

Wheeler

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit 2024–2025



General Provisions

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 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. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

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. **State bag limits, arms and ammunition and other applicable State regulations apply.**

General Hunting Regulations

Public hunting on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on approximately 18,000 acres.

Squirrel, raccoon, opossum, quail and rabbit hunting is prohibited west of Flint Creek (see map).

No hunting or discharge of firearms is allowed in the Triana Recreation Area or within 50 yards of any walking trail or boardwalk. Hunting from any roadway is prohibited.

No overnight camping is allowed.

Mules and horses are prohibited on all refuge hunts.

Hunting is allowed Monday-Saturday. No Sunday hunting.

Dogs may be used to hunt rabbit, raccoon, quail, squirrel and opossum and must be controlled by the owner/handler at all times.

Hunters may not hunt from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted that is capable of supporting a hunter. **Tree stands, blinds, game cameras or other personal property must be removed after each day's hunt. No game cameras may be left on the refuge.**

Hunters must use a body safety harness at all times while hunting from a tree.

Overnight mooring of boats is prohibited.

Marking of trees, cutting vegetation, the use of flagging tape, and reflective tacks are prohibited.

An area around the Visitor Center is closed to all public entry.

This area is posted with "Area Closed" signs (see map).

Hunters under age 16 must be supervised by a properly licensed and permitted adult 21 years of age or older. On small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths, and on big game hunts no more than one youth.

Some refuge gates will be closed. **Do not block gates or limit access of farming machinery. Your vehicle will be towed.**

Archery and flintlock deer hunters must wear a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange as defined by the State when the State gun deer season is open in Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties.

Hunting by aid of or distributing any feed, salt or other minerals is prohibited.

Only licensed vehicles and authorized bicycles permitted. Operation of motorized vehicles, except authorized e-bikes, beyond locked gates is prohibited.

All harvested deer must be reported through the State "Game Check" system within 48 hours as required by State law. Hunters must select public land under the county where harvested and select Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

By signing the attached permit, hunter concedes right of inspection of game bag, hunting coat, etc., as provided for by State law, to Federal Wildlife Officers and State Conservation Officers.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Permit 2024-2025

This portion of the permit must be signed by you and in your possession while hunting and indicates you have read, fully understand and consent to all conditions listed in the Wheeler NWR hunting regulations.

Signature (permits are not transferable)

The following hunting methods and equipment apply:

Deer and feral hog: Hunters may only hunt with archery equipment that complies with state regulations and flintlocks .40 caliber or larger.

Small game: Hunters may use arms and ammunition that comply with current Alabama state hunting regulations pertaining to small game, except when using shotguns hunters must use only non-toxic shot.

Possession of lead shotgun shells for hunting is prohibited.

Participating in organized drives for deer and feral hogs is prohibited.

Field dressing of game is not allowed within 50 feet of any roadway, trail or public area.

CAUTION:
Flint Creek island area is used heavily by migrating cranes, including the endangered whooping crane. Avoid approaching cranes on foot within 600 feet. Avoid flushing or causing birds to alter their normal behavior. Whooping cranes are protected under the Federal Endangered Species and Migratory Bird Treaty Acts.

Caution: Other members of the public may be in the area and without hunter orange.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Refuge Headquarters Road
Decatur, AL 35603

256/350 6639

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wheeler>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

July 2024



Specific Hunt Seasons
Only the following wildlife species may be hunted on Wheeler NWR:

Squirrel, Raccoon, Opossum, and Rabbit

Season: September 14 – October 14

February 1 – March 1

*Gates scheduled to open Oct. 1 will close Oct. 15

Quail

Season: February 1 - 28

Deer and Feral Hog

Archery: Either Sex

October 15 – February 10

Flintlock: antlered bucks only

January 6 – January 18

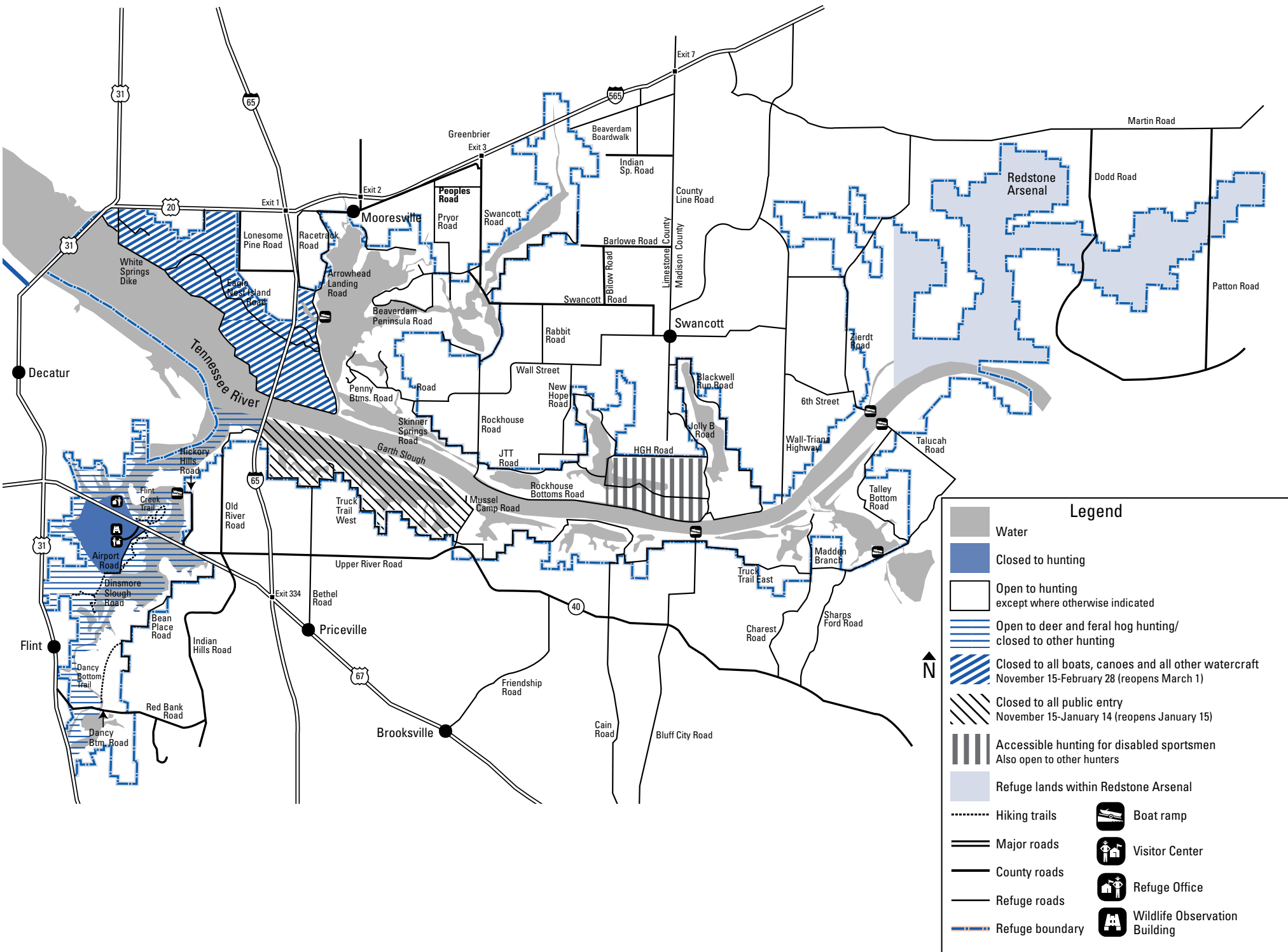
NOTE:

Crabtree Slough, White Springs and Dinsmore Slough are closed to boats, canoes, and all other watercraft November 15 – February 28 (reopens March 1).

For gate schedule, closure maps, and additional hunt permits visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wheeler/library>





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Decatur

Flint

Priceville

Brooksville

Swancott

Mooresville

Tennessee River

Redstone Arsenal

Martin Road

Dodd Road

Patton Road

Greenbrier

Beaverdam Boardwalk

Indian Sp. Road

County Line Road

Peoples Road

Pryor Road

Swancott Road

Barlowe Road

Swancott Road

Blow Road

Rabbit Road

Wall Street

New Hope Road

Blackwell Run Road

6th Street

Wall-Triana Highway

Zierdt Road

Talulah Road

Hickory Hills Road

Flint Creek Trail

Airport Road

Dinsmore Slough Road

Bean Place Road

Indian Hills Road

Dancy Bottom Trail

Red Bank Road

Dancy Btm. Road

Old River Road

Upper River Road

Bethel Road

Truck Trail West

Garth Slough

Mussel Camp Road

Rockhouse Bottoms Road

JTT Road

HGH Road

Rockhouse Road

Skinner Springs Road

Penny Bms. Road

Arrowhead Landing Road

Beaverdam Peninsula Road

Racetrack Road

Lonesome Pine Road

White Springs Dike

Edgar West Island Boat

Rockhouse Road

Wall Street

New Hope Road

JTT Road

HGH Road

Rockhouse Bottoms Road

Mussel Camp Road

Truck Trail East

Madden Branch

Charest Road

Sharps Ford Road

Friendship Road

Cain Road

Bluff City Road

Friendship Road

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