



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Limited deer and duck hunting to be allowed Dec. 20- Jan. 31, on newly acquired Atchafalaya acreage

NEW ORLEANS – Temporary hunting restrictions will be relaxed to the extent of allowing deer and waterfowl hunting with shotguns and archery on 10,500 acres of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin recently acquired for public access.

The land will be opened to the public to hunt waterfowl and deer from Dec. 20 to Jan. 31, as permitted by state hunting seasons, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Tuesday. This will be the public's first access to the acreage, acquired Nov. 27 for \$5.8 million from the St. Martin Land Co.

Hunting with rifles or slug-loaded shotguns will not be permitted. Other public safety restrictions include prohibition of permanent deer stands or duck blinds and a requirement that all hunters obtain a Corps special-use permit for this acreage.

The Corps' concern was always for the safety of the public. This can be achieved with the special-use permit conditions and now that we have been assured of enforcement support, provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office.

Shotguns and archery have a shorter range compared with rifles and slug-loaded shotguns.

This compromise gives us time to complete safety preparations with a view to further relaxing restrictions in the 2002-2003 season. Now and later, we ask for the cooperation of the hunting public in respecting private property and exercising safety precautions.

Hunting permits, information: Tom Peek, Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 112 Speck Lane, Port Barré, La. 70577. Tel. 337-585-0853.