

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission

Proclamation 08-08

Opening

Hatchie, Lower Hatchie, Reelfoot, Lake Isom, Cross Creeks, Chickasaw, and Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges to Hunting

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee code annotated sections, 70-4-107, 70-5-108 and 70-5-111 thereof, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, after making a survey of Hatchie, Lower Hatchie, Reelfoot, Lake Isom, Cross Creeks, Chickasaw, and Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges and finding that the supply of game is sufficient to allow hunting thereof as hereinafter described without the danger of extinction or depletion hereby proclaims the following regulations for the 2008-2009 season, effective August 1, 2008.

A federal permit required for all 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

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.

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.

Section I. Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Dove, Opossum, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Snipe, Squirrel and Woodcock ¹	Same as statewide seasons (except closed during deer hunts and no spring squirrel season). Bag and possession limit same as statewide regulations. Non-toxic shot only.
Deer (Archery)	One hunt. Sept. 27-Oct 19, 2008. No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)	Two hunts. Oct. 25-26, Nov. 8-9, 2008. Hunter quota 250 per hunt. Two deer, either sex. Deer counts as a bonus deer. Deer taken on quota gun hunts must be checked out at the nearest TWRA check station.

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

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 noon only). Young Sportsmen hunt open on Saturday only during statewide season. Bag and possession limit in accordance with statewide regulations. Non-toxic shot only.

Spring Turkey

Same as statewide. Non-quota (counts in statewide bag). Young Sportsmen hunt to coincide with the statewide youth hunt and bag limit. Non-toxic shot only. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season. Turkey counts toward statewide bag.

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, and snipe hunting is closed during all young sportsmen 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. No axes or saws allowed on raccoon hunts. Waterfowl hunting until 12:00 noon only. Temporary blinds and decoys must be removed at the end of each day's hunt. Non-toxic shot only.

Beaver and coyote may be taken during any scheduled hunt with any weapon legal for the hunt.

Deer (Archery)

Sept 27-Oct 24, Oct 27-Oct 31 , Nov 8-21, Dec. 15-19, 2008. No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)
Young Sportsman

Two hunts. Oct 25-26, 2008; Jan 17-18, 2009
No hunter quota. Two deer (no more than one antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader)

One hunt. Nov. 1-7, 2008. No hunter quota. Two deer (no more than one antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)

One hunt. Nov. 22- Dec. 7, 2008. No hunter quota. Two deer, buck only. Counts in Unit A bag.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader)

One hunt. Dec. 8-14, 2008. No hunter quota. Two deer (no more than one antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)

One hunt. Dec. 20, 2008 – Jan. 11, 2009. No hunter quota. Bag limit is same as statewide. Counts in Unit A bag.

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.

Spring Turkey (Chickasaw) Three hunts. April 9-12, 16-19, 23-26, 2009. Hunter quota 75 per hunt. Non-toxic shot only. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season (considered a bonus bird).

Spring Turkey (Lower Hatchie) Three hunts. April 9-12, 16-19, 23-26, 2009. Hunter quota 25 per hunt. Non-toxic shot only. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season (considered a 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. 27-Oct. 24, Oct. 27-Oct 31, Nov. 8-21, Dec. 15-19, 2008. No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts in Unit A bag.

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.

Deer (Primitive Weapons: long bow, recurve bow and side hammered muzzleloaders with iron sights only) One hunt. Oct. 4-5, 2008. Three deer (only one may be antlered). No hunter quota.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun) Two hunts. Oct. 24-26, Nov 7-9, 2008. 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– 35, Busseltown–60. All deer harvested are bonus deer.

Deer/Turkey (Archery) Same as statewide seasons through Nov. 14, 2008. No hunter quota. Closed during quota hunts, Primitive Weapons hunts, and Young Sportsman hunts. State bag limits apply. One turkey either sex. Deer and turkey count toward statewide bag limit.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun) (Young Sportsman) One hunt. Oct. 11-12, 2008. No hunter quota Three deer, either sex (no more than one antlered).

Squirrel Aug. 23 -Nov. 14, 2008. Closed during quota hunts, Primitive Weapons hunts, and during Young Sportsman hunt. Bag and possession limits are same as statewide.

Raccoon Oct 13-16, Oct 27-Oct 30, 2008. 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. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season. Turkey counts toward statewide bag.

Section V. Reelfoot and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges

Squirrel Reelfoot - Aug. 23-Oct. 31, 2008. Spring squirrel season closed. Bag and possession limits in accordance with statewide season. Non-toxic shot only.

Lake Isom - Aug. 23-Nov. 9, 2008. Spring squirrel season closed. Bag and possession limits in accordance with statewide season. Non-toxic shot only.

Raccoon
Oct. 3- Oct.18, 2008. No limit. Hunting hours – 7:00 pm until midnight only. Hunters must check out all raccoons for tagging. Non-toxic shot only.

Deer (Archery)
Reelfoot - Sept. 27-Oct. 24, Oct. 27-Oct 31, Nov. 10-14, 2008. No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts toward statewide bag limit.

Lake Isom - Sept. 27-Oct. 24, Oct. 27-Oct 31, Nov. 8-14, 2008. No hunter quota. Four deer, either sex (no more than two antlered). Counts toward statewide bag limit.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)
(Reelfoot Refuge only)
One hunt. Nov. 7-9, 2008.
Hunter quota–200 (100 permits for Long Point Unit and 100 permits for Grassy Island Unit). Two deer, either sex (no more than one antlered). All deer harvested are bonus deer. Harvested deer must be reported at refuge check station.

Spring Turkey
One hunt. April 10-12, 2009. Hunter quota: Grassy Island-25, Long Point-25. Non-toxic shot only. . Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season (considered a bonus bird).

Section VI. Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

No hunting in safety zones as listed in NWR pamphlet. All other hunting (squirrel, turkey, archery deer) will be closed on weekends when quota deer hunts are scheduled.

Squirrel Aug. 23-Nov. 14, 2008. Bag and possession limit same as statewide. Closed when quota and young sportsman deer hunts are scheduled.

Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun)
Two hunts. Oct. 17-19, Oct. 31-Nov 2, 2008. Hunter quota : Southside: Northwest of Pool 5 Bridge–40, Southside: Southeast of Pool 5 Bridge–40, Northside of Cumberland River– 70. 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 through Nov. 14, 2008. No hunter quota. Closed during quota and young sportsman hunts. State bag limits apply. Deer and turkey count toward statewide bag limit.
Deer (Archery/Muzzleloader/Gun) (Young Sportsman)	One hunt. Oct. 11-12, 2008. No hunter quota. Three deer either sex (no more than one antlered).
Canada Goose	Same as statewide season until opening of early wood duck/teal season. Bag and possession limits in accordance with statewide regulations.
Spring Turkey	Same as statewide season. Bag Limit: One (1) bearded turkey per season. Turkey count toward statewide bag.

Section VII. 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.
2. Camping and fires are prohibited.
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 the end of each day's hunt.
4. Dogs are prohibited except when used during the small game and migratory bird hunts.
5. Designated areas of refuges will be closed to all public entry to provide sanctuaries for waterfowl.
6. Small game hunters may only possess and use shotgun shells containing non-toxic shot in areas designated as high waterfowl use areas.
7. Hunters must possess 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. 14**.

Section VIII. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals proclamation No. 07-08 dated May 24, 2007.

Proclamation 08-08 received and recorded this 5th day of June, 2008; to be effective the 1st day of August, 2008. (FS 06-06-08)