



# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

## Hunting Regulations 2023–2024

### Welcome

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1951, and is home to the northernmost section of the Everglades in Palm Beach County, Florida. Public hunting is permitted on approximately 145,000 acres during specific times of the year.

**Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33473  
561/732 3684

[www.fws.gov/refuge/arthur-r-marshall-loxahatchee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arthur-r-marshall-loxahatchee)

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas**

**May 2023**

This brochure contains special regulations that supplement Federal and State laws with Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. These refuge specific regulations are in place to protect our natural resources while providing a rewarding outdoor experience. These refuge specific regulations may be more restrictive than, and supersede State law. Careful adherence to these regulations and due respect for others will ensure the future of hunting on Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.



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

### Permits

You must possess and carry a signed refuge hunt permit (signed brochure) while hunting. You must have on your person at all times all applicable licenses, permits, and/or CITES tags.

### Entrance Fee

An entrance pass is required. A current signed Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) covers entrance fees to all national wildlife refuges. Passes may be obtained at the self-pay stations, seasonally at the fee booths, online through Recreation.gov: [recreation.gov/sitepass/1278](http://recreation.gov/sitepass/1278), or at the visitor center from 9 am – 4 pm daily.

### Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of Federal and State 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).

### Commercial Guided Hunting

Commercial hunting guide operations within the refuge are regulated and managed through issuance of a Special Use Permit and special conditions. This activity provides recreational opportunities for hunters who desire a successful, quality experience, but who may lack the necessary equipment, skills, or knowledge to hunt within the environment of the refuge.

### Boating Regulations

- There is a 35 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.
- Motorized vessels are permitted in the Motorized Zone, south of latitude line N 26° 27.130’, and Perimeter Canal. Non-motorized vessels are permitted throughout the Refuge Interior.
- 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.
- Hunters may only use boats equipped with factory-manufactured water-cooled outboard motors, boats with electric motors, and non-motorized boats. We prohibit boats with air-cooled engines, fan boats, hovercraft, and personal watercraft (jet skis, jet boats, wave runners, etc.).
- We allow the use of airboats for a limited number of hunters by permit only (Special Use Permit (FWS Form 3-1383-G)). We will issue airboat permits through a separate lottery to individuals age 18 and older. Visit the refuge’s website for airboat permitting information.
- We prohibit unrestricted airboat travel not associated with hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-dependent recreational activities.

### Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through the wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable Federal and State of Florida regulations subject to the conditions stated on the next pages.

**Season 2023 - 2024**  
**A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Permit**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR Hunt Regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (This permit valid only when signed.)



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### Safety

Be prepared. Watch for changing weather conditions.

Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle.

Tell a relative or friend where you are going and when you should return. Carry water, snacks, foul weather clothing, insect repellent, and emergency light. Bring a GPS navigation system and know how to use it. Cell phone coverage can be sporadic and is sometimes unreliable.

Have all required U.S. Coast Guard approved safety equipment.

Ensure your boat is seaworthy and carry plenty of fuel. If you should become lost and/or stranded, you will need to call 911. Please observe the following procedures which will aid law enforcement personnel in locating you.

If you become stranded or broken down, try to paddle to the canal or get to a levee. Do not try to walk out. Stay with your vessel. A boat, airboat, or aircraft, will be used to reach you. Display a light, flag, or other device to aid personnel in locating you. If a search vessel nears you make noise to help officers pinpoint your location. If you have made cell phone contact, give the dispatcher your current location and do not move unless in an emergency.

In connection with the above procedures, we strongly urge that each hunter have a light, flare gun or flares which may be fired from a shotgun.

### Hunt Closure

Refuge hunts may have to be terminated early, or some of the hunt area closed, should unusual climatic conditions result in threats to visitor safety, management activities, possible degradation of habitat by visitor use, or a concentration of endangered species within the hunt area. The refuge's first obligation is to protect the visitor, habitat, and listed species such as snail kites and wood storks.

### Specific Hunting Regulations

- The possession or use of alcohol while hunting is prohibited.
- Hunters must leave the hunt area once their bag limit is filled.
- Non-toxic ammunition is required during all hunts.
- Licenses, permits, hunting equipment, effects and vehicles, vessels and other conveyances are subject to inspection by law enforcement officers.
- Hunters may only enter and leave the refuge at designated entrances.
- No-entry and/or limited activity buffer zones or closures may be created to protect threatened or endangered species and other trust species.
- Hunters must not access any of the Refuge Interior tree islands except for the purpose of retrieving down game only.

### Prohibited Activities

- Littering
- Camping without a permit
- Fires
- Overnight parking at Headquarters Area
- Taking of wildlife (or parts thereof) except where authorized (hunting and fishing)
- Baiting or hunting over bait
- Trapping
- Marking trails with non-biodegradable flagging
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Other activities prohibited by refuge regulations, local, state, or federal law

### Alligator Hunting

- Season: We allow alligator hunting the first 2 weekends during Harvest Period 1 (August) and the first 2 weekends during Harvest Period 2 (September). Following the close of Harvest Period 2, the remaining weekends in October will be open for alligator harvest permittees who possess unused CITES tags (OMB Control No. 1018-0093). Specific dates for the alligator hunt are printed on the harvest permit issued by the State.
- Hunt Days: Weekend days only – Friday night through Sunday morning.
- Shooting Hours: One hour before sunset Friday night until one hour after sunrise Saturday morning and one hour before sunset Saturday night until one hour after sunrise Sunday morning.
- Bag limit: Two alligators per permit
- Hunt Area: Motorized Zone and Perimeter Canal south of latitude line 26° 27.130' (see map). We prohibit hunting from all refuge structures and levees; within one-half mile of canoe trails, campsites, and boat ramps; and all areas posted as closed.
- All hunters must enter and leave the refuge from Hillsboro Area or 20 Mile Bend Area.
- You must have on your person all applicable licenses and permits, including CITES tags.
- Alligator hunters age 18 and older must be in possession of all necessary State and Federal licenses, permits, and CITES tags, as well as a signed refuge hunt permit while hunting on the refuge. They must possess an Alligator Trapping License with CITES tag or an Alligator Trapping Agent License, if applicable.
- Persons younger than age 18 may not hunt, but may only accompany an adult age 21 or older who possesses an Alligator Trapping Agent License (state-issued).



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### Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wild lands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge.

Please respect the following signs:

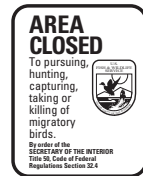
**Refuge Boundary Sign - National Wildlife Refuge** - unauthorized entry prohibited.



**Area Beyond This Sign Closed** - No entry of any kind allowed beyond this sign.



**Area Closed to Hunting** - No hunting allowed in the area beyond this sign.



**Idle Speed – No Wake** - There is a 35 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



**Non-motorized Zone** Non-motorized vessels are permitted throughout the Refuge Interior. Motorized vessels are permitted in the Motorized Zone, south of latitude line N 26° 27.130'.



- You may take alligators using hand-held snares, harpoons, gigs, snatch hooks, artificial lures, manually operated spears, spear guns, and crossbows. We prohibit the taking of alligators using baited hooks, baited wooden pegs, or firearms. We allow the use of bang sticks (a hand-held pole with a pistol or shotgun cartridge on the end in a very short barrel) with approved non-toxic ammunition (see §32.2(k)) only for taking alligators attached to a restraining line.
- Once an alligator is captured, it must be killed immediately. We prohibit catch-and-release of alligators. Once the alligator is dead, you must lock a CITES tag through the skin of the carcass within 6 inches (15.2 centimeters) of the tip of the tail. The tag must remain attached to the alligator at all times.
- Alligators must remain in whole condition while on refuge lands.

### Duck and Coot Hunting

- Season: State regulations
- Shooting Hours: State regulations
- Bag limit: State regulations
- Hunt Area: Motorized Zone and Non-motorized Zone (see map). We prohibit duck and coot hunting from all refuge structures, canals, and levees; within one-half mile of canoe trails, campsites, and boat ramps; and areas posted as closed.
- All duck and coot hunters must possess a valid Florida State Hunting License and Florida State Duck Stamp, except children under 16. In addition, all hunters age 16 and older must possess a signed valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Conservation Stamp.
- All hunters younger than age 16 must be supervised by a licensed and permitted adult age 21 or older, and must remain with the adult while hunting. Hunters born after June 1, 1975 must have completed a hunter education course.
- We allow only temporary blinds of native vegetation that must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- We allow airboats with a Duck and Coot Hunting Airboat Permit during Phase 2 of the State duck and coot season only. We will issue airboat permits through a separate lottery. Contact the refuge headquarters for airboat permitting information.
- Motorized vessels used while duck and coot hunting must be stopped and shut off for 15 minutes prior to shooting. Motorized vessels must be in place one hour before sunrise and not move until one hour after sunrise.
- The use of dogs is encouraged to retrieve dead or wounded waterfowl. Dogs must remain under the control of their handlers at all times.

### White-tailed Deer/Feral Hog Hunting

We allow hunting of white-tailed deer and feral hog on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

- You must possess and carry a signed current refuge hunt permit (signed brochure) while hunting. You must have on your person all applicable licenses and permits.
- White-tailed deer hunters younger than age 16 must be supervised by a licensed and permitted adult age 21 or older, and must remain with the adult while hunting. Hunters born after June 1, 1975 must have completed a hunter education course.



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- Each permitted hunter is allowed to have one guest hunter and one non-hunting assistant. The quota permit holder and the guest must share a single bag limit, and the quota permit holder is responsible for making sure that the shared bag limit is not exceeded. Guest permit per FWC policy.
- We prohibit the use of dogs for the take or attempt to take of white-tailed deer and feral hogs. We allow the use of dogs for blood trailing only.
- We have limited quota and specialty hunts for the taking of white-tailed deer, and incidental take of feral hogs during the deer hunts on the Strazzulla Marsh and the Cypress Swamp.
- We require nontoxic ammunition (see § 32.2(k)) when deer hunting on the refuge.
- Bag limit: One antlered deer per hunt permit meeting the 2-point antler point restriction for Deer Management Unit-A1. An antlered deer is defined as a deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length. An antlered deer meeting the 2-point antler point restriction is defined as an antlered deer having an antler with at least 2 points measuring 1 inch or more in length.

### *Interior Deer/Hog Hunt*

- Season: December 1-3, 2023
- Shooting hours: State regulations
- Hunt area: Refuge Interior (includes motorized and non-motorized zones)
- Deer/hog hunters may only enter and leave the refuge from the Headquarters Area in Boynton Beach.
- We prohibit hunting from all refuge structures and levees; within 1/2 mile of canoe trails, campsites, and boat ramps; and in areas posted as closed.
- We allow a limited quota permit for the taking of white-tailed deer and incidental take of feral hog in the Refuge Interior by airboat (requires Special Use Permit (FWS Form 3-1383-G)) and nonmotorized vessels only. Jon boats may be used in the motorized zone south of latitude line N 26°27.130' only. Airboat access will be for deer hunt permit holders only.
- Motorized vessels used while deer hunting must be stopped and shut off for 15 minutes prior to shooting. Permitted motorized vessels must be in place 1 hour before legal sunrise and not move until 1 hour after legal sunrise.
- We close the Refuge Interior to all other uses during the limited quota white-tailed deer hunt in the Refuge Interior.
- Hunters must remove decoys and other personal property from the hunting area at the end of each day's hunt (see § 27.93).

### *Strazzulla Archery and Crossbow Deer/Hog Hunt*

Strazzulla is a remote area and hunters should expect to travel several miles on foot, bicycle, or boat to reach the hunt area. We are working on additional access options. Please contact the refuge for more information.

- Season: August 4-6, 2023
- Shooting hours: State regulations
- Hunt area: Strazzulla Unit
- A 300-foot buffer around private lands for any hunting in Strazzulla will be imposed.
- We only allow archery and crossbow when hunting white-tailed deer and feral hog in Strazzulla



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- Strazzulla deer hunters may leave a temporary tree stand on refuge property starting one week before the hunt, but hunters must remove it by the end of the Strazzulla hunt season.

### Scouting Dates with Airboat Permit

Hunters possessing a valid airboat permit may scout within their permitted hunt area prior to their permitted hunt. You must carry your valid airboat permit while scouting.

Scouting dates:

Alligator Hunt: August 4-6, 2023

Interior Deer Hunt: November 24-26, 2023

Duck and Coot Hunt: November 24-26, 2023

### Please Read This Important Message: Attention Hunters!

Hunting on a national wildlife refuge is a privilege and your behavior while participating in this hunt may affect future hunting on refuges. Every national wildlife refuge in this state provides habitat for several endangered or threatened species. Federal and State laws prohibit any activity that might harm endangered or threatened plants or animals. We believe that these hunts can be conducted without harming any endangered species and have taken certain precautions to make it so. We cannot, however, prevent irresponsible acts by hunters, and if such acts do occur, we may be forced to discontinue the hunt.

**Remember:** Your hunt permit authorizes you to take only the species list on the permit. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife, including any birds, mammals, turtles, frogs, lizards, or snakes is a violation of federal law and is cause for prosecution.

**Dial 911 in case of an emergency.**

**For assistance or to report a refuge law enforcement violation, please call FWC dispatch at (561) 357-4200 extension 7, provide your location, and request a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service officer to respond.**

**Alternatively, the National Wildlife Refuge System TIPS hotline is an effective means of reporting violations occurring on any National Wildlife Refuge.**

**By phone: 1-844-FWS-TIPS (387-8477)**

**By email: [nwr\\_tips@fws.gov](mailto:nwr_tips@fws.gov)**



# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

## 2023-2024 Hunt Area Map

To Belle Glade ←

→ To West Palm Beach

E Canal St S

US-441 / US-98 / Southern Blvd

Twenty Mile Bend  
Boat Ramp Road

Forest Hill  
Blvd

Wellington

**ATTENTION HUNTERS**  
Not all species can be  
hunted in all areas.  
See attached regulations  
for your specific hunt area.

20 Mile Bend



Lantana Rd

**Non-motorized Watercraft Zone**

Boynton  
Beach Blvd

Headquarters Area



Lee Road

(No Refuge Access from SR-27)  
SR-27

N 26° 27.130'

Atlantic Ave

**Motorized Watercraft Zone  
(non-motorized watercraft allowed)**

US-441/SR-7

Hillsboro Area



Glades Rd

WCA2  
(South of refuge)



Loxahatchee Rd

W. Hillsboro  
Blvd

To Boca Raton ↓

### Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- Motorized Zone
- Non-motorized Zone
- Strazzulla Unit
- No Hunting
- Refuge Headquarters
- Parking
- Restroom
- Fee Kiosk
- Boat Ramp
- Roads
- Perimeter Canal

