U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## **Public Information Bulletin**

National Wildlife Refuge System



Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge 23734 US Highway 1 McBee, SC 29101 carolinasandhills@fws.gov FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 23, 2025 Contact: Allyne Askins 843-335-6023, Allyne\_askins@fws.gov

## Refuge Announces Online Application Period for Quota Turkey Hunt Lottery

**McBee, SC** - The Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge announces that the online application period for the Quota Turkey Hunt Lottery will be open from February 1, 2025 through March 1, 2025. The Refuge's Quota Turkey Hunt Lottery will be hosted by <u>Recreation.gov</u>, the federal government's centralized travel planning and reservation platform. <u>Recreation.gov</u> is the outdoor recreation system for 14 Federal agencies to support land management and enable visitors to discover and experience public lands and waters.

To apply, hunters will need to create an account on the <u>Recreation.gov</u> website if they do not already have one. To find this hunting opportunity, hunters may type "Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Hunt Lottery" in the search box or click the "Permits" icon and search McBee, SC.

The application process is entirely online. Applicants may apply individually or as a group of up to three hunters for one application fee of \$10. All participants (hunters, callers, observers) must have a permit. Youth under age 16 must apply with an adult age 21 or older. Hunters may only apply as part of one group and duplicate applications will be disqualified. Hunters may apply for both hunt periods in preferential order but will only be drawn for one hunt. Applicants will receive a payment confirmation e-mail and a second e-mail containing details about your application (date(s), number in group, etc.).

The lottery will occur on March 4 and applicants will be notified of the results via e-mail. If you are drawn, the primary applicant is responsible for purchasing the requested number of permits for the group at the time of application (\$15 for each hunter or participant) by March 14, 2025. The primary applicant will list their SCDNR Customer ID number on the permit and serve as the primary permit holder, listing group members on their permit. The permit holder will receive a payment confirmation e-mail and a second e-mail containing the hunt permit as an attachment. The permit holder must provide either a printed or digital copy of the permit to all group members.

The entire application, payment, and permit issuance process will be electronic.

The fees collected from the Turkey Quota Hunt at Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge are used to support the hunt program by purchasing signs, brochures and other printed materials, maintenance of recreation facilities and enforcement and administration of being able to offer this recreational hunting opportunity.

If you have questions or require more information, please contact the refuge at 843/335-8350 or at <u>carolinasandhills@fws.gov</u>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit http://www.fws.gov.