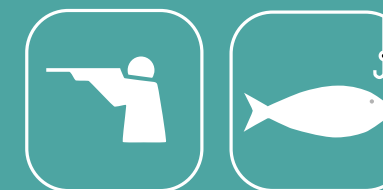


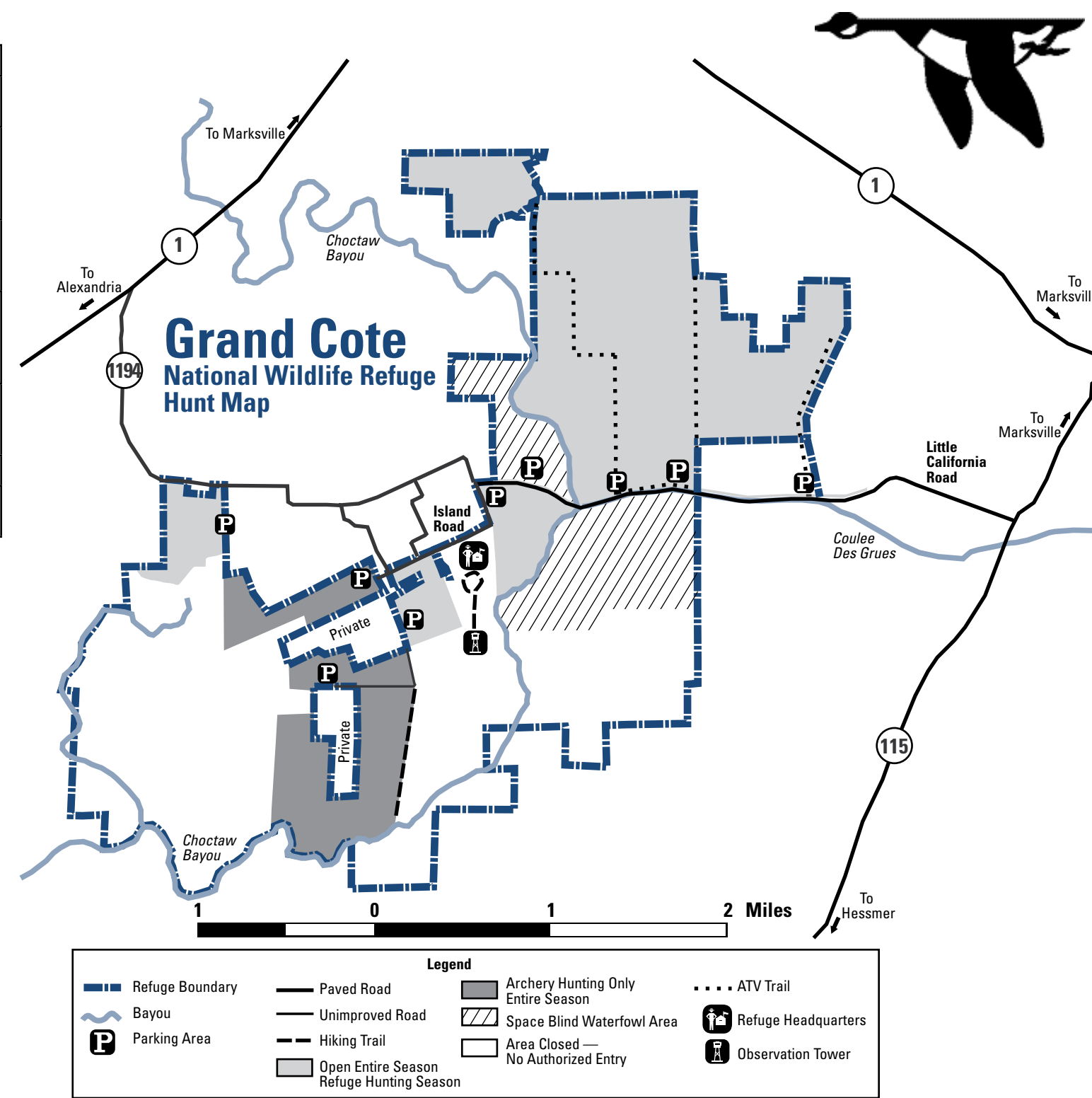
Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2012-2013



Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge
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Marksville, LA 71351
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD


March 2012




2012 - 2013 Hunting and Fishing Season

Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Deer – Archery	State Season	One buck or doe per day, except during the first two weeks of the State Season when it's bucks only.
Rabbit	State Season	Rabbit dogs allowed after close of the Statewide modern firearms deer season. During the special dog season hunters must wear a minimum of an unbroken hunter orange cap. Use of dogs to hunt, trail or take deer or hogs is prohibited.
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, and coots)	State Season	Hunting permitted only in locations on map indicated as “open entire season for refuge hunts.” Hunt dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon. Dogs only allowed to retrieve downed game.
Waterfowl (Space Blind Lottery)	Second Split only	Lottery Permit and Application Fee required. Application period: October 1-31. Hunt dates: Wednesdays & Saturdays until noon. Depending on water availability, there will be up to 12, 3-man blinds.
Waterfowl - Youth	Saturday only of State Zone Date	All waterfowl hunting regulations apply. Youth hunters Weekend ages 8 to 17 only may hunt in the “free roam” hunt area located north of Little California Rd. (see refuge map).
Woodcock	State Season	Dogs only allowed to locate, point, and retrieve birds.
Youth Fishing Event	To be announced	Limited fishing event for youths ages 4-12. Applications available in February.


Signs and Boundaries
Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the sign applies to the area behind the sign. Please respect the following signs:




This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Always know the regulations before entering.



Only ATVs are allowed on these trails.



All hunting and possession of any weapon is prohibited beyond this sign.



This area is closed to all public entry. Exceptions stated on the sign.

CAUTION HUNTERS, BLACK BEAR ADVISORY!
In a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Louisiana State University, and the Black Bear Conservation Committee, Louisiana black bear sows and cubs have been released on Lake Ophelia NWR in an attempt to re-establish these threatened bears within their historical range.

Grand Cote NWR is not far from Lake Ophelia NWR and bears could be seen on the refuge.

Report all bear sightings to the refuge office.

Hunters must positively identify their target before pulling the trigger or releasing an arrow! Black bears and feral hogs are sometimes hard to distinguish in heavy cover.

Black bears are a federally protected species in Louisiana.

The Refuge

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to provide habitat for northern pintails and other wintering waterfowl as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The 6,075 acre refuge is located in the Red River flood plain in east central Louisiana. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on approximately 4,000 acres during specific times of the year. Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations, except where otherwise stated.

The refuge is open to public access for the purpose of hunting from 4 am to two hours after sunset. The refuge boundary is marked with boundary signs and yellow boundary paint.

Weapons and Ammunition

Longbows, compound bows, and crossbows or any bow drawn, held, or released by a mechanical means will be a legal means of take during the deer archery season.

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited; use or possession of lead shot is prohibited refuge wide.

Permits

An annual Special Recreational Activity Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen 16-years-old and older, and for all terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the refuge. The Central LA NWR Special Recreational Activity Permit applies to all refuges within the complex (Lake Ophelia, Grand Cote, and Catahoula). Permits are available at the Refuge headquarters located at Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, seven miles west of Marksville, LA on Highway 1194. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4 pm, **except on federal holidays when the office is closed.**

Permits may also be purchased at the Catahoula NWR Office, located **on US Highway 84, approximately 12 miles east of Jena, LA, and 1 mile west of the junction of highways US 84 and LA 28.** On weekdays and weekends, permits may be purchased at Kate and Ivy's Grocery store, located 7 miles north of Marksville on Highway 452. To order permits by mail, send us your name, address, phone number, and \$15.00 (money order or cashier's check: personal checks not accepted) to the Refuge address shown on the front of this brochure. Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing. The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting, fishing, or using an ATV on the refuge, and acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations.

Commercial Activities

Commercial hunting and fishing activities are prohibited. Specifically, we prohibit any person or group acting as a hunting guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity that any other individual pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person(s) hunting on the refuge, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging or club membership. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lake, bayous or waters is advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

Waterfowl Hunting

We allow hunting of migratory game birds on Wednesdays and Saturdays until 12 noon in areas designated on the refuge map within this brochure as "open entire season for refuge hunts". All hunters, except youths 15 years old and younger, must possess an annual Grand Cote Special Recreational Activity Permit, available from the refuge office. Hunters may enter the refuge after 4 am. All non-motorized boats, equipment, and decoys must be brought in daily and removed by 1 pm.

Youth hunters under age 16 must remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult age 21 or older. Each adult can supervise no more than two youths.

Youths ages 8 to 17 only (with adult supervisors) are eligible to hunt the State Youth Waterfowl Day (Saturday only) in the areas of the refuge indicated "open entire season for refuge hunts" (see brochure map), or they may apply for the space-blind lottery hunt (see instructions below). The adult supervisor is not allowed to hunt ducks on this day.

Lottery Waterfowl Space-Blind Hunts

The space-blind waterfowl hunt area includes up to 12, 3-man blinds which are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the second split of the waterfowl season only.

Applications will be available on the refuge's website and at the refuge headquarters during the application period of October 1-31. **Applications received after the October 31 deadline will not be considered for the lottery. Likewise, incomplete or duplicate applications will be discarded.** Successful applicants will be notified in November.

Each application must be accompanied by a \$5.00 application fee in the form of a money order made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- no personal checks or cash accepted.

We allow no more than **three** hunters to hunt from a blind at one time during any waterfowl hunt. Only one adult may occupy a blind with up to two youth during a designated space-blind lottery hunt. Permits that are provided to persons selected for lottery hunts are nontransferable. **The person whose name appears on the permit must be present in the blind during the hunt. Hunters may only leave the blind to retrieve birds. Hunting outside the designated blinds is prohibited.**

Successful applicants 16 years old and older must purchase a non-refundable annual Special Recreational Permit prior to their hunt date. **The refuge reserves the right to cancel any space-blind waterfowl hunt due to lack of water availability, inclement weather, etc.**

Access to blinds may require walking or using non-motorized or electric powered boats. All other waterfowl hunting regulations apply.

Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on the refuge map. The vehicle speed limit shall not exceed 25 mph, except as otherwise legally posted.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is restricted to designated trails. ATVs are allowed only for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife related activities. ATVs will not exceed 25 mph when driven on the Refuge.

ATVs used on Refuges will not exceed the following: weight – 750 lbs., length – 85", and width – 48". ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 x 12 with a maximum

lug height of 1" and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 p.s.i. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV trails are open from September 1 through the last day of the state rabbit season.

Boats

ONLY non-motorized or electric powered boats are permitted on the refuge. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge:

- Use of dogs for incidental take of hogs
- 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.
- Hunting or the discharge of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of roads and maintained trails is prohibited.
- Use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes or reflective tape.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Littering or leaving personal items, other than what is identified in this brochure
- Camping / Overnight parking
- Collection and removal of deer antlers
- Taking of wildlife, or parts of, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure
- Target practice
- Trapping
- Riding horses or mules
- Possession of saws, saw blades, and/or machetes
- Fires
- Spot-lighting – artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife
- Man-drives for deer or feral hogs
- Harvest of frogs, turtles, snakes, shells, or mollusks
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts

- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATVs
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal objects into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

- Use of remote cameras

- Use of deer decoys

- Geocaching

Specific Hunting Regulations

Refuge hunters are not required to check in and out at Refuge check stations for hunting, fishing, or scouting activities.

Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 12 noon and all decoys and blinds removed from the hunting area by 1 pm.

The International Bowhunters Certification Course is not required for archery hunting.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be placed on the refuge in a non-hunting position one day before the archery season and must be removed from the Refuge within one day after the season closes. **Hunters may place only one deer stand on the Refuge.** Deer stands must have the owners name, address and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position , at or near the base of the tree, when not in use.

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

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown on map.

Youth hunters under the age of 16 must 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.

Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of "hunters orange" above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

All refuge users must enter and exit the refuge only at designated parking lots. Accessing adjacent lands from any part of the refuge or from refuge parking areas is prohibited.

Beaver, feral hogs, raccoon, nutria, and coyote may be taken **incidental to refuge hunts** with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. Use of dogs to hunt, trail or take deer or hogs is prohibited.

Only beagles that do not exceed 15 inches at front shoulders may be used for rabbit hunting. All dogs must be collared with owner's name and phone number. Rabbit hunters must wear a minimum of a solid orange cap during special dog season.

Hunting with pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons and hunting with rabbit dogs during the rabbit season is permitted. However, rabbit dogs are allowed **ONLY** after the Louisiana modern firearms deer season has closed until the close of the state rabbit season.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted year-round in Coulee Des Grues along Little California Road. Refuge anglers must obtain and possess a Refuge Special Recreational Activity Permit, available for purchase at the Refuge office or Kate and Ivy's Grocery Store on Hwy 452 north of Marksville.

Anglers may harvest any fish species on the refuge that is permitted by state regulations. State fish size and bag limits apply.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch fish or bait fish is prohibited.

Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

Creel limits, boating safety, and license requirements are in accordance with state regulations unless otherwise specified in this brochure.

Youth Fishing Rodeo

The annual Youth Fishing Rodeo for youths ages 4-12 is held at the Grand Cote NWR headquarters pond, typically during the month of April. Contact the refuge office in February to find out the specific event date and application requirements.