

Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations and map 2025-2026

"The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans" (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997).

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR is an important component in the conservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plant resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR was established on June 14, 1940, by Executive Order 8444 under the authority of 16 U.S.C. Sec. 715 (Migratory Bird Conservation Act).

The provisions listed within this publication supplement the general regulations that govern public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The public is encouraged to use Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge for wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and environmental education.

All other uses are prohibited unless specifically listed within this brochure or by posted regulatory sign. Additional information can be obtained by visiting the refuge's visitor center.

Hours of Operation

General refuge hours are sunrise to sunset. During hunting seasons, hunters may enter the refuge at 4 am and must exit one hour after sunset. **Hunters are not allowed to stage vehicles along right-of-ways of refuge roads before 4am.** The Visitor Center hours vary with the season. Check the website at: www.fws.gov/refuge/noxubee for exact times or call the refuge office at 662/323-5548. Common activities allowed are listed on the enclosed map. In addition to federal regulations, all applicable state regulations apply unless otherwise stated.

Public Entry

Motor vehicles and bicycles are allowed only on improved and unimproved roads. Unless indicated, bicycles are not allowed on walking trails. No vehicles or bicycles are allowed to travel off-road. Parked vehicles may not block access to closed gates. Unless otherwise posted, refuge speed limits are 25 MPH. Use of personal UTVs and ATVs is not allowed on the refuge.

Collection, damage or harassment of any natural or historical items or wildlife and the release of plants or wildlife is prohibited.

Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrels, rabbits, quail, and raccoon during designated seasons only. When not actively hunting, dogs must be on a leash and under control of owner. All other domestic animals are prohibited.

All personal property including game/trail cameras must be removed from the refuge each day.

Hunting and Fishing Permit Required

Hunters and anglers age 16 years or older are required to purchase and possess a North Mississippi Refuge Complex Hunting/Fishing Permit (#606).

Youth age 15 and younger and age 65 and older are not required to obtain a 606 permit. All hunters and anglers under 16 years of age must be in the presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least 21 years of age.

A North Mississippi Refuges Complex Hunting and Fishing Permit (license code 606) can be purchased from any state license vendor or from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks website at <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/hunting-license.aspx>. The permit is good one year from the date of purchase and is valid for all Refuges in the North Mississippi Refuge Complex and Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

Firearms and Safety Items

Possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on the refuge must comply with all provisions of federal, state and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations. (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Firearms authorized under State law are allowed for Refuge hunts.

Florescent orange/pink requirements are per State regulations.

It is unlawful to hunt within or shoot into a 100' zone along either side of designated roads, green tree reservoir levees, and parking lots.

Tree Stands and Ground Blinds

It is illegal to construct or to hunt from any permanent stands or blinds. Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on the Refuge. All stands on the Refuge must be identified with hunter's State hunting license number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the refuge do not reserve the hunting locations. Stands may be placed seven days prior to season opening and must be removed seven days after the season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the Refuge staff.

Users of tree stands must use a full body safety harness at all times. Stands in the Noxubee Wilderness area must be removed daily. It is unlawful to drive a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or to set a stand on any tree in which such an object has been driven. Cutting or trimming branches or brush is prohibited.

Ground blinds, when occupied, must display a minimum of 400 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange/pink visible from all sides during deer firearm and primitive weapon hunts.

Hunting

The refuge has designated seasons for a variety of small game, waterfowl, turkey and deer including special opportunities for youth and mobility impaired. A table summarizing season dates appears on the map page. CFR Title 50 Chapter 1 Part 32 applies. The Connecting People with Nature area is closed to all hunting and hunting access unless part of a planned environmental education program.

Baiting on the refuge is prohibited.

Harvest Reporting

All hunters are required to complete a Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2542) card and display it on the dash of the vehicle so that the name is legible and clearly visible from the outside. Cards are available at any of the check station kiosks (see map for locations). Prior to leaving the Refuge, the card must be completed and deposited at a Refuge Check Station kiosk. Any species not listed on the card should be reported in the "Other" section.

Indicate "0" harvested if no game was harvested. Incorrect information reported on Harvest Report cards or failure to return the card after hunting could result in a Violation Notice and or a seizure and/or forfeiture of harvested game. **A hunter cannot possess more than one Harvest Report card at a time.**

Small Game and Turkey

All persons hunting small game and turkey are required to use nontoxic shot within all green-tree reservoirs (GTRs) and nontoxic shot is recommended specifically in wetland areas throughout the refuge.

State bag and harvest restrictions apply.

Deer

Deer hunters may use those firearms defined by state regulation. During any deer firearm season, hunter orange must be worn at all times when actively hunting; hunters are not allowed to remove hunter orange when in tree stands.

State limits and antler restrictions apply. The refuge is within the State Hills Unit. Driving deer is prohibited.

Cleaning of harvested deer is prohibited within the Connecting People with Nature area and any remains cleaned outside this area must be dispersed within the forest and left no closer than 300 feet to any road or trail. Deer can be field-dressed where harvested.

The use of tracking dogs to recover deer is only permitted after dark, in compliance with State regulations, and with the prior approval of refuge law enforcement and/or refuge management. All tracking and recovery of deer within closed areas requires prior approval from law enforcement and/or refuge management. All persons involved in tracking and recovery of game must possess a valid North Mississippi Refuges Hunting/Fishing Permit

Incidental Species

Hunters may take incidental species (coyote, beaver, nutria, fox, skunk and feral hog) during any hunt with those firearms legal during those hunts.

Mobility Impaired Hunters

Special facilities are available to mobility impaired hunters at Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR on a first come first served basis. A mobility impaired hunter is defined as:

- A person permanently confined to a wheelchair, or a walker, or
- A single or double-leg amputee. Please contact the Refuge office for more information.

Youth Hunters

All persons under 16 years of age, while hunting on the refuge, must be in the presence and under direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one years of age, when hunting. A licensed hunter supervising a youth as provided in this section must hold all required licenses and permits. One adult may supervise no more than two youth hunters. Only the youth may handle, carry, transport, or discharge firearms.

Waterfowl

All waterfowl hunters age 16 years or older are required to purchase a North Mississippi Refuge

Complex Hunting/Fishing Permit (#606) and to complete a Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2542) card.

Waterfowl hunting is allowed in all open hunt areas each Wednesday and Saturday, until noon, of the State season. (See Map)

Waterfowl hunters are allowed no more than 25 shotshells per person. CFR Title 50 Chapter 1 Part 20 applies along with state limits and regulations.

Decoys, duck blinds and spent shells must be removed from the hunting area following each day's hunt.

No waterfowl hunting on Bluff and Loakfomas Lakes.

Fishing

Sport fishing is permitted on all waters of the refuge from March 1-October 31. The Noxubee River, the borrow pits along Highway 25, the Bluff Lake Spillway Pool, and the shore of Bluff Lake located between the Bluff Lake Boardwalk and the Cypress Cove Boardwalk are open year-round to bank fishing.

All anglers age 16 years or older are required to purchase a North Mississippi Refuge Complex Hunting/Fishing Permit (#606) in addition to their State fishing license.

State limits and regulations apply. No commercial or tournament fishing activities are allowed on the refuge.

Snagging and cast netting are prohibited.

Sport fishing gear (rod/reel and cane poles) is allowed in all water bodies when open. No cast netting.

Set hooks, limb lines and hand grappling are only allowed in the Noxubee River. Anglers must tag pole and set hooks with their State hunting and fishing license number. Lines must be tended every 24 hours and removed when not in use.

Trotlines are allowed in Bluff Lake, Loakfoma Lake, and the Noxubee River; they must have floats and cotton string leaders attached to each end. Lines must be labeled with owner's State hunting and fishing

license number. Only one line is allowed per person with no more than two lines allowed per boat. Lines must be tended every 24 hours and removed when not in use.

Jug fishing is allowed in Bluff Lake and Loakfoma Lake only. Each jug must be labeled with owner's name and address. Jug lines must be tended every 24 hours and removed when not in use.

Bowfishing is allowed in all water bodies during daylight hours only. Nighttime bowfishing is prohibited.

The taking of amphibians and reptiles including frogs and turtles is prohibited (see §27.21).

Cleaning and disposal of harvested fish is prohibited within the Connecting People with Nature area.

Boating

All refuge waters are open for general public use from March 1 through October 31. Outboard motorboats and paddlecraft are allowed except in areas near the spillway pools and water control structures. There are no HP restrictions but all motorboats must travel at **no-wake** speed.

Motorboats and trailered craft can only be launched from designated boat ramps.

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge
13723 Bluff Lake Rd
Brooksville, MS 39739
662/323 5548
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sam-d-hamilton-noxubee>

Or Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NoxubeeNWR>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

July 2025

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



Activities Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Observation and Photography • Wildlife Education and Interpretation • Boats Canoeing/Kayaking, March 1 - October 31 • Dogs allowed on leash • Jogging and bicycles (E-bikes) on improved and unimproved roads

Activities NOT Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping • Open Fires • Swimming • Target shooting • Metal detecting or searching for items of antiquity • Rollerblading, skating, and skateboarding • Operation of model planes, drones, boats, or kites • Attaching man-made materials to Refuge structures • Use or possession of alcoholic beverages • Removal of any object (natural, historic, of archaeological feature, etc.) • Horseback riding • Personal Watercrafts, Sail boats, Airboats, and Hovercrafts • Feeding wildlife

Hunts	Dates
Small Game	
Youth Squirrel	State Season
Squirrel	State Season
Rabbit	State Season
Raccoon	State Season - night time hunting only, dogs required
Opossum	State Season - night time hunting only, dogs required
Turkey	
Youth Turkey	State Season
Spring Season	State Season
Deer	Hills Zone
Youth Deer	November 8-21, 2025 (either sex) (No antler restrictions)
Archery	October 1, 2025-January 31, 2026 (either sex) (Antler requirement for bucks)
Gun	November 22 - December 1, 2025 December 16-31, 20245 (both either sex) (Antler requirement for bucks)
Primitive Weapon	December 2-15, 2025 (either sex) (Antler requirement for bucks)
Migratory Game Birds	
Crow	State Season
Quail	State Season
Woodcock	State Season
Snipe	State Season
Gallinule	Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon during the state waterfowl season. Hunting allowed in all open hunt areas for waterfowl.
Waterfowl	Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon during the state waterfowl season. Hunting allowed in all open hunt areas (for waterfowl) - Includes ducks, teal, light and dark geese, and mergansers.
Youth/Veterans/Active Military	February 7-8, 2026. Hunting allowed in all open hunt areas (for waterfowl).
Fishing	Dates
Boats	March 1-October 31, 2025
Bank Fishing	Year-round in DESIGNATED areas

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge

