

Grand Cote

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2004-2005



Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the sign applies to the area behind the sign. Please respect the following signs:

This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Always know the regulations before entering.



All hunting and possession of any weapon is prohibited beyond this sign.



This area is closed to all public entry. Exceptions stated on the sign.

The Refuge

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to provide habitat for northern pintails and other wintering waterfowl as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The 6,000 acre refuge is located in the Red River flood plain in east central Louisiana. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on approximately 4,000 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 officers.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting and fishing 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 regulations.

The refuge is open to public access during daylight hours from 4:00 am to one hour after sunset. The refuge boundary is marked with boundary signs.

Weapons and Ammunition

Firearms, archery tackle, and crossbows are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Firearms carried on ATV's must be unloaded. Loaded is defined as shells in gun. Archery tackle and crossbows must be un-cocked with arrow un-cocked from string.

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

Exceptions Permits

An Annual Hunting, Fishing and ATV Use Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen 16-years-old and older, and for all terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the refuge. Permits are available at the Refuge headquarters located at Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, seven miles west of Marksville, LA on Highway 1194. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Permits may also be ordered by mail at Refuge address shown on the front of this brochure. Request for permits must include name, address, phone number, driver's license number and \$15.00 (money order or cashier's check; personal checks not accepted). Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing. The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting, fishing, or using an ATV on the refuge, and acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations.

Commercial Activities

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, lake, bayous or waters are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

To Apply for Lottery Hunt Permits

Applications will be available October 1 for youth lottery waterfowl hunt. Return completed applications to refuge office by close of business (4:00 pm) on October 30. Applicants will be selected via random computer drawing and will be notified by November 15.

Lottery hunt permits are non-transferrable and must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt.

Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles are restricted to roads that are

delineated on refuge map.

Exceptions: Standard manufacturer's high flotation all-terrain vehicles or ATV's (3 and 4-wheelers) with factory specifications not to exceed the following are permitted only on trails designated by ATV signs: weight - 750 lbs., length - 85", and width - 48". ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 X 12 with a maximum lug height of 1" and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 p.s.i. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV trails are open from September 11 through the last day of state rabbit season.

ATV's are allowed only for wildlife dependent activities. The vehicle speed limit shall not exceed 25 mph except as otherwise legally posted.

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Boats

ONLY non-motorized boats are permitted on the refuge. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge:

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or operating an ATV.
- Littering
- Camping / overnight parking
- Taking of wildlife, or parts of, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Target practice
- Baiting or hunting over any bait or salt.
- Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road, ATV or designated hiking trail
- Marking trails with non-biodegradable flagging tape
- Trapping
- Riding horses or mules
- Possession of saws, saw blades, and/or machetes
- Fires
- Spot-lighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife
- Man-drives for deer or feral hogs
- Harvest of frogs or turtles
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

2004 - 2005 Hunting Seasons

| <i>Type</i> | <i>Season Dates</i> | <i>Specific Regulations</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Deer - Archery | State Season | One, either sex deer per day, all hunters must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunter Education Course. |
| Rabbit | December 1 - End of State Season | Rabbit dogs allowed after close of the State gun deer season only. |
| Waterfowl (ducks, geese, and coots) | State Season | Wednesday and Saturday until noon. Dogs only allowed to retrieve downed game. |
| Youth Lottery Waterfowl | To Be Announced | Special Quota Permit Required , application dates: Oct 1- Oct. 30 |
| Waterfowl - Youth Weekend | State Zone Date | All refuge waterfowl hunting regulations apply. |
| Woodcock | State Season | Allow dogs to locate, point, and retrieve birds. |
| Mourning Dove | State Season | Allowed ONLY during waterfowl hunt days during the State dove season. May be taken incidental to waterfowl hunting. |
| Early Teal | State Season | Allowed in waterfowl hunt area and crawfish ponds. Wednesday and Saturday until 12:00 noon. All waterfowl regulations apply. |

- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATV.
- Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal objects into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are those listed in this brochure.

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown on map.

Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult must have a refuge permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.

Archery hunters (regardless of age) must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunter Education Course.

Hunter participation and wildlife harvest data are vital to the management of refuge wildlife resources. All hunters must check-in and check-out after each hunt using a self-clearing permit available from a check station. Reporting your hunting activity and any wildlife harvest after each and every hunt will help us better manage your refuge.

All hunters and anglers must enter and exit the refuge at designated parking lots only.

Only portable deer stands may be used, and may be erected two days before season. Deer stands must have the owners name, address and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be taken down after the last day of the state archery season.

Beaver, feral hogs, nutria, and coyote may be taken **incidental to any refuge hunt** with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken.

Hunting with pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons and hunting with rabbit dogs during the rabbit season is permitted. However, rabbit dogs are allowed ONLY after the Louisiana deer gun season has closed until the close of the state rabbit season. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer or hogs is prohibited.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted year-round for fishing only in Coulee Des Grues along Little California Road.

Anglers may harvest any fish species on the refuge that is permitted by state regulations. State fish size and bag limits apply.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch fish or bait fish is prohibited.

Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

Recreational crawfishing is permitted in designated areas of the refuge with pyramid nets from April 1, 2004 - May 31, 2004. Only nets made with cotton or nylon webbing will be permitted. No wire traps. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per permit per day. All nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight. Anglers may not leave parking area until official sunrise. No commercial crawfishing is permitted on the refuge. Youth must be accompanied by permitted adult, 18-years of age or older.

Artificial crawfish bait, melt, and fish may be used, with the exception of catfish heads. All used and un-used crawfish bait must be retained. All bait discarded on refuge property will be considered littering. No glass containers are allowed on the refuge.

All crawfishing gear, including, nets, boats, bait, and trash, etc. must be removed from refuge property after each visit.

Entry to and exit from the crawfishing area is restricted to foot travel and ATV. ATV's are allowed on levees only. ATV's are not permitted to travel on Little California Road.

Creel limits, boating safety, and license requirements are in accordance with state regulations unless otherwise specified in this brochure.

Angler must possess the Hunting, Fishing, ATV permit and copy of the crawfishing regulations.

Archers, you must collect biological data on all deer you harvest by weighing, taking antler measurements, pulling a jawbone, and recording data at the check station. Equipment, data forms, and instructions will be provided. This data will assist us in better managing the refuge's deer herd.

CAUTION HUNTERS, BLACK BEAR ADVISORY!

In a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Louisiana State University, and the Black Bear Conservation Committee, Louisiana black bear sows and cubs have been released on Lake Ophelia NWR in an attempt to re-establish these threatened bears within their historical range. Grand Cote NWR is not far from Lake Ophelia NWR and bears could be seen on the refuge. Report all bear sightings on your self-clearing permit. Hunters must positively identify their target before pulling the trigger or releasing an arrow! Black bears and feral hogs are sometimes hard to distinguish in heavy cover. Black bears are a protected species in Louisiana.