



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

San Bernard

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

Welcome

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge has three public hunting areas and one Permit hunting area. All of the public hunting areas are accessible by boat only. The Cedar Lake Public Waterfowl Hunting Area is south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The Smith Marsh Public Waterfowl Hunting Area is on the west side of Cedar Lakes Creek. Salt Bayou Public Waterfowl Hunting Area is accessible from Cedar Lake Creek, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway or through the shallow Cowtrap Lakes systems.

All public waterfowl hunting areas are open every morning beginning at 4:00 AM, closing at 12:00 PM (Noon) during the state waterfowl hunting seasons. Access to the public hunting areas is by public water routes. A refuge boat ramp is available on Cedar Lake Creek for small boats. Dredge disposal areas along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway are not open for public hunting.

The Sargent Permit Waterfowl Hunt at San Bernard NWR offers a controlled hunting opportunity with walk-in access. The hunt is held each Saturday and the following Wednesday during waterfowl season. Hunters must apply for the lottery in accordance with Sargent Permit Waterfowl Hunt guidelines.

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge
6801 CR 306
Brazoria, TX 77422
979-964-3639
fws.gov/refuge/san-bernard

Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex
2547 CR 316
Brazoria, TX 77422
979-964-4011
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

February 2025

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting is also permitted in accordance with regulations set by the State of Texas.

These regulations apply to areas posted as open to hunting and as shown on the map on the reverse side of this pamphlet. Hunters age 17 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult 18 or older.

We permit the following:

- Hunting of ducks, geese, and coots only
- Hunters to enter the refuge hunt units no earlier than 4:00 AM
- Use of approved non-toxic shot only
- Use of the area on a first come, first served basis
- Use of retriever dogs, which must be under the control of the handler at all times
- The use of motorized boats, including airboats, in open tidal waters
- Motorized boats may only enter shallow water by drifting, polling, or by means of trolling motor where it does not cause damage to vegetation or the bottom

We Require the following:

- Vehicles to park in designated parking area, and in such a manner as to not obstruct normal vehicle traffic
- Removal of decoys, boats, spent shells, marsh chairs, vegetation (blind material) and other equipment and trash from the refuge daily
- Shotguns to be unloaded and cased or broken down when transported in vehicles
- Hunters to maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards between parties

We Prohibit the following:

- Building or use of pits or permanent blinds
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages in all public hunting areas and parking lots
- Off road vehicle travel or ATV use on the refuge
- Target shooting or target practice
- Dog training—with or without the use of firearms
- The use of plastic flagging, reflectors or reflective tape
- Blocking gates and roadways
- Entry (Scouting) in Public Hunting Areas prior to the opening of State specified waterfowl hunting season
- The operation of motorized boats on or through emergent and submergent wetland vegetation, or in shallow water where bottom gouging could occur

San Bernard NWR is located 10 miles west of Lake Jackson. Take FM 2004 and FM2611 to FM 2918, then turn east one mile to CR 306.

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