



This “blue goose”, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

General Information

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge contains approximately 152,000 acres, most of which are open to hunting. There are more than 150 miles of old logging roads which provide difficult access, even for hunters with 4 x 4 vehicles. In the center of the refuge is the Dare County Range, a 46,000-acre military practice area owned by the U.S. Air Force and used by both the Air Force and the U.S.

Navy. The Range is a part of the North Carolina Gamelands Program and governed by Gamelands rules and regulations.

For newcomers to the Refuge, the impenetrable vegetation and remoteness often catch them unaware. First time users should consult with a Refuge staff member or another hunter.

White-tailed deer is the primary species hunted. Alligator River is the only refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System that allows the use of chase dogs to hunt deer. About half the Refuge is open to this type of hunting. Hunting small game and waterfowl is also permitted. However, the majority of local waterfowl hunting occurs on the sounds and rivers surrounding the Refuge.

Regulations

All general refuge regulations apply, unless specifically addressed in this leaflet. Restrictions and designations on the map in this leaflet also apply. Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all state laws, county codes, Title 50 - Code of Federal Regulations, and the following Refuge regulations:

Permits are required for all hunts.

The Refuge is open daylight hours only. Hunter access is allowed from one hour before until one hour after legal hunting hours.

Firearms are prohibited on the Refuge unless they are unloaded and dismantled or encased. When participating in a hunting activity, firearms are permitted but must be unloaded while being transported by a vehicle or boat under power. (Loaded is defined as having rounds in the chamber or magazine or a cap on a muzzle-loading firearm.) A loaded firearm in the passenger compartment of a vehicle is prohibited.

When taking any game animal or bird with a shotgun, federally approved, non-toxic shot must be used (except buckshot or slugs for white-tailed deer). Possessing lead shot in the field is prohibited, except when engaged in deer hunting.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

The taking or possession of bear, turkey, bobcat, any furbearer, or any part thereof, is prohibited, except when transporting same along an NC State road or US highway.

Hyde County portions of the Refuge are closed to white-tailed deer hunting during open seasons on black bear on adjacent lands.

Taking or collecting any plant or animal (including snakes) is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on Refuge roads is 35 mph.

The use of artificial lights (including car headlights) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

Baiting or feeding wildlife and hunting with the aid of bait are prohibited.

Vehicular access is restricted to designated roads (see map). ATV's (3 and 4 wheelers, dirt bikes, etc.) are prohibited.

Camping, fires, littering, target practice, and commercial guiding are prohibited.

The construction or use of permanent blinds, platforms, and/or ladders is prohibited. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been inserted is prohibited.

The use of horses for any hunting activity is prohibited.

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.

Disturbing, molesting or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

Hunters should be aware that some areas may be temporarily closed to hunting. These areas will be clearly marked with appropriate signs.

Farming Area

The farming area west of Buffalo City Road (Laurel Bay Unit) is open to deer and small game hunting in accordance with State and Refuge regulations. Vehicles may drive roads in the area during the months of September, October, and February. Except for the month of October, the use of dogs is restricted to bird hunting with retrieving dogs.

The farming area east of Buffalo City Road (Twiford and Creef Units) is open to hunting (dogs allowed) only during September and October and open to foot/bicycle traffic for fishing and other approved, non-hunting activities from March 1 – October 31.

Sawyer Lake Road is open to hunting only during September and October.

The farming area is closed to waterfowl hunting year round.

Youth Hunting

Youth hunters (ages 15 and under) must have successfully passed a State-approved hunter education course and must carry proof of certification. Youth hunters must be directly supervised by an adult (21 or older). For small game hunting, an adult may supervise up to two youth hunters; for big game, an adult may supervise only one youth hunter.

Use of Dogs

The use of dogs is restricted to designated areas (see map). All dogs must be confined or leashed and under owner control when not engaged in hunting.

The training of dogs is permitted only during the corresponding hunting seasons.

When unarmed, hunters may walk on closed roads in the farming area or on the roads in the “no dog hunting” area to retrieve their stray hunting dogs only until 11:00 pm.

In the farming area, west of Buffalo City Road (Laurel Bay Unit), the use of dogs is restricted to bird hunting with retrieving dogs, except during the month of October.

Alligator River

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations & Permit 2006-2007

All farming units are open to deer hunting with chase dogs during October in accordance with state regulations and unless posted as closed.

Game Animals

Only the following species may be hunted: ducks, geese, swans, coots, quail, mourning doves, snipe, woodcock, rabbits, squirrels, opossums*, raccoons*, and white-tailed deer in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

*Legal hunting hours for raccoons and opossums are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, unless authorized by Refuge Special Use Permit.

If you have questions as to the advisability or legality of any activity, consult the Refuge Manager before participating in that activity.

Permits

When the permit on the front cover of this leaflet is signed, dated and on your person, it serves as a permit for all 2006 - 2007 hunts on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Effective dates of this permit are September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007.

Fishing

Sport fishing is allowed on any open area of the Refuge in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

Only the use of pole and line, rod and reel, or cast net is permitted.

Opportunities for the Disabled

Hunting and fishing opportunities for disabled individuals are available on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Disabled persons may contact the Refuge office prior to their arrival if special arrangements are needed.

For additional information, write or call

Refuge Manager
Alligator River NWR
P. O. Box 1969
Manteo, NC 27954
252/473 1131

To report wildlife violations, call 1/800/662 7137

Alligator River
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1969
Manteo, NC 27954
252/473 1131
<http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver>
email: alligatorriver@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2006



2006-2007 Refuge Hunting Permit Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

Name _____
(please print)

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations contained in this leaflet.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

This permit must be signed, dated and carried on your person and is only valid from September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007.