

# Big Branch Marsh

*National Wildlife Refuge  
Hunting and Fishing  
Regulations 2003-2004*



CELEBRATING A  
**CENTURY**  
of CONSERVATION

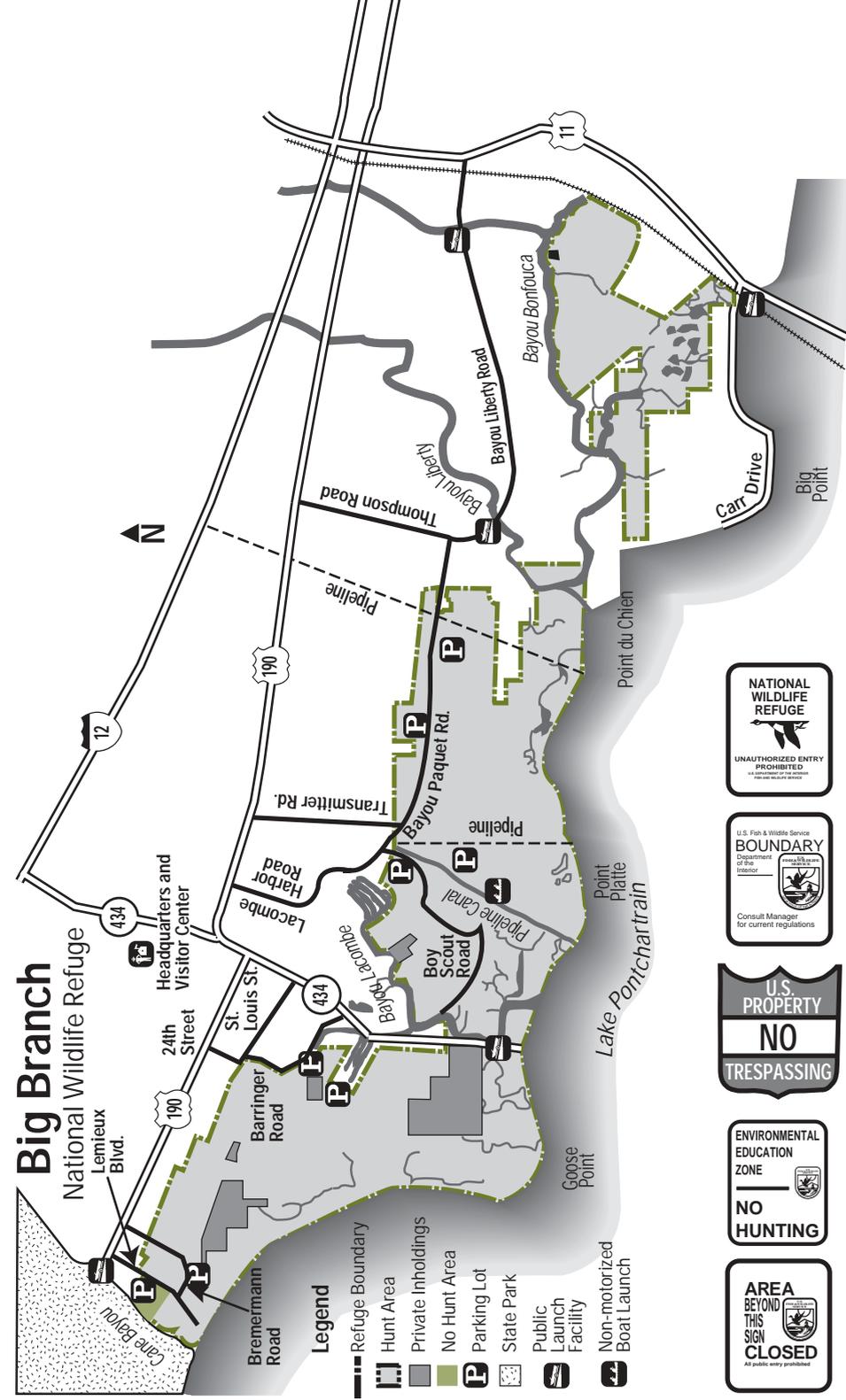
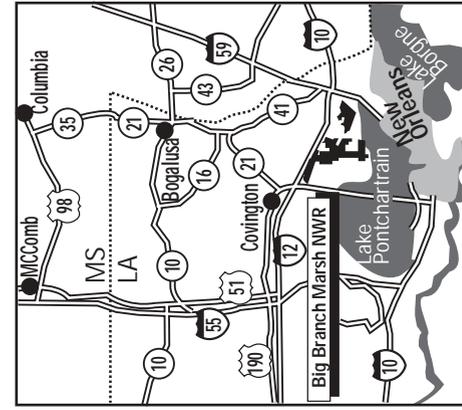
**Big Branch Marsh Refuge Hunting Permit 2003-2004**  
When signed and in your possession, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts, **except the first 2 weekends of duck season**, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Expires June 30, 2004.

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Southeast Louisiana Refuges  
Big Branch Marsh  
61389 Highway 434  
Lacombe, Louisiana 70445  
985/882 2000  
<http://southeastlouisiana.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD

August 2003



- Legend**
- Refuge Boundary
  - Hunt Area
  - Private Inholdings
  - No Hunt Area
  - P Parking Lot
  - State Park
  - Public Launch Facility
  - Non-motorized Boat Launch

- NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
- UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PROHIBITED
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service BOUNDARY
- U.S. PROPERTY NO TRESPASSING
- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ZONE NO HUNTING
- AREA BEYOND THIS SIGN CLOSED

**Signs and Boundaries**  
Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.

These top two signs mark the refuge boundary. Public entry is generally authorized. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.

No Trespassing beyond this sign without written permission from refuge manager.

This sign marks an area on the refuge designated for environmental education in which school kids learn about the refuge. The area bounded by these signs is closed to hunting.

This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason.

### General Provisions

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of fish and wildlife. Harvesting surplus animals is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations.

Take pride in your refuge. Report violations.

### Permits are required for all hunters

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Firearm/  
Ammunition

Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded and encased or dismantled.

Firearms are permitted only during the refuge hunting season.



### Disabled Sportsmen

Please contact the refuge office for information.

### General Hunting and Fishing Regulations

No air-thrust boats, motorized pirogues, mud boats, or air cooled propulsion engines allowed on the refuge.

Public hunting for waterfowl and deer is permitted on all lands within Big Branch Marsh NWR except for areas marked with "No Hunting Zone" signs. These areas are shown on the reverse map.

Hunters under age 16 must have successfully completed a State-approved Hunter Education Course. While hunting, youths

must have card or certificate of completion on his/her person. Youths under age 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. For waterfowl hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth.

The refuge is open during daylight hours only.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is not permitted while hunting.

### Specific Hunting Regulations

Identify target before shooting and be aware of other hunters in the area.

All deer stands must be removed within 14 days following the end of the refuge deer season.

All bowhunters are encouraged to complete a certified bowhunter education course.

### Specific Fishing Regulations

Only recreational fishing and crabbing are permitted in all refuge waters during daylight hours.

No trotlines, slat traps, or nets permitted.

No gar sets or jug fishing.

### Prohibited Activities

Possession of buckshot, slugs, rifles or rifle ammunition is prohibited.

Baiting or hunting with the aid of bait or the distribution of bait.

Hunting from permanent tree stands (attached by nails, spikes, or other metal objects).

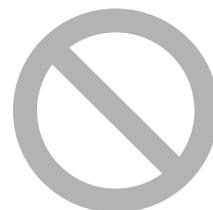
Hunting within 200 feet of any road (including all refuge roads), residence, or designated public use facilities.

Possession of lead shot during all refuge hunts is prohibited.

Motorized vehicles off public roads and designated parking area.

Target shooting is prohibited.

Warning



### Big Branch Marsh NWR

Type Hunt	Season	Special Conditions
Archery Deer	State season	Refuge permit required. Portable stands only. Dogs and "driving" deer prohibited. Either sex for entire archery deer season.
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots)	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday during state duck season. Includes special teal hunt and youth waterfowl hunt. Closed during segment goose season that extends beyond regular duck season.	Refuge permit required. Hunting permitted until noon only. Temporary blinds only. Blinds and decoys must be removed by noon. Retrievers are allowed. Permits for the first 2 weekends of duck season are issued through a first come, first serve basis. The first 100 walk-ins' for each weekend will be issued permits.
Squirrel and Rabbit	State season	Refuge permit required. Shotgun only, non-toxic shot only, shot size #4 or smaller. Dogs may be used <b>only</b> after close of state gun deer season.
Snipe, Woodcock and Quail	State season	Refuge permit required. Non-toxic shot only, shot size #4 or smaller. Recognized breeds of setter/retriever only.
Hog	Hogs may be taken as incidental game, with bow and arrow, during refuge archery deer hunts.	Refuge permit required.
Gallinules and Rails	State season	Refuge permit required. Non-toxic shot only, shot size #4 or smaller.
Nutria	State season	May be taken by trapping only. Trappers must apply for a special use permit at the refuge headquarters in Lacombe, LA.

### Limited Duck Hunt Registration Rules

1. You, or a member of your hunt party, must come into the Lacombe office to receive your permit
2. Walk-ins can come to the Lacombe office starting September 29 through October 10 during business hours (Monday - Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm) only.
3. Hunt parties are limited to four members.
4. Once a hunt party puts the total number of hunters at or above 100 participants for each weekend the lotto will be closed.
5. A cashier's check for \$12.50 made out to The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required for all permits.
6. Mail in money orders will NOT be accepted.