

General Introduction

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1961, is one of over 548 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the Refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl. The Refuge is located in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

Public use, hunting, and fishing are allowed under carefully controlled conditions in order to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with the ecosystem. This permits the wise use of a valuable natural resource and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public. Users of the Refuge must obey all signs pertaining to visitation, access, and public use regulations. All public uses, including hunting and fishing, are conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4 am.

The Refuge is closed to all other entry and public use November 14 – 15, 2009 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

Portions of the Refuge are closed from December 1 through February 28 as waterfowl sanctuary (see map).

Most refuge roads are open to the general public. However, roads may be closed at any time road conditions or other administrative needs warrant. A locked gate or other barrier, road closed sign, or no vehicle sign means the road is closed to **all** vehicle travel but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

All vehicles must stay on maintained roads or established parking areas and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a licensed motor vehicle. Modified vehicles equipped with oversize tractor lug tires are prohibited.

ATVs may be used only by mobility-impaired hunters possessing a refuge Special Use Permit.

Horses/mules are prohibited. Airboats, personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), and hover craft are prohibited on refuge waters.

You must use the public boat ramp off Highway 77 to launch boats into Wapanocca Lake.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the Refuge is permitted throughout the year. Permitted activities are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation. The Visitor Center located in the headquarters building is open weekdays during normal office hours.

Refuge permits are required for all hunting activities. Permits are nontransferable and must be signed by the hunter and carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting gear. A permit can be found on the front of this brochure.

Nighttime use is limited to raccoon/opossum hunting and the appropriate gear must be possessed.

Round Pond Unit (St. Francis County): Closed to all migratory bird hunting. The Round Pond Unit is open to hunting of state species in accordance with state seasons and bag limits. A Wapanocca NWR general hunt permit is required for all hunts and all refuge public use regulations apply.

Commercial activities

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in any commercial activity to first obtain a refuge Special Use Permit.

Prohibited activities

■ Camping

■ Building fires

■ Cutting or defacing trees, shrubs, or other plants

■ Littering (including, but not limited to, shotgun shell hulls and cigarette butts).

■ Searching for or removal of artifacts

■ Horseback riding

■ Possession or use of fireworks

■ Target practice

■ Training and pleasure running of dogs

■ Taking or possessing turtles or mollusks

■ Possession, use, or manufacturing of illegal drugs

■ Artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife, except as authorized for raccoon/opossum hunting.

Possession or use of firearms, archery equipment, and crossbows is prohibited except during refuge hunts that allow use of those devices.

Only biodegradable materials may be possessed or used to mark trails. All materials should be removed from the Refuge following the hunt.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted from March 15 through October 31 in Wapanocca Lake and Woody Pond.

Big Creek and other ditches which flow through the Refuge are **closed** to fishing year-round.

Crawfish may be collected for personal use only. All crawfish traps must have the owner’s name and address permanently affixed. Collecting or possessing frogs, mollusks, or turtles is prohibited. The possession or use of yo-yos, jugs, or other floating containers, drops or limb lines, trotlines, or commercial fishing tackle is prohibited.

General Hunt Regulations

Hunter orange must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission regulations during Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

Bag limits for all species, except deer, are the same as state limits unless specified otherwise.

Hunter sign in/out requirements

Hunters **must** sign in prior to each hunt and sign out after completion of the hunt. In addition, harvest information must be provided at the Hunter Information Station located outside the office building main entrance.

Mobility-impaired hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a Special Use Permit allowing the use of ATVs on existing roads. Issuance of the permit is restricted to persons who are permanently confined to a wheelchair, require the use of mechanical aids (braces, crutches, or walkers) to walk, or have complete single leg amputations. For more information, please call the Refuge at 870/343 2595.

Firearms

Firearms are prohibited on the Refuge, except during refuge hunts. Firearms must be completely unloaded, including chamber and magazine and caps on muzzleloaders, when carried in/on land vehicles or boats under power. **Only non-toxic shot or rimfire rifles may be possessed and used for all small game hunting. The possession or use of buckshot is prohibited.**

Prohibited Hunting Activities

■ Trapping

■ Driving or screwing any metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter.

■ Building or hunting from permanent blinds.

■ Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand.

■ Possession or distribution of bait or hunting over bait, salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for wildlife.

■ Hunting from mowed or graveled roads and within 150 yards of refuge buildings.

■ Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Hunters under the age of 16

Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. For small game/ waterfowl hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth.

A hunter born after 1968 must carry a valid Hunter Education Card. Hunters under the age of 16 do not need a card if they are under the direct supervision (within arm’s reach) of a holder of a valid hunting license at least 21 years of age. Home state Hunter Education Cards will be honored.

Specific Hunt Regulations

A refuge permit is required for all hunts. When signed, the permit on the front cover of this brochure will serve as a permit for all hunts (except Quota Gun Deer Hunt) and must be carried on your person while hunting. A quota deer permit is also required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Refuge regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

*** The Refuge is closed to all entry and public use November 14 - 15, 2009 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed on the Refuge during this hunt.**

Migratory Birds

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge is **closed** to waterfowl hunting, except for Snow Goose hunting that is allowed only on Refuge lands north of Ditch 8 after February

28 until the end of the State conservation season, in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

Small Game

Squirrel: September 5 - October 31, 2009. Spring season closed.

Rabbit: September 5 - October 31, 2009.

Furbearer

Beaver, nutria, feral hogs, muskrat, armadillo, and coyote may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt by the use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state regulations.

Raccoon and Opossum: November 1-30, 2009*. Dogs are required for night hunting of raccoons.

Big Game

For all deer harvested on the Refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license is 640. All harvested deer must be recorded at the Refuge Hunter Information Station located at the refuge headquarters. All deer must also be telechecked by calling 1-877-507-GAME(4263).

Only portable stands capable of being carried by one person may be used and the owner’s name and address must be permanently affixed to the stand. Stands may be erected 7 days prior to the Refuge deer season and must be removed from the waterfowl sanctuary prior to December 1 and from the rest of the Refuge by the end of archery season.

Deer Limits and Refuge Legal Buck definition

For all refuge hunts, the limit is one either-sex deer per hunt, except for the archery season in which the statewide bag limit of three applies. The total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge hunts is two. A legal buck on the Refuge is defined as any male deer (**no antler restriction**). Deer harvested on the Refuge are NOT bonus deer.

Deer (Archery/Crossbow): October 1, 2009 -January 31, 2010*. Either sex. State limit applies.

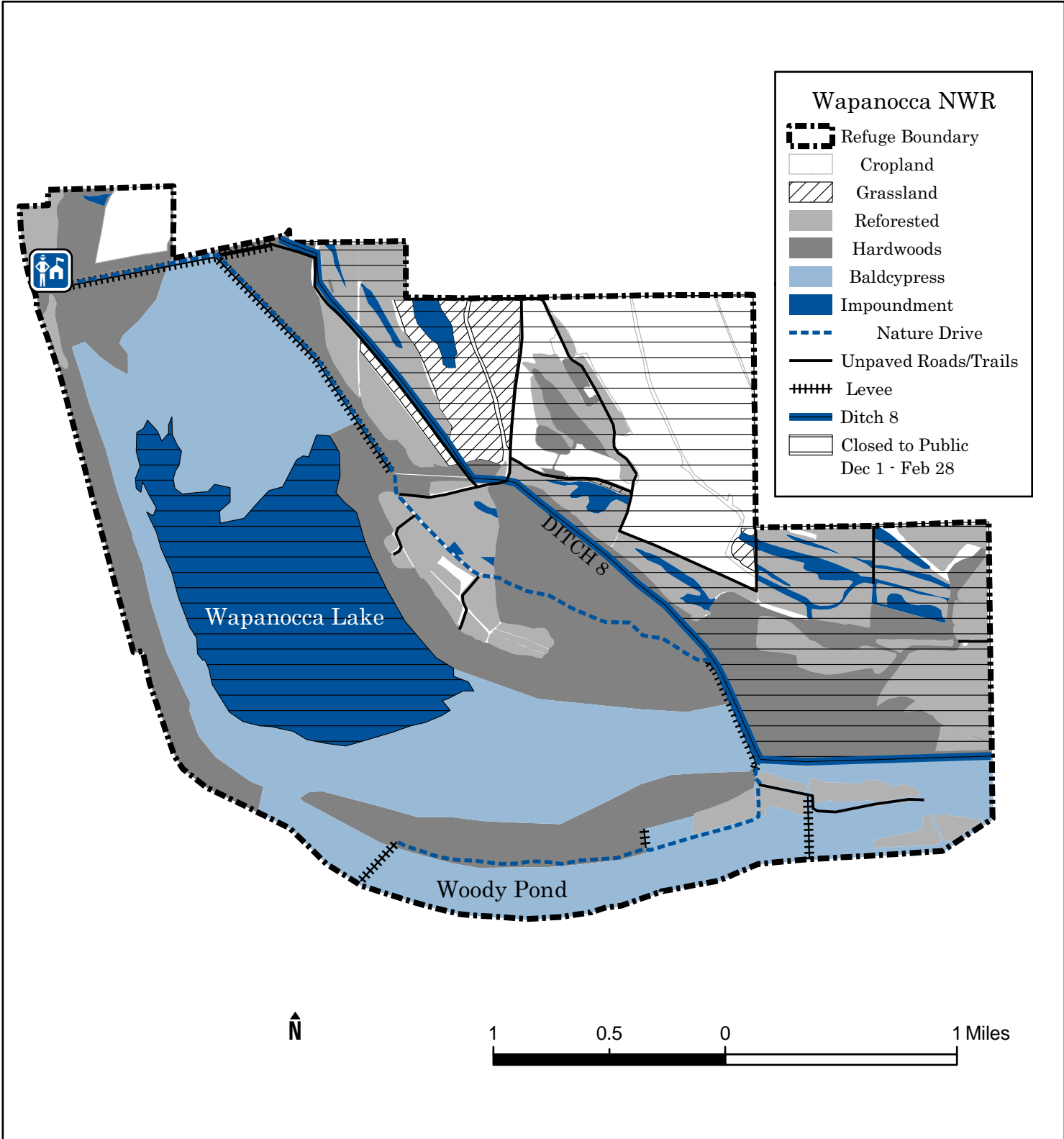
Deer (Quota Gun): November 14 - 15, 2009. Quota permit is required. Only shotguns with slugs, legal pistols, and muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile are permitted. Either sex. One deer limit.

To apply for a quota hunt permit

Print or type your full name, address, and telephone number on one side of a 3x5 index card. Indicate that you

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National Wildlife Refuge Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2009-2010



are applying for the Wapanocca hunt opposite your name. To apply as a party (maximum of three), list information for all applicants on the same card. NOTE: Applicants under the age of 16 must apply with an adult age 21 or older.

Return completed application by mail to: Central Arkansas Refuges, 26320 Highway 33 South, Augusta, AR, 72006, between July 1 and August 31. Duplicated, unclear, or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Take pride in your refuge. Don't litter. Report violations.

Stop Poaching Hotline 1-800-482-9262

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



Refuge boundary sign. Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public use. Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have the specific closure dates printed on the face of the sign.

Hunting Seasons

Deer – Archery

October 1, 2009 – January 31, 2010

Deer – Quota Gun Deer Hunt

November 14 – 15, 2009

Squirrel & Rabbit

September 5 – October 31, 2009

Raccoon & Opossum

November 1 – 30, 2009

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
Highway 42 East
Turrell, AR 72384
870/343 2595
<http://www.fws.gov/wapanocca>
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

July 2009



2009-2010 General Hunting Permit – Wapanocca NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. This permit expires 6/30/10. NOTE: Quota Permit also required for Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and realize that hunting on the refuge is a privilege and willingly agree to allow USFWS officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)