

	<p>decrease hunting opportunities on other lands near the Refuge. Because trends of the number of hunters participating in the sport is declining, we believe providing additional opportunities will potentially increase the numbers of hunters that utilize public land for hunting recreation. Private land hunting will not be impacted by the use of public land for hunting.</p>
<p><b>Resident Wildlife</b>  Refuges conduct hunting within the framework of State and Federal regulations. Population estimates of huntable species are developed by Georgia DNR. Hunting frameworks and take limits are set based upon these estimates. The Refuge hunting program rules will be the same as, or more restrictive than, State regulations. By maintaining hunting regulations that are the same as or more restrictive than the State, individual refuges ensure that they are maintaining seasons which are supportive of management on a more local basis. Such an approach also provides consistency with large-scale population status and objectives. The Refuge consistently coordinates with the State about the hunting program. Wildlife management of populations is important to ensure the health of the ecosystem and the Refuge's hunt program provides minor, additional beneficial impacts to the cumulative impacts of wildlife management in the State.</p>	<p>Alternative A: Hunting will not be implemented; therefore, no cumulative impacts are expected.</p> <p>Alternative B: The Refuge will continue to support substantial resident wildlife populations that will be at or above the habitat's carrying capacity under both Alternatives. So, even at the local level, the refuge only adds slightly to cumulative impacts on the resident wildlife, and a negligible amount to regional and statewide populations.</p>