Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 National Wildlife Refuges. The refuge was established to provide essential habitat for migratory birds in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Refuge System and is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the Nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern public use on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. When permitted, hunting, fishing and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable State laws unless otherwise listed.

General Provisions and Access Regulations

Access
By law, National Wildlife Refuges are closed to all recreational activities unless expressly permitted. Hunting, fishing, and certain other recreational uses are permitted on most areas of the refuge. The refuge is a Day Use Area Only. The refuge is closed from legal sunset to legal sunrise with the exception of legal hunting activities.

We allow hunters to access the refuge no more than two hours before legal sunrise to no more than two hours after legal sunset, with the exception of raccoon and opossum hunters. We allow access to raccoon and opossum hunters from legal sunset to legal sunrise. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities.

Drones
Drones are prohibited.

Vehicles
Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on maintained refuge roads and parking areas. ATV's, UTV's, and off-road motorized vehicles are prohibited. Airboats, Jet Skies, and Hovercraft are prohibited.

Parking as to block travel through refuge access roads, gates and trails is prohibited.

Mobility Impaired Access
Most refuges are universally accessible to the disabled. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in refuge hunts and other activities. Contact the Refuge Manager for guidelines and regulations.

Roads
Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on established roads as indicated on the map on this leaflet. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Avoid driving on refuge roads during wet conditions as damage to the roads will result.

Closed Areas
Designated areas are closed to hunting, fishing, and all public access during fall and winter months to provide resource protection (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons. All refuge access is prohibited from legal sunset to sunrise unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

Camping and Fires
Camping and fires are prohibited on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area. All litter must be removed from the refuge.

Boats
Boats used for any activity must be removed from Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area daily. All State boating regulations apply. Boats with gasoline or diesel powered engines are prohibited on Teal and Shoaf ponds.

Firearms
Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges 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).

Carrying, possessing, or discharging of fireworks, or explosives on National Wildlife Refuges is prohibited. The use or possession of air guns, spears, or similar weapons on National Wildlife Refuges is prohibited.

Dogs
Dogs are permitted for small game and migratory bird hunting. All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owners name, address, and telephone number.

Refuge/Cultural Resources
All government property including natural, historic, and archaeological features are protected by Federal Law. Searching for or removal of objects of antiquity or other value is strictly prohibited.

Monitoring Devices
The use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake PUNA is prohibited.

Alcohol
The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while on refuge lands and waters.

Bait
The use or possession of bait, or hunting over bait is strictly prohibited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, or scattering of any salt, grain, powder, liquid, or other feed substance to attract game.

Tree Stands and Tree Steps
All tree stands must be removed from the refuge daily. The use of screw in tree steps, nails, wire, screws, or bolts to climb a tree or to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.

Tree Marking
It is prohibited to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint or similar substance. All flagging tape and other marking materials must be removed at the end of the hunt day.

Brush and Tree Removal/Clearing
The cutting of holes, lanes, or any other manipulation of the vegetation (e.g. cutting of bushes and trees, mowing, herbicide use, and other actions) is strictly prohibited. The possession of saws, machetes, axes or other tools for cutting vegetation is prohibited.

Youth Supervision
Youth hunters 6-16 years of age may participate. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. No more than two youth hunters per adult. No more than one youth hunter per adult during big game hunting activities.

Nontoxic Shot
All hunters using shotguns for hunting on Lower Hatchie NWR and the Northern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area must use and possess ammunition containing approved nontoxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Hunter Education
Hunters born after 01/01/69, must possess proof that they have successfully completed a hunter education course. All hunters are encouraged to complete a hunters safety course.

Sunk Lake Natural Area
Sunk Lake Natural Area is administered by Lower Hatchie NWR as a separate unit, encompassing approximately 1,900 acres. The area is located 10 miles northeast of the Lower Hatchie NWR sub-headquarters. All National Wildlife Refuge System regulations apply.

Southern Unit
The Southern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area is closed to all public access November 15 through March 15. Fishing is permitted on the area March 16 through November 14. The use of gasoline powered motors is prohibited. Only electric motors or manually operated boats are permitted. Hunting is prohibited on the Southern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area.

Northern Unit
The Northern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area will be open to Small Game and Archery Deer Hunting Seasons. The seasons and bag limits for small game are the same as listed in this brochure for Lower Hatchie NWR. Archery deer season dates, September 23 - November 14, 2017. No hunter quota and bag limits are the same as statewide. All harvested deer count in statewide bag limit.

Specific Hunting Regulations

All hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge permit (Public Use Regulations brochure). Big game harvested on the refuge must be checked in according to TWRA regulations. Lower Hatchie NWR must be specified as the location of harvest and all deer taken on the refuge must be counted toward the statewide bag limit.

Deer gun hunters may possess lead rifled slugs while hunting on the refuge.

Horses, mules, and burros are permitted only on refuge roads open to motorized traffic. We prohibit the use of horses and other animal conveyances from all other areas including fields, woods, waters, foot trails, and service roads/trails.

All hunting (except waterfowl hunting) may be cancelled when the Mississippi River stage reaches 28 feet (Flood Stage) on the Oceola Gauge.

Waterfowl
Ducks, Geese, Coots, and Mergansers may be hunted on Lower Hatchie NWR. State seasons and bag limits apply except legal shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 12 noon C.S.T. Hunters may access the refuge no more than two hours before legal sunrise. Only portable blinds may be used. All blinds, boats and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1 pm C.S.T. daily. Youth hunting season same as statewide. Federal regulations allow only youth waterfowl hunters from 6-15 years of age to participate. Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake will be open to quota hunting only. See Quota Hunt Application Procedures for instructions.

To: _____

Lower Hatchie
National Wildlife Refuge
234 Fort Prudhomme Drive
Henning, TN 38041
731/738 2296
http://www.fws.gov
http://lowerhatchie.fws.gov

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

May 2017

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lower Hatchie
National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations 2017-2018

Lower Hatchie NWR
General Hunting Permit 2017-2018
Hunters must have a signed permit in their possession while participating in authorized refuge hunts. Quota hunt permits are issued separately. Applicable licenses and stamps are required.

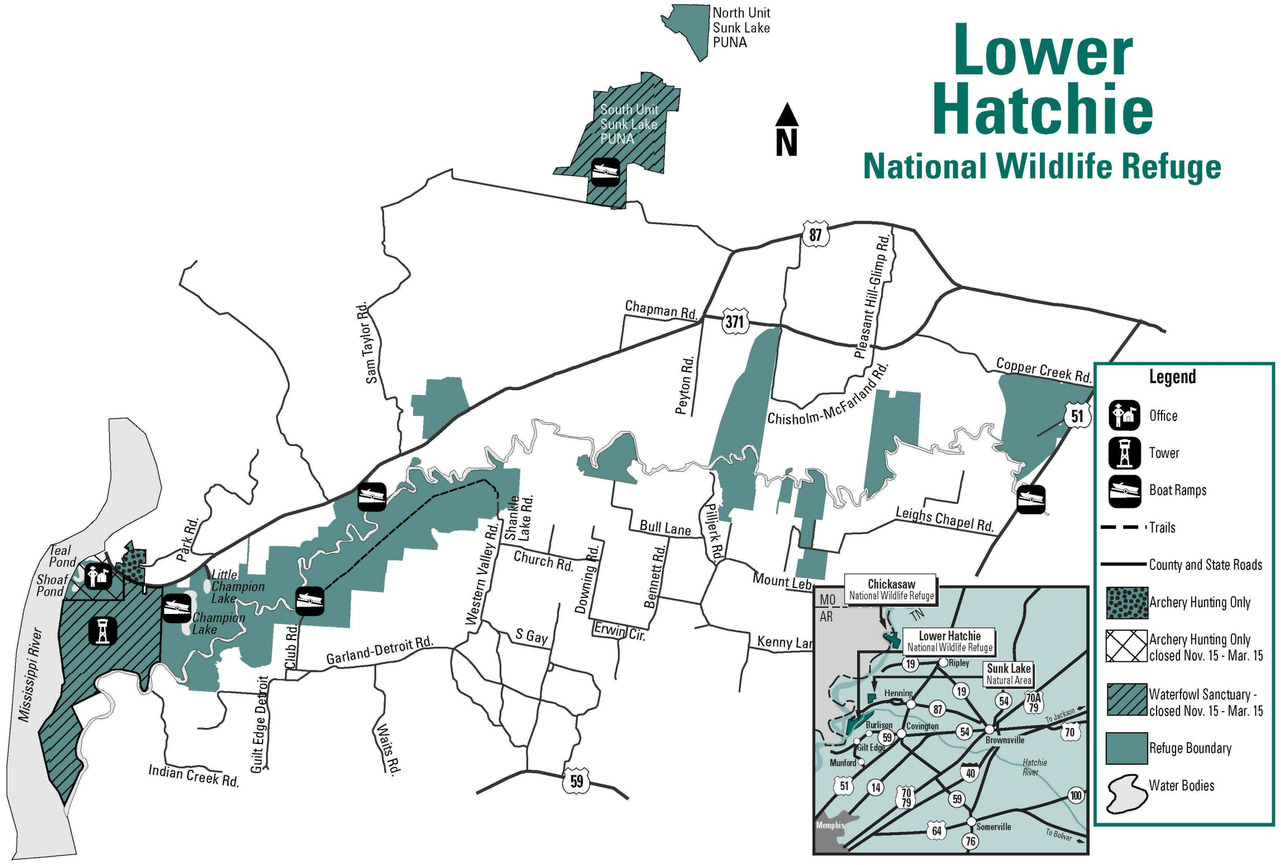
I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

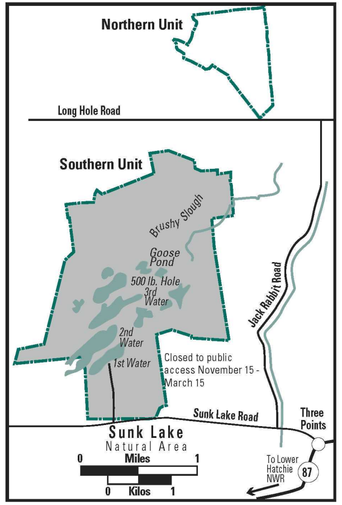
_____
Hunter Signature (valid only when signed)

It is the hunter's responsibility to comply with all Regulations contained in this brochure, the 50 CFR Regulations, and State Regulations.

Lower Hatchie

National Wildlife Refuge





Other Migratory Birds
Mourning Dove, Woodcock, and Snipe. State seasons and bag limits apply except closed during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts. Hunters must only use and possess approved nontoxic shot.

Small Game
Squirrel, rabbit, quail, raccoon, and opossum. State season and bag limits apply except squirrel, rabbit, and quail are closed during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts and Spring squirrel season is closed. Raccoon and opossum are open statewide except closed on Friday and Saturday nights during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts. Only approved nontoxic shot is allowed when using a shotgun.

Coyotes and beavers may be taken incidentally during scheduled hunts on the refuge. Legal methods of take include legal hunting equipment utilized during specified hunting seasons listed in this brochure. No bag limit.

Trapping on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area is prohibited.

Big Game
Deer - Archery, Youth Gun, Muzzleloader, and Gun
Deer Seasons are same as State Season.
No Hunter Quota. State bag limits apply.
Harvested deer count in Statewide Bag Limit.

Quota Turkey
First Hunt (Youth Hunt): March 24-25, 2018-One bearded turkey. Counts as a bonus turkey.

Second Hunt: April 5-8, 2018-One bearded turkey. Counts as a bonus turkey.

Third Hunt: April 12-15, 2018-One bearded turkey. Counts as a bonus turkey.

Fourth Hunt: April 19-22, 2018-One bearded turkey. Counts as a bonus turkey.

Turkey Hunts - Quota Permit
A Quota Permit is required to hunt turkeys on the refuge. See Quota Hunt Application Procedures. Permits will be limited to 25 per turkey hunt. Successful applicants are eligible for only one hunt. Adult supervisors for the youth hunt are eligible for other turkey hunts. Signed refuge permits and applicable State licenses are required. Hunters must check turkey in accordance to TWRA regulations and record Lower Hatchie NWR as the location of harvest. Hunters must only use and possess approved nontoxic shot.

Waterfowl Hunts - Quota Permits
A Quota Permit is required to hunt waterfowl on Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake during the waterfowl season on the refuge. See Quota Hunt Application Procedures. Permits will be limited to 8 per weekend on Champion Lake and 4 per weekend on Little Champion Lake. Successful applicants are eligible for only one hunt per lake. Signed refuge permits, a signed and affixed Federal Duck Stamp, and applicable State licenses are required.

Quota Hunt Application Procedures
To apply for a quota hunt permit, type or plainly print your name, address, and phone number w/ area code on the front of a U.S. Postal Service Postcard. Unofficial postcards will be discarded prior to drawing. Send postcard in an envelope addressed to the Refuge Manager at Lower Hatchie NWR, 4343 Highway 157, Union City, TN 38261. Postcards for the waterfowl hunts on Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake must be postmarked during October. Postcards for turkey hunts must be postmarked during January.

A total of up to 4 hunters may apply on the same postcard. One hunter's information on the front of the postcard and up to 3 additional hunters information on the back.

Turkey Hunts - Indicate hunt preference (1st [Youth Hunt], 2nd, 3rd, or 4th) on the Turkey application. Submission of more than one postcard, except for the adult supervisor for the youth hunt, will result in disqualification of the applicant(s).

Waterfowl Hunts - Indicate one weekend preference and lake preference during the waterfowl season, by date, for the Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake waterfowl hunts. Submission of more than one postcard per lake will result in disqualification of the applicant(s).

Youth Waterfowl Hunts will be drawn separately. On a postcard include Youth Hunt and Lake Preference. See Youth Supervision Section for supervisory requirements.

Only persons drawn for the hunt are allowed to participate in the hunt (No hunt guests are permitted).

Youth Hunters
Both the youth hunter and the supervising adult must apply together on the same postcard to be selected for a quota hunt. See Youth supervision section regarding supervision requirements.

Fees
Applicants selected by drawing will be notified by mail to submit $15.00 per person (cashiers check or money order only payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to receive a quota permit. Fees are not refundable and permits are not transferrable. Of funds collected, 80% are applied to defraying the administrative cost of the hunt while the remainder is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

Specific Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset (Central Time) on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Champion Lake is closed to fishing during the Youth and regular waterfowl season.

Fishing is allowed with pole and line or rod and reel only. Bow and arrows or a gig may be used to take non-game fish on refuge waters.

Possession of unauthorized fishing gear, including trotlines, limblines, juglines, yo-yo's, nets, spears, and snag hooks is prohibited on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area.

Frogging and turtling are prohibited.

Persons must comply with all applicable State fishing and boating regulations while on the refuge. A valid Tennessee Fishing License is required.