

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.

## General Hunt Regulations

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

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 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.

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 or limit access by farming machinery. 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 authorized bicycles permitted.  
Operation of motorized vehicles, except authorized e-bikes,  
beyond locked gates is prohibited.

**All harvested deer must be reported through the State "Game Check" system within 48 hours as required by State law. Hunters must select public land under the county where harvested and select Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.**

By signing the attached permit, 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 when using shotguns hunters must use only non-toxic shot.

Possession of lead shotgun shells for hunting is prohibited.

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

Field dressing of game is not allowed within 50 feet of any roadway, trail or public area.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

2700 Refuge Headquarters Road

Decatur, AL 35603

256/350 6639

[www.fws.gov/wheeler](http://www.fws.gov/wheeler)

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

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August 2020



