



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Firearm Hunt Regulations

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 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.

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 16 and Younger

Each youth hunter, ages 9 through 16 must be accompanied by an adult, age 18 or older, with a hunt permit at all times during the hunt.

Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

Hunters may not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and may not consume alcoholic beverage while engaged in hunting activities, or publicly consume or display an alcoholic beverage.

Parking and Vehicle Access

Vehicle parking is allowed at designated parking areas for Units 1 and 6, along the roadsides of General Brant County Road (State FM 106), Buena Vista Road, and County Road. Motorized vehicle access is allowed on refuge roads that are not closed by gates or signs. All other roads may be accessed by foot or bicycle.

Hunting Access

On the first day of your scheduled hunt, you must report to the Refuge check station at 8:00 am for 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 the Refuge by 8:30 pm. 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 (956-748-3607).

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 blinds and stands at the end of your hunt period.

Flagging and Markers

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

Tagging

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

Bait

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

Legal Weapons

We only allow the use of shoulder-fired muzzleloaders and rifles during the firearm hunt. 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). 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

Firearm Hunt: 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.

Firearm Exotic: Feral hogs and nilgai only. There is no bag limit on hogs and nilgai.

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. Feral hogs are not required to be retrieved nor checked, but must be reported. Hunters are required to check all game at the Refuge check station.

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.

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.

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 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.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS:

To comply with TAHC-USDA in eradicating cattle fever ticks, hunters must follow the deer and nilgai check-in process:

- Hunters MUST bring a tarp AT LEAST 9ft. by 12ft. in size.
- Hunters MUST place a tarp on the truck/trailer to eliminate contact with a deer or nilgai carcass when in transport.
- Hunters MUST skin deer and nilgai at the designated cleaning area.
- TAHC-USDA will inspect all deer and nilgai for cattle fever ticks.
- TAHC-USDA staff will inspect your vehicle and may require that your vehicle be treated with insecticide.
- Any hides or heads removed from the Refuge will be frozen on-site for a minimum of 24 hours to kill fever ticks.
- You may take the skinned carcass after inspection. A law enforcement officer will issue a wildlife resource document as proof of sex for white-tailed deer transport.
- Emergency rules do not apply to feral hogs.

For Additional Information

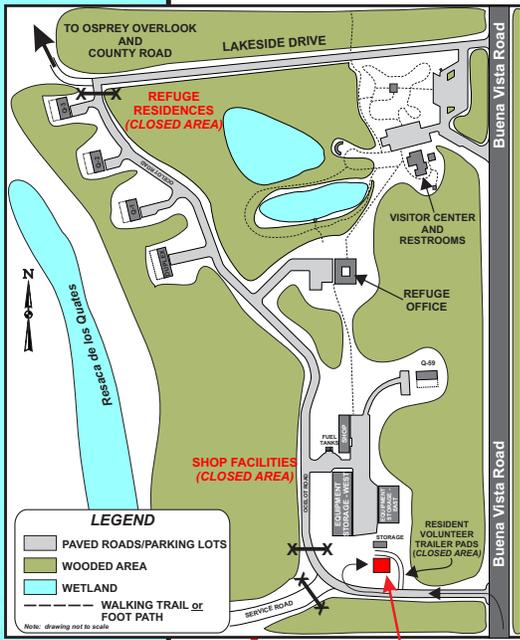
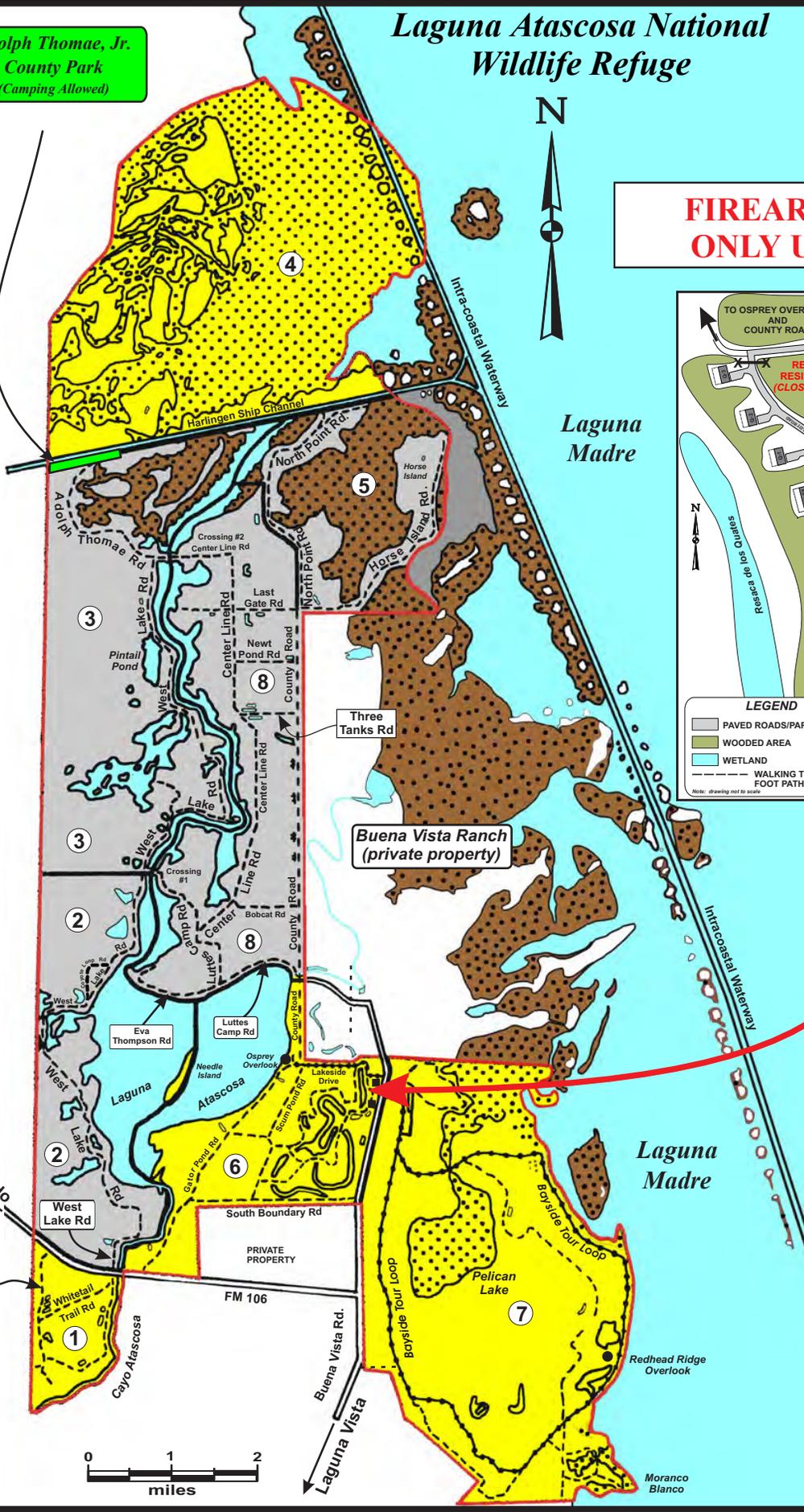
**Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge 22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, Texas 78566
956-748-3607
956-748-3609 Fax
www.fws.gov/refuge/
laguna_atascosa June 2016**

**Adolph Thomae, Jr.
County Park
(Camping Allowed)**

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge



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