

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 at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge on September 7, 2013

Dove hunting will be open at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge for the first split of the Louisiana (south zone) dove hunting season (September 7-15, 2013). Dove hunting on the refuge will follow the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations. Shooting hours are noon to sunset on opening day and one-half hour before sunrise to sunset thereafter. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used. Hunting dogs are permitted for use during hunting activities, but must remain under the immediate control of the hunter.

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. Some designated parking areas are located behind closed gates. Hunters may pass through these gates, closing all road gates before proceeding to designated parking areas. 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 prohibited on the refuge.

Refuge dove hunters are required to possess a refuge-hunting permit and to turn in a completed Migratory Bird Hunt Report Form after each hunt. The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Regulations 2013-14 brochure or printed online virtual regulations will serve as the required permit when signed, dated and in your possession.

Regulations and required Hunt Report Form may be obtained from the SW LA NWR Complex Visitor Center at Cameron Prairie refuge, hunter check stations, and electronically from our website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex> by clicking

on the hunting regulations link and then clicking on *Hunting Regulations: 2013 - 2014*. The required Dove Hunt Report Form can also be printed from the website. It is located just below the hunting regulations.

For additional 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.

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