

General Information

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge (LSNWR) is made up of over 53,000 acres along the Suwannee River in Dixie and Levy Counties. Over 190 miles of roads and trails provide vehicle or foot/bicycle access to many habitat types open to a variety of public hunting and recreation opportunities.

All general Refuge regulations, mapped restrictions, and mapped designations apply unless specifically addressed in this leaflet. Please note that forest management activities including prescribed burns and logging operations may occur at any time during the year. Annual plans will be posted at Refuge hunter check stations. The Refuge is not responsible for damage to or theft of tree stands. The Refuge reserves the right to temporarily close roads or land areas for any management reason without prior notification.

The Annual Hunter Working Group meeting will be held at Refuge Headquarters on the third Thursday in April, at 2:00 PM. Please contact the refuge manager (352/493 0238 x 224) if you would like to attend.

The following regulations supplement Florida State hunting regulations and general regulations governing hunting on LSNWR set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

Permit Requirements

All hunters must purchase and possess a LSNWR hunting permit and a State of Florida Hunting License, unless otherwise exempt. Hunting permits can only be purchased through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) licensing website, county tax office, or other outlets that sell State licenses (Permit Vendor Code is 7800). A LSNWR hunt permit will be required for all hunters, ages 16 and older, to hunt during all Refuge hunts. Youth hunters 15 and under are not required to possess a LSNWR hunt permit. State Wildlife Management Area stamps are not required. Unless otherwise exempt, hunters are required to have appropriate archery, muzzleloader, deer, and turkey stamps/permits. Unless exempt, waterfowl hunters are required to have appropriate State and Federal waterfowl stamps.

Successful hunters are required to report their bag to the FWC's Harvest Reporting System within 24 hours of harvest. See the FWC's Florida Hunting Regulations handbook, available at MyFWC.com, for deer harvest reporting instructions. These reports allow us to better determine population health, numbers, and stability. **NOTE:** Under-reporting or absence of accurate and timely bag reports will result in shortened seasons or cancelled hunts.

General Hunting Regulations

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations.

A State-issued photo ID must be in possession at all times while on Refuge property.

All motorized land vehicles are restricted to designated roads shown on the map. Vehicles must be parked so they do not block roads or gates. All-terrain vehicles use (three-wheeler, four-wheeler, etc.) is prohibited.

Hunters (including all persons accompanying hunters) must comply with Florida State fluorescent orange safety clothes requirements during all Refuge deer hunts except archery.

In addition to State hunter education requirements, hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult 18 years of age or older and must remain within sight and normal voice contact of the youth hunter. During Waterfowl, Small Game, and Family Hunts, 1 adult may supervise no more than 2 youth hunters. During Archery, Muzzleloader, General Gun, and Spring Turkey Hunts, the adult may supervise only 1 youth hunter.

Dogs may only be used as an aid to taking raccoon during the raccoon night-hunting season and for waterfowl season. Otherwise, dogs must be on a leash under the direct control of the owner at all times.

Hunters using the Refuge are subject to inspection of licenses, permits, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents, during compliance checks by Federal or State officers.

Temporary tree stands may be left on the Refuge starting 1 week before Archery Season and must be removed 1 day after the end of General Gun Season. Temporary tree stands may be left on the Refuge starting 1 week before Wild Hog Season and must be removed 1 day after the end of that season. All tree stands left on the refuge within the hunt season must display the hunter's name and hunting license number legibly written on or attached to the stand. Tree stands not in compliance may be confiscated and disposed of according to Federal Regulation.

Flagging, reflective markers, paint, litter, or pins may NOT be used for marking in any manner on refuge property, with the exception of the following: clothes-type pins or clips with reflective or colored markings can be used for the

temporary marking of vegetation in order for identifying a route of travel to or from a tree stand. These pins must be removed by the end of the scheduled deer season. Each clothes-type pin of clip must contain both the name and hunting license number of the hunter.

Hunters may enter no earlier than 1 and 1/2 hours before sunrise and must be out of the woods no later than 1 and 1/2 hours after sunset.

Special Needs Hunts are considered; call the above numbers to discuss such requests.

Prohibited Actions

All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a guided hunt are prohibited.

Target practice or any non-hunting discharge of a weapon is prohibited.

The use of organized drives for taking or attempting to take game is prohibited.

Marking any tree, or other Refuge feature with carving, flagging, litter, paint or blaze is prohibited.

Possession, intoxication, or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while hunting on the Refuge.

Camping, fires, littering, and horses are prohibited.

Collecting or harvesting any articles of antiquity, plants, animals or parts thereof is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a Refuge permit.

Cutting trees, removing wood or other plant matter from the Refuge is prohibited.

Hunting or shooting from within 150-feet of Refuge roads, open to public vehicle travel, is prohibited.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted is prohibited.

Field dressing or discarding an animal carcass or parts thereof within 1000 feet of any developed public recreation area, game check station, gate, or within 100 feet of a road or trail, open to the public, is prohibited. Dumping of game carcasses is prohibited.

Construction of permanent blinds or stands is prohibited.

The placing of, or hunting with the aid of bait, salt, oil or ingestible attractant is prohibited.

Specific Hunt Regulations

State bag limits and firearms regulations apply unless otherwise listed. In designated Archery Only Areas (see map), only bows and crossbows are allowed. Wild hogs, coyote, and beaver may be taken during Archery, Muzzleloader, General Gun, Small Game, and Family Hunt seasons.

HOGS: There is NO size or bag limit for hogs; can be taken during any season except Spring Turkey.

Legal Deer

Antlered deer – Legal deer will have at least 1 antler having 2 or more points (each point 1-inch or more in length) and having at least 1 antler 5-inches or more in length. As part of the statewide annual deer limit, youth less than 16 years of age may harvest 1 deer annually not meeting antler point requirements but having at least 1 antler 5 inches or more in length. Antlerless deer are deer that do not have antlers or have antlers less than 5 inches in length. It is illegal to take spotted fawns.

Waterfowl

State waterfowl season; ducks and coots only. Decoys and boats must be removed daily. Hunters must use and be in possession of shells containing non-toxic shot only.

Archery

September 21 - October 13, 2019: Archery equipment (bow and crossbow) are allowed. Legal to take antlered or antlerless deer, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit, armadillo, opossum, and raccoon. Archery hunters are allowed to hunt all refuge lands open to hunting. Archery Only Areas (see map) are open during all hunts with approved archery equipment only.

Muzzleloader

October 19 – October 27, 2019: muzzleloader firearms only; legal to take antlered deer and hogs.

General Gun

November 2 - 17, 2019: Legal to take antlered deer and hogs and November 28 – December 1, 2019: Legal to take antlered deer and hogs.

Family/Senior Hunt

November 22 - 24, 2019: Up to 2 youth hunters (less than 16 years old) may hunt but must be supervised by an adult 18 years of age or older. The supervising adult may also hunt, but must accompany at least 1 youth hunter. Senior adult hunters (65 years of age or over) may also hunt during the Family Hunt and may be accompanied by 1 companion of any age that may also hunt. Legal to take antlered deer, antlerless deer, and hogs (no size or bag limit for hogs). The FWC's Antlerless Deer Season (Deer Management Unit C3) bag limits apply during the family hunt.

Wild Hog Hunt

February 1 – February 16, 2020: Legal to take hogs only (no size or bag limit). An annual Florida hunting license and Refuge hunt permit is required to hunt hogs.

Small Game

February 1-16, 2020: Legal to take gray squirrel, armadillo, opossum, rabbit and raccoon. State regulations, weapons, and ammunition requirements apply.

Raccoon/Opossum

February 1-16, 2020: Night hunting only, from sunset until sunrise. State regulations, weapons, and ammunition requirements apply. Limit 2 raccoons per night.

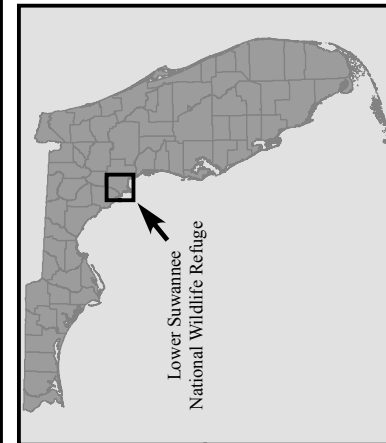
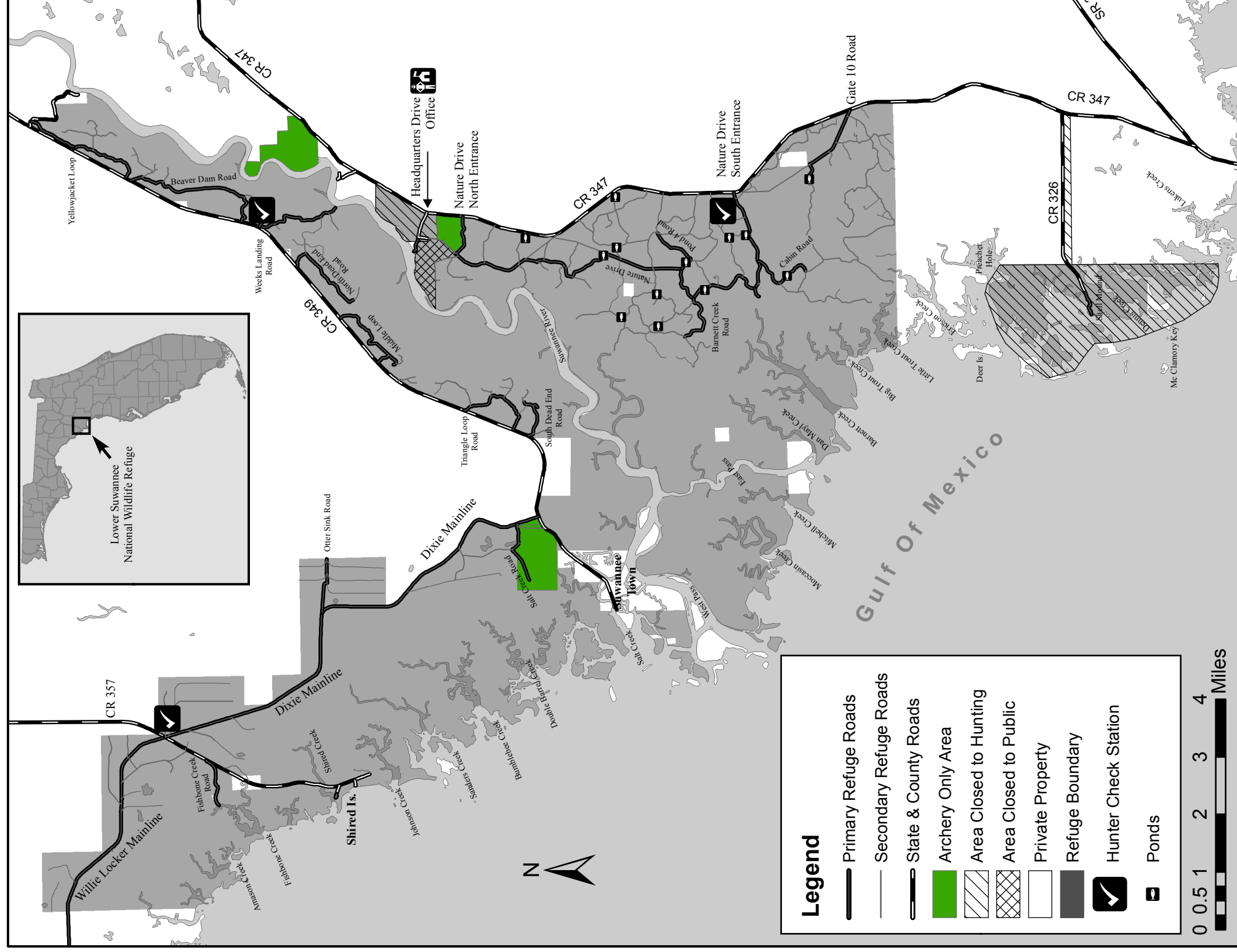
Youth Spring Gobbler Hunt March 14-15, 2020: (Only youth under 16 years of age may hunt and must be under the supervision and in the presence of an adult 18 years of age or older. The youth hunter must carry the firearm. Adults with required licenses and permits for taking wild turkeys may participate when in the presence of a youth, but may not harvest a wild turkey

Shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. Bearded turkeys only. Only bows, crossbows, pre-charged pneumatic air guns propelling a bolt or arrow and shotguns using a #2 or smaller shot size may be used for hunting.

Turkey (Spring season)

March 21 through April 12, 2020: Bearded turkeys only. Shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise sunset. Only bows, crossbows, pre-charged pneumatic air guns propelling a bolt or arrow and shotguns using a #2 or smaller shot size may be used for hunting.

Questions, concerns, reports of violations: Call/Text the Refuge Manager at 703/622 3896.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations 2019-2020



Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge
 16450 NW 31 Place
 Chiefland, FL 32626
 352/493 0238
<http://www.fws.gov/lowersuwannee/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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