

# Accessible Hunting and Fishing in Croatan National Forest



Hunting and fishing – traditional, time-honored sports – are popular in the Croatan National Forest. Outside of developed recreation areas, fishing and hunting are permitted throughout the forest. While the U.S. Forest Service manages the habitat in the national forest, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) regulates both hunting and fishing. State licenses are required.

The commission annually issues a publication listing regulations and license information. The Regulations Digest is available by calling 888-248-6834 and online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org), select “Licensing.”



Many game animals, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear and gray squirrel, thrive in the forest. The Forest Service provides a variety of hunting opportunities, including accessible hunting in the below locations. Contact the ranger district office (ph: (252) 638-5628; email: [croatan@fs.fed.us](mailto:croatan@fs.fed.us)) for more information about these areas.

- Ives Field (off Forest Service Road 182): Expanded parking with designated accessible spots available; wheelchair access around gate.
- Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment: Two accessible blinds available on a first-come, first-served basis. Leftover permits, if available, can be purchased through the WRC Special Permit Hunts at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

Follow these safety tips when hunting in the national forests:

- Check weather reports before visiting the forest.
- Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- During certain seasons, hunters must wear hunter (blaze) orange viewable from all directions. Avoid wearing white or tan during deer season.
- Check hunting equipment before and after each outing, and maintain it properly. Familiarize yourself with its operation before using it in the field.
- Clearly identify your target before shooting. Prevent unfortunate accidents or fatalities.
- Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails. Hunting is prohibited 150 yards from a recreation area, campground, dwelling or residence.



The Croatan National Forest offers two accessible fishing sites:

- Brice Creek pier and accessible launch
- White Oak River pier and accessible launch at Haywood Landing.

Catfish, bluegills, redbreast sunfish, largemouth bass, black crappie and yellow perch are among the fish found at these locations.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

