

Salt Plains

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations



Welcome

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1930 in north-central Oklahoma as a “refuge and breeding ground for birds.” The 32,197-acre refuge’s purpose was expanded “. . .for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.” Today the refuge manages habitat for resident and migratory birds, including critical habitat for the endangered whooping crane.

Safety

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the current regulations and authorized activities before entering the refuge.

Firearms

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

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

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. Refuge specific regulations are provided in the table for each hunt type.

Access

WHEN: Hunters may only access the refuge Public Hunting Area two hours before legal shooting time and must leave by noon daily.

WHERE: The refuge maintains a public hunting area off of state highway 11. Hunters using the Public Hunting Area must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map. Walk-through gates provide access to the area from each designated parking lot. All of the Public Hunting Area is walk-in only. No vehicles allowed beyond the designated parking areas. Access to the refuge from private property is prohibited. Public hunting areas are closed during controlled hunts. Contact the refuge for specific dates.

Controlled Hunts

White-tailed Deer and Spring Turkey hunts are only allowed via permit with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation’s Controlled Hunting Program. Hunters must apply directly with the state in spring.

Hunters selected for the controlled hunts will be notified and required to attend a refuge specific orientation on-site at the start of the hunt. This orientation will provide hunters with information about parking locations, refuge specific regulations, and hunt units.

Hunting Dogs

Hunting dogs are permitted for hunting migratory and upland birds only during designated open seasons. Neither hunters nor dogs may enter closed areas of the refuge. Field training of dogs is not permitted.

Decoys and Blinds

Decoys are permitted in the Public Hunting Area and must be removed at the end of each hunt day. Blinds may be built in the Public Hunting Area, but must also be removed at the end of each hunt day. Cutting of refuge vegetation for blinds is prohibited.

Harvest Reporting

To meet statewide harvest reporting; controlled hunt participants must check their harvest in via the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Department’s online process.

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest	Harvest Areas	Other Regulations
White-tailed Deer	Only allowed via permit through the State Controlled Hunting program.	Maximum of two whitetail deer with only one antlered.	Designated refuge management units.	Refuge-issued permit (via controlled hunting program) is required in addition to the proper State licenses and tags.
Spring Turkey	Only allowed via permit through the State Controlled Hunting program.	One tom.	Designated refuge management units.	Refuge-issued permit (via controlled hunting program) is required in addition to the proper State licenses and tags. Non-toxic shot only.
Waterfowl (Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, Coot, and Sandhill Crane)	Same as State seasons for Zone 1.	State Regulations Apply.	Public Hunting Area Only: Refuge lands north of State Hwy.11 to Jefferson Rd., from the west boundary to CR 700 (Sand Creek Rd).	Non-toxic shot only. No entry to parking areas or hunting area until 2 hours prior to legal shooting time. Area closes to all entry at noon daily. Hunters under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Hunters in the field may possess no more than 25 shotshells per person. No scouting is permitted.
Pheasant, Quail, and Dove	Same as State seasons for Zone 1.	State Regulations Apply.	Public Hunting Area Only: Refuge lands north of State Hwy.11 to Jefferson Rd., from the west boundary to CR 700 (Sand Creek Rd).	Non-toxic shot only. No entry to parking areas or hunting area until 2 hours prior to legal shooting time. Area closes to all entry at noon daily. Hunters under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Hunters in the field may possess no more than 25 shotshells per person. No scouting is permitted.

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge
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580-626-4794

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/salt_plains
[Facebook.com/SaltPlainsNWR](https://www.facebook.com/SaltPlainsNWR)
<http://www.fws.gov/>
1-800-344-WILD

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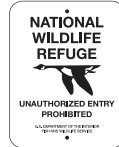


Signs and Boundaries

- Please respect the following signs:
No vehicles beyond this point, Do Not Block Gate.
- Parking area, Designated areas to park while hunting.

Signs to Recognize

- Refuge Boundary
This sign delineates the refuge boundary.
- Public Hunting Area
Marks land where visitors are able to hunt.
- Non-Toxic Shot Zone
Hunters must only carry/use non-lead shot.
- Area Beyond This Sign Closed
No entry beyond this sign permitted.
- Hunting Units
Marks location within lettered hunting unit.



Prohibited Activities

- Possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping and Fires.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law.
- Boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. on refuge creeks, streams and rivers.
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices.
- Use of drones.
- Target shooting.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.
- Leaving tree stands and ground blinds in the field after the end of the hunt day.
- Littering, to include spent shotshells.
- Access to the Refuge from private property.
- Baiting.
- Party hunting.



