

The Refuge Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of fish and wildlife. Hunting is permitted at a level compatible with the environment, provides wholesome recreational opportunities, and permits the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl in the coastal prairie of southwestern Louisiana. Refuge habitat consists of approximately 34,878 acres of freshwater marshes and scattered uplands. The refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of wildlife, including several game species.

Safety Warning Visitors are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge may be hazardous due to water conditions, weather, and restricted view from vegetation.

General Hunting Regulations Certain State waterways that flow through the refuge are not subject to special refuge regulations. These waterways are a portion of Lacassine Bayou, Streeter's Canal between the Mermentau River and Lacassine Bayou, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (see map on reverse). Hunters should consult the State regulations for special restrictions in these waterways. **All side canals, coves, bays, marshes and ponds off these waterways are subject to all refuge regulations.**

Hunting regulations are designed to protect hunters and the public, and manage 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 and boating are in accordance with applicable State regulations and licensing. Hunting is permitted on the refuge subject to the following conditions:

Permits Annual Permits are required for all hunters. When signed and in your possession, this brochure will serve as your permit for all General refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations. Additional permits are required for all Special Lottery Hunts and Managed Hunts.

Access Motors, including trolling motors may not be used in refuge marshes. Airboats and ATV's are not permitted on the refuge.

Trailmarking Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint, etc. is also prohibited on the refuge.

Weapon possession Archery equipment and firearms in vehicles on refuge roads or in boats on refuge waterways must be unloaded and either encased or dismantled. The only weapons which may be possessed while in the field and in refuge waterways are:

(1) archery equipment during the refuge archery deer season;

(2) shotguns with non-toxic shot in the waterfowl hunting area during the refuge waterfowl hunting seasons. Possession of any weapon or ammunition on the refuge in any situation not listed above is prohibited.

Blinds/stands Hunting from a permanent blind or stand is prohibited. All hunting-related equipment must be removed immediately following each days hunt. Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. The use of climbing spikes is prohibited. Cutting or removing any live vegetation, limbs, etc. (except for Chinese tallow trees) and/or importing *Fragmites* species (a.k.a. Roseau cane) for blind material or cover is prohibited.

Youth Hunters Hunters under the age of 16 are subject to the following rules and regulations:

Youth hunters must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older, and must remain in sight and normal voice contact of the adult.

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations For waterfowl hunts, adults may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth.

There is a federal order prohibiting waterfowl hunting on a portion of Lacassine Bayou where it flows through the refuge. See map on reverse for areas open to waterfowl hunting. Only ducks, geese, gallinule, and coots may be taken subject to the following conditions:

Season Hunting is permitted on Wednesday through Sunday of the State Teal and duck seasons (Western Zone). **The refuge is closed to hunting during the goose-only portion of the waterfowl seasons.**

Hours Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4:00 am. Shooting hours end at noon each day.

Bag limit State daily and season limits apply.

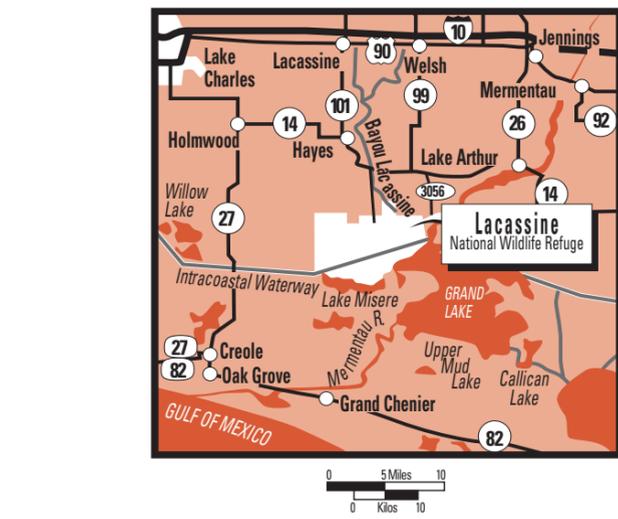
Safety zones Hunting is not permitted closer than 50 yards to a canal or waterway. Hunting parties may not hunt closer than 150 yards to each other.

Scouting Hunters may scout in the hunting area from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset during the week prior to the seasons. All firearms are prohibited during this time. Scouting is also permitted during the hunting season until one hour after sunset.

Weapon Possession Only firearms legal for hunting waterfowl are permitted. Shotguns must be unloaded and either encased or dismantled during non-hunting hours. Only non-toxic shot may be used or in possession while in the hunting area.

Decoys Decoys may not be set to attract waterfowl after noon each day. All decoys must be removed from the refuge daily.

State Youth Waterfowl Days Hunters under the age of 16 may hunt during the Statewide youth waterfowl hunting days. Youths must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. Adults may not hunt ducks or geese during the



Statewide youth waterfowl hunting days. All refuge regulations apply.

Special Lottery Hunts Special lottery hunts will be held in Unit B during the second split of the State duck season for hunters under 16 years of age and adults 55 years of age and older. Additional permits are required. Contact the refuge headquarters for more details.

Managed Hunt Area Hunting in the area known as the “Duck Pond” is now a managed hunting area (see map on reverse.) Hunting opportunities are limited (designated sites) and special restrictions apply. Hunters must contact the refuge manager for additional information and a special permit which is required in addition to the hunting permit.

Big Game Hunting Regulations All bowhunters must possess a Bowhunter Education Certificate.

Archery hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted throughout the refuge subject to the following conditions:

Season Hunting is permitted from October 1 through October 31.

Hours Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4:00 am and may not remain later than one hour after sunset.

Bag limit The daily bag limit is only one deer per day (either sex). State season limits apply.

Closed areas Hunting is prohibited in the headquarters area along Nature Road, along the Wildlife Drive, and surrounding the new maintenance facility at Lacassine Pool. Other areas may be closed to hunting for management purposes as designated by Area Closed or No Hunting Zone signs.

Scouting Hunters may scout from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset one week prior to the season.

Lacassine Pool Only boats with motors of 25 horsepower or less may be used in Lacassine Pool. Trailered boats may be launched into Lacassine Pool only at the cement ramps at the public boat launches. **Boats are prohibited in Lacassine Pool and Units A, C, and D from October 16-March 14.**

Canals and Bayous outside Lacassine Pool Motorized boats may be used in canals and bayous outside Lacassine Pool unless closed by Area Closed signs. Horsepower is not restricted for motors used in these canals and bayous.

Marshes Access into refuge marshes and ponds outside Lacassine Pool is restricted to walking, poling, paddling, or rowing. Motors may not be used in refuge marshes.

Unit F Coto Plot Access is restricted to boats from Lacassine Bayou. No vehicle access by road is available.

Weapon possession Only archery equipment legal for hunting deer is permitted. No firearms may be carried into the field while deer hunting or scouting. Crossbows are prohibited except for hunters 60 years of age or older, or hunters with a handicapped permit.

Harvest survey Hunters are requested to weigh their deer, report the sex and complete the harvest report at Gary's Landing near the refuge headquarters within 24 hours of harvest, or contact the Refuge Biologist.

Restricted Activities The following activities are restricted or prohibited on Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge:

Littering Littering is prohibited on the refuge. Please pack out all trash and leave a clean marsh.

Camping and overnight parking No camping is permitted and vehicles must be removed from the refuge at night.

Fires Do not light fires.

Collecting Do not gather or carry away any plants, flowers, firewood, artifacts, etc. Permits are issued for special activities.

Harassing wildlife All wildlife is protected on the refuge. Only hunting and fishing activities which are authorized by refuge regulations are permitted.

Trapping Only alligator and furbearer trapping authorized by the refuge manager is permitted. Permits are required.

Vehicles All motor vehicles are restricted to designated roads and parking areas. Roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse conditions.

Swimming Swimming is prohibited on the refuge.

Horseback riding Horses are prohibited on the refuge.

Pets All pets must be kept on leashes. Hunting dogs used during the refuge waterfowl hunt must be kept under control at all times.

Baiting or hunting over bait No person may possess or distribute bait or hunt over bait, including any grain, salt, minerals or other feed on the refuge.

Alcoholic beverages Consumption of alcohol is prohibited on the refuge.

Spotlighting Using lights to observe or hunt wildlife is prohibited on the refuge.

Disabled access Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the refuge manager for information on special accommodations which are available.

Lacassine

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations & Permit 2004 - 2005



**Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Permit 2004-2005**

I have read and understand the refuge regulations.

Signature _____

Date _____

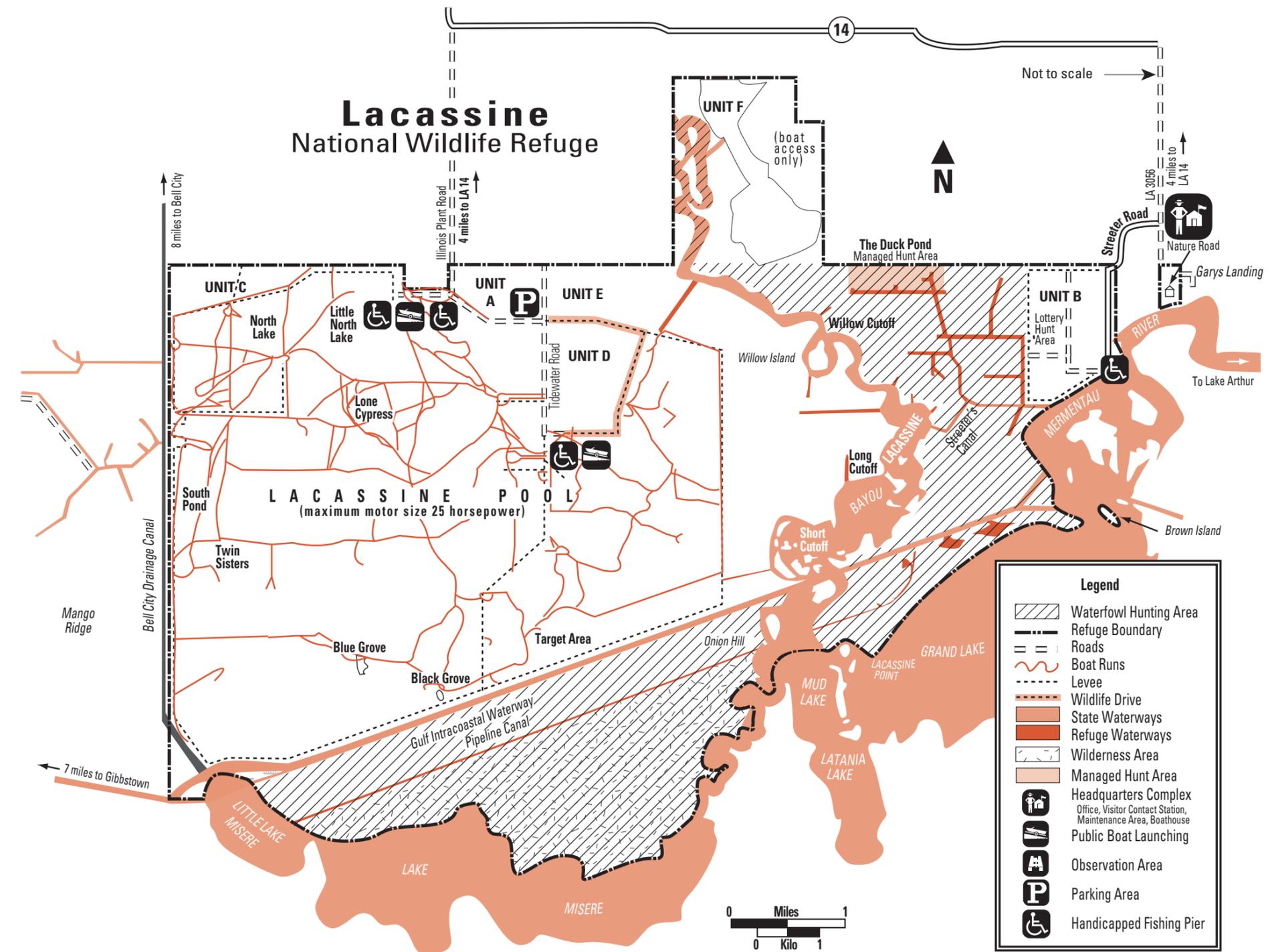
Permits are not transferable.

(cut out if desired)

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
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Lake Arthur, Louisiana 70549
Phone: 337/774 5923
Fax: 337/774 9913
http://lacassine.fws.gov
email: fw4rwlacassine@fws.gov
Office Hours: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

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Signs are used to grant or restrict certain activities to provide optimum freedom for visitors while also protecting the refuge from undue human abuse. The wordings of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel around the refuge.

**Signs
Protect
Visitors
and
Resources**



National Wildlife Refuge. This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.



Area Closed. Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



No Hunting Zone. This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.



Public Hunting Area. This sign marks the boundary of the waterfowl and deer hunting area. Only area where waterfowl hunting is allowed.