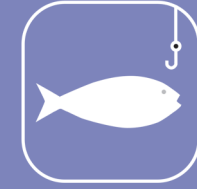


Big Branch Marsh

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2020-2021



Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Area	Other Regulations
Archery Deer	State Season and regulations apply. State shooting hours.	State bag limit	Refuge areas open to hunting, including St Tammany State Wildlife Refuge as identified on attached map	Either sex deer may be taken even if the State has a buck only gun season. Dogs and driving deer are prohibited. Hogs may only be taken as incidental take with State-approved archery equipment. All State-approved archery equipment is allowed.
Squirrel and Rabbit	State Season and regulations apply, including spring squirrel season. State shooting hours.	State bag limit	Refuge areas open to hunting, including St Tammany State Wildlife Refuge as identified on attached map	Shotguns: non-toxic shot only, shot size must be #4 or smaller. Rifles: Only rimfire rifles size .22 or .17 are permitted. Air rifles allowed. Archery equipment permitted. Dogs may be used only after the close of the State archery deer season and until the end of February.
Waterfowl and Coots (ducks, geese, coots)	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of State season. 1/2 hour before legal sunrise until 2 pm.	State bag limit	Refuge areas open to hunting as identified on attached map	Including the State special teal season and State youth waterfowl season. Only non-toxic shot is permitted. Temporary blinds only, all blinds and decoys must be removed by 3 pm. Dogs may be used to retrieve. Closed to hunting during the special "light goose" conservation season.
Raccoon	Same as State Season and shooting hours for rabbits (Daylight hours only)	State bag limit	Refuge areas open to hunting as identified on attached map	Shotguns: non-toxic shot only, shot size must be #4 or smaller. Rifles: Only rimfire rifles size .22 or .17 are permitted. Air rifles allowed. Archery equipment permitted. Dogs may be used only after the close of the State archery deer season and until the end of February.
Woodcock and Quail	State Season 1/2 hour before legal sunrise until 2 pm	State bag limit	Refuge areas open to hunting as identified on attached map	Only non-toxic shot size #4 or smaller is permitted. We only allow dogs to locate, point, and retrieve when hunting.
Gallinules, Rails and Snipe	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of State Season. 1/2 hour before legal sunrise until 2 pm	State bag limit	Refuge areas open to hunting as identified on attached map	Only non-toxic shot size #4 or smaller is permitted.

Southeast Louisiana Refuges

Big Branch Marsh

61389 Highway 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

985-882-2000

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov/southeastlouisiana

June 2020



Big Branch Marsh Refuge Hunting Permit 2020-2021

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all Refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Expires August 31, 2021.

Signature (permits are not transferable)



Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge was established on September 29, 1994 “to promote the conservation of migratory waterfowl and to offset or prevent the serious loss of wetlands by the acquisition of wetlands and other essential habitat, and for other purposes.” The Refuge hosts the last large undeveloped natural area on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, with 19,207 acres of offshore grass beds, marshes, hardwood hammocks and pine ridges.

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
61389 Highway 434, Lacombe, LA 70445
985-882-2000
bigbranchmarsh@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bigbranchmarsh>
For State relay service TTY/ Voice: 711

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. <http://www.fws.gov/> 1-800-344-WILD

General Information

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands 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).

Vehicles

Motorized vehicles are only permitted on public roads and designated parking areas.

Boats

The Refuge allows canoes, pirogues, kayaks, and water-cooled inboard/outboard motors are permitted. Only electric motors are allowed at the non-motorized boat launch located at the end of Sapsucker Road.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.” All hunters must possess a Refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all 2020 - 2021 Refuge hunts.

Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Louisiana regulations, subject to the conditions stated below.

All plants and wildlife are protected unless a specific Refuge hunting season allows take of wildlife under this permit. Individuals utilizing this Refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by wildlife officers.

An adult age 21 or older must supervise youth hunters during all hunts. State regulations define youth hunter age and hunter-education requirements. One adult may supervise two youths during small game hunts and migratory bird hunts, but is only allowed to supervise one youth during big game hunts. Youths must remain within normal voice contact of the adult who is supervising them. Adult guardians are responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

All hunters, including archers (while on the ground), except waterfowl hunters, are required to wear a minimum of a hunters orange or blaze pink cap or hat during dog season for squirrel and rabbit.

Use of trotlines, limb lines, slat traps, gar sets, or alligator lines is prohibited. You may take bait with cast nets eight foot diameter or less.

Recreational fishing, crawfishing and crabbing are permitted from 1/2 hour before legal sunrise to 1/2 hour after legal sunset, except we allow night fishing, crabbing, and crawfishing from the bank and pier on Lake Road.

You must use rods and reel or pole and lines while fishing.

You must attend to any fishing, crabbing, and/or crawfishing equipment at all times.

Access

WHEN: The Refuge is closed from 1/2 hour after legal sunset to 1/2 hour before legal sunrise, except as noted otherwise. Hunters may not enter the Refuge before 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 2 pm when open and all decoys and blinds must be removed by 3 pm each day.

WHERE: Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below when on the refuge. Refuge areas closed to public hunting are marked with “No Hunting Zone” signs and/or shown on the map attached to this brochure.

Horses

Horses are not allowed anywhere within the Refuge.

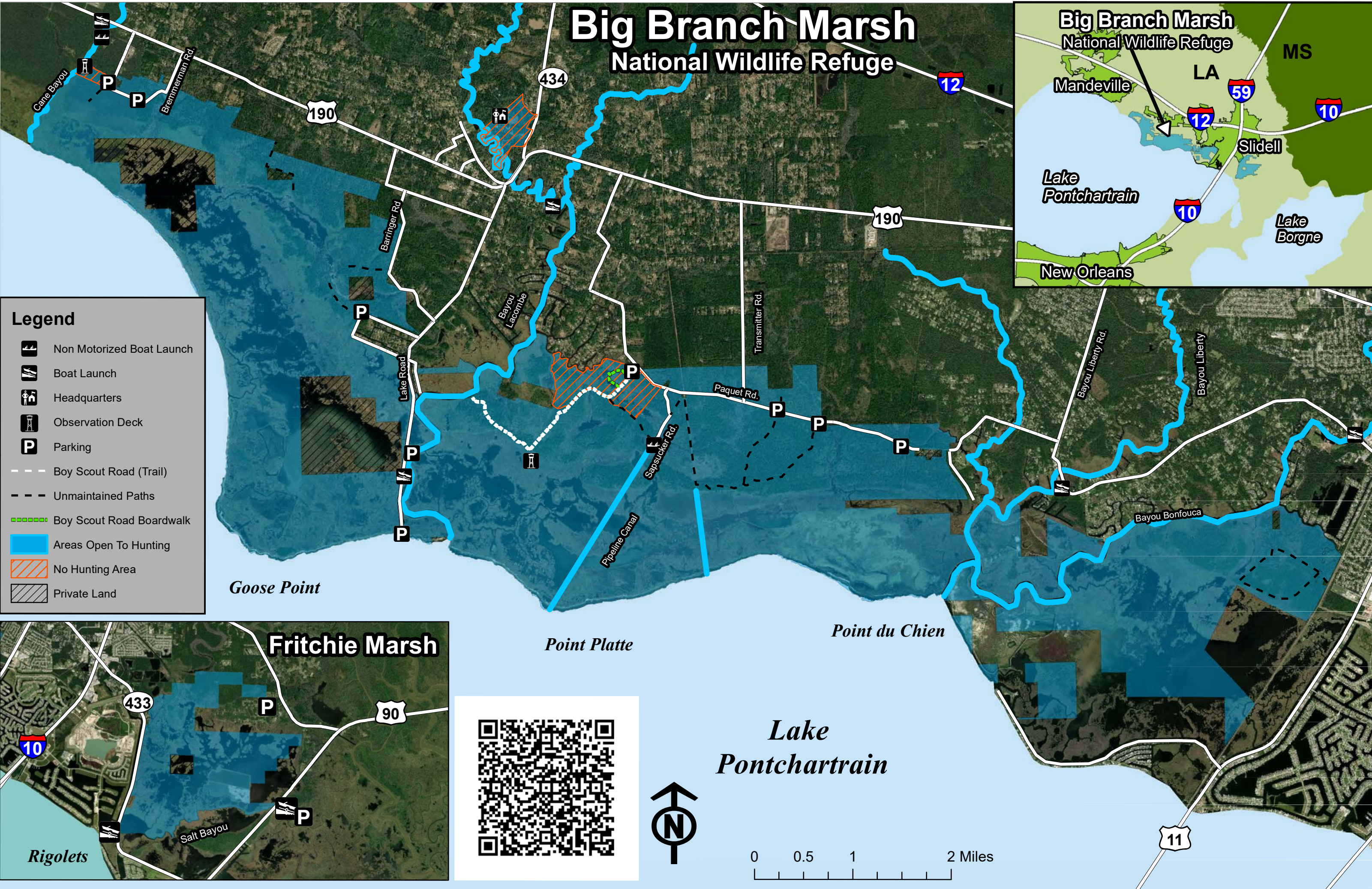
Tree Stands

Hunting from a permanent tree stand, or from a tree in which a metal object (such as nails, spikes, screws) has been driven is prohibited. Hunters may erect temporary deer stands within 48 hours prior to the start of deer archery season. Hunters must remove all deer stands within 48 hours after the archery season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on the Refuge. Deer stands must have owner’s state license/ sportman’s identification number clearly printed on the stand. All untagged stands are subject to seizure.












The following activities are prohibited on Big Branch Marsh NWR:

- Possession of buckshot, slugs or lead shot shotgun ammunition, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire, or rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber while hunting (unless otherwise noted.)
 - The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
 - All commercial hunting, fishing, and shell fishing activities including guiding, outfitting, lodging and club membership or participating in a paid guided hunt or fish trip.
 - Hunting in Refuge designated closed areas.
 - Possession of shotgun toxic shot during all Refuge hunts.
 - Target shooting on the Refuge.
 - Air-thrust boats, aircraft, mud boats and air cooled propulsion engines.
 - The possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally-occurring food attractant.
 - Cutting, removing or damaging trees and other live plant matter.
- The use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective tacks.
 - All-terrain vehicles (ATVs & UTVs).
 - Remote cameras, including trail cameras (electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices)
 - The use of deer decoys.
 - Hunting or discharge of firearm within 150 feet of any residence or structure adjacent to the refuge, from the centerline of any road, railroad, designated public use maintained trails, designated parking area, or other designated public use facilities.
 - Camping.
 - Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
 - Organized deer drives.
 - Camping and Fires
 - Searching for or removal of any historic and archaeological features.

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

-  Non Motorized Boat Launch
-  Boat Launch
-  Headquarters
-  Observation Deck
-  Parking
-  Boy Scout Road (Trail)
-  Unmaintained Paths
-  Boy Scout Road Boardwalk
-  Areas Open To Hunting
-  No Hunting Area
-  Private Land

