



General Introduction

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1986, is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and preserve the remaining tracts of bottomland hardwoods in the Cache River Basin. The refuge is comprised of numerous tracts of land along Cache River and Bayou DeView in the counties of Jackson, Woodruff, Prairie, and Monroe.

Public use, hunting and fishing are allowed under carefully controlled conditions in order to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with the ecosystem. This permits the wise use of a valuable natural resource and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public. Both hunting and fishing are in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge is in the acquisition phase and the attached map shows the actual current ownership. Isolated land tracts which have been purchased are scattered throughout the acquisition zone and have been posted with refuge boundary signs and marked with yellow boundary paint.

Access to many of these refuge lands is currently through private lands and all refuge visitors should obtain permission from adjacent landowners prior to crossing private land to reach refuge lands.

Most refuge roads are open to the general public all year. Roads may be closed at any time hazardous or

poor road conditions exist. A locked gate or other barrier means the road is closed to all vehicle travel but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise. All vehicles must stay on established roads and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a motor vehicle. ATVs may be used on established roads in Hunt Unit I only. Horses are prohibited (see raccoon hunt for exception). Personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc) prohibited also.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the refuge is permitted throughout the year. Developed public use facilities are very limited, but the public may visit the refuge to observe and photograph wildlife, hunt or fish.

Prohibited activities include camping, building fires, cutting or defacing trees, littering and searching for or removal of artifacts. Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the map, are closed to all public use from November 15 through February 28. Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows are permitted only during refuge hunts.

Sport fishing and frogging are permitted year-round in accordance with state regulations. Boats with the owner's name and address permanently displayed or valid registration may be left on the refuge from March 1 through October 31. Waterfowl sanctuaries are closed from November 15 to February 28. Trotlines must be secured with cotton line and reset when exposed due to receding water and removed when unattended. A special use permit is required to fish commercial tackle.

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity

(fishing, hunting, etc...) to first obtain a refuge special use permit. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lakes, streams or waters, or on adjacent waters where riparian rights may be vested with the refuge are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

General Hunt Regulations

Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Permits are nontransferable and must be carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting equipment.

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a special permit allowing the use of ATVs on existing refuge roads. Issuance of the permit is restricted to persons who are permanently confined to a wheelchair; require the use of mechanical aids (crutches and walkers) to walk or have complete single leg amputations. For more information, please call the refuge at (870)347 2614.

Firearms must be unloaded when carried in/on land vehicles or boats under power. Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand is prohibited. Muzzleloaders are considered loaded if the percussion cap is on the nipple or if there is powder in the flashpan of a flintlock. Target practice is prohibited. Hunters accessing non refuge land by crossing the refuge must transport firearms unloaded and encased.

Hunting from improved roads with maintained road ditches or from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. The placing of or hunting over bait or salt is prohibited.

Waterfowl sanctuaries

Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the refuge map, are closed to all entrance and hunting from November 15 through February 28.

Trapping

Trapping is prohibited. Beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo and coyote may be taken during any refuge hunt by the use of the firearm appropriate for that hunt.

Spotlighting

Spotlighting is prohibited. Artificial lights may not be used to locate wildlife.

Deer limits and Refuge legal buck definition

For all refuge hunts, the limit is one either-sex deer per hunt except for the archery season which has a limit of four, only two of which may be bucks. A refuge legal buck is defined as any buck with 2" or more of hardened antler above the hairline.

Hunter orange

Hunter orange must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations during deer hunts.

Alcoholic beverages

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Non toxic shot

Non toxic (waterfowl) shot only may be possessed and used for all small game hunting by hunters using shotguns.

Hunters under the age of 16

Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. Anyone born after December 31, 1968 must be in possession of a hunter education card.

To apply for a quota hunt permit

Print or type your name, address, and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card or standard postcard.

Indicate the refuge (i.e. Cache River or Bald Knob) hunt for which you are applying opposite your name. Separate applications are required for each refuge.

To apply as a group (maximum of five hunters per group), list required information for all applicants on the same card.

Return completed application(s) to the refuge office between July 1 and August 15.

Duplicated, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Refuge Hunting Unit Boundaries

The refuge is divided into three hunting units. These are: Unit I - refuge lands between Highway 79 and Interstate 40; Unit II - All refuge lands east of Highway 33 between Interstate 40 and Highway 18 at Grubbs, AR; Unit III - all refuge lands west of Highway 33 from Interstate 40 to Highway 64.

Specific Hunt Regulations

A refuge permit(s) (see obtaining permit section) is required for all hunts. Regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

*** All hunts except Waterfowl are closed Nov. 11-15, 2000 for Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders and Waterfowl hunters are allowed on the refuge during this hunt.**

Waterfowl (Duck Coot and Geese)

State seasons. Morning (until 12:00 noon) hunting only. All day hunting permitted for geese (all applicable species) after January, 2001 closing of duck season through end of goose season(s).

State bag limit(s) apply. Non-toxic shot only may be possessed or used. Decoys, blinds, boats and all other equipment must be removed daily by 2:00 pm. Waterfowl hunters may enter the refuge parking areas at 4:45 am and access the refuge at 5:00 am. Building or hunting from permanent blinds prohibited. Cutting of holes or other manipulation of vegetation (i.e. cutting bushes, mowing, weed-eating, etc.) or hunting from manipulated areas prohibited. Retrievers allowed. A special use permit is required to commercially guide for waterfowl.

Doves, Snipes and Woodcock

May be taken when seasons correspond with duck and/or goose seasons.*

Small Game

Squirrel: All hunting units: September 9, 2000 - February 28, 2001.* Dogs permitted beginning January 15, 2001. Spring season closed.

Rabbit: All hunting units: September 9, 2000 - February 28, 2001.* Dogs permitted beginning January 15, 2001.

Quail: All hunting units: State season.* Dogs permitted.

Furbearer

Raccoon and Opossum: All hunting units: November 18, 2000 - February 11, 2001.* Dogs permitted. Raccoon hunters may use horses on refuge lands in Unit I. Trapping and pleasure running of dogs throughout the year prohibited.

Prohibited activities

Sport fishing and frogging regulations

Commercial activities

For all deer harvested on the refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license and later at an official state deer check station is 095. Shotguns with rifled slugs only or muzzleloaders may be possessed and used during the modern gun deer hunt on the Dixie Farm Unit Waterfowl sanctuary and adjacent waterfowl hunt area and the Plunkett Farm Unit Waterfowl Sanctuary.

Only portable stands may be used and the owner's name and address must be permanently affixed to the stand. All stands must be removed from waterfowl sanctuaries by November 15 and from the rest of the refuge by the last day of archery season. The use of dogs is prohibited. The use or possession of buckshot is prohibited on all refuge lands.

Deer (Archery/Crossbow): Units I, II and III: October 1, 2000 - February 28, 2001.* Either sex. State deer limit applies. Three point rule does not apply.

Deer (Muzzle Loading): Units I, II and III: October 21-25, 2000. Either sex. One deer limit refuge wide. Three point rule does not apply.

Deer (Gun): Units I, II and III: November 11-15, 2000. Either sex. One deer limit refuge wide. Three point rule does not apply. Quota permit required.

State bag limits, except for deer, are applicable for all hunts.

Refuge lands are located in Flood Prone Regions B and C. The descriptions of Flood Prone Regions B and C are in the AG&FC hunting pamphlet.

Refuge lands in Flood Prone Region B will close to all deer hunting when the Cache River gauge at Patterson reaches 10 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and reopen when the same gauge reading in this newspaper falls to or below 8.5 feet.

Refuge lands located in Flood Prone Region C will close to all deer hunting when the White River gauge at Clarendon reaches 28 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and reopen when the same gauge reading in this newspaper falls to or below 27 feet.

Turkey (Fall Gun): All Units closed.

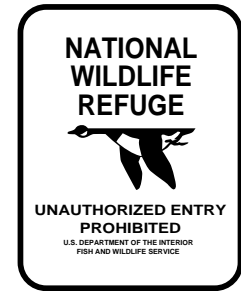
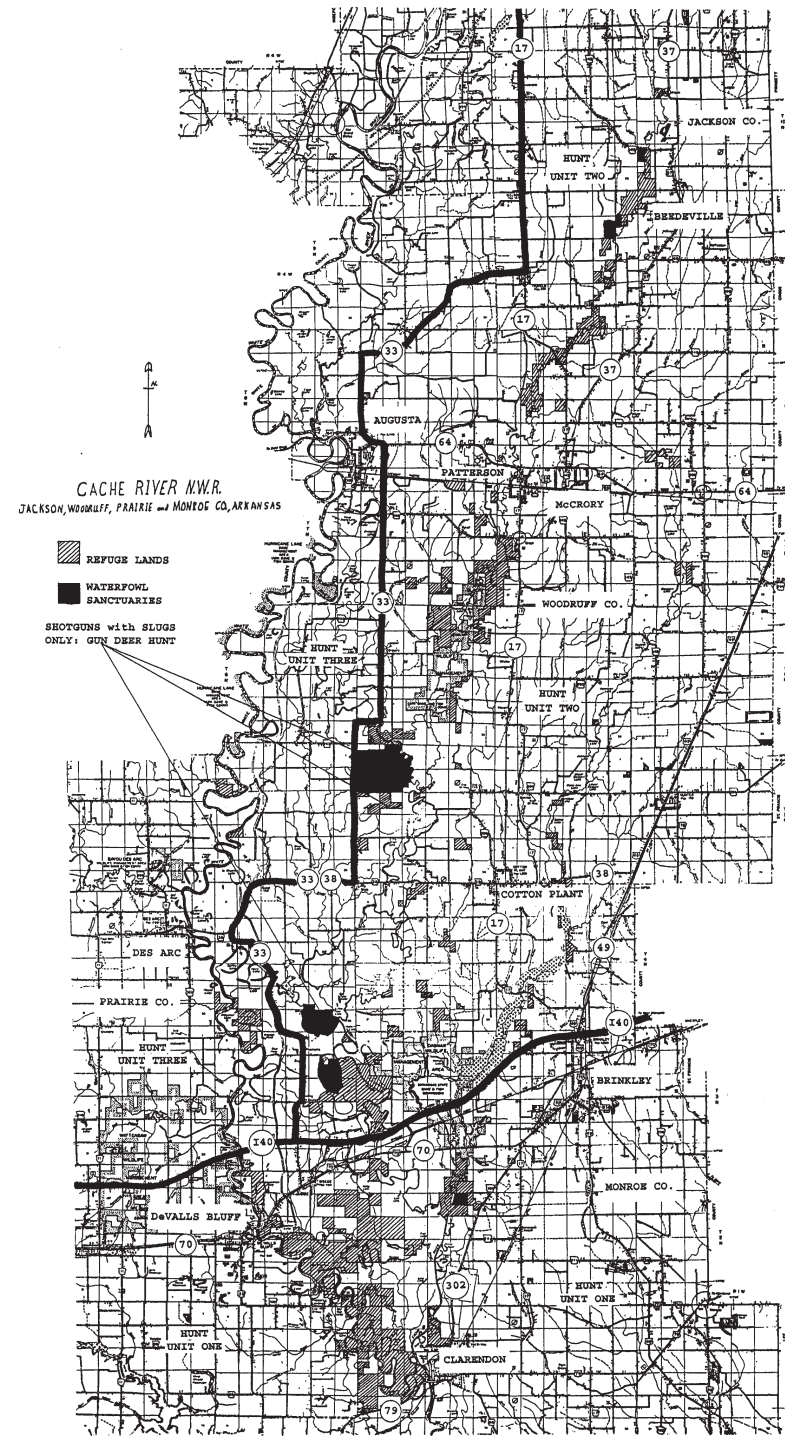
Turkey (Fall Archery/Crossbow): Unit I: Same as state season. Unit II and III: Closed.

Turkey (Spring 2000 Gun): Unit I and III: Same as state season. Unit II: Refer to AG&FC Turkey Hunting Brochure.



Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



Refuge boundary sign. Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public use. Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have the specific closure dates printed on the face of the sign.



Cache River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Augusta, Arkansas 72006
870/347 2614
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2000



Cache River

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2000-2001



2000-2001 General Hunting Permit – Cache River NWR

This permit must be completed to be valid. Permit expires 6/30/2001. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. NOTE: Quota Permit also required for quota gun deer hunt.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and realize that hunting on the refuge is a privilege and willingly agree to allow USFWS officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)