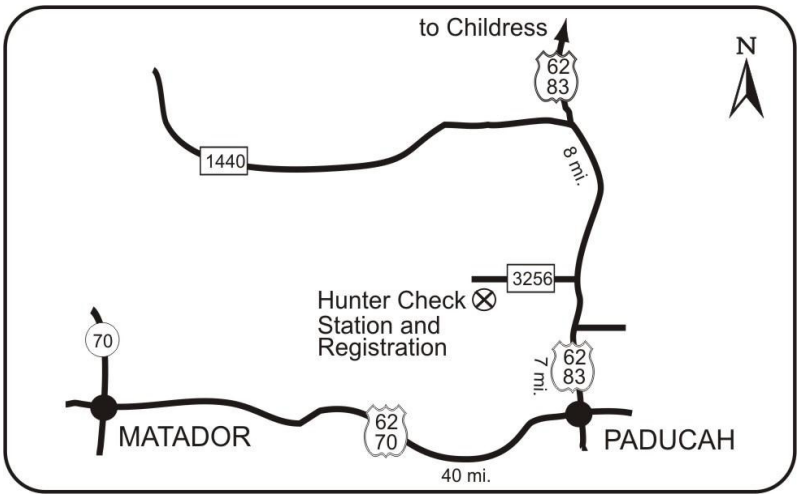
Matador WMA
Hunt Information Youth Spring Turkey Hunts

The Matador Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in Cottle County, approximately 8 miles north of Paducah on FM 3256. The WMA includes 28,183 acres of rolling plains country along the Middle Pease River, which is typified by rolling plains dominated by mesquite, sand sagebrush and shin oak and canyons dominated by red-berry juniper. Rattlesnakes are present on the WMA **and care should always be exercised.**



Average annual rainfall for this WMA is 21 inches. The Rolling Plains is noted for rapid, extreme changes in weather, notably extremes in temperatures.

The purpose of public hunts is to harvest surplus game and provide information for research and management programs. Game species are distributed evenly throughout the WMA. It is advisable for the hunter to spend as much time in the field as possible in order to harvest game. **All vehicles are restricted to the existing road system**. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended because portions of the WMA are not accessible by passenger car or two-wheel drive pickup trucks. Hunters may bring portable stands to the WMA.

Primitive campground facilities are available for hunters, located on FM 3256 about ¼ and ½ miles west of the WMA office/check station complex. There are no electrical or water hook-ups, however, restrooms are available. Hunters are urged to bring their own food, drink and ice (the nearest store and cafe is 9 miles away). The campground will be open the afternoon prior to scheduled hunts. All hunters are urged to set up camp prior to check-in time. The WMA and campground must be kept clean of trash. **Campers using generators must camp in the campground located ¼ mile west of the office/check station complex.**

1. All hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license, permit, stamps, appropriate tags, as required by statute, with them at all times. Only persons with permits will be admitted; no

substitutions for the youth hunters listed on the permit. **Only youth may actually harvest game**. Adult supervisors must have a valid hunting license.

2. **Drawn hunters must report to the check station by 7:00 p.m. the evening prior to their assigned hunt period** to complete the application process and go through a brief orientation. **Hunters must contact the WMA 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 present at this time may have to wait until the next morning to sign in and start their hunt. **Hunts will conclude at 30 minutes after sunset on the final day of the assigned hunt period**.
3. **A permitted** supervising adult must accompany hunters under the age of 17. **Visitors will not be allowed to accompany hunters into the field**. Hunter Education is required of all hunters born on or after September 2, 1971. (See Hunting Guide for more information.)
4. **All hunters must report to the check station every time they enter or exit the hunt area**. All game harvested must be processed through the check station; **only** species defined at time of the hunt or on your permit may be taken.
5. **Alcoholic beverages may not be publicly displayed or consumed** on the WMA and persons under the influence of alcohol/drugs will not be permitted to enter or remain on the WMA.
6. **Hunting within 200 yards of a roosted bird is prohibited**.
7. 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 (APH) hunts (see schedule).
8. Legal means are limited to shotguns and legal archery equipment. 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.
9. Do not take any plants, animals (other than legally taken game) or artifacts from the WMA, including shed deer antlers or skulls. Any artifacts found should be left as they are; shed antlers or skulls may be brought to the check station.
10. Hunters in the field and vehicles within the WMA are subject to inspection by WMA personnel and/or game wardens.
11. **Hunting from a vehicle or the possession of a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle is prohibited**, except as allowed by special provisions for hunters with mobility disabilities. A **loaded firearm is one with a round in the chamber or magazine**.
12. **Killing rattlesnakes is prohibited**.
13. All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are not permitted on the WMA, except for use by a hunter with mobility disabilities or a person directly assisting a hunter with mobility disabilities and are

limited to public hunting roads. Proof of mobility disability in the form of a disabled parking placard or disabled vehicle license plate is required.

14. Baiting is **not** permitted.
15. **Transporting** youth (under 18 years of age) in an “open bed” of a pickup truck or trailer is prohibited on roads within the boundaries of the Wildlife Management Area.

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 Matador WMA headquarters at (806) 492-3405.