



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Firearm Hunt Regulations

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Orientation

Orientations are mandatory. Orientation is scheduled at 8:00 am on the first day of your selected hunt.

Refuge Firearm Hunts

Five 3-day hunts, 3 consecutive days each hunt, 35 hunters per hunt, start at 8:00 am on the first day of your selected hunt and go until sunset on the third day as follows:

Hunt #1: November 21–November 23, 2014

Hunt #2: December 12–14, 2014

Hunt #3: December 19–21, 2014

Hunt #4: December 27–29, 2014

Hunt #5: January 2–4, 2015

All hunt fees are non-refundable. All hunts may be cancelled without notice for public safety or resource protection reasons (e.g., high wildfire danger).

Firearm Hunt Units

Refuge Units 2, 3, 5, and 8 will be open for firearm scouting and hunting. Hunt Units or areas within a unit may not be reserved.

Closed Areas

The following areas are closed to hunting: Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park in Unit 3, Units 1, 4, 6, and 7 and all areas posted “No Hunting Zone” or as indicated on the Firearm Hunt Map.

Hunting Access

Only permitted hunters will be allowed in the Hunt Units during the firearm hunts. On the first day of your scheduled hunt, you must report to the Refuge check station at 8:00 am for a hunter orientation. For the remainder of the hunt, you may enter the Refuge one hour before legal shooting hours (i.e., 1½ hours before official sunrise) and must depart by 1½ hours after official sunset. Hunters are required to check all harvested game at the refuge check station, with the exception of feral hogs. If a hunter needs to track game after sunset, they must contact the Hunt Check Station for authorization.

Firearm Hunt Units

Refuge Units 2, 3, 5, and 8 will be open for firearm scouting and hunting. Hunt Units or areas within a unit may not be reserved.

Tags

You must properly tag white-tailed deer immediately upon harvest. Mark the kill location as Laguna Atascosa Refuge in Cameron County. Do not bring an untagged deer to the Refuge check station.

Parking and Vehicle Access

Vehicle parking is allowed at the parking areas in Units 1 and 6; along the roadsides of General Brant Road (FM 106) and County Road.

Motorized vehicle access is allowed on refuge roads that are not closed by gates or signs. All other roads may only be accessed by foot or bicycle. Motorized vehicle access is allowed on refuge roads that are not closed by gates or signs. All other roads may only be accessed by foot or bicycle.

Mobility Impaired Hunters

Hunters with mobility impairments must contact the Assistant Refuge Manager by October 31 to obtain a Special Use Permit for ATV access.

Scouting Access

Permitted hunters may scout during the following periods: November 1–2 and November 8–9, 2014. Scouting access hours will be from official sunrise to official sunset. A permitted hunter, and a limit of two non-permitted individuals accompanying the hunter, may enter the Hunt Units during the scouting period. A Refuge-issued Vehicle Validation Tag and Scouting Permit must be conspicuously displayed on vehicle dashboard. Possession of firearms or archery equipment is not permitted during scouting.

Flagging and Markers

The use of flagging and markers to mark trails and stands is prohibited.

Hunting Stands and Blinds

We allow hunting from portable stands or by stalking and still hunting. There is a limit of one blind or stand per permitted hunter. You must attach hunter identification (name and phone number), to the blind or stand. We prohibit attaching blinds and stands to trees or making blinds and stands from natural vegetation. You must remove all blinds and stands at the end of your hunt period.

Other Uses

We prohibit use of or hunting from any type of watercraft or floating device. We prohibit the possession or use of dogs while scouting or hunting.

Legal Weapons

We only allow the use of shoulder-fired muzzleloaders, rifles and crossbows during the firearm hunt. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations. Muzzleloader firearms must be .40 caliber or larger, and modern rifles must be center fired and .22 caliber or larger. All hunting firearms must be unloaded and cased while in a vehicle. Loaded is defined as having rounds in the chamber or a firing cap on a muzzle-loading firearm. We prohibit target practice or “sighting-in” on the refuge.

Bait

The possession and/or distribution of bait or hunting over bait is prohibited.

Legal Species and Bag Limit

Two-deer bag limit: one male (antlered or button buck) and one female, or two females per hunt permit. There is no bag limit on feral hogs and nilgai antelope. Hunting of javelina is prohibited. You may not kill or wound an animal covered in this section and intentionally or knowingly fail to make a reasonable effort to retrieve and include it in your bag limit.

Hunters 17 and Younger

Each youth hunter, ages 9 through 17 must be accompanied by an adult with a hunt permit age 21 or older at all times during the hunt.

Hunter Orange

Hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange including 144 square inches visible on both the chest and back, and a hunter orange cap or hat visible on the head. Hunter orange camouflage patterns may be worn.

Field Dressing

Hunts are primitive; therefore, assistance from Refuge personnel will be very limited to none. Make harvest plans accordingly. Harvested game must be field dressed before removal from the hunt unit. You may quarter your game. You may use a non-motorized cart/wagon to transport harvested game. A meat cooler is available at the Refuge check station for temporary storage of game.

Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages and drugs on the Refuge is prohibited.

Camping

We allow camping only at Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park. (956/748-2044). Hunters are not allowed to enter or exit the refuge hunt units directly via the county park.

We reserve the right to revoke or deny any permit for up to five years due to unsafe conduct or violation of one or more refuge regulations.

For Additional Information

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, Texas 78566
956/748-3607
956/748-3609 Fax
www.fws.gov/refuge/laguna_atascosa

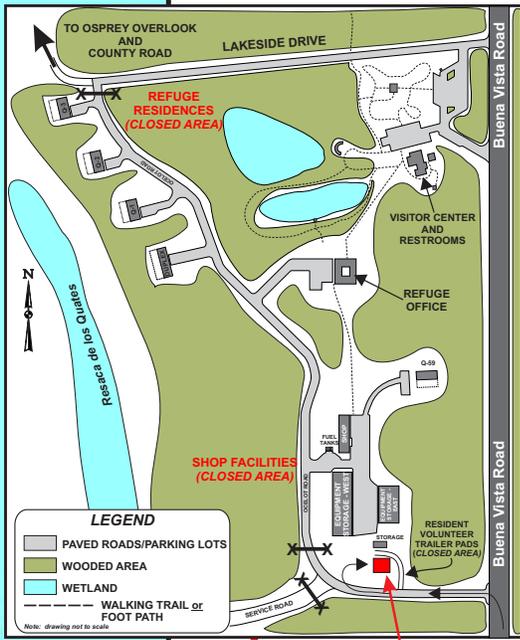
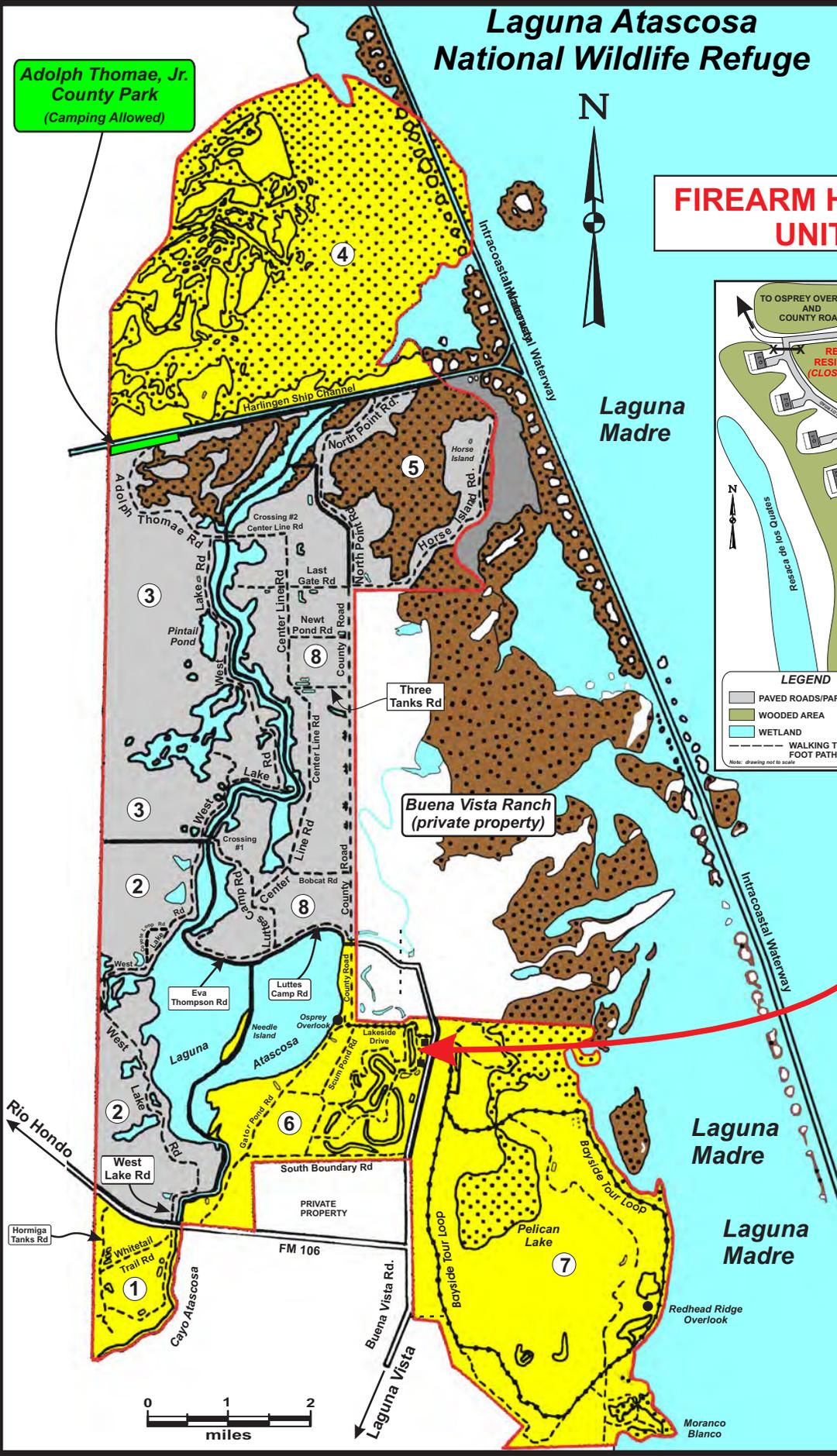
July 2014

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge



Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park
(Camping Allowed)

FIREARM HUNTS ONLY UNIT MAP



HUNT CHECK STATION

FIREARM HUNTS ONLY UNIT MAP

LEGEND

- Refuge Boundary
- Refuge Areas Open to Hunting
- REFUGE AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING
- Private Property
- Hunt Unit Boundary
- Service Road
- Tour Road
- Mudflats
- Wetlands