



Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

Welcome

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1962 by transfer of federal lands formerly managed by the Federal Aviation Administration as a WWII Army Airfield. The refuge's 2,824 acres consist of saltwater marsh, grassland, mixed deciduous woods, and freshwater impoundments. In combination, these habitats support a diversity of wildlife species and provide important sanctuary and nesting areas for resident and migratory birds.

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



Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge
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843-784-9911 (Office)
843-226-5738 (Mobile)

Email: savannahcoastal@fws.gov

Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/harris-neck

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.

General Information

Permit Procedures

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>.

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.

Access

Hunters may access the refuge by vehicle through the main entrance gate and check-in at the refuge headquarters during designated timeframes below.

Archery Hunt: 5:30 – 6:30 AM

Gun Hunt: 5:00 – 6:00 AM

Entrance gate will close, and hunters will not be permitted to enter until afternoon check-in.

Hunters will be allowed to exit the refuge at any point throughout the day. **Afternoon entry/re-entry will be allowed between 3:30 and 4:30 pm during the archery hunt and 2:00 and 3:00 pm during the gun hunt.** After these times, the gate will remain closed for the duration of the hunt day. All hunters must be checked out and off the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.

Check-in/out is required for each day of hunting. Boat access is prohibited during hunts. The refuge is closed to the non-hunting public on all hunt days.

Tree Stands

Hunters may place one stand on the refuge during the week preceding the hunts. Hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. **The use of flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices, including toilet paper, for locating stands or for any other purpose is prohibited. Any such markers found by refuge staff will be removed.** Stands must be removed at the end of each 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 state of Georgia regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Public hunting at Harris Neck NWR is permitted on approximately 2,500 acres. Certain areas are closed to hunting (see refuge hunt map below). There are two hunts held annually: a 3-day archery hunt and a 1-day firearm hunt for deer. Feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos may be taken incidentally during these hunts with the appropriate authorized weapons (see table below for dates and methods of take).

NEW FOR 2024-2025 SEASON

- **State bonus tags will not be issued for any harvested deer.**

Deer harvested during the hunt must be checked by refuge personnel and tagged/reported before leaving the refuge.

Field dressing/quartering is allowed, but all remains must be left away from main trails and wildlife drive, out of public view. Head and meat must be returned to check station.

Youth hunters (age 15 and under) must be supervised by a licensed adult and must remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth hunter.

All hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of solid, unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline during the firearm hunt.

Vehicles are restricted to the designated auto tour route; two-way traffic will be permitted.

For additional regulations, see "Prohibited Activities" section.

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Georgia hunting regulations and license/tag requirements apply to all refuge hunts:

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Method of Take	Bag Limit	Hunt Area	Other Regulations
Deer (Archery)	October 3 – 5, 2024 <u>AM check-in:</u> 5:30 – 6:30 AM <u>PM check-in:</u> 3:30 – 4:30 PM	State authorized bow	5 deer (no more than 2 antlered)	See hunt map (on last page)	Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older State regulations apply
Deer (Firearm)	November 15, 2024 <u>AM check-in:</u> 5:00 – 6:00 AM <u>PM check-in:</u> 2:00 – 3:00 PM	State authorized shotgun, muzzleloader, bow, air bows, air rifles (.30 caliber or larger)	5 deer (no more than 2 antlered)	See hunt map (on last page)	Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters ages 16 and older. State regulations apply

Feral hogs, coyote, and armadillo may be taken incidentally during deer hunts with weapons authorized for those hunts.

Prohibited Activities

- Hunting closer than 100 yards of Harris Neck Road, the refuge entrance road and wildlife drive, refuge headquarters, Barbour River Landing, Barbour River Landing Road and Gould’s Cemetery.
- Camping and fires
- 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
- 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**
- Use of dogs for hunting
- Target practice
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting

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

Revised July 2024