

2011-
2012
Hunting
Season

Babcock Ranch Preserve

Regulations Summary and Area Map
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012



A cooperative public wildlife and recreational area

Babcock Ranch, LLC
Division of Forestry



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on Babcock Ranch Preserve. **Regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations. For exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code, on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure, the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook, and quota permit worksheets should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available from any Commission office, county tax collector and at MyFWC.com.

Persons using Babcock Ranch Preserve are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as "no exemptions", recreational use permits, antlerless deer permits and the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp [federal duck stamp]): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older; residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate; residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida, while home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 16 years of age. Children under 16 years of age are exempt from the federal duck stamp. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 and 16 years of age or older must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license, except the Hunter Safety Mentoring exemption allows anyone to purchase a hunting license and hunt under the supervision of a licensed hunter, 21 years of age or older, for one year.

Licenses and permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, at MyFWC.com/license or by telephone at 1-888-486-8356. A no-cost Migratory Bird Permit is available when purchasing a hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp; available where hunting licenses are sold, at most post offices or at duckstamp.com.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

Archery - 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.
Muzzleloading Gun - 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
General Gun Mobility-impaired - 25, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions).
Family Hunt - 30, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.
General Gun - 40, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 3 hunts.
Spring Turkey - 15, no-cost, quota permits (no exemptions) for each of 2 hunts.

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits through the Commission's Total Licensing System (TLS). Worksheets listing hunts, application periods, deadlines and

instructions are available at county tax collector's offices, FWC offices or MyFWC.com. Quota application periods occur throughout the year beginning April 1; please refer to the hunting handbook or MyFWC.com for specific dates. Worksheets will be available about 2 weeks prior to each application period.

Guest hunters: For each non-transferable archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, wild hog, spring turkey and mobility-impaired quota permit issued through the Commission's TLS, only one guest permit may be obtained. Guest permits are not issued for family quota permits. The following persons may be a guest hunter, but are not required to obtain a guest permit: a youth under 16 years of age, a youth supervisor, a mentor license holder or a mentor license supervisor. A quota permit holder (host) may only bring 1 guest hunter at a time. The following persons are not considered to be guest hunters: other quota permit holders, non-hunters and exempt hunters (on areas and during seasons that allow exemptions). The host must share the bag limit with the guest and the host is responsible for violations that exceed the bag limit. The guest and host must enter and exit the area together and must share a street-legal vehicle while hunting on the area. The guest may only hunt while the host is on the area. A person is only eligible for one guest permit per hunt. Guest permits may only be obtained from license agents or county tax collector's offices. Guest permits may be obtained up to and during the last day of the hunt. Refer to the quota hunt worksheets for additional information.

Youth and mentor license holders: A youth hunter (less than 16 years of age) must be supervised by a person at least 18 years of age. A mentor license holder must be supervised by a licensed hunter at least 21 years of age. Unless exempt, only those supervisors with proper licenses and permits may hunt. If the supervisor is hunting during any hunt (not including special-opportunity) for which quota permits are issued, at least one person in the party must be in possession of a quota permit. During a hunt that allows exemptions, a non-exempt supervisor of a youth must have a quota permit to hunt. A non-hunting supervisor is allowed to accompany a youth or mentor license holder during any hunt (including special-opportunity).

Assistant for mobility-impaired hunters: Mobility-impaired hunters may be accompanied by a guest hunter, as specified above, and one non-hunting assistant that may participate in the hunt (no license required), but the assistant may not harvest wildlife with archery equipment or a firearm.

Transfer of permits: Quota and guest permits are not transferable. Except for youth under 16 years of age, a positive form of identification is required when using a non-transferable permit. The sale or purchase of any quota permit or guest permit is prohibited.

GENERAL AREA REGULATIONS:

All general laws and regulations relating to wildlife and fish shall apply unless specifically exempted for this area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons and in accordance with the following regulations:

1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. These provisions are not required when hunting with a bow and arrow during archery season.
2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roasted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to hunt are listed under each season.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
4. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
5. No person shall cut, damage or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
6. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited. Recorded calls and sounds can be used to hunt furbearers, wild hog and crows.
7. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as closed to those activities.
9. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
10. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat which is under power is prohibited, until power and movement from that power, has ceased.
11. Most game may be hunted from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset (see exceptions for each season).
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
15. Wild hog may not be transported alive.
16. Littering is prohibited.
17. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
18. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Except as authorized below, public use of this property is administered by Babcock Ranch Management, LLC. Visit babcockranchpreserve.com for additional information. Public access is allowed at the Footprints Trail and Ecotour Trail entrances (see map).
2. This area is a working ranch with ongoing cattle, timber and farming operations. Please be respectful of ranch staff, be aware of and cautious of cattle, and leave all gates in the same position you find them.
3. Public access for hunting is restricted to individuals participating in a hunt and allowed only within the designated hunting area (see "FWC Hunting Area" on the map).
4. On hunting days, access is allowed from 1½ hours before sunrise to 1½ hours after sunset only.
5. Persons participating in a hunt, except small game hunts, are allowed access for scouting from 8 a.m. to sunset one day prior to their hunt.
6. The use of tracked vehicles, airboats, all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycles is prohibited, except all-terrain vehicles may be used only by certified mobility-impaired hunters during the general gun mobility-impaired season.
7. Vehicles may be operated only on named or numbered roads, except all-terrain vehicles used by mobility-impaired hunters during the general gun mobility-impaired season. Additional roads may be opened for vehicle access if conditions allow (additional information will be available at the check station).
8. Vehicles must be parked in a parking area or within 25 feet of a named or numbered road.
9. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
10. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. Hunters shall enter and exit the area at the designated entrance.
2. Public access for hunting is restricted to individuals participating in a hunt and allowed only within the designated hunting area (see "BRP Hunt Area" on the map).
3. On hunting days, access is allowed from 1½ hours before sunrise to 1½ hours after sunset.
4. Scouting is allowed one day prior to each hunt, except small game, from 8 a.m. to sunset.
5. Hunters shall check in and out at the check station when entering and exiting the area and check all game taken.
6. Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the area anytime access is allowed and shall be removed by 1½ hours after sunset on the last day of each hunt.
7. No deer, wild hog or turkey shall be dismembered until checked at the check station.
8. Hunting quail is prohibited.

GUNS:

1. All firearms shall be securely encased and in a vehicle, vessel, camper or tent, during periods when they are not a legal method of take. Persons in possession of a valid Concealed Weapon or Firearm License may carry concealed handguns.
2. Target practice is prohibited.
3. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.
4. Muzzleloading guns used for taking deer must be .40 caliber or larger, if firing a single bullet, or be 20 gauge or larger if firing two or more balls.
5. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
6. No person shall have a gun under control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
7. For hunting non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used. **Hunting during the spring turkey season with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**
8. For hunting migratory game, only shotguns, bows, crossbows or falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
9. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
10. Fully automatic or silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and set guns are prohibited.

DOGS:

1. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs are allowed during the small game season.
2. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited.
3. Dogs on leashes may be used for trailing wounded game.
4. For purposes other than hunting, dogs are allowed, but must be kept under physical restraint at all times.

CAMPING: Prohibited.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: During quota hunts, host hunters and guests must share all bag and possession limits.

1. Deer -
 - A. Archery, family and general gun mobility-impaired hunts - 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per quota permit. Only mobility-impaired hunters may harvest antlerless deer during the general gun mobility-impaired season.
 - B. Muzzleloading gun and general gun hunts - 1 antlered deer per quota permit.
2. Wild hog - No size or bag limit.
3. Turkey - 1 per spring turkey quota permit.
4. Gray squirrel and rabbit - Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each.
5. Quail - Prohibited.
6. Migratory birds - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

ARCHERY SEASON:

July 30 through August 2 and August 6-9.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, archery permit, deer permit (if hunting deer).

Legal to Hunt - Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, gray squirrel and rabbit.

Regulations Unique to Archery Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with firearms or crossbows (except by disabled crossbow permit) is prohibited.

MUZZLELOADING GUN SEASON:

September 3-5.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Hunt - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with archery equipment or firearms, other than muzzleloading guns, is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to hunt (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

GENERAL GUN MOBILITY-IMPAIRED SEASON:

December 2-4.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Hunt - Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to General Gun Mobility-impaired Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. All hunt participants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting at the check station at 3 p.m. on **December 1** (scout day).
2. Mobility-impaired hunters may be accompanied by 1 hunting guest and 1 non-hunting assistant that may participate in the hunt (no license required), but the non-hunting assistant may not harvest wildlife.
3. Only mobility-impaired hunters may harvest antlerless deer (which includes does and bucks with antlers less than 5 inches in length, but not spotted fawn).

FAMILY HUNT:

September 17-18 and December 17-18.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Hunt - Any deer (except spotted fawn), wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to Family Hunt - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. One or two youths (under 16 years of age but not younger than 8 years of age) per quota permit, may hunt under the direct supervision of an adult (at least 18 years of age), but the quota permit holder must be present for the youth to hunt.
2. The quota permit holder may hunt, but only in the presence of at least one youth.

GENERAL GUN SEASON:

September 23-25, September 30 through October 2 and December 9-11.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit, deer permit (if hunting deer), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Hunt - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to General Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

SMALL GAME SEASON:

January 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and February 4-5.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Hunt - Wild hog, gray squirrel, rabbit and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to Small Game Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting quail is prohibited.
2. Hunting with bird dogs is allowed.
3. Hunting with centerfire rifles is prohibited.

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY SEASON:

March 3-5 and 10-12.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit, hunting license, management area permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Hunt - Bearded turkey or gobbler.

Regulations Unique to Spring Turkey Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Legal shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
2. Hunting other animals is prohibited.
3. **Hunting with firearms other than shotguns or using a shot size larger than #2 is prohibited.**

MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS:

Rails, common moorhen, mourning dove, white-winged dove, snipe, duck, geese, coot, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun mobility-impaired, family hunt, general gun or small game seasons.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting during any quota period), hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Hunt - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Bird Seasons - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations and Migratory Bird Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting duck, geese and coot with lead shot is prohibited.
2. Centerfire shotguns are allowed for hunting during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to hunt.

FISHING AND FROGGING: Prohibited.

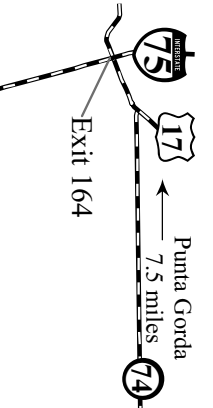
GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. This area is a working ranch. Significant disruptions of the ranch operations could influence future public access. Please be respectful of ranch staff, be aware of and cautious of cattle, and leave all gates in the same position you find them.
2. Information for persons with disabilities can be found at MyFWC.com/ADA.
3. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 863-648-3200 (TDD 800-955-8771).

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

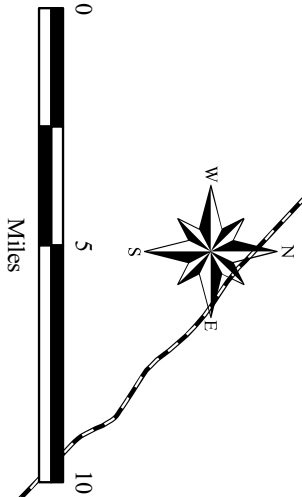
If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay 20 percent of the cost of the program.



Babcock Ranch Preserve FWC Hunting Area

16,612 acres
Charlotte County



Legend

- Babcock Ranch Preserve Area
- FWC Hunting Area
- Designated Entrance
- Check Station
- Paved Road
- Improved Road
- Closed Road
- City
- County Line

