

PERMITS FOR LDWF properties (Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges)

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/wmas-refuges-and-conservation-areas>:

“All visitors must have a WMA Access Permit, Senior Hunting/Fishing License, Louisiana Sportsman's Paradise License, or a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License to visit an LDWF WMA, Refuge, or Conservation Area, including Shooting Ranges, for any reason—boating, hiking, bird watching, berry picking, fishing, hunting, shooting, etc. The WMA Access Permit only covers access onto the property—it does NOT convey hunting or fishing privileges. Beginning July 1, 2022, all visitors must also comply with self-clearing permit guidelines. All visitors must also comply with self-clearing permit guidelines.”

LDWF has a few new regulations for licenses and permits that are required if you are on a WMA or Refuge (not federal, only LDWF owned properties). There is the new Wildlife Access Permit – this permit takes the place of the WMA “stamp” and allows the permittee to access all of the LDWF properties; the one year permit is \$20 and there is an option to buy a 5-day permit for 5\$ (the 5 days are consecutive). The other requirement for every visitor is a “self-clearing” permit, which should be available at the WMA or Refuge at no cost; visitors fill out a short form, insert one half into a lockbox, and carry the other half with them while visiting. When you leave, you insert the other half into the lockbox. These forms help the department track the number of visitors at each location, the most popular activities, fishing and hunting harvests, and other basic information that is used to manage the properties.

For LMNGNO, I believe the only Refuge or WMA visited during the workshops is Elmer’s Island Wildlife Refuge, so let’s start there – what are the requirements to visit that Refuge?

- If you are 17 and under, you do NOT need a Wildlife Access Permit, you DO need to fill out a self-clearing permit.
- Everyone else needs some sort of access permit, and the easiest way to purchase that is to go to <https://louisianaoutdoors.com/>. That website will show you which types of licenses are available to you (once you enter your age, residency, etc.). Yes, you will need to create an account in order to utilize the website.
- There are several different types of licenses that include an access permit (so you would NOT need to buy another license), such as the following:

Sportsman’s Paradise	\$100.00
Senior Hunt/Fish (born before June 1, 1940)	FREE
Senior Hunt/Fish (born between June 1, 1940 and May 31, 1962)	\$5.00
Resident or Native-Born Retired Military	\$20.00
Disabled	\$4.00
Disabled Veteran (paid for by LWFF)	\$4.00
Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Combo License	\$500.00
Senior Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Combo License	\$100.00

(These are prices for residents).

- Everyone needs to fill out a self-clearing permit, which can be found in a kiosk located at the entrance to Elmer’s Island (right off of Hwy. 1), or you can download the app for self-clearing: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ldwf-wma/id1389973654>

The 20\$ Wildlife Access Permit is good for ONE YEAR at every LDWF-owned property. That is one year from the date of purchase.

More information can be found here: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/wmarefugeconservation-area-licenses-and-permits>