

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1988, is located in Cameron Parish in southwestern Louisiana. The refuge is composed of fresh marsh, impoundments and former agriculture fields. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on the refuge during specific times of the year. **The East Cove Unit is closed to all hunting.**

General Regulations Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

Individuals using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge or state officers.

Permits Permits are required for all hunters. When signed and in your possession, the cover section of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts except those requiring limited lottery drawn permits, and it acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Limited lottery drawn permits are required for youth waterfowl hunts and experimental rabbit hunts.

Youth waterfowl hunt dates are published by the refuge during September. Permit applications will be accepted September 1 through October 15. Please contact the refuge during September for hunt dates and application requirements. Applicants will be limited to a choice of two dates. Duplicate or incomplete applications will be discarded. Successful applicants will be notified.

Youth hunters (ages 10 - 15) must be supervised by an adult 21 years old or older, and both youth and adult must possess proof of completion of a hunter education course prior to applying. One adult will supervise no more than two youth hunters.

Hunt dates for the experimental rabbit hunt will be the remaining Saturdays of the state rabbit season following closure of the state

Cameron Prairie NWR Hunting Seasons		
Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Deer-Archery, either sex	October 1 - 31	Possession/use of pods or firearms prohibited.
Waterfowl - Youth	Saturdays and select days until noon during state season.	Limited Permit by lotter drawing. Approved non-toxic shot required.
Rabbit	Remaining Saturdays of state season following closure of state waterfowl season. Hunts conducted between 7:30 am - 1:00 pm.	Limited Permit by lottery drawing. Approved non-toxic shot required.
Snipe	Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays noon to sunset. Dates remaining following closure of state waterfowl season.	Approved non-toxic shot required.
Dove	Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays noon to sunset. First split of State Dove season only.	Approved non-toxic shot required.
Note: All hunters must complete a Harvest Information Card at a self-clearing check station before leaving the refuge after each hunt.		

waterfowl season. Rabbit hunters are chosen by lottery drawing and will be determined prior to the refuge rabbit season. Individuals wishing to rabbit hunt may apply for the lottery drawing from December 1 through January 10. Successful applicants will be notified prior to the start of the refuge rabbit season. Permits will be picked up at the visitor center prior to hunting and a completed harvest information card must be returned to the self-clearing check station after the hunt prior to leaving the refuge.

Rabbit hunters will be limited to five groups with no more than six individuals per group. Each group will be assigned a hunt area on the day of the hunt. Only beagle hounds which do not exceed 15 inches at the front shoulders and which have recognizable characteristics of the breed may be used during experimental rabbit season. Up to four beagles may be used at one time in the pursuit of rabbits. Hunts will be conducted between 7:30 am and 1:00 pm.

Hunters with disabilities Hunters with disabilities must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. State regulations and access conditions apply.

Firearms Shotguns are the only firearms allowed for use during refuge hunts. Firearms carried in vehicles on the refuge must be unloaded **AND** dismantled or completely encased in a gun case that has latches, a draw strap or a zipper. The case must be closed. Loaded is defined as shells

in gun. Firearms (shotguns) are permitted on the refuge only during the refuge hunting season.

Ammunition **Only approved non-toxic shot may be used on the refuge.** Possession of lead shot, buckshot or slugs is prohibited.

Motor vehicles All motor vehicles are restricted to normal passenger vehicle roads and designated parking areas. ATV use is prohibited except for designated Disabled Hunters Access trails. Only ATV's with a maximum tire pressure of 7 PSI are permitted. Disabled ATV trails are open October 1 - 31 only.

Closed areas Hunting is prohibited around the visitor center, maintenance shop area and the area contained within the Pintail Wildlife Drive (see map). Other areas may be closed to hunting for management purposes as designated by Area Closed or No Hunting Zone signs.

- The following activities are prohibited on Cameron Prairie NWR**
- Littering
 - Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
 - Camping/overnight parking
 - Fires
 - Off road riding of horses or mules
 - Taking of wildlife or plants other than specified in refuge regulations
 - Target practice
 - Baiting or hunting over bait

- Hunting within 150 feet of any public refuge road or designated hiking trail
- Spot-lighting
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Climbing trees to hunt by driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or metal objects; or using climbing spikes

Specific Hunting Regulations State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are listed in this pamphlet.

Archery deer hunting is permitted refuge-wide except in designated closed areas or as otherwise stated under specific regulations. Youth waterfowl hunting and experimental Snipe, Dove, and Rabbit hunts are permitted in designated areas only.

Any hunter under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved hunter safety course and be accompanied at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult can supervise only one youth except during limited youth waterfowl hunts, when two youth are permitted.

Hunters using shotguns to hunt small game on the refuge are required to use **approved non-toxic shot.**

All hunters must complete a Hunter Information Card at a self-clearing check station after each hunt before leaving the refuge.

You are authorized to take only the species listed on your permit. Harming or needlessly disturbing any plants or other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations.

Attention Archers: Bowhunters are required to possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunters Education Program to bowhunt on Cameron Prairie NWR.

For additional information contact: Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
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337/598 2216