



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kirwin

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations and Guidelines

Welcome to Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge

Kirwin, the first National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Kansas, was established in 1954 as an overlay project on a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation and flood control reservoir. The reservoir is fed by the North Fork of the Solomon River and Bow Creek. Both are intermittent streams, which means they may go dry during periods of low precipitation. The reservoir water level fluctuates tremendously from year to year, depending upon rain and snow runoff.

Kirwin NWR, consisting of 10,778 acres, supports diverse wildlife habitat including grasslands, wooded riparian zones, open water, wetlands, and croplands. It is one in a system of over 530 refuges administered nationwide by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary purpose of the Refuge is to provide nesting cover, food, and shelter for waterfowl, songbirds, upland game birds, and mammals. Providing quality wildlife habitat and compatible recreation opportunities are key components to managing Kirwin NWR.

Enjoying Your Visit

Recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, photography, wildlife interpretation, hiking, and camping can be enjoyed at Kirwin NWR. Approximately 5,800 acres of the Refuge are open to public hunting during Kansas hunting seasons.

Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the state transfer relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For information or to address accessibility needs, please contact

Refuge staff at 785 / 543 6673 or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240.

Refuge Regulations and Guidelines

Motor vehicles - Motor vehicles are permitted only on designated refuge roads or in maintained camping or picnicking areas. Roads are subject to seasonal or weather-related closures. No vehicles may be driven on Refuge grasslands or croplands. Parking is permitted only in designated parking areas or immediately adjacent to public roads. The use of snowmobiles or all terrain vehicles is not permitted on the Refuge.

Fishing - Kirwin Reservoir is open to sport fishing in accordance with Kansas State Fishing Regulations, **UNLESS SIGNS OR BUOYS INDICATE A CLOSED AREA**. Disposing of fish cleanings on the Refuge is littering and is subject to fine. A fish cleaning station is located on the square in the city of Kirwin.

Boating - Boating is permitted on all waters lying east of a buoy line from Gray's Park to Dog Town, unless otherwise designated by signs or buoys. Boats must be equipped and operated in accordance with Kansas Boat and Water Safety Laws and appropriate Federal regulations. Float tubes are allowed in areas open to boating. A "no wake zone" is in effect within 300 feet of all shorelines and islands, as well as on the Bow Creek arm. The Solomon River arm is closed to all motorized boating. Motorless boating and float tubes are allowed on the Solomon arm from August 1 through October 31. Boats may be launched 1 mile west of the Refuge Headquarters.

Camping and Picnicking - Camping is permitted only in Grays Park, Cottonwood Grove, Rocky Flats, South

Shore Boat Ramp, Crappie Point, and Catfish Cove campgrounds. Camping is limited to seven (7) consecutive days in the same campground. Downed wood may be gathered for fires. Special use permits are required for groups over 10. These special use permits are free and may be picked up at Refuge Headquarters.

Camp Fires - Camp fires are allowed in **DESIGNATED CAMPGROUNDS ONLY** and must be completely extinguished before leaving.

Personal Conduct - Disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace is forbidden. No person who is obviously intoxicated will enter or be allowed to remain on the Refuge. Possession of controlled substances is prohibited. Commercial use of the Refuge, including guiding, is prohibited and is subject to fine.

Littering - All trash must be removed when you leave the Refuge. Leaving refuse, including fish cleanings, on Refuge land or in the reservoir is considered littering and is subject to fine.

Pets - Dogs and other pets must be on a leash or under the owner's immediate control. Free roaming pets are prohibited on any portion of the Refuge.

Fireworks - The discharge of fireworks or other explosives on the Refuge is prohibited.

Animal, Plant and Historic Items - Molesting, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or attempting to do so to **ANY** artifact, fossil or historic item, animal or plant, except properly taken fish and/or game animals in season, is prohibited.

Hunting - All hunters must possess a valid Kansas hunting license and all the necessary stamps and/or permits as required by Federal and State laws.

Archery deer hunters are required to obtain and carry a free permit while hunting on the Refuge. This permit will assist with tracking the use of archery deer hunting areas on the Refuge as well as helping with management of the deer herds to improve hunting opportunities.

Season dates, methods of taking game, and bag and possession limits are the same as Federal and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations, **EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

*Only Federally approved non-toxic shot may be used.

- Species that can be legally hunted on the Refuge include ONLY waterfowl, doves, pheasants, quail, turkey, prairie chickens, snipe, coots, cottontail rabbits, fox squirrels, and deer (archery only). Hunting of cottontail rabbits and fox squirrels is allowed only during pheasant season. Hunting of other wildlife is not permitted.

- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge are the only legal firearms permitted on the Refuge. No rifles or handguns are permitted. Discharge of a firearm for any reason other than the legal taking of game animals is prohibited.

- Areas open for hunting are outlined on the map. Not all hunting areas are open for all species, so be sure that you hunt in the proper area. If you are unsure, contact a Refuge Officer for assistance. While in the field during dark goose season, ALL hunters in the area from the Quillback Cove parking lot to the "no hunting" boundary east of Dog Town may possess a daily maximum of six (6) shells.

- Portable tree stands and hunting blinds are permitted. They may be installed no more than seven (7) days prior to the season and must be removed no later than two (2) days after the season. The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited on the Refuge. The construction or use of any permanent stand or blind is not

permitted. The digging or use of holes or pits is not permitted. Natural vegetation may be used to construct a temporary blind.

- Game may not be retrieved from a NO HUNTING ZONE or from an area that is not open to the hunting of that species. Regulate your hunting to ensure that game does not fall into an area where it cannot be retrieved.

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge
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Kirwin, KS 67644
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<http://kirwin.fws.gov>

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TTY/Voice: 711

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<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

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