

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 or trail. 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; however, hunting small game from horseback is permitted with rimfire or archery.
- 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.
- Hand, mouth or electronic calling devices permitted according to state regulations.
- Age and licensing requirements of youth sponsors can be found in state regulations.

Use of Dogs

- Hunting small game with dogs as permitted by state regulations is allowed on LBL.
- Dogs must have current rabies vaccination and wear a collar with owner's name, address, and phone number.
- Allowing dogs to run free or chase game while the hunters or owners are following in a motorized vehicle is illegal according to state and federal regulations. This violates the law regarding use of motor vehicles to aid in hunting, constitutes unfair chase of game, and violates the regulation prohibiting hunting within 150 yards of a legal road.
- Hunters must remain in immediate control of their dogs to be able to stop and restrain them when necessary.
- Dogs must remain leashed or contained when within a developed recreation site. There is a 6-foot leash limit.
- **Bird Dog, Rabbit Dog, and Raccoon Hound Training** (*squirrel dog training is not listed in some state regulations to be included to have a training season*)
 - Horses may be used
 - Land Between the Lakes Hunter Use Permit required
 - Possession of firearms prohibited
 - None may be taken or shaken out
 - Training is a form of chase regulated by wildlife agencies to protect wildlife and must follow state and federal regulations similar to hunting.

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.

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 July 2025



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2025-2026 Small Game, Waterfowl & Trapping Fact Sheet

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

National Recreation Area

KENTUCKY | TENNESSEE



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

the federal regulations that govern this property have precedence.

Deer Quota Hunts Take Precedence

ALL HUNTING AND TRAPPING ON LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES IS **CLOSED** THE DAY BEFORE AND DURING EACH LBL QUOTA HUNT WITHIN THE STATE SECTION WHERE THE QUOTA HUNT IS OCCURRING. Only hunters drawn for a quota hunt may hunt during their designated hunt dates for species that are in season and can be legally harvested with weapons that are legal for deer hunting.

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 with 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.

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Land Between the Lakes 2025-2026 Small Game, Waterfowl, and Trapping Fact Sheet

Follow statewide limits, reporting, and tagging regulations for all small game, furbearers, and waterfowl. All small game, waterfowl, and trapping seasons open and close with statewide season dates; however, there are additional days when seasons will be closed to avoid conflicts with other land users.

DEER QUOTA HUNT CLOSURES

All hunting, trapping, and training on Land Between the Lakes (LBL) is closed the day before and during each LBL quota hunt within the state section where the quota hunt is occurring. **CLOSED DATES BELOW:**

KENTUCKY	TENNESSEE
October 24, 25, 26, 30, 31. November 1, 2, 20, 21, 22, 23.	October 17, 18, 19. November 13, 14, 15, 16 and 27, 28, 29, 30.

Statewide Free Youth / Young Sportsman hunt and trap dates will not close other LBL open seasons.

Find state regulations: Kentucky: <https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt> and Tennessee: <https://www.tn.gov/twra.html>

DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS

- A person shall not allow a dog to harass or chase wildlife from March 1 - August 31 except if squirrel hunting.

TRAINING SEASON: September 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026

Bird Dog, Rabbit Dog, and Raccoon Hound Training

(note that squirrel dog training is not listed in some state regulations to be included to have a training season)

- Dog training permitted only in Hunt Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 14 & 15 during trapping season, but is permitted in all legal hunt areas outside of those dates.
- Be aware that these dates overlap most other hunting seasons, so courteous to other hunters and be watch out for LBL being saturated with deer hunters during late October through November.

FIELD TRIALS:

- 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
- None may be taken or shaken out
- Areas closed to hunting are also closed to training on live animals (no 'chase' of wildlife)

LBL TRAPPING SEASON: January 1 – February 28, 2026

Trapping is limited to those species that have an open statewide trapping season in this portion of the state.

- Trapping is only permitted in Hunt Areas 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, & 13. No trapping in Turkey Bay OHV area.
- 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 in addition to state requirements for labeling
- Areas closed to hunting are also closed to trapping

SPECIAL CENTERFIRE SEASON:

During the entire month of 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.

Hunters with dogs should avoid Hunt Areas 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 13 during the LBL 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.

Nighttime hunting is prohibited on LBL for coyote and bobcat.

Camping Rules Available at:
www.landbetweenthelakes.us



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 LBL and it interferes with ongoing removal efforts.

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

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