



Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

10448 Holla Bend Road

Dardanelle, AR 72834

479/384 5693

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov>

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/holla-bend>

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Holla Bend

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations 2026-2027

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge is an important part of our National Wildlife Refuge System. One of 573 national wildlife refuges in the United States, this area was established to provide essential habitat for migratory birds in the Mississippi and Central flyways. 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 the American people.

Refuge Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 am- 3 pm when staff are available. The refuge office is closed on weekends and federal holidays.

General Refuge Regulations

By law, public use activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography are permitted on the refuge in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations subject to the following refuge-specific conditions.

Access

Holla Bend is a nationally designated Fee Area, and a vehicle entrance pass is required of all visitors traveling through the refuge. Annual, daily and Federal Recreation passes are available. A daily pass for Holla Bend is \$4.00/vehicle.

A current Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as "Duck Stamp," is valid for refuge admission when signed by the possessor. Duck Stamps are available for purchase at any U.S. Post Office.

Holla Bend NWR annual passes (\$12.50) are available on line and valid for admission to Holla Bend only and is valid for one year from the time of purchase.

Vehicle Use

The maximum speed for any land vehicle is 25 mph, unless posted otherwise. Refuges roads are open year around. Vehicles must remain on established roads as indicated on the map. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Do not block cabled or gated roads, field roads or trails. A cable, gate, road closed sign, or other barrier (e.g. mounded dirt) means the road is closed to all vehicle travel, including bicycles and e-bikes, but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

ATVs are allowed only for wildlife-dependent recreational uses by mobility-impaired individuals possessing a refuge special use permit.

Access into the refuge is through an automatically time-controlled gate. Closing times are posted near the entrance. If you are locked in the refuge or need assistance, call 911 on a cell phone and you will be connected to the Sheriff's office located in Danville.

Closed Areas

Designated areas may be closed to hunting, fishing, and all other public access for resource protection, special management, or safety reasons. The Waterfowl Sanctuary is closed to all entry and hunting from Nov 15- Feb 28. All refuge access is prohibited after dark unless specifically authorized. **NEW**

Firearms and Archery Tackle

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). Archery tackle and crossbows are permitted only during designated hunts.

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



2026-2027 General Hunting and Fishing Permit - Holla Bend NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the individual at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting and fishing gear. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. This permit expires 7/31/2027.

NOTE: An additional Permit is also required for Deer and Turkey hunting. I have read and understand the refuge regulations and agree to obey them.

Signature (Permit not transferable)

Hunting Seasons

Deer (Early Buck Archery/Crossbow)

Aug 29-31. Limit is 1 antlered deer. **NEW**

Deer (Archery/Crossbow)*

Sep. 26 - Jan. 31. The limit is three deer, no more than two antlered deer. The refuge will be closed to all entry during the youth gun deer hunt Nov. 7-8 and Jan. 2-3. **NEW**

Note: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission CWD regulations apply to deer harvested on the refuge.

Deer (Gun Youth) **

Quota hunt only, Nov. 7-8 and Jan. 2-3. The Refuge will conduct a youth quota gun deer hunt for youths between ages 6-15. Youths may take two deer, one antlered and one antlerless deer or two antlerless deer.

Black Bear may be taken incidental to archery/crossbow deer and youth gun deer hunting according to state season and regulations.

Squirrel and Rabbit (Archery/Crossbow)

Sept. 26- Jan. 31. State limits apply.

Squirrel and Rabbit Feb 1-28.

No age restrictions. State limits and firearms apply. **NEW**

Raccoon and Opossum

Every night during the month of February. Use of dogs is required. All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's contact information. Only shotguns with nontoxic shot and rifles and handguns chambered for rimfire cartridges are permitted.

Beaver, muskrat, nutria, coyote, striped skunk, fox, bobcat, river otter, and mink may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt with use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state seasons and regulations.

Turkey (Spring Archery/Crossbow)*

State season and bag limits apply.

Turkey (Gun Youth) **

Quota hunt only. Contact refuge at 479/384 5693 for dates and number of permits.

Youth hunts restricted to youths between ages 6-15.

****To Apply for Youth Quota Gun Hunt Permits:**

Applications for youth hunts is located on the Refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/holla-bend

Youth deer hunt application period ends September 30, youth turkey hunt application ends January 31.

Animals/Pets

Dogs are permitted only for raccoon and opossum hunting during the specified refuge season. Other dogs and pets must be confined or on a leash. Horses and mules are prohibited.

Specific Hunting Regulations

All deer, bear, and turkey harvested must be tagged in accordance with AGFC regulations. In addition, all game harvested shall also be reported at the refuge check station before leaving the area. Adhering to these regulations is essential for supporting wildlife management and conservation efforts on the refuge.

State bag limits apply unless otherwise noted. Only those species listed in this brochure or on refuge hunt permits may be taken.

The use of dogs for deer hunting is prohibited.

During big game seasons the automatic front gate will open one hour before daylight and close one hour after sunset.

All hunters must enter and exit the refuge from designated roads and parking lots only.

Waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting are prohibited on Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge and parts of the surrounding area that fall within the Migratory Bird Closure Zone.

NOTE: The refuge will be closed to all hunting related activities during the youth turkey hunts and the refuge will be closed to all entry during the youth gun deer hunt.

Hunter Education and Youth Hunter Supervision

All hunters age 11 and under who possess valid hunter education certification must remain within normal sight and voice contact with an adult age 18 or older who possesses a valid State hunting license. Hunters age 15 and under who have not completed hunter education must be under the direct supervision (within arm's reach) of an adult age 21 or older who possesses a valid State hunting license. One adult may supervise up to two youth hunters for upland game hunting, but may supervise only one youth during big game hunting.

Tree Stands/Blinds and Game Cameras

Only portable stands or blinds may be used. A portable hunting stand is any device or structure used for the purpose of hunting that can be carried in its entirety and erected by hand including but not limited to tripod stands, lean-to stands, lock-on stands, ladder stands and climbing stands. One portable stand or blind and one game camera is allowed and must have AGFC customer identification number clearly written in a conspicuous location. They can be deployed 7 days before the start of the season, and you must remove it from the refuge within 7 days after the season closes. **NEW**

*Permits are Required for All Refuge Hunts

When signed and in your possession, the general hunt permit on the front of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. Additional permits are required for Fall Deer and Spring Turkey hunting. The permits are \$12.50 and must be purchased from <https://hollabend.recaccess.com/>

Permits are non-transferable and nonrefundable, even in the event of refuge hunt closures due to flooding or government shut-downs.

Prohibited Activities

- Commercial guiding/hunting.
- Taking or possessing turtles or mollusks.
- Camping and fires.
- Carrying, possessing, or discharging fireworks or explosives
- Swimming.
- Littering (including, but not limited to cigarette butts, shotgun shell hulls, and fishing line).
- Searching for or removing artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
- Cutting, or defacing trees shrubs, or other plants.
- Possession or use of herbicides.
- Failure to remove all marking materials from the refuge following the hunt.
- Target practice or non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Dog field trials and organized training events.
- Leaving a hunt stand/blind or camera after hunt season.
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any ingestible attractant.
- All forms of man-deer drives.
- Using artificial light to locate wildlife, except as authorized for raccoon/opossum hunting.
- Hunting within 150 feet of roads and trails open to motor vehicle use.
- Driving or screwing any metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven into trees.
- Building or hunting from permanent blinds or stands.
- Leaving boats overnight.
- Loaded hunting firearms in vehicle or boat while under power.
- Use of airboats, water skiing, jet skis, or other personal watercraft.
- Use of drones.

Sport Fishing Regulations

A refuge permit and vehicle entrance fee/pass is required for all fishing activities. Permits are non-transferable and must be signed by the individual and carried at all times while on the refuge in possession of fishing gear. A permit is located on the front of this brochure or can be downloaded and printed from the refuge website at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/holla-bend>

All fishing will be permitted in accordance with state seasons and state and refuge-specific regulations.

Sport fishing, frogging, and crawfishing, for personal use only, are permitted Mar. 1- Nov 14, and bank fishing (no boat) along the Arkansas River year-round from legal sunrise to legal sunset. A valid Arkansas Fishing License is required. The owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number must be permanently affixed to each crawfish trap. **NEW**

Access to refuge waters and land from the Arkansas River is prohibited. Boating over the dam at the Old River Channel, from either direction, is prohibited.

Trotline, Setline, Limbline, Yo-Yo, and free floating fishing devices:

During refuge fishing season only. These devices cannot be left overnight or unattended. Lines that extend into the water must be cotton. Limit 20 devices per person. Each device must be clearly labeled with the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number. -

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is allowed by Special Use Permit only. Contact Refuge Manager at 479/384/5693 for additional information.

Signs



Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the sign applies to the area behind the sign. Please respect and obey all signs on the refuge:

Refuge Boundary

Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Closed Area

All entry prohibited.



No Hunting Zone

Hunting, weapons or game retrieval prohibited.



No Vehicles

All vehicle traffic prohibited. Foot travel only.



Migratory Bird Closure Zone

Area behind signs closed to the taking/hunting of migratory birds.

