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§ 25.22 Lost and found articles.

Lost articles or money found on a national wildlife refuge are to be immediately turned in to the nearest refuge office.

§ 25.23 What are the general regulations and information collection requirements?

The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements contained in subchapter C, parts 25, 32, and 36 under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* and assigned the following clearance numbers: Special Use Permit Applications on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska (SUP-AK), clearance number 1018-0014; Special Use Permit Applications on National Wildlife Refuges Outside Alaska (SUP), clearance number 1018-0102. See § 36.3 of this subchapter for further information on Special Use Permit Applications on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. We are collecting the information to assist us in administering these programs in accordance with statutory authorities that require that recreational uses be compatible with the primary purposes for which the areas were established. We require the information requested in the application form for the applicant to obtain a benefit. We estimate the public reporting burden for the SUP application form to be 30 minutes per response. This includes time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222 ARLSQ, Washington, DC 20240 (1018-0014 or 1018-0102).

[65 FR 56400, Sept. 18, 2000]

Subpart C—Public Notice

§ 25.31 General provisions.

Whenever a particular public access, use or recreational activity of any type whatsoever, not otherwise expressly permitted under this subchapter, is permitted on a national wildlife refuge or where public access, use, or recreational or other activities previously permitted are curtailed, the public

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may be notified by any of the following methods, all of which supplement this subchapter C:

(a) Official signs posted conspicuously at appropriate intervals and locations;

(b) Special regulations issued under the provisions of § 26.33 of this subchapter C.

(c) Maps available in the office of the refuge manager, regional director, or area director, or

(d) Other appropriate methods which will give the public actual or constructive notice of the permitted or curtailed public access, use, or recreational activity.

Subpart D—Permits

§ 25.41 Who issues refuge permits?

We authorize the refuge manager of the facility where an activity is to take place to issue permits required by this subchapter C unless the regulations in this subchapter C require the applicant to obtain the applicable permit from the Director or Secretary. In those situations, the refuge manager will so inform the applicant, giving the applicant all necessary information as to how and where to apply.

[67 FR 58942, Sept. 18, 2002]

§ 25.42 Permits required to be exhibited on request.

Any person on a national wildlife refuge shall upon request by any authorized official exhibit the required Federal or State permit or license authorizing their presence and activity on the area and shall furnish such other information for identification purposes as may be requested.

§ 25.43 Who may terminate or revoke a permit and why?

The refuge manager may terminate or revoke a permit at any time for non-compliance with the terms of the permit or of the regulations in this subchapter C; for nonuse; for violation of any law, regulation, or order applicable to the refuge; or to protect public health or safety or the resources of a national wildlife refuge.

[67 FR 58943, Sept. 18, 2002]

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taken unless such suspension is authorized in writing by the area manager or regional director (depending upon the official before whom the appeal is pending), and then only upon a determination by these officials that such suspension will not be detrimental to the interests of the United States or upon submission and acceptance of a bond deemed adequate to indemnify the United States from loss or damage.

[42 FR 64120, Dec. 22, 1977. Redesignated at 51 FR 7575, Mar. 5, 1986]

Subpart E—Fees and Charges

SOURCE: 52 FR 29860, Aug. 12, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 25.51 General provisions.

Reasonable charges and fees may be established for public recreational use of and, except in Alaska, entrance onto national wildlife refuges. Regulations regarding recreational use fees are contained in 36 CFR part 71. Regulations regarding entrance fees are contained in this subpart E.

§ 25.52 Designation.

To be designated as an "Entrance Fee Area", a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System must be found to demonstrate that:

(a) The level of visitation for recreational purposes is high enough to justify the collection of fees for admission permits for economic reasons;

(b) There is a practical mechanism in existence for implementing and operating a system of collecting fees for admission permits; and

(c) Imposition of a fee for admission permits is not likely to result in undue economic hardship for a significant number of visitors to the unit.

§ 25.53 Establishment of single visit entrance fees.

Entrance fees established for single visit permits at a designated Entrance Fee Area shall consider the following criteria with regard to the local area within which the refuge is located:

(a) The direct and indirect cost to the Government.

(b) The benefits to the permit holder.

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(c) The public policy or interest served.

(d) The comparable fees charged by non-Federal public agencies.

(e) The economic and administrative feasibility of fee collection.

§ 25.54 Posting and public notification.

The public shall be notified that an entrance fee is charged through refuge publications and posted designation signs in accordance with § 25.31 of this part.

§ 25.55 Refuge admission permits.

(a) Unless otherwise provided, persons entering an Entrance Fee Area shall obtain and be in possession of a valid admission permit.

(b) The following five types of permits allowing entrance onto an Entrance Fee Area will be available for issue or purchase at such area and, except for refuge-specific permits, at Fish and Wildlife Service Regional and Washington, DC Offices, and at other locations as may be designated.

(1) Single visit permit with a charge not to exceed \$3 per person or \$7.50 per noncommercial vehicle (single visit can be defined as 1–15 days, dependent upon a determination of the period of time reasonably and ordinarily necessary for such a visit at a particular refuge unit).

(2) Golden Eagle Passport.

(3) Golden Age Passport.

(4) Golden Access Passport.

(5) Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation (Duck) Stamp. To be valid, the Duck Stamp must be current and bear the signature of the holder on the front.

§ 25.56 Enforcement.

Permits issued or used for entrance onto Entrance Fee Areas are non-transferable. Failure to pay the entrance fee, to display upon request of an authorized official a valid permit, or to comply with other entrance fee provisions, rules or regulations, will be subject to the penalties prescribed in 50 CFR 28.31.

§ 25.57 Exceptions and exemptions.

At Entrance Fee Areas:

Subpart A—Introduction

§ 26.11 Purpose of regulations.

The regulations in this part govern the circumstances under which the public can enter and use a national wildlife refuge.

Subpart B—Public Entry

§ 26.21 General trespass provision.

(a) No person shall trespass, including but not limited to entering, occupying, using, or being upon, any national wildlife refuge, except as specifically authorized in this subchapter C or in other applicable Federal regulations.

(b) No unconfined domestic animals, including but not limited to dogs, hogs, cats, horses, sheep and cattle, shall be permitted to enter upon any national wildlife refuge or to roam at large upon such an area, except as specifically authorized under the provisions of § 26.34, § 27.91 or § 29.2 of this subchapter C.

§ 26.22 General exception for entry.

(a) Any person entering or using any national wildlife refuge will comply with the regulations in this subchapter C, the provisions of any special regulations and any other official notification as is appropriate under § 25.31.

(b) A permit shall be required for any person entering a national wildlife refuge, unless otherwise provided under the provisions of subchapter C. The permittee will abide by all the terms and conditions set forth in the permit.

§ 26.23 Exception for entry to the headquarters office.

The headquarters office of any national wildlife refuge is open to public access and admission during regularly established business hours.

§ 26.24 Exception for entry when accompanied by refuge personnel.

A permit is not required for access to any part of a national wildlife refuge by a person when accompanied by refuge personnel.

§ 26.25 Exception for entry to persons with an economic use privilege.

Access to and travel upon a national wildlife refuge by a person granted economic use privileges on that national wildlife refuge should be restricted to a specified area in accordance with the provisions of their agreement, lease, or permit.

§ 26.26 Exception for entry for use of emergency shelter.

A permit is not required for access to any national wildlife area for temporary shelter or temporary protection in the event of emergency conditions.

§ 26.27 Exception for entry on designated routes of travel.

A permit is not required to enter, travel on, and exit from any national wildlife refuge on public waters and roads, and such roads, trails, footpaths, walkways, or other routes and areas which are designated for public use under the provisions of this subchapter C.

Subpart C—Public Use and Recreation

§ 26.31 General provisions.

Public recreation will be permitted on national wildlife refuges as an appropriate incidental or secondary use, only after it has been determined that such recreational use is practicable and not inconsistent with the primary objectives for which each particular area was established or with other authorized Federal operations.

§ 26.32 Recreational uses.

Recreational uses such as, but not limited to, sightseeing, nature observation and photography, interpretive centers and exhibits, hunting and fishing, bathing, boating, camping, ice skating, picnicking, swimming, water skiing, and other similar activities may be permitted on national wildlife refuges. When such uses are permitted the public will be notified under the provisions of this subchapter C.

§ 26.33 Special regulations.

(a) Special regulations shall be issued for public use, access, and recreation

Subpart A—Introduction

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§ 26.33 Special regulations.

(a) Special regulations shall be issued for public use, access, and recreation

within certain individual national wildlife refuges where there is a need to amend, modify, relax or make more stringent the regulations contained in this subchapter C. The issued special regulations will supplement the provisions in this part 26.

(b) Special recreational use regulations may contain the following items:

- (1) Recreational uses authorized.
- (2) Seasons, period, or specific time of use.
- (3) Description of areas open to recreation.
- (4) Specific conditions or requirements.
- (5) Other provisions.
- (6) Special regulations for public use, access, and recreation are published in the daily issue of the FEDERAL REGISTER and may be codified in the Code of Federal Regulations. They shall be issued in compliance with procedures contained in the Departmental Manual.

§ 26.34 Special regulations concerning public access, use and recreation for individual national wildlife refuges.

VIRGINIA

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

ACCESS

(a) *Access qualifications and specifications.* (1) As provided for in Pub. L. 96-315, permanent, full-time residents who can furnish to the refuge manager, Back Bay NWR, adequate proof of continuous and continuing residency, commencing prior to December 31, 1979, on the Outer Banks from the refuge boundary south to and including the village of Corolla, North Carolina, as long as they remain permanent, full-time residents. The south boundary of the area for access consideration is defined as a straight east-west line extending from Currituck Sound to the Atlantic Ocean and passing through a point 1,600 feet due south of the Currituck lighthouse. "Residence" means a place of general abode; "Place of general abode" means a person's principal, actual dwelling place in fact, without regard to intent. A "dwelling" means a residential structure occupied on a year-round basis by the permit applicant and shall not include seasonal

or part-time dwelling units such as beach houses, vacation cabins, or structures which are intermittently occupied.

(2) As provided for in Pub. L. 98-146, "Up to 15 additional permits shall be granted to those persons meeting any one of the following conditions:"

(i) A resident as of July 1, 1982, who held a valid Service access permit for improved property owners at any time during the period from July 29, 1976, through December 31, 1979.

(ii) Anyone in continuous residency since 1976, in the area bounded on the north by the refuge boundary, and on the south by a straight line passing through a point in the east-west prolongation of the centerline of Albacore Street, Whaleshead Club Subdivision, Currituck County, North Carolina.

(iii) Any permanent, full time resident as of April 1, 1983, residing in the area outlined in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section and not otherwise eligible, who can substantiate to the Secretary of the Interior that access is essential to their maintaining a livelihood; so long as they maintain full-time continuous employment in the Norfolk, Virginia, area may qualify for access.

(3) The burden of proving that the prospective permittee meets these criteria shall be on the applicant by presentation of adequate documentation to the refuge manager. Permittees may be required to submit additional documentation of their eligibility to the refuge manager in order to maintain access. Permits will be issued only to those who legally qualify for them.

(4) Only one permit will be issued per family. All permits issued will be terminated in the event that alternate access becomes available during the permit period.

(5) Permits are issued for the purpose of providing ingress and egress across the refuge beach to the permittee's residence. Personal access is limited to permittees, their families, relatives, and guests while being transported in the permittee's vehicle. "Personal access" means private, non-commercial use. Permits are not transferable by sale or devise.

(6) All vehicle occupants must provide positive identification upon the request of any refuge official.

if unreasonable in the prevailing circumstances.

(5) No person shall operate a boat on refuge waters that has a marine head (toilet) unless it conforms to Environmental Protection Agency regulations regarding sewage discharge.

(6) Every sailboat when underway from sunset to sunrise shall carry and exhibit a bright white light visible all around the horizon for a distance of two miles.

(7) Leaving any boat unattended, outside of designated mooring or beaching areas, for a period in excess of 72 hours without written permission of the refuge manager is prohibited and any boat so left may be impounded by the refuge manager.

(8) Government-owned docks, piers, and floats are not to be used for loading and unloading of boats, except in emergencies or unless specifically authorized by the refuge manager.

§ 27.33 Water skiing.

When water skiing is permitted upon national wildlife refuge waters, the public will be notified under the provisions of this subchapter C and the following requirements and limitations will apply:

(a) Water skiing is permitted only during daylight hours and during periods posted or otherwise designated under the provisions of this subchapter C.

(b) When a skier is in "tow" there must be two persons in the boat at all times, with one person not operating the boat, acting as an observer of the skier in tow.

(c) The direction of a tow boat when circling will be counter clockwise.

(d) Skiers must wear U.S. Coast Guard approved ski belts, life jackets or buoyant vests.

(e) Water skiing is prohibited within 300 feet of harbors, swimming beaches, and mooring areas, and within 100 feet of any designated swimming area.

§ 27.34 Aircraft.

The unauthorized operation of aircraft, including sail planes, and hang gliders, at altitudes resulting in harassment of wildlife, or the unauthorized landing or take-off on a national wildlife refuge, except in an emer-

gency, is prohibited. National wildlife refuge boundaries are designated on update FAA aeronautical charts.

Subpart D—Disturbing Violations: With Weapons

§ 27.41 General provisions.

Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, or explosives on national wildlife refuges is prohibited unless specifically authorized under the provisions of this subchapter C.

§ 27.42 Firearms.

Only the following persons may possess, use, or transport firearms on national wildlife refuges in accordance with this section and applicable Federal and State law:

(a) Persons using firearms for public hunting under the provisions of 50 CFR part 32.

(b) Persons carrying unloaded firearms, that are dismantled or cased, in vehicles and boats over routes of travel designated under the provision of subchapter C.

(c) Persons authorized to use firearms for the taking of specimens of wildlife for scientific purposes.

(d) Persons authorized by special regulations or permits to possess or use firearms for the protection of property, for field trials, and other special purposes.

[46 FR 47230, Sept. 25, 1981]

§ 27.43 Weapons other than firearms.

The use or possession of cross bows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons on national wildlife refuges is prohibited except as may be authorized under the provision of this subchapter C.

[46 FR 47230, Sept. 25, 1981]

Subpart E—Disturbing Violations: Against Plants and Animals

§ 27.51 Disturbing, injuring, and damaging plants and animals.

(a) Disturbing, injuring, spearing, poisoning, destroying, collecting or attempting to disturb, injure, spear, poison, destroy or collect any plant or animal on any national wildlife refuge

PART 30—RANGE AND FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Subpart A—Range Animals

Sec.

- 30.1 Surplus range animals.
- 30.2 Disposition of surplus range animals.

Subpart B—Feral Animals

- 30.11 Control of feral animals.
- 30.12 Disposition of feral animals.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 16 U.S.C. 668dd, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 715i, as amended; 41 CFR 101-44.

Subpart A—Range Animals

§ 30.1 Surplus range animals.

Range animals on fenced wildlife refuge areas, including buffalo and long-horn cattle, determined to be surplus to the needs of the conservation program may be planned and scheduled for disposal.

[38 FR 16356, June 22, 1973]

§ 30.2 Disposition of surplus range animals.

Disposition shall be made only during regularly scheduled disposal program periods, except in the event of exigent circumstances affecting the animals, their range, or the recipient. The Refuge Manager is responsible for determining the existence of "exigent circumstances." Surplus range animals may be disposed of, subject to State and Federal health laws and regulations, by donation for specific purposes to public agencies, public institutions, other governments or charitable institutions, or sold on the open market.

[62 FR 19937, Apr. 24, 1997]

Subpart B—Feral Animals

§ 30.11 Control of feral animals.

(a) Feral animals, including horses, burros, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, reindeer, dogs, and cats, without ownership that have reverted to the wild from a domestic state may be taken by authorized Federal or State personnel or by private persons operating under permit in accordance with applicable provisions of Federal or State law or regulation.

(b) [Reserved]

[31 FR 16027, Dec. 15, 1966]

§ 30.12 Disposition of feral animals.

Feral animals taken on wildlife refuge areas may be disposed of by sale on the open market, gift or loan to public or private institutions for specific purposes, and as otherwise provided in section 401 of the act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 383, 16 U.S.C. 715s).

[38 FR 16356, June 22, 1973]

PART 31—WILDLIFE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Subpart A—Surplus Wildlife

Sec.

- 31.1 Determination of surplus wildlife populations.
- 31.2 Methods of surplus wildlife population control and disposal.

Subpart B—Terms and Conditions of Wildlife Reduction and Disposal

- 31.11 Donation and loan of wildlife specimens.
- 31.12 Sale of wildlife specimens.
- 31.13 Commercial harvest of fishery resources.
- 31.14 Official animal control operations.
- 31.15 Public hunting and fishing programs.
- 31.16 Trapping program.
- 31.17 Disposal of furs and pelts.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 2, 33 Stat. 614, as amended, sec. 5, 43 Stat. 651, secs. 5, 10, 45 Stat. 449, 1224, secs. 4, 2, 48 Stat. 402, as amended, 451, as amended, 1270, sec. 4, 76 Stat. 654; 5 U.S.C. 301, 16 U.S.C. 685, 725, 690d, 715i, 664, 718(b), 43 U.S.C. 315a, 16 U.S.C. 460k; sec. 2, 80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668bb.

SOURCE: 31 FR 16027, Dec. 15, 1966, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Surplus Wildlife

§ 31.1 Determination of surplus wildlife populations.

The populations and requirements of wildlife species on wildlife refuge areas shall be determined by population census, habitat evaluation, and other means of ecological study.

§ 31.2 Methods of surplus wildlife population control and disposal.

Upon a determination that wildlife are surplus to a balanced conservation

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program on any wildlife refuge area, the surplus may be reduced or utilized in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation by:

- (a) Donation or loan to public agencies and institutions.
- (b) Sale to public or private agencies and institutions.
- (c) Commercial harvest of fishery resources.
- (d) Official wildlife control operations.
- (e) Public hunting or fishing.
- (f) Trapping.

Subpart B—Terms and Conditions of Wildlife Reduction and Disposal

§ 31.11 Donation and loan of wildlife specimens.

Wildlife specimens may be donated or loaned to public institutions for specific purposes. Donation or loans of resident species of wildlife will not be made unless the recipient has secured the approval of the State.

[38 FR 16356, June 22, 1973]

§ 31.12 Sale of wildlife specimens.

Surplus wildlife specimens may be sold alive or butchered, dressed and processed subject to Federal and State laws and regulations and the provisions of this part.

§ 31.13 Do we allow commercial harvest of fishery resources?

Refuge managers may allow commercial harvest of fishery resources by issuance of a permit or by refuge-specific regulation in compliance with applicable State and Federal laws when compatible and in compliance with § 29.1 of this subchapter C.

[69 FR 54362, Sept. 8, 2004]

§ 31.14 Official animal control operations.

(a) Animal species which are surplus or detrimental to the management program of a wildlife refuge area may be taken in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations by Federal or State personnel or by permit issued to private individuals.

(b) Animal species which are damaging or destroying Federal property within a wildlife refuge area may be

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taken or destroyed by Federal personnel.

§ 31.15 Public hunting and fishing programs.

The privilege of hunting and fishing may be extended to the general public under the provisions of regulations cited in parts 32 and 33 of this subchapter.

§ 31.16 Trapping program.

Except as hereafter noted, persons trapping animals on wildlife refuge areas where trapping has been authorized shall secure and comply with the provisions of a Federal permit issued for that purpose. This permit shall specify the terms and conditions of trapping activity and the rates of charge or division of pelts, hides, and carcasses. Lands acquired as “waterfowl production areas” shall be open to public trapping without Federal permit provided that trapping on all or part of individual areas may be temporarily suspended by posting upon occasions of unusual or critical conditions affecting land, water, vegetation, or wildlife populations. Each person trapping on any wildlife refuge area shall possess the required State license or permit and shall comply with the provisions of State laws and regulations.

[36 FR 17998, Sept. 8, 1971]

§ 31.17 Disposal of furs and pelts.

The disposition of animals and the pelts or carcasses thereof accruing to the United States through the trapping programs shall be sold by public auction or on the open market unless required for official purposes.

PART 32—HUNTING AND FISHING

Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

- 32.1 Opening of wildlife refuge areas to hunting.
- 32.2 What are the requirements for hunting on areas of the National Wildlife Refuge System?
- 32.3 What are the procedures for publication of refuge-specific hunting regulations?
- 32.4 Opening of wildlife refuge areas to fishing.