

General Introduction

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1961, is one of over 548 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl. The refuge is located in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

Public use, 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 a valuable natural resource and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public. Users of the refuge must obey all signs pertaining to visitation, access, and public use regulations. All public uses, including hunting and fishing, are conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

The refuge is closed to all entry and public use November 8 - 9, 2008, during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

A portion of the refuge is closed to all entry and public use from December 1 through February 28 as a Waterfowl Sanctuary (see map).

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4:00 a.m.

Most refuge roads are open to the general public. However, roads may be closed at any time road conditions or other administrative needs warrant. A locked gate or other barrier, road closed sign, or no vehicle sign means the road is closed to **all** vehicle travel but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

All vehicles must stay on maintained roads or established parking areas and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a licensed motor vehicle. Modified vehicles equipped with oversize tractor lug tires are prohibited.

ATVs may be used only by mobility-impaired hunters possessing a refuge Special Use Permit.

Horses/mules are prohibited. Airboats, personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), and hover craft are prohibited on refuge waters.

You must use the public boat ramp off Highway 77 to launch boats into Wapanocca Lake.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the refuge is permitted throughout the year. Permitted activities are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation.

The Visitor Center located in the headquarters building is open weekdays during normal office hours.

Refuge permits are required for all hunting activities. Permits are nontransferable and must be carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting gear. A permit can be found on the front of this brochure.

Nighttime use is limited to frogging and/or raccoon/opossum hunting and the appropriate tackle must be possessed.

Round Pond Unit (St. Francis County): Closed to all migratory bird hunting. The Round Pond Unit is open to hunting of state species in accordance with state seasons and bag limits. A Wapanocca Refuge general hunt permit is required for all hunts and the same refuge public use regulations apply.

Commercial activities

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity to first obtain a refuge Special Use Permit.

Prohibited activities

- Camping
- Building fires
- Cutting or defacing trees, shrubs or other plants
- Littering
- Searching for or removal of artifacts
- Horseback riding
- Possession or use of fireworks
- Target practice
- Training and pleasure running of dogs
- Taking or possessing turtles
- Possession, use, or manufacturing of illegal drugs
- Use of artificial light to locate wildlife except as authorized for frogging and raccoon/opossum hunting.
- Possession or use of firearms, archery equipment and crossbows except during refuge hunts that allow use of those devices.

Only biodegradable paper flagging or reflective tape/tacks may be possessed or used to mark trails.

Sport Fishing Regulation

Sport fishing is permitted from March 15 through October 31 in Wapanocca Lake and Woody Pond.

Big Creek and other ditches which flow through the refuge are **closed** to fishing year-round.

Crawfish may be collected for personal use only. All crawfish traps must have the owner’s name and address permanently affixed. Collecting or possessing of frogs, mollusks, and turtles is prohibited. The possession or use of yo-yos, jugs, or other floating containers, drops or limb lines, trotlines or commercial fishing tackle is prohibited.

General Hunt Regulations

Hunter orange must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission regulations during Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

Bag limits for all species except deer are the same as state limits unless specified otherwise.

Stop Poaching Hotline 1800/482 9262

Hunter sign out requirements

Hunters **must** sign out after completion of the hunt and provide harvest information at the Hunter Information Station located outside the office building main entrance.

Mobility-impaired hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a special permit allowing the use of ATVs on existing roads. Issuance of the permit is restricted to persons who are permanently confined to a wheelchair, require the use of mechanical aids (braces, crutches, or walkers) to walk or have complete single leg amputations. For more information, please call the refuge at 870/343 2595.

Firearms

Firearms must be completely unloaded, including chamber and magazine and caps on muzzleloaders, when carried in/on land vehicles or boats under power.

Only Non toxic shot or rimfire rifles may be possessed and used for all small game hunting. The possession or use of buckshot is prohibited

Prohibited hunting activities

- Trapping
- Driving or screwing any metal object into a tree or

hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter is prohibited.

- Building or hunting from permanent blinds.
- Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand.
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for wildlife.
- Hunting from mowed or gravel roads and within 150 yards of refuge buildings is prohibited.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Hunters under the age of 16

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

A hunter born after 1968 must carry a valid Hunter Education Card. Hunters under the age of 16 do not need a card if they are under the direct supervision (within arm’s reach) of a holder of a valid hunting license at least 21 years of age. Home state Hunter Education Cards will be honored.

Specific Hunt Regulations

A refuge permit is required for all hunts. When signed, the permit on the front cover of this brochure will serve as a permit for all hunts (except Quota Gun Deer Hunt) and must be carried on your person while hunting. A quota deer permit is also required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Refuge regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

*** The refuge is closed to all entry and public use November 8 - 9, 2008 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed on the refuge during this hunt.**

Migratory Birds

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge is **closed** to waterfowl hunting, except snow goose, which hunting is allowed after February 28 until the end of State conservation season, according to applicable federal and state regulations.

Small Game

Squirrel: September 6 - October 31, 2008. Dogs prohibited. Spring season closed.

Rabbit: September 6 - October 31, 2008. Dogs prohibited.

Furbearer

Beaver, nutria, feral hogs, muskrat, armadillo and coyote: may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt by the use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state regulations.

Raccoon and Opossum: November 1-30, 2008*, and March 1-31, 2009. Dogs are required for night hunting of raccoons.

Big Game

For all deer harvested on the refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license is 640. All harvested deer must be recorded at the refuge Hunter Information Station located at the refuge headquarters. All deer must also be checked at an official State check station.

Only portable stands capable of being carried by one person may be used and the owner’s name and address must be permanently affixed to the stand. Stands may be erected 7 days prior to the refuge deer season and must be removed from the waterfowl sanctuary prior to December 1 and from the rest of the refuge by the end of archery season.

For all refuge hunts, the limit is one either-sex deer per hunt except for the archery season in which the statewide bag limit of three applies. The total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge hunts is two. A legal buck on the refuge is defined as any male deer (**no antler restriction**). Deer harvested on the refuge are NOT bonus deer.

Deer (Archery/Crossbow): October 1, 2008 -January 31, 2009*. Either sex. State limit applies.

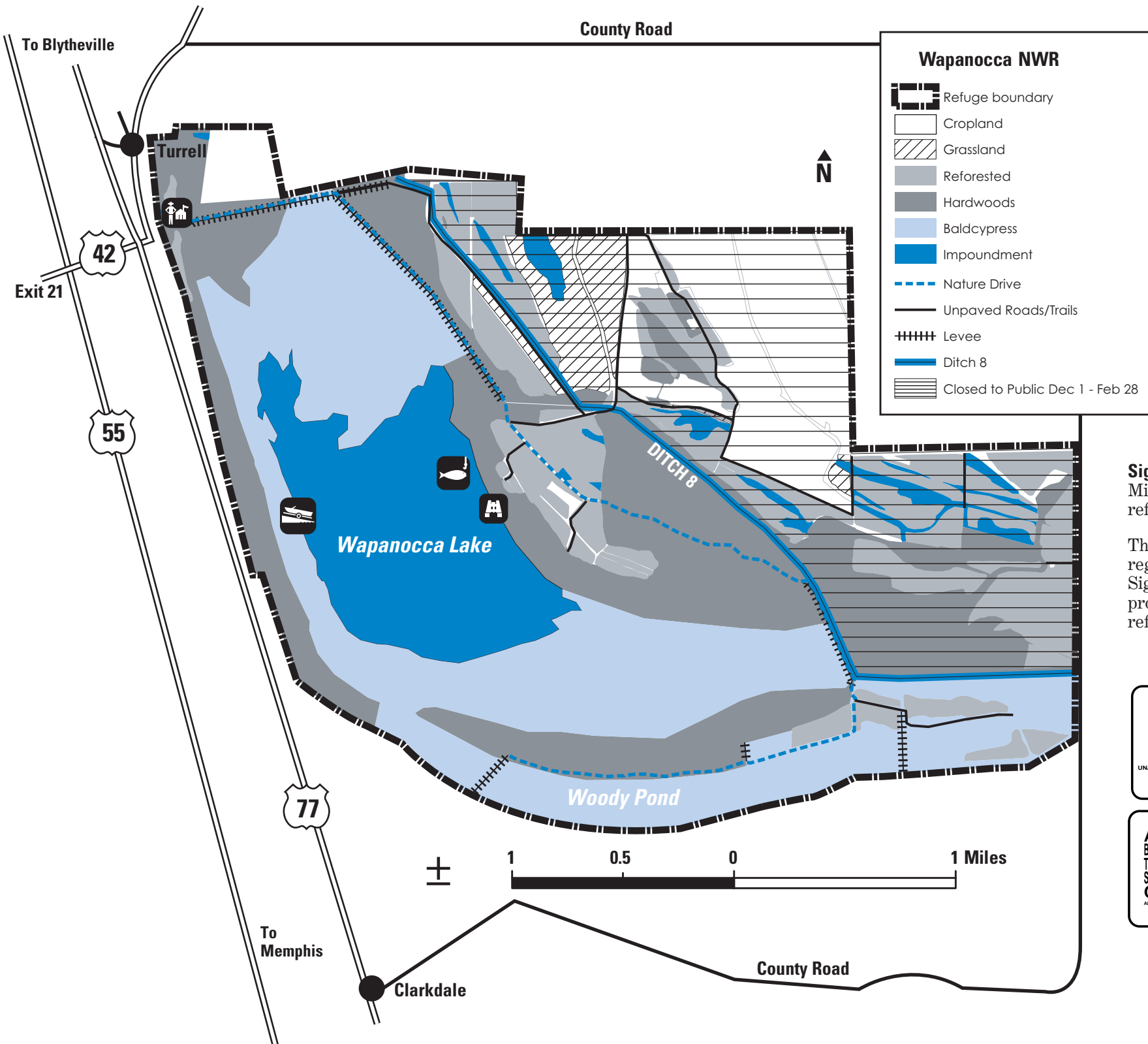
Deer (Quota Gun): November 8 - 9, 2008. Quota hunt permit required. Only shotguns with slugs, legal pistols, and muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile are permitted. Either sex. One deer limit.

To apply for a quota hunt permit

Print or type your name, address and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card. Indicate that you are applying for the Wapanocca hunt opposite your name. To apply as a party (maximum of three) list information for all applicants on the same card. NOTE: Applicants under the age of 16 must apply with an adult age 21 or older. Return completed application by mail to: Central Arkansas Refuges, 26320 Highway 33 South, Augusta, AR, 72006, between July 1 and August 15. Duplicated, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered. Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Wapanocca

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



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 following signs:



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



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

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
Highway 42 East
Turrell, AR 72384
870/343 2595
<http://www.fws.gov/wapanocca>
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast>

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

July 2008

2008-2009 General Hunting Permit – Wapanocca NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. This permit expires 6/30/09. NOTE: Quota Permit also required for Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

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)