

## Hunter Use Permits

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

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

Both are valid for one year from date of purchase. Purchase permits online at [landbetweenthelakes.us](http://landbetweenthelakes.us) under *Reservations & Permits*, at our Welcome Stations, and facilities. These permits will also be available anywhere TN and KY hunting licenses are sold.

## Hunter Safety Requirements

All hunters must possess and have proof of successfully completing a hunter safety course according to respective state regulations.

## No Pre-Season Calling

Calling or attempting to call turkeys by imitating the sounds of a wild turkey is prohibited by law in Land Between the Lakes from March 1 until the opening of turkey season. Locator calls, such as owl or crow calls, are permitted.

## Please Report

- Report your harvest using state checking systems.
- Please report your harvest as occurring on Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.
- Poaching reports: Call 877.861.2457
- Feral hog sightings: Call 270.924.2065  
[www.landbetweenthelakes.us/hoginfo](http://www.landbetweenthelakes.us/hoginfo)



### Feral Hog Report Form

More Information can be found at:  
[landbetweenthelakes.us/feral-hogs](http://landbetweenthelakes.us/feral-hogs)

**Reduced Road Access:** Public roads will no longer be closed or barricaded for turkey hunting

## Turkey Banding in Kentucky

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources have trapped and banded turkeys on the Kentucky portion of LBL to assess gobbler harvest rates and population health. If you harvest a banded turkey, please report the band number and on their website at:

<https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/TurkeyBand.aspx>

## General Guidelines

1. Dial **9-1-1** for emergencies.
2. See something? Say something. Call 270.924.2000 or Forest Service Law Enforcement at 877.861.2457.
3. The *Land Between the Lakes Turkey Hunting Fact Sheet* is the official document that includes the hunt dates. If other state agencies indicate something different, this document has precedence.
4. You are responsible for your own safety.
5. Bring your own water and supplies.
6. For campfires, use only dead and downed limbs for fuel. Do not bring firewood from outside Land Between the Lakes, as it may introduce devastating pests. Attend the fire at all times and follow Smokey Bear's rules to put the fire out completely. During high fire danger, use fire rings in developed campgrounds only.
7. Keep all pets on a 6' or shorter leash at all times.
8. Protect yourself from biting bugs and UV sunlight.
9. Respect the Resource — leave historical items, plants, and flowers for others to enjoy. This includes respecting the homes of wildlife and our trails and roads during wet conditions.
10. Do not use paint, tape, flagging, or other artificial materials to mark trees, trails, or routes.
11. Do not leave campfire rings/rocks in fields or roads.
12. Pack it in. Pack it out. Leave no trace behind.
13. See our website for *Camping Rules* and *General Hunting Rules*.

## Habitat Improvement

The USDA Forest Service is partnering with the National Deer Association to improve wildlife habitat at Land Between the Lakes. Prescribed burns may occur during all seasons of the year. To check status of pending burns, see the *Alerts* page on our website.

## USDA Forest Service

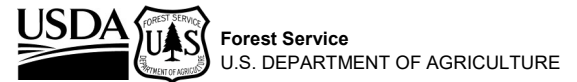
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

General Information: 1.800.525.7077 or 270.924.2000

Website: [www.landbetweenthelakes.us](http://www.landbetweenthelakes.us)

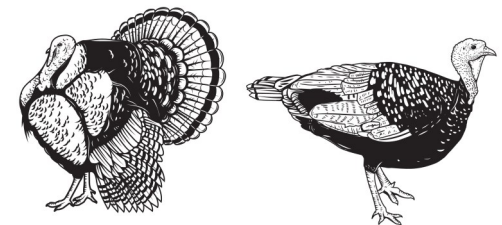
EMERGENCY or violations reporting:  
911 or 1.877.861.2457

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# 2026 Turkey Hunting Fact Sheet

**LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES**  
**National Recreation Area**  
KENTUCKY | TENNESSEE



## Permits

Hunters must carry on their person the following items while hunting at Land Between the Lakes (LBL):

- ☒ LBL Quota Hunt Permit (if applicable)
- ☒ LBL Hunter Use Permit
- ☒ Appropriate state hunting license
- ☒ Appropriate state turkey permit
- ☒ Hunter safety card as required by state regulations

Hunters may use printed or digital documentation with proof of identity. Permits can **not** be changed, altered, or transferred to another hunter.

## Quota Hunts

To participate in our Quota Turkey Hunt, hunters must apply online during the quota application period in February and be selected in a computer drawing. **To Apply:** [landbetweenthelakes.us/hunting](http://landbetweenthelakes.us/hunting)



### For more information:

- visit: [landbetweenthelakes.us/hunting](http://landbetweenthelakes.us/hunting)
- email: [lblquotahunt@usda.gov](mailto:lblquotahunt@usda.gov)
- call: 270-924-2065

Quota & Non-Quota Hunts		
Legal firearms include conventional shotguns or muzzle loading shotguns not smaller than .410 gauge or larger than 10 gauge that hold no more than three shells (Kentucky) or unrestricted number of rounds (Tennessee). Shot size must be #4 or smaller. Legal archery equipment must conform to state regulations.		
All harvested turkeys must be reported on Kentucky or Tennessee state harvest checking systems.		
	Kentucky	Tennessee
Spring - Quota	April 11-13 and April 18-20	April 4-6 and April 11-13
Spring - Youth Quota	March 28-29	March 28-29
Spring - Non-Quota	April 21-30	April 17-26
Fall - Archery only	Occurs during LBL Archery Deer Season; dates announced in Summer 2026	Occurs during LBL Archery Deer Season; dates announced in Summer 2026
Youth Ages	15 years old and younger	6 to 16 years old
Youth Sponsor	One adult, 21 years or older, must accompany one youth	

State Licenses, Shooting Hours, & Bag Limits		
	Kentucky	Tennessee
State License	12 years and older	13 years and older
LBL Hunter Use Permit	16 years and older	16 years and older
Shooting Hours	One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
Bag Limit	Spring season: One turkey with visible beard in each state. Fall season (archery only): One turkey of either sex	Spring season: One turkey with visible beard in each state. Fall season (archery only): One bearded turkey.
Bonus Turkey	None	None

Safe Hunting Recommendations:

- **DO** know and practice safe gun handling.
- **DO** see the beard before you shoot. It will positively identify the legal target.
- **DO** wear an orange vest when carrying your turkey out of the woods.
- **DON'T** wear any garment which has red, white, blue, or black—it could be mistaken for colors of a turkey.
- **DON'T** hunt hen calls. Stalking such calls could lead to a dangerous encounter with another hunter.
- **DON'T** use a gobble call. This is dangerous and might attract careless shooters.

*To protect the future of hunting, please remain courteous and helpful to our other guests at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Thank you!*

Bag Limits:

- Only one turkey with visible beard is allowed in each state portion of Land Between the Lakes (LBL) during spring season and counts toward the state's limit.
- Turkeys taken by youth during the youth-only quota hunt count toward the state's spring bag limit.
- During LBL's fall archery deer season properly licensed hunters may harvest a single turkey of either sex in Kentucky and only a single bearded turkey may be harvested in Tennessee. Fall turkey hunting with firearms is not permitted on LBL.

Reporting Your Harvest:

- The mandatory requirement to bring turkeys to a LBL check station has been removed. All turkey harvest reporting must comply with all Kentucky or Tennessee harvest reporting regulations including use of state checking systems. **Report harvests as Public Land harvests specifying Land Between the Lakes as the harvest location.**

Rules of the Road:

- Licensed motorized vehicles are permitted on numbered roads only. **(36 CFR 261.55(b)).** You can find these roads on our *Recreation Maps* and *Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)* online: [landbetweenthelakes.us/maps](http://landbetweenthelakes.us/maps). Other roads are for administrative access only.
- Parking is permitted within one vehicle length of a legal road. Avoid blocking emergency vehicle access to any road or trail.
- Refrain from rutting fields and roads.
- Vehicles classified as off-highway vehicles are only allowed in the Turkey Bay Off-Highway Vehicle Area and require a riding permit.

General Hunting Rules & Regulations:

- Remember to observe all applicable state and federal regulations.
- When transporting firearms in a vehicle, keep them cased and unloaded in both chamber and magazine. **(36 CFR 261.53(e))**
- Nature Watch Areas, wildlife refuges, safety zones around facilities, and other posted areas are closed to hunting. Maps are available at our facilities and on our website: [landbetweenthelakes.us/maps](http://landbetweenthelakes.us/maps).
- It is unlawful to discharge a firearm or other implement capable of taking human life within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area or across or on a Forest Development Road or a body of water adjacent to a road, or in a manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.
- Use of thermal imagery or infrared optics to locate any game species is prohibited.
- Use of any artificial light to locate wildlife is prohibited at all times.
- All portable blinds and trail cameras must have an affixed display of the owner's name, address, and phone number, and may be placed no more than two weeks before hunting season opens. Placement doesn't reserve any site for exclusive use by an individual, as public land is open to all users.
- All blinds and trail cameras must be removed within one week following the close of turkey hunting season.
- The placement of bait or hunting over bait, including food or mineral substances, is prohibited.
- Hunters must not be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- Age and licensing requirements of youth sponsors can be found in state regulations.
- **No hog hunting. It is illegal to chase, hunt, transport, or release feral hogs on LBL.**