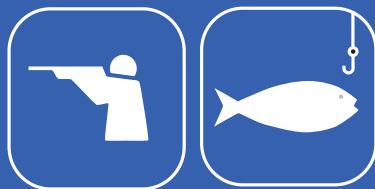


Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2009-2010



To: _____

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

Tensas River 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. All game taken during any hunt must be reported at a check station.

Signature (Permits are not transferable)

(Valid only when signed.)

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1980, contains nearly 80,000 acres of prime bottomland hardwood habitat located in the Tensas River Basin in northeastern Louisiana. The Refuge is composed of extensive bottomland hardwood forests intermingled with sloughs, swamps, and lakes. Due to the Refuge's tremendous diversity of lands and waters it has long been noted for its large populations of waterfowl, songbirds and mammals including several game species. Public hunting and fishing is regulated by this brochure or CFR mentioned below for the Refuge.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions. State definitions and regulations for crossbows, primitive weapons, and muzzleloaders apply while in use on the Refuge. All three are legal forms of take for deer hunting with the exception of hunting turkeys with crossbows, which is prohibited. **NEW**

Permits

Refuge Access permits are required for all Refuge Users. When signed and in your possession, the cover section of this brochure serves as your permit for all Refuge hunts (except 2-day Lottery Hunts for deer) and other permissible activities, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Daily visitor permits and/or hunter harvest reports will also be required in conjunction with the Refuge Access permit to account for public use & biological data used in management of the Refuge. Please see all entrance points for more information/instructions. **NEW**

Lottery Hunt permits are required for the two 2-day Lottery Hunts for deer. There is a \$12.50 fee per permit. Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Applications for Lottery Hunt permits will be accepted from August 3, 2009 until 4 pm on September 30, 2009. To apply, complete the enclosed application form and return it to the Refuge Headquarters. Duplicate, incomplete, unclear or non-legible applications will not be considered for the drawing. No faxes or e-mails will be accepted. To be considered as a hunting group, up to 5 individuals must indicate on each application the same choice of hunt date and applications must be stapled together. Two to five stapled applications are considered a group. Minimum age to be considered for the drawing is 8 years of age and must

be grouped with 21 yrs old or older applicant. Successful applicants will be notified by mail after the drawing. Do not send payment with your application.

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Permits

To assist in ATV trail maintenance, an ATV user permit is required and must be permanently affixed to all ATV's used on the Refuge. The permit may be purchased at the Refuge Headquarters typically in September (Monday - Friday) or by mail, by providing your name and complete mailing address (print clearly) along with a \$10.00 money order or cashiers check for each ATV permit. All fees must be made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. ATV permits are issued on an annual basis. **NO CASH or PERSONAL CHECKS** will be accepted at any time.

Physically Challenged Hunters

Physically Challenged and hunters under sixty years of age using the Refuge physically challenged all-terrain vehicle trails must possess the State's Physically Challenged Program Hunter Permit. Physically challenged users may carry one person on their ATV to assist them. Physically challenged users are encouraged to consult with Refuge staff at the Refuge Headquarters for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable.

Firearms/Ammunition

When transverseing the Refuge by boat or land conveyance (vehicle) including ATVs, all firearms and archery equipment must be unloaded and encased. An unloaded firearm is defined as having no ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder, or clip when attached to the 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. Firearms are permitted on the Refuge only during the Refuge hunting season. The possession of slugs, rifle, or pistol ammunition larger than .22 caliber rim fire is permitted only during the Lottery Hunts for deer. Hunters may only possess approved shotgun nontoxic shot while on the Refuge, with the exception that lead shot is allowed during turkey hunting only. Possession of buckshot is prohibited. **NEW**

Motor Vehicles

All motor vehicles are restricted to normal passenger vehicle roads. Roads and trails may be closed to vehicle use due to adverse conditions. We allow ATV travel on designated trails for access from September 15 to the last day of the Refuge squirrel season by permit only.



Designated trails are open from 4 am to no later than 2 hours after sunset unless otherwise specified. We define an ATV as an off road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight 750 pounds, length 85 inches, width 48 inches, and tires no larger than 25 x 12 with maximum 1” lug height and maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. ATV travel is prohibited on Refuge roads. No trailers may be pulled behind an ATV. Bicycles are permitted on designated ATV trails. Using an ATV to travel off a designated trail in order to retrieve game, or for any other reason, is strictly prohibited.

The following activities are prohibited on Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge:

- Littering
- Use or possession of alcohol while hunting. **NEW**
- Camping/overnight parking
- Fires
- Trapping
- Riding of horses or mules except as noted under night raccoon regulations
- Target practice
- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the Refuge.
- Spot-lighting; use of artificial light to locate wildlife.
- Blocking trails, gates or roadways with vehicles
- Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or metal objects; or using climbing spikes; or screw-in accessories; or possession of such items.
- Use or possession of any type of material to be used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes, and reflective tape.
- Possession of limb saws, tree cutting saws or any other equipment of this nature.
- Man-drives for game
- Use or possession of deer and male turkey decoys. **NEW**
- Use of or installation of remote trail cameras. **NEW**
- Collecting or harvesting of turtles, mussels, shells, frogs, fruit, acorns or articles of antiquity

- Unleashed pets
- Parking, hunting, or shooting within 150 feet of a designated public road, Refuge maintained road, trail, fire breaks, dwellings, above ground oil or gas or electrical transmission facilities or designated public facility. (A maintained road, fire break, or trail is defined as one which has been mowed, disked, or plowed and free of trees.)
- Field dressing game or cleaning fish within 150 feet of parking areas, maintained roads, or trails

Specific Hunting Regulations

- Only those persons with valid Lottery Hunt permits are permitted to be present on the Refuge during the Lottery Hunts for deer. No one is allowed in Reforested areas (Archery & Muzzleloader Only) or closed areas during the Lottery gun hunts for deer.
- Hunting in and/or shooting into or across any reforested area during Lottery Hunts for deer is prohibited.
- State bag limits, tagging system, and regulations apply unless otherwise specified. **NEW**
- All hunting is permitted Refuge-wide except in designated closed areas, (see map), or as otherwise stated under specific regulations.
- All blind material and decoys must be removed from the Refuge after each day’s waterfowl hunt before 1:00 pm. **NEW**
- Deer hunters may not leave deer stands unattended before the First day of archery season and must remove stand by the last day of the Refuge archery season. Each hunter can only bring one stand, which if left unattended on the Refuge must be clearly marked with the name and address of the owner of the stand. Portable stands must be removed from trees daily and free standing stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when unattended. **NEW**
- Migratory bird and small game hunting is prohibited during Lottery Hunts and primitive weapon hunts for deer.
- Hunters born after Sept. 1, 1969 must possess and carry proof of completion of State-approved hunter education course. Hunters under 16 yrs old must be within normal sight and voice contact of an adult 21 yrs or older. Each adult can supervise no more than one youth hunter during big game hunts and no more than two youth hunters during waterfowl and upland game hunting.
- Hunters using shotguns to hunt small game are required to use approved non-toxic shot.

- All hunters must wear and display 400 square inches of "hunters orange" and a "hunters orange" cap during deer gun hunts and primitive weapon hunts. Hunters participating in the special dog season for rabbits are required to wear a "hunters orange" cap. **NEW**
- Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of “hunter orange” above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.
- Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4:00 am and must exit the Refuge no later than two hours after sunset unless otherwise specified.
- All deer taken on Lottery Hunts and primitive weapon/muzzleloader hunts for deer must be checked daily at a manned check station nearest to point of take. All other game taken must be checked after each hunt at a self-clearing check station nearest to point of take before leaving the Refuge.
- Only one deer per day may be taken during any deer hunt, with the exception of the staff guided lottery youth and wheelchair bound hunt which is one antlered deer and one antlerless deer.
- Hunters are authorized to take only species listed within this brochure. Harming or needlessly disturbing any plants or other wildlife is a violation of Refuge regulations.
- Hunters using primitive weapons as described as muzzleloaders (including in-line) in part 1 of definition of primitive weapon in brochure will be allowed in reforested areas. Hunters using primitive weapons as described in part 2 of definition of primitive weapon will NOT be allowed in reforested areas. **NEW**

Specific Fishing Regulations

Sport Fishing

State creel limits and regulations apply.

Trotlines

Trotlines must be attached with a length of cotton line that extends into the water; must be tended at least once every 24 hours and reset when exposed by receding waters. Trotlines must be removed when not in use.

Frog Hunting **NEW**

Frog hunting may occur by any legal means in the Tensas River and Indian Lake only. State bag limits apply.

Boating - State Regulations Apply

Boats will not be left overnight on the Refuge. We allow non-motorized boats, electric motors and outboard motors

not greater than 10 hp to be operated in all Refuge lakes, streams, and bayous. All motorized boats must utilize navigation lights according to State regulations.

Personal flotation devices must be worn by all occupants of motor boats that are under power on the Refuge.



This sign marks the outer Refuge boundary. Public entry by foot is generally authorized during legal hours on Tensas River NWR.



This sign means that the area is closed to all public entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason other than emergency. Closed Areas are also designated by red paint on trees.



This sign means that the area is closed to hunting. This area can be walked across as long as your firearm is unloaded.



This sign marks the location of a self-clearing check station. All game must be checked out before leaving the Refuge.

For additional information contact

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge
2312 Quebec Road
Tallulah, LA 71282
318/574 2664

Items of special concern:

Tensas River NWR will host a wheel chair bound Lottery Hunt with cooperation from the Tensas River Refuge Association and other partners on the Greenlea Bend Unit on January 9, 2010. For more information contact the Refuge headquarters at 318/574 2664.

A staff guided lottery youth deer hunt will be conducted in the Greenlea Bend closed area. A lottery drawing for each youth chosen for this hunt will be held during the Hunting and Fishing Day celebration at the Refuge headquarters Saturday, September 19, 2009. For safety reasons, there will be no hunting within 200 yards of the closed area located near the Refuge Headquarters on December 22 and 29, 2009 and January 9, 2010. For more information contact the Refuge headquarters at 318/574 2664.