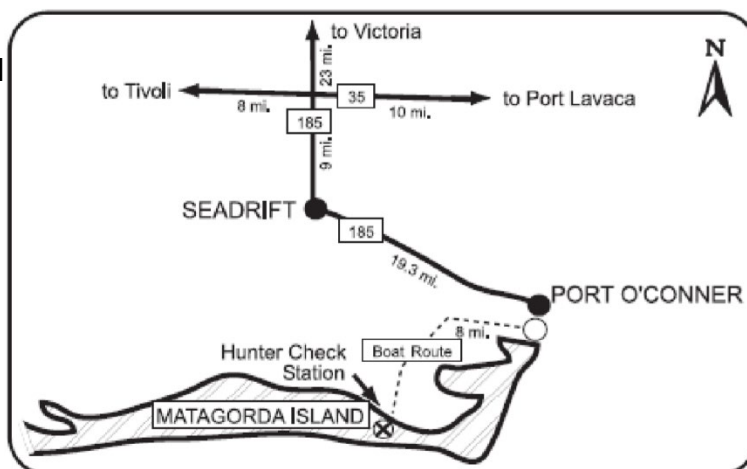


Matagorda Island WMA

Background

Matagorda Island is a 56,688-acre offshore barrier island that is jointly owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas General Land Office. The USFWS has the lead responsibility for wildlife and habitat management and Texas Parks and Wildlife has the lead responsibility for compatible public use, inclusive of public hunting, camping, bird watching, hiking, etc., on the island.



Hunting Information

The check station, on the island, is located approximately 8 water miles from Port O'Connor, Texas. Hunters will be transported to and from hunting blinds by department personnel. Access to the island is by boat only. Aircraft are not allowed to land on the island. The department furnishes transportation on the island. Hunters should bring all supplies required. **There is no state provided transportation to or from Matagorda Island. All visitor access is by chartered boat or private boat.** If you want to set up a chartered boat, contact the Port O'Connor Chamber of Commerce. Primitive camping is allowed at the picnic shelters located near the boat dock. Contact (361) 205-1510 for additional information. There are no sources of food, potable water, electricity or other supplies on the island. An outdoor shower and toilet facility near the dock are available for use during public hunts. Due to lack of facilities, supplies, boat access and extremes in weather, this hunt experience should be considered remote and primitive. Matagorda Island is home to several species of federally listed endangered or threatened wildlife. Of special significance is the whooping crane that winters on the island and in the surrounding area. Hunters are advised to be aware of the presence of these species and to avoid disturbing them if encountered.

Deer Hunting

Deer hunters are selected in advance by drawing and are required to arrive before 11:00 a.m. at the hunter check station located on the island on the first day of their assigned 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.** A short briefing will be held, after which the hunters will be transported to a hunting stand. Standby hunters must report to the

check station on the island by 10:00 am to complete the application process and will be drawn at 11:00 am as vacancies allow. Hunters must be present to participate in the drawing.

Deer hunting will be from permanent stands only. Hunter placement in stands will be as assigned by the hunt supervisor. Successful hunters should arrange to transport harvested game off the island as soon as possible, since there are no cold storage facilities on the island. Deer hunters may camp overnight in the designated camping area.

Most deer hunting regulations that apply to Calhoun County will apply to Matagorda Island Wildlife Management Area. All deer hunters are required to visibly wear at least 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange clothing with 144 square inches on the front and back above the waistline and orange headwear.

Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License and any required stamp as required by statute. 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.

Hunters engaged in hunting activity on the Wildlife Management Area shall not be under the influence of alcohol or consume or possess alcoholic beverages.

Persons under 17 years of age must hunt under the supervision of a permitted authorized adult. Hunter Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971 (see the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information).

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.

Contact (361) 205-1510 for additional information.