

Cypress Creek

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting & Fishing Regulations



General Regulations

The hunting and fishing regulations specific to Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge are set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Individuals using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge and state officers. The refuge is open to all species consistent with Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunting Regulations. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting the refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the regulations and property boundaries; please call the refuge with questions.

Fishing

Fishing regulations are in accordance with state regulations. Please refer to Illinois Department of Natural Resources fishing Information Guide. Refuge-specific regulations include:

Specific Fishing Regulations

- The use of trotlines, jugs, yo-yo’s, nets or any other commercial fishing equipment is prohibited, except that commercial fishing is allowed by legally licensed equipped anglers in the Cache River downstream of HWY 51. (See Commercial Use)
- Anglers may take fish with no more than two poles with no more than two hooks or lures per line.
- All bass taken from refuge ponds must be at least 15 inches in length.
- Refuge ponds have a daily limit of six channel catfish per angler.

Hunting

Hunting regulations are in accordance with state regulations. Please refer to Illinois Department of Natural Resources hunting Information Guide. Refuge-specific regulations include:

Specific Hunting Regulations

- Hunting is permitted only in designated areas shown on map
- Only portable deer stands or blinds may be used. All tree stands, blinds and personal property must be removed from the refuge by the end of each day’s hunt.
- Pits/permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of artificial camouflage (use of vegetation is prohibited) are

permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day’s hunt. Cutting of any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited.

- Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season, and trailing hounds during designated raccoon/opossum season is permissible. Deer hunting with dogs on the refuge is prohibited.
- Dog training is prohibited.
- Furbearer Hunting regulations are in accordance with state regulations. Please refer to Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunting Information Guide.

Weapons

- Firearms and archery tackle are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, explosives, crossbows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons on a national wildlife refuge is prohibited unless specifically authorized.
- Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader.
- Conceal carry regulations are consistent with Illinois state law; all weapons are prohibited in the refuge office and facilities.

Ammunition

- Hunters may only use or possess approved non-toxic shot shells while in the field, including shot shells used for hunting wild turkey. Exceptions include the following:
- Small game and furbearers may be hunted with .22 and .17 caliber rim fire lead ammunition during open seasons.
- During deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used

Commercial Use

Commercial use of a national wildlife refuge including commercial guiding, commercial fishing and filming are prohibited except as may be authorized by a refuge Special Use Permit..

Boats

Boating is permitted on waters (rivers and ponds) owned by the refuge; however the Cache River and associated tributaries are not designated as “public water bodies.” This means that boaters are welcome where the refuge or the Illinois DNR own one or both banks of a river; otherwise use of the river requires permission from the adjoining landowners. All boats have a 10-horsepower restriction and boats may not be left overnight on the refuge.

Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. All vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on this refuge map. Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather or management needs. Vehicles may be parked alongside roads in a manner that will not block gates or interfere with the normal flow of traffic. ATV’s are prohibited except by disabled persons possessing a refuge Special Use Permit.

Prohibited Activities

- Please follow state regulations in addition to the following:
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Camping, overnight parking and open campfires
- Cutting vegetation (trees, etc.)
- Target practice
- Marking trails with paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks or other manmade materials.
- Riding horses or mules except on roads open to vehicle traffic
- Night hunting activities except for raccoon/opossum hunting.
- Spot-lighting wildlife.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Inserting a screw, nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

0137 Rustic Campus Drive

Ullin, IL 62992

618/634 2231

People with hearing impairments may reach Cypress Creek NWR through the Federal Information Relay System at: 1 800/877 8339

Web address: www.fws.gov/refuge/cypress_creek

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

www.fws.gov



