This blue goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**General Information**

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge contains approximately 154,000 acres, most of which are open to hunting. There are more than 150 miles of old logging roads that provide hunting access, some for vehicles and some on foot. Visitors should use caution, especially when venturing into the more remote areas of the refuge with only a two-wheel drive vehicle. In the center of the refuge is the Dare County Range, a 46,000-acre military practice area owned by the U.S. Air Force and used by both the Air Force and the U.S. Navy. The Range is a part of the North Carolina Gamelands Program and governed by Gamelands rules and regulations (http://www.ncwildlife.org). Especially in the areas on or adjacent to the Dare Range, road conditions may be unpredictable.

For newcomers to the Refuge, the impenetrable vegetation and remoteness often catch them unaware. First time users should consult with a Refuge staff member or another hunter before venturing off the beaten path.

**Regulations**

All general refuge regulations apply, unless specifically addressed in this leaflet. Restrictions and designations on the map in this leaflet also apply. Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all state laws, county codes, Title 50 - Code of Federal Regulations, and the following Refuge regulations:

Permits are required for all hunts. Your permit is on the front of this brochure.

The Refuge is open daylight hours only. Hunter access is allowed from one hour before until one hour after legal hunting hours.

Possession of firearms is permitted in accordance with State law.

When taking any game animal or bird with a shotgun, federally approved, non-toxic shot must be used (except buckshot or slugs for white-tailed deer). Possessing lead shot in the field is prohibited, except when engaged in deer hunting.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

The taking or possession of bear, turkey, bobcat, any fur bearer, or any part thereof, is prohibited, except when transporting same along an NC State road or US highway. Game legally taken on the Dare Range must be transported to US Highway 264 or 64 by the most direct route possible.

Hyde County portions of the Refuge are closed to white-tailed deer hunting during open seasons on black bear on adjacent lands.

Taking or collecting any plant or animal (including reptiles and amphibians) is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on Refuge roads is 35 mph.

The use of artificial lights (including car headlights) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

The use of electronic calls to attract wildlife is prohibited.

Baiting or feeding wildlife and hunting with the aid of bait are prohibited.
Vehicular access is restricted to designated roads (see map). ATVs/UTVs (3 and 4 wheelers, dirt bikes, etc.) are prohibited.

Camping, fires, littering, target practice, and commercial guiding are prohibited.

The construction or use of permanent blinds, platforms, and/or ladders is prohibited. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been inserted is prohibited.

The use of horses for any hunting activity 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.

Disturbing, molesting or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

Hunters should be aware that some areas may be temporarily closed to hunting. These areas will be clearly marked with appropriate signs.

**Farming Area**

Farming area is closed to waterfowl hunting.

**Laurel Bay Unit**

The farming area west of Buffalo City Road is open to deer and small game hunting in accordance with State and Refuge regulations. Hunting in impoundments and vehicular access are allowed only during September, October, and February.

**Twiford and Upper Creef Units**

The farming areas east of Buffalo City Road and north of Link Road are open to hunting and vehicles only during September and October and closed to all entry from November 1 to February 28.

**Lower Creef Unit**

The farming area between Link and Grouse Roads is open to deer and small game hunting during September and October and only to small game hunting starting in November in accordance with State and Refuge regulations.

**Use of Dogs**

The use of dogs is restricted to designated areas (see map). All dogs must be confined or leashed and under owner control when not engaged in hunting.

Hunters may walk on closed roads in the farming area or on the roads in the “no dog hunting” area to retrieve their stray hunting dogs only until 11:00 pm.

In the farming area west of Buffalo City Road (Laurel Bay Unit), the use of dogs is restricted to small game hunting, except during the month of October.

All farming units are open to deer hunting with chase dogs during October in accordance with state regulations and unless posted as closed.

The training of chase dogs is permitted only during modern gun deer season.

**Wildlife Drive**

Hunters are reminded that the Refuge Wildlife Drive (see map) is adjacent to several hunting areas and is a popular attraction to many. Please be aware of the Wildlife Drive and be cautious and courteous when hunting in areas shared with other refuge visitors.

**Youth Hunting**

Youth hunters (ages 15 and under) must have successfully passed a State-approved hunter education course and must carry proof of certification. Youth hunters must be directly supervised by an adult (21 or older). For small game hunting, an adult may supervise up to two youth hunters; for big game, an adult may supervise only one youth hunter.

NOTE: There are some new State Youth Hunting Regulations in effect this year. Both State and Federal regulations apply to all refuge hunts. Be sure to check State Regulations at http://www.ncwildlife.org

**Game Animals**

Only the following species may be hunted: ducks, geese, tundra swan, coot, quail, mourning dove, snipe, woodcock, rabbits, squirrel, opossum*, raccoon*, and white-tailed deer in accordance to Federal, State, and local regulations.

*Legal hunting hours for raccoons and opossums are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, unless authorized by Refuge Special Use Permit.
Visit the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center on Roanoke Island.