



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM**

Public Information Bulletin

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Opens Hunting at Green River National Wildlife Refuge in Henderson County, Kentucky

Hunting on national wildlife refuges (NWRs) is a tradition that dates back to the early 1900s. Today, more than 370 refuges are open to the public for hunting across the country. Here in the southeast, NWRs are a huge part of this tradition. We welcome sportswomen and sportsmen of all backgrounds and abilities to experience challenging hunting in amazing places.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the opening of hunting at Green River NWR in Henderson County, Kentucky as published in the Federal Register as part of the 2024-25 Hunting and Sport Fishing Rule. Green River NWR is being opened to hunting as outlined in the Hunt Plan, Hunting Compatibility Determination, and associated documents. The Service is actively acquiring property, up to 24,000 acres from willing sellers, for Green River NWR within a 53,000-acre Conservation Partnership Area (CPA). Tiering from the 2019 Land Protection Plan (LPP) / Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) / Environmental Assessment (EA) / Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the 2024-25 Hunt Package for Green River NWR evaluates the potential for hunting throughout the CPA on current and potential future properties of the refuge. The 2024-25 Hunt Package evaluates hunting on the refuge for migratory game birds (specifically duck, goose, coot, merganser) and archery and crossbow hunting for big game (white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkey). Additional hunting opportunities of migratory birds and big game will be assessed as development of Green River NWR progresses.

Beginning in the 2024-25 hunt season following publication in the Federal Register, the Service is opening ~589 acres of the Horseshoe Bend Unit to the listed hunts.

- Migratory waterfowl hunting (duck, goose, coot, and merganser) for youth, seniors, and disabled hunters, as defined by the state, during the months of December and January of the statewide season and for youth and veterans in February for the state-wide veterans and youth dates
- Deer and turkey archery and crossbow only hunting for youth, seniors, and disabled hunters, as defined by the state, during the months of September and October of the statewide season
- Turkey archery and crossbow only hunting for youth only, as defined by the state, during the months of April and May of the statewide season

Beginning in the 2024-25 hunt season following publication in the Federal Register, the Service is opening ~204 acres of the Tscharner West section of the Bluff Unit to the listed hunts.

- Deer and turkey archery and crossbow only hunting for youth, seniors, and disabled hunters, as defined by the state, during the months of September and October of the statewide season
- Turkey archery and crossbow only hunting for youth only, as defined by the state, during the months of April and May of the statewide season

Beginning in the 2025-26 hunt season, given the logistical timing of approval for hunt plans, as well as the time needed for applications, awards, and permit issuance, the Service will open approximately ~793 acres (i.e., ~589 acres in Horseshoe Bend and ~204 acres of the Tscharner West section of Bluff Unit) to the listed hunts.

- Quota archery and crossbow deer/turkey in November of the statewide season

The 2024-25 Hunt Package evaluated the entire CPA; future hunt packages would tier from the 2024-25 Hunt Package. Over time and in accordance with the Hunting and Sport Fishing Rulemaking process and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, based on acquisitions, staffing, habitat restoration, infrastructure, and visitor amenities, the Service will work at the refuge to refine existing opportunities and/or develop additional migratory game bird hunting (e.g., quota hunts, early teal and wood duck hunts, and dove hunts) and additional big game hunting (e.g., quota hunts).

The final documents are now available on the refuge's website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/green-river>) with publication in the Federal Register of the 2024-25 Hunting and Sport Fishing Rule (<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2024-25905/national-wildlife-refuge-system-2024-2025-station-specific-hunting-and-sport-fishing-regulations>).

Across the country, national wildlife refuges work closely with state and Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private partners to expand access to hunting and fishing where it is compatible with refuge purposes. Hunting and fishing provide opportunities for families to enjoy the outdoors, create memories, and pass on family traditions.

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov/southeast. Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our posts at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.