

**Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge** The 50,180 acre Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1934 primarily to preserve wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl. The refuge’s predominant feature is the 40,000 acre Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina.

The regulated harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations.

**General Hunting Regulations** Mattamuskeet Refuge is open to hunting of tundra swan, Canada and snow geese, ducks, coots, and white-tailed deer in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, which govern activities, including hunting, on national wildlife refuges.

Hunters under the age of 16 must have successfully passed a State-approved hunter education course and provide proof of certification (card or certificate) upon request, and must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older.

All weapons must be unloaded and also dismantled or encased while being transported in a vehicle or boat.

Permits are required to hunt on Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Application procedures on how to apply for a permit are found under individual hunt types (deer, waterfowl and September Canada goose).

Hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by Refuge or state law enforcement officers.

The taking or possession of any wildlife, including reptiles and/or amphibians, or any part thereof, except when permitted during a Refuge hunt or transporting same along a State Road, is prohibited.

Deer hunting will be authorized on

**Deer Hunt** Mattamuskeet Refuge during two-day paired hunts on October 14-15, and October 28-29.

*Applications and Permits*

Hunters may apply by sending a 3x5 index card to the Refuge with the applicant’s name, address, date of birth, and preference of hunt dates (October 14-15 or October 28-29). It is not necessary to indicate a choice of hunt area as in previous years. If issued a permit, the hunter will have the option to hunt either east or west of Highway 94. Color marked or picture post cards will not be accepted. Submission of more than one application by any one hunter (either singly or in a group) will result in all his/her applications being rejected. There is no fee to apply.

Deer hunt applications can be made singly or by groups of up to 5 hunters. In the case of a group application, the application cards of all group members must be attached together in one envelope and marked “Party Hunt.”

Applications must be received at Refuge Headquarters by 4 pm on September 5 to be considered. A public drawing will be held at 1 pm on September 9. Those applicants drawn will be notified by mail. A user fee of \$12.50 will be required to receive a permit. After the completion of the public drawing, any unissued permits will be provided on a first come, first serve basis.

*Bag Limits* With the appropriate North Carolina big game license, each hunter may take one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless deer per day on Mattamuskeet Refuge.

*Manner of Take* Deer may only be taken with shotgun, muzzleloading rifle/shotgun, or bow and arrow. Possession of modern rifles, pistols, and other weapons is prohibited on the refuge. Authorized firearms are permitted on the refuge only on the day of the hunt.

*Access* Permitted deer hunters will be authorized access from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm on the days of the hunt. Hunters may use boats to access hunt areas. Hunters may not hunt from boats.

*Check Stations*

*Other Special Regulations*

**Waterfowl Hunt**

Vehicles are restricted to designated roads only. Access to open hunting areas behind road gates will be by foot, bicycle, and/or boat only.

Disabled sportsmen with valid proof of disability, should contact the refuge office prior to arrival if special arrangements are needed.

**Hunters are reminded that the land adjacent to the refuge is privately owned and entering or hunting on this land is at the discretion of the landowner.**

All deer taken on Mattamuskeet Refuge must be checked at the Deer Check Station at Refuge Headquarters. Weights and other biological information will be collected. Field dressing harvested deer is allowed and encouraged. No facilities are available for dressing deer at the check station.

All persons participating in the deer hunt must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline that is visible from any direction.

The construction and/or use of permanent blinds, platforms, and/or ladders is prohibited. Portable blinds and tree stands may be put up one day prior to the hunt and must be removed at the end of each two-day hunt.

The use of nails, wire screws (including lag-screw type steps) or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited.

The use of dogs to hunt deer is prohibited.

An adult can supervise only one youth hunter. The youth must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult.

Waterfowl hunting will be authorized on approximately 4,000 acres of open water and marsh on the south side of Lake Mattamuskeet. The waterfowl hunt dates will be scheduled as two-day paired hunts on Tuesday - Wednesdays

*Applications and Permits*

and Friday - Saturdays. Specific dates will be announced in September via a news release and on the Mattamuskeet Refuge web site (www.fws.gov/mattamuskeet).

A Youth Hunt for hunters aged 12-15 is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 28-29.

Applications for the Mattamskeet National Wildlife Refuge waterfowl hunts will be administered by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as part of their Special Hunt Opportunities program. Hunters can apply at a Wildlife Resources Commission service agent or by telephone at 1 888/248 6834. Applications will be accepted between September 1 - October 1 for the general waterfowl hunt (Item #7045).

Disabled hunters should indicate their preference for the handicapped blind when applying. A \$5 application fee will be charged. Individuals selected for the waterfowl hunt will be reserved two consecutive hunt dates and may bring two guests to participate in the hunt. A user fee of \$12.50 per person will be collected prior to hunting each day of the waterfowl hunt. Unclaimed reservations as of 5 am of each hunt date will be allotted to standbys via a lottery system.

Only licensed hunters who have paid the user fee may be in the blind. No observers.

*Bag Limits*

Same as prescribed by the State.

*Manner of Take*

Waterfowl may only be taken with shotguns using approved non-toxic shot.

*Access*

Access to hunt area is by vehicle on East Canal Drive and then via foot or non-motorized boat.

*Check Stations*

All waterfowl taken must be checked at a check station at Refuge Headquarters prior to leaving the refuge. Biological and public use data will be collected for management purposes.

*Other Special Regulations*

Shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until 12 noon, except for the first day of the youth hunt. The shooting hours for this day are 1 pm until sunset.

Decoys may only be put out on the MORNING of the hunt and MUST be removed daily.

Hunting is restricted to the assigned blind. Only crippled birds may be shot from outside the blind.

Hunting is restricted to the use and possession of non-toxic shot shells only. There is a 30 shell limit per hunter per day.

The use of retrieving dogs is permitted, but dogs must be under voice command at all times.

Motorized boats are not permitted.

**September Canada Goose Hunt**

Canada goose hunting will be authorized on 49,400 acres of Mattamuskeet Refuge. Hunt days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the state September Canada goose season. One hundred permits will be issued for the hunt. Permits will be issued starting on August 1. Hunters can either come by the refuge office to pick up a permit, or call the refuge office to reserve a permit. The cost for a permit is \$12.50. Bag limits are the same as prescribed by the state.

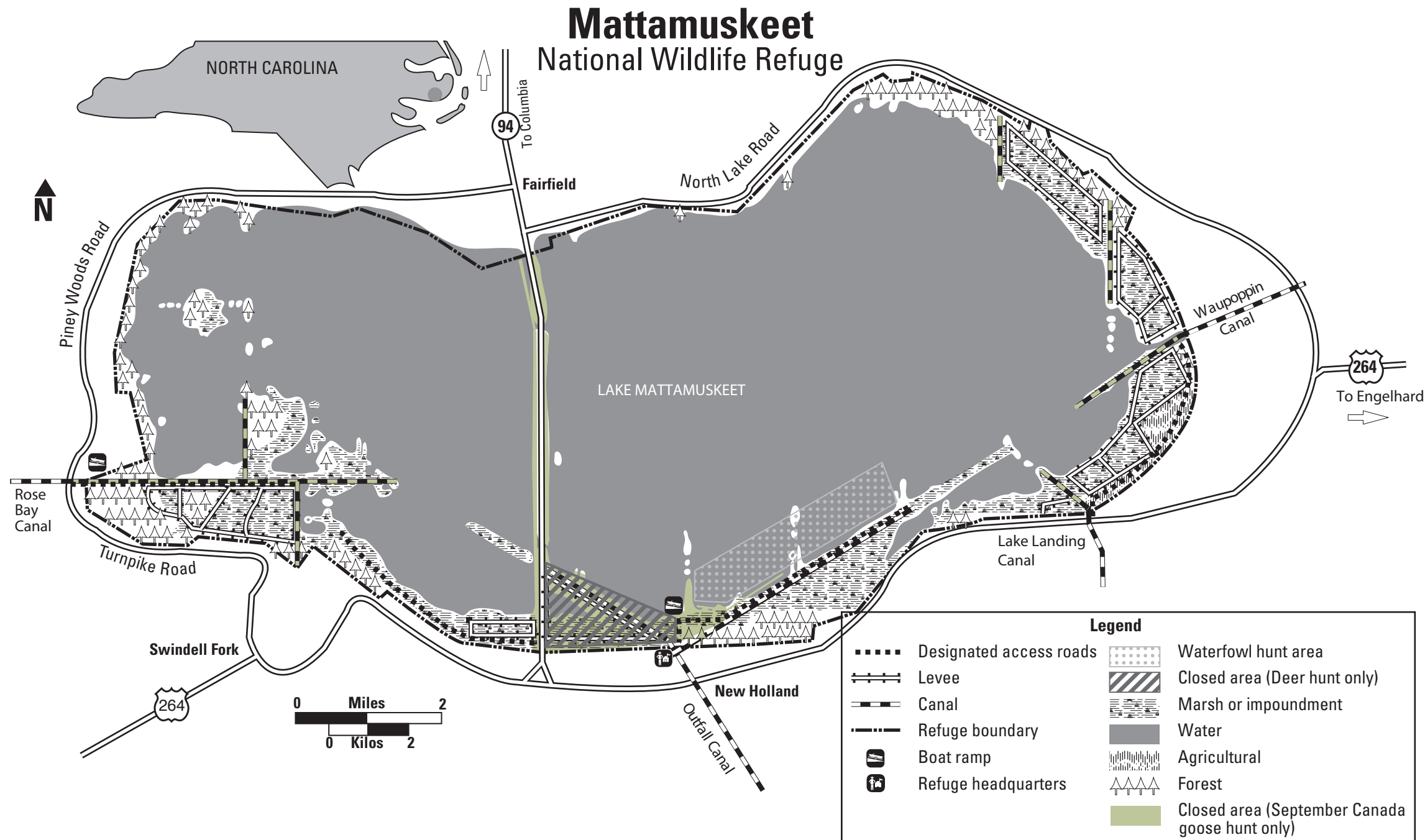
Portable blinds are permitted, but must be removed daily.

**Prohibited Activities**

- Baiting or hunting over bait
- Blocking roads, trails or fire lanes
- Camping
- Littering
- Open fires
- Overnight parking
- Taking wildlife or plants without authorization
- Trapping
- Using artificial lights (including vehicle headlights) to locate, observe, or take wildlife
- Using or possessing alcoholic beverages while hunting

# Mattamuskeet

*National Wildlife Refuge*  
*Refuge Hunting Regulations 2008-2009*



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 National Wildlife Refuge  
 38 Mattamuskeet Road  
 Swan Quarter, NC 27885  
 252/926 4021  
<http://www.fws.gov/mattamuskeet>

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

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