



# Hunting

## *Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge*

### Hunting Regulations at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Public hunting on Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge is allowed in those areas designated as open to hunting by field signs and as indicated on the accompanying map. The following terms and conditions supplement the regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges, as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, part 32 and in current Federal Migratory Bird and State Hunting Regulations.

#### Species Allowed

##### *North Tract*

Deer, feral hog, rabbit, duck, goose, coot, sandhill crane, dove, quail and pheasant.

##### *Middle Tract*

Duck, goose, coot, sandhill crane and pheasant.

#### Hunting Days and Times

(Refer also to supplemental *Hunting Seasons* leaflet)

##### *North Tract*

Hunting is allowed on all days within the State authorized seasons during legal hunting hours. (No extended Eurasian-collared dove, early teal, youth waterfowl or late light goose conservation order seasons or year round rabbit hunting).

##### *Middle Tract*

Hunting is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays within the State authorized seasons from legal morning shooting time to 1:00 p.m. (No early teal, youth waterfowl or late light goose conservation order seasons).

#### Permits and Licenses Requirements

A valid State hunting license is required. A Federal Migratory Bird Permit (HIP) is required for anyone hunting migratory birds. Persons 16 years of age and older must also have a validated Federal Waterfowl Hunting and Conservation Permit (Duck Stamp) while hunting waterfowl. All crane hunters must have a free Federal Sandhill Crane Permit (available at all New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Offices). Habitat Management and Access Validation required (except as per state regulations).

#### Check Station Procedure

All hunters using the Middle Tract must complete survey cards at the check station (near Visitor Center) after each hunt, regardless of success.

#### Firearms and Ammunition

Refuge hunters must follow State mandated regulations pertaining to legal sporting arms and ammunition. Only shotguns (capable of holding no more than three shells) are permitted while legally hunting ducks, geese, coots, sandhill cranes, doves, quail, pheasants, and rabbits on designated hunt areas of the refuge. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved nontoxic shot may be used in shotguns when hunting on any part of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Possession of lead shot for hunting is illegal on the refuge. The discharge of weapons other than for legal hunting purposes is prohibited.

#### Dogs

Hunting dogs may be used for hunting waterfowl and upland game. They are required to be under close control of their handlers at all times.

#### Hunt Sites and Blinds

All hunting sites are considered available to hunters on a first come, first served basis. No pit blinds or permanent blinds are allowed. Portable blinds are allowed but must be removed each day.

#### Roads, Parking, and Trails

Vehicle travel is allowed only upon established public use roads. Other access is limited to established public use roads and trails until inside the designated hunt area. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only. Do not block roads or intersections.

#### Refuge / Wildlife Violations

Please report any wildlife or refuge violations by calling the refuge office (575) 625-4011 or Operation Game Thief (800) 432-4263. Do not confront violators but rather be a safe/good witness and provide as much information about the incident as possible.

#### General Regulations

Disturbing wildlife, such as "rallying" or stirring up birds so that they fly over the hunt areas, is prohibited.

Neither hunters nor their dogs may exit hunt areas to retrieve game.

All personal property, including decoys and portable blinds, must be directly tended at all times.

Access to the North Tract is restricted to walk-in or via horseback, except non-motorized bicycles may be used on established roads only east of the Salt Creek Wilderness.

Feral hogs may be taken (no bag limit) from the North Tract only while legally hunting deer and only with the weapon legal for deer on that day.

Falconry hunting is not permitted.

All litter, including spent ammunition casings, must be removed and disposed of properly. Please help us sustain the refuge hunt by removing any litter that you see, even if you did not put it there. Hunts are subject to closure if problems with litter persist.

Hunters are expected to exercise reasonable care when attempting water crossings as unpredictable conditions may exist.

Please only attempt to shoot at game from within a reasonable range. "Sky busting" (shooting out of range) only promotes instances of wounded and lost game and reduces the quality and success of the hunt for everyone.

#### For Additional Information:

Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
4200 East Pine Lodge Road  
Roswell, NM 88201

575/625-4011

575/625-4004 FAX

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Bitter\\_Lake](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bitter_Lake)

September 2016

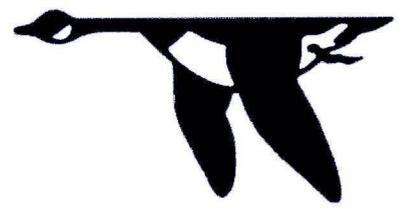
# BITTER LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNTING SEASONS - 2016/2017

| GAME   | BAG LIMIT   | MIDDLE TRACT SEASON   | NORTH TRACT SEASON  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>DEER<br/>(Hunt Unit 32)</b>                                     | 1 deer possessing an antler which has a definite fork, showing two or more distinct points. A burr at the base does not constitute a point or fork.   | Middle Tract closed to deer hunting   | <u>ANY LEGAL SPORTING ARM</u><br>October 29- November 2, 2016 (DER-1-272)<br>November 12-16, 2016 (DER-1-273)       |
|  |   |   | <u>MUZZLELOADER, BOW AND CROSSBOW</u><br>October 22-26, 2016 (DER-3-277)  |
|  |   |   | <u>BOW ONLY</u><br>September 1-24, 2016<br>and January 1-15, 2017 (DER-2-276)                                       |
| <b>Feral Hog</b>   | No Limit  | Middle Tract closed to feral hog hunting  | Hog(s) may be hunted only while legally hunting deer and only with the weapon legal for deer on that day.           |
| <b>Dove</b>  | <b>15</b> per day<br><b>(45 in possession)</b><br>(No bag/possession limit for Eurasian-collared dove)  | Middle Tract closed to dove hunting   | September 1-October 30, 2016<br>and December 3 – January 1, 2017<br>(No extended season for Eurasian-collared dove) |
| <b>Quail</b>   | <b>15</b> per day<br><b>(30 in possession)</b>  | Middle Tract closed to quail hunting  | November 15, 2016 - February 15, 2017   |
| <b>Rabbit</b>  | No Limit  | Middle Tract closed to rabbit hunting   | November 15, 2016 – February 15, 2017   |
| <b>Pheasant</b>  | <b>3 males</b> per day<br><b>(6 in possession)</b>  | December 8 & 10, 2016<br>Thurs. & Sat. - 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.  | December 8-11, 2016   |
| <b>Sandhill Crane</b>  | <b>3</b> per day<br><b>(6 in possession)</b>  | October 29, 2016- January 28, 2017<br>Tues, Thurs, & Sat - 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.  | October 29, 2016 – January 29, 2017   |
| <b>Dark Geese<br/>(Canada and White-Fronted Geese)</b>             | <b>5</b> per day<br><b>(15 in possession)</b>   | October 29, 2016 - January 28, 2017<br>Tues, Thurs, & Sat - 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.   | October 15, 2016 - January 29, 2017   |
| <b>Light Geese<br/>(Snow, Blue-phase Snow, &amp; Ross’s Geese)</b> | <b>50</b> per day<br>No possession limit  | October 29, 2016 - January 28, 2017<br>Tues, Thurs, & Sat - 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.<br>(No light goose conservation season on refuge)           | October 15, 2016 - January 29, 2017<br>(No light goose conservation order season on refuge)                         |
| <b>American Coot</b>   | <b>15</b> per day<br><b>(45 in possession)</b>  | October 29, 2016 - January 28, 2017<br>Tues, Thurs, & Sat - 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.<br>(No youth waterfowl season on refuge)                    | October 26, 2016 - January 29, 2017<br>(No youth waterfowl season on refuge)  |
| <b>Ducks</b>   | <b>6</b> per day total to include no more than 5 mallard (only 2 females), 2 redhead, 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 hooded merganser, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback<br>(possession = 3 times daily)                   | October 29, 2016 - January 28, 2017<br>Tues, Thurs, & Sat - 1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.<br>(No September teal and youth waterfowl season on refuge) | October 26, 2016 - January 29, 2017<br>(No September teal and youth waterfowl season on refuge)                     |
| <b>Pheasant (Youth Only)</b>                                       | This will be a special youth only “draw” hunt & workshop held December 3, 2016 on the refuge. Deadline to apply is November 11, 2016. Contact the refuge at the number listed below for more information. |   |   |

HUNTERS MUST COMPLY WITH ALL FEDERAL AND STATE HUNTING REGULATIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE REFUGE AT (575) 625-4009 or 4010.

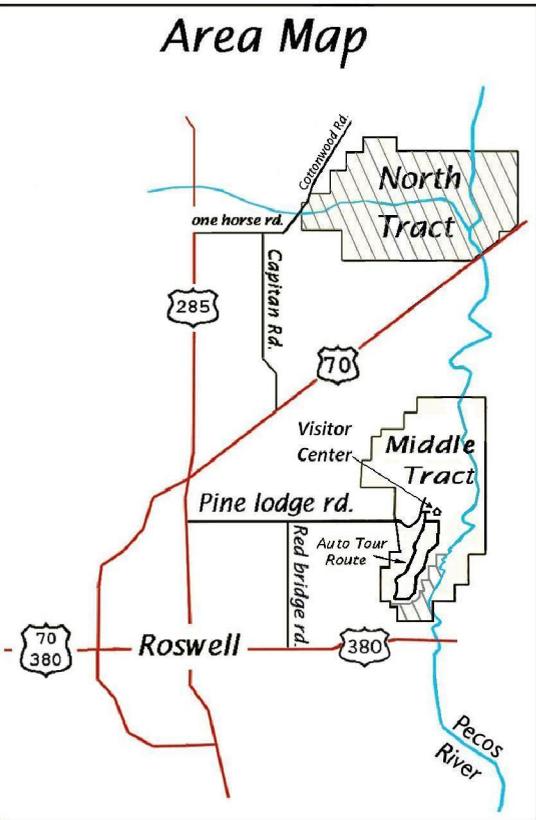
# Bitter Lake

## National Wildlife Refuge



### PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

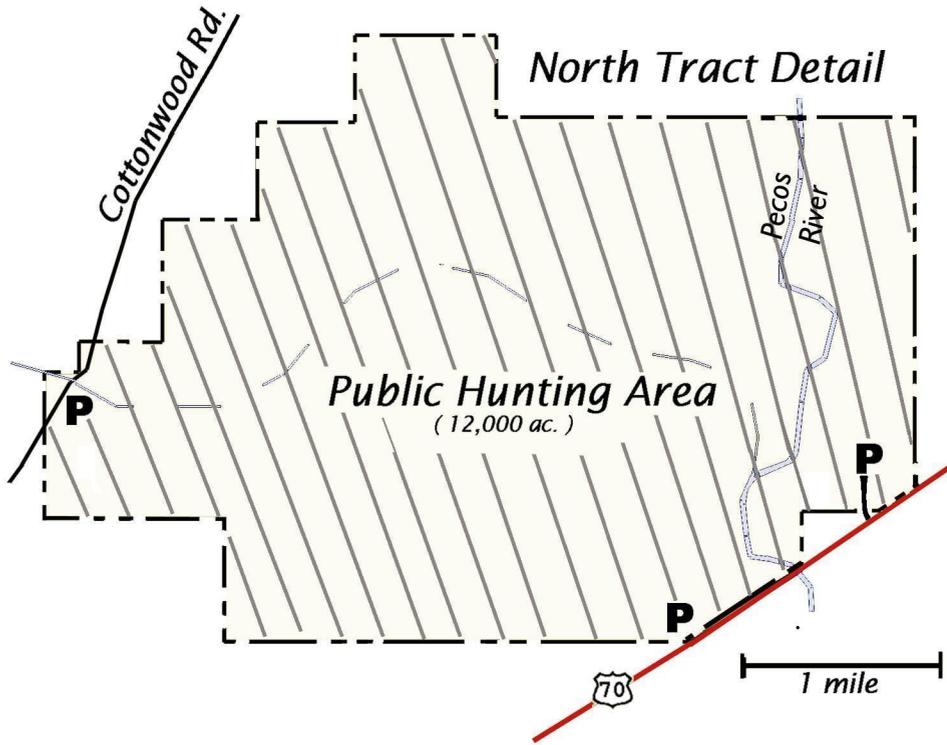
Area Map



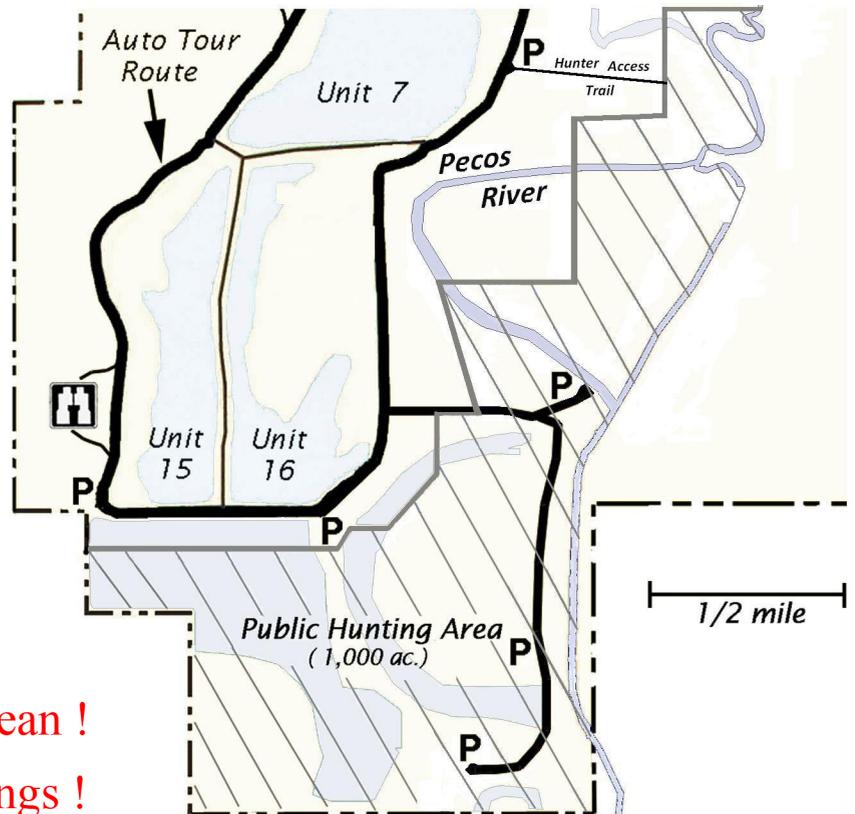
Legend

-  -- Public Hunting Area
-  -- Hunter access road
- P** -- Parking Area
-  -- Refuge Boundary

North Tract Detail



Middle Tract Detail



Hunters help keep refuge clean !  
Please pick up all shell casings !