
F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

Currently, Banks Lake NWR is an unfunded refuge. The staff at Okefenokee NWR manages Banks Lake NWR. All costs for the operation of Banks Lake NWR are derived from the Okefenokee NWR budget. However, as Georgia DNR is conducting all aspects of the hunt, there are minimal costs anticipated with this hunting opportunity.

IV. Conduct of the Hunting Program

A. Hunter Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures

Hunters will apply online at www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com. Hunters must be selected through the quota hunt application process. Only hunters selected for Zone 4 will be allowed to hunt at Banks Lake NWR. Application period is June 1–July 15. To be eligible for the drawing, alligator applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on July 15.

B. Refuge-Specific Hunting Regulations

Alligator hunting on the Refuge will be the first two weekends in accordance with the state season.

C. Relevant State Regulations

Anyone hunting or assisting an alligator permit holder must possess a valid Hunting License. Hunters age 15 and younger need not have a Hunting License. In order to hunt unsupervised, they must have a valid Hunter Education Certificate. An Alligator Harvest Permit must be in possession of a person in the hunting party.

One alligator limit. Legal alligators must be greater than or equal to 48 inches in length as measured from end of the snout to tip of the tail.

Hunters may use hand-held ropes or snares, snatch hooks, harpoons, gigs or arrows with a restraining line attached. Legal alligators must be dispatched immediately upon capture by using a handgun or bangstick, or by severing the spinal cord with a sharp implement.

Legal hours are from sunset Friday and end at sunrise on Monday.

Dispatched alligators must be tagged with a Georgia DNR supplied temporary harvest tag before transporting. Temporary tags shall be locked through the skin of the carcass. The temporary tag shall remain attached to the alligator hide until the carcass is validated by Georgia DNR Game Management Section personnel and a CITES tag is issued.

All alligator carcasses or hides must be validated by taking it to a Georgia DNR Game Management office during normal business hours (Monday–Friday; 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.) prior to October 15.

D. Other Refuge Rules and Regulations for Hunting