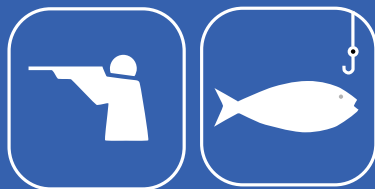


Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



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 2008



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

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge 2008-2009 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 (except 2-day quota modern firearm hunts for deer) and other permissible activities, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Permits are required for the two 2-day quota modern firearms 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, 2008 until 4 pm on September 30, 2008. 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 date 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.

We require an affixed refuge all-terrain vehicle permit that can be obtained from the Refuge Headquarters typically in September. 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.

Physically Challenged and hunters under sixty years of age using the refuge physically challenged all-terrain vehicle

trails must possess the State's Physically Challenged Program Hunter Permit.

Physically Challenged Hunters

Physically challenged users are encouraged to consult with refuge staff at the Refuge Headquarters for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable.

Firearms/Ammunition

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. The possession of slugs, rifle, or pistol ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is permitted only during the refuge hunts for deer. Hunters may only possess approved shotgun nontoxic shot while on the refuge, with the exception that lead shot is allowed during turkey hunting only. 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 by permit only. 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, width 48 inches, and tires no larger than 25 x 12 with maximum 1" lug height and maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. ATV travel is prohibited on refuge roads. No trailers may be pulled behind an ATV. 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.

ATV Permits

To assist in ATV trail maintenance, an ATV user permit is required and must be permanently affixed to all ATV's used on the refuge. The permit may be purchased at the refuge visitor center (Monday-Friday) or by mail, providing your name and complete mailing address (print clearly) along with a \$10.00 money order or cashiers check for each ATV permit. All fees must be made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. ATV permits are issued on an annual basis. NO CASH or PERSONAL CHECKS will be accepted at any time.

The following activities are prohibited on Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge:

- Littering
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages in hunting area
- Possession of open alcoholic beverage containers
- Camping/overnight parking
- Fires
- Trapping
- Riding of horses or mules except as noted under raccoon regulations
- Taking wildlife or plants other than specified in refuge regulations
- Target practice
- Baiting or the possession of bait while on the refuge at any time.
- Possession of chemical baits or attractants used as bait or hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals or other feed.
- 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.
- Use and possession of any type of trail marking material to include tape, engineering tape (flagging), ribbon, paper, paint, reflective material, cans, cups, or any other means of marking an area. Possession of limbsaws, tree cutting saw or any other equipment of this nature.
- Man-drives for deer
- 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
- Parking within 150 feet of dwellings, above ground oil and gas, or electrical transmission facilities

Specific Hunting Regulations

- Only those persons with valid special limited hunt permits are permitted to be hunting on the refuge during the special limited gun hunts.
- State bag limits and regulations apply unless otherwise specified.
- The only seasons open are listed in this pamphlet.
- Hunting in and/or shooting into or across any reforested area during modern deer gun hunt
- Hunting within 150 feet of a designated public road, refuge maintained road, trail, fire breaks, dwellings, above ground oil or gas or electrical transmission facilities or designated public facility. A maintained road, fire break, or trail is defined as one which has been mowed, disked, or plowed.
- 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.
- Hunters under 16 years old must possess and carry proof of completion of State-approved hunter education course. Each adult can supervise no more than one youth hunters during big game hunts and no more than

two youth hunters during waterfowl and upland game hunting.

- 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 a 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.
- Hunters are authorized to take only 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.

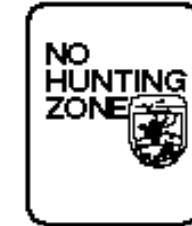


This sign marks the outer refuge boundary. Public entry by foot is generally authorized during legal hours on Tensas River NWR.

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.

For additional information contact

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

Items of special concern:

Due to youth and wheelchair bound programs, there will be no hunting within 200 yards of the closed area located in the Greenlea Unit near the refuge headquarters on December 23 and 30, 2008 and January 10, 2009. 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 27, 2008. For more information contact the refuge headquarters at 318/574 2664.