

# Big South Fork Hunting Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big South Fork National River and  
Recreation Area  
Oneida, TN



**Welcome to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRA). Big South Fork is one of the few National Park Service units legislated for hunting. Since the National Park Service manages Big South Fork NRRA, some additional laws and regulations apply. We hope you enjoy your hunting experience in Big South Fork and wish you good luck!**

## SEASONS

Hunting seasons within the Big South Fork NRRA are the same as the statewide seasons except for wild hogs. Big South Fork has a special hog season that runs January 20 to February 28 in both states.

While hogs may be hunted during normal big game seasons, a National Park Service hog hunting permit is required. Permits are \$5.00 and may be purchased at park visitor centers or online at <http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/hog-hunting.htm>. To kill hogs during deer season in TN and KY you must be legal to hunt deer during that time and only use the equipment that is legal to kill deer. During the special hunt you will just need a hog permit and the states (KY or TN) small game license. For example in TN you would just need a Type 001.

- Big South Fork NRRA at 423-286-7275 (TN) or 606-376-5073 (KY). The park's website is [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso)
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency can be contacted 8:00 – 4:30 M-F at 931-484-9571 or toll free at 1-800-262-6704 or by website [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources can be contacted at 1-800-858-1549 or by website [www.fw.ky.gov](http://www.fw.ky.gov)

Except for the following listed regulations, the hunting regulations within the Big South Fork NRRA are the same as the respective state. In other words, when hunting in Tennessee, follow Tennessee regulations, and when hunting in Kentucky, follow Kentucky regulations.

## SAFETY ZONES

Hunting is permitted in Big South Fork NRRA, except for those areas designated as safety zones. These safety zones are located around developed areas and are marked with yellow and red signs. It is your responsibility to know where the safety zones are. Maps are available at visitor centers.

In Tennessee, the following areas are safety zones: East Rim/Headquarters Area, Bandy Creek Campground Area, Oscar Blevins Farm, Station Camp Horse Camp, Station Camp River Crossing, Charit Creek Lodge, Burnt Mill Bridge, Brewster Bridge, Peters Bridge and Leatherwood Ford River Access Area

In Kentucky the following areas are safety zones: Yahoo Falls, Alum Ford Campground and River Access, Yamacraw Bridge, Worley River Access, Blue Heron Campground Area and Bear Creek Horse Camp.

## BAITING

The placement of salt, minerals, or food items or other bait to attract wildlife to a specific area is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of cover scents or attractant scents.

## HUNTER ORANGE

All hunters and persons accompanying them hunting for any species during the modern gun, muzzleloading, and youth firearm deer seasons must wear 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange (blaze orange). This must be worn as the outer coverings and must be worn at all times while in the field hunting. The orange must be able to be seen from all sides on the head, back and chest. The only exception is archery-only and turkey hunts. In those areas where the archery-only deer season dates overlap with another big game gun season, archers are required to wear the 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange.

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## HORSES

Shooting from a horse or other animal is prohibited within the park. This does not prohibit the use of a horse to gain access to the area in which you wish to hunt as long as it is an area that is open to horse use. Hunters must dismount from the horse prior to shooting. Trimming dogs from horseback is only legal during an open small game season.

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## FIREARMS AND HANDGUN CARRY PERMITS

Persons with a Tennessee handgun carry permit pursuant to TCA 39-17-1351 or a Kentucky concealed carry deadly weapon permit under KRS 237.110 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the premises of any public hunting area. **Nothing in the law authorizes a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations. No one, even permit holders, is allowed to bring guns into any Federal Building.**

In Tennessee, if you do NOT have a permit, firearms loaded with ammunition in either the chamber or magazine may not be transported in or on motorized vehicles. Exception: muzzleloaders may be transported in a loaded condition if the percussion cap or primer is removed from the nipple or tube. Flintlock muzzleloaders must have the priming powder removed from the pan, the frizzen open and the vent plugged. Crossbows must be de-cocked to be considered unloaded.

In Kentucky, firearms (rifles, shotguns and handguns) may be carried loaded and in plain view; loaded handguns may be carried in the glove compartment (center console is not allowed). If any type of gun is loaded and not in plain view it is considered a concealed weapon, unless you have a permit.

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## TREE STANDS

The use of wire, nails or other metal materials is prohibited in the building or attaching of climbing devices or hunting stands on or in trees. The use and/or construction of permanently affixed tree stands and access steps to tree stands are prohibited. **ONLY** portable or temporary tree stands that do not damage trees may be used. Trimming or cutting trees is prohibited to accommodate tree stands. No vegetation can be cut or trimmed to provide "shooting lanes" around the tree stand. All tree stands must be marked with hunter's identification (name, address or hunting license #). Stands must be removed when not in use.

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## VEHICLES ATV'S/UTV'S

Vehicles and ATV's must stay on designated roads or trails. Motorized vehicles, including ATV's are not allowed in the gorge area of the park, around any gate, post, or closed signs. For information on routes available for ATV use during big game hunting, please contact one of the park's visitor centers. To use an ATV, the hunter must be actively hunting during the hunting dates, not scouting.

No person shall discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow or other similar device, upon, over or across any public roadway or from a motor vehicle of any kind.

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## DOGS

Dogs may **not** be used to hunt deer, bear or hogs within the Big South Fork NRRRA. Dogs may be used to hunt small game, game birds, and those furbearers authorized by state law. The practice known as trolling or tramping of raccoon and squirrel dogs and related activities are prohibited along the Leatherwood Ford Road (297), the Bandy Creek East and West Access Roads, the Blue Heron Road, East Rim Overlook Road, Yahoo Falls and Alum Ford Roads within the boundaries of the Big South Fork NRRRA. Hunting dogs must be on a leash in all safety zones. Tramping dogs from horseback is only legal during an open small game season.

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## TARGET SHOOTING

Target practice of any kind is illegal. This includes the use of firearms, compressed gas or spring-powered pistol or rifle (bb gun, paintgun, etc), bow and arrow or crossbow.

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## ROCKSHELTERS/ ARCHES

This is a National Park Service Area, therefore, cultural resources are protected from looting and digging. These types of offenses constitute a criminal offense and will be prosecuted.

Camping and building fires in rockshelters and arches is prohibited.

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## FOOD STORAGE

Due to increased bear activity, food storage regulations are strictly enforced throughout the park. Campers must have all food and food storage containers and/or coolers placed inside a vehicle when not attended, not just in the bed of a pickup. If backpacking, campers should hang backpacks and food packs from trees using the proper technique (contact visitor centers for more information). Do NOT leave any food or food scraps behind. Please leave a clean camp. For your safety do NOT process any deer or hog at your campsite.

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## CAMPING

To camp in the backcountry, visitors must obtain a backcountry permit. Backcountry camping is not allowed within any fee use area, developed parking areas, trailheads, within 100 feet of a cave, gravesite, rockshelter, trail, and in all cabins or other historic structures or sites.

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