

Catahoula

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2004-2005

The Refuge

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, located in east central Louisiana, 12 miles east of Jena, was established on October 28, 1958 and now totals 25,162 acres.

The 6,671 acre Headquarters Unit borders nine miles of the northeast shore of Catahoula Lake, a 26,000 acre natural wetland renowned for its large concentrations of migratory waterfowl.

The 18,491 acre Bushley Bayou Unit, located 8 miles west of Jonesville, was established May 16, 2001. The acquisition was made possible through a partnership agreement between The Conservation Fund, American Electric Power, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide recreational opportunities through the wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and sport fishing are permitted in accordance with the Federal regulations governing public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting and sport fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and subject to the following conditions: The refuge is open to public access and fishing from one hour before official sunrise until 1/2 hour after official sunset. Hours for the Headquarters Unit are posted at the entrance. The French Fork road is open on a 24 hour basis for access to Catahoula Lake only. Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than two hours before official sunrise and must exit two hours after official sunset unless otherwise specified.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers.

Permits

In addition to a valid state hunting and/or fishing license, a signed refuge hunting and fishing permit is required to be carried on the hunter or fisherman's person at all times.

Youth under 16 years of age must possess a Hunter Safety Certification Card or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course and be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.

Bowhunters must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunters Education Program.

Prior to entering and leaving the hunt area, we require hunters to sign in and sign out and to report hours hunted and game taken for each visit, at a refuge check box.

All refuge hunting and fishing programs are open to the disabled. The fishing pier located on Cowpen Bayou is wheelchair accessible. Hunters with disabilities must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit issued by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Refuge Manager.

Firearms/Bows

Firearms are permitted only during refuge gun hunting seasons. Firearms carried in any vehicle, ATV, or boat must be unloaded and encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader.

Bows are permitted only during the refuge archery hunting season. The use or possession of any drug on an arrow is prohibited. Handguns are not permitted during archery only season.

Ammunition

Only shotgun shells with approved non-toxic shot and .22 caliber rimfire may be used and possessed on the refuge while hunting small game. The possession of slugs or rifle and pistol ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is permitted only during refuge deer-gun hunts. Possession of buckshot is prohibited.



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

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This is an Annual Permit. To save tax dollars, please use this permit for the entire season.

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Permit 2004-2005

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and fishing and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature

Method of taking game

The use of climbing spikes; attaching stands to trees with nails, screws, or bolts; or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited. Construction of and/or hunting from a permanent blind is prohibited.

No hunting within 150 feet of any designated road or ATV trail.

All stands, blinds, decoys, boats, etc. must be removed from the refuge daily.

Hunter Orange is required during the refuge muzzleloader hunt and deer-gun hunt. Four hundred (400) inches of Hunter Orange on the outermost layer of clothing on chest and back and a cap of unbroken Hunter Orange must be displayed during these hunts. Hunter Orange is also recommended during the small game hunts.

Vehicles

Motor vehicles are restricted to graveled roads as indicated on the refuge map. An All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) is defined as an off-road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight - 750 lbs., length - 85", and width - 48". ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 x 12 with a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV trails are open from September 1 through the last day of rabbit season. Some ATV trails are open year round for fishing access and are indicated on the map.

Speed limit is 25 mph on all roads. Refuge roads may be temporarily closed to vehicles due to flooding, construction, or adverse weather conditions. Driving off a designated ATV trail is prohibited.

ATV's are allowed only for wildlife dependent activities.



Headquarters Unit Only

During the state waterfowl season hunters may transport unloaded and encased or dismantled shotguns, and legally taken game, across the refuge when traveling to and from the French Fork boat ramps.

ATV's may be used year-round on the Muddy Bayou Road for fishing and/or hunting access only.

Archery season is closed during refuge deer gun hunt south of French Fork of Little River. Hunting is closed during high water conditions (elevation of 42.0ft or above on Catahoula Lake satellite or Archie gauge).

Refuge south of French Fork of Little River open to either-sex deer-gun hunting November 26-27. All hunters must report hours hunted and deer taken for each visit, at the refuge check box, before leaving the refuge.

Unmarked hogs and raccoons may be taken during all hunts.

Fishing

Only pole/line or rod/reel fishing for finfish is permitted. No snagging.

Cowpen Bayou and the Highway 28 borrow pits are open to fishing year-round.

Muddy Bayou, Duck Lake, Willow Lake, Highway 84 borrow pits, and all other refuge waters are opened to fishing from March 1-October 31.

Only non-motorized boats or boats with motors of 10-horsepower or less are permitted on Headquarters Unit waters. Boats with motors over 10-horsepower are prohibited, whether or not the motors are used for power.

Launching of boats with trailers is permitted only at designated boat ramps. All boat trailers must be properly licensed. Small boats that are hand carried to the water may be launched at non-boat ramp sites.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.



Bushley Bayou Unit Only

All motorized vehicles are restricted to designated refuge roads only. See Bushley Bayou Unit map. Driving off any designated ATV trail or road is prohibited.

Hunting is closed during high water conditions (elevation of 44.0 ft. or above on Catahoula Lake Satellite or Archie gauge) **except waterfowl.**

Fishing

Recreational fishing and crawfishing is allowed year round.

Only 10 horsepower motors or less are allowed on interior lakes within the Bushley Bayou Unit. There is no horsepower limit on motors used on Bushley Creek, Big Bushley Creek, and Little Bushley Creek.

Recreational gear (slat traps, wire nets, hoop nets) allowed only by refuge special use permit and only in Bushley Creek, Big Bushley Creek, and Little Bushley Creek.

Trotlines must be tended at least once every 24 hours and reset when exposed by receding water levels and must be attached with a length of cotton line that extends into the water. Trotlines must be removed when not in use.

Yo-yo's must be attended, daylight hours only.

Summary of Recent Regulation Changes

Muzzleloader season on the Bushley Bayou Unit is divided into two segments: November 15-19 and December 18-19.



Prohibited Activities

Commercial fishing and crawfishing.

Guided hunts.

Open alcoholic containers in vehicles.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Baiting or hunting over bait, salt, or any attractant.

Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant (including nuts/berries) or wildlife, except as specified in regulations.

Taking of shells, mollusks, frogs, snakes or turtles.

Target shooting or plinking.

Hunting within 150 feet of any refuge gravel road or ATV Trail.

Hunting/Retrieval in "No Hunting Zones."

Casting a light to locate wildlife.

Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any oil well site, production facility, or equipment.

Marking areas or trails with tape, paint, paper, etc.

Man-drives for deer or feral hogs.

Use of horses or mules.

Camping/overnight parking.

Fires.

Cutting firewood or trimming vegetation.

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads and pottery shards.

Littering.

Unleashed pets.

Parking on refuge for access to adjoining non-refuge property.