**Waterfowl and Sandhill Crane Hunting 2019–2020**

**Washita National Wildlife Refuge**

**About the Refuge**

Washita National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1961 to serve as a wintering and migratory stopover site for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The refuge is located in Custer County along U.S. Highway 33 near the towns of Butler and Hammon. The refuge includes 8,075 acres of grasslands, woodlands, farm fields, and open water that provides habitat for many resident and migratory species of wildlife.

**General Regulations**

Public use is important to the mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; however the National Wildlife Refuge System was established to protect ecosystems and the plants and animals contained within refuge boundaries. By statute, all public use activities are closed unless expressly opened. The regulations listed below supplement Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation hunting regulations and the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. All plants and animals are protected from hunting unless a specific refuge hunting season allows for the take of animals under this permit.

All hunters regardless of age are required to have a refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession electronically or hard copy, serves as your 2019–2020 waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting permit.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by both state and federal wildlife officers.

**Waterfowl and Sandhill Crane Regulations**

Species to be taken include all species of ducks and geese as permitted under state regulations and sandhill cranes. Waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting is permitted on first-come first-served basis on specific farm fields as shown on map located on the reverse side of this permit. Not all farm fields are open for hunting. It is your responsibility to know the hunting seasons, regulations, boundaries, and open areas. Refuge boundaries are marked with white signs with blue lettering.

Hunters should take care in respecting private property. Please see the map on the reverse side of this permit for boundaries and open and closed areas. All vehicles must remain on existing county roads or in designated parking areas.

**2019–2020 Seasons**

A table containing all open seasons, dates, and special regulations is on the reverse side of this permit. Waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting is permitted on Wednesdays and weekends during state seasons with closures during Controlled Deer Hunts held on October 4-5, November 8-9, and November 12-13, 2019. More information on state season dates and regulations are available at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com).

**Firearms and Ammunition**

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Firearm use for hunting must be unloaded and either dismantled or encased when transported in vehicles and boats while on the refuge. Loaded is defined as shells or bullets in a gun, a cap on a muzzleloader, or a bow that is at full or partial draw. All *waterfowl and sandhill crane* hunters must use federally approved non-toxic shot.

**Shooting Hours**

Shooting hours begin ½ hour before official sunrise. Hunters may arrive in the field up to 2 hours prior to legal shooting hours begin and must leave the field by 12:00 pm.

**Hunting Blind**

Hunters may bring layout blinds or set up temporary blinds. All blinds must be removed at the end of each hunt day. Hunters may use decoys. Blinds and decoys may be transported to the field via non-motorized means such as game carts. ATVs are not allowed.

An accessible blind is available for hunters with mobility impairments. Please contact the Refuge at 580/664-2205 or via email at washita@fws.gov to request use of the accessible blind.

**Whooping Cranes**

Whooping cranes are an endangered species that have been documented at Washita NWR. Whooping cranes are large white birds that stand more than 4 feet tall and have a 7½ foot wingspan. Black wingtips are visible in flight. Adults have red crowns and are usually found in small groups of 6 or fewer and may be seen flying or feeding with sandhill cranes. A graphic showing identifying characteristics of whooping cranes vs sandhill cranes is available on the reverse side of this permit.

**Prohibited Activities:**

- Littering, dumping household furniture, trash, brush, or appliances;
- Possession of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances;
- Camping and fires;
- Use of scouting cameras;
- Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant; hunting scents are allowed;
- Target practice;
- Taking of wildlife, antlers, mushrooms, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) unless authorized;
- Searching for or removing any object of archaeological, historical significance including arrowheads, pottery, or other artifacts;
- Blocking gates, or roadways with vehicles;
- Marking trails with paint or leaving flagging tape, ribbons, or trail tacks;
- The use or possession of crossbows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, and other weapons unless authorized;
- Using spotlights or artificial light to locate wildlife;
- Hunting from a permanent tree stand or from a tree in which a metal object (nails, spikes, screws) has been driven;
- All-terrain vehicles;
- Horses or mules;

**For Additional Information**

Washita NWR
20834 E 940 Rd
Butler, OK 73625
580/664-2205
580/664-2206 Fax
www.fws.gov/refuge/washita/

**Washita National Wildlife Refuge**

2019–2020 Waterfowl and Sandhill Crane Hunt Permit

When signed and carried, this serves as your general hunt permit and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature of hunter

Date
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Hunt</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Special Regulations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dark Geese (Canada Geese)</td>
<td>November 2 – December 1, 2019 and December 14, 2019 – February 16, 2020</td>
<td>Non-toxic shot required. Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during State Seasons. Hunters may arrive up to 2 hours before legal shooting time and must leave the field by 12:00 pm daily. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.</td>
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<td>White-fronted Geese</td>
<td>November 2 – December 1, 2019 and December 14, 2019 – February 9, 2020</td>
<td>Non-toxic shot required. Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during State Seasons. Hunters may arrive up to 2 hours before legal shooting time and must leave the field by 12:00 pm daily. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.</td>
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<td>Light Geese (Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese)</td>
<td>November 2 – December 1, 2019 and December 14, 2019 – January 26, 2020</td>
<td>Non-toxic shot required. Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during State Seasons. Hunters may arrive up to 2 hours before legal shooting time and must leave the field by 12:00 pm daily. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>November 2 – December 1, 2019 and December 14, 2019 – January 26, 2020</td>
<td>Non-toxic shot required. Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during State Seasons. Hunters may arrive up to 2 hours before legal shooting time and must leave the field by 12:00 pm daily. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.</td>
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<td>Sandhill Crane</td>
<td>October 26, 2019 – February 9, 2020</td>
<td>Non-toxic shot required. Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during State Seasons. Hunters may arrive up to 2 hours before legal shooting time and must leave the field by 12:00 pm daily. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt.</td>
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