



Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 National Wildlife Refuges. The refuge was established to provide essential habitat for migratory birds. 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 people.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern public use on a National Wildlife Refuge as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. When permitted, hunting, fishing and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable State laws unless otherwise listed.

General Provisions and Access Regulations

Access - By law, National Wildlife Refuges are closed to all recreational activities unless expressly permitted. Hunting, fishing, and certain other recreational uses are permitted on most areas of the refuge. The refuge is a Day Use Area Only. The refuge is closed from legal sunset to legal sunrise with the exception of legal hunting activities. We allow hunters to access the refuge no more than two hours before legal sunrise to no more than two hours after legal sunset, with the exception of raccoon and opossum hunters. We allow access to raccoon and opossum hunters from legal sunset to one hour before legal sunrise. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities.

Drones

Drones are prohibited.

Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on maintained refuge roads and parking areas. ATV’s, UTV’s, and off-road motorized vehicles are prohibited. Parking as to block travel through refuge access roads, gates, and trails is prohibited. Vehicles may be parked along side refuge roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. The use of parking lots/areas is encouraged. Airboats, Jet Skies, and Hovercraft are prohibited.

Mobility Impaired Access

Most refuges are universally accessible to the disabled. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in refuge hunts and other activities. Contact the Refuge Manager for guidelines and regulations.

Roads

Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on established roads as indicated on the map on this leaflet. Vehicles

may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Avoid driving on refuge roads during wet conditions as damage to the roads will result.

Foot Trails

Foot trails are closed to non-hunters during youth deer hunt and quota deer hunts.

Alcohol

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while on refuge lands and waters.

Closed Areas

Designated areas are closed to hunting, fishing, and all public access during fall and winter months to provide resource protection (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons. All refuge access is prohibited from legal sunset to sunrise unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are prohibited on Hatchie NWR.

Swimming

Swimming is prohibited on Hatchie NWR.

Dog/Pet(s)

Dogs are permitted for small game and migratory bird hunting. All dogs used for hunting on Hatchie NWR are required to wear a collar displaying the owners name, address, and telephone number. All other dogs/pet(s) must be kept on a leash while on Hatchie NWR.

Refuge/ Cultural Resources

All government property including natural, historic, and archaeological features are protected by Federal Law. Searching for or removal of objects of antiquity or other value is strictly prohibited.

Monitoring Devices

The use of electronic or photographic monitoring devices on Hatchie NWR is prohibited.

Boats

Boats used for any activity must be removed from the refuge daily. All State boating regulations apply. Nonmotorized boats and boats with electric trolling motors only. The use of gas or diesel motors is prohibited, except in the waterfowl hunting area. Boats are allowed on refuge lakes 18 feet or less in length.

Bait

The use or possession of bait, or hunting over bait is strictly prohibited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, or

scattering of any salt, grain, powder, liquid, or other feed substance to attract game.

Firearms

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).

Carrying, possessing, or discharging of fireworks, or explosives on National Wildlife Refuges is prohibited. The use or possession of air guns, spears, or similar weapons on National Wildlife Refuges is prohibited.

Tree Stands and Tree Steps

All tree stands must be removed from the refuge daily. The use of screw in tree steps, nails, wire, screws, or bolts to climb a tree or to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.

Tree Marking

It is prohibited to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint or similar substance. All flagging tape and other marking materials must be removed at the end of the hunt day.

Brush and Tree Removal/Clearing

The cutting of holes, lanes, or any other manipulation of the vegetation (e.g. cutting of bushes and trees, mowing, herbicide use, and other actions) is strictly prohibited. The possession of saws, machetes, axes or other tools for cutting vegetation is prohibited.

Youth Supervision

Youth hunters 6-16 years of age may participate. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. No more than two youth hunters per adult. No more than one youth hunter per adult during big game hunting activities.

Nontoxic Shot

All hunters using shotguns for hunting on Hatchie NWR must use and possess ammunition containing approved non-toxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Hunter Education

Hunters born after 01/01/69, must possess proof that they have successfully completed a hunter education course. All hunters are encouraged to complete a hunters safety course.

Specific Hunting Regulations

All hunters must possess and carry a signed paper or digital refuge permit (Public Use Regulations brochure). Big game harvested on the refuge must be checked in according to TWRA regulations. Hatchie NWR must be specified as the location of harvest and all big game taken on the refuge must be counted toward the Statewide bag limit.

Deer gun hunters may possess lead rifled slugs while hunting on the refuge.

Horses, mules, and burros are permitted only on refuge roads open to motorized traffic. We prohibit the use of horses and other animal conveyances from all other areas including fields, woods, waters, foot trails, and service roads/trails.

All hunting is prohibited within 100 yards of the Refuge Headquarters, the disability fishing facilities, and the Wildlife Drive/Auto Tour Road at Oneal Lake.

Signed refuge permits and applicable State licenses are required. Waterfowl hunters that are 16 or older must have a Federal Duck Stamp.

Only species listed in this regulations leaflet as open to hunting may be hunted/harvested on the Refuge.

Quota Hunt Application Procedures - Quota Deer Hunt

To apply for a quota hunt permit, type or plainly print the names, addresses, and phone numbers w/ area code on an official U.S. Postal Service Postcard.

A total of up to four hunters may apply on the same postcard. One hunters information on the front of the postcard and up to three additional hunters information on the back. Clearly indicate your hunt choice(s) (i.e. 1st Choice November 6-8 and 2nd Choice November 13-15 or November 6-8 only or November 13-15 hunt only).

Send postcard in an envelope addressed to the Refuge Manager at Reelfoot NWR, 4343 Hwy 157, Union City, TN 38261.

Applications will be accepted between July 1 and the close of business (4 pm CST) on July 31. Duplicate, incomplete, non-legible applications and/or on anything other than an official U.S. Postcard will not be considered for the drawing.

Both the youth hunter and the supervising adult must apply together on the same postcard to be selected for the quota hunt. See Youth supervision section regarding supervision requirements. Only successful applicants will be notified by mail to submit \$15.00 per hunter (money order or cashiers check ONLY), payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All quota permits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. Only persons drawn for the hunt are allowed to participate in the hunt (No hunt guests are permitted).

Deer Gun - Quota Gun Hunt

Quota Deer Gun - Two Hunts

Season: Novemeber 6-8 and November 13-15, 2026

Bag Limit: three deer, no more than one antlered.

Harvested deer count as bonus deer.

Quota Permits: Quota hunt, 250 permits per hunt

All harvested deer must be checked in with the state as harvested on Hatchie NWR. All state Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rules and regulations apply for transporting harvested deer.

Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Seasons

Deer Gun - Youth Hunt

Season: October 31-November 1, 2026 and January 9-10, 2027

No Hunter Quota.

See Youth Supervision section regarding supervision requirements.

Bag limit same as state. All harvested deer must be checked in with the state as harvested on Hatchie NWR. All state Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rules and regulations apply for transporting harvested deer.

Deer August Hunt

State regs and bag limits apply. All state Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rules and regulations apply for transporting harvested deer.

Deer Archery

Season: Same as statewide season except closed during youth deer hunts and deer quota hunts.

No hunter quota. Bag and possession limits same as statewide season. Harvested deer count in statewide bag limit. All harvested deer must be checked in with the state as harvested on Hatchie NWR. All state Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rules and regulations apply for transporting harvested deer.

Turkey Hunt

Turkey and Youth Turkey

Spring Season only. Bag limit same as state.

All harvested turkey must be checked in with the state as harvested on Hatchie NWR. Hunters must use and possess ammunition containing approved nontoxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Waterfowl

Ducks, Geese, Coots, and Mergansers may be hunted only on designated areas of Hatchie NWR. All other seasons are closed in this area during waterfowl season.

Hunters must use and possess ammunition containing approved non-toxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Legal shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 12 noon C.S.T.

Federal Regulations allow only youth waterfowl hunters from 6-15 years of age to participate. Hunters may access the refuge no more than two hours before legal sunrise.

Only portable blinds may be used. All blinds, boats, and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1 pm C.S.T. daily.

Other Migratory Birds

Mourning Dove, Woodcock and Snipe. State seasons and bag limits apply except closed during youth deer gun and quota deer gun. Hunters must only use and possess approved nontoxic shot.

Small Game - Squirrel/Rabbit/Quail

State season and bag limits apply. Squirrel, rabbit and quail seasons are closed during youth deer gun and quota deer gun. Only approved nontoxic shot is allowed when using a shotgun. Hunters must comply with state blaze orange requirements during Deer August hunt.

Raccoon and Opossum

State season and bag limits apply. The refuge is open from legal sunset to one hour before legal sunrise for raccoon and opossum hunting only. The refuge is closed the night before and during any refuge quota and youth deer gun hunts. Only approved nontoxic shot is allowed when using a shotgun.

Coyote and Beaver

Coyotes and Beavers may be taken incidentally during scheduled hunts on the refuge. Legal methods of take include legal hunting equipment utilized during specified hunting seasons listed in this brochure. No bag limit.

Trapping

Trapping on Hatchie NWR is prohibited.



Specific Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset (Central Time) on Hatchie NWR. Designated areas are closed Nov. 15 - Mar. 15 to provide a sanctuary for waterfowl (see map for specific locations and dates of closures).

Oneal Lake is open for fishing Mar. 1 - Nov. 14. Bass catch and release period is Mar. 1 – May 31. From Jun. 1 – Nov. 14, bass creel limit is two per person. All other species same as state creel limits. All pickerel caught must be removed from lake. Boats: see general provisions.

Fishing is allowed with pole and line or rod and reel only. Bow and arrows or a gig may be used to take non-game fish on refuge waters. Possession of unauthorized fishing gear, including trotlines, limblines, juglines, yo-yo's, nets, spears, and snag hooks is prohibited on Hatchie NWR.

Frogging and turtling on Hatchie NWR is prohibited. Persons must comply with all applicable State fishing and boating regulations while on the refuge. A valid Tennessee State Fishing License is required.



**Blow-up
Not to scale
Continuation
of I-179, Carney
and Hillville Roads**

Legend

- Refuge boundary
- Gravel road
- Paved road
- Highway
- Refuge headquarters
- Closed to all public access
November 15 - March 15
- TVA transmission line
- ANR pipeline
- Boat ramps
- Closed to all hunting
- Archery only
- Waterfowl hunting area
- Foot trails

For more information

Further information may be obtained at the Refuge Office, located between I - 40 Exits 52 and 56 on State Highway 76 at Oneal Lake.

To:

Hatchie
National Wildlife Refuge
6772 Highway 76 South
Stanton, TN 38069
Office hours: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday-Friday
731/772 0501
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/hatchie/>
<https://www.facebook.com/WestTennNWR/>

July 2026



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hatchie

National Wildlife Refuge
Public Use Regulations 2026-2027

Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge General Hunting Permit 2026-2027

Hunters must have a signed permit in their possession while participating in authorized refuge hunts. Quota hunt permits are issued separately. Applicable licenses and stamps are required.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

Hunter signature (valid only when signed)

It is the hunter's responsibility to comply with all Regulations contained in this brochure, the 50 CFR Regulations, and State Regulations.