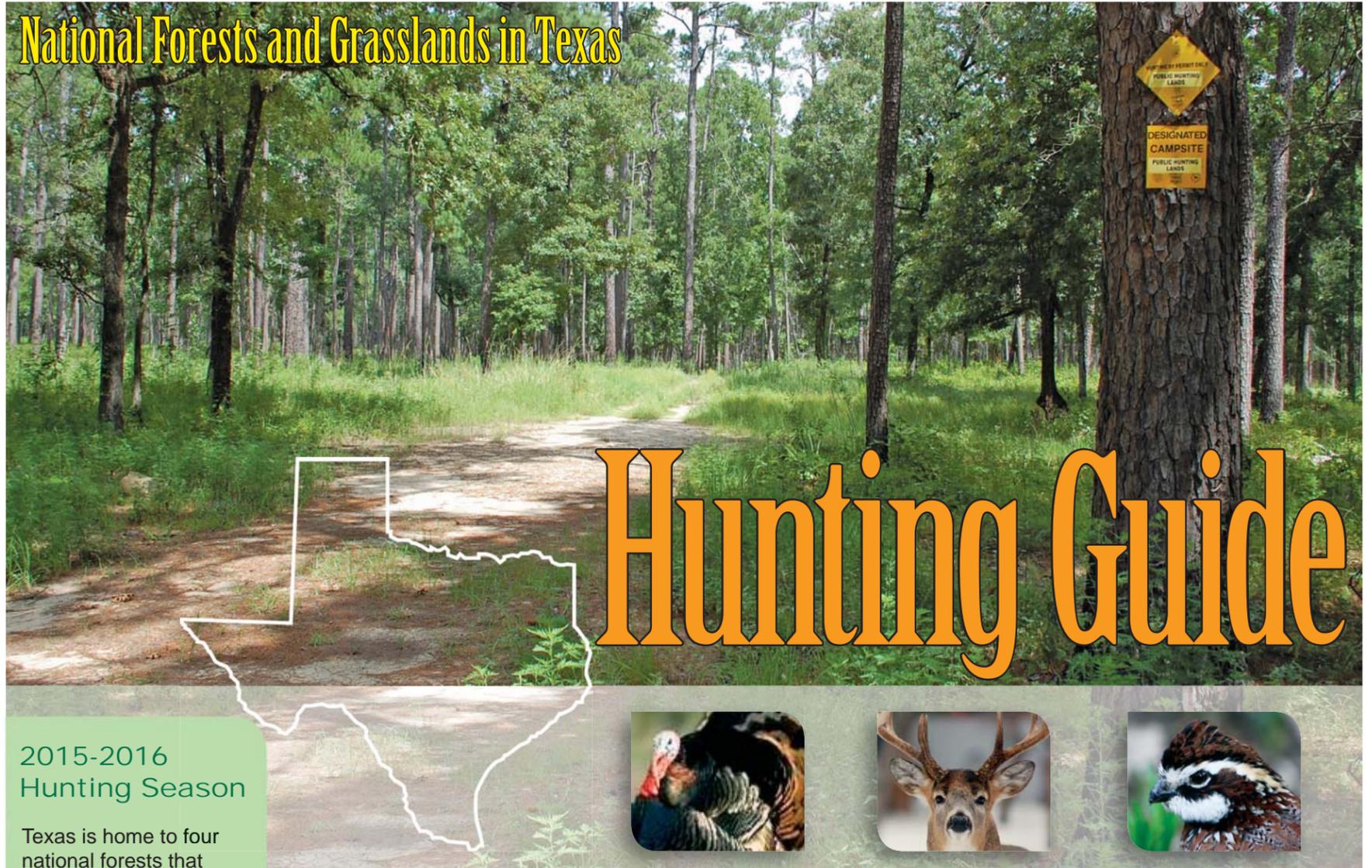




National Forests and Grasslands in Texas



2015-2016 Hunting Season

Texas is home to four national forests that stretch from the urban landscape of Houston to the Louisiana border, and to two national grasslands located north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

White-tailed deer is the game of choice in Texas and there's no better place to bag that trophy buck than in the national forests and grasslands.

From mid-September to the end of January is prime hunting season and all hunters and those accompanying them must wear daylight fluorescent orange at any time when hunting, except when hunting turkey or migratory birds.

A minimum of 400 square inches of fluorescent orange must be visible (144 square inches on both the chest and back, and a daylight fluorescent orange cap or hat.)

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Keep safety in mind when hunting

As gun deer hunting season begins, U.S. Forest Service officials are reminding hunters of guidelines designed to make their hunting trips to national forests safe and enjoyable, while sustaining the health of the forests.

Earlier this year, heavy rains and flooding damaged many roads in the forests and grasslands. While most roads have been repaired, some remain impassable and are closed. Check with the Ranger's Office to make sure your favorite hunter camp is open.

Hunting season is one of the busiest times in the forest, but safety is always a primary concern.

Visitors should check their surroundings and be aware of the possibility for falling limbs or trees. Remember, being in the woods is great, but you are responsible for your own safety.

Dead trees can fall without notice, so visitors need to be aware of their surroundings.

Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds and if winds do kick up, head to a clearing away from potentially falling trees.

Place tents and park vehicles in areas that will not be hit if trees fall.

Here are some other safety precautions:

- Much of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas are remote, and medical assistance may not be readily available. Cell phones do not work in many areas of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. Visitors should take adequate food, water, first aid supplies and other equipment appropriate for the conditions and expected weather.

- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas is limited to the multiple-use trail on the Sam Houston National Forest. Cross-country and off-road use of motorized vehicles of any type is prohibited.

- All hunters and those accompanying them must wear daylight fluorescent orange when hunting, except when hunting at night or when hunting turkey or migratory birds. A minimum of 400 square inches of fluorescent orange must be visible (144 square inches on both the chest and back, and a daylight fluorescent orange cap or hat.)

- Anyone camping or hunting in the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine

or Sam Houston National Forest or the Caddo National Grasslands must camp in designated campsites or developed recreation areas through Feb. 1.

- The danger of wildfires is high. Make sure all camp fires are in an area at least three feet in diameter cleared of all flammable material, and that they are properly extinguished.

- Hunters using wildlife management areas (WMAs) must have the \$48 annual hunting permit to hunt deer, turkey, small game, waterfowl and feral hogs. Wildlife management areas in the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas include the Alabama Creek WMA in the Davy Crockett National Forest, Bannister WMA in the Angelina National Forest, Caddo WMA in the Caddo National Grassland and the Moore Plantation WMA in the Sabine National Forest. The entire Sam Houston National Forest is a wildlife management area.

- According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Official Hunting Guide and the Public Hunting Lands Booklet, regulations vary in different locations.

- Portable deer stands are allowed in national forests and grasslands but are limited to 72 hours in one location. To prevent damage to trees, the stands must not be nailed to trees. When hunters do not remove their deer stands, it causes damage to forest land and creates an expensive, time-consuming cleanup.

- Do not park near gates or in areas that would impede traffic and block roads.

Hunters may also visit the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas website at www.fs.fed.us/texas and click on the Hunter Camp Maps – 2015 link for more information.

Be Aware, Be Safe

- Trees can fall without warning.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Wear blaze orange in the woods.
- Make sure campfires are extinguished properly
- Remember, your safety is your responsibility.



Antlerless Deer Permits from TPWD

Each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) inventories deer populations in national forests and adjacent lands. As needed, the department includes antlerless deer in the annual harvest to seek a balanced population.

Designated areas and the number of permits issued vary from year to year and the number of requests usually exceeds the number of permits available.

Hunting antlerless deer in the national forests in Texas is conducted only within Wildlife Management Areas and only by permit.

TPWD will conduct Antlerless Deer permit applications and selections through an on-line application process. Application will no longer be accepted by mail or email.

For more information on Antlerless Deer Permits, contact TPWD at www.tpwd.texas.gov/drawn hunts

Game in the Forest

Many game species find favorable habitat in the national forests where timber stands range from recently harvested areas to stands more than 100 years old.

The breaks or "edges" created where different aged stands meet are preferred by many species; so, the observant sportsman learns to recognize stand characteristics and the types of game animals to be found in them.



Where to Find Birds

Mourning doves prefer to feed in areas of open, bare ground with scattered stands of seed-producing weeds. Such conditions are found in recently logged stands where disturbed soil encourages weed growth. Bobwhite quail feed in these same stands and in stands up to five years after cutting, where grassy-weedy vegetation has grown and provides cover. Quail also use adjacent older timber stands for escape cover from predators and hunters.

Woodcock are a fairly common but lightly-hunted winter visitor to the national forests. They prefer dense thickets for protection, but can be found in early morning and late evening feeding in the same young stands as quail.

Most waterfowl hunting associated with the national forests is on the larger reservoirs that lie within or adjacent to them. Sam Rayburn Reservoir is managed by the Corps of Engineers, Toledo Bend Reservoir is managed by Sabine River Authority, and Lake Conroe is under management of the San Jacinto River Authority. Contact those agencies concerning use of their waters, including the construction of hunting blinds. Some waterfowl hunting is available in river bottoms during high water periods.

Turkey Hunting

The U.S. Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National Wild Turkey Federation are working cooperatively in a restocking program to reintroduce wild turkeys on national forest lands.

The Caddo National Grasslands allow shotgun-only hunting in the spring. The LBJ National Grasslands has a fall and spring season for the Rio Grande turkey. Check the Texas Parks and Wildlife hunting guide for counties in the national forests that allow spring hunting.

Turkeys usually can be found in older timber stands that have some hardwoods, but they also need younger stands, especially during the breeding and brood-rearing seasons.

Small Animals

Cottontail rabbits can be found in the same habitat as quail. Gray squirrels and fox squirrels are the most popular small game animals in the national forests. Gray squirrels prefer stands of bottomland hardwoods 40 years of age or older. The trees in gray squirrel habitat must be old enough to produce consistent crops of acorns and similar food. Most major rivers and creeks that flow through the national forest have these hardwood stands within their floodplains.

Fox squirrels also prefer older age timber stands; however, they are generally found in the transition zone between the bottomlands and uplands where there is a mix of hardwood and pine, similar to turkey habitat. They can also be found in older pine stands that contain scattered nut-producing trees.

Large Animals

Deer hunting is a challenging sport and white-tailed deer can be found throughout the national forests. Deer are true edge species and do best where there is a mix of stands of various ages. The season will sometimes determine where you can find small concentrations of deer, such as in hardwood stands during acorn fall.

Small, scattered populations of wild or feral hogs live in the national forests. Although they are not classified as game animals, they provide some limited hunting opportunities, usually incidental to other types of hunting. Hogs are usually found in bottomlands.



Deer Stands

Deer stands may be used in the national forests and grasslands, but they must be portable and cannot be of a type that will deface or harm trees. Deer stands must be removed within 72 hours of placing one in the general forest or in a Wildlife Management Area. Since the forests and grasslands are open to public hunting, hunters cannot maintain exclusive rights to a hunting area.

Fishing

The national forests and grasslands provide fishing opportunities on numerous ponds and lakes, many of which are regularly stocked with fish. Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Toledo Bend Reservoir and Lake Conroe are known for excellent fishing but there are many other fine lakes to challenge anglers. Some of the larger lakes in the national forests include Red Hill, Ratcliff, Boykin Springs and Double Lake. In the national grasslands, Coffee Mill, Crockett, Fannin, Cottonwood and Black Creek Lake are favorites. Windmill Lake on the LBJ Grasslands is designated a fly fishing only lake. Most of these lakes also have developed recreation areas.

Texas fishing regulations and license requirements apply to all these waters.

Game on the Grasslands

The national grasslands provide favorable habitat for some of the small game animals found in the national forests. There is no commercial timber harvesting on the grasslands, and management is directed toward maintaining a stable or relatively non-changing vegetation type.

About 70 percent of the national grasslands is open prairie; the rest is wooded. Most of the wooded areas are in small clumps on the prairie and along the numerous small streams and drainages.

Cottontail rabbits, doves, wild turkeys and bobwhite quail are found throughout the grasslands and are usually hunted in the prairies or along the edge of the woods. Fox squirrels can be found in the woods adjacent to creeks and drainages. Gray squirrels live in some of the bottomland hardwoods of the Caddo National Grasslands.

Baiting

Baiting and hunting over baited areas to attract wildlife is not allowed in the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.



How to Recognize National Forest Land

Maps commonly show proclaimed national forest boundaries. However, all land within this boundary is not national forest land; some is privately owned. The land shown in green on the maps indicate national forest land.

Red paint and signs mark the boundaries between national forest land and private property. Recognition of these markings and boundary signs helps the visitor to be certain to stay on national forest land.

Visitors should comply with state law and the owner's rules when entering private land.

Entrance (portal) signs. These signs can be seen along major roads entering the national forests, usually on the first tract of government land encountered. Generally, portal signs are not used on low traffic roads.

Welcome signs. These signs are located on or just inside the boundaries or individual tracts of national forest land where the road enters. The sign will be oriented so that the land behind the sign is public land. Generally, they are not used on dead-end or woods roads or on small blocks of public land.

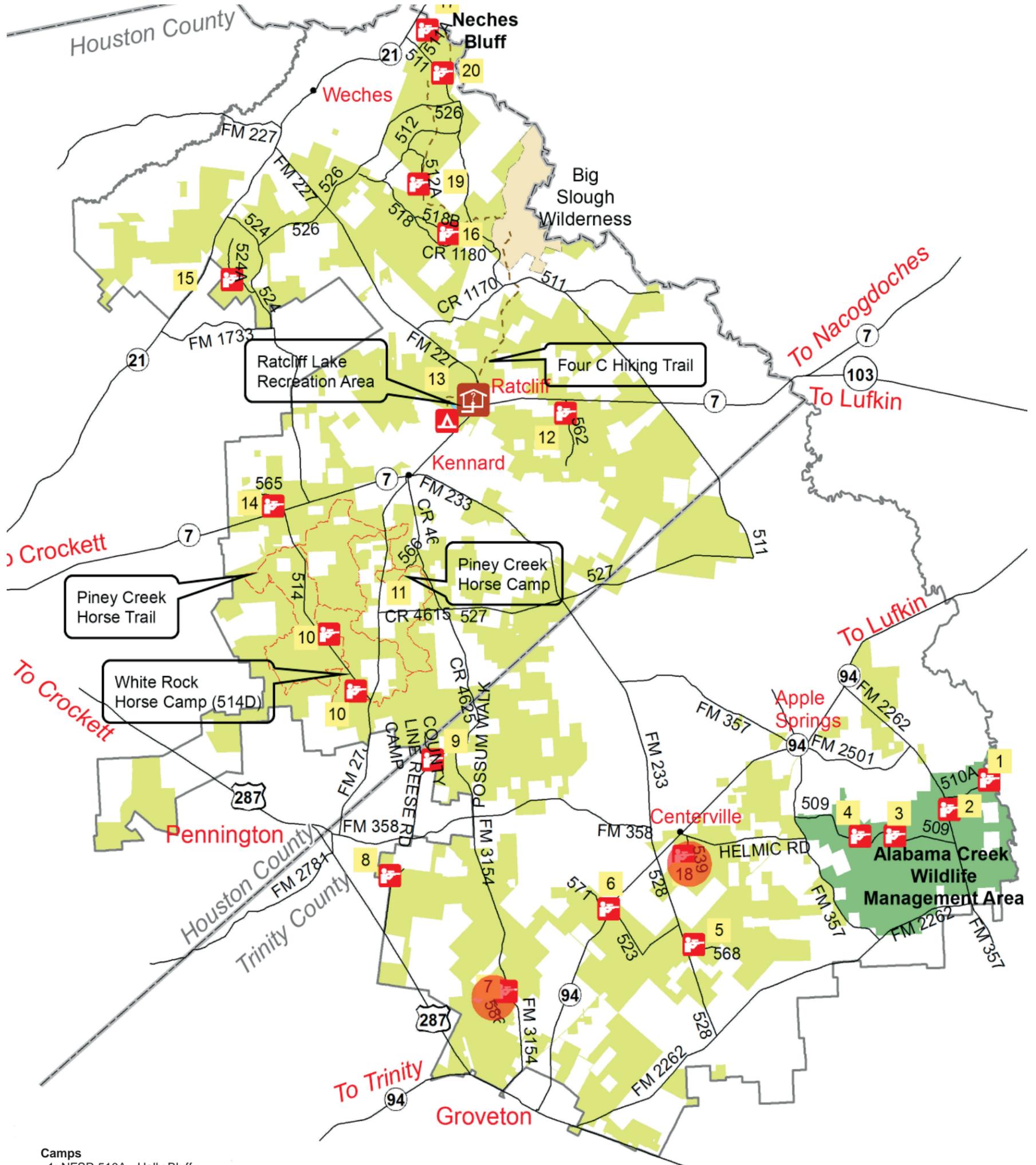
Upon entering woods on public land, welcome signs will not be present and the visitor should rely on property line markings and boundary signs.

Property line marking and boundary signs. The boundaries of individual national forest tracts adjacent to other ownerships are marked with brown and yellow property boundary signs.

The small metal boundary signs are fastened either to trees or posts located on the boundary line and at road crossings, and the signs are placed so that public land is behind the sign. Red paint spots on trees define the boundary line through woods.

While the majority of boundaries are identified and posted, occasionally visitors may encounter an area where signs have been vandalized or lines are not marked. In these cases, visitors should be alert to avoid accidentally trespassing on private land.

Davy Crockett National Forest



Camps

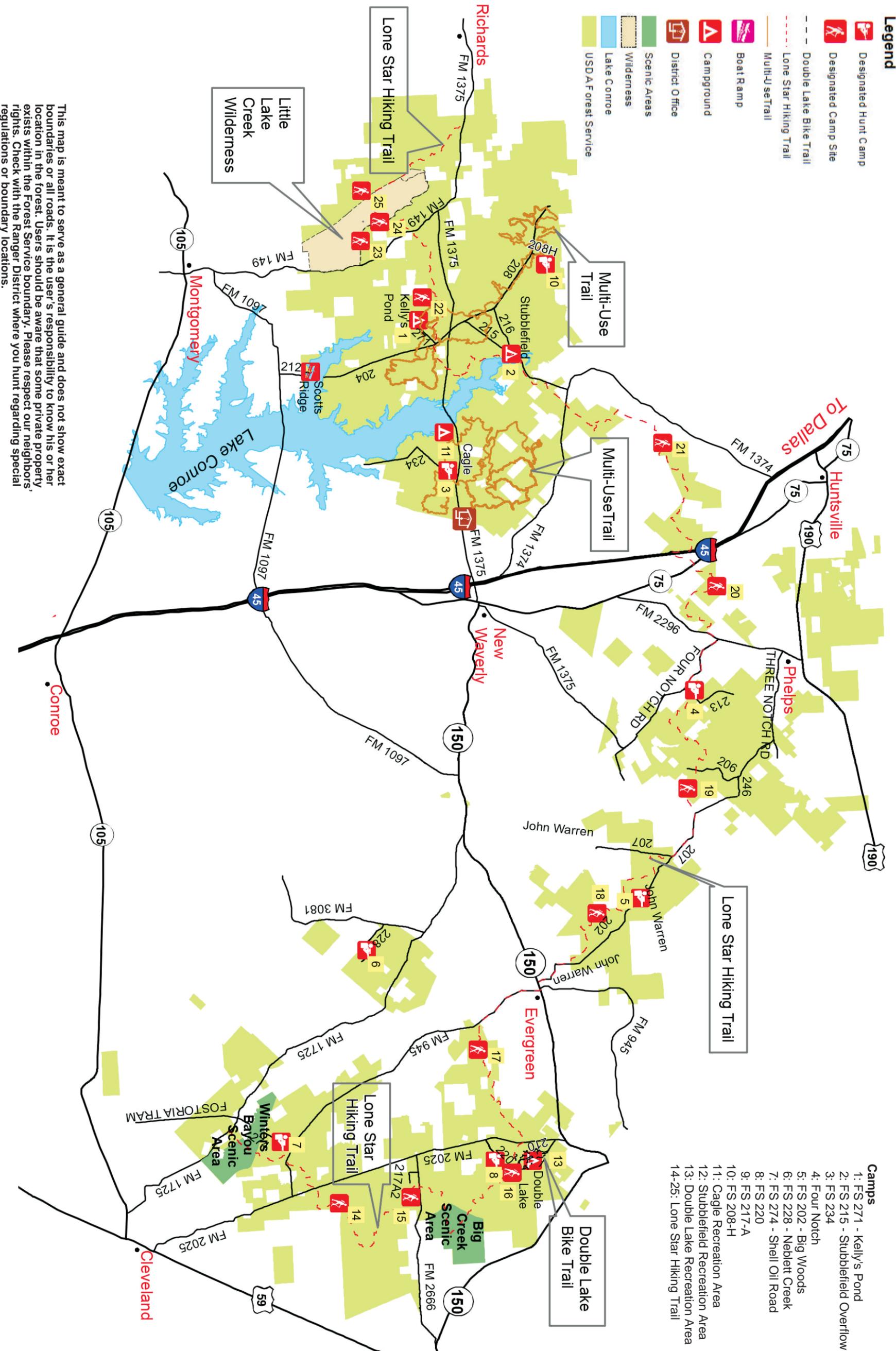
- 1: NFSR 510A - Holly Bluff
- 2: FM2262 - Slay Creek
- 3: NFSR 509 - Sandy Creek
- 4: NFSR 509C - Rock Hole
- 5: NFSR 568 - Longleaf
- 6: NFSR 571 - Piney
- 7: NFSR 586 - **CLOSED**
- 8: NFSR 557 - Pennington
- 9: NFSR 516 - County Line Camp
- 10: NFSR 514/514D - White Rock
- 11: NFSR 566 - Piney Creek Horse Camp
- 12: NFSR 562 - Bushy Creek
- 13: Ratcliff Recreation Area
- 14: NFSR 565 - Raines Morgan
- 15: NFSR 524A - Pine Springs
- 16: NFSR 518 B - Merkel Creek
- 17: NFSR 511A - Neches Bluff
- 18: NFSR 539 - **CLOSED**
- 19: NFSR 512A - Pond Camp
- 20: NFSR 511 - Neches Bluff #2

Legend

- Closed
- District Office
- Designated Campground
- Designated Hunter Camp
- Trails**
- Four C (4C's) Hiking Trail
- Piney Creek Horse Trail
- County
- Administration Boundary
- Big Slough Wilderness
- Wildlife Management Area
- USDA Forest Service

This map is meant to serve as a general guide and does not show exact boundaries or all roads. It is the user's responsibility to know his or her location in the forest. Users should be aware that some private property exists within the Forest Service boundary. Please respect our neighbors' rights. Check with the Ranger District where you hunt regarding special regulations or boundary locations.

Sam Houston National Forest



Contact Us

www.fs.usda.gov/texas



Angelina
National Forest
111 Walnut Ridge Road
Zavalla, TX 75980
936-897-1068



Davy Crockett
National Forest
18551 Hwy 7 East
Kennard, TX 75847
936-655-2299



Sabine
National Forest
5050 Hwy 21 East
Hemphill, TX 75948
409-625-1940
Toll Free 866-235-1750



Sam Houston
National Forest
394 FM 1375 West
New Waverly, TX 77358
936-344-6205
Toll Free 888-361-6908



Caddo/LBJ
National Grasslands
1400 US 81/287
P.O. Box 507
Decatur, TX 76234
940-627-5475



Forest Supervisor's
Office
National Forests &
Grasslands in Texas
2221 North Raguet St.
Lufkin, TX 75904
936-639-8501
For TTY: call 711 to be
connected to a Forest
Service number



Sam Rayburn Reservoir
U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Route 3, Box 486
Jasper, TX 75951
409-384-5716



Toledo Bend Reservoir
Sabine River Authority
Route 1, Box 270
Burkeville, TX 75932
409-565-2273



**Texas Parks & Wildlife
Department**
Antlerless Deer
Permit Questions
936-569-8547

District Office
Rt. 2 Box 535
Jasper, TX 75951
409-384-9572

District Office
2122 Old Henderson Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75702
903-593-5077



Be Aware, Be Safe

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- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Wear blaze orange in the woods.
- Make sure campfires are extinguished properly
- Remember, your safety is your responsibility.

Safety Notice

All hunters and those accompanying them must wear daylight fluorescent orange at any time when hunting, except when hunting turkey or migratory birds.

A minimum of 400 square inches of fluorescent orange must be visible (144 square inches on both the chest and back, and a daylight fluorescent orange cap or hat.)

All camping in the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine or Sam Houston National Forest or the Caddo National Grasslands must be in designated campsites or developed recreation areas from Sept. 15 through Feb. 1.

Hunters using the wildlife management areas (WMAs) are required to have the \$48 annual hunting permit to hunt deer, turkey, small game, waterfowl and feral hogs.

"It's the hunter's responsibility to know the regulations and game limits while hunting in national forests and grasslands," said Chris Crain, U.S. Forest Service patrol captain. "Hunters should check bag limits for the county where they are hunting and refer to this year's hunting booklets for information to avoid citations. No baiting for wildlife or hunting over baited areas is allowed on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas."

Portable deer stands are allowed in national forests and grasslands and are limited to 72 hours in one location. To prevent damage to trees, the stands must not be nailed to trees. When hunters fail to remove their deer stands, it causes damage to forest land and creates an expensive, time-consuming cleanup.

Vehicles should not be parked near gates or in areas that would impede traffic and block roads.

For additional information on this year's hunting season, please contact the Forest Service District Ranger offices.

Hunters may also visit the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas website at www.fs.fed.usda.gov/texas and review information under the "Hunting 2012-2013" link.

Wildlife Management Areas

Five Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are designated in the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Hunting is allowed in WMAs but the rules and regulations are slightly different and hunters must have the appropriate hunting permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or any location that sells state hunting license. Be aware of boundaries.

The WMAs are:

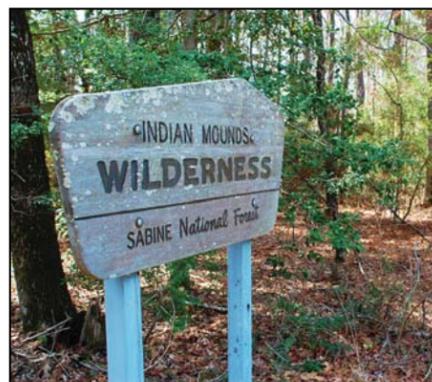
Angelina National Forest	
Bannister	25,658 acres
Davy Crockett National Forest	
Alabama Creek	14,561 acres
Sabine National Forest	
Moore Plantation	26,455 acres
Caddo National Grassland	
Caddo	16,150 acres
Sam Houston National Forest	
Sam Houston	162,984 acres



Off-Highway Vehicles

Off-highway vehicles are only allowed on designated trails.

The Sam Houston National Forest has the only designated OHV trail.



Wilderness Areas

Wilderness areas are managed to protect their character and provide great opportunities for hunting, camping, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities. All roads in wilderness areas are closed and motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited.

The five wilderness areas in the National Forests in Texas are:

Angelina National Forest	
Turkey Hill	5,473 acres
Upland Island	13,331 acres
Davy Crockett National Forest	
Big Slough	3,639 acres
Sabine National Forest	
Indian Mounds	12,369 acres
Sam Houston National Forest	
Little Lake Creek	3,855 acres

Specific information, regulations, permit application instructions and maps of Wildlife Management Areas are available from the U.S. Forest Service or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Registration and information stations are located at major access points to the areas.

Know the Rules

The regulations for legal species, weapons, season dates and bag limits are issued by the State of Texas on a county-by-county basis.

Regulation booklets are available where hunting licenses are sold and at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offices.

The rules in this guide are general in scope. More detailed, local rules and regulations may be obtained from the district ranger's office.

Target Practice

It is legal to target shoot in the general forest, with the exception of the Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands, as long as you do not shoot from, down, or across a road; you have a sufficient backstop (not a live tree); and pick up your trash (targets, empty shells, etc.) when you leave. Target shooting is prohibited in the Wildlife Management Areas on all units of the NFGT: Angelina NF, Davy Crockett NF, Sabine NF, Sam Houston NF, Caddo-LBJ NG.

Camping

Developed recreation areas offer conveniences such as showers, restrooms and picnic facilities. Primitive camping is allowed except in designated scenic areas or where otherwise prohibited.

During hunting season, camping is permitted only in designated hunter camps or in developed recreation areas.

Camping in the national forests and grasslands is limited to 14 days during a 30-day time period.

Contact ranger offices for more information on camp locations.

Maps

Maps and general information about the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas can be obtained from ranger offices or the forest supervisor's office.

Order forms are available on the Web at: www.fs.usda.gov/texas and click on the maps link.

Or call 936-639-8501 for information.

Snakes and Insects

Copperhead, Canebrake rattlesnake, Cottonmouth, Coral and Pigmy rattlesnake are poisonous snakes native to this area. Insect repellent is recommended to protect against mosquitoes, ticks and chiggers.

Leave No Trace

When you leave your camp, please be courteous and take your trash with you.

The Leave No Trace principles are:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For more information on Leave No Trace, visit <https://int.org/>

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information on hunting in Texas, visit

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/texas/hunting-faq where you will find answers to frequently asked questions.

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R8-RG 411 October 2015