



Hunting Regulations

Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge

Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge has two public hunting areas. The Pelton Lake Public Hunting Area on the east end of the refuge is accessible from Chinquapin Road or by boat. The Matthes Field Public Waterfowl Hunting Area is located at the north end of the refuge along Chinquapin Road. Dredge disposal areas along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway are not open for public hunting.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations that govern activities on national wildlife refuges set forth in Title 50, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

All public waterfowl hunting areas are open every morning beginning at 4:00 AM, closing at 12:00 PM (Noon) during the state waterfowl hunting season. Hunters age 17 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.

We permit the following:

- Hunting of ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots only.
- Hunters to enter the refuge hunt units no earlier than 4:00 a.m.
- Use of approved non-toxic shot.
- Use of the area on a first come, first served basis.
- Use of retriever dogs, which must be under the control of the handler at all times.
- Non-motorized and e-bicycles are allowed on levee roads beyond the designated parking area within the hunt boundaries.

We require the following:

- Vehicles to park in designated parking area, and in such a manner as to not obstruct normal vehicle traffic.
- Removal of decoys, boats, spent shells, marsh chairs, vegetation (blind material) and other equipment and trash from the refuge daily.
- Shotguns to be unloaded and cased or broken down when transported in vehicles.
- Hunters to maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards between parties.

We prohibit the following:

- Building or use of pits or permanent blinds.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages in all public hunting areas and parking lots.
- Off road vehicle travel or ATV use on the refuge.
- Target shooting or target practice.
- Dog training—with or without the use of firearms.
- The use of plastic flagging, reflectors or reflective tape.
- Blocking gates and roadways.
- Entry (Scouting) in Public Hunting Areas prior to the opening of State specified waterfowl hunting season.

Directions

To reach Big Boggy NWR - from the Highway 60 and FM 521 intersection in Wadsworth, drive east on FM 521 for 2.9 miles to Chinquapin Road. Turn right, travel on Chinquapin Road for 7 miles to the refuge, look for refuge hunting signs on the right.

For More Information

For inquiries about the program, contact:

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