

- Horses and mules are prohibited on the refuge during the muzzleloader and modern gun deer hunts. Horseback riding is permitted on refuge-graveled roads and the portions of the abandoned railroad tracks owned by the refuge for access purposes while engaged in wildlife related activities only. Horses and mules are not permitted off these secondary access routes for any purpose.
- The use of flagging tape not marked as biodegradable by the manufacturer, reflective tacks, or other non-biodegradable devices/ materials used to identify paths, mark tree stands, blinds, or other areas.
- Searching for or removal of any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Target practice with any weapon or non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- The Sharpe-Elva Water Management Units are closed to all entry from November 1 through March 30, with the exception of drawn permit holders. During periods of high water or flood, unauthorized persons shall not enter upon the Sharpe-Elva Water Management Units by boat for any purpose. High water or flood conditions do not affect or change the Water Management Area boundary, which is marked with white “Area Beyond This Sign Closed” signs.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.
- Taking of wildlife (outside legal hunting season) or plants (including cutting trees and brush) is prohibited.
- No unauthorized person shall use or direct the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light, or automotive headlights for the purpose of spotting, locating or taking any animal within the boundaries of the refuge or along right-of-way for public or private roads within the refuge.
- Hunting of any wildlife by the aid of or distributing any feed, salt or other minerals.
- The use or possession of electronic calls is prohibited.

Weapons/Ammunition

Firearms, archery tackle and crossbows are not permitted unless used in an authorized Refuge hunting activity.

No person shall discharge a firearm or carry a loaded firearm **on or within** 200 feet of any home and within 100 feet of the abandoned railroad tracks owned by the refuge and graveled refuge roads. (Loaded firearm is defined as shells in gun or cap on muzzleloader.)

Shotguns are limited to no larger than 10 gauges. All shotgun ammunition must meet legal shot size requirements for each species being hunted. (The use of rifles and pistols on small game is limited to **rim fire only**.)

Vehicles

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and/or any unlicensed vehicle is prohibited on all refuge property.

Licensed vehicles are permitted on open graveled roadways only. Abandoned railroad tracks are not considered a roadway. **Vehicles blocking refuge gates will be towed.**

Bicycles are permitted while engaged in wildlife related activities on refuge graveled roads and portions of the abandoned railroad tracks that are owned by the Clarks River NWR.

Animals/pets

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrel, raccoon, opossum, rabbit, quail and turkey during designated seasons only. Other dogs and pets must be confined or on a leash.

The running or training of dogs outside the hunting season for a particular species is permitted by special use permits only. For information on obtaining a special use permit for running dogs call the Refuge Headquarters at 270/527 5770.

Specific Hunting Regulations

Deer and turkey harvested on the Refuge must be telechecked through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1 800/245 4263 with public land code for **Clarks River NWR**.

Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older, and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. On small game hunts the adult may supervise no more than two youths, on big game hunts no more than one youth.

Hunter orange must be worn as required by state regulations. **Caution:** other non-hunting members of the public may be in the area and not wearing hunter orange during hunting seasons.

To retrieve or track game from a posted closed area of the refuge the hunter must first receive authorization from the Refuge Manager at 270/527 5770 or the Refuge Law Enforcement Officer at 270/703 2836.

Hunters may not kill or cripple a wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and harvest a reasonable portion of that animal and include it in the person’s daily bag limit.

Environmental Education Recreation Area (EERA)

The EERA is a new area designed for educational activities, wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities located on Highway 408 near Benton, KY.

EERA Area Specific Regulations

- Daylight use only.
- Portions of the EERA are closed to all entry from November 1 to March 30.
- Area is pole fishing only with limit of 1 pole per person.
- Use of any watercraft is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is prohibited.
- Use of live fish for bait is prohibited.
- Introduction or stocking of fish is prohibited.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Hunting or harvesting of frogs is prohibited.
- Pets not on a leash is prohibited.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Size Limit</i>	<i>Creel Limit</i>
Bluegill	None	10
Channel Catfish	12”	5 Combined
Largemouth Bass	12”	(Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass)
All other species	*follow statewide regulations*	

Waterfowl Quota Hunt

Waterfowl hunting will be allowed on the Sharpe-Elva Water Management Units by a quota draw hunt. The areas will be closed to all entry with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays of the statewide waterfowl season for drawn

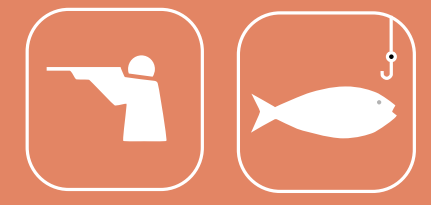
permit holders and their guests only. Kentucky State regulations and the following conditions apply:

- To obtain a permit a person will be required to fill out a postcard with their name, address, and telephone number and submit to Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 89, Benton, KY 42025. The postcard must be received by October 15 to be considered for the drawing. Only one entry may be submitted per person. Preferred dates and areas (Mallard Point or Redhead) may be requested on the card. If the dates or areas have already been assigned then refuge personnel will select the first available date and area remaining. Individuals drawn for the quota hunt will be notified within 2 weeks of the drawing by the U.S. Mail.
- To be considered eligible for the drawing the individuals must be at least 16 years of age and possess valid and current state and federal licenses and stamps for hunting waterfowl. Hunters under 16 years of age may submit a postcard for the youth hunt weekend drawing.
- Permit holders will be allowed to hunt their assigned blind or area on the designated date.
- The individual drawn may bring up to three guests with them to the blind/area. Guests are not allowed in the blind/area without the attendance of the permit holder (no exceptions).
- No person may sell, trade or barter their permit. The permit is the sole property of the permit holder and is non-transferable. If a person cannot make it to the blind on the dates they are drawn for, the blind will be considered closed for those dates.
- Decoys may be placed out Saturday morning at the beginning of the hunt, and may remain in place until Sunday at the close of the hunt.
- No watercraft is allowed in Sharpe-Elva Water Management Unit with the exception of drawn permit holders, which may use watercraft to access their assigned blind and retrieve waterfowl.
- Hunting will cease at 12 noon each day; this means equipment picked up and firearms unloaded. Hunters must be out of the field by 2 pm.

Clarks River

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



General Information

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 542 National Wildlife Refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of a National Wildlife Refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public hunting and fishing on Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge is currently permitted on approximately 8,500 acres located in Marshall, McCracken and Graves counties in western Kentucky. All refuge property is clearly marked on the outside boundary with yellow paint hash marks and blue goose boundary signs. Some landowners adjacent to the refuge may mark their boundary with blue paint hash marks and no trespassing signs.

Individuals utilizing the Refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, game bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by Federal or State law enforcement Officers.

Volunteers

The refuge offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. To receive more information or an application, please contact the refuge headquarters at 270/527 5770.

Friends of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of the Clarks River NWR is a nonprofit group formed to give assistance and support for refuge projects and educational programs. To obtain more information or a membership form, contact the refuge headquarters at 270/527 5770.

Accessibility Statement:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge. Discrimination complaints should be filed with the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240 or 800/344 WILD.

General Refuge Regulations

All Refuge specific regulations apply to hunting and fishing on the Clarks River NWR.

The regulations listed below include but are not limited to the federal regulations governing hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas set forth in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Kentucky State Regulations and Refuge specific regulations. The following regulations apply to all seasons and species.

Permits are required for all Refuge hunting/ fishing activities. When signed and in your possession, this portion of the brochure will serve as your permit, and an indication that you have read, fully understand and will comply with the special regulations of the permit. The permit must be carried on the hunter's person and is not valid until signed. Permits are available 24 hours a day at the Refuge Headquarters. *In addition, waterfowl quota hunts on the Sharpe Elva Units require a quota permit which will be issued once applicants have been selected through a random drawing on Oct 15th. Application period for the hunt is September 1st thru October 15th.*

To report a violation call 270/703/2836 and leave a detailed message of the violation and location. Information may be reported anonymously or with a return telephone number.

Prohibited Activities

- Littering
- Camping
- Fires
- Trapping
- The use or possession of any lead shot is prohibited on the Refuge with the exception of lead shot ammunition legal for the taking of turkey during statewide turkey seasons. This regulation does not apply to rim fire or center fire ammunition.
- The use of nails, wire, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.
- Discarding animal carcass within 100 feet of any roadway or parking lot.



Clarks River
National Wildlife Refuge
91 US Hwy 641 North
P.O. Box 89
Benton, Kentucky 42025
270/527 5770
<http://southeast.fws.gov/clarksriver>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2008



Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting/ Fishing Brochure 2008-2009

Keep this signed brochure or signed permit card with you while hunting or fishing on refuge property. This brochure does not authorize you to hunt or fish on private land adjacent to refuge property.

When signed and in your possession, this portion of the brochure will serve as your permit, and an indication that you have read, fully understand and will comply with the special regulations of the Clarks River NWR. **This permit is valid thru June 1, 2009.**

Signature

(Valid only when signed)