



# Government Canyon State Natural Area

## Overview

Government Canyon State Natural Area contains over 12,000 acres and is located due west of the town of Helotes in northwestern Bexar County. Most of the area lies over the Edwards Aquifer within the limestone hills of the Edwards Plateau and has steep slopes densely wooded with mature Ashe juniper and live oak. Large elm, pecan, sycamore, cottonwood and walnut trees grow in riparian areas. 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, then turn north and travel 1.7 miles on Galm Road. The Natural Area gate can be accessed from the traffic circle. Walk-in, primitive tent camping, toilets and running water can be made available for hunters who communicate their desire to camp prior to the hunt. The camping area has no electricity. Numerous hotels are located within 10 miles of the Natural Area. For more information call (210) 688-9055.



## Hunting Information

All State Natural Area rules and regulations shall be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations.

- Hunters will meet at the Ranch House (first right after entering the Natural Area) on the first day of the hunt. In order to access the Natural Area, hunters will be given a temporary gate code and will be expected to close and lock the gate behind them when entering and leaving. 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 will be unable to attend.** Standby hunters will need to arrive at the Natural Area entrance gate by no later than 10:45 AM on the first day of their desired hunt period in order to be let in by a staff member since they will not have a gate code. Once let into the Natural Area, standby hunters should report to the hunt coordinator just inside the gate by 11:00 AM 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 compartment. Hunting will end at noon on the final day of the assigned hunt.

- All hunters must check in and out with the hunt coordinator 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 square inches appearing on both the chest and back. Each hunter should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, and foul weather gear. Hunters (especially archery hunters) may want to bring their own pop-up or tri-pod blinds and chairs as well.
- Hunters will be responsible for their own transportation; high clearance vehicles are recommended. In some instances, inclement weather may restrict road usage and require hiking. Hunters with mobility disabilities 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 hunters with mobility disabilities.
- 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 hunter with mobility disabilities.
- 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.