods), exploding arrows, center fire rifles, and handguns are prohibited.

Hunting areas will be open from 5:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. during designated deer hunt periods. All hunters are required to check out at the check station by 8:30 p.m.

Hunters are required to wear at all times a minimum of 500 square inches of solid fluorescent orange material above the waist during primitive and family and friends hunts.

Baiting or hunting in the vicinity of bait is prohibited. Bating means placing, depositing, exposing, distributing, or scattering of shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grains, other food stuffs, or any other consumable attractant, including salt and mineral blocks, to constitute an attraction, lure or enticement to, on or over any area.

Using illuminating devices for the purpose of spotlighting wildlife is prohibited.

Possession of remote photography, videography, or any other remote device and trail monitoring/counting devices is prohibited.

Entry beyond “Closed Area” or “No Hunting Zone” signs is prohibited. Weapons may not be discharged within, into, or across a “No Hunting Zone” or “Closed Area” is prohibited.

Discharging a firearm from, on or across any Refuge road or designated Refuge foot trail is prohibited.

Hunting from within 100 feet of any roadway, whether open or closed to vehicular traffic or from within 300 yards of any residence or designated hunter check station or residence is prohibited.

Driving nails, screws, spikes or other metal objects into a tree or to hunt from a tree into which such objects has been driven is prohibited.

Destroying or cutting vegetation is prohibited. The possession of axes, saws, machetes, or other tools used for cutting vegetation are not permitted on the Refuge while scouting or hunting.

FLAGGING IS PROHIBITED. Clothes pins with reflective tape/tack, commercially made reflective orange glow or trail clips may be used to mark the path to the tree. All clothes pins must be marked with the hunter’s full name and must be removed at the end of the hunt period. Any markers found without a name will be removed immediately. The hanging or possession of any type of flagging is strictly prohibited.

All hunters under the age of 16 must:

- Have successfully completing a state approved hunter education course.
- Be directly supervised (within sight and normal voice contact) by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age. An adult may supervise only one youth.

Specific Hunt Regulations

Deer and Feral Hog Hunting

Archery season: only bows and crossbows, in accordance with state regulations, are authorized.

Primitive weapons season: only bows or muzzleloaders (black powder) and crossbows in accordance with state regulations are authorized

Man drives and stalk hunting for deer and hogs is prohibited.

The use of dogs during deer hunts is prohibited.

Bag Limit

Bag limit: 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per day

Feral hogs may be harvested as an incidental take while hunting for DEER only. No bag limit.

Deer Tagging Requirements

Antlered deer must be tagged in accordance to State tagging requirements law with personally issued State DNR deer tags. State law requires all antlered deer harvested on the Refuge to be tagged before moving the deer from the point of kill.

State DNR personally issued deer tags must be in possession while hunting.

Antlerless deer tags will be provided by the Refuge at the check station.

Plantation Island hunters must sign out and obtain refuge issued antlerless deer tags from check station prior to daily hunt. Antlerless deer taken from islands must be tagged in accordance to state tagging requirement law. Unused tag(s) must be returned daily at end of hunt.

All deer must be checked in at Refuge check station.

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour past sunset.

Scouting

Scouting on Pine Island and Cuddo Units is allowed during periods when these units are open to public access. No scouting is allowed when the Refuge is open to hunting.

Weapons and dogs are prohibited during scouting activities.

Hunting Stands

Access roads closed to the general public for driving will be open only during each deer hunt and on the preceding day before each hunt opens for stand placement. Scouting without weapons may occur at any time during normal open hours prior to the hunts.

Any stands found within designated hunt areas outside of allowed periods will be confiscated. All stands must be removed by 8:30 pm on the final day of the respective open hunt period.

Deer and feral hog hunting must occur from portable elevated hunting stands. Ground blinds are prohibited.

Only one stand per hunter is permitted and must be clearly marked with the hunter’s full name, date and phone number. This rule will be STRICTLY enforced.

A safety belt or harness must be utilized while using a hunting stand.

Raccoon and Opossum

No hunting is permitted on Saturdays or Sundays.

Hunting hours are 6 pm to 6 am.

Special state regulations on night hunting apply.

State bag limits apply.

Raccoon/opossum Hunting Weapons and Ammunition:

Shotgun with non-toxic shot size no larger than # 4’s .22 caliber rimfire rifle

Possession of buckshot or slugs is prohibited.

Dogs may be used raccoon hunting and must wear collar with owner’s name, address and phone number.

Family, Friends, & Kids – Adult/Child Lottery Hunt Hunters will be selected from applications received by September 12, 2020. Selected hunters will be notified by September 21, 2020.

Hunters may use muzzleloaders (black powder) or shotguns with slugs. Both the youth and the accompanying adult will hunt from the same stand. Fixed, two-person ladder stands will be provided. Both the adult and youth may actively hunt during these hunts, provided the youth meets age and hunter education requirements. During the Family Friendly Hunts, youths under 10 years of age or without a valid hunter education certificate are still welcome and encouraged to participate, but will not be allowed to possess or discharge a firearm.

Bag limit: 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per day

Applications for Family Friendly Hunts may be obtained online: www.fws.gov/santee, by calling the Refuge office at 803/478 2217, by emailing monica_williams@fws.gov, or by written request to Santee NWR, 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148.

White-tailed Deer and Feral Hogs

Cuddo Unit

Archery only: Sep 26-Oct 10, 2020

Primitive weapons only: Oct 16-18, 2020 & Nov 6-8, 2020

Pine Island Unit

Archery only: Sep 26-Oct 10, 2020

Primitive weapons only: Oct 16-18, 2020 & Nov 6-8, 2020

Family, Friends & Kids – Adult/Child Lottery Hunt

Bluff Unit

Saturday and Sunday: Oct 10-11, 2020 & Oct 24-25, 2020

Raccoon and Opossum

Cuddo Unit

Feb 22-26, 2021 and March 1-5, 2021

South Carolina Hunter Education Course

Visit the SCDNR website at:

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted.html

To Assure Your Safety

To assure your safety and well-being while you are hunting on the refuge, refuge staff may need to contact you. We ask that all hunters provide the information requested below. This information will only be used for the aforementioned purpose and will be destroyed immediately after our final hunt.

Please tear off this sheet and leave it at the designated check in point. If hunting on more than one hunt unit or on multiple days, only one information sheet per hunt is required.

Anticipated hunt date(s):

Hunting party contact (lead hunter):

Names of individuals in your hunt party:

Emergency contact information:

In order to enhance your safety and yet protect your privacy, we have minimized the amount of personal information we collect. If you choose, you may provide an outside phone number/address that is different from your own. You need not provide the name of the “emergency contact.” If there is more than one person in your party we require the lead hunter’s name who will have responsibility for the party. For your safety and the management of this refuge, every hunter must carry proof of a current permit to hunt on the refuge.