



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Green River

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Public Use Regulations 2024–2025

#### Welcome

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers over 570 National Wildlife Refuges. The primary objective of a National Wildlife Refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. Through this work to conserve natural resources, refuges provide communities with healthier environments, clean water, flood control and a stronger economy. Refuges also offer a variety of opportunities for the American people to enjoy the outdoors and natural heritage.

#### Green River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 89

Benton, Kentucky 42025

270/527-5770

[fws.gov/refuge/green-river](https://fws.gov/refuge/green-river)

#### General Information

##### Accessibility

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities of the Green River National Wildlife Refuge. Discrimination complaints should be filed with the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240 or 1-800-344-WILD.

##### Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands 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).

##### Vehicles

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or any unlicensed vehicle is prohibited on all refuge property.

Licensed vehicles are permitted on open and maintained paved and graveled roadways only. Vehicles blocking refuge gates will be towed.

#### Hunting Regulations

Regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Green River National Wildlife Refuge Annual Hunting Permits are required for individuals 16-years-old or older who are also required to have a Kentucky State hunting license and are engaged in hunting activities on the refuge. Valid permits must be possessed, physically or digitally while engaged in hunting activities on the refuge.

**Annual hunt permits are available at [kynwrs.recaccess.com](https://kynwrs.recaccess.com).** For help with log-in, creating an account, or obtaining a permit you'll find instructions by visiting [help.recaccess.com](https://help.recaccess.com).

[fws.gov](https://fws.gov)

1-800-344-WILD





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### Hunting Regulations - continued

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Kentucky regulations found at [fw.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://fw.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx), subject to the conditions stated below.

Hunting is prohibited within 100 yards (91 meters) of any residence, refuge graveled roads, or refuge hiking trails.

Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older, and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. On waterfowl hunts the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

We prohibit the use of trail cameras.

To retrieve or track game from a posted closed area of the refuge the hunter must first receive authorization at 270-532-7435.

We allow dogs for waterfowl hunting. Dog owners/handlers must have a collar on each dog with the owner's name, address and telephone number.

#### Access

With the exception of hunting, the refuge is open during daylight hours only.

Access for hunting is two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset.

Waterfowl hunters will cease hunting and be out of the field by 12 noon each day.

All entry is prohibited in the Tscharnier East section of the Bluff Hunt Unit from November 1 through March 31.

Bicycles are permitted while engaged in wildlife related activities on refuge graveled roads or improved trails owned and maintained by the refuge.

Horses and mules are permitted on refuge graveled roads or improved trails owned and maintained by the refuge while engaged in wildlife related activities only. Horses and mules are not permitted off these secondary access routes for any purpose.

### Big Game Hunting

#### Deer

Opening in the new licensing year. More information will be available March 1st.

#### Turkey

Opening in the new licensing year. More information will be available March 1st.

### Waterfowl Hunting

Waterfowl hunting is open to youth, senior, and disabled hunters, as defined by the state, during the months of December and January of the statewide waterfowl season, and during the additional statewide veterans and youth hunt date(s) in the Horseshoe Bend Hunt Unit.

Waterfowl hunting is prohibited prior to December.

### Prohibited Activities

- Night use. The refuge is open from legal sunrise to legal sunset.
- Discarding wildlife carcasses on the refuge.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other refuge feature with non-biodegradable reflectors, paint, flagging, or other substance.
- Littering
- Camping
- Fires
- Trapping
- Trail cameras
- Dog walking including running or training of dogs and/or other pets.
- Searching for or removal of any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Target practice or non-authorized discharge of firearms.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.
- Taking of wildlife (outside legal hunting season) or plants (including cutting trees and brush).
- No unauthorized person shall use or direct the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light, or automotive headlights for the purpose of spotting, locating or taking any animal within the boundaries of the refuge or along right-of-way for public or private roads within the refuge.
- Feeding of wildlife and the hunting of any wildlife by the aid of or distributing any feed, salt, minerals, or other ingestible attractants.
- Release of plants or animals, including wildlife and domesticated animals.
- Harassment of any individual or group engaged in legal refuge activities.

**The hunting of any species not listed on the following page is considered closed. All state bag limits, season dates and weapon regulations apply unless otherwise noted.**

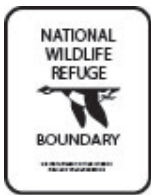
| Type   | Season dates/bag limits   | Refuge specific regulations  |
|--|---|--|
| Duck, Goose, Coot  | Open to Senior/Disabled and Youth during the month of December and January, and during the additional Youth and Military/Veterans hunts in February. Bag Limits are in accordance to the state. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the refuge is two hours before sunrise.</li> <li>• Hunting will cease and hunters will be out of the field by 12 noon each day.</li> <li>• Only portable and temporary blinds are permitted.</li> <li>• Decoys and blinds must be removed each day.</li> <li>• Only nontoxic shot permitted.</li> <li>• The use of dogs for retrieving purposes or in the pursuit of migratory birds is permitted.</li> </ul> |
| Dove, Woodcock, Snipe, Crow, Quail                               | Closed  | Closed   |
| Squirrel, Rabbit   | Closed  | Closed   |
| Raccoon, Opossum   | Closed  | Closed   |
| Coyote, Bobcat, Fox, Skunk, Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Weasel, Beaver | Closed  | Closed   |
| White-tail Deer  | Closed  | Opening in the new licensing year. More information will be available March 1st.   |
| Turkey   | Closed  | Opening in the new licensing year. More information will be available March 1st.   |
| Bullfrogs  | Closed  | Closed   |
| Feral Hogs   | Closed  | Feral hogs are not regarded as a game species on Green River NWR.  |
| Sandhill Crane, Groundhog  | Closed  | Closed   |



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## Signs

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges each year. Human activity, if not regulated, can negatively impact wildlife and their habitats. Signs help control recreational activities and respect private property while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Below are some common signs posted on the refuge:



These signs and yellow paint clearly mark all refuge property. It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and remain within the boundaries.



This area is closed to all entry. No entering, hunting or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public. Some of these signs may have dates indicating seasonal closure and length of time the area is closed.



This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are prohibited. Some of these signs may have dates indicating the length of time the area is closed to all hunting.

Green River National Wildlife Refuge is located in Henderson County Kentucky. The refuge was established in 2019 as the 568th National Wildlife Refuge in the country, and the second in Kentucky. The refuge currently encompasses approximately 2,100 acres.



Detailed maps of the refuge are available on the refuge website at [fws.gov/refuge/green-river](https://fws.gov/refuge/green-river).

