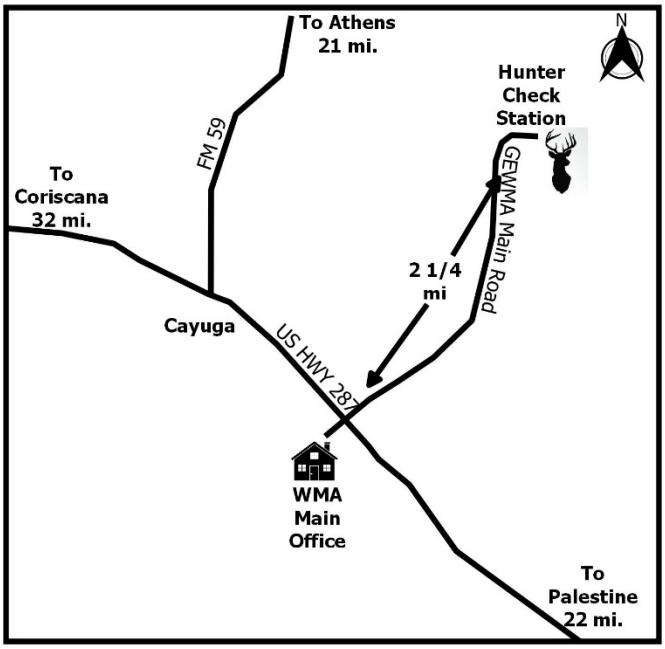
# Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area
# Special Permit Youth Deer Hunts

## Background




The Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area (GEWMA) is located in northwest Anderson County, 22 miles northwest of Palestine. This 11,091 acre area was purchased from 1950 to 1960 under the Pittman-Robison Act using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program fund. The terrain is flat to gently rolling post oak woodlands, consisting of dense stands of oak-hickory over story, with associated understory species such as yaupon, greenbrier, dogwood, hawthorn, elm and huckleberry. The GEWMA's primary purpose is to function as a wildlife research and demonstration area for the Post Oak Savannah Ecoregion. Sound wildlife management tool like prescribed burning, grazing, brush control and hunting are used to demonstrate the results of proven practices to resources managers, landowners and other interested groups or individuals.

## Reporting/Orientation

**When:** 11:30 a.m. on the first day of the hunt for sign-in and mandatory orientation at 12:00 p.m. Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation. Hunt ends at end of legal shooting hours on the last day of the hunt.

**Where:** Gus Engeling WMA Hunter Check Station (See Map). If using a navigation system, do not navigate to "Gus Engeling WMA" as it will direct you to the middle of the property away from all facilities. Navigate to 16149 North US Highway 287, Tennessee Colony, Texas 75861. Once you have arrived, turn north into Gus Engeling WMA. Follow signs to the Hunter Check Station. You will proceed approximately 2 ¼ miles down the main road. The Gus Engeling WMA Hunter Check Station will be on the right side of the 'Y' intersection.

**Preparation:** Hunters should bring their valid Texas Hunting License, license plate number, special permit issued from Austin (email or paper copy), and any required stamp as required by statute. Please have equipment sighted-in prior to your arrival at the WMA. A TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued by TPWD staff, must be attached to a harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area. Additionally, all hunters are required to visibly wear at least 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange clothing with 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear. Archery hunters are exempt from hunter orange requirement on archery only hunts.

**Stand By:** Positions **may** be available. Contact Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Headquarters for availability. Potential standby hunters MUST be signed in by 11:00 a.m. at the WMA Hunter Check Station. All persons wishing to participate in the stand by drawing must be present. Standby hunter position(s) will be drawn at 11:00 a.m. at the WMA Hunter Check Station.

## Check Station

**Hours:** Check station will open at 12:00 p.m. on the first day of the hunt. Check station hours for each hunt period will be explained during the mandatory orientation.

**Facilities:** Game skinning and processing area, cold storage, first aid station, and coffee. The use of area facilities is at your own risk. Walk-in cooler will only be accessible by TPWD employees. Feral hogs **may** be allowed to enter cold storage at TPWD staff's discretion.

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

## Late Comers

**Check-In:** Drawn hunters who are unable to report in time for the 12:00 p.m. sign-in and orientation should notify Gus Engeling Staff as soon as possible by calling the WMA office at (903) 928-2251. Late hunters must report to the Gus Engeling WMA office (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) or the Gus Engeling Hunter Check Station (all other times) upon arrival to the area. Those arriving after closing of the check station in the evening, may camp at the designated campsites but must report to the check station the following morning for registration and orientation prior to going into the field.

**Orientation:** Latecomers must participate in the same orientation given to all other hunters. It should be noted that latecomers might be required to wait some time in order to receive the required orientation. Orientation will be given to latecomers at the Gus Engeling WMA Hunter Check Station.

## Hunting Conditions

**Vehicles:** Transportation to and from the assigned hunting compartment will be the responsibility of the hunter. A portion of most hunting compartments is accessible by 2-wheel drive vehicles; however pickup trucks and 4-wheel drive vehicles with high ground clearance will provide access to a greater portion of the hunting compartment. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) use is prohibited.

**Stands:** Portable stands are encouraged but will not be provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The use of stands is at your own risk. Elevated stands are recommended.

**Youth Supervision:** Youth 8 years of age and younger must be accompanied. Youth between the ages of 9 and 16 must have completed a hunter education course or must be accompanied. Adults accompanying youth must be 18 years of age or older, possess a valid Texas hunting license, have completed a hunter education course or be exempt and must be within normal voice control. Supervising adults may not hunt during youth only special permit hunts.

**Baiting:** Baiting is allowed.

## Camping Facilities

Campsites (3) are located approximately 2 miles from the check station, one on U.S. highway 287 and two on CR 473. Campsites do not have electricity; however, drinking water and restrooms are available at the campsite on Hwy. 287.

## Other Information

The area is closed to the general public during special permit hunts. During these hunts, non-hunting guest may be allowed depending on availability and safety concerns. Contact Gus Engeling WMA HQ for more information.

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 telephone the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area Headquarters at (903) 928-2251.