

Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2020-2021

Welcome

Bogue Chitto Wildlife Refuge was established in 1981 by President Jimmy Carter. It is located north of Slidell, Louisiana in the Parishes of Washington and St. Tammany, and stretches through Pearl River County, MS. The refuge is accessible primarily by watercraft and encompasses more than 36,000 acres of the Pearl River Basin. Bogue Chitto is named for the Choctaw Indian "Big Stream."

Bogue Chitto NWR is primarily composed of bottomland hardwood habitat interlaced by the Bogue Chitto and Pearl River Systems. Numerous sloughs, bayous and lakes are located on the refuge. Water levels fluctuate by several feet from their low point in the summer to winter/spring flood stage. Over 90% of the refuge can be flooded during seasonal high river periods. The mixed hardwood forest includes water oak, overcup oak, American elm, sweetgum, and swamp red maple on higher elevations and bald cypress, tupelo gum, and swamp blackgum along the wettest areas. Mid-story in mixed hardwoods includes ironwood, arrowwood, Virginia willow and reproduction of the overstory. Typical mid-story plants along the sloughs and bayous are buttonbush, swamp privet, and water elm.

Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge
61389 Highway 434, Lacombe, LA 70445
985-882-2000
boguechitto@fws.gov
https://fws.gov/refuge/bogue_chitto/
For State relay service TTY/ Voice: 711

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. <http://www.fws.gov/>

1-800-344-WILD

General Information

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Vehicles

Motorized vehicles are only permitted on public roads and designated parking areas.

Boats

The Refuge allows canoes, pirogues, kayaks, and water-cooled inboard/outboard motors are permitted.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife

resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations." All hunters must possess a Refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all 2020 - 2021 Refuge hunts.

Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable States of Louisiana and Mississippi regulations, subject to the conditions stated below.

All plants and wildlife are protected unless a specific Refuge hunting season allows take of wildlife under this permit. Individuals utilizing this Refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by wildlife officers.

An adult age 21 or older must supervise youth hunters during all hunts. State regulations define youth hunter age and hunter-education requirements. One adult may supervise two youths during small game hunts and migratory bird hunts, but is only allowed to supervise one youth during big game hunts. Youths must remain within normal voice contact of the adult who is supervising them. Adult guardians are responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

All hunters, except waterfowl hunters and nighttime raccoon and opossum hunters, must abide by State WMA hunter-orange (or blaze pink in Louisiana) regulations during any open deer firearm or primitive firearm season and special dog season for rabbit and squirrel.

All other hunters and archers (while on the ground), except waterfowl hunters, also must wear a minimum of a hunter-orange (or blaze pink in Louisiana) hat or cap during special dog seasons for rabbit, squirrel and hog.

Deer hunter hunting from a concealed blinds must display State WMA hunter-orange (or blaze pink in Louisiana) required regulations above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

Recreational fishing is permitted year-round in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions. All Federal and State regulations governing boating, creel limits, and license requirements must be followed by Refuge anglers.

Limb lines are permitted, but must be 100% cotton. Trotlines are permitted, but the last five feet of trotlines must be attached by a cotton line which extends into the water and be tended every 24 hours. All non-attended fishing gear on or attached to the Refuge must be tagged with the owner's State license/sportsman's identification number.

The fishing pond at the Pearl River Turnaround is open except, closed from April through the first full week of June. Non-gas powered boats may be hand launched when open. The use of this fishing pond area is permitted from 1/2 hour before legal sunrise to 1/2 hour after legal sunset. When open, we only allow hook and line as a legal method of take in the fishing ponds at the Pearl River Turnaround.

Access

WHEN: All Refuge lands are open from ½ hour before legal sunrise to ½ hour after legal sunset, with the exception of legal nighttime hunting activities.

WHERE: Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below when on the refuge. Refuge areas closed to public hunting are marked with "No Hunting Zone" signs and/or shown on the map attached to this brochure.

The Refuge will be closed to all hunting, except waterfowl, and camping when the Pearl River reaches 15.5 feet on the gauge at Pearl River. Call the National Weather Service at 985/649 0357 for current reading.

In the event the Refuge is closed during the deer gun hunts due to high water, alternative hunt days may be provided. Details will be provided in a news release and on the Refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/Bogue_Chitto/. (Proposed dates are from December 28, 2020 - January 19, 2021; but only as many days as lost from the high water closure.)

Camping

Primitive camping is permitted within 100 feet of designated streams. This includes either bank of the Bogue Chitto River, Wilson Slough, West Pearl River south of Wilson Slough, and Refuge lands along the East Pearl River and Holmes Bayou.

No campsite can be left unattended longer than 24 hours. Campsites cannot be established longer than 14 consecutive days. Campers must mark their campsite with the owner's State license/sportsman's identification number, and dates of occupancy in a conspicuous location at the front of the tents.

Tree Stands

It is illegal to construct or to hunt from any permanent stands or blinds. All stands on the Refuge must be identified with owner's state license/sportsman's identification number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the area do not reserve the hunting locations. Temporary stands may be placed 48 hours prior to hunt and must be removed within 48 hours after the season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the Refuge. We allow only one deer stand per hunter on the refuge.

Prohibited Activities

Possession of buckshot, lead shot, slugs, rifles or rifle ammunition larger than .17 or .22 cal while hunting, except during deer gun and primitive firearm seasons.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

All commercial hunting, fishing, and shell fishing activities including guiding, outfitting, lodging and club membership or participating in a paid guided hunt or fish trip.

Hunting from a permanent tree stand, or from a tree in which a metal object (such as nails, spikes, screws) has been driven that penetrates the outer bark of the tree.

Hunting in Refuge designated closed areas.

The possession of toxic shot while hunting is prohibited, except during the deer gun hunts.

Target shooting on the Refuge.

Houseboats within Refuge boundaries except for navigational purposes.

The possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally-occurring food attractant.

Cutting, removing or damaging live trees.

The use or possession of any type of trail marker except reflective tacks.

Horses and All-terrain vehicles (ATVs & UTVs).

Remote cameras, including trail cameras (electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices)

The use of deer decoys.

Hunting or discharge of firearm within 150 feet of any residence or structure adjacent to the refuge, from the centerline of any road, railroad, designated public use maintained trails, designated parking area, other designated public use facilities or above ground oil, gas or electric infrastructure.

Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

Organized deer drives.

Searching for or removal of any historic and archaeological features.

Field dressing game (hogs included) within 300 feet of any road, trail or parking lot.

All Traffic prohibite

Environmental Education Zone: All hunting prohibited

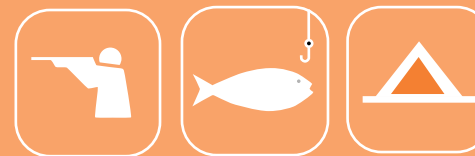
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National Wildlife Refuge
61389 Highway 434
Lacombe, LA 70445
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www.fws.gov/southeastlouisiana

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

July 2020



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Bogue Chitto Refuge Hunting Permit 2020-2021

When signed and in your possession, this serves as your permit to hunt on the Refuge. It acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature (permits are not transferable).
Expires August 31, 2021

Signature (permits are not transferable)

