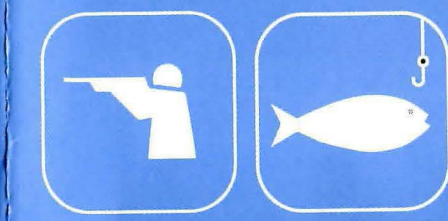


# Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2011-2012



### General Hunting Permit

The signing of this leaflet validates it as your general refuge hunting permit and it must be in your possession while participating in all authorized hunts.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

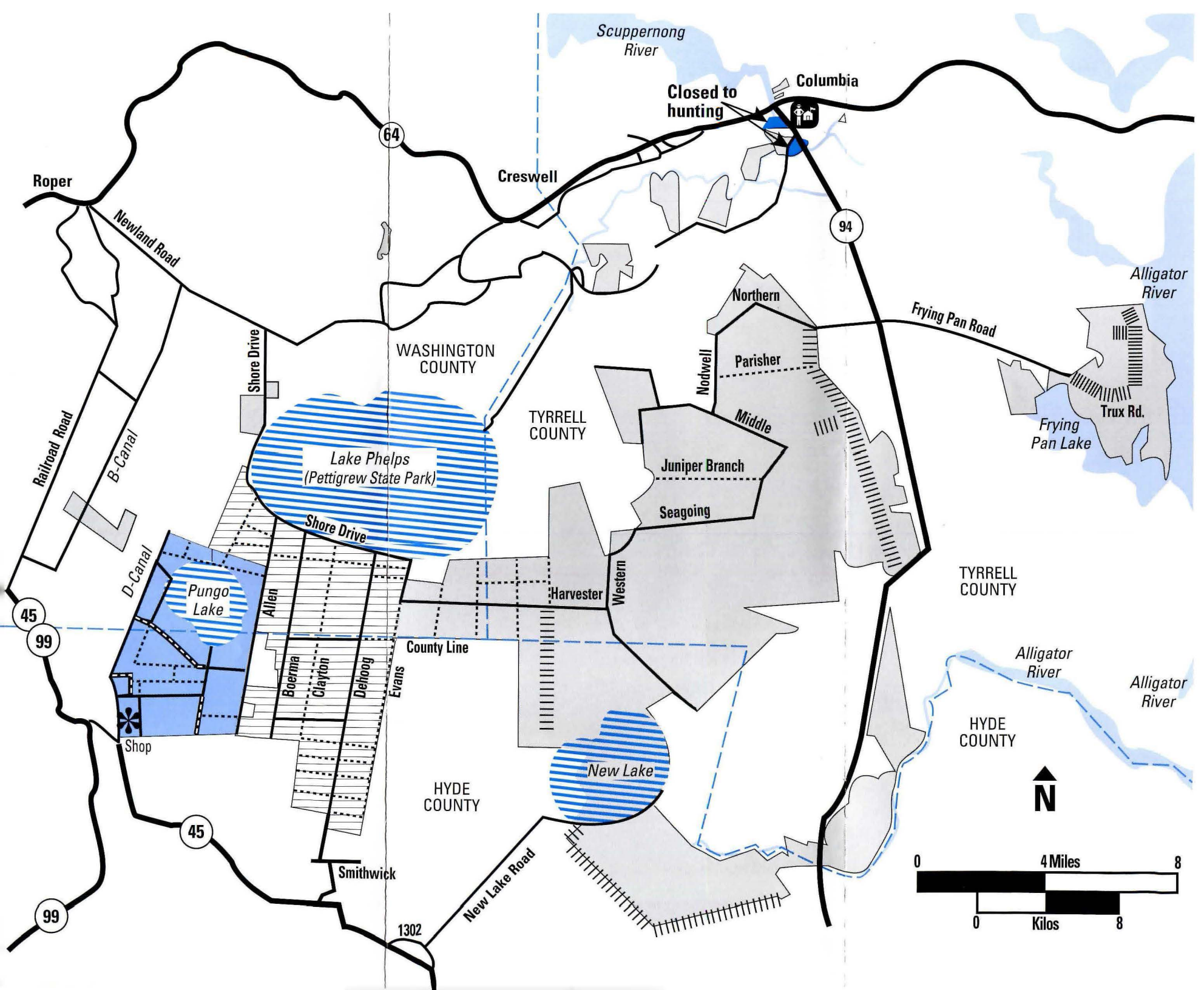
Hunter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

**Legend**

- Refuge office
- Hunting allowed  
State seasons and bag limits
- Pungo Unit
- Hunting allowed. State seasons and bag limits, Non-toxic shot Zone-Migratory Game Birds and Upland Game
- Area closed to all hunting
- Roads open to licensed vehicles
- Roads closed to vehicles, except 3-4 wheeled all-terrain cycles, license not required
- County lines
- Roads closed to all vehicles
- Pungo Check Station

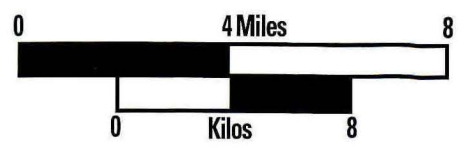
Note: some roads may be closed seasonally to protect wildlife from excessive disturbance and for other management purposes.



Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge  
 P. O. Box 329  
 205 South Ludington Drive  
 Columbia, NC 27925  
 252/796 3004  
<http://Pocosinlakes.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 1 800/344 WILD

January 2011





## Hunting Regulations

The following species may be hunted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations:

- Migratory Birds: ducks, geese, swans, mourning doves, woodcock, rails, and snipe
- Upland Game: quail, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, fox, beaver, and nutria
- Big Game: white-tailed deer
- Feral Hogs

The taking or possession of any wildlife, including reptiles and/or amphibians, or any part thereof, except when permitted during a Refuge hunt or transporting same along a State Road, is prohibited.

Hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by Refuge and state law enforcement officers.

### Permits

You must have a valid Refuge General Hunting Permit to hunt on the refuge - simply sign the front of this brochure and keep it with you while hunting. Additional permits are required to hunt deer with firearms on the Pungo Unit and to hunt raccoon and opossum at night. Applications and fees are required for Pungo Deer Gun Hunt permits. See **Special Hunts** below for more information.

### Area Restrictions - Hunting is not allowed

- around the Headquarters/Visitor Center/Scuppernon River Boardwalk;
- within the Pungo Shop complex;
- on the Pungo Unit except as described under “Pungo Unit” and “Special Hunt-Pungo Deer Gun Hunts;”
- on the refuge portion of New Lake;
- on refuge lands between Shore Drive and Lake Phelps;
- on that portion of the Pinner Tract east of SR 1105;
- on Western Road from Seagoing Road south to the gate;
- on the road forming the southern boundary of the refuge tract west of Pettigrew State Park’s Cypress Point Access Area.

*The following areas are closed to all public entry during November, December, January, and February:*

- Pungo Lake and New Lake
- Duck Pen Road and the Pungo Lake Banding Site
- the Smartweed moist soil unit and its dikes, including that section of Molt Road forming the southern boundary of the Smartweed moist soil unit
- the Jones Pond moist soil unit, including its dikes
- all farm fields on the Pungo Unit.

You must get consent from a refuge employee to retrieve legally taken game animals from closed areas including “No Hunting Zone” areas.

Hunters should be aware that some private land exists between Allen and Boerma Roads (in the A7, A8, A9, and A11 blocks) that is completely surrounded by refuge lands. Trespassing on private land is illegal.

### General

The refuge is open during daylight hours (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset) only, except that:

- hunters may enter hunting areas up to 90 minutes before legal shooting time and remain on the refuge up to 90 minutes after legal shooting time except on the Pungo Unit where authorized hunters may enter up to 60 minutes before legal shooting time and remain on the Unit up to 60 minutes after legal shooting time. During these non-daylight hours, hunters must be traveling or actively engaged in a hunting-related activity such as setting up a stand, hunting, or tracking/retrieving game. Hunters must exit the refuge as quickly as possible after daylight hours have ended, but no later than 90 minutes (60 minutes on the Pungo Unit) afterwards.
- raccoon and opossum hunters may hunt on the refuge at night with a special permit (see Special Hunts).

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

The discharge of firearms and use of all weapons are prohibited except for hunting in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. **Hunting, taking, and attempting to take any wildlife from a vehicle while the passenger area is occupied or the engine is running is**

**prohibited. This does not preclude hunting from an ATV/ electric vehicle (where authorized) or boat as long as the vehicle is stationary and the engine is not running.**

You must wear 500 square inches (3250 cm<sup>2</sup>) of fluorescent orange material above the waist, which is visible from all sides, while hunting upland game and while hunting deer or feral hogs in areas open to hunting with firearms. A vest and a hat normally meet this requirement; a hat alone does not.

Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of, any type of bait (food, salt, other mineral, or other substance that lures or attracts animals) is prohibited on the refuge.

Only biodegradable flagging tape may be used on the refuge (to mark trails, stand locations, etc.). Plastic flagging tape, reflectors, dots, glow tacks, and other materials are prohibited.

### Pungo Unit

The Pungo Unit is closed to all hunting except for limited deer and feral hog hunting opportunities. Deer and feral hogs may be hunted with bow-and-arrow on the Pungo Unit during the State firearm and bow-and-arrow seasons prior to December 1st, but not during the State muzzleloader deer season and not during the Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts without a Pungo Deer Gun Hunt permit (see Special Hunts).

### Big Game and Feral Hogs

Deer may be hunted with shotguns, muzzleloaders, and bow-and-arrow only – rifles and pistols are not authorized. Use of each of these weapons is, of course, further restricted by area and season dates.

Feral hogs may be taken in any area open to deer hunting, using whatever weapons are authorized for taking deer. In addition, feral hogs may be taken in the Frying Pan Unit anytime the area is open to hunting with firearms, including small game hunting, using shotguns, muzzleloaders, or bow-and-arrow.

Only portable tree stands are allowed on the refuge and they must be removed at the end of each day’s hunt (except for the Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts; see Special Hunts). Using nails, wire, screws, and bolts to attach a tree stand, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter (including lag screw type steps) is prohibited.

### Upland Game

Upland game may not be taken/hunted on the Pungo Unit. Upland game may be hunted with shotguns and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles only. Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting in the non-toxic shot zone on and west of Evans Road.

Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

Beaver and nutria may be taken only with firearms and only in areas open to hunting other game animals with firearms.

### Migratory Birds

Migratory birds may not be taken/hunted on the Pungo Unit. Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting migratory birds.

Only portable blinds made of man-made materials and temporary blinds constructed of natural materials can be used for migratory bird hunting. However, cutting any live vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. You must remove portable blinds at the end of each day’s hunt.

### Youth Hunters

Youth hunters (under age 16) must be under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter over the age of 21. A licensed hunter over the age of 21 may supervise one big game youth hunter, or up to two migratory bird or upland game youth hunters at a time. Youth hunters must meet state hunter education requirements.

### Hunting Dogs

Running deer, bear, wild turkey, and other wildlife with dogs is prohibited. However dogs can be used for hunting migratory game birds and upland game. The dogs must be under your control at all times and you cannot possess buckshot or slugs while hunting with dogs.

Pocosin Lakes NWR is an important area for the reintroduction and recovery of the endangered red wolf. Several wolf packs roam the refuge and we have an active management program that often includes trapping wolves. The traps used are rubber jawed to minimize the chance of injury to target and non-target animals. If you or your dog encounters one of these traps, please report it to the Refuge Headquarters.

### Vehicles

All off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.

Blocking gates, roads, trails, or other travel ways is prohibited. Many of the dirt roads on the refuge become

impassable during wet periods. Vehicles, including 4x4s, often get stuck. Towing services are extremely limited. Visitors should not attempt to travel through standing water or muddy sinkholes along refuge roads.

ATVs may be operated on designated ATV roads only. They may only be used to transport hunters and their equipment to scout and hunt. ATVs can be operated on these ATV routes only when the ATV road and surrounding area are open to hunting, one week prior to the area opening for hunting, and on Sundays during the hunting season. Hunting from an ATV under power and operating ATVs off of designated ATV routes is prohibited.

### Special Hunts

#### Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts

**Deer hunting with firearms (shotguns and muzzleloaders) on the Pungo Unit is limited to four permit-only special hunts in late September and October. This year, these hunts are six days long (Monday – Saturday). The 2011 hunts dates are:**

**September 19 – 24**

**September 26 – October 1**

**October 10 – 15 and**

**October 24 – 29**

You must have a valid North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) permit to participate in these special hunts. The NCWR issues permits for these hunts under their Special Hunt Opportunities permit program. You must pay a \$5.00 application fee to the NCWRC to apply for a permit. FOR A NCWRC PERMIT TO BE VALID, you must pay a \$12.50 recreational user fee for each hunt you are selected for and wish to participate in to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

To apply, you must have:

- the hunt item number (from the NCWRC’s Special Hunt Opportunities in North Carolina guide book),
- your choice of hunt dates in order of preference,
- your date of birth,
- your seven-digit NCWRC Customer ID Number (found on your current or expired hunting license, and
- your telephone number.

You may only submit one application for the Pungo Unit Gun Hunts. Successful applicants will receive a permit from the NCWRC. This permit may list more than one of the special hunts if you were selected for more than one of your choices.

For more information on applying, visit the NCWRC’s website at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org) or visit one of their Wildlife Service Agents.

To validate your NCWRC permit for one of the six-day hunts you were selected for, send the \$12.50 hunt fee (check or money order payable to “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service”) to Pocosin Lakes NWR; PO Box 329; Columbia NC 27925. The fee must be received at least three (3) days prior to the first day of the hunt.

To participate in a Pungo Deer Gun-Hunt you must have in your possession a valid hunting license and harvest report card (“tags”) and a signed copy of this General Hunting Permit/Brochure. In addition, you must have paid the \$12.50 special hunt fee to validate your NCWRC permit.

All refuge hunting regulations apply to the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts except the following. Hunters with a valid Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit may install one deer stand the day before the start of their hunt and leave it until the end of their six-day hunt. Stands left overnight must be tagged with the hunter’s name, address, and telephone number. During these permit hunts deer may be taken with bow-and-arrow, muzzleloader, or shotgun.

Only those persons with a valid Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit may enter the Pungo Unit on the specified hunt days.

### Nighttime Raccoon and Opossum Hunting

To hunt raccoon and opossum at night, request a special Raccoon and Opossum Nighttime Hunting Permit at Refuge Headquarters in Columbia, NC. There is no fee for this permit.

### Fishing Regulations

Fish may be taken on the refuge in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following.

Fishing is allowed on Pungo and New Lakes from March 1 through October 31 only. However, Pungo Lake and the entire Pungo Unit are closed to fishing (and all public access without a permit) during the special Pungo Deer Gun-Hunts in late September and October.

Only bank fishing is allowed in the Pungo Unit, boats are not allowed.

Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset only.