

# Pond Creek

## National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations

### 2017-2018

#### Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1994, is located along the Little and Cossatot Rivers in Southwest Arkansas. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on approximately 27,000 acres during specific times of the year.

#### General Regulations

Public Use regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern all public uses on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. All users are permitted on the refuge in accordance with State and Federal regulations as supplemented by the following special Refuge regulations contained herein.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal, state or county officers.

Individuals with fish and wildlife related violations may be denied permits for any Refuge activity.

#### Permits

**Refuge Access 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 permissible refuge activities and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

**Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge**  
1958 Central Road  
Lockesburg, AR 71846  
870/289 2126

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov/felsenthal>

June 2017



#### How to Apply for Quota Hunts

Quota Hunt permits are required in addition to the refuge Access permits. Permits are non-transferable and nonrefundable. Applications for the Quota Deer Hunt permits will be accepted during August. Applications for the Quota Turkey Hunt permits will be accepted during January. All applicants are subject to a \$5.00 non-refundable application fee for quota hunts. Successful applicants will be charged an additional \$15.00 per permit fee.

#### Online Applications:

You can apply for Quota Hunts online at

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pond\\_creek/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pond_creek/)

#### Unclaimed Quota Hunt Permits

If available, unclaimed permits may now be purchased on a first come first serve basis during the two weeks prior to the scheduled hunts. See website for more details.

*Please note, submissions of any person's name more than once for the same Hunt Type will result in disqualification.*

#### Commercial/Special Use Activities

No person, including but not limited to a guide, guide service, outfitter, club, or other organization shall provide assistance, services, or equipment on the refuge to any other person for compensation. For the purpose of this regulation, any fee paid or services rendered to a person for lodging, meals, club membership or similar services will

be considered compensation. Violations of this regulation subjects each hunter in the party to a fine if convicted of this violation.

A refuge Special Use Permit is required for all commercial activities on the refuge. Permits may be obtained by contacting our Refuge Headquarters with a formal request. All Special Use Permit applications will be subject to a two week turn-around time and applicable fees.

#### Motor Vehicles

All licensed motor vehicles are restricted to normal passenger vehicle gravel roads. Roads and trails may be closed to vehicle use due to periods of high water, during wildfire occurrences or other natural events that may pose a hazard to public safety. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) are allowed seasonally on trails designated by ATV signs and are marked with yellow paint. All blue trails have been closed. The uses of ATV/UTV are restricted to wildlife-dependent recreation only. Trails marked by yellow paint are open September 1, until January 31. We define an ATV and a UTV as an off road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: engine size 700cc displacement, a width of 63" or less, and tires with maximum 1" lug height and maximum allowable tire pressure of 6 psi. Bicycles are permitted on roads and designated open trails. The maximum legal speed for any land vehicle is 25 mph.

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

**Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge**  
**2017-2018 Refuge Access Permit**  
**Expires July 2018**

When signed and in your possession, this portion of the brochure will serve as your permit for all permissible refuge activities, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature

Permits are not transferable and are valid only when signed.

Take pride in your Refuge. Don't litter.  
Report violations. 1-844-NWR-TIPS

# 2017 - 2018 Season Dates

## Pond Creek

**For all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge, the hunter will immediately (prior to moving the animal) complete hunting license tag using 532 as zone of kill. All biological data on deer and turkey harvested from refuge must be documented at the refuge data station located at the office site. All deer and turkey must be checked-in with the state by calling 866/305 0808.**

Type	Season Date	Specific Regulations
Duck, Goose, and Coot	State Duck, & Teal Seasons (Including the state youth season)	Hunters may not enter the hunting area before 4 am. Hunting ends at noon each day. Only portable blinds are permitted. All duck hunting equipment (blinds, guns, decoys, etc.) must be removed by 1:30 pm each day, either to a designated camping area, vehicle or from the refuge. Closed during quota deer hunt.
Squirrel and Rabbit	Sept.1, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018 (Spring season closed)	Dogs allowed November 11, 2017 through January 31, 2018. Closed during quota deer hunt and muzzleloader deer hunt.
Raccoon and Opossum	Sunrise, Nov. 11, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018	The use of dogs required during hours of darkness. Closed during quota deer hunt.
Deer (archery/crossbow)	Sept. 23, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018	Bag-limit 4 deer (no more than two bucks). Deer data must be recorded on same day of kill at refuge data station. Also deer must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. EARN-A-BUCK program applies. See legal buck definition. Closed during quota deer hunt.
Deer (muzzleloader)	Oct. 21 - 29, 2017	Bag-limit 2 deer. Two does or 1 buck & 1 doe. See legal buck definition. Deer data must be recorded on same day of kill at refuge data station. Also deer must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. EARN-A-BUCK program applies.
Deer (gun) YOUTH	Oct. 28 - 29, 2017	Bag-limit 4 deer (no more than two bucks). See legal buck definition. Not a Quota Hunt. Deer data must be recorded on same day of kill at refuge data station. Also deer must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. EARN-A-BUCK program does not apply.
Quota Deer (gun)	Dec. 2-3, 2017	Bag-limit 2 deer. Two does or 1 buck & 1 doe. See legal buck definition. Deer data must be recorded on same day of kill at refuge data station. Also deer must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. EARN-A-BUCK program applies. Quota permit required.
Special Permit Deer (gun) Mobility Impaired	Nov. 4 - 12, 2017	Bag-limit 4 deer (no more than two bucks). See legal buck definition. Deer data must be recorded on same day of kill at refuge data station. Also, deer must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. EARN-A-BUCK program does not apply. Special permit required.
Trapping	Sunrise, Nov. 11, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018	Refuge special use permit required and available at refuge office. Closed during quota deer hunt.
Quota Turkey (gun) Spring	First two days of State Season	Limit one bearded turkey. Turkey data must be recorded on same day of kill at the refuge data station. Also turkey must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. No one may accompany permit holders while hunting. Quota permit required.
Turkey (gun) Spring YOUTH	Same as State Youth Season	Not a quota hunt. One non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older must accompany a youth. State Season bag limit applies. Turkey data must be recorded on same day of kill at the refuge data station. Also turkey must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532.
Turkey, Spring, (archery/crossbow)	State Season, Zone 9	State bag limit applies. Turkey data must be recorded on same day of kill at the refuge data station. Also turkey must be checked according to State regulations using Zone 532. Closed during quota turkey hunt.
Beaver, Nutria Coyote	Any refuge hunt	No bag limit. May be taken without the use of dogs during any daytime refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.
Feral Hogs	Deer Modern Gun and Muzzleloader Archery hunts: Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 2017	May be taken incidental during modern gun and muzzleloader hunt (without the use of dogs) with legal hunting equipment and ammunition allowed for the hunt. Feral hogs may be taken by archery hunters from November 1 through December 31, 2017. No bag limit. NEW

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Firearms/Ammunition

Persons may only use (discharge) firearms during authorized hunting seasons while attempting to take game species and/or wildlife species approved for incidental take. All hunting weapons used on the Refuge must comply with state regulations for each game species. Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Lead shot is prohibited Refuge wide except during Quota Turkey Hunts. Only rimfire rifles no larger than .22 caliber and shotguns are permitted except during the Muzzleloader and Gun Deer Hunts when hunting equipment legal for these hunts is also permitted. The use or possession of buckshot is prohibited Refuge-wide.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

## Camping

Camping (no reservations or fees required) is permitted only in designated primitive camping areas and in conjunction with on-refuge wildlife-dependent activities (see map). Camping area entrances are marked by signs and boundaries are marked with ORANGE paint. Campers may stay no more than fourteen (14) days during any thirty (30) consecutive-day period in any campground. Camps must be occupied daily. All disturbances, including the use of generators, are prohibited after 10 pm. Camping on the refuge while hunting off the refuge is not permitted. Campfires are permitted only in camping areas and must be attended. Only downed wood may be used for fires. **Importation/exportation of firewood is prohibited due to the Emerald Ash Borer.** Caution: During periods of high fire danger, all open fires will be prohibited.

## Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Pond Creek visitors are encouraged to explore our natural resources by way of birding, canoeing, hiking, photography and observations. While the refuge continuously strives to better provide these opportunities, please feel free to contact us for the most up to date information and accommodations. All ATV/UTV trails are open to foot traffic year round.

## Animals/Pets

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, and small game during designated seasons. Dogs and other pets not being utilized for wildlife-dependent recreation must be on a leash.

Horses may be used only on ATV/UTV trails and roads open to vehicles for on-refuge wildlife-dependent activities only. Horses are prohibited during the muzzleloader and gun deer hunts.

## The following activities are prohibited on Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge:

- Littering.
- Spotlighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Possession, placement, or hunting over bait, salt or any ingestible attractant.
- Use of deer decoys.
- Mini trucks or other off-road vehicles.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Open alcohol containers in parking lots, on roadways, ATV trails, boat ramps, observation deck or in plain view in campgrounds.
- Cutting, painting or defacing trees.
- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Possession or use of herbicides.
- Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paint or any other substance or material.
- Use or possession of any electronic call or other electronic device used for producing or projecting vocal sounds of wildlife.
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven.
- Conducting or participating in deer drives. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within firearm range of one or more participating hunters.
- Taking or possessing turtles or mollusks.
- Possession or use of fireworks.
- Geocaching.
- Hunting within 150 feet of roads and trails open to motor vehicle use (including ATV/UTV trails, open or closed) & designated hiking trails.
- Hunting from an area where a shooting lane has been cut.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Disposing unused portions of game, or fish within 300 yards of any boat ramp, parking lot or campground.
- Leaving any tree stand on the Refuge without owner's name and address clearly marked on the outside and readable from the ground. It is prohibited for an individual to have more than one (1) deer stand on the Refuge at the same time.
- Leaving any personal property on the Refuge unattended. Exception: Gear associated with camping in designated camping sites and deer stands, climbing sticks, or portable ground blinds.
- The use of drones and/or unmanned aircraft. NEW
- Target practice with any firearms, archery tackle or crossbows or any non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Blocking gates, boat ramps, or roadways with vehicles.
- Firearms, including state permitted concealed carry handguns in all refuge offices and buildings.
- To possess, or take or attempt to take waterfowl with the use of, any simulated wing movement decoy or any decoy other than an artificial decoy that imitates the appearance of waterfowl: contains no moving parts or electrical components; and is not subjected to any artificial means that makes it appear to move, splash or cause ripples is prohibited during regular duck season. Exception: Early teal season. Manually operated "jerk strings" may be used to simulate decoy movement. NEW

## 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. Mobility Impaired Access permits are available and are required to gain special access due to disabilities.

## Specific Hunting Regulations

- State bag limits apply unless otherwise noted. Only those species listed in this brochure may be taken.
- Areas posted with “No Hunting Zone” signs and/or blue paint are closed to all hunting.
- Areas posted with “Specialized Hunt Area” signs are only open for mobility impaired hunts.
- A hunter born after 1968 must carry a valid Hunter Education Card. Hunters under 16 years old do not need to have a card if they are under the direct supervision (within arms reach) of a holder of a valid hunting license of at least 21 years of age. Youth hunters under the age of 16 who have a valid Hunter Education Card must also be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old but must only remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. An adult may supervise only one youth for big game hunting and up to two youths for small game.

- Deer stands may be placed on the refuge starting on the opening day of Archery Season and must be removed by January 31. Limit is one deer stand per person. NEW

- Earn-a-Buck Program: A doe must be harvested, checked in with the State and data recorded at the refuge self-check station before a second buck may be harvested. The first buck can be taken during any deer hunt or combination of special hunts.

- Portable, pop-up blinds, must have 144 square inches of blaze orange or chartreuse visible from all sides of the blind during firearm Deer seasons on the refuge.

## Sport Fishing and Frogging

Sport fishing, frogging, and taking of crawfish for personal use are permitted in all refuge waters in accordance with State regulations.

## For Additional Information Contact

Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge  
1958 Central Road  
Lockesburg, AR 71846  
870/289 2126

## Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
7 am - 3:30 pm  
Follow us on facebook, South Arkansas  
Refuges Complex.

## Deer

- Legal Buck Definition and Bag Limit: the total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge deer hunts is two. Legal buck is any male deer. Bag Limit: Four deer total no more than 2 may be bucks.
- First deer harvested can be a buck or a doe. ALL deer must be checked in at the Refuge Check Station on same day killed. Carcasses must be left intact (entrails may be removed) until taken to the check station.
- For all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge the hunter will immediately (prior to moving the animal) complete the hunting license information using 532 as the zone of kill and use the same number at the official state check station as zone of kill.



