



Guadalupe Delta WMA

Mission Lake Unit - Alligator Hunts

Background

Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area (GDWMA) is located 8 miles northeast of Tivoli on State Highway 35 in Calhoun County, Texas. The check station is located on the south side of Highway 35 about one mile west of the Highway 185 intersection. The Mission Lake Unit of the GDWMA consists of approximately 4,400 acres of marsh purchased during 1985-1991 with funds from sale of Texas Waterfowl Stamps. It is a fresh-water marsh subject to flooding from the Guadalupe River and its bayous. Objectives of the Area are to provide a high-quality marsh for wintering waterfowl and to provide access and recreation in the form of public hunting.

Hunting Information

Permitted hunters should report to the Area headquarters by 10:00 am on the first day of their assigned hunt period. **Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation.** All hunters will be required to undergo a brief orientation session immediately prior to the beginning of each hunt. The hunter orientation starts at noon. During this check in and orientation, hunters will be instructed of the designated hunt areas. No refunds or hunter substitutions are permitted. Only hunters listed on the permit will be allowed to accompany the hunt party. Camping is not permitted at the WMA, but camping and commercial lodging may be obtained nearby if desired.

Your alligator hunt permit and hunting license must be presented upon check in. Each hunter regardless of age must possess a hunting license, which can be purchased at any license vendor. An additional \$126 tag fee will be assessed in the event you are successful in harvesting an alligator and opt to sell the alligator in the commercial market. (No tag fee for personal use.) Each hunter listed on the permit will be allowed to harvest one alligator during the hunt.

Legal methods for taking alligators will include (1) hook and line, (2) archery with retrieval line, (3) hand-held snare, and (4) harpoon or gig. Shotguns with buckshot or slugs may be used to dispatch alligators secured on line or snare but may not be used to shoot at free swimming alligators.

The following is recommended for each hunting party:

1. One or more of the following legal means and methods of taking an alligator:
 - a. **Hook and Line** (limit of 1 set per hunter) - non-stainless-steel hook of at least 9-0 size, 3 to 6 feet of leader material and 50-100 feet of rope (at least 300# test) per set, one pound of bait per set (beef spleen or 1/2 chicken), sledgehammer or single blade axe for driving stakes. Area staff will supply one cane pole and stake per set (return required).
 - b. **Archery**- longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow with reel device and arrows with line of at least 300# test securely attached to the barbed fish point. Crossbows are prohibited.
 - c. **Hand-held Snare**- size No. 4 or larger with integral locking mechanism attached to 50 feet of at least 300# test line and a long pole.
 - d. **Harpoon or Gig**- may be used only when a line of at least 300# test is securely attached to the hook or head of the device in such a manner to prevent separation from the hook or head until the carcass is retrieved. The other end of the line must be attached to a stationary or floating object capable of maintaining the line above water when an alligator is attached.
2. A shotgun is recommended for dispatching alligators secured on line or snare. Non-toxic shot is preferred on the WMA. **Rifles and handguns are prohibited.**
3. The Guadalupe Delta WMA contains approximately 4,400 acres of fresh and intermediate coastal marshes. Small boats (Jon boats, canoes etc.) suitable for hand launching and operated by electric motors or gasoline outboards can be used on the Area. A boat approximately 14-16 feet in length equipped with a motor of at least 10 horsepower, fresh gasoline and all required safety equipment is recommended. **Airboats are prohibited.** All hunters should be prepared for shallow water travel and aquatic vegetation. Access can be limited by range and water conditions.
4. The following additional equipment is considered necessary for alligator hunters: Paddles, push poles, extra propeller and shear pins, extra fuel for boat travel, hip boots or waders, rain gear, flashlight, shotgun with shotshells, knife, machete, insect repellent and drinking water. Be prepared for heavy mosquito infestation. If you have further questions, call the Guadalupe Delta WMA headquarters at (361) 552-6637 or the Rockport office at (361) 790-0307. **All persons entering the area do so at their own risk.** The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department assumes no responsibility for personal injury or property damage.