

**Savannah NWR**  
**Jasper County, South Carolina**  
**Effingham and Chatham Counties, Georgia**

Savannah is one of over 555 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable resource.

Public hunting on the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on approximately 20,000 acres. Certain areas (marked on the map printed on the reverse side) are closed to hunting.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State (Georgia and/or South Carolina) regulations: <http://www.gohuntgeorgia.org> and <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/hunting>, and hunters are responsible for acquiring all required State licenses. All Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced.

**General Hunting Regulations**

To participate in refuge non-quota hunts, hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting regulations brochure on their persons at all times, in addition to any required State licenses. To participate in refuge quota hunts, hunters must submit either FWS Form 3-2354 – Quota Deer Hunt Application (mobility-impaired hunt) or FWS Form 3-2355 – Waterfowl Lottery Application (youth waterfowl hunt). If drawn, hunters must submit a permit fee in order to receive hunt permit. Additional brochures and quota hunt information and applications may be obtained at the Savannah NWR Visitor Center or downloaded from the refuge website: <http://www.fws.gov/savannah/hunting.html>

Hunters 15 years of age or under (youth hunters) must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. During youth waterfowl hunts, the adult may supervise two youths; during all other refuge hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth.

No check-in or check-out is required (except during mobility-impaired hunt and youth waterfowl hunt). Transportation is not provided to, from, or on the refuge. Any movement within the refuge must be by foot, bicycle, or boat.

Hunting hours will be from one-half hour before legal sunrise to one-half hour after legal sunset.

Only designated game species and feral hogs may be taken, and other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

Hunting will not be permitted closer than 100 yards (90 m.) of U.S. Highway 17, GA Highway 25/SC Highway 170, refuge facilities and trails, or railroad rights of way, nor within the areas marked as closed. Hunting is also prohibited in or on Middle and Steamboat Rivers and Houstown Cut, and closer than 50 yards (45 m.) of the shoreline of these waterways.

All persons within the hunt zone are required to wear an outer garment which contains a minimum of 500 square inches of hunter-orange material above the waist, except during the archery-only deer hunts, the squirrel-only hunt, and the waterfowl hunts.

The possession or use of poison or poison pods is illegal.

The distribution of bait, and hunting over bait, is prohibited.

Participating in “man drives” for deer is prohibited.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been screwed or driven to support a hunter is prohibited.

Hunt stands must be removed from the refuge daily.

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

Pruning/limbing of live trees is prohibited.

Dogs will not be allowed on refuge hunts, except during waterfowl hunts.

The use of trail or game cameras is prohibited.

Camping is not permitted on the refuge.

The possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

All forms of litter must be removed from the refuge.

Specific regulations governing the deer, hog, squirrel, turkey, and waterfowl hunts are listed separately.

**Deer/Hog Archery Hunt**

*October 1-31, 2012*

Archery hunting for deer and hogs will be permitted, from October 1-31, 2012, in all areas designated on the attached refuge map.

Only bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized for deer/hog hunting.

Five deer (no more than two antlered) and feral hogs (no bag limit) may be taken. “Bonus” tags will not be issued for deer taken.

Does taken in South Carolina must be tagged with state doe tags before being removed from the refuge. These tags must be purchased from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (application provided in the state hunting regulations booklet or may be downloaded from SCDNR website).

A big game license will be required to participate in this hunt.

**Deer/Hog/Squirrel Gun Hunt**

*November 1-30, 2012*

Gun hunting for deer, hog, and squirrel will be permitted on November 1-30, 2012 in all areas designated on the attached refuge map.

Five deer (no more than two antlered) may be taken. “Bonus” tags will not be issued for deer taken.

Does taken in South Carolina must be tagged with state doe tags before being removed from the refuge. These tags must be purchased from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (application provided in the state hunting regulations booklet or may be downloaded from SCDNR website).

Feral hogs may also be taken (no bag limit) with weapons legal for this hunt.

Only shotguns (20 gauge or larger; slugs only), center-fire rifles (.22-caliber or larger), muzzleloaders, and bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized for deer and hog hunting.

Georgia and/or South Carolina Game Zone 6 bag limits for squirrel will apply.

Only .22 caliber rimfire rifles or shotguns with #2 shot or smaller will be authorized for squirrel hunting.

**Squirrel Hunt**

*December 1-31, 2012*

Gun hunting for squirrel only will be permitted on December 1-31, 2012 in all areas designated on the attached refuge map.

Georgia and/or South Carolina Game Zone 6 bag limits will apply.

Only .22 caliber rimfire rifles or shotguns with #2 shot or smaller will be authorized for squirrel hunting.

**Hog Hunt**

*March 9-23, 2013*

Hog hunting will be permitted March 9-23, 2013 in all areas designated on the attached refuge map.

A hunting license is required to hunt feral hogs.

Only hogs (no bag limit) may be taken.

Only shotguns (20 gauge or larger; slugs only), center-fire rifles (.22-caliber or larger), muzzleloaders, and bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized for hog hunting.

**Turkey Hunt**

*April 6-27, 2013*

Turkey hunting on will be permitted April 6-27, 2013 in all areas designated on the attached refuge map.

Hunters may harvest three gobblers only.

Only shotguns with #2 shot or smaller, and bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized for turkey hunting.

Use of slugs or buckshot is illegal during the turkey hunt.

**Waterfowl Hunt**

*State Seasons*

Hunting of waterfowl (ducks and coots) is permitted in designated areas north of GA Highway 25/SC Highway 170 (marked on attached refuge map).

Georgia and South Carolina waterfowl seasons and State and Federal regulations apply.

Hunters are encouraged to use dogs as retrievers, but they must be under control at all times.

Decoys and other personal property must be removed from the refuge daily.

Hunting will not be permitted within 100 yards (90 m.) of GA Hwy 25/SC Hwy 170, in or on Middle and Steamboat Rivers and Houstown Cut, nor closer than 50 yards (45 m.) of the shoreline of these waterways.

**Mobility-Impaired Hunt**

*November 13-14, 2012*

A limited number of mobility-impaired hunters (permanently dependent on wheelchairs for mobility) will be permitted to hunt deer/hogs within a portion of the refuge on November 13-14, 2012. To apply, hunters must request or download the Mobility-Impaired Hunt Packet and the Mobility-Impaired Hunt Application (FWS Form 3-2354 – Quota Deer Hunt Application), and submit the application and required physician’s statement by August

31 to the refuge headquarters (see “Contact Information”). Only one application may be submitted per hunter; 15 permits will be issued.

Hunters selected by drawing on September 5, 2012, will be notified by mail (applicants not drawn will **not** be notified). A \$15.00 permit fee must be paid by each hunter selected by drawing. Accepted payment methods are credit/debit cards (call 843/784 2468 to make payment by phone), cashier’s check or money order (made payable to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). **No personal checks will be accepted**, and all payments must be received by October 15 to guarantee issuance of a permit to the selected hunter.

**Youth Hunts**

A youth archery hunt for deer is scheduled for October 1-31, 2012. To participate, youth hunters (15 years of age or under) must possess and carry a signed refuge hunt regulations brochures at all times while hunting on the refuge. A Youth Archery Hunt Packet with maps of the hunt area may be requested from the refuge headquarters or downloaded from the refuge website (see “Contact Information”).

A limited number of permits will be issued for the youth waterfowl hunt set for November 24, December 1, and December 8, 2012. To participate, youth hunters (15 years of age or under) must request or download the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Packet and the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Application (FWS Form 3-2355 – Waterfowl Lottery Application) and submit the application by August 31 to the refuge headquarters (see “Contact Information”).

Hunters selected by drawing on September 5, 2012, will be notified by mail (applicants not drawn will **not** be notified). A \$15.00 permit fee must be paid by each hunter selected by drawing. Accepted payment methods are credit/debit cards (call 843/784 2468 to make payment by phone), cashier’s check or money order (made payable to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). **No personal checks will be accepted**, and all payments must be received by October 15 to guarantee issuance of a permit to the selected hunter.

Both hunts will be held within a portion of the refuge located in Georgia (Solomon Tract), accessible by motorized vehicle from GA Hwy 21. Youth hunters (15 years of age or under) must be under direct adult supervision (within sight and hearing of a person 21 years old or older). The adult may supervise no more than two youths.

**Contact Information**

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge  
694 Beech Hill Lane, Hardeeville, SC 29927  
Phone: 843/784 2468  
Email: [savannahcoastal@fws.gov](mailto:savannahcoastal@fws.gov)  
Website: <http://www.fws.gov/savannah/hunting.html>

**Special Information**

Portions of the refuge lying in both Georgia and South Carolina are open to hunting. Therefore, hunters should familiarize themselves with the area they wish to hunt and obtain the appropriate state license/licenses.

Much of the land surrounding the Savannah NWR is privately owned. Please respect our neighbors by not trespassing to reach the refuge and making sure you are within refuge boundaries while hunting.

**Boater Caution**

Boats are needed to hunt the Georgia portions of the refuge; some areas in South Carolina are accessible by foot. Motorized land vehicles may not be used.

Coastal waters are subject to extreme tidal fluctuations of six to ten feet. Hunters are urged to be familiar with tide tables, carry adequate safety equipment, and exercise caution when participating in hunts on the refuge.

**Fishing Regulations**

Sport fishing on Savannah National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on impounded waters, tidal creeks, and canals within the refuge boundaries. Sport fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable state regulations and subject to the following special conditions:

Bank fishing from the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive is permitted year-round. Kingfisher Pond (located on US-17, one mile north of the interchange with SC-170 West) is also open to fishing all year. For all other impounded waters, the fishing season extends from March 1 - November 30. A South Carolina fishing license is required to fish in any of these areas.

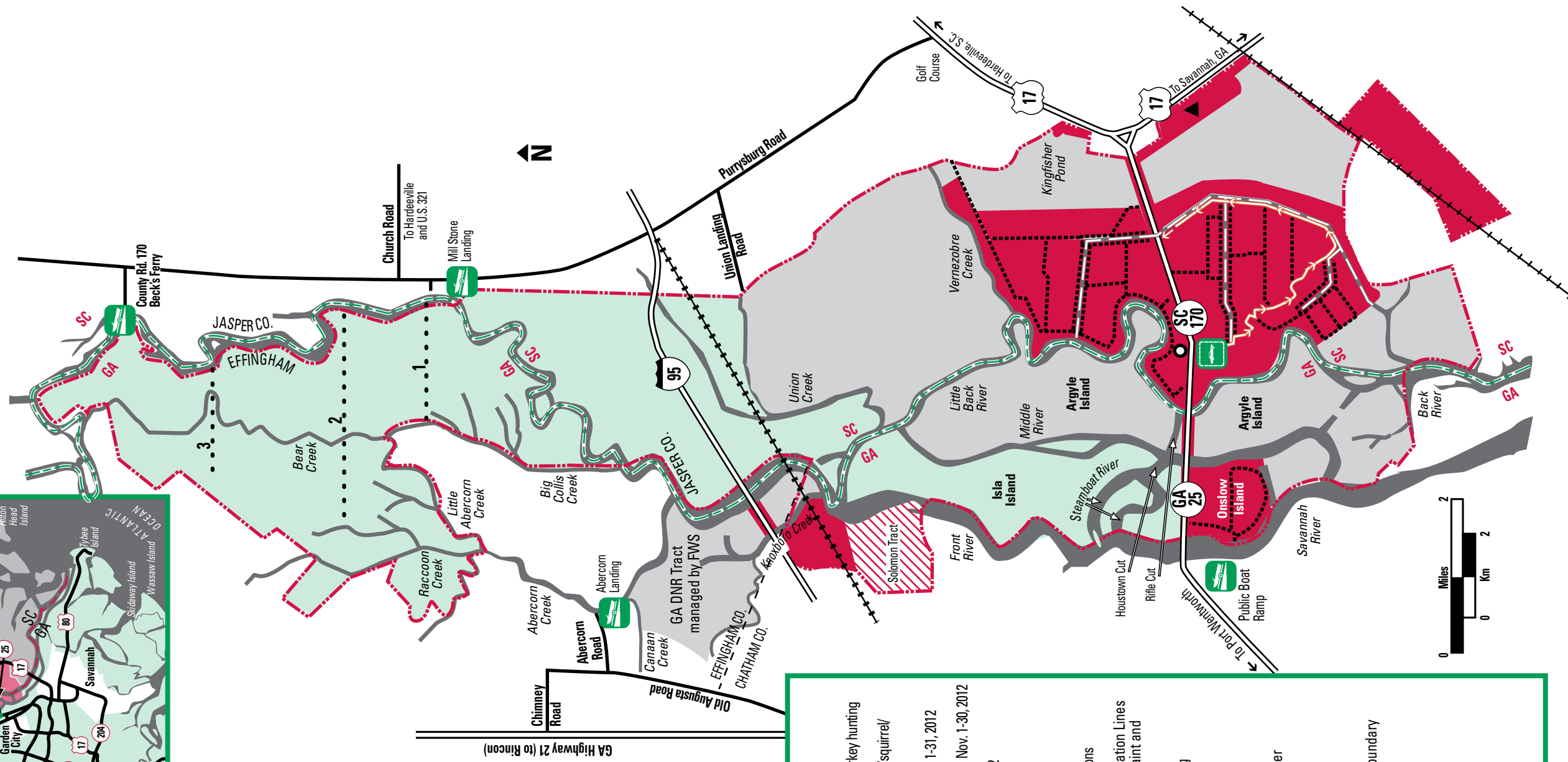
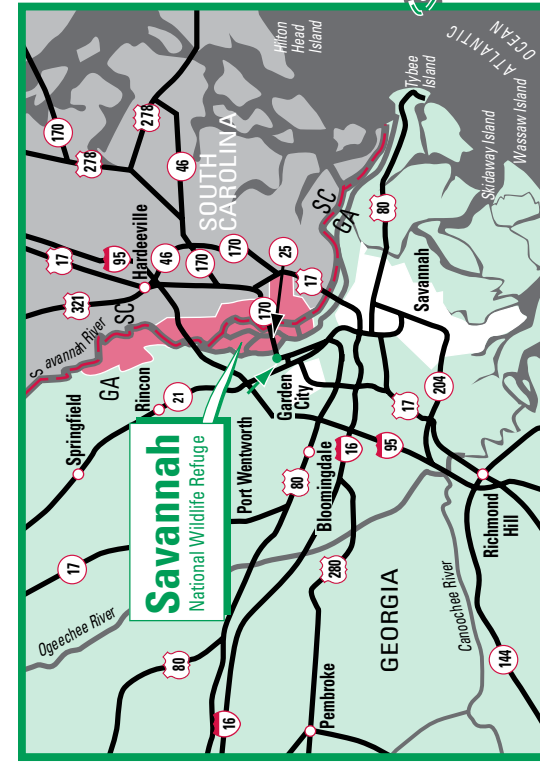
Only non-motorized boats and boats with electric motors are permitted on Kingfisher Pond and other impounded waters.

State licenses are required, but no special refuge permit is needed for sport fishing.

All areas posted with “Area Closed” signs are closed to all activities including fishing. No one will be allowed on the refuge before sunrise and all persons must be off the refuge no later than one half hour after sunset.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

# Savannah National Wildlife Refuge



**Legend**

- Open to deer/hog/squirrel/turkey hunting
- Open to waterfowl/deer/hog/squirrel/turkey hunting
- Archery Deer/Hog Hunt - Oct. 1-31, 2012
- Deer/Hog/Squirrel Gun Hunt - Nov. 1-30, 2012
- Squirrel Hunt - Dec. 1-31, 2012
- Hog Hunt - Mar. 9-23, 2013
- Turkey Hunt - April 6-27, 2013
- Waterfowl Hunt GA/SC Seasons
- (1, 2, & 3) East/West Orientation Lines (trees marked with blue paint and reflectors)
- Areas closed to all hunting
- Open to youth hunts only
- Visitor Center
- Refuge Maintenance Center
- Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive
- Boat Launching Ramp
- Georgia/South Carolina Boundary
- Refuge Boundary
- Diversion Canal
- Dikes
- Railroad
- County/State Roads

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex  
 694 Beech Hill Lane  
 Hardeeville, SC 29927  
 843/784 2468  
<http://www.fws.gov/savannah>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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June 2012



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

## Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2012-2013



### 2012-2013 Savannah NWR Hunt Permit

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for Savannah NWR's 2012-2013 season hunts (excluding youth waterfowl and mobility-impaired hunt), and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_