

# News Release

**Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge  
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## **SNIFE HUNTING TO OPEN JANUARY 23, 2006 AT CAMERON PRAIRIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

According to Refuge Manager, Glenn Harris, snipe hunting will open on Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, January 23, 2006. Hunting will be allowed through February 28, 2006. New this year, hunting will be allowed all days of the week, and refuge hunting hours will be one half hour before sunrise to sunset. Snipe hunting will follow the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations with the exceptions that only approved non-toxic shot may be used and shotguns must be encased or dismantled while transporting them on the refuge. All hunters are required to carry a signed copy of the refuge regulations on them personally while hunting. Hunt regulation brochures may be picked up at the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

Access to the refuge is limited to designated roads and parking areas only. West Cameron Prairie Road is the only road open to access snipe hunting areas. No vehicles are allowed on any other levees or roads. Areas around the visitor center and maintenance buildings are closed to all hunting activities. All terrain vehicles (airboats, 3 and 4 wheelers, and marsh buggies) will not be permitted anywhere on the refuge.

Hunting dogs are permitted for use during hunting activities, but must remain under the immediate control of the hunter. A post hunt "Harvest Form" must be filled out at the self clearing check station, located near the entrance to the Refuge Visitor Center, immediately following each hunt even if no birds were harvested.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses almost 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.