



Hunting Regulations 2020-2021

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 14,216 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 upland 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

Hunters 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.

We prohibit the following:

- 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 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 checked in through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's online game checking system at www.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.

Annual Public Use Permit

(Required for all hunters and fishermen)

The signing of this leaflet on the designated line validates it as your general hunting 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

2020-2021 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. You may only use portable blinds. You must remove blinds, decoys, and all personal equipment from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt.

Squirrel (Gray and Fox)

Season: May 15–October 23 & November 16–January 31

Bag limit: Same as statewide

Closed Areas: No Hunting Zone.

Rabbit (Swamp and Cottontail)

Season: October 1–October 23 and November 16–January 31

Bag limit: Same as statewide

Closed Areas: No Hunting Zone. Rabbits may be hunted outside the statewide season by Special Use Permit only: contact the Refuge Manager.

Little River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Acknowledgment 2020-2021

When signed and carried in your possession, this acknowledges your understanding of all federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to hunting on the refuge and your understanding that you are subject to inspection.

Signature of Hunter

Date

Permits are required for all hunters. This permit is valid only when signed above and must be carried with you at all times while on the refuge. Permits are not transferable.

