



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bald Knob

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations 2020-2021

Welcome

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1993, is one of over 565 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the Refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl. The Refuge is located in White County, Arkansas.

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge

1439 Coal Chute Road

Bald Knob, AR 72010

501/724 2458

(Central Arkansas Refuges 870/347 2614)

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast>

<http://www.fws.gov/baldknob>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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July 2020

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



General Introduction

Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation are priority public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These wildlife-dependent uses are carefully managed on Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge to ensure they are compatible with refuge purposes and provide safe, high-quality, low-impact, recreational opportunities. Users of the Refuge must obey all signs pertaining to visitation, access, and public use regulations. All public uses, including hunting and fishing, are conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

* The Refuge is closed to ALL other entry and public use Nov. 14-15, 2020, during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting and the incidental take of beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo, coyote, and feral hogs.

Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the refuge map, are closed to ALL entry and public use, including hunting and fishing, from Nov. 15 through Feb. 28.

Conventional vehicles may be used only on the Farm Unit and ONLY from Mar. 1-Nov. 14. Conventional vehicles must meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of licensed motor vehicles. Vehicles equipped with oversize tractor lug type tires are prohibited. Use of conventional vehicles is prohibited on the Mingo Creek Unit.

Speed limit for motor vehicles (including ATVs, UTVs, etc.) is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.

Recreational use of ATVs is not allowed. ATVs may ONLY be used Sep. 1 to Mar. 31 and ONLY to provide access for hunting. ATVs may be used after Mar. 31 ONLY for goose hunting during the State Conservation Order.

An ATV is defined as a vehicle with a maximum tire pressure of 15 psi, maximum dry weight of 1550 lbs., and with tires having a maximum centerline lug depth of one inch. Only those vehicles originally designed by their manufacturer to be ATVs are allowed; mini-trucks or other modified off-road vehicles are prohibited.

Conventional vehicles and ATVs are not allowed in fields and must stay on maintained roads, levee tops, or established parking areas at all times.

A portion of the waterfowl hunt area (Core Waterfowl Area) will be closed from Nov. 15 -Feb. 28 to ALL public entry and use **after** 1 pm to reduce waterfowl disturbance and improve hunt quality (see map). During this period, Coal Chute Road, Granary West Road parking area and Frackin Road will remain open to vehicular access. NOTE: This closure will NOT apply to all-day hunting for geese during the State Conservation Order.

Roads may be closed any time conditions or other administrative needs warrant. A locked gate or other barrier, road closed sign, or no vehicle sign means the road is closed to ALL vehicle travel, but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

Parking of vehicles on roadsides that prevents the passage of extra-wide farm equipment is prohibited. Vehicles are subject to be towed at owner's expense.

Personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), hover craft, and airboats are prohibited.

Boats may not be left overnight on the Refuge.

2020-2021 General Hunting Permit — Bald Knob NWR

This permit must be signed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting gear. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. This permit expires 06/30/2021.

NOTE: Quota Permit also required for Quota Gun Deer Hunt. I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and agree to obey them and agree to allow USFWS and AGFC officers to inspect or search all my equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)



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General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the Refuge is permitted throughout the year. Permitted activities are hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

Refuge open to daylight use only from 4 am to one hour after legal sunset. We limit use of the refuge after legal sunset to raccoon and opossum hunting only. Hunters trailing or retrieving deer after hours should call the Refuge Office at 501/724 2458 and leave a message stating their name, phone number and the general area in which they are searching for or retrieving deer.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Fishing permitted year-round in accordance with state and refuge regulations. Crawfish may be collected for personal use only. The owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number must be permanently affixed to each trap.

General Hunting Regulations

A Refuge permit is required for all hunting activities.

Permits are non-transferable and must be signed by the hunter and carried at all times while on the refuge in possession of hunting gear. An electronic signed copy of the permit may also be produced on a person's own cellular phone or other type of portable electronic device that clearly displays and accurately reproduces all of the information. A permit is located on the front of this brochure or can be downloaded and printed from the refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/baldknob>.

An additional permit is required for the Quota Gun Deer Hunt.

Hunter Orange or Chartreuse must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission regulations during Quota Gun and Muzzleloader Deer hunts.

Portable, pop-up blinds must have 144 square inches of blaze orange or chartreuse visible from all sides of the blind during firearm big-game seasons on the Refuge.

Bag limits for all species, except deer, are the same as state limits.

Dog training is allowed Sep. 1-Apr. 1.

Mobility-impaired hunters

Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a refuge Special Use Permit allowing the specialized use of ATVs on existing roads and trails. For more information, please call the Refuge at 501/724 2458.

Prohibited hunting activities include:

- The use of dogs for deer hunting is prohibited.
- We prohibit leaving any tree stand, ground blind, or game camera on the refuge without the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number clearly written in a conspicuous location.
- Driving or screwing any metal object into a tree or hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed to support a hunter.
- Building or hunting from permanent blinds or stands.
- Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand.
- Possession or distribution of bait or hunting over bait, salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for wildlife.
- Hunting from mowed or maintained roads or levees, except for waterfowl hunting.
- Possession or use of lead shot or buckshot while hunting.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Use of natural scents or lures that contain natural deer and elk urine or other biofluids.

Hunters Under the Age of 16

Anyone born after 1968 must complete a hunter education course and carry a valid hunter education card to hunt in Arkansas. Youth under 16 may hunt without hunter education as long as they are under the direct supervision of an adult who is 21 years old and has a valid hunting license. Home state hunter education cards will be honored.

Specific Hunting Regulations

*NOTE: The Refuge is closed to ALL entry and public use Nov. 14-15, 2020 during the Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting and incidental take of beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo, coyote, and feral hogs.

Migratory Birds

Only non-toxic shot may be possessed or used for all migratory bird hunting.

Waterfowl (Duck, Coot and Geese)

State Seasons. Until 12 noon.*

Shotgun shell possession limit - 25 daily, except for goose hunting under the State Conservation Order.

Waterfowl hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than 4 am with the exception of waterfowl hunters allowed to enter and park in the Granary West (Huntsman Road) parking area off of Safely Road prior to 4 am. Waterfowl hunters are not allowed to travel past the gate from this parking area before 4 am.

Hunting parties must stay at least 100 yards apart.

Morning (until 12 noon) hunting only throughout the entire season.

All day hunting permitted for geese (all applicable species) during the State Conservation Order.

State bag limit(s) apply.

Hunters must pick up and remove their spent shell casings and boxes from the Refuge.

Decoys, blinds, boats, and all other equipment must be removed daily by 1 pm.

It is unlawful to possess, or take or attempt to take waterfowl with the use of, any simulated wing movement decoy or any decoy other than an artificial decoy that imitates the appearance of waterfowl: no moving parts or electrical components; and is not subjected to any artificial means that makes it appear to move, splash or cause ripples from the first day of the first segment of regular duck season through the last day of the last segment of regular duck season, including teal and youth waterfowl season.



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Exception: Manually operated “jerk strings” may be used to simulate decoy movement.

Cutting of holes or other manipulation of vegetation (cutting bushes, mowing, weed-eating, etc.) or hunting from manipulated areas is prohibited.

Dogs permitted.

Dove and Snipe: State seasons*
Dogs permitted.

Woodcock: State season.* Dogs permitted.

Small Game

Only rifles chambered for rimfire cartridges or shotguns with non-toxic shot may be used for all small game hunting.

Squirrel: Sep. 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021.*
Dogs permitted.

Rabbit: Sep. 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021.*
Dogs permitted.

Quail: Nov. 1, 2020 - Feb. 7, 2021.*
Dogs permitted.

Furbearer

Beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo and coyote may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt by the use of the device appropriate for that hunt and according to any applicable state regulations.

Feral hogs

In cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Feral Hog Control program, feral hogs only be taken on the refuge during the quota gun and muzzleloader deer hunts and by archery hunters from Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Feral hogs are destructive, non-native animals that are incompatible with refuge management. Live hogs may not be possessed, transported, or released on the refuge.

Raccoon: Sep. 1, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021. Dogs are required for night hunting of raccoons. Waterfowl sanctuary is closed to raccoon hunting from Nov. 15 - Feb. 28.

Opossum: Sep. 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021. Dogs are required for night hunting of opossum. Waterfowl sanctuary is closed to opossum hunting from Nov. 15 - Feb. 28.

Big Game

For all deer harvested on the Refuge, Bald Knob NWR must be immediately recorded on your hunting license. All deer harvested during the two-day Quota Gun Deer Hunt MUST be checked at the Refuge Headquarters. In addition, all deer harvested on the refuge must be checked according to state regulations.

Only portable stands may be used and the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer ID number must be permanently affixed to the stand. A portable hunting stand is any device or structure used for the purpose of hunting that can be carried in its entirety and erected by hand including but not limited to tripod stands, lean-to stands, lock-on stands, ladder stands and climbing stands. Stands may be erected 7 days prior to the refuge deer season and must be removed from the waterfowl sanctuary prior to Nov. 15 and from the rest of the Refuge within 7 days of the closing of archery season.

Deer Limits and Refuge Legal Buck Definition
A legal buck on the Refuge is defined as any male deer (no antler restriction). Deer harvested on the Refuge are NOT bonus deer.

Four deer, no more than two bucks, which may include:

Deer (Archery/Crossbow) Sep. 26, 2020 -Feb. 28, 2021.* Either sex. State limit applies.

Deer (Muzzleloading) Oct. 17-25, 2020.
Two deer limit. One buck and one doe.

Deer (Youth Gun) Refuge-wide Nov. 7-8, 2020. Two deer limit. One buck and one doe or two does. Legal centerfire rifles are permitted on the Mingo Unit only. The remainder of the refuge is restricted to shotguns with slugs, muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile and legal pistols and air rifles as defined by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Deer (Quota Gun): Refuge-wide. Quota hunt permit required. Nov. 14-15, 2020*. Two deer limit. One buck and one doe. Legal centerfire rifles are permitted on the Mingo Unit only. The remainder of the refuge is restricted to shotguns with slugs, muzzleloaders shooting a single projectile and legal pistols and air rifles as defined by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

NOTE: Holders of refuge Quota Gun Deer Hunt permits are NOT allowed to camp on State WMAs during the refuge Quota Gun Deer hunt.

To apply for a quota hunt permit
Hunt permits are \$12.50 and must be purchased from the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/baldknob.

Quota permits issued first come, first served until the quota is reached, or until Oct. 31, 2020.

Permit requests will NOT be accepted in person.

NOTE: Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable, even in the event of refuge deer hunt closures due to flooding.

The refuge is located in AG&FC Flood Prone Region B.

The refuge will close to all deer hunting when the White River gauge at Augusta reaches 31 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/LZK/RVSLZK>. This restriction is lifted when the gauge at Augusta falls below 30 feet and the White River gauge at Georgetown falls to, or below, 19 feet.

Turkey: Closed refuge-wide.

Hunting Seasons

* NOTE: The entire Refuge including the Mingo Creek Unit is CLOSED to all other entry and public use during Quota Gun Deer Hunt Nov. 14-15, 2020. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed to enter or use the Refuge during this hunt and only for the purpose of deer hunting or incidental take of beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo, coyote, and feral hogs.

Deer – Archery/Crossbow:
Sep. 26, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021 *

Deer – Muzzleloader: Oct. 17-25, 2020

Deer – Youth Modern Gun:
Refuge-wide including the Mingo Creek Unit. Nov. 7-8, 2020

Deer – Quota Gun Deer:
Refuge-wide including the Mingo Creek Unit. Nov. 14-15, 2020 *

Squirrel & Rabbit:
Sep. 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021 *

Raccoon: Sep. 1, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021 *

