



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2014 Rifle Hunting Regulations and Information

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Storms and waters of the Gulf of Mexico constantly shape Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The tidal marshes, long narrow sloughs, grasslands, live oaks and red bay thickets provide essential habitat for resident and migratory wildlife.

Recreational opportunities abound at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Among these opportunities is hunting. All Texas State Hunting Regulations apply to hunting on Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Licensed hunters are responsible for knowing and following state hunting laws. Texas state hunting laws are not listed in this brochure. For complete information, hunters are encouraged to read the *2014-15 Outdoor Annual Hunting Regulations* or to contact Texas Parks & Wildlife at 800/792-1112 or www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Aransas Rifle Season

The rifle season is four individual weekends (Saturday and Sunday):

November 8-9 and 22-23

December 6-7 and 20-21

Hunt Area

A designated portion of the Refuge is open to hunting (19,668 acres). The hunt area opens at 5:00 a.m. and closes at 8:00 p.m., road and other conditions permitting. Only permitted hunters and accompanying observer are admitted into the Hunt Area. Hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of roads. Hunters may not shoot across roads. No portion of the Hunt Area can be reserved— the entire Hunt Area is opened to first come, first served.

Closed Areas

Closed areas are delineated with “AREA CLOSED” signs. Any portion of the Hunt Area may be closed due to unusual conditions without prior notification. It is the hunter’s responsibility to know his/her location.

Rifle Hunt Applications and Permits

Notice: Applications & information are available at: www.aransaspermits.com

Apply online! Online and by mail, permits will be issued by Kinsail Corp. By mail, applications and fees must either be received or postmarked two weeks prior to your preferred hunt weekend for these applications to be valid. Each hunter is required to submit a separate Big Game

Hunt Application Form (3-2356). Hunters can still submit applications together and hunt as a party, if desired. 100 permits are issued on a first come, first served basis for each of the four Rifle Hunt weekends. Each hunt permit is valid only for the named permittee.

Rifle Hunt Fees

Fees are \$135 for adults and \$67.50 for youth hunters, age 17 or under, for a two day hunt. Money order, personal check (made to: Kinsail Corp.) or credit card per hunter per hunt are accepted for payment. *Do not mail cash.*

Youth Hunters/Observers

In order to foster the sport of rifle hunting, a reduced rate is offered for youth hunters, age 17 or under. Youth hunters must possess a Texas hunting license, Hunter Education certificate or one-time deferral, and abide by all Refuge regulations. Youth are the sole responsibility of the hunter and must remain within normal voice control of the hunter at all times. Each adult hunter may supervise two youth hunters.

Refunds and Cancellations

Fee refunds are conditional. Fees will be refunded if the Refuge cancels the hunt. If only part of the hunt is cancelled, refunds will be prorated accordingly. Refunds will be mailed and are subject to Refuge Manager’s approval.

Refuge Regulations

In addition to state laws, the following conditions apply on Aransas National Wildlife Refuge:

Permits

Hunters must have a valid Aransas Rifle Season Permit to hunt on the Refuge. Hunt permit must be present with hunter and the vehicle pass must be placed on the windshield of vehicle.

Legal Species & Bag Limit

Only hunting of white-tailed deer and feral hog is allowed during the Aransas Rifle Season. As part of a hunter’s annual statewide bag limit, hunters may take:

Two white-tailed deer (either sex). No bonus tags are allowed. Hunters must

legally tag and log harvested deer.

No limit on feral (wild) hog.

Scouting Access

Permitted hunters may scout and place blinds or stands in the Hunt Area on the Friday of their hunt weekend from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Only permitted hunters may enter the hunt area. Observers will be covered by hunters permit.

Weapons

No weapons are allowed during scouting. All weapons used for hunting, must be unloaded, cased and remain in the vehicle while on the Refuge during transport to and from hunt areas. Hunters may only use center-fire rifles in accordance with state law. Target shooting or the discharge of a weapon except to hunt is not permitted. We prohibit hunters using handguns during the rifle hunts.

Hunter Orange

Hunters (including youth observers) must wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange including 144 square inches visible in the front and rear. Some hunter orange must appear on headgear.

Flagging

Only color-coded biodegradable flagging is authorized for marking trails and hunt stands. The use of any other non-biodegradable flagging or failure to remove flagging is considered littering.

Weekend #1: Orange flagging

Weekend #2: Blue flagging

Weekend #3: Yellow flagging

Weekend #4: Red flagging

Hunting Stands

Portable stands and blinds are allowed on the Refuge during the Rifle Hunt. There is a limit of two portable stands per permitted hunter. Hunters may set up equipment during scouting, but it must be removed by the end of their hunt weekend. Stands or blinds must be a minimum of 100 yards away from any road. Do not drive any objects (nails, wire, screws, bolts) into any trees or other objects. Do not cut any part of a tree. Do not hunt from existing structures.

Field Dress

Hunters must field dress harvested game in the Hunt Area. A meat cooler is available for dressed game at the Refuge Check Station. Harvest may NOT be processed in

the field; facilities are available at the Check Station for processing game.

Check Station

Successful hunters are required to stop at the Refuge Check Station and report their harvested deer and hogs. This must be done in writing on the Harvest Report form located at the Refuge meat cooler.

Bait

The use or possession of bait, salt or any ingestible attractant is strictly prohibited on the Refuge.

Alcohol

Hunters are not allowed to use/possess alcohol on the Refuge or be under the influence of alcohol.

Travel

Only street legal cars and trucks are allowed in the Hunt Area. Vehicles must remain on roads. Parking is allowed along roadsides in such a manner that will not interfere with normal traffic flow. The speed limit is 35 m.p.h., unless otherwise posted. All Texas driving laws apply to Refuge roads. Blocking of any roadway or gate is strictly prohibited.

Fishing Access

Fishing is not allowed in the Hunt Area.

Hunters are accountable for their own entrance and exit of the Hunt area. While on the Refuge hunters are subject to inspection by state and federal officers at anytime.

For Additional Information

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 100
Austwell, Texas 77950
361/286-3559

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Aransas/>

Revised May 2014

Aransas NWR Rifle Hunt Area

