

Little River

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2025-2026



Welcome

Little River National Wildlife Refuge was established on February 10, 1987 as the nation's 438th refuge. The 14,216 acre refuge preserves one of the last remaining remnants of the once extensive bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem of the Little River floodplain. The bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem provides essential habitat for a diversity of migratory birds and resident wildlife species in Oklahoma. 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.

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>.

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).

Persons may only use (discharge) firearms during authorized hunting seasons while attempting to take game species and/or wildlife species approved for incidental take. Shotguns with approved non-toxic shot or .22/.17 caliber rimfire firearms are the only weapons permitted for hunting, except during the quota controlled gun deer hunts when state approved legal means of take are also permitted.

Nontoxic Shot

All hunters using shotguns for hunting upland game, raccoons, and waterfowl on the refuge must use and possess ammunition containing approved non-toxic shot only.

Vehicles

Vehicles (including UTVs licensed by the state of Oklahoma) are permitted on the refuge and are restricted to roads that are open to travel. Off-highway vehicles (ATV's/ORUV's) are prohibited.

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

Boats

Boats used for any recreational activity; i.e., hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation, are permitted from official sunrise until official sunset except during deer, turkey, and waterfowl seasons. During this time they are permitted two hours before official sunrise until two hours after official sunset. Boats must be removed from the refuge daily and comply with all state regulations.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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 and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Oklahoma regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Sport fishing is permitted in refuge waters year-round in accordance with state regulations. Visitors must comply with all state fishing and boating regulations.

Little River NWR

Hunting and Fishing Authorization 2025-2026

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunting and fishing activities and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.
Expires August 31, 2026

Signature (Authorizations are not transferable)

Access

General refuge hours during deer, turkey, and waterfowl seasons are two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal sunset. Night-time use of the refuge is limited to raccoon hunting during the refuge season and fishing while in possession of appropriate tackle.

Animals/Pets

Dogs are permitted for hunting squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, and waterfowl during designated refuge hunting seasons. All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and telephone number.

Horses

Horses are permitted only on roads open to motorized traffic. Riding off roads into fields, woods, or on nature trails is prohibited.

Tree Stands

Tree stands, elevated platforms, and ground blinds are permitted for hunting but must be removed from the refuge daily. The use of nails, wires, screws, or bolts to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited.

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Little River National Wildlife Refuge
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P.O. Box 340
Broken Bow, OK 74728
580/584-6211
www.fws.gov/refuge/little_river

August 2025



Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
Waterfowl	Same as statewide (1/2 hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon).	State bag limit.	Units 4 and 5	Closed on the days of the refuge controlled quota deer hunts.
Gray & Fox Squirrel	May 15 – October 23 Nov. 10 – Jan. 31, 2026	State bag limit.	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone"	Use of dogs allowed.
Cottontail and Swamp Rabbit	October 1 – 23 Nov. 10 – Jan. 31, 2026	State Bag Limit	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone"	Use of dogs allowed.
White-tailed Deer (Archery)	October 1 – 23 Nov. 10 – Jan. 15, 2026	State bag limit.	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Closed on the days of the refuge controlled quota deer hunts.
White-tailed Deer (Controlled Youth Hunt)	October 24 – 26, 2025	Two Deer - One antlerless, one either sex	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Controlled quota hunt, 15 permits issued. Hunter orange requirements apply.
White-tailed Deer (Controlled Hunt)	Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2025	Two Deer - First antlerless, second either sex	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Controlled quota hunt, 30 permits issued. Hunter orange requirements apply.
White-tailed Deer (Controlled Hunt)	November 7 – 9, 2025	Two Deer - First antlerless, second either sex	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Controlled quota hunt, 30 permits issued. Hunter orange requirements apply.
Turkey (Archery)	October 1 – 23 Nov. 10 – Jan. 15, 2026	State bag limit	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Closed on the days of the refuge controlled quota deer hunts.
Turkey (Controlled Youth Hunt)	April 17 – 19, 2026	One Tom Turkey	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Controlled quota hunt, 5 permits issued.
Turkey (Controlled Hunt)	April 24 – 26, 2026	One Tom Turkey	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Controlled quota hunt, 20 permits issued.
Raccoon	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31, 2026	No bag limit.	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone" and the "Upland Game Hunting Area"	Use of dogs allowed.
Feral Hog	Any Refuge hunt	No bag limit.	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone"	May be taken incidental to any daytime Refuge Hunt with legal hunting equipment and ammunition allowed for that Hunt. Live hogs may not be transported or possessed on the refuge.
Beaver	Any Refuge hunt	No bag limit.	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone"	May be taken incidental to any daytime Refuge Hunt with legal hunting equipment and ammunition allowed for that Hunt.
Coyote	Any Refuge hunt	No bag limit.	Entire refuge except the "No Hunting Zone"	May be taken incidental to any daytime Refuge Hunt with legal hunting equipment and ammunition allowed for that Hunt.

Hunter Education

Hunters must comply with the state's hunter education requirements when hunting on the refuge.

Controlled Quota Hunts

The refuge offers controlled quota hunts for white-tailed deer and turkey in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's controlled hunt program. Hunters are required to view an online hunter orientation video on the refuge website prior to the controlled hunt. Permitted hunters must complete a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS Form 3-2359) and return it to the refuge by February 15. The refuge is closed to all activities during controlled deer and turkey hunts.

Prohibited Activities

- Littering, dumping garbage, or waste.
- Spotlighting – artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Possession or use of herbicides.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery, or other artifacts.
- Blocking gates, boat ramps, or roadways with vehicles.
- Camping and fires.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, flagging tape, or other substance.
- No glass bottles outside of permitted vehicles.





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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