

Hog Hunting in the Obed WSR

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Obed Wild and Scenic River
Wartburg, Tennessee



The Obed WSR allows hunting of wild hogs during the big game seasons as well as the extended hog only season, which is mid-January thru the end of February each year.

Hog Hunting During Big Game Season

Dogs are prohibited; no limit, either sex may be taken and you do not have to check them in.

1. During any big game deer season in Tennessee, hunters shall be licensed with a big game license and legal* to hunt deer when hunting wild hogs during a deer hunting season.
2. During statewide deer seasons, only weapons legal for hunting deer may be used for hunting feral hogs. For example: During the archery deer season, feral hogs can be taken only using archery equipment; during muzzle loading season, feral hogs can be taken only using muzzle loaders; and during gun season they can only be taken with a gun. You must possess a valid kill tag for the weapon that you are using.
3. You **MUST** also have a Obed Hog Permit. They are available at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center as well as online at <http://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/permits.htm>
4. To help track feral hog populations in Tennessee, hunters are encouraged to report feral hog kills to TWRA by calling 615-781-6610.

*Licensed and legal means that you have not maxed out your quota on deer.

Hog Hunting During the Extended Hog Season

The following regulations apply:

1. Feral Hogs during the Extended Hog Season are considered small game and all you need to hunt them is a small game license and a Obed Hog Permit. During this extended hunt though, you must kill them with the same type weapon you would use to hunt deer.
2. You must possess a hog permit issued by the National Park Service. They are available at the Obed WSR Visitor Center as well as online at <http://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/permits.htm>.

The NPS will issue a hog permit if you have the following:

1. Valid TN Big Game license It does not matter what the tag is (gun, muzzleloader or bow) or if it is a sportsman's, senior citizens, etc. if you want to hunt during big game season.
2. During the Extended Hog season all you need to get a hog permit in TN is a small game license. For example a Type 001.
3. If you want to hunt hogs in a different state than you live: During big game season you would have to purchase a non-resident big game license. During the extended hunt you need to possess a non-resident small game license.

The following is legal equipment that can be used to hunt hogs

1. Shotguns using ammunition loaded with single solid ball or rifled slugs. No restriction on number of rounds in magazine.
2. Rifles using any center-fire ammunition (full metal jacketed ammunition prohibited)
3. Muzzleloading percussion cap or flintlock rifles, handguns or shotguns of .36 caliber or larger. Muzzleloading firearms are defined as those firearms which are incapable of being loaded from the breech.
4. Archery equipment (longbows, compound bows, crossbows, recurves and other bows drawn or held by a mechanical device. Hunting arrows and bolts shall be of a barbless design and shall have sharpened blades.
5. Center-fire handguns firing a single projectile and having a barrel length of four inches or more, in all counties except where regulated by legislative acts.
6. Weapons may be equipped with sighting devices except those devices utilizing an artificial light capable of locating wildlife. Night vision scopes are illegal.

The following regulations apply:

1. **Hunters Orange:** All hunters and those accompanying hunters during any big game firearm or muzzleloader season (except turkey) shall wear hunters orange (500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange (blaze orange), visible front and back, on the upper portion of their body and head).
2. **Baiting:** Baiting of any kind and at any time is prohibited. Bait is a substance composed of grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay or any other food materials, whether natural or manufactured, which may lure, entice or attract wildlife. Planting any type of food plot is also prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of cover scents, or attractant scents.
3. **Spotlighting:** The entire park is closed to viewing of wildlife with an artificial light (including headlights), except when in accordance with state laws which permit such use for specific species. (Raccoon, opossum and bullfrog hunting)
4. **Hunting from Roadways:** It is illegal to hunt, shoot at, chase, catch, or kill, with or without dogs, any wild animal, wild bird, or wildfowl from a public road right-of-way, or to shoot any firearms across or from any public road or vehicle. It is also unlawful to hunt, shoot at, chase, catch, or kill, with or without dogs, any wild animal, wild bird, or wild fowl from a motor vehicle on either a public road or right-of-way, or from a public road or right-of-way after leaving a motor vehicle specifically for such purpose with the immediate intent to return to the vehicle.
5. **Loaded Firearms in camp:** Possessing a loaded hunting rifle or shotgun or black powder rifle within any frontcountry or backcountry campsite is prohibited, as consistent with Tennessee state law and the NPS safety zone regulations.
6. **Firearms:** You may not possess a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle or horse in TN. A firearm is considered loaded if there are rounds in the chamber or magazine, a muzzleloader is unloaded if there is no cap on the nipple or powder in the priming pan. Firearms may be transported in or on a motor vehicle, boat or horse but they must be rendered temporarily inoperable, packed, stored or cased in a manner that prevents their ready use. Ammunition must be stored away from easy access to firearm. Call for updated information on handgun permits.
7. **Safety Zones:** Hunting is permitted anywhere within Obed WSR, except for those areas designated as safety zones. These safety zones are located around developed areas and a map of these is available at the visitor centers.
8. **Backcountry Removal of Game:** In the backcountry, lawfully taken big game animals may be quartered for ease of transportation so long as species and sex can be determined.
 - A pack animal may also be used to remove lawfully taken big game as long as they are on a trail designated for pack animal use.
 - ATVs are also not allowed to be driven off designated roads, into woods, fields or utility right-of-ways to retrieve big game. At this time ATV's are only allowed to be operated during big game season (excluding turkey) on designated trails during hunting hours.
 - Loaded weapons are prohibited on ATV's and in any vehicle or on any horse.
9. **Motor Vehicle Travel:** Motor vehicle travel is permitted on all existing designated area roads provided all state and federal motor vehicle laws are obeyed, unless otherwise signed. No vegetation shall be removed to open roads up that have naturally closed. No vehicles are allowed in the gorge area of the park except on designated roads.
10. **Resource Damage:** No person shall damage or remove any trees or other plants or parts thereof, dirt, gravel, sod, archeological or mineral resources,
11. **Motorboats:** Motorboats (any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery – electric or gas) are not permitted on the park's river system.
12. **Tree stands:** The use of wire, nails or other metal material is prohibited in the building or attaching of climbing devices or hunting stands. The construction of permanently affixed tree stands and access steps to tree stands is prohibited. Portable or temporary tree stands that do not damage trees may be used. Leaving any personal property, including tree stands, unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited without prior approval from the superintendent.
13. **Target Practice:** Target practice of any kind in the Obed WSR is **prohibited**.
14. **Wanton waste:** Hunters are required to retrieve all crippled or dead game if possible and are prohibited from disposing of dead wildlife in the Obed WSR.
15. **Food Storage:** The entire Obed WSR is designated for food storage restrictions. Campers must have all food, food storage containers and or coolers placed inside a hard sided vehicle when not in use. If backpacking, campers should hang backpacks and food packs from trees using the proper technique.
16. **Dog Use:** Dogs may **not** be used to hunt any **big game animal** within the Obed WSR. Dogs **may** be used to hunt **small game**, game birds, and those furbearers authorized by State Law.
 - Hunting dogs must be restrained on a leash not to exceed 6 feet, crated or caged within all designated safety zones.
17. **Rockshelters/Arches/Old Homesites** – This is a National Park Service Area, therefore, cultural resources are protected from looting and digging. These types of offenses constitute a criminal offense and will be prosecuted.
18. **Overnight Camping:** Anytime you are camping outside of Rock Creek Campground in the Obed Wild and Scenic River you are required to have a backcountry camping permit. Campsites may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. Backcountry permits are valid for a single camping trip not to exceed 14 days at one site.
19. **Fires** are prohibited in historic structures, cabins and rock shelters.
20. **Helmets** are required for ATV riders under 16 years of age in Tennessee.
21. **Litter:** No litter or sewage may be left in area.
22. **Firewood:** Firewood is prohibited from outside the park. The use of chainsaws is prohibited in gathering firewood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit online at www.nps.gov/Obed

Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center 423-346-6294