Hunting with Dogs

Hunting with dogs for migratory bird species is prohibited during migratory bird season. Dogs are only allowed to locate, point, flush, and retrieve migratory game birds. Hunting with dogs is also permitted during specific dates and seasons listed in this brochure. All dogs must be collared and labeled with the owner's name and phone number. Hunting any wildlife other than migratory birds, squirrel, rabbit, and raccoon with dogs is prohibited. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer is not allowed.

Archery

Longbow, compound bow, and crossbow or any bow drawn, held, or released by mechanical means are considered legal for hunting on the refuge. Archery equipment is only allowed on the refuge during the refuge deer hunting season. All state laws regulating archery equipment requirements apply to the refuge.

Rifles

Center-fire rifles are allowed during the refuge youth deer hunt and in designated blinds for permanently wheelchair-bound hunters. State restrictions apply to all center-fire rifle equipment. .17, .22 rimfire, 22 magnum rifles, and .22 caliber and under muzzleloading rifles with iron sights and shooting patched round balls may be used during small game hunts.

Primitive Firearms

Legal primitive firearms must meet the following requirements: rifles that load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and barrel, .44 caliber minimum, use black powder or approved substitute only; take ball or bullet projectiles only, including sabot bullets, and in-line muzzleloaders. Single shot, breech loading rifles, .38 caliber or larger of any kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, reproductions, or reintroductions of that type of rifle are not allowed during refuge primitive weapon seasons. Legal muzzleloaders may be fitted with magnified scopes.

Anammunition

Possession of lead shot, buckshot, or any shotgun ammunition other than approved, non-toxic shot is prohibited on the refuge. Lead center-fire bullet and lead rifle slugs are allowed during the state youth gun hunt and for permanently wheelchair-bound hunters hunting from designated handicapped blinds on the refuge. Lead bullets may also be used during the muzzleloader hunt and lead shot may be used during the Lottery Youth Turkey Hunt.

Big Game Regulations

Archery Season

Archery hunting for deer is allowed on the refuge during the specified season in this brochure. One deer harvested per day is allowed.

Primitive Weapon Season

Only muzzleloading rifles and compound, recurve, or longbows may be used during the refuge primitive weapon season. Hunter orange requirements apply to all hunters. One deer harvested per day is allowed.

Turkey Season

Hunters between the ages of 10-15 may apply for a lottery permit to hunt during turkey season. Each season is two days and youth hunters may harvest one gobbler each day. Applications must be received by Feb 14, 2014 to be eligible for the drawing. No other turkey hunting is allowed.

Small Game Regulations

Waterfowl

Waterfowl hunting is open on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday until noon during the state season and is restricted to Butler Lake, Salt Lake, and Gilliard Lake only. Access to Butler Lake waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake Road only. Access to Gilliard Lake is closed when the Mississippi River stage reaches 34 feet or greater at the Natchez Station. For Mississippi River stages go to http://155.76.244.230/riverstage/bullet.txt

No overnight parking is allowed.

Blinds and decoys used for waterfowl hunting must be removed daily by 1 pm. Hunting with dogs for waterfowl is allowed during the waterfowl season. No early teal season. Waterfowl hunting will be restricted by high water, as determined by refuge manager.

Woodcock

Hunters must use approved non-toxic shot and adhere to state season and harvest limits. Hunting with dogs for woodcock is allowed.

Rabbit and Squab

The use of dogs for rabbit and squab hunting is only allowed during a specific portion of the season. Hunters must verify season dates in this brochure regarding the use of dogs on the refuge.

Incidental Species

Beaver, nutria, coyote, raccoon, and feral hogs may be taken with a legal firearm or archery equipment during any open hunting season. Hunters must have a valid refuge permit and any state required licenses to harvest incidental species. State bag limits apply to coyotes, beaver, and feral hogs. Harvest of bobcat is not allowed.

Fishing Regulations

Fishermen may enter the refuge ½ hour before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than ½ hour after sunset. Fishermen must have a valid Refuge Annual Public Use permit and any applicable state licenses in their possession. Fish species allowed for harvest under state regulations may be included in the daily state creel limit. Commercial fishing activities, use of ATV’s, harvest of frogs or turtles, harvest of alligator gator, and possession of cleaned or processed fish and all other prohibited activities apply to fishing on the refuge. NOTE: The Blue Hole (on the Cloverdale Unit) is closed to ALL PUBLIC ENTRY.

Bow Fishing is not allowed.

Flood Conditions / Refuge Closures

Historically, flood conditions and refuge closures occur near 30 feet of the Butler Lake Unit and near 34 feet on the Sibley Unit. Call the headquarters and check the website for up-to-date closure information.

For information on Mississippi River stages go to http://155.76.244.230/riverstage/bullet.txt

For more information, write or call: St. Catherine Creek NWR, P. O. Box 185, Sibley MS 39670, (601) 442-6696 http://www.fws.gov/saintcatherinecrreek