

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

GAME LANDS PERMIT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

The following information represents the most common questions asked about permitted hunt opportunities. This section does not serve as a regulatory guide. Hunters and trappers should always refer to the *North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest* for information on regulations and local laws as they pertain to permitted and non-permitted hunts. Frequently asked questions and area reference information for National Wildlife Refuges follows this section.

Hunting

- Can I transfer my permit to someone else? No.
- Can I bring a non-permitted person or persons with me to observe my hunt? Yes, however the observer(s) cannot assist in any activities associated with the hunt, such as setting out decoys, retrieving birds, building a blind, working a dog etc... In some instances, there may be capacity limitations for hunt blinds or handicap hunt lifts. Limitations will be specified on the permit. Special regulations apply to Suggs Mill Pond Game Land. Refer to the *Regulations Digest* for more information.
- Can I bring a non-permitted person to call for me on my hunt? Yes.
- Do youth hunters need a permit to hunt on permit-only lands? Yes, unless otherwise specified, a permit is required for all individuals, regardless of age, wanting to hunt or trap on permit-only lands.
- Can I scout on the game land prior to my hunt? Yes, but hunters are encouraged not to scout on designated hunt days. Scouting is restricted on some posted impoundments to designated locations.
- What is the toll-free number I need to call to report a big game harvest? 800-446-8663. Hunters can also register bear and deer big game harvests online at www.ncwildlife.org or at a wildlife cooperator agent. Turkey harvests must be registered online at www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 800-446-8663. All big game harvests must be registered. Refer to the *Regulations Digest* for more information on validating big game harvest report cards and registering big game harvests.
- If I observe a wildlife violation, whom should I contact? The Commission at 800-662-7137.
- What should I do with my firearm or archery equipment on a non-hunt day? Firearms and archery equipment should be stored in an area not readily available. Refer to the *Regulations Digest* for information on possession of pistols.
- Can I hunt the species that my permit allows on posted waterfowl impoundments? Yes, however nontoxic shot requirements apply for hunting of all species, except that lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting.
- Do I need to bring a blind? There may be natural cover to hide in; however, you may want to bring a blind for your use.
- Am I limited on how many shells I can bring on my hunt? No.
- Are there any restrictions on when I can enter the dove field on the day of the hunt? No.
- Will I be assigned to a location to hunt? No, unless specified otherwise on your permit.
- Can I bring my retriever? Yes, however, drinking water is not available on site.
- Can I use bait on game lands? No, it is illegal to place bait for the purpose of hunting on game lands. Refer to the *Regulations Digest* for more information.

Deer

- Can I harvest a deer of either-sex with a permit? Yes, unless specified otherwise on your permit.
- Do I need to check my deer harvest in at a WRC check station? No, unless specified otherwise on your permit. Validating your big game harvest report card and registering your harvest, by calling 800-446-8663, online at www.ncwildlife.org, or by visiting a wildlife cooperator agent, is all that is required. Refer to the *Regulations Digest* for more information on validating big game harvest report cards and registering big game harvests.

Waterfowl

- Do I need to bring a blind? There may be natural cover to hide in; however, you may want to bring a blind for your use.
- Are there restrictions on when I can enter the impoundments and when I must stop hunting? Yes, you cannot enter the impoundments before 4:00 a.m. and must cease hunting at 1:00 p.m. Decoys may not be set out before 4:00 a.m. and must be removed from the area by 3:00 p.m. each day.
- Can I use a motorized decoy? Yes.

- Is there a limit on the number of shotgun shells I can bring on my hunt? No, but only nontoxic shot is allowed for waterfowl or in the impoundment area.
- Can I use an outboard motor within the impoundment? No, internal combustion motors are prohibited. Hunters can use an electric trolling motor and the boat must be registered.
- Can I wade within the impoundment? Yes, water depths vary so always use caution when wading. Impoundments may have deeper holes, and in some areas, the bottoms are soft. Hunter bridges are provided in strategic locations to assist hunters when crossing interior canals. A wading staff is extremely helpful.

Turkey

- Can I use a decoy? Yes, remember to always consider your personal safety in the placement of turkey decoys and to be aware of other hunters in the area.
- Can an accompanying adult call for a youth on a Youth Turkey Hunt? No, calling is considered hunting and adults are not permitted to hunt on a Youth Turkey Hunt.

Feral Hogs

- If I am awarded a permit on a permit-only game land, can I hunt feral hogs? Yes, if your permit authorizes you to harvest feral hogs. In such case, you must use weapons that are consistent with that of the open season and may not harvest feral hogs from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise on all permit-only game lands. In addition to the permit, you must possess an appropriate hunting license for the open game land season and a Game Land Privilege License.
- Is there a season or bag limit on feral hogs? No.
- Do I have to report or register a feral hog harvest? No.

Access

- Can I use an ATV on Commission game lands? No, with the following exceptions: those areas specifically designated on National Forest lands, those persons holding a Disabled Hunt Permit, or those persons holding a Disabled Access Permit on designated areas of game lands under the Disabled Access Program. Refer to the *Regulations Digest* and game land maps at www.ncwildlife.org/gamelandmaps for game lands and designated Disabled Access areas.
- Can I drive on the area? You can drive on roads open to vehicular use. Roads posted closed with signs and/or closed by gates are closed to vehicular traffic.

Facilities

- Are there cleaning and storage facilities on game lands for storing my game? No.

Local Laws

- What local laws apply to the area that I am hunting? Refer to the *Regulations Digest* for information on local laws.

Disabled

- Are blinds provided for disabled hunters? Some game lands have blinds. If available, blind locations will be specified on your permit.
- Can I use an ATV to access blinds or Disabled Access Areas? Yes, Disabled Hunt Permits allow the permit holder to operate vehicles/ATVs on open-gated or ungated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic.
- Can I drive behind gates during my hunt? No, a Disabled Hunt Permit only allows the holder to operate vehicles/ATVs on open-gated or ungated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic.
- Can I bring a hunting companion to assist me during my disabled hunt and can my companion hunt? Yes, you can bring one properly licensed hunting companion. The companion may be different for each hunt day authorized by the permit. The companion must carry the companion card received with the permit and must hunt alongside the permit holder at all times.
- Can I bring a hunting companion or companions with me during my general hunt? Yes, but the properly licensed hunting companion(s) must apply as a member of your party prior to the permit drawing.
- When on the permitted hunt, is there an emergency number I can call in case I need help? Yes, 800-662-7137.
- Can I use bait on game lands? No, it is illegal to place bait for the purpose of hunting on game lands.