



City of Lufkin – Lake Kurth Alligator Hunt

Background

Kurth Lake is a 726 acre reservoir located six miles north of Lufkin off Highway 59 in Angelina County, Texas. The Hunt headquarters will be at the boat launch located at the end of Kurth Lake Road (31.44982614306873, -94.70410657479019). This is the only access point for this property. Construction of the lake started in 1959 to provide water for the Southland Paper Mill located in Lufkin. The lake was purchased in 2009 by the city of Lufkin. There is 15 miles of shoreline and has a mean depth of 15 feet. Habitat in the lake consists of flooded timber and aquatic vegetation (primarily hydrilla).

Public Hunting

Permitted hunters should report to the hunt headquarters by 11:00 am on the first day of their assigned hunt period. Hunters must contact the hunt manager (409) 383-8064 as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to by 11:00 am for orientation. All hunters will be required to undergo a brief orientation session immediately prior to the beginning of each hunt. During this check in and orientation, hunters will be informed of hunt guidelines. Hunters are to be off the water before sunset and start no earlier than legal sunrise. 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 Lake, but 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 \$125-\$150 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 only be by hook and line. Shotguns with birdshot may be used to dispatch alligators secured on line, but may not be used to shoot at free-swimming alligators. Pre-baiting for alligators is strictly prohibited.

The following is required for each hunting party -- one or more of the following legal means and methods of taking an alligator:

- 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 (at least 300# test) 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 per set (return required).

- A shotgun is recommended for dispatching alligators secured on line or snare. Non-toxic shot is preferred and light shotshell loads with #4 or #6 shot are adequate. Rifles, handguns, and slugs are prohibited.
- Kurth Lake contains many submerged tree stumps. A boat approximately 14 feet in length equipped with a motor of at least 10 horsepower, six gallons of fresh gasoline, and all required safety equipment is recommended. Airboats, canoes/kayaks, and inflatable boats are prohibited. All hunters should be prepared for shallow water travel and aquatic vegetation. Access can be limited by aquatic vegetation and water conditions.
- Detailed area maps will be available for hunter use via the **free** version of the “Avenza Maps” app. The app is available through both the iTunes App Store and the Google Play store for Android users. Download is recommended for all hunters, especially if unfamiliar with the area.
- The following additional equipment is considered necessary for alligator hunters: Paddles, push poles, extra propeller and shear pins, fuel for 20 miles of travel, hip boots or waders, rain gear, flashlight, shotgun with shotshells, knife, hammer, insect repellent, and drinking water. Be prepared for heavy mosquito infestation.
- Hunters should be prepared to take the unprocessed alligator with them as there is no on-site processing. Alligators may be kept cool by placing ice and covering them with wet burlap sacks.

Accommodations for hunters with disabilities on public hunt sites vary between areas. If you would like to request accommodation, please contact each area directly at least 2 weeks in advance of your hunt to discuss the options that may be available.

If you have further questions, call the hunt manager at (409) 383-8064. **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.