

## **Airboat Use Permit**

### Special Use Permit Special Conditions

#### Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Each airboat permittee must comply with Special Conditions attached to their Special Use Permit to ensure compatibility.

1. All boats operating in the Refuge Interior, outside of the perimeter canal, are required to display a 10-inches by 12-inches (25 cm x 30 cm) orange flag 10-feet (3 meters) above the vessel's waterline so that others may see you.
2. There is a 35 miles per hour (mph) speed limit in all waters of the refuge. A 500-foot (150-meter) "idle speed zone" is at each of the refuge's three boat ramps.
3. Permittees must be at least 18 years of age or older.
4. Permits are non-transferable and apply to the designated boat and can be operated by any operators who are authorized to operate the boat.
5. Permittees will adhere with all ecological considerations such as traveling in open water and avoiding sawgrass, tree islands, and areas with low water depths, and avoiding the disturbance of wildlife.
6. All airboats, while operating within the boundaries of the refuge, must utilize a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit or GPS Tracker, and maintain an active track of all of the movements of the airboat. Upon the request of a Federal or state law enforcement officer, the captain of the airboat will produce the GPS device for an inspection of the track and route of the airboat. By signing this permit, the permit holder agrees to the above conditions for any and all captains operating the airboat, and constitutes irrevocable consent to the search of the GPS Device by Federal and state law enforcement officers. By signing this permit the permit holder is agreeing to forfeit their permit in the event the Captain(s) fail to comply with the conditions of this permit, in addition to any criminal or civil liabilities.
7. All airboats issued permits must meet the airboat inspection guidelines.
8. Access may be restricted or suspended at refuge management's discretion for any reason deemed necessary, such as nesting wildlife, water levels, research, wildfire suppression, prescribe fire management, or invasive species treatments.
9. All refuge regulations will be adhered to by the permittee(s) and members of their party including but not limited to prohibition of harassing wildlife, leaving trash and debris, and damaging vegetation by creating new trails/routes of travel.
10. A copy of the permit will be carried by the permittee(s) during each visit and presented upon request to any refuge official.
11. Entry will be authorized only during normal operating hours and into designated areas unless specific authorization has been granted by the Refuge Manager.
12. Non-motorized vessels can be used in conjunction with a motorized vessel.
13. Each decal must be affixed to the left rudder, on the outside facing surface.
14. A map of the operating area will be supplied with the permit.
15. Permits are valid for the date(s) listed on the final permit.
16. Timing for this activity is identified in box 11 of the Special Use Permit application and on the final permit.
17. By signing the Special Use Permit Application you are agreeing that you are the individual who took the Airboat Operator Course, and that you understand your responsibilities while operating an airboat in the Refuge.
18. The permittee is responsible for the actions of all operators authorized to use the boat and occupants.

COVID-19 Guidelines: Please make sure that your activities are consistent with all current CDC, state, and local guidelines for mask wearing, social distancing, and any other relevant guidance. This includes:

- Maintain 6-foot social distancing during all activities and avoid groups of people.
- Face masks are required whenever 6' social-distancing cannot be maintained and strongly recommended at all other times.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is also recommended. If soap and water are not available, use >60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Recommended avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Recommended avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Recommended when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or do so into the bend of your elbow. Dispose of the tissue and wash your hands again.
- Recommended clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Most importantly, if you experience flu symptoms or any serious infection or virus, you and/or your customers should stay home and isolate to avoid exposing others.