

Deep Fork

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2023–2024



Welcome

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1993 to protect the important wetlands and bottomland hardwood forests along the Deep Fork River. The refuge is located in Okmulgee County along U.S. Highway 75 near the town of Okmulgee. The refuge provides habitat for many resident and migratory bird species.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Firearms

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 50 CFR Part 32).

Firearms used 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 hunters using shotguns for migratory birds and small game must use approved non-toxic shot.

Also .22 and .17 caliber rimfire firearms and pistols are allowed for rabbit, raccoon, and squirrel hunting.

Vehicles

All vehicles must remain on existing county roads or in designated parking areas. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited unless authorized.

Boats

Boats used for any recreational activity (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation) must be removed from the refuge daily. Boats must comply with all state regulations. The nearest public boat ramp is at the Deep Fork River Bridge on Highway 266 between Dewar and Grayson. Swift currents and underwater hazards can be dangerous. Boaters should use caution when navigating refuge waters.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is 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.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Oklahoma regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

WHEN: Hunters may only access the refuge two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal sunset.

WHERE: Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below, to access the Refuge for hunting. Gates opened to enter the hunting area from designated access points must be closed immediately after passing through. Access to the Refuge from private property is prohibited.

Portions of the refuge are open to hunting. It is your responsibility to know the hunting season, regulations, boundaries, and open areas. The refuge boundary is currently a checkerboard ownership between public and privately held tracts. Refuge boundaries are marked with white signs with blue lettering and a blue goose emblem.

Hunters should take care in respecting private property. Please see the map for boundaries and open and closed areas.

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Permit 2023—2024

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, 2024

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Tree Stands

Hunting from a permanent tree stand, blind, or from a tree in which metal objects (nails, spikes, screws) have been driven are prohibited. Deer stands are limited to one per hunter. Stands may not be set up until the first day of the hunt and must be removed on the last day of the hunt. Stands must be tagged with the users name and address.

Restricted Area

A portion of the refuge (see map) has been designated as a restricted area for universally accessible hunting and controlled youth hunts. For safety reasons, this area is closed for all other activities and access from October 1 – December 31.

Feral Swine

Feral swine may be taken during daylight hours of any established refuge hunt. Permits and legal weapons apply for the current season. Feral swine may not leave the refuge alive.

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 816
21844 S. 250 Rd
Okmulgee, OK 74447

918-652-0456

www.fws.gov/refuge/deep-fork

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

May 2023



| Activity | Season | Bag Limit | Special Regulations |
|--|---|---|--|
| Youth muzzleloader deer | Oct. 16 – 22, 2023 | Two either-sex deer, only one may be antlered | Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC |
| Muzzleloader Deer, either sex | Oct. 9 – 15, 2023 | Two either-sex deer, only one may be antlered | Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC |
| ADA accessible muzzleloader deer | Oct. 23 – Oct. 29, 2023 | Two either-sex deer, only one may be antlered | Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC |
| Archery deer, either sex | Oct. 30 – Nov. 26, 2023 | Two either-sex deer, only one may be antlered | Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC |
| Squirrel | Dec. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024 May 15 – Sept. 30, 2024 | State bag limits apply | Approved Federally approved non-toxic shot required for shotguns. .22 and .17 caliber rim fire firearms are permitted. Dogs are permitted but must be removed immediately following the hunt. |
| Rabbit | Dec. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024 | State bag limits apply | Approved Federally approved non-toxic shot required for shotguns. .22 and .17 caliber rim fire firearms are permitted. Dogs are permitted but must be removed immediately following the hunt. |
| Raccoon | Dec. 1, 2023– Jan. 31, 2024 | State bag limits apply | Approved Federally approved non-toxic shot required for shotguns. .22 and .17 caliber rim fire firearms are permitted. Dogs are permitted but must be removed immediately following the hunt. |
| Youth Turkey | April 13 – 14, 2024 April 16 – May 16, 2024 | One bearded turkey | Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC. |
| Turkey | April 22 – May 16, 2024 | One bearded turkey | Controlled hunt only. Lottery administered through ODWC. |
| September Teal | Sep. 9 – 24, 2023 | State bag limits apply | Federally approved non-toxic shot required. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 30 minutes before sunrise to 1:00 pm. Blinds and decoys removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt. |
| Special Sep. Resident Canada Goose | Sep. 9 – 18, 2023 | State bag limits apply | Federally approved non-toxic shot required. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 30 minutes before sunrise to 1:00 pm. Blinds and decoys removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt. |
| Waterfowl (duck, dark geese, mergansers, coot) | Dec. 2, 2023 – Jan. 28, 2024 | State bag limits apply | Federally approved non-toxic shot required. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 30 minutes before sunrise to 1:00 pm. Blinds and decoys removed daily. Dogs are permitted but must be immediately removed following the hunt. |
| Feral Swine | Incidental take on other hunts | No limit | May be taken during day light hours of any established refuge hunt. Hogs may not leave the refuge alive. |

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 or 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 except raccoons only during raccoon season
- All-terrain vehicles
- Horse or mules



