



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mattamuskeet

National Wildlife Refuge

Deer Hunting Regulations



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

**85 Mattamuskeet Road
Swanquarter, NC 27885**

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

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1 800/344 WILD

<https://www.fws.gov>

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Welcome to Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

The 50,180 acre Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (NWR/Refuge) was established in 1934 primarily to preserve wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl. The Refuge's predominant feature is the 40,000-acre Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina.

Mattamuskeet NWR is open to hunting white-tailed deer in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, which govern activities on national wildlife refuges. Public deer hunting is permitted on the Refuge as described below.

Deer Hunt

Deer hunting will be authorized on Mattamuskeet NWR during two-day paired hunts in October.

Deer may only be taken by shotgun, muzzleloading rifle/shotgun, archery, or crossbow. With the appropriate North Carolina big game license, each hunter may take one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless deer per day on the refuge.

Permit Application

Refuge deer hunting permits are issued by a lottery through the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Permit Hunting Opportunities Program. An application fee will be charged by the State for each hunt application. Successfully drawn applicants will also be required to pay a \$15.00 user fee per person for each two-day hunt to the refuge prior to being issued a refuge permit.

Apply for the Mattamuskeet NWR deer hunts at a North Carolina Wildlife Service Agent, by telephone at 833-950-0575 or online at <https://license.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com/Licensing/CustomerLookup.aspx>. Application period is from July 1 – August 10. Applications can be made individually or by groups of up to five hunters.

Hunters selected in the State drawing will be notified with instructions on how to submit the user fee to receive their refuge hunt permit. The user fee must be received before the permits are issued. Hunters must carry on their person the signed refuge permit.

Youth

Youth hunters (under 16) must carry and possess evidence of completion of a State-approved hunter safety course. They must be supervised by a validly licensed adult at least 21 years of age. Each adult may supervise only one youth, remaining in sight and normal voice contact at all times. Both adult and youth hunters require a refuge permit.

Access

Permitted deer hunters will be authorized access from one hour before legal shooting time until one hour after legal shooting time. Vehicles are restricted to designated roads only. Parking is permitted on road shoulders. Access to open hunting areas behind road gates will be by foot, bicycle and/or boat only. Hunters can use boats to access hunt areas, but hunting from a boat is prohibited.

Disabled sportsmen with valid proof of disability should contact the refuge office prior to arrival if special arrangements are needed.

Hunters are reminded that land adjacent to the refuge is privately owned and entering or hunting on this land is at the discretion of the landowner.

General Regulations and Enforcement

All persons participating in the deer hunt must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline that is visible from any direction.



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All deer taken on the Refuge must be checked in with the State. No facilities are available for dressing deer. Field dressing harvested deer is allowed and encouraged; however, depositing or leaving deer carcasses on refuge lands is prohibited.

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

Permit hunters may put up one portable blind or stand the day before the start of their hunt and must remove it at the end of the second day of that 2-day hunt. Blinds must display fluorescent orange-colored material visible from all directions. Any stands or blinds left overnight on the Refuge must have a tag with the hunter's name, address, and telephone number.

Only biodegradable flagging tape can be used to mark trails. All flagging tape must be removed on the last day of hunting.

As an ethical hunter, if you harvest or wound an animal, make every reasonable effort to locate the deer and salvage the animal.

Prohibited Activities

- Shooting on, from, or across any road open to vehicles including Rose Bay, Sandy Dike, East Main, and Farm Field Roads.
- Hunting from a boat.
- Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of any type of bait (food, salt, other minerals, or other substances that lures or attracts animals)
- Use of ATV's and any other unlicensed and unregistered vehicles

- Use of nails, bolts, wire or screws (metal steps) to attach portable stands to trees or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven
- Use of artificial lights, including vehicle headlights, to observe, locate, or take wildlife
- Use of dogs to pursue, track or retrieve deer
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Taking or possession of any plants and wildlife (other than deer)
- Littering - if you pack it in, pack it out!
- Camping or open fires
- Overnight parking

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