The Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) offers public hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer, nilgai antelope, feral hogs, and other exotic ungulates. These hunts are self-guided and in remote areas with limited vehicle access. Archery and firearm permits are processed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Public Drawn Hunt System. All refuge hunters are selected by lottery. Up to 4 people can apply together on one application. All applications are completed online at: tpwd.texas.gov/drawnhunts.

The following information applies to all public hunts at the refuge.

**Fees and Permits** - Permits cost $80.00 per hunter for hunts up to 3 days, or $130.00 per hunter for hunts 4 days or more, plus a processing fee of $3.00 per application. Please note the following:
- All hunt fees are non-refundable.
- All hunts may be canceled without notice, due to extenuating circumstances.
- Hunt permits are not transferable.

**Regulations** - Permitted hunters are subject to inspection of permits, vehicles, equipment, and bag limits by state and federal law enforcement officers. TPWD hunting regulations apply to hunting on the refuge. We encourage you to contact the TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, or tpwd.texas.gov for complete information.

All hunters must use their TPWD-issued license tags, in compliance with the TPWD requirements.

**Refuge Bag limits** - Two whitetail deer no more than one male deer may be harvested. **During all refuge hunts,** **unlimited feral hogs and nilgai antelope may be harvested.**

**Hunter Assistance** -
- This is a traditional hunt and hunters are expected to harvest and retrieve their own game. The refuge may be able to provide limited assistance depending on staff availability.
- A walk-in cooler is available at the Laguna Atascosa Unit hunt check station for temporary storage.
- A limited number of game carts are available for loan to hunters.
- The hunt check station can be reached during hunts at 956-443-9227.

**Important Refuge Regulations** - In addition to the firearm and archery hunt regulations, these apply:
- The maximum speed limit on Refuge roads is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.
- Taking or collecting any plant or non-game animal (including venomous snakes) is prohibited.
- The use of artificial lights (including car headlights and game cameras) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited.
- Fires, littering, target practice, and commercial guiding are prohibited.
- The disturbing, molesting, or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

**Camping** - The only camping on the refuge is at Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park. To contact the park, call 956-748-2044. The hunt units are not accessible directly from the park.

**Safety Considerations** - Africanized honey bees, alligators, cougars and rattlesnakes are in the area. Stay alert and watch for bee activity and be cautious of venomous snakes and stinging/biting insects. Wearing snake guards or boots is recommended.

**Scouting** - Scouting access will be allowed on Sept 19 - Sept 20, 2020 from legal sunrise to legal sunset, as well as after hunter orientation the day before each hunt period begins.

**Cattle Fever Tick Considerations** - Hunters must place a tarp on their vehicle to eliminate contact with a deer or nilgai carcass. Hunters must skin deer and nilgai antelope before leaving the refuge. A designated skinning station is provided. Hunters must adhere to all cattle fever tick prevention measures, which include subjecting hides and heads to an approved anti-parasitic treatment. Hunters may take skinned carcasses after inspection. A wildlife resource document will be issued as proof of sex for white-tailed deer transport.

**Archery Hunts**

Mandatory Hunter Orientation will be held at the refuge hunt check station at **9:00 am the day before your scheduled hunt period.** See hunt dates below.

**Laguna Unit Archery Hunts** -
- Archery #1: Nov 06 - Nov 10, 2020
- Archery #2: Nov 13 - Nov 17, 2020

**Ocelot Monitoring Period Archery Hunts** (Laguna Unit, excludes Subunit 6) -
- Archery #3: Nov 20 - Nov 24, 2020
- Archery #4: Dec 04 - Dec 08, 2020

**Bahia Grande Archery Hunts** -
- Archery #1: Feb 05 - Feb 07, 2021
- Archery #2: Feb 12 - Feb 14, 2021

**Permits** - There will be 200 hunt permits available for each Laguna Unit archery hunt. There will be 50 hunt permits available for each Bahia Grande archery hunt.

**Firearm Hunts**

Mandatory Hunter Orientation will be held at the refuge hunt check station at 9:00 am the day before your scheduled hunt period. See hunt dates below.

**Laguna Unit Firearm Hunts** -
- Firearm #1: Dec 11 - Dec 13, 2020
- Firearm #2: Dec 18 - Dec 20, 2020
- Firearm #3: Jan 08 - Jan 10, 2021
- Firearm #4: Jan 15 - Jan 17, 2021

**Bahia Grande Muzzleloader/Slug-only Shotgun Hunts** -
- Firearm #1: Feb 19 - Feb 21, 2021
- Firearm #2: Feb 26 - Feb 28, 2021

**Permits** - There will be 35 hunt permits available for each Laguna Unit firearm hunt. There will be 50 hunt permits available for each Bahia Grande firearm hunt.

For additional information and copies of this and other hunt pamphlets, please contact or visit:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, Texas  78566
956-244-2019 or 956-748-3607 x105
www.fws.gov/refuge/laguna_atascosa/hunts

Updated April 2020
The Laguna Atascosa NWR (refuge) firearm hunt regulations follow Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) rules regarding licenses, tagging game, and legal weapons. Please be aware of the TPWD regulations found at www.tpwd.texas.gov.

Refuge specific regulations follow:

**Bag Limits** - Two white-tailed deer, of which no more than one is male; unlimited nilgai antelope and any other exotic ungulates; unlimited feral hogs. No spotted fawns.

**Hunter Orange** - Hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange, including 144 square inches visible on both the chest and back, and a hunter orange cap or hat visible on the head.

**Firearm Hunt Units** - Subunits 2, 3, 5, and 8 will be open for scouting and firearm hunting. Hunt units or areas within a unit may not be reserved. For closed areas, refer to the Firearm Hunt Map and be aware of all “No Hunting Zone” posted areas.

**Prohibited Activities include:**
- Camping, except at Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs
- Possession or use of dogs while scouting or hunting
- Target practice
- Use of motorized or electric carts or wagons
- Taking any plant or animal species not listed on this permit
- Possession or distribution of bait or hunting over bait
- Use of flagging or markers
- Use of, or hunting from, any type of watercraft or floating device
- Use of drones or aircraft

**Youth Hunters** - Each hunter age 9 to 17 must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.

**Scouting Access** - Scouting access is allowed on designated dates, as stated in the General Hunting Information brochure. A permitted hunter, and up to two non-permitted individuals accompanying the hunter, may enter the hunt unit during the scouting periods. A vehicle tag must be conspicuously displayed on vehicle dashboard with all names legible.

**Vehicle Access and Parking** - Hunters are not allowed to enter/exit the refuge hunt units via Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park. Vehicle parking is allowed only at designated parking areas and along the sides of roads which are labeled "Vehicle Access Roads" on the Firearm Hunt Map AND fall within a hunt unit. Parking is not allowed along Buena Vista Rd. All roads in the hunt units may be accessed by foot or bicycle. Do not block gates. One vehicle tag per hunter must be conspicuously displayed on the vehicle dashboard.

**Mobility Impaired Hunters** - Hunters with a mobility impairment must apply for a special use permit 30 days prior to their awarded hunt. Hunters requesting access to a hunt with an ATV or UTV may be granted access to West Lake Rd up to Coyote Loop in unit 2. All ATVs/UTVs must remain on the roadway. Permitted hunters must park in the Prairie Trail parking lot located in subunit 1 along FM 106.

**Hunting Access** - We allow hunters to enter the refuge up to 1½ hours before legal sunrise during the permitted hunt season only. We require hunters to check out daily at the hunt check station at the end of their hunt or no later than 1 hour after legal shooting hours. Hunters who need to track game after sunset must call the hunt check station at 956-443-9227.

**Hunting Stands and Blinds** - We allow hunting from portable stands or blinds, or by stalking and still hunting. There is a limit of one blind or stand per permitted hunter. Hunters must attach permit number or license number to the blind or stand. We prohibit attaching blinds and stands to trees or making blinds and stands from natural vegetation. Hunters must remove blinds and stands at the end of the permitted hunt period.

**Field Dressing** - Harvested game must be field dressed before removal from the hunt unit. Hunters may quarter their game. Hunters may use a bike, ebike, or non-motorized cart or wagon to transport harvested game. All harvested game, except hogs, must be checked at the hunt check station.

**Legal Weapons** - We only allow the use of shoulder-fired muzzleloaders and rifles during the firearm hunt. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Muzzleloaders must be .40 caliber or larger, and modern rifles must be center fired and .22 caliber or larger. All hunting firearms must be unloaded and cased while in a vehicle. “Loaded” is defined as having rounds in the chamber of a rifle, or having a firing cap in a muzzleloader.

**Personal Firearms** - Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law.

Permitted hunters are subject to inspection of permits, vehicles, equipment, and bag limits by state and federal law enforcement officers.

We reserve the right to revoke or deny any permit for up to five years due to unsafe conduct or violation of one or more refuge regulations.

I have read and understand the rules and regulations for hunting on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

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<th>Hunter’s Signature</th>
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I certify that this hunter has completed the firearm Hunter Orientation.

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