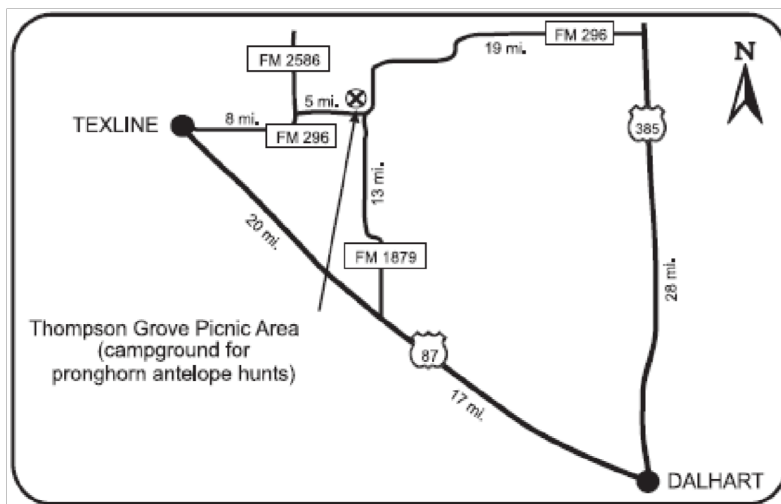




## Rita Blanca National Grasslands Pronghorn Hunt Information

The Area contains 77,463 acres in the extreme northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle.

The Area is part of the National Forest System. Through agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, a limited number of buck antelope permits are distributed by Texas Parks and Wildlife to the public through the public hunts drawing program. Drawn hunters are not charged a permit fee and may camp overnight on the area in Thompson Grove Picnic Area if they so desire. There is no water or electrical facilities available in the picnic area.



Commercial lodging is available in Dalhart and Texline. No standby permits are available for pronghorn antelope hunts. For information on hunting regulations, contact TPWD (512) 389-4505. For information on camping, maps and local closures, contact the Forest Service office in Clayton, New Mexico (575) 374-9652.

1. The hunt area is located approximately 15 miles east of Texline and 30 miles north of Dalhart and is approximately 61,000 acres. Refer to the map obtained from the Rita Blanca National Grasslands.
2. Motels are available in both Dalhart and Clayton, NM. Information can be obtained from the Chambers of Commerce in those towns.
3. Camping will be allowed at the Rita Blanca National Grasslands. Please contact the Rita Blanca National Grasslands office at (575) 374-9652 for more information about camping and fire restrictions. There are no trailer hookups and hunters will need to provide their own drinking water. Simple campsites (water and power provided) at the lake in Dalhart. KOA camping available in Clayton, NM.
4. The hunt will be conducted from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset during the period.

5. There will be a voluntary check station in Dalhart. There will be no guided hunting or assigning of hunt compartments this year. You may hunt only on the lands within the Rita Blanca National Grassland (U.S. Forest Service System) in **Texas**.
6. **Only persons whose names appear on the pronghorn permit will be allowed to hunt pronghorn.**
7. Legal means include centerfire or muzzleloading firearms or bow and arrow. The use of a high-powered rifle with telescopic sight is recommended. A spotting scope or pair of binoculars and a bipod or shooting sticks are also recommended.
8. The wearing of fluorescent orange clothing is not required during this hunt; however, you should observe proper safety precautions and be aware that other persons are also present on the area.
9. Bag limit will be 1 buck pronghorn per permitted hunter.
  - a. Permitted hunters must possess the following:
  - b. A valid Texas hunting license.
10. A valid pronghorn hunting permit.
11. Best units for hunting pronghorn are: 7-14, 16-36, 51-52.
12. **Field dress the buck pronghorn in the field, leave the offal for the coyotes, birds, etc. Do not field dress the pronghorn at the campground.**
13. The Rita Blanca National Grassland would like to remind **all** hunters and shooting enthusiasts: firing a gun is not allowed in or within 150 yards of campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area; this would include Thompson Grove Picnic Area.
14. **For general hunting regulations questions, contact TPWD (806) 420-0439).**
15. Please report your harvest online at <http://bit.ly/PronghornHarvest> and bring the pronghorn to the check station located at Rita Blanca Lake in Dalhart, TX (36.038269, -102.506358).

### **The U.S. Forest Service Requests That You:**

- A. Restrict vehicle travel to roads shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.  
([https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5430965.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5430965.pdf))
- B. Do not shoot from a motor vehicle or possess a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle. (An exception is made for hunters with mobility disabilities).
- C. Please leave gates the way you found them. (Open if open, closed if closed).
- D. Be aware of electric cross fences in some of the pastures.
- E. Be aware of your target and line of fire as some units are utilized for livestock grazing and other forms of public recreation.

### **Precautions and Recommendations**

On some areas of the Rita Blanca National Grasslands there is the possibility of an active epizootic of bubonic plague in small rodents, especially prairie dogs, which with their associated fleas, could present a hazard to persons engaged in outdoor activities in these areas. These fleas are generally restricted to rodents and not normally found on other species of wildlife. Sound judgement and reasonable caution should be exercised. The following suggestions will help reduce possible exposure:

- A. Wear protective clothing. Pants legs should be tucked into socks and long-sleeved shirts should be worn.
- B. Use an insect repellent containing the ingredient "DEET" (diethyltoluamide) on exposed skin and clothing.
- C. Do not handle dead rodents or rabbits and stay clear of prairie dog towns.
- D. Place sleeping bags on cots and not directly on the ground.
- E. Seek medical attention if experiencing flu-like symptoms and/ or enlargement of lymph nodes within 2-14 days following possible exposure, especially if insect bites are present.

