

# NEWS RELEASE



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Region

Contact: **Steven Bekkerus**  
**sbekkerus@fs.fed.us**  
w: (404) 347-7240  
c: (404) 895-0898

## **USDA FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES DECISION ON DOG-DEER HUNTING ON THE KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RELEASE NO. 12-04**

ATLANTA (March 1, 2012) – USDA Forest Service officials announced today the decision to prohibit the use of dogs to hunt deer on the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. The decision will be implemented during the 2012-2013 season.

The Kisatchie National Forest and the Southern Region conducted an in-depth environmental analysis and reviewed more than 1,300 public comments before issuing the decision. Comments included concerns about this activity’s effects on public safety, impacts on adjacent private lands and the potential loss of this type of hunting opportunity.

“We continue to receive complaints about dog-deer hunters from adjacent landowners and other recreation users. This decision addresses the need to reduce safety concerns by eliminating conflicts between dog-deer hunters, other forest users and adjacent landowners,” said Liz Agpaoa, Regional Forester for the Southern Region. “Through the analysis we have determined that dog-deer hunting is no longer appropriate on the Kisatchie National Forest.”

Currently, the Kisatchie National Forest is the only public land within Louisiana with a wildlife management mandate where dog-deer hunting is allowed. Conflicts occur between users when deer-hunting dogs range beyond the control of hunters and trespass onto private land.

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**USDA Forest Service Announces Decision On Dog-Deer Hunting On The Kisatchie National Forest**

Over the last several years, adjacent landowners and other forest users have expressed concerns to the Forest Service on issues ranging from livestock harassment, personal confrontations, shooting from and across roads and road damage from the influx of dog-deer hunters. A disproportionate number of law enforcement violations committed by deer hunters continue to occur during the deer hunting season with dogs.

“Dog-deer hunters will still have opportunities to hunt, just not on National Forest land. We will continue to work with the State of Louisiana to implement this decision,” Agpaoa said.

Other forms of hunting, including deer hunting without dogs, will continue as a primary activity on the forest.

A new environmental assessment of the proposed decision was released on December 21, 2011. This assessment and the decision announced today correct flaws in the 2010 environmental assessment and discloses new information. The decision allows for administrative appeal. For more information about this decision, please visit the Kisatchie National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/kisatchie>.

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