Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve continued

- Hunters may enter the area after 4:30 a.m. and must be out of the area by 2:00 p.m. each day. Those hunting at Bellrose Reserve must sign in at the check station and walk to designated hunting sites.
- No hunting is allowed within 100 yards of any private property boundary. In addition, the distance between hunting parties shall be no less than 200 yards (a hunting party is defined as an individual or group of hunters occupying a hunting site).
- Each party is required to hunt over a minimum of twelve decoys at each blind site and decoys must be removed from the area at the end of each day's hunt.
- All hunters must sign out at the end of their hunt and report harvest.
- Boats are not allowed in the Bellrose Reserve.

Furbearer Hunting

- Raccoon/Opossum hunting is allowed at night on the refuge during the Illinois statewide season.
- Red and grey fox and coyote hunting is allowed during the Illinois state wide fox season dates during daylight hours only.
- Hunting or taking of groundhogs or striped skunks is prohibited.

Specific Fishing Regulations

- Sportfishing, frogging and taking of turtles for personal use are permitted in all refuge waters in accordance with state regulations. Refuge waters include the Cache River, it's tributaries and refuge ponds.
- The use of trotlines, jugs, yo-yo's, nets or any other commercial fishing equipment is prohibited, except that commercial fishing is allowed by legally licensed and equipped fisherman in the Cache River downstream of HWY 51.
- Anglers are prohibited from possessing more than two poles per angler with no more than two hooks or lures per pole.
- All bass taken from refuge ponds must be at least 15 inches in length.
- Refuge ponds have a daily creel limit of six channel catfish per angler.

Prohibited Activities

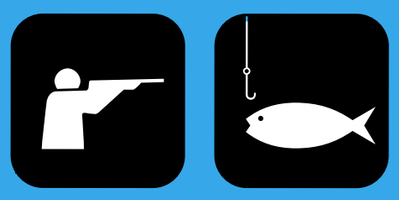
The following activities are prohibited on Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Littering
- Camping/overnight parking and open campfires
- Taking of any wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Target practice
- Baiting and/or hunting in the vicinity of bait. Baiting includes, but is not limited to, the distribution of grains, feeds, salts, mineral blocks, meats, and fruits.
- Hunting within 300 yards of any inhabited dwelling when hunting with shotgun slugs or muzzleloaders.
- Hunting within 100 yards of any inhabited dwelling when hunting with bow or shotshells.
- Marking trails with paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks or other manmade materials.
- Trapping
- Riding horses or mules except on roads open to vehicle traffic.
- The entire refuge is closed to all night hunting activities except for raccoon/opossum hunting in designated areas.
- Spot-lighting may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cypress Creek

National Wildlife Refuge 2007-2008 Hunting & Fishing Regulations



Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
0137 Rustic Campus Drive
Ullin, IL 62992
618/634 2231

Hearing impaired persons may contact Cypress Creek through the Federal Relay Number at 1 800/877 8339.

http://midwest.fws.gov/cypresscreek

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

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2007-08

This permit must be completed to be valid and must be carried by the hunter while hunting on the refuge. It is not transferable.
Note: No permit required for fishing.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations. This permit is valid only when signed by the hunter and must be carried on hunter's person.

Signature

The Refuge

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990 to protect, restore and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitats in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The refuge is located in the Cache River flood plain in southernmost Illinois. Public hunting and fishing are permitted on approximately 15,000 acres during specific times of the year. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with disabilities by contacting the refuge office.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge or state officers.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations. New refuge regulation changes are highlighted in bold text.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with all applicable state regulations subject to the following refuge specific regulations.

The refuge boundary is marked with boundary signs as shown on the accompanying map. Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge has an ongoing land acquisition program which may result in land being acquired after the printing of this brochure. Hunters are encouraged to study the map and look for boundary signs in the field.

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PROHIBITED
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Weapons

- Firearms and archery tackle are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, explosives, crossbows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, atlatls, or other weapons on a National Wildlife Refuge is strictly prohibited unless specifically authorized. Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Weapons legally possessed for hunting on the refuge are the same as those prescribed by the State of Illinois.

State deer and turkey permits are required for deer and turkey hunting on the refuge. Gun deer and turkey hunters must be selected in State lottery drawings for a specific county. The refuge has land open to hunting in Union, Pulaski, Johnson and Alexander counties.

Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. All vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather or management needs. Vehicles may be parked alongside roads in a manner that will not block gates or interfere with the normal flow of traffic. ATV's are prohibited except by disabled persons possessing a refuge special use permit.

Ammunition

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited; use or possession of lead shot is prohibited refuge wide, except:

- During deer and turkey hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer and turkey may be used.
- Small game and furbearers may be hunted with .22 and .17 caliber rimfire lead ammunition during open seasons.

Permits

The Refuge General Hunt Permit on the front of this brochure must be signed and in the hunter's possession while hunting on the refuge. The permit acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations. In addition to the Refuge General Hunt Permit, hunter's must possess all State required licenses, stamps and permits for the species hunted.

Commercial Use

Any commercial use of a national wildlife refuge, including hunting guide, commercial fishing and filming are prohibited except as may be authorized by a refuge special use permit.

Boats

The use of boats is authorized on the refuge, subject to a 10-horsepower motor restriction. Boats may not be left overnight on the refuge.

Specific Hunting Regulations

- State season and bag limits apply unless otherwise specified.
- Hunting is permitted only in designated areas shown on map.
- Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980, must show proof that they have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course. Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Education Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult must have a Refuge General Hunt Permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.
- All deer and turkey must be tagged as prescribed by state regulations and checked through authorized state harvest reporting procedures.
- Only portable deer stands or blinds may be used. All tree stands or blinds must be removed by the end of each day's hunt.
- As required by state law, all persons hunting deer or upland game during gun deer season must wear a solid blaze orange cap or hat and an upper outer garment displaying at least 400 square inches of solid blaze orange material. Upland game hunters must wear a solid blaze orange cap while afield during all other seasons.
- Pits/permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of artificial camouflage or native plant material (use of cane and phragmites is prohibited) are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Cutting of any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited.
- Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season , and trailing hounds during designated raccoon/opossum season is permissible. Deer hunting with dogs on the refuge is prohibited.
- Dog training outside of state upland game and waterfowl seasons is prohibited.

Dove Hunting

Dove hunting is permitted through out the refuge on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve

The Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve is closed to hunting except under the following conditions:

- Goose hunting is permitted after closure of the duck hunting season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. (This area will not be open to any late snow goose hunting season).