

Other Utilization

The Chaparral Wildlife Management Area is utilized as a study area by various college and university groups conducting studies on multiple wildlife species and habitat types.

Public hunting, a by-product of management, is conducted in the WMA, although it is not the primary purpose of the area. Public hunts are held when there is a surplus of wildlife species and to satisfy research objectives. Public hunting provides research projects and management programs with productive data, as well as the opportunity to study the effects of harvest on wildlife populations.

Hunting Information

Public hunts for deer and javelina are conducted, with hunters selected by drawing. Prospective hunters should request a hunter application card from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or by calling 1-800-792-1112 (toll-free).

Quail and dove hunts are held on predetermined dates. Hunters may obtain a permit from the area check station on scheduled hunt days.

Nominal fees are charged for public hunts. Hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license and wear fluorescent orange clothing when required.

Each animal harvested must be processed through the check station, where WMA personnel collect data relating to the research and management of the species.

There are two primitive campgrounds on the WMA for use by hunters. All hunters are urged to bring their own food, as the nearest store is 20 miles from the area. No electrical or water hookups are available.

Specific rules, regulations and hunt dates are subject to change annually. Information regarding public hunts may be obtained from any Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office, by visiting the TPWD Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us or by contacting the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area.

General Information

Access to the WMA for the general public is generally available during the period April 1 – August 31 annually through the public campground entrance off F.M. 133. Permission by registration is required, as is an Annual Public Hunting Permit or Limited Use Permit.

Visitation may be restricted or prohibited when human disturbance would interfere with public hunting and/or research activities. Prospective visitors should contact the WMA prior to arrival.

Additional brochures available for the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area:

Field Checklists:

- Birds of the Chaparral WMA
- Amphibians and Reptiles of the Chaparral WMA
- Mammals of the Chaparral WMA

Nature Trails:

- The Paisano Driving Trail
- The Camino de Fiero Nature Trail
- The Arena Roja Nature Trail

For further information, contact:

Chaparral Wildlife Management Area
64 Chaparral WMA Drive
Cotulla, Texas 78014
(830) 676-3413
cwma@grandriver.net



4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
(800) 792-1112
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Chaparral Wildlife Management Area

A black and white photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, dry grasses. A wire fence runs across the middle ground, supported by a weathered wooden post. In the background, there are trees and a cloudy sky.

The Chaparral Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in LaSalle and Dimmit counties, eight miles west of Artesia Wells on F.M. 133. It contains 15,200 acres of South Texas brush country. The Chaparral WMA, along with the James Daughtrey WMA in McMullen County, make up the South Texas Ecosystem Project (STEP).

The Chaparral WMA has been operated by the Wildlife Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since 1969 and serves as a research and demonstration facility representative of the South Texas Plains ecological region of the state. The WMA was enclosed by a deer-proof fence in 1983 in order to provide a controlled environment for wildlife research. Average annual rainfall for this area is 21 inches. The Chaparral WMA does not have a reliable source of surface water; therefore, wildlife and livestock waterings have been provided.

The WMA is managed "holistically" with an ecosystem approach to management, resulting in a diversity of plants and wildlife. Dominant vegetation includes mesquite, blackbrush, whitebrush, guayacan and prickly pear, as well as a wide diversity of other species. Brush densities vary considerably throughout the area. There also exists a diversity of grasses and forbs (weeds) on the WMA; however, their abundance varies according to rainfall.

Principal game species found on the WMA include white-tailed deer, javelina, bobwhite quail, scaled quail, mourning dove and white-winged dove. Feral hogs are also found on the WMA. During special permit hunts, hunters are allowed to take this non-native species in order to control numbers, limit habitat destruction and decrease competition with native wildlife.

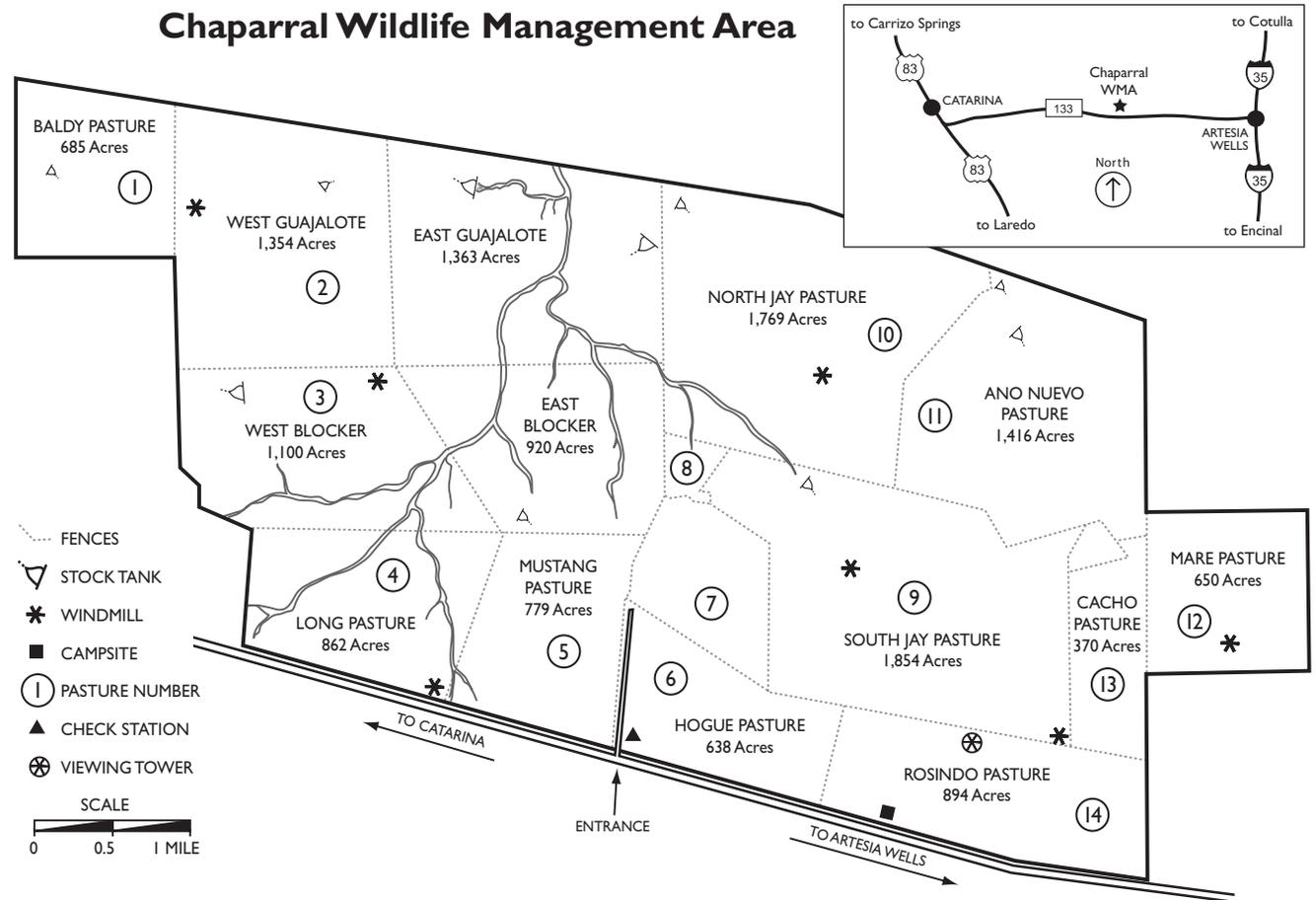
Nongame species present include bobcat, coyote, cotton-tailed rabbit and jack rabbit, as well as numerous rodent species. Badgers, skunks and raccoon are the principal furbearing animals found at the WMA. Mountain lions have been observed infrequently in the area.

A diverse avian population contains a number of resident and nesting species and an abundance of species migrating through the WMA. There are also various reptiles and amphibians present, including the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake and threatened Texas Indigo Snake, Texas Gopher Tortoise and Texas Horned Lizard.

The principal objectives of the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area are:

1. To conduct experimental land-use and game management programs for the South Texas ecological area.

Chaparral Wildlife Management Area



2. To provide a site for conducting vegetative and wildlife research applicable to the management of wildlife and habitat resources in the South Texas Plains region of Texas. Through such studies, biologists hope to gain a better understanding of the interrelationships among native wildlife species, domestic livestock and habitat resources, enabling them to make sound recommendations for multiple-use management programs for the South Texas Plains region of Texas.
3. To establish and demonstrate sound management practices for wildlife and habitat resources. Studies include evaluation of more effective methods of game census, various harvest schemes, food habits, fawn survival and a variety of habitat enhancement activities.
4. To monitor wildlife and habitat responses to habitat changes and enhancement activities.
5. To disseminate information on wildlife management practices and demonstrate the application of these practices to ranchers, wildlife researchers and other interested people.
6. To provide public use opportunities consistent with other objectives of the WMA. These operations generally require years of uninterrupted observations and monitoring, producing a consistent compilation of data. This is not often feasible on privately owned land due to changes in land ownership and land-use practices. The management and research programs conducted within the confines of the WMA are extensive and diverse.