



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Big Game Hunting

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 550 national wildlife refuges across the United States and its territories. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands for the conservation of wildlife for the benefit of the American people. Properly managed hunts can benefit wildlife populations while providing recreational opportunities for hunters. The number of hunters desired for each hunt period may be increased or decreased to address significant changes in population levels.

Big Game Hunt Regulations

The regulations below supplement the General regulations that govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting is also in accordance with applicable state regulations and state seasons.

You may access the Refuge during your permitted scouting and hunt period one hour before legal hunt time and one hour after legal hunt time; however, you may not hunt outside of the legal hunt hours.

Your licenses, permits, hunting equipment, effects and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal, State and local law enforcement officers.

We restrict hunt participants to include (hunter, one non-hunting chaperone for youth hunters or one non-hunting assistant for adult hunters). All participants are required to wear hunter orange according to Texas State regulations (400 square inches that is visible on the chest, back and head).

Hunters must field-dress all harvested big game in the field.

We allow you to use bicycles on designated routes of travel. You may use non-motorized dollies or carts off improved roads or trails to haul carcasses to a parking area.

We allow the use of rattling horns.

We allow free-standing blinds or tripods. They may be set up during the designated scouting days preceding each permitted hunt date and must be taken down by the end of such hunt date. All stands must be marked or tagged with your name, contact number and hunt date during which it will be used.

We prohibit you to use nails, wires, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree to which a metal object has been driven to support yourself.

You may not use or possess dogs, horses or mules on the Refuge during your applicable hunt.

You may not discharge weapons for any purpose other than to take or attempt to take an animal listed in your permit during your hunt.

You may not kill, wound, take or possess an animal listed in your permit while intentionally or knowingly failing to make a reasonable effort to retrieve or keep the edible portions of the animal and include it in your bag limit.

You may not use flagging or any other type of marker.

You may not cut or trim vegetation or brush.

You may not use big game decoys.

We prohibit overnight camping, fires, littering and dumping. We prohibit the use of motorized vehicles.

We prohibit the possession, use or hunting over bait on the Refuge.

We prohibit the use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the Refuge.

We reserve the right to revoke or deny any permit for up to five years for the following conditions: lack of public safety to a degree that may endanger oneself or other persons or property, multiple regulation violations, aggressive, abusive

or intimidating demeanor to any employee of the United States or of any local or State government engaged in official business, or with any private person engaged in the pursuit of a permitted activity on the Refuge.

Hunting License and Permits

We require hunters to pay a fee to obtain a Refuge hunt permit and to possess and carry such permit at all times during your designated hunt period. Hunters must display the Refuge-issued vehicle pass while participating in the designated scouting and/or hunt.

Hunters including youth, must have a valid hunting license, proof of hunter's education certification and picture identification in order to obtain a Refuge Hunt Permit and must possess the above items while on the Refuge hunt.

Species and Bag Limits

Archery, Shotgun/Muzzleloader and youth hunts legal species and bag limit include: White-tailed deer (two animal limit – one male deer only). Exotic hunt legal species and bag limits include: Nilgai Antelope and Feral hog only (no limit).

We require hunters to be at least 9 years old. All youth hunters, ages 9 through 17, may participate in the hunts, but must be accompanied by a chaperone who is at least 21 years old, who is licensed to hunt in Texas; who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2 1971) and you must be within normal voice control. Youth hunters must have passed a State-approved hunter education course.

Firearms and Ammunition

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 Part 32).

We permit only the hunter to hunt or discharge the applicable bow, shotgun, muzzleloader or rifle.

We permit the use of re-curved, compound and longbows only for Archery hunts.

We permit the use of shotguns (20 gauge or larger with slugs shot only) and muzzleloaders (.40 caliber or larger) for Shotgun/Muzzleloader hunts.

We permit the use of any legal centerfire firearm except hand held pistols (handguns) for Youth and Exotic hunts.

Accidents or Injury

For emergencies or to report violations contact law enforcement personnel at 956/784-7520.

Hunts are primitive and assistance from refuge personnel will be very limited to none; therefore make harvest plans accordingly.

For Additional Information Contact

South Texas Refuge Complex
Lower Rio Grande Valley
National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, TX 78516
956/784-7500
956/787-8338 Fax

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/lrgv.html>

July 2012

