

## Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Big Lake Refuge, established in 1915 is one of over 540 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The refuge is located in Mississippi County, Arkansas.

Hunting and fishing are allowed under carefully controlled conditions in order to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with the ecosystem. This permits the wise use of valuable natural resources and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public.

### General Refuge Regulations

Recreational use of the refuge throughout the year is permitted and encouraged. Permitted activities are wildlife observation, birding, photography, hunting, fishing and frogging. The regulations listed below supplement the General Regulations which govern public use, hunting and fishing on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 25 - 32. Hunting and fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State regulations and the following special refuge regulations.

#### *Access and vehicle use*

Most refuge roads are open to the public all year. Roads may be closed at any time hazardous or poor road conditions exist. A locked gate or other barrier means the road is closed to vehicular travel but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise. All vehicles must stay on established roads and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a motor vehicle. Horses, ATVs, airboats, hovercraft and personal watercraft (jet skis etc...) are prohibited.

Hunters are allowed on the refuge no earlier than one hour before legal shooting time to one hour after legal shooting time except during the refuge raccoon hunt.

Boat access by hunters after October 31 is limited to launching at seven mile boat ramp and boat use in Ditch 28 only. See Sport Fishing and Frogging regulations for other boating opportunities.

#### *Prohibited activities*

Prohibited activities include camping, building fires, cutting or defacing trees, shrubs or other plants, littering and searching for or removal of artifacts.

The entire lake area and the Sand-Slough Moist Soil Unit are waterfowl sanctuaries and are closed to all public use November 1 through February 28. Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows are prohibited on the refuge except during refuge hunts. Firearms are prohibited south of Highway 18 and at Bright's Landing boat access.

## Sport fishing and frogging regulations

Sport fishing is permitted on all refuge waters from March 1 through October 31, 24 hours a day. The area around Floodway Dam south of Highway 18 bridge is open to bank fishing year round, 24 hours a day. The refuge headquarters area is closed to fishing and frogging. Climbing onto and/or fishing from all electrically operated water control structures and associated wingwalls or from on top of the Floodway Dam south of Highway 18 or entering associated signed closed areas is prohibited.

Sport fishing with the use of non-motorized boats and boats with electric trolling motors is permitted in the Sand Slough-Mud Slough area (designated on map and on the area by signs) from November 1 through February 28 during daylight hours only.

Frogging is permitted in accordance with the state season opening and bag limits but ends on October 31. Crawdads may be gathered for personal use throughout the fishing season.

Boats may be launched only in designated areas. Boat launching at Timm's Point ramp and Seven-Mile ramp is daylight use only.

Launching boats at night is permitted only at Brights Landing boat ramp. The use of limb lines and jug fishing are prohibited. Trapping and/or possessing turtles is prohibited.

A seasonal eagle sanctuary is established to protect a nest, designated on the map and on the area by signs.

Possessing largemouth bass less than the established minimum length of 15 inches is prohibited. Frog hunting is permitted from the start of the State season through October 31. The use of bow and arrow for taking frogs is prohibited. Boats are prohibited November 1 through February 28 except in that portion of the refuge open for public fishing with trolling motors only and in Ditch 28.

#### *Commercial activities*

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity to first obtain a refuge special use permit. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge lands are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

### General Hunt Regulations

#### *Refuge permits*

A refuge permit is required for all hunts. Permits must be signed by the holder; are not transferrable and must be carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting equipment.

Only biodegradable trail markers may be possessed or used.

Hunters are allowed on the refuge one hour before legal

shooting hours and one hour after legal shooting time except for refuge raccoon hunters.

#### *Hunter check out requirements*

Hunters must sign out after completion of the hunt and provide harvest information at the self-check station at headquarters.

#### *Firearms*

Firearms must be unloaded and encased while in a vehicle and on any refuge road or parking area. Firearms are prohibited on the refuge except during refuge squirrel, rabbit and raccoon seasons. Target practice is prohibited. Firearms are prohibited south of Highway 18 and at Brights Landing boat access.

#### *Other prohibited hunting activities*

Spotlighting-artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife. Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any attractant is prohibited. Dogs are prohibited except for raccoon hunting in which they are required.

Hunting from mowed or graveled roads or from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited. Hunting prohibited in Sand Slough Moist Soils Unit and refuge headquarters area (see map).

#### *Hunters under the age of 16*

Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult no less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. For small game hunts, the adult may not supervise more than two youths.

Anyone born after December 31, 1968 must be in possession of a hunter education card.

#### *Trapping*

Trapping is prohibited. Beaver, nutria, armadillo and coyote may be taken during any refuge hunt with weapons appropriate for that hunt, subject to State seasons. Species not listed may not be taken.

#### *Ammunition*

Nontoxic (waterfowl) shot only may be possessed and used by hunters using shotguns. Rifle hunters may possess and use rimfire rifles and rimfire ammunition only.

#### *Waterfowl*

Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge is closed to waterfowl hunting.

#### *Small game*

**Squirrel:** September 9 - October 31, 2006\*  
Dogs prohibited. Spring season closed.

**Rabbit:** September 9 - October 31, 2006. Dogs prohibited.

#### *Furbearer*

**Raccoon and opossum (hunt only)** October 7 - October 22, 2006\*. No limit. Dogs are required for night hunting. Running or training dogs during periods other than raccoon season is prohibited.

#### *Big game*

**Deer (archery),** November 1 - December 31, 2006  
**For all deer harvested on the refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license and later at the deer check station is 030. All harvested deer must be checked at the refuge check station located at refuge headquarters.**

**FmHA Tracts:** The FmHA tracts are open to hunting of state species in accordance with state seasons and bag limits. Closed to all Migratory Bird hunting. A Big Lake Refuge general hunt permit is required for all hunts and refuge public use regulations apply.

Statewide bag limit of three deer applies. The total number of bucks that can be harvested is two. Those bucks may have a total of 4 points or less on both sides including the main beams OR have a minimum of 4 points on one side including the main beam. Points must be at least one inch long. Youth under the age of 16 may take any buck as their first buck but must comply with the above legal buck criteria to harvest a second buck. Deer harvested on the refuge are not BONUS deer.

Hunters may possess long, recurve, compound and crossbows for the archery deer hunt. Firearms are prohibited. No dogs. State bag limits apply to the refuge archery hunt. Hunters may only use portable tree stands and they must be removed daily. Only biodegradable trail markers may be possessed or used. Littering is prohibited.

### Signs

Signs protect visitors and resources. Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the refuge signs identified in this brochure.



**Refuge boundary sign.** Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.

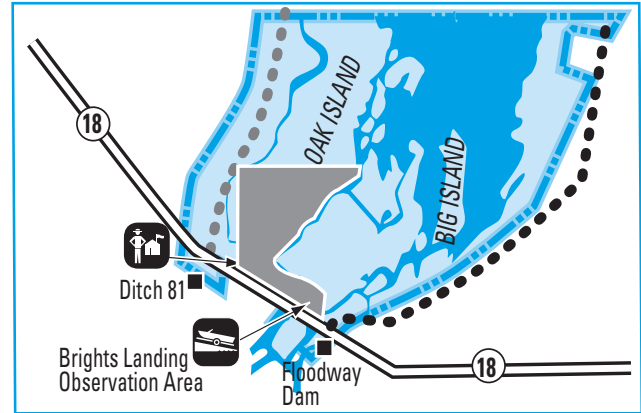
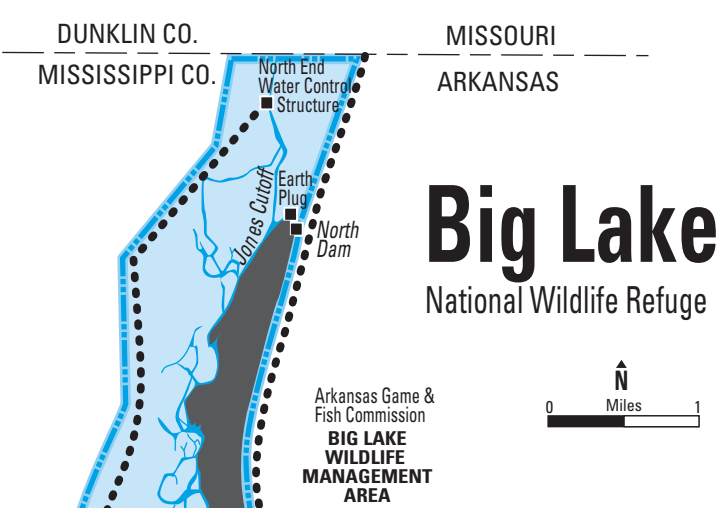
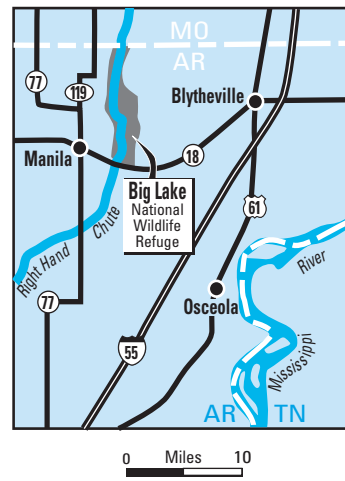
**Area closed to public.** Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have specific dates printed on the face of the sign.

# Big Lake

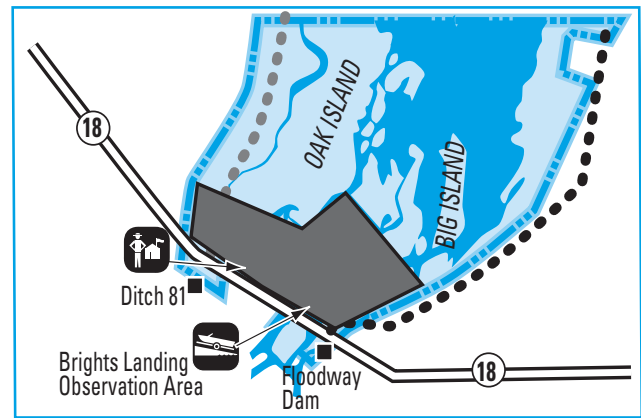
*National Wildlife Refuge Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2006-2007*

**Legend**

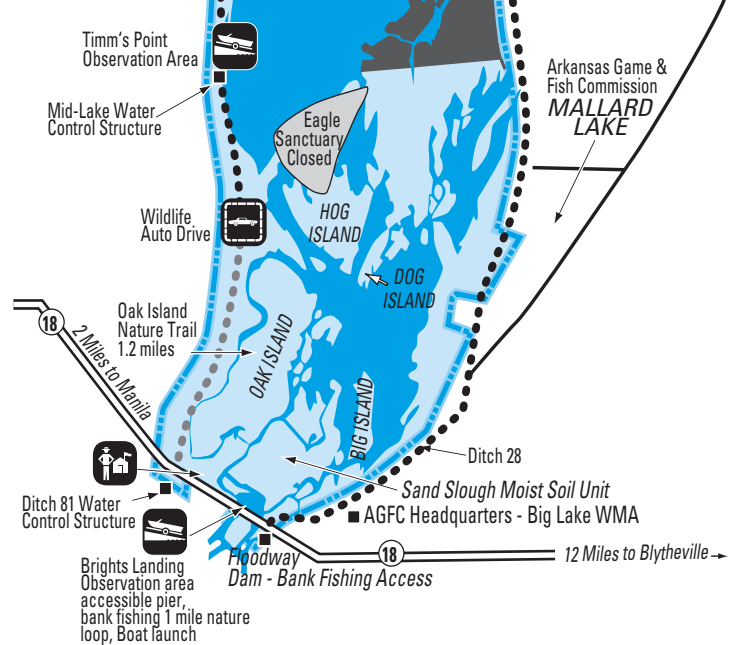
- Refuge Headquarters
- Boat Access
- Water Control Structure
- Refuge Boundary
- Gravel Roads
- Wildlife Drive 3.1 Miles
- Eagle Sanctuary (seasonally closed)
- Wilderness Area Public Law 94/557



**Open to fishing November 1-February 28**  
Trolling motors only



**Closed to hunting**



**Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
PO Box 67  
Manila, Arkansas 72442  
870/564 2429  
<http://southeast.fws.gov>  
<http://biglake.fws.gov>

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

June 2006



**2006-2007 General Hunting Permit – Big Lake NWR**  
This permit must be completed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. Permit expires 6/30/2007.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and realize that hunting on the refuge is a privilege and willingly agree to allow USFWS officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)