

## Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge 2005-2006 Hunt Summaries

Approximately 9,500 permits were provided to prospective hunters during the 2005-2006 season. Public hunting on the Refuge was allowed on approximately 18,000 acres. Areas were open for hunting daily during the seasons excluding Sundays when all hunting was prohibited. Some areas had restrictions on species legal for harvest, methods of entry, and dates of entry. The Refuge administered all hunts with the exception of 4,000 acres of Refuge lands located within the Redstone Arsenal. Hunting in this area was administered by personnel with the Redstone Arsenal Recreation Center.

Species legal for harvest and open seasons were as follows:

SPECIES	SEASON
squirrel	October 1-6; February 10-28
deer and feral hog	Archery: October 15-January 31 Flintlock: January 7-23
raccoon and opossum	February 10-28, night only
rabbit	October 1-6; February 10-28
quail	February 10-28

### SMALL GAME

Estimates for small game harvests for the 2005-2006 season are as follows: 925-1,400 gray squirrels; 35-50 fox squirrels; 350-525 eastern cottontail rabbits; 70-100 swamp rabbits; 225-350 raccoons; 1-5 opossums; 45-70 quail.

### BIG GAME

A total of 80 deer and four (4) feral hogs were reported as being harvested on refuge lands, excluding lands within Redstone Arsenal. Hunters were required to report harvested deer and feral hogs within 72 hours. No hunter check stations were staffed. The breakdown of reports is as follows:

WEAPON	BUCK	DOE	TOTAL	BOAR	SOW	TOTAL
Bow	34	25	<b>59</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>
Crossbow	0	2	<b>2</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Flintlock	11	8	<b>19</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> An unknown sex and weight feral hog was reported

DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY: Limestone - 29; Morgan - 27; Madison - 24

FERAL HOG HARVEST BY COUNTY: Limestone - 4; Morgan - 0; Madison - 0