



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Holla Bend

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations 2025-2026

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 10448

Holla Bend Road Dardanelle, AR 72834

479/384-5693

July 2025

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is an important part of our National Wildlife Refuge System. One of 571 national wildlife refuges in the United States, this area was established to provide essential habitat for migratory birds in the Mississippi and Central flyways. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the refuge system and is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Refuge Office Hours

Tuesday - 10 am to 2 pm, when staff is available. The refuge office is closed on weekends and federal holidays.

General Refuge Regulations

By law, public use activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography are permitted on the refuge in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations subject to the following refuge-specific conditions.

Access

Holla Bend is a nationally designated Fee Area, and a vehicle entrance pass is required of all visitors traveling through the refuge. Annual, daily and Federal Recreation passes are available. A daily pass for Holla Bend is \$4.00/vehicle.

A current Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as "Duck Stamp," is valid for refuge admission when signed by the possessor. Duck Stamps are available for purchase at any U.S. Post Office.

Holla Bend NWR sells an annual pass (\$12.50) that is valid for admission to Holla Bend only and is valid for one year from the time of purchase. The annual pass may be purchased at the refuge office or through the mail. Contact the Refuge Manager at 479/384-5693 for additional information.

Vehicle Use

The maximum speed for any land vehicle is 25 mph, unless posted otherwise. Refuge roads are open year around. Vehicles must remain on established roads as indicated on the map. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Do not block cabled or gated roads, field roads or trails. A cable, gate, road closed sign, or other barrier (e.g. mounded dirt) means the road is closed to all vehicle travel, including bicycles and e-bikes, but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

ATVs are allowed only for wildlife-dependent recreational uses by mobility-impaired individuals possessing a refuge special use permit.

Access into the refuge is through an automatically time-controlled gate. Closing times are posted near the entrance. If you are locked in the refuge or need assistance, call 911 on a cell phone and you will be connected to the Sheriff's office located in Danville.



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

2025-2026 General Hunting and Fishing Permit - Holla Bend NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the individual at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting and fishing gear. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. This permit expires 7/31/2026.

NOTE: An additional Permit is also required for Deer and Turkey hunting. I have read and understand the refuge regulations and agree to obey them and agree to allow USFWS and AGFC Officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my visit.

Signature (Permit not transferable)



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Closed Areas

Designated areas may be closed to hunting, fishing, and all other public access for resource protection, special management, or safety reasons. All refuge access is prohibited after dark unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

Firearms and Archery Tackle

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Archery tackle and crossbows are permitted only during designated hunts.

Animals/Pets

Dogs are permitted only for raccoon and opossum hunting during the specified refuge season. Other dogs and pets must be confined or on a leash. Horses and mules are prohibited.

Specific Hunting Regulations

All game harvested must be checked at the refuge check station before leaving the refuge. In addition, all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge ALSO must be checked according to state regulations. All deer, bear, and turkey must be properly tagged before game is moved. For all deer, bear, and turkey harvested on the refuge, "Holla Bend NWR" must be used instead of a zone number for tagging and checking your game. Use "Pope County" as the County of harvest.

State bag limits apply unless otherwise noted. Only those species listed in this brochure or on refuge hunt permits may be taken.

The use of dogs for deer hunting is prohibited.

During big game seasons the automatic front gate will open one hour before daylight and close one hour after sunset.

All hunters must enter and exit the refuge from designated roads and parking lots only.

Waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting are prohibited on Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge and parts of the surrounding area that fall within the Migratory Bird Closure Zone. Contact the Refuge Manager at 479/229 4300 for more information.

NOTE: The refuge will be closed to all hunting related activities during the youth turkey hunts and the refuge will be closed to all entry during the youth gun deer hunt.

Hunter Education and Youth Hunter Supervision

All hunters age 11 and under who possess valid hunter education certification must remain within normal sight and voice contact with an adult age 18 or older who possesses a valid State hunting license. Hunters age 15 and under who have not completed hunter education must be under the direct supervision (within arm's reach) of an adult age 21 or older who possesses a valid State hunting license. One adult may supervise up to two youth hunters for upland game hunting, but may supervise only one youth during big game hunting.

Tree Stands/Blinds

Only portable stands or blinds may be used. A portable hunting stand is any device or structure used for the purpose of hunting that can be carried in its entirety and erected by hand including but not limited to tripod stands, lean-to stands, lock-on stands, ladder stands and climbing stands. One tree stand or blind per hunter is allowed and must have the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number permanently affixed to the stand. Stands/blinds may be erected seven days prior to the refuge deer season and must be removed within seven days after the season closes.

***Permits are Required for All Refuge Hunts**

When signed and in your possession, the general hunt permit on the front of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. Additional permits are required for Fall Deer and Spring Turkey hunting. The permits are \$12.50 and must be purchased from <https://hollabend.recaccess.com/>. Call the refuge office at 479/229 4300 for availability of Spring Turkey permits.

NOTE: Permits are non-transferable and nonrefundable, even in the event of refuge hunt closures due to flooding or government shut-downs.

Hunting Seasons

Deer (Archery/Crossbow)*

Sep. 27 - Dec. 31. The limit is five deer, no more than two bucks. Beaver, muskrat, nutria, coyote, striped skunk, fox, bobcat, river otter, and mink may also be taken incidental to deer hunting with the devices legal for this hunt. The refuge will be closed to all entry during the youth gun deer hunt Nov. 1 - 2 and Jan 3-4.

Note: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission CWD regulations apply to deer harvested on the refuge.

Deer (Gun Youth) **

Quota hunt only, Nov. 1 - 2 and Jan 3-4. The Refuge will conduct a youth quota gun deer hunt for youths between ages 6-15. Applications must be postmarked during the month of September. Limit is two deer, no more than one buck.

Black Bear may be taken incidental to archery/crossbow deer and youth gun deer hunting according to state season and regulations.

Squirrel and Rabbit (Archery/Crossbow)

Sept. 27 - Dec. 31. State limits apply.

Squirrel and Rabbit (Mentored Youth Gun Hunt) every day in February. Youth hunters must be supervised by a mentoring adult.



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One mentoring adult may supervise no more than two youths. Mentors may not hunt any species during the hunt. No Dogs. State limits apply.

Raccoon and Opossum

Every night during the month of February. Use of dogs is required. All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's contact information. Only shotguns with nontoxic shot and rifles and handguns chambered for rimfire cartridges are permitted.

Beaver, muskrat, nutria, coyote, striped skunk, fox, bobcat, river otter, and mink

may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt with use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state seasons and regulations.

Turkey (Spring Archery/Crossbow)*

State season and bag limits apply.

Turkey (Gun Youth) **

Quota hunt only, two weekends. Contact refuge at 479/384-5693 for dates and number of permits.

Youth hunts restricted to youths between ages 6-15. Applications must be postmarked during the month of January.

****To Apply for Youth Quota Gun Hunt Permits:** Applications for youth hunts can be printed from the Refuge website:

www.fws.gov/refuge/holla_bend filled out and mailed to the refuge office.

Applications can also be made on a postcard or index card mailed in an envelope. Include the applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and the date of the hunt for which he/she is applying; only one applicant per card.

Sport Fishing Regulations

All fishing will be permitted in accordance with state seasons and state and refuge-specific regulations.

A signed refuge fishing permit from the front of this brochure is required for all fishing activities. Permits are non-transferable and must be signed by the individual and carried at all times while on the refuge in possession of fishing gear. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information.

Sport fishing, frogging, and crawfishing, for personal use only, are permitted Mar. 1 - Oct. 31 from sunrise to sunset on all waters of the refuge. A valid Arkansas Fishing License is required. Vehicle entrance fee/pass is required. The owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number must be permanently affixed to each crawfish trap.

Access to refuge waters and land from the Arkansas River is prohibited. Boating over the dam at the Old River Channel, from either direction, is prohibited. Contact Refuge Manager for additional details.

Trotline, Setline, Limbline, Yo-Yo, and free

floating fishing devices allowed during refuge fishing season only. These devices cannot be left overnight or unattended. Lines that extend into the water must be cotton. Limit 25 devices per person. Each device must be clearly labeled with the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number.

Commercial fishing is allowed by Special Use Permit only. Contact Refuge Manager at 479/384-5693 for additional information.

Prohibited Activities

- Commercial guiding/hunting.
- Taking or possessing turtles or mollusks.
- Camping and fires.
- Carrying, possessing, or discharging fireworks or explosives
- Swimming.
- Littering (including, but not limited to cigarette butts, shotgun shell hulls, and fishing line).
- Searching for or removing artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
- Cutting, or defacing trees shrubs, or other plants.
- Possession or use of herbicides.
- Failure to remove all marking materials from the refuge following the hunt.
- Target practice or non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Dog field trials and organized training events.
- Leaving a hunt stand or blind after a hunt season.

- Baiting or hunting over bait, sat or any ingestible attractant.
- Use of natural scents or lures that contain natural deer and elk urine or other biofluids.
- All forms of man-deer drives.
- Using artificial light to locate wildlife, except as authorized for raccoon/opossum hunting.
- Hunting within 150 feet of roads and trails open to motor vehicle use.
- 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.
- Leaving boats overnight.
- Loaded hunting firearms in vehicle or boat while under power.
- Use of airboats, water skiing, jet skis, or other personal watercraft.
- Use of drones.
- Leaving game cameras on the refuge without the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number clearly written in a conspicuous location.

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 and obey all signs on the refuge:



Refuge Boundary

Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Closed Area

All entry prohibited.



No Hunting Zone

Hunting, weapons or game retrieval prohibited.



No Vehicles

All vehicle traffic prohibited. Foot travel only.



Migratory Bird Closure Zone

Area behind signs closed to the taking/hunting of migratory birds.

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