

# St. Catherine Creek

## National Wildlife Refuge Regulations 2006-2007



To:

St. Catherine Creek  
National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 217  
Sibley, Mississippi 39165  
601/442 6696  
<http://www.fws.gov/saintcatherinecreek>

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

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### The Refuge

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in January 1990 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl. The refuge is located in southwest Mississippi. The habitat consists of bottomland and upland hardwoods, cleared land, cypress swamps, accreted land, and fallow fields. Due to the refuge's diversity of lands, it has long been noted for large populations of wildlife, including small game and deer. Public hunting and fishing is permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

### General Regulations

A \$12.50 Annual Public Use Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen. Permits, required State licenses and a picture ID must be possessed at all times while on refuge property. Permits are available at refuge headquarters Monday-Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm or by mail, payable with cash or money order only.

All persons must obtain and complete a Daily Visitor Use Reporting card upon entering the refuge and display it on the dash so that name and address are visible from the outside. Before leaving the refuge, users must complete the reverse side of the card and deposit it in a drop box at the nearest visitor station prior to leaving the refuge. All game (including hogs) and fish taken must be reported on the Daily Visitor Use Card.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by refuge officers.

### Prohibited Activities

Possession of firearms, except when participating in scheduled hunts

Littering

Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs

Entering refuge from private property

Hunters entering from public waterways

Camping or overnight parking

Unconfined pets

Open fires

Unauthorized taking of wildlife or plants

Target practice

Baiting, possession of bait or hunting over bait

Man drives

Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road or ATV trail

Marking trails with tape, paper, paint, etc.

Field dressing game or hogs within 150 feet of any road, ATV trail, or parking lot

Trapping

Riding horses or mules

Crawfishing or frogging

Spotlighting

Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any active oil well site, production facility or equipment or tampering with any petroleum facility or equipment

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts

Possession of slugs, buckshot, or rifle ammunition larger than .22 rimfire

Possession of handguns



	Use or possession of any drug, or device for employing such drug for hunting	<i>Incidental Species</i>	Beaver, nutria, raccoons, bobcats and coyote may be taken during any scheduled refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.		hunting will be closed after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 30 feet or greater. Waterfowl hunting in Gilliard Lake will be closed when the Natchez River Gauge reaches 34 feet or greater. Access to Butler Lake waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake Road and Lakeview Drive <b>only</b> .	ATV's are not allowed.
	Possession of commercial fishing or trot line equipment, including limb lines and yo-yos		Hogs may only be taken with bow & arrow and muzzleloaders during designated primitive weapon deer seasons and the youth gun hunt. There is no bag limit on hogs.	<i>Youth Hunters</i>	Youth hunters (ages 10-15) must have passed a State-approved hunter education course and possess proof of such while hunting.	All prohibited activities apply.
	Jug fishing					On the Sibley Unit, boats are only allowed in Gilliard Lake, south of the Ring Levee (see map) and in Swamp Lake. Boats may only be hand launched in Swamp Lake.
	Geocaching					<b>The taking of alligator gar is prohibited due to ongoing research projects.</b>
<i>Vehicles</i>	The taking of alligator gar	<i>Blinds/ Stands</i>	Inserting metal objects into trees or hunting from trees into which metal objects have been inserted is prohibited. Climbing spurs are prohibited. Only portable stands or blinds may be used. Blinds and tripods must be dismantled and stands must be removed from the tree after each day's hunt. All stands must be removed from the refuge prior to any flood event or by February 5, 2007. NO EXCEPTIONS.		Youth hunters must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. For deer and turkey hunts, each adult may only supervise one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.	<b>NOTE: The Blue Hole (on the Cloverdale Unit) is closed to ALL PUBLIC ENTRY.</b>
	All motor vehicles are restricted to roads designated on the map. Refuge roads and trails may be closed at times due to flooding or adverse weather conditions. All travel on refuge roads is at your own risk. Parking is restricted to parking areas and immediately adjacent to roadways designated on the map. Do not block any roads, gates or road entrances. No parking is allowed in the refuge headquarters parking lot, shop area parking lot, or between No Parking signs adjacent to refuge houses while hunting.			<i>Firearms</i>	<b>Firearms, including muzzle loaders, transported on roads, ATV trails, or waterways within the refuge boundary must be unloaded and cased.</b>	<i>Youth Fishermen</i>
<i>Boats</i>	Hunters may not enter the refuge from public waterways. Deer and Small Game hunters may <b>not</b> use motorized boats after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 30 feet or greater. <b>US Coast Guard approved PFD's must be worn by all persons in all boats while underway.</b>	<i>Hunter Orange</i>	During primitive weapon season, the State Youth Gun Hunt and while hunting small game in open fields or reforestation areas all persons, including those hunters in blinds, must wear Hunter Orange <b>HAT and UPPER GARMENT</b> in plain view at all times. EXCEPTION: Waterfowl hunters are <u>not</u> required to wear hunter orange.		Only muzzle loading rifles and compound, recurve or longbows may be used during refuge primitive weapon seasons. Single shot, breach loading, cartridge rifles of a kind and type manufactured in the United States prior to 1900, and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of those type rifles <b>are not allowed</b> during refuge primitive weapon seasons.	There is a youth fishing area located on the Sibley Unit. This area is identified on the map and by signs. Youth ages 15 and under only may fish and must be supervised by an adult 21 years or older. The adult may not fish.
	Boats must be hand launched except at designated boat ramps.		Ground blinds must display a minimum of 500 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides.			Bow fishing is allowed. Daylight use only. Bow fishermen must abide by Mississippi State law.
<b><i>Hunter Access</i></b>	<b>Hunting Regulations</b> Hunters may enter the refuge 2 hours before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.	<i>Bag Limits</i>	State season bag limits apply unless otherwise stated. Only one deer per day may be harvested.		Only non-toxic shotshells may be possessed during waterfowl hunts. Only shotguns using non-toxic shotshells, .22 rimfire rifles (no .22 magnums), and muzzleloading rifles 38 caliber and under shooting patched round balls only, may be possessed during small game hunts.	Night time bow fishing on the refuge will be allowed only through a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager.
	<b>Users may not enter the refuge from private property.</b>	<i>Game Check In</i>	All deer must be immediately field dressed prior to being transported and then checked at the nearest refuge deer check station (see map). NO EXCEPTIONS. Check stations are self-clearing. <b>In addition to checking deer at the nearest self-clearing check station, all game, including small game, predators, and hogs must be reported on the daily use reporting card.</b>			NOTE: There is an active Bald Eagle nest in the Gilliard Lake area. All precautions must be taken <b>NOT</b> to disturb the Eagle nest.
<i>ATV's</i>	ATV's (maximum tire pressure: 5 PSI) are restricted to designated ATV trails as shown on map. ATV trails are only open during scheduled hunts and scouting periods. Hunters must be 16 years of age or older to operate an ATV on the refuge.				<b>Fishing Regulations</b> Fishermen may enter the refuge 1 hour before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than 1hour after <b>sunset</b> . Refuge Annual Public Use Permits are required.	The Refuge Manager reserves the right to close seasons and/or portions of the refuge due to inclement weather, road conditions and/or river levels or any other appropriate reason. <b>The Refuge Manager may revoke any Annual Public Use Permit for refuge violations.</b>
	ATV's are not permitted off designated trails for game retrieval.	<i>Waterfowl</i>	Waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake, Salt Lake and Gilliard Lake only. In the Butler Lake Unit, waterfowl		State fishing laws apply. State bag limits apply.	<b>For more information, write or call:</b> St. Catherine Creek NWR P O Box 117, Sibley MS 39165 (601)442 6696.
					Sport fishing only.	