



The blue goose, designed by "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Choctaw

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting, Fishing, and
Public Use Regulations 2020-2021

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge
13723 Bluff Lake Road
Brooksville, MS 39739
662/323 5548
<http://www.fws.gov/choctaw>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2020



“The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997).

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge is an extremely important component for the conservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plant resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Carefully managed hunting and fishing help maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with their habitat, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

The provisions listed within this publication supplement the general regulations that govern public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The public is encouraged to use Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge for wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and environmental education.

All other uses are prohibited unless specifically listed within this brochure or by posted regulatory sign. Additional information can be obtained by visiting the refuge’s visitor center.

The Refuge is opened every day from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

Activities Allowed

- Wildlife Observation and Photography
- Wildlife Education and Interpretation
- Hunting in designated seasons and areas
- Fishing in designated seasons and areas
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Pets allowed on leash

Activities Allowed by Special Use Permit

All commercial activities

Activities Not Allowed

- Harassing, feeding, driving, and/ or baiting wildlife
- Swimming
- Night time activities
- Camping
- Open fires
- Collection, consumption, and/or removal of any and all objects, plants, or animals
- Release of plants or animals on the Refuge
- Target shooting
- Littering including the use of flagging or markers
- Leaving personal property overnight or establishing permanent structures
- Metal detecting or searching for items of antiquity
- Off-road motorized vehicles and off-road biking
- Possession/use of alcoholic beverages
- Fishing tournaments
- Blocking of gates with vehicles
- Horseback riding, domestic livestock
- Personal watercrafts, airboats, and hovercraft

Special Hunting/Fishing Regulations

State bag limits, arms and ammunition, and other applicable State regulations apply. State hunting and fishing licenses are required on the Refuge in accordance with State regulations. All U.S. Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced.

Hunters who fail to abide by all applicable regulations will be considered to be hunting without permission.

We recommend all user groups wear hunter orange during hunting seasons.

Hunting will not be permitted within 100 yards of the fenced-in Refuge work center area, hiking trail, or the Refuge boat ramp. Waterfowl sanctuary is open to all entry from March 1 through November 30.

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). Persons may only use approved nontoxic shot in #4 or smaller shotgun shells (see §32.2(k)), .22 caliber rimfire rifles, 17 caliber or legal archery equipment according to State regulations for federal lands. Firearms are prohibited in all federal facilities. Discharging a firearm for a purpose other than to take legal game animals during established hunting seasons is prohibited.

Only designated game species may be taken. Incidental species (beaver, nutria, feral hogs, raccoon, opossum and coyotes) may be taken during hunts with the weapon legal during those hunts. All other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

We prohibit damaging trees or hunting from a tree that contains an inserted metal object (see §32.2(i)). Personal property must be removed from the Refuge each day except for one portable stand (including tripods and ground blinds) (see §27.93 of this chapter). The stand is required to be tagged with the State hunting license number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the area do not reserve hunting locations. Portable stands may not be installed on the area prior to seven days before deer season opens, nor left longer than seven days after deer season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by USFWS.

All hunters harvesting Refuge wildlife MUST record harvest data at one of the checkout stations upon conclusion of each day’s hunting.

Check stations and scales are located at Bobby’s Fish Camp (Highway 84) and Refuge Work Center (Womack Hill). All youth hunters under age 16 must be supervised by a licenced or exempt hunter 21 years of age or older, and must remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult while hunting. Adults must comply with State Regulations on supervision and one adult may supervise no more than two youth hunters.

Fishing is permitted year-around on Refuge waters except in the waterfowl sanctuary, which is closed from December 1 through March 1. Only fish, according to state regulations, may be taken, possessed, or transported.

Commercial Fishing – A Refuge Special Use Permit is required for commercial fishing.

Hunts	Dates
<i>Small Game</i>	
Squirrel, Rabbit Raccoon (day only)	November 1 - 30 (Dogs not allowed between Okatuppa and Turkey Creeks {Middle Swamp})
<i>Deer</i>	
Archery-Buck Only	October 15 - October 24
Archery-Either Sex	October 25 - November 30
<i>Other Species</i>	
Feral Hogs	Taken as Incidental Species Only
Coyote	Taken as Incidental Species Only
Beaver	Taken as Incidental Species Only
Nutria	Taken as Incidental Species Only
Opossum	Taken as Incidental Species Only

Fishing	Year-round unless specified
Sport fishing (rod/reel and pole/line only)	All water bodies unless specified
Reptiles and Amphibians	CLOSED