

## Cross Creeks General Regulations

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the Refuge. Vehicles must remain on Refuge roads that are shown on map and designated as open. ATV/UTV and golf cart use on the Refuge is prohibited. Parking must not impede the flow of traffic or block gates. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on the Refuge is 25 mph.

Littering, vandalism or tampering with water control structures is strictly forbidden.

Public access to the refuge is limited to daylight use only, (30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset).

During hunting season, hunters may access the refuge two hours prior to sunrise to two hours after sunset.

Facilities and activities accessible to the disabled are available. Please ask for details.



This sign and yellow paint clearly marks all refuge property. It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.



This area is closed to all entry. No entering, hunting or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public. Some of these signs may have dates indicating the length of time the area is closed.



This area is closed to all vehicles, and horseback riding. Entry is only permitted by foot or bicycle.



This area is closed to all hunting.

- It is unlawful to hunt within 100 yards of a private dwelling, and to access the refuge across private land without permission from the private landowner. Be aware that purple paint indicates private land.

- Firearms are permitted in accordance with state laws. Weapons legally possessed for hunting are the same as those prescribed by the state of Tennessee.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Camping and campfires on the refuge are prohibited.
- Horseback riding is allowed on refuge roads open to vehicle traffic.
- Bicycles can be used on refuge hunts but must remain on refuge paved or graveled roads.
- Dogs are allowed for small game hunting and retrieval of geese during the early goose season. All dogs must be restrained by chain or leash if not being legally used for hunting. Dog owners/handlers must have a collar on each dog with the owners name, and address/or telephone number.
- Temporary blinds or stands permitted on the day of the hunt only. All blinds, stands and other personal property must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- It is unlawful to mark any tree or other feature with paint or similar substance. Please remove all flagging tape and other marking material upon leaving the Refuge.
- All hunters born after January 1, 1969, must have completed a hunter safety course as demonstrated by card or certificate.
- Hunters must wear on the upper portion of their body and head a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange during the youth and muzzleloader deer hunt season.
- Field dressing deer within 50 yards of a public road or trail is prohibited.
- Hunting within 50 yards of a public road is prohibited. Shooting from or across any road is prohibited.
- It is illegal to cut corn stalks, trees or other vegetation on the refuge.
- The use of trail cameras and drones is prohibited.
- Recreational trapping is not allowed on the refuge.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Cross Creeks

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2026-2027



Cross Creeks  
National Wildlife Refuge  
643 Wildlife Road  
Dover, TN 37058  
931/232 7477  
[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cross\\_creeks](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cross_creeks)  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD

March 2026



- Deer hunts are no longer under quotas, but open to statewide seasons through November 14th. State bag limits apply.
- Spring and fall turkey season open during statewide seasons, including youth hunt.
- The Refuge Annual Hunt Permit may be purchased only through TWRA licensing agents using code 064.
- When checking a deer, use Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge as the location.

### Cross Creeks General Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted on Cross Creeks NWR at a level compatible with the environment, providing recreational opportunities and permitting the use of a renewable resource.

The regulations listed supplement the general regulations governing fishing on a national wildlife refuge as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32. Sport fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations, subject to the following special regulations.

- The open season for Elk and South Cross Creek Reservoirs and all the refuge pools is from March 16 through November 14 during daylight hours. Sport fishing from a boat is permitted year-round, 24 hours a day, in the waters of Barkley Lake.
- All waters on Cross Creeks shall follow Barkley Reservoir state creel and size limits.
- Trotlines, limblines, jugs, and slat baskets are not permitted in refuge pools, impoundments and on Elk Reservoir and South Cross Creeks Reservoir.
- We do not allow taking of frogs, turtles and crawfish.
- We prohibit leaving boats unattended on the refuge after daylight use hours.
- We allow bow fishing in refuge impoundments and on Barkley Lake.
- Boats are restricted to "idle speed/no wake" on all refuge pools and impoundments.
- Swimming is prohibited in refuge impoundments, or from boat docks and boat ramps.
- Improved and unimproved boat launching ramp. (See map for ramp locations).



### Cross Creeks General Hunting Regulations

Established in 1962, the 8,862 acre Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge is one of 568 National Wildlife Refuges across the country. Cross Creeks is open to hunting during specific refuge seasons for the following species: squirrel, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and resident Canada goose. Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidental to a scheduled refuge hunt for the species listed in this brochure with any weapon legal for that hunt. No taking of turtles, crawfish or bullfrogs on refuge. Hunting is permitted on various portions of Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge with the exception of those areas marked "Closed" on the map or by "Closed Area" signs on refuge lands or waters. Applicable Federal and State law

and regulations apply. Mobility impaired hunters can contact the refuge office for accessible areas.

### Refuge Annual Permits

Each hunter, age 17 and older, must have on his person a valid State hunting license AND a Refuge Annual Hunting Permit. There is a \$15 fee for this permit which is valid for all refuge hunting. The permit fee is non-refundable and the permit is non-transferable. The permit is valid on both Cross Creeks and Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges.

Refuge Annual Hunting Permits can now be obtained from all licensing agents through TWRA, online at [gooutdoorstennessee.com](http://gooutdoorstennessee.com), or on the TWRA mobile app. Please use code 064 when purchasing a refuge permit through a TWRA licensing agent.

### Deer Hunts

Refuge deer hunts **are all non-quota** and open to statewide seasons through November 14. State bag limits apply and harvested deer count toward the statewide bag limit. All deer killed on the refuge must be checked at the nearest check station or online, or by using TWRA mobile app. When checking a deer use Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge as the location.

### Youth Hunters

Hunters age 6 through 16 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older who has a refuge hunting permit on his person. The adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of hunting device. Multiple youth may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

## 2026-2027 Season Dates and Regulations for Refuge Hunts

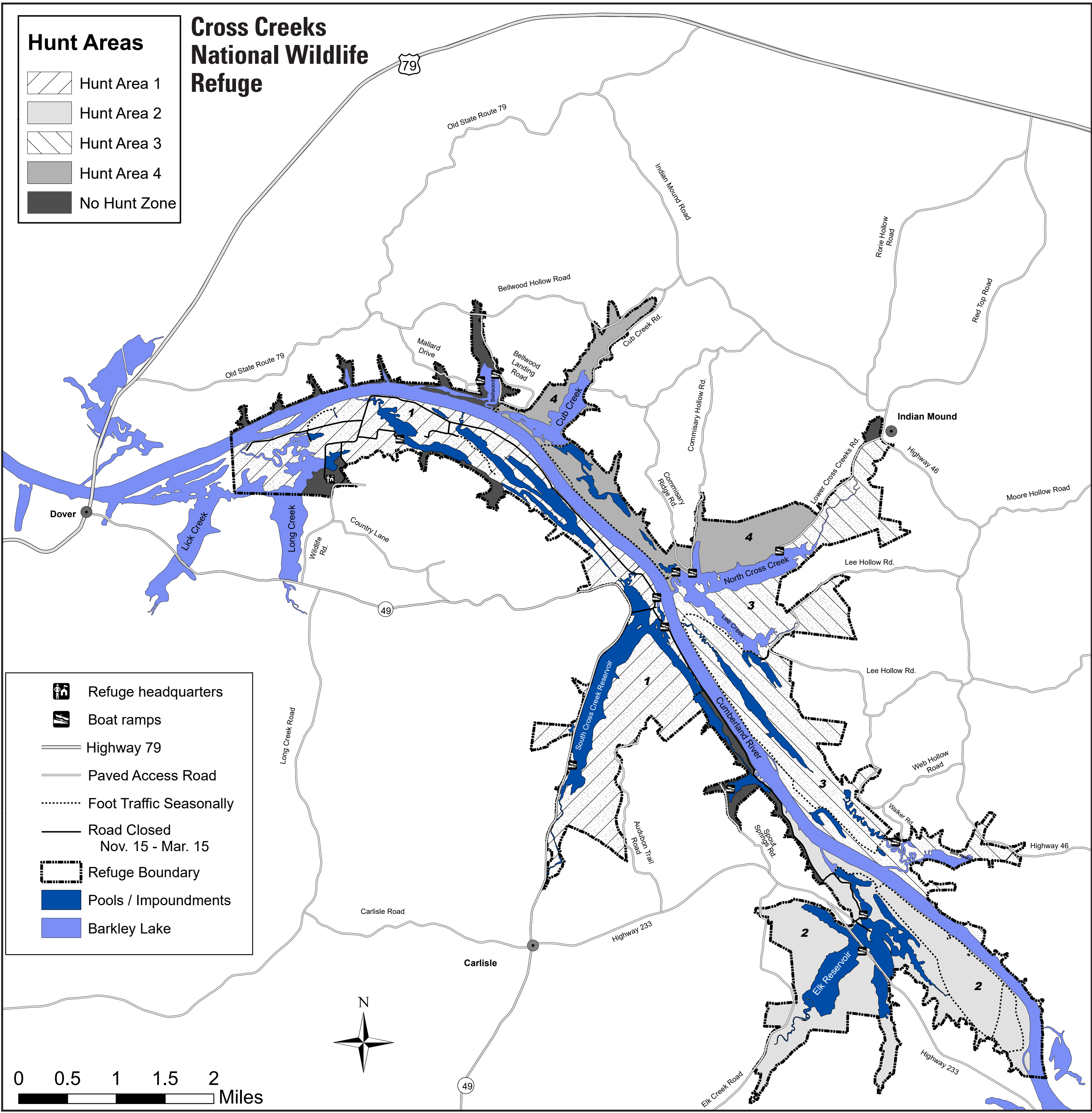
Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidental to scheduled refuge hunts listed below. The hunting of any other species not listed below is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to bobcat, river otter and fox. All state bag limits, season lengths and weapon regulations apply unless otherwise specified.










Type	Season dates	Bag limits	Refuge specific regulations
Squirrel	Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14th. Spring squirrel open with statewide season.	State bag limits apply.	Dogs are permitted.
Resident Canada Goose	Open during the September statewide season from September 1 through the day before the start of early wood duck/teal season.  Goose hunting is allowed in fields and water in hunt areas 1 and 2 only.	State bag limits apply.	<b>Federally approved non-toxic shot is required.</b> We permit the use of dogs to retrieve geese. Hunting from an agricultural field that is not harvested is prohibited with the exception of winter wheat. Shooting across any public use road is prohibited. It is illegal to cut corn stalks or other vegetation on the refuge. You may use only portable blinds, and you must remove all boats, blinds, and decoys from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt. Permanent and/ or pit blinds are prohibited.
Turkey (shotgun/archery)	Spring and fall turkey season open during statewide season, including youth hunt.	State bag limits apply. Turkey taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	State tagging regulations apply. When checking turkey use Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge. A Refuge Annual Hunt Permit is not required for a youth hunter, but is required for the supervising adult. Calling or attempting to call turkeys on the refuge is prohibited from March 1 until the opening of turkey season. Fanning or reaping turkeys prohibited.
Deer (archery/muzzleloader)	Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14th.  The refuge is closed to the August Archery Hunt (Velvet Hunt).	State bag limits apply. Deer taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	State tagging regulations apply. When checking deer use Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge.
Youth Deer (gun/archery/muzzleloader)	Same as statewide seasons, except not to extend past November 14th.	State bag limits apply. Deer taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	A Refuge Annual Hunt Permit is not required for a youth hunter, but is required for the supervising adult. State tagging regulations apply. When checking deer use Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge. Multiple youth may be accompanied by a single non-hunting adult. The adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device.

# Hunt Areas

-  Hunt Area 1
-  Hunt Area 2
-  Hunt Area 3
-  Hunt Area 4
-  No Hunt Zone

# Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge



-  Refuge headquarters
-  Boat ramps
-  Highway 79
-  Paved Access Road
-  Foot Traffic Seasonally
-  Road Closed Nov. 15 - Mar. 15
-  Refuge Boundary
-  Pools / Impoundments
-  Barkley Lake

