Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge
Deer, Feral Hog, Migratory Bird, and Wild Turkey Hunt Plan

February 2019

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge
11766 S Refuge Road
Tishomingo, OK 73460

Submitted By:
Project Leader

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Supervisor

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Signature              Date

Approved:
Regional Chief,
National Wildlife
Refuge System

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Signature              Date
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TISHOMINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
DEER, FERAL HOG, MIGRATORY BIRD, AND WILD TURKEY HUNT
PLAN

I. Introduction

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge (Tishomingo NWR/refuge) is an overlay of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Denison Dam Project and was established by Public Land Order (PLO) 312 on January 24, 1946...The Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460-1) states that the refuge is suitable for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species: by the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 712d) “for use as an inviolate sanctuary…for any other management purposes…for migratory birds.”

In order to meet specific refuge and other broader U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) directives, the following purposes were established for Tishomingo NWR:

The refuge’s official purpose statement is: “...for refuge and breeding ground purposes for migratory birds and other wildlife.” and “…shall be administered by him (Secretary of the Interior) directly or in accordance with cooperative agreements…And in accordance with such rules and regulations for the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife resources thereof, and its habitat thereon…16 U.S.C. (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act).”

Tishomingo NWR is located in southcentral Oklahoma on the north side of Lake Texoma and encompasses 16,464 acres. The refuge was established to benefit migratory waterfowl in the Central Flyway and help conserve America’s wildlife heritage for current and future generations. The refuge is on the Washita River arm of Lake Texoma and includes the Cumberland Pool. The south and east sides of the refuge are steep, rocky, and generally heavily wooded. The north and west sides are gentle to sloping in topography and include sections suitable for cropping, wildlife and recreational use. Grasslands and forest habitats are intermingled and extend along the periphery of the refuge. Except for about 120 acres of cropland and 500 acres of woodlands, lands are subject to flooding at high water levels.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Denison Dam and Lake Texoma Project retained primary jurisdiction of Denison Dam and Lake Texoma Reservoir lands, including lands on which the refuge is located but entered into a cooperative agreement with the refuge on April 9, 1957. The agreement provides the Service the authority to administer and maintain habitat within the refuge boundaries for wildlife protection.

The predecessor of today’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Department, currently known as the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), through the USACE on November 19, 1957. This agreement encompasses cooperative management responsibilities of each agency for the 3,150-acre wildlife management unit.
(WMU) included within the refuge. The lands of the WMU are allotted by the USACE to be managed by both the Service and ODWC in accordance with the agreement.

Although originally established to provide habitat for migratory ducks and geese, through land and water management, the refuge also provides a diversity of habitats for a wide range of migratory and resident species, including the interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) and piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), both of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered species.

The refuge also provides important waterfowl and migratory bird habitat in south central Oklahoma that partially fills a large gap along the Central Flyway. The refuge’s agricultural practices meet refuge objectives by planting browse in an attempt to meet the feeding requirements of waterfowl and other wildlife. In addition to waterfowl, other wildlife species also benefit from the refuge’s habitat restoration efforts. Habitat management to maintain populations of neotropical migrants and shorebirds associated with the Arkansas/Red River Ecosystem has become a major objective. The region’s value to waterfowl and other wildlife species and their habitats has also increased since the refuge’s development (Figure 1).

![Arkansas/Red River Ecosystem Boundaries](image)

**Figure 1.** Arkansas/Red River Ecosystem Boundaries
The general vegetation within the refuge is classified as mid-grass prairie and Eastern Cross Timbers (Hoagland 2000). Stream banks and overflow floodplains support typical bottomland hardwood vegetation. General plant communities found on the refuge are forest, prairie, riparian/wetland and agriculture. Over 300 bird species have been documented on the refuge, of which approximately 100 species are known to nest locally. Approximately 140 species of Neotropical migratory songbirds use refuge habitats primarily during spring and fall migrations, although approximately 56 of these species nest in spring and summer.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), as outlined by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (NWRSAAA), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), is:

"... to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

The NWRSAAA mandates the Secretary of the Interior in administering the System to (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(4):

- Provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats within the NWRS;
- Ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the NWRS are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans;
- Ensure that the mission of the NWRS described at 16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(2) and the purposes of each refuge are carried out;
- Ensure effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with owners of land adjoining refuges and the fish and wildlife agency of the States in which the units of the NWRS are located;
- Assist in the maintenance of adequate water quantity and water quality to fulfill the mission of the NWRS and the purposes of each refuge;
- Recognize compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses as the priority general public uses of the NWRS through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife;
- Ensure that opportunities are provided within the NWRS for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses; and
- Monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge.

Therefore, it is a priority of the Service to provide for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, when those opportunities are compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Big Game Hunting Plan approved in 1989 and amended in 1990, the Deer Hunting Compatibility Determination, Environmental Assessment, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, all approved in 2010, address the hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer on the Tishomingo NWR. This is currently the only species hunted on the refuge. Per the 1957 agreement between the refuge and ODWC, the state is responsible for developing a hunting plan.
for the WMU with input provided by the refuge. The 3,150-acre WMU allows hunting for migratory birds, deer, and dove and other migratory birds, upland game, turkey, feral hogs, furbearer and predators, in addition to fishing.

This hunt plan is an amendment to the 2010 hunt plan. This plan will add a controlled archery deer hunt, controlled wild turkey hunt, along with migratory bird hunting on Tishomingo NWR. The incidental hunting of feral hogs is allowed during all hunts held on the refuge. The refuge will allow hunting on Unit 21.

II. Statement of Objectives

The objectives of implementing migratory bird, wild turkey, and feral hog hunting programs and expanding deer hunting on Tishomingo NWR are to provide the public additional opportunities to participate in priority, wildlife-dependent recreation. In addition, allowing incidental take of feral hogs during all current and future hunts will aid in reducing the population of this invasive and destructive species, which will benefit refuge habitat and native wildlife. The proposed controlled hunts will provide a high-quality wildlife-dependent (hunting) experience in southern Oklahoma by offering an uncrowded, highly individualistic experience. The specific objectives are to:

- Provide the public with additional recreational experiences on more refuge lands and increase opportunities for hunters, especially for youth.
- To maintain biological diversity by preserving the natural diversity and variety of biotic communities occurring on refuge lands.
- Provide wildlife-dependent public recreation as mandated by and according to Service policy.
- Inform the public and neighboring landowners about the effects of overpopulated deer and feral hog herds.
- Expand hunting opportunities on public lands to align with Secretarial Order 3356 (Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories).

III. Description of Hunting Program

The Tishomingo NWR hunting program is designed to provide compatible hunting opportunities, while minimizing conflicts with non-hunting user groups.

A. Areas to be Opened to Hunting

Figure 2 below shows the hunt units and public access roads on Tishomingo NWR.
Figure 2. Tishomingo NWR Hunt Unit and Public Access Roads Map
Table 1 below identifies the refuge hunt units, acreage, and species open to hunting in the individual hunt units on Tishomingo NWR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Unit</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Species Open for Hunting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,3,4,5,6,7,8</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>White-tailed Deer (Rifle Hunt), Feral Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>White-tailed Deer (Rifle Hunt), Migratory Birds,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feral Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,13,14,15E,15W</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>White-tailed Deer (Rifle Hunt), Turkey, Feral Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,12,16,17,18,19,20</td>
<td>1,072</td>
<td>White-tailed Deer (Rifle Hunt), Feral Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>3,410</td>
<td>White-tailed Deer (Archery Hunt), Migratory Birds,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feral Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Hunting Zone</td>
<td>6,817</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On lands managed by the refuge, 6,301 acres are open to hunting and 6,817 acres are closed to hunting. Table 2 below lists the species and total acres open to hunting on the refuge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Acreage Open to Hunting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-tailed Deer</td>
<td>6,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds</td>
<td>3,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feral Hog</td>
<td>6,301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Species to be Taken, Hunting Periods, Hunting Access

Deer – Rifle

Deer rifle hunting is permitted during season according to refuge specific and State hunting regulations. There are three controlled hunts for white-tailed deer conducted on the refuge annually. These include a youth deer hunt held in October for 20 hunters under 18 years of age, a non-ambulatory deer hunt held in November for 10 hunters, and a general deer hunt held in December for an additional 20 hunters. Hunters are selected through an application and lottery drawing process conducted by ODWC in April each year for all hunts. The controlled hunts will last two days and will begin the morning of the first day. An orientation will be held the day prior to the start of the hunt. The refuge requires all deer hunters to attend refuge hunter orientation sessions that focus on informing the participants about wildlife habitat and the role that the deer hunters play in wildlife management. These controlled hunts are focused on reducing deer population numbers and require hunters to “earn a buck” by first harvesting a doe.
Hunting units 1–20, except unit 10, which is an administrative site and closed to hunting (2,890 acres), are all designated for deer gun hunting. Hunts are two days in length, with a maximum of twenty hunters per day and are typically conducted in the middle of a week to avoid conflicts with other users on weekends. In order to spread hunters out safely, we place one hunter per unit. Each year, it is generally the case that not all 20 hunters are able to make it for their permitted hunt. In these cases there will be enough units (19) to accommodate one hunter per unit. In the event all 20 permitted hunters arrive at the refuge for their hunt, refuge personnel will subdivide a larger unit into two smaller units and assign hunters to those units (See Figure 2). During these hunts, the refuge is closed to all other public use with the exception of the Bell Creek and Rock Creek units.

**Deer – Archery**

Controlled archery deer hunting is permitted during the State identified deer archery season according to refuge specific and State hunting regulations. Controlled archery hunting will be conducted on the refuge annually. There will be up to 50 permits issued and hunts will be conducted during State identified deer archery season. The controlled hunts will last three days and will be held in November between the Non-ambulatory hunt and the general hunt. Hunting season dates will generally occur between mid-November and the start of early December and will begin in the morning of the first day. An orientation will be held the day prior to the start of the hunt. The hunter selection process will be administered by ODWC in collaboration with the refuge. The bag limit for these hunts will be set at two deer, one of which must be a doe.

Deer archery hunting will occur in Unit 21 (3,410 acres) located on the south end of the refuge (See Figure 2). For the controlled archery hunt, Unit 21 will be managed as a free roam area. In the event Unit 21 has to be administratively closed for emergency purposes (i.e., flooding or inclement weather that prevents access), the archery deer hunt will be rotated into the existing firearm deer hunting units 1 – 20, and hunters will be allowed to free roam the area. Access and parking areas in Unit 21 are limited and will need to be developed in the future to accommodate up to 50 hunters.

**Migratory Birds**

Hunting of certain migratory birds (duck, teal, mergansers, coot, light geese, dark geese, snipe, gallinule, and merganser) will be allowed south of the Washita River in Unit 21 and in Unit 2 located on the west side of the refuge. Migratory bird hunting is permitted according to refuge specific and state hunting regulations and will follow season dates legal hunting hours and daily bag limits. Hunting of migratory birds generally occur from September to November for Gallinule; October to January for snipe; September to January for ducks, mergansers, and coots; and November through March for light and dark geese. Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed when hunting migratory birds on the refuge. Hunters are required to sign in and out at check stations located at hunt unit access points. Access to the wetlands in Unit 21 is easiest using the river.

**Spring Wild Turkey**

A controlled turkey hunt will be held in Units 9, 13, 14, 15E, and 15W. The controlled hunt will last two days between April 6 and May 6 beginning the morning of the first day. An orientation
will be held the day prior to the start of the hunt. The hunter selection process will be administered by the ODWC in collaboration with the refuge. The bag limit will be set at one tom turkey. Up to five permits will be issued per season. The number of permits issued beyond five will be contingent upon a new turkey population survey conducted by the refuge in coordination with the State and completion of appropriate NEPA documentation and hunt plan update. Shotgun or bow and arrow may be used for spring turkey hunts. Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed when using a shotgun. All hunts will be in accordance with state regulations. Each hunter will be allowed to choose the type of weapon (archery or shotgun) they wish to use due to the fact that a minimal number of hunters will occupy a unit within the same period of time.

Feral Hogs
The state of Oklahoma defines feral hogs as any hog, including Russian and European wild boar, which are running at large, free-roaming or wild. There is no hunting program specifically implemented by the state for the take of feral hogs. This hunt plan only provides for the incidental take of feral hogs by the public during established refuge hunting seasons. Feral hogs may be taken as incidental take to any daytime established refuge hunt. There will be no bag, age, sex, or size limits on the hogs taken. Any weapon deemed legal for the species being hunted will be allowed for feral hogs, including rifle, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, and shotgun. Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed if hunting feral hogs on the refuge with a shotgun.

Access
All refuge units except for Units 1, 7, 13, 15E, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 can be accessed using Refuge Road. Unit 1 is accessible from either Airport or Muldrow Roads. Unit 7 is accessible via Pecan Bottom Road. Units 15E, 16 and 20 are accessible using the Murray 23 entrance and units 13, 17 and 18 are accessible using highway 22. Unit 19 is accessible via the Nida Point entrance and Unit 21 is accessible using Linn Cemetery Road or Right Avenue and Soward Drive (see Figure 2).

Refuge officials will work with mobility-impaired hunters to arrange feasible hunting access. Hunters requiring special access should contact refuge officials for additional details. Examples of special provisions include the opening/closure of gated roads to allow the hunter to drive a vehicle closer to the hunt area; the use of an off-road motor vehicle; or the assistance by a non-hunting adult who is not otherwise authorized to participate in the hunt. If a public hunt participant informs refuge staff in advance that he/she has special needs or limitations, every reasonable effort will be made to address those concerns so the person may fully participate and have an enjoyable experience.

Archery Deer
During the archery deer hunt, the refuge will be closed to the public if the archery deer hunts are held in units other than Unit 21. Hunters will be provided maps showing access points/entrances to each unit and allowed to drive personal vehicles to their respective units. Foot access will be required from the gate to their final hunting destinations.
Migratory Birds
The nearest location for hunters to reach the refuge and the wetlands located in Unit 21 is via the Washita River and the boat ramps located at Butcher Pen. Hunters interested in hunting Unit 2 can reach their destination using Airport Road in Tishomingo.

Wild Turkey
The turkey hunt will be held in Units 9, 13, 14, 15E, and 15W. Access to these units will be from Refuge Road, HWY 22, or Murray 23 entrance road. These units are located quite a distance from roads open to visitors and public access so the refuge will remain open to other activities during the turkey hunt.

Feral Hogs
Access to the incidental hunting of hogs will be based primarily upon the various hunts listed above.

C. Hunter Permit Requirements

Hunters will be required to have the appropriate state license/permit, as well as obtain and carry a signed current hunt tearsheet, which includes the annual public use regulations. The annual tearsheet is required for only the migratory bird hunt because they will not be accessing their hunt units through the refuge and will not be attending an orientation. The archery deer hunts will not require signing and carrying the tearsheet permit since they will not have an orientation prior to the start of their hunt. The controlled gun hunts for white-tailed deer and turkey on the refuge are part of the recreational fee program. Hunters that participate in the controlled quota gun hunts for white-tailed deer and turkey must apply and be selected through the ODWC Controlled Hunt Program. The application process is conducted online at the ODWC website (www.wildlifedepartment.com). ODWC is responsible for handling all applications and conducting the drawings. All applicants must pay a $5.00 application fee to enter the controlled hunts drawing. Hunters are notified by ODWC that they have been selected for one of the hunts and a complete package with permits and instructions are sent to the hunters. The controlled permit system for the white-tailed deer and turkey gun hunts allows the refuge to better manage these hunts for the benefit and overall health of these species. The number of hunters participating on any given hunt can be adjusted, as well as the season lengths, to assure compatibility and sustainability of the refuge hunt program.

The tearsheets are free of charge and available at the refuge headquarters and the Tishomingo NWR website (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tishomingo/). The signed tearsheet is required to ensure that all migratory bird hunters have read and understand all public use regulations and also provides the current hunting map before they begin hunting. This also facilitates compliance with refuge regulations and promotes communication between refuge law enforcement and hunters.
D. Consultation and Coordination with the State

The refuge hunt program was reviewed by ODWC staff and refuge staff on January 31, 2018. The hunt program will be reviewed on an annual basis by refuge staff in consultation with local ODWC staff. The controlled gun hunts for white-tailed deer and turkey are consulted and coordinated with ODWC annually. Changes or modifications to the hunt program will be incorporated if species populations, habitat, or hunter success rates significantly change or effect wildlife populations.

E. Law Enforcement

Tishomingo NWR currently shares one full time law enforcement office with Hagerman NWR in Texas located on the south end of Lake Texoma. This officer along with two State conservation officers will enforce state/federal regulations and refuge specific laws and rules. The following methods are used to control and enforce hunting regulations:

1. The refuge boundary and hunt area boundaries will be clearly delineated.
2. The refuge will provide a tearsheet with public use regulations and a map that shows the hunt areas.
3. A briefing for hunters selected for the controlled deer and turkey hunts is conducted prior to each hunt. Refuge law enforcement or an approved alternate reviews the rules and regulations with the hunters during these meetings.
4. Federal wildlife officers and state game wardens will check hunters for compliance with federal and state laws as well as refuge-specific regulations pertinent to the hunt.
5. Federal wildlife officers will coordinate with ODWC, Johnston and Marshall County Sheriff’s Office, and other law enforcement agencies.

Procedures for obtaining law enforcement assistance are based on legal jurisdiction, pending where the incident occurred. The Tishomingo NWR federal wildlife officer has met with local law enforcement agencies in the county that contains refuge hunt units to develop good working relationships and coordinate appropriate strategies.

F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

The refuge already has an established hunt program for white-tailed deer. The purpose of this Hunt Plan is to increase public hunting opportunities by adding a controlled deer archery hunt, a wild turkey hunt, hunting for migratory birds and feral hog hunting as incidental take during any established refuge hunt with legal weapons and permits for the current hunt season. The administrative cost of the hunt program includes employee salaries, equipment, publication of annual brochures and regulations, boundary maintenance, sign maintenance, fuel, and other related activities. There is adequate funding and staff to administer the refuge hunt program. Funding for the hunt program will come from general station funds, maintenance funds, law enforcement funds, and funds from the recreational fee program. Hunters participating in the permitted controlled deer and turkey hunts pay a $20.00 federal user fee to ODWC. ODWC pays the refuge 100 percent of the money that is collected in this process. The refuge submits
the fees to the recreational fee program and receives 80 percent of the funds in return. The estimated cost to manage the refuge’s hunt program is approximately $15,000.00 annually.

Wildlife population surveys are conducted every other year and would occur with or without a hunting program. The surveys directly related to hunted species cost approximately $2,000 annually which covers employee salaries and vehicle fuel.

Summary of cost for Hunt Program:
Staff Salaries for deer and turkey hunts $  9,000
Wildlife Surveys $  2,000
LE Annual cost $  3,500
Hunt Brochure $     500
Total: $15,000

IV. Conduct of the Hunt

A. Hunter Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures

Hunters wanting to participate in special controlled gun hunts for white-tailed deer and turkey must apply online through the ODWC website (www.wildlifedepartment.com). The ODWC is responsible for handling all applications and conducting the drawings and collecting fees. Hunters are notified by the ODWC that they have been selected for one of the hunts and a complete package with permits and instructions are sent to the hunters. Persons with disabilities (meeting ODWC qualifications for deer and turkey hunts with a non-ambulatory or motor vehicle permit issued by ODWC for a disability hunting license) will be provided special accommodations.

B. Refuge-specific Big Game and Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations

(f) Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge

(1) Migratory Game Bird Hunting, We allow the hunting of duck, teal, light geese, dark geese, snipe, gallinule, American coot, and merganser on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) The hunting of migratory birds is allowed every day but waterfowl hunters must be off the unit by 1 pm.

(ii) Hunters must possess and carry a signed hunt tearsheet.

(iii) We require the hunters to self-check-in and check-out.

(iv) We allow only shotguns for hunting.

(v) We prohibit falconry.
(2) **Upland Game Hunting** [Reserved]

(3) **Big Game Hunting.** We allow the hunting of white-tailed deer, feral hogs, and turkey on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) The conditions set forth at paragraph (f)(1)(ii) apply.

(ii) We require state-controlled deer hunt drawing hunters to attend a pre-hunt briefing.

(iii) You may hunt feral hog during any established refuge hunting season, using the weapon authorized for that particular hunt.

**C. Relevant State Regulations**

1. Hunter Safety Training – Eligible youth hunters must have passed a state certified hunter education program and are required to attend a mandatory refuge safety and orientation briefing at the refuge visitor center prior to their drawn hunt. All youth hunters must possess a certificate of completion for a state-approved hunter education course.

**D. Other Rules and Regulations for Hunters**

1. Fires on the refuge – Open fires are not permitted on the refuge.

2. Reporting Harvest – Hunters will be required to check in and out of the hunt area and have their harvest inspected by refuge staff.

3. Special Needs Hunters – Refuge staff will, to the best of their ability, work with any special needs hunter regarding access or equipment issues or assistance needs. Please contact the refuge at 580-371-2402 with specific questions.

4. Age – Youth hunts would be restricted to youth hunters who have passed a certified hunter education program up to age 17.

5. Equipment – The refuge will permit the use of legal sporting arms, including shotguns (muzzle-loading shotguns also allowed) fired from the shoulder no larger than 10 gauge firing shot, and archery equipment in accordance with state regulations. Auto-loading and pump shotguns may have one shell in the chamber and two in the magazine as prescribed under state guidelines. Non-toxic shotgun ammunition is required. Archery equipment will adhere to state regulations.

6. License and Permits – All hunters must possess a valid State hunting license and any State required stamps or tags. Drawn hunters will receive an official state letter stating that they have been drawn to participate in this hunt. This letter will serve as their refuge permit.
V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Hunting Program

The refuge uses press releases to local newspapers to notify the public of upcoming hunting seasons and any special information that needs to be communicated. ODWC provides specific information on the controlled hunts and instruction on how to apply. Refuge specific information about hunting opportunities is also available in the refuge public use regulation brochure or on the Tishomingo NWR website at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tishomingo/.

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to Hunting Program

The local public is generally in favor of hunting. It is anticipated that the new hunting opportunities will be highly desirable and appreciated by our consumptive users.

C. How Hunter Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations

General information regarding hunting and other public uses can be obtained at the Refuge Headquarters at 11766 S Refuge Road, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460 or by calling (580) 371-2402. Hunting information will also be available on the station website at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tishomingo.

VI. Compatibility Determination

A draft compatibility determination has been completed in conjunction with this hunt plan and the Environmental Assessment. Hunting and all associated program activities proposed in this plan are expected to be found compatible with the purposes of the refuge.

References