

Specific Hunting Regulations

Waterfowl, small game and archery hunting is prohibited during quota primitive firearms deer hunts. Archery hunting is prohibited in Units 1B & 2B during youth deer hunts. Hunt Area 1B is open to archery only and Hunt Area 2B is open to archery, squirrel, and rabbit hunting. **NOTE: Both Hunt Area 1B and 2B will be closed to all public use after November 30, 2016. All deer stands must be removed from Hunt Area 1B and 2B on November 30.**

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.

Youths are generally defined as those individuals 17 years of age or younger. Youths **under the age of 16** may hunt without hunter education certification if they are accompanied by and under direct supervision of a person born before September 1, 1969 that has a valid hunting license; or they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older and has proof of successful completion of a hunter education course approved by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

One adult may supervise two youths during small game and migratory bird hunts but may supervise only one youth during big game hunts. All youth must be accompanied and supervised by an adult while hunting. Direct supervision means that the person being supervised is within a normal audible voice contact and in direct line of sight of the supervising person at all times while hunting. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations. **During the Deer Primitive Firearm Lottery hunts youth are not permitted to use modern firearms.**

All hunters must wear and display 400 square inches of “hunters orange” and a “hunters solid orange” cap during the deer gun seasons. Hunters participating in the special dog season for rabbits are required to wear a “hunter’s solid orange” cap.

Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of “hunters orange” above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

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

Beaver, raccoon, feral hogs, nutria and coyote may be taken **incidental to refuge hunts** with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. Use of dogs to hunt, trail or take deer or hogs is prohibited.

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

No more than two dogs per hunting party for squirrel hunting. 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 hunters must wear a minimum of a solid orange cap during special dog season.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted only in Duck, Westcut Lakes, Possum Bayou, Lake Long and in the immediate vicinity of the Lake Agnes drainage culverts on the Red River. Lake Long and Possum Bayou (South of boat ramp) are open to boat access by use of electric or non-motorized boats only. Duck, West Cut Lakes, Nicholas and Possum Bayou (North of boat ramp) are open to boat access with motors up to 35 horsepower.

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

Fishing is permitted from March 1 through October 15 during daylight hours only.

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

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

CAUTION HUNTERS, BLACK BEAR ADVISORY!



In a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and 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 reestablish these threatened bears within their historical range. 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.

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.



Speed limit on refuge roads, unless otherwise posted.



No vehicles are allowed on these trails.

2016 - 2017 Hunting Seasons

Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Squirrel and Rabbit	State Season	Closed during primitive firearm deer hunts. Squirrel and rabbit dogs permitted from end of the statewide modern firearms deer season until end of the state rabbit season. During the special dog rabbit season hunters must wear a minimum of solid hunter orange cap. Use of dogs to hunt, trail or take deer or hogs is prohibited.
Deer-Archery	November 1, 2016 - February 15, 2017	One buck or doe per day. All areas CLOSED during primitive firearm hunts. Area 1B & 2B is closed during youth gun hunts and is closed to all public use after November 30, 2016.
Deer- Primitive Firearm (Lottery)	December 3-4, 2016 January 7-8, 2017 January 21-22, 2017	Special Quota Permit Required. Two deer (one antlered and one antlerless) per hunt , hunter orange (solid orange hat and vest) required, hunters must check in and out “Daily” at a manned check station.
Deer-Youth Hunt (Lottery)	November 21, 2016 December 17, 2016 January 28, 2017	Rifles allowed. One parent and one staff/volunteer with each youth. Two deer (one antlered and one antlerless), per hunt. Hunter orange required.
Waterfowl	Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday until noon during State Season	Closed during primitive firearm hunts. Boats,blinds and decoys must be removed daily by 1 pm. Non-toxic shot required. Possession of lead shot prohibited. Dogs only permitted to retrieve game.
Youth Waterfowl Weekend	Saturday only of State Zone Date	All refuge waterfowl hunting regulations apply.
Woodcock	State Woodcock Season	Closed during primitive firearm deer hunts. Non-toxic shot required.
Turkey	First 16 days of State Season until noon	Harvested turkeys must be checked out at Kate and Ivy’s Grocery (located seven miles south of the refuge on Highway 452). Incidental hunting of hogs and use of turkey gobbler decoys is prohibited during Turkey season.

