

Bond Swamp is part of a system of more than 540 National Wildlife Refuges, which provide for the conservation and management of habitats to benefit fish and wildlife. The refuge strives to provide quality hunting and fishing opportunities when compatible with the refuge management objectives.

Through a partnership effort with the State of Georgia and the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to some compatible wildlife oriented recreational uses in 2000. Hunting for white-tailed deer and feral hogs, bank fishing, wildlife observation through hiking, and environmental education are some of the approved recreational uses for the refuge.

The refuge is open to the public year round for visitation and pre-hunt scouting during day light hours, except during firearm hunts. Public access is permitted only on the portion of the refuge that is located east of the Ocmulgee River in Bibb and Twiggs counties. Camping is prohibited.

The refuge is primarily river swamp with creeks and sloughs traversing the entire area. When the Ocmulgee River overflows its banks, the flood plain may remain flooded for weeks. Access by vehicle and foot may be difficult. Four-wheel drive vehicles may be required to access some areas. Portions of the refuge may be closed during periods of flooding.

General Hunt Regulations

Public hunting is permitted on approximately 5,500 acres of the current 7,400 acres of Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Areas closed to public access are marked with signs and orange paint. The refuge boundary is marked with signs and yellow paint

Browns Mt is presently closed to all public access.

In addition to Federal regulations, State Game and Fish laws and regulations are adopted and in effect unless they have been further restricted by Federal law or regulations. Licenses, permits, all hunting and fishing equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal and State officers.

A refuge hunt permit and sign-in slip are required for all hunters who enter the hunt area during refuge hunts. The Refuge is closed to non-hunters during firearm hunts.

Hunters are required to sign-in once prior to each hunt at the check station. Sign-in begins the day before each hunt at noon.

All game must be checked on the day killed at the refuge check station as designated before leaving the refuge.

Hunter orange is required to be worn during all firearm hunts. At least 500 square inches of hunter orange must be worn as an outer garment above the waist.

Hunter access is permitted from 4 am to one hour after sunset during open seasons.

Firearms carried in any vehicle or boat must be unloaded and encased or dismantled.

All refuge lands on the west side of the Ocmulgee River are closed to all public entry.

Hunter Education/Children

Hunters age 16-25 must possess the hunter education certificate while hunting. Children age 15 and under must remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult age 21 or older possessing a valid hunting or fishing license to hunt or fish on the refuge. One adult may supervise no more than one youth hunter during refuge firearm hunts.

Deer Hunting

Harvested deer must be recorded on the hunter's state harvest record at the site of kill.

Hog Hunting

Feral hogs may be harvested during the refuge archery season.

Firearm hunting for feral hogs follows State of Georgia Deer firearms restrictions except buckshot is prohibited. Legal firearms include center-fire rifles, shotgun with slugs, muzzle loader and archery equipment.

Tree Stands/Hunting Blinds

Tree stands/hunting blinds may be placed the day prior to each hunt and must be removed by 11:00am the day after the hunt.

ATV's

Use of ATV's is prohibited except by disabled hunters (wheel-chair bound for mobility) with a refuge Special Use Permit. Contact the Piedmont Refuge office for information.

Boats

Use of boats is at the discretion of the refuge manager. Flood conditions may prohibit use of boats.

Portable boat access is available only at the Stone Creek parking area. Hunters are permitted to boat south of the launch site to the railroad tracks. Gasoline motors are prohibited.

During firearm hunts, boats used by permitted hunters may be used beginning at noon the day before each hunt until the last day of each hunt.

Portable boat access is available from March 15 through October 15 at the Stone Creek parking area and Reids Station Road. Gasoline motors are prohibited.

No boat ramp is available. The launch site is primitive and has uneven terrain.

After launching boats at the Stone Creek parking area, vehicles and trailers must be parked in the parking lot.

State boating laws and equipment requirements are in effect.

Sport Fishing

Fishing is open March 15 through October 15, from sunrise to sunset.

Fishing is permitted in all areas not designated as closed.

Species, limits: same as State regulations except largemouth bass must be 14 inches in length to keep.

Fishermen may use only rod and reel or pole and line to fish. Two poles per person allowed.

Fishermen may not place or throw feeds to attract fish

How to Get Refuge Permits

Permits are required for all hunters and fishermen age 16 and over and ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE. When signed, this brochure serves as your permit for sport fishing and all hunting.

Additional permits may be obtained at the Stone Creek and Longleaf Pine Trail parking lots, the Piedmont Refuge headquarters in Jones County, by mail or downloaded from the internet at www.fws.gov/bondswamp

Contact the Piedmont Refuge office for more information and to report any violations of refuge regulations 478/986 5441.

General Prohibited Activities

Taking, collecting or disturbing any artifact, property, plant, wildlife or part thereof, other than that specifically permitted by refuge regulation.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages

Driving metal objects into trees or hunting from a tree in which metal objects have been driven

Marking trails with flagging, blazing, painting, paper, trash or other devices

Walking, hunting, fishing, or trespassing on the railroad right-of-way

Entering the refuge during firearm hunts without refuge permit and/or sign in slip

Possess or hunt with buckshot

Hunting or shooting from or within 50 yards of a road open to vehicle travel or 200 yards of a building

Transporting a loaded firearm and transporting a firearm that is not encased or dismantled in a vehicle or boat

Target shooting

Possessing firearms except during authorized hunting seasons with permit.

Off road vehicle travel

Use of ATVs or other off road vehicles.

Leaving vehicles or trailers on refuge overnight

Blocking refuge road, boat ramp or gate with vehicles or vehicle travel around a closed gate

Disturbing, annoying or interfering with other persons

Open fires

Unleashed pets

Removing live hogs from refuge

Hunting with or by aid of dogs

Littering

Horses or mules

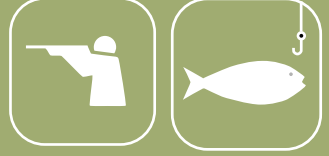
Camping

Man-drives for deer or feral hogs



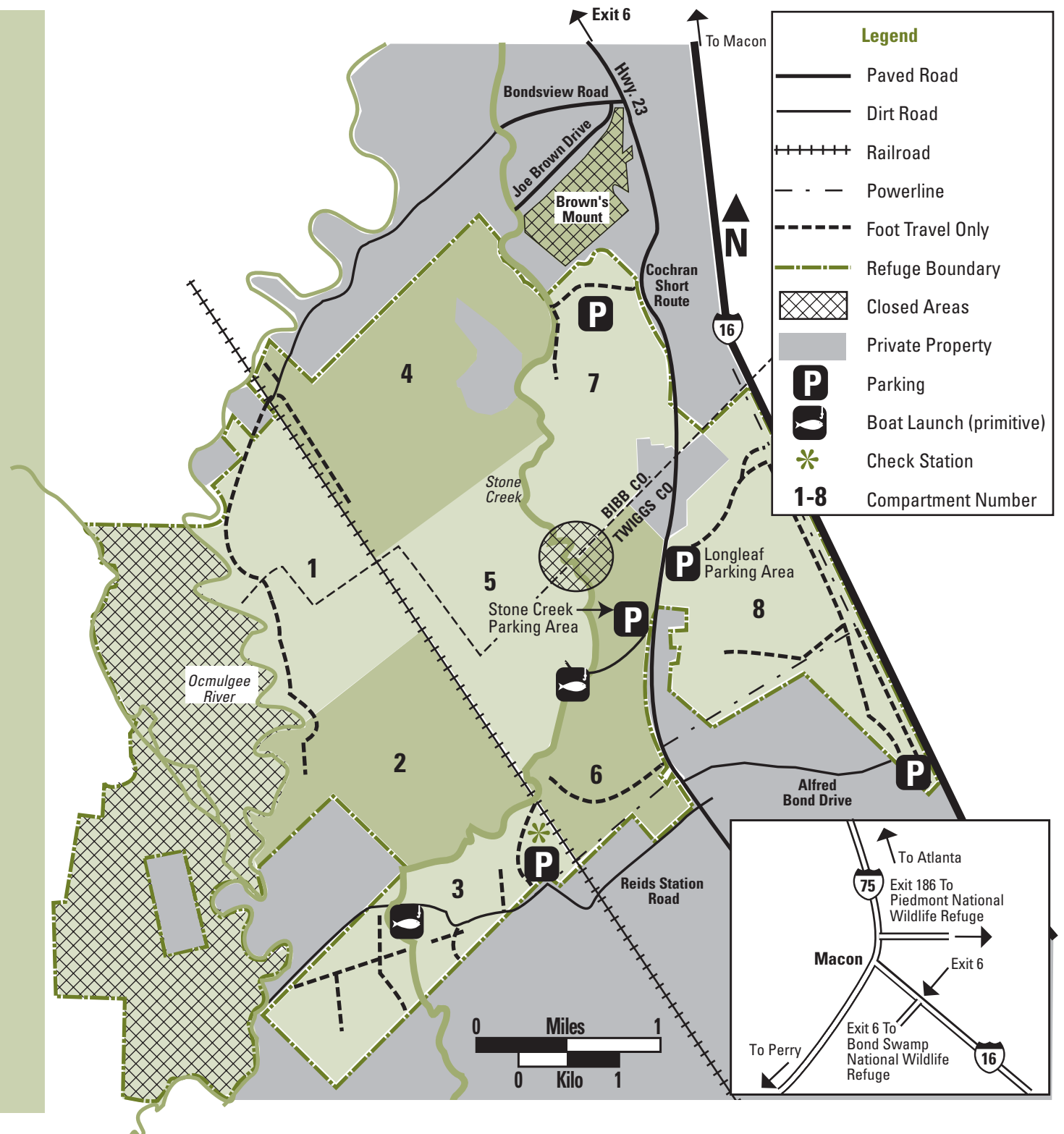
Bond Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



Hunting Seasons 2008-2009

| Type hunt | Required permits | Season Dates | Bag Limit |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Archery - Deer & Feral Hog | General Refuge Permit Sign-in required | Sep. 13-Oct. 5, 2008 | State limit on deer No limit on hogs |
| Feral Hog Only - Firearm Hunt | General Refuge Permit Sign-in required | Dec. 4-18, 2008 | No limit |
| Feral Hog Only - Firearm Hunt | General Refuge Permit Sign-in required | Jan. 15-Feb. 1, 2009 | No limit |



Bond Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge
718 Round Oak - Juliette Road
Hillsboro, GA 31038
478/986 5441
<http://www.fws.gov/bondswamp.html>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

June 2008



Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit 2008-2009

When signed, this brochure is your permit for fishing and all hunting.

Signature _____