

Big Thicket National Preserve



2007-08 Trapping Guide and Regulations

Before you enter the Preserve, read these regulations. Study the map of the Preserve unit provided with this guide. Know the areas where you may trap, and the areas where you may not trap.

The State of Texas Trapping regulations apply except where the following Big Thicket National Preserve Regulations are more restrictive. (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations)

Seasons and Trapping Area

1. Legal fur-bearing animals, as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, may only be taken from **December 1, 2007 until January 31, 2008**. You may trap the following fur-bearing animals: badger, beaver, civet cat, grey fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, ring-tailed cat, striped skunk, and spotted skunk. There is no separate season for muskrat and nutria within the Preserve. 36CFR 7.85(b); 36CFR 2.2(b)(4)
2. Trapping is limited to the trapping area as indicated on the map provided. Preserve boundaries are marked with National Park Service boundary signs and/or with yellow paint on trees. Trapping areas are bounded by a combination of pipelines, flag lines, and Preserve boundaries. Trapping outside of the designated area within the unit is strictly prohibited. [(36CFR 1.6(g)(2))]

Means and Methods

1. Fur-bearing animals may be legally taken with unmodified steel leghold traps, snare, conibear traps, and live traps. The maximum number of traps allowed per trapper is 24. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
2. No person may use a conibear-style trap with a diagonal opening greater than 10 inches set on land or in water less than 6 inches deep. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
3. The use and/or possession of dogs, bow and arrow, electronic or hand-held calls, recording or other calling devices, artificial light as an attractant, and falconry is specifically prohibited. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
4. It is illegal to use smoke, explosives, or chemicals of any kind to kill or flush fur-bearers in the wild. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
5. It is illegal to shoot at, take, or attempt to take any fur-bearing animal not caught in a trap. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
6. It is illegal to shoot at, take, or attempt to take any fur-bearing animal from a public road or highway right-of-way, vehicle, or boat. No traps may be set on old logging trails, pipelines, or abandoned roads. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
7. The use of a handgun to kill a fur-bearing animal caught in a trap is strictly prohibited. A .17 or .22 caliber rim-fire rifle may be used for such purposes. Larger caliber rifles are not permitted. Your rifle may only be loaded while you are actually in the act of killing a trapped animal. [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]

8. The possession of a weapon is prohibited at night (from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise). This includes firearms in vehicles and boats. [36CFR 7.85(d)(2)]
9. Traps must be checked at least every 36 hours for captured animals. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]

General Trapping Regulation

1. The following items must be in your possession while trapping in the Preserve: a current Big Thicket National Preserve Trapping Permit, a current Texas Trapper's License, and a driver's license or other type of official picture identification issued by a state department of public safety or a similar agency authorized to issue a driver's license. If you are, also, hunting within the Preserve, you must possess a current Texas Hunting License and a current Big Thicket National Preserve Hunting Permit. Upon request by a Park Ranger or other authorized officer, these items must be shown. [36CFR 1.6(a); 36CFR 7.85(c)]
2. Trappers must place a copy of their trapping permit on the dashboard of their vehicle so that it can be read from outside the vehicle. Trappers who use a boat must also leave the boat display copy of their permit in the boat. [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]
3. All traps must be legibly tagged or inscribed in some fashion to show trapper's name. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
4. You may trap in the trapping area as shown on the enclosed unit map; however, trapping is prohibited within 500 feet of any designated trail, roadway, residence, or any navigable waterway (Neches River, Pine Island Bayou, and/or LNVA Canal). [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]
5. All motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks, and jeeps, are prohibited from travel in any area within the Big Thicket National Preserve except upon designated Federal, State, or County roads. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on any trail, pipeline, beach, or any other road-accessible location within the Preserve. All motorized vehicles must be in compliance with State law. All-terrain vehicles and dirt-bike motorcycles (off-road motorcycles) are prohibited within the Preserve. [36CFR 4.10(a)]
6. Camping is prohibited in trapping areas. [(36CFR 2.10(a)]
7. Carry out all trash. [(36CFR 2.14(a)(1)]
8. Human waste must be buried at least 100 feet from any road, trail, or creek [(36CFR 2.14(a)(6)]
9. In established trapping areas, portable cooking stoves and heaters are permitted; ground (open) fires are prohibited. [36CFR 2.13(a)(1)]
10. Except where these regulations are more restrictive, Texas fur-bearing regulations apply within the Preserve. Each fur-bearing animal taken or possessed in violation of these regulations and/or Texas law is a separate offense. No person may possess the pelt of a fur-bearing animal within the Preserve at any time other than open season. [36CFR 2.2(b)(4)]
11. All trappers are required to wear 400 square inches of "hunters orange" or "international orange" while trapping in the Preserve. [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)]
12. Park your vehicle only in designated areas or along roads within or adjacent to the trapping area. Do not block gates, roads, or part on private property. [36CFR 4.13(a)]

General Information

Before you leave on your trapping trip, please inform a relative or friend of your intended point of entry, route of travel, and time of return. While trapping, dress appropriately for changing weather conditions and carry a flashlight, compass, first aid kit, maps, and water. Do not cross private land to reach a trapping area.

Trapping questions should be directed to 409.951.6831. All other questions, including information on nearby campgrounds, should be directed to the Preserve's Visitor Center at 409.951.6725.

If you have questions in reference to State of Texas Regulations, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at either 1.800.792.1112 or 409.892.8666 (local law enforcement).

To obtain a trapping permit, you must reapply each year. Your "Trapper's Harvest" card must be returned by April 7, 2008. Your trapping information is important in assisting us in tracking fur-bearing animal populations within the Preserve.

Have a safe and pleasurable trapping experience in Big Thicket National Preserve. Remember that the Preserve is a public area and that non-trappers also utilize the Preserve during trapping season. Practice courtesy and safety at all times. This will provide a pleasurable experience for you, other trappers, and the general public.

TO REPORT A CRIME OR ANY EMERGENCY, CONTACT OUR PARK WATCH NUMBER AT 1.800.793-6566.

IF YOUR PERMIT IS EITHER LOST OR STOLEN, PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESERVE IMMEDIATELY AT 409.951.6831.

Season: December 1, 2007, through January 31, 2008

Legal fur-bearing animals: Raccoon, Opossum, Grey Fox, Red Fox, Nutria, Civet Cat, Striped Skunk, Spotted Skunk, Mink, Muskrat, Ring-tailed Cat, Otter, Badger, and Beaver. There is no separate season for muskrat and nutria.



How does a Preserve differ from a National Park? By special permit, sustainable use of some resources (e.g. fish, wildlife, oil and gas) is authorized in a Preserve to protect both the cultural legacy of the region and the natural heritage of our nation.