

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
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For Immediate Release:
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Dove Hunting to Open on September 2, 2006 at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge

According to Refuge Manager Glenn Harris, dove hunting will be open at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge each day during the first split of the state regulated season (September 2, 2006 – September 10, 2006). Dove hunting on the refuge will follow the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations. Shooting hours are noon to sunset on opening weekend and one-half hour before sunrise to sunset thereafter. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used. Hunters are required to carry a signed copy of the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex hunt permit on them while hunting. Permits are free of charge and are available at the refuge headquarters building and parking area as well as on the internet. The permit is located under the Hunting Regulations link on the refuge complex website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex>.

Access to the refuge is limited to designated roads and parking areas only. Roads to permitted parking areas are the only roads open to vehicles. No vehicles are allowed on any other levees or roads. The areas around the visitor center and maintenance buildings are closed to all hunting activities. All terrain vehicles (airboats, three and four wheelers, and marsh buggies) are not permitted on the refuge.

Hunters may enter the hunt area one half hour before legal shooting time and may remain no later than one half hour after official sunset. Hunting dogs are permitted for use during hunting activities, but must remain under the immediate control of the hunter. A post hunt report card must be completed at a self-clearing check station, located in hunt zone parking areas. For more information about this hunt please contact us at 337-598-2216.

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. It 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.