

## The Refuge

The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 568 national wildlife refuges across the country. A primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the management and protection of all species of wildlife. Hunting is one tool used to manage wildlife populations.

## General Hunting Regulations

The refuge is open to hunting during specific refuge seasons for the following species only: squirrel, raccoon, opossum, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, crow, dove and Canada goose. Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidental to a scheduled refuge hunt for the species listed in this brochure with any weapon legal for that particular hunt. No taking of turtles, crawfish or bullfrogs on refuge. Hunting is permitted on various portions of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge with the exception of those areas marked "Closed" on the map or by "Closed Area" signs on refuge lands or waters. Applicable Federal and State law and regulations apply. Mobility impaired hunters can contact the refuge office for accessible areas.

Hunters must have on their person a Refuge Annual Hunt Permit in addition to a valid state hunt license.

- Federally approved non-toxic shot is required for crow and dove and Canada goose hunting on the refuge.
- Except for raccoon and opossum hunting, hunters may access the Refuge two hours before sunrise to two hours after legal sunset.
- Dogs are allowed for squirrel, raccoon, Canada goose, dove and opossum hunting. All dogs must be restrained by chain or leash if not being legally used for hunting. Dog owners/handlers must have a collar on each dog with the owners name, and address/or telephone number.
- Field dressing deer within 50 yards of a public road or trail is prohibited.
- Temporary blinds or stands permitted on the day of the hunt only. All blinds, stands and other personal property must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- Horses and mules are prohibited on all refuge hunts.
- Bicycles can be used on refuge hunts but must remain on refuge paved or graveled roads.

- Boats cannot be left on the refuge overnight.
- Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the Refuge. Vehicles must remain on Refuge roads that are shown on map and designated as open. Parking must not impede the flow of traffic or block gates.
- It is unlawful to hunt within 100 yards of a private dwelling, and to access the refuge across private land without permission from the private landowner. Be aware that purple paint designates private land.
- Hunting within 50 yards of a public road is prohibited. Shooting from or across any road or designated hiking trail is prohibited.
- Firearms are permitted in accordance with state law. Weapons legally possessed for hunting are the same as those prescribed by the state of Tennessee.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Camping and campfires on the refuge are prohibited.
- It is unlawful to mark any tree or other feature with paint or similar substance. All flagging tape and other marking materials must be removed upon leaving the Refuge.
- It is illegal to cut corn stalks, trees or other vegetation on the refuge.

## Permits

Each hunter, age 17 and older, must have on his person a valid State hunting license AND a Refuge Annual Hunting Permit. There is a \$15 fee for this permit which is valid for all quota and non-quota hunting.

The permit fee is non-refundable and the permit is non-transferable. The permit is valid on both Cross Creeks and Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges. **Refuge Annual Hunting Permits may now be obtained from licensing agents through TWRA, online at [goutdoorstennessee.com](https://goutdoorstennessee.com), or on the TWRA mobile app. Please use code 064 when purchasing a refuge permit through a TWRA licensing agent.**

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge  
1371 Wildlife Drive  
Springville, TN 38256  
731/642 2091  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee>

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

March 2024



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Tennessee

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2024-2025



Hunt area 4 (Duck River Remainder) is open for the full statewide season for deer, squirrel, dove, crow, raccoon, and opossum.

Refuge deer, crow and dove hunts are open the same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14 on hunt areas 1,2,3 and 5.

Some hunt units are in a positive CWD county and under carcass transportation restrictions.

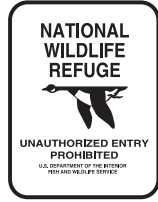
All refuge hiking trails will remain open during hunt season.

The Refuge Annual Hunt Permit may be purchased only through TWRA licensing agents using code 064.

When checking a deer, use Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge as the location.

**Please respect the following signs**

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wild lands. Signs help control recreational activities and respect private property while protecting natural resources on the refuge.



This sign and yellow paint clearly marks all refuge property. **It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.**



This area is closed to all entry. No entering, hunting or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public. Some of these signs may have dates indicating the length of time the area is closed.



This area is closed to **all** vehicles, and horseback riding. Entry is only permitted by foot or bicycle.



This sign marks areas closed to all hunting.

**Deer Hunts**

Refuge deer hunts **are all non-quota** and open to statewide seasons through November 14 for hunt areas 1,2,3 and 5. State bag limits apply and harvested deer count toward the statewide bag limit. Hunt area 4 (Duck River Remainder) is now open for the full statewide season.

All deer killed on the refuge must be checked at the nearest check station or online, or by using TWRA mobile app. When checking a deer use Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge as the location.

**Youth Hunters**

Hunters age of 6 through 16 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older who has a refuge hunting permit on his person. The adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of hunting device. Multiple youth may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

**Changes to Hunt Area 4**

This area of the refuge will be open for full statewide seasons for deer, turkey, crow, dove, squirrel, raccoon and opossum. Bag limits are the same as statewide season and harvested game count towards the statewide bag limits.

**Chronic Wasting Disease Special Regulations**

For areas of the refuge that are in a Chronic Wasting Disease positive area will require restrictions to deer carcass transportation and disposal. See [www.tn.gov/twra/hunting/cwd](http://www.tn.gov/twra/hunting/cwd) for more information.

In a CWD positive area, the following may not be removed:

- Whole and field dressed carcasses
  - Organs or guts
  - Uncleaned heads/skulls/skull caps
- The following is approved to be removed:
- De-boned meat
  - Cleaned (free from meat and tissues) skulls/skull plates and teeth
  - Antlers – including those attached to clean skull plates

**September Resident Canada Goose**

See separate hunt regulations handout available at refuge headquarters and information kiosks on the refuge.

**Federally approved non-toxic shot is required for resident Canada goose, crow and dove hunting on the refuge.**

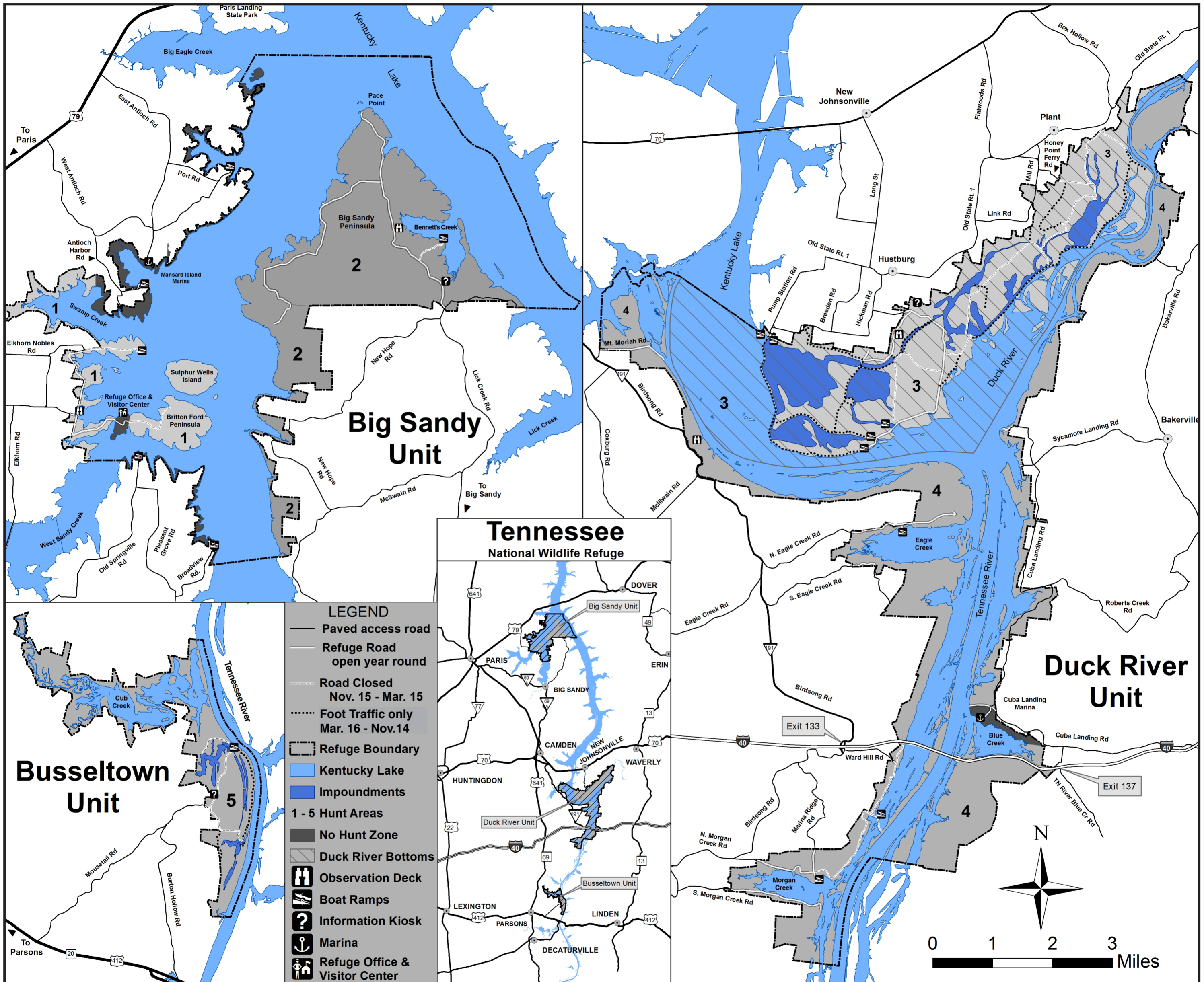
Hunt area location	Hunt area number
Sulphur Wells/ Britton Ford	1
Big Sandy Peninsula	2
Duck River Bottoms	3
Duck River Remainder	4
Busseltown	5

**2024-2025 Season Dates and Regulations for Refuge Hunts**

**Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidental to scheduled refuge hunts listed below. The hunting of any other species not listed below is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to bobcat, river otter and fox. All state bag limits, season lengths and weapon regulations apply unless otherwise specified.**

Type	Season dates	Bag limit	Refuge specific regulations
Squirrel	Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14 on hunt areas 1, 2, 3 and 5. Hunt area 4 is open for the full statewide season for squirrel.	State bag limits apply.	Dogs are permitted.
Spring Squirrel	Same as statewide seasons.	State bag limits apply.	Dogs are permitted.
Resident Canada goose	Opens the same as early September statewide season and closes the day before the start of the early wood duck/teal season. Closed for all other season dates.	State bag limits apply.	<b>Federally approved non-toxic shot is required for resident Canada Goose hunting on the refuge.</b>
Deer (Gun/Archery/Muzzleloader)	<b>Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14 on hunt areas 1, 2, 3 and 5. Hunt area 4 is open for the full statewide season for deer.</b>	State bag limits apply. Deer taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	State tagging requirements apply. When checking a deer, use Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge as the location.
Youth Deer (Gun/Archery/Muzzleloader)	Same as statewide season, except not to extend past November 14th on hunt areas 1, 2, 3 and 5. Hunt area 4 is open for the full statewide season for deer.	State bag limits apply. Deer taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	A Refuge Annual Hunt Permit is not required for a youth hunter, but it is required for the supervising adult. When checking a deer, use Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge as the location. Multiple youth may be accompanied by a single non-hunting adult. The adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of hunting device.
Raccoon and Opossum	Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14 on hunt areas 1, 2, 3 and 5. Hunt area 4 is open for the full statewide season for raccoon and opossum.	State bag limits apply.	Dogs are permitted. <b>Hunting begins at sunset on first day of each hunt and ends at sunrise on last day of each hunt.</b>
Crow and Dove	Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14 on hunt areas 1, 2 3 and 5. Hunt area 4 is open for the full statewide season for crow and dove.	State bag limits apply.	<b>Federally approved non-toxic shot is required for crow and dove hunting on the refuge.</b>
Turkey (shotgun/archery)	Spring and fall turkey season open during statewide season, including youth hunt.	State bag limits apply. Turkeys taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	Calling or attempting to call turkeys on the refuge is prohibited from March 1 until opening of spring turkey season. Fanning or reaping turkeys prohibited.

# Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge



Hunt area location	Hunt area #
Sulphur Wells/ Britton Ford	1
Big Sandy Peninsula	2
Duck River Bottoms	3
Duck River Remainder	4
Busseltown	5