

General Information

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1975, is located in the Felsenthal Basin of south central Arkansas. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on approximately 64,000 acres during specific times of the year. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with bona fide disabilities by contacting the refuge office.

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

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Felsenthal, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

General Refuge Regulations

The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions:

Weapons

Firearms, archery tackle, and crossbows are permitted only during designated hunts.

All weapons within 100 yards of a campground must be unloaded. All weapons transported in any land vehicle or boat under power must be unloaded and encased or dismantled (loaded is defined as shells in gun or cap on muzzle loader). Archery tackle and crossbows must be uncocked with arrow unnoocked from string. Only rimfire rifles no larger than .22 caliber and shotguns are permitted except during the muzzleloader and gun deer hunts when weapons legal for these hunts are also permitted.

Ammunition

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited; use or possession of lead shot is prohibited refuge wide.

Exception:

During the quota deer and turkey hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer and turkey may be used.

Small game, furbearers, feral hogs, beaver, nutria, and coyotes may be hunted with rimfire lead ammunition during open season.

Permits are required for all refuge hunts

When signed and in your possession, the general hunt permit on the front of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts. **Gun** and **muzzleloader** hunts and **gun turkey** hunts require a quota hunt permit.

Application procedures for quota hunt permits

Contact the refuge office for quota permit application procedures.

Application(s) for quota permits must be received by August 15 for deer and January 31 for turkey. Note: Turkey hunt applications will not be accepted until January, 2005.

Turkey Youth Hunt: Only youths under the age of 16 (age at opening of Statewide Turkey Season) can apply by providing the required information listed above. **Do not** list an adult on the application.

Duplicated, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants will be selected via random drawing. Only applicants selected will be notified and upon notification, they must submit a \$12.50 fee before receiving a hunt permit.

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Crossett, AR 71635
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Felsenthal@fws.gov
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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May 2004



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Felsenthal

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2004-2005

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2004-2005

Note: No permit required for sport fishing. General hunt permit required for **all** hunting. **Quota** permit required for muzzleloader, gun deer and gun turkey hunts.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

Signature of Hunter

This permit is valid only when signed above by the hunter and must be carried on hunter's person.

(cut out if desired)

New regulations highlighted

Motorized Vehicles



All motor vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Exceptions: Standard manufacturer's high flotation all-terrain vehicles or ATV's (3,4-wheelers and Hustlers) are permitted only on trails designated by ATV signs and marked with yellow or blue paint. Blue painted trails are open year round to reach areas open to fishing. Yellow painted trails are open from 9/29/2004-1/31/2005.

ATV's are allowed only for wildlife dependent activities. ATV's are not allowed on any improved road open to conventional vehicles. **ATV engine size is restricted to 700cc displacement. ATV tires are limited to those having a centerline lug depth not greater than 1 inch.** The maximum legal speed for any land vehicle is 35 mph. ATV's may be used on unimproved roads (see map).

Animals/Pets



Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, quail, squirrel, rabbit and raccoons/opossum during designated seasons only. Other dogs and pets must be confined or on a leash. Horses are prohibited during the muzzleloader and gun deer hunts; firearms transported on horses must be unloaded and encased. At other times, horses may be used on roads open to vehicles and trails that are open to ATV's for on refuge wildlife dependent activities such as hunting and fishing.

Camping



Camping (including overnight houseboat use) is permitted only in designated primitive camping areas and in conjunction with on-refuge wildlife-dependant activities (see map).

Camping area entrances are marked by signing and boundaries are marked with orange paint. Campers may stay no more than fourteen days during any 30 consecutive-day period in any campground. Camps must be occupied daily. All disturbances, including the use of generators, are prohibited after 10 pm. Camping on the refuge while hunting off the refuge is not permitted.

Commercial Activities

No person, including but not limited to a guide, guide service, outfitter, club or other organization shall provide assistance, services, or equipment to any other person for compensation on National Wildlife Refuge lands unless such person, guide, guide service, outfitter, club or other organization has obtained a Commercial Use Permit from the National Wildlife Refuge. For the purposes of this regulation, any fees paid to a person for lodging, meals, club membership or similar services will be considered compensation.

A refuge Commercial Use Permit is also required for all other commercial activities on the refuge including but not limited to commercial fishing, trapping, filming, photography, collecting plants or parts of plants to sell, acorns or mussels.

Fires

Permitted only in camping areas and must be attended. Only downed wood may be used for fires. **Caution: During periods of high fire danger, all fires may be prohibited.**

Prohibited Activities

Littering

Spotlighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.

Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any attractant.

Hunting within 150 feet of roads and trails open to motor vehicle use (including ATV trails).

Target practice

Use or possession of alcohol beverages while hunting. Consumption of alcohol in parking lots and on roadways; consumption of alcohol in plain view in campgrounds.

Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or bush) other than specified in this brochure.

Possession or use of herbicides.

No person shall utilize the services of a guide, guide service, outfitter, club, organization or other person who

provides equipment, services or assistance on National Wildlife Refuge lands for compensation unless the guide, guide service, outfitter, club, organization or person has obtained a Commercial Use Permit from the National Wildlife Refuge. Failure to comply with this provision subjects each hunter in the party to a fine if convicted of this violation. It is your responsibility to verify that the guide, guide service, etc. has obtained the required permit.

Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven.

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

Marking trails with tape, ribbons, or paint. Use of biodegradable materials to mark trails is permitted.

Possession of a deer or any weapon on the refuge during a quota deer hunt without a valid quota permit.

State bag limits apply unless otherwise noted. Only those species listed in this brochure may be taken.

Legal Buck Definition and Bag Limit: the total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge deer hunts is two (these are not bonus deer); these may be male deer with a total of 4 points or less on both sides including the main beam OR have a minimum of 4 points on one side including the main beam. Points must be at least one inch long.

Areas posted with "No Hunting Zone" signs are closed to all hunting; possession of a loaded firearm is prohibited.

Possession of more than 25 shotshells is prohibited for all hunters during waterfowl hunting season.

Posted with "Area Closed" signs; Closed to all public entry during regular duck hunting season. **(Open to all authorized activities during September teal season.)**

Specific Hunting Regulations (see map)

Waterfowl Sanctuary

Sportfishing and Frogging Regulations

Caution

Take pride in your refuge. Report wildlife violations.

The main channel of the Ouachita River and the borrow pits along U.S. Highway 82 are open for navigation and fishing year-round.

All public use, except fishing and access for fishing, closed during quota permit hunts.

Deer taken on quota hunts must be checked at a refuge check station on same day killed. Carcass must be left intact (entrails may be removed) until taken to check station.

All hunters born after December 31, 1968 must possess a hunter education card. In addition, hunters under 16 years of age must be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact at all times) by an adult 21 or older. Each adult can supervise only one youth during big game hunts and no more than two youths during all other hunts.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Stands may be erected two days before each hunt and must be removed within two days after each hunt.

Sportfishing, frogging, and taking of crawfish for personal use are permitted in all refuge waters in accordance with State regulations. Permits are not required. Within the waterfowl sanctuary during the regular duck season, these activities are restricted to the main channel of the Ouachita River and borrow pits along US Highway 82 (see map). Trotlines must be secured with cotton line which extends into the water. Commercial fishing requires a special permit issued at the refuge office.

Due to elevated levels of mercury in fish, the Arkansas Department of Health advises caution in the consumption of some species of fish from refuge waters. Call 501/661 2000 for more information.

For more copies of this leaflet or other specific information, contact the refuge.

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge
Office hours: Monday-Friday
7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Dial 911 for after hours emergencies.