



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Firearm Hunt Regulations and Permit

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

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.

Firearm Hunt Units

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

Closed Areas

The following areas are closed to hunting: Adolph Thoma, 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.

Scouting Access

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 Hunt Permit must be conspicuously displayed on vehicle dashboard. Possession of firearms or archery equipment is not permitted during scouting.

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.

Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

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

Bait

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

Parking and Vehicle Access

Vehicle parking is allowed along the roadside of 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.

Flagging and Markers

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

Hunting Access

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. Only permitted hunters will be allowed in the Hunt Units during the firearm hunts. Hunters who need to track game after sunset, must contact the Hunt Check Station for authorization (956/371-0773).

Hunting Stands and Blinds

We allow hunting from portable stands or blinds 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.

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 are required to check all game at the Refuge check station. Feral hogs do not need to be checked, but must be reported.

Tagging

You must properly tag white-tailed deer immediately upon harvest. Mark the kill location as Laguna Atascosa Refuge in Cameron County.

Camping

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

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.

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 this Hunt Permit to be valid, a refuge official must issue a permit number and hunt dates when the hunter pays their hunt fee. Hunters must sign and date below that they have read and agree to abide by these regulations. These signed regulations and permit must be carried on your person when scouting or hunting on the refuge.

Name: _____

Permit #: _____

Hunt Dates: _____

Refuge Official Signature

Hunter's Signature

Date

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

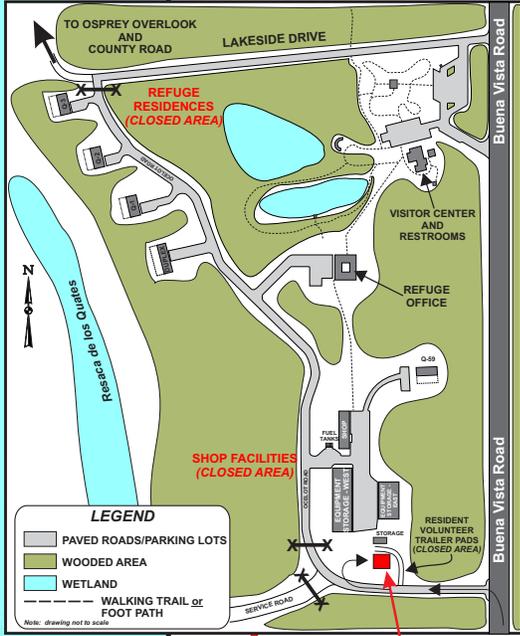
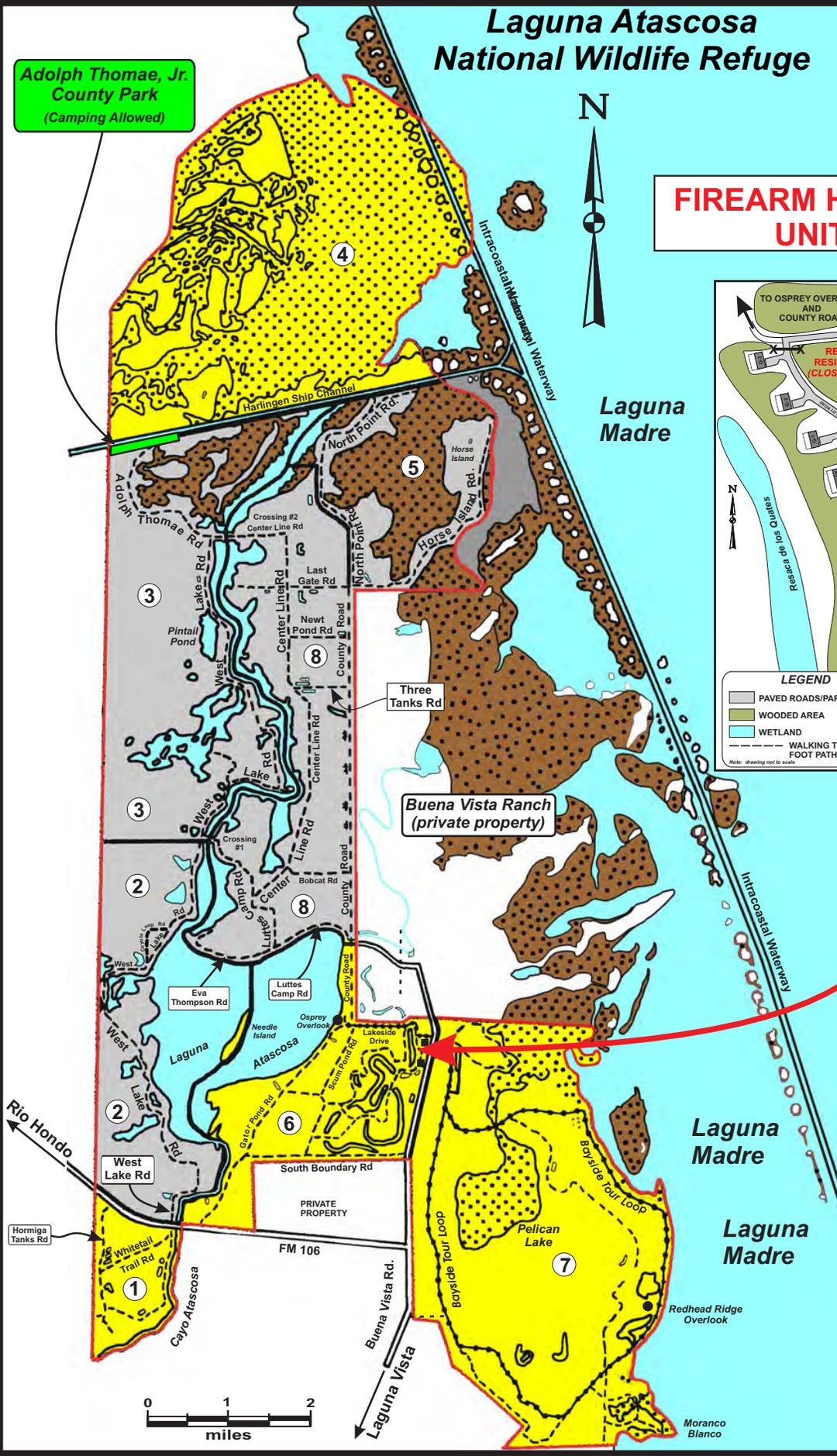
July 2015

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge



Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park
(Camping Allowed)

FIREARM HUNTS ONLY UNIT MAP



LEGEND
 PAVED ROADS/PARKING LOTS
 WOODED AREA
 WETLAND
 WALKING TRAIL or FOOT PATH
 Note: drawing not to scale

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

