

Bayou Cocodrie

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations

2009-2010



Hunting, Fishing, Observation and Hiking

Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge 2009-2010 Refuge Access Permit

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

Signature (permit is non-transferable, valid only when signed.)

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

Deer stands left on the refuge must be clearly marked with owners name, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Portable stands must be removed from trees daily and free-standing stands must be placed in a non-hunting position daily.

Access

All motor vehicles are restricted to refuge parking areas or parish roads. Use of all terrain vehicles (ATV's) is restricted to designated ATV trails and are only allowed from September 1 through Feb. 28. ATV's will not exceed 25 mph when driven on the Refuge. **Using an ATV to travel off a designated trail in order to retrieve game, or for any other reason, is strictly prohibited.** An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is a 3 or 4 wheeled off-road vehicle with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight 750 lbs. (337.5 kg), length 85 inches (212.5 cm), and width 48 inches (120 cm). We restrict ATV tires to those no larger than 25 X 12 with a maximum 1-inch (2.5 cm) lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. Factory/manufacturer tires only. Only trailers with flotation-type tires may be used on the ATV trails. Parking areas and ATV trails may be closed to all use due to adverse conditions. Hunters must not block any gate, road, entrance, or trail with their vehicle. Horses and mules are not allowed. Bicycles are allowed year round and are restricted to designated trails.



All state boating regulations apply including, but not limited to, running lights, registration, and personal floatation devices. Boats may be used to access the refuge from Bayou Cocodrie or Cross Bayou. Entering the refuge from U.S. Highway 84 is prohibited. All boats used to access the refuge must be docked on the banks of the refuge. Boats used on the refuge may not be left on the refuge for more than **3 days** and must be clearly marked with the name and home address of the person using the boat.

Specific Fishing Regulations

State creel limits apply.

Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.

Taking or harassing alligator snapping turtles is prohibited.

Fishing is permitted on the Cross Bayou Cut and all tributaries that fill with water from Bayou Cocodrie during high water stages.

The refuge boat ramp is open from 4 am until 2 hours after sunset.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on the refuge:

- Commercial fishing.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages in the hunting areas and/or possession of open alcoholic beverages containers.
- Baiting or hunting over bait, and the possession of bait.
- Possession of a limb saw, tree cutting saw, or any other equipment of this nature.
- Possession of any type of shot other than approved non-toxic shot.
- Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant (including cutting trees or brush) or wildlife other than as specified in the refuge regulations.
- Target shooting.
- Use or possession of nails, spikes, or other metal objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or metal objects; or using climbing spikes.
- Hunting within 150 feet of a designated refuge road or trail. A designated trail is defined as any refuge trail that is marked with numbered trail markers and/or paint on trees along the trail route.
- Hunting in designated "No Hunting Zones" and/or entering into designated "Closed Areas".
- Marking areas with flagging, paper, paint, etc. and/or possession of marking materials.
- Use of horses or mules.
- Camping/overnight parking.
- Man-drives for deer.
- Climbing and/or hunting from electrical power-line poles.

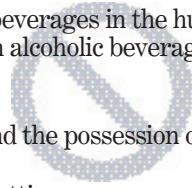
Black bears are protected

The Louisiana black bear is listed as a threatened species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It is unlawful for anyone to take, harass, disturb, etc., any Louisiana black bear. Criminal penalty: up to \$50,000 and 1 year imprisonment.

Bayou Cocodrie
National Wildlife Refuge
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge

Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1992, is located in Concordia Parish in east central Louisiana. The 14,668 acre refuge is composed of some of the last remaining, least disturbed bottomland hardwoods in the Mississippi River Delta. Due to the area's diverse habitat, several wildlife species including game mammals, waterfowl, and Neotropical songbirds, utilize the refuge. The refuge is open year round to the public. However, hunting is only permitted on the refuge during specific times of the year.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

Passes, Permits, and Other Requirements

Permits: Hunters and anglers 17 years of age and older are required to possess and carry all valid state hunting and/or fishing licenses and a signed refuge permit. When signed and in your possession, the permit section of this brochure serves as your Refuge Public Use Permit for all refuge activities except the lottery gun hunt, special access hunt, and youth lottery hunts, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. To help save tax dollars, hunters and anglers are encouraged to retain and use the same permit throughout the entire season. Permits can be obtained at the refuge headquarters, or by telephone, written, or emailed request, and are available online at www.fws.gov. Permits are non-transferable.

Special limited permits are required for the lottery gun hunt for deer. There is a \$12.50 fee for permits and permits are **non-transferable** and **non-refundable**. Applications for limited permits will be accepted from July 1 until 4 pm on August 31, 2009. **To apply, mail the following information to the refuge office:**

- your name
- complete mailing address
- phone number
- choice of unit to hunt (Brooks Brake, Cross Bayou, or Wallace Lake)
- signature

- **use a standard (8.5 X 11 inch) sheet of paper**
- you may only apply once
- you must specify which unit you wish to hunt
- to be considered a group, all information for the group (up to 5 individuals) must appear on the same sheet of paper
- do not send payment with your application

Duplicate or incomplete applications will be discarded. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and given details on how to submit the permit fee. Hunters under 17 years of age must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. Only those persons with valid hunt permits are allowed to use the refuge during the gun hunt.

Special limited permits are also required for the lottery youth, and special access deer hunts. Applications for the youth hunt permits will be accepted from July 1 until 4 pm on August 31, 2009, via the same procedure described above. Only individual applications are accepted for the Lottery Youth Hunts and the Special Access Deer Hunt.

Hunters between the ages of 8 and 15 years, inclusive, who have successfully completed hunter education, are eligible to apply for the lottery youth hunts. Youth hunt applicants must specify which hunt they wish to apply for and you may only apply for one of the hunts.

Hunters who are permanently dependent on a wheelchair are eligible to apply for the special access hunt prior to November 1, 2009. Applications must include a copy of the LDWF Disabled Hunter Card and **a doctor's certification stating the permanent nature of the wheelchair dependency. Applicants for the youth hunts and the special access hunt must specify if you are applying for the North area (Tiffée field near the refuge headquarters), or South area (Esque field near the Cross Bayou Check Station).** Permits are non-transferable and only successful applicants will be notified.

Other Requirements

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit the refuge no later than 2 hours after legal sunset for that day. Raccoon and Opossum hunters may use the refuge at night during the month of February. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 12:00 noon and all decoys and blinds removed from the hunting area by 1:00 pm. You must check all game taken on the refuge before leaving the refuge at one of the self-clearing check stations indicated on the map in the refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations Brochure. Each hunter is responsible for reporting harvest information on a Hunter Information Report Card which

is located at the self-clearing check stations. Each Deer hunter is responsible for removing the jaw bone from each harvested deer and leaving it in the appropriate place at the self-clearing check station.

Bows, Firearms and Primitive Gun

Bows are permitted only during the refuge archery hunt season. State regulations governing equipment, including, but not limited to, drug tipped arrows, pods, broadhead size, etc., are applicable. Only muzzleloading rifles and compound, recurve or longbows may be used during the refuge Primitive Gun season. Single shot, breech loading, cartridge rifles (such as .45-70's) of a kind and type manufactured in the United States prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of those type rifles are allowed during the refuge primitive gun season.



The possession of slugs or rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is prohibited during the refuge small game and woodcock seasons. Possession of buckshot is prohibited. Possession of lead shot or any shotgun ammunition other than approved, non-toxic shot is prohibited on the refuge except that rifled slugs are permitted during the lottery deer hunts. When transversing the Refuge by boats or land conveyance (vehicles), including ATV's, all firearms (including muzzleloaders) must be **unloaded and encased**. An unloaded firearm is defined as having no ammunition in the magazine or chamber, cylinder or clip when attached to a firearm. An unloaded muzzleloader is defined as having the percussion cap completely removed. Unloaded archery equipment is defined as having the arrow removed from the string. Crossbows must also be un-cocked. Encased is defined as fully enclosed in a covering designed for carrying a firearm. Firearms are permitted on the refuge only during the applicable gun hunts. Possession of any firearm while engaged in archery hunting is prohibited.



Physically challenged or disabled users are encouraged to consult refuge staff for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable. Hunters with disabilities must possess a valid Disabled Hunter Permit/Card issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Special access ATV trails are available for mobility-impaired hunters and hunters 60 years of age and older with proper state permits. ATV's must be equipped with a red flag at least 6 inches wide and 12 inches long on a pole or staff extending at least 36 inches above the level of the ATV seat. State requirements for "Mobility-Impaired" classification apply.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are listed in this brochure.

Hunting from old stands erected in past years, erecting permanent stands or blinds, or using old structures/camps is prohibited. Old dilapidated stands and structures are unsafe for any use.

All hunters (including archery and small game hunters), except waterfowl hunters on Refuges must wear and display 400 square inches of "hunters orange" and a "hunters orange" cap during the refuge deer gun seasons on the refuge. Hunters participating in the special dog season for rabbits are required to wear a "hunters orange" cap. Four hundred (400) square inches of **unbroken** Hunter Orange and a cap of **unbroken** Hunter Orange must be worn on the outermost layer of clothing at all times during these hunts, **including on the ATV trails and while in stands**. Hunters who use backpacks or carry stands on their backs should be mindful that those objects cover much of their hunter orange and therefore should carry extra orange to drape over the stand or backpack. Hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange above or around their blind which is visible from 360 degrees around the blind.

A Hunter Orange cap is also recommended during the small game, archery, and woodcock hunts.

Youth hunters 17 years of age and under must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older during all hunts. Two youths may be supervised by only one adult during small game and waterfowl hunts. Only one youth may be supervised during big game hunts. Youth must remain within sight and normal voice contact of the adult who is supervising them at all times.

During the youth deer hunts, only the youth is permitted to carry a firearm. It is illegal to hunt or shoot deer with firearms smaller than a .22 caliber center-fire or a shotgun loaded with anything other than rifled slugs. Possession of buckshot is prohibited.

All game taken on the refuge must be checked daily at one of the self-clearing check stations indicated on the map in this brochure. A more detailed map is available at the refuge headquarters for reference only. The map does not substitute for a refuge permit. Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be left on the refuge one day before archery season and must be removed from the refuge within one day after the season closed. Any stand left on the refuge past the end of the archery season will be considered abandoned and therefore property of the U.S. Government.