

General Hunting Regulations

- **Report violations/poaching** to Law Enforcement Dispatcher at **877-861-2457**.
- This is federal land, which has regulations that may be more restrictive than state regulations.
- Licensed motorized vehicles permitted only on numbered roads as shown on the Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) online at. Most paths and old roadways are illegal to drive on, so get a map provided by LBL to help yourself stay legal.
- Parking is permitted no further than one vehicle length from a legal road. Do not block or restrict access to any road, trail, or gate.
- Driving or parking in fields is prohibited.
- Unlicensed motorized vehicles are prohibited from all areas except within the Turkey Bay Off-Highway Vehicle Area. Electric bicycles are also prohibited at this time by regulations on most National Forest land. Check state regulations for their legality on legal roadways.
- It is unlawful to discharge a weapon capable of taking a human life within 150 yards of a campsite, recreation site, facility, an occupied area, or a National Forest System road. Transport of firearms must meet current state and federal regulations.
- Nature Watch Areas, wildlife refuges, safety zones around facilities, and posted areas are closed to hunting (See exceptions within attached table).
- The absence of signage does not exempt a person from being in violation or being issued a citation.
- The placement of bait at any time, or hunting near bait as defined by state law is prohibited.
- Hunting deer from horseback or with dogs is prohibited.
- Use of artificial materials to mark access points and paths is prohibited; this includes use of flagging tape, trash, bottles, cans, reflective tacks or tape etc.
- No night hunting for coyote or bobcat is permitted.
- Hunters must not be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- All hunters must meet state hunter safety requirements and be able to provide proof.
- All hunters and youth sponsors must wear hunter orange or pink as required by state regulations as well as meeting any requirements for displaying visible orange outside of enclosed blinds.

- Age and licensing requirements of youth sponsors can be found in state regulations.

Tree Stands, Ground Blinds, & Trail Cameras for temporary use only

Portable tree stands, climbing devices, ground blinds, and trail cameras are allowed. These must not injure trees and must display owner's name and address. These items may be placed no more than two weeks before deer hunting season opens and must be removed within one week following the close of deer hunting season.

Placement does not reserve any site for exclusive use by an individual as public land is open to all legal users.

Find our camping rules online:

Do not bring firewood from off-site. Restrictions are in place to prevent the spread of tree-killing insects.

Deer Carcass Transport Restrictions:

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been discovered in nearby counties. Do not bring any harvested deer or deer parts across the state line in LBL.

Exception: meat that has been deboned; or antlers attached to a cleaned skull or cleaned skull plate. See Kentucky and Tennessee state regulations for further information on CWD. Out-of-state hunters should check their home state's deer import requirements before transporting.



Feral Hogs: Most feral hogs on LBL are found south of Highway 68. Sightings with accurate locations should be reported at lblquotahunt@usda.gov or by simply filling out the LBL Hog Reporting online form.

It is illegal to hunt feral hogs in Land Between the Lakes and it interferes with ongoing removal efforts.

General Information:

1.800.525.7077 or 270.924.2000

EMERGENCY: Dial 911

landbetweenthelakes.us

Facebook page: facebook.com/LBLNatlRecArea

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To protect the future of hunting, please be courteous to other visitors*

Revised May 2025



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2025-2026 Deer Hunting Fact Sheet

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES
National Recreation Area
KENTUCKY | TENNESSEE



The Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Deer Hunting Fact Sheet is the official document that includes the hunt dates. If other sources indicate something different, this document and the federal regulations that govern this property have precedence.

Quota Hunts

To participate in our Quota Deer Hunt, hunters must apply online between July 1-31 and be selected in a computer drawing. Archery hunting is closed on the day before and each day of an LBL quota hunt occurring within the same state portion. \$10 to apply, then permit is free if you are drawn.

Apply: <https://landbetweenthelakes.recaccess.com>

Permits

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

- Hunter Use Permits \$25
- Combo Hunter Use/Backcountry Camping Permit \$50.

Both are valid for one year from date of purchase. Purchase online at our Welcome Stations, and facilities, or anywhere TN and KY hunting licenses are sold.

For more information or to contact the
Natural Resources Department:

Call: 270.924.2065

Leave a detailed message for staff to follow-up.

Email: lblquotahunt@usda.gov

Land Between the Lakes 2025-2026 Deer Hunting Fact Sheet

Harvest Reporting	Kentucky	Tennessee
How to report your deer harvest	All Deer must be checked according to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) regulations. Fill out Harvest Log before you drag Fill out Harvest Log before you drag Report harvest using Telecheck online at fw.ky.gov or by calling 800-245-4263	All deer must be checked according to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) regulations Tag before you drag Report harvest using TWRA On The Go App, the GoOutdoorsTennessee.com website, or at an approved off-site physical check station
Be sure to report your harvests using the option for Public Land, and Land Between the Lakes. Lyon County (Code: 072) and Trigg County (Code: 111) in Kentucky, and Stewart County in Tennessee Land Between the Lakes staff will not be checking deer this season at Visitor Centers or Check Stations		
Quota Hunts on LBL can only be participated in by hunters that are drawn for it. Firearms and Muzzleloader hunting for deer is limited to Quota hunters ONLY and is limited to the dates listed on their permits. Other non-hunters may accompany those drawn as long as they do not carry a weapon capable of harvesting a deer. The only exception to the quota-only firearm deer hunting use rule is that Youth hunters may participate in the statewide Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekends during December and January (dates shown below) in which centerfire weapons may be used to hunt deer in Land Between the Lakes.		
Quota Hunts	Kentucky	Tennessee
Legal Weapons	Legal weapons include rifles or handguns, muzzleloaders, archery, or crossbow equipment according to state regulations	
Adult Quota Hunt Dates	October 31- November 2 and November 21-23, 2025	November 14-16, and 28-30, 2025
Youth Quota Hunt Dates	October 25-26, 2025	October 18-19, 2025
Youth Quota Hunt Ages	15 years old and younger	6 to 16 years old
Youth Quota Hunt Sponsor	One 18-year-old adult per youth hunter. No license or permit required if not hunting.	One 21-year-old adult per youth hunter. No license or permit required if not hunting.
Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, All legal weapons (no drawing requirement)	December 27-28, 2025 Other hunting is still permitted throughout LBL on these dates	January 10-11, 2026 (called 'Young Sportsman' by TWRA) Other hunting is still permitted throughout LBL on these dates
Archery & Crossbow	Kentucky	Tennessee
Special Rules	Bow hunters may also harvest one either-sex turkey with state turkey permit in Kentucky but may only harvest one bearded turkey in Tennessee. Groundhogs, armadillo, and coyotes may also be harvested according to state regulations. No night hunting.	
	Equipment must conform to state regulations and bow hunters may only carry firearms if permitted by state regulations.	
Archery Season Dates	September 6, 2025 – January 19, 2026	September 27 – January 4, 2026
Crossbow Season Dates	September 20, 2025 – January 19, 2026	Crossbow is considered to be Archery equipment
Date Restrictions	ALL OTHER HUNTING IS CLOSED THE DAY BEFORE & DURING EACH QUOTA HUNT WITHIN THE STATE SECTION WHERE THE QUOTA HUNT IS OCCURRING	
Licenses & Permits	Kentucky	Tennessee
State license & deer permit	12 years and older	13 years and older
LBL Hunter Use Permit	16 years and older	16 years and older
LBL Quota Hunt Permit	Any hunter participating in an LBL Quota Hunt	Any hunter participating in an LBL Quota Hunt
Bag Limits	Kentucky	Tennessee
Quota Hunts and Archery/Crossbow Seasons combined	One antlered whitetail buck by any legal means; counts towards statewide bag limit. For antlerless deer harvest limits see current state regulations for Kentucky's Deer Hunting Zone covering Lyon and Trigg Counties	One antlered whitetail buck by any legal means; counts towards statewide bag limit. For antlerless deer harvest limits see current state regulations for Tennessee's Deer Hunting Unit covering Stewart County
Antlered Buck (definition)	Visible antler above hairline	At least one 3-inch antler
European Fallow Deer	Not legal to hunt on Land Between the Lakes	
Late-Season opportunities Archery Areas	Check the website at the end of November for a list of additional areas that will be open for late-season archery deer hunting, during December and January.	