

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 National Wildlife Refuges. The primary objective of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to provide habitat for conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one method used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunting and fishing help maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with their habitat, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public Entry

The Refuge is open every day from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums.

The use of artificial light, including headlights, to spot or locate any animal, except authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums, is strictly prohibited.

Be aware that alligators are present in Refuge waters, no feeding or harassing.

Camping

Camping is not permitted on the Refuge. Camping facilities are available at Corps of Engineers' Lenoir Landing, or Highway 84 Service Area.

Fires

Fires are not permitted on the Refuge.

Swimming

Swimming is not permitted in Refuge waters.

Vehicles

Motor vehicles are only allowed on Refuge roads shown on the map on the reverse side unless the road is closed by sign or gate. Vehicles must be parked adjacent to these roadways, and may not block gates. Ditch busting or mud riding is not allowed on the Refuge (neither off-road nor on-road) and violators will be prosecuted.

Bicycles are allowed to be used on the Refuge.

No ATVs (all terrain vehicles) allowed.

Horses

Horses are not permitted on the Refuge.

General Hunting/Fishing Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, "Code of Federal Regulations." State bag limits, arms and ammunition, and other applicable State regulations apply. State hunting and fishing licenses are required on the Refuge in accordance with State regulations. All U.S. Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced.

Boats

Boats may not be left on the Refuge overnight. Entry and use of air boats, hovercraft, and personalized watercraft such as jet skis, watercycles, or waterbikes are prohibited.

Permits

Permits (this brochure) are required for all hunts and for all hunters regardless of age. The brochure must be signed and carried on each person while hunting to serve as a permit. Permits are non-transferable and must accompany proper state hunting license.

Handicapped Accessibility

Those requiring special assistance to participate in all Refuge activities are encouraged to contact the Refuge manager. A person with a severe disability (i.e. wheelchair bound) may be given permission to use a vehicle to gain access to areas normally closed to this use.

Weapons

Loaded firearms (firearms with ammunition in the chamber or magazine, or percussion caps on muzzleloaders) are prohibited on any road or levee whether gated or not. Handguns must be in compliance with State regulations. All firearms transported on roads and waters within the Refuge boundary must be unloaded and either dismantled or cased.

Only permitted firearms are allowed during Refuge small game hunting seasons. Discharging a firearm for a purpose other than to take legal game animals during established hunting seasons is prohibited.

Baiting

Baiting on the Refuge is prohibited by Federal Law.

Special Hunting Regulations

Hunters who fail to abide by all applicable regulations will be considered to be hunting without permission.

Waterfowl sanctuary is open to all entry from March 1 through November 30.

Hunting will not be permitted within 100 yards of the fenced-in Refuge work center area, hiking trail, or the Refuge boat ramp.

Only designated game species may be taken. Incidental species (raccoon, opossum, feral hogs, and coyotes) may be taken during hunts with the weapon legal during those hunts. A hunter cannot hunt the Refuge with the sole intent of taking just these incidental species. All other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

The possession or use of toxic shot, oversized shot, or any drug for hunting is prohibited.

Organized drives are prohibited.

Tree stand users are required to use a safety belt or harness. Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed is prohibited. Permanent stands are prohibited. Cutting or trimming branches or brush for shooting lanes is prohibited. Marking of trees, flagging tape, and reflective tacks are prohibited.

All hunters harvesting Refuge wildlife must record harvest data at one of the checkout stations upon conclusion of each day's hunting. Check stations and scales are located at Bobby's Fish Camp (Highway 84) and Refuge Work Center (Womack Hill).

Youth hunters, anyone under the age of 16, must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older, and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult.

Small Game

Small game hunting is allowed on the Refuge. A no-cost permit (this brochure) is required for all hunters. State bag limits apply. Dogs are allowed for small game hunting except in the Middle Swamp. Dogs are not permitted in the Middle Swamp (between Okatuppa and Turkey Creeks) for small game hunting except between February 13 and February 28. Weapons restricted to shotguns with shot size no larger than No. 6 or rifles no larger than .22 standard caliber (.22 magnums not allowed).

Squirrel & Rabbit

October 15 - November 30 (Archery)

November 14 - November 30 (Gun)

February 13 - February 28 (Gun)

Raccoon

February 13 - February 28 (Gun)

Deer

October 15 - November 30 (Archery only)

Feral Hogs

October 15 - November 30 (Archery only)

March 13 - March 28 (Archery only)

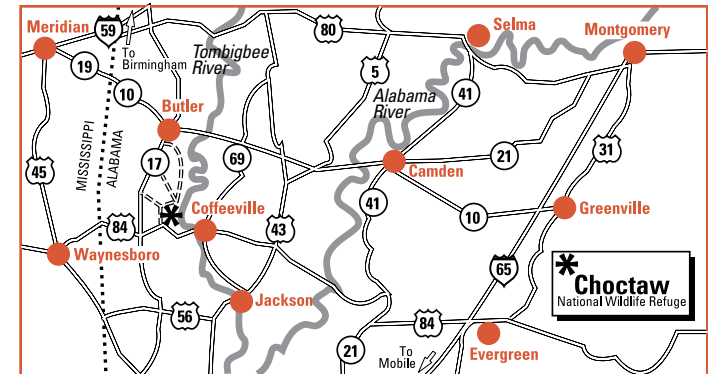
Special Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted year-around on Refuge waters unless otherwise marked by signs as closed to public entry or fishing. Only fish, according to state regulations, may be taken, possessed, or transported.

Sport Fishing – Only the use of pole-and-line or rod-and-reel is permitted. All other methods of fishing including trot lines and limb lines are prohibited.

Commercial Fishing – A Refuge Special Use Permit is required for commercial fishing. Commercial fishers may use nets, seines, baskets, and boxes legal for use within the State of Alabama. All gill nets must be actively attended at all times. Information on harvest data will be required.

Frogging, turtling and bowfishing are not permitted.



Driving Directions

From Coffeeville, Alabama take Highway 84 across Tombigbee River going west. Take County Road 21 to Barrytown. Turn right on County Road 14 to Refuge road. Watch for Refuge signs from Highway 84 on to the Refuge.

