

Signature (authorizations are not transferable)

Walnut Branch Unit  
Hunting Authorization 2023-2024

When signed and carried, this serves as your authorization for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. This authorization is valid only when signed below and must be carried with you at all times while on the refuge. Expires January 31, 2024



**Neches River**  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Walnut Branch Unit  
Hunting Regulations  
2023-2024

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Activity	Season	Harvest	Method
White-tailed Deer	Oct 20th - Oct 26th	Two White-tailed Deer; Either Sex; Limit One Antlerless and One Buck.	Archery
Feral Hog	Oct 20th - Oct 26th	No bag limit.	Archery
Coyote	Oct 20th - Oct 26th	No bag limit.	Archery
Beaver	Oct 20th - Oct 26th	No bag limit.	Archery
White-tailed Deer	Dec 01st - Dec 03rd	One White-tailed Deer; Buck Only. Antler restrictions in County.	Firearms
Feral Hog	Dec 01st - Dec 03rd	No bag limit.	Firearms
Coyote	Dec 01st - Dec 03rd	No bag limit.	Firearms
Beaver	Dec 01st - Dec 03rd	No bag limit.	Firearms
Grey & Fox Squirrel	October 1st - 14th	10 squirrels/day.	Firearms
Eastern Cottontail and Swamp Rabbit	October 1st - 14th	No bag limit.	Firearms, Dogs
Raccoon	October 1st - 14th	No bag limit.	Firearms, Dogs, Spotlight

State permit and signed refuge hunt brochure required in Walnut Branch Unit. Archery and Firearms as defined by the state of Texas.

**Welcome**

Neches River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2011 along the Neches River to protect the bottomland hardwood forests for their diverse biological values and wetland functions of water quality improvement and flood control assistance; and, provide the public with wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities.

**Pre-Hunt Meeting**

There will be a meeting on the first day of every deer hunt at 8:00AM at the refuge office.

**Safety**

At any time, hunters may encounter venomous snakes or feral hogs. Snakes and hogs can behave in an unpredictable manner, and hunters should use caution when in close proximity to these animals.

**Firearms**

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

**Vehicles**

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on Texas highways, County Roads and the Entrance Road on the refuge. All-Terrain Vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles are prohibited.

**Boats**

The refuge allows boats, canoes, and kayaks on the Neches River. Boats must be removed at the end of the hunt season. Boats must comply with Texas state regulations.

**Accessibility Information**

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please visit <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>.

**Hunting Regulations**

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Texas regulations in addition to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

**Access**

Hunters may access the refuge two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal sunset. Raccoon hunting can be employed after dark, with dogs and spotlights. We allow dogs for rabbit hunting.

Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below, to access the refuge for hunting. Access to the refuge from private property is prohibited.

**Horses**

Horses are prohibited on the refuge.

**Tree Stands**

Tree stands, elevated platforms, and ground blinds may be put up no earlier than the first day of permitted hunt and must be removed by the last day of permitted hunt.

**Harvest Reporting**

In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting and to be eligible for next year's refuge hunting season, permitted hunters must complete a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS form 3-2359) and return it to the refuge by February 15, regardless of whether you were successful.

Neches River National Wildlife Refuge  
262 West Highway 79/ PO Box 989  
Jacksonville, Texas 75766  
956-245-9426

[www.fws.gov/refuge/neches\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/neches_river/)

Join us on Facebook:  
@nechesriverNWR

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
<http://www.fws.gov>

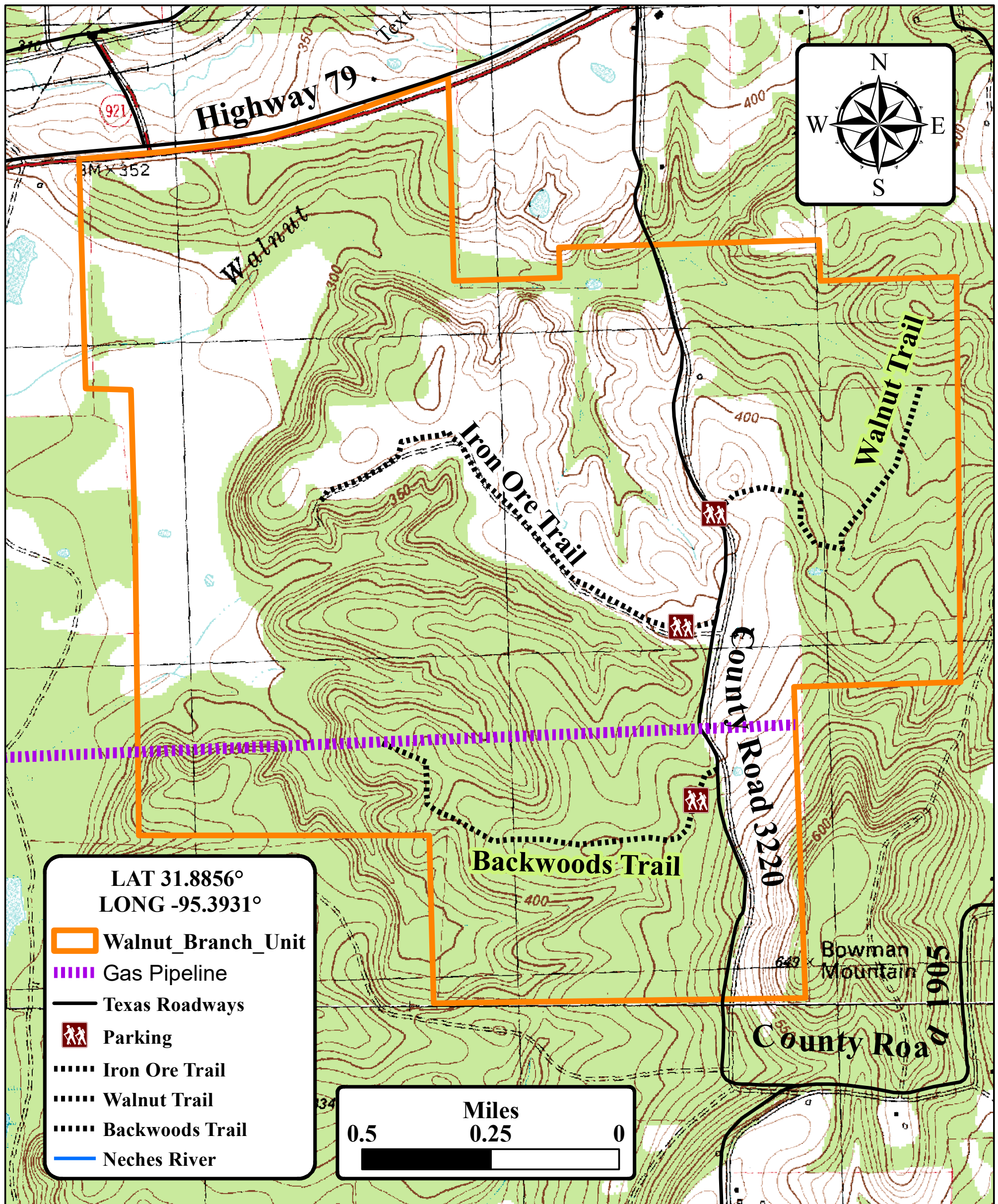
1-800-344-WILD April  
2023





# Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

## Walnut Branch Hunt Unit



### Prohibited Activities

- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Camping and Fires
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law.
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices
- Marking or flagging any tree or other refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.
- Leaving tree stands and ground blinds in the same location for more than permitted days of hunt.
- Access to the refuge from private property
- Hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of any public use facility, highway, county road, or refuge boundary.