

General Introduction

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1961, is one of over 550 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the Refuge is to provide habitat for migratory birds. The Refuge is located in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation are priority public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These wildlife-dependent uses are carefully managed on Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge to ensure they are compatible with refuge purposes and provide safe, high-quality, low-impact, recreational opportunities.

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 4:00 am.

* The Refuge is closed to ALL other entry and public use November 12 – 13, 2011 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting.

Portions of the Refuge are closed as waterfowl sanctuary (see map) and are closed to ALL entry and public use, including hunting and fishing, from December 1 through February 28.

Many graveled 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 motorized vehicle sign means the road is closed to ALL motorized vehicle travel but not to foot or bicycle travel unless signed otherwise.

All vehicles and bicycles must stay on maintained roads or established parking areas. All vehicles must 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 are prohibited, except for use by mobility-impaired hunters possessing a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager.

Horses/mules are prohibited.

Airboats, personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), and hover craft are prohibited.

You must use the public boat ramp off Highway 77 to launch motorized boats into Wapanocca Lake. Boats may not be left overnight on the Refuge. ALL boats are prohibited on Wapanocca Lake and Woody Pond from November 1 through February 28.

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.

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

Commercial activities

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in any commercial activity to first obtain a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager.

Prohibited activities include:

- Possession of open alcohol containers on refuge roads, parking areas, boat ramps, fishing piers, or observation decks.

- 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.

- Use of firearms, and possession or use of archery equipment and/or crossbows, except during refuge hunts that allow their use.

- Loaded hunting firearms or muzzleloaders in or on a vehicle, ATV, or boat under power. “Loaded” is defined as having shells in the firearm or an ignition device on the muzzleloader.

- Target practice or non-hunting discharge of firearms.

- Dog field trials and organized training events.

- Taking or possessing frogs, turtles, or mollusks.

- Possession, use, or manufacturing of illegal drugs.

- Use of artificial light to locate wildlife, except as authorized for raccoon/opossum hunting.

- Possession or use of non-biodegradable materials to mark trails.

- Failure to remove all marking materials from the Refuge following the hunt.

Round Pond and Pigmon Units (St. Francis County): CLOSED TO ALL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING.

Both Units are open to small game and deer hunting according to Wapanocca NWR hunting seasons, general hunting regulations, and other regulations governing public use activities. A Wapanocca NWR general permit is required for all hunting activities. A permit copy is located on the front of this brochure or may be downloaded from the refuge website at: www.fws.gov/wapanocca

Additionally, a Wapanocca Quota Gun Hunt permit is required for modern gun deer hunting. All harvested deer must be telechecked according to state requirements by calling the toll free telecheck number provided in the Arkansas Hunting Guidebook. Access to these refuge lands is currently through private lands and all refuge visitors must obtain permission from adjacent landowners prior to crossing private land to reach refuge lands.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted from March 1 through October 31 in Wapanocca Lake, Woody Pond, Pecan Ridge Pond, and Turrell Pond.

Big Creek and other ditches which flow through the Refuge are closed to hook and line fishing.

Crawfish collection, for personal use only, is permitted in all refuge waters from March 1 through October 31. The owner’s name and address must be permanently affixed to each trap.

The possession or use of yo-yos, jugs, or other floating containers, drops or limb lines, trotlines, or commercial fishing tackle is prohibited.

Bow fishing is permitted from March 1 through October 31 in all refuge waters. All fish harvested with a bow must be removed from the Refuge.

General Hunt Regulations

A Refuge permit is required for all hunting activities. Permits are non-transferable and must be signed by the hunter and carried at all times while on the refuge in possession of hunting gear. A permit is located on the front of this brochure or can be downloaded and printed from the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/wapanocca>. An additional permit is required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

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

New this year: Hunter Orange or Hunter Safety Green totaling at least 144 square inches on each visible side and a minimum of three feet above the ground must be displayed on each side of portable, pop-up type ground blinds.

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

Mobility-impaired hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager allowing the use of an ATV on designated roads. For more information, please call the Refuge at 870/343 2595.

Prohibited hunting activities include:

- 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 or stands.

- 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.

- Possession or use of lead shot or buckshot while hunting.

- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Hunters under the age of 16

Any hunter born after 1968 must carry a valid hunter education card. Hunters less than 16 years old who have a valid hunter education card must be supervised by an adult of at least 21 years of age and remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult. Hunters less than 16 years old do not need to have a card if they are under the direct supervision (within arm’s reach) of a holder of a valid hunting license of at least 21 years of age. An adult may supervise up to two youths for migratory bird and small game hunting, but only one youth for big game hunting. 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 or the downloaded website version will serve as a permit for all hunts (**an additional permit is required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt**) and must be signed and carried on your person while hunting. Refuge regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

NOTE: The Refuge is closed to ALL entry and public use November 12 - 13, 2011 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting.*

Migratory Birds

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge is **CLOSED** to waterfowl hunting. **NOTE: Due to experimental crop manipulation, snow goose hunting on the Refuge under the State Conservation Order is CLOSED for 2012.**

Small Game

Only rifles chambered for rimfire cartridges or shotguns with non-toxic shot may be used for all small game hunting.

Squirrel: September 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012.* (**Note: INCLUDES ROUND POND AND PIGMON UNITS**): Dogs are permitted.

Rabbit: September 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012.* (**Note: INCLUDES ROUND POND AND PIGMON UNITS**): Dogs are permitted.

Furbearer

Raccoon and Opossum: September 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012.* (Note: INCLUDES ROUND POND AND PIGMON UNITS):

Dogs are required for hunting of raccoons and opossums at night. Training and pleasure running of dogs is prohibited.

Beaver, nutria, coyote, and feral hogs 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.

Feral hogs are destructive, non-native animals that are incompatible with refuge management. Live hogs may not be possessed, transported, or released on the Refuge.

Big Game

For all deer harvested on the Refuge (including Round Pond and Pigmon Units), the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license is 640.

All deer must be telechecked according to state requirements by calling the toll free telecheck number provided in the Arkansas Hunting Guidebook.

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 within 7 days of the closing of the archery deer hunt.

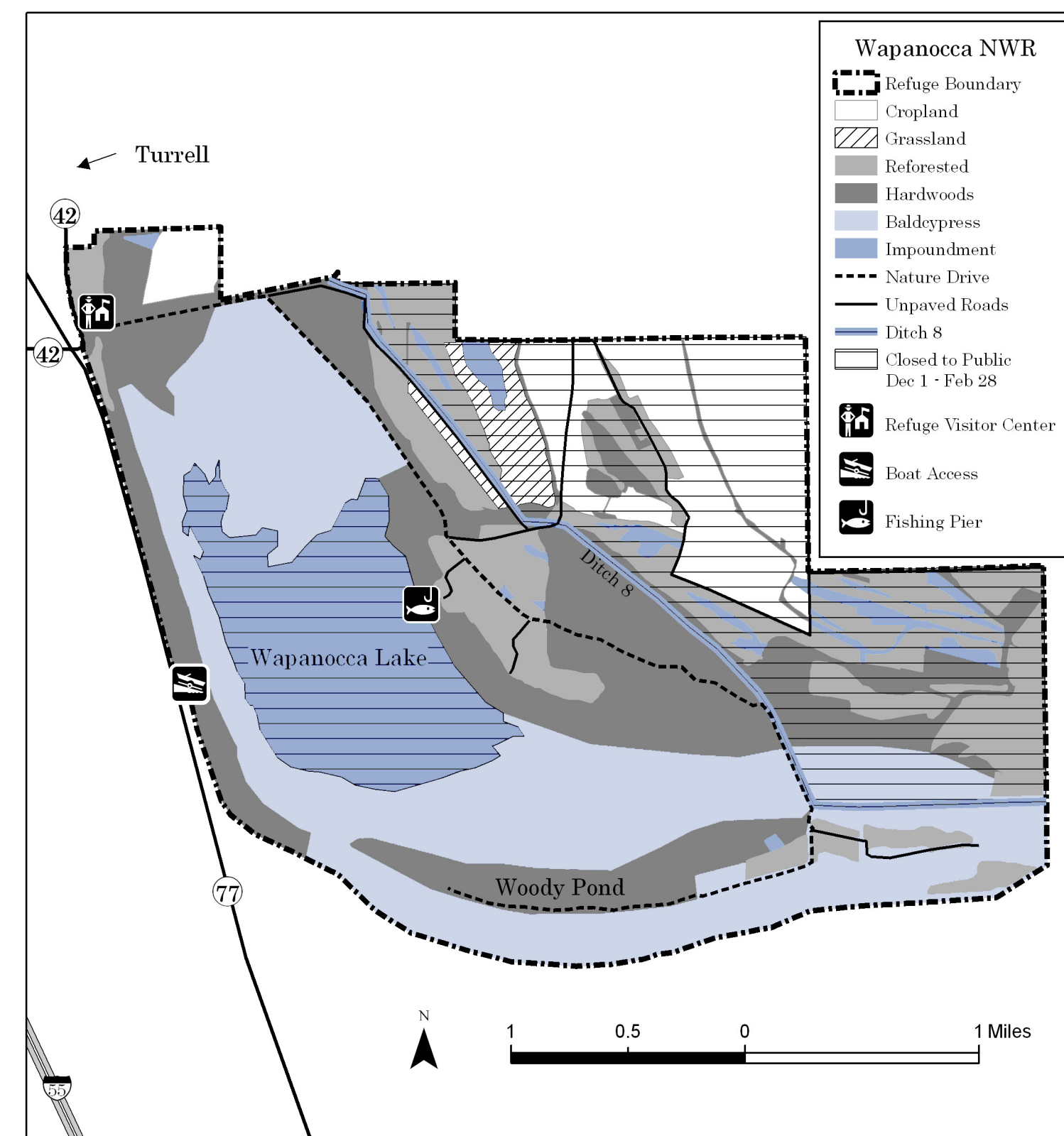
The use of dogs for deer hunting is prohibited.

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.

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2011-2012



Deer (Archery/Crossbow) (Note: INCLUDES ROUND POND AND PIGMON UNITS):
 October 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012.* Either sex. State limit applies.

Deer (Quota Gun) (Note: INCLUDES ROUND POND AND PIGMON UNITS):
 November 12 - 13, 2011.* Quota permit is required. Only shotguns with slugs, legal pistols, and muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile may be used. Either sex. One deer limit.

To apply for a quota hunt permit (new procedures this year)

- Quota permits issued first come, first serve.
- Permit request must be sent via regular/first class U.S. Mail (priority/overnight/FedEx or in person will NOT be accepted).
- Permit requests cannot be postmarked before August 1 or after August 31. Permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis until the quota is reached.
- On a postcard or index card, print the full name (first, middle, last), mailing address and telephone number of the each person requesting a permit, and indicate which refuge you are requesting (Cache River, Bald Knob, or Wapanocca).
- Please print legibly. Duplicated, unclear, or incomplete applications will be returned.
- Send a money order or cashier's check for \$12.50. No personal checks, cash, or credit cards.
- Please send one money order for party request. Number of applicants X \$12.50.
- Mail requests to:
 Central Arkansas Refuges
 26320 Highway 33 South
 Augusta, AR 72006
- Note: Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable, even in the event of refuge deer hunt closures due to flooding.

Hunting Seasons

* NOTE: The Refuge (including Round Pond and Pigmon Units) is CLOSED to all entry and public use during Quota Gun Deer Hunt November 12 – 13, 2011. **Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting.**

Note: new this year: these seasons apply to Wapanocca NWR and Round Pond and Pigmon Units.

Deer – Archery
 October 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012*

Deer – Quota Gun Deer Hunt
 November 12 – 13, 2011*

Squirrel & Rabbit
 September 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012*

Raccoon & Opossum
 September 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012*

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 entry and 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.

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
 178 Hammond Avenue
 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 2011



2011-2012 General Hunting Permit – Wapanocca NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting gear. This permit expires 6/30/12. 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 and AGFC officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)