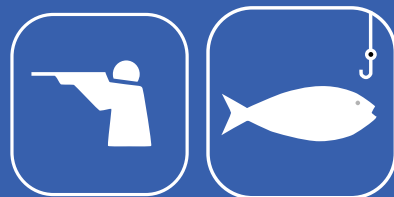


# Tensas River

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Public Use Regulations

#### 2007-2008



To:

Tensas River  
National Wildlife Refuge  
2312 Quebec Road  
Tallulah, LA 71282  
318/574 2664

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

July 2007



**This is an Annual Permit. To save tax dollars, please use this permit for the entire season**

#### Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge 2007-2008 Refuge Access Permit

When signed and in your possession, this portion of the brochure will serve as your permit for all refuge hunts and other permissible activities, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. All game taken during any hunt must be reported at a check station.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Permits are not transferable)

(Valid only when signed.)

#### Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

Tensas River National Wildlife refuge, established in 1980 is located in the Tensas River Basin in northeastern Louisiana. The refuge is composed of extensive bottomland hardwood swamps. Due to the refuge's tremendous diversity of lands and waters it has long been noted for its large populations of waterfowl, songbirds and mammals including several game species. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on the refuge during specific times of the year.

#### General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

#### Permits

Permits are required for all Refuge Users. When signed and in your possession, the cover section of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and other permissible activities, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Special limited permits are required for the general gun hunts for deer. There is a \$12.50 fee per permit. Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Applications for limited permits will be accepted from August 1, 2007 until 4 pm on September 27, 2007. To apply, complete the enclosed application form and return it to the refuge office. Duplicate, incomplete, unclear or non-legible applications will not be considered for the drawing. No faxes or e-mails will be accepted. To be considered as a hunting group, up to 5 individuals must indicate on each application the same choice of hunt and applications must be stapled together. Two to five stapled applications are considered a group. Minimum age to be considered for the drawing is 8 years of age. Successful applicants will be notified by mail after the drawing. Do not send payment with your application. Hunters under 16 years old must possess proof of completion of the hunter education course and must be supervised by an adult 21 years old or older who also possesses a special limited permit. Only those persons with valid special limited hunt permits are permitted to be present on the refuge during the special limited gun hunts.

#### Physically Challenged Hunters

Hunters under sixty years of age using physically challenged ATV trails or special equipment must possess a Physically Challenged Hunters Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Physically challenged users are encouraged to consult with refuge staff for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable.

A guided deer hunt for wheelchair bound hunters will be conducted January 12, 2008 in cooperation with the Wheelin' Sportsmen. Participation is limited and applications must be received by November 1. Contact the Wheelin' Sportsmen at 318/326 4900 or the Refuge Headquarters for more information.

#### Firearms

Firearms transported by vehicles, boats, or ATV's on the refuge must be unloaded AND encased. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Firearms are permitted on the refuge only during the refuge hunting season.

#### Ammunition

The possession of slugs, rifle, or pistol ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is permitted only during the refuge hunts for deer. Possession of buckshot is prohibited.

#### Motor Vehicles

All motor vehicles are restricted to normal passenger vehicle roads. Roads and trails may be closed to vehicle use due to adverse conditions.

We allow all-terrain vehicle (ATV) travel on designated trails for access typically from September 15 to the last day of the Refuge squirrel season. Designated trails are open from 4 am to no later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.

We define an ATV as an off road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight 750 pounds, length 85 inches, and width of 48 inches. We restrict ATV tires to those no larger than 25x12 with a 1" lug height and maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. No trailers may be pulled behind an ATV.

We require an affixed refuge all-terrain vehicle permit that can be obtained from the Refuge Headquarters typically in September. Hunters under sixty years of age using the refuge physically challenged all-terrain trails must possess the State's Physically Challenged Program Hunter Permit. Additional physically challenged access information will be available at the Refuge Headquarters.

ATV permits are available at the refuge headquarters or by mail for a fee of \$10.00 (Money Orders or Cashiers Check ONLY). No cash, personal checks, or credit cards will be accepted. ATV permits must be applied directly to the ATV for which it was purchased. Bicycles are permitted on designated ATV trails.

Using an ATV to travel off a designated trail in order to retrieve game, or for any other reason, is strictly prohibited.

### The following activities are prohibited on Tensas River NWR

- Littering
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages in hunting area
- Possession of open alcoholic beverage containers
- Camping/overnight parking
- Fires
- Trapping
- Riding or horses or mules except as noted under raccoon regulations
- Taking of wildlife or plants other than specified in refuge regulations
- Target practice
- Baiting or hunting over bait, or possession of injestible chemical baits or attractants used as bait
- Hunting within 150 feet of a designated public road, maintained road, trail, fire breaks, dwellings, above ground oil and gas production facilities. A maintained road, fire break, or trail is defined as one which has been mowed, disked, or plowed.
- Spot-lighting
- Blocking trails, gates or roadways with vehicles
- Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or metal objects; or using climbing spikes; or screw-in accessories; or possession of such items.

- Marking trails with tape, ribbon, paper, paint, reflective material, cans, cups, or any other means
- ATV travel on refuge roads
- Man-drives for deer
- Hunting in and/or shooting into or across any reforested area during modern deer gun hunt
- Possession of engineering tape (flagging), or other trail marking material
- Collecting or harvesting of turtles, mussels, shells, frogs, fruit, or acorns
- Field dressing game or cleaning fish within 150 feet of parking areas, maintained roads, or trails
- unleashed pets

### Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits and regulations apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are listed in this pamphlet.

All hunting is permitted refuge-wide except in designated closed areas, (see map), or as otherwise stated under specific regulations.

All blind material and decoys must be removed from the refuge after each day's hunt.

Deer hunters may not leave deer stands unattended before the First day of archery season and must remove stands by the last day of the refuge archery season. Stands left unattended on the refuge must be clearly marked with the name and address of the owner of the stand. Portable stands must be removed from trees daily and free standing stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when unattended.

Migratory bird and small game hunting is prohibited during refuge gun hunts and muzzleloader hunts for deer.

Any hunter under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and must be accompanied at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult can supervise only one youth.

Hunters using shotguns to hunt small game are required to use approved non-toxic shot.

SOLID hunter orange vest and SOLID hunter orange cap are required to be worn by all hunters as outer most

garment during deer gun hunts and muzzleloader hunts and must be worn at all times while on the refuge.

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4:00 am and must exit the refuge no later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.

Muzzleloader and modern firearms hunters utilizing ground blinds will be required to display 400 square inches of Hunters Orange outside of the blind which is visible from all sides of the blind. Hunters must wear orange vests and hats as their outermost garment while inside the blind.

All deer taken on special limited hunts and muzzleloader hunts must be checked daily at the manned check station nearest to point of take. All other game taken must be checked after each hunt at a self-clearing check station nearest to point of take before leaving the refuge.

Only one deer per day may be taken during any deer hunt.

ATV's are not allowed on ATV trails from two hours after sunset until 4 am.

Hunters are authorized to take only these species listed within this brochure. Harming or needlessly disturbing any plants or other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations.

### Specific Fishing Regulations

#### *Sport Fishing*

State creel limits and regulations apply.

#### *Trotlines*

Trotlines must be attached with a length of cotton line that extends into the water; must be tended at least once every 24 hours and reset when exposed by receding waters.

Trotlines must be removed when not in use.

### Boating - State Regulations Apply

Boats will not be left overnight on the refuge. Outboard motors not greater than 10 hp are allowed to be operated in all refuge lakes, streams, and bayous. All motorized boats must utilize navigation lights according to State regulations.

Personal flotation devices must be worn by all occupants of motor boats that are underpower on the refuge.

For additional information contact:  
Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge  
2312 Quebec Road  
Tallulah, Louisiana 71282  
318/574 2664

### Items of special concern:

Due to youth and wheelchair dependent programs, there will be no hunting within 200 yards of the closed area located in the Judd Brake Unit near the refuge headquarters on December 28, 2007 and January 2, 4 and 12, 2008.

A special opportunity guided youth deer hunt will be conducted in the Greenlea Bend closed area. A lottery drawing will be held during the National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration at the refuge headquarters Saturday, September 22, 2007. For more information contact the refuge headquarters at 318/574 2664



This sign marks the outer refuge boundary. Public entry by foot is generally authorized during legal hours on Tensas River NWR. Boundaries are also designated by yellow paint on trees.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason other than emergency. Closed Areas are also designated by red paint on trees.



This sign means that the area is closed to hunting. This area can be walked across as long as your firearm is unloaded.



This sign marks the location of a self-clearing check station. All game must be checked out before leaving the refuge.