

# Whitney & Aquilla Lakes Hunting Policy 2014-2015

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## AREAS

Permitted public hunting is available on approximately 14,000 acres in parts of Bosque County and Hill County. Hunting is not the exclusive use of these areas. Exercise caution when accessing these areas as some parts may be used as cattle grazing leases, used by hikers, equestrian riders, bird watchers, etc. It is the hunter's responsibility to become familiar with the area and the limits of public lands. Hunting on permitted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public land does not give one the right to cross or access private property. The hunting areas of Whitney/Aquilla Lakes are broken into individually numbered zones. These zones are separated for tracking harvest numbers and hunter density ratios. **Special hunting areas:** These areas will be marked as special hunting areas for sponsored hunts put on by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These areas identified will be closed to hunting the first 14 days of the general season in November or as posted.

## PERMITS

NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED TO ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 12. All hunters must obtain a new permit each year. Permit periods will be concurrent with the Texas Parks and Wildlife hunting license renewal dates. This requirement applies to all hunters regardless of season or game hunted. A single permit is good for all zones and all legal game identified on the website during the permit period. Permit requires application, a valid state hunting license, hunter safety card or proof of hunter safety course, signed liability waiver and a valid driver's license. Returning hunters must also complete a hunter survey from the previous season by the specified deadline of June 1. Hunters should visit the [Whitney Lake website](#) for more information. The [Whitney Lake hunting website](#) will allow hunters that have completed their survey to register online and complete a hunter activity report as well as generate their own permit and vehicle tag. Hunters without access to the internet or first time hunters may register for a permit by sending a copy of the required documentation and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Whitney Lake Office, 285 CR 3602, Clifton, TX 76634. **No applications via fax will be accepted.** You may register in person at the Whitney Lake Office, at the west end of the dam on State Hwy 22 in Laguna Park, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. All permitted hunters will receive a permit card and a vehicle tag. Hunters must have permit card on their person and vehicle tag visible in the windshield when hunting at Whitney & Aquilla Lakes. By accepting this card hunters acknowledge receipt and understanding of hunting regulations and applicable state laws. Hunting without a valid hunting permit will constitute trespassing.

## HUNTER SAFETY/EDUCATION COURSE

The State of Texas requires every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born after September 2, 1971, to successfully complete a Hunter Education training course. The basic hunter education information is available on the [Texas Parks and Wildlife website](#).

## AGE REQUIREMENTS

- NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED TO ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 12.
- Persons under the age of 17 must be accompanied by a “permitted” adult 17 years of age or older. Age 12 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course, or you must be accompanied\* while hunting.
- Persons 17 years of age and older must sign the Corps of Engineers Waiver of Liability statement and meet one of the following:
  - Successfully complete a hunter education course.
  - Purchase a “Hunter Education Deferral” and you must be **accompanied\*** while hunting.
  - Or be exempt by Texas State Law in which you were born before September 2, 1971.
- **Accompanied\*** means: While hunting, by a person who is at least 17, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2, 1971) and you must be within normal voice control. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting. Certifications from other states or the U.S. military will be accepted. Concealed handgun permits do not satisfy this requirement. TPWD one-time safety certification waivers are honored.

## BLAZE ORANGE

All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange above the waist (at least 144 square inches must be visible on both the chest and back) and some type of orange head wear when walking in a designated hunting area. Persons hunting deer, turkey, or feral hog during state archery only season and persons hunting turkey, waterfowl, or migratory birds may remove the orange outerwear when they reach their blind or immediate hunting area. No other exceptions will be made.

## AUTHORIZED WEAPONS

Deer hunting is restricted to archery only. Crossbows are permitted. Shotguns are authorized for hunting other game during legal seasons in areas open for hunting. Anyone hunting with a shotgun may not use, or possess any shot larger than #2. The use of non-toxic USFW approved shot is required for waterfowl hunting. The use of

lead shot is strictly prohibited. All weapons **MUST** be unloaded when transported to, from and between hunting sites. Target practice or the "sighting in" of any weapon is strictly prohibited. **Rifles, handguns and muzzleloaders are prohibited.**

## **FEEDING/BAITING**

Installation of feeders is prohibited. Hand scattering of corn or feed and use of feed or mineral blocks are allowed. It is illegal to hunt migratory game birds in a baited area. Construction of feeder pens is prohibited.

## **USE OF CALLS**

The use of distress calls, whether electronic, manual, or windblown, to attract any species of wildlife for any purpose is **PROHIBITED**. Non-electronic duck or goose calls are permitted during waterfowl hunting. Rattling horns and grunt tubes are permitted. Manual or electronic turkey calls are permitted during turkey season.

## **600 FOOT BUFFER**

Hunting is prohibited anywhere signs are posted stating "No Hunting" as well as within 600 feet of adjoining land with occupied dwellings or within 600 feet of the boundaries of developed parks.

## **HUNTING BLINDS & GAME CAMERAS**

Natural hunting blinds made of loose materials or portable blinds are authorized for hunting deer or waterfowl. No standing vegetation, live or dead, may be cut for any purpose. Hunting blinds may not be built in, nailed or screwed to trees. Tree stands are restricted to portable, non-bark penetrating types only. Stands must be removed when not in actual use. Hunting blinds must be removed and transported after each hunt. The abandonment of property is prohibited and will result in the items being confiscated. Screw in or nail in tree steps and spikes are prohibited. Game cameras may be used but **MUST** be removed at the end of each hunt. Any items left will be confiscated.

## **SPORT CHASING/TRAPPING**

Dogs may be used to hunt rabbits, squirrels, game birds and migratory game birds in compliance with Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations. Any hunter using dogs in legal hunting activities must exercise control over their dog(s). **SPORT CHASING IS PROHIBITED**. Sport chasing is defined as using or allowing dogs to pursue, harass, chase, catch, injure, or kill wildlife. **TRAPPING OR SNARING GAME OR FURBEARERS IS PROHIBITED.**

## **LEGAL GAME/SEASONS**

Legal game that are allowed to be pursued on permitted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands includes dove, squirrel, rabbit, waterfowl, turkey, white-tailed deer and feral hogs. Hunting seasons and bag limits are determined by the State of Texas. All state hunting laws apply on Corps of Engineers managed lands with the exception of crossbows being limited to the disabled with a permit only and the hunter safety being required for all permitted hunters. Furbearers and non-game species may not be hunted or taken.

## **CAMPING**

Camping is not allowed within the hunting areas or at access points. Camping is available only in designated campsites in public parks at Whitney Lake. No camping is permitted at Aquilla Lake.

## **VEHICLES/PARKING**

All vehicles must be parked at the designated access points identified on the map or at a boat ramp if accessing the area by boat. Vehicles should not be parked blocking gates. All vehicles must visibly display the vehicle parking tag while parked in the area. It is a violation of federal regulations to drive a vehicle through, around or beyond a restrictive sign, recognizable barricade, fence, or traffic control barrier. Use of off-road vehicles is prohibited in hunting areas. Unauthorized use of vehicles or ATV's may constitute trespassing and/or revocation of hunting permit.

## **HUNTER SURVEYS**

Each permitted hunter must complete an online or printable hunter activity survey. Surveys must be entered by June 1 even if you did not hunt during the season. These surveys will be used to generate a hunter success report that will be available to interested hunters. Hunters are required to record the gender of all game taken such as: waterfowl, white-tailed deer, feral hogs and wild turkeys, while hunting on Whitney and Aquilla Lake hunting units. Failure to record such information may result in a hunter being blocked the following season. Failure to complete a hunter activity survey will result in the hunter being blocked the following hunting season.

## **VIOLATIONS**

Violators of any of these provisions are subject to a fine and/or loss of hunting privileges. By accepting a hunting permit, hunters agree that they have been furnished a copy of the rules, understand its entirety and agree to comply with all applicable state and federal laws.

## INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Whitney Lake Office at (254) 622-3332 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This condensed hunting policy statement may not be all-inclusive. If a specific question or situation is not addressed here, contact the Whitney Lake Office for more information or clarification. Hunting information may also be obtained by visiting the [Whitney Lake website](#).

### Whitney Lake area descriptions:

- H1: Chisholm Trail Area. From the southwest boundary of Chisholm Trail Park to the Hwy 174 bridge. Is clearly fenced and signed.
- H2: Hwy 174 Area. From the SE side of the Hwy 174 bridge along the east lake shore to the railroad bridge. Is clearly fenced and signed.
- H3: Nolan River area. From the railroad bridge to the old Nolan River Park boat ramp. Is clearly fenced and signed.
- H4: Blum Area. From the old Nolan River Park boat ramp, along the N/ NW shore of the Nolan River to Hwy 933 just outside Blum. Is completely fenced.
- H5: Adair Springs Area. From Hwy 933 in Blum along the S/SE side of the Nolan River to the confluence of the Nolan River and the Brazos. Is partially fenced.
- H6: Steiner Valley Area. From the end of H5 at the confluence of the Nolan river and Brazos, along the east shore of the lake, to the marked access point on HCR 1145 LP. Is clearly fenced and signed.
- H7: Bear Creek Area. From the marked access point on HCR 1145 LP to the closed Old Fort Park off of FM 2604. Is partially fenced and signed.
- H8: Cedar Creek Area. On the N side of FM 2604 at the Cedar Creek Bridge. Is completely fenced and signed.
- H9: McCown Valley Area. From south end of McCown Valley Park to the north side of Lake Whitney State Park on FM 1244 just outside the city of Whitney. Is completely fenced and signed.
- H10: From FM1244 near the Whitney St Park to the Towash Creek Bridge on Hwy 22. Area is completely fenced and marked.
- H11: Lofer's Bend Area. From the east boundary of Lofers Bend Park to the lakeshore at the end of HCR 2105. Area is completely fenced and signed.

- B1: Kimball Bend Area. From the access area across Hwy 174 from Kimbell Bend Park along the west shore of the lake towards Indian Lodge.
- B2: Mesa Grande Area. From the S/SE side of the Railroad bridge on BCR 1990 to the marked access points across the railroad tracks at the end of BRC 1991. Is completely fenced and signed.
- B3: Plowman Creek Area. From the marked access points along the road at the end of BCR 1991, south to the northern end of Plowman Creek park and the intersection of the railroad track and FM56 outside Kopperl. Completely fenced.
- B4: Mesquite Creek Area. From the South end of Plowman Creek Park, along both side of FM 56 at the marked access points. Then along the lakeshore to the Morgan Lakeside Park boat ramp. Completely fenced and signed.
- B5: Steele Creek Area. Along Steele Creek, east and west of FM 56. Is partially fenced. Minimal access by vehicle. The area west of FM 56 is not clearly fenced or marked.
- B6: Panther Scout Area. Along the west shore of the lake, just across FM 1713 from Cedron Creek Park. Is completely fenced and marked.
- B7: Cedron Creek Area. From the south end of Cedron Creek Park, back to FM 56, along Cedron Creek to the boat ramp near the Canyons subdivision. This area is fenced and marked. The area also contains a section on the west side of FM 56 which is not completely fenced or signed.
- B8: King Creek Area. Is a fairly narrow, steep strip along both sides of King Creek. Is partially fenced and is only accessible by boat.
- B9: Rocky Creek Area. On BCR 1606, along both sides of Rocky Creek. Is only partially fenced.