

News Release

Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
1428 Highway 27
Bell City, LA 70630
337-598-2216

For Immediate Release
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Cameron Prairie and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges Open for Archery Deer Hunting

According to Cameron Prairie and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Managers, Glenn Harris and Larry Narcisse, respectively, bow hunting for each of these refuges will open Monday, October 1, 2007, and remain open through Wednesday, October 31, 2007. Bow hunting will be in accordance with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations, except that no firearms are allowed in vehicles or on hunters. Hunters are required to carry a signed copy of the refuge regulations while hunting and possess proof of completion of the National Bow Hunters Education Foundation Program course. Each hunter is required to fill out a Harvest Information Card following each hunt, whether successful or not. Hunters on both refuges may enter the hunt areas no earlier than 4:00 am and may remain no later than one hour after sunset each day. Only portable stands may be used and must be removed after each days use.

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge hunt area may be accessed by designated roads and canals. Vehicle access is allowed only on the Pintail Wildlife Drive, West Cameron Prairie Road, and the Bank Fishing Road (other levees and dirt roads are closed to vehicle access). Motorboat access is allowed only on the North Canal (the East refuge boundary), the "Outfall Canal", and the Gulf Intra-Coastal Waterway. These boat approved areas can be accessed from the public boat launch under the Gibbstown Bridge on Louisiana Highway 27. All terrain vehicles (airboats, 3 and 4 wheelers, and marsh buggies) are not allowed anywhere on the refuge. Disabled hunters interested in special access for bow hunting may contact the refuge for additional information. Refuge regulations may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex> or obtained from the refuge visitor center at 1428 Highway 27, Bell City.

The Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge hunt area includes the Lacassine Pool and surrounding levees through October 31. Boat access for archery deer hunting is permitted outside the Lacassine Pool through October 31. The Lacassine Pool Wildlife Drive and the Headquarters area are closed to hunting. Refuge regulations may be

downloaded from our website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex> , obtained from the kiosks at Lacassine Pool or the refuge office at 209 Nature Road, Lake Arthur, or by calling 337-774-5923.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The agency also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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