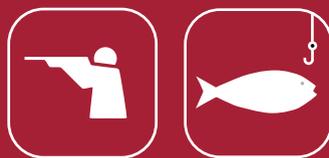


Morgan Brake, Mathews Brake and Hillside

National Wildlife Refuges Hunt Brochure 2014-2015



This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and fishing on Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex. These regulations supplement regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations and applicable state regulations. Violation of Refuge or State regulations may result in confiscation of Refuge Permit in addition to prosecution.

For additional information contact:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12595 MS Hwy 149
Yazoo City, MS 39194
662/836 3004



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12595 MS Hwy 149
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www.fws.gov/morganbrake
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

July 2014

License, Permit and Stamp Requirements

State Hunting License(s) and Regulations

Persons utilizing the refuge are required to have in their possession appropriate State licenses and stamps. Unless further restricted by refuge regulations, State bag, possession limits and regulations apply. Please consult current Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Park Regulations at www.mdwfp.com for details.

TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit

Each person 16 years of age and older hunting or fishing must possess the TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit which certifies they understand and will comply with refuge regulations contained in this brochure. This permit is nontransferable and is required in order to be eligible for Limited Draw Hunts. Public Use Permits (\$15 permit + \$5 convenience fee) are available for purchase online at www.fws.gov/trcomplex or may be obtained via check or money order at the following locations: Panther Swamp NWR, Yazoo City, MS and Yazoo NWR, Hollandale, MS. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 4 pm. Permits are valid August 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015. **Mail-in requests for permits will not be accepted.**

Limited Draw Hunt Permits

Limited Draw Hunt participants are selected by random computer drawing. Applicants must apply online at www.fws.gov/trcomplex. The purchase of an Annual Public Use Permit is required in order to apply. Selectees will be notified and Limited Draw Permits will be mailed within two weeks after the drawing is complete. This permit is non-transferable and is required to be in your possession while participating in the designated hunt. Hunt participants who do not return the Limited Draw Permits with the requested information upon completion of the hunt will not be allowed to apply for Limited Draw Hunts on TR Complex the following hunt season.

User Information Card

Each day before hunting or fishing, all participants must obtain a User Information Card available at the Visitor Information Stations (see maps) and follow the printed instructions on the card. All harvested game must be recorded and cards submitted prior to leaving the refuge. This card must be displayed on the vehicle dash while hunting. Self service check stations are provided (see map).

General Regulations

The following acts are prohibited:

- operation of vehicles on "Closed" roads
- all commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt
- hunting in designated closed or no hunting areas

- the use of artificial light, including vehicle headlights, to locate or take any animal except as authorized for raccoon and frog hunting
- use or possession of toxic shot, including buckshot
- use or possession of climbing spikes or hunting from a tree which has metal objects driven or screwed into it
- use or possession of any drug or device for employing such drug for hunting
- use of plastic flagging tape
- use or possession of alcohol
- camping
- fires
- horses and mules
- organized drives for deer or hogs
- baiting or feeding wildlife

Specific Regulations

Violations of refuge regulations may result in the loss of hunting/fishing privileges.

Closures

Temporary or permanent closure of refuge areas may occur due to unforeseen circumstances. Check for on-the-ground signage and/or updates at information stations and entry points.

Hunting from or shooting into a 100' zone along either side of pipeline or power line rights-of-way, designated roads, trails or around parking lots (see maps) is prohibited.

All other public activities on the refuge are prohibited during firearm deer hunts.

Refuge Hours

All lands managed under TR Complex, including refuge roads, parking areas and boat ramps are closed 1½ hours after sunset until 4 am. Refuge hours do not apply to individuals actively participating in refuge raccoon and frog hunting season.

Where waterfowl hunting is allowed, shooting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to noon. All decoys, blind material and boats must be removed from the hunt area no later than 1 pm each day.

Firearms

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 50 CFR part 32).

ATVs

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are allowed from September 15 through February 28 on designated trails only (see maps).

Vehicles

Vehicles may not obstruct roads, gates, trails, turn rows, field access ramps or fire lanes and may only be operated on designated roads (see maps).

Boats

Boats left unattended for more than 72 hours will be considered abandoned and will be confiscated.

Youth

Any youth hunter (under age 16) must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate and be in the immediate presence of an adult 21 years of age or older at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth. Youth hunters are not required to possess a Refuge Annual Public Use Permit unless participating in a Limited Draw Hunt.

Hunter Orange

November 10, 2014 to January 31, 2015, all hunters except waterfowl and nighttime raccoon hunters, must wear at least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline.

Ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides. Rabbit hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline from February 1 - 28, 2015.

Big Game

Archery equipment is limited to longbows, recurves and compound bows. Use of crossbows during the Deer Archery season is prohibited, unless you are 65 and older or permanently disabled.

Only muzzleloaders loaded with a single projectile are permitted. Breech-loading firearms of any type or caliber are prohibited.

Prior to leaving the Refuge, all harvested deer must be checked at the Self Service Check Stations (see map) following the instructions provided. In addition, a jawbone from each deer (including those intended for mounting) must be removed, tagged and placed in the drop box. Improperly checked deer are subject to seizure.

Deer hunting within or adjacent to brushy fields and tree plantations less than 5 feet in height must be from a stand a minimum of 10 feet above ground. Deer hunting in agricultural or open fields is prohibited.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches OR one main beam length of at least 18 inches.

Hogs may be taken during any refuge big game season (deer and turkey) with weapons legal for those hunts.

Small Game

Small game may be taken with .22 mag, .17 and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles and shotgun.

Hunting Stands/Blinds

Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on each refuge within TR Complex. Portable stands, tripods and blinds must have the hunter's valid permit number legibly written on a tag attached to the stand. Stands left on the refuge do not reserve hunting locations. Stands or blinds may be placed 48 hours prior to a hunt and must be removed within 48 hours after each designated hunt. All stands without proper identification are subject to seizure.

While climbing a tree, installing a stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand, all hunters must use a fall arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

Furbearers

Raccoon, opossum, coyote, beaver, bobcat and nutria may be taken during other refuge hunts within the State season and limit for each species with weapons authorized for the specified refuge hunt.

Dogs

Dogs may be used for hunting squirrel, raccoon, and February rabbit hunts. Retrievers are permitted while migratory bird hunting.

Hillside NWR Limited Hunts

Turkey

Limited draw hunts held within the State spring season. Limited Draw Hunt Applications may have up to two applicants and must be submitted by February 15, 2015. To apply, visit www.fws.gov/trcomplex. The Annual Public Use Permit is required to apply. Youth applicants must be designated and include their hunter safety number on the application. Hunt Bag Limit: 2 adult gobblers.

Hillside NWR Unlimited Hunts

Deer Archery

October 1 – December 1, 2014
December 16, 2014 – January 31, 2015

Deer Muzzleloader

December 2-15, 2014

Raccoon

October 1 – December 1, 2014
December 16, 2014 – February 28, 2015

Squirrel

October 1 – December 1, 2014
December 16, 2014 – February 28, 2015

Rabbit

October 8 – December 1, 2014 (without dogs)
December 16, 2014 – January 31, 2015 (without dogs)
February 1 – 28, 2015 (with/without dogs)

Waterfowl - Duck, Goose, Merganser and Coot

State season except closed December 2 – 15, 2014. Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map). There is no early teal season.

Youth Waterfowl – Duck, Goose, Merganser, Coot

State season. Any youth hunter (under age 16) must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate and be in the immediate presence of an adult 21 years of age or older at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth. Youth hunters are not required to possess a Refuge Annual Public Use Permit. Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Turkey – CLOSED

Trapping – CLOSED

Fish

Fishing is allowed in the all refuge waters March 1 through November 15. The borrow ponds along the north levee are open throughout the year except closed during the muzzleloader deer hunt. Trot lines, limb lines, jugs, seines and traps are prohibited.

Frog

State season. Frogging is allowed in all refuge waters.

Mathews Brake NWR Limited Hunts

NOTE: In addition to refuge hours (see General Regulations), beginning the day before waterfowl season opens and ending the last day of waterfowl season (State youth hunt) refuge waters are closed to all public use from 1 pm to 4 am each day.

Waterfowl - Duck, Goose, Merganser and Coot

Limited draw hunts held for the first two days and all weekends (Saturday and Sunday) during State season. Limited Draw Hunt Application requires only one applicant and must be submitted by November 1, 2014. To apply, visit www.fws.gov/trcomplex. Each permit is valid for the applicant, who must be present and up to three additional guests (maximum four per party). The Annual

Public Use Permit is required to apply. Youth applicants must be designated and include their hunter safety number on the application. Hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map). One boat per party. There is no early teal season. **All Limited Draw Hunt participants must launch from and return to the USFWS boat ramp.**

Mathews Brake NWR Unlimited Hunts

NOTE: In addition to refuge hours (see General Regulations), beginning the day before waterfowl season opens and ending the last day of waterfowl season (State youth hunt) refuge waters are closed to all public use from 1 pm to 4 am each day.

Deer Archery

October 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015
Beginning the day before waterfowl season opens, hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Raccoon

October 1, 2014 – February 28, 2015
Beginning the day before waterfowl season opens, hunting is allowed only in the designated waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Squirrel

October 1, 2014 – February 28, 2015
Beginning the day before waterfowl season opens, hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Rabbit

October 8, 2014 – January 31, 2015 (without dogs)
February 1 – February 28, 2015 (with/without dogs)
Beginning the day before waterfowl season opens, hunting is allowed only in the designated Waterfowl Hunt Area (see map).

Waterfowl - Duck, Goose, Merganser and Coot

Monday through Friday of State season (except first two days of season – see Limited Hunt above). Hunting is allowed only in the designated waterfowl hunt area (see map). There is no early teal season.

Youth Waterfowl - Duck, Goose, Merganser, Coot

State season - Any youth hunter (under age 16) must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate and be in the immediate presence of an adult 21 years of age or older at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth. Youth hunters are not required to possess a Refuge Annual Public Use Permit. Hunting is allowed only in the designated waterfowl hunt area (see map).