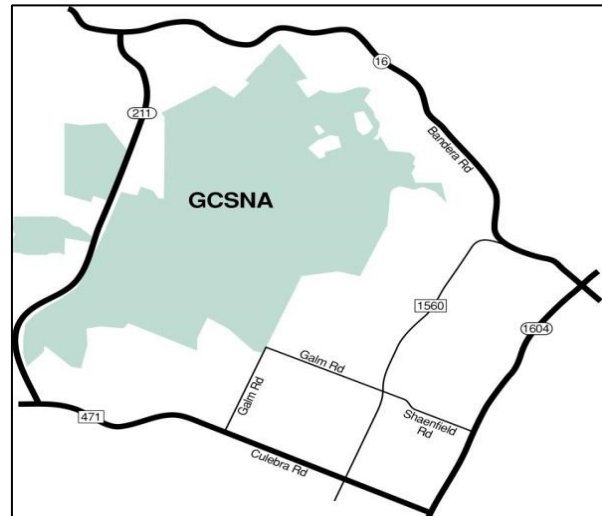




# GOVERNMENT CANYON STATE NATURAL AREA

## OVERVIEW

Government Canyon State Natural Area contains over 12,000 acres located due west of the town of Helotes in northwestern Bexar County. The majority of the area lies within limestone hills of the Edwards Plateau and has steep slopes wooded with mature Ashe juniper and live oak. Large elm, pecan, sycamore, cottonwood and walnut trees grow along the bottom of canyons. The southern portion of the area lies below the escarpment and is relatively level with a mix of mesquite/juniper woods and open savannah habitat. Elevation ranges from 1,600 feet above sea level at the north end to 960 feet above sea level at the south end. Access to the area is from the intersection of Loop 1604 and FM 471



(Culebra Road), travel 3.5 miles west on 471. Turn north and travel 1.7 miles on Galm Road. The Natural Area gate is on the left at the traffic circle. Walk-in, primitive tent camping, toilets, and running water are provided in the Natural Area's designated campground, but there is no electricity or showers. Campsites are \$18/night and are only available the first two nights of each hunt. Numerous hotels are located within 10 miles of the Natural Area. For more information, call 210-688-9055.

## HUNTING INFORMATION

All Natural Area rules and regulations shall be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations. Hunters will meet at the Ranch House on the first day of the hunt. Permitted hunters should report to the hunt coordinator by 11:00 AM on the first day of their assigned hunt period. **Permitted hunters must contact the hunt coordinator if they are going to be late or if they are not able to show up.** Standby hunters should report to the hunt coordinator by 11:00 AM on the first day of their desired hunt period to complete the application process. Standby hunters will be picked by lottery draw as vacancies permit. Following a brief orientation, hunters will be assigned a hunting blind or compartment. Hunting will end at noon on the final day of the assigned hunt.

- All hunters must check in and out at the hunter check station each day. All game harvested must be checked by Natural Area personnel. No facilities for deer storage will be available at the Natural Area.

- All hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license, special permit, and any special stamp as required by statute. It is not necessary to use a hunting license tag on a deer taken during a Special Permit drawn hunt, however a TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued at the Natural Area, must be attached to a harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area. Hunters 17 years of age and older must have in their possession a valid I.D. Hunter Safety Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971.
- On all hunts, except archery deer hunts, all persons must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material with orange headwear and 144 inches appearing on both the chest and back. Each hunter should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, and foul weather gear.
- Compartment hunters will be responsible for their own transportation; high clearance vehicles are recommended. Assigned blind hunters will be taken to and from assigned blinds by staff. In some instances, inclement weather may restrict road usage and require hiking. Disabled hunters should contact the hunt coordinator prior to their hunt so specific accommodations can be made, if needed. Operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATV/UTV) and hunting from vehicles is prohibited, except as allowed by special provisions for disabled hunters.
- Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed in the Natural Area during hunts except a non-hunting person directly assisting a permitted handicapped individual will be allowed.
- It is an offense to be under the influence of alcohol while actively engaged in hunting, or to publicly display or consume alcoholic beverages while in the Natural Area.