U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing Plan
2021

White-tailed deer on Holla Bend NWR – Lori Sitton

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing Plan

August 2021

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge
10448 Holla Bend Road
Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834

Submitted By:
Project Leader

KEITH WEAVER

Digitally signed by KEITH WEAVER
Date: 2021.08.06 20:08:39 -04'00'

Signature Date

Concurrence:
Refuge Supervisor

ANITRA FIRMENICH

Digitally signed by ANITRA FIRMENICH
Date: 2021.08.10 06:21:45 -06'00'

Signature Date

Approved:
Regional Chief,
National Wildlife Refuge System

BRETT HUNTER

Digitally signed by BRETT HUNTER
Date: 2021.08.12 08:53:17 -04'00'

Signature Date

Table of Contents

I. Introduction 3
II. Statement of Objectives 5
III. Description of Hunting and Fishing Programs 6
A. Areas to be Opened to Hunting and Fishing 6
B. Species to be Taken, Hunting and Fishing Periods and Access 6
C. Hunter and Angler Permit Requirements 9
D. Consultation and Coordination with the State 9
E. Law Enforcement 10
F. Funding and Staffing Requirements 10
IV. Conduct of the Hunting and Fishing Programs 11
A. Hunter and Angler Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures 11
B. Refuge-Specific Hunting Regulations 12
C. Refuge-Specific Fishing Regulations 12
D. Relevant State Regulations 14
E. Other Refuge Rules and Regulations for Hunting and Fishing 14
V. Public Engagement 14
A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Hunting and Fishing Program 14
B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Hunting and Fishing Program 15
C. How Hunters and Anglers Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations 15
VI. Compatibility Determination 15
VI. References 15

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Approximate annual costs of administering hunting and fishing programs at Holla Bend NWR 10

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Units. 8

SECTION A
HOLLA BEND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
UPLAND AND BIG GAME HUNTING AND FISHING PLAN

I. Introduction

National Wildlife Refuges are guided by the mission and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), the purposes of an individual refuge, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, Service) policy, and laws and international treaties. Relevant guidance includes the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (Administration Act or NWRSAA), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act or NWRSIA), Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, and selected portions of the Code of Federal Regulations and Fish and Wildlife Service Manual.

The Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex includes six individual and unique National Wildlife Refuges (NWR, refuge). These are Bald Knob NWR, Big Lake NWR, Cache River NWR, Holla Bend NWR, Logan Cave NWR, and Wapanocca NWR. With the exception of Logan Cave NWR, hunting and fishing are approved and existing uses on each of these refuges (USFWS 2009, 2010).

Holla Bend NWR was established in 1957 pursuant to

- "… particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program."
- (Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife Conservation Purposes Act, 16 U.S.C. 667b); "… for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory
- birds." (Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1934, 16 U.S.C. 715d);
- "…for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources…for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services." [Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)]; and
- "…suitable for (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species…" (Refuge Recreation Act, 16 U.S.C. 460k – 460k-4).

Holla Bend NWR is located about six miles southeast of the city of Dardanelle, in Pope and Yell Counties in west central Arkansas. The refuge is situated on a meander in the Arkansas River "Holla Bend" that was cut off when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) straightened the channel in 1954. The boundaries of the 6,071-acre refuge are roughly defined by the main channel of the Arkansas River and the cutoff meander channel. The USACE transferred the 4,068-acre Holla Bend cutoff site to the Service and Holla Bend NWR was formally established in 1957. The refuge since has acquired additional lands bringing the fee title boundary to 6,071 acres.

The principal focus of the refuge is providing a wintering area for ducks and geese that use the Arkansas River corridor as they migrate along the Mississippi and Central Flyways. In 1958, under the authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, an area surrounding Holla Bend NWR was designated as closed to the hunting or taking of migratory birds. The Migratory Bird

Closure Zone surrounded the original 4,068-acre area of the refuge and covered 2,732 acres along the Arkansas River and the cutoff channel. The refuge manages 441 acres of the closure zone that are outside the refuge fee title boundary for a total managed area of 6,520 acres.

The refuge is recognized by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Audubon Arkansas also characterizes the refuge as an "outstanding stopover site" for migrating landbirds. Holla Bend NWR was recognized in 2008 as a Globally Important Bird Area for Rusty Blackbird. More than 240 bird species have been observed on Holla Bend NWR. All but six of these species are protected under the Migratory Bird Protection Act, and 179 are classified as Nearctic-neotropical migratory birds. More than a third are identified as species of high conservation concern in various national, regional, or state lists and plans.

A 100-acre tract of cottonwood-dominated bottomland forest in the northeast corner of the refuge is formally designated as the Hog Thief Research Natural Area (RNA). The RNA serves as an experimental control for tracking the effects of forest management activities elsewhere on the refuge, and also provides an opportunity for researchers to document natural successional changes in this habitat as it matures.

The mission of the NWRS, as outlined by the NWRSAA, as amended by the NWRSIA (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), is to:

"... to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

The NWRSAA mandates the Secretary of the Interior in administering the NWRS to (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(4):

- Provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats within the NWRS;
- Ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the NWRS are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans;
- Ensure that the mission of the NWRS described at 16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(2) and the purposes of each refuge are carried out;
- Ensure effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with owners of land adjoining refuges and the fish and wildlife agency of the States in which the units of the NWRS are located;
- Assist in the maintenance of adequate water quantity and water quality to fulfill the mission of the NWRS and the purposes of each refuge;
- Recognize compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses as the priority general public uses of the NWRS through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife;
- Ensure that opportunities are provided within the NWRS for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses; and

- Monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge.

Therefore, it is a priority of the Service to provide for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, when those opportunities are compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established and the mission of the NWRS. Hunting and fishing are consistent with this Act and the larger goals to develop compatible, wildlife-dependent recreation programs that lead to enjoyable experiences; a greater understanding of fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation; and a greater appreciation for the value of Holla Bend NWR.

Holla Bend NWR has been open for hunting since 1969 and this plan is based on the previous hunt and fish plans (USFWS 1980 and 1990, respectively). That first year was a limited archery hunt for white-tailed deer. Now, each year, the refuge receives recognition as an outstanding area for bowhunting. Twenty years ago, weekend youth gun hunts began for turkey and has expanded to include white-tailed deer. Current public hunts include archery hunting for white-tailed deer and turkey, raccoon hunting, and three youth gun hunts for deer and turkey; additional youth gun hunting for deer, squirrel, rabbit, and quail; incidental take of black bear, and certain furbearer species will be considered/implemented through this plan.

The Service recognizes that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) is the authority in the state of Arkansas regarding the population status and sustainability of resident wildlife, including the species that are hunted on Holla Bend NWR. The Service strives to provide hunting and fishing opportunities at Holla Bend NWR that are within the State season frameworks; all hunts are approved by AGFC.

This Hunting and Fishing Plan is tiered from the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) (USFWS 2010) and based on the 1980 Hunt plan and 1990 Fish plan (USFWS 1980 and 1990); hunting and fishing as outlined herein is consistent with the CCP. This draft Hunting and Fishing Plan for the refuge was developed based on Alternative B (Proposed Action) in the Environmental Assessment (EA) in Section B. The companion Hunting and Fishing Compatibility Determinations (CDs) are included in Appendix B and C. Upon approval, these documents will replace the existing Hunt and Fish Plans and existing Hunting and Fishing CDs.

II. Statement of Objectives

Hunting and fishing are consistent with the NWRSIA and the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (USFWS 2010) goals and objectives to develop compatible, wildlife-dependent recreation programs that lead to enjoyable experiences; a greater understanding of fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation; and a greater appreciation for the value of Holla Bend NWR.

Holla Bend NWR CCP Goal 4. Visitor Services. Develop and implement a quality wildlife-dependent recreation program that leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of fish and wildlife resources and enjoyable recreational experiences.

> **Holla Bend NWR CCP Objective 4.1 Hunting -** Over the 15-year life of this CCP, provide safe, quality hunting opportunities consistent with sound biological principals, in support of the refuge's wildlife management objectives and established purposes, and in accordance with Refuge System policy and state and federal laws.

Holla Bend NWR CCP Objective 4.2 Fishing - Over the 15-year life of this CCP, conduct a safe, quality fishing program in accordance with Refuge System policy, and state and federal laws.

III. Description of Hunting and Fishing Programs

The hunting and fishing seasons and species will be consistent with AGFC season framework and regulations. While specific hunting and fishing seasons, days, and times may vary from the state framework, these differences are approved and accepted by AGFC. The Holla Bend NWR annual public use brochures will be updated to reflect more specific information, including seasons, days, times, bag limits, access, licenses and permits, hunting and fishing devices, ammunition, other equipment, quota application process, and other refuge-specific regulations.

A. Areas to be Opened to Hunting and Fishing

Approximately 6,071 acres of Holla Bend NWR will be open to hunting and fishing. Hunt Units are depicted in Figure 1.

Hunting will be open on all terrestrial areas except the two nature trails and the area around the refuge maintenance facility.

Fishing access for recreational fishing will be permitted on the refuge oxbow lakes from March 1 through October 31. The oxbow can be accessed by three refuge boat ramps: 1) the old channel boat ramp located at the end of the Old Channel Road; 2) the Lodge Lake boat ramp located at the end of Lodge Lake road and 3) Long Lake boat ramp located off State Highway 155, two miles south of the refuge entrance (Figure 1).

B. Species to be Taken, Hunting and Fishing Periods and Access

Any changes will be identified in the annual refuge public use brochure.

Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis, S. niger*) **and Rabbit** (*Sylvilagus floridanus, S. aquaticus*) – this will be a mentored youth gun hunt (youths less than 16 years old) open according to state and refuge seasons (February) and specific conditions listed in the AGFC Hunting Guidebook and the annual refuge public use brochure. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult. One adult will be allowed to supervise no more than two youths. The adult may not hunt. Dogs will not be permitted. Note: with several years of successful implementation of this hunt, the refuge in the future may consider allowing the mentoring adult to also hunt and/or allowing the use of dogs.

Quail (*Colinus virgnianus*) – will follow the state-wide season in accordance with state and refuge regulations listed in the AGFC Hunting Guidebook and the annual refuge public use brochure. This hunt will be conducted once a sustainable population is maintained and both refuge and state managers approve to conduct the hunt with certain timing and conditions. Dogs will be permitted.

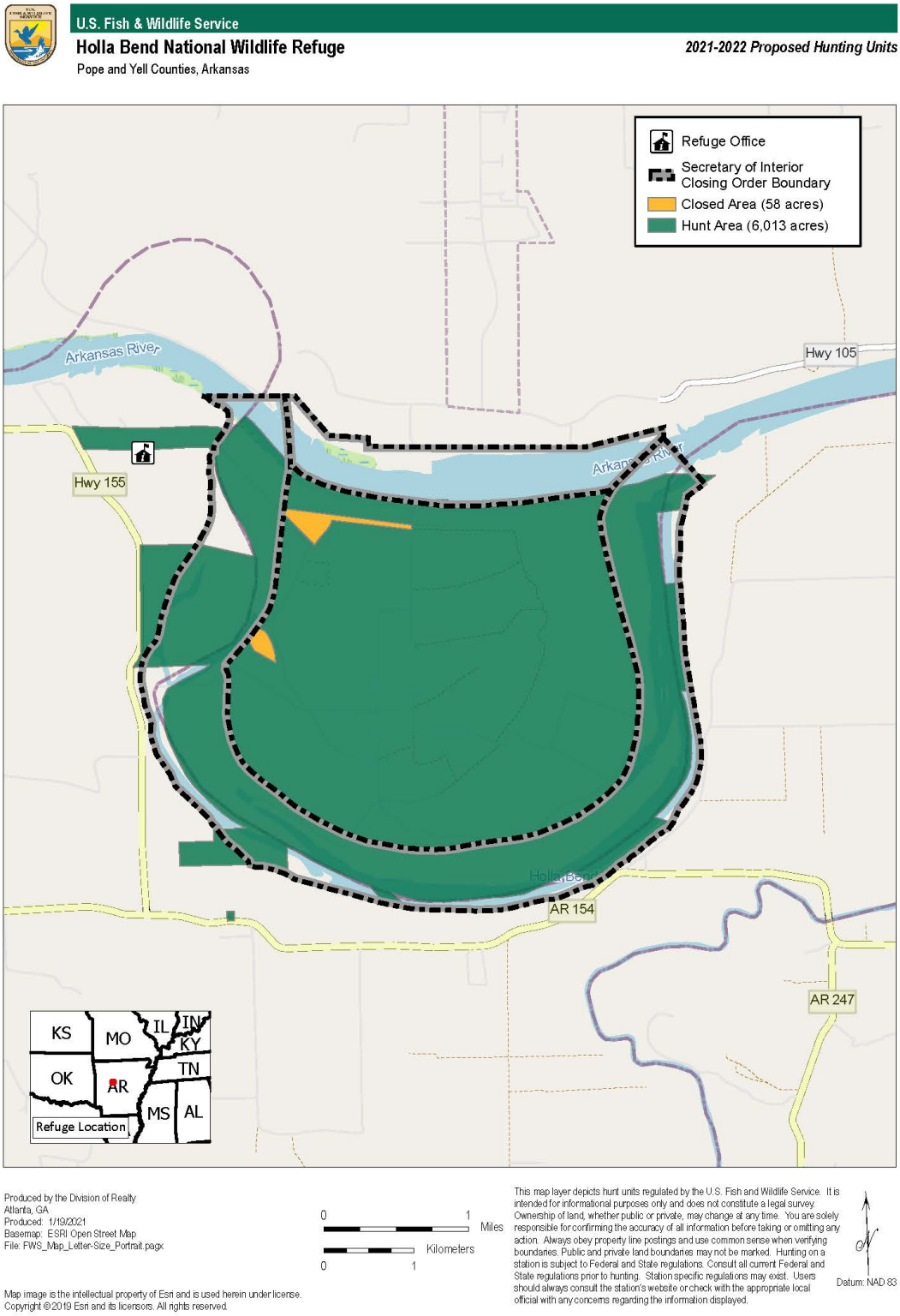
Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) **and Opossum** (*Didelphis virginiana*) – open every night during the month of February according to state and refuge regulations listed in the AGFC Hunting Guidebook and the annual refuge public use brochure. Dogs are required. Shotguns using nontoxic shot and rifles and handguns chambered for rimfire cartridges will be allowed.

Furbearer - coyote (*Canis latrans*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), mink (*Mustela vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), and river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) will be open for incidental take with devices legal for refuge hunts that occur from September 1st to March 31st, and according to any applicable state seasons and regulations.

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) – May be taken incidental to refuge youth quota gun deer hunting and the refuge archery deer hunt during state bear season and according to state and refuge-specific regulations.

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Archery hunting according to state and refuge seasons and regulations listed in the AGFC Hunting Guidebook and the annual refuge

Figure 1. Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Units.



public use brochure. A refuge archery deer hunt permit (FWS Form 3-2439) currently is required. Note: AGFC Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) regulations apply to deer harvested on the refuge.

Youth gun deer quota hunting on Holla Bend NWR is scheduled to coincide with the state youth gun deer hunt weekend and applicable deer management zone. Youth gun deer hunting will require a quota permit (FWS Form 3-2439). Applications for both hunts must be submitted to the refuge by September 30. Only youth may hunt during refuge youth hunts and must be accompanied by a supervising adult that may not hunt. The refuge will be closed to all entry during youth gun deer hunts. A second youth gun deer quota hunt was determined to be compatible and therefore is allowable, but will not be conducted at this time, but a suitable date(s) may be selected and a second quota youth hunt may be conducted in the future with approval of AGFC.

Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) **–** Spring - two youth gun quota hunts occur with seasons and regulations listed in the AGFC Hunting Guidebook and annual refuge public use brochure. Applications must be postmarked during the month of January. Spring Archery season dates coincide with State season and state bag limits apply. The refuge will be closed to all hunting related activities during the youth turkey hunts. The State currently has the fall turkey season closed, but should it reopen, then fall turkey will be allowed on the refuge incidental to the archery deer hunting according to state and refuge-specific regulations presented in the AGFC Hunting Guidebook and annual refuge public use brochure.

Note: of the above-listed species, black bear, red and gray fox, river otter, mink, muskrat, nutria, and striped skunk, (and also crawfish) are species that would be newly opened for take under this hunting and fishing plan.

Hunting Access: Hunters may access the refuge according to entry and exit times listed in the annual public use regulations brochure and/or posted on signs at the entrance gate.

Sport Fishing and Access – Fishing, frogging, and crawfishing (newly opened for take under this plan) are allowed on all refuge waters from March 1 – October 31 in accordance with state and refuge regulations listed in the AGFC Fishing Guidebook and annual refuge public use brochure. Access hours for fishing are sunrise to sunset.

C. Hunter and Angler Permit Requirements

Hunters are required to have an AGFC Hunting License, as well as a Holla Bend NWR Hunt Permit (signed brochure). Anglers will be required to have a State fishing license, but a Refuge-Specific permit is not required. An entrance fee pass is required regardless of visitor activity. Several passes are available. See “Hunter Permit Application and/or Registration Procedures” below.

D. Consultation and Coordination with the State

The refuge reviewed the operations and regulations for statewide hunting programs and neighboring State wildlife management areas and refuges to find to achieve consistency and complement State programs where possible. Biennially, plans for the upcoming hunting seasons are presented to the AGFC at the Hunt Coordination Meeting for concurrence. The refuge strives to follow state seasons, bag limits, and regulations, deviating only when

necessary for biological, safety, hunt quality, or staffing reasons and as approved by AGFC.

The Service recognizes that AGFC is the authority in the state of Arkansas regarding the population status and sustainability of resident wildlife, including the species that are hunted on Holla Bend NWR. Any variance of refuge hunt programs with State framework or regulations is approved by AGFC.

We continued to consult and coordinate with AGFC on specific aspects of the Hunting and Fishing Plan.

Holla Bend NWR and AGFC will continue to work together to ensure safe and enjoyable recreational hunting opportunities. Hunter participation and harvest data are collected by the AGFC and staff from Holla Bend NWR. Holla Bend NWR will support the State in its disease prevention and surveillance efforts as appropriate. AGFC and Central Arkansas Complex Federal Wildlife Officers work together to patrol the refuge, safeguarding hunters, visitors, and both game and nongame species.

E. Law Enforcement

Enforcement of refuge violations normally associated with management of a National Wildlife Refuge is the responsibility of commissioned Federal Wildlife Officers. Other officers, Special Agents, State Wildlife Officers, and the local Sheriff's Department often assist the Complex Federal Wildlife Officers.

The following methods are used to control and enforce hunting and fishing regulations:

- Refuge and hunt area boundaries and fishing site locations will be clearly posted;
- The Refuge will provide a brochure that shows hunting and fishing areas; and
- AGFC law enforcement officers and Central Arkansas NWR Complex Federal Wildlife Officers will randomly check hunters and anglers for compliance with Federal and State Laws.

F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

Annual administration costs for the hunting and fishing program at Holla Bend NWR, including salary, equipment, law enforcement, brochures, collection of data and analysis of biological information, etc. totals approximately $12,600 (Table 1). It is anticipated that at current staffing, funding would continue to be sufficient to continue the hunting and fishing program at Holla Bend NWR in the future.

Table 1. Approximate annual costs of administering hunting and fishing programs at Holla Bend NWR

Hunting and Fishing Program Needs	**Cost**
Staff (Refuge Manager)	$2,000
Maintain roads, parking lots, trails*	$1,000
News releases, fact sheets, and reports	$500
Maintain signage	$1,000
Law Enforcement	$8,100

Total Annual Cost	**$12,600**
Offsetting Revenue for the Complex	$39,662
**Refuge trails and roads are maintained for a variety of activities. Costs shown are a percentage of total costs for trail/road maintenance on the refuge and are reflective of the percentage of trail/road use for hunting and fishing. Volunteers account for some maintenance hours and help to reduce overall cost of the program.*	

IV. Conduct of the Hunting and Fishing Programs

A. Hunter and Angler Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures

A refuge general hunting permit (signed brochure) is required for all hunts. The refuge general hunting permit must be signed by the hunter to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter at all times while on the refuge and in possession of hunting gear. Permits are non-transferable. A permit is located on the front of the refuge public use brochure or can be downloaded and printed from the refuge website. 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 June 30. Signing the permit acknowledges that the hunter has read and understands the refuge hunting regulations and agrees to obey them and agrees to allow USFWS and AGFC officers to inspect or search all equipment used during the permittee's hunt. NOTE: An additional permit is required for refuge deer and turkey hunts and must be signed and carried on your person while hunting. Hunt permits (FWS Form 3-2439) -currently are $12.50 each (subject to change at the refuge's discretion if needed based on administrative/operational needs) and are available from August 1 through December 12 and must be purchased at https://hollbend.recaccess.com. Permits are non-transferable and nonrefundable, even in the event of refuge hunt closure due to flooding or government shut downs.

Applications for youth quota hunts can be printed from the refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/holla_bend, filled out and mailed to the refuge office. Applications can also be made on a postcard or index card mailed in an envelope. Applications should include the applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and the date of the hunt for which he/she is applying; only one applicant per card. Youth hunts are restricted to youths 6 through 15 years old. Permits (FWS Form 3-2439) are free.

Anglers currently are not required to obtain a refuge-specific fishing permit, but they must have in their possession a valid AGFC Fishing License.

Hunting blinds accessible by wheelchair-bound hunters may be provided in designated areas on the refuge for big game hunting. Blinds may be moveable or fixed, and their placement sites may vary depending on water/habitat conditions and use of areas by the target game species. Blinds/access paths will be of such construction and placement that will ensure compatibility, safety, minimal environmental footprint, and minimize conflicts with other users. A draw permit system would be used to assign hunters to these blinds. Permits would be free. Fishing platforms for wheelchair-bound anglers may be constructed in areas suitable for their placement in a manner that will ensure compatibility, safety, and minimize conflicts with other users.

B. Refuge-Specific Hunting Regulations

Specific hunting and fishing seasons, days, and times may vary in some instances from state frameworks, however, these differences are approved by AGFC. The Holla Bend NWR public use brochures will be annually updated to reflect more specific information, including seasons, days, times, bag limits, access, licenses and permits, allowable hunting and fishing devices and ammunition, other equipment, quota application process, and other refuge-specific regulations. To ensure compatibility with refuge purposes and the mission of the NWRS, hunting must be conducted in accordance with State and Federal regulations, as supplemented by refuge-specific regulations, and information sheets/brochures. Stipulations are detailed in the Hunting Compatibility Determination (Appendix B). The following hunting regulations apply at Holla Bend NWR:

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge.

(1) *Migratory bird hunting.* [Reserved]

(2) *Upland game hunting*. We allow hunting of squirrel, rabbit, quail, raccoon, opossum, beaver, muskrat, nutria, river otter, mink, fox, striped skunk, coyote, and bobcat on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) We require a signed refuge hunting permit (FWS Form 3-2439). Anyone on the refuge in possession of hunting equipment must sign and possess the permit (FWS Form 3-2439) at all times.
(ii) We allow squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, and quail hunting according to season dates and bag limits provided in the annual refuge public use brochure.
(iii) We only allow use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) by hunters and anglers with mobility impairments, and the refuge manager must authorize this use in writing.
(iv) Hunters and anglers may use boats in designated areas and at times provided in the annual refuge public use brochure.
(v) All hunters age 11 and younger who possess valid hunter education certification must remain within normal sight and voice contact with an adult age 18 or older who possesses a valid State hunting license. Hunters age 15 and younger who have not completed hunter education must be under the direct supervision (within arm's reach) of an adult age 21 or older who possesses a valid State hunting license. One adult may supervise up to two youth hunters for upland game hunting, but may supervise only one youth during big game hunting.
(vi) During the quota youth gun deer and turkey hunts, we close the refuge to all other hunting and public entry.
(vii) We allow incidental take of beaver, muskrat, nutria, river otter, mink, bobcat, fox, striped skunk, and coyote during any refuge hunt with the weapons legal for that hunt, subject to applicable State seasons and regulations.
(viii) Hunters and anglers may use bicycles and e-bikes only on public use roads and designated trails not closed by a locked gate, other barrier, or signage.
(ix) During the mentored youth squirrel and rabbit hunts, the mentoring adult may supervise up to two hunting youths. Youth hunters may only use shotguns, rifles and handguns chambered for rimfire cartridges, air rifles, and archery tackle. We prohibit adults from hunting during mentored hunts.
(x) Hunters must enter and exit the refuge from designated roads and parking lots only.
(xi) We limit raccoon and opossum hunting to nighttime hunting only.
(xii) Hunter and anglers may not leave motor vehicles, bicycles, e-bikes, or boats unattended overnight on the refuge.
(xiii) We prohibit hunting from a vehicle.

(xiv) We prohibit the use of personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis), airboats, and hovercraft for hunting and fishing on the refuge.

(3) *Big game hunting*. We allow hunting of deer, black bear, and turkey on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) The conditions set forth at paragraphs (f)(2)(i), (iii) through (viii), (x), and (xii) through (xiv) of this section apply.
(ii) We allow archery/crossbow hunting for white-tailed deer and turkey according to season dates and bag limits provided in the annual refuge public use brochure.
(iii) Youth modern gun deer hunts will be conducted according to season dates and bag limits provided in the refuge public use brochure.
(iv) We allow the take of black bear incidental to refuge archery and modern gun deer hunts subject to applicable State seasons and regulations.
(v) The refuge will conduct youth-only quota spring gun turkey hunts according to season dates and bag limits provided in the refuge public use brochure.
(vi) You may erect portable stands or blinds 7 days before the start of the season, and you must remove them from the refuge within 7 days after the season ends (see §27.93 of this chapter).
(vii) We prohibit leaving any tree stand, blind, or game camera on the refuge without the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission customer identification number clearly written on it in a conspicuous location.
(viii) We prohibit organized drives. We define a "drive" as an organized or planned effort to pursue, drive, chase, or otherwise frighten or cause game to move in the direction of any person(s) who is part of the organized or planned hunt and known to be waiting for the game.
(ix) You must check all harvested turkey, bear, and deer at the refuge check station.
(x) We prohibit the use of dogs for deer hunting.
(xi) Big game hunters may enter the refuge 1 hour before legal sunrise and must exit by 1 hour after legal sunset.

C. Refuge-Specific Fishing Regulations

To ensure compatibility with refuge purposes and the mission of the Refuge System, fishing must be conducted in accordance with State and Federal regulations, as supplemented by refuge-specific regulations, and information sheets/brochures. Stipulations are detailed in the Fishing Compatibility Determination (Appendix C). The following fishing procedures apply at Holla Bend NWR:

(4) *Sport fishing*. We allow sport fishing, frogging, and crawfishing on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) The conditions set forth at paragraphs (2)(iii), (iv), (vi), (viii), (xii), and (xiv) above apply.
(ii) We allow fishing, frogging, and crawfishing on all waters only from March 1 through October 31 from legal sunrise to legal sunset.
(iii) Anglers must remove boats from the refuge at the end of each day's fishing activity (see §27.93 of this chapter).
(iv) We prohibit the take or possession of turtles and/or mollusks (see §27.21 of this chapter).
(v) We allow frogging and crawfishing for personal use only. All crawfish traps must have the owner's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer identification number permanently affixed.

(vi) We prohibit access to refuge waters and land from the Arkansas River.
(vii) We limit trotlines, setline, limblines, yo-yo and free-floating fishing devices to 20 per person; any line that extends into the water must be cotton.
(viii) Trotlines, setlines, limblines, yo-yos, and free-floating fishing devices must be clearly labelled with the angler's Arkansas Game and Fish Commission license customer identification number and cannot be left overnight or unattended.

D. Relevant State Regulations

The refuge conducts its hunting and fishing program within the framework of State and Federal regulations. Hunting and fishing on the refuge is at least as restrictive as the AGFC and in some cases more restrictive. Additionally, the refuge coordinates with the State as needed to maintain regulations and programs that are consistent with the State's management programs. All relevant refuge-specific regulations are listed above in Section IV, subsection B.

All deer and turkey harvested on the refuge must be checked according to state regulations.

E. Other Refuge Rules and Regulations for Hunting and Fishing

All hunters must comply with state requirements for hunter education. In addition, all hunters under the age of 11 who possess valid hunter education certification must remain within normal sight and voice contact with an adult at least 18 years of age who possesses a valid State hunting license. Hunters under the age of 15 who have not completed hunter education must be under the direct supervision (within arm's reach) of an adult at least 21 years old who possesses a valid State hunting license. One adult may supervise up to two youth hunters for migratory bird and upland game hunting, but may supervise only one youth during big game hunting. Note: Special permit or mentored hunts may have further requirements for supervision of participants - consult refuge manager for details.

Camping and fires are not permitted on the refuge.

Raccoon/Opossum hunters are required to sign in and out at the refuge check station.

Commercial guiding/hunting is prohibited.

Dog field trials and organized training events are prohibited.

V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Hunting and Fishing Program

The Refuge maintains a mailing list, for information bulletin purposes, to local newspapers, radio, and websites. Special announcements and articles may be released in conjunction with hunting and fishing seasons. In addition, information about the hunt will be available at Holla Bend NWR headquarters or on the Holla Bend NWR website, and Holla Bend Facebook page.

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Hunting and Fishing Program

Based on the comments received during the CCP (2010), and given that hunting and fishing have already been allowed on Holla Bend NWR for more than 50 years, little negative public reaction is expected. Hunting and fishing are important economic and recreational uses of Arkansas' natural resources. We expect that the increased opportunities offered with this plan will be well received by the public. (See Appendix D for public comment received and Service response).

C. How Hunters and Anglers Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations

General information regarding hunting and other wildlife-dependent public uses can be obtained at Holla Bend NWR headquarters at 10448 Holla Bend Road, Dardanelle, AR 72834 or by calling (479)229-4300. Dates, forms, maps, directions, applications, and permit requirements about the hunts will be available on the station website at: www.fws.gov/refuge/holla_bend. Dates, maps, and other information about hunting and fishing in Arkansas are available on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at: www.agfc.com or call 800-364-4263.

VI. Compatibility Determination

Hunting and fishing are compatible with the purposes of the refuge. See attached (Appendices B and C)

VI. References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1980. Holla Bend NWR Hunt Plan. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Holla Bend NWR Fish Plan. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. June 2007. "Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Biological Review Report." Edited by T. Edwards, Division of Migratory Birds, Hazen, AR.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. June 2010. "Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan." 191 pp.