Cross Creeks General Regulations

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the Refuge. Vehicles must remain on Refuge roads that are shown on map and designated as open. ATV and golf cart use on the Refuge is prohibited. Parking must not impede the flow of traffic or block gates. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on the Refuge is 25 mph.

Littering, vandalism or tampering with water control structures is strictly forbidden.

Public access to the refuge is limited to daylight use only, and horseback riding. Entry is only permitted by foot or bicycle. It is unlawful to hunt within 100 yards of a public road. All waters of Barkley Lake. We allow bow fishing in refuge impoundments and on all refuge pools from March 16 through November 14 during daylight hours. Sport fishing from a boat is permitted year-round, 24 hours a day, in the waters of Barkley Lake.

We do not allow taking of frogs, turtles and crawfish.

All waters on Cross Creeks shall follow Barkley Reservoir state creel and size limits.

Trotlines, limblines, jugs, and slot baskets are not permitted in refuge pools, impoundments and on Elk Reservoir and South Cross Creeks Reservoir.

We prohibit leaving boats unattended on the refuge after daylight use hours.

We allow bow fishing in refuge impoundments and on Barkley Lake. Boats are restricted to “idle speed/no wake” on all refuge pools and impoundments.

Swimming is prohibited in refuge impoundments, or from boat docks and boat ramps.

Improved and unimproved boat launching ramp. (See map for ramp locations).

Cross Creeks General Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted on Cross Creeks NWR at a level compatible with the environment, providing recreational opportunities and permitting the use of the area.

The regulations listed supplement the general regulations governing fishing on a national wildlife refuge as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32. Sport fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations, subject to the following special regulations.

The open season for Elk and South Cross Creek Reservoir and all the refuge pools is from March 16 through November 14 during daylight hours. Sport fishing from a boat is permitted year-round, 24 hours a day, in the waters of Barkley Lake.

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Improved and unimproved boat launching ramp. (See map for ramp locations).
Established in 1962, the 8,862 acre Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge is one of 568 National Wildlife Refuges across the United States. Cross Creeks is open to hunting during specific refuge seasons for the following species: quail, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and Canada geese. Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidentally to a scheduled refuge hunt for the species listed in this brochure with any weapon legal for that hunt. No taking of turtles, crustaceans or fish on refuge is permitted. Hunting is permissible on various portions of Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge with the exception of those areas marked “Closed” on the map by “Closed Areas” due to wetlands or lands or waters. Applicable Federal and State law and regulations apply. No additional fees are required to hunt the refuge for the above wildlife species.

Refuge Annual Hunting Permits

Hunters must apply for a party. Each party that applies must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older who has a refuge hunting permit on their person. The adult must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the juvenile supervised. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than one youth. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may not supervise more than one youth. Group applications fees for that hunt party will be charged at one time to the individual applying for the party. There are no refunds for application fees.

Hunt Area Location        Hunt Area Number        Permits Available (per quota hunt)
South Side: Northeast of Post 6 Bridge 1 10
South Side: Southwest of Post 1 Bridge 1 5
Northside: East of Old Northside Road 2 25
Northside: West of North Cross Creeks Road 1 20

Preference Points

Preference Points is only applicable to hunters selected for the draw during the quota hunt. One antlerless deer must be taken before harvesting an antlered deer. The antlerless deer can be taken on any hunt, including archery or youth hunt prior to the quota hunt.

How to Apply for Quota Hunts

Application for Quota Hunts Online Application

You can now apply for quota hunts online at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Cross_Creeks. Each hunter will be required to create an account with RecreXpress. You will only be required to do this once, this will make it easier to apply in future years. Each hunter will be assigned a RecreXpress Identification (RAID) number that will be an individual’s identification number that will remain consistent from year to year. Deadline to apply is midnight on August 7th.

New Application Fee

There will be a $5.00 application fee per hunter charged with each online quota hunt application. There are no refunds for application fees. Please note, submissions of any person’s name more than once for the same Hunt Type will result in disqualification.

Group Applications:

Up to five hunters may apply as a hunt party. One hunter will need to apply for the entire hunt party during the online application process. You will need each hunter’s RAID number in that hunt party to apply. All application fees for that hunt party will be charged at one time to the individual applying for the party. There are no refunds for application fees.

Preference Points

Preference Points is only applicable to hunters selected for the draw during the quota hunt. Applicants will not have preference points for the 2017 quota hunt. All applicants will start with no preference points this year. Hunters have the opportunity to gain preference points in the draw. Each year you apply and are drawn for a permit you will receive a different preference group. Groups are determined by individuals with the highest average preference points will be drawn first, groups and individuals with the next highest draw will be second, etc. until all permits are filled. After you are drawn for a quota hunt permit, your preference points equal zero. The preference points for a hunt party will be determined by taking an average of all the hunters in the party.

Drawing Notification

The drawing will be held after the close of the online application process and notification will be sent out on August 14th by email. If you do not receive your notification email, be sure to check your spam folder. You can also check your status and download your permit on the website at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Cross_Creeks and your confirmation number and mailing address submitted for the application.

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Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Side: Northwest of Pool 5 Bridge</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Side: Southeast of Pool 5 Bridge</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside: East of North Cross Creeks Road</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
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