

Introduction

D’Arbonne and Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuges are two of over 540 national wildlife refuges. 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 animals is one tool used to manage fish and wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunting and fishing help maintain these populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of valuable renewable resources.

The regulations in this pamphlet supplement the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations except as noted below.

As you use the refuges, take pride in America and the refuge resources. Report violations promptly. Respect the rights of others using the refuge.

Warning

Use caution when operating boats or wading in flooded areas of both refuges. Obstructions/obstacles may be submerged and unmarked.

All boats must display proper navigation lights from sunset to sunrise.

General Hunting Regulations

Permits

A signed refuge hunting permit (front of this brochure) must be carried by all hunters.

Special limited permit is required for the Limited Youth Waterfowl hunt. Applications will be accepted until September 29, 2008. To apply, mail name, address, date of birth, and proof of hunter education course to the refuge office. You may only apply once. Public drawing will be held October 11, 2008. Successful applicants will be notified.

Restricted Areas

Hunting is restricted in certain areas as shown on the hunting maps. No hunting is allowed within the maintained rights-of-way of the roads, ATV trails and electric transmission lines shown on maps. No hunting within Mollicy levee except for designated areas on south end.

Refuge hunting seasons apply to all navigable waterways that are wholly within the refuge boundaries.

Hunters may enter refuges no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal shooting hours unless otherwise specified.

Youth

All hunters under age 16 must have completed a hunter education course and carry a card or certificate with them. Youths must be closely supervised (in sight and in normal voice contact) by an adult at least 21 years old. An adult may supervise only one youth under 16 years old on a big game hunt and no more than two youths under 16 years old on a small game or waterfowl hunt.

Firearms and Ammunition

Firearms are permitted only during the refuge gun hunting seasons. Firearms are not allowed on the refuge beyond 2 hours after legal shooting hours, except for raccoon hunting. Firearms larger than .22 caliber rimfire, shotgun slugs, and buckshot are allowed only during the refuge gun deer season. Use or possession of lead shot, except buckshot during gun deer hunt, is prohibited. Firearms being transported in motorized vehicles, boats, and ATVs must be completely unloaded.

Safety

All hunters (except waterfowl hunters) must wear hunter orange including orange hat during the refuge gun deer hunt as per state deer hunting regulations on WMAs.

Disabled

Medically certified disabled sportsmen that need assistance should contact the Refuge Manager.

ATV Regulations

ATVs are permitted on trails designated for their use (see map). The trails are marked with signs and will be closed March 1 through August 31. ATVs are prohibited from one hour after legal shooting hours to 4 am. Raccoon hunters may not use ATVs. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25x12 with a maximum 1” lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 lbs. psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. Exceptions to closures are the ATV trail south of the levee on Mollicy Unit and the ATV trail from Eagle Nest Parking Lot to Cheney Slough which will be open March 1 through August 31 for fishing access only.

Summary of Recent Regulation Changes

1. Either sex deer gun hunting November 1, 2, 28 - 30 and December 6 - 7, 2008.

Prohibited Activities

- Camping

- Open fires

- Littering

- Overnight parking

- Overnight mooring of houseboats

- Target practice

- Taking of wildlife and plants other than specified in refuge regulations.

- Using motorized vehicles off the designated public access roads. This includes motorcycles, ATVs, jeeps, cars, trucks, etc. Parking is restricted to parking areas and along public access roads which are shown on maps.

- Taking or possession of waterfowl, big or small game, fish, or plants by use of a guide or outfitter is prohibited except by special use permit. Contact office for information.

- Driving or screwing a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or hunting from any tree in which a nail, spike, or other metal object has been driven or screwed.

- Baiting or hunting over a baited area.

- Participating in deer drives.

- Possessing or using alcoholic beverages while hunting.

- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

- Using horses and mules except by special permit.

- Leaving personal property unattended (includes boats, deer stands, blinds, decoys).

- Leaving flagging or other trail markers.

Warning

Mercury contamination has been documented on both refuges. On July 29, 1992, the State of Louisiana issued the following consumption advisory regarding fish from the Ouachita River:

For pregnant women and children (less than seven years of age), consume no bass, and limit consumption of other species of fish to two meals per month (a meal is considered to be half a pound of fish for an adult). For non-pregnant women, men and children (seven years of age and older), limit the consumption of bass to two meals per month, and there is no limit on other species of fish.

Elevated levels of mercury have been found by the Fish and Wildlife Service in other species of fish and it is recommended that no fish caught on either refuge be eaten.

Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording applies to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.



This sign marks the refuge boundary. Public entry by foot is generally authorized at all times on D’Arbonne Refuge and Upper Ouachita Refuge. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason other than emergency. Exception: Fishing is permitted in north reservoir within Mollicy levee. Check with refuge office for information.



This sign means no motorized vehicles beyond this point. This applies to all cars, trucks, jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, and motorcycles. Non-motorized bicycles are allowed.



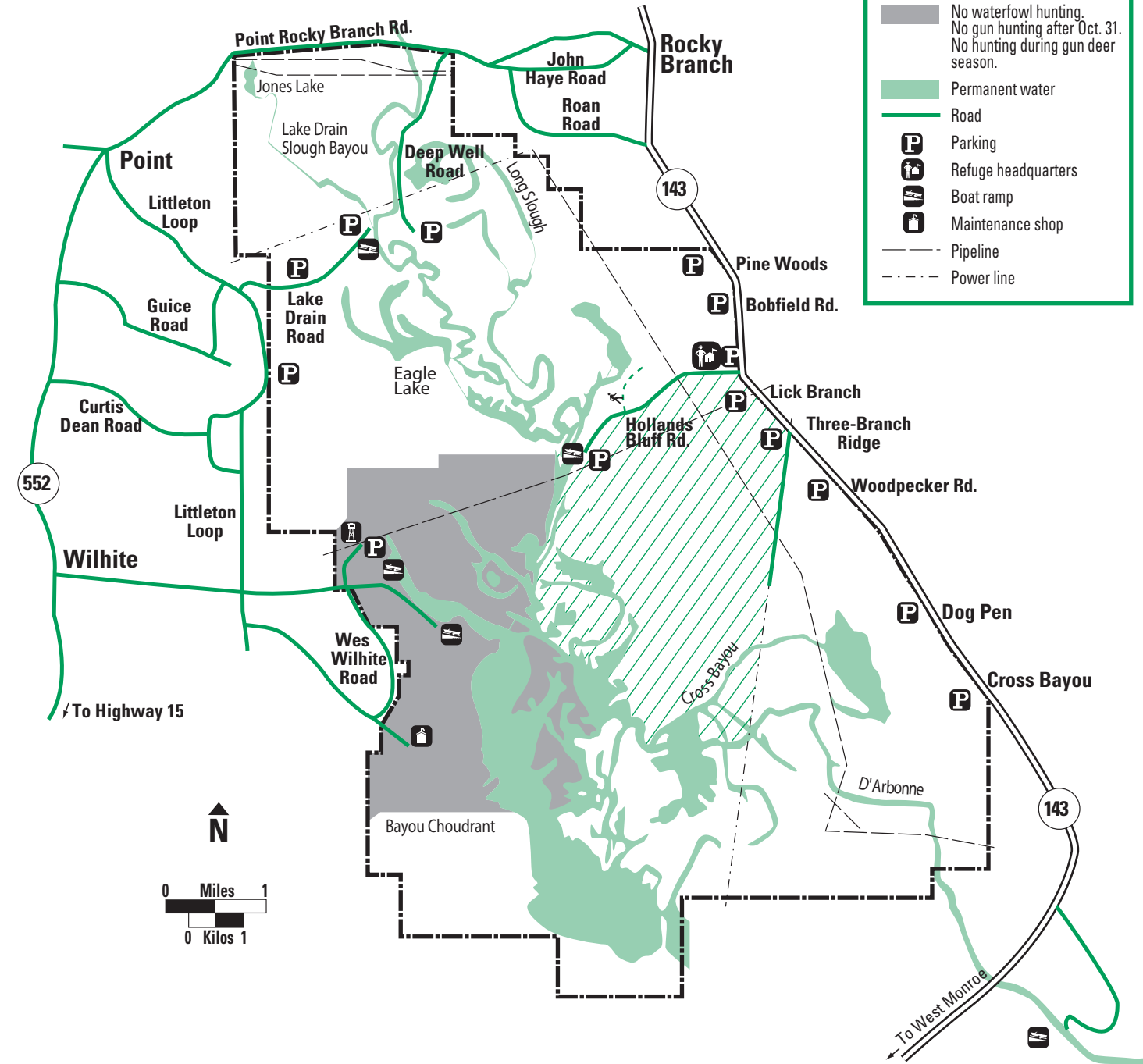
This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas on D’Arbonne Refuge.



This sign means approved ATV Trail.

D'Arbonne

National Wildlife Refuge



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

D'Arbonne and Upper Ouachita

National Wildlife Refuges Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009

Refuge Hunting Permit 2008 - 2009
D'Arbonne And Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuges Hunt Permit

I have read and understand these regulations.

Signature of Hunter

This permit is valid only when signed and must be carried on hunter's person. (Cut out permit if desired)

North Louisiana
Refuges Complex
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Farmerville, LA 71241
318/726 4222

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

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