



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Regulations

## *Washita and Optima National Wildlife Refuges*

### Welcome to *your* National Wildlife Refuge

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 portions of the Refuge. The regulations listed in the Fishing and Hunting Regulations 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 on areas of the Refuge will be in accordance with applicable State laws unless otherwise listed. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Washita NWR, please take the time to become familiar with the current regulations and authorized activities before entering the refuge. Additional information can be obtained by visiting the Refuge Headquarters located 5 miles west, 1 mile north, and 1/2 mile west of Butler, OK, by calling 580/664-2205, or by visiting <http://washita.fws.gov>.

### Hiking

Hiking trails are located at Riverside Recreation Area and at the Centennial Trail Recreation Area. The trails are open during daylight hours only. Open areas of the Refuge may be accessed on foot. Please see map for locations of open areas and trails. Other hiking trails may be located near the Refuge at Foss State Park.

### Motorized Vehicles

All vehicles must remain on existing roads or in designated parking areas. Blocking gates or roadways is prohibited. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited.

### Boating

*March 15 – October 14*

Boat ramps are located at Pitts Creek Recreation Area, Turkey Flats Recreation Area, and Riverside Recreation Area. Although difficult, light-weight john boats and canoes may be launched from the bank at the river bridge at the McClure Recreation Area.

Public boat ramps are also located at Foss State Park. Use caution when navigating Refuge waters. Numerous submerged tree stumps exist in shallow waters and river currents can be hazardous. Swimming is not allowed in Refuge waters. Jet-ski/personal watercraft, water skiing, kneeboarding, wakeboarding, tubing, and all other water sports are prohibited on Refuge waters. Boats may not be beached on shores located within the Closed Areas of the Refuge. Please see map for Closed Areas.

### Animals/Pets

Hunting dogs are permitted for hunting migratory and upland game birds only during designated open areas and seasons. Neither hunters nor dogs may enter closed areas of the Refuge. Training of dogs is not authorized. All other pets must be on a leash or in your vehicle.

Horseback riding is not allowed.

Equestrian trails are designated on Foss State Park.

### Weapons

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific Refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

### Closed Areas

Designated areas will be closed to hunting, fishing and hiking (see map for specific open locations and closures). Some areas are closed to all forms of public entry. Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons.

### Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are not allowed on Washita NWR. The nearest campgrounds to the Refuge are located at Foss State Park, headquarters located south of Foss Dam on State Highway 44.

### 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.

### Other Prohibited Activities

- Littering, dumping garbage, waste or household items.
- Release of wild or domestic animals.
- Spotlighting – artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting live trees or brush, mushroom picking, and deer shed or feather collecting) other than specified in this brochure.
- Marking trails with paint or flagging tape, ribbons, or trail tacks.

### Hunting

See Refuge specific *Hunting Regulations* sheet.

### Fishing

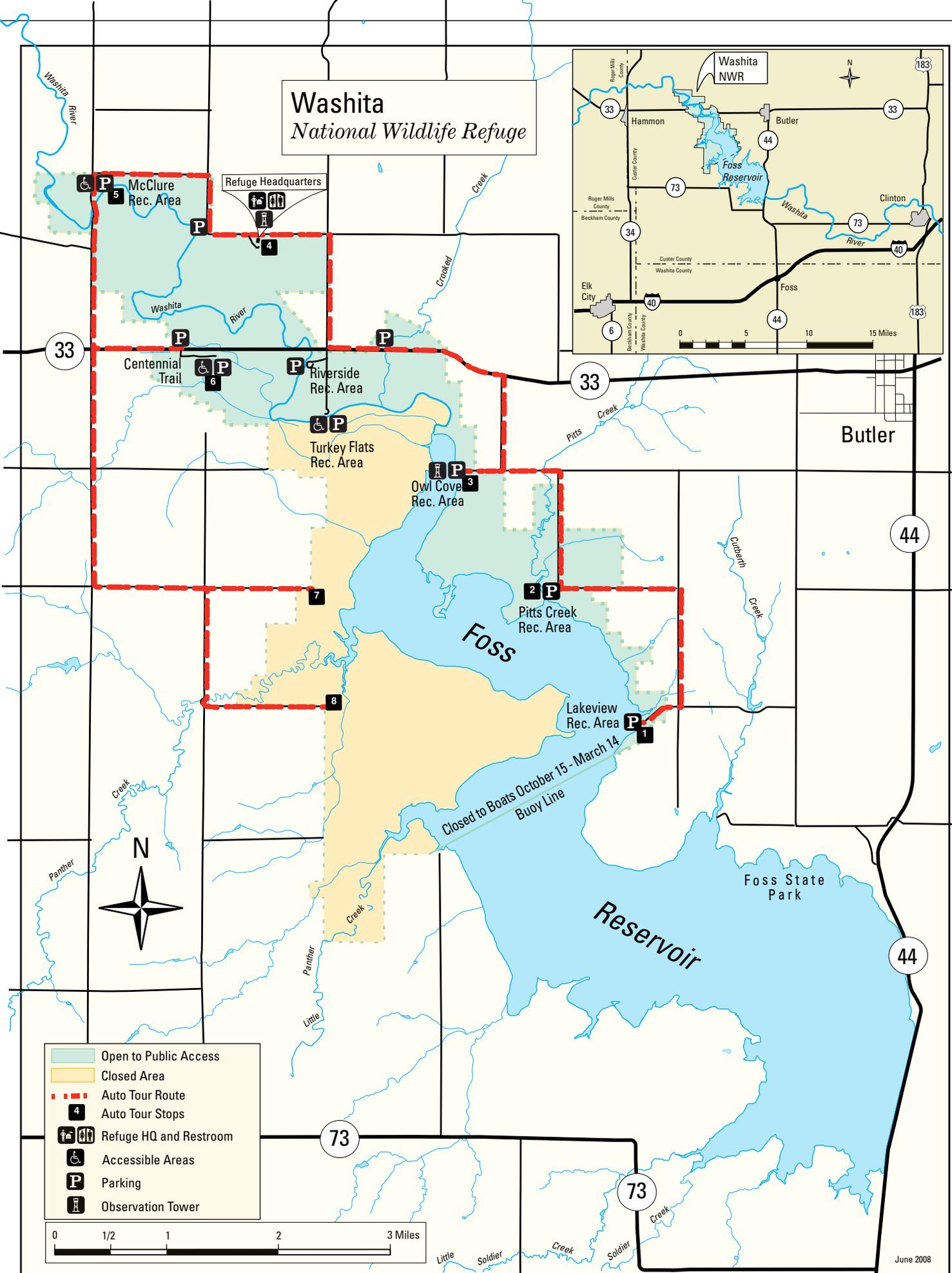
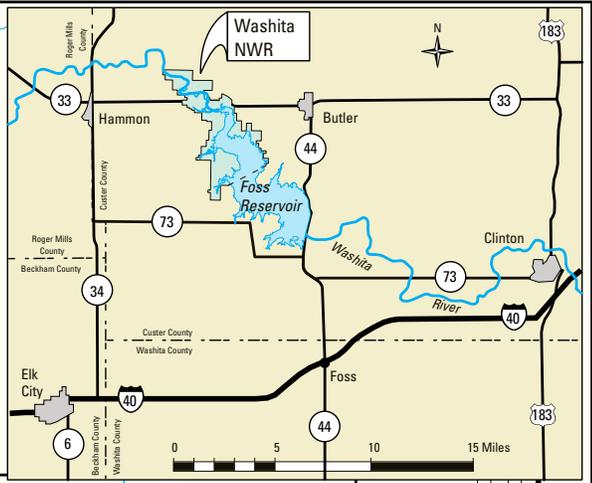
See Refuge specific *Fishing Regulations* sheet.

### For Further Information

Washita National Wildlife Refuge  
20834 East 940 Road  
Butler, OK 73625  
580/664-2205  
[www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

**October 2010**

# Washita National Wildlife Refuge



- Open to Public Access
- Closed Area
- Auto Tour Route
- 4 Auto Tour Stops
- 🏠 Refuge HQ and Restroom
- ♿ Accessible Areas
- P Parking
- 🏠 Observation Tower

