

Hunting Regulations

The following species may be hunted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations:

- Migratory Birds: ducks, geese, swans, mourning doves, woodcock, rails, and snipe

- Upland Game: quail, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, fox, beaver, and nutria

- Big Game: white-tailed deer

- Feral Hogs

The taking or possession of black bear, turkey, bobcat, or otter, or any part thereof, is prohibited.

Permits

You must have a valid Refuge General Hunting Permit to hunt on the refuge - simply sign the front of this brochure and keep it with you while hunting. Additional permits are required to hunt deer with firearms on the Pungo Unit and to hunt raccoon and opossum at night. Applications and fees are required for Pungo Deer Gun Hunt permits. See **Special Hunts** below for more information.

Area Restrictions - Hunting is not allowed

- around the Headquarters/Visitor Center/Scuppernong River Boardwalk;

- within the Pungo Shop complex;

- on the Pungo Unit except as described under “Pungo Unit” and “Special Hunt-Pungo Deer Gun Hunts;”

- on the refuge portion of New Lake;

- on refuge lands between Shore Drive and Lake Phelps;

- on that portion of the Pinner Tract east of SR 1105;

- between Shore Drive and the Allen Road gate, including the area within 100 yards of each side of this section of Allen Road;

- on Western Road from Seagoing Road south to the gate;

- on the road forming the southern boundary of the refuge tract west of Pettigrew State Park’s Cypress Point Access Area.

The following areas are closed to all public entry during November, December, January, and February:

- Pungo Lake and New Lake

- Duck Pen Road and the Pungo Lake Banding Site

- that section of Molt Road forming the southern boundary of the Smartweed moist soil unit

- the Jones Pond moist soil unit, including its dikes

- the Riders Creek and Dunbar Road Banding Sites

Wounded or dead game may be retrieved from closed areas with consent from a refuge employee, but no weapons may be taken into the closed areas.

General

The refuge is open during daylight hours only, except that:

- hunters may enter hunting areas up to 1.5 hours before legal shooting time and remain on the refuge up to 1.5 hours after legal shooting time (except on the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts – see **Pungo Unit**). During these non-daylight hours, hunters must be actively engaged in setting up for hunting, retrieving game, exiting the refuge, or some other activity related to hunting. Hunters must exit the refuge as quickly as possible after daylight hours have ended, but no later than one and one half hours afterwards.

- raccoon and opossum hunters may hunt on the refuge at night with a special permit which can be obtained from Refuge Headquarters.

Firearms are prohibited on the refuge except as authorized for hunting activities. All weapons must be unloaded and encased or dismantled while being transported on the refuge by a motorized vehicle (including boats under power and on ATVs where they are allowed – see **Vehicles**).

You must wear 500 square inches (3250 cm²) of fluorescent orange material above the waist, which is visible from all sides, while hunting upland game and while hunting deer or feral hogs in areas open to hunting with firearms. A vest and a hat normally meet this requirement; a hat alone does not.

Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of, any type of bait (food, salt, other mineral, or other substance that lures or attracts animals) is prohibited on the refuge.

Only biodegradable flagging tape may be used on the refuge (to mark trails, stand locations, etc.). Plastic flagging tape, reflectors, dots, glow tacks, and other materials are prohibited.

Pungo Unit

The Pungo Unit is closed to all hunting except for limited deer hunting opportunities. Deer may be hunted with bow-and-arrow on the Pungo Unit during the State firearm and bow-and-arrow seasons (but not during the State muzzleloader season) prior to December 1st. A special permit is required to hunt on the Pungo Unit during the two-day Pungo Deer Gun Hunts in late September and October. The Pungo Unit is closed to all public access, except for hunters with valid permits, on these hunt dates. See **Special Hunts** for more information.

Hunters may enter the Pungo Unit up to 1 hour before legal shooting time and remain on the Unit up to 1 hour after legal shooting time on days when the area is open to hunting. During these non-daylight hours, hunters must be actively engaged in setting up for hunting, retrieving game, exiting the refuge, or some other activity related to hunting. Hunters must exit the refuge as quickly as possible after daylight hours have ended, but no later than one hour afterwards.

Big Game and Feral Hogs

Deer may be taken on the refuge with shotguns, muzzleloaders, and bow an arrow only – rifles and pistols are not authorized. Disabled hunters possessing the appropriate State permit may also use a crossbow. Use of each of these weapons is, of course, further restricted by area and season dates.

Feral hogs may be taken in any area open to deer hunting, except the Pungo Unit, using whatever weapons are authorized for taking deer. In addition, feral hogs may be taken in the Frying Pan Unit anytime the area is open to hunting with firearms “including small game hunting” using shotguns, muzzleloaders, or bow-and-arrow.

Only portable tree stands are allowed on the refuge and they must be removed at the end of each day’s hunt (except for the Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts; see *Special Hunts*.) Using nails, wire, screws, and bolts to attach a tree stand, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter (including lag screw type steps) is prohibited.

Upland Game

Upland game may be hunted with shotguns and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles only. Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting in the non-toxic shot zone on and west of Evans Road. Disabled hunters possessing the appropriate State permit may also use a crossbow.

Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

Beaver and nutria may be taken only with firearms and only in areas open to hunting other game animals with firearms.

Migratory Birds

Migratory birds may not be taken/hunted on the Pungo Unit. Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting migratory birds.

Only portable blinds made of man-made materials and temporary blinds constructed of natural materials can be used for migratory bird hunting. However, cutting any live vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. You must remove portable blinds at the end of each day’s hunt.

Youth Hunters

Youth hunters (under age 16) must be under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter over the age of 21. A licensed hunter over the age of 21 may supervise one big game youth hunter, or up to two migratory bird or upland game youth hunters, at a time. Youth hunters must meet state hunter education requirements.

Hunting Dogs

Running deer, bear, wild turkey, and other wildlife with dogs is prohibited. However dogs can be used for hunting migratory game birds and upland game. The dogs must be under your control at all times and you cannot possess buckshot or slugs while hunting with dogs.

Pocosin Lakes NWR is an important area for the reintroduction and recovery of the endangered red wolf. Several wolf packs roam the refuge and we have an active management program that often includes trapping wolves. The traps used are rubber jawed to minimize the chance of injury to target and non-target animals. If you or your dog encounters one of these traps, please report it to the Refuge Headquarters.

Vehicles

Blocking gates, roads, trails, or other travel ways is prohibited. Many roads on the refuge are unimproved and become impassable during wet periods. Vehicles, including 4 x 4s, often get stuck. Towing services are extremely limited. Visitors should not attempt to travel through standing water or muddy sinkholes along refuge roads.

ATVs may be operated on designated ATV trails only. They may only be used to transport hunters and their equipment to scout and hunt. ATVs can be operated on these trails only when the ATV trail and surrounding area is open to hunting, one week prior to the area opening for hunting, and on Sundays during the hunting season. Hunting from an ATV under power and operating ATVs off of designated ATV trails is prohibited.

Special Hunt - Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts

The special, two-day Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts for this year are September 26/27, October 3/4, 17/18, 24/25 and 31/November 1. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) will be issuing permits for these hunts under their Special Hunt Opportunities permit program. For more information, visit their website at www.ncwildlife.org or visit one of their Wildlife Service Agents.

To apply, you must have:

- the hunt item number (from the NCWRC’s *Special Hunt Opportunities in North Carolina* guide book),

- your choice of hunt dates in order of preference,

- your date of birth,

- your seven-digit NCWRC Customer ID Number (found on your current or expired hunting license, and

- your telephone number.

Up to five hunters may apply for a party hunt by doing the following. One individual must submit their application and receive a Party ID Number from the NCWRC. They give this number to the others in the party (up to four more hunters) and they apply using this Party ID Number.

You may only submit one application for the Pungo Unit Gun Hunts. The NCWRC charges a \$5.00 permit application fee. Successful applicants will receive a permit from the NCWRC. This permit may list more than one of the two-day hunts if you were selected for more than one of your choices.

For the permit to be valid, the hunter must also pay a \$12.50 fee for each hunt you wish to participate in to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Payment can be made by check or money order (payable to “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service”). The payment must be received at the following address at least three (3) days prior to the hunt date.

Send payment to:

Pocosin Lakes NWR

PO Box 329

Columbia, NC 27925

To participate in a Pungo Deer Gun-Hunt you must have in your possession a valid hunting license and harvest report card (“tags”) and a signed copy of this General Hunting Permit/Brochure. In addition, you must have paid the \$12.50 special hunt fee to validate your NCWRC permit.

All refuge hunting regulations apply on the Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts except the following. Permitted hunters may enter the Pungo Unit up to one hour prior to legal shooting time and must be off of the area by one hour after legal shooting time. Hunters with a valid Pungo Deer Gun-Hunt Permit may install a portable tree stand the day before the start of their hunt and leave it until the end of the second day of their two-day hunt. Stands left overnight must be tagged with the hunter’s name, address, and telephone number. During these permit hunts deer may be taken with bow-and-arrow, muzzleloader, or shotgun.

Special Hunt

Nighttime Raccoon and Opossum Hunting

To hunt raccoon and opossum at night, request a special Raccoon and Opossum Nighttime Hunting Permit at Refuge Headquarters in Columbia, NC. There is no fee for this permit.

Fishing Regulations

Fish may be taken on the refuge in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following.

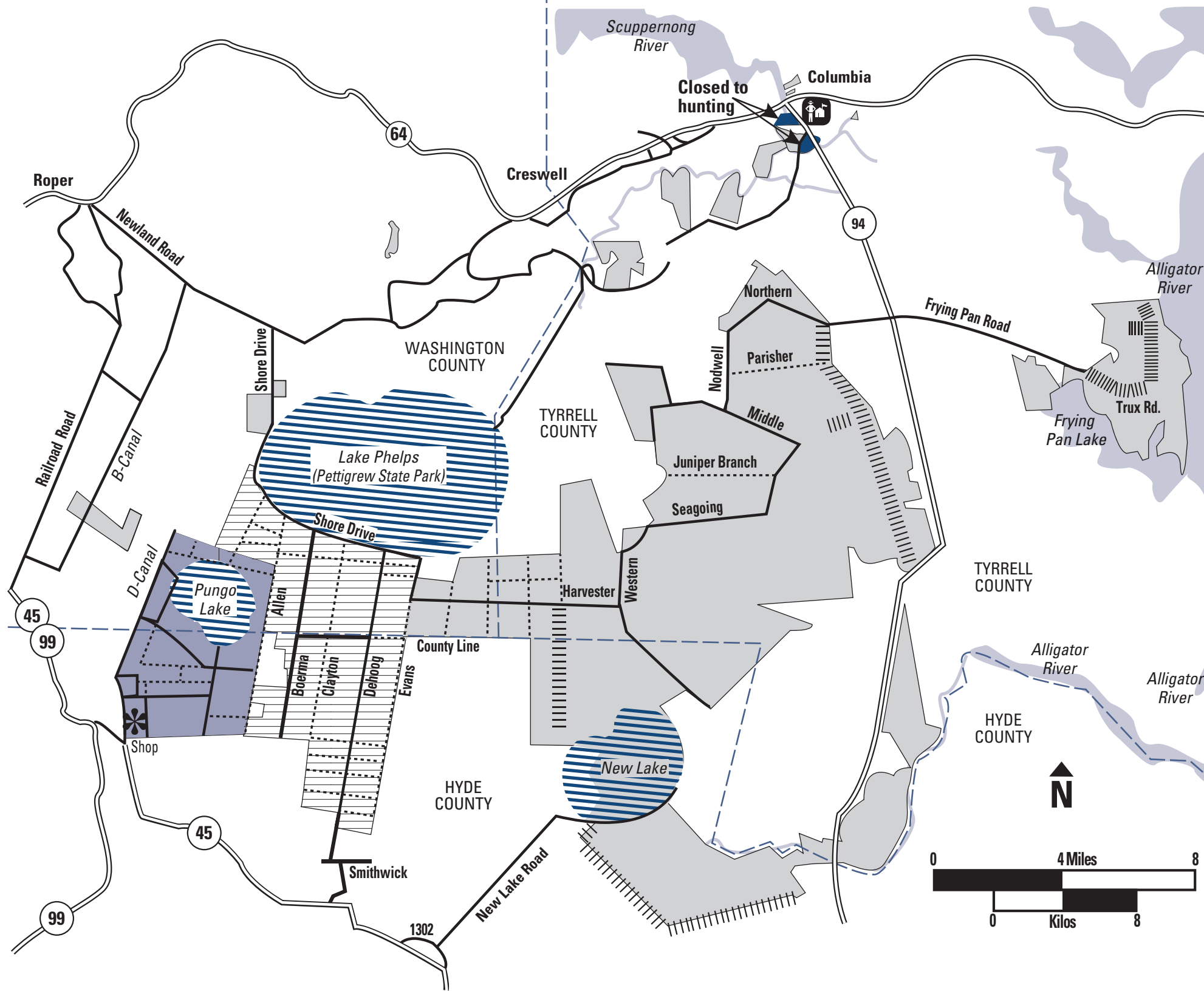
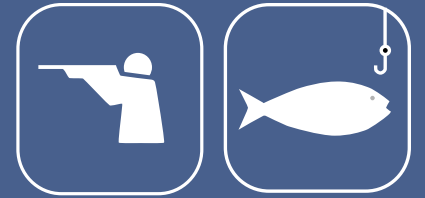
Fishing is allowed on Pungo and New Lakes from March 1 through October 31 only. However, Pungo Lake and the entire Pungo Unit are closed to fishing (and all public access without a permit) during the special Pungo Two-Day Deer Hunts in late September and October.

Only bank fishing is allowed in the Pungo Unit, boats are not allowed.

Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset only.

Pocosin Lakes

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

- Refuge office
- Hunting allowed
State seasons and bag limits
- Pungo Unit
- Hunting allowed. State seasons and bag limits, Non-toxic shot Zone-Migratory Game Birds and Upland Game
- Area closed to all hunting
- Roads open to licensed vehicles
- Roads closed to vehicles, except 3-4 wheeled all-terrain cycles, license not required
- County lines
- Roads closed to all vehicles
- Pungo Check Station

Pocosin Lakes
National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 329
205 South Ludington Drive
Columbia, NC 27925
252/796 3004
<http://Pocosinlakes.fws.gov>

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

April 2008



General Hunting Permit

The signing of this leaflet validates it as your general refuge hunting permit and it must be in your possession while participating in all authorized hunts.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

Hunter's Signature