Introduction

Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge is one of 550 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife, particularly waterfowl and other migratory birds. The harvested of animals is one tool used to manage fish and wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunting and fishing help maintain those populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of valuable renewable resources.

The regulations in this pamphlet supplement the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 56, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations except as noted below.

As you use the refuge, take pride in America and the refuge resources. Report violations promptly. Respect the rights of others using the refuge.

Refuge is open from sunrise to sunset except for legal hunting and fishing. The Mollicy Unit is closed to nighttime activities.

Warning

Use caution when operating boats or wading in flooded areas of the refuge. Obstructions/obstacles may be submerged and unnoticed.

All boats must comply with state law and display proper navigation lights from sunset to sunrise.

General Hunting Regulations

By hunting or fishing on the refuge, you can be subjected to fish and game inspection. By hunting or fishing on the refuge, you can be subjected to fish and game inspection.

Permits

A signed refuge hunting permit (front of this brochure) to fish and game inspection.

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Firearm ammunition, used for hunting, larger than a .22 caliber rim-fire, shotgun slug, or buckshot are allowed only during refuge gun deer and duck seasons. Lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, except buckshot, when authorized.

Safety

All hunters must wear hunter orange including hats during the refuge deer gun deer hunt as part of state deer hunting regulations on WMAs. Hunters participating in special dog season for upland bird hunting must wear hunter orange per State deer gun hunting regulations on WMAs and from hunting locations. Although highly recommended, the International Bowhunters Education certification is no longer required to archery deer hunt on the refuge.

ATV Regulations

ATVs are permitted on trails designated for their use (see map). The trails are marked with signs and will be closed March 1 through August 31. ATVs are prohibited from one hour after legal shooting hours to 4 am. Raccoon hunters may not use ATVs. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 26 x 12 with a maximum 1” lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 12 psi as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV’s cannot exceed 750 lbs., 85” in length and 48” in width. Use of all other ATVs or ATV tires is prohibited on the refuge. Exception: ATV trailer couplers are ATV trail south of the levee on Mollicy Unit and the ATV trail from Eagle Nest Parking Lot to Cheney Slough which will be open March 1 through August 31 for fishing access only (see map).

Summary of Recent Regulation Changes

1. Either sex deer gun hunting seasons apply to all navigable waterways including designated roads and ditches.

2. No boats permitted at Mollicy inside the levee after 1:30 pm from November 1-January 31.

3. Waterfowl hunters during Refuge deer gun hunts must wear hunter orange per applicable state regulations except as noted below.

4. Surface drive motors not allowed on Refuge after 1:30 pm from November 1-January 31.

5. No launching boats or operating boats in closed areas, including designated roads and ditches.
Prohibited Activities

- Camping
- Open fires
- Littering
- Possession of drugs or alcohol
- Overnight parking
- Overnight mooring of houseboats
- Target practice
- Taking of wildlife and plants other than specified in refuge regulations
- Cutting of vegetation, including limbs
- Use of airboats
- Using motorized vehicles on designated public access roads. This includes motorcycles, ATVs, jeeps, cars, trucks, etc. Parking is restricted to parking areas along public access roads which are shown on map (see map)

Signs and Boundaries

- Signs are in use to regulate the use of a public area. The wording applies to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary markers, and check your location on the maps.

- This sign marks the refuge boundary. Public entry by foot is generally authorized at all times on the refuge. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.

- This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass beyond this sign for any reason other than emergency. Exception: Check with refuge office for information.

- This sign means no motorized vehicles beyond this point. This applies to all cars, trucks, jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, and motorcycles. Non-motorized bicycles are allowed.

- This sign designates the Louisiana-Arkansas state line. Refuge regulations may differ between states.

Warming

- Mercury contamination has been documented on the refuge. On July 29, 1992, the State of Louisiana issued the following consumption regarding fish from the Ouachita River. For pregnant women and children (less than seven years of age), consume no bass, and limit consumption of other fish of the same species to two meals per month (a meal is considered to be half a pound of fish for an adult). For non-pregnant women, men and children (seven years of age and older), limit the consumption of bass to two meals per month, and there is no limit on other species of fish.

- Elevated levels of mercury have been found in the Fish and Wildlife Service in other species of fish and it is recommended that no fish caught on the refuge be eaten.

Mourning Doves

- rooftop of State season

- Hunting until noon. See map for areas closed to waterfowl hunting. Construction of and/or hunting from permanent blinds is prohibited. Boats, blinds, and decoy may not be abandoned overnight. No boats permitted at Mollicy inside the levees after 1:30 pm from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31.

- Hunting does on Refuges after 1:30 pm from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31. No launching or running boats in closed areas including designated roads and ditches.

Leverets Dike

- Bird dogs may be used for hunting.

- Dogs may be used for hunting after the last refuge deer gun hunt. Use of dogs in aid of hunting is prohibited on Mollicy Unit, except for waterfowl hunting only.

- Elevated levels of mercury contamination have been found in refuge raccoons. It is recommended that they not be eaten.

- No hunting for furhogs for any reason other than emergency. Hunting furhogs with dogs is prohibited.

- Possession or use of possum is prohibited.

- Limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per day.

- Possession or distribution of bat while in the field and hunting with the aid of bat is prohibited, including any grain, salt, mineral, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the refuge.

- Still hunting only.

- Limit of one antlered and one antlerless deer per day.

- Possession or distribution of bat while in the field and hunting with the aid of bat is prohibited, including any grain, salt, mineral, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the refuge.

- No deer stands allowed on trees with pinked white bands/rings. Deer stands and blinds may not be left unattended.

- No hunting within 100 feet of the centerline of public roads, refuge roads, ATV trails, electric transmission lines or ditches.

- Waterfowl hunters must be off the Refuge by 1:30 pm. No surface drive motors allowed on Refuge after 1:30 pm from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31. No launching or running boats in closed areas including designated roads and ditches.

- Collapsible trimate nets only. Daylight hours only. Nets cannot be left overnight.

2019-2020 Hunting Seasons / Regulations

- Fish are state regulations.

- See state regulations. Exceptions: Commercial fishing is prohibited. Recreational fishing using commercial gear (salt traps, etc.) requires a special refuge permit. Ends of trot lines must be attached by a length of cotton line which extends into the water. Trotlines lacking cotton line or having exposed hooks are subject to removal by refuge personnel. No boats permitted at Mollicy from Nov. 1- Jan. 31 after 1:30pm. Trailered boats can only be launched from designated boat ramps at the Mollicy Unit. Waterfowl hunters must be off the refuge by 1:30 pm. No surface drive motors allowed on Refuges after 1:30 pm from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31.

- Collapsible trimate nets only. Daylight hours only. Nets cannot be left overnight.

- Deer hunting may not be used during refuge deer gun hunts but refuge does not have a special muzzle loading season. No deer hunting within 100 feet of the centerline of public roads, refuge roads, ATV trails, electric transmission lines or within 50 feet of any water well towers or other production facilities.

- Fishing and Hunting

- Year round except No Hunting Area on Mollicy Unit where fishing will be permitted March 1 - August 31.

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