

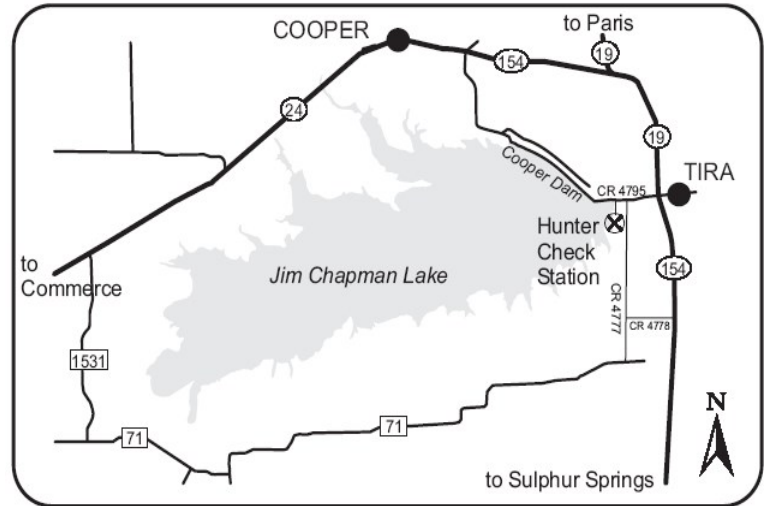


Cooper Wildlife Management Area

Background

Cooper Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located on the South Sulphur River, 4 miles South of Cooper and 70 miles northeast of Dallas.

The Area covers 9,460 acres on the periphery of Cooper Lake and 4,700 acres of potentially flooded timber within the reservoir. Cooper WMA is within the Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairie ecological areas, with habitat consisting of bottomland hardwoods, emergent wetlands, grasslands, shrub lands and upland hardwoods.



Numerous creeks and two rivers are present on the Area. Call the Area headquarters for further information at (903) 945-3132.

Reporting/Orientation

When: 11:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt. **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.**

Where: Check Station – located 0.8 miles down CR 4795, off of Highway 19.

Preparation: Hunters should bring their valid hunting license, any stamp as required by statute and Special Permit issued from Austin. It is no longer necessary to use a hunting license tag or bonus tag for a deer taken during a Special Permit drawn hunt; however, a TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued at the area, must be attached to a harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area. Firearms should be “sighted in” prior to arriving on the Area. All persons afield in the hunt area must visibly wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material, with at least 144 square inches appearing on both the chest and back and orange headwear.

Check Station

Hours: Opens at 11:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt. Check station hours will be explained during hunt orientation.

Facilities: Refrigeration is available on site. The nearest commercial storage/processing is 16 miles.

Check In/Out: All hunters must check in/out with Area Personnel as explained in the orientation.

Standbys

Standby hunt applicants should report to the Check Station at 10:00 a.m. on the first day of the desired hunt period to complete the application process prior to the drawing. Standby hunters will be drawn only as vacancies permit.

Latecomers

Check in: Hunters unable to report in time for the 11:00 a.m. sign-in and orientation must still report to the check station upon arrival to the Area.

Orientation: Latecomers must participate in the same orientation given to all other hunters in the Area.

Hunting Conditions

Stands: Permanent stands are not available. Portable stands are welcome; however, they must not damage trees. No tree spikes are allowed.

Firearms: Centerfire and muzzleloading firearms and shotguns with slugs are legal means for deer hunts. Rimfire rifles and buckshot are prohibited for all hunts.

Vehicles: Transportation to and from the assigned hunting compartment will be the responsibility of the hunter. Four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles are recommended for certain areas. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) use is allowed. ATV's must be operated in accordance with the laws of the state. Be prepared to hike in/out.

Camping Facilities

No camping or fires are permitted on the Area. Camping sites should be available at South Sulphur and Doctor's Creek State Parks. For reservations call (512) 389-8900. Motel facilities are available in Sulphur Springs, Paris and Commerce.

Note: During the Special Permit Hunt periods, the Area is closed to general public access, except for fishing from a boat on the eastern half of the reservoir.

Other Information

If you have any further questions, you may telephone the Cooper Wildlife Management Area Headquarters at (903) 945-3132.