

General, Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2019-2020

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area

General Information

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area, established September 7, 1994, is located in Gibson and Pike Counties along the Patoka River in southwest Indiana. Public hunting is permitted on 8,385 of the 8,456 acres acquired to date. The Columbia Mine Preserve Conservation Easement of 1,043 acres and 48 acres of adjacent refuge land is open to restricted hunting. Fishing is permitted on Refuge land and Columbia Mine Preserve. The various tracts that make up the acquired refuge areas are not contiguous and some have poor access due to adjacent coal mining or private lands. **Respect private property.** Always ask permission before entering private property. Most of the Refuge is not signed due to on-going acquisition. The 219-acre White River Bottoms Wildlife Management Area is also included under these regulations.

General Refuge Regulations

The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions:

See Columbia Mine Preserve leaflet for fishing and restricted hunting regulations.

Only those species authorized for hunting in Indiana and listed below may be hunted on the Refuge. All other species are protected.

Migratory Birds

Ducks, geese and coots
Sora rails and common snipe
Mourning dove and woodcock

Game Birds

Quail
Wild turkey

Small Game

Cottontail rabbit
Gray and Fox squirrel

Furbearers (Hunting Only - Refuge Permit Required)

Red and Gray fox and coyote
Raccoon and opossum

Big Game

White-tailed deer

Ammunition

Shotgun hunters using scattershot may possess and use only approved non-toxic shot. Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited while hunting all the above species on the Refuge. Pick up and take out spent casings.

Motorized Vehicles

All motor vehicles must remain on maintained roads and parked so as not to interfere with other traffic. Off-road vehicles are not permitted on refuge lands.

Weapons

Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows meeting state requirements are permitted on the refuge only during the designated hunting season. Possession in vehicles while driving through the Refuge on public roads according to State regulations. Handguns are permitted according to State regulations.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed for hunting according to State regulations during designated seasons only. Otherwise, dogs must be leashed. Dog training or running in the off-season is prohibited.

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunters with disabilities must possess the required State permit. State regulations and access conditions apply.

Duck/Goose Blinds and Decoys

Pits or permanent blinds may not be constructed

or used on the refuge area. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of native plant materials are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Decoys must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.

Deer/Turkey Stands

Permanent tree stands/blinds may not be constructed or used on the refuge area. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited. Portable tree stands may be used for deer or turkey hunting and may be left overnight only from noon September 15, 2019 through January 10, 2020. Tree stands must be legibly marked with owner's name, address and phone number at eye level or lower.

Sport Fishing

- State regulations apply as to license, seasons, sizes, limits, methods of take and species of fish to be taken with the following exceptions:
- Limb lines, jug lines, trot lines, and snares are prohibited as the method of catching fish in refuge waters other than the Patoka River channel.
- Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.
- Minimum size limit for largemouth bass on Snakey Point Marsh is 14 inches.
- Minnows, crayfish, frogs and turtles are protected and may not be collected or harvested.

Boats

- On refuge property, motorboats are only permitted on Snakey Point Marsh east of the South Fork and on the Patoka River.
- Motorboats on Snakey Point Marsh are restricted to slow speed/minimum wake.
- To minimize disturbance to wildlife, gasoline powered motorboats are not permitted on other refuge waters.
- Air boats are prohibited on all refuge waters.
- Boats may not be left on refuge property overnight.

Safety

Safety Zone - Discharge of firearms within 150 yards of any dwelling or building on or adjacent to the refuge is prohibited. Hunters are cautioned to identify their targets before shooting. In addition to other hunters, non-hunting visitors are present on the refuge throughout the year and may be on the property at any time.

Report all injuries and accidents to Refuge Headquarters, 510 ½ W. Morton St., Oakland City, Indiana or phone (812)749-3199.

The following activities are prohibited on Patoka River NWR&MA:

- Littering/dumping including spent shotshell casings.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Target practice or random shooting
- Camping/overnight parking
- Trapping furbearers
- Open campfires/swimming
- Taking or attempting to take any wildlife not authorized in these refuge regulations.
- Taking, cutting or destroying any plants or parts thereof including flowers, fruits, nuts, fungi, herbs, shrubs or trees other than specified for temporary blind construction.
- Use of off-road vehicles, horses, mules, llamas and bicycles other than on state and county maintained road rights-of-ways.
- Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint tree blazes, etc.
- Baiting or hunting over bait including salt.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery, beads, etc. Use of metal detectors or digging for artifacts.
- Spot lighting prohibited by State regulations.
- Use of fireworks, trail cameras and drones.
- Unless specifically listed as a permitted use, all uses of natural resources on the refuge are prohibited.

Know the Signs



Refuge Boundary
These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. It is important to understand they DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.



Public Hunting Area
This area is open to hunting at specific times.



Public Fishing Area
This area is open to fishing at specific times.



No Hunting Zone
Hunting Prohibited



Sanctuary Area
This area is off limits to the public unless otherwise specified.



Safety Notice!
All visitors in the field must wear fluorescent orange hat or vest in areas open to hunting during hunting season.

Equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from the programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin or disability. If questions, contact:

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office for Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240

TTY users may reach the Patoka River Refuge through the Indiana State Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333 (V/TTY).

U.S Fish & Wildlife Service

1-800-344-WILD

<https://www.fws.gov>



September 2019

For More Information

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge & Management Area

510 ½ W. Morton St., PO Box 217

Oakland City, IN 47660

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patoka_river

