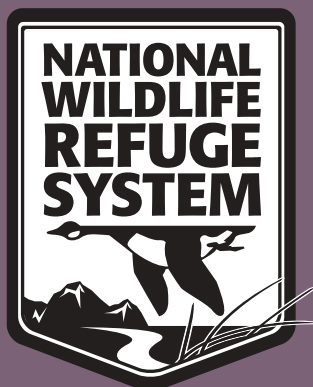


St. Catherine Creek

National Wildlife Refuge Regulations 2002-2003



To:

St. Catherine Creek
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 117
Sibley, Mississippi 39165
601/442 6696
<http://saintcatherinecreek.fws.gov>

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

June 2002



The Refuge

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in January 1990 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl. The refuge is located in southwest Mississippi. The habitat consists of bottom land and upland hardwoods, cleared land, cypress swamps, accreted land, and fallow fields. Due to the refuge's diversity of lands, it has long been noted for large populations of wildlife, including small game and deer. Public hunting and fishing is permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

General Regulations

A valid Annual Public Use Permit is required for all users. Permits are available at refuge headquarters Monday - Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm or by mail at a cost of \$12.50 each, payable with cash or money order only.

All users must obtain and complete a Daily Visitor Use Reporting card upon entering the refuge and display it on the dash so that name and address are visible from the outside. Before leaving the refuge, users must complete the reverse side of the card and deposit it in a drop box at one of the visitor contact points.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by refuge officers.

Prohibited Activities

Possession of firearms, except when participating in scheduled hunts

Littering

Possession of alcohol



Entering from private property

Hunters entering from public waterways

Camping

Overnight parking

Unconfined pets

Open fires

Unauthorized taking of wildlife or plants

Target practice

Baiting or hunting over bait

Man drives for deer

Hunting within 100 feet of any designated road or ATV trail

Marking trails with tape, paper, paint, etc.

Trapping

Riding horses or mules

Crawfishing or frogging

Spotlighting

Parking or hunting within 100 feet of any active oil well site, production facility or equipment or tampering with any petroleum facility or equipment

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts

The possession of slugs and buckshot, or rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is prohibited

Possession of .22 magnums

Possession of handguns

Use or possession of any drug, or device for employing such drug for hunting

Possession of commercial fishing or trot line equipment, including limb lines and yo-yos

Jug fishing

General Hunting Regulations

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 2 hours before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.

All motor vehicles are restricted to roads designated on the map. Refuge roads and trails may be closed at times due to flooding or adverse weather conditions. All travel on refuge roads is at your own risk. Parking is restricted to parking areas and immediately adjacent to roadways designated on the map. Do not block any roads or road entrances.

ATV's (maximum tire pressure: 5 PSI) are restricted to designated trails as shown on map. ATV trails are only open during scheduled hunts and scouting periods. Hunters must be 16 years of age or older to operate an ATV on the refuge.

ATV's may not be used for game retrieval.

Only one deer per day may be harvested. State yearly bag limits apply.

Users may not enter the refuge from private property.

Hunters may not enter the refuge from public waterways. Hunters may not use motorized boats after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 28 feet or greater.

Feral hogs, beaver, nutria, raccoons, bobcats and coyote may be taken during any scheduled refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.

Inserting metal objects into trees or hunting from trees into which metal objects have been inserted is prohibited. Climbing spurs are prohibited. Only portable stands or blinds may be used. Blinds must be dismantled and stands must be removed from the tree after each day's hunt.

During primitive weapon season and during the State Youth Gun Hunt, all persons must wear Hunter Orange **HAT and UPPER GARMENT** at all times.

Youth Hunters

Firearms

All deer harvested on the refuge must be checked at one of the three mandatory deer check stations (see map). Check stations are self-clearing.

All deer must be immediately field dressed upon harvest.

Waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake and Gilliard Lake only. In the Butler Lake Unit, waterfowl hunting will be closed after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 28 feet or greater. Waterfowl hunting in Gilliard Lake will be closed when the Natchez River Gauge reaches 32 feet or greater. Access to Butler Lake waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake Road only.

Youth hunters (ages 10-15) must have successfully passed a State-approved hunter education course and possess proof of such.

Youth hunters must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. For big game hunts, each adult may only supervise one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

Firearms transported on roads, ATV trails, or waterways within the refuge boundary must be **unloaded and cased**.

Primitive weapons are those defined by state law.

Only non-toxic shells may be used and possessed on the refuge during the small game and waterfowl hunts.

Fishing Regulations

Youth Fishing

For more information, write or call

The refuge is open for daylight use only. Refuge Annual Public Use Permits are required.

State fishing laws apply.

State bag limits apply.

Sport fishing only.

ATV's are not allowed.

All prohibited activities apply.

On the Sibley Unit, boats are not allowed north of the Ring Levee. Exception: Boats may be used in the Swamp during low water conditions.

Bow fishing is allowed. Daylight use only. Bow fishermen must abide by Mississippi State law.

Night time bow fishing on the refuge will be allowed only through a Special Use permit issued by the Refuge Manager.

There is a youth fishing area located on the Sibley Unit. This area is identified on the map and by signs. Youth ages 15 and under only and must be supervised by an adult.

NOTE: There is an active Bald Eagle nest in the Gilliard Lake area. All precautions must be taken NOT to disturb the Eagle nest.

The Refuge Manager reserves the right to close seasons and/or portions of the refuge due to inclement weather, road conditions and/or river levels, or any other appropriate reasons. The Refuge Manager may revoke any Annual Public Use Permit for refuge violations.

St. Catherine Creek NWR
P. O. Box 117
Sibley MS, 39165
(601) 442 6696.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing, or sight-seeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public. (See map.)



This area is closed to **all** hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited. (See map.)