Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on the Refuge:

- Littering
- Feeding bears, alligators, or any wildlife
- Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant or wildlife other than those specified by refuge rules
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or driving any motorized vehicle
- Any activities between legal sunset and sunrise (except permitted hunters under refuge hunt rules)
- Target shooting
- Using areas designated "Area Closed"
- Camping, building fires or overnight anchoring
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Cutting firewood or trimming vegetation
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads and pottery shards
- Unrestrained pets
- Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any active oil well site, production facility or equipment
- Using airboats or marsh buggies
- Horses and ATVs
- Acting as a hunting guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity that any other individual(s) pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person or persons hunting on the refuge.
- Fishing with unattended jug, trot, bush or similar lines, nets or traps
- Commercial fishing or crabbing
- Hunting within 150 feet of any public road, refuge road, trail, building, residence, or designated public facility.
- Killing of feral hogs and animals without refuge permit
- Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes, or other objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or permanent steps; or using climbing spikes.
- Hunting in and/or shooting into or across any agricultural field, roadway or canal during hunting seasons.
- Marking with flagging, paper, paint, trash, etc...
- Using man-drives for wildlife
- Trapping without a special use permit
- Use of trail cameras on refuges
- Use of deer decoys
- Hunting or the discharge of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of roads and maintained trails.

Bayou Teche
National Wildlife Refuge
1725 Willow Street
Franklin, LA 70538
337/828 0061
http://www.fws.gov/bayouteche/

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

August 2015

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bayou Teche

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations 2016-2017

This is an annual permit. In order to conserve tax dollars, please keep this permit throughout the year.

Bayou Teche Refuge Hunt Permit
October 2016 - October 2017

When signed and in your possession, this serves as your permit to hunt on the refuge. It acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

_____
Signature (permits are non-transferable)

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge, established in 2001, is located in St. Mary Parish in southeast Louisiana. The 9,028 acre refuge is composed of wet bottomland hardwoods laced with bayous and canals. The primary mission of the refuge is to preserve and manage habitat for the threatened Louisiana black bear. Other objectives are to provide habitat for other fish and wildlife species, environmental education, and opportunities for public recreation. The refuge provides important habitat for the Louisiana black bear, a federally threatened subspecies of the American black bear. It also provides excellent habitat for wading birds, neotropical songbirds, waterfowl, and reptiles and amphibians. The refuge is open year round to the public from sunrise to sunset, with seasonal restrictions in some areas. The refuge can be accessed by vehicle, foot, or boat. Wildlife observation, boating and fishing are allowed on the refuge year round except in areas closed to public access. Hunting is permitted on the refuge. Open hunting seasons are listed in this brochure.

General Regulations

Hunting, fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of The Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Louisiana regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Permits

All Refuge hunters are required to possess a signed Hunt Permit while on the Refuge. Hunt permits are free and are found on the front of this brochure. A signed hunt permit acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. **Other Refuge visitors including fishermen, birders and photographers do not need a Refuge Permit.** However, all Refuge visitors are expected to follow all state and federal regulations including those found in this brochure. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the Refuge website.

Access

The Refuge is accessible by car, truck, foot, or boat, dependent on the area to be accessed and the time of year. Marked gravel roads crossing farm fields can be used to access the Centerville, Garden City, North Bend-East and North Bend-West units of the Refuge.

Take note of Refuge signs on roads, trails and waterways indicating vehicle type restrictions. Motorized vehicles are only allowed on specifically signed access roads; they are not allowed on trails maintained for public access by foot. Walking trails are closed to hikers October 1-January 31. Vehicles will not exceed 25 mph when driven on the Refuge's public access roads. Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) is restricted to the Refuge's public access roads. ATV's are prohibited within the Refuge boundary.

Physically Challenged or Disabled Users

Physically challenged or disabled public users are encouraged to inquire at Bayou Teche Refuge headquarters for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable.

Fishing

All State of Louisiana fishing limits apply. Recreational fishing is permitted from legal sunrise until legal sunset unless specifically stated. Commercial fishing is not allowed. The use of nets, traps, or unattended lines (trot, jug, bush, etc.) is not allowed. Fishing is allowed from shore and from boats in open waterways (see boating regulations).

Boating

Recreational boating is allowed in open waterways (canals and bayous). Boats with motors are not allowed on interior waterways designated for non-motorized boats only. The Franklin Unit Canals (Hanson, Wood duck, Black bear and Alligator) will be open to boating for motorized boats between April 15-August 31. Please be aware and courteous to paddlers and kayakers using this. This unit is open to non-motorized boats all year. All State of Louisiana boating regulations apply including, but not limited to, running lights, registration, and personal flotation devices. Boating regulations are strictly enforced. Airboat use is not permitted on the refuge.

Hiking

All hiking trails are open February 1st through September 30th. Centerville Unit trails are established on old dikes created when sugar cane drainage ditches were dug. They are minimally maintained and provide an excellent bird watching experience in a bald cypress - tupelo swamp. The Palmetto Trail, located in the Garden City Unit is also minimally maintained and meanders through bald cypress - tupelo swamp habitat. Waterproof foot wear is recommend during the rainy season.

Hunting

All hunters must complete a Daily Check Card at designated check stations. All game taken (including small game) on the refuge must be reported. Daily Check Cards are available on the Refuge at Unit and Headquarter check stations. The Check card includes a "Check in" portion that is completed then deposited in the metal box at the check station before hunting. The "Check Out" portion is completed and deposited in the metal box after hunting is completed for the day.

- Refuge Hunt Permits must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt.
- Hunters are authorized to take only species listed on the season permit. Harming or needlessly disturbing plants or other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations.

  Youth hunter age, adult supervision age, and hunter education requirements are defined by state regulation. Youths under the age of 16 must have an adult supervising them. Supervising adults shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.
- Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 12 noon and all decoys and blinds removed from the hunting area by 1 pm. **The Franklin Unit is closed to all hunting.**
- Possession of lead shot is prohibited on the Refuge during refuge hunts. Approved **non-toxic** shot must be used in shotguns. Possession of buckshot is allowed only during gun deer season.
- 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 in 50 CFR Part 32).
- We prohibit possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the refuge.
- Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be erected one day before the deer archery season and must be removed from the refuge within one day after this season closed. Hunters may place only one deer stand on a refuge. Deer stands must have owners name, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when not in use.
- We only allow dogs to locate, point and retrieve when hunting migratory game birds. All dogs must be collared with owners name and phone number. Dogs used for chase are not allowed on the refuge.
- We prohibit the use of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective bright eyes.

Archery Deer Season

See the "Hunting Regulations" table in this brochure for dates, bag limits, areas, etc. Bowhunters are encouraged to participate in the International Bowhunters Education Programs.

Bows are permitted only during the Refuge archery season. State of Louisiana regulations governing drug tipped arrows, pods, broadhead size, etc., are applicable. Longbow, compound bow, and crossbow or any bow drawn, held, or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take during the deer archery season.

Gun Deer Season - General and Youth

All hunters (including archery and small game hunters), except waterfowl hunters on refuges must wear and display 400 square inches of "hunter orange" and a "hunter orange" cap during the deer gun seasons.

Small Game Season (squirrel and rabbit)

See the "Hunting Regulations" table in this brochure for dates, bag limits, areas, etc.

Waterfowl Season

Louisiana State Waterfowl regulations apply. Additional Refuge regulations are listed. Youths ages 8 to 15, with adult supervisors are eligible to hunt on State youth waterfowl days. One adult can supervise no more than two youth hunters while waterfowl hunting.

See the "Hunting Regulations" table in this brochure for dates, bag limits, areas, etc. Dogs are only permitted to locate, point and retrieve. Live vegetation can not be cut and used for blinds. We require waterfowl hunters to cease hunting by noon and remove all portable blinds, boats, decoys and other personal equipment by 1 pm daily.