



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

## **La Sal Del Rey Tract**

### *Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge*

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#### **OVERVIEW**

The La Sal Del Rey tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGV NWR) is located in Hidalgo County, 4 miles east of Lynn/San Manuel off highway 186 or Chapa Road. The La Sal Del Rey tract is bordered by Highway 186 to the south, Brushline Road to the East, and Chapa Road to the north. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife acquired the 5,700 acre La Sal Del Rey property in 1993 and it remains under our care. The property is mostly reclaimed farmland that has been re-vegetated into South Texas brush. It's at an early successional stage and is highly productive at supporting a wide variety of wildlife. La Sal Del Rey is a hotspot for public use visitation of the historic Salt Lake. The Salt Lake area entertains many visitors daily; therefore, hunting is not allowed anywhere around or near the lake area. The purpose of public hunts on the Teniente tract is to provide compatible wildlife dependent public uses on refuge lands.

#### **HUNT INFORMATION**

Selected hunters are recommended to become familiar with the Refuge **Special Regulations** and the La Sal Del Rey tract prior to hunting. It is recommended that permit recipients (hunters) take advantage of the "scouting period". The scouting period begins the Monday before an awarded hunt up to the day of the hunt. You may set up your hunting method during this scouting period. The hunts begin on Thursday morning and end Sunday at sunset, State of Texas legal shooting hours for game animals applies.

Hunts are primitive and assistance from Refuge personnel to retrieve or track game will not be available; therefore, make harvest plans accordingly.

Due to the remote area and lack of facilities, there is no check station. Hunters are not required to check-in or check-out, but must not remain on the La Sal Del Rey tract for more than one hour past sunset. Hunters must contact the dispatch office (956-784-7520) if a late harvest or tracking a wounded animal will keep you on the La Sal Del Rey tract past one hour after sunset.

There is no camping allowed, no cleaning facilities, no game storage and no restrooms. Be prepared to quarter, process, pack your game in the field, and take to your vehicle. The nearest town with stores, restaurants and hotels is Edinburg (15 miles to the south) or Raymondville (18 miles to the east).

All hunters must have a valid State of Texas hunting license and must use a hunting license tag from their license on a harvested deer. There are no antler restrictions on buck deer.

Only hunters with permits are allowed on the Refuge; except a non-hunting adult supervising a youth hunter. Hunters must only use the means appropriate to the special hunt category for which they were drawn:

- Turkey hunts, only shotguns are allowed.
- Exotic and youth only hunts, only centerfire shoulder-fired rifles are allowed.

Vehicular access is restricted to established county roads and parking lots. Disabled hunters with mobility impairments are encouraged to contact our office (956-784-7500) in advance for more information on access to the hunts. Proof of disability is required.

Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts, or other natural objects is prohibited.



# Special Regulations – La Sal Del Rey Tract *Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge*

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 550 national wildlife refuges across the United States and its territories. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands for the conservation of wildlife for the benefit of the American people. Properly managed hunts can benefit wildlife populations while providing recreational opportunities for hunters. The number of hunters desired for each hunt period may be increased or decreased to address significant changes in population levels.

## Special Hunt Regulations

The special regulations below supplement the General regulations that govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations- Title 50-Chapter 1-Subchapter C. Refuge Hunting is also in accordance with applicable State of Texas General Hunting Rules & Regulations, Public Hunting Regulations and seasons.

You may access the Refuge during your permitted scouting and hunt period one hour before legal hunt time and one hour after legal hunt time; however, you may not hunt outside of the legal hunt hours.

Applicants must be at least 8 years old. Youth hunters under 17 years old must apply with a supervising adult that is at least 18 years old.

We restrict hunt participants to include the permitted hunter and one non-hunting supervising adult for youth hunters. All participants are required to wear hunter orange according to Texas State regulations (400 square inches that is visible on the chest, back and head).

For Youth Only Hunts, only the youth hunter is allowed to hunt.

Hunters must field-dress all harvested big game in the field.

We allow you to use bicycles on designated routes of travel. You may use non-motorized dollies or carts off improved roads or trails to haul carcasses to a parking area.

We allow the use of rattling horns.

There are no antler restrictions on bucks.

Your scouting period begins the Monday before your hunt up to the day of your hunt. We allow freestanding blinds or tripods. They may be set up during this period and taken down by the end of your hunt date. All stands must be marked or tagged with your permit number.

## Prohibited Acts

You may not use nails, wires, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree to which a metal object has been driven to support yourself.

You may not use or possess dogs, horses or mules on the Refuge during your hunt.

You may not discharge weapons for any purpose other than to take or attempt to take an animal listed in your permit during your hunt.

A reasonable effort must be made to retrieve any killed animal listed under the species and bag limit section.

You may not use flagging or any other type of marker.

You may not cut or trim vegetation or brush to create shooting lanes or natural vegetative blinds.

You may not disturb or remove plants, rocks, artifacts, or other natural objects.

You may not use big game decoys.

We prohibit the use of motorized vehicles.

We prohibit the use or possession of alcohol while on the Refuge (this includes parking lots).

You may not be under the influence of alcohol or consume an alcoholic beverage while engaged in hunting activities, or publicly consume or display an alcoholic beverage.

We prohibit overnight camping, fires, littering and dumping, to include the Refuge parking areas and county roads.

We prohibit the use or possession of bait while on the Refuge (including parking lots).

Hunting over bait on the Refuge is prohibited.

Launching, landing, or disturbing of wildlife by aircraft (drones) on the Refuge is prohibited.

We reserve the right to revoke or deny any permit for up to five years for the following conditions: lack of public safety to a degree that may endanger oneself or other persons or property, multiple regulation violations, aggressive, abusive or intimidating demeanor to any employee of the United States or of any local or State government engaged in official business, or with any private person engaged in the pursuit of a permitted activity on the Refuge.

## Hunting License and Permits

We require hunters to pay a fee to obtain a Refuge hunt permit and vehicle pass. Hunters must display the vehicle pass on the windshield or dashboard while participating in the designated scouting and/or hunt.

While engaged in a Permitted Refuge Hunt Activity, the Permittee shall be in possession of the permit or other authorizing documents and shall, upon request by an authorized local, state or federal law enforcement officer, display the permit authorizing their presence and activity on the Refuge and shall furnish any other licenses and identification documents as may be requested.

### **Species and Bag Limits**

Youth hunt legal species and bag limit include: White - tailed deer (two animal limit – one-buck deer only), one Javelina (either sex), nilgai antelope, feral hogs, and all other exotic ungulates (no limit).

Exotic hunt legal species and bag limits include: Nilgai Antelope, Feral hogs, and all other exotic ungulates (no limit).

Spring Turkey hunt legal species and bag limit include: one gobbler or bearded hen only.

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

Only the permitted hunter is allowed to hunt or discharge the applicable legal firearm.

For Turkey hunts, only shotguns are allowed.

For Exotic, and Youth only hunts, only centerfire shoulder-fired rifles are allowed.

All hunting firearms must be unloaded and cased while in the vehicle.

### **General Information and What to expect on your hunt:**

There is no hunter check-in/checkout station for the permitted hunt. No restroom or game processing facilities on the Refuge

Permitted hunters are on their own and are recommended to become familiar with the Refuge Special Regulations and the Refuge Property prior to hunting.

**La Sal Del Rey hunter access is the two parking areas alongside Chapa Road and the west gate alongside Highway 186. The hunt area will be delineated in the hunt map. Due to safety concerns of the general public visiting the Salt Lake, you must stay within the hunt boundary and not hunt near or around the Salt Lake area.**

You may park anywhere alongside Chapa road and access the property through the fence; however, access to Federal and private property must not be blocked.

Hunts are primitive, assistance from Refuge personnel to retrieve or track game will not be available; therefore, make harvest plans accordingly. Be prepared to quarter, process, pack your game in the field, and take to your vehicle.

All deer or turkey must be tagged immediately upon kill with a tag from the hunting license of the person who killed the deer or turkey.

### **For Additional Information Contact**

South Texas Refuge Complex Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
3325 Green Jay Road  
Alamo, TX 78516  
(956) 784-7500  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower\\_Rio\\_Grande\\_Valley/visit/hunting](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley/visit/hunting)

### **Accidents or Injury**

For emergencies or to report violations, contact Dispatch and Refuge Law Enforcement Officers at (956) 784-7520.

**Equal Opportunity Access** Disabled hunters with mobility impairments are encouraged to contact our office in advance for more information on access to the hunts. Proof of disability is required.

Refuge-specific hunting regulations may be amended or new conditions imposed at any time during the hunting season when unpredictable changes occur in wildlife populations, habitat conditions or in other factors affecting a refuge's wildlife resources. Changes in refuge-specific hunting regulations made under the conditions noted in this paragraph can be in force only for the one season to which the changes apply.



# Vehicle Pass – La Sal Del Rey *Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge*

Please record full names and permit numbers of each permitted hunter and chaperone (for youths) that are associated with the vehicle. This vehicle pass should be displayed face-up on the vehicle dashboard and must be used during the scouting period and permitted hunt date.

1.	_____	_____
	Hunters Name	Permit Number
2.	_____	_____
	Hunters Name	Permit Number
3.	_____	_____
	Hunters Name	Permit Number
4.	_____	_____
	Hunters Name	Permit Number
5.	_____	_____
	Chaperone Name	Permit Number
6.	_____	_____
	Chaperone Name	Permit Number

# La Sal Del Rey Tract (5500 acres)

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Hunter Parking Area

Hunter Parking Area





Hunt Area

Hunter Parking Area

No Hunting

186

## Legend

-  Hunt Area
-  Hunter Parking Area
-  La Sal Del Rey Tract
-  Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

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