

General Hunting/Trapping Regulations

- Licensed motorized vehicles permitted on numbered roads only as shown on the Land Between the Lakes Motorized Vehicle Use Map available online at landbetweenthe lakes.us/maps. Other roads are for administrative or emergency access only.
- Parking is permitted no further than one vehicle length from a legal road.
- Do not damage or rut roads, trails, or fields.
- Do not leave campfire rings/rocks in fields, roads, or trails.
- Do not block or restrict access to any road, trail, or gate when parking.
- Unlicensed motorized vehicles are allowed only in the Turkey Bay Off-Highway Vehicle Area and require a permit.
- When transporting firearms, keep them cased and unloaded in both chamber and magazine.
- No Hunting Areas: Nature Watch Areas, wildlife refuges, safety zones around facilities, and other posted areas are closed to hunting.
- It is unlawful to discharge a weapon capable of taking human life within 150 yards of a campsite, recreation site, or occupied area, or across or on a National Forest System road.
- Waterfowl hunters may not hunt within 200 yards of waterfowl refuges or other blinds.
- Permanent blinds and pits are not allowed for waterfowl hunting. Hunting above the shoreline at any lake elevation, wading into the water, or launching a boat from Land Between the Lakes with a weapon, requires a Hunter Use Permit.
- Placement of bait or hunting over bait, including food or mineral substances, is prohibited.
- Use of any artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night are prohibited at all times except while hunting raccoons or opossums.
- Do not use paint, tape, flagging, or other artificial materials to mark trees, trails, or routes
- Hunters must not be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- Hand, mouth, or electronic calling devices permitted according to state regulations.
- Hunt during daylight hours only unless otherwise noted.
- Hunt Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- No nighttime coyote or bobcat hunting on Land Between the Lakes.
- Hunting small game with dogs is permitted.
- Hunting small game on horseback is permitted.
- No species of wildlife may be harassed or taken except those authorized.
- A Land Between the Lakes Trapping Permit is no longer required for trapping.

General Guidelines

1. Pack it in, pack it out- leave no trace behind
2. You are responsible for your own safety
3. See something, say something - call 270.924.2000 or Law Enforcement at 877.861.2457.
4. For campfires, do not bring firewood from home which may harbor unwanted pests. Use only dead and downed wood or purchase firewood at our campgrounds for fuel. Attend fire at all times and put the fire out completely. Remove rock fire rings from fields and roads.
5. Wildlife refuges are closed to all human entry from November 1 - March 15.
6. Protect yourself from insect and tick bites.
7. Respect the Resource — Leave historical items, plants and flowers for others to enjoy. Respect roads and trails during wet conditions.

Find our camping rules online:

<https://landbetweenthe lakes.us/rules>

Please Report

- **Feral hog** sightings, with accurate locations, should be reported at 270.924.2065 or lblquotahunt@usda.gov. It is illegal to hunt feral hogs in Land Between the Lakes and it interferes with removal efforts. Learn more about feral hogs: <https://landbetweenthe lakes.us/feral-hogs>
- Report poaching and illegal activities at 877.861.2457

All State and Federal Regulations Apply

The two most common hunting violations are carrying a loaded or uncased firearm in a vehicle and driving on illegal roads or fields.

For more information or to contact the
Natural Resources Department

Call 270.924.2065

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST
Leave a detailed message for staff to follow-up

Email: lblquotahunt@usda.gov

USDA Forest Service

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

General Information: 1.800.525.7077 or 270.924.2000

Website: www.landbetweenthe lakes.us

EMERGENCY or reporting: 911 or 1.877.861.2457

Facebook: facebook.com/LBLNatlRecArea

Revised July 2024

2024-2025 Small Game, Waterfowl & Trapping Fact Sheet

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

National Recreation Area

KENTUCKY | TENNESSEE

Land Between the Lakes offers a variety of hunting opportunities on approximately 90% of its 170,000 acres in Kentucky and Tennessee. Our seasons and regulations may be different than statewide regulations, so be sure to carefully read all information. To protect the future of hunting at Land Between the Lakes, please remain courteous and helpful to other visitors. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable hunt!

Hunter Use Permits

We require a Land Between the Lakes Hunter Use Permit for all hunters ages 16 and older. This is in addition to state licenses and tags.

- Hunter Use Permits \$25
 - Combo Hunter Use + Backcountry Camping Permit \$50
- Both are valid one year from date of purchase.

Purchase permits online at landbetweenthe lakes.us under *Reservations and Permits*, at our Welcome Stations, and facilities. These permits are also available anywhere TN and KY hunting licenses are sold.

Hunter Safety Requirements

All hunters must possess a hunter safety card as required by state regulations.

The Land Between the Lakes Small Game, Waterfowl, and Trapping Fact Sheet is the official document that includes hunt dates. If other sources indicate something different, this document has precedence.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2024-2025 Small Game, Waterfowl & Trapping Fact Sheet

Follow statewide limits, reporting, and tagging regulations for all species listed in this document.

Seasons may differ from statewide seasons

Kentucky	Tennessee
SEASON	SEASON
Squirrel	
Aug 17 - Oct 24	Aug 24 - Oct 17
Nov 18 - Feb 28	Nov 18 - Mar 15
Follow State Seasons and Limits for Spring Squirrel Season 2025	
Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Opossum Closing dates match statewide seasons	
Opens Nov 18	Opens Nov 18
Fox, Bobcat, Otter Closing dates match statewide dates	
Tennessee prohibits electronic calling devices for taking foxes No nighttime hunting permitted	
Opens Nov 18	Opens Nov 22
Dove, Woodcock, Wilson Snipe, Crow, Rails, Gallinules, and Moorhens	
Follow KY State Seasons and Limits Except Closed Oct 25 - Nov 17	Follow TN State Seasons and Limits Except Closed Oct 18 - Nov 17
Waterfowl	
Steel shot required; lead shot not allowed in possession while hunting waterfowl Follow State season EXCEPT Waterfowl hunting is closed during these Quota Deer Hunts:	
Closed Oct 25 - 27	Closed Oct 18 - 20
Closed Oct 31 - Nov 3	Closed Oct 31 - Nov 3
Closed Nov 14 - 17	Closed Nov 14 - 17
Additional information can be found online at https://landbetweenthelakes.us/hunting	

Coyote, Armadillo, and Groundhog	
Hunt during daylight hours only during any open hunting season with weapons legal for that season. Nighttime hunting for these species is prohibited on Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area	
During February, centerfire rifles, handguns, and shotguns with shot size T or smaller may be used to harvest these 3 species. No harvest limit.	
Bird Dog, Rabbit Dog, and Raccoon Hound Training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog training permitted only in Hunt Areas 2, 7, 9, 11, & 13 • Dogs must have a current rabies vaccination and wear a collar with owner's name, address, and phone number • Horses may be used • Land Between the Lakes Hunter Use Permit required • Possession of firearms prohibited 	
KENTUCKY SEASON: Oct 1 - 24 None may be taken or shaken out	TENNESSEE SEASON: Oct 1 - 17 and Oct 21 - 24 None may be taken or shaken out
Dog Field Trials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Use Permit from the USDA Forest Service and approval by the appropriate State wildlife agency required. • Trials must be scheduled at least 2-months in advance to prevent conflicts with hunting season or recreational events 	
KENTUCKY SEASON: Jul 1 - Mar 31 None may be taken or shaken out	TENNESSEE SEASON: Jul 1 - Mar 31 None may be taken or shaken out
Trapping furbearers permitted by state law, including beavers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trapping is only permitted in Hunt Areas 3, 4, 5, 12, and 14 • All trappers must possess a Hunter Use Permit & state trapping license • All state and federal regulations apply for trapping including legal traps, sets, species, limits, reporting, and tagging requirements • All traps must display owner's name and address • Areas closed to hunting are also closed to trapping 	
Furbearers and Beavers KENTUCKY SEASON: Jan 21 - Feb 3	Furbearers and Beavers TENNESSEE SEASON: Jan 21 - Feb 3
Beaver Trapping only	
KENTUCKY SEASON: Feb 4 - 28	TENNESSEE SEASON Feb 4 - 28



LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES
National Recreation Area

Hunters with dogs should avoid Hunt Areas 3, 4, 5, 12, and 14 during the January 8 – 21, 2025 trapping season

Legal Weapons for Small Game Hunting

Legal weapons follow state and federal regulations. Legal weapons include shotguns, rimfire rifles and handguns, air guns, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment. Falconry is also legal but must adhere to seasons listed in this document.

Prohibited weapons include shotguns loaded with slugs or buck shot, centerfire rifles, and centerfire handguns. During February, centerfire rifles and handguns, and shotguns with shot size T or smaller, may only be used for hunting coyotes, armadillos, bobcat, otter, and groundhogs.

For more information or to contact the **Environmental Stewardship Department:**
Call: 270.924.2065

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST
Leave a detailed message for staff to follow up

Email: lblquotahunt@usda.gov

To protect the future of hunting, please be courteous to other visitors. Thank You!