

Special Conditions for Airboat Use Permit

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

1. All boats operating in the Refuge Interior, outside of the perimeter canal, are required to display a 10-inches by 12-inches (25 cm x 30 cm) orange flag 10-feet (3 meters) above the vessel's waterline so that others may see you.
2. There is a 35 miles per hour (mph) speed limit in all waters of the refuge. A 500-foot (150-meter) "idle speed zone" is at each of the refuge's three boat ramps.
3. Permittees must be at least 18 years of age or older to operate an airboat on the refuge.
4. Permits are non-transferable and apply to the designated boat and can be operated by any operators who are authorized to operate the boat.
5. Permittees will adhere with all ecological considerations such as traveling in open water and avoiding sawgrass, tree islands, and areas with low water depths, and avoiding the disturbance of wildlife.
6. All airboats, while operating within the boundaries of the refuge, must utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit or GPS Tracker, and maintain an active track of all of the movements of the airboat. Upon the request of a Federal or state law enforcement officer, the captain of the airboat will produce the GPS device for an inspection of the track and route of the airboat. By signing this permit, the permit holder agrees to the above conditions for any and all captains operating the airboat, and constitutes irrevocable consent to the search of the GPS Device by Federal and state law enforcement officers. By signing this permit the permit holder is agreeing to forfeit their permit in the event the Captain(s) fail to comply with the conditions of this permit, in addition to any criminal or civil liabilities.
7. Airboats must meet the airboat inspection guidelines prior to permit issuance. Permits may be suspended or revoked if inspection requirements are not maintained.
8. Access may be restricted or suspended at refuge management's discretion for any reason deemed necessary, such as nesting wildlife, water levels, research, wildfire suppression, prescribe fire management, or invasive species treatments.
9. All refuge regulations will be adhered to by the permittee(s) and members of their party including but not limited to prohibition of harassing wildlife, leaving trash and debris, and damaging vegetation by creating new trails/routes of travel.
10. A copy of the permit will be carried by the permittee(s) during each visit and presented upon request to any refuge official.
11. Entry will be authorized only during normal operating hours and into designated areas unless specific authorization has been granted by the Refuge Manager. A map of the operating area will be supplied with the permit.
12. Non-motorized vessels can be used in conjunction with a motorized vessel.
13. Each decal must be affixed to the left rudder, on the outside facing surface.
14. Permits are valid for the date(s) listed on the final permit.
15. By signing the Special Use Permit Application you are agreeing that you are the individual who took the Airboat Operator Course, and that you understand your responsibilities while operating an airboat in the Refuge.
16. The permittee is responsible for the actions of all authorized operators and occupants.
17. COVID-19 Guidelines: Please make sure that your activities are consistent with all current CDC, state, and local guidelines.