

# 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  
September 13, 2006

Contact: Diane Borden-Billiot  
337-558-5574 or 337-912-0622

## **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 Sunday, October 1, 2006, and remain open through Tuesday, October 31, 2006. Bowhunting 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 Bowhunters Education Foundation Program course. Each Cameron Prairie 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. Vehicular 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/southeast/pubs/SWLcomplex\\_hunt.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/pubs/SWLcomplex_hunt.pdf) 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, however, motorized boats are prohibited within the Pool this year. 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. Successful hunters are encouraged to contact the Refuge Office with deer harvest information or use Gary's Landing as a check point. Refuge regulations may be downloaded from our website at

[http://www.fws.gov/southeast/pubs/SWLcomplex\\_hunt.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/pubs/SWLcomplex_hunt.pdf) or obtained from the kiosk at Lacassine Pool, 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.

XXX