

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge
2312 Quebec Road
Tallulah, LA 71282
Phone: 318/ 574-2664
Fax: 318/574-1624
<http://tensasriver@fws.gov/>

News Release



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Contact: Kelly Purkey (318) 574-2664

TENSAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROPOSES CHANGE TO PERMIT FEE SYSTEM

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge is seeking public comment on the proposal to change the current permit fee structure for the Refuge. Beginning September 1, 2016, the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge is proposing to charge an Annual Hunting Permit Fee of \$20 for all hunting activities; this amount will include the ability to use an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on designated trails.

Since 1996, a \$12.50 fee was charged for those successfully drawn for the 2-lottery gun hunts (since 2012, a \$7.50 service fee was added for using the online system). The \$10.00 ATV permit fee was established in 1999 (since 2012, a \$5.95 shipping and handling fee was added for using the online system). There has not been an increase to those fees since 1996 and 1999, respectively, while costs to administer the permit program as well as fuel costs to maintain public use projects have risen in line with cost of living increases nationwide.

Eighty percent (80%) of the revenue collected from the proposed \$20.00 fee would be added to the Refuge budget each year, providing direct financial support for maintaining and improving the hunt program and facilities. This additional funding has become even more essential as Refuges deal with critical budget shortages.

We are interested in hearing from you regarding the proposed fee increase and will collect public comments beginning Feb 1 through February 29, 2016. Please provide comments no later than February 29, 2016 to Tensas River NWR, Attn: Project Leader, 2312 Quebec Road, Tallulah, LA 71282, via email (tensasriver@fws.gov) or call at (318) 574-2664.

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge is part of a national network of lands that includes over 560 refuges located throughout the United States. For more information, please contact the Tensas River NWR headquarters at (318)574-2664.