Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee

National Wildlife Refuge
Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2015-2016

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations
General Provisions
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is part of a system of refuges administered by the U.S. and Wildlife Service as a wintering area for migratory waterfowl. Regulated public hunting is an appropriate use of our waterfowl resources and is allowed on 30,000 acres of the refuge's 143,954 acres.

This brochure contains special regulations that supplement state laws with Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. The regulations are designed to maintain optimal waterfowl populations and, at the same time, provide a rewarding outdoor experience. Careful adherence to these regulations and due respect for others will ensure the future of waterfowl hunting on Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

General Hunting Regulations
Season
The refuge open waterfowl season is concurrent with the state season. The refuge participates in both the early teal and regular seasons. Hunters may only take duck and coot.

Hunt Days
Wednesday through Sunday during the state season. Closed Christmas Day.

Daily Shooting Hours
Thirty minutes before sunrise to 1 pm. All hunters be out of the refuge by 3 pm.

Refuge Hours
The refuge opens at 4 am. Entry prior to this time is prohibited.

Hunt Area
The hunting area is indicated on the map on the reverse side of this brochure and is clearly posted as open to hunting. We allow hunting in the interior of the refuge south of latitude line 26.27.130 and north of mile marker 12 and 14. We prohibit hunting from canals, levees and areas posted as closed.

Alcohol
The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Entry to Refuge
All hunters are required to enter and leave the refuge from the Refuge Headquarters Area in Boynton Beach or the Hillsboro Area at the end of Loxahatchee Road.

Entrance Fees
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is an entrance fee area. Fees are $5.00 per vehicle or $1.00 per individual who walks in. However, your required signed Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) will serve as a season pass and all waterfowl hunters will be covered.

Licenses and Stamps
All hunters must possess a valid Florida State Hunting License and Florida State Duck Stamp, except children under 16. In addition, all hunters age 16 and older must possess a signed valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Conservation Stamp.

Permit required
An annual refuge hunt permit, required of all hunters, is included on the face of this brochure. Please complete and sign the permit. You must carry it while hunting. **Hunters must also fill out Waterfowl Harvest Cards and place in fee canister after each day's hunt.**

Steel Shot
Only approved, non-toxic shot may be used. Possession of lead or other toxic shot in any gauge is prohibited.

Blinds
Only temporary blinds are permitted. Do not injure, destroy or remove any refuge vegetation.

Decoys
Decoys and other personal property must be removed from the hunting area following each day's hunt.

Juveniles
All hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult. The adult must be a minimum of 21 years old. Hunters under 16 years of age must have completed a Hunter Education Course.

Dogs
The use of dogs is encouraged to retrieve dead or wounded waterfowl. Dogs

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10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, FL 33473-4797
561/732 3684
http://Loxahatchee.fws

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

July 2015

Season 2015-2016
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Hunt Permit for Duck and Coot

Name _____

Address _____

I have read and understand Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR Hunting Regulations.

_____

Signature (This permit valid only when signed.)

must remain under the control of their handlers at all times.

Boats
Only water-cooled outboard boats (no airboats, "Go Devils," or mudboats), canoes, kayaks, and non-motorized vessels are allowed. For safety, all watercraft must comply with U.S. Coast Guard and State of Florida regulations, including lights. There is a speed limit of 35 mph on all waters of the refuge and the L101 is a slow speed zone for safety. We require all boats operating outside of the main perimeter canals (L-40 Canal, L-39 Canal, L-7 Canal and L-101 Canal) in the interior areas of the refuge and within the hunt area, to fly a 12 inch by 12 inch (30 cm x 30 cm) orange flag, 10 ft (3m) above the waterline.

Firearms & Weapons Inspections
Possession in compliance with Federal and State law. Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of Federal, State, and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in part 32). Hunters, vehicles, boats, equipment, and other belongings are subject to inspections by Federal and State law enforcement officers.

Other Prohibited Activities
Littering, camping, fires, overnight parking, taking of plants (or parts of), taking of wildlife (or parts of) except where authorized (hunting and fishing), baiting or hunting over bait, trapping, marking trails with non-biodegradable flagging, and blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

For emergencies or to report violations, contact law enforcement personnel at 1/800/307 5789.

Safety
Ensure your boat is seaworthy and carry plenty of fuel. If you should become lost and/or stranded, please observe the following procedures which will aid law enforcement personnel in locating you. Call the refuge emergency number 1/800/307 5789.

If you become stranded or broken down, try to paddle to the canal or get to a levee. Do not try to walk out. Stay with your vessel.

A boat, airboat, or aircraft, will be used to reach you. Display a light, flag, or other device to aid personnel in locating you. If a search vessel nears you make noise to help officers pinpoint your location. If you have made cell phone contact, give the dispatcher your current location and do not move unless in an emergency.

In connection with the above procedures, we strongly urge that each hunter have a light, flare gun or flares which may be fired from a shotgun.

Hunt Closure:
The waterfowl hunt at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge may have to be terminated early, or some of the hunt area closed, should unusual climatic conditions result in threats to visitor safety, management activities, possible degradation of habitat by visitor use, or a concentration of endangered species within the hunt area. The refuge's first obligation is to protect the visitor, habitat, and threatened and endangered species such as wood storks and snail kites.

Please Read this Important Message Section: Attention Hunters!
Hunting on a national wildlife refuge is a privilege and your behavior while participating in this hunt may affect future hunting on refuges.

Every national wildlife refuge in this state provides habitat for several endangered or threatened species. Federal and State laws prohibit any activity that might harm endangered or threatened plants or animals. We believe that these hunts can be conducted without harming any endangered species and have taken certain precautions to make it so. We cannot, however, prevent irresponsible acts by hunters, and if such acts do occur, we may be forced to discontinue the hunt.

The following endangered or threatened species of wildlife may be found on Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge:

Federal and/or State Listed
Bald Eagle

Crested Caracara

Eastern Indigo Snake

Florida Panther

Florida Sandhill Crane

Least Tern

Peregrine Falcon

Snail Kite

Southeastern Kestrel

Wood Stork

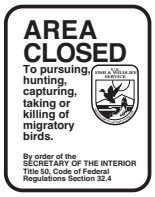
Remember
Your hunt permit authorizes you to take only ducks and coots. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife, including any birds, mammals, turtles, frogs, lizards and even poisonous snakes, is a violation of federal law and is cause for prosecution.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources
Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:

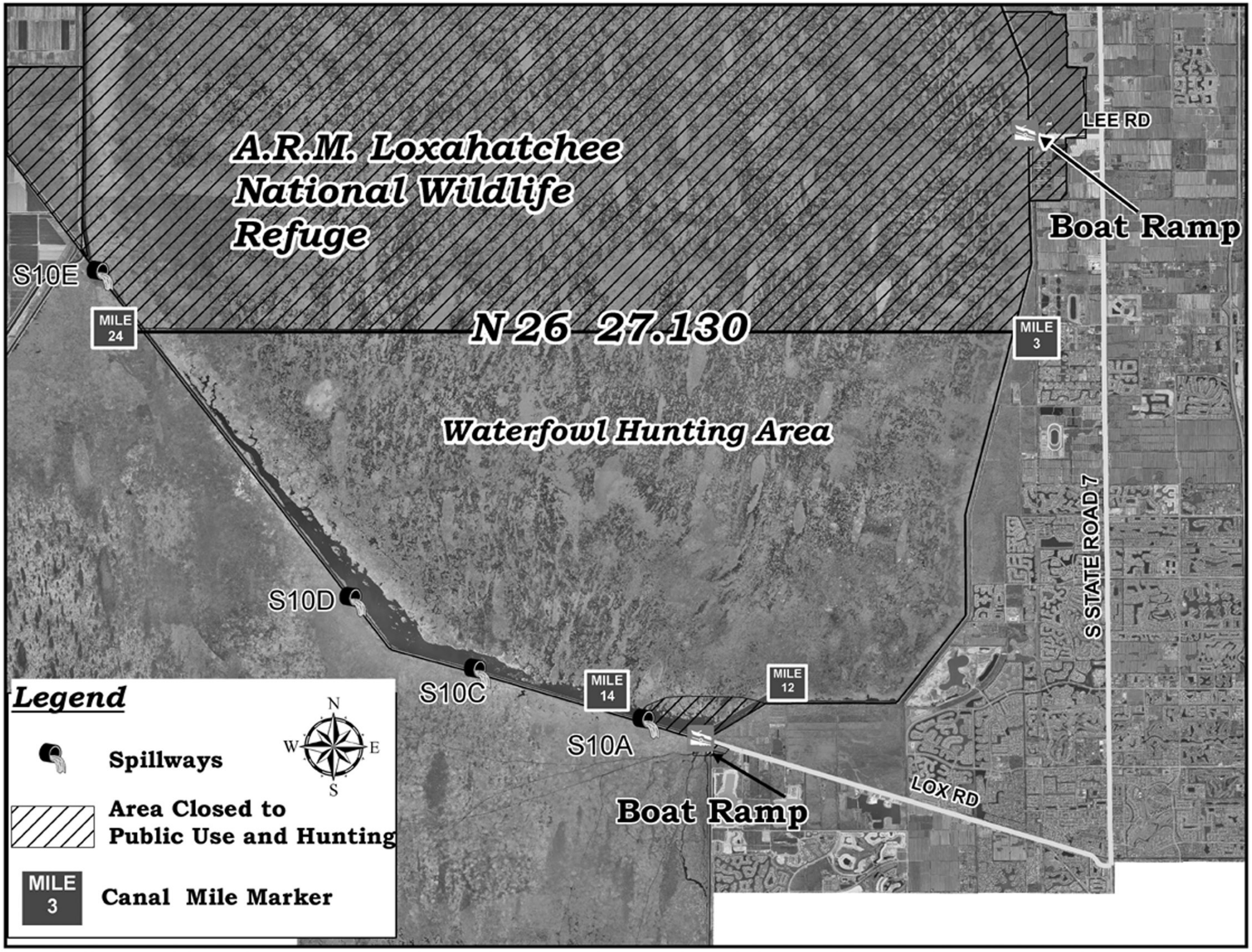
Refuge Boundary Sign
National Wildlife Refuge-unauthorized entry prohibited.

Area Beyond This Sign Closed
No entry of any kind allowed beyond this sign.

Area Closed to Hunting
No hunting allowed in the area beyond this sign.



Public Hunting Area
Hunting is allowed in the area beyond this sign in accordance with Federal and State regulations.


A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
LEE RD
Boat Ramp
S10E
MILE 24
N 26 27.130
MILE 3
Waterfowl Hunting Area
S STATE ROAD 7
S10D
S10C
MILE 14
MILE 12
S10A
LOX RD
Boat Ramp
Legend
Spillways
Area Closed to Public Use and Hunting
MILE 3
Canal Mile Marker
N
W
E
S