



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wapanocca

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations 2020-2021

Welcome

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1961, is one of over 565 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the Refuge is to provide habitat for migratory birds. The Refuge is located in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge

178 Hammond Avenue, Turrell, AR 72384

870/343 2595

<http://www.fws.gov/wapanocca>

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast>

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July 2020



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

General Introduction

Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation are priority public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These wildlife-dependent uses are carefully managed on Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge to ensure they are compatible with refuge purposes and provide safe, high-quality, low-impact, recreational opportunities.

Users of the Refuge must obey all signs pertaining to visitation, access, and public use regulations. All public uses, including hunting and fishing, are conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge visitors may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4 am and must leave by one hour after sunset except those that may hunt at night with the appropriate equipment and required license. Access into the refuge is through an automatically time-controlled gate that opens at 4 am and closes at 8 pm. If you are locked in the refuge or need assistance, call 911 on a cell phone and you will be connected to the Sheriff's office.

* The Refuge is closed to ALL other entry and public use November 21-22, 2020 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting and incidental take of beaver, nutria, coyote, and feral hogs.

Portions of the Refuge are closed as waterfowl sanctuary (see map) and are closed to ALL entry and public use, including hunting and fishing, from December 1 through February 28.

Roads may be closed at any time road conditions or other administrative needs warrant. A locked gate or other barrier, road closed sign, or no motorized vehicle sign means the road is closed to ALL motorized vehicle travel but not to foot or bicycle travel unless signed otherwise.

All vehicles and bicycles must stay on maintained roads or established parking areas. All vehicles must meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a licensed motor vehicle. Modified vehicles equipped with oversize tractor lug tires are prohibited.

Motor vehicle speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.

ATVs are prohibited, except for use by mobility-impaired hunters possessing a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager.

Horses/mules are prohibited.

Airboats, personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), and hover craft are prohibited.

You must use the public boat ramp off Highway 77 to launch motorized boats into Wapanocca Lake. Boats may not be left overnight on the Refuge. ALL boats are prohibited on Wapanocca Lake and Woody Pond from December 1 through February 28.

The boat launch access canal to Wapanocca Lake is a "No Wake Zone."

2020-2021 General Hunting Permit – Wapanocca NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting gear. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. This permit expires 6/30/21.

NOTE: Quota Permit also required for Quota Gun Deer Hunt. I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and agree to obey them and agree to allow USFWS and AGFC officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)



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General Refuge Regulations

- Public use of the Refuge is permitted throughout the year.
- Permitted activities are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.
- Nighttime use of the Refuge is limited to raccoon/opossum hunting and the appropriate gear must be possessed.
- Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in any commercial activity to first obtain a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager.

Prohibited Activities Include:

- Possession of open alcohol containers on refuge roads, parking areas, boat ramps, fishing piers, or observation decks.
- Camping.
- Building fires.
- Cutting or defacing trees, shrubs, or other plants.
- Littering (including, but not limited to, shotgun shell hulls and cigarette butts).
- Searching for or removal of artifacts.
- Possession or use of fireworks.
- Tournament fishing.
- Use of firearms, and possession or use of archery equipment and/or crossbows, except during refuge hunts that allow their use.
- Loaded hunting firearms or muzzleloaders in or on a vehicle, ATV, or boat under power. "Loaded" is defined as having shells in the firearm or an ignition device on the muzzleloader.
- Target practice or non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Dog field trials and organized training events.
- Taking or possessing frogs, turtles, or mollusks.
- Possession, use, or manufacturing of illegal drugs.
- Use of artificial light to locate wildlife, except as authorized for raccoon/opossum hunting.

- Possession or use of non-biodegradable materials to mark trails.
- Failure to remove all marking materials from the Refuge following the hunt.
- Use of Drones.

Sport Fishing Regulations

- Daytime sport fishing is permitted from March 1 through November 30 in all refuge waters in accordance with state regulations.
- Boats must be operated at speeds less than 5 mph in the "No Wake Zone" located between the boat launch and open lake.
- Crawfish collection, for personal use only, is permitted in all refuge waters from March 1 through November 30. The owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number must be permanently affixed to each trap.
- The possession or use of yo-yos, jugs, or other floating containers, drops or limb lines, trotlines, or commercial fishing tackle is prohibited.
- Bow fishing is permitted only during daylight hours from March 1 through November 30 in all refuge waters. All fish harvested with a bow must be removed from the Refuge.

General Hunt Regulations

- A Refuge permit is required for all hunting activities.
- Permits are non-transferable and must be signed by the hunter and carried at all times while on the refuge in possession of hunting gear.
- A permit is located on the front of this brochure or can be downloaded and printed from the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/wapanocca>. An additional permit is required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.
- Bag limits for all species, except deer, are the same as state limits unless specified otherwise.
- Hunter Orange or Chartreuse must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission regulations during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

- Portable, pop-up blinds must have 144 square inches of blaze orange or chartreuse visible from all sides of the blind during firearms big-game seasons on the Refuge.

Mobility-impaired hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager allowing the use of an ATV on designated roads. For more information, please call the Refuge at 870/343 2595.

Prohibited Hunting Activities Include:

- Trapping.
- Driving or screwing any metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter.
- Building or hunting from permanent blinds or stands.
- Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand.
- Possession or distribution of bait or hunting over bait, salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for wildlife.
- Hunting from mowed or graveled roads.
- Possession or use of lead shot or buckshot while hunting.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Use of natural scents or lures that contain natural deer and elk urine or other biofluids.

Hunters Under the Age of 16

Anyone born after 1968 must complete a hunter education course and carry a valid hunter education card to hunt in Arkansas. Youths under 16 may hunt without hunter education as long as they are under the direct supervision of an adult who is 21 years old and has a valid hunting license. Home state hunter education cards will be honored.

Specific Hunt Regulations

A refuge permit is required for all hunts. When signed, the permit on the front cover of this brochure or the downloaded website version will serve as a permit for all hunts (an additional permit is required for the



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Quota Gun Deer Hunt) and must be signed and carried on your person while hunting. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. Refuge regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

NOTE: The Refuge is closed to ALL entry and public use November 21-22, 2020 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting and incidental take of beaver, nutria, coyote, and feral hogs.*

Round Pond and Pigmon Units (St. Francis County): CLOSED TO ALL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING. ATVs are prohibited on the Round Pond access road. Access to these refuge lands is currently through private lands and all refuge visitors must obtain permission from adjacent landowners prior to crossing private land to reach refuge lands.

Both Units are open to small game and deer hunting according to Wapanocca NWR hunting seasons, general hunting regulations, and other regulations governing public use activities. A Wapanocca NWR general permit is required for all hunting activities. A permit copy is located on the front of this brochure or may be downloaded from the refuge website at: www.fws.gov/wapanocca. Additionally, a Wapanocca quota gun hunt permit is required for modern gun deer hunting.

Migratory Birds

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge is CLOSED to all migratory bird hunting.

Small Game

Only rifles chambered for rimfire cartridges or shotguns with non-toxic shot may be used for small game hunting.

Squirrel

September 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021*

(Note: Includes Round Pond and Pigmon Units): Dogs are permitted.

Rabbit

September 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021.*

(Note: Includes Round Pond and Pigmon Units): Dogs are permitted.

Furbearer

Raccoon - September 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 (Note: Includes Round Pond and Pigmon Units.) Dogs are required for hunting of raccoons at night.

Opossum - September 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021. (Note: Includes Round Pond and Pigmon Units.) Dogs are required for hunting of opossums at night.

Beaver, nutria and coyote may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt by the use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state regulations.

Feral Hog - In cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Feral Hog Control Program, feral hogs may only be taken on the refuge during the quota gun deer hunt and by archery hunters from November 1 - December 31. Feral hogs are destructive, non-native animals that are incompatible with refuge management. Live hogs may not be possessed, transported, or released on the Refuge.

Big Game

Deer harvested on the Refuge (including Round Pond and Pigmon Units) must be checked according to state regulations and Wapanocca NWR immediately recorded on your hunting license.

Only portable stands may be used and the owner's the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number must be permanently affixed to the stand. A portable hunting stand is any device or structure used for the purpose of hunting that can be carried in its entirety and erected by hand including but not limited to tripod stands, lean-to stands, lock-on stands, ladder stands and climbing stands. Stands may be erected seven days prior to the Refuge deer season and must be removed from the waterfowl sanctuary prior to December 1 and from the rest of the Refuge within seven days of the closing of the archery deer hunt.

Deer Limits and Refuge Legal Buck Definition

The limit for the gun quota hunt is one either-sex deer. For the archery season the Refuge bag limit is three deer. The total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge hunts is two. A legal buck on the Refuge is defined as any male deer (no antler restriction). Deer

harvested on the Refuge are NOT bonus deer.

Deer (Archery/Crossbow) - (Note: Includes Round Pond and Pigmon Units.)

September 26, 2020 - February 28, 2021.* Either sex. Limit three deer.

Deer (Quota Gun) - (Note: Includes Round Pond and Pigmon Units.)

November 21 - 22, 2020.* Quota permit is required. Only shotguns with slugs, muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile and legal pistols and air rifles as defined by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission may be used. Either sex. One deer limit.

To Apply for a Quota Hunt Permit
Hunt permits are \$12.50 and must be purchased from the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/wapanocca.

Quota permits issued first come, first served until the quota is reached, or until October 31, 2020.

Permit requests will NOT be accepted in person.

Note: Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable, even in the event of refuge deer hunt closures due to flooding.

Hunting Seasons

* NOTE: The Refuge (including Round Pond and Pigmon Units) is CLOSED to all other entry and public use during Quota Gun Deer Hunt November 21-22, 2020.

Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting and incidental take of beaver, nutria, coyote, and feral hogs.

Wapanocca NWR and Round Pond and Pigmon Units

Deer – Archery

September 26, 2020 - February 28, 2021*

Deer – Quota Gun Deer Hunt
November 21-22, 2020*

Squirrel & Rabbit

September 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021*

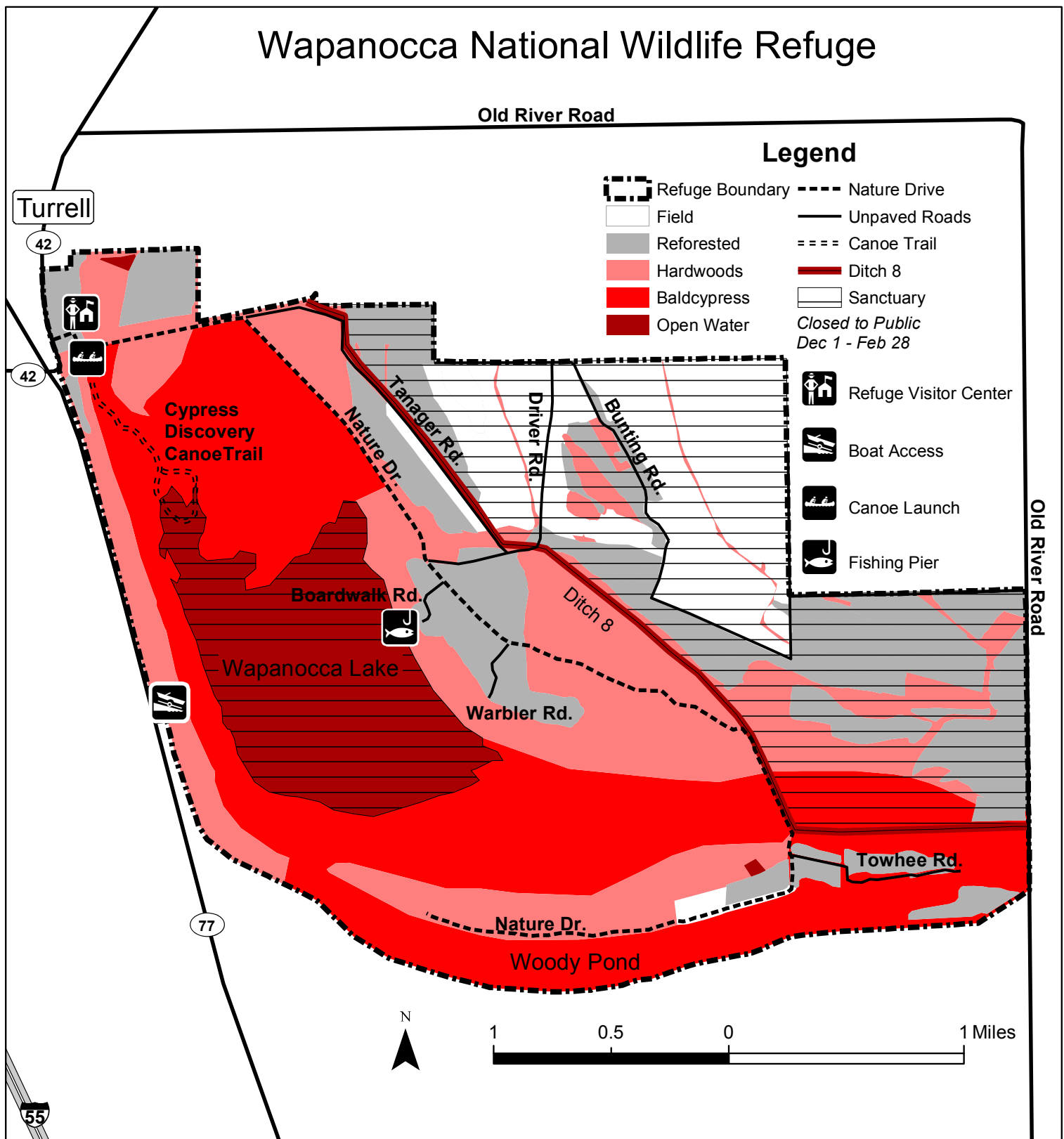
Raccoon

September 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021*

Opossum

September 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021*

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge



Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect and obey all refuge signs:

Refuge boundary sign. Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public entry and use. Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have the specific closure dates printed on the face of the sign.



Take pride in your refuge. Don't litter.