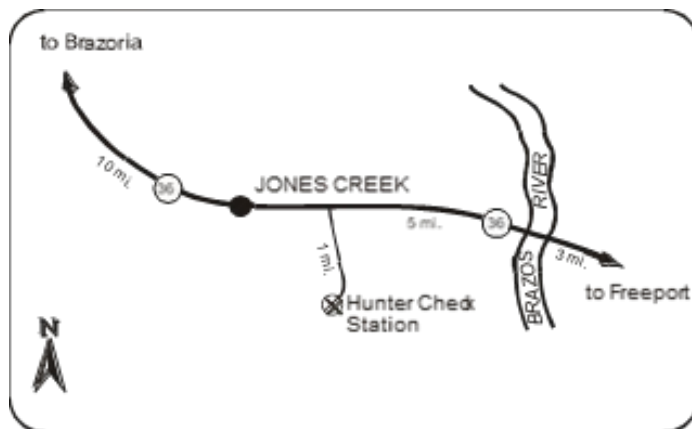


Justin Hurst WMA

Background

The Justin Hurst Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located 8 miles west of Freeport in Brazoria County. Hunters access the check station via Texas Highway 36, approximately 5 miles west of the Brazos River Bridge. From the WMA entrance sign on Hwy 36, proceed for approximately 1.5 miles to the check station. The WMA consists of approximately 15,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests, coastal prairies, freshwater wetland impoundments,



and tidally influenced saltwater marshes. Land acquisition began in 1986 with funds generated through state Migratory Game Bird Stamp sales. Subsequent acquisitions have primarily been through mitigation projects for loss of habitat associated with industrial development.

Objectives of the WMA are (1) to develop and manage habitats for indigenous and migratory wildlife, with special emphasis on waterfowl, (2) formulate research and management activities on WMAs and private lands and disseminate research results and management information to scientists, land managers, resource agencies, and other interested groups and individuals, (3) to expand and improve WMA facilities to accommodate intensive research and management activities that will allow complete understanding of coastal ecosystems, and (4) to provide optimal public outreach and recreational opportunity on state-owned lands compatible with the resource.

Public Hunting by Special Permit

All WMA rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations.

Permitted hunters should report to the WMA headquarters by 11:00 a.m. 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. Standby hunters should report to the WMA by 11:00 a.m. on the first day of the desired hunt period to complete the standby application process. Standby hunters will be drawn at 11:00 a.m. as vacancies permit. Following a brief orientation, Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel will direct hunters to their hunting blind. Hunters with mobility disabilities may hunt from a stationary motor vehicle. Hunters will provide their own transportation to and from their assigned hunting blind

and hunters must stay within their assigned area. Hunting will end at 12:00 noon on the final day of the assigned hunt.

- Hunters must have a valid Texas Hunting License and any required stamp as required by statute. 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 (see the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information).
- Hunters must wear a minimum of **400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material**, with at least 144" square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear.
- Only one legally permissible means per hunter will be allowed into the hunt area. Firearms using rimfire ammunition are prohibited. Pistols are prohibited. Use of dogs is prohibited.
- Hunters are responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. Cleaning facilities are provided. No facilities for game storage will be available on the WMA.
- Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed on the area during hunts except for a non-hunting adult assisting a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities or a child age 16 or under.
- All WMA visitors should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, foul weather gear, mosquito repellant and rubber boots.
- The public display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Hunters may not consume or be under the influence while hunting.
- The use of ATVs and ORVs is allowed.
- Baiting is allowed.
- Camping is not available on the WMA.
- Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts, or other objects is prohibited.
- 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.

Phone (979) 233-8729 or (979) 323-9669 for hunting information.