

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009



2008 - 2009 Hunting Season Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Deer – Archery	State Season	One buck or doe per day, except during the first two weeks of the State Season when it's bucks only. During special dog season for rabbit, archers must wear a minimum of an unbroken hunter orange cap.
Rabbit	State Season	Rabbit dogs allowed after close of the State gun deer season. During special dog season hunters must wear a minimum of an unbroken hunter orange cap.
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, and coots)	State Season	Hunting permitted only in locations on map indicated as "open entire season". Wednesday and Saturday until noon. Dogs only allowed to retrieve downed game.
Waterfowl (Space Blind Lottery)	Second Split only	Special Quota Permit and Application Fee required. Application period: October 1-31. Wednesday & Saturday until noon. Depending on water availability, there will be up to 15, 3-man blinds.
Waterfowl - Youth Weekend	Saturday only of State Zone Date	All waterfowl hunting regulations apply. Youth hunters ages 8 to 15 only may hunt in the "free roam" hunt area located north of Little California Rd. (see refuge map).
Woodcock	State Season	Dogs only allowed to locate, point, and retrieve birds.
Mourning Dove, Snipe and Rail	State Season	Permitted ONLY during waterfowl hunt days.
Recreational Crawfish	April 4 – May 31	See Crawfish map for locations. Map available in March at refuge office.

Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the sign applies to the area behind the sign. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Always know the regulations before entering.



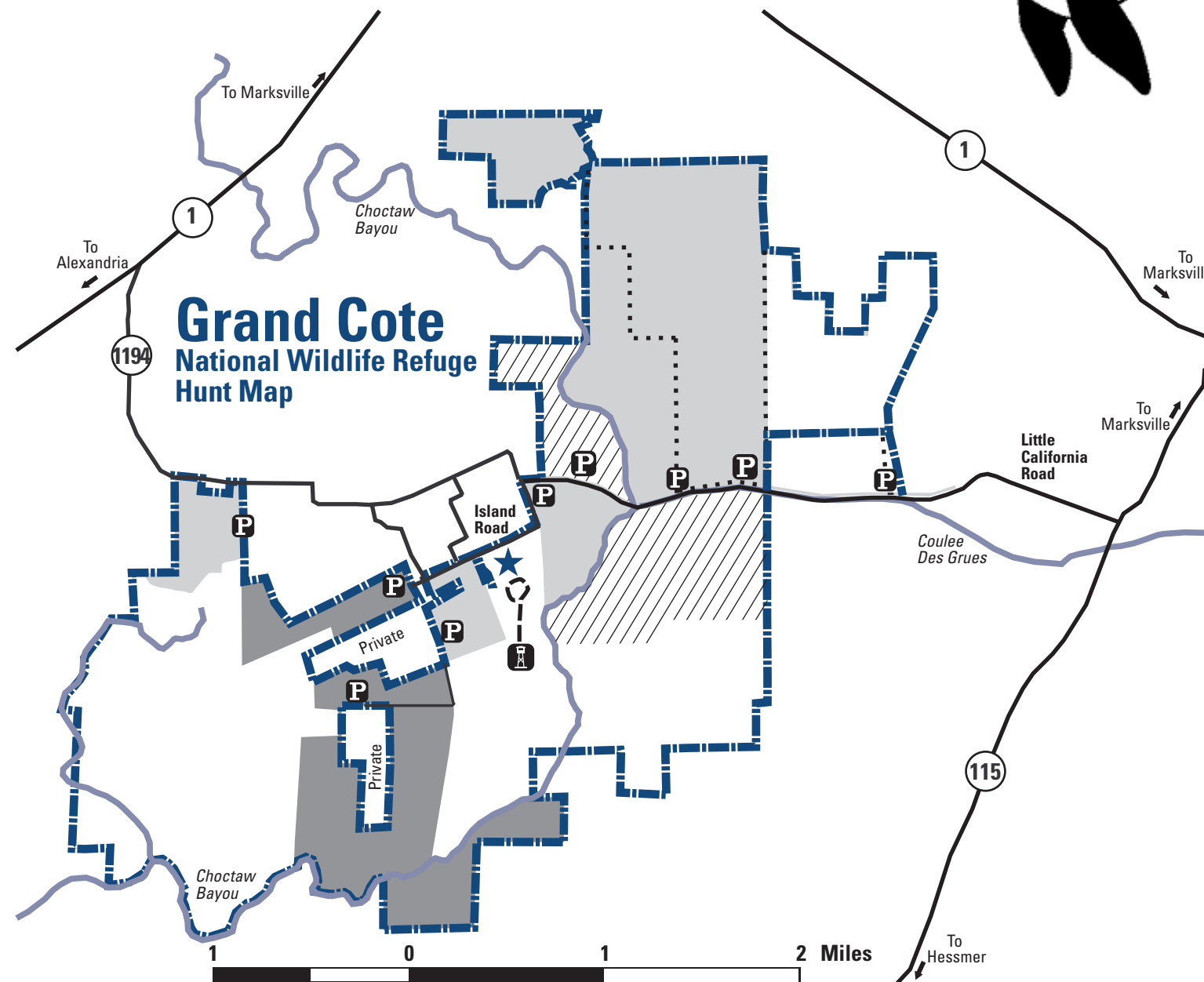
All hunting and possession of any weapon is prohibited beyond this sign.



This area is closed to all public entry. Exceptions stated on the sign.



Only ATVs are allowed on these trails.



Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- Bayou
- Parking Area
- Paved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Hiking Trail
- Open Entire Season
- Archery Only Entire Season
- Space Blind Waterfowl Area
- Area Closed — No Authorized Entry
- ATV Trail
- Hunt Check Station (office)
- Observation Tower

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge
 401 Island Road
 Marksville, LA 71351
 318/253 4238
<http://www.fws.gov/grandcote>

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

June 2008



The Refuge

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to provide habitat for northern pintails and other wintering waterfowl as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The 6,075 acre refuge is located in the Red River flood plain in east central Louisiana. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on approximately 4,000 acres during specific times of the year. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons who have medically certified 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 officers.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern 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 subject to the following regulations.

The refuge is open to public access during daylight hours from 4:00 a.m. to one hour after sunset. The refuge boundary is marked with boundary signs and yellow boundary paint.

Weapons and Ammunition

Firearms, archery tackle, and crossbows are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. The use of crossbows is limited to individuals who have a Louisiana State issued Crossbow Permit or who are over the age of 60. Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Firearms carried on ATV's must be unloaded. Loaded is defined as shells in gun. Archery tackle and crossbows must be un-cocked with arrow un-cocked from string. Handguns are not permitted.

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

Permits

An annual Special Recreational Activity Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen 16-years-old and older and for all terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the refuge. The Central LA NWR Special Recreational Activity Permit applies to all refuges within the complex (Lake Ophelia, Grand Cote, and Catahoula). Permits are available at the Refuge headquarters located at Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, seven miles west of Marksville, LA on Highway 1194. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4 pm, **except on federal holidays when the office is closed.** Permits may also be purchased at the Catahoula NWR Office, located on US

Highway 84, approximately 12 miles east of Jena, LA, and 1 mile west of the junction of highways US 84 and LA 28. On weekdays and weekends, permits may be purchased at Dupuy's Grocery store, located 7 miles north of Marksville on Hwy 452. To order permits by mail, send us your name, address, phone number, and \$15.00 (money order or cashier's check, personal checks are not accepted) to the refuge address shown on the front of this brochure. Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing. The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting, fishing, or using an ATV on the refuge, and acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations.

Commercial Activities

Commercial hunting and fishing activities are prohibited. Specifically, we prohibit any person or group acting as a hunting guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity that any other individual pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person(s) hunting on the refuge, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging or club membership. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lake, bayous or waters is advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

Waterfowl Hunting

We allow hunting of migratory game birds on Wednesdays and Saturdays until 12 noon in areas designated on the refuge map within this brochure as "open entire season". All hunters, except youths 15 years old and younger, must possess an annual Grand Cote Special Recreational Activity Permit, available from the refuge office. Hunters may enter the refuge after 4 am. All non-motorized boats, equipment, and decoys must be brought in daily and removed by 1 pm.

Youth hunters under age 16 must successfully complete a State-approved hunter education course and remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult age 21 or older. Each adult can supervise no more than two refuge-permitted youth hunters. We require all adult supervisors and all hunters of migratory waterfowl to possess and carry a State Hunter Safety Course Certificate.

Youths ages 8 to 15 only (with adult supervisors) are eligible to hunt the State Youth Waterfowl Day (Saturday only) in the areas of the refuge indicated "open entire season" (see brochure map), or they may apply for the space-blind lottery hunt (see instructions below). The adult supervisor is not allowed to hunt ducks on this day.

All waterfowl taken on the refuge must be checked daily at the refuge's self-clearing check station indicated on the map within this brochure.

Lottery Waterfowl Space-Blind Hunts

The space-blind waterfowl hunt area includes up to 15, 3-man blinds which are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays

during the second split of the waterfowl season only, with the exception of the State Youth Waterfowl day.

Applications will be available on the refuge's website and at the refuge headquarters in August. The application period is October 1-31. **Applications received after the October 31 deadline will not be considered for the lottery. Likewise, incomplete or duplicate applications will be discarded.** Successful applicants will be notified in November.

NEW THIS YEAR: Each application must be accompanied by a \$5.00 application fee in the form of a money order made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—no personal checks or cash accepted.

We allow no more than **three** hunters to hunt from a blind at one time during any waterfowl hunt. Only one adult may occupy a blind with up to two youth during a designated space-blind lottery hunt.

Successful applicants 16 years old and older must purchase a non-refundable annual Special Recreational Permit prior to their hunt date. **The refuge reserves the right to cancel any space-blind waterfowl hunt due to lack of water availability, inclement weather, etc.**

Access to blinds may require walking or using non-motorized or electric powered boats. All other waterfowl hunting regulations apply.

Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

All ATVs are restricted to ATV trails that are delineated on refuge map.

Standard manufacturer's high flotation all-terrain vehicles or ATV's (3 and 4-wheelers) with factory specifications not to exceed the following are permitted only on trails designated by ATV signs: weight – 750 lbs., length – 85", and width – 48".

ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 x 12 with a maximum lug height of 1" and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 p.s.i. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV trails are open from September 11 through the last day of state rabbit season.

ATV's are allowed only for hunting and fishing activities. The vehicle speed limit shall not exceed 25 mph except as otherwise legally posted.

Boats

ONLY non-motorized or electric powered boats are permitted on the refuge. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge:

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or operating an ATV or boat.

- Littering

- Camping / Overnight parking

- Collection and removal of antlers

- Taking of wildlife, or parts of, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure

- Target practice

- Handguns, pellet or bb guns

- Use or possession of bait or hunting over bait or any attractant

- Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road, ATV or hiking trail, or hunting in or within 150 feet of any harvested or unharvested ag field

- Marking trails with non-biodegradable flagging tape

- Trapping

- Riding horses or mules

- Possession of saws, saw blades, and/or machetes

- Fires

- Spot-lighting – artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife

- Man-drives for deer or feral hogs

- Harvest of frogs, turtles, snakes, shells, or mollusks

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

- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATV

- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal objects into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes

- Use of remote cameras

- Use of deer decoys

- Geocaching

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are those listed in this brochure.

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown on map.

Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety 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 permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.

Hunter participation and wildlife harvest data are vital to the management of refuge wildlife resources. **All hunters must check-in and check-out after each hunt using a self-clearing permit available from a check station.** Reporting your hunting activity and any wildlife harvest after each and every hunt will help us better manage your refuge.

Archers must collect biological data on all deer harvested including weighing, measuring antlers, pulling a jawbone, and recording data on a self-clearing permit at the check station. Equipment, data forms, and instructions will be provided. This data will assist us in better managing the refuge's deer herd.

Only portable deer stands may be used, and may be erected two days before bow season. Deer stands must have the owners name, address and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when not in use and must be removed from the refuge on or before the last day of the state archery season. Portable blinds may be used, but must be removed daily. When using portable blinds, a minimum of 400 square inches of hunters orange must be attached to the blind at the tallest point and must be visible from 360 degrees around.

All refuge users must enter and exit the refuge at designated parking lots only. Accessing private land from any part of the refuge or from refuge parking areas is prohibited.

Beaver, feral hogs, nutria, and coyote may be taken **incidental to any refuge hunt** with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken.

Mourning doves, snipe, and rail may be taken incidental to any of the migratory bird hunts with a weapon legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken.

Hunting with pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons and hunting with rabbit dogs during the rabbit season is permitted. However, rabbit dogs are allowed **ONLY** after the Louisiana deer season has closed until the close of the state rabbit season. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer or hogs is prohibited.

Only beagles that do not exceed 15 inches at front shoulders may be used for rabbit hunting. All dogs must be collared with owner's name and phone number. Rabbit hunter must wear a minimum of an unbroken orange cap during special dog season.

During special dog season for rabbit, archery hunters must wear a minimum of an unbroken hunter orange cap.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted year-round in Coulee Des Grues along Little California Road.

Anglers may harvest any fish species on the refuge that is permitted by state regulations. State fish size and bag limits apply.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch fish or bait fish is prohibited.

Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

ATV's are not permitted to travel on Little California Road.

Creel limits, boating safety, and license requirements are in accordance with state regulations unless otherwise specified in this brochure.

Recreational Crawfishing

Recreational Crawfishing Users must possess a refuge permit, a copy of the crawfishing regulations, and site map.

Recreational crawfishing is permitted in designated areas of the refuge with pyramid nets from the first Saturday in April through the end of May. Only nets made with cotton or nylon webbing will be permitted. No wire traps. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per permit per day. All nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight. Anglers may not leave parking area until official sunrise. No commercial crawfishing is permitted on the refuge. Youth must be accompanied by permitted adult, 18-years of age or older.

Artificial crawfish bait, melt, and fish may be used, with the exception of catfish heads. All used and un-used crawfish bait must be retained. All bait discarded on refuge property will be considered littering. No glass containers are allowed on the refuge.

All crawfishing gear, including, nets, boats, bait, and trash, etc. must be removed from refuge property after each visit.

Entry to and exit from the crawfishing area is restricted to foot travel and ATV. ATV's are allowed on levees only.

CAUTION HUNTERS, BLACK BEAR ADVISORY!

In a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Louisiana State University, and the Black Bear Conservation Committee, Louisiana black bear sows and cubs have been released on Lake Ophelia NWR in an attempt to re-establish these threatened bears within their historical range. Grand Cote NWR is not far from Lake Ophelia NWR and bears could be seen on the refuge. Report all bear sightings on your self-clearing permit. Hunters must positively identify their target before pulling the trigger or releasing an arrow! Black bears and feral hogs are sometimes hard to distinguish in heavy cover. Black bears are a protected species in Louisiana.