

Hunting Regulations

Bond Swamp is one of over 540 National Wildlife Refuges. This refuge was established in 1989 on the Ocmulgee river floodplain in Bibb and Twiggs counties. The refuge was closed to the public until 1999.

Through a partnership effort with the State of Georgia and the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened Bond Swamp Refuge to some wildlife orientated recreational uses in 1999. Hunting of white-tailed deer and feral hogs is one of the approved recreational activities for Bond Swamp NWR.

The primary objective of the national wildlife refuge system is to provide habitat for the conservation of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with available habitat, provide wholesome recreation opportunities, and permit the use of valuable renewable resources.

General Hunt Regulations

Public hunting is permitted on approximately 5,500 acres of the current 6,400 acres of refuge lands. Hunting will be permitted only in the portion of the refuge that is located east of the Ocmulgee River in Bibb and Twiggs counties. Some areas within the hunt area may be closed to hunting and are marked with closed signs and orange paint. Refuge boundary is marked with National Wildlife Refuge signs and yellow paint.

Bond Swamp refuge only is open for hunting during the refuge seasons with a refuge hunt special use permit and in accordance with refuge regulations.

In addition to Federal regulations, State Game and Fish laws and regulations are adopted and are in effect unless they have been further restricted by Federal law or regulations.

A refuge hunt special use permit and sign-in slip are required to enter the refuge during all hunts. Hunters are required to sign-in one time prior to each hunt at the check station. Sign-in begins the day before each hunt at noon. The

check station is located on Egg Shell Road (aka Reids Station Road) at the first gravel driveway on the right past the railroad tracks. (See map).

The hunt area is open from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

All deer and feral hogs killed must be checked in at the refuge check station on the day killed before leaving the refuge.

Archery Hunt

When signed by you this brochure serves as your refuge hunt permit for archery. During the archery hunt, hunters must have on their person a signed refuge permit and the hunter copy of the sign-in receipt obtained at the check station. During the refuge archery hunt, **deer must be recorded on the state hunter harvest record at the site of the kill and they will count toward the season's bag limit. There will be no manned check station. Self sign-in is required. Self check out for all deer and hogs is required.**

Deer/Hog Quota Hunt

During the December hunt either sex deer may be harvested on all days.

Hunters should NOT record their kill on their hunter state harvest record. The deer should be taken to the refuge check station where a special deer tag will be provided. These deer will NOT count toward a hunter's season limit. Two deer may be killed on the deer gun hunt. Unlimited hogs may be taken during this hunt. During this hunt the refuge will operate the check station from 7:00 am until all hunters are out of the area on each day of the hunt.

Hog Quota Hunts

On the January and February hog hunts **there will be no manned check station. Hunter self sign-in is required. Self check out for all hogs is required.**

There is no limit on feral hogs.

No processed deer or hogs may be possessed unless they have been checked at the refuge check station.

No live hogs may be removed from the refuge.

No dogs allowed.

Hunters are required to wear hunter orange during **all gun hunts** when they are in the hunt area.

Hunters are restricted to shooting only those animals (deer and/or feral hogs) for which they are permitted to hunt.

Driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects into trees; or hunting from trees in which metal objects have been driven is prohibited.

No hunter flagging, blazing, painting, or other trail marking devices may be used to locate stands or for any other purpose.

Camping is prohibited on the refuge. Hunters should make other arrangements in the local area for overnight stay.

No person shall unreasonably disturb or annoy other persons on the refuge.

Buckshot is not permitted on refuge hunts.

Licenses, permits, all hunting equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal and State officers.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by and be under direct adult supervision (within sight or hearing of a person 18 years old or older) to hunt any game on the refuge. Hunter education is not required. Hunters age 16-25 must possess the hunter education certificate while hunting.

Transporting loaded weapons in vehicles, ATV's, or boats and hunting or shooting from a road open for vehicle travel are prohibited. Shooting from a boat is prohibited.

Hunters are cautioned to identify their targets before shooting.

Hunting is not permitted within 50 yards of a road open to vehicle travel or 200 yards of a building.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the refuge.

Vehicle travel is limited to improved roads open to vehicle travel. Vehicle travel around or through a closed gate is prohibited. Please do not block gates or roads.

ATV use will be restricted for use only as a tool to retrieve deer or hogs killed. We will permit the use of ATV's on refuge roads to retrieve game as long as ground conditions are not too wet. ATV's cannot be used off designated foot travel roads. If you kill a deer or hog on one of the foot travel only roads, you can come to the refuge check station or see one of the law enforcement officers and we will open the gate for you to retrieve your game. **You must contact refuge personnel before using your ATV.** Road conditions will be posted at check station starting the day prior to hunt.

Public Access

The refuge is open to the public during daylight hours except during hunts. Prehunt scouting is allowed year-round except during quota hunts. A valid hunt permit is required to enter the hunt area.

Please drive with caution. During the hunt season, roads and hunt areas may be flooded. 4-wheel drive vehicles may be required to access some areas. Portions of the hunt area may be closed during periods of flooding.

Walking or trespassing on the railroad or railroad right of way is prohibited.

The refuge is primarily river swamp with creeks and sloughs traversing the entire area. When the Ocmulgee River breeches its banks, the floodplain may remain flooded for weeks. Access by vehicle and foot can be difficult.

Each hunter should have and be familiar with the use of a compass. Hunters are encouraged to hunt with a friend and should let someone know where they intend to hunt. Parking areas are marked on the Map.

Hunters **may not** leave vehicles, trailers or boats on the refuge overnight.

Limited portable non-gasoline engine boat access is available at the Stone Creek parking area and will provide hunters access to areas south of the launch site along Stone Creek to the railroad tracks. The launch site is primitive and has uneven terrain. No boat ramp is available. This is the only area that a boat may be used on the refuge and only during the refuge hunts. Life jackets are required. Vehicles must be parked in Stone Creek parking area and not left at the creek bank.

How to Get Refuge Permits

Permits are required for all hunters regardless of age and **are not transferable.**

Permits for archery hunts will be available in August and may be obtained at Piedmont Refuge headquarters in Jones County or by mail. Permits can be obtained at the kiosk at Stone Creek Parking Area and at the Longleaf Trail parking area.

Application forms for the deer and feral hog gun hunts will be available in August and must be returned to the Piedmont Refuge office by **12:00 noon on October 14, 2004.** A public drawing will be held at **1:00 pm October 14, 2004.**

Hunters who return their permits after the hunts or those that return their rejection notices will automatically be mailed an application form the following year.

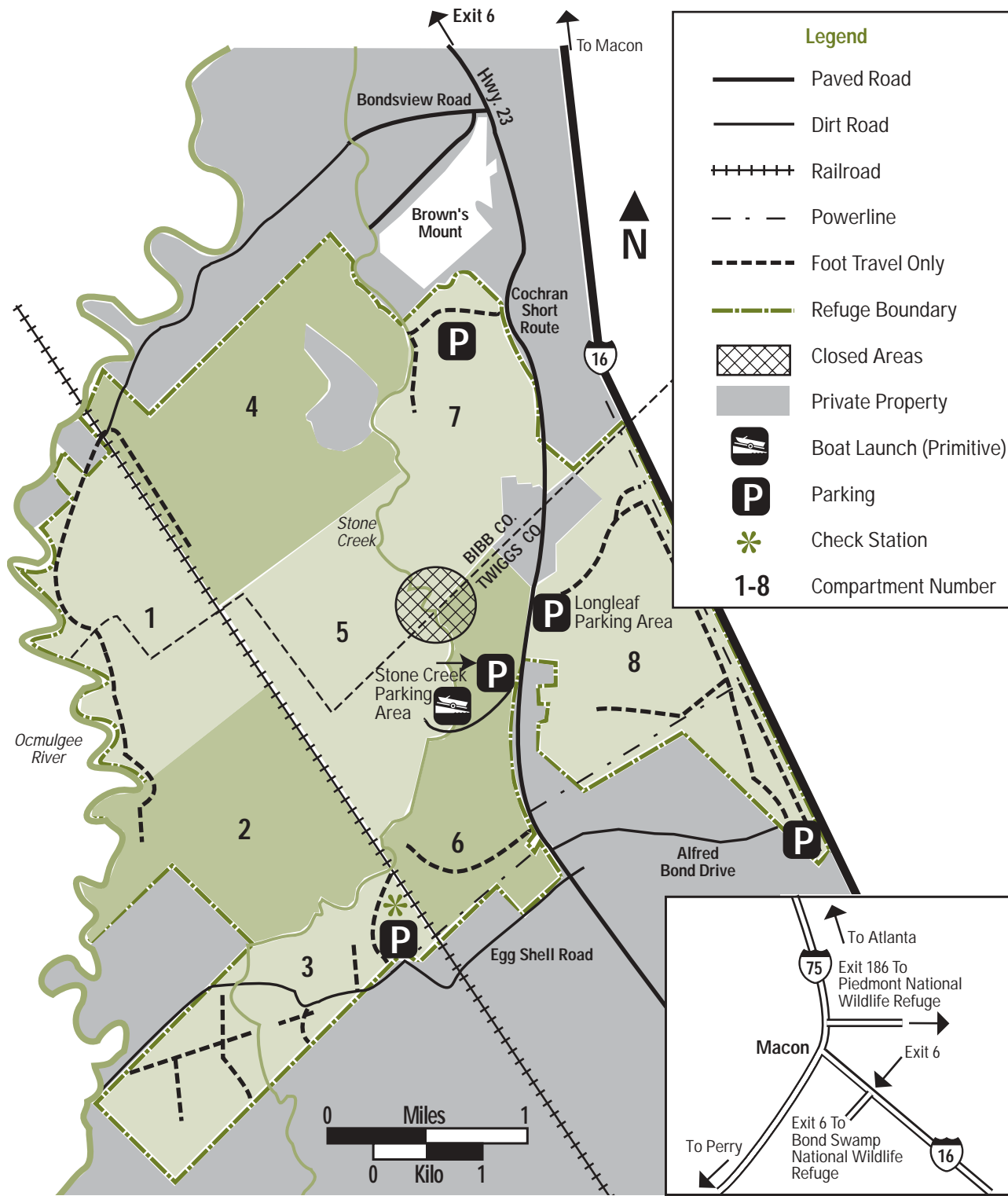
Littering is illegal, unsightly, and can leave a bad image of hunters. Pick up litter when you see it.

Immediately report any violations of refuge regulations or problems you have to the Piedmont Refuge office or refuge personnel at the check station.

Contact the Piedmont Refuge office for more information at 478/986 5441.

Hunting Seasons 2004-2005

Type hunt	Required permits	Season Dates
Archery - Deer & Feral Hog	Permit required; No Quota	September 20-October 2, 2004
Deer & Feral Hog <small>Deer either sex. Hogs may be taken- no limit.</small>	Quota 100	December 9-11, 2004
Feral Hog Only	Quota 150	January 20-22, 2005
Feral Hog Only	Quota 150	February 10-12, 2005



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

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

March 2004



Bond Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2004-2005



Refuge Hunting Permit 2004-2005

When read and signed, this brochure is your refuge permit for the deer and hog archery hunt. Hunters must also have a copy of the refuge sign-in receipt.

Signature _____