



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2020 - 2021 General Hunting Information *Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge*

The Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) offers public hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer, nilgai antelope, feral hogs, and other exotic ungulates. These hunts are self-guided and in remote areas with limited vehicle access. Archery and firearm permits are processed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Public Drawn Hunt System. All refuge hunters are selected by lottery. Up to 4 people can apply together on one application. All applications are completed online at: tpwd.texas.gov/drawn hunts.

The following information applies to all public hunts at the refuge.

Fees and Permits - Permits cost \$80.00 per hunter for hunts up to 3 days, or \$130.00 per hunter for hunts 4 days or more, plus a processing fee of \$3.00 per application. Please note the following:

- All hunt fees are non-refundable.
- All hunts may be canceled without notice, due to extenuating circumstances
- Hunt permits are not transferable.

Regulations - Permitted hunters are subject to inspection of permits, vehicles, equipment, and bag limits by state and federal law enforcement officers. TPWD hunting regulations apply to hunting on the refuge. We encourage you to contact the TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, or tpwd.texas.gov for complete information.

All hunters must use their TPWD-issued license tags, in compliance with the TPWD requirements.

Refuge Bag limits - **Two whitetail deer no more than one male deer may be harvested. During all refuge hunts, unlimited feral hogs and nilgai antelope may be harvested.**

Hunter Assistance -

- **This is a traditional hunt and hunters are expected to harvest and retrieve their own game. The refuge may be able to provide limited assistance depending on staff availability.**
- A walk-in cooler is available at the Laguna Atascosa Unit hunt check station for temporary storage.
- A limited number of game carts are available for loan to hunters.
- The hunt check station can be reached during hunts at **956-443-9227**.

Important Refuge Regulations - In addition to the firearm and archery hunt regulations, these apply:

- The maximum speed limit on Refuge roads is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.
- Taking or collecting any plant or non-game animal (including venomous snakes) is prohibited.
- The use of artificial lights (including car headlights and game cameras) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited.
- Fires, littering, target practice, and commercial guiding are prohibited.
- The disturbing, molesting, or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

Camping - The only camping on the refuge is at Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park. To contact the park, call 956-748-2044. The hunt units are not accessible directly from the park.

Safety Considerations - Africanized honey bees, alligators, cougars and rattlesnakes are in the area. Stay alert and watch for bee activity and be cautious of venomous snakes and stinging/biting insects. Wearing snake guards or boots is recommended.

Scouting - Scouting access will be allowed on Sept. 19 - Sept 20, 2020 from legal sunrise to legal sunset, as well as after hunter orientation the day before each hunt period begins.

Cattle Fever Tick Considerations - Hunters must place a tarp on their vehicle to eliminate contact with a deer or nilgai carcass. Hunters must skin deer and nilgai antelope before leaving the refuge. A designated skinning station is provided. Hunters must adhere to all cattle fever tick prevention measures, which include subjecting hides and heads to an approved anti-parasitic treatment. Hunters may take skinned carcasses after inspection. A wildlife resource document will be issued as proof of sex for white-tailed deer transport.

Archery Hunts

Mandatory Hunter Orientation will be held at the refuge hunt check station at **9:00 am the day before your scheduled hunt period**. See hunt dates below.

Laguna Unit Archery Hunts -

- Archery #1: Nov 06 - Nov 10, 2020
- Archery #2: Nov 13 - Nov 17, 2020

Ocelot Monitoring Period Archery Hunts (Laguna Unit, excludes Subunit 6) -

- Archery #3: Nov 20 - Nov 24, 2020
- Archery #4: Dec 04 - Dec 08, 2020

Bahia Grande Archery Hunts -

- Archery #1: Feb 05 - Feb 07, 2021
- Archery #2: Feb 12 - Feb 14, 2021

Permits - There will be 200 hunt permits available for each Laguna Unit archery hunt. There will be 50 hunt permits available for each Bahia Grande archery hunt.

Firearm Hunts

Mandatory Hunter Orientation will be held at the refuge hunt check station at **9:00 am the day before your scheduled hunt period**. See hunt dates below.

Laguna Unit Firearm Hunts -

- Firearm #1: Dec 11 - Dec 13, 2020
- Firearm #2: Dec 18 - Dec 20, 2020
- Firearm #3: Jan 08 - Jan 10, 2021
- Firearm #4: Jan 15 - Jan 17, 2021

Bahia Grande Muzzleloader/Slug-only Shotgun Hunts -

- Firearm #1: Feb 19 - Feb 21, 2021
- Firearm #2: Feb 26 - Feb 28, 2021

Permits - There will be 35 hunt permits available for each Laguna Unit firearm hunt. There will be 50 hunt permits available for each Bahia Grande firearm hunt.

For additional information and copies of this and other hunt pamphlets, please contact or visit:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, Texas 78566

956-244-2019 or 956-748-3607 x105

www.fws.gov/refuge/laguna_atascosa/hunts

Updated April 2020



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2020 - 2021 Bahia Grande Archery Hunt Regulations

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

The Laguna Atascosa NWR (refuge) archery hunt regulations follow Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) rules regarding licenses, tagging game, and legal weapons. **Please be aware of the TPWD regulations found at www.tpwd.texas.gov.**

Refuge specific regulations follow:

Bag Limits - Unlimited nilgai antelope and any other exotic ungulates; unlimited feral hogs.

Hunter Orange - Hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange (or hunter-orange camouflage), including 144 square inches visible on both the chest and back, and a hunter orange cap or hat visible on the head. Archery hunters may remove their hunter orange in the field only when hunting at a stationary location.

Archery Hunt Units - Areas within the Bahia Grande Unit will be open for scouting and hunting. Hunt units or areas within the unit may not be reserved. For closed areas, refer to the Bahia Grande Archery Hunt Map and be aware of all posted "No Hunting" zones.

Prohibited Activities include:

- Camping on the refuge, except at Adolph Thoma Jr. County Park
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs
- Possession or use of dogs while scouting or hunting
- Target practice
- Use of motorized or electric carts or wagons
- Taking any species not listed on this permit
- Possession or distribution of bait or hunting over bait
- Use of flagging or markers
- Use of, or hunting from, any type of watercraft or floating device
- Use of drones or aircraft

Youth Hunters - Each hunter age 9 to 17 must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.

Scouting Access - Scouting access is allowed on designated dates, as stated in the General Hunting Information brochure. A permitted hunter, and up to two non-permitted individuals accompanying the hunter, may enter the hunt unit during the scouting periods.

During scouting, a vehicle tag must be conspicuously displayed on the vehicle dashboard with all names legible.

Vehicle Access and Parking - The Red Gate is the only vehicle access point for the hunt unit, and vehicles are allowed only on Bahia Grande Trail. CAUTION: Bahia Grande Trail is a single-lane road; drivers must use designated pull-offs to accommodate oncoming traffic. Parking is allowed only at the main parking lot near the Red Gate and other clearly designated parking areas. Parking is not allowed along TX-48 or at the Jaime J. Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp. All trails in the hunt units may be accessed by foot, bicycle, or e-bike. Do not block gates. One vehicle tag per hunter must be conspicuously displayed on the vehicle dashboard at all times.

Hunting Access - We allow hunters to enter the Bahia Grande hunt unit up to 1½ hours before legal sunrise during the permitted hunt season only. We may require hunters to check out daily at the self-service hunt check station at the end of their hunt or no later than 1 hour after legal shooting hours. Hunters who need to track game after sunset must call the main refuge hunt check station at **956-443-9227**.

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. Hunters must attach permit number or license number to the blind or stand. We prohibit attaching blinds and stands to trees or making blinds and stands from natural vegetation. Hunters must remove blinds and stands at the end of the permitted hunt period.

Field Dressing - Harvested game must be field dressed before removal from the hunt unit. Hunters may quarter their game, and may use a bike, e-bike, or non-motorized cart or wagon to transport harvested game. All harvested game, except hogs, must be checked at the self-service hunt check station.

Personal Firearms - Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law.

Permitted hunters are subject to inspection of permits, vehicles, equipment, and bag limits by state and federal law enforcement officers.

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.

I have read and understand the rules and regulations for hunting on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

Hunter's Signature **Date**

Hunter's Printed Name

I certify that this hunter has completed the Bahia Grande Archery Hunter Orientation.

USFWS Staff Signature **Date**

USFWS Staff Printed Name

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2020 - 2021 Bahia Grande Archery Hunt Map

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