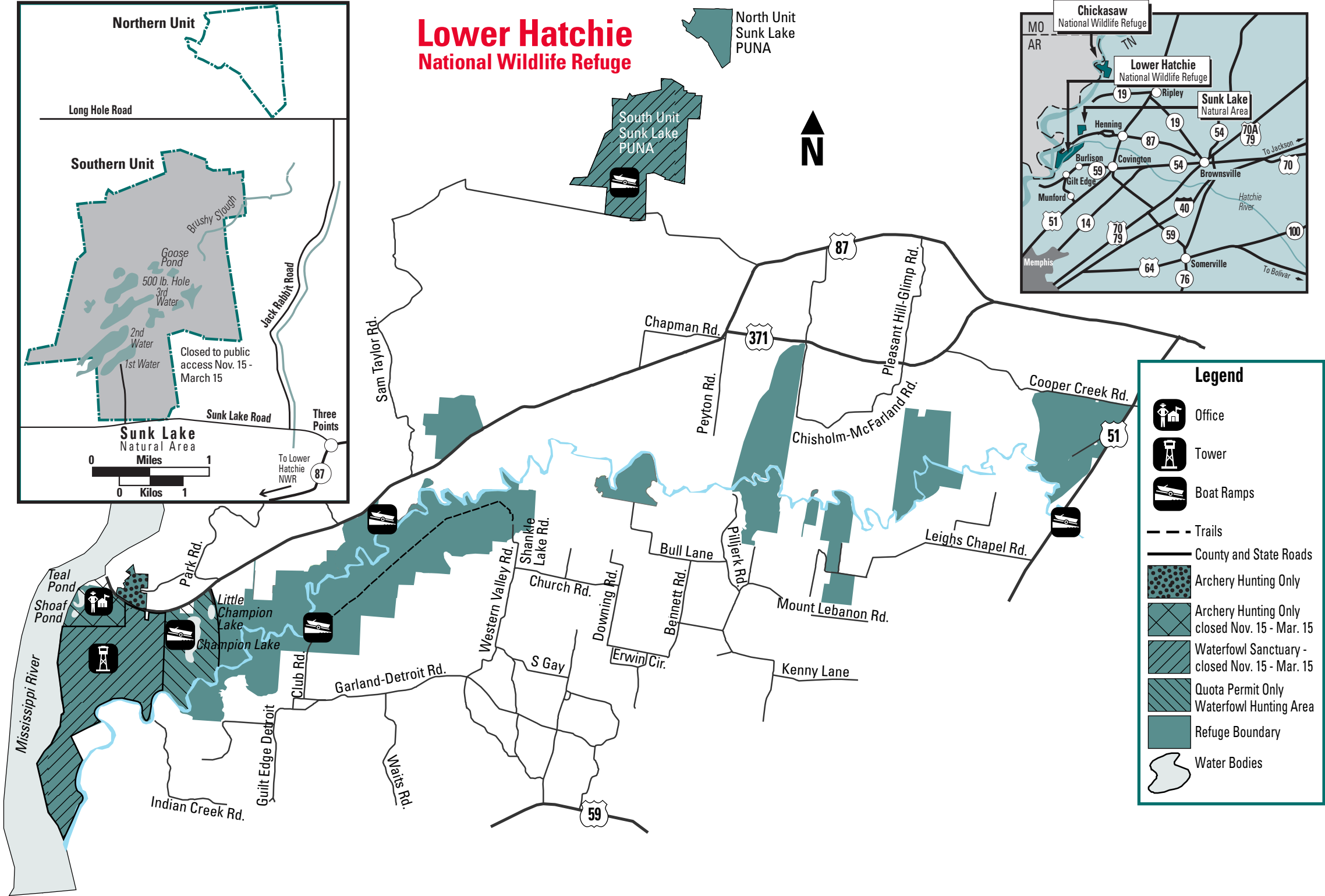






legal sunrise. Only portable blinds may be used. All blinds, boats and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1 pm C.S.T. daily. Youth hunting season same as statewide. Federal regulations allow only youth waterfowl hunters from 6-16 years of age to participate. Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake will be open to quota hunting only. See Quota Hunt Application Procedures for instructions.

**Other Migratory Birds**

Mourning Dove, Woodcock, and Snipe. State season and bag limits apply except closed during all young sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and opening day of gun deer hunts through December 19, 2026.

Hunters must only use and possess approved nontoxic shot.

**Small Game**

Squirrel, rabbit, quail, raccoon, and opossum. State season and bag limits apply except squirrel, rabbit, and quail are closed during all young sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and opening day of gun deer hunts through Dec. 19, 2026. Small game hunters must wear 500 sq. in. of florescent orange or pink clothing during open big game hunts.. Raccoon and opossum are open statewide except closed on Friday and Saturday nights during youth, gun, and muzzleloader deer hunts.

Only approved nontoxic shot is allowed when using a shotgun.

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 on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area is prohibited.

**Big Game**

Deer - Archery, Youth Gun, Muzzleloader, and Gun Deer Seasons are same as State Season. No Hunter Quota. State bag limits apply. Harvested deer count in Statewide Bag Limit.

**Quota Turkey**

First Hunt (Youth Hunt): March 27-28,2027. One male bearded turkey. Counts towards State limit.

Second Hunt: April 8-11, 2027. One male bearded turkey. Counts towards State limit.

Third Hunt: April 15-18, 2027. One male bearded turkey. Counts towards State limit.

Fourth Hunt: April 22-25, 2027. One male bearded turkey. Counts towards State limit.

**Turkey Hunts - Quota Permits**

A Quota Permit is required to hunt turkeys on the refuge. See Quota Hunt Application Procedures. Permits will be limited to 25 per turkey hunt. Successful applicants are eligible for only one hunt. Adult supervisors for the youth hunt are eligible for other turkey hunts. Signed refuge permits and applicable State licenses are required.

Hunters must check turkey in accordance to TWRA regulations and record Lower Hatchie NWR as the location of harvest. Hunters must only use and possess approved nontoxic shot.

**Waterfowl Hunts - Quota Permits**

A Quota Permit is required to hunt waterfowl on Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake during the waterfowl season on the refuge. See Quota Hunt Application Procedures. Permits will be limited to eight per weekend on Champion Lake and four per weekend on Little Champion Lake. Only drawn hunters are allowed to have vehicles behind the gate at Champion Lake during the waterfowl season. Unless drawn, waterfowl hunting in the Quota Permit Only Waterfowl Hunting Area is prohibited.

Successful applicants are eligible for only one hunt per lake. Signed refuge permit, Federal Duck Stamp, and applicable State licenses are required.

**Quota Hunt Application Procedures**

To apply for a quota hunt permit, type or plainly print your name, address, and phone number w/ area code on the front of a U.S. Postal Service Postcard. Unofficial postcards will be discarded prior to drawing. Send postcard in an envelope addressed to the Refuge Manager at Lower Hatchie NWR, 4343 Highway 157, Union City, TN 38261.

Postcards for the waterfowl hunts on Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake must be received during the month of September. Postcards for turkey hunts must be received during the month of January.

A total of up to four hunters may apply on the same postcard. One hunter's information on the front of the postcard and up to three additional hunters information on the back.

**Turkey Hunts** - Indicate hunt preference (1st [Youth Hunt], 2nd, 3rd, or 4th) on the Turkey application. Submission of more than one postcard, except for the adult supervisor for the youth hunt, will result in disqualification of the applicant(s).

**Waterfowl Hunts** - Indicate one weekend preference and lake preference during the waterfowl season, by date, for the Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake waterfowl hunts. Submission of more than one postcard per lake will result in disqualification of the applicant(s).

**Youth Waterfowl Hunts** will be drawn separately. On a postcard include Youth Hunt and Lake Preference. See Youth Supervision Section for supervisory requirements.

Only persons drawn for the hunt are allowed to participate in the hunt (No hunt guests are permitted).

**Youth Hunters**

Both the youth hunter and the supervising adult must apply together on the same postcard to be selected for a quota hunt. See Youth Supervision section regarding supervision requirements.

**Fees**

Applicants selected by drawing will be notified by mail to submit \$15.00 per person (cashiers check or money order only payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to receive a quota permit. Fees are not refundable and permits are not transferrable. Of funds collected, 80% are applied to defraying the administrative cost of the hunt while the remainder is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

**Specific Fishing Regulations**

Fishing is permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset (Central Time) on Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Champion Lake is closed to fishing during the Youth and regular waterfowl season.

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 Lower Hatchie NWR and Sunk Lake Natural Area.

Frogging and turtling are prohibited.

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