

# Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations 2008-2009

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge plays an important role in our National Wildlife Refuge System. This area was established to provide essential habitat for migratory birds in the Lower Mississippi Valley. 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.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern recreational and educational uses on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in *Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations*. When permitted, hunting, fishing, and other recreational uses will be in accordance with applicable state laws unless otherwise listed.

### General Provisions and Access Regulations

By law, National Wildlife Refuges are closed to all recreational activities unless expressly permitted. The refuge is a day use area *only*, with the exception of legal hunting activities. No person shall access the refuge earlier than two hours before legal sunrise. Hunting, fishing, and certain other recreational uses are permitted on most areas of the refuge. *Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities before entering these areas.*

### Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. *ATC's and ATV's are prohibited*, except by disabled individuals possessing a refuge special use permit.

### Disabled Access

Most refuge areas are handicapped accessible. Disabled persons are encouraged to participate in refuge hunts and other activities. Contact the refuge manager for guidelines to obtain special use access.

### Roads

Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on established roads as indicated on the maps on this leaflet. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. *Please avoid driving on refuge roads during wet conditions as damage to the roads will result.*

### Closed Areas

Designated areas will be closed to hunting, fishing, and all other public access during fall and winter months to provide resource protection (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons. *All refuge access is prohibited after dark unless specifically authorized by the refuge manager.*

### Camping and Fires

*Camping and fires are prohibited* on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area. Please remove all litter from the refuge.

### Boats

Boats used for any recreational activity (i.e. hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing) must be removed from Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area daily.

### Weapons

Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, or explosives on national wildlife refuges is prohibited unless specifically authorized. *Firearms must be unloaded and either dismantled or encased when transported in vehicles and boats while on the refuge.* The use or possession of air guns, spears, or other weapons on national wildlife refuges is prohibited except as may be authorized by the refuge manager. Weapons legally possessed for hunting are the same as those prescribed by the State of Tennessee.

### Dogs

Dogs are permitted for small game and migratory bird hunting. All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and telephone number.

### Refuge/Cultural Resources

All government property including natural, historic, and archaeological features are protected by Federal Law. Searching for or removal of objects of antiquity or other value is strictly prohibited.

### Tree Stands

All tree stands must be removed from the refuge daily. The use of nails, wire, 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.

### Tree Marking

It is unlawful to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint or similar substance. Please remove all flagging tape and other marking material upon leaving the refuge.

### Sunk Lake Natural Area

Sunk Lake Natural Area is administered by Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge as a separate unit, encompassing approximately 1,900 acres. The area is located 10 miles northeast of the Lower Hatchie NWR sub-headquarters. All National Wildlife Refuge System regulations apply.

### Southern Unit

*The Southern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area is closed to all public access November 15 through March 15.* Sport fishing is permitted on the area from March 16 through November 14. The use of gasoline powered boat motors

is prohibited. Only electric motors or manually operated boats are permitted. *Hunting is prohibited on the Southern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area.*

### Northern Unit

The Northern Unit of Sunk Lake Natural Area will be open to Small Game and Archery Deer Hunting Seasons only as listed in this brochure.

### Specific Hunting Regulations

Big game killed on the refuge must be checked at the nearest State Checking Station on date of kill and indicate Lower Hatchie NWR as the location of the kill. All deer harvested on the refuge must be counted toward the Unit A bag limit.

### Nontoxic shot

All hunters using shotguns for hunting small game, opossum, raccoon, turkey, and migratory game birds on Lower Hatchie NWR must use and possess nontoxic shot only.

### Hunter Education

Hunter's born on or after 1/1/69 must possess proof that he/she has successfully completed a hunter education course.

### Youth Supervision

An adult hunter 21 years of age or older must remain in sight of and in normal voice contact with all youth hunters 15 years of age or younger. One adult hunter may supervise no more than two youth hunters (only one youth hunter may be supervised during big game hunting activities.) During youth-only hunts, the juvenile must be supervised by a non-hunting adult. Hunters under 10-years-old can participate during the statewide youth hunts if accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.

### Waterfowl

State season and bag limits apply **except** legal shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 12 noon. Only portable blinds may be used. All blinds, boats, and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1 pm. **Champion Lake will be open for quota hunt only**, please see *quota hunt permit applications procedures* for instructions.

### Other Migratory Birds

Mourning dove, Woodcock, and Snipe. State season and bag limits apply **except** closed during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts. Only approved nontoxic shot may be used.

### Small Game

Squirrel, Rabbit, Quail, Raccoon, and Opossum. State season and bag limits apply **except** squirrel, rabbit, and quail

closed during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts and spring squirrel season **closed**. Raccoon and opossum are open statewide except for Friday and Saturday nights during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts. Only approved nontoxic shot allowed when using a shotgun.

### Archery Only Deer

September 27 - October 24, 2008

October 27 - 31, 2008

November 8 - 21, 2008 and December 15 - 19, 2008

No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

### Youth Gun/Archery Deer

Two 2-day hunts.

October 25 - 26, 2008 and January 17 - 18, 2009

Only persons ages 10-16 are allowed to hunt. One non-hunting adult must supervise each youth. No hunter quota. Two deer (no more than one antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

### Muzzleloader/Archery Deer

One 7-day hunt. November 1 - 7, 2008

No hunter quota. Two deer (no more than one antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

One 7-day hunt. December 8 - 14, 2008

No hunter quota. Two deer (no more than one antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

### Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery Deer

One 16-day hunt. November 22 - December 7, 2008

No hunter quota. Two deer, buck only. Counts in Unit A bag.

One 23-day hunt. December 20, 2008 - January 11, 2009

No hunter quota. Bag limit same as statewide. Counts in Unit A bag.

### Quota Turkey

First Season: April 9 - 12, 2009

Bag Limit: 1 (one) bearded turkey.

Counts as a bonus turkey.

Second Season: April 16 - 19, 2009

Bag Limit: 1 (one) bearded turkey.

Counts as a bonus turkey.

Third Season: April 23 - 26, 2009

Bag Limit: 1 (one) bearded turkey.

Counts as a bonus turkey.

Permits: Quota turkey hunt permit required. Permit required to hunt Champion Lake during waterfowl season. See *Quota Hunt Permit Application Procedures*. Permits will be limited to 25 per turkey hunt and 12 per weekend

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge  
234 Fort Prudhomme Drive  
Henning, TN 38041  
731/738 2296  
<http://www.fws.gov>  
<http://lowerhatchie.fws.gov>

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

June 2008



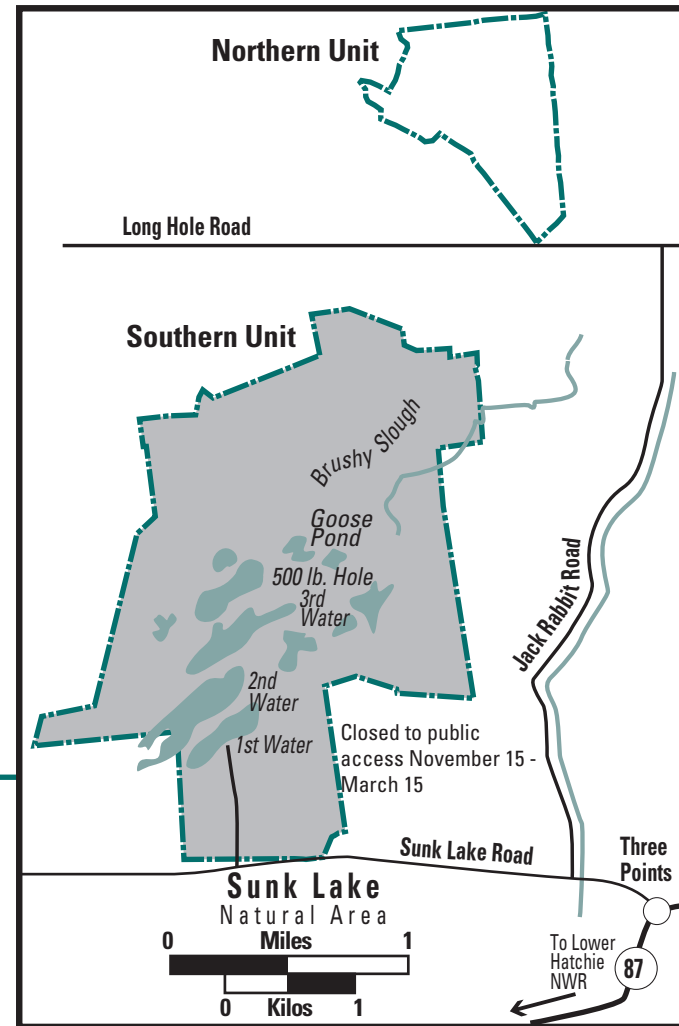
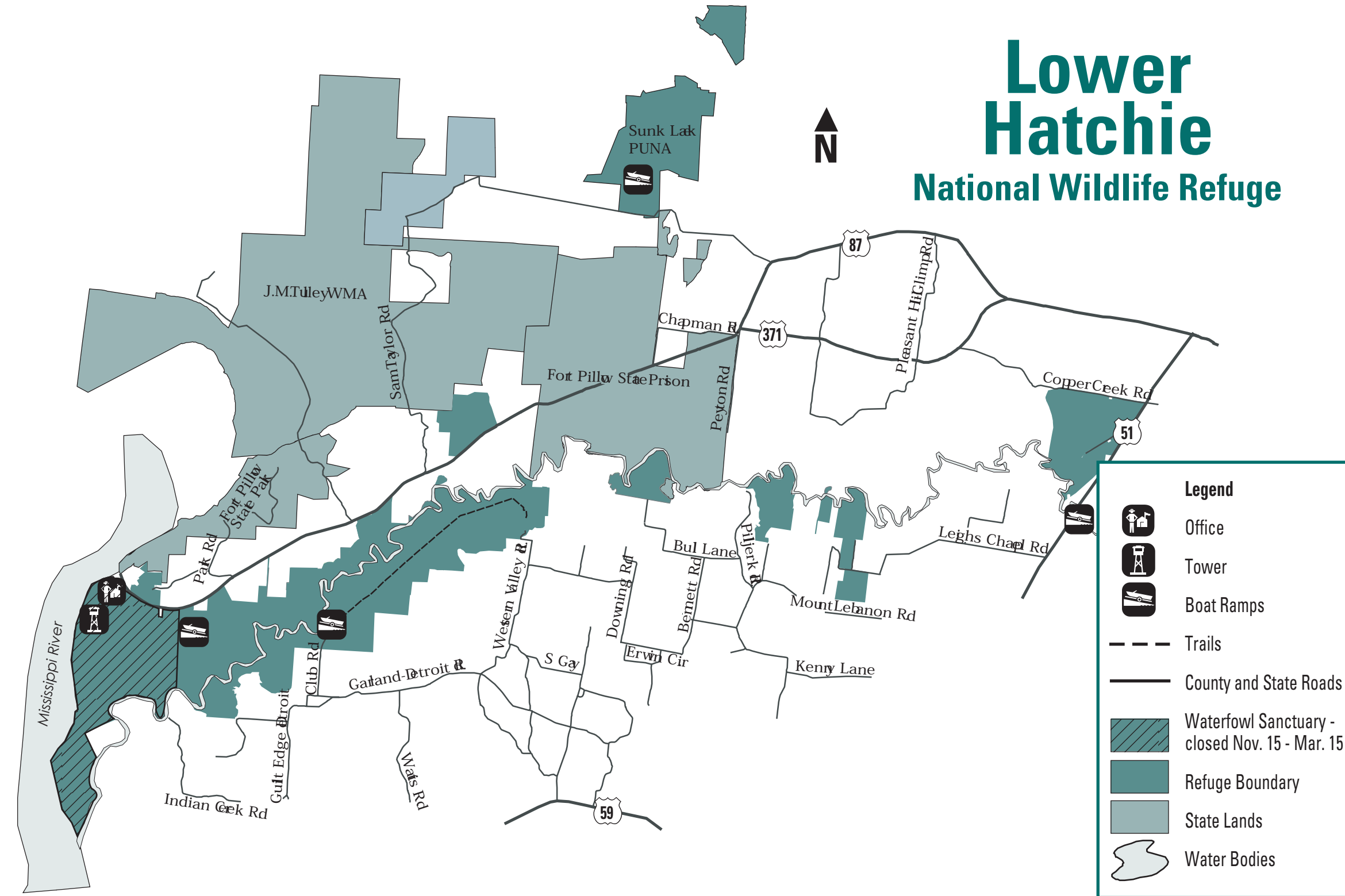
### Refuge Hunting Permit 2008-2009

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hunter's Signature

# Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge



on Champion Lake during the waterfowl season; successful applicants are eligible for only one hunt. Signed refuge permits and applicable State licenses required. Hunters must check turkey out on date of kill at nearest state checking station and record **Lower Hatchie NWR** as the location of kill.

### Quota Hunt Permit Application Procedures

To apply for a quota hunt permit, type or plainly print your name and address on the front of a U.S. Postal Service postcard. Unofficial postcards will be discarded prior to drawing. Send all postcards **in an envelope** addressed to the Refuge Manager at the address on the back of this brochure. Champion Lake waterfowl applications must be postmarked by **October**. Turkey applications must be postmarked during **February**.

A total of up to 4 hunters may apply on the same postcard (one hunter's information on the front and the other hunter's information on the back). Indicate season preference on the Turkey hunt application. Indicate one weekend preference during the waterfowl season, by date, for the Champion Lake waterfowl hunt. Submission of more than one postcard will result in disqualification of the applicant(s).

### Juveniles

Juveniles and their supervising adult must apply for the quota hunt together. If selected, the juvenile must be under direct supervision of the adult during the hunt.

Applicants selected by drawing will be notified by mail to submit \$12.50 per person (**cashier's check or money order only**, payable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to receive a quota permit. Fees are not refundable and permits are not transferable. Of funds collected, 80% are applied to defraying administrative cost of the hunt while the remainder is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

### Other Hunting Information

Coyotes and beavers may be taken *incidentally* during scheduled hunts on the refuge. Legal methods of take include legal hunting equipment utilized during specified hunting seasons listed in this brochure. There are no bag limits. Pre-hunt scouting is permitted *except* during big game hunts (the possession of hunting gear is **prohibited**).

### Specific Fishing Regulations Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area

*Sport fishing* is permitted from sunrise to sunset (Central time) on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area (see maps for specific locations and dates of closures). You may use a bow and arrow or a gig to take non-game fish on refuge waters.

*Possession of unauthorized fishing gear including trotlines, limblines, juglines, yo-yo's, nets, spears, snag hooks is prohibited* while on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area.

Visitors must comply with all applicable state fishing and boating regulations.

### Prohibited

Frogging and Turtling

### For inquiries, contact the refuge:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge  
234 Fort Prudhomme Drive  
Henning, TN 38041  
Phone: 731/738 2296 or 731/287 0650

