

2009-2010 Hunting Seasons

Deer-Archery, Nov. 7, 2009 - Jan. 31, 2010

(Closed during Refuge-wide Youth and Special Lottery Hunts). Possession/use of pods chemical drugs or firearms prohibited. Hunters using archery equipment during primitive weapon hunts must follow all primitive weapon regulations (including all hunter orange requirements). Completion of International Bow Hunter Safety course is **NOT** required to hunt on Tensas River NWR but **RECOMMENDED**. Longbow, compound bow, and crossbow or any bow drawn, held, or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take. Contact the Refuge headquarters for more information.

Deer-Youth (Refuge Wide, Open Youth), Nov. 14-15, 2009

Each youth 8-17 years old must possess and carry proof of completion of State-approved hunter education course as well as be supervised by an adult 21 yrs old or older. No more than one youth supervised on this hunt. Use/possession of buckshot is prohibited.

Deer-Staff Guided Youth-Lottery Hunt, Dec. 22 and 29, 2009

Each youth must be 8-15 years old and must possess and carry proof of completion of State-approved hunter education course. Use/possession of buckshot is prohibited. Limit 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per day.

Deer-Wheelchair-Bound Hunt, January 9, 2010

In cooperation with the Tensas River Refuge Association a lottery wheelchair-bound hunt will be conducted. Participation is limited and applications must be received by November 1. Contact the Refuge Headquarters for more information. Limit 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer.

Deer-Lottery Hunt, Nov 27-28, 2009 or Dec. 12-13, 2009 (Lottery Hunt Permit)

Use/possession of buckshot is prohibited. Hunting in and shooting into or across reforested areas or closed areas is prohibited. Hunters using primitive weapons or muzzle loaders must follow all modern firearms regulations (no hunting in reforested areas) Limit one deer (either sex) per day.

Deer Primitive Weapon Dec. 5-6, 2009

State Primitive Weapon and muzzle loader regulations apply. Hunting in and shooting into or across a closed area is prohibited. Primitive Weapon Hunters utilizing ground blinds will be required to display 400 square inches of Hunter Orange outside of the blind which is visible from all sides of the blind.

Turkey TBA

First 16 days of the State season. Limit 1 gobbler per day/2 gobblers per season.

Youth Turkey TBA

Youths may hunt Saturday and Sunday prior to State Turkey Season. Each youth must be 8-17 years old before the 1st day of the hunt. Limit 1 gobbler per day/2 gobblers per regular State season. Must be supervised by adult 21 yrs old or older and no more than one youth supervised on hunt.

Squirrel & Rabbit (without dogs), Oct. 3, 2009-Nov. 30, 2009

Closed during Refuge wide youth, primitive weapon, and Lottery hunts for deer. Approved non-toxic shot required.

Squirrel & Rabbit (with/without dogs) Dec. 7, 2009-Jan. 31, 2010

Closed during Lottery Hunts for deer. Approved non-toxic shot required for shotguns. Hunter orange cap required. Squirrel hunters are limited to 3 dogs per hunting party.

Night Raccoon, Dec. 26, 2009-Jan. 24, 2010

Approved non-toxic shot required for shotguns. No bag limit. Use of dogs and lights approved. Horses and mules allowed sunset to sunrise. Hunters are required to try and take treed raccoons.

Woodcock State Season

Approved non-toxic shot required for shotguns.

Ducks and Coots (Closed during Refuge wide youth, Special Lottery Deer hunts, and Primitive weapon hunts.) Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays until noon during regular State season.

CLOSED AREAS and NO WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS are marked on the map in this brochure. Constructing or hunting from permanent or pit blinds prohibited. Portable blinds and decoys must be removed daily by 1:00 pm. Approved non-toxic shot required. Possession of lead shot prohibited.

Incidental Species Oct. 3, 2009 - Jan. 31, 2010 (weapon legal for the day)

coyote, beaver, raccoon, skunk, opossum, feral hog.

NOTE:

ALL game must be checked at a check station nearest to point of take after each hunt before leaving the Refuge! Each hunter is responsible for and required to check in and out daily at the designated entries of the Refuge. Reporting harvest information will be available on the daily check in form as well. Each hunter is also responsible for abiding by state tagging regulations; please provide your own writing utensil. Volunteers are needed at Tensas River NWR. Stop by the visitor center or call 318/574 2664 for more information.

Primitive Weapon Definition:

Legal Primitive firearms for primitive season include: 1) Rifles, .44 caliber minimum, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, use of black powder or approved substitute only, take ball or bullet projectile only, including sabot bullets, including muzzleloaders known as "in line" muzzleloaders. 2) Single shot, breech loading rifles, .38 caliber or larger of a kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of that type of rifle having an exposed hammer that use metallic cartridges loaded with black powder or modern smokeless powder. All of the above may be fitted with magnified scopes.

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. If a bear approaches you, make loud noises and make yourself appear as large as possible. You may carry air horns to discourage curious bears. NEVER FEED OR APPROACH BEARS. Always use good hunter ethics and make sure of your target not to confuse it with a Louisiana black bear. The Louisiana black bear could be mistaken for a black feral hog in palmetto or heavy cover; always clearly identify your target.

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

