Caution: Due to elevated levels of mercury in fish, the Arkansas Department of Health advises caution in the consumption of some species of fish from refuge waters. Call 501-681-2000 for more information.

The following activities are prohibited on Felsenthal NWR:

- Littering.
- The use of Airboats is prohibited during the months of October through March.
- Spotlighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting; consumption of alcohol in parking lots and on roadways; consumption of alcohol in plain view in campgrounds.
- Fishing or swimming from any boat ramp.
- Excessively loud music.
- Blocking gates, boat ramps or roadways with any vehicles.
- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure. Exception: berry picking.
- Possession or use of herbicides.
- Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paint or any other substance or material.
- Use or possession of any electronic call or other electronic device used for producing or projecting vocal sounds of wildlife.
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Disposing of unused portions of game or fish within 300 yards of any boat ramp, parking lot or campground.
- Leaving any personal property on the Refuge unattended. Exception: Gear associated with camping in designated camping sites and deer stands and/or deer blinds.
- The use of drones and/or unmanned aircraft.
- Target practice with any firearms, archery tackle and crossbows or any non-hunting discharge of firearms.
- Firearms including state permitted concealed carry handguns are prohibited in all Refuge offices and buildings.
Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge

Unclaimed Hunt Permits: If available, unclaimed permits may be purchased on a first come first serve basis during the two weeks prior to the scheduled Hunts. See website for more details.

Please note, submissions of any person’s name more than once for the same Hunt Type will result in disqualification.

Commercial/ Special Use Activities
No person including but not limited to a guide, guide service, outfitter, hunting club or other organization shall provide assistance, services or equipment on the Refuge to any other person for compensation. For the purpose of this regulation, any fee paid or services rendered to a person for lodging, meals, club membership or similar services will be considered compensation. Violations of this regulation subjects each hunter in the party to a fine if convicted of this violation.

A Refuge Special Use Permit is required for all commercial activities on the Refuge. Permits may be obtained by contacting our Refuge Headquarters with a formal request. All Special Use Permit applications will be subject to a two week turn-around time and applicable fees.

Motor Vehicles
All motor vehicles are restricted to normal passenger vehicle roads. Roads and trails may be closed to vehicle use due to periods of high water, during wildlife occurrences or other natural events that may pose a hazard to public safety. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) are allowed on trails designated by ATV signs and marked with yellow or blue paint. The use of ATV/UTVs is restricted to wildlife-dependent recreation only. Trails marked by yellow paint are open September 1 - January 31. Trails marked with blue paint are open year round to access areas for hunting and fishing.

We define an ATV and a UTV as off-road vehicles (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: engine size 700 cc displacement, a width of 63” or less and tires with maximum 1” lug height and maximum allowable tire pressure of 8 psi.

Bicycles are permitted on roads and designated open trails. The maximum legal speed for any land vehicle is 25 mph.

Firearms/Ammunition
Persons may only use (discharge) firearms during authorized hunting seasons while attempting to take game species and/or wildlife species approved for incidental take. All hunting weapons used on the Refuge must comply with state regulations for each game species. Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Lead shot is prohibited during the Quota Turkey Hunts. Only rimfire rifles no larger than .22 caliber and shotguns are permitted except during the Muzzleloader and Gun Deer Hunts when hunting equipment legal for these hunts is also permitted. The use or possession of buckshot is prohibited Retreat wide.

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).

Camping
Camping (no reservations or fees required) is permitted only in designated primitive camping areas and in conjunction with on-refuge wildlife-dependent activities (see map). Camping area entrances are marked by signs and boundaries are marked with ORANGE paint. Campers may stay no more than fourteen (14) days during any thirty (30) consecutive day period in any campground. Camps must be occupied daily. All disturbances, including the use of generators, are prohibited after 10 pm. Camping on the Refuge while hunting off the refuge is prohibited. Campfires are permitted only in camping areas and must be attended. Only downed wood may be used for fires. Caution: During periods of high fire danger, all open fires will be prohibited.

Fire Management
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages fire to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats, while first ensuring human safety and then protecting our facilities and neighboring communities. Refuge fire activity can be expected year round. Felsenthal visitors are asked to be mindful of all fire and wildlife activity while on the Refuge. Certain areas of the Refuge may be temporarily closed or have restricted access due to fire activity. For current and updated information see our contact information.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
Felsenthal visitors are encouraged to explore our natural resources by way of birding, canoeing, hiking, photography and observation. While the Refuge continuously strives to better provide these opportunities, please feel free to contact us for the most up-to-date information and accommodations. All ATV/UTV trails are open to foot traffic year round. It is recommended that all Refuge users wear applicable hunter orange while on the Refuge during the gun and muzzleloader deer hunts.

Animals/Pets
Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, and small game during designated seasons. Dogs and other pets not being utilized for wildlife-dependent recreation must be on a leash.

Physically Challenged Hunters
Physically challenged users are encouraged to consult with Refuge staff at the Refuge Headquarters for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable. Refuge Mobility Impaired Access permits are available and are required to gain special access due to disabilities.

Waterfowl Sanctuary
This area is posted with “Area Closed” signs. The waterfowl sanctuary is closed to all public entry (including fishing and frogging) from November 15 through February 15, except during the deer modern gun quota hunt. For current and updated information see our contact information below.

Sport Fishing and Frogging
Sport fishing, frogging and taking of crawfish for personal use are permitted in all Refuge waters in accordance with State regulations. Fishing is permitted year round. The main channel of the Ouachita River and the borrow pits along U.S. Highway 82 are open for navigation and fishing year-round. Recreational fishing in the Eagle Lake and Woodland Trail ponds will be open to youth 12 and under, individuals with disabilities and seniors 65 and older.
2020-2021 Felsenthal NWR Hunting Season Dates and Regulations

For all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge, the hunter will immediately complete the hunting license kill information using “Felsenthal NWR” as zone of kill.

A hunter born after 1968 must carry a valid Hunter Education Card. Hunters under 16 years old do not need to have a card if they are under the direct supervision of a holder of a valid hunting license of at least 21 years of age. Youth hunters under the age of 16 who have a valid Hunter Education Card must also be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old but must only be in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. An adult may supervise only one youth for big game hunting and up to two youths for waterfowl and small game.

### Legal method

**Duck, Goose and Coot**
- **Season Dates**: State Duck and Teal Season (including State Youth Hunts and Special Active Duty Military and Veteran Hunts)
- **Bag Limit**: Geese and Coots can be taken during state duck season when state seasons for these species are open.

**Squirrel and Rabbit**
- **Season Dates**: Sep. 1 - Jan. 31
- **Bag Limit**: Dogs allowed December 1 through January 31. Closed during Quota Deer Hunts.

**Quail**
- **Season Dates**: Nov. 1 - Jan. 31
- **Bag Limit**: Closed during Quota Deer Hunts.

**Woodcock**
- **Season Dates**: State Season
- **Bag Limit**: Closed during Quota Deer Hunts.

**Raccoon and Opossum**
- **Season Dates**: Sunset Nov. 17 - Jan. 31
- **Bag Limit**: Use of dogs required during hours of darkness. Closed during Quota Deer Hunt.

### Deer

Deer stands may be placed on the refuge starting on the opening day of Archery Season and must be removed by January 31. Limit is one deer stand per person. All stands must be clearly labeled. Portable, pop-up blinds, must have 144 square inches of blaze orange or chartreuse visible from all sides of the blind during firearms deer seasons on the Refuge.

Portable tree stands and ground blinds left unattended must have the owner’s Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number clearly written in a conspicuous location.

Conducting or participating in deer drives is prohibited. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within firearm range of one or more participating hunters.

The use of deer decoys is prohibited.

### Specific Regulations

- **Archery/Crossbow**: Spring State Season
- **State Bag Limit**: Closed during Quota Gun Turkey Hunts.

**Muzzleloader**: Oct. 17 - 21
- **One (1) legal turkey according to state definition.** A doe must be harvested on the refuge and checked before harvesting a buck. A legal buck is any male deer.

**Modern Gun**: Nov. 14 - 17
- **One (1) legal turkey according to state definition.** A doe must be harvested on the refuge and checked before harvesting a buck. A legal buck is any male deer.

**Youth Modern Gun**: Nov. 7 - 8, Jan. 2 - 3
- **Harvest same as above but doe first is not required.** Youth hunt restricted to youths, 15 years of age and younger (age at opening of state-wide youth deer season) accompanied by one adult 21 years or older.

**Turkey**

**Archery/Crossbow**: Spring State Season
- **State Bag Limit**: Closed during Quota Gun Turkey Hunts.

**Muzzleloader and Modern Gun Deer Hunts**: Any Refuge Hunt
- **State Bag Limit**: No bag limit. May be taken incidental to any daytime Refuge Hunt (without the use of dogs) with legal hunting equipment and ammunition allowed for that Hunt.

**Feral Hogs**: No bag limit.
- In accordance with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations concerning the taking of feral swine on WMAs. Live hogs may not be transported or possessed.

**Furbearer**: Trapping
- **Sunrise Nov. 18 - Jan. 31**
- **Refuge Special Use Permit required and available at refuge office.** Closed during Quota Deer Hunts.