

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 dominant feature of the refuge is Lacassine Pool, which was created by enclosing a 16,000-acre marsh with a low levee. The refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of fish and wildlife, including several game species. Wildlife present include ducks, geese, deer, and alligators.

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 Lacassine Bayou, Streater'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 fish 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 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 refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations.

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

Only portable blinds or stands may be used and may be set up one week prior to the start of a season. Blinds and stands must be removed by the last day of the season and each split of a split season. A blind or stand left overnight during a season may be used by any hunter on a first-come, first-served basis. 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. is prohibited except for Chinese tallow trees.

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.

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

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

There is a federal order prohibiting waterfowl hunting on a portion of Lacassine Bayou where it flows through the refuge. Only the area of the refuge south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is open to hunting waterfowl (see map on reverse). Only ducks, geese, and coots may be taken subject to the following conditions:

Season

Hunting is permitted on Wednesday through Sunday of the State 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. Hunting hours end at noon each day. Hunters may scout during the hunting seasons until one hour after sunset but shotguns must be unloaded and either encased or dismantled during non-hunting hours.

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.



Access

Motorized boats may be used only in canals and bayous. Horsepower is not restricted for motors used in these waters. Airboats may not be used on the refuge. Access into refuge marshes and ponds is restricted to walking, poling, paddling, or rowing. Motors may not be used in refuge marshes. Boats left in the hunting area must be removed by the last day of each season.

Weapon Possession

Only firearms legal for hunting waterfowl are permitted. 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 by the last day of each season and each split of a split season.

Youth Hunt

A one day youth hunt will be held.

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 one deer of either sex per day. State season limits apply.

Closed Areas

Hunting is prohibited in the headquarters area (see map on reverse). 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 prior to the season.

Access

Airboats may not be used on the refuge. Boats may not be left inside the refuge overnight.

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 after October 15.**

Unit A

Only boats without motors may be used in Unit A. Boats are prohibited after October 15.

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.

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 under a special handicapped permit.

Harvest Survey

Hunters are requested to weigh their deer and provide the information requested on the harvest report at Gary's Landing near the refuge headquarters.

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

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.

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. **All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on the refuge.**

Swimming

Swimming is prohibited on the refuge.

Lacassine

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations & Permit 1998-99



All Bowhunters must possess a Bowhunter Education Certification.

**Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Permit 1998-99**

I have read and understand the refuge regulations.

Signature _____

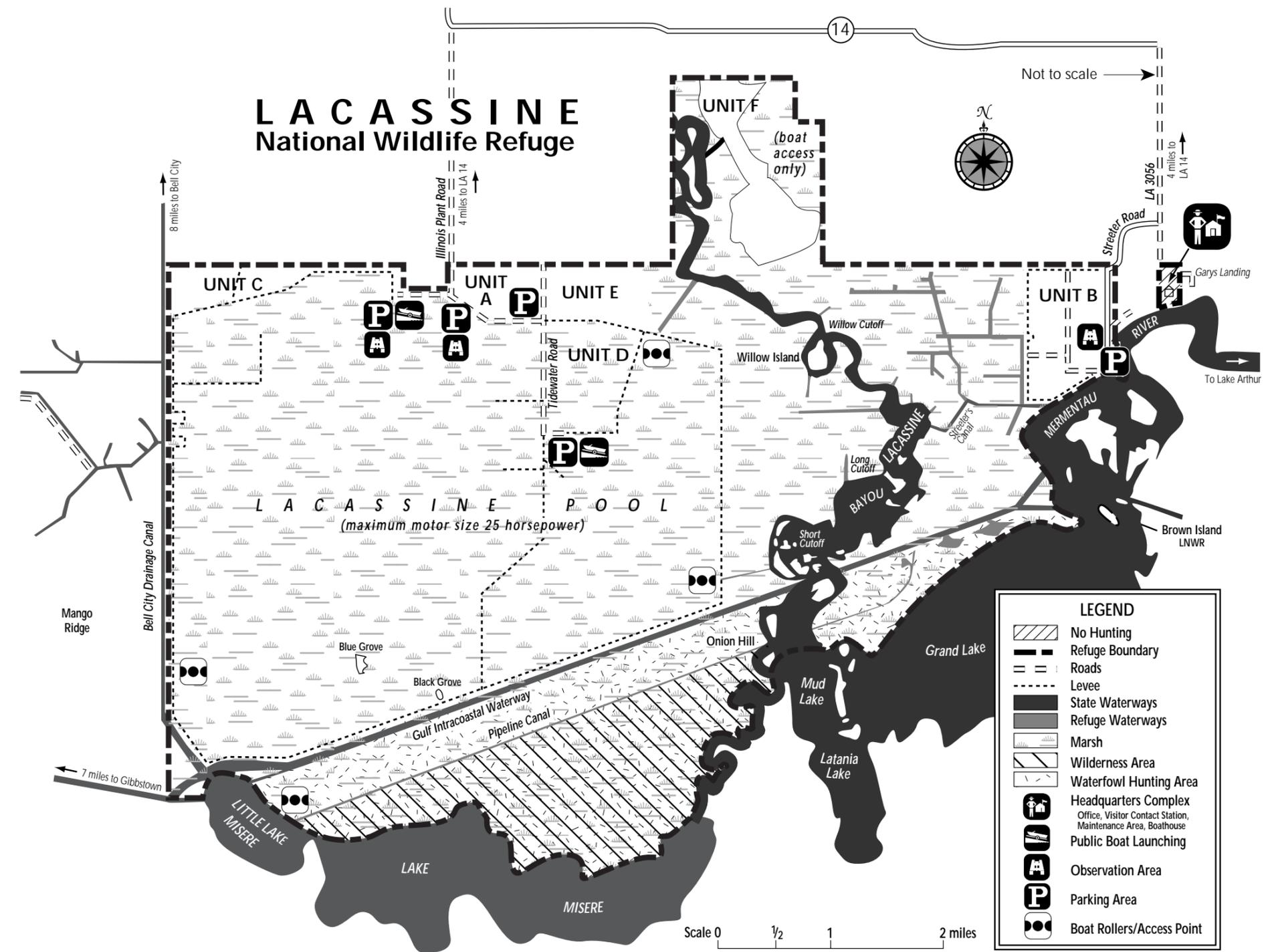
Date _____

Permits are not transferable.
(cut out if desired)

Lacassine
National Wildlife Refuge
209 Nature Road
Lake Arthur, Louisiana 70549
318/774 5923
<http://www.fws.gov/r4eao/nwr/lcs.html>

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

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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 without authorization.

Alcoholic Beverages Federal law prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting on national wildlife refuges.

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.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources 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.

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 hunting area. This is the only area of the refuge where waterfowl hunting is allowed.

