

PROHIBITED ACTS

Important – In addition to the other applicable statutes or regulations, a person on Public Hunting Lands commits an offense if that person:

General Access to the Units

- fails to possess a valid permit, stamp or license;
- possesses a firearm, archery equipment, crossbow, trap, snare, or other device for taking wildlife resources on public hunting lands and does not have the permit required to take wildlife resources on the concerned unit;
- enters an area identified by boundary signs as a limited use or restricted zone and fails to obey the restrictions on public use posted at the unit or contained within this Map Booklet;
- enters an area identified by boundary signs or on the unit map as a restricted zone;
- fails to perform on-site registration or report to a departmental check station as required for certain units;
- trespasses on or shoots into adjacent privately-owned property without the landowner's permission;
- enters the hunting area when access is restricted due to hunts by Special Permit.

Alcohol

- is under the influence of alcohol or consumes an alcoholic beverage while engaged in hunting activities, or publicly consumes or displays an alcoholic beverage;

Hunter Orange

- fails to visibly wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material with orange headwear and at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back during daylight hours at times when hunting with firearms is permitted. Exempt from these requirements are: (1) authorized department personnel and landowner employees, (2) persons hunting turkey or migratory birds, (3) persons within the enclosed passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, (4) persons within a designated campground, designated vehicle parking area, designated boat launching facility or departmental check station, and (5) persons other than hunters on COE properties.

NOTICE to archery hunters and recreational users: You must wear hunter orange during daylight hours at any time when firearm hunting for any species is authorized on the unit. Many units allow firearm hunting year-round for rabbits, and firearm hunts for squirrel and dove often are conducted concurrently with archery deer hunts.

Hunting

- takes any species, sex, or type of wildlife resource not designated as legal game as shown in the LEGAL GAME LEGEND of the unit map within this Map Booklet;
- takes or attempts to take a game animal or game bird other than during legal shooting hours of the open seasons and by the means and methods established by the Statewide Hunting and Fishing Proclamation and the Migratory Game Bird Proclamation, or as otherwise provided for a specific unit in this Map Booklet;
- takes or attempts to take a furbearing animal or predatory animal other than during the open seasons and by the means and methods established by the Statewide Furbearing Animal and Trapping Proclamation or as otherwise provided for a specific unit in this Map Booklet;

- takes or attempts to take a feral hog, rabbit or hare other than during daylight hours of the open seasons and by the means and methods provided for a specific unit in this Map Booklet;
- takes an antlerless deer during the general open season on wildlife management areas jointly managed by TPWD and the U.S. Forest Service (902, 903, 904, and 905) unless that person possesses on their person a USFS antlerless permit, if they are required.

Baiting and Trapping

- baits wildlife (see DEFINITIONS) on public hunting lands, except when performed in conjunction with the use of traps or snares for taking furbearers and predatory animals, or as otherwise authorized by the department for a specific unit, activity and time period;
- hunts over a baited area except as authorized by the department for a specific unit, activity, and time period;
- uses a trap or snare to take feral hogs or any wildlife resource except as authorized on specific units;
- uses a trap or snare to take furbearers or predatory animals, except as authorized on specific units during the period from November 1 through March 31;
- fails to visibly and legibly mark each trap or snare with the document number of the trapper's current Annual Public Hunting Permit;
- sets a trap or snare within 50 yards of a designated road or public hunting lands boundary or within 400 yards of a designated campsite;
- uses deadfalls or lethal chemicals for taking wildlife resources;
- uses recorded or electric calling devices to take wildlife resources other than furbearers and predatory animals or except as provided for any Special Migratory Conservation season;

NOTICE: The use of scent lures simulating animal odors is not considered baiting.

Means and Methods

- possesses a loaded firearm within or on a motor vehicle except as provided for a disabled person;
- possesses a loaded firearm within a designated campsite, designated vehicle parking area, designated boat launching facility or departmental check station;
- discharges a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow from, onto, along, or across a designated road or designated campsite;
- uses or displays a firearm or archery equipment in an obviously unsafe or threatening manner;
- possesses buckshot on public hunting lands, except as authorized by the department for a specific unit, activity and time period;
- uses or possesses shotshells or loose shot other than non-toxic shot while hunting waterfowl;
- uses a firearm that utilizes rimfire ammunition in taking deer;
- uses a rifle, handgun, or a shotgun with slugs to take a game bird;
- uses a firearm to take deer during the archery only deer season;

PROHIBITED ACTS (CONTINUED)

Important – In addition to the other applicable statutes or regulations, a person on Public Hunting Lands commits an offense if that person:

NOTICE: The prohibited acts and other public hunting regulations do not in any way restrict a person having a concealed handgun license from possessing a concealed handgun, loaded or unloaded, on public hunting lands in strict accordance with the concealed handgun laws.

Vehicles, Airboats, and Horses

- enters a unit of public hunting lands with an equine (horse, mule or burro) unless that person has in their immediate possession a completed VS Form 10-11 (Texas Animal Health Commission) showing that the equine has a negative Coggin's test within the previous 12 months. The documentation required by this paragraph shall be made available for inspection upon the request of any department employee acting within the scope of official duties.
- uses or possesses a horse, mule, burro or any type of riding stock or pack animal on public hunting lands at any time, except on units 901, 902, 903, 904, and 905; or as provided in this Map Booklet for a specific unit or in accordance with group equestrian events which are scheduled and authorized by the department;
- uses or possesses a horse, mule, burro or any type of riding stock or pack animal on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands that allows equestrian use and does not possess either the APH or LPU Permit;
- uses a motor vehicle, ORV, OHV, or ATV on a road, in an area, or at a time when such use is restricted to disabled persons (see DEFINITIONS), unless that person is in possession of a state-issued disabled parking placard or license plate or assisting such a person (see pages xiii-xiv for USFS restrictions);
- does not confine motor vehicle use to designated roads, except parking is permitted on the shoulder of or immediately adjacent to designated roads, and as provided for a disabled person or for a person directly assisting a disabled person (see USFS restrictions); NOTE: persons directly assisting a disabled person must remain within normal voice distance.
- hunts from a motor vehicle, except as provided for a disabled person;
- parks or leaves a motor vehicle unattended anywhere other than in designated parking areas, if parking areas have been designated;
- operates an all terrain vehicle (ATV), off-highway vehicle (OHV) or off-road vehicle (ORV) on public hunting lands and is not (1) a disabled person or directly assisting a disabled person, (2) on a designated ATV, OHV, or ORV road or trail, (3) otherwise authorized by the department to do so, or (4) compliant with the safety requirements for ATV use as set by the Texas Department of Public Safety (ATV only); (see USFS restrictions);
- operates an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) on public lands without the required OHV decal; decal requirements are waived for disabled persons;
- uses an airboat within the boundaries of public hunting lands, except as provided by executive order or by written permission of the department;

Dogs

- uses a dog to hunt deer or turkey;
- uses a dog to hunt feral hogs and other exotic mammals unless specifically allowed for in the Legal Game box on the unit maps;
- uses a dog to hunt furbearers or predatory animals during daylight hours within an open general season for deer on public hunting lands;
- fails to keep all dogs in designated campsites confined or leashed;

Hunting Blinds

- constructs or emplaces a hunting blind, stand, tower, or platform within 50 yards of any designated road, marked unit boundary, or designated campsite or within 300 yards of an existing blind on Caddo Lake;
- constructs a permanent blind, stand, tower, or platform (except as provided to maintain existing permanent blinds on Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area);
- leaves a hunting blind, stand, tower, or platform in place for more than 72 hours or uses metal nails, spikes, screws, or bolts to attach such structures to the timber;

Camping

- camps or builds a fire anywhere other than in a designated campsite, except on units 901, 902, 903, 904, and 905 where this restriction applies only from the day prior to the opening of the archery deer season through the day following the close of the general deer season;
- causes, creates, or contributes to excessive or disturbing sounds beyond the person's immediate campsite between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.;
- establishes a camp and leaves it unattended for a period of longer than 24 hours;
- establishes a camp for more than 14 consecutive days on the same unit of public hunting lands, or for more than 21 days in a 30-day period;

General Conduct

- fails to deposit refuse in designated containers or remove it from the unit;
- writes on, scratches, or otherwise defaces natural features, signs, buildings, or other structures;
- disturbs or removes plants, wood, rocks, gravel, sand, soil, shell, artifacts, or other objects from public hunting lands without proper authorization;
- fails to obey regulations posted at the unit or listed in this Map Booklet;
- fails to comply with instructions on permits or area/unit leaflets; or refuses to follow directives given by departmental personnel in the discharge of official duties.
- engage in any activity not specifically authorized by order of the executive director or regulation of the commission;
- leaves feathers or bird parts within designated parking areas or near livestock watering facilities.

See pages xiii-xiv for Additional Restrictions in Effect on U.S. Forest Service Units and pages 136-139 for more information.