

Wapanocca Refuge, established in 1961, is one of over 540 national wildlife refuges making up our National Wildlife System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the refuge system and is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl.

Permitted public use activities are birding, wildlife observation, photography, hunting and fishing. These activities are allowed under carefully controlled conditions in order to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with the ecosystem. This permits the wise use of a valuable natural resource and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public. By law, public use activities on National Wildlife Refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. Both hunting and fishing are in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access: Wapanocca Refuge is open to the public from one half hour before legal sunrise to one half hour after legal sunset, except for those legally hunting raccoon and opossum at night and deer hunters who may enter the refuge one and a half hours before sunrise and remain on the refuge for the same time period after sunset. The refuge is closed to all public entry and use on November 13 and 14 except for Quota gun deer hunters. A portion of the refuge is closed from December 1 through February 28 as a Waterfowl Sanctuary (see map). Roads may be closed during hazardous or poor road conditions.

All vehicles must stay on established roads and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a motor vehicle. ATVs may be used only by mobility-impaired hunters possessing a refuge special use permit. Horses are prohibited (see raccoon hunt for exception). Airboats, personal water craft, and hover craft are prohibited on refuge waters.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the refuge is permitted as designated in this pamphlet. The Visitor Center located in the headquarters building is open week days during normal office hours.

Prohibited activities: Prohibited activities include camping, building fires, cutting or defacing trees, littering and searching for or removal of artifacts. Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows are permitted only during refuge hunts.

Sport fishing: Wapanocca Lake is closed to fishing due to the rehabilitation project intended to restore the fishery resource in the lake. Sport fishing is permitted from March 15 through October 31 in Woody Ponds. Big Creek and other ditches which flow through the refuge are closed to fishing. The taking of crawdads for personal use only is permitted but the taking of frogs, mollusks, and turtles is prohibited. The possession or use of yo-yos, jugs, or other floating containers, drops or limb lines, trotlines or commercial fishing tackle is prohibited.

Commercial activities: Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity to first obtain a refuge special use permit. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge lands are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

General Hunt Regulations (refuge permits)

Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Permits are nontransferable and must be carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting equipment.

Hunter sign in/out requirements: Hunters **must** sign in prior to each hunt, sign out after completion of the hunt and provide take information at the Hunter Information Station located outside the office building main entrance.

Mobility-impaired hunters: Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a special permit allowing the use of ATVs on existing roads and trails. Issuance of the permit is restricted to persons who are permanently confined to a wheelchair, require the use of mechanical aids (crutches and walkers) to walk or have complete single leg amputations. For more information, please call the refuge at 870/343 2595.

Firearms: Firearms must be unloaded when carried in/on vehicles. Target practice is prohibited.

Other prohibited hunting activities: Spotlighting-artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife. Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any attractant is prohibited. Dogs are prohibited except for raccoon hunting in which they are required.

Hunting from or within 50 yards of graveled roads and within 150 yards of refuge buildings is prohibited. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Hunters under the age of 16: Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only

one youth. Anyone born after December 31, 1968 must be in possession of a hunter education card.

Trapping: Trapping is prohibited. Beaver, nutria, feral hogs, and coyote may be taken during any refuge hunt by the use of equipment legal for that hunt.

Ammunition and legal firearms: Nontoxic (waterfowl) shot or rimfire rifles and ammunition only may be possessed and used for all small game hunting. The use or possession of buck shot is prohibited. Gun deer hunters may possess and use muzzleloaders and pistols meeting state criteria for deer hunting or shotguns with slugs only.

Obtaining Permits

When signed, this brochure will serve as a permit for all hunts except the quota deer hunt. A quota deer permit is also required for the quota deer hunt.

To apply for a quota hunt permit: Print or type your name, address and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card. To apply as a party (maximum of three) list information for all applicants on the same card. NOTE: Applicants under the age of 16 must apply with an adult age 21 or greater. Return completed application to the refuge office between July 1 and 12:00 noon on August 15. Duplicated, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Specific Hunt Regulations

A refuge permit (see obtaining permit section) is required for all hunts. Regulations differ from state seasons as follows:

Small Game: Squirrel and Rabbit: September 4 - October 31, 2004. Dogs prohibited.

Furbearer: Raccoon and Opossum: November 1-30, 2004, excluding November 13 and 14 closure for gun deer hunts, and March 1-31, 2005. Raccoon hunters may use horses.

Big Game: For all deer harvested on the refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license and later at the refuge deer check station is 640. All harvested deer must be checked at the refuge check station located at the refuge headquarters. Only single person portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be placed on the refuge two days before the hunt and must be removed within two days after the hunt. Stands left on the refuge must have the owner's name and address permanently affixed. The driving or screwing of nails, spikes or other metal objects into trees is prohibited. Possession of or marking trails with materials other than biodegradable paper/flagging is prohibited.

Legal Buck Definition: A legal buck is defined as one which has a total of four points or less on both sides including the main beam OR which has a minimum of four points on one side including the main beam. Point must be at least one inch long. Youth under age 16 may take any buck as their first buck but must comply with the above legal buck criteria to harvest a second buck. Deer harvested on the refuge are not BONUS deer.

Deer (Archery/Crossbows): October 1-November 12, November 15-30, and December 1-31 (south of County Ditch #8 only), 2004. State archery limit of three, no more than two legal bucks.

Deer (Gun): November 13-14, 2004. Quota permit is required. Shotguns with slugs, legal muzzleloaders, and legal pistols only are permitted. Limit of one doe or one legal buck.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



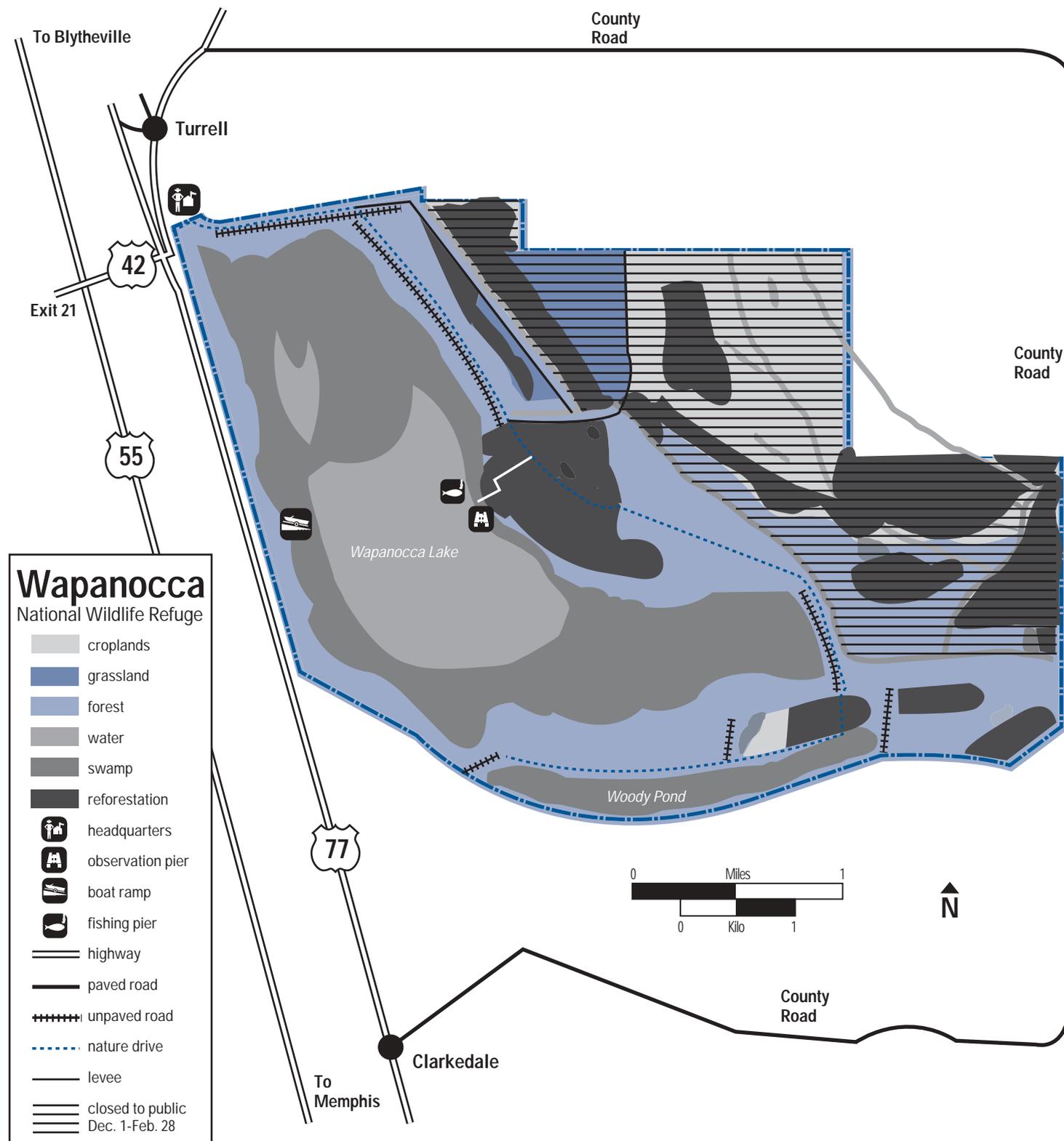
Refuge boundary sign. Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public use. Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have the specific closure dates printed on the face of the sign.

Wapanocca

*National Wildlife Refuge
Public Use Hunting and
Fishing Regulations
2004-2005*



Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Highway 42 East
Turrell, AR 72384
870/343 2595
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

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

May 2004



2004-2005 General Hunting Permit – Wapanocca NWR

This permit must be completed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. This permit expires 6/30/05. NOTE: Quota Permit also required for gun deer hunt.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and realize that hunting on the refuge is a privilege and willingly agree to allow USFWS officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)