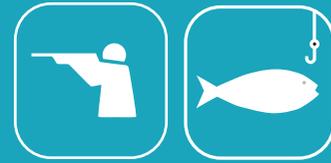


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2015-2016



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 Mississippi Highway 149  
Yazoo City, MS 39194  
662/836 3004

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[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Panther\\_swamp](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Panther_swamp)  
email: [yazoo@fws.gov](mailto:yazoo@fws.gov)

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

July 2015



## Welcome to Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

TR 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, over to Yazoo City, and back up to Greenwood. The complex consists of seven refuges, Hillside, Holt Collier, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuges. Established in 1978, Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 40,000 acres. Its expansive bottomland hardwood forests, cypress-tupelo sloughs, and meandering bayous represent some of the best remaining examples of the historically predominant habitat types that once characterized the entire Lower Mississippi River Valley. In addition to providing resting and feeding areas for over 100,000 wintering waterfowl annually, the refuge also provides habitat for 200 species of neotropical migratory songbirds. Resident species making their home among the woodlands, sloughs, and reforested areas include the American alligator, white-tailed deer, swamp rabbit, wild turkey, squirrel, and various small furbearers.

## 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](http://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/refuge/panther\\_swamp](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/panther_swamp) or may be obtained via check or money order, **NO CASH**, at the following locations: Panther Swamp NWR, Yazoo City, MS or Yazoo NWR, Hollandale, MS. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 4 pm. Permits are valid August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016. Mail-in requests for permits will not be accepted.

## Daily Visitor Information Card

Each day before hunting or fishing, all participants must obtain a Daily Visitor Information Card available at the Visitor Information Stations (see maps) and follow the printed instructions on the card. All harvested fish and game must be recorded and cards submitted prior to leaving the refuge. This card must be displayed on the vehicle dash. Self 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 or other trail marking devices
- Use or possession of alcohol
- Camping
- Fires
- Horses and mules
- Organized drives for deer or hogs
- Baiting and hunting over bait
- Use of trail cameras

## 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).

## Closed Areas and Times

It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into open agricultural fields, and 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, trails, 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. 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 TR Complex, including refuge roads, parking areas and boat ramps, are closed 1 1/2 hours after sunset until 4 am.

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

Refuge hours of operation do not apply to those actively participating in Refuge raccoon and frog hunting seasons.

Beginning December 15, all entry into the Lower Twist area and Carter Ponds is prohibited.

#### ATVs and Boats

ATV access is permitted from September 15 until February 28. ATVs may be used only on established, designated trails and are not allowed off trail for any purpose. Hunters may retrieve game with the use of game carts or manual dragging up to the point to where vehicles are allowed by Refuge regulations.

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

#### Youth Hunters

All persons under 16 years of age, while hunting on Refuges, must be in the presence and under direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least twenty-one years of age. Youth hunters are not required to possess a Refuge Annual Public Use Permit, unless participating in a limited Draw Hunt.

#### Hunter Orange

November 9, 2015 to January 31, 2016, all deer hunters (including while in the stand) 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, 2016.

#### Other Regulations

**Field dressing game within 300' of any road, trail or parking lot is prohibited.**

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 and turkey) with weapons legal for those hunts.

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

#### Treestands

Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from one portable stand or blind on each refuge within TR Complex. Identifiable information must be displayed on all portable stands, tripods and blinds. 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.

#### Check-In

Prior to leaving the Refuge, all harvested fish and game must be checked at the Self Service Check Stations (see map) according to the instructions provided. Deer jawbones must be removed, tagged and placed in drop boxes at Self Check Stations prior to leaving the refuge.

#### Limited Draw Firearm Deer Hunts (Annual Public Use Permit Required)

Limited Draw Hunt selectees are selected by random computer drawing. Applicants must apply online at [www.fws.gov/refuge/panther\\_swamp](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/panther_swamp). 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 selectees are allowed on the Refuge during Limited Draw Hunts. Selectees who do not return their 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.

#### Deer Gun - Limited Draw

November 21 – 23, 2015

*Daily bag limit:* One buck and one doe.

*Hunt bag limit:* One buck and two does.

*Legal hunting weapons:* Shotguns with rifled slugs only, muzzleloading rifles, legal pistols and rifles, and archery equipment.

#### Deer Muzzleloader - Limited Draw

December 2 – 7 or 9 – 14, 2015

*Daily bag limit:* One buck and one doe.

*Hunt bag limit:* One buck and two does.

*Legal hunting weapons:* Muzzleloaders loaded with a single projectile and archery equipment are allowed. No breech-loading firearms of any type or caliber are allowed.

#### Public Use Permit Required

##### Deer Archery

October 1 - November 20, 2015

November 24 – December 1, 2015

December 15, 2015 - January 31, 2016

*Daily bag limit:* One buck and one doe, not to exceed State bag.

*Legal hunting weapons:* State approved archery equipment.

##### Small Game

*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 and archery equipment using arrows with points other than broadheads.

*Dogs:* Dogs are only permitted for hunting raccoon, squirrel, and for the February rabbit hunts.

#### Raccoon/Dogs required

October 1 - November 20, 2015

November 24 – December 1, 2015

December 15 – February 28, 2016

#### Squirrel

October 10 – November 20, 2015

November 24 – December 1, 2015

December 15, 2015 – February 28, 2016

#### Rabbit without Dogs

October 17 – November 20, 2015

November 24 – December 1, 2015

December 15, 2015 – January 31, 2016

#### Rabbit with Dogs

February 1 - 28, 2016

#### Waterfowl (Duck, Coot, and Geese)

Seasons: Open State season except Thursdays. Closed during all limited firearm deer hunts. No early teal season.

#### Hunt Units

Waterfowl hunting is allowed only in Unit 1 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Waterfowl hunting is allowed only in Unit 2 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Waterfowl

hunting is not allowed on any other area of the refuge.

Shooting Hours: From ½ hour before sunrise to noon.

All decoys and blind material must be removed from the hunt area no later than 1 pm each day.

**Waterfowl hunters are allowed no more than 25 shotshells per person.**

*Dogs:* Retrievers are permitted.

#### Spring Turkey

April 1 – May 1, 2016

*Daily bag limit:* 1 adult gobbler. Season bag limit: 2 adult gobblers.

*Legal Hunting Weapons:* Shotguns loaded with nontoxic shot and archery equipment.

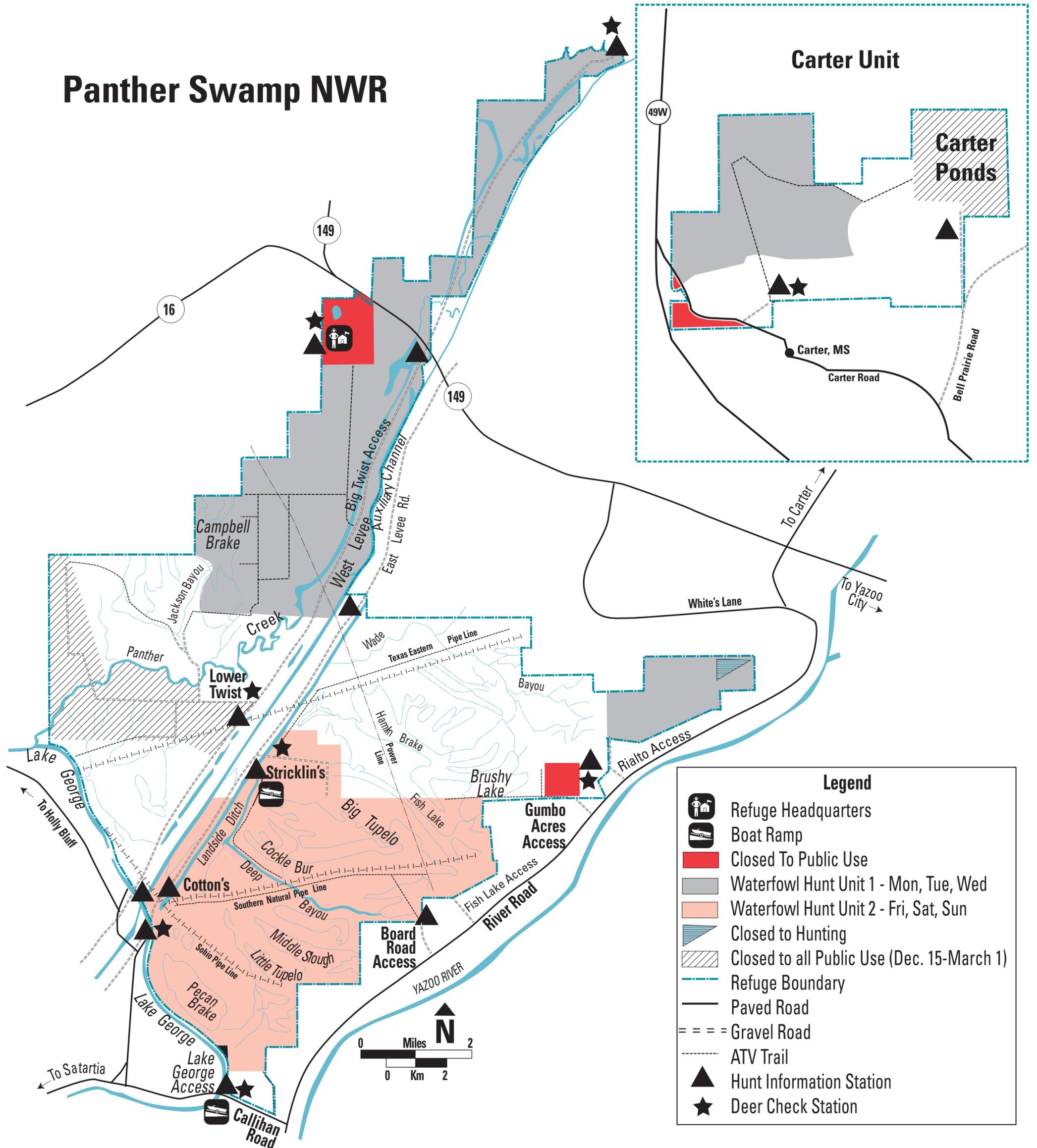
#### Fishing

Waters between the East and West levees, Deep Bayou, the Landside Ditch, and the portion of Panther Creek adjacent to the West Levee, are open year-round except that all fishing is closed during limited draw hunts. Office Pond is open year round. All other refuge waters are open from March 1 – November 15. Trot lines, limb lines, jugs, seines, and traps are prohibited. Bow fishing is allowed during daylight hours within refuge fishing season.

#### Frogging

State season and regulations.

# Panther Swamp NWR



### Legend

- Refuge Headquarters
- Boat Ramp
- Closed To Public Use
- Waterfowl Hunt Unit 1 - Mon, Tue, Wed
- Waterfowl Hunt Unit 2 - Fri, Sat, Sun
- Closed to Hunting
- Closed to all Public Use (Dec. 15-March 1)
- Refuge Boundary
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- ATV Trail
- Hunt Information Station
- Deer Check Station

