

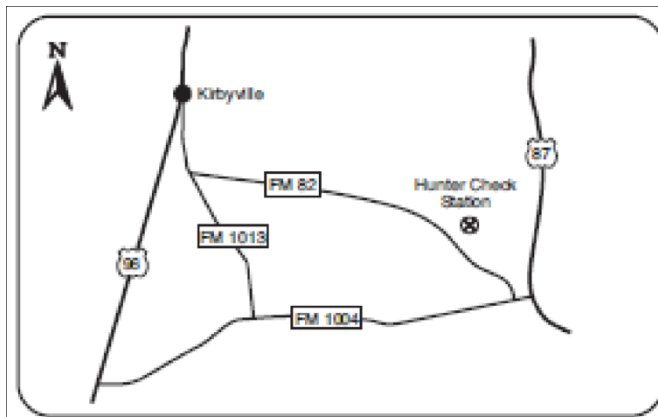


E. O. Siecke State Forest

Background

Acquired through purchase in 1924 and named after E.O. Siecke, who was the Texas State Forester from 1918-1942. The healthy and productive forest that exists today occupies 1,722 acres in Newton County and is managed by the Texas A&M Forest Service. It is a result of public stewardship after heavy logging, devastating wildfires and insect epidemics that were common at the turn of the century. The primary purpose of

this state forest is resource education for all Texas citizens and visitors. Sound scientific forest management that protects and perpetuates native flora and fauna is practiced. The E.O. Siecke State Forest is a working forest owned and administered by the Texas A&M Forest Service. The State Forest Office is located on FM 82, 4.5 miles SE of Kirbyville. Call (409) 423-2890 for more information.



Reporting/Orientation

When: Mandatory orientation and all necessary paperwork can be completed electronically for drawn hunters who wish to hunt Saturday morning starting at 6:00 am. Hunters who do not complete the electronic orientation must attend the in-person orientation which will take place at 11:00 a.m. **Hunters must contact the area personnel 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 at 10:00 a.m. to complete the application process. Drawing for standby will occur at 11:00 a.m.

Where: Check Station at State Forest Office located 4.5 miles SE of Kirbyville on FM 82.

Preparation: Opens at 6:00 a.m. each morning. Only hunters who have completed their orientation and paperwork electronically will be allowed to hunt the first morning (Saturday). Closed each evening at 7:30 p.m.

All hunters and adult supervisors must have a valid Texas hunting license, even though it is no longer necessary to use a hunting license 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 and a valid hunting license is required to use such a tag.

Hunter Safety Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971. (See Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information.)

Antler Restrictions for Newton County will apply to this hunt. 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 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear at all times when hunting with firearms.

Hunters must have a Special Permit. Only hunters with permits will be admitted. No substitutions will be allowed within drawn hunt positions. No non-permitted guests allowed, other than a non-hunting adult directly assisting permitted youth or a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities.

Check Station Hours: Opens at 6:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt and at 6:00 a.m. on the second day of the hunt. Closed each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Facilities: Refrigeration is **not** available; nearest commercial storage/processing is within 5 miles.

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

Latecomers Check In: Hunters unable to report in time for the 10:00 a.m. sign-in must still report to the check station upon arrival to the Area to receive the orientation information. Those arriving after closing of the check station in the evening must report to the check station the following morning for registration and orientation prior to going to the field.

Hunting Conditions

Stands: Stand locations are predetermined with a pop-up tent style blind. Blinds will be assigned to hunter during orientation. There will be **no** chair provided, as this will be the responsibility of the hunter.

Firearms: Centerfire rifles are the only legal weapons allowed. Rimfire rifles and buckshot are prohibited.

Vehicles: Transportation to and from the assigned hunting blinds will be provided by Area Personnel. Interior roads are minimal. Be prepared to walk short distances to and from stand if necessary.

Terrain: The area consists of young to mature pine forest with a variety of hardwood species located along its many creeks and drains. The topography ranges from near flat to excessively steep in some locations.

Camping Facilities: No camping area is available for this hunt area

NOTE: During the Special Permit Hunt periods, the Area is closed to general public access.

Minor or Underage Hunters: Persons **under 17 years of age** must be accompanied and supervised by a permitted parent or authorized adult.

Other Information: If you have any further questions, you may call TPWD Wildlife Biologist Gabrielle Hargrove (409) 383-8010 / gabrielle.hargrove@tpwd.texas.gov or the Texas A&M Forrest Service at (409) 423-2890.