

Caddo Lake

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2026–2027



General Information

On October 19, 2000, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the establishment of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge on portions of the approx. 8,500-acre Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant in Harrison County, Texas. The refuge was established for the purpose of migratory bird and other fish and wildlife management, conservation, and protection. The bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem provides habitat for diverse migratory bird and resident wildlife species in Texas.

The USFWS 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 people.

Access

The refuge is open from official sunrise to sunset year-round with the exception that hunters and anglers may access the refuge no more than 2 hours before legal sunrise and 2 hours after legal sunset.

Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge and are restricted to roads that are open to travel. Off-highway vehicles (ATVs and UTVs) are prohibited on the refuge.

Boats

Boats used for any recreational activity (i.e. hunting and wildlife viewing) must be removed from the refuge daily. Boats must comply with all state regulations.

Roads

Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on open roads as delineated on the refuge map. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Vehicles are not required to park at designated parking areas but are recommended to do so.

Bicycles

Bicycles must remain on improved roads at all times.

Accessibility

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in refuge hunts and other activities. Contact the refuge manager for guidelines to obtain special use access.

Animals/Pets

All pets and service animals are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and telephone number and must be on a leash.

Horses are permitted only on the Wildlife Observation Trail. Riding off roads into fields, woods, or on foot trails is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the refuge manager.

Closed Areas

Designated areas will be closed to all public access (see map for specific locations). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons. Roads and lands closed to public access are designated by signs.

Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are strictly prohibited on the refuge.

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.

Tree Stands, Game Cameras, and Baiting

We allow the use of portable blinds and tree stands on the refuge. You must remove blinds, tree stands, and all other personal equipment from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt. The use of nails, wires, screws, or bolts to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. Each

Continued on next page

Caddo Lake

Hunting Authorization 2026-2027

When signed and carried, this serves as your authorization for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. This authorization is valid only when signed below and must be carried with you at all times while on the refuge. Expires August 31, 2027

Signature (authorizations are not transferable)

stand must be clearly identified with the owner's name, address and telephone number. **The use of or installation of game cameras is prohibited.** Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait—including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally occurring food attractant—on the refuge is prohibited.

Tree Marking

It is unlawful to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint, flagging tape, ribbon, or similar substance.

Hunter Education

Hunter's must comply with the state's hunter education requirements when hunting on the refuge. Hunters must conspicuously wear daylight-fluorescent orange as per state deer hunting regulations on public hunting lands.

Youth Supervision

Hunters age 17 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older, who has successfully completed a Hunter Education Training Course, while hunting.

Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

Only the species listed in this brochure as open to hunting may be taken on the refuge.

Permits

The signing of this refuge hunt brochure on the designated line validates it as your general hunting permit for Caddo Lake NWR and is required for all refuge hunting visitors engaged in permitted activities on the refuge.

Hunters must show this signed refuge hunt brochure, an Annual Public Hunting (APH) permit, a valid Texas hunting license, and identification upon request of any federal refuge law enforcement officer or state game warden. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunt brochure while hunting.

The APH permit is \$48 and available through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Big Game Harvest Report Form

Deer harvested during archery and drawn hunts must be reported on the Big Game Harvest Report (OPM Form 3-2542) available at the check-in kiosk. Once completed, leave in the drop box provided at the kiosk.

Report Violations

Report violations of hunting regulations to the Wildlife Crime Tip Line at 1-844-397-8477 or 1-844-FWS-TIPS.

Prohibited Activities

- Shooting from or across any refuge road or right-of-way.
- Littering
- Spotlighting—artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally occurring food attractant
- Target practice.
- Use or possession of alcohol beverages while hunting.
- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Blocking gates, or roadways with vehicles.
- **The use of installation of all game cameras is prohibited.**

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge
15600 Hwy 134
Karnack, TX 75661

903-679-9143
fws.gov/refuge/caddo-lake

August 2026

Activity	Season	Bag Limit	Special Regulations
Deer Archery Season 1	Oct. 3-Nov. 4, 2026	Two white-tailed deer, one antlered and one antlerless.*	Hunters must carry with them a signed refuge hunt brochure, a valid Texas hunting license, and an APH permit. Hunters are required to sign in and out at the check-in kiosk during archery season.
Deer Firearms Youth	Nov. 5-8, 2026	Two white-tailed deer, either sex, limit one antlered buck.*	Apply online through the TPWD drawn hunts program. Hunters aged 17 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older. The adult supervisor must remain with the youth participant at all times during hunting activities. Drawn hunters are required to carry their TPWD Drawn Hunt Permit on their person. Hunters may have a printed copy or electronic copy stored on a mobile device and display when needed.
Deer Firearms Disabled Veterans	Nov. 12-15, 2026	Two white-tailed deer, either sex, limit one antlered buck.*	Applications must be mailed to Caddo Lake NWR Headquarters and include name, address, and telephone number. Hunter must possess a TPWD Disabled Veteran hunting license. Official proof can be hard copy or digital. A hunter with disabilities may be accompanied by a non-hunting aid.
Deer Firearms General	Nov. 27-29, 2026	One white-tailed deer, either sex.*	Apply online through the TPWD drawn hunts program. There is a \$3 application fee and \$80 permit fee for drawn individuals over 17. Drawn hunters are required to carry their TPWD drawn hunt permit on their person. Hunters may have a printed copy or electronic copy stored on a mobile device and display when needed.
Deer Archery Season 2	Dec. 1, 2026-Jan. 3, 2027	One white-tailed deer, antlered.*	Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunt brochure, a valid Texas hunting license, and an APH permit. Hunters are required to sign in and out at the check-in kiosk during archery season.
Feral Hog	Daylight hours of all deer hunt seasons	None	Hunters must use weapons legal for the current white-tailed deer hunt season.
Squirrel	Jan. 4-Feb. 28, 2027 May 1-31, 2027	State bag limits apply.	Squirrel hunting is allowed through the TPWD Annual Public Hunting Permit system. Hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license and APH permit on their person. The legal method of take is shotgun with federally-approved non-toxic shot.
*State regulations state that: "buck[s] must have an inside main beam spread of 13 inches or greater or at least one unbranched antler. It is unlawful to take more than one buck with an inside spread of 13 inches or greater or with two branched antlers in a single county."			



