



# Hunting Regulations 2016-2017

## Little River National Wildlife Refuge

### Hunting Regulations at Little River National Wildlife Refuge

#### General Information

Little River National Wildlife Refuge plays an important role in our National Wildlife Refuge System. The refuge was established on February 10, 1987 as the nation's 438th refuge. The 14,010 acre refuge preserves one of the last remaining remnants of the once extensive bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem of the Little River floodplain. The bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem provides essential habitat for a diversity of migratory birds and resident wildlife species in Oklahoma. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the refuge system and is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people.

By law, national wildlife refuges are closed to all public use activities unless expressly permitted.

Hunting, fishing, and certain other public uses are permitted on most areas of the refuge. The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations that govern public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. When permitted, hunting, fishing, and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable State laws unless otherwise listed.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Little River NWR, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities before entering the refuge.

#### Hours

General refuge hours are sunrise to sunset. Night-time use of the refuge is limited to raccoon hunting during the refuge season and fishing while in possession of appropriate tackle.

#### Accessibility

Persons with medically-certified disabilities should contact the Refuge Manager if special assistance is required.

### General Refuge Regulations

#### Weapons

The possession and carrying of firearms on national wildlife refuges is authorized in accordance with applicable provisions of federal, state and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms during authorized hunting seasons while attempting to take game species. Shotguns with approved non-toxic shot or .22/.17 caliber rimfire weapons are the only weapons permitted for hunting, except during the controlled gun deer hunts when state approved legal means of take are also permitted. Shooting from or across any refuge road or right-of-way and target practice is prohibited.

#### Nontoxic Shot

All hunters using shotguns for hunting small game, raccoons, and migratory game birds on the refuge must use and possess ammunition containing approved non-toxic shot only.

#### Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge and are restricted to roads that are open to travel. Off-highway vehicles (ATV's/ORUV's) are prohibited on the refuge.

#### Boats

Boats used for any recreational activity; i.e., hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, must be removed from the refuge daily. Boats must comply with all state regulations.

#### Roads

Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on established roads as delineated on the refuge map. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Please avoid driving on refuge roads during wet conditions as damage to the roads will result.

#### Animals/Pets

Dogs are permitted for hunting squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, and migratory birds during designated seasons. All dogs are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and telephone number.

Horses are permitted only on roads open to motorized traffic. Riding off roads into fields, woods, or on foot trails is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

#### Closed Areas

Designated areas will be closed to certain types of hunting (see map for specific locations and closures). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons.

#### Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are prohibited on the refuge.

#### Refuge/Cultural Resources

All government property including natural, historic, and archaeological features are protected by federal law. Searching for or removal of objects of antiquity or other value is strictly prohibited.

#### Fishing

Sport fishing is permitted year-round in accordance with state regulations. Visitors must comply with all state fishing and boating regulations.

#### Tree Stands

All tree stands must be removed from the refuge daily. The use of nails, wires, screws, or bolts to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited.

#### Tree Marking

It is unlawful to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint, flagging tape, ribbon, or similar substance.

#### Hunter Education

Hunter's must comply with the state's hunter education requirements when hunting on the refuge.

#### Youth Supervision

Youths 14-years-old or younger must be directly supervised by an adult at least 18 years of age while hunting.

#### Prohibited Activities

Littering, dumping garbage, or waste.

Spotlighting—artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.

Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant.

Use or possession of alcohol beverages or illegal drugs and associated paraphernalia while hunting.

Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.

Blocking cattle guards, gates, or roadways with vehicles.

#### Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations (see map)

Only the species listed in this brochure as open to hunting may be taken on the refuge.

Big game killed on the refuge must be field tagged before transport and checked in through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife

Conservations online game checking system at [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com).

Please specify that the game was harvested on Little River NWR. Deer and turkey harvested during controlled hunts on the refuge will be counted as a bonus toward the statewide bag limit.

#### Permits

The signing of this leaflet on the designated line validates it as your general hunt permit, and is an indication that you have read, fully understand, and will comply with the special regulations of this permit. The general hunt permit is required for all refuge hunting. The general hunt permit must be carried on the hunter's person and is not valid until signed. Visitors engaged in permitted activities on the refuge must show the permit, valid state license, and identification upon request of any refuge or state wildlife officer.

#### Controlled Hunt

The refuge offers controlled hunts for white-tailed deer and turkey. For information concerning these hunts, contact the refuge headquarters at 580/584-6211.

#### 2016-2017 Hunting Season

##### Waterfowl (ducks only)

Season: Same as statewide (½ hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon)

Bag limit: Same as statewide

Closed areas: Units 1, 2, and 3

Specific regulations: Closed on the days of the refuge controlled deer quota hunts. Only portable blinds may be used and must be removed from the refuge daily. All decoys and personal equipment must be removed daily.

##### Squirrel (Gray and Fox)

##### Season:

May 15–October 21 and November 14–January 31

Bag limit: Same as statewide

Closed Areas: No Hunting Zone in Unit 2 (see attached map).

#### Little River National Wildlife Refuge 2016-2017 General Hunt Permit

When signed and in your possession, this portion of the brochure will serve as your permit for all refuge hunts, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Permits are not transferable and are valid only when signed.

Take pride in your refuge. Don't litter and report violations.

Signature of hunter \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Rabbit (Swamp and Cottontail)*

Season: October 1—October 21 and November 14—January 31

Bag limit: Same as statewide

Closed Areas: No Hunting Zone in Unit 2 (see attached map).

Specific regulations: Rabbits may be hunted outside the statewide season by Special Use Permit only. Contact the Refuge Manager for information on Special Use Permits.

*Raccoon*

Season: December 1—January 31

Bag limit: Same as statewide.

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map).

Specific regulations: Raccoons may be hunted outside the statewide season by Special Use Permit only. Contact the Refuge Manager for information on Special Use Permits.

*Deer Archery*

Season: October 1—October 21 and November 14—January 15

Bag limit: Same as statewide.

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map).

*Deer Gun (Controlled Youth Deer Hunt)*

Season: October 28—October 30

Bag limit: two deer, (1st antlerless, 2nd either sex).

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map).

Specific regulations: Controlled quota hunt, 10 permits issued.

*Deer Gun (Controlled Hunt)*

Season: November 4—November 6

Bag limit: one deer, either sex

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map).

Specific regulations: Controlled quota hunt, 30 permits issued.

*Deer Gun (Controlled Hunt)*

Season: November 11—November 13

Bag limit: one deer, either sex

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map).

Specific regulations: Controlled quota hunt, 30 permits issued

*Turkey Archery*

Season: October 1—October 21 and November 14—January 15

Bag limit: Same as statewide

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map).

*Turkey Gun (Controlled Hunt)*

Season: April 21–23, 2017

Bag limit: one tom turkey

Closed areas: Closed portion of Unit 2 and Unit 3 (see attached map)

Specific regulations: Controlled quota hunt, 20 permits issued

*Beaver and Feral Hogs*

Season: Beaver and feral hogs may be taken incidental to any daytime established refuge hunt with permits and legal weapons for the current season. Live feral hogs may not be possessed or transported on the refuge.

Beaver may be **trapped** on the refuge by **Special Use Permit** only. Contact the Refuge Manager for information on Special Use Permits.

Bag limit: Same as statewide.

Closed Areas: No Hunting Zone in Unit 2 (see attached map).

**Specific Closed Season**

All other hunting is closed during controlled hunts.

**For More Information Contact**

For inquiries about refuge programs and activities, contact the refuge manager at:

Refuge Manager  
 Little River  
 National Wildlife Refuge  
 P.O. Box 340  
 Broken Bow, OK 74728  
 580/584-6211  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/little\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/little_river/)

