

General Introduction

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1986, is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the Refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and preserve the remaining tracts of bottomland hardwoods in the Cache River Basin. The Refuge is comprised of numerous tracts of land along the Cache and White Rivers and Bayou DeView in the Arkansas counties of Jackson, Woodruff, Prairie, and Monroe.

Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation are priority public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These wildlife-dependent uses are carefully managed on Cache River National Wildlife Refuge to ensure they are compatible with refuge purposes and provide safe, high-quality, low-impact, recreational opportunities.

Users of the Refuge must obey all signs pertaining to visitation, access, and public use regulations. All public uses, including hunting and fishing, are conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge is in the acquisition phase and the attached map shows the current ownership at the time of printing this brochure. Isolated land tracts that have been purchased are scattered throughout the acquisition zone and have been posted with refuge boundary signs and marked with yellow boundary paint. Access to many of these refuge lands is currently through private lands and all refuge visitors must obtain permission from adjacent landowners prior to crossing private land to reach refuge lands.

*The Refuge is closed to ALL other entry and public use November 12-20, 2016 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting.

Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the refuge map, are closed to ALL public entry and use, including hunting and fishing, from November 15 through February 28.

Most refuge roads are open to the general public. However, roads may be closed at any time road conditions or other administrative needs warrant. A locked gate or other barrier, road closed sign, or no vehicle sign means the road is closed to ALL vehicle travel, but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

All conventional vehicles must stay on maintained roads or established parking areas and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a licensed motor vehicle. Vehicles equipped with oversize tractor lug type tires are prohibited.

Motor vehicle (including ATVs, UTVs, etc) speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.

Recreational use of ATVs is not allowed. ATVs may ONLY be used September 1 to February 28 and ONLY to provide access for hunting. ATVs may ONLY be used on roads, trails, or established parking areas designated (marked) for ATV use. An ATV is defined as a vehicle with a maximum tire pressure of 15 psi, maximum dry weight of 1550 lbs., and with tires having a maximum centerline lug depth of one inch. Only those vehicles originally designed by their manufacturer to be ATVs are allowed; mini-trucks or other modified off-road vehicles are prohibited.

ATVs and motor vehicles may not be left unattended overnight on the refuge.

Horses/mules, personal watercraft (e.g., jet-ski, etc), hover craft, and airboats are prohibited.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the Refuge is permitted throughout the year. Permitted activities are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

Nighttime use of the Refuge is limited to fishing, frogging, and/or raccoon/ opossum hunting and the appropriate tackle/ gear must be possessed.

Commercial Activities

Commercial guiding for waterfowl hunting or any other hunting activity is prohibited. For the purpose of this regulation, any fee paid or services rendered to a person for lodging, meals, club membership or similar services will be considered compensation.

Anyone planning to pursue any other commercial activity (e.g., fishing, filming, photography, collecting acorns, etc.) on refuge land, lakes, streams or waters, or on adjacent waters where riparian rights may be vested with the Refuge is required to first obtain a refuge Special Use Permit.

Prohibited activities include:

- Open alcohol containers on refuge roads, ATV trails, parking areas, boat ramps, fishing piers, or observation decks.
- Commercial guiding/hunting.

- Camping, including mooring houseboats to refuge property.
- Littering (including, but not limited to, shotgun shell hulls and cigarette butts).
- Building fires.
- Cutting or defacing trees, shrubs, or other plants.
- Searching for or removal of artifacts.
- Use of horses or mules.
- Possession or use of fireworks.
- Taking or possessing turtles or mollusks.
- Possession, use, or manufacturing of illegal drugs.
- Use of artificial light to locate wildlife, except as authorized for frogging and raccoon/ opossum hunting.
- Use of firearms, and possession or use of archery equipment and crossbows, except during refuge hunts that allow their use.
- Loaded hunting firearms or muzzleloaders in or on a vehicle, ATV, or boat under power. "Loaded" is defined as having shells in the firearm or ignition device on the muzzleloader.
- Target practice or non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Possession or use of non-biodegradable materials to mark trails.
- Failure to remove all marking materials from the Refuge following the hunt.
- Use of audio devices, electronic callers, recordings or similar artificial devices for simulating the call of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker or any other bird (except for goose hunting under State Conservation Order).
- Use of Drones.

Sport Fishing and Frogging Regulations

Sport fishing and frogging are permitted year-round in accordance with state regulations. Crawfish may be collected for personal use only. The owner's name, address, and phone number must be permanently affixed to each trap.

Boats with the owner's name and address permanently displayed or valid registration may be left on the Refuge from March 1 through October 31.

Commercial fishing requires a refuge Special Use Permit.

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
26320 Highway 33 South
Augusta, AR 72006
870/347 2614

<http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver>
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast>

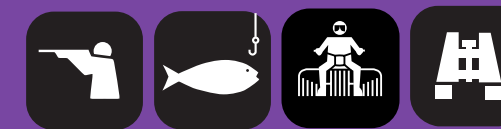
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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June 2016



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations 2016-2017



2016-2017 General Hunting Permit – Cache River NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. Permit expires 06/30/2017. It must be carried by the hunter at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting gear.

NOTE: Quota Permit is also required for Quota Gun Deer Hunt. **I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and agree to obey them and agree to allow USFWS and AGFC Officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.**

Signature (Permit not transferable)

General Hunting Regulations

A Refuge permit is required for all hunting activities. Permits are non-transferable and must be signed by the hunter and carried at all times while on the refuge in possession of hunting gear. A permit is located on the front of this brochure or can be downloaded and printed from the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver>. An additional permit is required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

Hunter Orange or Chartreuse must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations during Quota Gun and Muzzleloader Deer hunts.

Portable, pop-up blinds must have 144 square inches of blaze orange or chartreuse visible from all sides of the blind during firearms big-game seasons on the Refuge.

Dog training allowed Sep. 1- Apr. 1.

Bag limits for all species except deer are the same as state limits unless specified otherwise.

Stop Poaching Hotline 1 800/482 9262

Mobility-impaired Hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a refuge Special Use Permit allowing the specialized use of ATVs. For more information, please call the refuge office at 870/347 2614.

Prohibited hunting activities include:

- Commercial guiding/hunting.
- Driving or screwing any metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter.
- Building or hunting from permanent blinds or stands.
- Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand.
- Possession or distribution of bait or hunting over bait, salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for wildlife.
- Hunting from mowed or maintained roads (except for waterfowl hunting while roads are flooded).
- Possession or use of lead shot or buckshot while hunting.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Hunting, taking, possessing, or attempting to take wildlife using a guide, guide service, outfitter, club, or organization providing assistance, service, or equipment.

Hunters Under the Age of 16

Any hunter born after 1968 must carry a valid hunter education card. Hunters less than 16 years old who have a valid hunter education card must be supervised by an adult of at least 21 years of age and remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult. Hunters less than 16 years old do not need to have a card if they are under the direct supervision (within arm's reach) of a holder of a valid hunting license of at least 21 years of age. An adult may supervise up to two youths for migratory bird and small game hunting, but only one youth for big game hunting. Home state hunter education cards will be honored.

Specific Hunting Regulations

Refuge hunting regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

* NOTE: The Refuge is CLOSED to all entry and public use during Quota Gun Deer Hunt Nov. 12 – 20, 2016. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting.

Migratory Birds

Only non-toxic shot may be possessed or used for all migratory bird hunting.

Waterfowl (Duck, Coot and Geese): State Seasons (except closed Nov. 12-20, 2016) during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt)*

Morning (until 12 noon) hunting only throughout the entire season.

NOTE: All-day hunting permitted for geese (all applicable species) during the State Conservation Order

State bag limit(s) apply.

Hunters must pick up and remove shell casings and boxes from the refuge.

Decoys, blinds, boats, and all other equipment must be removed daily by 1 pm.

It is unlawful to possess, or take or attempt to take waterfowl with the use of, any simulated wing movement decoy or any decoy other than an artificial decoy that imitates the appearance of waterfowl: no moving parts or electrical components; and is not subjected to any artificial means that makes it appear to move, splash or cause ripples from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season through the last day of the last segment of regular duck season. Exception: Manually operated “jerk strings” may be used to simulate decoy movement.

Boats are prohibited on the Refuge from 12 am - 4 am.

Waterfowl hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4 am.

Cutting or creating holes or other manipulation of vegetation (e.g., cutting bushes, mowing, weed-eating, etc.) or hunting from manipulated areas is prohibited.

Dogs are permitted.

Waterfowl (Special Youth Quota Permit Hunt): Bayou DeView and Roundpond Units. Available only to youth under 16. Applications will be received Nov. 1-30, 2016. For more information, call the refuge office or visit our website for complete details: www.fws.gov/cacheriver/youthwaterfowl

Dove and Snipe: State seasons* except ends at noon each day during regular waterfowl season. Dogs permitted.

Woodcock: State seasons.* Dogs are permitted.

Small Game

Only rifles chambered for rimfire cartridges or shotguns with non-toxic shot may be used for all small game hunting.

Squirrel: Sep. 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017.* Dogs are permitted. Note: No road hunting allowed.

Rabbit: Sep. 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017.* Dogs are permitted.

Quail: Nov. 1, 2016 -Feb. 7, 2017.* Dogs are permitted.

Furbearer: Beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo and coyote may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt by the use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state regulations.

Feral Hog: In cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Feral Hog Control Program, feral hogs may not be taken on the refuge during any hunts. Feral hogs are destructive and non-native animals that are incompatible with refuge management. Live hogs may not be possessed, transported, or released on the refuge.

Raccoon: Sep. 1, 2016 – Mar. 31, 2017.* Dogs are required for hunting raccoons at night.

Opossum: Sep. 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017.* Dogs are required for hunting opossum at night.

Trapping

Dec. 1, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017. REFUGE SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUIRED. Trapping permitted according to State regulations. Waterfowl sanctuaries are closed

to all public entry and use Nov. 15 – Feb. 28. Contact refuge office at 870/347 2614 for additional details and requirements.

Big Game

For all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge, Zone 095 must be immediately recorded on your hunting license. In addition, all deer harvested on the refuge must be checked according to state regulations.

Only portable stands capable of being carried by one person in its entirety may be used and the owner's name, address, and phone number must be permanently affixed to the stand. Stands may be erected 7 days prior to the refuge deer season and must be removed from the waterfowl sanctuary prior to Nov. 15 and from the rest of the Refuge within 7 days of the closing of archery season.

We prohibit leaving any tree stand, ground blind, or game camera on the refuge without the owner's name, address, and phone number clearly written in a conspicuous location.

The use of dogs for deer hunting is prohibited.

Deer Limits and Refuge Legal Buck Definition

A legal buck on the Refuge is defined as any male deer (no antler restriction). Deer harvested on the Refuge are NOT bonus deer.

Four deer, no more than two bucks, which may include:

Deer (Archery/Crossbow): Sep. 24, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017.* Either sex. State limit applies.

Deer (Muzzleloading): Oct. 15-19, 2016 and Dec. 29 - 31, 2016. Either sex. One deer limit refuge wide, each hunt.

Deer (Youth Gun): Nov. 5-6, 2016. One buck and one doe, or two does.

Deer (Quota Gun): Quota hunt permit required. Nov. 12-20, 2016.* One buck and one doe, or two does.

NOTE: Only shotguns with slugs, legal pistols, and muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile may be used on the Dixie and Plunkett Farm Units during the youth and quota gun deer hunts.

NOTE: Holders of refuge Quota Gun Deer Hunt permits are NOT entitled to camp on State WMAs during the refuge Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

To apply for a Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit:

Hunt permits are \$12.50 and must be purchased from the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/cacheriver.

Quota permits issued first come, first served until the quota is reached, or until October 31, 2016. Permit requests will NOT be accepted in person.

NOTE: Permits are non-transferable and nonrefundable, even in the event of refuge deer hunt closures due to flooding.

Refuge lands located in Flood Prone Region B will close to all deer hunting when the White River gauge at Augusta reaches 31 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/LZK/RVSLZK>. This restriction is lifted when the gauge at Augusta falls below 30 feet and the White River gauge at Georgetown falls to or below 19 feet.

Refuge lands located in Flood Prone Region C will close to all deer hunting when the Cache River gauge at Patterson exceeds 10 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/LZK/RVSLZK> and will reopen when the same gauge reading falls below 8.5 feet.

Refuge lands located in Flood Prone Region D will close to all deer and turkey hunting when the White River gauge at Clarendon reaches 28 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/LZK/RVSLZK> and will reopen when the same gauge reading falls to or below 27 feet.

Turkey-Fall 2016 Gun: Closed.

Turkey-Fall 2016 Archery/Crossbow: Closed.

Turkey-Spring 2017 Gun: State season on all refuge lands located south of Interstate 40. Remainder of the refuge is closed with the exception of those refuge lands included in the combined Black Swamp WMA/Cache River NWR hunts administered by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.