

# Caddo Lake

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



### General Information

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge plays an important role in our National Wildlife Refuge System. On October 19, 2000, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the establishment of the Refuge on portions of the approximately 8,500-acre Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant in Harrison County, Texas. The refuge was established for the purpose of migratory bird and other fish and wildlife management, conservation, and protection. The bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem provides essential habitat for a diversity of migratory birds and resident wildlife species in Texas. The 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.

### Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge and are restricted to roads that are open to travel. Off-highway vehicles (ATV's, ATC's and UTV's ) are prohibited on the refuge.

### Boats

Boats used for any recreational activity; i.e., hunting and wildlife viewing, must be removed from the refuge daily. Boats must comply with all state regulations.

### Roads

Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on open roads as delineated on the refuge map. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Vehicles are not required to park at designated parking areas but are recommended to do so.

### Bicycles

Must remain on improved roads at all times.

### Accessibility

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in refuge hunts and other activities. Contact the Refuge Manager for guidelines to obtain special use access.

### Animals/Pets

All pets and service animals are required to wear a collar displaying the owner's name, address, and telephone number and remain on a leash.

Horses are permitted only on the Wildlife Observation Trail. Riding off roads into fields, woods, or on foot trails is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

### Closed Areas

Designated areas will be closed to certain types of hunting (see map for specific locations and closures). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons. Roads and lands closed to public access are designated by signs.

### Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are strictly prohibited on the refuge.

### Refuge/Cultural Resources

All government property including natural, historic, and archaeological features are protected by federal law. Searching for or removal of objects of antiquity or other value is strictly prohibited.

### Tree Stands and Game Cameras

We allow the use of only portable blinds and tree stands on the refuge. You must remove blinds, tree stands, and all other personal equipment from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt. The use of nails, wires, screws, or bolts to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. Each stand or camera must be clearly identified with the owner's name, address and telephone number.

### Caddo Lake

#### Hunting Authorization 2025-2026

When signed and carried, this serves as your authorization for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. This authorization is valid only when signed below and must be carried with you at all times while on the refuge. Expires August 31, 2026

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Signature (authorizations are not transferable)

## **Tree Marking**

It is unlawful to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint, flagging tape, ribbon, or similar substance.

## **Hunter Education**

Hunters must comply with the state's hunter education requirements when hunting on the refuge. Hunters must conspicuously wear daylight-fluorescent orange as per State deer hunting regulations on public hunting lands.

## **Youth Supervision**

Hunters age 17 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older, who has successfully completed a Hunter Education Training Course, while hunting.

## **Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations (See map)**

Only the species listed in this brochure as open to hunting may be taken on the refuge.

## **Permits**

The signing of this brochure on the designated line validates it as your general hunting permit for Caddo Lake NWR and is required for all refuge hunting visitors engaged in permitted activities on the refuge. Hunters must show the permit, valid state license, an Annual Hunting Permit (\$48), and identification upon request of any federal Refuge Officer or state Game Warden.

## **2025-2026 Hunting Season**

### **Deer Archery, Season 1**

Season: September 27 - October 31, 2025

All archery hunters will be required to have a signed General Refuge Hunting Permit (available at the Refuge HQ or Visitor Center) prior to hunting. A valid State of Texas hunting license is required. All Texas State regulations apply. Hunters are required to sign-in and out at the refuge Check Station during archery season. An Annual Public Hunting Permit (\$48) will be required.

Bag limit: Two (2) Deer, One antlered and one antlerless. Archery hunters will be required to harvest an antlerless deer prior to attempting to take an antlered deer. Special antler restrictions apply (see Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual).

### **Deer Archery, Season 2**

Season: December 1, 2025 - January 4, 2026

All archery hunters will be required to have a signed General Refuge Hunting Permit (available at the Refuge HQ or Visitor Center) prior to hunting. A valid State of Texas hunting license is required. All Texas State regulations apply. Hunters are required to sign-in and out at the refuge Check Station during archery season. An Annual Public Hunting Permit (\$48) will be required.

Bag limit: One (1) Deer, antlered. Special antler restrictions apply (see Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual).

### **Deer Firearms**

Season: November 28 - 30, 2025

Applications will be made online through the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Drawn Hunts Program. A \$3 per person application fee will apply and a permit fee of \$80 will be required for drawn individuals over age 17.

Bag limit: One (1) Deer, antlered. Special antler restrictions apply (see Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual).

### **Deer Firearms (Youth)**

Season: November 6 - 9, 2025

Applications will be made online through the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Drawn Hunts Program. Hunters age 17 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older. The adult supervisor must remain with the youth participant at all times during hunting activities.

Bag limit: Two (2) Deer, One antlered. Special antler restrictions apply (see Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual).

## **Deer Firearms (Persons with Disabilities)**

Season: November 13 - 16, 2025

Applications will be made through Caddo Lake NWR Headquarters. Persons participating in the hunt must have certification of their disability as required by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department license requirements. A person with disabilities may have a non-hunting aid with them during the hunt, if needed.

Bag limit: Two (2) Deer, One antlered. Special antler restrictions apply (see Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual).

## **Feral Hog**

Season: Feral hog may be taken during the daylight hours of any white-tailed deer hunt. Permits and legal weapons apply as prescribed for the current season.

## **Squirrel Season**

January 5 - February 22, 2026

May 1 - 31, 2026

Gray and fox squirrel hunting will be allowed through the TPWD Annual Public Hunting Permit system. A valid State of Texas hunting license and an Annual Public Hunting Permit (\$48) will be required. The legal method of take is shotgun with federally approved non-toxic shot.

## **Big Game Harvest Report Form**

Hunters, at the end of each day of the hunt please fill out the Big Game Harvest Report form (#3-2959) available from the refuge office. Once completed, please leave in the box at the check-in kiosk.

## **Report Violations:**

For violations contact Refuge Officer at 918-370-8070.

