

Blackbeard Island NWR, McIntosh County, Georgia

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 545 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 recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public hunting on Blackbeard Island NWR is permitted on approximately 4,500 acres. Certain areas (marked on the map printed on the reverse side) are closed to hunting.

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. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State (Georgia) regulations. **All Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced.**

General Hunting Regulations

Federal permits are required for all hunts and must be carried on the person while hunting. All hunters must obtain a permit regardless of age. Permits are non-transferable. Only hunt participants with proper licenses will be allowed on the refuge during hunts.

Hunters 15 years of age or under (youth hunters) must have successfully passed a state-approved hunter education course in order to participate in any refuge hunt. Satisfactory completion of this course must be demonstrated by a card or certificate. Youth hunters must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. The adult may supervise only one youth.

Each hunter may place one stand on the refuge no earlier than one month prior to the opening day of each hunt. However, hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. **Stands must be removed by the end of each hunt.**

Hunters must check in at the refuge dock prior to setting up camp. Personal identification (driver's license or official state identification card) will be required at check in.

Hunters may check in no more than one day in advance of the opening date of each hunt period. Check-in will not be permitted after sunset of the second hunt day.

Weapons may not be taken from the campground during authorized scouting period from check-in until the beginning of hunt hours.

Hunters must be off the island by noon on the Sunday after each hunt period.

Transportation is not provided to, from, or on the refuge. Any movement within the refuge must be by foot or bicycle **(by foot only within the National Wilderness Area)**. Entry and exit points are limited to designated check stations or other specified areas. Hunters are not allowed to leave by boat to reach other parts of the island.

Firearms are not allowed on the island. Archery target practice will be permitted in designated areas only.

The possession or use of poison, or poison pods, is illegal.

The distribution of bait, and hunting over bait, is prohibited.

All camping will be at designated camping areas only. Fires must be confined to the camping area.

The possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Hunters must be on their stands from one-half hour before legal sunrise until 9 am and from two hours before sunset until legal sunset.

Deer harvested during scheduled hunts must be checked by refuge personnel before leaving the refuge.

Archery hunters are encouraged to wear a fluorescent orange outer garment while hunting on the ground or walking to and from stands.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter is prohibited.

No flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices may be used to locate stands, or for any other purpose.

Only designated game species and feral hogs may be taken and other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

All forms of litter should be removed from the refuge.

Participating in "man-drives" for deer is prohibited.

Pruning/limbing of live trees is prohibited.

Archery Deer Hunts

Archery hunting for deer on Blackbeard Island NWR will be permitted only on October 16-18, 2008 and December 4-6, 2008.

Five deer, either sex, may be taken (state bonus tags will be issued for two of these). Feral hogs (no bag limit) may also be taken.

Only bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized. **Crossbows are prohibited.**

Blackbeard Island NWR will be closed to the general public one day prior to, and one day after, the hunt period as well as on hunt days.

How to Obtain Hunt Permits

The attached permit (on the cover) to participate in the bow hunt will be validated during check-in at the refuge dock. An unlimited number of permits will be available for both archery hunts. Additional hunt brochures may be obtained by mail, or picked up at the Savannah Coastal Refuges office located in the Parkway Business Center (off I-16 at Chatham Parkway, Savannah, GA). Hunt brochures can also be downloaded from the refuge website: <http://www.fws.gov/blackbeardisland>

Camping Facilities

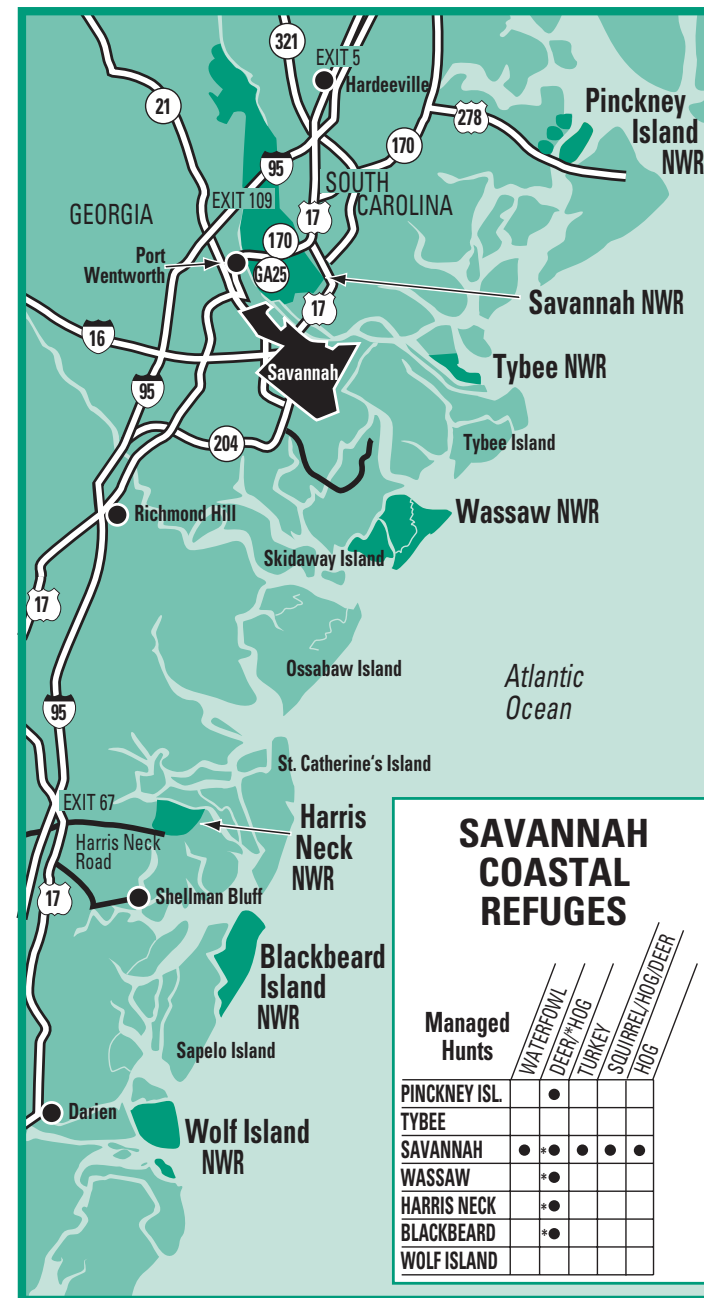
All campsites are primitive. Potable water, flush toilets, and showers are available at the campground. A cooler unit is operated to store harvested deer.

Boater Caution

Coastal waters are subject to extreme tidal fluctuations of six to ten feet. Hunters should be familiar with tide tables, and monitor coastal weather conditions before navigating to the barrier island refuge.

Notice for Boaters Launching from Harris Neck NWR

Barbour River Landing at Harris Neck NWR is open daily 4 am-midnight only. Parking permits will be issued to Blackbeard hunters who require 24-hour use of the landing. Vehicles, other than those bearing permits, are unauthorized at the landing from midnight to 4 am. Permits (valid one day prior to, during, and one day after hunt periods) can be obtained at the Savannah Coastal Refuges' office (912/652 4415) after October 1.



Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing on Blackbeard Island NWR is permitted from the beach, in tidal creeks, and on ponds (impounded waters) within the refuge boundaries. Sport fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State regulations* and subject to the following special conditions:

Freshwater fishing is permitted year-round from sunrise to sunset, except during managed hunts.

Some portions of the freshwater ponds may be closed seasonally to protect wildlife from human disturbance.

Only non-motorized boats or boats with electric motors are permitted on the freshwater ponds.

The use of live minnows as bait is not permitted.

Bank fishing into estuarine waters is permitted only from sunrise to sunset.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

*A Georgia fishing license is required.

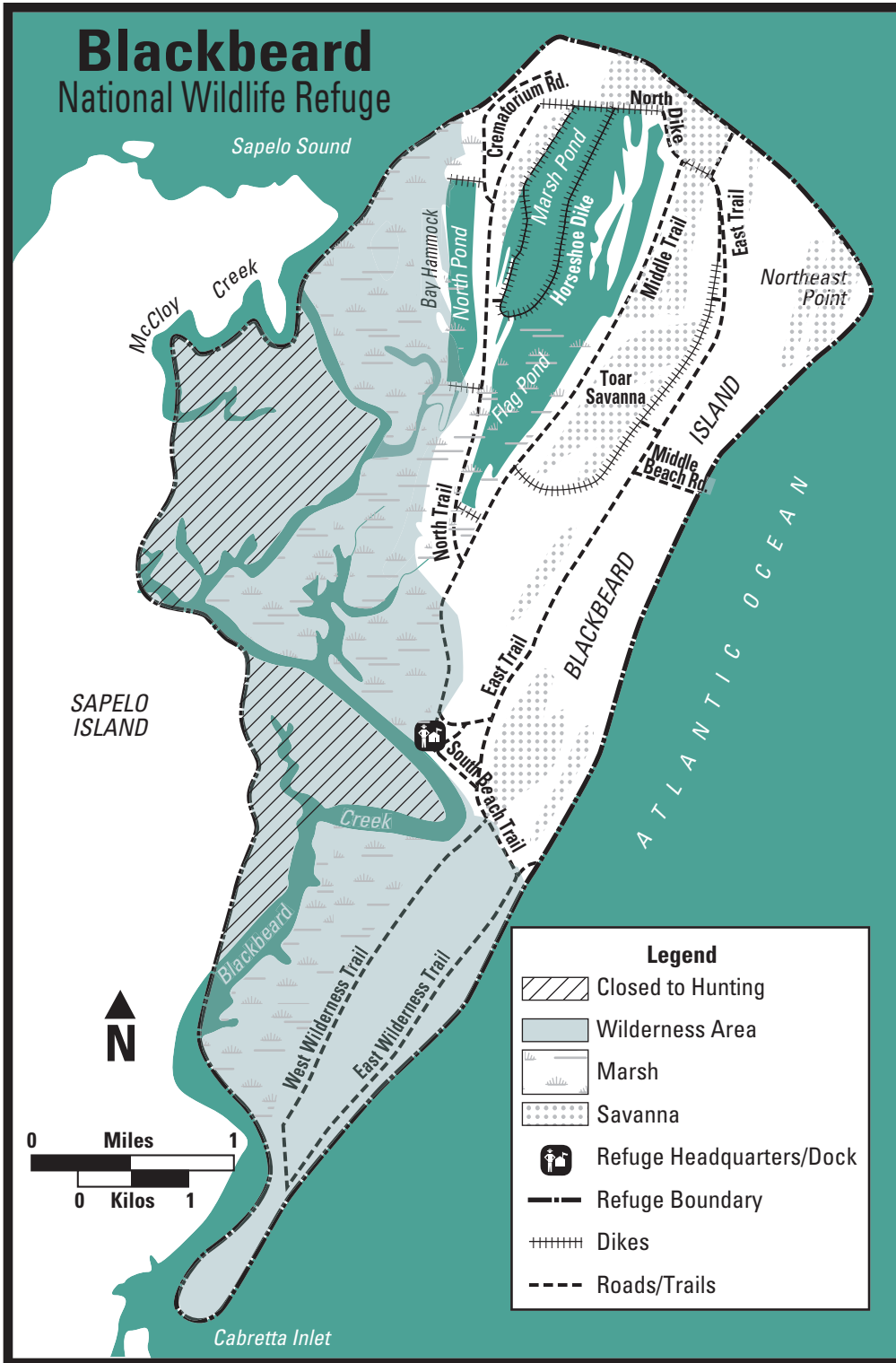
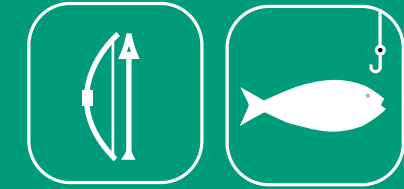
Take pride in your refuge.

Report violations.

Pick up litter.

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



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 wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:

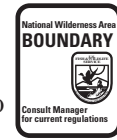
This sign delineates the refuge boundary. You may enter only on designated access routes. Consult manager for restrictions.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting or sight-seeing is permitted. Roads and trails within this area are closed to the public.



This sign delineates the National Wilderness Area boundary. Special regulations pertaining to wilderness must be obeyed while hunting within this area (see "Keep Wilderness Wild" section of brochure).



Keep Wilderness Wild

In 1964, our nation's leaders formally acknowledged the immediate and lasting benefits of wild places to the human spirit and fabric of our nation by enacting landmark legislation that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America. The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System to "...secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." The Act describes wilderness as:

"...lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..."

"...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man..."

"...an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation..."

"...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..."

"...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."

"...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic use."

Leave No Trace – 7 Principles of Outdoor Ethics

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Savannah Coastal Refuges
1000 Business Center Drive
Parkway Business Center, Suite 10
Savannah, GA 31405
912/652 4415
<http://www.fws.gov/blackbeardisland>

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

July 2008



2008 Blackbeard Island NWR Bow Hunt Permit

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your Blackbeard bow hunt permit, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Check-in is required upon arrival at the refuge dock.

Signature _____