

Optima

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations



Welcome

Located in the middle of the Oklahoma panhandle, the 4,333-acre Optima National Wildlife Refuge is made up of grasslands and wooded bottomland on the Coldwater Creek arm of the Army Corps of Engineers Optima Reservoir Project. These lands are managed for the benefit of wildlife and provide wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife watching, photography, and public hunting.

Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Hunting is walk-in access only.

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

All vehicles must remain in designated parking areas. There are no public roads on the refuge. Blocking gates or roadways is prohibited. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited. ATVs or mechanized carts may not be used to remove harvested game animals.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is 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.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Oklahoma regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

WHEN: There are no restrictions on when visitors may access the refuge. Access to the refuge is walk-in only.

WHERE: Hunters must park at refuge parking areas. Hunters may access hunt areas only from designated parking areas. Please see map for parking area locations.

Tree Stands

Deer stands must be in accordance with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regulations. Nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree are prohibited. Deer stands may be placed 30 days before season begins and must be removed 30 days after season ends.

Harvest Reporting

Requirements in accordance with State of Oklahoma Hunting Regulations.

Boating, Fishing, Horses

See prohibited activities.

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Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
White-tailed Deer	State seasons apply.	State regulations apply.	All refuge lands.	Deer hunting is archery only and closed during the first nine days of deer gun season. Deer stands must be in accordance with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regulations. Deer stands may be placed 30 days before season begins and must be removed 30 days after season ends.
Turkey	Turkey hunting is available through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) Controlled Hunts Program. The number of hunters and bag limits are determined by the refuge annually based on current biological data. More information on controlled hunts is available at www.wildlifedepartment.com .	One tom turkey.	Designated refuge lands determined prior to each hunt.	State permit is required.
Quail	State seasons apply.	State regulations apply.	All refuge lands.	Quail hunting is restricted to archery and shotgun only.
Pheasant	State seasons apply.	State regulations apply.	All refuge lands.	Pheasant hunting is restricted to archery and shotgun only.
Dove	State seasons apply.	State regulations apply.	All refuge lands.	Dove hunting is restricted to archery and shotgun only.
Rabbit	State seasons apply.	State regulations apply.	All refuge lands.	Rabbit hunting is allowed with closures for the first nine days of deer gun season. All rabbit hunting is shotgun and archery only.

State hunting and fishing regulations, seasons, shooting hours, bag limits, and license requirements apply to all hunting on the Refuge.

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- No vehicles: All Traffic prohibited
- Parking area: Designated areas to park while hunting

Applies to the area located behind the sign

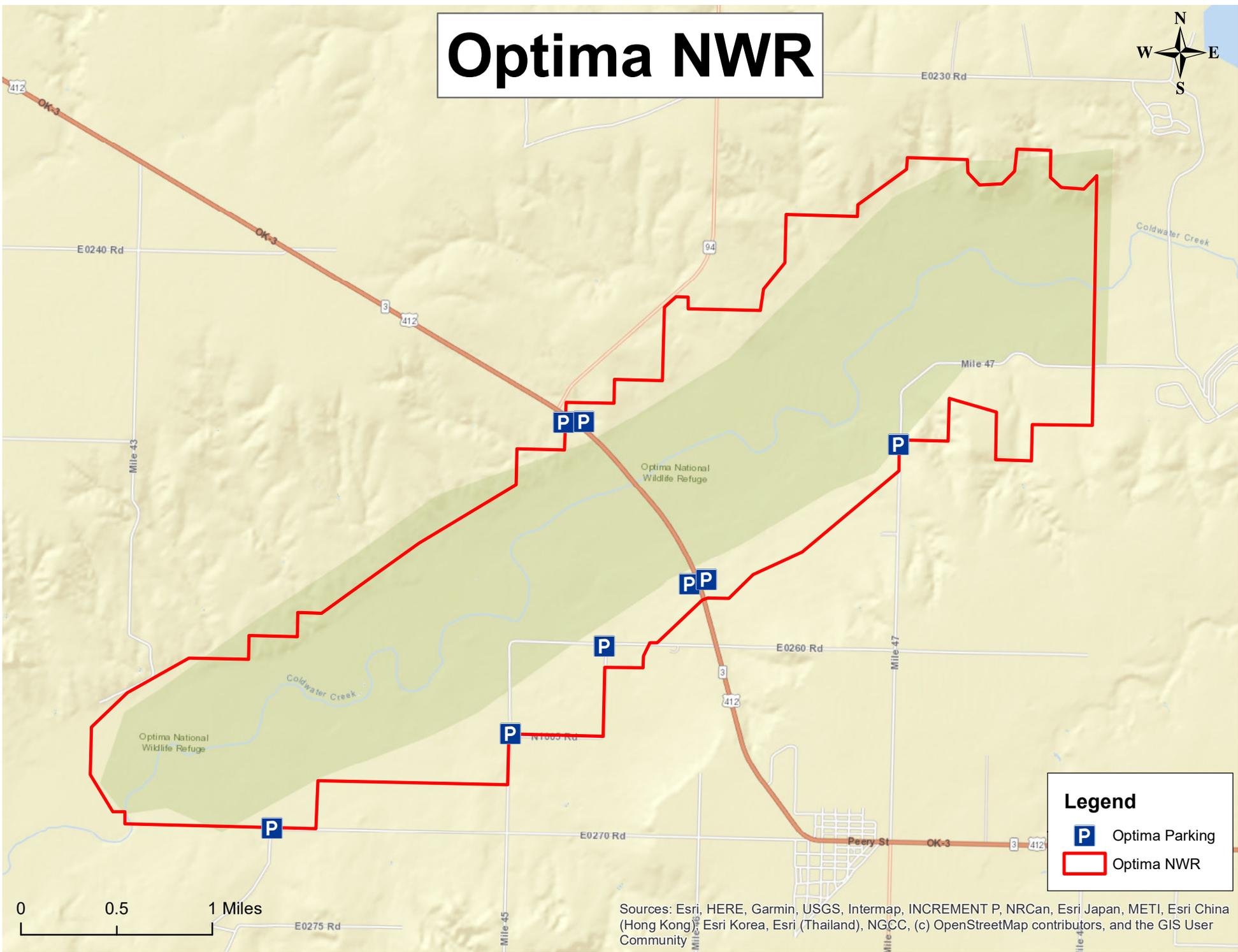
- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting and weapons prohibited

Prohibited Activities

- Fishing.
- Littering, dumping garbage, waste or household items.
- Release of wild or domestic animals.
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant other than hunting scents.
- Spotlighting—artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting live trees or brush, mushroom picking, and deer shed or feather collecting) other than specified in this brochure.
- Searching for or removing any object of archaeological or historical significance including arrowheads, pottery, or other artifacts.
- Marking trails with paint or flagging tape, ribbons, or trail tacks.
- Blocking gates, or roadways with vehicles.
- Camping and fires.
- Tree stands with nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.
- Use of scouting cameras.
- Target practice.
- All-terrain vehicles.
- Horses or mules.



Optima NWR



Legend

- P** Optima Parking
- [Red Outline]** Optima NWR

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community