

16. Construction or use of permanent stands, blinds, or other structures is prohibited. [36 CFR 7.85(a)(4); 36 CFR 5.7]. The preserve will confiscate unmarked and/or unattended deer stands. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

17. Flagging, any marking device, or any other method of marking is prohibited. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

18. Cutting and/or removal of vegetation for the creation of shooting lanes, hunting blinds, or for any other reason are prohibited. Machetes, axes, saws, or other types of cutting/chopping devices are prohibited. [36 CFR 2.1(a)(ii); 36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

19. Carry out all trash, including empty shotgun shells. Field dressing of game is allowed within the preserve. [36 CFR 2.14(a)(1)]

20. Human waste must be buried at least 100 feet from any water source and not within sight of any road or trail. [36 CFR 2.14(a)(9)]

21. Camping is prohibited in all hunting areas during the hunting season, with the exception of sandbars along the Neches River within the boundary of the Neches Bottom and Jack Gore Baygall Units with a back county camping permit. [36 CFR 2.10(a)]

22. In established hunting areas, portable cooking stoves are permitted; ground fires are prohibited. [36 CFR 2.13(a)(1)]

23. Park vehicles along roads or in designated parking areas. Do not block gates or roads. [36 CFR 4.13(a)]

24. Off-road use of motorized vehicles, including all terrain vehicles (ATV's/UTV's) and motorcycles, is prohibited. [36 CFR 4.10(a)]

To obtain a hunting permit for the following year, you must reapply during hunter registration. Your "Hunter's Report" card must be returned by April 3, 2017, or you will be disqualified from obtaining a permit the following year.

If you have hunting questions, contact the preserve visitor center at (409) 951-6700. Information on campgrounds located near the Big Thicket National Preserve can be obtained from the visitor center.

If you have questions about State of Texas Regulations, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 1(800) 792-1112 or on the internet at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

To report an on-going crime or emergency in the preserve, call 911. To report all other crimes, contact the preserve visitor center at (409) 951-6700.

If your permit is either lost or stolen, please contact preserve visitor center at (409) 951-6700.

Have a safe and pleasant hunting experience. Remember that the preserve is not a hunting lease but is a national preserve and, as such, is used by the public during hunting season. Practice courtesy and safety at all times. This will provide a pleasant experience for you, other hunters, and the non-hunting public.

Big Thicket National Preserve

2016-17



Hunting Guide and Regulations

Before your first hunting trip to Big Thicket National Preserve, read these regulations. Study the map of the preserve unit provided with this guide. Know the areas where you may hunt, and the areas where you may not hunt. State of Texas hunting season dates and regulations apply except where the following Big Thicket National Preserve Regulations are more restrictive (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations).

Violations of State Law, Federal Law, and/or these Regulations may result in the loss of your hunting permit for the current hunting season, a fine and/or the suspension or permanent loss of your hunting privileges. [36 CFR 1.6(h)]

Notice: Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 makes it a crime for any person to knowingly and willfully make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

Before you leave on your hunting trip, please inform a relative or friend of your intended point of entry, route of travel, and time of return. While hunting, dress appropriately for changing weather conditions and carry a flashlight, compass, first aid kit, maps, water, and cell phone. Do not cross or park on private property without the consent of the landowner.

Hunting Regulations

1. The Big Thicket Hunting Permit entitles you to take only white-tailed deer, squirrel, rabbit, feral hog, and waterfowl. [36 CFR 7.85(a)(2)(i); 36 CFR 7.85(a)(2)(ii)]

2. .17 and .22 caliber rim-fire cartridge rifles are permitted only for small game (rabbits and squirrels). The use of shotguns, muzzle-loading rifles, and bow and arrows are permitted for all animals per the Big Thicket National Preserve Hunting Regulations. Slugs and buckshot may be possessed and/or used only during the general season and the extended hog-only season. Silencers may not be used. Big Thicket National Preserve adopts the State of Texas definition of "muzzleloader." [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h); 36 CFR 7.85(d)(1)]

3. The hunting season within the Big Thicket National Preserve extends from the opening date of the State of Texas fall archery-only season through the end of the State general season. Hogs may be taken from the opening date of the State's fall archery-only season until the last day of February. You may only hunt during the dates established by the State of Texas for the archery-only season and the general season. Big Thicket National Preserve does NOT allow hunting of any game animal after the close of the State's general season. Big Thicket National Preserve observes all youth hunts that fall within the State's general season. Hunting at any other time or in any other manner than prescribed in this set of regulations is prohibited. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h); 36 CFR 7.85(a)(1)]

4. The following items must be in your possession while hunting in the preserve: a current Big Thicket Hunting Permit; a State of Texas Hunting License; and appropriate State and/or Federal stamps or documents. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2)]

5. Hunters may not use handguns or center-fire rifles to take game. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

6. Crossbows are allowed in accordance with State of Texas Regulations. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

7. Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after September 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Minimum age of certification is 9 years of age.

If you were born on or after September 2, 1971, and you are:

- under 9 years of age, you must be accompanied;
- age 9 through 16 years, you must be accompanied at all times even if you have successfully completed the State of Texas Hunter Education Course;
- age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course; or purchase a "Hunter Education Deferral" and be accompanied.

Accompanied means: By a person who is at least 17, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education (born before Sept. 2, 1971) or is exempt, and you must be within normal voice control. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting. For more information on the Hunter Deferral Program, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the number and/or website listed on the last page of this guide. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2)]

8. Each hunter must place the top portion of the Hunter Parking/Boat Pass on the vehicle mirror, place on dash, or place on driver's seat of boat in a clear waterproof storage bag so the Permit Number is visible. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

9. During the extended hog-only hunting season, hunters will be permitted to take feral hogs from any of the preserve's authorized hunting areas (Beaumont, Beech, Big Sandy, Jack Gore Baygall, Lance Rosier, and Neches Bottom). [36 CFR 7.85(2)(d)(1); 36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]

10. "No person, while hunting waterfowl anywhere in the State may possess shotgun shells containing lead shot or loose lead shot for use in muzzleloaders. Approved shot, includes steel, including copper, nickel or zinc coated steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer (i.e., molyshot), and any other non-toxic material approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service." [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)] Note: *For all other game, the use of non-lead ammunition is encouraged in accordance with the National Park Service's efforts to reduce lead in the environment.*

11. Possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a unit open to hunting is prohibited. [36 CFR 2.35(a)(3)(i)]

12. Feeding or baiting of wildlife is prohibited. Baiting and feeding as defined by the State of Texas means "minerals, vegetative material, or any other food substance placed to lure any wildlife resource." [36 CFR 2.1(a)(2); 36 CFR 2.2(a)(2)]

13. The use or possession of dogs for hunting is prohibited, except that the use of retrievers for retrieving waterfowl is allowed. [36 CFR 7.85(a)(3); 36 CFR 7.85(a)(4)]

14. Hunter Orange or International Orange must be worn and visible at all times while hunting in the preserve. All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of Hunter Orange or International Orange while in designated hunting areas, except for waterfowl hunters when stationary in their blinds. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h); 36 CFR 7.85(a)(4)]

15. You may hunt in the "hunting area" as shown on the enclosed unit map; however, you may not hunt within 500 feet of any designated trail, roadway, residence, or the following navigable waterways: Neches River, Pine Island Bayou, and designated Texas Paddling Trails. [36 CFR 1.6(g)(2); 36 CFR 1.6(h)]