



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Tecolote Tract

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

OVERVIEW

The Tecolote tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGV NWR) is located in Hidalgo County, 20 miles west/northwest of Raymondville on Jesus Maria/County Line Road. The Tecolote tract is 1,119 acres and bordered by KingRanch/County Line Road to the east, and the old Hunke Ranch to the north. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife acquired the Tecolote property in 2015 and it remains under our care. The purpose of public hunts on the Schaleben tract is to provide compatible wildlife dependent public uses on refuge lands.

HUNT INFORMATION

Selected hunters are recommended to become familiar with the Refuge **Special Regulations** and the Tecolote tract prior to hunting. It is recommended that permit recipients (hunters) take advantage of the “scouting period”. The scouting period begins the Monday before an awarded hunt up to the day of the hunt. You may set up your hunting method during this scouting period. The Exotic only hunts begin on Thursday morning and end Sunday at sunset, State of Texas legal shooting hours for game animals applies.

Hunts are primitive and assistance from Refuge personnel to retrieve or track game will not be available; therefore, make harvest plans accordingly.

Due to the remote area and lack of facilities, there is no check station. Hunters are not required to check-in or check-out, but must not remain on the Tecolote tract for more than one hour past sunset. Hunters must contact the dispatch office (956-784-7520) if a late harvest or tracking a wounded animal will keep you on the Tecolote tract past one hour after sunset.

There is no camping allowed, no cleaning facilities, no game storage and no restrooms. Be prepared to quarter, process, pack your game in the field, and take to your vehicle. The nearest town with stores, restaurants and hotels is Raymondville (20 miles to the east) on Hwy 186, or Edinburg (25 miles to the south) on Highway 281.

All hunters must have a valid State of Texas hunting license.

Only hunters with permits are allowed on the Refuge; except a non-hunting adult supervising a youth hunter. Hunters must only use the means appropriate to the special hunt category for which they were drawn:

- Exotic only hunts, only centerfire shoulder-fired rifles are allowed.

Vehicular access is restricted to established county roads and parking lots. Disabled hunters with mobility impairments are encouraged to contact our office (956-784-7500) in advance for more information on access to the hunts. Proof of disability is required.

Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts, or other natural objects is prohibited.



Special Regulations – Tecolote Tract

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 550 national wildlife refuges across the United States and its territories. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands for the conservation of wildlife for the benefit of the American people. Properly managed hunts can benefit wildlife populations while providing recreational opportunities for hunters. The number of hunters desired for each hunt period may be increased or decreased to address significant changes in population levels.

Special Hunt Regulations

The special regulations below supplement the General regulations that govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations- Title 50-Chapter 1-Subchapter C. Refuge Hunting is also in accordance with applicable State of Texas General Hunting Rules & Regulations, Public Hunting Regulations and seasons.

You may access the Refuge during your permitted scouting and hunt period one hour before legal hunt time and one hour after legal hunt time; however, you may not hunt outside of the legal hunt hours.

Applicants must be at least 8 years old. Youth hunters under 17 years old must apply with a supervising adult that is at least 18 years old.

We restrict hunt participants to include the permitted hunter and one non-hunting supervising adult for youth hunters. All participants are required to wear hunter orange according to Texas State regulations (400 square inches that is visible on the chest, back and head).

For Youth Only Hunts, only the youth hunter is allowed to hunt.

Hunters must field-dress all harvested big game in the field.

We allow you to use bicycles on designated routes of travel. You may use non-motorized dollies or carts off improved roads or trails to haul carcasses to a parking area.

We allow the use of rattling horns.

There are no antler restrictions on bucks.

Your scouting period begins the Monday before your hunt up to the day of your hunt. We allow freestanding blinds or tripods. They may be set up during this period and taken down by the end of your hunt date. All stands must be marked or tagged with your permit number.

Prohibited Acts

You may not use nails, wires, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree to which a metal object has been driven to support yourself.

You may not use or possess dogs, horses or mules on the Refuge during your hunt.

You may not discharge weapons for any purpose other than to take or attempt to take an animal listed in your permit during your hunt.

A reasonable effort must be made to retrieve any killed animal listed under the species and bag limit section.

You may not use flagging or any other type of marker.

You may not cut or trim vegetation or brush to create shooting lanes or natural vegetative blinds.

You may not disturb or remove plants, rocks, artifacts, or other natural objects.

You may not use big game decoys.

We prohibit the use of motorized vehicles.

We prohibit the use or possession of alcohol while on the Refuge (this includes parking lots).

You may not be under the influence of alcohol or consume an alcoholic beverage while engaged in hunting activities, or publicly consume or display an alcoholic beverage.

We prohibit overnight camping, fires, littering and dumping, to include the Refuge parking areas and county roads.

We prohibit the use or possession of bait while on the Refuge (including parking lots).

Hunting over bait on the Refuge is prohibited.

Launching, landing, or disturbing of wildlife by aircraft (drones) on the Refuge is prohibited.

We reserve the right to revoke or deny any permit for up to five years for the following conditions: lack of public safety to a degree that may endanger oneself or other persons or property, multiple regulation violations, aggressive, abusive or intimidating demeanor to any employee of the United States or of any local or State government engaged in official business, or with any private person engaged in the pursuit of a permitted activity on the Refuge.

Hunting License and Permits

We require hunters to pay a fee to obtain a Refuge hunt permit and vehicle pass. Hunters must display the vehicle pass on the windshield or dashboard while participating in the designated scouting and/or hunt.

While engaged in a Permitted Refuge Hunt Activity, the Permittee shall be in possession of the permit or other authorizing documents and shall, upon request by an authorized local, state or federal law enforcement officer, display the permit authorizing their presence and activity on the Refuge and shall furnish any other licenses and identification documents as may be requested.

Species and Bag Limits

Exotic only hunt legal species and bag limits include Nilgai Antelope, Feral hogs, and all other exotic ungulates only (no limit).

Firearms and Ammunition Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Only the permitted hunter is allowed to hunt or discharge the applicable legal firearm, Archery or crossbow.

For Exotic only hunts, only centerfire shoulder-fired rifles are allowed.

All firearms must be unloaded and cased while in the vehicle.

General Information and What to expect on your hunt

There is no hunter check-in or checkout station for the permitted hunt.

Permitted hunters are on their own and are recommended to become familiar with the Refuge Special Regulations and the Refuge Property prior to hunting.

Hunters, hunting the Tecolote tract may park in either the north or south parking area; however, the path of traffic and access to Federal and private property must not be blocked.

Inappropriately parked vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

Hunts are primitive, assistance from Refuge personnel to retrieve or track game will not be available; therefore, make harvest plans accordingly.

Be prepared to quarter, process, pack your game in the field, and take to your vehicle.

There are no restroom or game processing facilities on the Refuge.

For Additional Information Contact
South Texas Refuge Complex Lower
Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife
Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, TX 78516
(956) 784-7500
www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley/visit/hunting

Accidents or Injury

For emergencies or to report violations, contact Dispatch and Refuge Law Enforcement Officers at (956) 784-7520.



Equal Opportunity Access Disabled hunters with mobility impairments are encouraged to contact our office in advance for more information on access to the hunts. Proof of disability is required.

Refuge-specific hunting regulations may be amended or new conditions imposed at any time during the hunting season when unpredictable changes occur in wildlife populations, habitat conditions or in other factors affecting a refuge's wildlife resources. Changes in refuge-specific hunting regulations made under the conditions noted in this paragraph can be in force only for the one season to which the changes apply.

Tecolote Tract (1119 acres)

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

-  Hunter Parking Area
-  Tecolote Tract

Hunter Parking Area

Hunter Parking Area

Google Earth

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