



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Refuge Big Game Hunt

## Balcones Canyonlands

### National Wildlife Refuge

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge allows hunting for deer, feral hogs, and turkeys through an annual big game hunt.

These hunts help maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with available habitat and provide recreational opportunities. Three general hunts and one youth hunt will be conducted this year.

#### 2013 Hunt Dates

Youth Hunt	November 15–17
General Hunt 1	November 22–24
General Hunt 2	December 6–8
General Hunt 3	December 13–15

Each hunt begins at noon on Friday and extends through legal shooting hours on Sunday. Prior to hunting, each hunter must participate in hunter orientation. Orientations (roughly 45 minutes) will be held at Refuge Headquarters on hunt weekends at noon and 5 pm on Friday and 6 am on Saturday. Hunters may attend an orientation on the first and second scouting days of scouting week from 8 am–5 pm. Hunters may attend any orientation.

#### Changes to 2013 Hunts

1. Standby Hunting. Rarely does refuge staff know in advance of standby hunting opportunities. Hunters may inquire during hunt weekends to see if any hunt area is available. Standby hunting may be good for all day or just an afternoon. Regardless, the fee is \$25/day. A drawing will be necessary if more than one hunter is interested in the same location.

2. Be sure to check “Hunt Unit Descriptions” for details and changes from last year.

3. The Youth Hunt requires a \$10 application fee.

4. A skinning and quartering area is available at Refuge Headquarters.

5. Regarding the General Hunt, one non-hunting guest per hunter is allowed. This guest must remain with and be in sight of permitted hunter during scouting and hunting days. (This does not apply to Persons with Disabilities Hunt).

6. Guests may assist in game retrieval or field dressing activities.

#### General Hunt

Hunters may apply for a General Hunt permit by completing a Big Game Hunt Application. The application fee is \$10 per person. If drawn, a permit fee of \$50 is required for the General Hunt. Hunt permits are transferable for \$25. All fees are non-refundable. Hunters may shoot turkeys, feral hogs, spike buck, and antlerless deer. (Refer to *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual* under “County Listings” for bag limits.) After a hunter has checked in an antlerless deer or feral hog at the Refuge check station, he/she will be issued a permit for a buck (3 points or more). Only one buck may be taken. During the last hunt weekend only, either sex deer hunting is permitted.

#### Youth Hunt

Youth ages 12–16 may apply for a Youth Hunt Permit by completing a Big Game Hunt Application. There is a \$10 application fee. Permits are free. Each youth must be supervised during the hunt by a licensed hunter age 17 or older. During the Youth Hunt, turkeys, feral hogs, and deer (either sex) may be taken. Each youth hunter is allowed to take only one buck (3 points or more). (Refer to *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual* under “County Listings” for bag limits and other restrictions.)

#### Hunters with Disabilities

Call the Refuge for information regarding options available for youth and adults possessing a valid proof of disability as defined by Texas Parks and Wildlife hunting regulations.

#### Permit Process

Permit applications can be submitted online at: [www.balconespermits.com/](http://www.balconespermits.com/) or can be obtained at the Refuge Office at 24518 FM 1431, Marble Falls, TX 78654, or requested by phone 512/339-9432, x 70 or by mail. General hunt application fees are collected via credit card or bank account transfer on-line during the application process. Paper applications must include payment by certified check, cashier's check, or money order made out to

Kinsail Corporation and mailed to Kinsail Corporation, P.O. Box 7087, Arlington, Virginia 22207. Paper hunt applications must be postmarked by September 7, 2013. Incomplete paper applications or applications without payment will be discarded. The drawing will be conducted on September 20, 2013.

#### Hunt Regulations

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR).

Hunters are assigned tracts to hunt. In some cases, hunters must park at a specific location but are allowed to walk around within their assigned tracts. Areas closed to hunting will be designated on maps and marked with signs and/or barricades.

Hunters must check in by phone or in person each day before hunting and when finished for the day. The check station will open at 5:30 am. Hunters may physically check in or by calling 512/339-9432 and giving the check station attendant their hunt unit number; names of all members in their party, and a contact phone number the party can be reached at if needed.

You must speak directly to the check station attendant. Do not leave a message! If a live human being does not answer the phone, wait a few minutes and call again. Hunters must leave the Refuge and have checked out within 90 minutes of sunset.

Portable hunting stands are allowed. *They may be set up on the last scouting day before your weekend hunt.* The Refuge is not responsible for theft of hunting stands. Driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects into trees or hunting from trees in which any objects have been driven into a tree is prohibited. *The use or possession of all bait (commercial food pellets, mineral blocks, etc.) is prohibited during scouting and hunting.* Dogs may not be used for

scouting or hunting. Hunting is not allowed within 50 yards of a road open to vehicular travel or 200 yards of a building. Hunters should not shoot at a target that is not completely identified.

All hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waist while hunting or scouting. All hunters must wear a hunter orange hat or cap.

Access to designated hunt units will be on improved roads only. When you arrive at your unit, the gate will be closed, but unlocked. Please close the gate after entering. Do not block gates or roads.

Fires, camping, target practice, and possession or use of alcoholic beverages while on the Refuge is prohibited.

### Scouting

Permitted hunters may scout designated hunt areas during daylight hours on November 9–14, November 21, December 5, and December 12. On scouting days, hunters do not check in and out at Refuge Headquarters.

The Refuge manager may close all or part of the Refuge—including roads—without notice to safeguard resources or for safety reasons. Also, prescribed burns may be conducted in portions of hunting units during non-scouting and non-hunting dates to improve habitat.

### For Additional Information Contact:

Refuge Manager  
Balcones Canyonlands NWR  
24518 FM 1431, Box 1  
Marble Falls, Texas 78654  
512/339-9432  
512/267-6530 Fax  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones\\_canyonlands/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones_canyonlands/)  
Texas State Relay Service  
1 800/735-2989

