

# Pee Dee

## National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1963.
- Acres: 8,443.
- Located in Anson and Richmond counties of North Carolina.
- Other management: 20 conservation easements in seven counties.
- Location: the refuge is located seven miles north of Wadesboro, NC on U.S. Highway 52.

### Natural History

- The Pee Dee NWR is part of the Savannah-Santee-Pee Dee Ecosystem.
- The diversity of habitats and management programs supports a broad range of wildlife species, including over 180 birds, 49 amphibians and reptiles, 28 mammals, and 20 fish species.
- The refuge lands are comprised of 3,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods, 1,200 acres of upland pine forest; and 4,300 acres of croplands, old fields, moist soil units and mixed pine hardwoods.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Seven-person staff.
- 35,000 visitors annually.
- Current budget for FY 05 \$606,000.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and migratory song birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for an endangered species, the red-cockaded woodpecker.
- Provide recreation, environmental education and interpretation for the public.
- Dynamic partnering.

### Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl.
- Cooperative farming.
- Prescribed fire.
- Mechanical and chemical control of noxious plants.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Educational/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Trails/hiking.
- Auto tour routes.
- Fishing.
- Observation towers.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting.
- Fishing.
- Bird watching.

### Calendar

**January-February:** waterfowl observation, Christmas Bird Count.

**May:** Migratory Bird Day.

**June:** National Fishing Week.

**September:** mourning dove hunts.

**October:** National Wildlife Refuge Week, raccoon and opossum hunts, archery hunting for deer.

**November:** muzzleloader hunting for deer, modern gun hunts for deer. Quail hunting.

**December:** squirrel hunting.

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## Questions and Answers

*When is the Environmental Education Center going to be built at Pee Dee?*

When funding is obtained.

*Can you hunt and fish on the refuge?*

Yes, during the special seasons, with the required permits.

*Is the refuge open to the public?*

Yes. The purpose of the refuge is to protect wildlife habitat and provide outdoor public use opportunities including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation.

*Why don't we see any wild animals?*

The animals are wild and live in their natural habitat.

*What is a refuge?*

Pee Dee is one of over 500 refuges in the United States established for the preservation of wildlife and habitat.