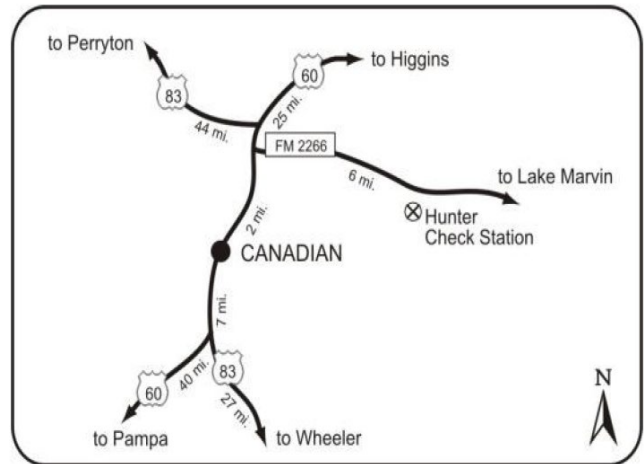




Gene Howe WMA - W.A. “Pat” Murphy Unit Youth Gun Deer Hunts

The W. A. “Pat” Murphy Unit of The Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is in Lipscomb County, approximately 30 minutes north of Canadian. The WMA consists of 889 acres of rolling plains country. The WMA contains rolling mixed-land hills dominated by tall grasses and sand sagebrush. Open tallgrass meadows and stands of eastern cottonwood and Russian olive dominate the bottomlands to the along Plum Creek in the middle of the WMA. Average annual rainfall is 22 inches. Rapid changes in weather, particularly temperature, are common in the Rolling Plains. Please come prepared for a variety of weather conditions.



The purpose of public hunts is to harvest surplus game and provide information for research and management programs. Most game species are distributed evenly throughout the area and hunters are encouraged to spend as much time as possible in the field to successfully harvest game.

Primitive campground facilities are available for hunters at The Gene Howe WMA proper. The campground is located approximately ½ mile east of the WMA headquarters and check station on the north side of FM 2266. Though there are no electrical or water hook-ups, there is 1 composting toilet. Hunters are encouraged to bring their own food, drinks and ice or visit one of the many restaurants in nearby Canadian (approximately 6 miles west of the campground).

Rules and Regulations

1. All hunters must have a valid Texas Hunting License and their drawn permit on their person at all times. It is no longer necessary to use tags off of your license for deer harvested on a special permit drawn hunt. A “TPWD Legal Deer Tag” will be attached to your deer as soon as it is checked. Harvested deer must be immediately brought to the check station as soon as they are field dressed. Only white-tailed deer and feral hogs may be legally harvested. Only youth may actually harvest game. Adult supervisors must have a valid hunting license.

2. The check station will open at 9:30 AM on the first day of the hunt. Drawn hunters must report to the check station by 10:00 AM for orientation. **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.** Hunters not attending the orientation may have to wait until the next day to begin their hunt.
3. Hunts begin at 11:00 PM on the first day and conclude ½ hour after official sunset on the final day. Legal shooting hours begin ½ hour before official sunrise and end ½ hour after official sunset. See WMA personnel for official sunrise and sunset.
4. A permitted supervising adult is required to accompany all hunters under the age of 17 at all times.
5. Only permitted hunters will be allowed in the hunt area. Visitors are not allowed to accompany hunters into the field. There will be no substitutions allowed within drawn hunt positions.
6. Hunters must report to the check station every time they enter or leave the hunt area. All harvested game must be checked through the check station (with the exception of feral hogs).
7. Alcoholic beverages are permitted only in the campground area and only when area hunters are not engaged in hunting.
8. The campground is to be kept clean of trash at all times. Trash may be brought to the transfer station, located about 1 mile south of town just west of U.S. 83 (follow signs). Use of generators in the campground is prohibited. The campground will open to hunters the afternoon prior to the hunt and hunters are urged to set up camp prior to check-in time.
9. Hunter Education is required of all hunters born on or after September 2, 1971 (see Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information).
10. Vehicles are required to remain on only those roads marked on the map. Roads not marked on the map are restricted from vehicular traffic. This will be strictly enforced.
11. All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange including both vest and headwear.
12. Centerfire Rifles .243 or larger are the only legal means for Youth Gun Deer hunts.
13. Transporting youth in an open pickup bed or trailer is prohibited.
14. Baiting is prohibited.
15. All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are not permitted on the WMA, except for use by hunters with mobility disabilities or a person directly assisting hunters with mobility disabilities. Proof of mobility disability in the form of a disabled parking placard or disabled vehicle license plate is required.

16. Hunting from a vehicle or possession of a loaded firearm (one with a round in the chamber) in or on a vehicle is prohibited except as allowed by special provisions for hunters with mobility disabilities. Proof of mobility disability is required.
17. Removal of artifacts, skulls, shed deer antlers, plants or animals (other than legally harvested game) from the WMA is prohibited. All should be left where they are.
18. Killing of all snakes is prohibited.
19. Hunters and/or vehicles are subject to inspection by game wardens or WMA personnel.
20. Pre-scouting may be done only during annual public hunting permit hunts (see schedule).

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.

For further information, call the Gene Howe WMA headquarters at (806) 323-8642.