



Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations

Welcome

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1927 as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds. The refuge is comprised of over 31,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal rivers and creeks, and bottomland hardwoods. The refuge lies in both Georgia and South Carolina, straddling the Savannah River, and is one of seven national wildlife refuges that make up the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex.

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

<http://www.fws.gov>

1-800-344-WILD



Savannah National Wildlife Refuge
c/o Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex
694 Beech Hill Lane, Hardeeville, SC 29927
843-784-9911 (Office)
843-226-5738 (Mobile)
Email: savannahcoastal@fws.gov
Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SavannahCoastalRefugesComplex

Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights.

Hunting Opportunities

General Hunt Units

General hunt units are open to all hunters (adult and youth) and include all hunt units except the North Impoundments, South Impoundments, and Solomon Tract (see map on last page). Youth hunters (age 15 and under) must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older.

Youth Only Hunt Unit

Only youth hunters (age 15 and under) are allowed to hunt the Solomon Tract under the direct supervision of an adult 21 years of age or older. Adults are not allowed to hunt this unit. Youth hunting is allowed at Solomon Tract during the same periods when general hunting is being conducted on other refuge hunt units, and for the same species. A separate information sheet dedicated to youth-only hunting is available on the "Hunting" page at www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah and by email request to savannahcoastal@fws.gov.

Youth Lottery Hunts

The refuge offers youth-only lottery hunts for waterfowl and turkey annually (turkey hunt may be cancelled this year due to State season conflicts). These special managed hunts are open to youth only (17 and younger) and require an application and \$5.00 fee. Separate information packets and applications for these hunts will be available on the "Hunting" page at www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah and by email request to savannahcoastal@fws.gov.

CONT'D

General Information

Permit Procedures

General Hunt Units: All hunters, 16 years of age or older, are required to purchase, and carry while hunting, the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit. This permit will allow hunters access to all “non-quota” hunts on any of the following National Wildlife Refuges: Blackbeard Island, Harris Neck, Pinckney Island, Savannah, and Wassaw NWRs. Annual Hunt Permits are \$25, non-transferable, and valid for the current hunt season only (August 2024 – May 2025).

To purchase a permit, please visit <https://www.recreation.gov/activitypass/savannah-complex-hunt-permit>.

Youth-only Hunt Unit (Solomon Tract): Youth hunters 15 years of age or younger are not required to purchase the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit. Instead, youth hunters or their guardians must request a free youth hunting permit from the refuge hunt coordinator by emailing savannahcoastal@fws.gov. Youth hunters drawn for one of the refuge’s youth lottery hunts (see below) are not required to purchase the Complex hunt permit or request the free youth hunt permit.

State Licenses

All state license and tag requirements apply on the refuge, and hunters are responsible for acquiring all required state hunting licenses and tags. A state WMA permit is not required to hunt the refuge. The refuge has hunting areas in both Georgia and South Carolina. Hunters should familiarize themselves with the area they wish to hunt and obtain the appropriate state license(s)/tags.

General Hunt Units: Hunters 16 years of age or older must possess all required state hunting licenses and any required tags. Hunters 15 years of age and under do not have to have a state license but may still be required to have certain state tags (refer to GA or SC hunting regulations).

Youth-Only Hunt Unit (Solomon Tract): Youth hunters are not required to possess a state hunting license but must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. Since adult supervisors are not allowed to hunt this area, they are not required to have a hunting license.

Access

Boats are needed to access all Georgia portions of the refuge that are open to hunting (except for the youth-only hunting area at the Solomon Tract), as well as some areas on the South Carolina side. Some areas in South Carolina are accessible by foot. Only licensed motor vehicles are permitted on public roads. **ATVs and other motorized land vehicles may not be used.** Commonly used boat ramps are Houlihan Landing and Abercorn Landing in Georgia, and Millstone Landing and Beck’s Ferry in South Carolina.

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.

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 any refuge hunt.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable states of Georgia and South Carolina regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Public hunting on Savannah NWR is permitted on approximately 29,000 acres on species listed in the table on pages 4 and 5, in accordance with state seasons and regulations (unless otherwise indicated). Not all types of hunting are allowed in all hunt units, and some areas are closed to all hunting (see refuge hunt map on last page).

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

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

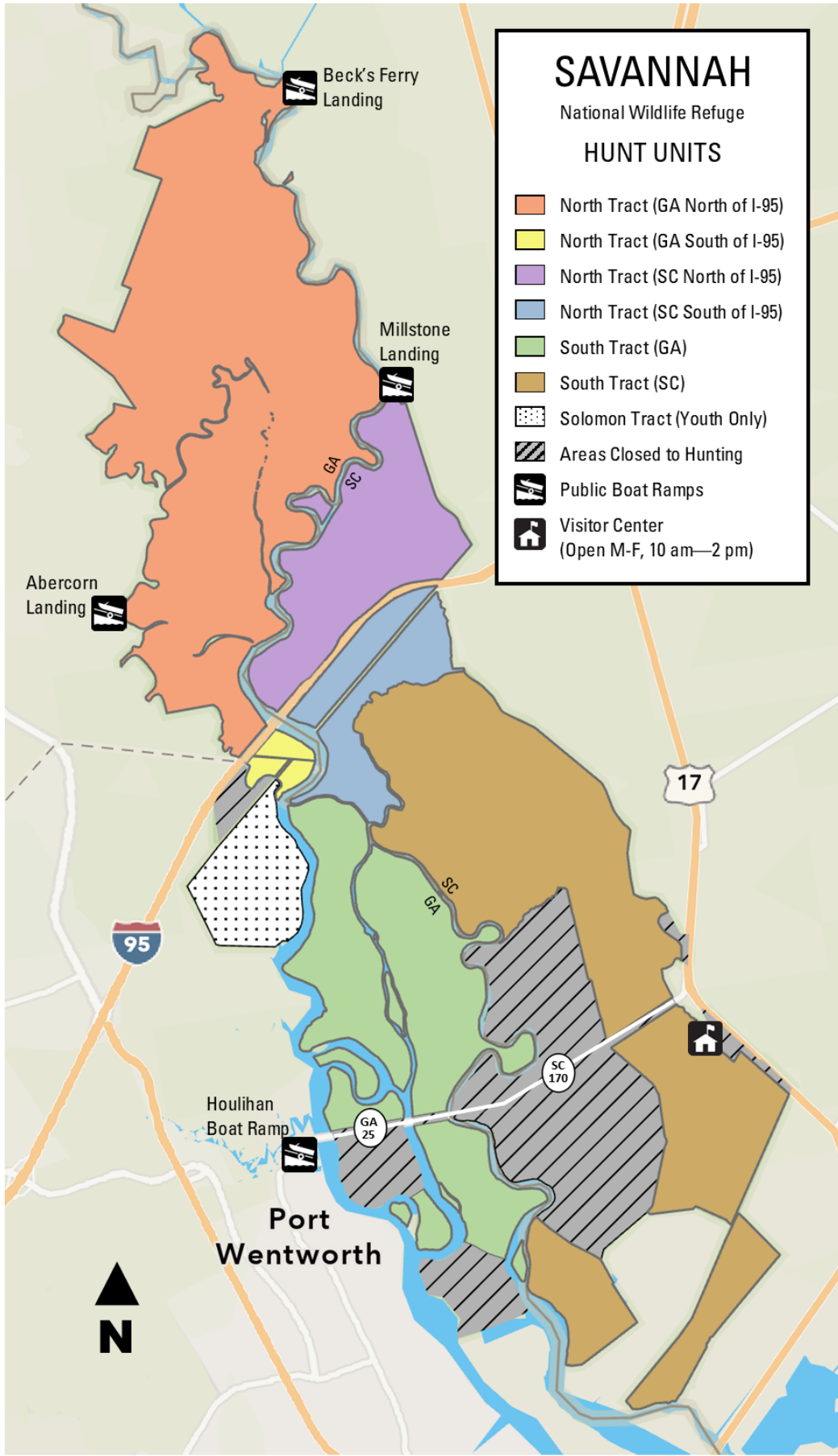
All hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of solid, unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline during any firearm deer hunt or special opportunity hog/coyote hunt. Hunter orange is also required on small game hunts that are concurrent with these hunts. Archery hunters are encouraged to wear a fluorescent orange outer garment while hunting on the ground or walking to and from stands.

Prohibited Activities

- Possession or use of buckshot
- Possession or use of poison or poison pods
- Distribution of bait and hunting over bait
- Participating in “man drives” for deer
- Trapping
- Harming, harassing, or killing any other wildlife than game species being hunted
- Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been screwed or driven to support a hunter
- Hunting 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 any area marked as closed
- Traveling through areas adjacent to Savannah NWR Visitor Center and Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive to access hunting areas (Hunting access from Kingfisher Pond Recreation Area is allowed.)
- Night hunting, except during alligator hunt
- Camping and fires
- Pruning/limbing of live trees
- Use of trail or game cameras
- **Use of flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices, including toilet paper, for locating stands or for any other purpose**
- Leaving stands, blinds, decoys and other personal property on the refuge overnight
- Use of dogs for hunting, except during migratory bird hunts
- Target practice
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL HUNT COORDINATOR AT 843-226-5738.

CONT'D



Georgia or South Carolina hunting regulations, seasons (private lands), methods of take, bag limits, and license/tag requirements apply to all hunting on the refuge, unless stated otherwise in the table below:

| Hunt Type | Season Dates | Method of Take | Bag Limit | Hunt Unit (see hunt map) | Other Regulations |
|-------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Deer | State season for private lands | All state authorized weapons (buckshot prohibited) | 5 deer (no more than 2 antlered) | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 South Tract - GA North Tract – SC North of I-95 North Tract – SC South of I-95 South Tract – SC Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |
| Alligator | State season with state issued alligator harvest permit | All state authorized weapons | State bag limit | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – SC North of I-95 | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older if hunting on refuge land, including freshwater ponds (not required if hunting from a boat in navigable water). Hunters must obtain an alligator harvest permit through the selection processes of the states of Georgia and/or South Carolina. State regulations apply. |
| Turkey | State season for private lands | All state authorized weapons Non-toxic ammunition required | State bag limit | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 South Tract - GA North Tract – SC North of I-95 North Tract – SC South of I-95 South Tract – SC Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |
| Squirrel & Rabbit | State season for private lands | All state authorized weapons Non-toxic ammunition required | State bag limits | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 South Tract - GA North Tract – SC North of I-95 North Tract – SC South of I-95 South Tract – SC Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |

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| Raccoon & Opossum (Georgia only) | During state WMA season on the Georgia side of the refuge only. | All state authorized weapons Non-toxic ammunition required | State bag limits | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 South Tract – GA Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |
| Mourning Dove | State season for private lands | All state authorized weapons Non-toxic ammunition required | State bag limit | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 North Tract – SC North of I-95 North Tract – SC South of I-95 Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |
| Waterfowl | State season | All state authorized weapons Non-toxic ammunition required | State bag limits | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 North Tract – SC North of I-95 North Tract – SC South of I-95 Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |
| Feral Hog & Coyote | January 1 – March 9, 2025 AND Incidental take on all scheduled refuge hunts | All state authorized weapons (buckshot prohibited) During incidental take, only weapons authorized for hunt being conducted | No limit | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 South Tract - GA North Tract – SC North of I-95 North Tract – SC South of I-95 South Tract – SC Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |
| Beaver & Armadillo (Georgia only) | Incidental take on all scheduled refuge hunts (Georgia only) | Only weapons authorized for hunt being conducted | No limit | North Tract – GA North of I-95 North Tract – GA South of I-95 South Tract – GA Solomon Tract (Youth Only) | Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. Youth hunt permit required to hunt Solomon Tract. State regulations apply. |