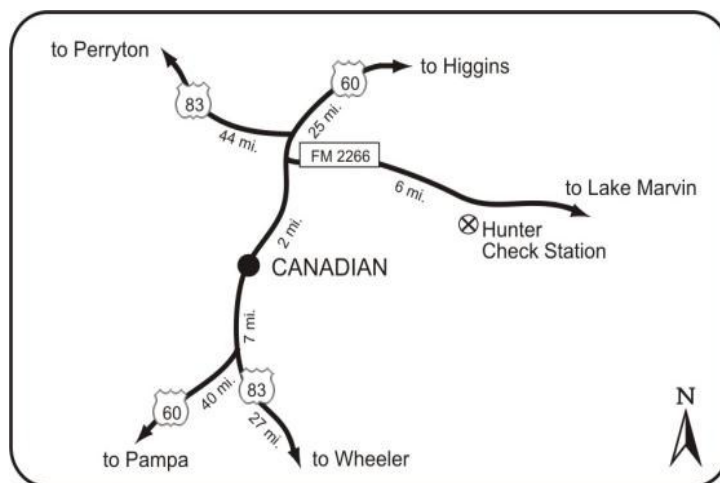




Gene Howe WMA Spring Turkey Hunts

The Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is in Hemphill County, approximately 5 miles east of Canadian on FM 2266. The WMA consists of 5,394 acres of rolling plains country along the Canadian River. Northern portions of the WMA contain rolling sand hills dominated by tall grasses and sand sagebrush. Open tallgrass meadows and stands of eastern cottonwood and Russian olive dominate the bottomlands to the south. 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. The campground is located approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ 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, an Upland Game Bird Stamp Endorsement (not required of hunters under 17 years of age or holders of Lifetime Resident Combination or Lifetime Resident Hunting licenses) and their drawn permit or stand-by permit on their person at all times. Harvested turkeys must be immediately brought to the check station as soon as they are field dressed. Only one Rio Grande wild turkey tom or bearded hen may be legally harvested. Hunting within 200 yards of a roasted turkey is prohibited.

2. The check station will open at 10:30 AM on the first day of the hunt. Drawn hunters must report to the check station by 11:00 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 wishing to apply for the stand-by drawing should report to the check station by 10:30 AM to fill out the necessary forms. Hunters not attending the orientation may have to wait until the next day to begin their hunt.
3. Hunts begin at noon on the first day and conclude at noon 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.
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. Legally defined archery equipment and shotguns are permitted. Shotguns must be 20 gauge or greater and have a choke no less than modified. Shot size is limited to number 4, 5 and 6 shot.
12. Transporting youth in an open pickup bed or trailer is prohibited.
13. Baiting is prohibited.
14. 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.

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Killing of ANY snakes is prohibited.
18. Hunters and/or vehicles are subject to inspection by game wardens or WMA personnel.
19. Hunters will be allowed to select hunting compartments, from those which are available based on hunt party size, in the order they were selected by the computer drawing.
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.

