

Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Regulations 2008 - 2009

Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, and Sabine



Annual Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Permit

(Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine
National Wildlife Refuges)

When signed and in your possession this permit allows you to hunt on Lacassine, Cameron Prairie and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges for the 2008-2009 season. Your signature acknowledges your understanding of the regulations associated with the National Wildlife Refuges.

Signature

Date

Permits are not transferable.

Expires 6/30/09

The Complex

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, Sabine and Shell Keys National Wildlife Refuges. The Headquarters Office is located at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The Complex provides a wide variety of wildlife dependent public uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife interpretation and observation. For more information about these or other national wildlife refuges visit the national wildlife refuge web site at refuges.fws.gov.

General Hunting Regulations for Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine NWRs

Hunting regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. Hunting seasons open on the Complex are listed in this brochure. The regulations within this brochure supplement the general regulations that govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50 Volume 6 Chapter 1 Parts 18-199 Code of Federal Regulations. All hunting is in accordance with applicable state licensing and regulations, unless otherwise stated in refuge specific regulations.

Individuals using the refuge are subject to inspections of licenses, hunting equipment, daily limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by federal and state officers. Only the species listed in this brochure may be taken during the seasons indicated in this brochure.

Requirements

Permits

The permit located on the front of this brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as your authorization to participate in all hunts occurring throughout the Complex, except limited lottery hunts. Permits are required for all hunters. Signing the permit acknowledges your understanding of and compliance with the regulations contained herein. In addition to signing and possessing the brochure permit, youth and senior waterfowl hunters are required to comply with the limited lottery drawn permit system.

Youth waterfowl hunt dates are published in area newspapers and on the Complex web site at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex> during September each year. Applications for the lottery hunts are accepted September 1 through October 15. Please contact the specific refuge where you wish to hunt for hunt dates and application requirements. All applicants are limited to a choice of three dates. Duplicate or incomplete applications will be discarded. Successful applicants will be notified.

Hunters selected for lottery hunts that are not able to use their hunt day are encouraged to contact the refuge as soon as possible.

Hunting

Hunters are encouraged to use retriever dogs during waterfowl, dove and snipe hunts, but dogs must be under the control of the handler at all times.

Access Routes

Access roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse conditions.

Hunter Orange Requirement

All hunters on National Wildlife Refuges, except waterfowl and mourning dove hunters, must wear and display 400 square inches of “hunters orange.”

Harvest Data Requirements

Each hunting party is required to complete and return a harvest data form listing everyone’s take to the designated check station drop boxes after each hunt.

Universal access

Hunters with disabilities must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to qualify for special accommodations. Contact Refuge for more information.

Archery Hunting

Archery hunters are encouraged to complete a certified bow hunters’ education course.

Activities Prohibited throughout the Complex

- Parking outside designated roads and parking areas or blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Possession of any weapon other than a shotgun in waterfowl hunting areas during open refuge waterfowl seasons.
- Possession of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells.
- Possession of any weapon, firearm, or ammunition on the refuges except:
 - (1) When authorized to participate in approved permitted refuge hunt.
 - (2) When traversing the refuge by boat or land vehicle, including ATVs, all firearms and archery and equipment must be unloaded and cased or dismantled. An unloaded muzzleloader is defined as percussion cap completely removed. Unloaded archery equipment is defined as crossbows un-cocked and arrow removed. All bows must have the arrow removed from the string.



Activities Prohibited throughout the Complex continued

- Possession of toxic shot.
- Hunting within 150 yards of another hunting party.
- Hunting within 50 yards of a canal, waterway, public refuge road or designated hiking trail.
- Use of air thrust boats and all terrain vehicles (ATV's).
- Use of any non -biodegradable material used as flagging or trail markers.
- Construction of or occupying a permanent blind or stand.
- Removal of any hunting blinds or equipment owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Leaving tree stands, hunt blinds or hunting-related equipment beyond each day's hunt.
- Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.
- Use of climbing spikes.
- Cutting or removing any live vegetation, limbs, etc.
- Importing Phragmites species (a.k.a. Roseau cane) for blind material or cover.
- Littering. All spent shells must be picked up and brought out of the hunt area along with other trash.
- Camping and vehicles left on the refuge at night.
- Fires.
- Disturbing, collecting, injuring or attempting to disturb, collect or injure any plant, artifact, rock, specimen or animal on the refuges.
- Feeding of wildlife.
- Swimming.
- Horses.
- Animals or pets roaming at large. All pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including: any grain, salt, minerals, other feed or non-naturally occurring attractant, on the refuge.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.



Activities Prohibited throughout the Complex continued

- Using lights to locate or take wildlife.
- Target practice with any weapon.
- Commercial guiding activities.

Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.



These signs apply to all refuges

This sign marks the outer refuge boundary. Public entry is generally authorized. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason.



This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas. This is the only area of the refuge where waterfowl hunting is allowed.



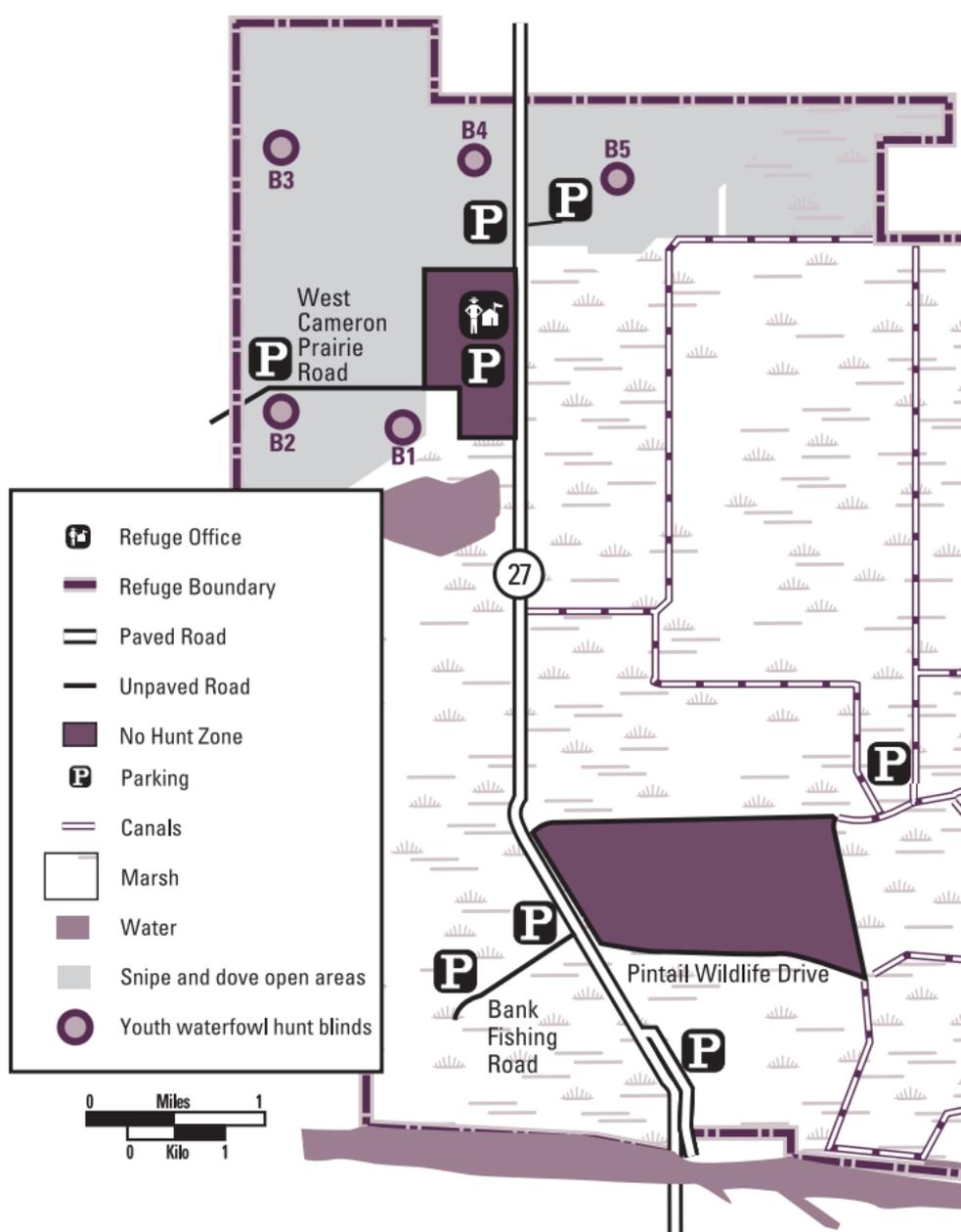
This sign marks the boundary of the waterfowl hunt area. No hunting past these signs.

Cameron Prairie NWR Specific Hunting Regulations

Cameron Prairie established in 1988, is located in Cameron Parish in southwestern Louisiana. The refuge is composed of fresh marsh, impoundments and former agriculture fields. Cameron Prairie NWR consists of two separate and distinct units, East Cove Unit and Gibbstown Unit. The East Cove Unit is closed to all hunting.

Gibbstown Unit of Cameron Prairie NWR

For waterfowl, small game, and upland game hunts, all youths (under 16 years of age) must be supervised by an adult (21 years or older). Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl hunts. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. Youths must be under direct supervision, within sight and normal voice contact of adult. For all hunts, hunters born after September 1, 1969, must possess proof of completion of a hunter education course. Youth waterfowl hunting and snipe and dove hunts are permitted in designated areas only.



Big Game Hunting Regulations

Archery hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted in designated refuge areas in accordance with state WMA general regulations and bag limits. The refuge season is open from October 1 through the Friday before the LA west zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4 am and may not remain later than two hours after sunset. Equipment use follows state approved archery equipment regulations.

Motor vehicles

ATV use is prohibited except to disabled hunters in possession of a refuge issued special use permit. Disabled hunter ATV trails are open October 1 through the Friday before the LA west zone duck and coot waterfowl season.

Snipe and dove hunting

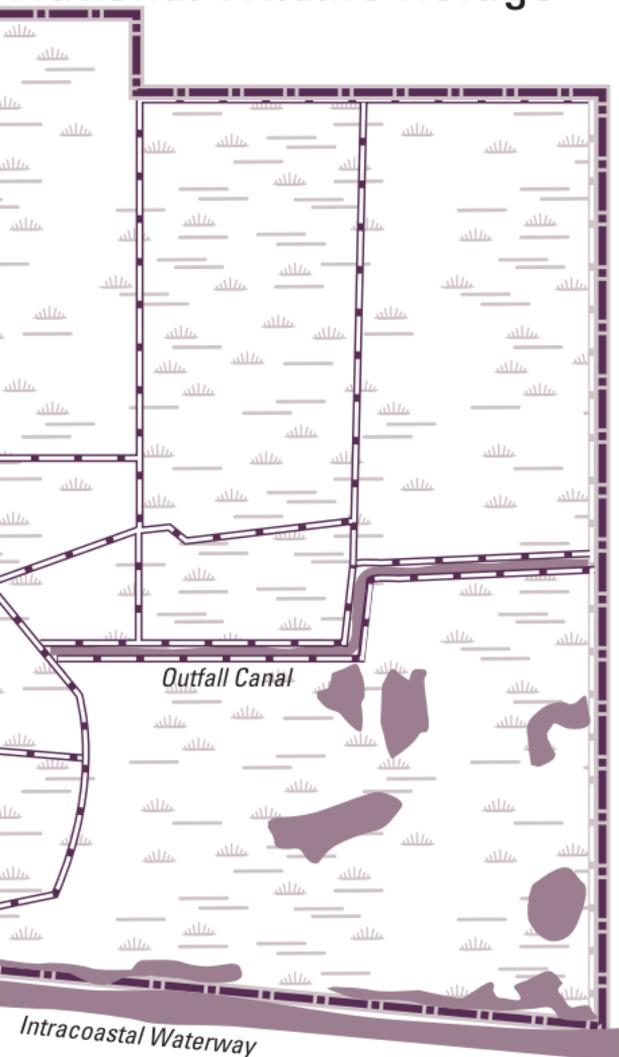
Snipe hunting opens on the refuge on the day following the closure of the LA west zone duck and coot season in accordance with state regulations. Dove hunting on the refuge is open all days of the first split of the state Dove

season. Both Snipe and Dove hunting is in accordance with LA hunting regulations with the exceptions that only approved non-toxic shot may be used.

Closed areas

Hunting is prohibited in “No Hunting Zones” located around the visitor center, maintenance shop area and the area contained within the Pintail Wildlife Drive (see map). Other areas closed to hunting for management purposes are designated by ‘Area Closed’ or ‘No Hunting Zone’ signs on the refuge.

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge



Cameron Prairie NWR

Deer - archery (either sex) **October 1 through the Friday before the LA west zone duck and coot waterfowl season**
Bag limit - in accordance with state regulations

Waterfowl Hunt Scouting **Not available**

Waterfowl General Hunt **Not available**

Waterfowl Lottery Hunts (Youth under 16 years of age) **Saturday and select days until 12 noon during LA west zone duck and coot season**

Waterfowl Lottery Hunts (Seniors 55-years or more) **Not available**

Waterfowl Managed Hunts **Not available**

Snipe **Opens on the day following closure of LA west zone duck and coot season**

Dove **Open first split of LA dove season only**

Lacassine NWR

Sabine NWR

**October 1 through the Friday before the LA west zone duck and coot waterfowl season
Bag limit - in accordance with state regulations**

Not available

Entire fishing season (Mar 15-Oct 15) & Mon-Fri during the week prior to LA west zone duck and coot season

Entire fishing season (Mar 15-Oct 15) & Mon-Fri during the week prior to LA west zone duck and coot season

Wed, Thur, Sat & Sunday during LA west zone duck and coot season and September teal season. Designated areas only. Closed Friday

Wed, Thur, Sat & Sunday during the LA west zone duck and coot season and September teal season. Designated areas only. Closed Friday

Saturdays during the 2nd split of LA west zone duck and coot season. Unit B assigned blind.

Not available

Wednesdays during the 2nd split of LA west zone duck and coot season. Unit B assigned blind.

Not available

“Duck pond” area lottery hunt. Wednesday and Saturday throughout LA west zone duck and coot season. Must be 21 years or older.

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Lacassine NWR Specific Hunting Regulations

Lacassine 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 refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of wildlife.

For waterfowl and upland game hunts, all youths (under 16 years of age) must be supervised by an adult (21 years or older). Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl hunts. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. Youths must be under direct supervision, within sight and normal voice contact of adult. For all hunts, hunters born after September 1, 1969, must possess proof of completion of a hunter education course. Use of motors including trolling motors is prohibited in designated wilderness areas (see map).

Safety

Visitors are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge may be hazardous due to water conditions, weather, and restricted view from vegetation.

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

Hunting is permitted on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of the LA teal and west zone duck and coot waterfowl seasons. See map for areas open to waterfowl hunting. Only ducks, geese, gallinules, and coots may be taken.

Hunt Period

Hunting is permitted on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of the LA teal and West Zone duck and coot waterfowl seasons. The refuge is closed to hunting during the goose-only portion of the waterfowl seasons. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4 am. Waterfowl hunting must cease at 12 noon and all decoys and blinds removed from the hunting area by 1 pm.

Scouting

Hunters may scout refuge hunt areas during the refuge open fishing season, March 15 through October 15, and Monday through Friday during the one week prior to the opening of the LA west zone duck and coot season. All firearms and blind material are prohibited while scouting.

Special Lottery Hunts

Special lottery hunts will be held during the second split of the LA state duck season for Unit B. Hunters under 16 years of age and adults 55 years of age and older will be allowed to apply. Additional permits are required. Contact the refuge headquarters for more details.

Managed Hunt Area

Hunting in the area known as the “Duck Pond” is selected by lottery (see map). Opportunities are limited to designated sites open on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout LA West Zone duck and coot season. Hunters must be 21 years of age or older to apply. Contact the refuge manager for additional information.

Big Game Hunting Regulations

Archery hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted in designated refuge areas in accordance with state WMA general regulations and bag limits. The refuge season is open from October 1 through the Friday before the LA west zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4 am and may not remain later than two hours after sunset. Equipment use follows state approved archery equipment regulations.

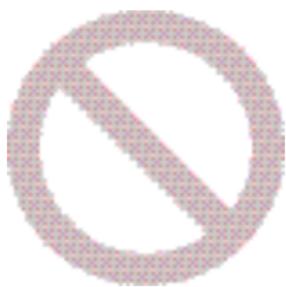
Prohibited Activities during Big Game Hunting

Hunting in the headquarters area along Nature Trail Road and along Lacassine Pool Wildlife Drive.

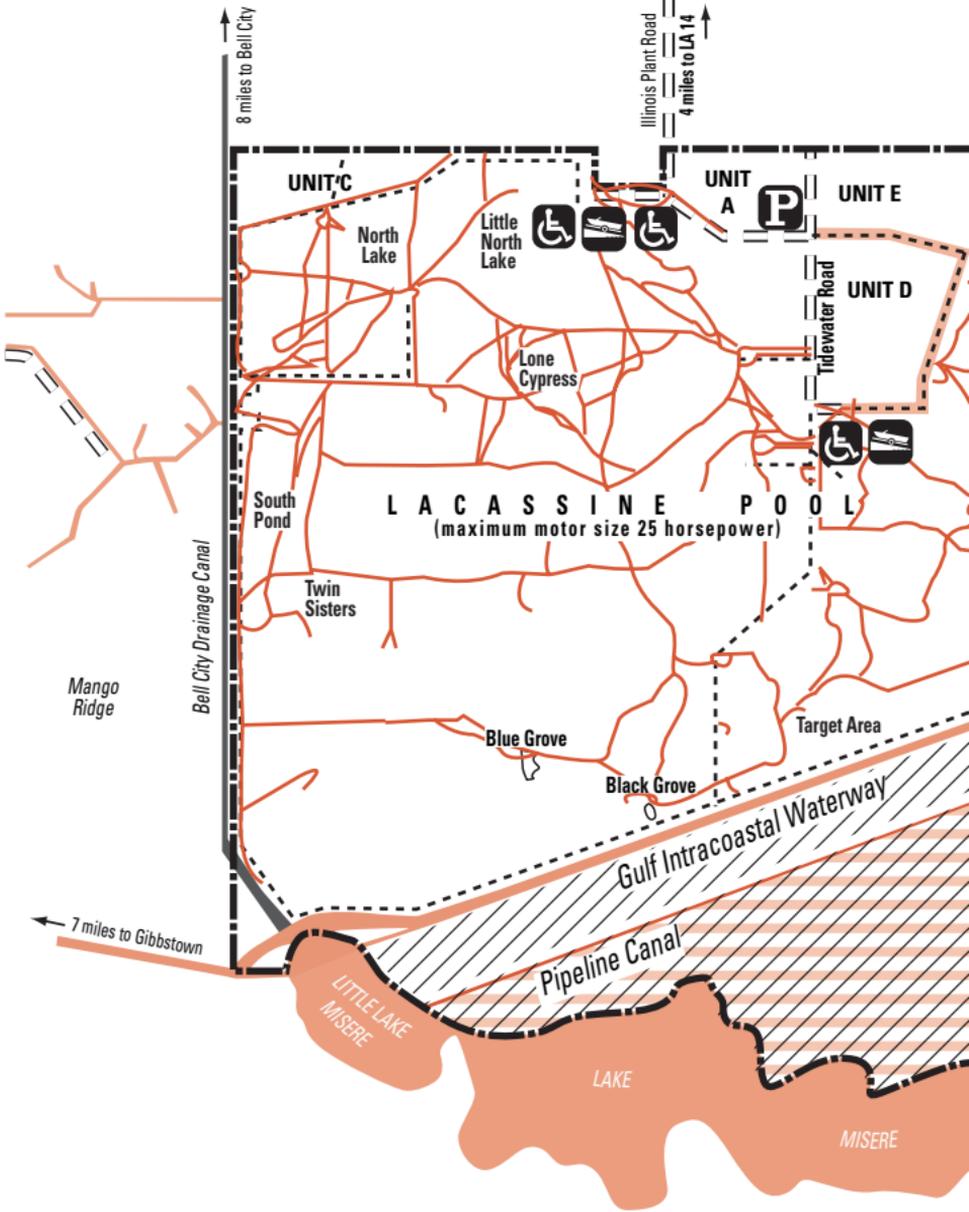
Boats in Units A and C.

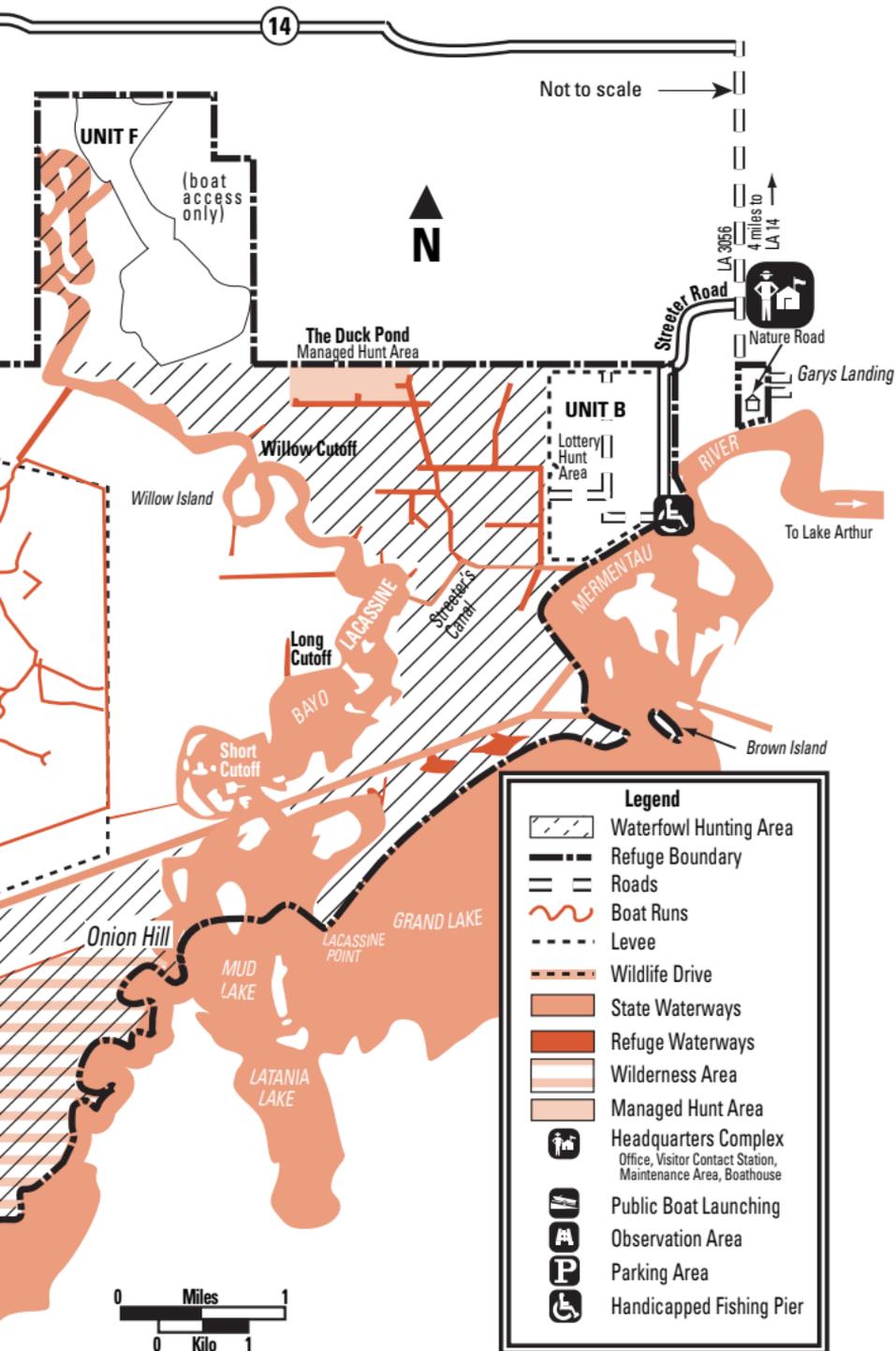
Boats in Lacassine Pool and Unit D from October 16 through March 14.

Boats with motors larger than 25 horsepower in Lacassine Pool.



Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge





**Southwest Louisiana
National Wildlife Refuge
Complex Headquarters
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**Website:
<http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex>**

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