2024 Spring Wild Turkey Draw
Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

This page includes information and instructions for those interested in or selected to participate in a 2024 Indiana Wild Turkey Hunt Draw. It is important to note that areas participating in reserved hunts are managed by various agencies and may have unique restrictions that each hunter must follow. Please read each area's information packet carefully before pursuing a hunt.

Applying:

The application period for the 2024 Wild Turkey Draw Hunt is Feb. 19, 2024 to March 17, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted. You must obtain a valid hunting license and Game Bird Habitat stamp for spring turkey hunting prior to applying. Each hunter is eligible to select one hunt date from any participating property when applying. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt spring turkey.

Restrictions: Non-toxic shot is required at Big Oaks NWR for all turkey hunting.

Allowed Equipment:
- A .410 caliber and 10-, 12-, 16-, 20-, or 28-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7½, or with Tungsten Super Shot 8, 9 and 10. Shot sizes smaller than size 7½ must be made of Tungsten Super Shot or equivalent pellet density only, such as Tungsten Super Shot 8, 9 and 10.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size 4, 5, 6, 7, 7½, and Tungsten Super Shot 8, 9 and 10. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- A bow and arrow or crossbow.

Bag Limit:
- The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season.

Hunting Hours:
- Big Oaks NWR has the spring turkey season hunting hours one-half hour before sunrise and checkout of the refuge by 2 p.m. (refuge will be on ET).

Call-in Reservations:

If you have been drawn for the April 24 – 26 turkey hunt, you can reserve a hunt area by calling the refuge office (812-273-0783) on April 9 starting at 8 a.m. If you have been drawn for the April 27 – 29 turkey hunt, then you can reserve a hunt area by calling the refuge office on April 10 starting at 8 a.m. Only phone-in reservations will be accepted. Please check the refuge website at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/big-oaks/ for additional details about turkey hunting at Big Oaks NWR.

Hunt Information:

The DNR mission: Protect, enhance, preserve and wisely use natural, cultural and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management and education.

www.DNR.IN.gov
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The buddy system is required. <u>Do not show up by yourself</u>. The refuge can accommodate 210 hunters (105 drawn hunters plus their 105 hunting partners). Hunt history for units can be found attached to this document. A map delineating hunt areas is available at the end of this document. The 50,000-acre refuge is overlaid on the closed Jefferson Proving Ground; the area offers a variety of turkey habitats to hunt. Because of the history of the site, safety briefings are required.

There are three avenues to hunt at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR):

- The first is to enter state-drawn hunts (available through the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife's website). These dates are April 24 – 26 and April 27 – 29.
- The second method is local lottery refuge hunts held on May 4 – 5 and May 11 – 12. Area reservations and drawings for these hunts are held at 4:30 p.m. the Friday before the hunt at the refuge office.
- The third option is a no-show drawing is held on every hunt day at 6:30 a.m. to fill available slots. The refuge can accommodate 210 turkey hunters per day and the refuge typically has open slots for turkey hunters.

Hunters can check in at the refuge between 5:30 – 6:30 a.m. on the morning of their hunt. Hunters must check out at no later than 2 p.m. that day. Hunters must check in on each hunt day by 6:30 a.m. or they will lose their reserved slot. If you fail to show up for your first hunt day, your reserved slot for the other days could be given away unless you have made prior arrangements with Big Oaks NWR staff to hunt the other days.

All hunters are required to hunt with a partner and view the refuge safety briefing once per calendar year. Hunters 17 and under need to be supervised by partners 18 or older.

A $20 Refuge Hunt Permit ($10 for holders of the America the Beautiful Interagency Senior Pass or Access Pass) is required for hunting. The refuge office only accepts cash. Fees are waived for those 15 or younger.

The Refuge Hunt Permit can also be used for deer and squirrel hunting. It is important to view the safety video before the day of your hunt. The safety video will be shown at the refuge office on public use days (April 15, 19, and 22 before the turkey hunt begins) and hunt days. Safety briefings will also be shown on April 21 (day of Youth Turkey Hunt). Safety briefings will be held at 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 3 p.m. on public use days. Safety briefings will be held at 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on hunt days.

The office is open from 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on public use days and from 5:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. on turkey hunt days. Refuge Hunt Permits will be sold after each briefing. It is strongly encouraged that you attend one of these early safety briefings, as it will prevent long delays on the initial day of your hunt allowing you to arrive at your hunting area up to 1-3 hours earlier than would otherwise be possible.

Directions:

The entrance to Big Oaks NWR is located on U.S. Highway 421, approximately 5 miles north of Madison, Indiana. The refuge office is north of Madison, Indiana, in Building 125 in the southern portion of the former Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) (the cantonment area).
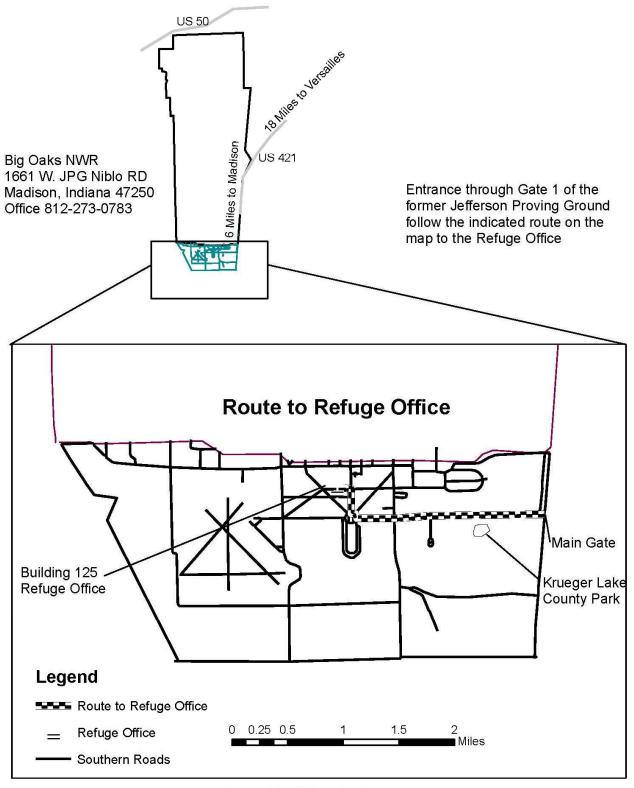
Be aware that smartphones and GPS units will direct travelers to closed gates—**please use the following directions:** From Madison, drive north on Highway 421 to the Main Entrance of the former JPG, enter through this entrance and follow the brown refuge directional signs. Go west on Ordnance Drive, then

turn right onto the circle and then turn right on Meridian Road. Take a left on Niblo Road and the refuge office is located in Building 125.
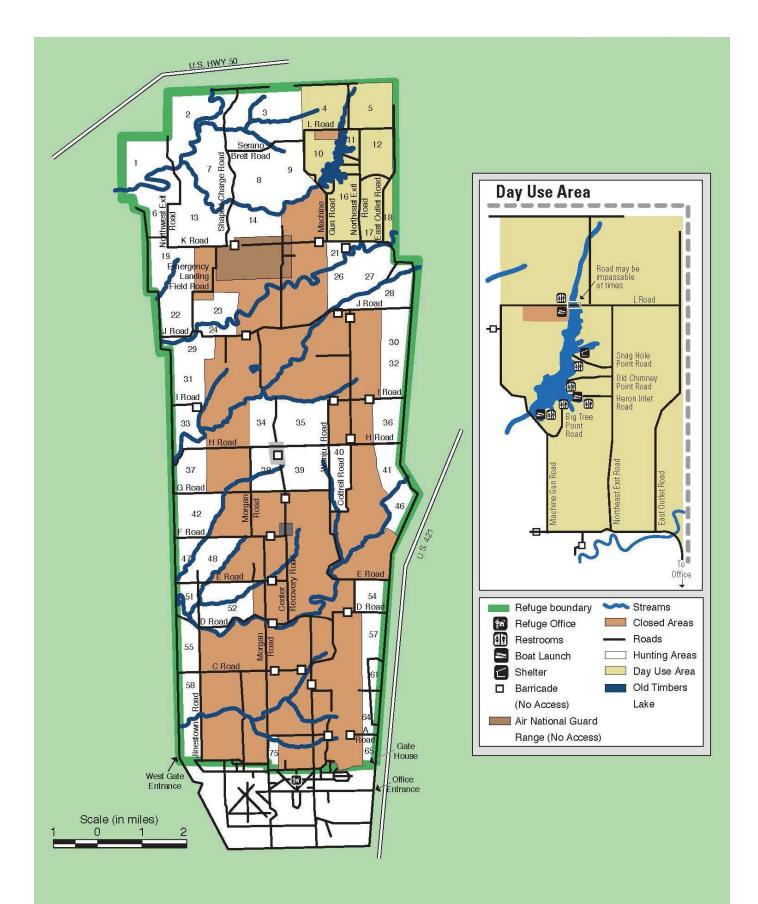
Contact:

If you have further questions, contact the Big Oaks NWR office at 812-273-0783.

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

US 50

18 Miles to Versailles

6 Miles to Madison

US 421

Big Oaks NWR
1661 W. JPG Niblo RD
Madison, Indiana 47250
Office 812-273-0783

Entrance through Gate 1 of the
former Jefferson Proving Ground
follow the indicated route on the
map to the Refuge Office

Route to Refuge Office

Main Gate

Building 125
Refuge Office

Krueger Lake
County Park

Legend

▪▪▪ Route to Refuge Office

= Refuge Office

— Southern Roads

0	0.25	0.5		1		1.5		2	

Miles

Check in at Building 125
Call 812-273-0783 for assistance

U.S. HWY 50

2
3
4
5
Serano
Brett Road
1
7
L Road
Shaped Charge Road
8
9
11
10
12
6
Northwest Exit Road
13
K Road
14
Machine Gun Road
16
Northeast Exit Road
East Outlet Road
17
18
19
Emergency Landing Field Road
21
26
27
28
22
23
J Road
24
J Road
29
30
31
32
I Road
I Road
33
34
35
36
H Road
H Road
Wahlu Road
40
37
38
39
41
G Road
Morgan Road
Cottrell Road
42
46
F Road
47
48
E Road
E Road
51
54
52
Center Recovery Road
D Road
D Road
55
57
C Road
Morgan Road
58
61
linestown Road
64
A Road
65
75
Gate House

West Gate Entrance
Office Entrance

Scale (in miles)
1   0   1   2

Day Use Area

Road may be impassable at times
L Road
Snag Hole Point Road
Old Chimney Point Road
Heron Inlet Road
Big Tree Point Road
Machine Gun Road
Northeast Exit Road
East Outlet Road
To Office

Refuge boundary		Streams
Refuge Office		Closed Areas
Restrooms		Roads
Boat Launch		Hunting Areas
Shelter		Day Use Area
Barricade (No Access)		Old Timbers Lake
Air National Guard Range (No Access)		

Turkey Harvest 2001 - 2023

Area	# of Turkey																						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	na	0	0	0
2	8	3	1	3	2	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	0	2	0	1	1	2	na	1	1	3
3	2	6	1	4	2	2	1	3	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	na	0	1	0
4	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
5	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	1	0
6	3	2	2	3	2	5	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	2	na	1	1	1
7	0	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	2
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	1	0
9	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	na	1	0	2
10	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	na	0	2	0
11	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	1	0	2
12	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	1
13	2	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	na	1	0	0
14	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	na	0	0	0
16	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
17	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	na	1	2	3
18	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	na	0	4	0
19	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	na	2	0	2
21	3	1	3	0	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	6	na	3	4	3
22	0	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	na	0	0	0
23	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	na	0	1	0
24	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	na	2	1	0
26	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	2	1	2	4	0	3	1	1	2	2	2	na	4	0	4
27	4	3	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	na	0	0	0
28	4	5	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	na	2	1	1
29	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	na	2	1	1
30	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	na	0	1	0
31	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	1
32	2	3	2	1	0	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	na	0	0	1
33	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	na	2	1	3
34	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	na	2	0	2
35	0	3	1	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	na	2	1	1
36	4	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	na	1	0	0
37	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	3	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	na	1	0	0
38	3	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	na	2	0	1
39	4	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	1	0	1
40	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	na	1	1	1
41	4	2	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	na	0	3	0
42	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	na	1	1	0
46	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	na	1	0	1
47	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	na	0	0	0
48	0	4	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	na	4	1	0
51	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	na	1	0	0
52	4	1	7	0	1	2	5	1	2	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	na	2	0	0
54	1	1	0	2	2	4	2	3	1	0	1	1	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
55	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	na	0	0	1
57	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	1
58	4	5	4	0	4	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	0	1	1	na	0	0	1
61	1	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	1	na	1	0	0
64	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
65	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
75	2	2	4	4	4	4	3	1	2	0	6	2	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	na	3	1	2
Total	95	90	68	59	42	75	31	45	45	45	37	43	35	37	32	26	30	31	36	NA	46	31	42

*No Spring Turkey 2020 because of Covid 19 Restrictions