

Big Branch Marsh

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2009-2010

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge General Fishing and Hunting Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement Louisiana State hunting and fishing regulations and the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. All plants and wildlife are protected unless a specific Refuge hunting season allows take of wildlife under this permit.

All hunters must possess a Refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all 2009 - 2010 Refuge hunts.

Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4:00 A.M. and must exit no later than two hours after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease and all decoys and blinds must be removed from the hunting area by Noon.

Refuge areas closed to public hunting are marked with “No Hunting Zone” signs and/or shown on the map attached to this brochure.

Firearms are permitted only during the Refuge hunting season. When traversing the Refuge by boat or vehicles, all firearms and state approved archery equipment must be unloaded and cased. An unloaded firearm is defined as having no ammunition in the chamber, magazine, or cylinder. Unloaded archery equipment is defined as having the arrow removed from the string. Crossbows must also be un-cocked.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be erected 14 days before the deer archery season and must be removed from the Refuge within 14 days after this season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on a Refuge. Deer stands must have owner’s name, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when not in use. All untagged stands are subject to forfeiture or seizure.

Youth hunters under the age of 16 must possess proof of completing an approved Hunter Safety Course and be supervised by an adult at least 21 years of age during all hunts. Two youths may be supervised by one adult during small game hunts. Only one youth may be supervised during big game hunts. Youth must remain within normal voice contact of the adult who is supervising them. Parents or adult guardians are responsible for ensuring that hunters under the age of 16 do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of the Refuge regulations.

Hunters participating in the special dog season for rabbits are required to wear a “hunters orange” cap.

Motorized vehicles are only permitted on public roads and designated parking areas.

Prohibited Activities

Possession of buckshot, lead shot, slugs, rifles or rifle ammunition is prohibited.

Possession of a loaded firearm on a refuge road open to vehicle travel or Boy Scout Road is prohibited.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a guided hunt are prohibited.

Hunting from a permanent tree stand, or from a tree in which a metal object (such as nails, spikes, screws) has been driven is prohibited.

Hunting in the No Hunt Area is prohibited.

The possession of Toxic Shot is prohibited during all Refuge hunts.

Target shooting on the Refuge is prohibited.

Air-thrust boats, mud boats, or air cooled propulsion engines are prohibited on the Refuge.

We prohibit possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally-occurring food attractant on the Refuge. Cutting, removing or damaging trees and other live plant matter is prohibited.

We prohibited the use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes.

Horses and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited.

Remote cameras are prohibited.

The use of deer decoys is prohibited.

Hunting or the discharge of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of roads and designated trails is prohibited.

Specific Sport Fishing Regulations

Recreational fishing is permitted year-round in accordance with State Regulations subject to the following conditions:

Use of trotlines, limb lines, slat traps, gar sets, nets or alligator lines is prohibited. You may take bait with cast nets 8 foot dia. or less.

Commercial fishing is prohibited.

Recreational fishing, crawfishing and crabbing are permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset. Night use is permitted for fishing, crabbing, and crawfishing at the Lake Road area.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State hunting regulations apply unless otherwise listed.

Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.



This sign marks the refuge boundary. Public entry is generally authorized. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.



This sign marks an area on the refuge designated for environmental education in which students learn about the refuge. The area bounded by these signs is closed to hunting.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason.

Southwest Louisiana Refuges
Big Branch Marsh
61389 Highway 434
Lacombe, LA 70445
985/882 2000
www.fws.gov/southeastlouisiana

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

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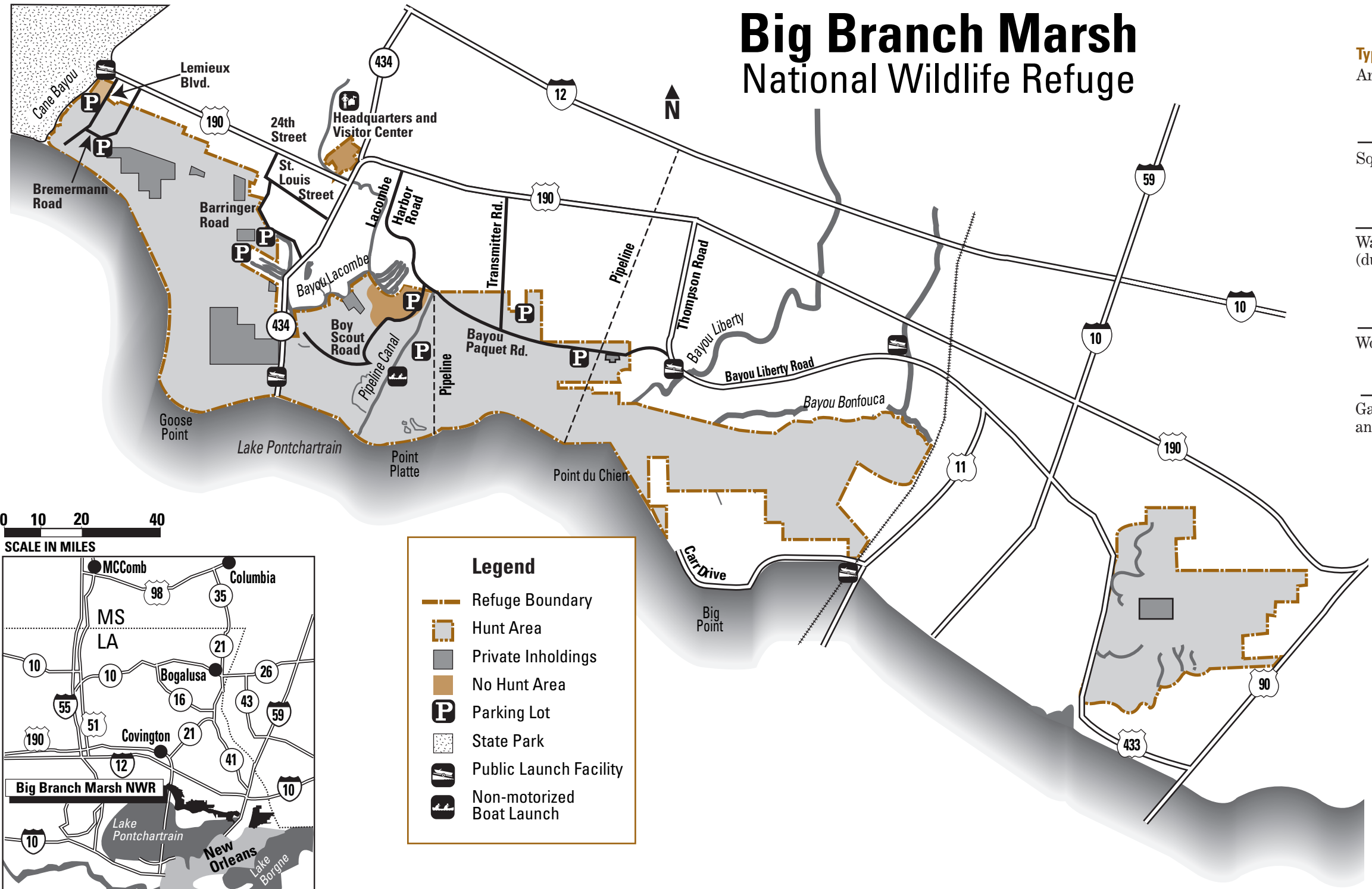


Big Branch Marsh Refuge Hunting Permit 2009-2010

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Expires June 30, 2010.

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge



Type Hunt	Season	Special Regulations
Archery deer	State season and regulations apply	State approved archery equipment. Hunters are encouraged to complete a certified Bowhunter Education course. No dogs or "man drives". Hogs may be taken with State approved archery equipment during deer archery season.
Squirrel and Rabbit	State season Closed during spring season.	Shotguns only, non-toxic shot only, shot size must be #4 or smaller. Dogs may be used only after the close of the State archery deer season and until the end of February. Closed to hunting during the State Spring squirrel Season.
Waterfowl & coots (ducks, geese, coots)	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of State season.	Waterfowl and coot hunting permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until noon. Temporary blinds only must be removed daily by noon. Retrievers are allowed. Closed to hunting during the special "light goose" conservation season.
Woodcock and Quail	State season	Only non-toxic shot size #4 or smaller is permitted. Recognized breeds of setter/retriever are allowed. We only allow dogs to locate, point, and retrieve when hunting for quail.
Gallinules, Rails and Snipe	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of State Season.	Only non-toxic shot size #4 or smaller is permitted. Hunting permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until noon.