

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bahia Grande Unit

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025 – 2026



Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity at <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Call 956-244-2019 for more information about accommodations for hunters with disabilities. Request ability accommodations at least two weeks prior to your scout date.

Safety

Hunts are self-guided and in remote areas with limited vehicle access. Africanized honey bees, ticks, alligators, and rattlesnakes are commonly encountered on the refuge. Wearing snake gaiters or boots is recommended. Hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange, including 144 square inches visible on both chest and back, and a hunter orange cap or hat visible on head at all times while in movement throughout hunt units.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may use (discharge) firearms only in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted on designated Vehicle Access Roads. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

Camping

The only camping allowed on the refuge is at Adolph Thomae, Jr., County Park (956-748-2044).

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with federal regulations governing public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting is allowed in accordance with applicable Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

WHEN: During permitted hunting periods, hunter access is allowed from 1.5 hours before legal sunrise to 1 hour after legal shooting hours. Hunters tracking game after sunset must call the **Hunt Check Station** at **956-443-9227**.

WHERE: Parking is allowed only at clearly designated parking areas or vehicle access roads. Hunters may only enter the unit via specified access points, and only drive on Vehicle Access Roads, as designated on the map. Bahia Grande Trail is a single-lane road; drivers in the Bahia Grande Unit must use designated pull-offs to accommodate oncoming traffic. Open trails in hunting areas may be accessed by foot, bicycle, or e-bike. The only authorized method of travel off trail is by foot. One Vehicle Validation Tag per hunter must be displayed face up on the vehicle dashboard at all times.

Permit Application Process

Refuge permits are processed through the TPWD Public Drawn Hunt System. Up to 4 hunters may apply on one application. Each hunter age 9 to 16 must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older. Applications must be completed online at https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/public/public_hunt_drawing/.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
Bahia Grande Unit
Hunting Authorization 2025 – 2026

DO NOT PRINT

USFWS staff will send out hunting authorization
for your particular hunt one week (7 days) prior to
your scout date.

Signature (authorizations are not transferable)

Fees

Permits cost \$80.00 per hunter for hunts up to 3 days, and \$130.00 per hunter for hunts 4 days or more, plus a processing fee of \$3.00 per application. Hunt permits are non-transferable and all hunt fees are refundable. Hunts may be canceled/postponed without notice due to unforeseen, extenuating circumstances.

Hunter Orientation

Drawn hunters must read this attachment in its entirety and be in full understanding prior to hunting on the refuge.

An official form of identification, state hunting license, and state hunting permit number are required upon request.

Scouting

Hunt units are open to scouting sunrise to sunset the day prior to each hunt period. Up to two non-permitted people may accompany each hunter into hunt units only during scouting periods. A Vehicle Validation Tag must be displayed face up on the vehicle dashboard with all names legible.

Blinds and Stands

Hunting is allowed from portable stands or blinds, or by stalking and still hunting. Blinds/stands must be labeled with permit/license number, and must not be attached to trees or include natural vegetation.

22688 Buena Vista Rd.
Los Fresnos, TX 78566
956-244-2019
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/laguna_atascosa/
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

April 2025



Activity	Season	Hunting Hours	Special Regulations
Archery Exotic Ungulate Hunts	Dec. 19 – 21, 2025 Jan. 9 – 11, 2026	State Shooting Hours	All state approved archery equipment is allowed.
Muzzleloader/ Slug-only Shotgun Exotic Ungulate Hunts	Jan. 16 – 18, 2026 Jan. 23 – 25, 2026	State Shooting Hours	No Bag Limit: Unlimited exotic ungulates, including nilgai antelope, feral hogs, and others. Muzzleloaders must be .40 caliber or larger, and shotguns must be slug-only. No Bag Limit: Unlimited exotic ungulates, including nilgai antelope, feral hogs, and others.

A quota of 75 hunt authorizations is available for each Bahia Grande Unit Hunt.

Blinds/stands may be installed during scouting the day before the permitted hunting period, and must be removed by the last day of the hunting period. Limit one blind or stand per hunter.

Hunter Assistance

This can be a physically challenging hunt, and hunters are expected to harvest and retrieve their own game. Laguna Atascosa NWR is not an outfitter. A walk-in cooler is available at the Laguna Atascosa Unit Hunt Check Station, only for temporary storage during your hunts.

Field Dressing and Game Check

Harvested game must be field dressed (gutted) before removal from the unit. All game, including hogs, must be reported by telephone via text to the **Hunt Check Station** at **956-443-9227** with the following information: permit number, sex/species of harvest (if white-tailed buck, points), estimated weight, unit/ location. Hunters must take with them all skins and carcasses removed from hunt units for inspection by TAHC (optional, may leave hide in field). Hunters must have proof of sex in accordance with TPWD.

Signs and Boundaries

- Parking Area: Designated area to park while hunting
- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited

Prohibited Activities

By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. The following activities are prohibited while scouting or hunting:

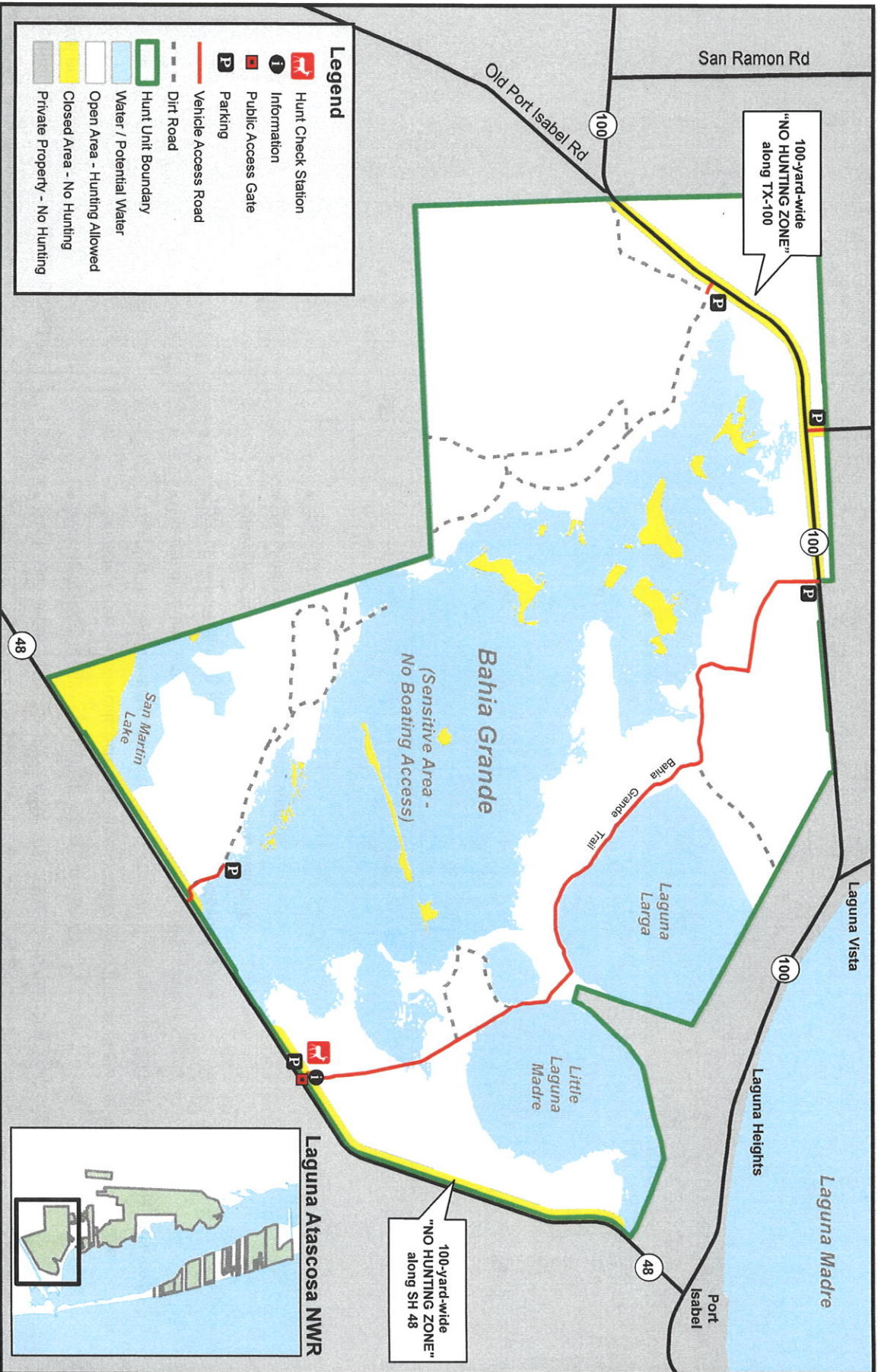
- Exceeding the posted refuge speed limit of 25 mph or less
- The take or harassment of any plant or animal species not listed on this permit
- Possession or use of dogs, and the possession or use of alcoholic beverages or drugs
- Marking or flagging any tree or refuge feature in any way
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree
- Use of artificial lights and cameras to locate, observe, or take animals; and the use of drones or aircraft
- The use of natural vegetation to make or augment hunting blinds or stands
- Use of, or hunting from, any type of watercraft or floating device
- Possession or distribution of bait, or hunting over bait
- Use of motorized or electric carts or wagons
- Fires, littering, or target practice



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2025 - 2026 Bahia Grande Firearm and Archery Hunt Map

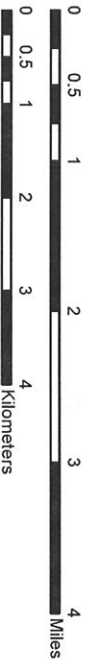
Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- Hunt Check Station
- Information
- Public Access Gate
- Parking
- Vehicle Access Road
- Dirt Road
- Hunt Unit Boundary
- Water / Potential Water
- Open Area - Hunting Allowed
- Closed Area - No Hunting
- Private Property - No Hunting

Produced by: USFWS, Laguna Atascosa NWR
Meridian: Greenwich
Datum and Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 14N
Published Date: May 4, 2021



1:72,000

