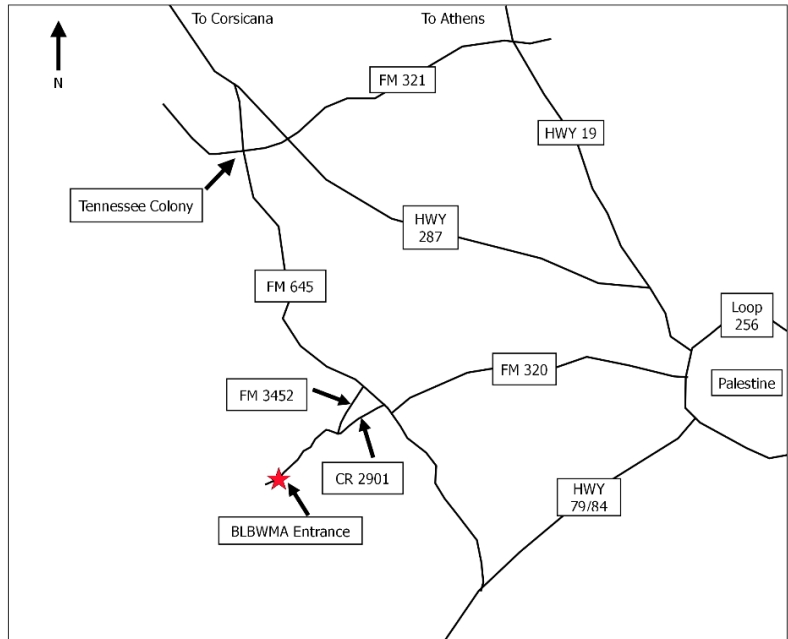




Big Lake Bottom Wildlife Management Area E-Postcard Youth Deer

Background

Big Lake Bottom Wildlife Management Area (BLBWMA) lies adjacent to the Trinity River and is located approximately 10 miles west of Palestine, Texas in Anderson County. The WMA was purchased beginning in 1990 in an effort to preserve a relict tract of quality bottomland hardwood habitat which is rapidly disappearing in the Post Oak Savannah Ecoregion of Texas. Soils are poorly drained black Kaufman clay, a common soil type in areas that are unprotected from floodwaters and often referred to as “black gumbo mud.”



Although 90% of BLBWMA is characterized as bottomland hardwood forest, the vegetative communities and total habitat qualities differ depending on specific locations within the management area. Dominant vegetative overstory is comprised of overcup oak, sugar hackberry, hickory, willow oak, water oak, cedar elm, water elm and green ash. Bur oak, southern red oak and post oak are common on the few upland terraces. Major understory species include eastern redbud, possum-haw holly, greenbrier, poison oak, rough leaf dogwood, grape and American beautyberry. As a result of the flat terrain the area often times is covered in shallow, slow moving floodwaters, five to 60 days a year. The area is normally inaccessible several times a year for extended periods due to high water or wet soil conditions.

Reporting/Orientation

When: 8:30am on the first day of the hunt for sign-in and mandatory orientation at 9:00am. Hunters must contact the WMA as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt.

Where: BLBWMA Hunter Check Station. The BLBWMA Hunter Check Station is located at the entrance to BLBWMA near the dead end of Anderson County Road 2901.

Preparation: Hunters should bring their valid Texas Hunting License, Annual Public Hunting Permit, and any required stamp as required by statute. Please have weapon sighted-in prior to your arrival at the WMA. Hunters will tag harvested deer with a TPWD issued tag. Hunters are exempt from hunter orange requirements on archery only hunts. ATV and ORV use is strongly suggested.

Check Station

Hours: Check station hours for each hunt period will be explained during the mandatory orientation.

Facilities: Game processing station and water are available. No on-site cold storage is available.

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

Late Comers

Hunters who do not arrive by the start of the 9:00 a.m. mandatory hunt orientation will forfeit their hunt position. **No latecomers will be accepted. No late orientations will be given.**

Stand By Hunters

Check In: Hunters attempting standby must be signed in by 8:30am at the BLBWMA check station. Stand by drawing will occur at 9:00am on the first day of the hunt. All persons wishing to participate in the stand by drawing must be present. All non-youth supervisors must have a valid Annual Public Hunting Permit.

Orientation: All stand by hunters must attend the mandatory orientation at 9:00am on the first day of the hunt.

Hunting Conditions

Vehicles: No vehicle traffic will be allowed inside the hunting unit. Transportation will be via foot- traffic or ATV/UTV use. Width of ATVs and UTVs must not exceed 68".

Transportation to and from the assigned hunting compartment will be the responsibility of the hunter. Conditions can vary greatly at BLBWMA. Hunters should come prepared to travel up to four miles to reach their hunting compartment. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) use is strongly encouraged. ATV and ORV use is restricted to designated, existing trails.

Stands: Pop-up blinds, ladder stands, lock-on stands, and climbing stands are allowed. Elevated stands are recommended. No permanent blinds or stands may be constructed. Stands will not be provided by BLBWMA.

Youth Supervision: Youth under 17 are required to be under the immediate supervision of an authorized supervising adult, 18 or older, who possesses a valid Texas hunting license and Annual Public Hunting Permit. Youth under 12 years old must remain within normal voice distance of the supervising adult. For youth 12 to 16 years of age who have received hunter education certification, the requirement for immediate supervision is relaxed to the extent that the supervising adult is required only to be present on the public hunting unit. The supervising adult is responsible for the actions and liability of the youth.

Baiting: Baiting is allowed.

Camping Facilities

One primitive campground is located near the BLBWMA Hunter Check Station. No facilities are available.

Other Information

The area is closed to the general public during special permit hunts. Non-hunting guest MAY be allowed depending on availability and safety concerns. Contact BLBWMA Headquarters for more information.

Standby positions **may** be available. Contact BLBWMA Headquarters for availability.

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.

If you have any further questions, you may contact the BLBWMA Headquarters at (903) 928-2251.