

News Release

**Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
1428 Highway 27
Bell City, LA 70630
337-598-2216**

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Diane Borden-Billiot
337-912-2189

Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex is Taking Applications for the 2008-2010 Refuge Alligator Hunters

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex is now taking applications from experienced alligator hunters to fill fifteen alligator hunting permits for Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges for the 2008-2010 alligator hunting seasons. Applicants must possess the skill, ability, and equipment necessary to hunt alligator safely and efficiently in the marsh, if chosen.

National Wildlife Refuge alligator hunters are chosen through a lottery drawing process. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires receipt of 40% of the gross proceeds collected from the sale of alligators taken by each permittee each year. Each hunt permit can be renewed up to three consecutive years if all state and refuge requirements are met annually.

The application process differs from past years, however, it is very easy. Each applicant must apply by submitting a white, 3x5" index card with the following information written legibly or typed on it:

- 1) First, Middle, and Last name
- 2) Mailing address
- 3) Phone number
- 4) Write: Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine on the card and below each refuge name indicate your hunt preference (1, 2, 3, or 0). Write "1" under the refuge which is your first choice to hunt, "2" for your second choice, and "3" for your third choice. If you do not want to or are unable to hunt on a particular refuge, place a 0 under the refuge name.

Completed white index cards must be received by refuge staff at the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex Headquarters at Cameron Prairie NWR, 1428 Highway 27 South, Bell City, LA 70630 **no later than 4:00 pm Monday, March 17, 2008**. Late, incomplete, illegible, or entries sent on anything other than a white 3x5" index card will not be eligible for the drawing.

A public drawing will be held on April 16, 2008 at 10:00 am in the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Auditorium to choose one alligator hunter for Cameron Prairie, four hunters for Lacassine, and ten hunters for Sabine. Additionally, alternate hunters will be selected for each refuge in case a hunt permit vacancy becomes available throughout the permit selection period.

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 that encompasses more than 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.

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