

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission
Proclamation 15-05

Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits on Select National Wildlife Refuges and Other Federal Areas

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee code annotated sections, 70-4-107, 70-5-108 and 70-5-111 thereof, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission, hereby proclaims the following regulations, effective August 1, 2015.

Section I. Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Dove, Opossum, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Snipe, Squirrel and Woodcock ¹	Same as statewide seasons (except closed during archery and deer quota hunts and no spring squirrel season). Bag and possession limit same as statewide regulations. Non-toxic shot only.
Deer (Archery)	Sept. 26-Oct. 23, Oct. 26– 30 Nov. 6, 2015. Area west of Interstate 40- Season date Sept. 26-Jan. 3, 2016, except closed during Youth Gun and Quota Gun Seasons. No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts in Unit L bag.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)	Two hunts. Oct. 31-Nov. 4 , Nov. 7-8, Nov. 14-15 2015. Hunter quota 250 per hunt. Two deer, either sex. Only 1 buck per day. You must harvest an antlerless deer before you harvest an antlered deer. Deer count as a bonus deer. Deer taken on quota gun hunts must be checked out at the Refuge check station in with the state as harvested on Hatchie NWR.
Deer (Young Sportsman)	One Hunt: Oct. 24-25, 2015. Youth 6-16 may participate and must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older. No more than 1 youth per adult.
Ducks, Geese and Coots ² (Porter Tract only) ³	Tues., Thurs. and Sat. of both the early and regular statewide seasons (hunting until 12:00 pm CST, only). Young Sportsman hunt open only on Saturday during the statewide youth hunt. Bag and possession limit in accordance with statewide regulations. Non-toxic shot only.
Spring Turkey 2016	Same as statewide. Non-quota (counts in statewide bag). Young Sportsman hunt to coincide with the statewide youth hunt and bag limit. Non-toxic shot only. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season.

Section II. Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges

All small game and waterfowl hunting seasons and bag limits in accordance with statewide regulations (except closed during spring squirrel season). Rabbit, quail, dove, woodcock, snipe and squirrel hunting is

¹ Opossum and raccoon - hunting hours from sunset to one hour before sunrise. Closed the night before and during any archery and quota deer hunts. Beaver and coyote may be taken on any hunt.

² Only portable blinds or blinds of native vegetation may be used. Blinds and decoys must be removed each day.

³ Porter Tract is that portion of the refuge that lies at the extreme east end of the refuge lying east of Richland Creek and the Big Eddy Road.

closed during all young Sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and gun deer hunts. Raccoon and opossum hunting open with statewide seasons except closed on Friday and Saturday nights during young sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and gun hunts. All hunting blinds will be portable and nothing of a permanent nature will be constructed. The possession of saws, machetes, axes, or other tools for cutting vegetation is prohibited.

Waterfowl hunting until 12:00 pm CST only. All blinds, boats, and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1:00 PM CST daily. Non-toxic shot only. Coyotes and beavers may be taken incidentally during scheduled hunts on the refuge. Legal methods of take include legal hunting equipment utilized during specified hunting seasons. No bag limit.

Squirrel, Rabbit, Quail,
Raccoon-and Opossum

Season, Bag, and Possession limit same as statewide. Season closed during all young sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and gun deer hunts and Spring squirrel season is closed. Non-toxic shot only. Raccoon and opossum hunting closed on Friday and Saturday nights during young sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and gun hunts.

Ducks, Geese, Coots,
Mergansers

Season, Bag, and Possession limit same as and statewide. Waterfowl hunting closes at 12:00 pm CST (noon) daily. Only portable blinds may be used. All blinds, boats, and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1:00 pm CST daily. Non-toxic shot only. Champion Lake and Little Champion Lake will be open to quota hunting only. 8 permits per weekend on Champion Lake and 4 on Little Champion Lake.

Mourning Dove, Woodcock,
and Snipe

Season, Bag, and Possession limit same as statewide. Closed during all young Sportsman deer, muzzleloader, and gun deer hunts. Non-toxic shot only.

Deer – Archery, Young Sportsman,
Muzzleloader, and Gun

Seasons and bag limits same as statewide. No hunter quota. All harvested deer count in statewide bag limit.

Spring Turkey (Chickasaw/Lower Hatchie)

2016: Four Hunts: Youth only Hunt March ~~19-20~~ 26-27, 2016, 25 permits per refuge. ~~Mar. 31-April 3~~ April 7-10, 2016; April 14-17, 2016; and April 21-24, 2016. Hunter quota: 25 permits per hunt for Lower Hatchie. 75 permits per hunt for Chickasaw. Non-toxic shot only. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey (considered as bonus bird).

Section III. Sunk Lake Public Use Management Area (Northern Unit Only)

Squirrel, Rabbit, Quail,
Raccoon and Opossum

Season same as statewide. Spring squirrel season closed. Bag and possession limit same as statewide. Non-toxic shot only.

Deer (Archery only)

Sept. 26-Nov. ~~13~~ 14, 2015. No hunter quota. Same as statewide and all harvested deer count in statewide bag limit.

Section IV. Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge

Special federal permit required (except designated closed areas). Beaver and coyote may be taken on a scheduled hunt for other species with any weapon legal for the hunt. All other hunting (squirrel, archery turkey, archery deer) will be closed on weekends when quota deer hunts, primitive weapon hunts and youth hunts are scheduled.

Deer (Primitive Weapons: long bow, recurve bow and side hammered muzzleloaders with iron sights only)	One hunt. Oct.10-11, 2015. Three deer (only one may be antlered). No hunter quota. All deer harvested are bonus deer.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)	Two hunts. Oct. 23-25, Nov. 6-8, 2015 . Three deer (only one may be antlered). Hunters must harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer. Hunter quota: Big Sandy Peninsula–100, Duck River Bottoms Unit- 125 , Duck River Remainder Uplands Unit–100, Britton Ford Peninsula– 25, Busseltown- 25. All deer harvested are bonus deer.
Deer/Turkey (Archery)	Same as statewide seasons not to extend past Nov 14 , 2015. No hunter quota. Closed during quota hunts, Primitive Weapons hunts, and Young Sportsman hunts. State bag limits apply. Deer and turkey count toward statewide bag limit. No fall turkey gun hunt.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun) – Young Sportsman	One hunt. Oct. 3-4, 2015. No hunter quota, Young Sportsman, 6-16 years old. Three deer, either sex (no more than one antlered). All deer harvested are bonus deer.
Squirrel	Aug. 22 – Nov. 14 , 2015. Closed during quota hunts, Primitive Weapons hunts, and during Young Sportsman hunt. Bag and possession limits are same as statewide.
Spring Squirrel	Same as statewide seasons.
Raccoon	Sept. 19-Oct 1, Oct. 5-8, Oct. 12-15, Oct.19-22, Oct.26-29, Nov.2-5, Nov. 9-12 , 2015. Bag and possession limits are same as statewide.
Canada Goose	Same as statewide season except closed during the early wood duck/teal season. Closed during the October season. Bag and possession limits in accordance with statewide regulations.
Spring Turkey	Same as statewide season. State bag limits apply. Turkey counts toward statewide bag.
Fall Turkey	Same as statewide season. State bag limits apply. Turkey counts toward statewide bag.

Section V. Reelfoot and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges

Squirrel	Reelfoot: Aug. 22-Nov. 1, 2015. Lake Isom: Aug 22-Nov. 13-14 , 2015. Spring squirrel season closed. Bag and possession limits in accordance with statewide season. Non-toxic shot only.
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Raccoon	Sept. 25 - Oct. 11, 2015. No limit. Hunting hours – 7:00 pm until 12 am (midnight) only. Hunters must check out all raccoons for tagging. Non-toxic shot only.
Deer (Archery)	Reelfoot: Sept. 26-Oct. 23, Oct. 26-Nov. 5, Nov. 9- 13 14, 2015. Lake Isom: Sept. 26-Oct 23, Oct. 26-Nov. 13 14, 2015. No hunter quota. Bag limit same as state and all harvested deer count in the statewide bag limit. Note: the use of shot shells larger than No. 4 and center-fire ammunition to hunt or take any wildlife species on the refuge during the deer (archery) season is prohibited.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun) Quota (Reelfoot Refuge only)	One hunt. Nov. 6-8, 2015. Hunter quota–150 (100 permits for Long Point Unit and 50 permits for Grassy Island Unit). Two deer, either sex (no more than one antlered)-You must harvest an antlerless deer before you harvest an antlered deer. All deer harvested are bonus deer.
Spring Turkey Quota (Reelfoot Refuge Only)	One Two hunts. Apr 4-3 8-10; and Apr. 15-17, 2016. Hunter quota: 30 permits per hunt, Grassy Island- 25-15 , Long Point- 25-15 . Non-toxic shot only. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season (considered a bonus bird).
Coyotes and Beavers	May be taken incidentally during scheduled hunts on the refuge. Legal methods of take include legal hunting equipment utilized during specified hunting seasons. No bag limit.

Section VI. Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

No hunting in safety zones as listed in NWR pamphlet. All other hunting (squirrel, spring turkey, archery deer) will be closed on weekends when quota deer hunts and youth hunts are scheduled. Special Federal permit required. Beaver and coyote may be taken on a scheduled hunt for other species with any weapon legal for the hunt.

Squirrel	Aug. 22-Nov. 14, 2015. Bag and possession limit same as statewide. Closed when quota and young sportsman deer hunts are scheduled.
Spring Squirrel	Same as statewide season.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)	Two hunts. Oct. 16-18, Oct. 30- Nov 1, 2015. Hunter quota: Southside: Northwest of Pool 5 Bridge– 30, Southside: Southeast of Pool 5 Bridge–40, Northside: West of N. Cross Road – 20, Northside: East of N. Cross Road - 40. Three deer (only one may be antlered). Hunters must harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer. All deer harvested are bonus deer.
Deer/Turkey (Archery)	Same as statewide seasons not to extend past Nov. 14, 2015. No hunter quota. Closed during quota and young

	sportsman hunts. State bag limits apply. Deer and turkey count toward statewide bag limit. No fall turkey gun hunt.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun) (Young Sportsman Only)	One hunt. Oct 3-4, 2015. No hunter quota. Young Sportsman 6-16 years of age. Three deer either sex (no more than one antlered). All deer harvested are Bonus deer.
Canada Goose	Same as statewide season until opening of early wood duck/teal season. Closed during the October season. Bag and possession limits in accordance with statewide regulations.
Spring Turkey	Same as statewide season. State Bag limits apply. Turkey count toward statewide bag limit.

Section VII. Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed Wild and Scenic River

Special Regulations

Taking wild hogs incidental to hunting requires a permit from the National Park Service.

Wild hogs may be taken during any deer hunt, by legal deer hunters.

After the January closure of deer season, small game and furbearer hunters may take wild hogs if they are legally hunting small game or furbearers with equipment that would otherwise be legal for deer hunting.

Chasing wild hogs with dogs is not permitted. These special regulations apply at Obed Wild and Scenic River only on the lands administered by the National Park Service.

Section VIII. General Regulations for Hunting National Wildlife Refuges

1. Vehicles must remain on established roads open to public vehicles. Roads may be closed due to adverse weather conditions. Park vehicles in a manner that will not interfere with normal flow of traffic or block gates.
2. Camping and fires are prohibited, except on Chickasaw NWR during small and big game hunts in designated areas.
3. It is unlawful to drive a nail, spike, or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike, or other metal object has been driven. Temporary blinds or stands permitted on the day of the hunt only. All blinds and stands must be removed at end of each day's hunt.
4. Dogs are prohibited except when used during refuge open seasons for small game and migratory birds.
5. Designated areas of refuges will be closed to all public entry to provide sanctuaries for waterfowl.
6. Shotgun hunters may only possess and use shotgun shells containing approved non-toxic shot.
7. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge brochure/permit.
8. All National Wildlife Refuges which are open to fall turkey quota hunts based on county designation, close for the season ½ hour after sunset on Nov. 10, except as otherwise noted.
9. A federal permit may be required for hunts. Quota permits are required for quota hunts and special federal regulations apply as specified. A signed refuge brochure serves as the permit for non-quota hunts, except on Tennessee and Cross Creeks where an annual permit is required for all hunts.

- 10. All antlered deer taken on National Wildlife Refuges count toward the statewide antlered deer bag limit except on NWR quota hunts or as otherwise noted. Antler-less deer taken on NWR quota hunts or where specific NWR hunt dates are listed are bonus deer except as otherwise noted.
- 11. On all Young Sportsman Hunts, youth, ages 6-16 (youth waterfowl 6-15), may participate but must be accompanied by an adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device. Adults cannot hunt except as indicated otherwise. Adults must comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters when accompanying young sportsmen on Young Sportsman Big Game Hunts, except as indicated. Youth, ages 6-16, may participate on other NWR hunts (big game, small game, waterfowl, etc.) but must be accompanied by an adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device, except as otherwise noted.
- 12. The use or possession of bait, or hunting over bait is strictly prohibited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing or scattering any salt, grain, powder, liquid or other feed to attract game.
- 13. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while on refuge lands and waters.
- 14. The cutting of holes, lanes, or any other manipulation of the vegetation (e.g. cutting of bushes and trees, mowing, herbicide use, and other actions) or hunting from or adjacent to manipulated areas is strictly prohibited. The possession of saws, machetes, axes, or other tools for cutting vegetation is prohibited.

Section IX. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals proclamation No. 14-06.

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the _____ day of May 2015.

Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the _____ day of _____, 2015.

Notary Public

My commission expires on: _____

Proclamation 15-XX received and recorded this _____ day of _____, 2014; to be effective the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Tre Hargett, Secretary of State