

Yazoo, Holt Collier & Brown Tract

National Wildlife Refuges Public Use Regulations 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
595 Yazoo Refuge Road
Hollandale, MS 38748
662/839 2638

USFWS
595 Yazoo Refuge Road
Hollandale, MS 38748
662/839 2638
<http://www.fws.gov/Yazoo>
email: yazoo@fws.gov

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

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Yazoo and Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuges

T R Complex Refuges are located south of State Highway 82 in the South Delta of Mississippi in what is known as the Lower Mississippi River Valley. The refuges are scattered from just south of Greenville, down towards Vicksburg, east to Yazoo City, and north to Greenwood. The complex consists of seven refuges, Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges.

Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge is the oldest National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Mississippi. Yazoo NWR was established in 1936 as one of the links in a chain of refuges that provide for the wintering needs of ducks and geese in the Mississippi Flyway.

It is located in the heart of Mississippi's Delta Region 25 miles south of Greenville, and five air miles east of the Mississippi River in Washington County. This refuge is home to American alligators, migratory waterfowl, wading birds, state record whitetail deer, squirrel, rabbit and raccoon. Total refuge acreage is 12,941.

Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge was established in January of 2004 as part of the Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex. The refuge is made up of some 1400 acres of FmHA transfer properties and is located some five miles east of Hollandale, north of State Highway 12 and west of the Big Sunflower River in the Darlove, Mississippi area.

General Provisions and Access

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 Parks Regulations at www.mdwfp.com for details.

TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit

Each person 16 years of age or 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 non-transferable and is also required in order to be eligible for Limited Draw Hunts. Public Use Permits (\$15 permit + \$5 convenience fee) are available online for purchase 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 Permit

Muzzleloader/Bow and Senior Citizen Deer Gun 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. Only drawn (muzzleloader/bow) selectees are allowed on the Refuges during Limited Draw Hunts. Hunt participants who do not return their Limited Draw Permit with the requested information upon completion of the hunt will not be allowed to apply for Limited Draw Hunts on T R Complex the following hunt season.

Youth Limited Draw Permits

Refuge Limited Draw Hunts are selected by a random computer drawing. Applications must include full name, mailing address, telephone number and youth hunter education number of each applicant. Applications must be signed by an adult. Designate only one hunt per application. Duplicate applications will be rejected. Applications are available at www.fws.gov/trcomplex or can be submitted **only** on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper to Yazoo NWR, 595 Yazoo Refuge Road, Hollandale, MS 38748. Limited Draw Permits will be mailed within two weeks after the drawing is complete.

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. 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 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 of any 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

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may use (discharge) firearms only in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific refuge regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

Closed Areas and Times

It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into a 100' zone along either side of pipeline or power line rights-of-way, designated roads, trails or around parking lots (see maps).

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

Temporary or permanent closure of Refuge areas may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and not be in this brochure. Please check for on-the-ground signage and/or updates at check stations and entry points.

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

All lands managed under T R Complex, including refuge road parking areas and boat ramps, are closed 1 1/2 hours after sunset until 4 am, except for raccoon hunting.

Yazoo NWR electronic gates are open 4 am - 8 pm.

ATVs and Boats

Hunters may retrieve game only with the use of game carts or manual dragging up to a point to where vehicles are allowed by Refuge regulations. **ATVs are not allowed.** Boats left unattended for more than 72 hours will be considered abandoned and will be confiscated. Motorized boats are authorized only in Silver Lake Bayou.

Youth Hunters

Any hunter under the age of 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.

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 a least 500 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline from February 1-28, 2015.

Other Regulations

Violations of refuge regulations may be cause for loss of hunting/fishing privileges.

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

Hogs may be taken only during Refuge Big Game season (deer) with weapons legal for those hunts.

Specific Hunt Regulations

Deer

Treestands: 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 permit number legibly written on a tag attached to the stand. Stands left on the area 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, hunters must use a fall arrest system that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association standards.

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

Deer Harvest Check-in

Prior to leaving the Refuge, all harvested deer must be checked at the Self Service Check Station (see map) according

to the instructions provided. In addition, a jawbone from each deer (including those intended for mounting) must be pulled, tagged, and placed in the drop box provided.

Other Regulations

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.

Area CLOSED to hunting: All hunting activities are prohibited. *Examples:* Ingress/egress to hunting stand, scouting and retrieval of game.

Small Game (Annual Public Use Permit Required)

Legal Hunting Weapons: All hunters using shotguns for small game must use approved non-toxic shot. Small game may also be hunted with .22-mag, .17 and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles.

Dogs: Dogs are permitted only for hunting raccoon, squirrel, and for the February rabbit hunts. Retrievers are permitted while hunting migratory birds (dove, youth waterfowl, and snow goose).

Refuge Hunting Seasons

Yazoo NWR Migratory Birds

(TR Complex Annual Public Use Permit Required)

Dove: State September Season. Open refuge wide except areas closed to hunting.

Youth Waterfowl (Limited Draw)

January 17, 2015 and January 24, 2015

All applications must be postmarked November 1 - December 27, 2014. Eligible youths must possess a Hunter Safety Course Card or Certificate. Youth must be accompanied by one adult at least 21 years of age. Youth must remain in the immediate presence of that Adult at all times. Adult may supervise only one youth per day and is responsible for any violations the youth may incur. Adult will be allowed to hunt but must possess a valid Refuge Annual Use Permit to do so. All youth hunter and accompanying adults must check-in and check-out at Deer Check Station. **State and federal regulations apply.**

Snow Goose

Open beginning February 1 during the State Light Goose Conservation Order. Contact the Refuge office for details.

Archery Deer Hunts

October 1-November 21, 2014

January 2-16, 2015

Archery equipment consist of: longbows, recurves and compound bows. **Use of crossbows during the Deer**

Archery Season is prohibited, unless you are 65 and older or permanently disabled. State season and daily bag limit apply.

Firearm Deer Hunts

If drawn, this permit is required to be in your possession while hunting during the designated hunt. These Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Possession of the Refuge Annual Public Use Permit is required. Only drawn permittees are allowed on the Refuge during Limited Draw hunts with the exception of Yazoo Senior Citizen Limited Draw Permittees are allowed to have one non-hunter assistant and Yazoo NWR Youth Hunt Permittees are allowed to have one adult supervisor.

Daily bag limit: one buck and one doe.
Hunt bag limit: one buck and two does.

Youth Deer Gun (Limited Draw)

November 28 or 29, 2014

Either sex deer. State bag limits apply. Youth under age 16 are eligible but required to possess documentation of completed Hunter Safety Course. Youth may apply for only one day of the hunt. One adult at least 21 years of age must accompany each youth. Only youth may hunt. Adult may supervise only one youth per day, is responsible for any violations by the youth they accompany and must possess a refuge brochure. All hunters and supervisors must check-in and check-out at refuge headquarters. Restricted to one application per person and must be postmarked by September 30, 2014. State regulations apply.

Legal Hunting Weapons

Shotguns with rifled slugs only, muzzleloading rifles, legal pistols and rifles, and archery equipment. Crossbows included.

Muzzleloader/Bow (Limited Draw)

December 5-6, 9-10, or 12-13, 2014

You may apply for only one of the two day muzzleloader hunts. Up to two applicants per application and must be submitted online by September 30, 2014.

Legal Hunting Weapons

Muzzleloaders loaded with a single projectile are allowed. No breech-loading firearms of any type or caliber are allowed. Archery equipment is also permitted. Crossbows included.