



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hunting 2016–2017

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge

About the Refuge

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1993 to protect the important wetlands and bottomland hardwood forests along the Deep Fork River. The refuge is located in Okmulgee County along U.S. Highway 75 near the town of Okmulgee. The refuge has expanded to over 10,000 acres and provides habitat for many resident and migratory species of wildlife. The refuge can provide access for hunters with disabilities. Please contact the refuge headquarters for additional information.

General Regulations

Public use is important to the mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; however the National Wildlife Refuge System was established to protect ecosystems and the plants and animals contained within refuge boundaries. By statute, all public use activities are closed unless expressly opened. The regulations listed below supplement Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation hunting regulations and the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. All plants and animals are protected from hunting unless a specific refuge hunting season allows for the take of animals under this permit.

All hunters regardless of age are required to have a refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as your 2016–2017 general hunting permit. Additional permits are required for big game controlled hunts, turkey controlled hunts, archery hunts, and wheelchair user deer hunts.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by wildlife officers.

Portions of the refuge are open to fishing and hunting. It is your responsibility to know the hunting seasons, regulations, boundaries, and open areas. The refuge boundary is currently a checkerboard ownership between public and privately held tracts. Refuge boundaries are marked with white signs with blue lettering.

Hunters should take care in respecting private property. Please see the map on the reverse side of this permit for boundaries and open and closed areas.

All vehicles must remain on existing county roads or in designated parking areas.

Boats used for any recreational activity (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing) must be removed from the refuge daily. Boats must comply with all state regulations. The nearest public boat ramp is at the Deep Fork River Bridge on Highway 266 between Dewar and Grayson. Swift currents and underwater hazards can be dangerous. Boaters should use caution when navigating refuge waters.

2016–2017 Seasons

A table containing all open seasons, dates, and special regulations is on the reverse side of this permit.

The refuge is closed October 14–16, October 21–23, October 28–30, April 7–9, and April 21–23 to all users except hunters selected for controlled or special use hunts.

Limited Archery Hunt

October 31–November 18, 2016.

Archery season will be open October 31–November 18, 2016. An additional archery permit is required to participate in this hunt. A maximum of 300 permits will be issued for the season on a first come, first served basis starting on the third Saturday of September (September 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and the following week (September 19–23 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). All permits will be issued at the refuge headquarters located at 21844 South 250 Road near the Cussetah Bottoms area. Permits are \$10 (cash only) and you must be present to receive a permit.

Firearms and Ammunition

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Firearms used for hunting must be unloaded and either dismantled or encased when transported in vehicles and boats while on the refuge. Loaded is defined as shells or bullets in a gun, a cap on a muzzleloader, or a bow that is at full or partial draw. All hunters using shotguns for migratory birds and small game must use approved non-toxic shot.

Also .22 and .17 caliber rimfire firearms are allowed for rabbit and squirrel hunting.

Stands

The use of permanent stands and blinds are prohibited. Deer stands are limited to one per hunter. Stands may not be set up until the day of the hunt and must be removed at the end of the hunt. Stands must be tagged with users name and address.

Restricted Area

A portion of the refuge (see map) has been designate as a restricted area. For safety reasons, this area is closed for all other activities and access from October 1–December 31.

Wheelchair-User Hunts

The refuge will conduct lottery muzzle-loader hunts for wheelchair-users. Please contact the refuge headquarters for application information.

Feral Hogs

Feral hogs may be taken during daylight hours of any established refuge hunt. Permits and legal weapons apply for the current season. Feral hogs may not leave the refuge alive.

Prohibited Activities:

- Littering, dumping household furniture, trash, brush, or appliances;
- Possession of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances;
- Camping and fires;
- Use of scouting cameras;
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant; hunting scents are allowed;
- Target practice;
- Taking of wildlife, antlers, mushrooms, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) unless authorized;
- Searching for or removing any object of archaeological or historical significance including arrowheads, pottery, or other artifacts;
- Blocking gates, or roadways with vehicles;
- Marking trails with paint or leaving flagging tape, ribbons, or trail tacks;
- The use or possession of crossbows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, and other weapons unless authorized;
- Using spotlights or artificial light to locate wildlife except raccoons;
- Hunting from a permanent tree stand or from a tree in which a metal object (nails, spikes, screws) has been driven;
- All-terrain vehicles;
- Horse or mule.

For Additional Information

Deep Fork NWR
P.O. Box 816
21844 S. 250 Road
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918/652-0456
918/652-3427 Fax
35.538359°, -95.928289°
www.fws.gov/refuge/deep_fork/

July 2016

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge 2016-2017 General Hunt Permit

When signed and carried, this serves as your general hunt permit and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.
Expires July 31, 2017

Signature of hunter

Date

Type of Hunt	Season	Special Regulations
Youth gun deer	Oct. 14–16, 2016	Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC. The bag limit is two either-sex deer, only one may be antlered.
Muzzleloader deer, antlerless only	Oct. 21–23, 2016	Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC. The bag limit is one antlerless deer.
Muzzleloader deer, either sex	Oct. 28–30, 2016	Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC. The bag limit is two either-sex deer, only one may be antlered.
Archery deer, either sex	Oct. 31–Nov. 18, 2016	Limited Archery Hunt. An additional permit required. State limits apply.
Squirrel	May 15–Sept. 30, 2016 Dec. 1–Jan 31, 2017	Non-toxic shot required for shot guns. .22 and .17 caliber rimfire firearms are permitted. Dogs are permitted but must be removed immediately following the hunt. State bag limits apply.
Rabbit	Dec. 1–Jan. 31, 2017	Non-toxic shot required for shot guns. .22 and .17 caliber rimfire firearms are permitted. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt. State bag limits apply.
Raccoon	Dec. 1–Jan. 31, 2017	Night time hunting only. State firearm regulations apply. Dogs are permitted but must be removed immediately following the hunt. State bag limits apply.
Youth Turkey	Apr. 7–9, 2017	Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC.
Turkey	Apr. 21–23, 2017	Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC.
Teal	September 10–25, 2016	Non-toxic shot required. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 30 minutes before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Blinds and decoys removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.
Waterfowl	December 10, 2016–January 29, 2017	Non-toxic shot required. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 30 minutes before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily. Goose hunting is prohibited. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.
Feral Hogs	Incidental take on other hunts	May be taken during day light hours of any established refuge hunt. Hogs may not leave the refuge alive. There is no daily or season limit.

